



November 5, 2011

Ken Salazar, Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

My heartfelt wish as the owner of 70,000 acres of pristine and remarkable wilderness in Maine's celebrated North Woods is to gift this resource to the National Park Service in honor of the 100 year anniversary of the National Park System in the year 2016.

Maine currently possesses substantial open spaces, but the future status and the public accessibility of these vulnerable resources are not guaranteed. My intention is to insure public access and enjoyment of this legendary portion of Maine and preserve an experience that has inspired Henry David Thoreau and millions of subsequent visitors.

Please accept the enclosed materials that express the hopes of 3,731 individuals and organizations who share a vision and commitment to the creation of a Maine Woods National Park.

You will find 406 letters that express the hopes of Maine residents from every portion of the state, as well as the petition signatures from 3,325 supporters who urge the National Park Service to explore the feasibility of a resource that we believe is key to Maine's future.

Letters of support come from local citizens' committees, school boards, chambers of commerce, business owners, guides, and leaders of preservation groups. Supporters include the leader of the Penobscot Nation, elected officials, conservationists, educators, small business owners, Maine guides, and members of snowmobile clubs.

This growing alliance of thousands of individuals demonstrates broad support from neighboring communities, including participation by 205 residents of Millinocket, 137 of Medway, and 49 of East Millinocket—the three communities in closest proximity to the proposed National Park.

Materials for your consideration also include a proposal for the National Park, with an estimated annual budget and a plan for an endowment. This proposal, with maps and photographs, addresses in a preliminary way the critical questions of a Special Resource Study.

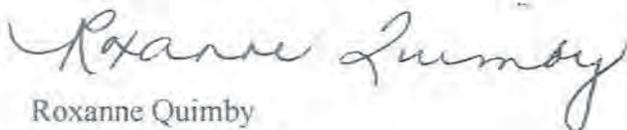
Rarely has an opportunity arisen that would so effectively strengthen the economic vitality of a region while simultaneously preserving its natural beauty.

A recent poll by Critical Insights established that across Maine supporters for a Maine Woods National Park comprised 60% of the population, compared to only 30% not in favor and 10% undecided.

We believe that establishing the facts through a Special Resource Study is now essential and holds great promise for Maine's future.

We therefore urge you to employ the expertise and resources of the National Park Service to explore the potential of this campaign to manage Maine's beautiful landscape in a way that will build its economic future.

Sincerely,



Roxanne Quimby

enclosures

Proposal

Exhibit One: 89 letters of support from local leaders, business people, and residents

Exhibit Two: 39 letters from Maine leaders and elected officials

Exhibit Three: 278 letters from Maine residents throughout the state

Exhibit Four: 839 local and Maine petition signatures

Exhibit Five: 1,343 statewide petition signatures

Exhibit Six: 1,070 online petition supporters

2011 NOV -8 AM 11:26

RECEIVED

506624



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JAN - 6 2012

Ms. Roxanne Quimby
136 Center Street
Old Town, Maine 04468

Dear Ms. Quimby:

Thank you for your service to the National Park Foundation. The Foundation's work is inspirational and greatly supports of the priorities I have set at the Department of the Interior.

I am writing to share with you *The 50 State Report on America's Great Outdoors* that the Department of the Interior recently published on the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative and to seek your engagement in its successful implementation.

During this past spring and summer, leaders in the Department of the Interior and I engaged in conversations with governors and senior staff in all 50 states about the AGO Initiative. Our goal was to continue a dialogue with leaders and stakeholders in all 50 states on this conservation and outdoor recreation effort. This outreach built on over 100 listening sessions the Administration held with the American public and was based on a fundamental principle of AGO: that conservation and recreation projects are best driven at the state and local levels.

My leadership team and I requested that each state provide a short list of projects related to the establishment or enhancement of urban parks, restoration of rivers, and conservation of large landscapes on which the Department could be a partner. Based upon these recommendations, I recently announced two projects in each state that the Department will collaborate on with the states and stakeholders to conserve land, build trails, restore and increase access to rivers, and enhance parks and wildlife areas.

The enclosed report summarizes these project proposals. The report shows the diverse ideas related to conservation and recreation across America and the collective goal of reconnecting people to the outdoors. Overall, there are:

- 24 projects to restore and provide recreational access to rivers and other waterways;
- 23 projects to construct new trails or improve recreational sites;
- 20 projects that will create and enhance urban parks; and
- 13 projects that will restore and conserve America's most significant landscapes.

In addition to the conservation and recreation benefits that these projects will afford citizens across the Country, they will also create jobs through travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation activities. These are local and sustainable jobs that contribute to the more than \$1 billion economic impact that conservation, recreation, and preservation have on our Nation's economy.

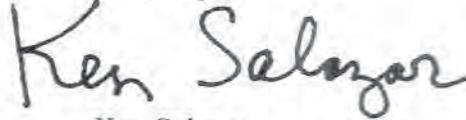
The Department will continue to work with the states, communities, and stakeholders to advance these projects with existing budget resources, including providing technical support and use of its administrative authorities. In addition, we will partner with states and communities to leverage grants, private funding, and other resources to help ensure the success of these projects.

As the Department's most important partner dealing with national parks I need your assistance to make these projects a reality. Your creative thinking about potential partnerships and funding mechanisms can be a crucial asset to our efforts on these projects.

In addition to the AGO 50 State Report, I am enclosing a copy of the report the President announced last winter. I welcome your thoughts and ideas as we accelerate these efforts over the next year.

Thank you for your collaboration on these projects and your support of America's Great Outdoors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Salazar

Enclosures



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Quick Catch Up

1 message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Thu, Sep 17, 2015 at 4:49 PM

To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

If you want to do a quick catch up... can get me on cel number below tonight or tomorrow

George Cooper
Forbes-Tate
1099 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(O) 202-638-0125
(C) 703-371-5572



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Stuck in a meeting

2 messages

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Sep 17, 2015 at 1:02 PM

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>, Kristen Brengel <kbrengel@npca.org>

Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Bcc: Nikki Buffa <Nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Can we do 115pm please? Thanks!

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Thu, Sep 17, 2015 at 1:08 PM

To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

We're all good

George Cooper

Forbes-Tate

1099 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500

Washington, D.C. 20001

(O) 202-638-0125

(C) 703-371-5572

[Quoted text hidden]



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Re: Call with Nikki Buffa

1 message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Thu, Sep 17, 2015 at 11:54 AM

To: "Ojeda-dodds, Gisella" <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Kristen Brengel <kbregel@npca.org>, Lucas St Clair <lucasstclair12@gmail.com>

I have asked Lucas to join this call - he is cc'd

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2015, at 9:08 AM, Ojeda-dodds, Gisella <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Great, I've sent you both an invite for Thursday at 1PM EDT. The dial-in is: (b) (5) and Participant Code: (b) (5).

Sincerely,

Gisella Ojeda-Dodds

Executive Assistant to Nikki Buffa, Deputy Chief of Staff

On Mon, Sep 14, 2015 at 6:14 PM, Kristen Brengel <kbregel@npca.org> wrote:

Thanks!

I can do Thurs at 1pm or 5:30pm.

I'm flying back from Denver at the times on Friday.

Kristen Brengel, NPCA
(202) 320-2913

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 14, 2015, at 4:53 PM, Ojeda-dodds, Gisella <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hello again!

I understand you would also like a call with Nikki for either Thursday or Friday of this week. Currently she is available on Thursday, September 17 between 1-2PM, 2:30PM or 5:30PM and on Friday, September 18 at 10:30AM, between 1-2PM, or at 2:30PM. Please let me know which date and time is best and I will send an invite out to you.

Sincerely,

--

Gisella Ojeda-Dodds

Executive Assistant to Nikki Buffa, Deputy Chief of Staff

Immediate Office of the Secretary

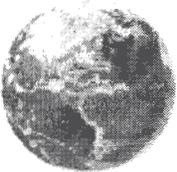
U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 "C" Street, NW, MS: 7229-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240
Telephone: (202) 208-4123/4105
Facsimile: (202) 208-4561
E-mail: Gisella_Ojeda-Dodds@ios.doi.gov

"Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children."

- Tribe Unknown

—
Gisella Ojeda-Dodds
Executive Assistant to Nikki Buffa, Deputy Chief of Staff
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 "C" Street, NW, MS: 7229-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240
Telephone: (202) 208-4123/4105
Facsimile: (202) 208-4561
E-mail: Gisella_Ojeda-Dodds@ios.doi.gov



"Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children."

- Tribe Unknown



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Re: Call with Kristen Brengel and George Cooper

3 messages

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Sep 17, 2015 at 1:04 PM

To: "Lucas St.Clair" <lucasstclair12@gmail.com>

Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>, Kristen Brengel <kbregel@npca.org>, George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Am stuck. Have asked folks if we could start at 115. Is that ok?

> On Sep 17, 2015, at 1:03 PM, "Lucas St.Clair" <lucasstclair12@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> Lucas St.Clair has accepted this invitation.

>

> Title: Call with Kristen Brengel and George Cooper

> When: Thu Sep 17, 2015 1pm - 1:30pm Eastern Time

> Where: Dial-in: (b) (5) Code: (b) (5) ; Leader: (b) (5)

> Video call: (b) (5)

> Calendar: nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

> Who:

> * nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov - organizer

> * gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov - creator

> * kbregel@npca.org

> * gcooper@forbes-tate.com

> * Lucas St.Clair

>

>

> Invitation from Google Calendar: <https://www.google.com/calendar/>

>

> You are receiving this email at the account nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

> because you are subscribed for invitation replies on calendar

> nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov.

>

> To stop receiving these emails, please log in to

> <https://www.google.com/calendar/> and change your notification settings for

> this calendar.

>

> Forwarding this invitation could allow any recipient to modify your RSVP

> response. Learn more at

> <https://support.google.com/calendar/answer/37135#forwarding>

> <meeting.ics>

lucas st.clair <lucasstclair12@gmail.com>

Thu, Sep 17, 2015 at 1:05 PM

To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>, Kristen Brengel <kbregel@npca.org>, George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

No problem. I will call back in at 1:15

Lucas St. Clair

C. 206-465-1949

O. 207-518-9462

Lucas@elliotsvilleplantation.org

www.katahdinwoods.org

Ojeda-dodds, Gisella <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Sep 17, 2015 at 1:08 PM

To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

I updated the invite and called in to let them know you are running late. They said not to worry and they would jump back at 1:15PM. Gisella

(Unread mail hidden)

—
Gisella Ojeda-Dodds
Executive Assistant to Nikki Buffa, Deputy Chief of Staff
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 "C" Street, NW, MS: 7229-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240
Telephone: (202) 208-4123/4105
Facsimile: (202) 208-4561
E-mail: Gisella_Ojeda-Dodds@ios.doi.gov



"Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children."

- Tribe Unknown



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Accepted: Updated Invitation: Meeting with Lucas St. Clair @ Wed Sep 30, 2015 11am - 12pm (nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)

1 message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Sep 15, 2015 at 1:47 PM



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Accepted: Invitation: Meeting with Lucas St. Clair @ Wed Sep 30, 2015 11am - 12pm (nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)

1 message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Sep 15, 2015 at 12:47 PM



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Accepted: Invitation: Call with Kristen Brengel and George Cooper @ Thu Sep 17, 2015 1pm - 1:30pm (nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)

1 message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Sep 15, 2015 at 9:10 AM



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Quick call?

7 messages

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Sep 11, 2015 at 2:15 PM

To: Kristen Brengel <kbregel@npca.org>, George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Cc: Markee Connors <markee_connors@ios.doi.gov>

Do you guys have 15 or 20 minutes to get on a quick call on Monday or Tuesday? I'm adding Markee to help schedule us.

Many thanks,
Nikki

—
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Fri, Sep 11, 2015 at 2:18 PM

To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Kristen Brengel <kbregel@npca.org>

Cc: Markee Connors <markee_connors@ios.doi.gov>

You bet

George Cooper
Forbes-Tate
1099 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(O) 202-638-0125
(C) 703-371-5572

From: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>**Date:** Friday, September 11, 2015 at 2:15 PM**To:** Kristen Brengel <kbregel@npca.org>, George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>**Cc:** Markee Connors <markee_connors@ios.doi.gov>**Subject:** Quick call?

Quoted from hidden

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Mon, Sep 14, 2015 at 1:01 PM

To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Kristen Brengel <kbregel@npca.org>, Markee Connors <markee_connors@ios.doi.gov>

Number I am calling is not working

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Sep 14, 2015 at 1:02 PM

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>, Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Kristen Brengel <kbregel@npca.org>, Markee Connors <markee_connors@ios.doi.gov>

Should be (b) (5)

code: (b) (5)

[Quoted text hidden]

Kristen Brengel <kbregel@npca.org>

Mon, Sep 14, 2015 at 1:02 PM

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>, "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Markee Connors <markee_connors@ios.doi.gov>

It's not working for me on my end.

Kristen Brengel

Senior Director, Legislation & Policy | National Parks Conservation Association

202.454.3380 (o) | 202.320.2913 (c) | kbregel@npca.org

From: George Cooper [mailto:gcooper@forbes-tate.com]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2015 1:02 PM

To: Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Kristen Brengel <kbregel@npca.org>; Markee Connors <markee_connors@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: Quick call?

[Quoted text hidden]

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Sep 14, 2015 at 1:03 PM

To: Kristen Brengel <kbregel@npca.org>, Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>, Markee Connors <markee_connors@ios.doi.gov>

Sorry! Let me know if the number I just sent doesn't work!

[Quoted text hidden]

Ojeda-dodds, Gisella <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Sep 14, 2015 at 1:07 PM

To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

I just updated the invite too with the right number. Gisella

[Quoted text hidden]

Gisella Ojeda-Dodds

Executive Assistant to Nikki Buffa, Deputy Chief of Staff

Immediate Office of the Secretary



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Accepted: Invitation: Hold: Phone call with George Cooper and Kristen Brengel @ Mon Sep 14, 2015 1pm - 1:20pm (nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)

1 message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Sep 11, 2015 at 3:08 PM



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

LePage Letter

| message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Mon, Aug 31, 2015 at 1:40 PM

To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

<http://bangordailynews.com/2015/08/31/politics/lepage-tells-obama-to-steer-clear-of-national-park-debate/>

LePage tells Obama to steer clear of national park debate

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Gov. Paul LePage

Ashley L. Conti | BDN

Gov. Paul LePage

By Christopher Cousins, BDN Staff

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August 27, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

AUGUSTA, Maine — Gov. Paul LePage has sent letters to President Barack Obama and Maine's congressional delegation to express opposition to proposals to apply national monument protections to federal land in the Gulf of Maine and land in the Millinocket area.

According to LePage, the federal government is considering new monument designations under the provisions of the Antiquities Act, which LePage suggests should be reformed. He argued that both monuments would harm Maine's economy by putting some of its natural resources off-limits and suggested that one of the proposals — which is little more than rumor at this point — seeks to pursue a national park that has already been rejected by voters in East Millinocket and Medway.

"I am hearing more and more that national park proponents are considering seeking a national monument designation after their proposal was defeated at the polls in Medway and East Millinocket," wrote LePage in an Aug. 28 letter to Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King and Reps. Bruce Poliquin and Chellie Pingree. "A national monument designation makes Maine timber off limits to the forest products industry."

As for a National Marine Monument in the Gulf of Maine, LePage signaled his opposition to

Obama and requested information about the process moving forward.

“Fundamentally, I oppose this power because it is so sweeping and provides few procedural protections to those who are likely to be most affected,” wrote LePage to Obama. “In addition to my general objections to this power, I am also opposed to the specific project in question that looks to designate Cashes Ledge and undersea canyons and seamounts in the Gulf of Maine as a national monument. These National Marine Monuments serve only one purpose — excluding commercial fishing activity from certain segments of the ocean.”

Watch bangordailynews.com for updates.



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Lucas

2 messages

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Aug 6, 2015 at 8:55 AM

His response: "best news ever!"

Sent from my iPhone

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Thu, Aug 6, 2015 at 8:57 AM

Yay!

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Kristen

5 messages

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Aug 5, 2015 at 7:48 AM

Sounds like Kristen got you up to speed.

George Cooper
Forbes-Tate
1099 New York Avenue NW Suite 500
Washington D.C. 20001
(O) 202-638-0125
(C) 703-371-5572

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Wed, Aug 5, 2015 at 9:41 AM

I have an update. Let me know when I can call!

[Quoted text hidden]

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Aug 5, 2015 at 10:13 AM

130p work?

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
Cc: Markee Connors <markee_connors@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Aug 5, 2015 at 11:52 AM

Yes. You call me?

[Quoted text hidden]

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Markee Connors <markee_connors@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Aug 5, 2015 at 12:03 PM

Will do

Sent from my iPhone



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Time for a quick chat?

3 messages

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Aug 3, 2015 at 2:50 PM

George Cooper
Forbes-Tate
1099 New York Avenue, NW Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(O) 202-638-0125
(C) 703-371-5572

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Mon, Aug 3, 2015 at 5:14 PM

Tomorrow ok?

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Aug 4, 2015 at 10:52 AM

Yes - afternoon works

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Automatic reply: Time for a quick chat?

message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Aug 3, 2015 at 5:14 PM

I am out of the office until Monday August 17 but checking email.



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Thank you!

1 message

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Jul 29, 2015 at 2:54 PM

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-late.com>, Kristen Brengel <kbrengel@npca.org>

Hello,

I wanted to thank you both and also Lucas St. Clair and Mitchell Butler (whose e-mail I unfortunately didn't have) for meeting with me today. I would love to get a copy of the powerpoint that you shared with me if possible and also a copy of the economic study. I very much look forward to working together with all of you and would be happy to set up a time to speak again in the future if you wish.

All my best,
Nikki

—
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

**Accepted: Updated Invitation: Meeting with Lucas St. Clair @ Tue Jul 28, 2015
1pm - 1:30pm (nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)**

2 messages

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Jul 24, 2015 at 12:02 PM

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Jul 24, 2015 at 12:32 PM



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

**Declined: Invitation: (HOLD) George Cooper @ Thu Jul 30, 2015 2:30pm - 3pm
(nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)**

message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Thu, Jul 23, 2015 at 3:37 PM

To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Lucas is only here on Tuesday and Wednesday – apologies if I gave you a bad date.



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Politico Piece on Governor LePage

message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Tue, Jul 21, 2015 at 11:43 AM

To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

<http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/07/maine-lepage-america-craziest-governor-goes-off-the-rails-120320.html#.Va5kNYtIWS0>

George Cooper
Forbes-Tate
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POLITICO

POLITICS

America's Craziest Governor Goes Off the Rails

Is Paul LePage overplaying his hand or no longer playing with a full deck?

By COLIN WOODARD | July 19, 2015



The strangest month in memory at Maine's State House started with Gov. Paul LePage stepping out of his office to squeeze a squeaking rubber pig toy for the assembled press and call their attention to a tabletop Christmas tree decorated with ornaments bearing portraits of several of his erstwhile Republican legislative allies, including the president of the state senate.

State lawmakers of both parties, he explained in the unusual June 17 appearance, had rejected his budget in favor a compromise package he alleged was filled with pork. In response, he announced he had just issued some 200 line-item vetoes just to give lawmakers more work to do before the session could adjourn for Maine's cherished, all-too-short summer. "For five months they wasted our time," LePage explained. "This time I am going to waste a little bit of their time."

"We need Mainers to understand our government is corrupt," the chief executive of that government continued. "The Maine people have to demand better from our elected officials."

One month later LePage— a pugnacious, hot-headed, sometimes vulgar Tea Party-style conservative—is facing a bipartisan investigation into potential abuse of power, a nascent impeachment effort by opponents in the lower State House chamber, and a federal lawsuit by the outgoing Democratic House speaker, who has accused the governor of blackmailing a non-profit school into revoking their job offer to him. Meanwhile, leaders of the Republican-controlled state Senate and many Republicans in the House have turned on the governor, helping overturn hundreds of his vetoes and line-item vetoes in lightning-paced voting sessions, sometimes at a rate of one every 25 seconds. His veto of the bipartisan budget was overturned, narrowly avoiding a state government shutdown. An aggressive attempt to appropriate wider veto authority for his office has been rebuffed by lawmakers and legal experts, but still threatens to plunge the state into a constitutional crisis.

"For whatever reason the governor has chosen to demonize the entire legislature and people in both parties who don't always agree with him on everything," says Sen.

Roger Katz, a moderate Republican whose face adorned one of the ornaments on LePage's Christmas tree. "There is so much he could get done if he chose to work with the legislature instead of against it."

Mark Brewer, a political scientist at the University of Maine, puts it this way: "This is no longer a partisan battle or one primarily over policy. He's turned it into an institutional fight, a knock-down, drag-out fight between executive and legislative prerogative."

LePage won reelection in November by a five-point margin in a three-way race, surprising many outside the state who knew him as the guy who told the NAACP to "kiss my butt," chastised a state senator for wanting to "give it to the people without Vaseline" and turned an obscure mural depicting U.S. labor history into a national cause célèbre by removing it from the state labor department because an anonymous constituent likened it to North Korean brainwashing. He's perhaps the only governor in the country who could rib New Jersey Governor Chris Christie for being "a little bit shy" and only be half kidding.

Since his January re-inauguration, however, he's brandished his slender electoral mandate as a club, verbally battering anyone who stands in the way of the will of the Maine people, now said to be synonymous with his own. He spent much of a volatile, hour-long May 29 press conference lambasting Democratic legislative leaders as "repugnant," "disgraceful" and child-like before pledging to veto every bill with a Democratic sponsor regardless of merit until they agreed to back one of his top priorities, a constitutional referendum to eliminate the state's income tax. Days later he turned on two longtime allies—Senate President Mike Thibodeau and Senate Majority Leader Garrett Mason—for engaging in budget talks with Democrats; his daughter, who heads his political organization Maine People Before Politics, recorded robocalls deployed in both the stalwart conservatives' districts, erroneously accusing them of funding "welfare for illegal aliens." Instead of falling into line, the lawmakers have steeled their resolve.

"I think he wants some primary challenges against Republicans in 2016 so he will have a more conservative legislature to work with," says political scientist Jim Melcher of the University of Maine at Farmington. "But that's hard to pull off and I

think he's overplayed his hand.”

LePage's isolation increased substantially earlier this month after a bizarre episode in which he failed to veto 19 bills he opposed—including a hotly-contested measure to prevent 1,000 legal asylum seekers from having their welfare benefits cut off—and thus allowed the bills to become law. The blunder was based on a novel interpretation of the state constitution that conflated the legislature having gone into recess for a few days with having adjourned for the session, which would have allowed the governor more time to veto the bills. Despite his take being soundly rejected by the state's attorney general, the non-partisan staff of the legislature and Republican leaders in the senate, LePage defiantly doubled-down on it, refusing to veto another 51 bills, which also became law early this week and will remain so unless the courts intervene.

As Democrats celebrated this act of unintentional compromise, some prominent conservatives expressed concern. “The administration has absolutely no ground to stand on here,” fumed Republican operative Lance Dutson, former head of the conservative Maine Heritage Policy Center, who this week launched a political organization for Republicans fed up with LePage. “All it has is rhetoric and intimidation, which unfortunately has been the story way too many times recently.” Mike Cianchette, the governor's attorney until he was deployed to Afghanistan with the Navy Reserves in 2013, told the *Bangor Daily News* LePage had taken “a very aggressive legal position” on the latest vetoes that “may be a bridge too far for the courts.”

The courts may soon be considering charges against LePage himself over the strong-arm tactics he used to force Good Will-Hinckley—a school for troubled teens—to recently abandon the hiring of House Speaker Mark Eves as their new director. Eves, a family therapist by training, said the governor threatened to pull \$530,000 in state funding, an accusation LePage has not denied. Eves says he is planning to file a federal civil rights lawsuit, even as the legislature's bipartisan watchdog committee unanimously voted to investigate. LePage, unbowed, has claimed his actions are somehow protected by the First Amendment and that the legislature's investigative agency—which has subpoena power—lacks the authority to

scrutinize his actions. As for the 70 new laws LePage meant to veto, the governor has said he won't enforce them unless compelled to by Maine's highest court, a threat that if carried out would throw state government into disarray.

Democrats are predictably apoplectic, with state party Chair Phil Bartlett pronouncing LePage "unfit to govern." State Rep. Pinny Beebe-Center, one of six lawmakers trying to start impeachment proceedings, called the governor's actions "lower than low." "We're the laughingstock of the country," she says. "He has made a mockery of Maine for too long," House Majority Leader Jeff McCabe said last week. "As lawmakers, we must put an end to this outrageousness."

Progressive political activist Ben Chin has worried aloud that the state no longer had a functional executive: "If there was to be a natural disaster or something like that, it's impossible for me to imagine our governor in the current state that he's in, for whatever reason, actually being able to effectively manage that."

(The governor's office didn't respond to POLITICO's request for an interview.)

What will happen next is anyone's guess, but it's hard not to conclude that at a minimum the governor has squandered the political capital he came away with in November's election. "I really think he's missed a real opportunity to get things done in a cooperative way," says Katz, the moderate Republican state senator. "I worry the well is so poisoned that it's gong to be difficult to get back to cooperation even if he chooses to do so."



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

July 29 and 30

3 messages

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Jul 20, 2015 at 10:27 AM

Lucas will be back in town those two days. We will be doing delegation meetings but it seemed to me it might be a good idea to sit back down with you and perhaps loop a few other people in as you see fit. Right now we are open those two days.

Thanks!

G

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Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Jul 20, 2015 at 11:42 AM

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>, Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Yep. Let's do it. Adding Gisella who will help organize. I'd like to see if Jon Jarvis and/or Molly Ross can join us. Sound good to you?

(Some text hidden)

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Mon, Jul 20, 2015 at 11:46 AM

To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Sounds great

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From: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Monday, July 20, 2015 at 11:42 AM

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>, Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: July 29 and 30



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Quick Chat?

message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Thu, Jul 16, 2015 at 12:33 PM

To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

On my cel if you get a couple of minutes 703 371 5572

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Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Check It Out

4 messages

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Jul 9, 2015 at 8:45 AM

<http://www.centralmaine.com/2015/07/09/before-a-park-build-a-monument/>

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Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Thu, Jul 9, 2015 at 9:21 AM

Awesome!

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
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202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Jul 9, 2015 at 9:21 AM

pls print for my 930am

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
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202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

Ojeda-dodds, Gisella <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Jul 9, 2015 at 9:43 AM

bringing to you now! Gisella

[Quoted text hidden]

Gisella Ojeda-Dodds
Executive Assistant to Nikki Buffa, Deputy Chief of Staff
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 "C" Street, NW, MS: 7229-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240
Telephone: (202) 208-4123/4105
Facsimile: (202) 208-4561
E-mail: Gisella_Ojeda-Dodds@ios.doi.gov



"Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our Ancestors, we borrow it from our Children."

- Tribe Unknown



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

**Accepted: Invitation: Maine Briefing @ Thu Jul 9, 2015 9:30am - 10am
(nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)**

1 message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Jul 6, 2015 at 10:27 AM



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Automatic reply: Setting Up a Maine Briefing

1 message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Jul 1, 2015 at 10:00 AM

I am out of the office until Monday July 6. If you have an urgent need to reach me, please contact Deanna Cook at (202) 638-0125 or dcook@forbes-tate.com.



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Setting Up a Maine Briefing

6 messages

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Mon, Jun 1, 2015 at 4:55 PM

To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

So Nikki I am follow up on Kristen's behalf to figure out a date and time to do the briefing on the park project. Wondering how the week of June 29 looks for you. If we do it then, Lucas can take part. We can certainly give you a presentation without him if you want to do it sooner or if that window doesn't look good.

Thanks,
George

George Cooper
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(C) 703-371-5572

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Jun 1, 2015 at 5:02 PM

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>, Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Sounds great! I'm adding Gisella to help schedule us!

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Mon, Jun 1, 2015 at 5:04 PM

To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Cool – thanks Nikki

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From: <Buffa>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Monday, June 1, 2015 at 5:02 PM

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>, Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: Setting Up a Maine Briefing

[Quoted text hidden]

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Jun 25, 2015 at 1:17 PM

So Gisella I mentioned this to Nikki the other night - we are now looking at July 8 and 9 for the two days Lucas will be here. If we could schedule time for a full briefing for you all on one of those two days that would be great.

Thanks,

George

George Cooper

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[Quoted text hidden]

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Jul 1, 2015 at 9:41 AM

Gisella I'm wondering if you have any times for the 8th or 9th with myself, Lucas St Clair, Kristen Brengel and Mitch Butler?

Thanks,

George

George Cooper

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On Jun 1, 2015, at 5:02 PM, Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Jul 1, 2015 at 10:00 AM

Of course! Gisella will set it up and see if Tommy can join us.

[Quoted text hidden]



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Maine Editorial

1 message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Mon, Jun 15, 2015 at 1:45 PM

To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

This ran in several papers owned by parent company. Very strong piece that really captures very effectively where things stand.

-G

<http://www.pressherald.com/2015/06/14/our-view-national-park-plan-merits-delegations-backing/>

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Our View: National park plan merits delegation's backing

www.pressherald.com

By The Editorial Board

Members of Maine's congressional delegation will be watching closely later this month as residents of the Katahdin-area towns of East Millinocket and Medway vote on their support for a proposed north woods national park and recreation area.

And the delegation should be paying attention. The proposed Katahdin Woods and Waters National Park would take advantage of the Katahdin area's significant natural assets, packaging them in a way that has proven successful at other national parks, with little to no downside, even if it doesn't completely live up to its promise.



Deasey Mountain offers one of the best vantage points for seeing Mount Katahdin from the proposed Katahdin Woods and Waters National Recreation Area. Creating the recreation area and an adjacent proposed national park – an idea once roundly rejected by area residents – is drawing increasing support in the region. 2014 Press Herald file photo/Gregory Rec

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However, statements on the park issue from Sens. Angus King, an independent, and Susan Collins, a Republican – and, more recently, from 2nd District Republican Rep. Bruce Poliquin – have followed nimbly the public sentiment in the Katahdin region. For years, the park proposal was dead on arrival to residents who saw papermaking as the area's once and future savior, and the delegation followed suit. Now that the region's view on the park proposal is softening, Maine's representatives in Washington appear to be opening to the idea.

THE POLL

But it shouldn't only be the Katahdin region that they are listening to. A north woods national park would affect and benefit a much wider swath of the state, from Dover-Foxcroft and Bangor, up through Lincoln and Patten, and on to Presque Isle.

And within that large, mostly rural area, the proposal is very popular. Elliotsville Plantation Inc., the group behind the park proposal, released a poll June 2 showing 67 percent of the voters in the 2nd Congressional District in favor, with just 25 percent opposed.

The poll, conducted by a respected pollster who also works for Collins, showed broad support for the park among almost all demographic groups and party affiliations.

The only people surveyed who were against the park were those who self-identified as "very conservative," and even then, the split was within the poll's margin of error.

That support shows most residents see the proposal for what it is – a potential boon to the area.

THE PROPOSAL

The proposal now calls for a 75,000-acre national park between Baxter State Park and the East Branch of the Penobscot River. On the other side of the river, there would be a 75,000-acre recreation area.

The park would be open to fishing, hiking and paddling while the recreation area would allow snowmobiling and hunting, too.

The 150,000-acre boundary would be drawn in the legislation establishing the park. Elliotsville Plantation – the creation of the family of Burt's Bees founder Roxanne Quimby and now run by her son, Lucas St. Clair – would donate 100,000 acres. The rest would be purchased only as landowners become willing to sell. No land would be taken through eminent domain.

The park would be funded in part by a \$40 million endowment, which, along with gate fees, would pay more than half of the park's annual operating budget.

That's the plan as presented by Elliotsville Plantation. But there is also room for local input if and when the planning process moves forward.

THE PURPOSE

A park would create 450 to 1,000 jobs, according to a study funded by Elliotsville Plantation and reviewed by four of Maine's top economists.

It would be another major draw for Maine's tourism industry, bringing more people up the I-95 corridor, a fact not lost on the Bangor City Council, which supports the park.

It would provide a companion to Acadia National Park and its 2.5 million annual visitors, just two hours away, as well as to Baxter next door. The proposed new park is a much different landscape than Acadia – think mountains and moose instead of lighthouses and lobsters – and a more accessible experience than the wild backwoods of Baxter.

And with the significant marketing of the National Park Service behind the park, millions more people would hear about this underappreciated area.

THE OPPONENTS

Finally, the proposed new park would have no impact on the industries that have traditionally supported the area: papermaking and forestry.

Those industries have declined because of forces far beyond Maine. They may return, in numbers far smaller than before, or they may not. But that's got nothing to do with what happens in the area of the proposed park, which if harvested for timber would only support up to 21 jobs and make up less than 1 percent of Maine's timber haul.

Sure, a park wouldn't fully replace the jobs that have been lost. But that's not the choice here.

The choice is whether to accept a plan with a level of investment that would be the envy of mill towns throughout Maine, and would take full advantage of the Katahdin region's natural resources, or to continue along a path that has led to high unemployment and empty storefronts.

Much of central and northern Maine have made their decision. Residents of the Katahdin region are coming around – the plan has been endorsed by Medway selectmen as well the local chamber of commerce and Rotary club.

Maine's congressional delegation should get on board, too.

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Were you interviewed for this story? If so, please fill out our accuracy form.

Send questions/comments to the editors.





Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Senator King

8 messages

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Wed, Jun 10, 2015 at 3:49 PM

To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

So I was reminded of our conversation when I was listening to Senator King at the just concluded NP subcommittee hearing. He offered kudos for the "Passports To Your National Parks" app. Basically said it would be better if it included option of buying passes but he was offering a compliment. As I say this reminded me of opinion I was sharing on the positive view he would have of other things NP is doing on the tech/millennial attraction front that could be covered in a letter. His disappointment in the current inability to charge forward with app/online passes will be mitigated if he more fully understands the other cools stuff NPS is doing in association with the centennial etc.

His tone in general in the hearing in my opinion was very positive and cooperative. He hit on Roosevelt-Campabello – he is quite on fixated on that budget coming straight to Congress. He also hit on the Acadia concessions thing but in a very constructive sort of way, talking about the a current concessionaire's ability to get some points for past performance.

-G

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Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Jun 10, 2015 at 3:53 PM

To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>

Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

FYI. We should discuss at our next Centennial check-in.

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Jun 10, 2015 at 3:53 PM

To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

FYI.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **George Cooper** <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
Date: Wed, Jun 10, 2015 at 3:49 PM
Subject: Senator King
To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

[Quoted text hidden]

—
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Jun 10, 2015 at 3:54 PM

Thanks for the update. When are you free for me to call you?
[Quoted text hidden]

—
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Jun 10, 2015 at 3:55 PM

I am good between now and 5 Nikki

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From: <Buffa>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 3:54 PM
To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Senator King



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Accepted: Invitation: Call with George Cooper @ Wed Jun 3, 2015 4:30pm - 4:45pm (nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)

1 message

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 2:57 PM



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Invitation: Call with George Cooper @ Wed Jun 3, 2015 4:30pm - 4:45pm (nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)

1 message

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 2:53 PM
Reply-To: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>
To: "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "gcooper@forbes-tate.com" <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Call with George Cooper

[more details »](#)

When **Wed Jun 3, 2015 4:30pm – 4:45pm Eastern Time**

Where **Nikki to call George Cooper at 703-371-5572 (map)**

Video call **(b) (5)**

Calendar **nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov**

- Who
- **Nicole Buffa** - organizer
 - **Gisella Ojeda-dodds** - creator
 - **gcooper@forbes-tate.com**

Going? **Yes - Maybe - No** [more options »](#)

Invitation from Google Calendar

You are receiving this email at the account **nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov** because you are subscribed for invitations on calendar **nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov**.

To stop receiving these emails, please log in to <https://www.google.com/calendar/> and change your notification settings for this calendar.

invite.ics
2K



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Quick Call

3 messages

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 2:26 PM

To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Nikki could you possible hop on the phone for 5-10 minutes later today or some time tomorrow a.m.?

George Cooper
Forbes-Tate
1099 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
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(O) 202-638-0125
(C) 703-371-5572

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 2:41 PM

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

How about 430pm today?

From: George Cooper [mailto:gcooper@forbes-tate.com]

Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2015 2:27 PM

To: Nikki Buffa

Subject: Quick Call

[Quoted text hidden]

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Wed, Jun 3, 2015 at 2:44 PM

To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Perfect – easiest to just call me on cel below?

George Cooper
Forbes-Tate
1099 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(O) 202-638-0125
(C) 703-371-5572

From: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 2:41 PM

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: RE: Quick Call

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Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Poll: Overwhelming Support for National Park and Recreation Area

messages

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>
 To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Jun 2, 2015 at 2:29 PM

We expect this to really shake things up!

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Recreation Area



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: David Farmer
 (207) 557-5968
davidwfarmermaine@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 June 2, 2015

Poll: Overwhelming Support for National Park and Recreation Area

BANGOR – A poll released today shows that a proposal to create a new national park and national recreation area in Maine is overwhelmingly popular.

The poll of Maine's 2nd Congressional District, where the national park and recreation area would be located, found that 67 percent of voters across the district approve of the proposal, while just 25 percent oppose.

"The park and recreation area would create between 450-1,000 jobs, permanently protect access for outdoor recreation such as snowmobiling and hunting, and include a \$40 million endowment to offset costs," said Lucas St. Clair, the president of Elliottsville Plantation Inc., the foundation that has proposed creating the park and recreation area. "We have been working for more than three years to build support for the national park and national recreation area. After thousands of conversations, we have a proposal that incorporates the best ideas from stakeholders in the region."

The poll of 500 likely voters was conducted by Moore Information and pollster Hans Kaiser. Kaiser has extensive experience polling in Maine and his clients include U.S. Senator Susan Collins, the National Republican Senatorial Committee and the National Republican Congressional Committee.

The poll, which included both landline and cell phone interviews, was conducted May 13-14. It has a margin of error of 4 percent with a 95 percent confidence level.

"The park and recreation area gets wide majority support among a wide cross section of respondents, including Republicans (57 percent support), Democrats (77 percent support) and Independents (68 percent support)," Kaiser wrote in a memo about the poll. "Men and women, voters of all ages,

conservatives, moderates and liberals are all supportive of the proposal with large majorities in each group favoring it."

For more information or to receive a copy of the polling memo from Moore Information, email David Farmer at davidwfarmemaine@gmail.com

For more information about the proposal to create a new national park and national recreation area in Maine, visit: www.Katahdinwoods.org.

###

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Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Jun 2, 2015 at 2:56 PM

To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Christina Goldfuss <Christina_W_Goldfuss@ceq.eop.gov>

Well this is interesting: The poll of Maine's 2nd Congressional District, where the national park and recreation area would be located, found that 67 percent of voters across the district approve of the proposal, while just 25 percent oppose

[Quoted text hidden]

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Jun 2, 2015 at 2:58 PM

To: "Degnan, Michael" <Michael_H_Degnan@ceq.eop.gov>, Drew McConville <Andrew_J_McConville@ceq.eop.gov>, Trent Bauseman <Trenton_D_Bauseman@ceq.eop.gov>

[Quoted text hidden]

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Jun 2, 2015 at 2:56 PM

To: Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>

[Quoted text hidden]

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Jun 2, 2015 at 2:57 PM

To: Neil Komze <nkomze@blm.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>

[Quoted text hidden]

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Jun 2, 2015 at 2:57 PM

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Wow. Let's talk soon.

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

McConville, Drew <Andrew_J_McConville@ceq.eop.gov>
To: "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Jun 2, 2015 at 3:44 PM

Thx. That IS interesting.

From: Buffa, Nicole [mailto:nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 02:56 PM
To: Degnan, Michael; McConville, Drew; Bauserman, Trent
Subject: Fwd: Poll: Overwhelming Support for National Park and Recreation Area

would make it easier for people to buy tickets and greatly increase revenue for national parks.

They say it's time to move the park system "into this new century."



Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Maine Stuff

10 messages

George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 12:10 PM

To: "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Nikki it was great to meet you last night. I'm glad you and Lucas got a chance to talk. He'll be back in town in a couple of weeks. Let me know if you'd like us to come in and give you a more thorough fill on where we are with this endeavor. We've come a loooong way but still have some big hills to climb.

Best,
George

George Cooper
Forbes-Tate
1099 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(O) 202-638-0125
(C) 703-371-5572

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 12:26 PM

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>, Katie Rupp <Katherine_Rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Hey George. It was great to meet you both. I spoke with our COS, Tommy Beaudreau, and he and I would both like to meet with you guys when Lucas is back next. I'm adding Katie to help schedule us.

Thanks again,
Nikki

Nikki Buffa

Deputy Chief of Staff

U.S. Department of the Interior

202-219-3861

nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

assume you don't have anything that has come open earlier with Tommy and Nikki? If not Lucas can still do 3P.

Thanks!

George

George Cooper
Forbes-Tate
1099 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(O) 202-638-0125
(C) 703-371-5572

From: <Rupp>, Katherine <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Monday, April 6, 2015 at 11:37 AM

To: George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com>

Subject: Re: Maine Stuff

Perfect. I have you down for 3:00-3:00 on Tuesday. I have included details below about getting into Interior and room number but please let me know if you have any questions.

Hope you are enjoying this beautiful day!

best,
Katie

DOI is located at 1849 C Street NW (you can enter on either C or E between 18th and 19th- we are on the E street side of the building) and the meeting will be in room 6614. Please allow 5-10 minutes to get through security and have them call me at 202-208-5403 or my cell which is 202-304-6730. Security will then send you up to the 6th floor for the meeting. Upon arrival, they will ask to see an ID (license is fine).

On Mon, Apr 6, 2015 at 11:26 AM, George Cooper <gcooper@forbes-tate.com> wrote:
3PM would be great - thank you!

George Cooper
Forbes-Tate
1099 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(O) 202-638-0125
(C) 703-371-5572

On Apr 6, 2015, at 11:21 AM, Rupp, Katherine <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi George,

Actually, I think I can make some time Tuesday afternoon work for a 30

minute meeting with Tommy and Nikki. Would any of below times work for Lucas? Let me know which one works best or if we need to look at another part of the day.

Thanks much,
Katie

Katie Rupp
Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff | U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-5403

Tuesday, April 14th

3:00-3:30

3:30-4:00

4:00-4:30

[Quoted text hidden]

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Rupp, Katherine" <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 5:42 PM

I'd like for George to be there but if he can't (and we don't have other open slots), just Lucas is fine. Thanks!

[Quoted text hidden]

Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Rupp, Katherine" <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 5:42 PM

Tomorrow's a mess, so if they want me there it'll have to be at 3.

TPB

On Apr 13, 2015, at 5:39 PM, Rupp, Katherine <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Rupp, Katherine <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 6:02 PM

got it. keeping it at 3:00 with just Lucas.

[Quoted text hidden]

Rupp, Katherine <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Apr 14, 2015 at 12:27 PM

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI

Attachments:

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/1. Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI/1.2 QFRs from Sen Risch 2-24-15 Hrg.docx

/1. Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI/1.3 QFRs from Sen. Barrasso 2-24-15 Hrg.docx

/1. Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI/1.4 QFRs from Sen. Flake 2_24_15 Hrg.docx

/1. Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI/1.5 QFRs from Sen. Franken 2-24-15 Hrg.docx

/1. Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI/1.6 QFRs from Sen. Heinrich.2-24-15 Hrg.docx

/1. Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI/1.7 QFRs from Sen. Hirono 2-24-15 Hrg.docx

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/1. Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI/2.1 Questions from All

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/1. Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI/17.1 QFRs from Sen Capito 2-24-15 Hrg.docx

/1. Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI/17.2 QFRs from Sen Risch 2-24-15 Hrg.docx

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/1. Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI/17.12 QFRs from Sen.

Wyden 2-24-15 Hrg.docx
/1. Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte
Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI/17.13 QFRs from Senator
Portman 2-24-15 Hrg.docx

"Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Feb 26 2015 14:46:17 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Christopher Salotti <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>, Pamela Barkin <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Dominic Maione <dominic_maione@ios.doi.gov>, "Mahan, Joshua" <joshua_mahan@ios.doi.gov>, Matthew Quinn <matthew_quinn@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI
Attachments: QFRs from Sen Capito 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen Risch 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Barrasso 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Flake 2_24_15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Franken 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Heinrich.2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Hirono 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Lee.2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Manchin 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Murkowski 2-24-2015 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Sanders 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Wyden 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Senator Portman 2-24-15 Hrg.docx

Here we go. Looks like we have a month to get these back up to SENR.

Pam will probably take a cut at assigning these on Friday.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ripchensky, Darla (Energy) <Darla_Ripchensky@energy.senate.gov>
Date: Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 4:25 PM
Subject: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI
To: "sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Kearney, Christopher (Energy)" <Christopher_Kearney@energy.senate.gov>, "Brooks, David (Energy)" <David_Brooks@energy.senate.gov>

Hi Sarah,

Attached are Questions for the Record submitted to Secretary Jewell by various Energy Committee Members regarding the hearing which was held on February 25, 2015 entitled "The FY 2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior." We request that Secretary Jewell provide her responses to these questions by **Tuesday, March 24, 2015** for inclusion in the official hearing record.

Please provide the responses directly to me, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Darla Ripchensky, PMP

Administrative Director

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

304 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

202.224.3607

--

Sarah C. Neimeyer, Director
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Office - (202) 208-5557

Fax - (202) 208-5533

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Shelley Moore Capito

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: The office of Surface Mining (OSM) has spent more than \$8 million over the past several years to develop a rule to replace the 2008 stream buffer zone rule. OSM recently repealed the 2008 rule and reinstated the rules that were in place before 2008. You previously committed to taking a fresh look to decide whether any new rulemaking was necessary. In light of these developments, is there any need for spending more tax-payer money on a new rulemaking?

Question 2: The earlier stream buffer zone rule development included several cooperating primacy states, including West Virginia, as part of the NEPA process. Has this arrangement continued? If so, when was the last time OSM communicated with those cooperating state agencies on the status of any further rule development?

Question 3: I want to ask about habitat conservation, and in particular that related to the Northern Long-eared bat, which is a huge issue in my home state. It appears that the assumptions made by BLM and FWS about drilling impacts in connection with the Northern Long-eared do not take into consideration recent technologies developed and in use by the oil and gas industry. In fact, the majority of studies on oil and gas industry impacts are based upon assumptions of well density and drilling footprints that are decades old. Shouldn't the conservation and management strategies of FWS and BLM incorporate information from engineers and other industry specialists who develop and implement technological innovations that improve the efficiency of oil and gas operations and reduce their environmental impacts? Also, why don't BLM-FWS Assumptions on Effects of Oil and Gas Development take into account new technologies and smaller drilling footprints?

Question 4: On July 17, 2014, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it was banning the use of neonicotinoids on USFWS lands. What other federal agencies did the USFW consult before making this decision?

Question 5: What input, if any, did USFWS receive from these agencies?

Question 6: Were any NGO organizations consulted or have input into this decision?

Question 7: Why was this decision not published in the Federal Register for public comment?

Question 8: Are agricultural operations on USFWS lands reviewed as a part of each refuge management plan where such operations occur?

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Question 9: Why was this action not undertaken as a part of refuge management planning process?

Question 10: Was an economic analysis conducted before this decision was made? If so, please provide a copy. If not, why not?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator James Risch

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell (and Michael Connor)

There are several Idaho federal water storage project feasibility studies that were authorized under BOR (e.g., Snake River systems including; Boise River Project – Lucky Peak, Arrowrock, Anderson, and Deer Flat; Upper Snake River: Teton, Idaho site reservoirs, Deer Flat,).

Question 1: What is the feasibility study status of the BOR Idaho water project studies?

Question 2: What possible actions does BOR consider pursuing on the Snake River system via the outcome of the feasibility studies?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Barrasso

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: During the hearing, I asked you whether BLM's final rule on hydraulic fracturing would allow states to apply for a variance. In response, you stated that BLM's "proposed regulations say that if a state's rule is stronger than the proposed federal rule, that the state's rule will govern." Will BLM allow states (not operators) to apply for a variance from BLM's final hydraulic fracturing rule? If so, under what circumstances will a state be able to obtain a variance from BLM's final rule?

Question 2: During the hearing, we discussed your letter to Governor Matt Mead dated January 26, 2015. In the letter, you state that: "The rider attached to H.R. 83... does not affect the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's...court-ordered obligation to make a determination by September 30, 2015, as to whether the greater sage-grouse does or does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act." I specifically asked you whether such a "determination" would be legally binding. You stated that you "would have to defer to the solicitors." Please clarify for the Committee whether such a "determination" would be legally binding if the rider remains in effect.

Question 3: I understand there are significant delays in obtaining sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines on Federal land from BLM. However, in response to one of my questions on this matter, you said that you are "not aware of circumstances where permits have been slowed down by the BLM."

A. What is the total number of requests for sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines pending at the Bureau of Land Management?

B. What is the total number of requests for sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines pending at each BLM Field Office?

C. When were each of the pending requests for sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines first submitted to BLM?

Question 4: On February 20, 2015, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) published a notice in the *Federal Register* to pursue a rulemaking to revise regulations under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act on the use of explosives on surface coal mining operations. A. Does OSM plan to consult with the state regulatory authorities prior to initiating this rulemaking? B. If so, when will this consultation take place and which states will it involve?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of Interior

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR JEFF FLAKE

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1. In the Department's wildfire budget justification, the anticipated cost of wildfire suppression based on the average of the previous 10 years is \$384 million. The Department's anticipated 'worst case' scenario cost, based on a Forest Service mathematical model is \$467 million. The Department claims that the 'on budget' funding is sufficient to fight the predictable 99% of the fires which account for 70% of the costs. But, the Department has only requested enough funds to cover 70% of the *predictable* costs, not the *worst case* costs - meaning that the plan going into the year is to have insufficient funds to fight the fires that are predicted to happen. Why doesn't the department request 'on-budget' discretionary amounts sufficient to cover at least 70% of the worst case scenario?

Question 2. The maintenance cost for the National Park System continues to rise. This year the Department is requesting a 94% increase in deferred maintenance funding and a 67% increase for regularly scheduled maintenance. Together the costs of just maintaining the current park system are over \$308 million. Yet, even with this ever-increasing cost, the Department is proposing to more than triple the amount spent on Federal land acquisitions in FY16 to \$447 million. What impact will the proposed additional land acquisition have on the continually increasing maintenance bill of the National Park System?

Question 3. Last year the Federal government, as a landowner of nearly half the land area in the Western US, met its obligations to counties and local governments by appropriating money out of discretionary funds to make Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments. The Department is requesting no discretionary funds for PILT in FY16, relying instead on Congress to use mandatory spending to fund PILT. How does the Department intend to offset the cost of the proposed mandatory spending increase?

Question 4. The recently-passed water rights settlement on the Bill Williams River, Arizona is contingent on the completion of several actions, including approvals by the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan Steering Committee. What is the Department doing to facilitate the final implementation of the settlement?

Question 5. In July 2014, the Bureau of Reclamation partnered with municipal water providers in Arizona, California, Colorado, and Nevada to create the Colorado River System Conservation Program. How much funding does this program currently have? How many projects has it funded? How much water has been conserved? What has been the effect on reservoir levels? What additional steps will the Department take in FY16 with this program?

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of Interior

Question 6. The Department has requested \$244 million for Indian water rights settlements and negotiation. Which new Indian water rights settlements are being prioritized by the department? What will the additional \$16.9 million for negotiation and legal support allow the department to do? What is being done to increase the pace of settling outstanding claims?

Question 7. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published the final EIS and draft Record of Decision on the Proposed Revision to the Regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf on November 25, 2014. The final EIS differed significantly from the draft EIS published in July 2014, due in large part to extensive negotiations between the FWS and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Senator McCain and I sent a letter to Director Ashe on December 21, 2014 requesting an extension of the public comment deadline to allow stakeholders, including the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, time to analyze the significantly changed proposed regulations. In this letter we specifically identified provisions in the consent decree that allow a modification of the deadline upon showing good cause, consistent with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Did the FWS approach the Department of Justice about seeking an extension of the public comment deadline? What was the Department of Justice's reason for not seeking an extension?

Question 8. There is a proposal for the President to bypass Congress and designate over 1.7 million acres of land in northern Arizona as the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. This would lock up not only Federal land, but over 60,000 acres of State Trust land and nearly 30,000 acres of private land. Such a designation would have a devastating effect on the economic productivity of State trust land which is managed primarily to benefit Arizona public schools. It would have a similarly chilling effect on the economic productivity on private land and existing mining operations. The creation of this monument has been strongly opposed by the State of Arizona. Would any of the Department's proposed funding be used to pursue the designation of a National Monument in Arizona?

Question 9. In order to get the most value for every dollar spent on managing National Parks, the Park Service is required to seek competing bids for private companies to run concessions within the National Parks. In instances where a concessionaire has held the contract for extended periods the leasehold surrender interest (LSI) that must be paid to the outgoing concessionaire when a contract changes hands can become a significant barrier to the competitive bidding process. What actions is the Department pursuing to ensure a true competition for park concessions while still respecting the investment made by private companies in their business?

Question 10. Arizona counties and municipalities have tried to work with the BLM to authorize third-party concessionaires to operate on Recreation and Public Purposes Act (RPPA) parcels. The BLM in Arizona will not permit local governments to allow

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a third-party concessionaire on the exact same land that the BLM could itself allow a concessionaire to operate if the BLM still controlled the land. During Director Kornze's nomination hearing in December 2013, I asked specifically about the status of the Solicitor's Office evaluation of the August 2011 Instructional Memorandum for Third Party Uses on Recreation and Public Purposes Acts Patents and Leases (2011-162), and when Arizona local governments could expect a decision about the ability to enter into agreements with third-party concessionaires. In the written responses, Director Kornze did not provide an update on the Solicitor's evaluation or an expected timeline for the local governments. What is the status of the Solicitor's office evaluation of the above memorandum, and when does the office expect to make a decision regarding third-party concessionaries to operate on RPPA lands?

Question 11. In a December 5, 2014 report, the Congressional Research Service identified several potential technical discrepancies in how some Federal payments to counties are treated in the calculation of Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments. The report specifies that payments made under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act by the BLM require a reduction in the following year's PILT payments, but payments for similar lands administered by the Forest Service do not require a reduction. Additionally, the report claims that payments under the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program require an offset in the following year's PILT levels for payments from the Forest Service but not payments from the BLM. As the agency responsible for making annual PILT payments, does the Department treat SRS payments by the Forest Service and the BLM differently when computing PILT payments? Similarly, does the Department treat payments made under the Bankhead-Jones Act by the Forest Service and BLM differently for purposes of PILT payments?

Question 12. Your testimony includes several references to encouraging individuals to serve, work, and volunteer on public lands. Some have suggested that questions of legal liability act as a disincentive for federal agencies to work with volunteers. Has the Department identified any such impediments to promoting volunteer work on public lands? If so, does the Department have suggestions on how to remove these barriers?

Question 13. The trans-canyon pipeline that supplies water to Grand Canyon National Park has incurred repeated maintenance issues over the last thirty plus years. Most recently, we witnessed two separate closures of Phantom Ranch as crews sought to address pipeline breaks, and a section of the pipeline is undergoing repairs until July of this year. According to some estimates, the cost to replace the entire pipeline would fall between \$100 million and \$150 million with additional operations and maintenance charges. Does the Park Service have updated estimates regarding the cost to repair the trans-canyon pipeline?

Question 14. I understand that the Park Service is evaluating potential solutions to the water pipeline challenges at the Grand Canyon National Park by developing a

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water-delivery study. Please describe the alternatives being considered and the costs associated with each option. When do you expect to complete the final study?

Question 15. In evaluating potential water-delivery options, has anyone from the Park Service considered regional water-supply solutions? If so, who has the Park Service met with, and what options are being considered?

Question 16. Is there an opportunity for the Park Service to achieve cost savings by pursuing a regional water-supply solution, as opposed to solely looking at replacement of the trans-canyon pipeline?

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Questions from Senator Al Franken

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: As you know, a recent court decision reversed the Fish and Wildlife Service's determination to delist the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act. Right now, farmers and ranchers in Minnesota are concerned about losing their livestock to wolf attacks, and they really need federal funds that can help to protect their herds. For example, the Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program provides funding to livestock producers so they can employ strategies to help prevent wolf attacks from occurring in the first place. Can you tell me why the Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to discontinue funding for this program in FY 2016?

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Questions from Senator Martin Heinrich

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: In December, Congress passed the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act, which directs the National Park Service to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in three states within one year of enactment. Do you expect to be able to meet that deadline?

Question 2: When and how does the National Park Service plan to involve local communities in the park planning process for the Manhattan Project National Historic Park?

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Questions from Senator Mazie K. Hirono

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: National Monuments

Madam Secretary, I would like to thank the Administration for taking action to protect and preserve lands across our nation, the recent executive action for Honouliuli in Hawaii is a good example. It is a sobering, yet important piece of our nation's history that will serve to educate future generations. In 2009, when I was a member of the House of Representatives I worked with Senators Inouye and Akaka to authorize a special resource study on World War II internment camp sites in Hawaii. Now that the President has designated Honouliuli as a national monument to be managed by the National Park Service, an agency well-seasoned and experienced with management of national monuments across our country. I want to see Honouliuli and other sites recently designated get off to a strong start.

This designation has been a collaborative, inclusive effort—between the local community, Hawaii's Congressional delegation, and other public and private stakeholders. Can you give me a sense of what the path will be to move Honouliuli forward in FY 2016 and beyond?

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Questions from Senator Mike Lee

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Antiquities Act

1. Secretary Jewell, during your confirmation hearing, I asked if you would seek the input of local stakeholders regarding national monument designations. You confirmed you would do this. However on October 31, 2013, you said, “if Congress doesn’t step up to act to protect some of these important places that have been identified by communities and people throughout the country, then the president will take action ... there’s not question that if Congress doesn’t act, we will.” One would think that the elected representatives of the people would be a group of stakeholders whose buy in and support should necessary in designating monuments. Has your opinion changed from the answer you gave me your confirmation hearing?

Transcript, Sally Jewell Confirmation Hearing, March 21, 2013

Senator Lee: *The monument designation question is important because, as you were discussing that with Senator Heinrich, I appreciated your commitment to work with local stakeholders whenever they are dealing with something like monument designation. We had about 2 million acres designated as a monument a few years ago in my state, and it was not only not done without extensive consultation, input, and buy-in of local officials and residents, it was done completely by surprise. It was brought upon us completely by stealth. It was announced from a neighboring state, and we would have like to have had input. So, I would really appreciate if you would commit to me that you would advise the president that it is best to work with locals affected by broad decisions like that in advance of making such a decision.*

Secretary Jewell: *That is certainly consistent with what I believe in and with what the White House believes in as well.*

2. The President added four new national monuments in 2014. Regarding your commitment to an open process with local consultation, were these communities given proper notice before these monuments were designated? Did you change anything about the designation area or timing in relation to the concerns of the impacted community or state?
Last four monuments listed:
3. The Antiquities Act also states that the President is to reserve “the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.” However, of the 11 monuments President Obama has designated so far, just the last three monuments constituted

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over 250 million acres of new federal property. Would you consider these areas to be the smallest areas available?

Endangered Species Act

1. As you know, the agency recently put out a rule related to adverse modification – “Definition of Destruction or Adverse Modification of Critical Habitat.” Can you please provide me the statutory authority for this rule?
2. How much does the Department spend on ESA litigation? If attorney’s fees were capped, is it possible that money could instead be used for species recovery?
3. In a hearing before the House Natural Resources Committee on April 3, 2014, you stated that the Department publishes the underlying data for potential ESA listings. However, my staff has experienced many examples where the data used in listings is simply not available because the Department has, in fact, *not* made it available – for example, the underlying data for the listing of the Gunnison sage grouse was not released. Why does the Department publish scientific findings for some listings, but not for others? Can you commit to making available to the public all underlying data for all potential listings?
4. How do you ensure that state and local entities are able to stay informed and participate in the listing determination process? On average, how many meetings does your Department have with state and local officials during the listing process?

National Park Service

1. What is the current maintenance backlog for the National Park Service? What is the proportion of the Service’s budget that is spent on administrative overhead versus park maintenance?
2. How does the Department intend to prioritize its funding to address this backlog? Is it your opinion that we should consider a moratorium on the addition of National Park land until the NPS addresses the backlog in its current portfolio?

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Questions from Senator Joe Manchin III

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: Secretary Jewell, I am very interested in some of the AML proposals in the Interior budget. As you know, I am very supportive of funding the UMWA's pension plan. Our miners have mined the coal that powered our nation and we need to ensure they continue to receive their hard earned benefits.

I am also interested in the proposal to use AML money for coalfield communities in Appalachia, like those in my home state of West Virginia. As you're aware, this program would require a legislative solution.

In your view, what would this legislative solution look like and can I get your commitment to work with me and other members from the region to ensure this money reaches the communities who need it the most?

Question 2: OSM's budget justification document notes that States and Tribes directly regulate 97 percent of the Nation's coal production under approved regulatory programs. The agency's budget also notes the reduced workload anticipated by OSM.

With the states responsible for most of the regulatory work why does OSM ask for \$5.5 million more for itself while cutting the states grants by more than \$3 million? What is OSM planning to use the extra \$5.5 million for?

Question 3: As you know, I have serious concerns about the potential OSM Stream Buffer Zone rule. The original intent of this rulemaking was in response to the 2008 rule promulgated under the Bush Administration. Why is OSM moving forward with this process when the 2008 rule was vacated?

Question 4: In 2013, the Director of Mining and Reclamation at West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection testified in the House about their experience as a cooperating agency during the Stream Protection Measures Rulemaking process. Under this agreement, OSM should be coordinating with West Virginia and the other cooperating state agencies.

Instead, OSM denied the agencies the opportunity to review the first chapter of the Environmental Impact Study and provided them only a few days to review and comment on hundreds of pages of the following chapters.

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After this, according to the West Virginia DEP, OSM “shifted to a nearly complete blackout on information about the development of the Stream Protection Measures Rule.”

Yesterday, 11 states, including West Virginia sent a letter to OSM stating that several of the states are “seriously contemplating withdrawing from the EIS development” due to a continued lack of cooperation from OSM.

Can you explain this?

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Questions from Senator Lisa Murkowski

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: Please provide a record of the authorities on which the Department relied for the development of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (EIS), including, the approval for and authorization of funds expended by year, including Congressional authorization or appropriation, for the development of the CCP and EIS.

Question 2: Please provide a detailed current plan, calendar and itemized budget for the development and implementation of the Step-Down Plans identified in the CCP and EIS.

Question 3: Please a comprehensive list of the dates and times of any meeting, call or other interaction held by the Department of the Interior (DOI) or any of its component parts including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or contractor operating on behalf of DOI, with any entity not considered a cooperative agency, including any corporation or non-governmental organization.

Question 4: Please identify in a log any legal or policy analysis provided to or given by DOI or USFWS related to sections 1002, 1003 or 1326 of ANILCA as it might apply to the CPP or EIS.

Question 5: Please provide a comprehensive list of programs or initiatives within DOI in support of the US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and in fulfillment of Executive Order Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic. Please include in the list a identification of the funds expended or to be expended for any and all programs or initiatives on the list.

Question 6: with respect to the issue of climate change, please provide a comprehensive list of DOI programs or initiatives dedicated to adaptation or promoting resilience in communities in response to a changing climate and the funds associated with these initiatives or programs.

Question 7: Please provide an itemization of any funds expended since January 1, 2012 related to international travel costs for DOI personnel in support for arctic initiatives, studies, programs or workshops.

Question 8: Please provide an estimate of any funds expended since January 1, 2012 related to Alaska specific travel costs for DOI personnel in support for arctic initiatives, studies, programs or workshops.

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Question 9: In the 2016 Budget Justification, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) notes: “*Since 2009, the BLM has approved 52 renewable energy projects, including 29 utility-scale solar facilities, 11 wind farms, and 12 geothermal plants, with associated transmission corridors and infrastructure to connect with established power grids. If fully constructed, these projects will provide more than 14,000 megawatts of power, or enough electricity to power about 4.8 million homes, and provide over 20,000 construction and operations jobs.*” (p. I-3) Please provide a detailed timeline for each of these identified projects including (1) date on which BLM received an initial application for approval (2) date on which a ROD was issued (3) description of the project – including estimated capital costs as well as construction and operating jobs and (4) estimated cost of mitigation measures required by BLM.

Question 10: Please provide an equivalent description of the number of new oil and gas units or developments approved by BLM since 2009.

Question 11: In the 2016 Budget Justification, BLM notes that since 2000, BLM has permitted nearly 47,000 new wells – please provide the number of permitted new wells since 2009.

Question 12: Please provide the number of permitted new wells since 2009 that have been drilled.

Question 13: Please provide estimates of revenues from NPRA production provided to Congress, the White House or other similar governmental institution issued prior to, or associated with, the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Question 14: Please provide an accounting of revenues received from production in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska since passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Question 15: In its *Report to Congress June 2006* related to Sec. 207 of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act, BLM identified roughly 56,870,900 acres of BLM-managed lands that are withdrawn by “d-1 PLOs” and made recommendations – primarily that those d-1 withdrawals could be lifted. With next year being ten years since that report was issued I feel compelled to ask if anything has happened.

Question 16: Please provide an update on where the Department stands in settling with the state on the proper process to complete patenting of the state’s lands. The Alaska Statehood Act set up a very specific process for federal surveying to complete the patented transfer of lands. To reduce its costs, the department has proposed a new surveying process, taking advantage of GPS coordinates. But apparently there is now a difference of opinion between the State of Alaska and your Department over the process

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to be used. Please describe that disagreement and how the department plans to resolve the issue?

Question 17: Relating to the U.S. Geological Survey budget, the USGS is a major source of grant funding for a series of seismic monitors on volcanoes in Alaska, largely on the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Chain, near the air corridor for flights to America from Asia. The grants help fund the work of the Alaska Volcano Observatory, a joint entity between USGS and the University of Alaska. Ash from eruptions is particularly dangerous to such flights as shown by the near crash of a jumbo jet years ago.

- A) The problem is many of the seismic monitors need not just upgrading to digital technology, but antenna and battery replacements since the stations are rapidly going off line.
- B) I believe this is causing a real health and safety issue not just for Alaskans, but international passengers on trans-Pacific flights. While Congress added money to your budget this year to help with the maintenance costs on the network, your FY 16 budget seems to propose only a slight increase for hazards funding, even while your overall budget calls for a \$759.2 million increase – 6% above FY 15. That is disappointing since estimates are that it will require an additional \$5 to \$7 million a year for perhaps five years just to keep the Alaska seismic network functioning, much less to meet the entire U.S.G.S. earthquake monitoring budget needs.
- C) Why is there not more money in your spending plan devoted to basic health and safety needs?

Question 18: The State of Alaska a number of years ago requested that it receive the conveyance of several thousand acres along the Susitna River in Southcentral Alaska as part of its statehood conveyance. In 2013 my staff had been assured by Department personnel that the transfer would be completed, since none of the land is in conservation system units. But apparently the transfer is still pending. What is the hold up and when will the transfer of the acreage be completed to the State of Alaska?

Question 19: We have spoken often about the need for the Department to speed up the cleanup of 136 abandoned oil and gas exploration wells in northern Alaska, wells drilled by the government in both the 1940s and late 1980s and early 1990s. You had about \$2 million in your budget last year for such cleanups. Fortunately in the Helium bill in 2013 we were able to increase your cleanup funding by \$50 million so that the Department will be able to tackle the worst of the wells in coming years and gain efficiencies by being

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able to reduce mobilization costs and improve coordination of the cleanup efforts. But that \$50 million will not solve all of the problems.

- A) My question is this: when will the Department change its priorities and increase its regular budgetary funding to tackle environmental cleanups of abandoned federal wells on an annual basis?
- B) Abandoned well cleanup truly is a federal responsibility. How will you assure me that we aren't back in the same position in four or five years of having insufficient funding to clean up environmental well problems on federal lands?

Question 20: Recently I have received a number of complaints from placer miners in the eastern Interior part of Alaska about Department policies involving the current and future regulation of placer mining. There are concerns about the draft Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan and its apparent designation of about 700,000 acres of the FortyMile River mining district as "areas of critical environmental concern" where the Department is considering closing the area to mining. Significantly, as I understand it, this land was specifically kept open to mining by Congress in 1980's Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act when it was not included in the Yukon-Charley National Preserve. There are also a host of concerns about new regulations for mining efforts in still open areas, concerning about reclamation cost estimates, reclamation standards, new bonding processes and the turnover in our compliance staff that makes consistency in mining enforcement difficult at best.

- Recognizing that the issue of mining on the FortyMile is complicated, please tell me the reason for all of these changes in mining practice now in Interior Alaska, when mining had been working seemingly fine based on the 1983 management plan crafted just after passage of ANILCA?

Question 21: Just recently I learned that your Department has decided to implement a new southern boundary of the wilderness area inside Denali National Park and Preserve. Apparently 35 years ago when the Alaska lands act passed, no one noticed that the world is round and that map boundaries might need to be adjusted for the curvature of the earth. The problem appears to be that now the Department wants to add up to fifth-eighth of a mile to the wilderness area south of Denali. That might not seem like much, but it could have significant impacts. For example, there are potential impacts on:

- Hundreds of commercial air taxi and scenic flights to see the mountain.
- Potential for impact climbers getting to base camp to climb Denali.
- Snowmachine recreation efforts in the eastern sections of the park, and caribou and moose hunting for both subsistence and sport hunters in the Cantwell area.

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Apparently the boundary change will add about 23,500 acres to the wilderness area in the park. But Alaska lands act (Sect. 103c) specifically limits “minor boundary adjustments” to just 23,000 acres.

- Will the Department work with us, either administratively or if a legislative fix is required, to make sure that this boundary expansion does not impact tourism and recreational hunting interests in Southcentral Alaska?

At a time when Department policy changes are having such a huge impact on future oil and gas and mineral development, this change that could impact another major leg of the state’s economy – tourism – may be exceptionally hard for Alaskans to accept, especially 35 years after ANILCA’s passage and after business and lifestyles have adapted to the changes generated by passage of the lands act.

Question 22: In late 2013 it became clear that the Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI) Alaska Native Regional Corp. was coming up short by 42,000 acres of the land conveyance it was promised as a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The shortage was the result of the complex settlement of land conveyances to CIRI village corporations that had been complicated by the 1976 Cook Inlet land exchange. For the past year the BLM in Alaska has acknowledged that CIRI is short of its required conveyance and apparently has been working to identify solutions. Please update us on where Interior is with crafting a solution to the CIRI land shortage, and how soon such a fix may be proposed by your Department?

Question 23: The Department has a legal responsibility to fulfill the government's obligations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Under ANCSA, Alaska Native Corporation often had to select lands for conveyance that were outside their traditional aboriginal lands because those lands were already occupied by the Federal government, the Department of Defense, or various state and local governmental entities. Accordingly, land exchanges and selection of other lands was necessary to fulfill Alaska Native Corporation (ANC) entitlements under ANCSA.

Given that ANCs have been denied their traditional aboriginal lands and, out of convenience to the government, have selected other lands and are now trying to develop those lands, it’s troubling--but not surprising--that I often hear that your Department delays and impedes the issuances of permits to Alaska Natives who wish to develop their subsurface lands within the boundaries of a National Refuge.

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- A) What are you going to do to make sure your department protects Alaskan Native Corporations' rights to the lands selected under ANCSA and that the agencies in your department expeditiously assist them in permitting, conveyance, and other dealings with your department?

Question 24: The U.S. Geological Survey recently released its Mineral Commodity Summaries report for 2015, and it shows that the United States is at least 50 percent reliant on foreign nations for at least 43 different commodities. The report also states, as it annually does, that "U.S. import reliance has increased significantly since 1978, the year that this information was first reported."

- A) Is our nation's foreign mineral dependence a matter of concern to you?
- B) What are you doing, at Interior, to help reduce and eliminate it?
- C) Do you believe the proposals in Interior's budget request – which would impose new taxes and fees on top of an already-slow permitting process – will somehow increase our nation's mineral security?
- D) It takes an average of 7 to 10 years (even absent significant litigation) to permit a new mine in the United States, which is considerably longer than other countries with similar environmental standards. Will you commit to reviewing the federal mine permitting process, and will you commit to identifying steps to make the process more efficient?

Question 25: The FY 2016 Land and Water Conservation Fund budget request is \$900 million: \$400 million in discretionary funding and \$500 million in permanent funding for DOI agencies and the Forest Service. In 2017 the President's budget request proposes that all \$900 million would be mandatory funding.

- A) Please explain to me why, with such an enormous maintenance backlog (According to CRS, over \$22 billion at the federal agencies combined, \$13 billion at NPS alone), DOI would propose to focus such a large amount of funding on acquiring more federal land?
- B) Shouldn't these funds be used to pay down the maintenance backlog to, at least, stem the growth of the backlog?
- C) More generally, how do you reconcile additional federal land acquisition at this time of staggering national debt and maintenance backlogs?

The budget proposal seeks to turn the LWCF program into a permanent mandatory program without making any changes to it. I don't support that. I am also concerned that this program has been overly focused on federal land acquisition. Part of the reason for that is the 60 percent set-aside for state-side grants was stripped from the LWCF Act.

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These state-side grants are valuable tools to develop state parks and other outdoor recreation opportunities on non-federal land.

- D) Shouldn't a larger percentage of LWCF funds be set-aside for state-side grants?
Why or Why not?

Question 26: As many colleagues and I have emphasized many times, we have a nearly \$13 billion parks maintenance backlog. And with that staggering figure, there is a very strong argument that we should not be adding any new parks to the system until we can take care of what we already have. Alaskans are particularly concerned with the prospect of additions of new Parks with roughly 2/3 of the entire system located within my State.

- A) With the Parks Centennial upon us in 2016, it would seem that this could be a great time to reevaluate how we establish and maintain the Parks as well as how we build support for the Parks in their local communities, nationwide and even internationally. In a time of severe budget constraints, all options need to be on the table. One idea that I am particularly interested in is increasing private donations to the system through private endowments.
- B) Will you agree to work with me and the other members of this committee to review options and find a path forward to create a sustainable supplementary funding stream for America's Parks for the second century?

Question 27: I have some questions regarding the general approach of the National Park Service to rule making as well as some questions regarding a specific rule proposed by NPS.

- A) In the past, NPS has put into place regulations that shortened the hunting seasons as defined by the Alaska Board of Game. When instituting the closures, the NPS has cited "Park Values" in those closures.
- I. Please provide me with a definition of "Park Values"?
- II. Do you believe that the State of Alaska has the right to manage wildlife within the borders of the State? When is it proper for the federal government to reverse State Board of Game decisions?
- B) Recently, the National Park Service has proposed a rule (Regulation Identifier Number 1024-AE21) that would close a number of preserves in Alaska to the take of predators, such as bear and wolf.

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- I. I am aware of several stakeholders who have contacted you regarding their concerns about the potential for this proposed regulation to unduly impact subsistence communities across Alaska. One of these stakeholders includes the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resources Commission, an official Federal advisory committee created by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) to make recommendations to you, the Secretary of the Interior, regarding fish and wildlife resources for subsistence dependent communities. I would like to hear from you how the Department proposes to avoid any undue impact on these communities, communities whose lives depend on the take of predators.
- II. The take of certain predators by Alaska Natives is done for cultural, economic, traditional, and spiritual needs. Can you describe to me how this proposed rule incorporates these significant considerations?

Question 28: Please describe the role of DOI in any additional discussions that have taken place with the State Department since the Regional Recommendation was finalized in December 2013. Who participated in these discussions? Does DOI defer to other agencies (i.e., the U.S. Entity) in discussions with the State Department regarding potential U.S. negotiating positions? Why or why not? If not, what are the major outstanding points of disagreement between DOI and other agencies?

Question 29: What is DOI's position on the "ecosystem-based function" principles and recommendations outlined in the Regional Recommendation? Please provide specific examples of the department's positions on these principles and recommendations?

Question 30: Total domestic oil production increased 15% from 2012 to 2013. Can you confirm that on federal lands, however, it only increased by 1% over the same period?

Question 31: While EIA is still assessing the 2014 data, according to its latest Monthly Energy Review, total U.S. field production averaged 16.3% higher in 2014 than in 2013. How much do you expect oil production on federal lands has increased over the past year?

Question 32: The Bureau of Land Management issued 3,769 drilling permits in FY 2014. This is one less than it approved in FY 2013, and 2,848 fewer than the 6,617 permits that were approved in FY 2008. Is it accurate to say that permits have fallen by 43% during this administration and that you are doing little if anything to correct this trend?

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Question 33: Over the past decade, has federal natural gas production increased or decreased? What is the Department doing to reverse this trend?

Question 34: Given the nature of U.S. Geological Survey's core mission, many of us have requested that an economic geologist to be nominated to lead that agency. We did have a nominee in the last Congress, but she was not brought up for confirmation by the previous majority, and the agency has now gone without a confirmed director for two full years.

- A) Can you tell us when you anticipate the President will send this Committee a nominee to consider for USGS?
- B) Can you tell us whether the President is taking our request for an economic geologist seriously, as he searches for a new candidate?

Question 35: The Department of Interior is mandated to provide a subsistence priority on federal land, yet nearly every rural community in Alaska struggles to meet their subsistence needs because of low moose populations, low caribou populations – in some cases, and nearly non-existent king salmon populations.

- A) What is the Department's plan to ensure that adequate amounts of food can be put on the table?
- B) How do you reconcile a mandate to provide a subsistence priority with the competing mandates that creating wilderness, not managing for abundant and healthy wildlife populations, and limiting access by subsistence hunters fishers?
- C) Why is it difficult for your agency to manage predators to increase prey species to sustainable levels?

Question 36: In 2013, I wrote a letter to the Department asking what you could do to speed up the cleaning of environmental contamination on lands that you have transferred to Alaska Native Corporations to satisfy their aboriginal land claims under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Your Department studied the issue in 1998 and proposed a six-point effort to speed up the cleaning of such contamination. Last January in a letter to me you proposed that the Department would update its contaminated lands survey and then address the other five recommendations all involving how to tackle the actual cleanups. I had been led to believe that updated list would be finished in the fall – there were more than 650 sites on the old list—unfortunately, it was not completed.

- A) When will an updated, comprehensive list of contaminated sites on Native conveyed lands be finished? What will the Department propose to actually speed up and fund the cleanup of the contamination –all caused by the federal government prior to transfer of the land to Alaska Natives?
- B) Most recently, the Department's current spending authorization requires the Department to provide to Congress by June of this year a detailed report including the comprehensive inventory of contaminated land conveyed through ANSCA

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including sites identified since the 1998 report and a detailed plan addressing how the Department intends to complete the cleanup of each contaminated site. What is the status of the effort to comply with this recent statutory directive?

Question 37: In the past Alaska Fire Service had two CL215s which carry about 1,400 gallons. There are plans to replace these with Fire Boss Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) aircraft.

- What is the cost per gallon dropped for the two aircraft?
- What is the cost difference between the CL215s vs the Fire Boss Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) in total budget cost to AFS?
- How effective do you expect the SEATs to be at Initial Attack?

Question 38: The BLM's FY16 budget request proposes to reduce funding for the Oregon and California Grant Lands program by \$6.043 million overall, with a \$3.8 million decrease in Other Forest Resources management and a \$3.2 million decrease in Western Oregon Resource Management Planning. The BLM Budget Justification also shows that the agency plans to offer less timber for sale in FY 16 (204 mmbf, down from 215 mmbf in FY15 and 239.8 mmbf in 2014)

- What is the updated schedule for finalizing the new Resource Management Plans? If planning activities will continue into FY16 how would the proposed \$3.2 million decrease in the planning account impact the agency's ability to finalize the plans and maintain the timber sale program?
- The BLM is under Court Order to meet the mandate of the O&C Act to offer the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) in at least two districts in Western Oregon. How will the proposed reductions in the FY16 timber sale program affect the Court Order requirements to increase timber sale levels? Will the BLM meet the terms of this Court Order to offer the ASQ in certain districts as well as offering enough timber to meet the ASQ's of other districts in the O&C in FY16?
- How much money does the BLM spend annually to comply with the "Survey and Manage" requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan in Western Oregon? How many acres of BLM timberland in Western Oregon are encumbered by complying with the "Management Recommendations" associated with the "Survey and Manage" requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Bernie Sanders

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

The Department of Interior manages the vast amount of mineral and energy assets that are owned by the American people. There have been numerous reports and studies by the Government Accountability Office and others that suggest that the American people are in fact not getting a fair return on these assets that they own, and instead that the big corporations like oil and coal companies are reaping huge windfalls. In addition, these activities are being done in ways that increase carbon emissions which are making climate change worse. I believe that DOI can and should be doing more to ensure that the American people receive a fair return from the development of these resources.

- Question 1: For coal on federal lands, oil and gas development on federal lands, and offshore oil and gas development, what is the Department looking at specifically to ensure that taxpayers are getting fairly compensated? Please include all relevant rulemakings under development and an estimate of their timing for finalization.
- Question 2: What statutory changes are needed to expedite DOI's ability to recover fair market returns from the use and development of taxpayer-owned minerals, or access to federally-owned lands?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Ron Wyden

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: Secretary Jewell, I want to take a moment to focus on an issue of particular importance to my home state of Oregon and to the Northwest region—the Columbia River Treaty.

In November of 2013, when I was Chairman of the Committee, I held a hearing on the modernization of the Columbia River Treaty, urging the Administration to follow the consensus document known as the “Regional Recommendation,” and to engage Canada expediently in negotiations. Now, over a year later, it is my impression that the Administration has not been expedient about addressing this issue.

What can you tell me about why this process has taken so long? And what will it take for you and the Administration to act to advance the Columbia River Treaty and engage Canada?

Question 2: As you know, the National Park System turns 100 years old next year, and during its time has become one of America’s greatest success stories. In nearly every state, Americans can visit a national park, trail, or monument and learn about the nation’s rich cultural and ecological heritage. To ensure that these parks remain the treasures that they are, it’s imperative that the Administration and Congress invest in them to keep them maintained and safe for visitors.

What are the Department of Interior’s plans for ensuring that the deferred maintenance backlog remains a priority and that the backlog “to-do” list gets consistently checked off?

Question 3: I understand that some of my colleagues were suspicious about what you and the Administration were doing to protect sage grouse habitat, but in Oregon, this work is really important. Can you assure me that you’ll continue the important work you are doing with private landowners in places like Eastern Oregon?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Rob Portman

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: When groups want work together to raise money for a project on a certain park, for example: let's assume a structure in Cuyahoga National park needs a new roof, how can groups who donate money through the current Centennial Challenge ensure all the money from their donations comes back to the roof in Cuyahoga that they donated for without having to donate it to the federal government's centennial challenge?

Question 2: Last year the FY15 Omnibus provided \$10 million to reinvest in the Centennial Challenge. Can you provide a status of the projects for FY15, what projects or types of projects have been chosen?

Question 3: When was the last time Ohio was mapped via USGS using LIDAR technology, and what percentage of the state has been mapped using LIDAR as part of 3D Elevation Program?

Question 4: The Service proposed to list the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the ESA in October 2013, but it is my understanding that service is now leaning toward a determination that the species threatened, and issuing a 4(d) rule. For species listed as threatened, the Service may issue a 4(d) rule to provide protections that are deemed necessary and advisable for conservation of the species. The 4(d) rule as I understand it would provide limited exemptions for forest management practices, maintenance and limited expansion of transportation and utility rights-of-way, removal of trees and brush to maintain prairie habitat, and some tree removal projects.

But there remains concern that the proposed 4(d) rule, which would accompany a potential threatened listing, does not accommodate similar exemptions for oil and gas activities, renewable power (such as solar and wind), commercial or residential construction, or agricultural practices. Major industries that drive our economy.

Can I get your commitment that you will work with folks in those industries to ensure equal consideration within the 4(d) rule for these types of activities that are substantially similar to activities exempted under the rule?

"Mahan, Joshua" <joshua_mahan@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Mahan, Joshua" <joshua_mahan@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Feb 26 2015 15:03:50 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI
Attachments: Questions from All Members.docx

Here's a consolidated version with all questions in one doc.

On Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 4:46 PM, Neimeyer, Sarah <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Here we go. Looks like we have a month to get these back up to SENR.

Pam will probably take a cut at assigning these on Friday.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ripchensky, Darla (Energy)** <Darla_Ripchensky@energy.senate.gov>
Date: Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 4:25 PM
Subject: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI
To: "sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Kearney, Christopher (Energy)" <Christopher_Kearney@energy.senate.gov>, "Brooks, David (Energy)" <David_Brooks@energy.senate.gov>

Hi Sarah,

Attached are Questions for the Record submitted to Secretary Jewell by various Energy Committee Members regarding the hearing which was held on February 25, 2015 entitled "The FY 2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior." We request that Secretary Jewell provide her responses to these questions by **Tuesday, March 24, 2015** for inclusion in the official hearing record.

Please provide the responses directly to me, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Darla Ripchensky, PMP

Administrative Director

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

304 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

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"Barkin, Pamela" <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>

From:

"Barkin, Pamela" <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Shelley Moore Capito

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: The office of Surface Mining (OSM) has spent more than \$8 million over the past several years to develop a rule to replace the 2008 stream buffer zone rule. OSM recently repealed the 2008 rule and reinstated the rules that were in place before 2008. You previously committed to taking a fresh look to decide whether any new rulemaking was necessary. In light of these developments, is there any need for spending more tax-payer money on a new rulemaking?

Question 2: The earlier stream buffer zone rule development included several cooperating primacy states, including West Virginia, as part of the NEPA process. Has this arrangement continued? If so, when was the last time OSM communicated with those cooperating state agencies on the status of any further rule development?

Question 3: I want to ask about habitat conservation, and in particular that related to the Northern Long-eared bat, which is a huge issue in my home state. It appears that the assumptions made by BLM and FWS about drilling impacts in connection with the Northern Long-eared do not take into consideration recent technologies developed and in use by the oil and gas industry. In fact, the majority of studies on oil and gas industry impacts are based upon assumptions of well density and drilling footprints that are decades old. Shouldn't the conservation and management strategies of FWS and BLM incorporate information from engineers and other industry specialists who develop and implement technological innovations that improve the efficiency of oil and gas operations and reduce their environmental impacts? Also, why don't BLM-FWS Assumptions on Effects of Oil and Gas Development take into account new technologies and smaller drilling footprints?

Question 4: On July 17, 2014, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it was banning the use of neonicotinoids on USFWS lands. What other federal agencies did the USFW consult before making this decision?

Question 5: What input, if any, did USFWS receive from these agencies?

Question 6: Were any NGO organizations consulted or have input into this decision?

Question 7: Why was this decision not published in the Federal Register for public comment?

Questions for the Record

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Question 8: Are agricultural operations on USFWS lands reviewed as a part of each refuge management plan where such operations occur?

Question 9: Why was this action not undertaken as a part of refuge management planning process?

Question 10: Was an economic analysis conducted before this decision was made? If so, please provide a copy. If not, why not?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator James Risch

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell (and Michael Connor)

There are several Idaho federal water storage project feasibility studies that were authorized under BOR (e.g., Snake River systems including; Boise River Project – Lucky Peak, Arrowrock, Anderson, and Deer Flat; Upper Snake River: Teton, Idaho site reservoirs, Deer Flat,).

Question 1: What is the feasibility study status of the BOR Idaho water project studies?

Question 2: What possible actions does BOR consider pursuing on the Snake River system via the outcome of the feasibility studies?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Barrasso

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: During the hearing, I asked you whether BLM's final rule on hydraulic fracturing would allow states to apply for a variance. In response, you stated that BLM's "proposed regulations say that if a state's rule is stronger than the proposed federal rule, that the state's rule will govern." Will BLM allow states (not operators) to apply for a variance from BLM's final hydraulic fracturing rule? If so, under what circumstances will a state be able to obtain a variance from BLM's final rule?

Question 2: During the hearing, we discussed your letter to Governor Matt Mead dated January 26, 2015. In the letter, you state that: "The rider attached to H.R. 83... does not affect the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's...court-ordered obligation to make a determination by September 30, 2015, as to whether the greater sage-grouse does or does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act." I specifically asked you whether such a "determination" would be legally binding. You stated that you "would have to defer to the solicitors." Please clarify for the Committee whether such a "determination" would be legally binding if the rider remains in effect.

Question 3: I understand there are significant delays in obtaining sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines on Federal land from BLM. However, in response to one of my questions on this matter, you said that you are "not aware of circumstances where permits have been slowed down by the BLM."

A. What is the total number of requests for sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines pending at the Bureau of Land Management?

B. What is the total number of requests for sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines pending at each BLM Field Office?

C. When were each of the pending requests for sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines first submitted to BLM?

Question 4: On February 20, 2015, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) published a notice in the *Federal Register* to pursue a rulemaking to revise regulations under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act on the use of explosives on surface coal mining operations. A. Does OSM plan to consult with the state

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regulatory authorities prior to initiating this rulemaking? B. If so, when will this consultation take place and which states will it involve?

Questions for the Record
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Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR JEFF FLAKE

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1. In the Department's wildfire budget justification, the anticipated cost of wildfire suppression based on the average of the previous 10 years is \$384 million. The Department's anticipated 'worst case' scenario cost, based on a Forest Service mathematical model is \$467 million. The Department claims that the 'on budget' funding is sufficient to fight the predictable 99% of the fires which account for 70% of the costs. But, the Department has only requested enough funds to cover 70% of the *predictable* costs, not the *worst case* costs - meaning that the plan going into the year is to have insufficient funds to fight the fires that are predicted to happen. Why doesn't the department request 'on-budget' discretionary amounts sufficient to cover at least 70% of the worst case scenario?

Question 2. The maintenance cost for the National Park System continues to rise. This year the Department is requesting a 94% increase in deferred maintenance funding and a 67% increase for regularly scheduled maintenance. Together the costs of just maintaining the current park system are over \$308 million. Yet, even with this ever-increasing cost, the Department is proposing to more than triple the amount spent on Federal land acquisitions in FY16 to \$447 million. What impact will the proposed additional land acquisition have on the continually increasing maintenance bill of the National Park System?

Question 3. Last year the Federal government, as a landowner of nearly half the land area in the Western US, met its obligations to counties and local governments by appropriating money out of discretionary funds to make Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments. The Department is requesting no discretionary funds for PILT in FY16, relying instead on Congress to use mandatory spending to fund PILT. How does the Department intend to offset the cost of the proposed mandatory spending increase?

Question 4. The recently-passed water rights settlement on the Bill Williams River, Arizona is contingent on the completion of several actions, including approvals by the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan Steering Committee. What is the Department doing to facilitate the final implementation of the settlement?

Question 5. In July 2014, the Bureau of Reclamation partnered with municipal water providers in Arizona, California, Colorado, and Nevada to create the Colorado River System Conservation Program. How much funding does this program currently have? How many

Questions for the Record

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projects has it funded? How much water has been conserved? What has been the effect on reservoir levels? What additional steps will the Department take in FY16 with this program?

Question 6. The Department has requested \$244 million for Indian water rights settlements and negotiation. Which new Indian water rights settlements are being prioritized by the department? What will the additional \$16.9 million for negotiation and legal support allow the department to do? What is being done to increase the pace of settling outstanding claims?

Question 7. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published the final EIS and draft Record of Decision on the Proposed Revision to the Regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf on November 25, 2014. The final EIS differed significantly from the draft EIS published in July 2014, due in large part to extensive negotiations between the FWS and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Senator McCain and I sent a letter to Director Ashe on December 21, 2014 requesting an extension of the public comment deadline to allow stakeholders, including the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, time to analyze the significantly changed proposed regulations. In this letter we specifically identified provisions in the consent decree that allow a modification of the deadline upon showing good cause, consistent with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Did the FWS approach the Department of Justice about seeking an extension of the public comment deadline? What was the Department of Justice's reason for not seeking an extension?

Question 8. There is a proposal for the President to bypass Congress and designate over 1.7 million acres of land in northern Arizona as the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. This would lock up not only Federal land, but over 60,000 acres of State Trust land and nearly 30,000 acres of private land. Such a designation would have a devastating effect on the economic productivity of State trust land which is managed primarily to benefit Arizona public schools. It would have a similarly chilling effect on the economic productivity on private land and existing mining operations. The creation of this monument has been strongly opposed by the State of Arizona. Would any of the Department's proposed funding be used to pursue the designation of a National Monument in Arizona?

Question 9. In order to get the most value for every dollar spent on managing National Parks, the Park Service is required to seek competing bids for private companies to run concessions within the National Parks. In instances where a concessionaire has held the contract for extended periods the leasehold surrender interest (LSI) that must be paid to the outgoing concessionaire when a contract changes hands can become a significant barrier to the competitive bidding process. What actions is the Department pursuing to ensure a true competition for park concessions while still respecting the investment made by private companies in their business?

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Question 10. Arizona counties and municipalities have tried to work with the BLM to authorize third-party concessionaires to operate on Recreation and Public Purposes Act (RPPA) parcels. The BLM in Arizona will not permit local governments to allow a third-party concessionaire on the exact same land that the BLM could itself allow a concessionaire to operate if the BLM still controlled the land. During Director Kornze's nomination hearing in December 2013, I asked specifically about the status of the Solicitor's Office evaluation of the August 2011 Instructional Memorandum for Third Party Uses on Recreation and Public Purposes Acts Patents and Leases (2011-162), and when Arizona local governments could expect a decision about the ability to enter into agreements with third-party concessionaires. In the written responses, Director Kornze did not provide an update on the Solicitor's evaluation or an expected timeline for the local governments. What is the status of the Solicitor's office evaluation of the above memorandum, and when does the office expect to make a decision regarding third-party concessionaries to operate on RPPA lands?

Question 11. In a December 5, 2014 report, the Congressional Research Service identified several potential technical discrepancies in how some Federal payments to counties are treated in the calculation of Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments. The report specifies that payments made under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act by the BLM require a reduction in the following year's PILT payments, but payments for similar lands administered by the Forest Service do not require a reduction. Additionally, the report claims that payments under the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program require an offset in the following year's PILT levels for payments from the Forest Service but not payments from the BLM. As the agency responsible for making annual PILT payments, does the Department treat SRS payments by the Forest Service and the BLM differently when computing PILT payments? Similarly, does the Department treat payments made under the Bankhead-Jones Act by the Forest Service and BLM differently for purposes of PILT payments?

Question 12. Your testimony includes several references to encouraging individuals to serve, work, and volunteer on public lands. Some have suggested that questions of legal liability act as a disincentive for federal agencies to work with volunteers. Has the Department identified any such impediments to promoting volunteer work on public lands? If so, does the Department have suggestions on how to remove these barriers?

Question 13. The trans-canyon pipeline that supplies water to Grand Canyon National Park has incurred repeated maintenance issues over the last thirty plus years. Most recently, we witnessed two separate closures of Phantom Ranch as crews sought to address pipeline breaks, and a section of the pipeline is undergoing repairs until July of this year. According

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to some estimates, the cost to replace the entire pipeline would fall between \$100 million and \$150 million with additional operations and maintenance charges. Does the Park Service have updated estimates regarding the cost to repair the trans-canyon pipeline?

Question 14. I understand that the Park Service is evaluating potential solutions to the water pipeline challenges at the Grand Canyon National Park by developing a water-delivery study. Please describe the alternatives being considered and the costs associated with each option. When do you expect to complete the final study?

Question 15. In evaluating potential water-delivery options, has anyone from the Park Service considered regional water-supply solutions? If so, who has the Park Service met with, and what options are being considered?

Question 16. Is there an opportunity for the Park Service to achieve cost savings by pursuing a regional water-supply solution, as opposed to solely looking at replacement of the trans-canyon pipeline?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Al Franken

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: As you know, a recent court decision reversed the Fish and Wildlife Service's determination to delist the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act. Right now, farmers and ranchers in Minnesota are concerned about losing their livestock to wolf attacks, and they really need federal funds that can help to protect their herds. For example, the Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program provides funding to livestock producers so they can employ strategies to help prevent wolf attacks from occurring in the first place. Can you tell me why the Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to discontinue funding for this program in FY 2016?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Martin Heinrich

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: In December, Congress passed the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act, which directs the National Park Service to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in three states within one year of enactment. Do you expect to be able to meet that deadline?

Question 2: When and how does the National Park Service plan to involve local communities in the park planning process for the Manhattan Project National Historic Park?

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Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Mazie K. Hirono

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: National Monuments

Madam Secretary, I would like to thank the Administration for taking action to protect and preserve lands across our nation, the recent executive action for Honouliuli in Hawaii is a good example. It is a sobering, yet important piece of our nation's history that will serve to educate future generations. In 2009, when I was a member of the House of Representatives I worked with Senators Inouye and Akaka to authorize a special resource study on World War II internment camp sites in Hawaii. Now that the President has designated Honouliuli as a national monument to be managed by the National Park Service, an agency well-seasoned and experienced with management of national monuments across our country. I want to see Honouliuli and other sites recently designated get off to a strong start.

This designation has been a collaborative, inclusive effort—between the local community, Hawaii's Congressional delegation, and other public and private stakeholders. Can you give me a sense of what the path will be to move Honouliuli forward in FY 2016 and beyond?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Mike Lee

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Antiquities Act

1. Secretary Jewell, during your confirmation hearing, I asked if you would seek the input of local stakeholders regarding national monument designations. You confirmed you would do this. However on October 31, 2013, you said, “if Congress doesn’t step up to act to protect some of these important places that have been identified by communities and people throughout the country, then the president will take action ... there’s not question that if Congress doesn’t act, we will.” One would think that the elected representatives of the people would be a group of stakeholders whose buy in and support should necessary in designating monuments. Has your opinion changed from the answer you gave me your confirmation hearing?

Transcript, Sally Jewell Confirmation Hearing, March 21, 2013

Senator Lee: *The monument designation question is important because, as you were discussing that with Senator Heinrich, I appreciated your commitment to work with local stakeholders whenever they are dealing with something like monument designation. We had about 2 million acres designated as a monument a few years ago in my state, and it was not only not done without extensive consultation, input, and buy-in of local officials and residents, it was done completely by surprise. It was brought upon us completely by stealth. It was announced from a neighboring state, and we would have like to have had input. So, I would really appreciate if you would commit to me that you would advise the president that it is best to work with locals affected by broad decisions like that in advance of making such a decision.*

Secretary Jewell: *That is certainly consistent with what I believe in and with what the White House believes in as well.*

2. The President added four new national monuments in 2014. Regarding your commitment to an open process with local consultation, were these communities given proper notice before these monuments were designated? Did you change anything about the designation area or timing in relation to the concerns of the impacted community or state?
Last four monuments listed:
3. The Antiquities Act also states that the President is to reserve “the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.” However, of the 11

Questions for the Record

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monuments President Obama has designated so far, just the last three monuments constituted over 250 million acres of new federal property. Would you consider these areas to be the smallest areas available?

Endangered Species Act

1. As you know, the agency recently put out a rule related to adverse modification – “Definition of Destruction or Adverse Modification of Critical Habitat.” Can you please provide me the statutory authority for this rule?
2. How much does the Department spend on ESA litigation? If attorney’s fees were capped, is it possible that money could instead be used for species recovery?
3. In a hearing before the House Natural Resources Committee on April 3, 2014, you stated that the Department publishes the underlying data for potential ESA listings. However, my staff has experienced many examples where the data used in listings is simply not available because the Department has, in fact, *not* made it available – for example, the underlying data for the listing of the Gunnison sage grouse was not released. Why does the Department publish scientific findings for some listings, but not for others? Can you commit to making available to the public all underlying data for all potential listings?
4. How do you ensure that state and local entities are able to stay informed and participate in the listing determination process? On average, how many meetings does your Department have with state and local officials during the listing process?

National Park Service

1. What is the current maintenance backlog for the National Park Service? What is the proportion of the Service’s budget that is spent on administrative overhead versus park maintenance?
2. How does the Department intend to prioritize its funding to address this backlog? Is it your opinion that we should consider a moratorium on the addition of National Park land until the NPS addresses the backlog in its current portfolio?

Questions for the Record

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Questions for the Record
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Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Joe Manchin III

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: Secretary Jewell, I am very interested in some of the AML proposals in the Interior budget. As you know, I am very supportive of funding the UMWA's pension plan. Our miners have mined the coal that powered our nation and we need to ensure they continue to receive their hard earned benefits.

I am also interested in the proposal to use AML money for coalfield communities in Appalachia, like those in my home state of West Virginia. As you're aware, this program would require a legislative solution.

In your view, what would this legislative solution look like and can I get your commitment to work with me and other members from the region to ensure this money reaches the communities who need it the most?

Question 2: OSM's budget justification document notes that States and Tribes directly regulate 97 percent of the Nation's coal production under approved regulatory programs. The agency's budget also notes the reduced workload anticipated by OSM.

With the states responsible for most of the regulatory work why does OSM ask for \$5.5 million more for itself while cutting the states grants by more than \$3 million? What is OSM planning to use the extra \$5.5 million for?

Question 3: As you know, I have serious concerns about the potential OSM Stream Buffer Zone rule. The original intent of this rulemaking was in response to the 2008 rule promulgated under the Bush Administration. Why is OSM moving forward with this process when the 2008 rule was vacated?

Questions for the Record

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Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Question 4: In 2013, the Director of Mining and Reclamation at West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection testified in the House about their experience as a cooperating agency during the Stream Protection Measures Rulemaking process. Under this agreement, OSM should be coordinating with West Virginia and the other cooperating state agencies.

Instead, OSM denied the agencies the opportunity to review the first chapter of the Environmental Impact Study and provided them only a few days to review and comment on hundreds of pages of the following chapters.

After this, according to the West Virginia DEP, OSM "shifted to a nearly complete blackout on information about the development of the Stream Protection Measures Rule."

Yesterday, 11 states, including West Virginia sent a letter to OSM stating that several of the states are "seriously contemplating withdrawing from the EIS development" due to a continued lack of cooperation from OSM.

Can you explain this?

Questions for the Record
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Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Lisa Murkowski

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: Please provide a record of the authorities on which the Department relied for the development of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (EIS), including, the approval for and authorization of funds expended by year, including Congressional authorization or appropriation, for the development of the CCP and EIS.

Question 2: Please provide a detailed current plan, calendar and itemized budget for the development and implementation of the Step-Down Plans identified in the CCP and EIS.

Question 3: Please a comprehensive list of the dates and times of any meeting, call or other interaction held by the Department of the Interior (DOI) or any of its component parts including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or contractor operating on behalf of DOI, with any entity not considered a cooperative agency, including any corporation or non-governmental organization.

Question 4: Please identify in a log any legal or policy analysis provided to or given by DOI or USFWS related to sections 1002, 1003 or 1326 of ANILCA as it might apply to the CPP or EIS.

Question 5: Please provide a comprehensive list of programs or initiatives within DOI in support of the US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and in fulfillment of Executive Order Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic. Please include in the list a identification of the funds expended or to be expended for any and all programs or initiatives on the list.

Question 6: with respect to the issue of climate change, please provide a comprehensive list of DOI programs or initiatives dedicated to adaptation or promoting resilience in communities in response to a changing climate and the funds associated with these initiatives or programs.

Question 7: Please provide an itemization of any funds expended since January 1, 2012 related to international travel costs for DOI personnel in support for arctic initiatives, studies, programs or workshops.

Question 8: Please provide an estimate of any funds expended since January 1, 2012 related to Alaska specific travel costs for DOI personnel in support for arctic initiatives, studies, programs or workshops.

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Question 9: In the 2016 Budget Justification, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) notes: *“Since 2009, the BLM has approved 52 renewable energy projects, including 29 utility-scale solar facilities, 11 wind farms, and 12 geothermal plants, with associated transmission corridors and infrastructure to connect with established power grids. If fully constructed, these projects will provide more than 14,000 megawatts of power, or enough electricity to power about 4.8 million homes, and provide over 20,000 construction and operations jobs.”* (p. I-3) Please provide a detailed timeline for each of these identified projects including (1) date on which BLM received an initial application for approval (2) date on which a ROD was issued (3) description of the project – including estimated capital costs as well as construction and operating jobs and (4) estimated cost of mitigation measures required by BLM.

Question 10: Please provide an equivalent description of the number of new oil and gas units or developments approved by BLM since 2009.

Question 11: In the 2016 Budget Justification, BLM notes that since 2000, BLM has permitted nearly 47,000 new wells – please provide the number of permitted new wells since 2009.

Question 12: Please provide the number of permitted new wells since 2009 that have been drilled.

Question 13: Please provide estimates of revenues from NPRA production provided to Congress, the White House or other similar governmental institution issued prior to, or associated with, the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Question 14: Please provide an accounting of revenues received from production in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska since passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Question 15: In its *Report to Congress June 2006* related to Sec. 207 of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act, BLM identified roughly 56,870,900 acres of BLM-managed lands that are withdrawn by “d-1 PLOs” and made recommendations – primarily that those d-1 withdrawals could be lifted. With next year being ten years since that report was issued I feel compelled to ask if anything has happened.

Question 16: Please provide an update on where the Department stands in settling with the state on the proper process to complete patenting of the state’s lands. The Alaska Statehood Act set up a very specific process for federal surveying to complete the patented transfer of lands. To reduce its costs, the department has proposed a new surveying process, taking advantage of GPS coordinates. But apparently there is now a difference of opinion between the State of Alaska and your Department over the process to be used. Please describe that disagreement and how the department plans to resolve the issue?

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Question 17: Relating to the U.S. Geological Survey budget, the USGS is a major source of grant funding for a series of seismic monitors on volcanoes in Alaska, largely on the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Chain, near the air corridor for flights to America from Asia. The grants help fund the work of the Alaska Volcano Observatory, a joint entity between USGS and the University of Alaska. Ash from eruptions is particularly dangerous to such flights as shown by the near crash of a jumbo jet years ago.

- A) The problem is many of the seismic monitors need not just upgrading to digital technology, but antenna and battery replacements since the stations are rapidly going off line.
- B) I believe this is causing a real health and safety issue not just for Alaskans, but international passengers on trans-Pacific flights. While Congress added money to your budget this year to help with the maintenance costs on the network, your FY 16 budget seems to propose only a slight increase for hazards funding, even while your overall budget calls for a \$759.2 million increase – 6% above FY 15. That is disappointing since estimates are that it will require an additional \$5 to \$7 million a year for perhaps five years just to keep the Alaska seismic network functioning, much less to meet the entire U.S.G.S. earthquake monitoring budget needs.
- C) Why is there not more money in your spending plan devoted to basic health and safety needs?

Question 18: The State of Alaska a number of years ago requested that it receive the conveyance of several thousand acres along the Susitna River in Southcentral Alaska as part of its statehood conveyance. In 2013 my staff had been assured by Department personnel that the transfer would be completed, since none of the land is in conservation system units. But apparently the transfer is still pending. What is the hold up and when will the transfer of the acreage be completed to the State of Alaska?

Question 19: We have spoken often about the need for the Department to speed up the cleanup of 136 abandoned oil and gas exploration wells in northern Alaska, wells drilled by the government in both the 1940s and late 1980s and early 1990s. You had about \$2 million in your budget last year for such cleanups. Fortunately in the Helium bill in 2013 we were able to increase your cleanup funding by \$50 million so that the Department will be able to tackle the worst of the wells in coming years and gain efficiencies by being able to reduce mobilization costs and

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

improve coordination of the cleanup efforts. But that \$50 million will not solve all of the problems.

- A) My question is this: when will the Department change its priorities and increase its regular budgetary funding to tackle environmental cleanups of abandoned federal wells on an annual basis?
- B) Abandoned well cleanup truly is a federal responsibility. How will you assure me that we aren't back in the same position in four or five years of having insufficient funding to clean up environmental well problems on federal lands?

Question 20: Recently I have received a number of complaints from placer miners in the eastern Interior part of Alaska about Department policies involving the current and future regulation of placer mining. There are concerns about the draft Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan and its apparent designation of about 700,000 acres of the FortyMile River mining district as "areas of critical environmental concern" where the Department is considering closing the area to mining. Significantly, as I understand it, this land was specifically kept open to mining by Congress in 1980's Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act when it was not included in the Yukon-Charley National Preserve. There are also a host of concerns about new regulations for mining efforts in still open areas, concerning about reclamation cost estimates, reclamation standards, new bonding processes and the turnover in our compliance staff that makes consistency in mining enforcement difficult at best.

- Recognizing that the issue of mining on the FortyMile is complicated, please tell me the reason for all of these changes in mining practice now in Interior Alaska, when mining had been working seemingly fine based on the 1983 management plan crafted just after passage of ANILCA?

Question 21: Just recently I learned that your Department has decided to implement a new southern boundary of the wilderness area inside Denali National Park and Preserve. Apparently 35 years ago when the Alaska lands act passed, no one noticed that the world is round and that map boundaries might need to be adjusted for the curvature of the earth. The problem appears to be that now the Department wants to add up to fifth-eighth of a mile to the wilderness area south of Denali. That might not seem like much, but it could have significant impacts. For example, there are potential impacts on:

- Hundreds of commercial air taxi and scenic flights to see the mountain.
- Potential for impact climbers getting to base camp to climb Denali.

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

- Snowmachine recreation efforts in the eastern sections of the park, and caribou and moose hunting for both subsistence and sport hunters in the Cantwell area.

Apparently the boundary change will add about 23,500 acres to the wilderness area in the park. But Alaska lands act (Sect. 103c) specifically limits “minor boundary adjustments” to just 23,000 acres.

- Will the Department work with us, either administratively or if a legislative fix is required, to make sure that this boundary expansion does not impact tourism and recreational hunting interests in Southcentral Alaska?

At a time when Department policy changes are having such a huge impact on future oil and gas and mineral development, this change that could impact another major leg of the state’s economy – tourism – may be exceptionally hard for Alaskans to accept, especially 35 years after ANILCA’s passage and after business and lifestyles have adapted to the changes generated by passage of the lands act.

Question 22: In late 2013 it became clear that the Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI) Alaska Native Regional Corp. was coming up short by 42,000 acres of the land conveyance it was promised as a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The shortage was the result of the complex settlement of land conveyances to CIRI village corporations that had been complicated by the 1976 Cook Inlet land exchange. For the past year the BLM in Alaska has acknowledged that CIRI is short of its required conveyance and apparently has been working to identify solutions. Please update us on where Interior is with crafting a solution to the CIRI land shortage, and how soon such a fix may be proposed by your Department?

Question 23: The Department has a legal responsibility to fulfill the government's obligations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Under ANCSA, Alaska Native Corporation often had to select lands for conveyance that were outside their traditional aboriginal lands because those lands were already occupied by the Federal government, the Department of Defense, or various state and local governmental entities. Accordingly, land exchanges and selection of other lands was necessary to fulfill Alaska Native Corporation (ANC) entitlements under ANCSA.

Given that ANCs have been denied their traditional aboriginal lands and, out of convenience to the government, have selected other lands and are now trying to develop those lands, it’s troubling--but not surprising--that I often hear that your Department delays and impedes the

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

issuances of permits to Alaska Natives who wish to develop their subsurface lands within the boundaries of a National Refuge.

- A) What are you going to do to make sure your department protects Alaskan Native Corporations' rights to the lands selected under ANCSA and that the agencies in your department expeditiously assist them in permitting, conveyance, and other dealings with your department?

Question 24: The U.S. Geological Survey recently released its Mineral Commodity Summaries report for 2015, and it shows that the United States is at least 50 percent reliant on foreign nations for at least 43 different commodities. The report also states, as it annually does, that "U.S. import reliance has increased significantly since 1978, the year that this information was first reported."

- A) Is our nation's foreign mineral dependence a matter of concern to you?
- B) What are you doing, at Interior, to help reduce and eliminate it?
- C) Do you believe the proposals in Interior's budget request – which would impose new taxes and fees on top of an already-slow permitting process – will somehow increase our nation's mineral security?
- D) It takes an average of 7 to 10 years (even absent significant litigation) to permit a new mine in the United States, which is considerably longer than other countries with similar environmental standards. Will you commit to reviewing the federal mine permitting process, and will you commit to identifying steps to make the process more efficient?

Question 25: The FY 2016 Land and Water Conservation Fund budget request is \$900 million: \$400 million in discretionary funding and \$500 million in permanent funding for DOI agencies and the Forest Service. In 2017 the President's budget request proposes that all \$900 million would be mandatory funding.

- A) Please explain to me why, with such an enormous maintenance backlog (According to CRS, over \$22 billion at the federal agencies combined, \$13 billion at NPS alone), DOI would propose to focus such a large amount of funding on acquiring more federal land?
- B) Shouldn't these funds be used to pay down the maintenance backlog to, at least, stem the growth of the backlog?
- C) More generally, how do you reconcile additional federal land acquisition at this time of staggering national debt and maintenance backlogs?

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

The budget proposal seeks to turn the LWCF program into a permanent mandatory program without making any changes to it. I don't support that. I am also concerned that this program has been overly focused on federal land acquisition. Part of the reason for that is the 60 percent set-aside for state-side grants was stripped from the LWCF Act. These state-side grants are valuable tools to develop state parks and other outdoor recreation opportunities on non-federal land.

D) Shouldn't a larger percentage of LWCF funds be set-aside for state-side grants? Why or Why not?

Question 26: As many colleagues and I have emphasized many times, we have a nearly \$13 billion parks maintenance backlog. And with that staggering figure, there is a very strong argument that we should not be adding any new parks to the system until we can take care of what we already have. Alaskans are particularly concerned with the prospect of additions of new Parks with roughly 2/3 of the entire system located within my State.

With the Parks Centennial upon us in 2016, it would seem that this could be a great time to reevaluate how we establish and maintain the Parks as well as how we build support for the Parks in their local communities, nationwide and even internationally. In a time of severe budget constraints, all options need to be on the table. One idea that I am particularly interested in is increasing private donations to the system through private endowments.

A) Will you agree to work with me and the other members of this committee to review options and find a path forward to create a sustainable supplementary funding stream for America's Parks for the second century?

Question 27: I have some questions regarding the general approach of the National Park Service to rule making as well as some questions regarding a specific rule proposed by NPS.

A) In the past, NPS has put into place regulations that shortened the hunting seasons as defined by the Alaska Board of Game. When instituting the closures, the NPS has cited "Park Values" in those closures.

I. Please provide me with a definition of "Park Values"?

II. Do you believe that the State of Alaska has the right to manage wildlife within the borders of the State? When is it proper for the federal government to reverse State Board of Game decisions?

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

- B) Recently, the National Park Service has proposed a rule (Regulation Identifier Number 1024-AE21) that would close a number of preserves in Alaska to the take of predators, such as bear and wolf.
- I. I am aware of several stakeholders who have contacted you regarding their concerns about the potential for this proposed regulation to unduly impact subsistence communities across Alaska. One of these stakeholders includes the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resources Commission, an official Federal advisory committee created by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) to make recommendations to you, the Secretary of the Interior, regarding fish and wildlife resources for subsistence dependent communities. I would like to hear from you how the Department proposes to avoid any undue impact on these communities, communities whose lives depend on the take of predators.
- II. The take of certain predators by Alaska Natives is done for cultural, economic, traditional, and spiritual needs. Can you describe to me how this proposed rule incorporates these significant considerations?

Question 28: Please describe the role of DOI in any additional discussions that have taken place with the State Department since the Regional Recommendation was finalized in December 2013. Who participated in these discussions? Does DOI defer to other agencies (i.e., the U.S. Entity) in discussions with the State Department regarding potential U.S. negotiating positions? Why or why not? If not, what are the major outstanding points of disagreement between DOI and other agencies?

Question 29: What is DOI's position on the "ecosystem-based function" principles and recommendations outlined in the Regional Recommendation? Please provide specific examples of the department's positions on these principles and recommendations?

Question 30: Total domestic oil production increased 15% from 2012 to 2013. Can you confirm that on federal lands, however, it only increased by 1% over the same period?

Question 331: While EIA is still assessing the 2014 data, according to its latest Monthly Energy Review, total U.S. field production averaged 16.3% higher in 2014 than in 2013. How much do you expect oil production on federal lands has increased over the past year?

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Question 32: The Bureau of Land Management issued 3,769 drilling permits in FY 2014. This is one less than it approved in FY 2013, and 2,848 fewer than the 6,617 permits that were approved in FY 2008. Is it accurate to say that permits have fallen by 43% during this administration and that you are doing little if anything to correct this trend?

Question 33: Over the past decade, has federal natural gas production increased or decreased? What is the Department doing to reverse this trend?

Question 34: Given the nature of U.S. Geological Survey's core mission, many of us have requested that an economic geologist to be nominated to lead that agency. We did have a nominee in the last Congress, but she was not brought up for confirmation by the previous majority, and the agency has now gone without a confirmed director for two full years.

- A) Can you tell us when you anticipate the President will send this Committee a nominee to consider for USGS?
- B) Can you tell us whether the President is taking our request for an economic geologist seriously, as he searches for a new candidate?

Question 35: The Department of Interior is mandated to provide a subsistence priority on federal land, yet nearly every rural community in Alaska struggles to meet their subsistence needs because of low moose populations, low caribou populations – in some cases, and nearly non-existent king salmon populations.

- A) What is the Department's plan to ensure that adequate amounts of food can be put on the table?
- B) How do you reconcile a mandate to provide a subsistence priority with the competing mandates that creating wilderness, not managing for abundant and healthy wildlife populations, and limiting access by subsistence hunters fishers?
- C) Why is it difficult for your agency to manage predators to increase prey species to sustainable levels?

Question 36: In 2013, I wrote a letter to the Department asking what you could do to speed up the cleaning of environmental contamination on lands that you have transferred to Alaska Native Corporations to satisfy their aboriginal land claims under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Your Department studied the issue in 1998 and proposed a six-point effort to speed up the cleaning of such contamination. Last January in a letter to me you proposed that the Department would update its contaminated lands survey and then address the other five recommendations all involving how to tackle the actual cleanups. I had been led to believe that

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

updated list would be finished in the fall –there were more than 650 sites on the old list—
unfortunately, it was not completed.

- A) When will an updated, comprehensive list of contaminated sites on Native conveyed lands be finished? What will the Department propose to actually speed up and fund the cleanup of the contamination –all caused by the federal government prior to transfer of the land to Alaska Natives?
- B) Most recently, the Department’s current spending authorization requires the Department to provide to Congress by June of this year a detailed report including the comprehensive inventory of contaminated land conveyed through ANSCA including sites identified since the 1998 report and a detailed plan addressing how the Department intends to complete the cleanup of each contaminated site. What is the status of the effort to comply with this recent statutory directive?

Question 37: In the past Alaska Fire Service had two CL215s which carry about 1,400 gallons. There are plans to replace these with Fire Boss Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) aircraft.

- What is the cost per gallon dropped for the two aircraft?
- What is the cost difference between the CL215s vs the Fire Boss Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) in total budget cost to AFS?
- How effective do you expect the SEATs to be at Initial Attack?

Question 38: The BLM’s FY16 budget request proposes to reduce funding for the Oregon and California Grant Lands program by \$6.043 million overall, with a \$3.8 million decrease in Other Forest Resources management and a \$3.2 million decrease in Western Oregon Resource Management Planning. The BLM Budget Justification also shows that the agency plans to offer less timber for sale in FY 16 (204 mmbf, down from 215 mmbf in FY15 and 239.8 mmbf in 2014)

- What is the updated schedule for finalizing the new Resource Management Plans? If planning activities will continue into FY16 how would the proposed \$3.2 million decrease in the planning account impact the agency’s ability to finalize the plans and maintain the timber sale program?
- The BLM is under Court Order to meet the mandate of the O&C Act to offer the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) in at least two districts in Western Oregon. How will the proposed reductions in the FY16 timber sale program affect the Court Order requirements to increase timber sale levels? Will the BLM meet the terms of this Court Order to offer

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

the ASQ in certain districts as well as offering enough timber to meet the ASQ's of other districts in the O&C in FY16?

- How much money does the BLM spend annually to comply with the “Survey and Manage” requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan in Western Oregon? How many acres of BLM timberland in Western Oregon are encumbered by complying with the “Management Recommendations” associated with the “Survey and Manage” requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Bernie Sanders

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

The Department of Interior manages the vast amount of mineral and energy assets that are owned by the American people. There have been numerous reports and studies by the Government Accountability Office and others that suggest that the American people are in fact not getting a fair return on these assets that they own, and instead that the big corporations like oil and coal companies are reaping huge windfalls. In addition, these activities are being done in ways that increase carbon emissions which are making climate change worse. I believe that DOI can and should be doing more to ensure that the American people receive a fair return from the development of these resources.

- Question 1: For coal on federal lands, oil and gas development on federal lands, and offshore oil and gas development, what is the Department looking at specifically to ensure that taxpayers are getting fairly compensated? Please include all relevant rulemakings under development and an estimate of their timing for finalization.

- Question 2: What statutory changes are needed to expedite DOI's ability to recover fair market returns from the use and development of taxpayer-owned minerals, or access to federally-owned lands?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Ron Wyden

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: Secretary Jewell, I want to take a moment to focus on an issue of particular importance to my home state of Oregon and to the Northwest region—the Columbia River Treaty.

In November of 2013, when I was Chairman of the Committee, I held a hearing on the modernization of the Columbia River Treaty, urging the Administration to follow the consensus document known as the “Regional Recommendation,” and to engage Canada expediently in negotiations. Now, over a year later, it is my impression that the Administration has not been expedient about addressing this issue.

What can you tell me about why this process has taken so long? And what will it take for you and the Administration to act to advance the Columbia River Treaty and engage Canada?

Question 2: As you know, the National Park System turns 100 years old next year, and during its time has become one of America’s greatest success stories. In nearly every state, Americans can visit a national park, trail, or monument and learn about the nation’s rich cultural and ecological heritage. To ensure that these parks remain the treasures that they are, it’s imperative that the Administration and Congress invest in them to keep them maintained and safe for visitors.

What are the Department of Interior’s plans for ensuring that the deferred maintenance backlog remains a priority and that the backlog “to-do” list gets consistently checked off?

Question 3: I understand that some of my colleagues were suspicious about what you and the Administration were doing to protect sage grouse habitat, but in Oregon, this work is really important. Can you assure me that you’ll continue the important work you are doing with private landowners in places like Eastern Oregon?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Rob Portman

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: When groups want work together to raise money for a project on a certain park, for example: let's assume a structure in Cuyahoga National park needs a new roof, how can groups who donate money through the current Centennial Challenge ensure all the money from their donations comes back to the roof in Cuyahoga that they donated for without having to donate it to the federal government's centennial challenge?

Question 2: Last year the FY15 Omnibus provided \$10 million to reinvest in the Centennial Challenge. Can you provide a status of the projects for FY15, what projects or types of projects have been chosen?

Question 3: When was the last time Ohio was mapped via USGS using LIDAR technology, and what percentage of the state has been mapped using LIDAR as part of 3D Elevation Program?

Question 4: The Service proposed to list the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the ESA in October 2013, but it is my understanding that service is now leaning toward a determination that the species threatened, and issuing a 4(d) rule. For species listed as threatened, the Service may issue a 4(d) rule to provide protections that are deemed necessary and advisable for conservation of the species. The 4(d) rule as I understand it would provide limited exemptions for forest management practices, maintenance and limited expansion of transportation and utility rights-of-way, removal of trees and brush to maintain prairie habitat, and some tree removal projects.

But there remains concern that the proposed 4(d) rule, which would accompany a potential threatened listing, does not accommodate similar exemptions for oil and gas activities, renewable power (such as solar and wind), commercial or residential construction, or agricultural practices. Major industries that drive our economy.

Can I get your commitment that you will work with folks in those industries to ensure equal consideration within the 4(d) rule for these types of activities that are substantially similar to activities exempted under the rule?

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Sent: Thu Feb 26 2015 15:09:55 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Mahan, Joshua" <joshua_mahan@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015
ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for
the DOI

Thanks Josh! Let's meet (those who are in) in the morning -- maybe 10:30 -- and then we can send them out....

Pamela Barkin
Assistant Legislative Counsel
Office of the Secretary of the Interior
(202) 501-2563

On Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 5:03 PM, Mahan, Joshua <joshua_mahan@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Here's a consolidated version with all questions in one doc.

On Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 4:46 PM, Neimeyer, Sarah <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Here we go. Looks like we have a month to get these back up to SENR.

Pam will probably take a cut at assigning these on Friday.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ripchensky, Darla (Energy)** <Darla_Ripchensky@energy.senate.gov>
Date: Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 4:25 PM
Subject: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI
To: "sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Kearney, Christopher (Energy)" <Christopher_Kearney@energy.senate.gov>, "Brooks, David (Energy)" <David_Brooks@energy.senate.gov>

Hi Sarah,

Attached are Questions for the Record submitted to Secretary Jewell by various Energy Committee Members regarding the hearing which was held on February 25, 2015 entitled "The FY 2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior." We request that Secretary Jewell provide her responses to these questions by **Tuesday, March 24, 2015** for inclusion in the official hearing record.

Please provide the responses directly to me, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Darla Ripchensky, PMP

Administrative Director

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

304 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

202.224.3607

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Sarah C. Neimeyer, Director
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1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

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Joshua D. Mahan

Attorney-Advisor

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1849 C Street, NW

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phone: (202) 208-6340

"Maione, Dominic" <dominic_maione@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Maione, Dominic" <dominic_maione@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Feb 26 2015 15:28:20 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Barkin, Pamela" <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI

96 questions + subquestions

On Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 5:09 PM, Barkin, Pamela <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
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Assistant Legislative Counsel
Office of the Secretary of the Interior
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Subject: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI
To: "sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Kearney, Christopher (Energy)" <Christopher_Kearney@energy.senate.gov>, "Brooks, David (Energy)" <David_Brooks@energy.senate.gov>

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"Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 19 2015 11:22:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Pamela Barkin <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>, "Quinn, Matthew" <Matthew_Quinn@ios.doi.gov>, Dominic Maione <Dominic_Maione@ios.doi.gov>, Joshua Mahan <Joshua_Mahan@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI

QFRs from Sen Capito 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen Risch 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Barrasso 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Flake 2_24_15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Franken 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Heinrich.2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Hirono 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Lee.2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Manchin 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Murkowski 2-24-2015 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Sanders 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Sen. Wyden 2-24-15 Hrg.docx QFRs from Senator Portman 2-24-15 Hrg.docx

Attachments:

we need to move these to OMB, I think ...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Neimeyer, Sarah <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 1:22 PM
Subject: Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI
To: Christopher Salotti <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>

Looks like the SENR deadline is Tuesday.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ripchensky, Darla (Energy) <Darla_Ripchensky@energy.senate.gov>
Date: Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 4:25 PM
Subject: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI
To: "sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Kearney, Christopher (Energy)" <Christopher_Kearney@energy.senate.gov>, "Brooks, David (Energy)" <David_Brooks@energy.senate.gov>

Hi Sarah,

Attached are Questions for the Record submitted to Secretary Jewell by various Energy Committee Members regarding the hearing which was held on February 25, 2015 entitled "The FY 2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior." We request that Secretary Jewell provide her responses to these questions by **Tuesday, March 24, 2015** for inclusion in the official hearing record.

Please provide the responses directly to me, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Darla Ripchensky, PMP

Administrative Director

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: 202.208.1403

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Shelley Moore Capito

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: The office of Surface Mining (OSM) has spent more than \$8 million over the past several years to develop a rule to replace the 2008 stream buffer zone rule. OSM recently repealed the 2008 rule and reinstated the rules that were in place before 2008. You previously committed to taking a fresh look to decide whether any new rulemaking was necessary. In light of these developments, is there any need for spending more tax-payer money on a new rulemaking?

Question 2: The earlier stream buffer zone rule development included several cooperating primacy states, including West Virginia, as part of the NEPA process. Has this arrangement continued? If so, when was the last time OSM communicated with those cooperating state agencies on the status of any further rule development?

Question 3: I want to ask about habitat conservation, and in particular that related to the Northern Long-eared bat, which is a huge issue in my home state. It appears that the assumptions made by BLM and FWS about drilling impacts in connection with the Northern Long-eared do not take into consideration recent technologies developed and in use by the oil and gas industry. In fact, the majority of studies on oil and gas industry impacts are based upon assumptions of well density and drilling footprints that are decades old. Shouldn't the conservation and management strategies of FWS and BLM incorporate information from engineers and other industry specialists who develop and implement technological innovations that improve the efficiency of oil and gas operations and reduce their environmental impacts? Also, why don't BLM-FWS Assumptions on Effects of Oil and Gas Development take into account new technologies and smaller drilling footprints?

Question 4: On July 17, 2014, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it was banning the use of neonicotinoids on USFWS lands. What other federal agencies did the USFW consult before making this decision?

Question 5: What input, if any, did USFWS receive from these agencies?

Question 6: Were any NGO organizations consulted or have input into this decision?

Question 7: Why was this decision not published in the Federal Register for public comment?

Question 8: Are agricultural operations on USFWS lands reviewed as a part of each refuge management plan where such operations occur?

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Question 9: Why was this action not undertaken as a part of refuge management planning process?

Question 10: Was an economic analysis conducted before this decision was made? If so, please provide a copy. If not, why not?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator James Risch

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell (and Michael Connor)

There are several Idaho federal water storage project feasibility studies that were authorized under BOR (e.g., Snake River systems including; Boise River Project – Lucky Peak, Arrowrock, Anderson, and Deer Flat; Upper Snake River: Teton, Idaho site reservoirs, Deer Flat,).

Question 1: What is the feasibility study status of the BOR Idaho water project studies?

Question 2: What possible actions does BOR consider pursuing on the Snake River system via the outcome of the feasibility studies?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Barrasso

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: During the hearing, I asked you whether BLM's final rule on hydraulic fracturing would allow states to apply for a variance. In response, you stated that BLM's "proposed regulations say that if a state's rule is stronger than the proposed federal rule, that the state's rule will govern." Will BLM allow states (not operators) to apply for a variance from BLM's final hydraulic fracturing rule? If so, under what circumstances will a state be able to obtain a variance from BLM's final rule?

Question 2: During the hearing, we discussed your letter to Governor Matt Mead dated January 26, 2015. In the letter, you state that: "The rider attached to H.R. 83... does not affect the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's...court-ordered obligation to make a determination by September 30, 2015, as to whether the greater sage-grouse does or does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act." I specifically asked you whether such a "determination" would be legally binding. You stated that you "would have to defer to the solicitors." Please clarify for the Committee whether such a "determination" would be legally binding if the rider remains in effect.

Question 3: I understand there are significant delays in obtaining sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines on Federal land from BLM. However, in response to one of my questions on this matter, you said that you are "not aware of circumstances where permits have been slowed down by the BLM."

A. What is the total number of requests for sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines pending at the Bureau of Land Management?

B. What is the total number of requests for sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines pending at each BLM Field Office?

C. When were each of the pending requests for sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines first submitted to BLM?

Question 4: On February 20, 2015, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) published a notice in the *Federal Register* to pursue a rulemaking to revise regulations under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act on the use of explosives on surface coal mining operations. A. Does OSM plan to consult with the state regulatory authorities prior to initiating this rulemaking? B. If so, when will this consultation take place and which states will it involve?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of Interior

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR JEFF FLAKE

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1. In the Department's wildfire budget justification, the anticipated cost of wildfire suppression based on the average of the previous 10 years is \$384 million. The Department's anticipated 'worst case' scenario cost, based on a Forest Service mathematical model is \$467 million. The Department claims that the 'on budget' funding is sufficient to fight the predictable 99% of the fires which account for 70% of the costs. But, the Department has only requested enough funds to cover 70% of the *predictable* costs, not the *worst case* costs - meaning that the plan going into the year is to have insufficient funds to fight the fires that are predicted to happen. Why doesn't the department request 'on-budget' discretionary amounts sufficient to cover at least 70% of the worst case scenario?

Question 2. The maintenance cost for the National Park System continues to rise. This year the Department is requesting a 94% increase in deferred maintenance funding and a 67% increase for regularly scheduled maintenance. Together the costs of just maintaining the current park system are over \$308 million. Yet, even with this ever-increasing cost, the Department is proposing to more than triple the amount spent on Federal land acquisitions in FY16 to \$447 million. What impact will the proposed additional land acquisition have on the continually increasing maintenance bill of the National Park System?

Question 3. Last year the Federal government, as a landowner of nearly half the land area in the Western US, met its obligations to counties and local governments by appropriating money out of discretionary funds to make Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments. The Department is requesting no discretionary funds for PILT in FY16, relying instead on Congress to use mandatory spending to fund PILT. How does the Department intend to offset the cost of the proposed mandatory spending increase?

Question 4. The recently-passed water rights settlement on the Bill Williams River, Arizona is contingent on the completion of several actions, including approvals by the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan Steering Committee. What is the Department doing to facilitate the final implementation of the settlement?

Question 5. In July 2014, the Bureau of Reclamation partnered with municipal water providers in Arizona, California, Colorado, and Nevada to create the Colorado River System Conservation Program. How much funding does this program currently have? How many projects has it funded? How much water has been conserved? What has been the effect on reservoir levels? What additional steps will the Department take in FY16 with this program?

Questions for the Record

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Question 6. The Department has requested \$244 million for Indian water rights settlements and negotiation. Which new Indian water rights settlements are being prioritized by the department? What will the additional \$16.9 million for negotiation and legal support allow the department to do? What is being done to increase the pace of settling outstanding claims?

Question 7. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published the final EIS and draft Record of Decision on the Proposed Revision to the Regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf on November 25, 2014. The final EIS differed significantly from the draft EIS published in July 2014, due in large part to extensive negotiations between the FWS and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Senator McCain and I sent a letter to Director Ashe on December 21, 2014 requesting an extension of the public comment deadline to allow stakeholders, including the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, time to analyze the significantly changed proposed regulations. In this letter we specifically identified provisions in the consent decree that allow a modification of the deadline upon showing good cause, consistent with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Did the FWS approach the Department of Justice about seeking an extension of the public comment deadline? What was the Department of Justice's reason for not seeking an extension?

Question 8. There is a proposal for the President to bypass Congress and designate over 1.7 million acres of land in northern Arizona as the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. This would lock up not only Federal land, but over 60,000 acres of State Trust land and nearly 30,000 acres of private land. Such a designation would have a devastating effect on the economic productivity of State trust land which is managed primarily to benefit Arizona public schools. It would have a similarly chilling effect on the economic productivity on private land and existing mining operations. The creation of this monument has been strongly opposed by the State of Arizona. Would any of the Department's proposed funding be used to pursue the designation of a National Monument in Arizona?

Question 9. In order to get the most value for every dollar spent on managing National Parks, the Park Service is required to seek competing bids for private companies to run concessions within the National Parks. In instances where a concessionaire has held the contract for extended periods the leasehold surrender interest (LSI) that must be paid to the outgoing concessionaire when a contract changes hands can become a significant barrier to the competitive bidding process. What actions is the Department pursuing to ensure a true competition for park concessions while still respecting the investment made by private companies in their business?

Question 10. Arizona counties and municipalities have tried to work with the BLM to authorize third-party concessionaires to operate on Recreation and Public Purposes Act (RPPA) parcels. The BLM in Arizona will not permit local governments to allow

Questions for the Record

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a third-party concessionaire on the exact same land that the BLM could itself allow a concessionaire to operate if the BLM still controlled the land. During Director Kornze's nomination hearing in December 2013, I asked specifically about the status of the Solicitor's Office evaluation of the August 2011 Instructional Memorandum for Third Party Uses on Recreation and Public Purposes Acts Patents and Leases (2011-162), and when Arizona local governments could expect a decision about the ability to enter into agreements with third-party concessionaires. In the written responses, Director Kornze did not provide an update on the Solicitor's evaluation or an expected timeline for the local governments. What is the status of the Solicitor's office evaluation of the above memorandum, and when does the office expect to make a decision regarding third-party concessionaries to operate on RPPA lands?

Question 11. In a December 5, 2014 report, the Congressional Research Service identified several potential technical discrepancies in how some Federal payments to counties are treated in the calculation of Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments. The report specifies that payments made under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act by the BLM require a reduction in the following year's PILT payments, but payments for similar lands administered by the Forest Service do not require a reduction. Additionally, the report claims that payments under the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program require an offset in the following year's PILT levels for payments from the Forest Service but not payments from the BLM. As the agency responsible for making annual PILT payments, does the Department treat SRS payments by the Forest Service and the BLM differently when computing PILT payments? Similarly, does the Department treat payments made under the Bankhead-Jones Act by the Forest Service and BLM differently for purposes of PILT payments?

Question 12. Your testimony includes several references to encouraging individuals to serve, work, and volunteer on public lands. Some have suggested that questions of legal liability act as a disincentive for federal agencies to work with volunteers. Has the Department identified any such impediments to promoting volunteer work on public lands? If so, does the Department have suggestions on how to remove these barriers?

Question 13. The trans-canyon pipeline that supplies water to Grand Canyon National Park has incurred repeated maintenance issues over the last thirty plus years. Most recently, we witnessed two separate closures of Phantom Ranch as crews sought to address pipeline breaks, and a section of the pipeline is undergoing repairs until July of this year. According to some estimates, the cost to replace the entire pipeline would fall between \$100 million and \$150 million with additional operations and maintenance charges. Does the Park Service have updated estimates regarding the cost to repair the trans-canyon pipeline?

Question 14. I understand that the Park Service is evaluating potential solutions to the water pipeline challenges at the Grand Canyon National Park by developing a

Questions for the Record

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water-delivery study. Please describe the alternatives being considered and the costs associated with each option. When do you expect to complete the final study?

Question 15. In evaluating potential water-delivery options, has anyone from the Park Service considered regional water-supply solutions? If so, who has the Park Service met with, and what options are being considered?

Question 16. Is there an opportunity for the Park Service to achieve cost savings by pursuing a regional water-supply solution, as opposed to solely looking at replacement of the trans-canyon pipeline?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Al Franken

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: As you know, a recent court decision reversed the Fish and Wildlife Service's determination to delist the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act. Right now, farmers and ranchers in Minnesota are concerned about losing their livestock to wolf attacks, and they really need federal funds that can help to protect their herds. For example, the Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program provides funding to livestock producers so they can employ strategies to help prevent wolf attacks from occurring in the first place. Can you tell me why the Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to discontinue funding for this program in FY 2016?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Martin Heinrich

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: In December, Congress passed the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act, which directs the National Park Service to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in three states within one year of enactment. Do you expect to be able to meet that deadline?

Question 2: When and how does the National Park Service plan to involve local communities in the park planning process for the Manhattan Project National Historic Park?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of Interior

Questions from Senator Mazie K. Hirono

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: National Monuments

Madam Secretary, I would like to thank the Administration for taking action to protect and preserve lands across our nation, the recent executive action for Honouliuli in Hawaii is a good example. It is a sobering, yet important piece of our nation's history that will serve to educate future generations. In 2009, when I was a member of the House of Representatives I worked with Senators Inouye and Akaka to authorize a special resource study on World War II internment camp sites in Hawaii. Now that the President has designated Honouliuli as a national monument to be managed by the National Park Service, an agency well-seasoned and experienced with management of national monuments across our country. I want to see Honouliuli and other sites recently designated get off to a strong start.

This designation has been a collaborative, inclusive effort—between the local community, Hawaii's Congressional delegation, and other public and private stakeholders. Can you give me a sense of what the path will be to move Honouliuli forward in FY 2016 and beyond?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Mike Lee

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Antiquities Act

1. Secretary Jewell, during your confirmation hearing, I asked if you would seek the input of local stakeholders regarding national monument designations. You confirmed you would do this. However on October 31, 2013, you said, “if Congress doesn’t step up to act to protect some of these important places that have been identified by communities and people throughout the country, then the president will take action ... there’s not question that if Congress doesn’t act, we will.” One would think that the elected representatives of the people would be a group of stakeholders whose buy in and support should necessary in designating monuments. Has your opinion changed from the answer you gave me your confirmation hearing?

Transcript, Sally Jewell Confirmation Hearing, March 21, 2013

Senator Lee: *The monument designation question is important because, as you were discussing that with Senator Heinrich, I appreciated your commitment to work with local stakeholders whenever they are dealing with something like monument designation. We had about 2 million acres designated as a monument a few years ago in my state, and it was not only not done without extensive consultation, input, and buy-in of local officials and residents, it was done completely by surprise. It was brought upon us completely by stealth. It was announced from a neighboring state, and we would have like to have had input. So, I would really appreciate if you would commit to me that you would advise the president that it is best to work with locals affected by broad decisions like that in advance of making such a decision.*

Secretary Jewell: *That is certainly consistent with what I believe in and with what the White House believes in as well.*

2. The President added four new national monuments in 2014. Regarding your commitment to an open process with local consultation, were these communities given proper notice before these monuments were designated? Did you change anything about the designation area or timing in relation to the concerns of the impacted community or state?
Last four monuments listed:
3. The Antiquities Act also states that the President is to reserve “the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.” However, of the 11 monuments President Obama has designated so far, just the last three monuments constituted

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over 250 million acres of new federal property. Would you consider these areas to be the smallest areas available?

Endangered Species Act

1. As you know, the agency recently put out a rule related to adverse modification – “Definition of Destruction or Adverse Modification of Critical Habitat.” Can you please provide me the statutory authority for this rule?
2. How much does the Department spend on ESA litigation? If attorney’s fees were capped, is it possible that money could instead be used for species recovery?
3. In a hearing before the House Natural Resources Committee on April 3, 2014, you stated that the Department publishes the underlying data for potential ESA listings. However, my staff has experienced many examples where the data used in listings is simply not available because the Department has, in fact, *not* made it available – for example, the underlying data for the listing of the Gunnison sage grouse was not released. Why does the Department publish scientific findings for some listings, but not for others? Can you commit to making available to the public all underlying data for all potential listings?
4. How do you ensure that state and local entities are able to stay informed and participate in the listing determination process? On average, how many meetings does your Department have with state and local officials during the listing process?

National Park Service

1. What is the current maintenance backlog for the National Park Service? What is the proportion of the Service’s budget that is spent on administrative overhead versus park maintenance?
2. How does the Department intend to prioritize its funding to address this backlog? Is it your opinion that we should consider a moratorium on the addition of National Park land until the NPS addresses the backlog in its current portfolio?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Joe Manchin III

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: Secretary Jewell, I am very interested in some of the AML proposals in the Interior budget. As you know, I am very supportive of funding the UMWA's pension plan. Our miners have mined the coal that powered our nation and we need to ensure they continue to receive their hard earned benefits.

I am also interested in the proposal to use AML money for coalfield communities in Appalachia, like those in my home state of West Virginia. As you're aware, this program would require a legislative solution.

In your view, what would this legislative solution look like and can I get your commitment to work with me and other members from the region to ensure this money reaches the communities who need it the most?

Question 2: OSM's budget justification document notes that States and Tribes directly regulate 97 percent of the Nation's coal production under approved regulatory programs. The agency's budget also notes the reduced workload anticipated by OSM.

With the states responsible for most of the regulatory work why does OSM ask for \$5.5 million more for itself while cutting the states grants by more than \$3 million? What is OSM planning to use the extra \$5.5 million for?

Question 3: As you know, I have serious concerns about the potential OSM Stream Buffer Zone rule. The original intent of this rulemaking was in response to the 2008 rule promulgated under the Bush Administration. Why is OSM moving forward with this process when the 2008 rule was vacated?

Question 4: In 2013, the Director of Mining and Reclamation at West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection testified in the House about their experience as a cooperating agency during the Stream Protection Measures Rulemaking process. Under this agreement, OSM should be coordinating with West Virginia and the other cooperating state agencies.

Instead, OSM denied the agencies the opportunity to review the first chapter of the Environmental Impact Study and provided them only a few days to review and comment on hundreds of pages of the following chapters.

Questions for the Record

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After this, according to the West Virginia DEP, OSM “shifted to a nearly complete blackout on information about the development of the Stream Protection Measures Rule.”

Yesterday, 11 states, including West Virginia sent a letter to OSM stating that several of the states are “seriously contemplating withdrawing from the EIS development” due to a continued lack of cooperation from OSM.

Can you explain this?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Lisa Murkowski

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: Please provide a record of the authorities on which the Department relied for the development of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (EIS), including, the approval for and authorization of funds expended by year, including Congressional authorization or appropriation, for the development of the CCP and EIS.

Question 2: Please provide a detailed current plan, calendar and itemized budget for the development and implementation of the Step-Down Plans identified in the CCP and EIS.

Question 3: Please a comprehensive list of the dates and times of any meeting, call or other interaction held by the Department of the Interior (DOI) or any of its component parts including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or contractor operating on behalf of DOI, with any entity not considered a cooperative agency, including any corporation or non-governmental organization.

Question 4: Please identify in a log any legal or policy analysis provided to or given by DOI or USFWS related to sections 1002, 1003 or 1326 of ANILCA as it might apply to the CPP or EIS.

Question 5: Please provide a comprehensive list of programs or initiatives within DOI in support of the US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and in fulfillment of Executive Order Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic. Please include in the list a identification of the funds expended or to be expended for any and all programs or initiatives on the list.

Question 6: with respect to the issue of climate change, please provide a comprehensive list of DOI programs or initiatives dedicated to adaptation or promoting resilience in communities in response to a changing climate and the funds associated with these initiatives or programs.

Question 7: Please provide an itemization of any funds expended since January 1, 2012 related to international travel costs for DOI personnel in support for arctic initiatives, studies, programs or workshops.

Question 8: Please provide an estimate of any funds expended since January 1, 2012 related to Alaska specific travel costs for DOI personnel in support for arctic initiatives, studies, programs or workshops.

Questions for the Record
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Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Question 9: In the 2016 Budget Justification, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) notes: “*Since 2009, the BLM has approved 52 renewable energy projects, including 29 utility-scale solar facilities, 11 wind farms, and 12 geothermal plants, with associated transmission corridors and infrastructure to connect with established power grids. If fully constructed, these projects will provide more than 14,000 megawatts of power, or enough electricity to power about 4.8 million homes, and provide over 20,000 construction and operations jobs.*” (p. I-3) Please provide a detailed timeline for each of these identified projects including (1) date on which BLM received an initial application for approval (2) date on which a ROD was issued (3) description of the project – including estimated capital costs as well as construction and operating jobs and (4) estimated cost of mitigation measures required by BLM.

Question 10: Please provide an equivalent description of the number of new oil and gas units or developments approved by BLM since 2009.

Question 11: In the 2016 Budget Justification, BLM notes that since 2000, BLM has permitted nearly 47,000 new wells – please provide the number of permitted new wells since 2009.

Question 12: Please provide the number of permitted new wells since 2009 that have been drilled.

Question 13: Please provide estimates of revenues from NPRA production provided to Congress, the White House or other similar governmental institution issued prior to, or associated with, the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Question 14: Please provide an accounting of revenues received from production in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska since passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Question 15: In its *Report to Congress June 2006* related to Sec. 207 of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act, BLM identified roughly 56,870,900 acres of BLM-managed lands that are withdrawn by “d-1 PLOs” and made recommendations – primarily that those d-1 withdrawals could be lifted. With next year being ten years since that report was issued I feel compelled to ask if anything has happened.

Question 16: Please provide an update on where the Department stands in settling with the state on the proper process to complete patenting of the state’s lands. The Alaska Statehood Act set up a very specific process for federal surveying to complete the patented transfer of lands. To reduce its costs, the department has proposed a new surveying process, taking advantage of GPS coordinates. But apparently there is now a difference of opinion between the State of Alaska and your Department over the process

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to be used. Please describe that disagreement and how the department plans to resolve the issue?

Question 17: Relating to the U.S. Geological Survey budget, the USGS is a major source of grant funding for a series of seismic monitors on volcanoes in Alaska, largely on the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Chain, near the air corridor for flights to America from Asia. The grants help fund the work of the Alaska Volcano Observatory, a joint entity between USGS and the University of Alaska. Ash from eruptions is particularly dangerous to such flights as shown by the near crash of a jumbo jet years ago.

- A) The problem is many of the seismic monitors need not just upgrading to digital technology, but antenna and battery replacements since the stations are rapidly going off line.
- B) I believe this is causing a real health and safety issue not just for Alaskans, but international passengers on trans-Pacific flights. While Congress added money to your budget this year to help with the maintenance costs on the network, your FY 16 budget seems to propose only a slight increase for hazards funding, even while your overall budget calls for a \$759.2 million increase – 6% above FY 15. That is disappointing since estimates are that it will require an additional \$5 to \$7 million a year for perhaps five years just to keep the Alaska seismic network functioning, much less to meet the entire U.S.G.S. earthquake monitoring budget needs.
- C) Why is there not more money in your spending plan devoted to basic health and safety needs?

Question 18: The State of Alaska a number of years ago requested that it receive the conveyance of several thousand acres along the Susitna River in Southcentral Alaska as part of its statehood conveyance. In 2013 my staff had been assured by Department personnel that the transfer would be completed, since none of the land is in conservation system units. But apparently the transfer is still pending. What is the hold up and when will the transfer of the acreage be completed to the State of Alaska?

Question 19: We have spoken often about the need for the Department to speed up the cleanup of 136 abandoned oil and gas exploration wells in northern Alaska, wells drilled by the government in both the 1940s and late 1980s and early 1990s. You had about \$2 million in your budget last year for such cleanups. Fortunately in the Helium bill in 2013 we were able to increase your cleanup funding by \$50 million so that the Department will be able to tackle the worst of the wells in coming years and gain efficiencies by being

Questions for the Record

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able to reduce mobilization costs and improve coordination of the cleanup efforts. But that \$50 million will not solve all of the problems.

- A) My question is this: when will the Department change its priorities and increase its regular budgetary funding to tackle environmental cleanups of abandoned federal wells on an annual basis?
- B) Abandoned well cleanup truly is a federal responsibility. How will you assure me that we aren't back in the same position in four or five years of having insufficient funding to clean up environmental well problems on federal lands?

Question 20: Recently I have received a number of complaints from placer miners in the eastern Interior part of Alaska about Department policies involving the current and future regulation of placer mining. There are concerns about the draft Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan and its apparent designation of about 700,000 acres of the FortyMile River mining district as "areas of critical environmental concern" where the Department is considering closing the area to mining. Significantly, as I understand it, this land was specifically kept open to mining by Congress in 1980's Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act when it was not included in the Yukon-Charley National Preserve. There are also a host of concerns about new regulations for mining efforts in still open areas, concerning about reclamation cost estimates, reclamation standards, new bonding processes and the turnover in our compliance staff that makes consistency in mining enforcement difficult at best.

- Recognizing that the issue of mining on the FortyMile is complicated, please tell me the reason for all of these changes in mining practice now in Interior Alaska, when mining had been working seemingly fine based on the 1983 management plan crafted just after passage of ANILCA?

Question 21: Just recently I learned that your Department has decided to implement a new southern boundary of the wilderness area inside Denali National Park and Preserve. Apparently 35 years ago when the Alaska lands act passed, no one noticed that the world is round and that map boundaries might need to be adjusted for the curvature of the earth. The problem appears to be that now the Department wants to add up to fifth-eighth of a mile to the wilderness area south of Denali. That might not seem like much, but it could have significant impacts. For example, there are potential impacts on:

- Hundreds of commercial air taxi and scenic flights to see the mountain.
- Potential for impact climbers getting to base camp to climb Denali.
- Snowmachine recreation efforts in the eastern sections of the park, and caribou and moose hunting for both subsistence and sport hunters in the Cantwell area.

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Apparently the boundary change will add about 23,500 acres to the wilderness area in the park. But Alaska lands act (Sect. 103c) specifically limits “minor boundary adjustments” to just 23,000 acres.

- Will the Department work with us, either administratively or if a legislative fix is required, to make sure that this boundary expansion does not impact tourism and recreational hunting interests in Southcentral Alaska?

At a time when Department policy changes are having such a huge impact on future oil and gas and mineral development, this change that could impact another major leg of the state’s economy – tourism – may be exceptionally hard for Alaskans to accept, especially 35 years after ANILCA’s passage and after business and lifestyles have adapted to the changes generated by passage of the lands act.

Question 22: In late 2013 it became clear that the Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI) Alaska Native Regional Corp. was coming up short by 42,000 acres of the land conveyance it was promised as a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The shortage was the result of the complex settlement of land conveyances to CIRI village corporations that had been complicated by the 1976 Cook Inlet land exchange. For the past year the BLM in Alaska has acknowledged that CIRI is short of its required conveyance and apparently has been working to identify solutions. Please update us on where Interior is with crafting a solution to the CIRI land shortage, and how soon such a fix may be proposed by your Department?

Question 23: The Department has a legal responsibility to fulfill the government's obligations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Under ANCSA, Alaska Native Corporation often had to select lands for conveyance that were outside their traditional aboriginal lands because those lands were already occupied by the Federal government, the Department of Defense, or various state and local governmental entities. Accordingly, land exchanges and selection of other lands was necessary to fulfill Alaska Native Corporation (ANC) entitlements under ANCSA.

Given that ANCs have been denied their traditional aboriginal lands and, out of convenience to the government, have selected other lands and are now trying to develop those lands, it’s troubling--but not surprising--that I often hear that your Department delays and impedes the issuances of permits to Alaska Natives who wish to develop their subsurface lands within the boundaries of a National Refuge.

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- A) What are you going to do to make sure your department protects Alaskan Native Corporations' rights to the lands selected under ANCSA and that the agencies in your department expeditiously assist them in permitting, conveyance, and other dealings with your department?

Question 24: The U.S. Geological Survey recently released its Mineral Commodity Summaries report for 2015, and it shows that the United States is at least 50 percent reliant on foreign nations for at least 43 different commodities. The report also states, as it annually does, that "U.S. import reliance has increased significantly since 1978, the year that this information was first reported."

- A) Is our nation's foreign mineral dependence a matter of concern to you?
- B) What are you doing, at Interior, to help reduce and eliminate it?
- C) Do you believe the proposals in Interior's budget request – which would impose new taxes and fees on top of an already-slow permitting process – will somehow increase our nation's mineral security?
- D) It takes an average of 7 to 10 years (even absent significant litigation) to permit a new mine in the United States, which is considerably longer than other countries with similar environmental standards. Will you commit to reviewing the federal mine permitting process, and will you commit to identifying steps to make the process more efficient?

Question 25: The FY 2016 Land and Water Conservation Fund budget request is \$900 million: \$400 million in discretionary funding and \$500 million in permanent funding for DOI agencies and the Forest Service. In 2017 the President's budget request proposes that all \$900 million would be mandatory funding.

- A) Please explain to me why, with such an enormous maintenance backlog (According to CRS, over \$22 billion at the federal agencies combined, \$13 billion at NPS alone), DOI would propose to focus such a large amount of funding on acquiring more federal land?
- B) Shouldn't these funds be used to pay down the maintenance backlog to, at least, stem the growth of the backlog?
- C) More generally, how do you reconcile additional federal land acquisition at this time of staggering national debt and maintenance backlogs?

The budget proposal seeks to turn the LWCF program into a permanent mandatory program without making any changes to it. I don't support that. I am also concerned that this program has been overly focused on federal land acquisition. Part of the reason for that is the 60 percent set-aside for state-side grants was stripped from the LWCF Act.

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These state-side grants are valuable tools to develop state parks and other outdoor recreation opportunities on non-federal land.

- D) Shouldn't a larger percentage of LWCF funds be set-aside for state-side grants?
Why or Why not?

Question 26: As many colleagues and I have emphasized many times, we have a nearly \$13 billion parks maintenance backlog. And with that staggering figure, there is a very strong argument that we should not be adding any new parks to the system until we can take care of what we already have. Alaskans are particularly concerned with the prospect of additions of new Parks with roughly 2/3 of the entire system located within my State.

- A) With the Parks Centennial upon us in 2016, it would seem that this could be a great time to reevaluate how we establish and maintain the Parks as well as how we build support for the Parks in their local communities, nationwide and even internationally. In a time of severe budget constraints, all options need to be on the table. One idea that I am particularly interested in is increasing private donations to the system through private endowments.
- B) Will you agree to work with me and the other members of this committee to review options and find a path forward to create a sustainable supplementary funding stream for America's Parks for the second century?

Question 27: I have some questions regarding the general approach of the National Park Service to rule making as well as some questions regarding a specific rule proposed by NPS.

- A) In the past, NPS has put into place regulations that shortened the hunting seasons as defined by the Alaska Board of Game. When instituting the closures, the NPS has cited "Park Values" in those closures.
- I. Please provide me with a definition of "Park Values"?
- II. Do you believe that the State of Alaska has the right to manage wildlife within the borders of the State? When is it proper for the federal government to reverse State Board of Game decisions?
- B) Recently, the National Park Service has proposed a rule (Regulation Identifier Number 1024-AE21) that would close a number of preserves in Alaska to the take of predators, such as bear and wolf.

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- I. I am aware of several stakeholders who have contacted you regarding their concerns about the potential for this proposed regulation to unduly impact subsistence communities across Alaska. One of these stakeholders includes the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resources Commission, an official Federal advisory committee created by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) to make recommendations to you, the Secretary of the Interior, regarding fish and wildlife resources for subsistence dependent communities. I would like to hear from you how the Department proposes to avoid any undue impact on these communities, communities whose lives depend on the take of predators.
- II. The take of certain predators by Alaska Natives is done for cultural, economic, traditional, and spiritual needs. Can you describe to me how this proposed rule incorporates these significant considerations?

Question 28: Please describe the role of DOI in any additional discussions that have taken place with the State Department since the Regional Recommendation was finalized in December 2013. Who participated in these discussions? Does DOI defer to other agencies (i.e., the U.S. Entity) in discussions with the State Department regarding potential U.S. negotiating positions? Why or why not? If not, what are the major outstanding points of disagreement between DOI and other agencies?

Question 29: What is DOI's position on the "ecosystem-based function" principles and recommendations outlined in the Regional Recommendation? Please provide specific examples of the department's positions on these principles and recommendations?

Question 30: Total domestic oil production increased 15% from 2012 to 2013. Can you confirm that on federal lands, however, it only increased by 1% over the same period?

Question 31: While EIA is still assessing the 2014 data, according to its latest Monthly Energy Review, total U.S. field production averaged 16.3% higher in 2014 than in 2013. How much do you expect oil production on federal lands has increased over the past year?

Question 32: The Bureau of Land Management issued 3,769 drilling permits in FY 2014. This is one less than it approved in FY 2013, and 2,848 fewer than the 6,617 permits that were approved in FY 2008. Is it accurate to say that permits have fallen by 43% during this administration and that you are doing little if anything to correct this trend?

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Question 33: Over the past decade, has federal natural gas production increased or decreased? What is the Department doing to reverse this trend?

Question 34: Given the nature of U.S. Geological Survey's core mission, many of us have requested that an economic geologist to be nominated to lead that agency. We did have a nominee in the last Congress, but she was not brought up for confirmation by the previous majority, and the agency has now gone without a confirmed director for two full years.

- A) Can you tell us when you anticipate the President will send this Committee a nominee to consider for USGS?
- B) Can you tell us whether the President is taking our request for an economic geologist seriously, as he searches for a new candidate?

Question 35: The Department of Interior is mandated to provide a subsistence priority on federal land, yet nearly every rural community in Alaska struggles to meet their subsistence needs because of low moose populations, low caribou populations – in some cases, and nearly non-existent king salmon populations.

- A) What is the Department's plan to ensure that adequate amounts of food can be put on the table?
- B) How do you reconcile a mandate to provide a subsistence priority with the competing mandates that creating wilderness, not managing for abundant and healthy wildlife populations, and limiting access by subsistence hunters fishers?
- C) Why is it difficult for your agency to manage predators to increase prey species to sustainable levels?

Question 36: In 2013, I wrote a letter to the Department asking what you could do to speed up the cleaning of environmental contamination on lands that you have transferred to Alaska Native Corporations to satisfy their aboriginal land claims under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Your Department studied the issue in 1998 and proposed a six-point effort to speed up the cleaning of such contamination. Last January in a letter to me you proposed that the Department would update its contaminated lands survey and then address the other five recommendations all involving how to tackle the actual cleanups. I had been led to believe that updated list would be finished in the fall – there were more than 650 sites on the old list—unfortunately, it was not completed.

- A) When will an updated, comprehensive list of contaminated sites on Native conveyed lands be finished? What will the Department propose to actually speed up and fund the cleanup of the contamination –all caused by the federal government prior to transfer of the land to Alaska Natives?
- B) Most recently, the Department's current spending authorization requires the Department to provide to Congress by June of this year a detailed report including the comprehensive inventory of contaminated land conveyed through ANSCA

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including sites identified since the 1998 report and a detailed plan addressing how the Department intends to complete the cleanup of each contaminated site. What is the status of the effort to comply with this recent statutory directive?

Question 37: In the past Alaska Fire Service had two CL215s which carry about 1,400 gallons. There are plans to replace these with Fire Boss Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) aircraft.

- What is the cost per gallon dropped for the two aircraft?
- What is the cost difference between the CL215s vs the Fire Boss Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) in total budget cost to AFS?
- How effective do you expect the SEATs to be at Initial Attack?

Question 38: The BLM's FY16 budget request proposes to reduce funding for the Oregon and California Grant Lands program by \$6.043 million overall, with a \$3.8 million decrease in Other Forest Resources management and a \$3.2 million decrease in Western Oregon Resource Management Planning. The BLM Budget Justification also shows that the agency plans to offer less timber for sale in FY 16 (204 mmbf, down from 215 mmbf in FY15 and 239.8 mmbf in 2014)

- What is the updated schedule for finalizing the new Resource Management Plans? If planning activities will continue into FY16 how would the proposed \$3.2 million decrease in the planning account impact the agency's ability to finalize the plans and maintain the timber sale program?
- The BLM is under Court Order to meet the mandate of the O&C Act to offer the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) in at least two districts in Western Oregon. How will the proposed reductions in the FY16 timber sale program affect the Court Order requirements to increase timber sale levels? Will the BLM meet the terms of this Court Order to offer the ASQ in certain districts as well as offering enough timber to meet the ASQ's of other districts in the O&C in FY16?
- How much money does the BLM spend annually to comply with the "Survey and Manage" requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan in Western Oregon? How many acres of BLM timberland in Western Oregon are encumbered by complying with the "Management Recommendations" associated with the "Survey and Manage" requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Bernie Sanders

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

The Department of Interior manages the vast amount of mineral and energy assets that are owned by the American people. There have been numerous reports and studies by the Government Accountability Office and others that suggest that the American people are in fact not getting a fair return on these assets that they own, and instead that the big corporations like oil and coal companies are reaping huge windfalls. In addition, these activities are being done in ways that increase carbon emissions which are making climate change worse. I believe that DOI can and should be doing more to ensure that the American people receive a fair return from the development of these resources.

- Question 1: For coal on federal lands, oil and gas development on federal lands, and offshore oil and gas development, what is the Department looking at specifically to ensure that taxpayers are getting fairly compensated? Please include all relevant rulemakings under development and an estimate of their timing for finalization.
- Question 2: What statutory changes are needed to expedite DOI's ability to recover fair market returns from the use and development of taxpayer-owned minerals, or access to federally-owned lands?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Ron Wyden

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: Secretary Jewell, I want to take a moment to focus on an issue of particular importance to my home state of Oregon and to the Northwest region—the Columbia River Treaty.

In November of 2013, when I was Chairman of the Committee, I held a hearing on the modernization of the Columbia River Treaty, urging the Administration to follow the consensus document known as the “Regional Recommendation,” and to engage Canada expediently in negotiations. Now, over a year later, it is my impression that the Administration has not been expedient about addressing this issue.

What can you tell me about why this process has taken so long? And what will it take for you and the Administration to act to advance the Columbia River Treaty and engage Canada?

Question 2: As you know, the National Park System turns 100 years old next year, and during its time has become one of America’s greatest success stories. In nearly every state, Americans can visit a national park, trail, or monument and learn about the nation’s rich cultural and ecological heritage. To ensure that these parks remain the treasures that they are, it’s imperative that the Administration and Congress invest in them to keep them maintained and safe for visitors.

What are the Department of Interior’s plans for ensuring that the deferred maintenance backlog remains a priority and that the backlog “to-do” list gets consistently checked off?

Question 3: I understand that some of my colleagues were suspicious about what you and the Administration were doing to protect sage grouse habitat, but in Oregon, this work is really important. Can you assure me that you’ll continue the important work you are doing with private landowners in places like Eastern Oregon?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Rob Portman

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: When groups want work together to raise money for a project on a certain park, for example: let's assume a structure in Cuyahoga National park needs a new roof, how can groups who donate money through the current Centennial Challenge ensure all the money from their donations comes back to the roof in Cuyahoga that they donated for without having to donate it to the federal government's centennial challenge?

Question 2: Last year the FY15 Omnibus provided \$10 million to reinvest in the Centennial Challenge. Can you provide a status of the projects for FY15, what projects or types of projects have been chosen?

Question 3: When was the last time Ohio was mapped via USGS using LIDAR technology, and what percentage of the state has been mapped using LIDAR as part of 3D Elevation Program?

Question 4: The Service proposed to list the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the ESA in October 2013, but it is my understanding that service is now leaning toward a determination that the species threatened, and issuing a 4(d) rule. For species listed as threatened, the Service may issue a 4(d) rule to provide protections that are deemed necessary and advisable for conservation of the species. The 4(d) rule as I understand it would provide limited exemptions for forest management practices, maintenance and limited expansion of transportation and utility rights-of-way, removal of trees and brush to maintain prairie habitat, and some tree removal projects.

But there remains concern that the proposed 4(d) rule, which would accompany a potential threatened listing, does not accommodate similar exemptions for oil and gas activities, renewable power (such as solar and wind), commercial or residential construction, or agricultural practices. Major industries that drive our economy.

Can I get your commitment that you will work with folks in those industries to ensure equal consideration within the 4(d) rule for these types of activities that are substantially similar to activities exempted under the rule?

Conversation Contents

Fwd: FW: Letter from Rep. Gosar and 24 members of Congress

Attachments:

/4. Fwd: FW: Letter from Rep. Gosar and 24 members of Congress/1.1 02182015 letter to President Obama regarding Grand Canyon National Monument potential listing.pdf

"Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Feb 19 2015 16:30:03 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Robert Howarth <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nikki_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <Jon_Jarvis@nps.gov>, Israporn Pananon <israporn_pananon@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FW: Letter from Rep. Gosar and 24 members of Congress
Attachments: 02182015 letter to President Obama regarding Grand Canyon National Monument potential listing.pdf

FYI--Opposed to the designation of the Grand Canyon Watershed as a National Monument.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Small, Jeff** <Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov>
Date: Thu, Feb 19, 2015 at 6:18 PM
Subject: FW: Letter from Rep. Gosar and 24 members of Congress
To: "stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, "jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Stephenne and Jeremy,

Hope you are both doing well.

Please see the attached letter that went out yesterday in the mail from Rep. Gosar and 24 of his colleagues to President Obama. Secretary Jewell was Cc'd on this letter. Wanted to

send you all an electronic copy for your records as a result.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeff Small

Legislative Director

Congressman Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.

Arizona's 4th District

504 Cannon HOB | Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-2315 main

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--

Stephenne Harding

Deputy Director

Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of the Interior

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

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INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

WATER AND POWER

February 18, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

We write to you today to express deep concern and to ask that you not use an Executive Order to declare the Grand Canyon Watershed a National Monument. We request that any designation pursued be done so in a way that includes public input and seeks congressional approval. Efforts in managing this pristine area of pride for our nation are currently being handled appropriately and locking up 1.7 million acres would be a step backwards.

Arizona is blessed with some of the most beautiful and unique landscapes on Earth. From the saguaro-studded hills of the Sonoran Desert to the snowcapped ridges of the San Francisco Peaks and the awe-inspiring chasms of the Grand Canyon, recreational enjoyment of Arizona's diverse landscapes is deeply ingrained into the culture and daily lives of Arizona residents and visitors from around the world. For generations, Arizonans have enjoyed responsible, multiple-use recreation on these public lands, and have been active participants in conserving this amazing public resource.

At a time when the National Park Service, which is one of the federal agencies responsible for managing our national monuments, is already struggling with an annual budget shortfall, why would we burden them with new responsibilities? Due to budget strains, many parks are reducing access and limiting staff to handle current shortfalls. The NPS maintenance backlog alone is currently at \$12 billion and rising. We would ask that no new designation be placed on our lands until obligations to maintain our current parks are met.

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission continues to voice its concerns regarding such a designation. The Commission, a constitutionally-mandated group of citizen volunteers, has already considered the alternatives and voted in 2012 to oppose creation of the monument.

We agree with the Commission, which stated that changing the management objectives of this large swath of land would negatively “impact public access, recreation, grazing, and the ability of the commission to manage wildlife.” The Arizona Game and Fish Commission also accurately pointed out that nearly 50 percent of all land in Arizona is already under federal management and that “more than 77 percent of Arizona’s lands are restricted from public access and recreation...” Furthermore, the Commission noted that more than 10 million acres in Arizona is already managed as some form of wilderness, and that the state already has more designated wilderness acreage than 47 other states. Furthermore, Arizona already has more national monuments than any other state with a total number of 18.

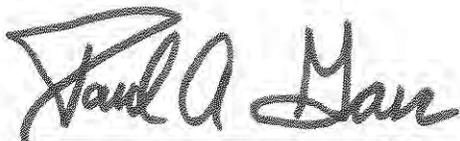
The nearly two million acres inside the Grand Canyon Watershed are already managed with great success through cooperation between federal and state agencies. We believe lands already managed by government for a diverse public do not need the additional layer of bureaucracy and restrictions that a National Monument designation would bring. Nor should these lands be closed to public access to natural resources and recreational opportunities. Because of their integral role in the everyday life of the American people, we strongly oppose any conversion of public lands in this area from multiple-use to more restrictive land use designations.

In addition to our opposition to locking these lands away from public access, we are also concerned that this decision may be made unilaterally as an Executive Order, devoid of any public input process or consultation with related state level agencies. A unilateral designation of the Grand Canyon Watershed as a National Monument would erode the extensive cooperation and success that federal and state agencies in Arizona have achieved to date. We urge you to respect and support the successful multiple-use of this land as currently executed.

The ability of the Arizonans to enjoy the responsible use of their public land must be respected. Again, we ask that you please refrain from any unilateral National Monument designation of the Grand Canyon Watershed.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we would appreciate a timely response to this letter. Please feel free to contact Jeff Small in Rep. Gosar’s office at jeff.small@mail.house.gov regarding this matter.

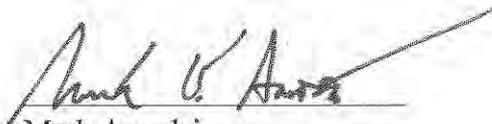
Sincerely,



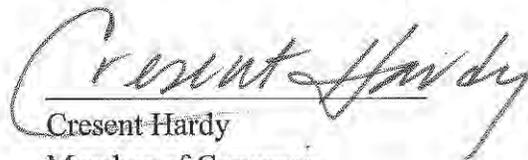
Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress



Mark Amodei
Member of Congress



Crescent Hardy
Member of Congress



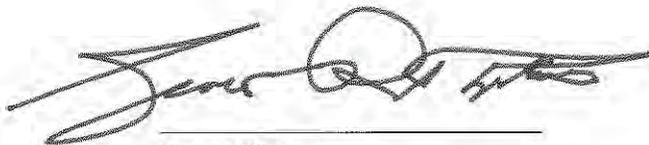
Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



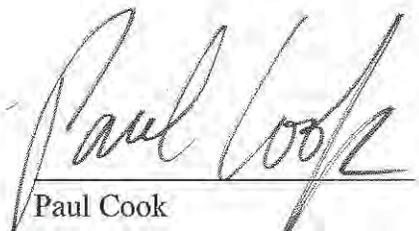
Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



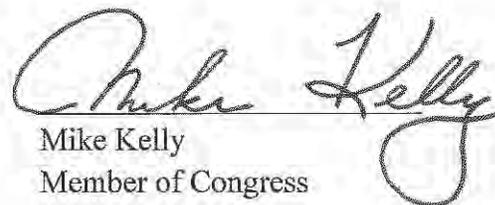
Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



John Culberson
Member of Congress



John Fleming
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Louis Gohmert
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



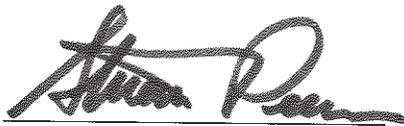
Steve King
Member of Congress



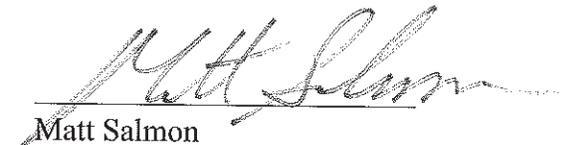
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary of Interior



Powell, Jason <jason_powell@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI

Neimeyer, Sarah <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
To: Jason Powell <jason_powell@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Feb 27, 2015 at 11:24 AM

Here you go.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Neimeyer, Sarah** <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 4:46 PM

Subject: Fwd: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI

To: Christopher Salotti <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>, Pamela Barkin <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Dominic Maione <dominic_maione@ios.doi.gov>, "Mahan, Joshua" <joshua_mahan@ios.doi.gov>, Matthew Quinn <matthew_quinn@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Olivia Ferriter <Olivia_Ferriter@ios.doi.gov>, "Kristen (Kris) Sami" <kristen_sami@ios.doi.gov>

Here we go. Looks like we have a month to get these back up to SENR.

Pam will probably take a cut at assigning these on Friday.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ripchensky, Darla (Energy)** <Darla_Ripchensky@energy.senate.gov>

Date: Thu, Feb 26, 2015 at 4:25 PM

Subject: Questions for Secretary Jewell from the Feb 24, 2015 ENR Cmte Hearing regarding the FY16 Budget Request for the DOI

To: "sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Keamey, Christopher (Energy)" <Christopher_Keamey@energy.senate.gov>, "Brooks, David (Energy)" <David_Brooks@energy.senate.gov>

Hi Sarah,

Attached are Questions for the Record submitted to Secretary Jewell by various Energy Committee Members regarding the hearing which was held on February 25, 2015 entitled "The FY 2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior." We request that Secretary Jewell provide her responses to these questions by **Tuesday, March 24, 2015** for inclusion in the official hearing record.

Please provide the responses directly to me, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Darla Ripchensky, PMP

Administrative Director

U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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13 attachments

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-  **QFRs from Sen Risch 2-24-15 Hrg.docx**
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Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Shelley Moore Capito

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: The office of Surface Mining (OSM) has spent more than \$8 million over the past several years to develop a rule to replace the 2008 stream buffer zone rule. OSM recently repealed the 2008 rule and reinstated the rules that were in place before 2008. You previously committed to taking a fresh look to decide whether any new rulemaking was necessary. In light of these developments, is there any need for spending more tax-payer money on a new rulemaking?

Question 2: The earlier stream buffer zone rule development included several cooperating primacy states, including West Virginia, as part of the NEPA process. Has this arrangement continued? If so, when was the last time OSM communicated with those cooperating state agencies on the status of any further rule development?

Question 3: I want to ask about habitat conservation, and in particular that related to the Northern Long-eared bat, which is a huge issue in my home state. It appears that the assumptions made by BLM and FWS about drilling impacts in connection with the Northern Long-eared do not take into consideration recent technologies developed and in use by the oil and gas industry. In fact, the majority of studies on oil and gas industry impacts are based upon assumptions of well density and drilling footprints that are decades old. Shouldn't the conservation and management strategies of FWS and BLM incorporate information from engineers and other industry specialists who develop and implement technological innovations that improve the efficiency of oil and gas operations and reduce their environmental impacts? Also, why don't BLM-FWS Assumptions on Effects of Oil and Gas Development take into account new technologies and smaller drilling footprints?

Question 4: On July 17, 2014, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it was banning the use of neonicotinoids on USFWS lands. What other federal agencies did the USFW consult before making this decision?

Question 5: What input, if any, did USFWS receive from these agencies?

Question 6: Were any NGO organizations consulted or have input into this decision?

Question 7: Why was this decision not published in the Federal Register for public comment?

Question 8: Are agricultural operations on USFWS lands reviewed as a part of each refuge management plan where such operations occur?

Questions for the Record

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Question 9: Why was this action not undertaken as a part of refuge management planning process?

Question 10: Was an economic analysis conducted before this decision was made? If so, please provide a copy. If not, why not?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator James Risch

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell (and Michael Connor)

There are several Idaho federal water storage project feasibility studies that were authorized under BOR (e.g., Snake River systems including; Boise River Project – Lucky Peak, Arrowrock, Anderson, and Deer Flat; Upper Snake River: Teton, Idaho site reservoirs, Deer Flat,).

Question 1: What is the feasibility study status of the BOR Idaho water project studies?

Question 2: What possible actions does BOR consider pursuing on the Snake River system via the outcome of the feasibility studies?

**Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015**

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

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Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Barrasso

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: During the hearing, I asked you whether BLM's final rule on hydraulic fracturing would allow states to apply for a variance. In response, you stated that BLM's "proposed regulations say that if a state's rule is stronger than the proposed federal rule, that the state's rule will govern." Will BLM allow states (not operators) to apply for a variance from BLM's final hydraulic fracturing rule? If so, under what circumstances will a state be able to obtain a variance from BLM's final rule?

Question 2: During the hearing, we discussed your letter to Governor Matt Mead dated January 26, 2015. In the letter, you state that: "The rider attached to H.R. 83... does not affect the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's...court-ordered obligation to make a determination by September 30, 2015, as to whether the greater sage-grouse does or does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act." I specifically asked you whether such a "determination" would be legally binding. You stated that you "would have to defer to the solicitors." Please clarify for the Committee whether such a "determination" would be legally binding if the rider remains in effect.

Question 3: I understand there are significant delays in obtaining sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines on Federal land from BLM. However, in response to one of my questions on this matter, you said that you are "not aware of circumstances where permits have been slowed down by the BLM."

A. What is the total number of requests for sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines pending at the Bureau of Land Management?

B. What is the total number of requests for sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines pending at each BLM Field Office?

C. When were each of the pending requests for sundry notices and rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines first submitted to BLM?

Question 4: On February 20, 2015, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) published a notice in the *Federal Register* to pursue a rulemaking to revise regulations under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act on the use of explosives on surface coal mining operations. A. Does OSM plan to consult with the state regulatory authorities prior to initiating this rulemaking? B. If so, when will this consultation take place and which states will it involve?

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of Interior

QUESTIONS FROM SENATOR JEFF FLAKE

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1. In the Department's wildfire budget justification, the anticipated cost of wildfire suppression based on the average of the previous 10 years is \$384 million. The Department's anticipated 'worst case' scenario cost, based on a Forest Service mathematical model is \$467 million. The Department claims that the 'on budget' funding is sufficient to fight the predictable 99% of the fires which account for 70% of the costs. But, the Department has only requested enough funds to cover 70% of the *predictable* costs, not the *worst case* costs - meaning that the plan going into the year is to have insufficient funds to fight the fires that are predicted to happen. Why doesn't the department request 'on-budget' discretionary amounts sufficient to cover at least 70% of the worst case scenario?

Question 2. The maintenance cost for the National Park System continues to rise. This year the Department is requesting a 94% increase in deferred maintenance funding and a 67% increase for regularly scheduled maintenance. Together the costs of just maintaining the current park system are over \$308 million. Yet, even with this ever-increasing cost, the Department is proposing to more than triple the amount spent on Federal land acquisitions in FY16 to \$447 million. What impact will the proposed additional land acquisition have on the continually increasing maintenance bill of the National Park System?

Question 3. Last year the Federal government, as a landowner of nearly half the land area in the Western US, met its obligations to counties and local governments by appropriating money out of discretionary funds to make Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments. The Department is requesting no discretionary funds for PILT in FY16, relying instead on Congress to use mandatory spending to fund PILT. How does the Department intend to offset the cost of the proposed mandatory spending increase?

Question 4. The recently-passed water rights settlement on the Bill Williams River, Arizona is contingent on the completion of several actions, including approvals by the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan Steering Committee. What is the Department doing to facilitate the final implementation of the settlement?

Question 5. In July 2014, the Bureau of Reclamation partnered with municipal water providers in Arizona, California, Colorado, and Nevada to create the Colorado River System Conservation Program. How much funding does this program currently have? How many projects has it funded? How much water has been conserved? What has been the effect on reservoir levels? What additional steps will the Department take in FY16 with this program?

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Question 6. The Department has requested \$244 million for Indian water rights settlements and negotiation. Which new Indian water rights settlements are being prioritized by the department? What will the additional \$16.9 million for negotiation and legal support allow the department to do? What is being done to increase the pace of settling outstanding claims?

Question 7. The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published the final EIS and draft Record of Decision on the Proposed Revision to the Regulations for the Nonessential Experimental Population of the Mexican Wolf on November 25, 2014. The final EIS differed significantly from the draft EIS published in July 2014, due in large part to extensive negotiations between the FWS and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. Senator McCain and I sent a letter to Director Ashe on December 21, 2014 requesting an extension of the public comment deadline to allow stakeholders, including the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, time to analyze the significantly changed proposed regulations. In this letter we specifically identified provisions in the consent decree that allow a modification of the deadline upon showing good cause, consistent with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Did the FWS approach the Department of Justice about seeking an extension of the public comment deadline? What was the Department of Justice's reason for not seeking an extension?

Question 8. There is a proposal for the President to bypass Congress and designate over 1.7 million acres of land in northern Arizona as the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. This would lock up not only Federal land, but over 60,000 acres of State Trust land and nearly 30,000 acres of private land. Such a designation would have a devastating effect on the economic productivity of State trust land which is managed primarily to benefit Arizona public schools. It would have a similarly chilling effect on the economic productivity on private land and existing mining operations. The creation of this monument has been strongly opposed by the State of Arizona. Would any of the Department's proposed funding be used to pursue the designation of a National Monument in Arizona?

Question 9. In order to get the most value for every dollar spent on managing National Parks, the Park Service is required to seek competing bids for private companies to run concessions within the National Parks. In instances where a concessionaire has held the contract for extended periods the leasehold surrender interest (LSI) that must be paid to the outgoing concessionaire when a contract changes hands can become a significant barrier to the competitive bidding process. What actions is the Department pursuing to ensure a true competition for park concessions while still respecting the investment made by private companies in their business?

Question 10. Arizona counties and municipalities have tried to work with the BLM to authorize third-party concessionaires to operate on Recreation and Public Purposes Act (RPPA) parcels. The BLM in Arizona will not permit local governments to allow

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a third-party concessionaire on the exact same land that the BLM could itself allow a concessionaire to operate if the BLM still controlled the land. During Director Kornze's nomination hearing in December 2013, I asked specifically about the status of the Solicitor's Office evaluation of the August 2011 Instructional Memorandum for Third Party Uses on Recreation and Public Purposes Acts Patents and Leases (2011-162), and when Arizona local governments could expect a decision about the ability to enter into agreements with third-party concessionaires. In the written responses, Director Kornze did not provide an update on the Solicitor's evaluation or an expected timeline for the local governments. What is the status of the Solicitor's office evaluation of the above memorandum, and when does the office expect to make a decision regarding third-party concessionaries to operate on RPPA lands?

Question 11. In a December 5, 2014 report, the Congressional Research Service identified several potential technical discrepancies in how some Federal payments to counties are treated in the calculation of Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments. The report specifies that payments made under the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act by the BLM require a reduction in the following year's PILT payments, but payments for similar lands administered by the Forest Service do not require a reduction. Additionally, the report claims that payments under the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program require an offset in the following year's PILT levels for payments from the Forest Service but not payments from the BLM. As the agency responsible for making annual PILT payments, does the Department treat SRS payments by the Forest Service and the BLM differently when computing PILT payments? Similarly, does the Department treat payments made under the Bankhead-Jones Act by the Forest Service and BLM differently for purposes of PILT payments?

Question 12. Your testimony includes several references to encouraging individuals to serve, work, and volunteer on public lands. Some have suggested that questions of legal liability act as a disincentive for federal agencies to work with volunteers. Has the Department identified any such impediments to promoting volunteer work on public lands? If so, does the Department have suggestions on how to remove these barriers?

Question 13. The trans-canyon pipeline that supplies water to Grand Canyon National Park has incurred repeated maintenance issues over the last thirty plus years. Most recently, we witnessed two separate closures of Phantom Ranch as crews sought to address pipeline breaks, and a section of the pipeline is undergoing repairs until July of this year. According to some estimates, the cost to replace the entire pipeline would fall between \$100 million and \$150 million with additional operations and maintenance charges. Does the Park Service have updated estimates regarding the cost to repair the trans-canyon pipeline?

Question 14. I understand that the Park Service is evaluating potential solutions to the water pipeline challenges at the Grand Canyon National Park by developing a

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water-delivery study. Please describe the alternatives being considered and the costs associated with each option. When do you expect to complete the final study?

Question 15. In evaluating potential water-delivery options, has anyone from the Park Service considered regional water-supply solutions? If so, who has the Park Service met with, and what options are being considered?

Question 16. Is there an opportunity for the Park Service to achieve cost savings by pursuing a regional water-supply solution, as opposed to solely looking at replacement of the trans-canyon pipeline?

Questions for the Record

February 24, 2015

Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Al Franken

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: As you know, a recent court decision reversed the Fish and Wildlife Service's determination to delist the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act. Right now, farmers and ranchers in Minnesota are concerned about losing their livestock to wolf attacks, and they really need federal funds that can help to protect their herds. For example, the Wolf Livestock Loss Demonstration Program provides funding to livestock producers so they can employ strategies to help prevent wolf attacks from occurring in the first place. Can you tell me why the Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed to discontinue funding for this program in FY 2016?

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Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Martin Heinrich

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: In December, Congress passed the Manhattan Project National Historical Park Act, which directs the National Park Service to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in three states within one year of enactment. Do you expect to be able to meet that deadline?

Question 2: When and how does the National Park Service plan to involve local communities in the park planning process for the Manhattan Project National Historic Park?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of Interior

Questions from Senator Mazie K. Hirono

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: National Monuments

Madam Secretary, I would like to thank the Administration for taking action to protect and preserve lands across our nation, the recent executive action for Honouliuli in Hawaii is a good example. It is a sobering, yet important piece of our nation's history that will serve to educate future generations. In 2009, when I was a member of the House of Representatives I worked with Senators Inouye and Akaka to authorize a special resource study on World War II internment camp sites in Hawaii. Now that the President has designated Honouliuli as a national monument to be managed by the National Park Service, an agency well-seasoned and experienced with management of national monuments across our country. I want to see Honouliuli and other sites recently designated get off to a strong start.

This designation has been a collaborative, inclusive effort—between the local community, Hawaii's Congressional delegation, and other public and private stakeholders. Can you give me a sense of what the path will be to move Honouliuli forward in FY 2016 and beyond?

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February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Mike Lee

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Antiquities Act

1. Secretary Jewell, during your confirmation hearing, I asked if you would seek the input of local stakeholders regarding national monument designations. You confirmed you would do this. However on October 31, 2013, you said, "if Congress doesn't step up to act to protect some of these important places that have been identified by communities and people throughout the country, then the president will take action ... there's not question that if Congress doesn't act, we will." One would think that the elected representatives of the people would be a group of stakeholders whose buy in and support should necessary in designating monuments. Has your opinion changed from the answer you gave me your confirmation hearing?

Transcript, Sally Jewell Confirmation Hearing, March 21, 2013

Senator Lee: *The monument designation question is important because, as you were discussing that with Senator Heinrich, I appreciated your commitment to work with local stakeholders whenever they are dealing with something like monument designation. We had about 2 million acres designated as a monument a few years ago in my state, and it was not only not done without extensive consultation, input, and buy-in of local officials and residents, it was done completely by surprise. It was brought upon us completely by stealth. It was announced from a neighboring state, and we would have like to have had input. So, I would really appreciate if you would commit to me that you would advise the president that it is best to work with locals affected by broad decisions like that in advance of making such a decision.*

Secretary Jewell: *That is certainly consistent with what I believe in and with what the White House believes in as well.*

2. The President added four new national monuments in 2014. Regarding your commitment to an open process with local consultation, were these communities given proper notice before these monuments were designated? Did you change anything about the designation area or timing in relation to the concerns of the impacted community or state?
Last four monuments listed:
3. The Antiquities Act also states that the President is to reserve "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected." However, of the 11 monuments President Obama has designated so far, just the last three monuments constituted

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over 250 million acres of new federal property. Would you consider these areas to be the smallest areas available?

Endangered Species Act

1. As you know, the agency recently put out a rule related to adverse modification – “Definition of Destruction or Adverse Modification of Critical Habitat.” Can you please provide me the statutory authority for this rule?
2. How much does the Department spend on ESA litigation? If attorney’s fees were capped, is it possible that money could instead be used for species recovery?
3. In a hearing before the House Natural Resources Committee on April 3, 2014, you stated that the Department publishes the underlying data for potential ESA listings. However, my staff has experienced many examples where the data used in listings is simply not available because the Department has, in fact, *not* made it available – for example, the underlying data for the listing of the Gunnison sage grouse was not released. Why does the Department publish scientific findings for some listings, but not for others? Can you commit to making available to the public all underlying data for all potential listings?
4. How do you ensure that state and local entities are able to stay informed and participate in the listing determination process? On average, how many meetings does your Department have with state and local officials during the listing process?

National Park Service

1. What is the current maintenance backlog for the National Park Service? What is the proportion of the Service’s budget that is spent on administrative overhead versus park maintenance?
2. How does the Department intend to prioritize its funding to address this backlog? Is it your opinion that we should consider a moratorium on the addition of National Park land until the NPS addresses the backlog in its current portfolio?

Questions for the Record

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Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Joe Manchin III

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: Secretary Jewell, I am very interested in some of the AML proposals in the Interior budget. As you know, I am very supportive of funding the UMWA's pension plan. Our miners have mined the coal that powered our nation and we need to ensure they continue to receive their hard earned benefits.

I am also interested in the proposal to use AML money for coalfield communities in Appalachia, like those in my home state of West Virginia. As you're aware, this program would require a legislative solution.

In your view, what would this legislative solution look like and can I get your commitment to work with me and other members from the region to ensure this money reaches the communities who need it the most?

Question 2: OSM's budget justification document notes that States and Tribes directly regulate 97 percent of the Nation's coal production under approved regulatory programs. The agency's budget also notes the reduced workload anticipated by OSM.

With the states responsible for most of the regulatory work why does OSM ask for \$5.5 million more for itself while cutting the states grants by more than \$3 million? What is OSM planning to use the extra \$5.5 million for?

Question 3: As you know, I have serious concerns about the potential OSM Stream Buffer Zone rule. The original intent of this rulemaking was in response to the 2008 rule promulgated under the Bush Administration. Why is OSM moving forward with this process when the 2008 rule was vacated?

Question 4: In 2013, the Director of Mining and Reclamation at West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection testified in the House about their experience as a cooperating agency during the Stream Protection Measures Rulemaking process. Under this agreement, OSM should be coordinating with West Virginia and the other cooperating state agencies.

Instead, OSM denied the agencies the opportunity to review the first chapter of the Environmental Impact Study and provided them only a few days to review and comment on hundreds of pages of the following chapters.

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After this, according to the West Virginia DEP, OSM “shifted to a nearly complete blackout on information about the development of the Stream Protection Measures Rule.”

Yesterday, 11 states, including West Virginia sent a letter to OSM stating that several of the states are “seriously contemplating withdrawing from the EIS development” due to a continued lack of cooperation from OSM.

Can you explain this?

Questions for the Record
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Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Lisa Murkowski

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: Please provide a record of the authorities on which the Department relied for the development of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (EIS), including, the approval for and authorization of funds expended by year, including Congressional authorization or appropriation, for the development of the CCP and EIS.

Question 2: Please provide a detailed current plan, calendar and itemized budget for the development and implementation of the Step-Down Plans identified in the CCP and EIS.

Question 3: Please a comprehensive list of the dates and times of any meeting, call or other interaction held by the Department of the Interior (DOI) or any of its component parts including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or contractor operating on behalf of DOI, with any entity not considered a cooperative agency, including any corporation or non-governmental organization.

Question 4: Please identify in a log any legal or policy analysis provided to or given by DOI or USFWS related to sections 1002, 1003 or 1326 of ANILCA as it might apply to the CPP or EIS.

Question 5: Please provide a comprehensive list of programs or initiatives within DOI in support of the US Chairmanship of the Arctic Council and in fulfillment of Executive Order Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic. Please include in the list a identification of the funds expended or to be expended for any and all programs or initiatives on the list.

Question 6: with respect to the issue of climate change, please provide a comprehensive list of DOI programs or initiatives dedicated to adaptation or promoting resilience in communities in response to a changing climate and the funds associated with these initiatives or programs.

Question 7: Please provide an itemization of any funds expended since January 1, 2012 related to international travel costs for DOI personnel in support for arctic initiatives, studies, programs or workshops.

Question 8: Please provide an estimate of any funds expended since January 1, 2012 related to Alaska specific travel costs for DOI personnel in support for arctic initiatives, studies, programs or workshops.

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Question 9: In the 2016 Budget Justification, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) notes: *“Since 2009, the BLM has approved 52 renewable energy projects, including 29 utility-scale solar facilities, 11 wind farms, and 12 geothermal plants, with associated transmission corridors and infrastructure to connect with established power grids. If fully constructed, these projects will provide more than 14,000 megawatts of power, or enough electricity to power about 4.8 million homes, and provide over 20,000 construction and operations jobs.”* (p. I-3) Please provide a detailed timeline for each of these identified projects including (1) date on which BLM received an initial application for approval (2) date on which a ROD was issued (3) description of the project – including estimated capital costs as well as construction and operating jobs and (4) estimated cost of mitigation measures required by BLM.

Question 10: Please provide an equivalent description of the number of new oil and gas units or developments approved by BLM since 2009.

Question 11: In the 2016 Budget Justification, BLM notes that since 2000, BLM has permitted nearly 47,000 new wells – please provide the number of permitted new wells since 2009.

Question 12: Please provide the number of permitted new wells since 2009 that have been drilled.

Question 13: Please provide estimates of revenues from NPRA production provided to Congress, the White House or other similar governmental institution issued prior to, or associated with, the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Question 14: Please provide an accounting of revenues received from production in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska since passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Question 15: In its *Report to Congress June 2006* related to Sec. 207 of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act, BLM identified roughly 56,870,900 acres of BLM-managed lands that are withdrawn by “d-1 PLOs” and made recommendations – primarily that those d-1 withdrawals could be lifted. With next year being ten years since that report was issued I feel compelled to ask if anything has happened.

Question 16: Please provide an update on where the Department stands in settling with the state on the proper process to complete patenting of the state’s lands. The Alaska Statehood Act set up a very specific process for federal surveying to complete the patented transfer of lands. To reduce its costs, the department has proposed a new surveying process, taking advantage of GPS coordinates. But apparently there is now a difference of opinion between the State of Alaska and your Department over the process

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to be used. Please describe that disagreement and how the department plans to resolve the issue?

Question 17: Relating to the U.S. Geological Survey budget, the USGS is a major source of grant funding for a series of seismic monitors on volcanoes in Alaska, largely on the Alaska Peninsula and the Aleutian Chain, near the air corridor for flights to America from Asia. The grants help fund the work of the Alaska Volcano Observatory, a joint entity between USGS and the University of Alaska. Ash from eruptions is particularly dangerous to such flights as shown by the near crash of a jumbo jet years ago.

- A) The problem is many of the seismic monitors need not just upgrading to digital technology, but antenna and battery replacements since the stations are rapidly going off line.
- B) I believe this is causing a real health and safety issue not just for Alaskans, but international passengers on trans-Pacific flights. While Congress added money to your budget this year to help with the maintenance costs on the network, your FY 16 budget seems to propose only a slight increase for hazards funding, even while your overall budget calls for a \$759.2 million increase – 6% above FY 15. That is disappointing since estimates are that it will require an additional \$5 to \$7 million a year for perhaps five years just to keep the Alaska seismic network functioning, much less to meet the entire U.S.G.S. earthquake monitoring budget needs.
- C) Why is there not more money in your spending plan devoted to basic health and safety needs?

Question 18: The State of Alaska a number of years ago requested that it receive the conveyance of several thousand acres along the Susitna River in Southcentral Alaska as part of its statehood conveyance. In 2013 my staff had been assured by Department personnel that the transfer would be completed, since none of the land is in conservation system units. But apparently the transfer is still pending. What is the hold up and when will the transfer of the acreage be completed to the State of Alaska?

Question 19: We have spoken often about the need for the Department to speed up the cleanup of 136 abandoned oil and gas exploration wells in northern Alaska, wells drilled by the government in both the 1940s and late 1980s and early 1990s. You had about \$2 million in your budget last year for such cleanups. Fortunately in the Helium bill in 2013 we were able to increase your cleanup funding by \$50 million so that the Department will be able to tackle the worst of the wells in coming years and gain efficiencies by being

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able to reduce mobilization costs and improve coordination of the cleanup efforts. But that \$50 million will not solve all of the problems.

- A) My question is this: when will the Department change its priorities and increase its regular budgetary funding to tackle environmental cleanups of abandoned federal wells on an annual basis?
- B) Abandoned well cleanup truly is a federal responsibility. How will you assure me that we aren't back in the same position in four or five years of having insufficient funding to clean up environmental well problems on federal lands?

Question 20: Recently I have received a number of complaints from placer miners in the eastern Interior part of Alaska about Department policies involving the current and future regulation of placer mining. There are concerns about the draft Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan and its apparent designation of about 700,000 acres of the FortyMile River mining district as "areas of critical environmental concern" where the Department is considering closing the area to mining. Significantly, as I understand it, this land was specifically kept open to mining by Congress in 1980's Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act when it was not included in the Yukon-Charley National Preserve. There are also a host of concerns about new regulations for mining efforts in still open areas, concerning about reclamation cost estimates, reclamation standards, new bonding processes and the turnover in our compliance staff that makes consistency in mining enforcement difficult at best.

- Recognizing that the issue of mining on the FortyMile is complicated, please tell me the reason for all of these changes in mining practice now in Interior Alaska, when mining had been working seemingly fine based on the 1983 management plan crafted just after passage of ANILCA?

Question 21: Just recently I learned that your Department has decided to implement a new southern boundary of the wilderness area inside Denali National Park and Preserve. Apparently 35 years ago when the Alaska lands act passed, no one noticed that the world is round and that map boundaries might need to be adjusted for the curvature of the earth. The problem appears to be that now the Department wants to add up to fifth-eighth of a mile to the wilderness area south of Denali. That might not seem like much, but it could have significant impacts. For example, there are potential impacts on:

- Hundreds of commercial air taxi and scenic flights to see the mountain.
- Potential for impact climbers getting to base camp to climb Denali.
- Snowmachine recreation efforts in the eastern sections of the park, and caribou and moose hunting for both subsistence and sport hunters in the Cantwell area.

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Apparently the boundary change will add about 23,500 acres to the wilderness area in the park. But Alaska lands act (Sect. 103c) specifically limits “minor boundary adjustments” to just 23,000 acres.

- Will the Department work with us, either administratively or if a legislative fix is required, to make sure that this boundary expansion does not impact tourism and recreational hunting interests in Southcentral Alaska?

At a time when Department policy changes are having such a huge impact on future oil and gas and mineral development, this change that could impact another major leg of the state’s economy – tourism – may be exceptionally hard for Alaskans to accept, especially 35 years after ANILCA’s passage and after business and lifestyles have adapted to the changes generated by passage of the lands act.

Question 22: In late 2013 it became clear that the Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI) Alaska Native Regional Corp. was coming up short by 42,000 acres of the land conveyance it was promised as a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. The shortage was the result of the complex settlement of land conveyances to CIRI village corporations that had been complicated by the 1976 Cook Inlet land exchange. For the past year the BLM in Alaska has acknowledged that CIRI is short of its required conveyance and apparently has been working to identify solutions. Please update us on where Interior is with crafting a solution to the CIRI land shortage, and how soon such a fix may be proposed by your Department?

Question 23: The Department has a legal responsibility to fulfill the government's obligations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Under ANCSA, Alaska Native Corporation often had to select lands for conveyance that were outside their traditional aboriginal lands because those lands were already occupied by the Federal government, the Department of Defense, or various state and local governmental entities. Accordingly, land exchanges and selection of other lands was necessary to fulfill Alaska Native Corporation (ANC) entitlements under ANCSA.

Given that ANCs have been denied their traditional aboriginal lands and, out of convenience to the government, have selected other lands and are now trying to develop those lands, it’s troubling--but not surprising--that I often hear that your Department delays and impedes the issuances of permits to Alaska Natives who wish to develop their subsurface lands within the boundaries of a National Refuge.

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- A) What are you going to do to make sure your department protects Alaskan Native Corporations' rights to the lands selected under ANCSA and that the agencies in your department expeditiously assist them in permitting, conveyance, and other dealings with your department?

Question 24: The U.S. Geological Survey recently released its Mineral Commodity Summaries report for 2015, and it shows that the United States is at least 50 percent reliant on foreign nations for at least 43 different commodities. The report also states, as it annually does, that "U.S. import reliance has increased significantly since 1978, the year that this information was first reported."

- A) Is our nation's foreign mineral dependence a matter of concern to you?
B) What are you doing, at Interior, to help reduce and eliminate it?
C) Do you believe the proposals in Interior's budget request – which would impose new taxes and fees on top of an already-slow permitting process – will somehow increase our nation's mineral security?
D) It takes an average of 7 to 10 years (even absent significant litigation) to permit a new mine in the United States, which is considerably longer than other countries with similar environmental standards. Will you commit to reviewing the federal mine permitting process, and will you commit to identifying steps to make the process more efficient?

Question 25: The FY 2016 Land and Water Conservation Fund budget request is \$900 million: \$400 million in discretionary funding and \$500 million in permanent funding for DOI agencies and the Forest Service. In 2017 the President's budget request proposes that all \$900 million would be mandatory funding.

- A) Please explain to me why, with such an enormous maintenance backlog (According to CRS, over \$22 billion at the federal agencies combined, \$13 billion at NPS alone), DOI would propose to focus such a large amount of funding on acquiring more federal land?
B) Shouldn't these funds be used to pay down the maintenance backlog to, at least, stem the growth of the backlog?
C) More generally, how do you reconcile additional federal land acquisition at this time of staggering national debt and maintenance backlogs?

The budget proposal seeks to turn the LWCF program into a permanent mandatory program without making any changes to it. I don't support that. I am also concerned that this program has been overly focused on federal land acquisition. Part of the reason for that is the 60 percent set-aside for state-side grants was stripped from the LWCF Act.

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These state-side grants are valuable tools to develop state parks and other outdoor recreation opportunities on non-federal land.

- D) Shouldn't a larger percentage of LWCF funds be set-aside for state-side grants?
Why or Why not?

Question 26: As many colleagues and I have emphasized many times, we have a nearly \$13 billion parks maintenance backlog. And with that staggering figure, there is a very strong argument that we should not be adding any new parks to the system until we can take care of what we already have. Alaskans are particularly concerned with the prospect of additions of new Parks with roughly 2/3 of the entire system located within my State.

- A) With the Parks Centennial upon us in 2016, it would seem that this could be a great time to reevaluate how we establish and maintain the Parks as well as how we build support for the Parks in their local communities, nationwide and even internationally. In a time of severe budget constraints, all options need to be on the table. One idea that I am particularly interested in is increasing private donations to the system through private endowments.
- B) Will you agree to work with me and the other members of this committee to review options and find a path forward to create a sustainable supplementary funding stream for America's Parks for the second century?

Question 27: I have some questions regarding the general approach of the National Park Service to rule making as well as some questions regarding a specific rule proposed by NPS.

- A) In the past, NPS has put into place regulations that shortened the hunting seasons as defined by the Alaska Board of Game. When instituting the closures, the NPS has cited "Park Values" in those closures.
- I. Please provide me with a definition of "Park Values"?
- II. Do you believe that the State of Alaska has the right to manage wildlife within the borders of the State? When is it proper for the federal government to reverse State Board of Game decisions?
- B) Recently, the National Park Service has proposed a rule (Regulation Identifier Number 1024-AE21) that would close a number of preserves in Alaska to the take of predators, such as bear and wolf.

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- I. I am aware of several stakeholders who have contacted you regarding their concerns about the potential for this proposed regulation to unduly impact subsistence communities across Alaska. One of these stakeholders includes the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resources Commission, an official Federal advisory committee created by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) to make recommendations to you, the Secretary of the Interior, regarding fish and wildlife resources for subsistence dependent communities. I would like to hear from you how the Department proposes to avoid any undue impact on these communities, communities whose lives depend on the take of predators.

- II. The take of certain predators by Alaska Natives is done for cultural, economic, traditional, and spiritual needs. Can you describe to me how this proposed rule incorporates these significant considerations?

Question 28: Please describe the role of DOI in any additional discussions that have taken place with the State Department since the Regional Recommendation was finalized in December 2013. Who participated in these discussions? Does DOI defer to other agencies (i.e., the U.S. Entity) in discussions with the State Department regarding potential U.S. negotiating positions? Why or why not? If not, what are the major outstanding points of disagreement between DOI and other agencies?

Question 29: What is DOI's position on the "ecosystem-based function" principles and recommendations outlined in the Regional Recommendation? Please provide specific examples of the department's positions on these principles and recommendations?

Question 30: Total domestic oil production increased 15% from 2012 to 2013. Can you confirm that on federal lands, however, it only increased by 1% over the same period?

Question 331: While EIA is still assessing the 2014 data, according to its latest Monthly Energy Review, total U.S. field production averaged 16.3% higher in 2014 than in 2013. How much do you expect oil production on federal lands has increased over the past year?

Question 32: The Bureau of Land Management issued 3,769 drilling permits in FY 2014. This is one less than it approved in FY 2013, and 2,848 fewer than the 6,617 permits that were approved in FY 2008. Is it accurate to say that permits have fallen by 43% during this administration and that you are doing little if anything to correct this trend?

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Question 33: Over the past decade, has federal natural gas production increased or decreased? What is the Department doing to reverse this trend?

Question 34: Given the nature of U.S. Geological Survey's core mission, many of us have requested that an economic geologist to be nominated to lead that agency. We did have a nominee in the last Congress, but she was not brought up for confirmation by the previous majority, and the agency has now gone without a confirmed director for two full years.

- A) Can you tell us when you anticipate the President will send this Committee a nominee to consider for USGS?
- B) Can you tell us whether the President is taking our request for an economic geologist seriously, as he searches for a new candidate?

Question 35: The Department of Interior is mandated to provide a subsistence priority on federal land, yet nearly every rural community in Alaska struggles to meet their subsistence needs because of low moose populations, low caribou populations – in some cases, and nearly non-existent king salmon populations.

- A) What is the Department's plan to ensure that adequate amounts of food can be put on the table?
- B) How do you reconcile a mandate to provide a subsistence priority with the competing mandates that creating wilderness, not managing for abundant and healthy wildlife populations, and limiting access by subsistence hunters fishers?
- C) Why is it difficult for your agency to manage predators to increase prey species to sustainable levels?

Question 36: In 2013, I wrote a letter to the Department asking what you could do to speed up the cleaning of environmental contamination on lands that you have transferred to Alaska Native Corporations to satisfy their aboriginal land claims under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Your Department studied the issue in 1998 and proposed a six-point effort to speed up the cleaning of such contamination. Last January in a letter to me you proposed that the Department would update its contaminated lands survey and then address the other five recommendations all involving how to tackle the actual cleanups. I had been led to believe that updated list would be finished in the fall – there were more than 650 sites on the old list—unfortunately, it was not completed.

- A) When will an updated, comprehensive list of contaminated sites on Native conveyed lands be finished? What will the Department propose to actually speed up and fund the cleanup of the contamination –all caused by the federal government prior to transfer of the land to Alaska Natives?
- B) Most recently, the Department's current spending authorization requires the Department to provide to Congress by June of this year a detailed report including the comprehensive inventory of contaminated land conveyed through ANSCA

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including sites identified since the 1998 report and a detailed plan addressing how the Department intends to complete the cleanup of each contaminated site. What is the status of the effort to comply with this recent statutory directive?

Question 37: In the past Alaska Fire Service had two CL215s which carry about 1,400 gallons. There are plans to replace these with Fire Boss Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) aircraft.

- What is the cost per gallon dropped for the two aircraft?
- What is the cost difference between the CL215s vs the Fire Boss Single Engine Air Tanker (SEAT) in total budget cost to AFS?
- How effective do you expect the SEATs to be at Initial Attack?

Question 38: The BLM's FY16 budget request proposes to reduce funding for the Oregon and California Grant Lands program by \$6.043 million overall, with a \$3.8 million decrease in Other Forest Resources management and a \$3.2 million decrease in Western Oregon Resource Management Planning. The BLM Budget Justification also shows that the agency plans to offer less timber for sale in FY 16 (204 mmbf, down from 215 mmbf in FY15 and 239.8 mmbf in 2014)

- What is the updated schedule for finalizing the new Resource Management Plans? If planning activities will continue into FY16 how would the proposed \$3.2 million decrease in the planning account impact the agency's ability to finalize the plans and maintain the timber sale program?
- The BLM is under Court Order to meet the mandate of the O&C Act to offer the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) in at least two districts in Western Oregon. How will the proposed reductions in the FY16 timber sale program affect the Court Order requirements to increase timber sale levels? Will the BLM meet the terms of this Court Order to offer the ASQ in certain districts as well as offering enough timber to meet the ASQ's of other districts in the O&C in FY16?
- How much money does the BLM spend annually to comply with the "Survey and Manage" requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan in Western Oregon? How many acres of BLM timberland in Western Oregon are encumbered by complying with the "Management Recommendations" associated with the "Survey and Manage" requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan?

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Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Bernie Sanders

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

The Department of Interior manages the vast amount of mineral and energy assets that are owned by the American people. There have been numerous reports and studies by the Government Accountability Office and others that suggest that the American people are in fact not getting a fair return on these assets that they own, and instead that the big corporations like oil and coal companies are reaping huge windfalls. In addition, these activities are being done in ways that increase carbon emissions which are making climate change worse. I believe that DOI can and should be doing more to ensure that the American people receive a fair return from the development of these resources.

- Question 1: For coal on federal lands, oil and gas development on federal lands, and offshore oil and gas development, what is the Department looking at specifically to ensure that taxpayers are getting fairly compensated? Please include all relevant rulemakings under development and an estimate of their timing for finalization.
- Question 2: What statutory changes are needed to expedite DOI's ability to recover fair market returns from the use and development of taxpayer-owned minerals, or access to federally-owned lands?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Ron Wyden

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: Secretary Jewell, I want to take a moment to focus on an issue of particular importance to my home state of Oregon and to the Northwest region—the Columbia River Treaty.

In November of 2013, when I was Chairman of the Committee, I held a hearing on the modernization of the Columbia River Treaty, urging the Administration to follow the consensus document known as the “Regional Recommendation,” and to engage Canada expediently in negotiations. Now, over a year later, it is my impression that the Administration has not been expedient about addressing this issue.

What can you tell me about why this process has taken so long? And what will it take for you and the Administration to act to advance the Columbia River Treaty and engage Canada?

Question 2: As you know, the National Park System turns 100 years old next year, and during its time has become one of America’s greatest success stories. In nearly every state, Americans can visit a national park, trail, or monument and learn about the nation’s rich cultural and ecological heritage. To ensure that these parks remain the treasures that they are, it’s imperative that the Administration and Congress invest in them to keep them maintained and safe for visitors.

What are the Department of Interior’s plans for ensuring that the deferred maintenance backlog remains a priority and that the backlog “to-do” list gets consistently checked off?

Question 3: I understand that some of my colleagues were suspicious about what you and the Administration were doing to protect sage grouse habitat, but in Oregon, this work is really important. Can you assure me that you’ll continue the important work you are doing with private landowners in places like Eastern Oregon?

Questions for the Record
February 24, 2015
Hearing: The FY2016 Budget Request for the Department of the Interior

Questions from Senator Rob Portman

Witness Name: Secretary Jewell

Question 1: When groups want work together to raise money for a project on a certain park, for example: let's assume a structure in Cuyahoga National park needs a new roof, how can groups who donate money through the current Centennial Challenge ensure all the money from their donations comes back to the roof in Cuyahoga that they donated for without having to donate it to the federal government's centennial challenge?

Question 2: Last year the FY15 Omnibus provided \$10 million to reinvest in the Centennial Challenge. Can you provide a status of the projects for FY15, what projects or types of projects have been chosen?

Question 3: When was the last time Ohio was mapped via USGS using LIDAR technology, and what percentage of the state has been mapped using LIDAR as part of 3D Elevation Program?

Question 4: The Service proposed to list the northern long-eared bat as endangered under the ESA in October 2013, but it is my understanding that service is now leaning toward a determination that the species threatened, and issuing a 4(d) rule. For species listed as threatened, the Service may issue a 4(d) rule to provide protections that are deemed necessary and advisable for conservation of the species. The 4(d) rule as I understand it would provide limited exemptions for forest management practices, maintenance and limited expansion of transportation and utility rights-of-way, removal of trees and brush to maintain prairie habitat, and some tree removal projects.

But there remains concern that the proposed 4(d) rule, which would accompany a potential threatened listing, does not accommodate similar exemptions for oil and gas activities, renewable power (such as solar and wind), commercial or residential construction, or agricultural practices. Major industries that drive our economy.

Can I get your commitment that you will work with folks in those industries to ensure equal consideration within the 4(d) rule for these types of activities that are substantially similar to activities exempted under the rule?

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Letter opposing monument designations in AZ

Attachments:

/6. Fwd: Letter opposing monument designations in AZ/1.1 McCain Flake letter to POTUS re GC watershed monument.pdf

"Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 10 2015 10:39:11 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nikki_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "Iudicello, Fay" <fay_iudicello@ios.doi.gov>, "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Christopher Salotti <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Letter opposing monument designations in AZ
Attachments: McCain Flake letter to POTUS re GC watershed monument.pdf

Fay -- please enter this letter. Thanks, Sarah

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matiella, Nick (McCain)** <Nick.Matiella@mccain.senate.gov>
Date: Tue, Mar 10, 2015 at 12:32 PM
Subject: Letter opposing monument designations in AZ
To: "legislativecorrespondence@who.eop.gov" <legislativecorrespondence@who.eop.gov>, "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Kiefer, Kris (Flake)" <Kris.Kiefer@flake.senate.gov>, "Jeff Small (Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov)" <Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov>

Attached is a letter from Senator McCain and Senator Flake writing in opposition to the WH designating a proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument and any other national monuments in Arizona. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to dialogue.

Nick Matiella

Legislative Assistant
Office of Senator John McCain

241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2238

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Sarah C. Neimeyer, Director
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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 10, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

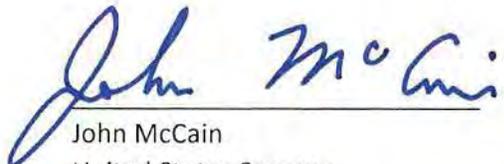
We write in opposition to any unilateral executive action to designate more national monuments in Arizona, and we specifically oppose recent requests that you designate a “Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument” in northern Arizona. Such proposals, without the necessary support from state leaders, congressional delegation, and proper reviews should not advance. This proposal, in particular, extends far afield from the intent of the Antiquities Act by seeking to lock away 1.7 million acres of land in Arizona—an area larger than the State of Delaware—from hunting, livestock, wildfire prevention, mining, and certain forms of outdoor recreation and tourism. What’s more, as noted by Supreme Court precedent, such a designation could also have grave consequences for surface and groundwater rights in Arizona.

Aside from federal overreach, the greatest threat to the watershed of the Grand Canyon is the ongoing 15-year drought in the Southwest. A national monument designation does nothing to address the historically low snowmelt or surface water levels that feed the Colorado River and its tributaries. Arguably, the creation of a new monument might worsen watershed health if land managers and private property owners are restricted from thinning the area’s overgrown forests or if hunters are barred from culling overpopulated wildlife. Arizona cannot afford to have its hands tied when it comes to controlling wildlife populations, enhancing its water supplies, and preventing wildfires.

This monument proposal would also further unravel a longstanding agreement made by a number of environmental organizations and relevant stakeholders in support of a multiple-use philosophy across much of this area. As part of a locally driven collaborative process that included local miners and cattle growers, Congress passed the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 with the full understanding and intention that federally regulated mining and grazing would continue on much of the Arizona Strip and the Kaibab National Forest.

We of course support preserving the Grand Canyon for the enjoyment of future generations—the existing national park does just that. The Park’s powerful, awe-inspiring landscape attracts over 5 million visitors from across the United States and abroad each year. Ensuring the protection of this crown jewel is the civic duty of every Arizonan and American, and we appreciate the heartfelt motivation by those in Congress who initially backed this concept. However, the current monument proposal is ill-conceived, single-minded, and impractical to implement, and we respectfully urge you to disregard it.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator



Jeff Flake
United States Senator

Deputy Secretary Connor Tours Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Ahead of Public Meeting on Conservation in Southern Nevada

Session Hosted by Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus to Focus on Next Steps for New Addition to National Park System, Conservation Priorities for the 114th Congress

02/18/2015

Contact us

LAS VEGAS, Nevada – Today, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael L. Connor visited the recently-designated Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument, the newest addition to the National Park Service. The visit builds on the Department's work to support locally-driven efforts to preserve and protect places that hold special meaning to communities across the country.

"Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument is a worthy addition to our National Park System with its rich history and remarkable access for the two million people of the Las Vegas metropolitan area," said Connor. "A broad group of community members stepped forward to support the legislation to make this a national park, and we are committed to continuing that collaboration as we take care of this exceptional area."

Spanning 22,650 acres of the Upper Las Vegas Wash, Tule Springs is regarded by scientists as one of the best collections of Pleistocene mammal fossils in the United States. Researchers count among their discoveries Columbian mammoths, dire wolves, saber-tooth cats, prehistoric camels and giant sloths. The National Monument lies just minutes from the community of North Las Vegas and only 30 minutes from the Las Vegas Strip, providing a boost to the tourism and outdoor recreation industries of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Area.

The Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument was created through Title 30 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in December of 2014. Originally sponsored by Senator Reid, Congresswoman Titus and the rest of the Nevada delegation, the legislation was supported by the cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas, Clark County, the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce, local and national conservation partners, as well as thousands of individual Nevadans.

The legislation provided for management of the area by the National Park Service. Staff from Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the closest National Park Service area to Tule Springs, have been administering the land transfer from the Bureau of Land Management. Lake Mead employees have been meeting with community leaders and supporters, establishing a volunteer cadre, and analyzing existing conditions in order to welcome visitors while preserving the park's unique resources.

Later today, at the invitation of Senator Harry Reid and Congresswoman Dina Titus, Connor is also joining a public meeting to hear from the Las Vegas community on next steps for the monument, as well as other conservation priorities for southern Nevada for the 114th Congress.

Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus have invited the public to comment on their conservation proposals for the 114th Congress, including the Garden Valley Withdrawal Act and the Gold Butte National Conservation Area Act, two bills introduced by Senator Reid and Congresswoman Titus at the start of this session.

"I want to thank Congresswoman Dina Titus for co-hosting this event with me and to Mike Connor from the Department of Interior for being here to listen to Nevadans on these important issues. Some of my proudest accomplishments in the Senate have been working to protect the special places in our state for future generations. The goal for today's meeting is to talk a little bit about conservation in Southern Nevada and hear from the public their thoughts on these issues and I appreciate every Nevadan who will attend."

"We welcome more than 42 million visitors from around the world to Southern Nevada every year, and many of those travelers come to see the sights beyond the bright lights of the Las Vegas Strip," said Congresswoman Dina Titus. "Today's public hearing is a chance for the community to convene and discuss the future of some of Nevada's most sensitive habitats and scenic landscapes. Together we can find the best ways to preserve public space and cultural resources for generations to come."

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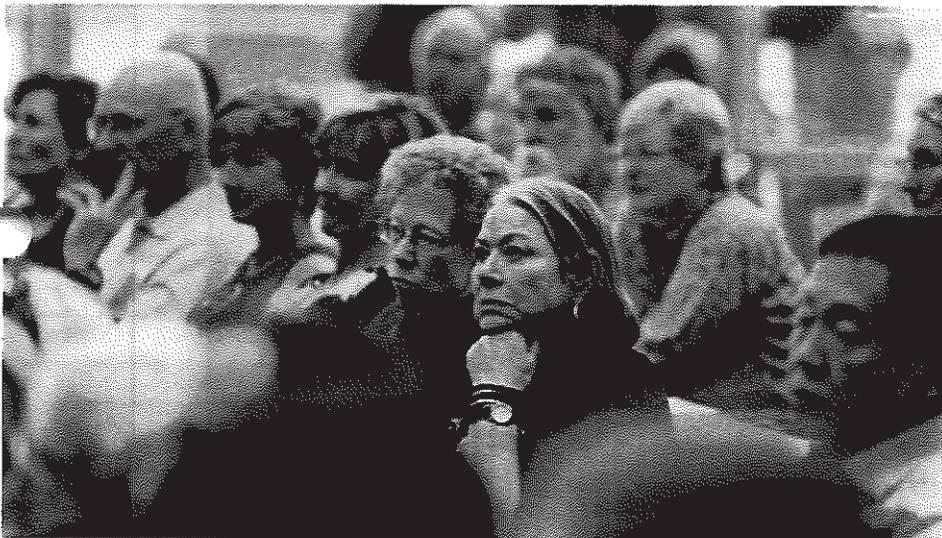
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'Rogue regimes' require U.S...

Land owner cuts off access...

Posted February 19, 2015 - 12:27am Updated February 20, 2015 - 6:51am

Conservation bill could block Yucca rail route, but prospects shaky



By HENRY BREAN
 LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

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restrict mining and energy exploration on more than 800,000 acres of federal land in two lonesome valleys straddling Lincoln and Nye counties.

The Senate minority leader has said he wants to withdraw the land in Garden and Coal valleys to protect "City," noted artist Michael Heizer's sprawling earth sculptor roughly the size of the National Mall. Supporters of the bill want a national monument dedicated to "City" and to the pristine basin-and-range landscape around it.

The designation would also block a future rail corridor for nuclear waste shipments to the proposed Yucca Mountain repository, which Reid spokeswoman Kristen Orthman acknowledged Wednesday while saying Yucca Mountain is not why Reid introduced the bill or decided to target so much land for withdrawal. That's just a welcome side effect, Orthman said.

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Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev., who quietly introduced a House version of the bill last week, also said Yucca Mountain has nothing to do with it.

Motivations aside, the legislation faces an uphill battle in a GOP-led Congress already pushing back against such lands bills. Rep. Crescent Hardy, R-Nev., has vowed to fight the bill and a measure, also sponsored by Reid, to designate 350,000 acres at Gold Butte in northeastern Clark County a conservation area. Both areas are in Hardy's congressional district.

The two bills also are drawing opposition from local officials and some rural residents.

And the push for increased protection of Gold Butte is further complicated by the lingering dispute between federal authorities and Cliven Bundy, whose cattle roam the area in defiance of court orders and aborted government roundups.

Titus said she still hopes to work on the lands bills with Hardy, whom she described as "more open" to protecting Gold Butte than in the past.

On Wednesday, Titus and Reid hosted a "conversation about conservation" in Las Vegas for an audience of several hundred people.

The enthusiastic crowd packed the jury assembly room at the Lloyd George U.S. Courthouse to celebrate the new Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument at the Las Vegas Valley's northern edge and call for the protection of Gold Butte and Garden and Coal valleys.

The preservation pep rally was for the benefit of Michael Connor, the deputy U.S. secretary of interior, who had just toured Tule Springs.

Gold Butte, less than 100 miles northeast of Las Vegas, is in particular need of preservation, Reid said by video link from Washington, where he is recovering from eye surgery.

"What a loss it would be if we didn't protect it," he said. "If we don't do something, it will be gone in a matter of decades."

Titus, in person, said the lands must be preserved "for us, for the whole country and for generations to come."

Art lovers argue that Heizer's masterwork warrants special protection and could become a World Heritage site one day. "City" has been described as one of the most ambitious pieces of art ever, a network of sculpted berms, plazas and geometric shapes a mile-and-a-half long and 900 feet wide inspired by ancient cities of South and Central America.

For a piece like that, "you need the scale of Nevada," said Michael Govan, head of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. "It is almost finished, and that's why its protection is so paramount."

Several dozen people spoke of what Gold Butte, Tule Springs and the lonely valleys of the southern Great Basin mean to them.

Just one person opposed the conservation measures. The man, who called himself "John Q. Public," railed against the treatment of Bundy and criticized the government for trying to kick the public off public land.

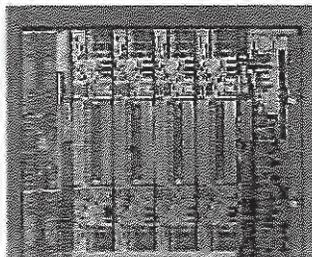
The audience hissed and booed and shouted him down, receiving an obscene gesture in return.

Contact Henry Brean at hbrean@reviewjournal.com or 702-383-0350. Follow @RefriedBrean on Twitter

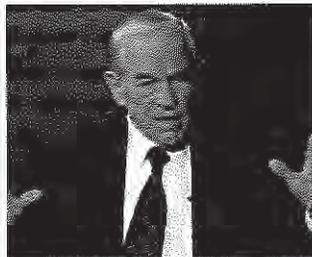
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TERRY PATOR: THE VOICE OF ENTERTAINMENT Mirage Monday, May 11, 7:30 pm

Stoney Curtis Band Sand Dollar Friday, May 15, 10:00 pm

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A monumental push: Reid plans to designate two more areas for protection

By **Amber Phillips (contact)**

Sunday, April 19, 2015 | 2 a.m.

Until late last year, environmentalists' and tourism officials' dream of Congress bestowing a national monument outside Las Vegas seemed like a long shot.

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A bill to protect almost 23,000 acres of prehistoric fossil beds outside North Las Vegas had languished in Congress for several years.

But thanks in part to Sen. Harry Reid's behind-the-scenes jockeying in 2014, Tule Springs National Monument is becoming a reality.

Now Reid is pushing for two more national monuments in Nevada to protect more than 1 million acres of desert outside Las Vegas.

Three national monuments within a four-hour drive from the Strip would be beyond tourism officials' wildest dreams. But such a turn of events would be a nightmare for many Nevada Republicans, and they may not be able to stop it from happening.

What is a national monument?

Designation as a national monument offers one of the highest levels of federal protection for a swath of land in America. Congress or the president create monuments to protect land with historical or cultural significance. Examples include Mount Rushmore in South Dakota and Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.

National monuments differ slightly from national parks in that the parks, such as the Grand Canyon, are created to protect educational or scenic land.

What does Reid want to protect?

Reid reintroduced a bill in January that would create a conservation area over 350,000 acres of desert scrub near Gold Butte, the mining ghost town northeast of Lake Mead. The area's colorful rocks, canyons and petroglyphs are popular with hikers, bikers and off-roaders.

Reid also reintroduced a bill that would withdraw 800,000 acres of land in Lincoln and Nye counties from oil and gas drilling. The move would ensure that Nevada artist Michael Heizer could protect "City," a miles-long Earth sculpture he has carved and built in the desert over decades.

Democratic Rep. Dina Titus recently introduced two similar bills in the House of Representatives.

But the bills have almost no chance of advancing in Congress during Reid's remaining 21 months in office. His next-best option is to convince President Barack Obama to protect the land by designating it part of two new national monuments.

Why is this controversial?

The Republican-controlled Congress is reluctant to hand the federal government control of so much land and close it off to development, particularly energy development in rural Clark, Lincoln and Nye counties.

The Gold Butte proposal is particularly contentious because it covers the land where Bunkerville rancher Cliven Bundy led an armed standoff with federal officials last year.

Republican Sen. Dean Heller introduced legislation with Nevada's three House Republicans to take away the president's power to create national monuments.

"If it's something the state government wants, the local government wants, the federal government wants, that's fine," Heller said. "I just want things to go through the process."

But Reid appears to be forging ahead, making his case in public meetings and letters to administration officials. In February, he and Titus invited a high-ranking official from the Department of the Interior to a public meeting in Southern Nevada filled with supporters in favor of protecting the land.

"Legislation has always been Reid's priority, but he's not opposed to designations," Reid spokeswoman Kristen Orthman said.

What will happen?

There's a very real chance Reid could get his wish and see Obama designate two new national monuments in Southern Nevada before both leave office in January 2017.

Reid has gathered a diverse and powerful group of supporters: the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Nevada Resort Association, wilderness activists, MGM Resorts International CEO Jim Murren and Barrick Gold Corp.

The president, whose administration has designated 16 national monuments since 2009, tends to choose projects that have strong local support and a clear public input process, said Matt Keller, of the Wilderness Society.

"It's a challenge to move these things, and lawmakers have to find openings when they have them," Keller said.

Reid already is credited with creating Northern Nevada's Great Basin national park and more than 60 protected wilderness areas. Leaving a 30-year career in the U.S. Senate with three national monuments to his name would be the capstone of Reid's environmental legacy.

"These are our lands," he told KNPR. "They are federal lands. They belong to everybody in America."

Obama pursues legacy-building executive land grab of 700,000 acres in Southern Nevada

May 7, 2015 | Editorial

Serious implications for national security, future economic development

By Congressman Cresent Hardy

According to a draft proclamation my office obtained (https://edit-hardy.house.gov/sites/hardy.house.gov/files/Basin%20and%20Range%20National%20Monument_Admin%20Draft.pdf) (click here to view (https://edit-hardy.house.gov/sites/hardy.house.gov/files/Basin%20and%20Range%20National%20Monument_Admin%20Draft.pdf)), the president is quietly planning to establish a national monument – dubbed the “Basin and Range National Monument” – directly under the airspace of the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR).

I am appalled and deeply concerned about the national security implications of President Obama’s politically motivated effort to permanently tie up more than 700,000 acres of land, most of which is under one of the most heavily used Military Operating Areas in the United States, and all of which is in Nevada’s 4th Congressional district.

Our Air Force, along with their Joint partners and close allies, routinely train on this land, with nearly 20,000 aircraft sorties flown last year in the airspace overhead. RED FLAG, arguably the world’s premier air-to-air military exercise, takes place on the NTTR and entails in part involvement from Special Operations Forces and Personnel Recovery Teams, whose role in the training takes them on foot and in vehicles, traversing the very land the president seeks to close off.

Without these unequalled training opportunities, our military would see reduced flexibility as they prepare to fight alongside our closest allies in an integrated and dynamic fashion.

In fact, pilots who have flown in recent conflicts have pointed to their training on the Nevada Test & Training Range as a major contributor to their safety and success overseas. This training would be drastically impaired as a result of this monument designation, leading to a loss of communication abilities between aircraft and ground support at Nellis Air Force Base, as well as the elimination of vital drop zones for overland work.

The NTTR is an unparalleled resource for some of our most cutting-edge testing, tactics development, and military training. The Air Force recognizes it as the “largest contiguous air and ground space available for peacetime military operations in the free world” – making it a “crown jewel” of the Department of Defense. We are privileged to have such a nationally significant resource in Nevada’s 4th Congressional District.

Nellis Air Force Base, which I make a point to visit regularly, is also in the district, and boasts the NTTR headquarters. During my first several months in office, I have had a number of opportunities to interact with the amazing men and women who utilize this space on a daily basis, year round.

It seems the president and Senator Harry Reid share an ambivalence toward what we in Nevada know to be true: namely, that closing down this vast area of land for generations to come would adversely impact Nevadans’ ability to choose how we want to grow economically, and it would hamper our military members from sharpening their skills.

Let me be clear. I do not specifically oppose national monuments or designating specific lands as preserves, but doing so at the direct detriment of our military operations puts at risk the very protection of the freedoms that allow us to enjoy those lands.

It’s true that presidents have historically exercised their authority under the Antiquities Act to unilaterally designate national monuments. Of course, few of these designations have had such a dramatic and specific impact on the capabilities of our military operations.

Many thought the president may try to make a move like this, and it turns out they were right.

Other than the end of terms for a couple of politicians, what's the rush?

I feel strongly that the best management of our public lands comes only through methodical consideration and partnership across all levels of local, state and federal government.

Tule Springs National Monument is a great example of an effort that was given due consideration, had appropriate community backing, and did not interfere with crucial Department of Defense exercises. In fact, it protected a frequently used flight corridor for the Air Force.

By contrast, the president's current initiative has almost none of these qualities.

Our state deserves better. Our community deserves better.

I implore Nevada's Congressional delegation, along with state and local leaders, and all Nevadans, to recognize the permanent damage the president's action could inflict on Nevada, and more importantly to our national security.

This initiative smacks of a lack of transparency, and is devoid of meaningful local input. In fact, it very specifically ignores local opposition.

President Obama may recall then-President Bill Clinton's nearly identical action in Utah in 1996 to set aside Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and how irate our neighbors to the east remain, years later.

President Obama risks more than the disapproval of Nevadans.

If the president presses forward with this initiative, it will be at the cost of national security measures and military preparedness, and will be done in direct opposition to the residents and visitors that respectfully make recreational use of this area as is.

The personal, economic and national security costs are just too much to trade. The president should shelve this awful plan.

###

Related: In January of this year, a majority of the Nevada Congressional delegation introduced bicameral legislation (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/488>) to prohibit the further extension or establishment of national monuments in Nevada except by the express authorization of Congress. As of March 2, the bill has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands, of which Congressman Hardy is a member.

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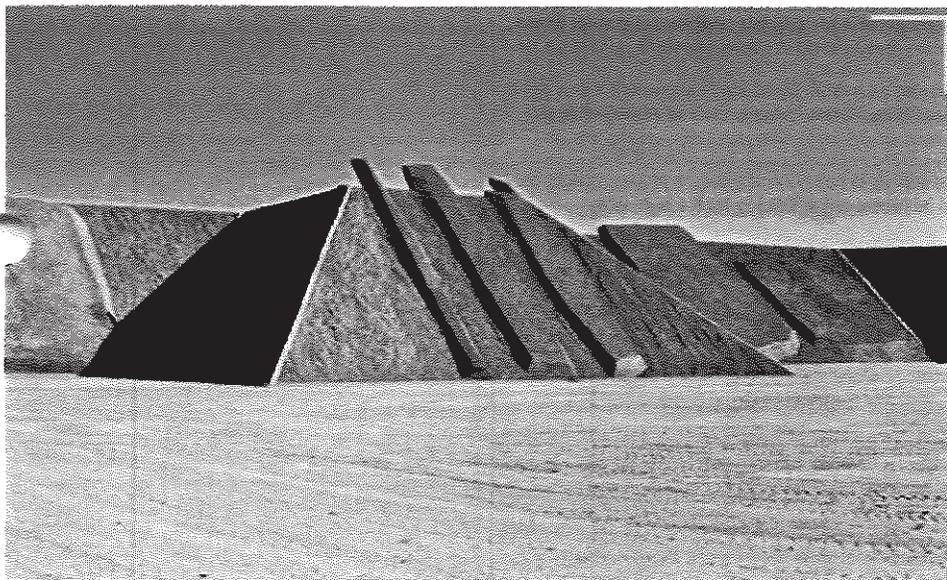
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Posted May 7, 2015 - 2:09pm Updated May 8, 2015 - 7:31am

White House preps paperwork for Nevada national monument, and opponents decry



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By **STEVE TETREAULT**
REVIEW-JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The White House has prepared paperwork for President Barack Obama's signature declaring 704,000 acres in central Nevada as the nation's newest national monument, according to documents released Thursday by Rep. Cresent Hardy, R-Nev.

A draft proclamation establishes a "Basin and Range National Monument," encompassing parts of Lincoln and Nye counties, an area that conservationists have touted as containing some of the most compelling desert valleys and rugged mountain ranges in the nation.

The area generally tracks the region designated for federal protection in legislation introduced last year by Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., and this year again by Reid and Rep. Dina Titus, D-Nev. The proposal consists of Garden Valley and Coal Valley separated by the Golden Gate Range and also includes a portion of Seaman Range to the east.

Within the area that would be withdrawn from mining and energy leasing is land surrounding "City," a monumental earthen artwork being completed by sculptor Michael Heizer.

The designation would allow for the use of existing roads for the public to access the site, and authorize activities to manage it.



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In all, the proposal encompasses 1,100 square miles.

Last fall, Congress created the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument in northern Clark County. But Obama appears poised to create a second one in Nevada under authority granted the president by the 1906 Antiquities Act — a move that would instantly become controversial in the state and on Capitol Hill.

Leaders in the two local counties have said they do not favor it. And Republicans in Congress have introduced legislation to block Obama from creating national monuments in Nevada and elsewhere in the West without approval from Congress.

Hardy said the proposed monument area is underneath the airspace of the Nellis Test and Training Range utilized by the Air Force for its Red Flag exercises and other missions.

"I am appalled and deeply concerned about the national security implications of President Obama's politically motivated effort to permanently tie up more than 700,000 acres of land, most of which is under one of the most heavily used Military Operating Areas in the United States, and all of which is in Nevada's 4th Congressional District," Hardy said in a statement.

Reid spokeswoman Kristen Orthman said Hardy was spreading "misinformation" about the proposal. A clause in the draft proclamation states the monument designation would not preclude the use of military flight training routes, or designation of new units of special use airspace.

"Congressman Hardy is getting a little bit ahead of himself," Orthman said. "We will not allow those who have no interest in the protection of the Basin and Range area to demagogue it with a misinformation campaign built heavy on partisan rhetoric but short on actual facts."

An administration official said the White House works closely with the Department of Defense to protect national security interests in land designations "as has historically always been the case."

"Sen. Reid believes this area deserves protection — that is why he introduced legislation to do so in 2014," Orthman said. "But in lieu of legislation, Sen. Reid fully supports President Obama if he decides to designate this area, which he has the legal authority to do so."

Titus spokesman Caitlin Teare similarly said the Las Vegas congresswoman "supports the president's use of his authority to designate a national monument to protect the public space and art in this important region for future generations."

The six-page document released by Hardy is undated and labeled as a draft. Declining to say where Hardy got it, his spokesman Scott Knutson said the congressman has established it was being circulated among federal agencies for comment within the past week.

Sources familiar with the federal bureaucracy said it could be difficult to say how long such a proposal could be tied up in the interagency process or when ultimately it could be presented to Obama for his signature.

"The Basin and Range" refers generally to the area between the Sierra Nevada Mountains in eastern California and the Colorado Plateau region where the corners of Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico join.

Its topography, built by shifts in the Earth over eons, is characterized by narrow mountain chains alternating with flat arid valleys, or basins.

"The Basin and Range area of southeastern Nevada is an iconic American landscape," according to the draft proclamation that also calls it "one of the most undisturbed corners of the broader Great Basin region."

The region "is one of the most scenic, most unspoiled landscapes," said Brian O'Donnell, executive director of the Conservation Lands Foundation. "It has an abundance of cultural resources, petroglyphs, native American sites. It has important wildlife habitats for a number of sensitive species. It is incredibly worthy of conservation."

But Nye County Commissioner Lorinda Wichman called the proposal "overkill" and said any additional wilderness designations in the county "are going to be met with complaints."

"I do get just a bit appalled at the lack of communication and the bull-in-a-china-shop approach to the actions of this administration," Wichman said.

"Nye County is larger than Switzerland and within Nye's 18,000-plus square miles we are able to generate ad valorem taxes on less than 3 percent of the land mass," Wichman said. "Each time there is more land withdrawn from Nye County for special designations the residents of Nye County lose potential opportunities to fund future services."

In January, Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., introduced a bill that would prohibit the designation of national monument land in Nevada "except by express authorization of Congress."

Hardy and Reps. Mark Amodei and Joe Heck, both R-Nev., sponsored a similar House bill.

"Currently, with a quick stroke of the pen, the executive branch can lock up millions of acres of public land without consulting the public or their representation in Congress," Heller said at the time. "This legislation ensures Congress and local officials are not bypassed by the executive branch when it comes to proposed national monuments in Nevada."

The Antiquities Act defines national monuments as protected areas such as "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest."

Obama has designated eight monuments by proclamation. The most recent was the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in Southern California designated last year.

The most controversial was the May 2014 designation of 500,000 acres in the Organ Mountain-Desert Peaks region of southern New Mexico.



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Sherman Frederick
My Nevada Indians — Reid does it again



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Contact Steve Tetreault at stetereault@reviewjournal.com or 202-783-1760. Find him on Twitter: @STetereaultDC

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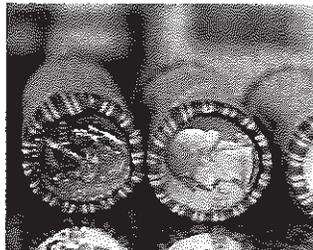
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Obama considering another national monument in Nevada

By **Amber Phillips (contact)**

Thursday, May 7, 2015 | 3:04 p.m.

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is seriously considering creating another national monument in Nevada — and the congressman whose district it would sit in is not happy about it.

"I am appalled and deeply concerned," Republican Rep. Cresent Hardy said in a statement published on his website Thursday.

Hardy's office obtained a draft of the president's proclamation to set aside more than 700,000 acres of land in Lincoln and Nye counties for protection.

The six-page draft is being circulated among federal agencies for input before Obama makes a decision on whether to prohibit development and energy exploration there.

"The land tells the story of a rich cultural tradition," it reads. "From the earliest human inhabitants 13,000 years ago, to miners and ranchers in the past century and a half, to a modern artist in recent decades, the area's residents have created and left behind noble legacies."

The modern artist the administration refers to is quirky Michael Heizer, who has spent the past 40 years building one of the world's largest sculptures in the Nevada desert. "City" is a 1,200-square-mile sculpture reminiscent of Mayan ruins in Mexico. It's nearly complete, and protecting it and the land around it has been a priority for retiring Sen. Harry Reid, D-NV.

Reid and Las Vegas Democrat Rep. Dina Titus introduced legislation in Congress earlier this year to cordon off "City" and thousands of acres around it from oil and gas development. But that's unlikely to move in a Republican Congress, so Reid has lobbied Obama to use his power under the Antiquities Act to unilaterally create national monuments.

Reid and Titus also hosted a community meeting in February with a high-level Department of Interior official to show support for creating the national monument. Public meetings are a precursor for every one of the 16 national monuments Obama has designated.

Support from members of Congress whose district covers the monument is not. And Hardy is livid.

The entire projected national monument sits in his district, which spans from North Las Vegas through most of central, rural Nevada. Hardy said in the statement he fears that closing off the land would inhibit Nellis Air Force Base from conducting high-profile training flights.

"It seems the president and Senator Harry Reid share an ambivalence toward what we in Nevada know to be true: namely, that closing down this vast area of land for generations to come would adversely impact Nevadans' ability to choose how we want to grow economically, and it would hamper our military members from sharpening their skills," he said.

But most wilderness protection bills or proclamations have language that allows for military activities, including the national monument Congress created in nearby Tule Springs in 2014 to protect prehistoric

fossils.

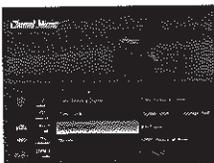
"Congressman Hardy is getting a little bit ahead of himself," Reid's spokesperson, Kristen Orthman, said in a statement.

The deal is far from done — Obama could change his mind. But it appears this is one fight Hardy is going to lose.

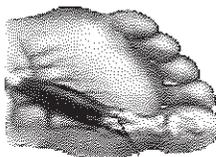
"No area is as uniquely Nevada as is the Basin and Range," Orthman continued. "It deserves protection so our children and grandchildren and the generations of Nevadans to follow can experience one of the most beautiful places on Earth."



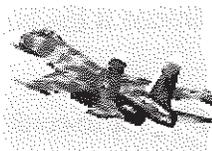
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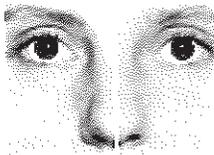
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Obama considers protecting Nevada land

By Timothy Cama - 05/08/15 08:30 AM EDT

President Obama is considering a controversial proposal to protect more than 1,000 square miles of rural land in southern Nevada.

Rep. Cresent Hardy (R-Nev.) said he obtained a draft document outlining the proposed Basin and Range National Monument, which he said Obama is considering establishing unilaterally under his Antiquities Act power.

Some Nevada Democrats and conservationists have long sought to protect the land in Lincoln and Nye counties, but Republicans have pushed back.

"I am appalled and deeply concerned about the national security implications of President Obama's politically motivated effort to permanently tie up more than 700,000 acres of land, most of which is under one of the most heavily used military operating areas in the United States, and all of which is in Nevada's 4th congressional district," Hardy wrote in a statement, referring to his district.

The land surrounds "City," a massive in-progress piece of art meant to resemble ancient mounds and monuments.

Obama's national monument designation would protect the area from development, energy production and a wide range of other activities.

"The land tells the story of a rich cultural tradition," the White House wrote in the draft, **according** to the *Las Vegas Sun*. "From the earliest human inhabitants 13,000 years ago, to miners and ranchers in the past century and a half, to a modern artist in recent decades, the area's residents have created and left behind noble legacies."

Kristen Orthman, a spokeswoman for Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), fought back against Hardy.

"Sen. Reid believes this area deserves protection — that is why he introduced legislation to do so in 2014," she said. "But in lieu of legislation, Sen. Reid fully supports President Obama if he decides to designate this area, which he has the legal authority to do so. No area is as uniquely Nevada as is the Basin and Range."

Obama extensively used his power to create national monuments, and has used it to protect more land and water than any previous president.

That has irked Republicans, who see Obama's actions as out of line and a power grab. They've proposed multiple bills to remove or significantly curtail Obama's power to create national monuments without congressional consent.

TAGS: Cresent Hardy, Harry Reid, National Monument

M-Basin &
Range



Executive Summary
(12 February 2015)

For the project entitled:

**A landscape-level assessment of conservation features and values in the Basin
and Range Conservation Area**

Submitted to:

Conservation Lands Foundation

By:

Brett G. Dickson, PhD – Chief Scientist

Christine M. Albano, MS – Lead Scientist

Luke J. Zachmann, MS – Senior Scientist

Nikki -
Let me know
if those aren't
what you were
looking for.
Brett

INTRODUCTION

Under ongoing climate and landscape changes, there is a critical need to identify, connect, and conserve landscapes that more effectively and strategically capture biodiversity and associated ecological processes (Margules and Pressey 2000). The ecological significance and context of currently unprotected lands should be used to determine the location of new areas for future conservation and protection (Dickson et al. 2014). Indeed, lands that are currently unprotected or threatened by human impacts can complement or enhance the features and functions of existing protected area networks (Rodrigues et al. 2004). In the United States, intact public lands are essential to the conservation of biodiversity (Groves et al. 2000) and maintenance of key ecological processes, including landscape connectivity for multiple species (Crist et al. 2005, Theobald et al. 2012). Currently, the existing protected areas network in the U.S. is likely insufficient to guard against the long-term loss of species because it does not include the range of ecosystem types they inhabit (Scott et al. 2001).

Across the western U.S., extensive areas of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) present substantial opportunities to maintain and further protect important components of biological diversity and function. Within the 11 contiguous western states, BLM lands also provide habitat for a wide diversity of plant and animal species, including roughly 20% of the nation's rare or imperiled species (Stein et al. 2008). Approximately 68% of Nevada is administered by the BLM (Gorte et al. 2012). The state of Nevada falls entirely within the Great Basin ecoregion, which is considered to be one of the most endangered ecoregions in the U.S. (Noss et al. 1995). Limited water supplies, changing land use and climate, invasion by non-native plant species, and altered fire regimes all are contributing to the vulnerability of the Great Basin ecoregion (Chambers et al. 2008). Both the Great Basin ecoregion and Nevada contain more unprotected roadless BLM lands than any other ecoregion or state in the contiguous U.S. (Dickson et al. 2014).

In this context, the proposed 877,100-acre Basin and Range Conservation Area (BRCA) in southeastern Nevada presents a significant opportunity to conserve key components of biological diversity and ecological function within this landscape and across the region. A recent study by Dickson et al. (2014) was designed to provide a sound scientific basis for future proposals for conservation-based special designations in the western U.S., with an emphasis on BLM lands. We leveraged the inputs and results produced by this study to conduct an assessment of conservation features and values across the BRCA and adjacent lands. We focused our assessment on information that highlighted the ecological importance and representativeness of the BRCA in landscape and regional settings.

Assessing ecological importance

For our assessment, we first calculated the amount of area determined by Dickson et al. (2014) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC; TNC 2011) to be of high conservation value within the proposed boundary of the BRCA. In addition, we mapped and summarized four landscape-level indicators of biodiversity, resilience to climate change, and connectivity (Map 1; see also Dickson et al. 2014). Specifically, we used readily available and published spatial data that characterized two indicators of connectivity: landscape permeability (Theobald et al. 2012) and proximity to the nearest protected area (USGS 2011a); one indicator of biodiversity: rarity-weighted species richness (Chaplin et al. 2000); and one indicator of resilience to climate change: topographic complexity (Smith et al. 2011). Data for each indicator was generated using a 65,000-acre scale of analysis and a 270-m pixel resolution (see detailed methods described by Dickson et al. 2014). Although we focused our assessment on the BRCA, our indicator maps extended across all 11 western states, permitting comparisons between the two extents.

We determined the values of each of these four indicators relative to the larger landscape using a simple scoring system based on percentile ranks. Specifically, the mean value of each indicator within the BRCA was compared to the distribution of means of a large ($n > 100$) random sample of areas across the western U.S. The size of the random samples was equivalent to the size of the proposed BRCA. Scores ranged from 0 to 100. A score of 98 for a given indicator would indicate that the mean value of that indicator in the BRCA was greater than or equal to 98% of similarly-sized random samples.

Assessing representativeness

The ability of any protected areas network to capture biodiversity and maintain ecological function will depend on the variety of ecosystem components (e.g., vegetation and landform types that contribute to habitat) that are represented within the network (Aycrigg et al. 2013). In the U.S., only 12% of lands have protected status (USGS 2011a), and these lands have typically not been selected on the basis of representation (Pressey 1994). Thus, as a second step, we assessed the degree to which the BRCA diversifies the existing protected areas network by increasing representation of different ecosystem components. We compiled spatial data on major ecosystem and landform types across the Western U.S. and within the proposed BRCA using data obtained from the USGS (USGS 2011b). Next, we calculated the percentages of different ecosystem components in the western U.S. that are represented in the current protected areas network, including lands managed specifically for conservation of species (IUCN 1994) and those within the BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS). We also calculated the percentages of ecosystem components that would be represented within the protected areas network following any designation of the proposed BRCA.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The BRCA has high ecological importance

Our assessment of ecological importance suggests the BRCA has significant ecological values. The West-wide results of Dickson et al. (2014) indicated that the proposed boundary of the BRCA encompassed 112,823 acres (13%) of relatively high conservation value, and that 24,651 (22%) of these acres might be considered 'conservation priority areas' (Map 2). Lands identified by TNC as having high conservation value encompassed 144,256 acres (17%). Between the two studies, 17,206 acres of these lands were overlapping.

The BRCA is relatively roadless

Unprotected public lands that are relatively roadless and undeveloped, such as those administered by the BLM in and around the proposed BRCA, may afford the best opportunity to conserve natural elements and ecosystem processes (Davidson et al. 1996, Watts et al. 2007). Based on the map extent derived by Dickson et al. (2014), approximately 555,747 acres (63%) of the BRCA is roadless (Map 2).

The BRCA has high landscape connectivity value

The maintenance of connectivity processes is one of the most important aspects of biodiversity and landscape-level conservation (Taylor et al. 2006, Noon et al. 2009). Our indicator map of permeability (Map 1A) provided an estimate of the overall ecological connectivity of the natural landscape. This permeability model was designed to inform land use planning and policy about landscapes that might be important for maintaining ecological flows (e.g., habitat connectivity for multiple species simultaneously) and adapting to climate change (Theobald et al. 2012). Compared to a random sample of lands in the West, we observed particularly high values for landscape permeability within the BRCA (Figure 1). Our assessment suggests that the BRCA and surrounding BLM lands provide important features that can facilitate the movement of multiple organisms within and across jurisdictions, now and

under future climate conditions (Stein et al. 2008). Because the BRCA currently exhibits relatively low levels of human modification (Theobald 2010), it is likely to promote connectivity for multiple local and wide-ranging ecological processes, if left undisturbed and intact.

Locating new protected areas in close proximity to existing protected areas could significantly contribute toward interconnecting a larger, regional network of biodiverse and ecologically effective lands, especially in the western U.S. A larger network of protected areas in the region that includes the BRCA would likely facilitate or enhance the ability of species to migrate and adapt to a climate that is rapidly changing in the Southwest (Seager et al. 2007). Relative to all other western lands, the BRCA also was highly proximate to existing protected areas. Indeed, the proposed BRCA overlaps or encompasses four existing wilderness areas and is immediately adjacent to or within 25 km of eight other state or federally protected areas. Given the relatively high proximity of the BRCA to existing protected areas, this landscape could contribute significantly toward interconnecting a larger network of protected lands within Nevada (Map 1B). Furthermore, based on the results of Dickson et al. (2014), the area has great potential to link a regional network of existing and future protected lands, forming an 'archipelago' of connectivity that extends from southern Nevada into northwestern Arizona, southwestern Utah, and western Colorado.

The BRCA has high biodiversity value

Species richness is one of the most fundamental and important measures of biodiversity (Magurran 2004). Because rare and endemic species are key elements of total biodiversity in a given area (Meyers et al. 2000), we used NatureServe's rarity-weighted richness index (hereafter, 'species richness' for convenience; refreshed 2008) to map and evaluate this component of biodiversity (Map 1C; see Chaplin et al. [2000] for references and modeling methods). The BRCA exhibits high adjacency and some overlap with areas of relatively high rarity-weighted species richness, suggesting the presence of rare and endemic species. The results of Dickson et al. (2014) indicated numerous areas of high conservation value in Nevada, including those within or adjacent to the BRCA, were driven by high values for rarity-weighted species richness, when compared to all other western states.

The proposed BRCA also contains a unique variety of Mojave, Sonoran, and Great Basin vegetation communities, which together serve as rare and important ecological transition zones and contribute to overall biodiversity in the area. The high value conservation areas identified by (Dickson et al. 2014), including those overlapping the BRCA, also encompassed numerous ecotones where vegetation community transitions can signify and promote important patterns of diversity (Whittaker 1975). For example, the Seaman Range contains one of the most genetically diverse relict stands of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) in the West (Potter et al. 2013).

The BRCA contains important terrain features that may enhance resilience to climate change

Topographically complex landscapes can harbor high levels of biodiversity (Coblentz and Riitters 2004) and may provide refugia for native species under changing climatic conditions (Dobrowski 2011). We produced a map of topographic complexity using USGS digital elevation models and the standard deviation of slope values (Map 1D; after Dickson et al. 2014). We considered this map of the physical environment to be a proxy for ecological complexity and refugia. This diversity of topographic features within the BRCA provides a range of microclimates that can enable species with limited dispersal ability opportunity to move and persist in habitats that fall within their climatic constraints (Loarie et al. 2009).

The BRCA would enhance the diversity of the U.S. protected areas network

Based on our assessment of representation, the proposed BRCA stands to increase the variety of vegetation and landform types in the U.S. protected area network, a number of which are currently underrepresented. The majority of protected areas in the western U.S. occur within high montane and alpine ecosystems (Figure 2). This underrepresentation presents a significant bias, since most shrubland- and grassland-dominated ecosystem types are offered little protection. Nevertheless, our assessment indicated that the BRCA encompasses a relatively large amount of cool and warm semi-desert scrub and grassland vegetation types, as well as temperate forest, which are all currently underrepresented in the existing protected areas network (Figure 2; Aycrigg et al. 2013). Similarly, Dickson et al. (2014) found these types to be common in their identification of unprotected areas with high conservation value. Significant biases also are evident with respect to the protection of major landform types around the West, and cliffs and mountain tops have much more protection than basins, flats and valley bottoms (Figure 3). However, the BRCA includes a disproportionately high amount of basin/flat, peak/ridge, and otherwise sloped landform types (Figure 3). The diverse basin and range topography of the BRCA would contribute substantially to the portfolio of protected areas lacking these uncommon terrain features.

CONCLUSION

Our assessment of ecological indicators in a landscape and West-wide context highlighted the intrinsic value of the BRCA with respect to landscape permeability, species richness, topographic complexity, and proximity to nearest protected area. Considering also the results of Dickson et al. (2014), protective designation of the proposed BRCA would substantially grow and enhance the existing network of protected areas in the Southwest (Davidson et al. 1996, Scott et al. 2001). The value of this area in sustaining the ecological processes and large contiguous landscapes that support high levels of biodiversity, resilience to climate change, and connectivity across jurisdictions should not be underestimated.

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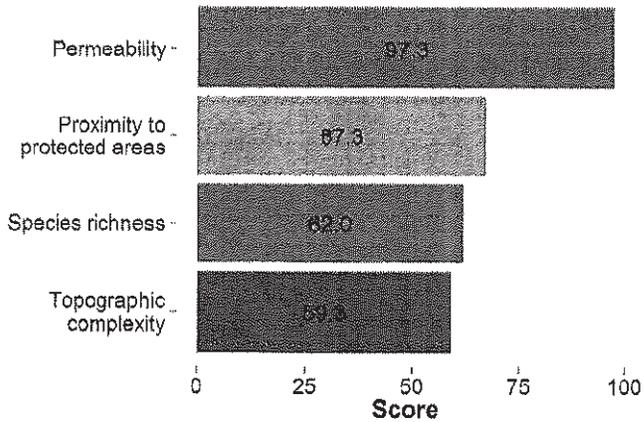


Figure 1. Scores received by the proposed Basin and Range Conservation Area (BRCA) for each of four ecological indicators. Scores ranged from 0-100 (100 = highest) and were assigned by comparing the BRCA to a random set of equivalently-sized areas located across the western U.S.

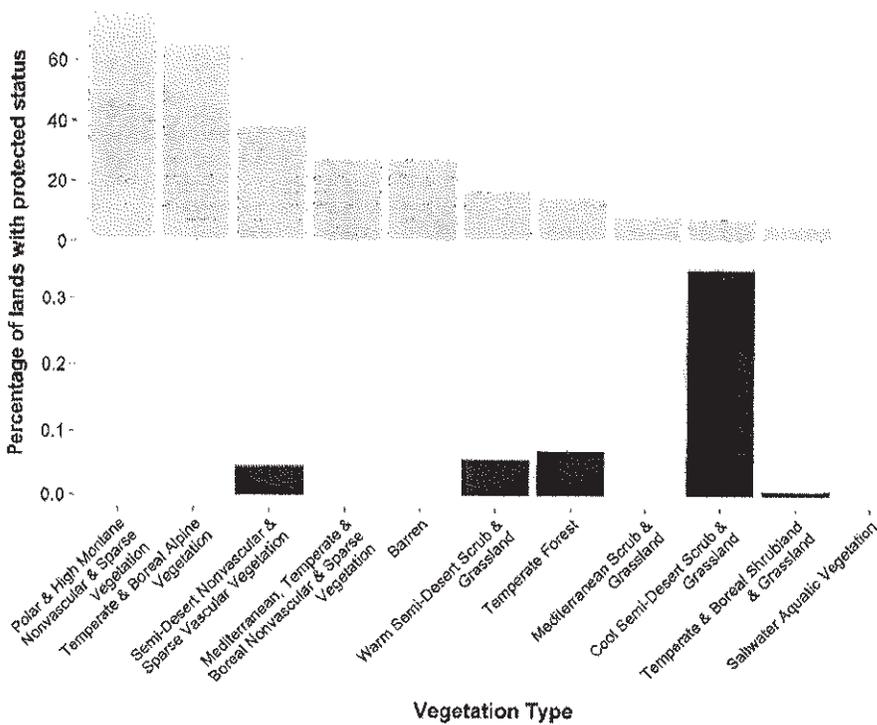


Figure 2. Percentage of lands within different vegetation types in the western U.S. that have protected status (upper) and percentage of additional lands that would be protected with designation of the proposed Basin and Range Conservation Area (BRCA) (lower). The BRCA would serve to enhance and diversify the existing protected areas network by increasing the representation of key vegetation types, including semi-desert scrub and grassland.

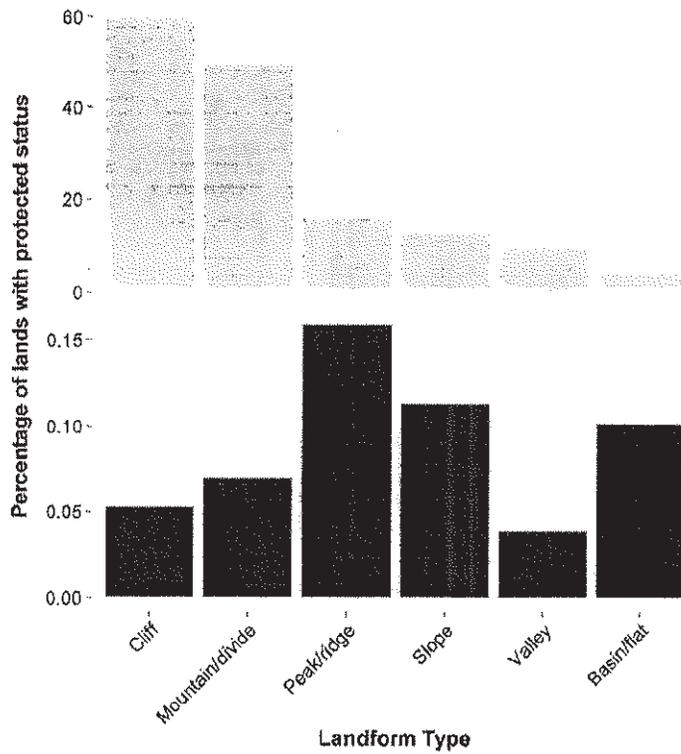
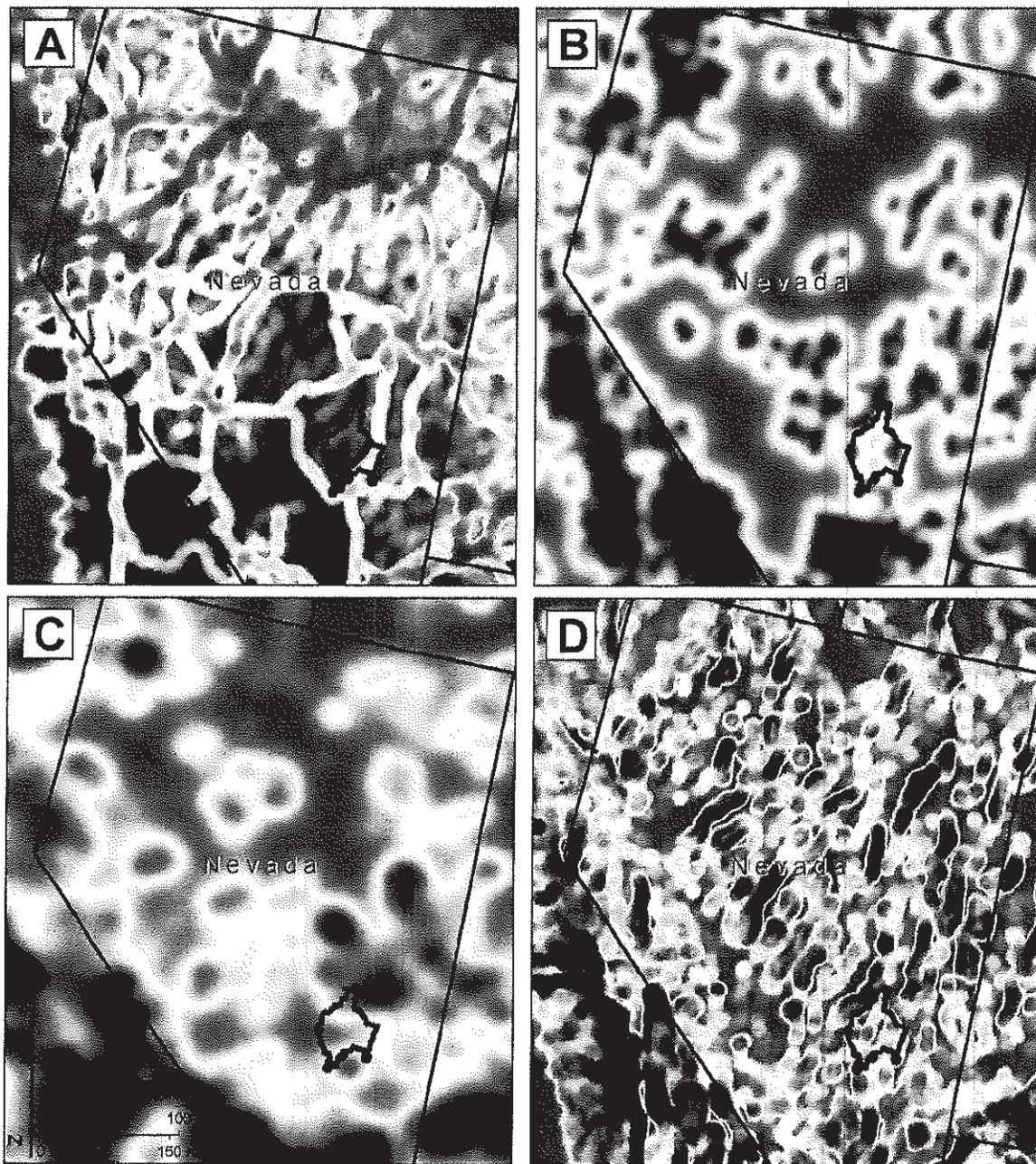


Figure 3. Percentage of lands within different landform types in the western U.S. that have protected status (upper) and percentage of additional lands that would be protected, with designation of the proposed Basin and Range Conservation Area (BRCA) (lower). The BRCA would serve to enhance and diversify the existing protected areas network by increasing the representation of multiple landform types, including basin/flat.



Indicator Value

-  High
-  Low

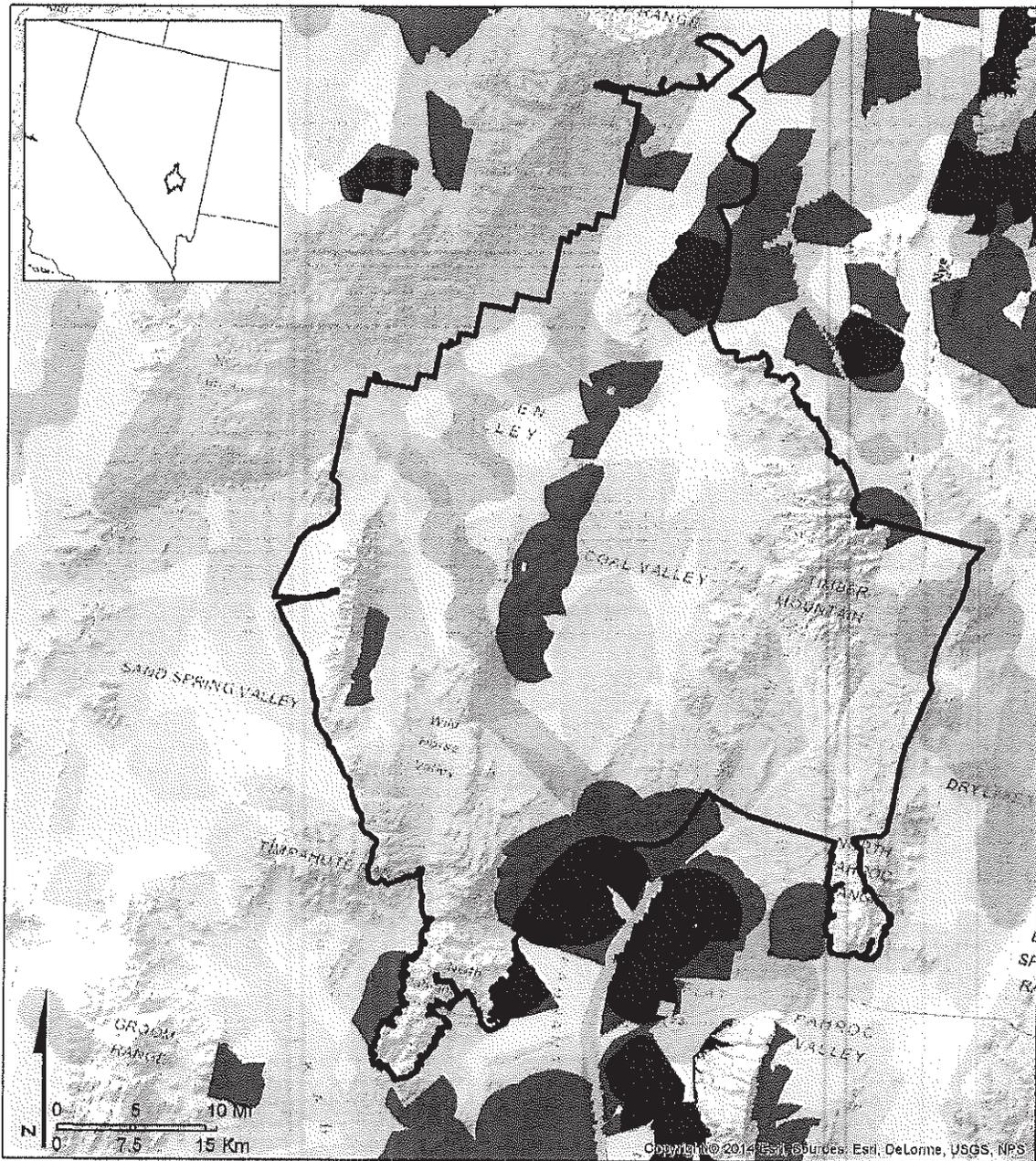
 BRCA Boundary

MAP 1. The four landscape-level indicators of biodiversity, resilience to climate change, and connectivity used to assess conservation features and values within and around the Basin and Range Conservation Area (BRCA); landscape permeability (A), proximity to nearest IUCN or NLCS protected area (B), species richness (C), and topographic complexity (D).

Author: C.Albano www.csp-inc.org 2/12/2015

**Proposed
Basin and Range
Conservation Area**





<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Conservation Priority Area  High Conservation Value Area  BLM Roadless Core Area  TNC Area of Biodiversity Significance  BRCA Boundary 	<p>MAP 2. Conservation priority areas, other high value conservation areas, and BLM roadless core areas, as determined by Dickson et al. (2014), and TNC areas of biodiversity significance (TNC 2011), within and adjacent to the Basin and Range Conservation Area (BRCA).</p> <p>Author: M.Gray www.csp-inc.org 2/12/2015</p>
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<p>Proposed Basin and Range Conservation Area</p>
 <p>CONSERVATION SCIENCE PARTNERS</p>

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7010

748442

October 24, 2014

RECEIVED

2014 NOV -3 PM 3:49

OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF THE SENATE

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

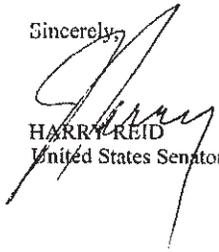
Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am writing to request that the Department of the Interior host a public stakeholder meeting in Las Vegas in December to discuss various conservation efforts in Southern Nevada. Among those discussed could include the proposed Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument, Gold Butte, Michael Heizer's 'City', and others.

Growing up in Searchlight, I developed a deep appreciation for our public lands and spent countless hours hunting and hiking in the deserts and mountains of southern Nevada. From those experiences, I have determined that our dramatic landscapes need to be protected for our children and grandchildren to experience as I have. Throughout my time in congress and now as Nevada's senior Senator, I have worked hard to conserve Nevada's special places. I appreciate the Department of Interior's partnership in working with me and the Nevada delegation to protect natural and cultural resources while allowing for the responsible growth of our economy.

Thank you for your consideration of my request to host and participate in a conversation of these efforts in southern Nevada. Please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Sara Moffat of my staff at (202) 224-0441.

Sincerely,



HARRY REID
United States Senator

LACMA

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART
5905 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA 90036

MICHAEL GOVAN

CEO/WALLIS ANNEBERG DIRECTOR
T 323 857 6001
F 323 857 6148

May 6, 2015

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

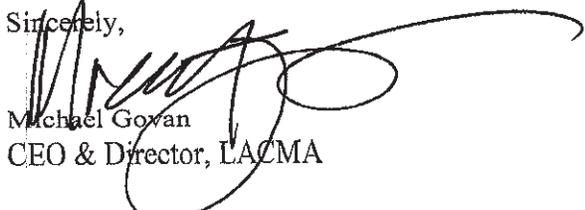
I write to express my strong support of the designation of the Garden and Coal Valley area as a component of the National Landscape Conservation System pursuant to either Presidential authorities or federal legislative actions, and to notify you of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's intent to transfer to the federal government for the purpose of such a designation a conservation easement in private lands encompassing and nearby the artwork *City*, by the artist Michael Heizer.

Michael Heizer is an internationally renowned and influential artist whose works are owned and exhibited by many museums, including ours. The land art work *City*, in Garden Valley, Nevada, is monumental by design. The sculpture, which measures more than a mile in length and a quarter mile in width, comprises earthen mounds and pits, cinder-dyed cement slopes, and huge geometric cement forms that capture shifting sun and shadows. The primitive forms create a large, sunken plaza reminiscent at once of the national mall in Washington and large Mesoamerican ruins such as Chichén Itzá or Teotihuacán in Mexico while also reflecting the most modern building technologies. The artist has been working on *City* since the 1970s, and the artwork is nearly complete after some 40 years of work. The location of *City* in an undeveloped area within the Basin and Range region will draw visitors from around the world to experience a uniquely American sculpture set within a uniquely American landscape.

The Triple Aught Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to owning and displaying the art of Michael Heizer, presently owns the land upon which *City* is situated, as well as lands around *City* that are maintained as undeveloped open space. Museum Associates, a 501(c)(3) organization organized under the laws of California, doing business as, and operating The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has acquired a conservation easement from the Triple Aught Foundation to ensure the protection of *City* and the adjacent open space and secure public access to *City* upon its completion and the preparation of a visitor management plan by Triple Aught and the Bureau of Land Management. In order to achieve designation as a component of the National Landscape Conservation System, LACMA is prepared at this time to donate the conservation easement encompassing the realty containing *City* and the adjacent open space to the federal government as approved by the Board of Trustees of LACMA pursuant to their authority under LACMA's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Our intent is that the donated conservation easement would be administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System. The Los Angeles County Museum of Art is also prepared to continue to explore and advise on arrangements with the Triple Aught Foundation and the Bureau of Land Management that would further the preservation and interpretation of the entire site for the public.

We look forward to the accomplishment of this important milestone in the ongoing historic and artistic significance of this national treasure.

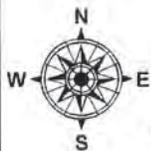
Sincerely,


Michael Govan
CEO & Director, LACMA

Proposed Golden Gate Range National Conservation Area

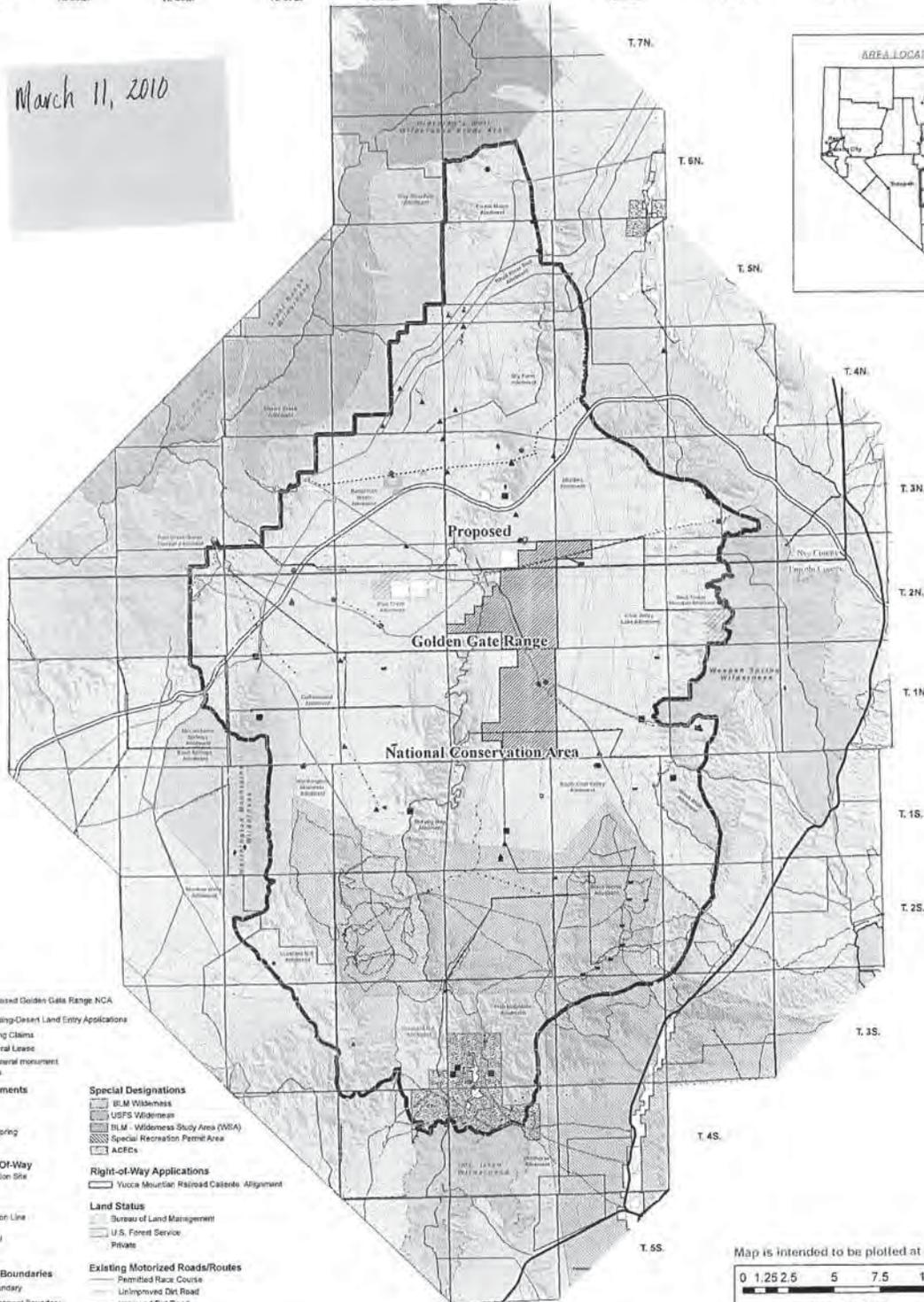
This map prepared at the request of Senator Harry Reid

March 11, 2010



March 11, 2010

R. 55E. R. 56E. R. 57E. R. 58E. R. 59E. R. 60E. R. 61E. R. 62E.



- Proposed Golden Gate Range NCA
 - Pending-Desert Land Entry Applications
 - Mining Claims
 - Mineral Lease
 - US Internal monument
 - Caves
- Range Developments**
- Fence
 - Grazier
 - Windmill
 - Improved Spring
 - Canal
- Existing Right-Of-Way**
- Communication Site
 - Receiver
 - Well
 - Road
 - Transmission Line
 - Pipeline
 - Ditch/Canal
 - Gravel pit
- Administrative Boundaries**
- County Boundary
 - Grazing Allotment Boundary
- Special Designations**
- BLM Wilderness
 - USFS Wilderness
 - BLM - Wilderness Study Area (WSA)
 - Special Recreation Permit Area
 - ACPDs
- Right-of-Way Applications**
- Yucca Mountain Railroad Corridor Alignment
- Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
 - U.S. Forest Service
 - Private
- Existing Motorized Roads/Routes**
- Permitted Race Course
 - Unimproved Dirt Road
 - Improved Dirt Road
 - State Hwy 92

Map is intended to be plotted at 34X44

0 1.25 2.5 5 7.5 10 Miles

1:120,000

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

Waco Mammoth National Monument Dedication Events

DATE: Monday, October 5, 2015
LOCATION: Waco Mammoth National Monument
TIME: 8:00 AM-1:30 PM
FROM: Russ Whitlock, Superintendent, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
830-330-4987 (m); russ_whitlock@nps.gov

I. PURPOSE

The dedication ceremony is a local celebration by the community and hundreds who have invested in the Site to recognize the accomplishment of achieving national monument designation for the mammoth site. The ceremony is another public expression of the communities support for the national monument and the surrounding Waco Mammoth Site as a valued component of the greater Waco, Texas area.

While in Waco for the dedication, you will have the opportunity to visit both the Mayborn Museum exhibit on Mammoth bones and the Mammoth Dig Shelter as well as participate in a thank you luncheon hosted by the National Park Conservation Association (NPCA).

The Mayborn Museum tour will include two areas of the museum: the museum's interpretive exhibits on Columbian Mammoths and the curatorial storage area housing the current collection from the Waco Mammoth Site.

The Dig Shelter is the focal point of the national monument and contains the only currently exhibited fossil remains of Columbian Mammoths. During the tour most visitors realize the importance of the site from what they see and hear. This is an excellent introduction to the Site's significance and a perfect experience before you join the several hundred motivated and devoted supporters for the dedication ceremony. The Dig Shelter is a large climate controlled structure that protects the most recent excavation site.

NPCA is sponsoring a "Mammoth Thank You Luncheon" for major donors and supporters of the Waco Mammoth National Monument. Expect approximately 75 at the luncheon.

II. PARTICIPANTS

Museum Participants

- You
- Former First Lady Laura Bush
- Jon Jarvis
- U.S. Congressman Bill Flores, Congressional District #17
- Gina Flores, wife of U.S. Congressman Bill Flores
- Charles Walter, Director, Mayborn Museum
- Tom Haddad, Assistant Director of Facilities and Collections, Mayborn Museum

- Anita Benedict, Collections Manager, Mayborn Museum (tour guide)
- Greg McDonald, Paleontologist & Senior Curator of Natural History at National Park Service, Ft. Collins
- Russ Whitlock, Superintendent, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
- Sarae Leuckel, Deputy Superintendent, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
- Jason Hagerup, City of Waco photographer

Bone Site Participants

- You
- Former First Lady Laura Bush
- Jon Jarvis
- Russ Whitlock
- Sarae Leuckel
- Raegan King, Mammoth Site Operations Coordinator (tour guide)
- Jane Meyer, Community Member and Supporter
- Gloria Young, Community Member and Supporter
- Larry Groth, Former City Manager, City of Waco
- Gayle Lacy, President, Waco Mammoth Foundation
- Walter Lacy, Founding Member of Strecker Associates and Supporter
- Chet Edwards, former U.S. Congressman
- Theresa Pierno, Chief Operating Officer of the National Parks Conservation Association
- Jason Hagerup, City of Waco photographer

Program Participants

- You
- Former First Lady Laura Bush
- Jon Jarvis
- Ken Starr
- Russ Whitlock
- Malcolm Duncan, Mayor, City of Waco
- Larry Groth, Former City Manager, City of Waco (emcee)
- Gloria Young, Founding President of Waco Mammoth Foundation

III. AGENDA

--Visit to Mayborn Museum Exhibit on Mammoth Bones (45-50 minutes)

--Visit to Waco Mammoth National Monument Bone Site (30-40 minutes)

--Waco Mammoth National Monument Dedication Ceremony (45 minutes)

- Larry Groth will give welcoming remarks (introduces everyone unless otherwise noted below)
- Presentation of Colors by the LBJ Colorguard

- The National Anthem
- Larry Groth will return to the podium to recognize special guests; introduce Gloria Young
- Gloria Young remarks on the history of Waco Mammoth National Monument
- Russ Whitlock remarks and give special presentation to Larry Groth (*surprise*)
- Malcolm Duncan remarks
- Ken Starr remarks
- Laura Bush remarks
- Jon Jarvis remarks; introduces Secretary Jewell
- Secretary Jewell remarks
- Larry Groth returns to podium to close the program

--Media Availability (15 minutes)

--Mock Archaeological Dig & Distribution of Every Kid in a Park Passes (45 minutes)

- You, Jon Jarvis, and approx. 20 4th Grade Students from Hillcrest Professional Development School

--NPCA Luncheon Honoring Dedication of Waco Mammoth National Historic Site (90 minutes)

- Approx. 100 supporters
- You have no formal role at the luncheon
- SJ Table: Jane Meyer, Mayor Malcolm and Susan Duncan, Nell and Jim Hawkins, Mary Ann and Don Parks, Nancy and Fred Logan
- Lunch will be served
- Ken Starr welcomes guests and delivers blessing; introduce Theresa Pierno.
- Theresa Pierno will deliver remarks and thank guests.
- Lunch continues.

IV. TALKING POINTS/REMARKS

Program talking points provided by O/S Comms attached.

Significance

- Only known nursery heard of Columbian Mammoths in the nation
- A total of 24 fossils have been excavated plus remains of a camel, saber-toothed cat, dwarf antelope, alligator and giant tortoise
- All collected specimens and archival materials/records housed in one location; the Mayborn Museum at Baylor University
- The five acres of the national monument and surrounding 104 acres of the Waco Mammoth Site offer excellent opportunities for further exploration and paleontological and geological research.
- Site and national monument retain a high degree of integrity as the area has not been disturbed beyond minor top level of ground.

- City of Waco held land ownership allowing for donation of initial acreage for national monument.

Site Specific Items of Importance

- Initial park developed through private donations of lands and over \$4 million in contributions demonstrating strong local support by private individuals, groups and organizations, local governments.
- NPS Special Resource Study found, in 2008, “the most effective and efficient approach to ensuring long-term protection of significant resources and providing opportunities for public enjoyment is for the NPS to join the existing management partnership with the City of Waco, Baylor University and the Waco Mammoth Foundation.”
- City has operated the Site since 2009 and will continue to support operations of the national monument. City is conducting all educational programs, NPS is recruiting for seasonal interpretive rangers who will allow the park to operate full time and respond to educational program requests.
- Baylor University continues to house and protect the fossil remains at Mayborn Museum. Additionally they provide oversight and monitoring of remains *in situ* within the national monument’s dig shelter.
- Waco Mammoth Foundation will continue to support the park financially and as a public advocate for future operations and development of the national monument.

V. KEY FACTS

Waco Mammoth terminology:

- “Site” means the entire 108 acre parcel designated as the authorized boundary of the national monument.
- “Monument” means the 7.11 acre parcel of fee simple ownership and rights-of-way that comprises the national monument and is surrounded by the remaining 100 acres.

VI. BACKGROUND

Museum

- From the date of initial discovery of bones in 1978, Baylor University and staff of the Mayborn Museum have been involved with the Mammoth site.
- From 1984 to present, Baylor University organized and administered all excavation activities, production of study papers, and research of fossil remains.

Greg McDonald, Senior Curator for NPS, states it is unusual for the entire collection from an excavation site to be housed in a single location. He believes this is a contributing aspect of the national monument in that the archival records and complete collection of fossils and biological material are in one place for research and scientific study.

A General Agreement, signed by Baylor University, The City of Waco, and the NPS commits the university to:

- continue stewardship of the Site's collected specimens and archives housed within the Mayborn Museum.
- continue to monitor the environmental conditions within the Dig Shelter and condition of the *in situ* fossil specimens displayed
- continue to promote scientific study and research opportunities through consultation with NPS

The ownership transfer of the archival collection to the City of Waco has been completed. The City intends to donate the collection to NPS as part of the July 2015 donation of lands to create the national monument. NPS has requested ownership not occur until a NPS paleontologist can be assigned to take responsibility for the collection. Until that time, Baylor University will continue to provide for safeguarding and access in consultation with NPS Curators.

Former First Lady Laura Bush expected to speak on importance of partnerships and private support and mention the upcoming centennial of NPS.

Dig Shelter

- Congressman Chet Edwards, in attendance at the dedication ceremony, secured a grant through Save America's Treasures Program to replace the "circus tent" that was protecting the *in situ* specimens with a more durable shelter that eventually became the large Dig Shelter you'll visit on the monument tour.
- The entire park area and all facilities have been designed, funded, and constructed by the City of Waco and the Waco Mammoth Foundation. To date nearly \$4 million has been invested.
- The City provides management and operations of the facilities and grounds and currently provides all the interpretive and educational programs. NOTE: A certificate of eligibility in the hands of the Site Manager to hire five NPS seasonal interpretive positions.
- To date, the national monument has no budget so Lyndon B. Johnson NHP is supporting the interpretive seasonal positions and making small purchases to support operations and programs in the park.

What you will see during the national monument tour constitutes the majority of NPS holdings. The national monument could grow to the full 108 acres over time and the City of Waco is open to enlarging the monument as necessary to incorporate visitor services, resources protection, and scientific research.

The City and Foundation developed a three-tier plan in 2010 to indicate a preferred development of the entire property. Their plans, including a visitor center, laboratory, children's discovery area, and nature trails will be considered during development of the park's Foundation Document and General Management Plan.

Dedication Ceremony

Former City Manager Larry Groth (pronounced growth) was an advocate for the Mammoth site to become a park and part of the NPS from the beginning of the Special Resource Study. Superintendent Russ Whitlock will make a surprise presentation during the ceremony designating Larry Groth as an honorary park ranger. He will be presented a ranger hat.

Gloria Young is a local celebrity and much-loved by the mammoth group. She and her husband F.M. Young have supported the idea of a national monument since the 1990's. Gloria's comments will offer a historical perspective since the first bone discovery in 1978. Her comments will be fun and light-hearted.

Timeline

- 2002: Special Resource Study authorized. Sponsored by U.S. Representative Chet Edwards (seat currently held by Bill Flores)
- 2008: Special Resource Study completed and transmitted to Washington Office
The preferred alternative was "partnership led by NPS."
City of Waco hosts a Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Waco Mammoth Site
- 2009: Waco Mammoth Site opens to the public
The architects carefully referenced NPS styles become evident even down to the entrance sign copied after Curecanti National Monument.
- 2009-2012: Several attempts to pass legislation creating Waco Mammoth National Monument, but met with resistance from NPS due to requirement of no Federal funding.
John Nau attempted to find compromise with representatives of Congressman Flores and Senator Cornyn with no success.
- 2013: Suzanne Dixon, Regional Director for NPCA contacted representatives from the Waco Mammoth Foundation, City of Waco, and Baylor University. She offered to open doors in the Congress and White House and assist representatives from Waco to have an opportunity to plead their case. After several frustrating attempts through the legislative route, the group agreed to pursue designation under the Antiquities Act.

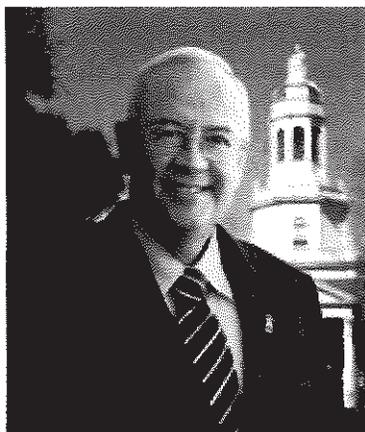
VI. ATTACHMENTS

Bios (below)

Attachment 1: Program Talking Points

Attachment 2: WacoTrib.com editorial on former City Manager Larry Groth

Ken Starr
President & Chancellor, Baylor University



A distinguished academician, lawyer, public servant and sixth-generation Texan, Judge Ken Starr serves as the chief executive officer of Baylor University, holding the titles of President and Chancellor. On June 1, 2010, Judge Starr began his service as the 14th president to serve Baylor University and was named to the position of President and Chancellor on November 11, 2013. In providing the additional title, he is charged with the task of increasing Baylor's influence in the nation and around the world.

Judge Starr also serves on the faculty of Baylor Law School as The Louise L. Morrison Chair of Constitutional Law and teaches a seminar on current Constitutional issues. Judge Starr is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) and currently serves as President of the Southern University Conference. In addition, he serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Baylor College of Medicine and the Board of Trustees for Baylor Scott & White Health.

In September 2010, Judge Starr established his first fundraising priority: The President's Scholarship Initiative, a three-year challenge to raise \$100 million for student scholarships which was completed five months ahead of its goal. He also is leading Baylor into the future under *Pro Futuris*, a new strategic vision developed with the collective wisdom of the extended Baylor family.

Judge Starr has argued 36 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, including 25 cases during his service as Solicitor General of the United States from 1989-93. He also served as United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit from 1983 to 1989, as law clerk to Chief Justice Warren E. Burger from 1975 to 1977 and as law clerk to Fifth Circuit Judge David W. Dyer from 1973 to 1974. Starr was appointed to serve as Independent Counsel for five investigations, including Whitewater, from 1994 to 1999.

Prior to coming to Baylor, Judge Starr served for six years as The Duane and Kelly Roberts Dean and Professor of Law at Pepperdine, where he taught current constitutional issues and civil procedure. He has also been of counsel to the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where he was a partner from 1993 to 2004, specializing in appellate work, antitrust, federal courts, federal jurisdiction and constitutional law. Judge Starr previously taught constitutional law as an adjunct

professor at New York University School of Law and was a distinguished visiting professor at George Mason University School of Law and Chapman Law School. He is admitted to practice in California, the District of Columbia, Virginia and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Judge Starr is the author of more than 25 publications, and his book, "First Among Equals: The Supreme Court in American Life," published in 2002, was praised by U.S. Circuit Judge David B. Sentelle as "eminently readable and informative... not just the best treatment to-date of the Court after (Chief Justice Earl) Warren, it is likely to have that distinction for a long, long time." A member of Columbus Avenue Baptist Church in Waco, Judge Starr and his wife, Alice, have three children and six grandchildren.

Gloria & F.M. Young



F. M. Young was born to Anna Marie Huber and John Young on January 13, 1930 in Tours, TX, the youngest son of a family that would eventually consist of seven boys and three girls. After a series of moves in early childhood his family eventually settled in the Speegleville area, where he attended local schools through the tenth grade. He then left school to begin construction work with his two brothers Raymond T. and Bernard W. full time, operating his first bulldozer at sixteen years old. The brothers progressed from odd jobs performed for local farmers to local roadwork, creating the first asphalt plant in Waco in 1948 and working on official highway projects in 1950. From their success the Young brothers purchased a grocery store in Speegleville for their parents to run. Around 1953 F. M. began dating Gloria Davis...

Gloria June Davis Young was born in Waco, TX on October 10, 1933, the only child of Roy Haywood Davis and Mildred Thomas Davis. Gloria lived initially in Moody, TX until around age two when the Davis family then moved to the Speegleville area where most of her extended family was located. Her father ran the family farm while her mother helped on the farm during the years she was not teaching school locally. Gloria attended Speegleville schools, then entered the Waco school system for high school. Graduating in 1952, Gloria knew she wanted to continue the family tradition and become a teacher as well, so she enrolled in North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas) in Denton, TX. While in college she began dating F. M. Young during her trips back home, and in 1955 she both graduated early with her teaching degree and married the love of her life.

After their wedding on June 4, 1955, the Youngs moved into a house on 41st and Hillcrest in Waco, TX. Gloria began teaching at Hillcrest Elementary that September while F. M. continued expanding Young Brothers Inc. with Raymond T. and Bernard W. They had two daughters (Melanie in 1957 and Kim in 1958), adopted an infant son, Davis, in 1967 then welcomed Susan in 1969. After seventeen years, the Youngs moved to a lake house in Speegleville where they live currently, maintaining a separate neighboring house used to house visits from their four children and seven grandchildren.

Young Brothers Inc. continued to grow in the latter half of the 1900s. From a small trailer in 1950, the company expanded by opening a new plant behind the old Waco Dam in 1954, then doubled their capacity again by 1958 when the headquarters moved to a new location on Mill Street. The variety of their projects expanded as well. New jobs ranged from helping with recovery efforts after the 1953 Waco Tornado, to dredging the Brazos River for gravel to ever-more audacious highway contracts in McLennan County and beyond. Then in 1960 the brothers decided to part ways. F. M. continued to run Young Brothers road construction while Raymond T. focused on his new Slurry Seal company and Bernard W. (ever the inventor) formed Tymco, a business built around a regenerative air sweeper he created.

After the split in 1961, Young Brothers Inc. expanded further and led the way in several construction methods in the state of Texas and beyond. Several new plants were built in new cities, and in 1980 F. M. built the first computerized concrete plant in Central Texas. F. M. was active in a number of professional organizations, served as President of the Association of General Contractors (AGC) in 1985 and eventually purchased a helicopter to travel between his Waco and Bryan operations. In 2003, seeking a less involved and active role in operations, F. M. agreed to sell the company to MDU Resources. He worked as a consultant for MDU for a while, then stayed busy helping management at Brazos Paving, an offshoot company he still owned in Bryan until he sold the company to the employees via an ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) and officially retired.

Philanthropy

Gloria and F. M. Young have a rich history of donating to Waco institutions. Throughout his career, F. M. has used his construction prowess and resources to provide free services to various churches, schools and neighborhoods. Specifically for Baylor University, the company donated the concrete for the scoreboard at Floyd Casey Stadium and created a marina on the Brazos River for the Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Historic Village. The Youngs have always taken an interest in the Brazos River district in Waco, promoting revitalization projects and creating the Brazos Queen II as a tourist attraction.

There have been a number of historical donations from the Youngs as well. When the W. R. Poage estate was auctioned, they purchased a number of items with the express intent to house them in the W. R. Poage Political Library at Baylor University. Also in 1959 the Youngs donated a historic home on Mill Street, the East Terrace House, to the Waco Heritage Society which is now part of the historic homes collection maintained by the Historic Waco Foundation.

**Malcom Duncan
Mayor of Waco**



Malcolm Duncan, Jr. was elected as Mayor on May 12, 2012. Prior to that he served on the Waco City Council beginning June 1, 2010 as the representative for District V. Duncan is a retired businessman, a civic leader and the son of former City Councilman and Mayor Malcolm Duncan Sr.

Duncan has served on the boards of the Waco-McLennan County Health District, Waco-McLennan County Library Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, and Waco Business League. In addition, he worked on the city's Planning and Zoning Commission.

Malcolm Duncan, Jr. is currently the president of Duncan Motors, Inc. of Waco, and has been a prominent figure in the Freightliner and automotive sales industry. Duncan received his BBA from the University of Texas in 1975. His family includes his wife Susan Closs Duncan, two daughters and two granddaughters.

Luncheon Table Assignment

Jane Meyer She and her husband **Paul** are well known philanthropist in this area. Personal friends of Gloria & F. M. Young. Their family foundation made the first major gift to the Mammoth Foundation at the start of fund raising for construction of the park....months later after viewing the bones held in storage at BU, visiting the dig site, and realizing we had to have all the 3.5 million in hand before the City would move to let contract to begin construction, he asked how much had been raised to date....was told 1.7 million and he immediately made a matching donation to the 1.7 million so the construction could begin immediately to protect the bones.

Mr. Meyer passed away two years ago but Mrs. Meyer has continued in her support of the site. Mr. Meyer was the founder of SMI (Success Motivation Institute) and many other investments. Their VERY generous gift made it possible to "protect the bones" which were in danger of destruction by the elements, varmints or vandals.

Malcolm Duncan, Mayor of Waco, His parents were some of the first supporters of the Mammoth project. His father was mayor of Waco and his mother served on the Waco Independent School District board ...very interested in education and formed the Mac Grants that provide scholarships to MCC for disadvantaged students. Malcolm Jr has been an excellent leader following in his parents' footsteps. He led the movement to update the Humane Society facilities and help them move to a no-kill facility. He has been a strong supporter of the Mammoth Site and serves on the Mammoth Foundation Board. His **wife Susan** prefers to

stay out of the lime light. She has spent her time being an excellent mother to their two daughters and loving her grandchildren.

Nell and Jim Hawkins Jim is a successful businessman in Waco and a very generous donor to multiple charities and events in this area. He is in investments.

Nell is a bundle of energy and involved in many activities in our area. She and Jim entertain for various charities and special events in their magnificent home overlooking Lake Waco. They have been generous donors to the Mammoth Foundation and opened their home to the public....for \$100 a ticket as a fundraiser for the Mammoth Site. She serves on our Fundraising Committee.

MaryAnn and Don Parks...Don has sold his business and retired. They are well known for their generosity to various charities in our community. They were very generous to our fundraising efforts when we were raising funds to build the facilities for the Waco Mammoth Site.

Nancy and Fred Logan...Lovely couple....gave the funds to have the Life Size Mammoth painted on the wall inside the shelter. Nancy is on the Fundraising committee as our Corresponding Secretary and writes lovely personal thank you notes to all of our donors at the time of their donation. Of course an "official" letter follows with the tax information. I am not certain of Fred's occupation. They are longtime residents of Waco.

Talking Points for Secretary Jewell
Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation Celebration
Waco, Texas
October 5, 2105

Suggested Length: 5minutes

Objectives:

- Thank the local community/groups, fed/state partners for vision, leadership
- Highlight commitment to preserving lands/waters for next generation
- Reiterate President's commitment to conservation – largest amount of area protected; more ink in his pen

I. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- I'm here today, most of all, to **thank you** for all to your work to make this happen

- **Former First Lady Laura Bush**
 - Before she was the country's First Lady, she was your First Lady!; continues to advocate for conservation in her home state
 - Honorary Co-Chair of NPS Centennial with FLOTUS

- **Jon Jarvis & team** at NPS
 - **Russ Whitlock**, Superintendent at Lyndon B. Johnson NHP **& Staff**

- **Gloria Young**, Founding President, Waco Mammoth Foundation
 - Supported idea of national monument since 1990's

- Many **federal, state and local partners** who have worked for years to make this day possible. This day is for you.

II. SPECIAL DAY

- Happy to celebrate the designation of Waco Mammoth National Monument with you today.
 - Many years in the making – some could say **65,000 years!**
 - Represents hard work from many of you here today since the **discovery more than 25 years ago**
- Because you know, as I do - we have an obligation to the **next generation** to leave our **land, water and wildlife better than we found it.**
 - **Critical** to connect our nation's **young people – from every background and every community** – to the great outdoors
- Glad to see that people have already been **learning and benefiting** from this place with the help of local partners
 - Baylor University
 - Continue to house and protect the fossil remains at Mayborn Museum
 - Staff monitors remains in their original resting place within the dig shelter
 - City of Waco
 - Has operated site since 2009; will continue to conduct educational programming
- **But there's a lot left to learn here**, need to make sure next generation of scientists gets that chance

III. PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CONSERVATION VISION

- President Obama doubled down on **your community's hard work** when he declared this place a National Monument in July
- He also **fulfilled the visions** of two other communities by **designating new national monuments in California and Nevada**

- With that action, he has continued his legacy of protecting **more lands and waters than any other President**, using his authority time and time again to **preserve some of the places most important to our history**.
 - Declared or expanded **19 national monuments**
 - Protecting more than **260 million acres** of public lands/waters

IV. CONCLUSION

- **Margaret Mead** said: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
- Thanks to **your vision, your leadership and your elbow grease – *because of you*** – our children, our grandchildren, and their grandchildren will have the opportunity to know and love this place as we do, and perhaps take us further down the path of discovery

###

EDITORIAL: Former Waco city manager Larry Groth never forgot critical relevance of community



Posted: Sunday, March 9, 2014 12:01 am

Former President George W. Bush famously said the judgment of history takes many years to coalesce, but we'll take a stab at summing up Larry Groth's considerable record as a longtime city administrator, even though he's but days into retirement. One of his greatest attributes was evident at his Feb. 26 retirement party at the Waco Convention Center. Besides the expected number of city employees, many members of Waco's business community and nonprofit sector paid homage.

That's relevant. It confirms Groth's management of the city of Waco was inclusive of the community at large — particularly critical when you're part of a charge, as Groth has been, to address such steep challenges as chronic poverty, homelessness and recidivism. True, over his long career, he's been behind massive street repair projects; expansion of Cameron Park Zoo; and ensuring our water supply is pleasing to the taste and sufficient to sustain both industry and neighborhoods.

But the Waco native also has been shrewd enough to know unless people's lives are significantly improved, unless they have a shot at sharing in its prosperity and design, all is for naught. In an interview we conducted with Groth last fall upon announcement of his March 1 retirement, he said such projects as the \$46 million Dissolved Air Flotation plant at Lake Waco to clean up water from the dairy country upstream and passage of a \$63 million bond package that, among other things, renovated the Convention Center and improved Cameron Park, weren't the first things to spring to mind when he reflected on accomplishments.

"I'm going to have to think of projects, but the thing I'm really most proud of is the relationships I've built in this community," he said. "Because of those relationships, people would at least have a feeling of comfort and confidence when I said, 'This is something that in my professional opinion I think is best for the city,' even if it might have at first seemed kind of strange. Because of those relationships, people have been willing to do that. And that takes a lot of years to build. I really believe in trying to be honest, trying to be consistent, trying to do what's right. That's the single most important thing I could cite."

Fair enough, though history demands Groth be credited for much else during his years at City Hall, including his final 11 years as a busy city manager: pushing through a long-envisioned plan to raise Lake Waco by 7 feet; spearheading construction of a new low-water dam to keep Lake Brazos levels steady — important as riverfront development takes root; facilitating (with Assistant City Manager Wiley Stem III and Waco Mayor Malcolm Duncan Jr.) long-needed improvements in how our city addresses its problem of stray and abandoned dogs and cats; and helping launch the Waco Mammoth Site.

Given Groth's engineering background, it's no wonder he cites pride in the 20-year street reclamation project that began in the 1980s (though he credits successive city councils for continuing the program, even if it wasn't sexy). On the other hand, most of his time as city manager was spent not only on economic development — with an eye on downtown revitalization — but working with the Greater Waco Community Education Alliance, Baylor University and groups such as Mission Waco and public school officials to ensure the city is shaping the workforce needed for tomorrow's industry.

Groth, 62, plans on exploring the four corners of the nation on a new Harley Davidson given to him by community leaders as a going-away present. But in our corner of the world, he has acquitted himself with dedication, inclusiveness, transparency and technical savvy, leaving his successor, the Waco City Council and this community with far more than just a solid foundation upon which to expand and dream and celebrate.

MT WALO

(b) (5)

FAQs
Waco Mammoth National Monument

General/Process

What is a “national monument” established by the President?

- A “national monument” established by the President protects “objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated on lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government” (54 U.S.C. § 320301, known as the Antiquities Act). If the national monument is administered by the National Park Service (NPS), as most but not all national monuments are, it is subject to the same laws and policies as govern other units of the National Park System. Thus, an NPS national monument established by the President is a protected area similar to a national park, administered for the protection and enjoyment of its resources and values.

How does an area become a national monument?

- To be established by the President the area must meet the criteria of 54 U.S.C § 320301 (the Antiquities Act), including having objects of historic or scientific interest located on land already owned or controlled by the Federal government.
- The views of the public are carefully considered in the process.
- National monuments can also be created by Congress. These national monuments are established under their own own enabling statutes, rather than 54 U.S.C. § 320301.
- National monuments can be administered by Federal agencies other than NPS. The Presidential proclamation or Congressionally-enacted statute creating the national monument typically indicates which Federal agency is to administer it.

(b) (5)

How many national monuments are there?

- Of the more than 140 national monuments established by presidents since 1906, over 100 have been units of the National Park System (though a number have since been redesignated as other types of units within the National Park System, such as National Parks, National Historical Parks, etc.). With the addition of Waco Mammoth National Monument, there are currently 79 national monuments administered by the National Park Service, of which 53 were created by Presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act, and 26 by Congressional legislation.

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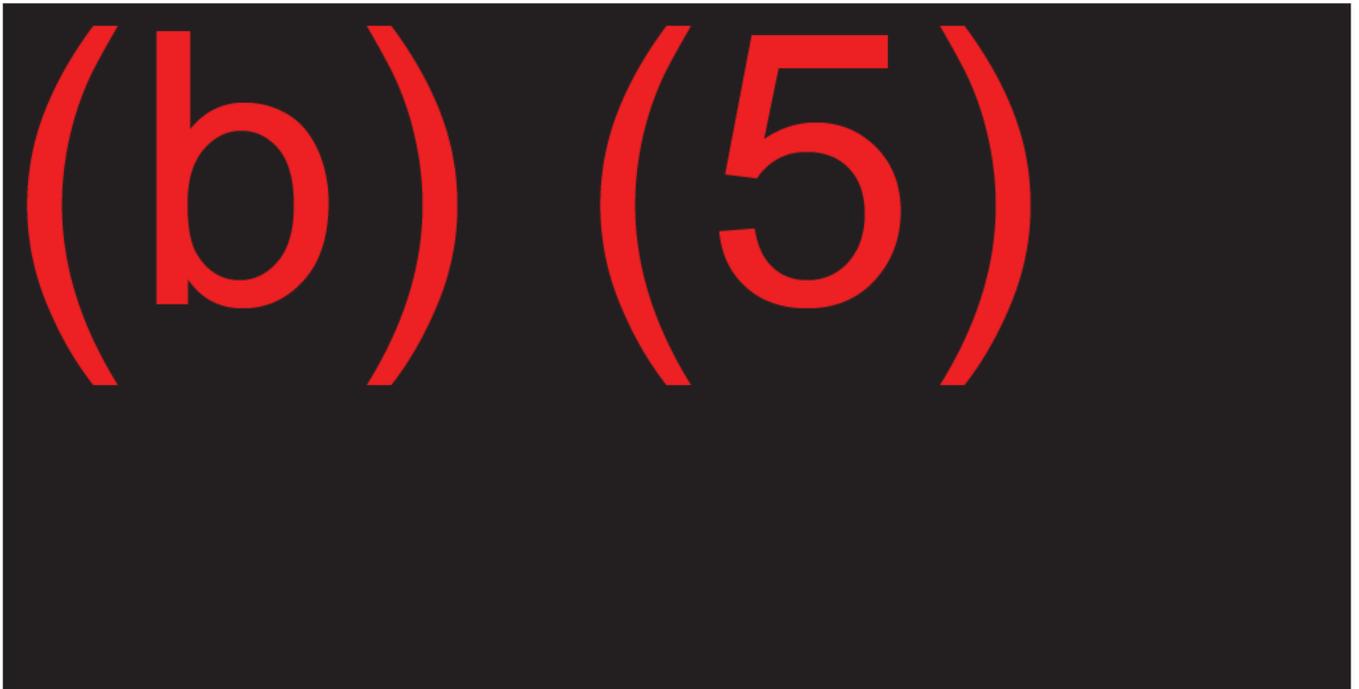
Waco Mammoth

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What is the Waco Mammoth National Monument?

- The Waco Mammoth National Monument includes within its boundary most of the current Waco Mammoth Site city park in Waco, Texas, located 4.5 miles north of the city's center. The Monument protects a site where paleontological excavation has unearthed extraordinary fossils of a nursery herd of Columbian Mammoths and other animals from the Pleistocene Epoch, including Western Camels, horses, saber-toothed cats, dwarf antelopes, American Alligators, and giant tortoises.



When will it take effect?

- The national monument was established at the time President Obama signed the proclamation.

1101 2013
April 26, 1978

Waco Mammoth National Monument Proposal

(b) (5)

Additional background:

The Waco Mammoth site provides a rare opportunity to understand and interpret the behavior and ecology of the now extinct Columbian Mammoth. In addition, both the excavation area and the land around it offer an excellent opportunity for further exploration and paleontological and geological research.

In 1978, Waco residents Paul Barron and Eddie Bufkin were looking for arrowheads and fossils along the Bosque River when they discovered a large bone protruding from the earth. Realizing the possible significance of this discovery, Mr. Barron and Mr. Bufkin immediately took the bone to the Strecker Museum at Baylor University for identification. The bone was identified as the upper leg bone of a Columbian Mammoth. Over the next 20 years, Baylor University oversaw the excavation of the site, where they found the remains of 24 Columbian Mammoths, including both adults and juveniles, as well as a Western Camel, saber-toothed cat, dwarf antelope, American Alligator, and giant tortoise. The Columbian Mammoths are the largest mammoth species and stood 12 to 14 feet tall and weighed seven to eight tons. Many of the discovered bones, including the remains of four Columbian Mammoths as well as the skeleton of the camel, remain in place, providing visitors an opportunity to view them.

MSD. 7/14/11
April Slayton

Secretary Jewell Applauds President Obama's Action to Establish Waco Mammoth National Monument

New National Park to Showcase Columbian Mammoth Fossils

WASHINGTON, DC – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell welcomed President Obama's designation of the Waco Mammoth Site as one of the nation's newest national monuments, permanently protecting the site where the extremely well-preserved fossils of a herd of Columbian Mammoths and other Ice Age animals have been found.

The Waco Mammoth National Monument provides a rare opportunity to understand and interpret the behavior and ecology of the now extinct Columbian Mammoth. In addition, both the excavation area and the land around it offer an excellent opportunity for further exploration and paleontological and geological research.

"The National Park System offers endless opportunities to inspire and teach us about the history of our nation, and the Waco Mammoth National Monument will share the wonder of scientific discovery with visitors from across the country and around the world," Jewell said, "Waco Mammoth National Monument provides another opportunity to inspire a new generation to love science and learn the thrill of discovery that a site like this can demonstrate first-hand."

The site will be managed by the National Park Service in cooperation with the City of Waco and Baylor University. The National Park Service will conduct a management planning process, working closely with these partners, community residents, and other groups that have devoted themselves to preserving the site for many years.

"The National Park Service is proud to work in partnership with the City of Waco and Baylor University to protect, preserve, and most importantly share the remarkable Waco Mammoth National Monument with the American people and visitors from around the world," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "The Waco Mammoth National Monument will engage students, visitors, and scientists alike with the story of these extinct mammoths. As the National Park Service prepares to celebrate its centennial in 2016, this new addition to our Park Service family will help more Americans develop lifelong relationships with parks as places where they can discover amazing things."

In 1978, Waco residents Paul Barron and Eddie Bufkin were looking for arrowheads and fossils along the Bosque River when they discovered a large bone protruding from the earth. Realizing the possible significance of this discovery, Mr. Barron and Mr. Bufkin immediately took the bone to the Strecker Museum at Baylor University for identification. The bone was identified as the upper leg bone of a Columbian Mammoth. Over the next 20 years, Baylor University oversaw the excavation of the site, where they found the remains of 24 Columbian Mammoths, including both adults and juveniles, as well as a Western Camel, saber-toothed cat, dwarf antelope, American Alligator, and giant tortoise. The Columbian Mammoths are the largest mammoth species and stood 12 to 14 feet tall and weighed seven to eight tons. Many of the discovered bones, including the remains of four Columbian Mammoths as well as the skeleton of the camel, remain in place, providing visitors an opportunity to view them.

Congress directed the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of the Waco Mammoth Site, which was completed in 2008. That study confirmed that the Waco Mammoth resources are nationally significant, worthy of permanent preservation and suitable and feasible for inclusion in the national park system. In April 2015, Director Jarvis participated in a public meeting at the Waco Mammoth Site to hear from the community about the potential inclusion of the site in the National Park System. A large crowd participated in the public meeting and voiced strong support for the proposal.

The City of Waco has operated the Waco Mammoth Site as a park since 2009, in partnership with Baylor University and with support from the nonprofit Waco Mammoth Foundation, Inc. The city donated to the United States approximately 5 acres, which includes the excavation site and the dig shelter, making it possible to establish the monument. Nearly the entire Waco Mammoth Site will be included within the boundary of the National Monument.

The site remains the nation's first and only recorded discovery of a nursery herd, including females and their offspring, of Pleistocene mammoths. Of the 24 mammoths uncovered to date, at least 18 were part of the nursery herd, and more remains likely remain in the area. As a result of a natural catastrophic event, the entire nursery herd died at the same moment in time, which left the skeletons relatively intact. The site offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to examine the matriarchal herd structure and behavior of this extinct species. For example, the herd apparently formed a circular defensive position before death, and juvenile mammoth skeletons rest atop the long tusks of adults, suggesting that the adults were trying to save their offspring from the rising waters and sucking mud.

The Antiquities Act was first used by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

With this new designation, President Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 16 national monuments. Altogether, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as Cèsar E. Chávez National Monument in California, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

B-WACO

Waco

(b) (5)

Basin and Range:

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Berryessa:

(b) (5)

General Notifications:

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

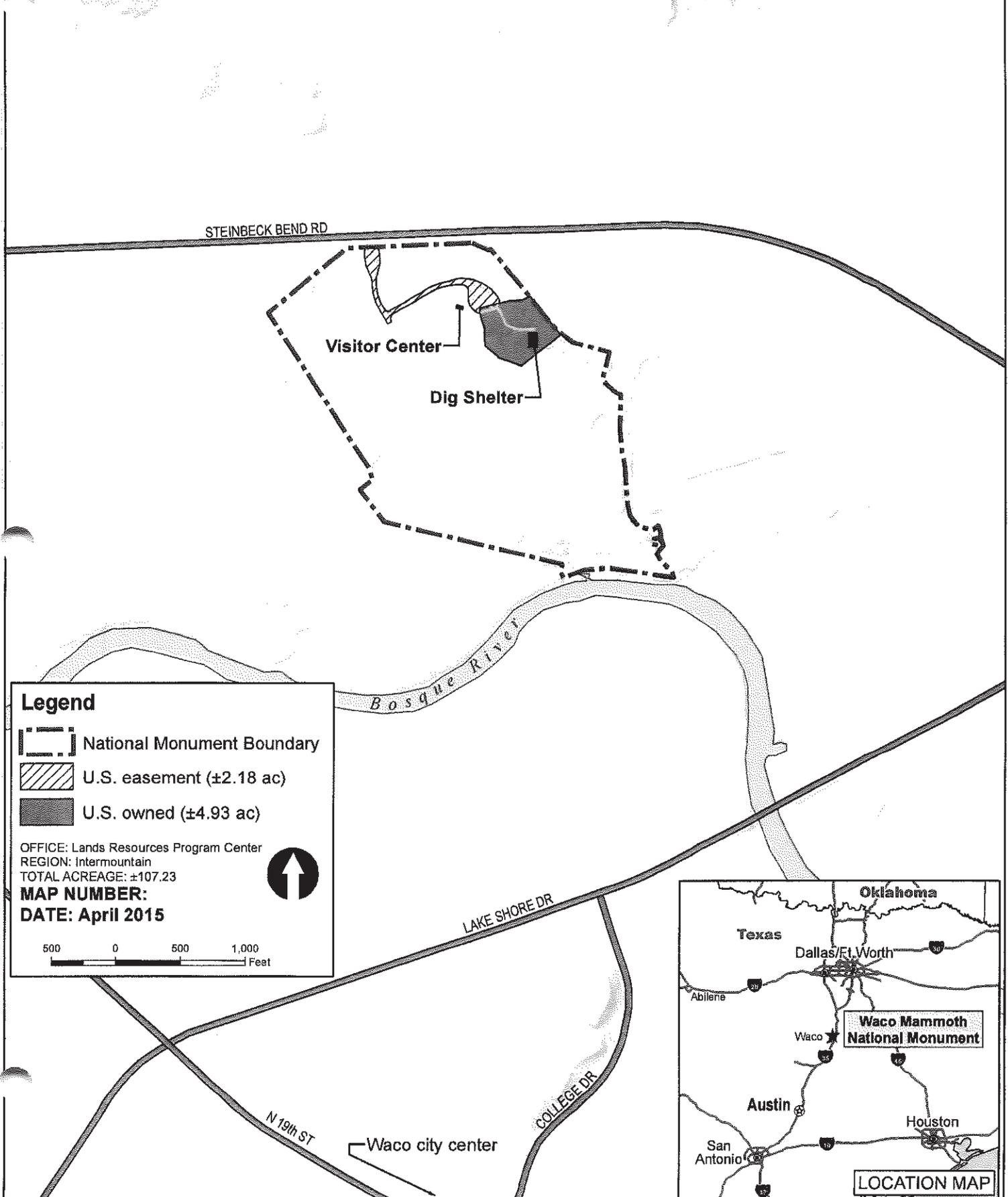
(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Waco Mammoth National Monument

Waco, Texas

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



M-WACO

Memorandum/ Proclamation

- In progress – internal review next week

Lands

- ESA – review final copy due tomorrow from Anthony Castilaw – we get up to 2 weeks to review – Sarae to Scott Thompson-Buchanan – Ray Todd - Colin
- Title – revised title commitment due today?
- Preliminary Title Opinion – after all materials are received – next week
- Draft deed has been sent to the City for preliminary review, but will soon need closer City review – still needs description of easement which is being surveyed – and City will survey 52' setback – maybe 10 days?
- Letter requesting waiver of deed condition (conservation easement) has been sent to DOJ
- Donor letter of intent awaiting Greg's input
- City Council Executive Session on Tuesday went well according to City attorney. We are checking with her to see the form of the authorization that will be presented for a vote on April 21. We think it authorizes the City Mgr (Dale Fisseler) to sign.

Map

- Scott Thompson-Buchanan can turn it around in a day or 2. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Bibliography

- Greg and Michele will be in charge to update SRS bibliography

(b) (5)



Ojeda-dodds, Gisella <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

FW: Pullman National Historical Park

12 messages

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Dec 10, 2014 at 4:26 PM

To: Maria.Rodriguez2@cityofchicago.org

Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Maria – Does David have time tomorrow to quickly discuss this letter?

Thanks,

Nikki

Nikki Buffa

Deputy Chief of Staff

U.S. Department of the Interior

202-219-3861

nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

From: David Doig [mailto:ddoig@cnigroup.org]

Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 7:32 AM

To: Nicole_Buffa@ios.doi.gov

Cc: Lynn McClure

Subject: Pullman National Historical Park

Secretary Jewell,

Please find attached a letter sent to President Obama in care of the White House Council on Environmental Quality from some of the groups in Pullman that have been working toward a national park or monument designation for a few years. We remain very dedicated to seeing Chicago's first national park established very soon.

Timeliness is critical as all the deed work is complete for the State of Illinois to transfer land to the National Park Service. After Governor Rauner takes office on January 12th, that deed process will have to start over. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Doig

President

Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives

 **Pullman Partners Letter to the White House (2).pdf**
128K

Rodriguez, Maria <Maria.Rodriguez2@cityofchicago.org>
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Dec 10, 2014 at 6:28 PM

Hi Nikki,

David is available tomorrow at 9:30am, 12:noon or 4:30pm CST.

Let me know what works best.

-Maria

Maria D. Rodriguez

Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Staff

and Senior Advisor to the Mayor

Office of Mayor Rahm Emanuel

312-744-5047

Maria.rodriguez2@cityofchicago.org

From: Nicole Buffa [mailto:nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 3:27 PM
To: Rodriguez, Maria
Cc: Gisella Ojeda-dodds
Subject: FW: Pullman National Historical Park

[Quoted text hidden]

This e-mail, and any attachments thereto, is intended only for use by the addressee(s) named herein and may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail (or the person responsible for delivering this document to the intended recipient), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, printing or copying of this e-mail, and any attachment thereto, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please respond to the individual sending the message, and permanently delete the original and any copy of any e-mail and printout thereof.

Ojeda-dodds, Gisella <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Rodriguez, Maria" <Maria.Rodriguez2@cityofchicago.org>
Cc: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Dec 10, 2014 at 6:34 PM

Hi Maria - Any chance the call could be at 8:30AM CST/9:30AM EST or 1:30-3PM CST/2:30-4PM EST. Thanks in advance! Gisella

[Quoted text hidden]

--
Gisella Ojeda-Dodds
Executive Assistant to Nikki Buffa, Deputy Chief of Staff
Immediate Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 "C" Street, NW, MS: 7229-MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240
Telephone: (202) 208-4123/4105
Facsimile: (202) 208-4561
E-mail: Gisella_Ojeda-Dodds@ios.doi.gov

Rodriguez, Maria <Maria.Rodriguez2@cityofchicago.org>
To: "Ojeda-dodds, Gisella" <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, Dec 10, 2014 at 6:59 PM

Sorry, the times I sent are the only times that work for David.

From: Ojeda-dodds, Gisella [mailto:gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2014 5:34 PM
To: Rodriguez, Maria
Cc: Nicole Buffa
Subject: Re: Pullman National Historical Park

[Quoted text hidden]

Ojeda-dodds, Gisella <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Dec 11, 2014 at 9:56 AM

Good Morning - seems these times aren't meshing with your schedule. Can you duck out at 10:30AM during Leshy or at 1PM during your lunch with Kerry. G

[Quoted text hidden]

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Ojeda-dodds, Gisella" <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Dec 11, 2014 at 11:10 AM

Can we find times tomorrow?

[Quoted text hidden]

Ojeda-dodds, Gisella <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Rodriguez, Maria" <Maria.Rodriguez2@cityofchicago.org>

Thu, Dec 11, 2014 at 11:17 AM

Hi Maria - any chance he has some availability for tomorrow? Gisella

[Quoted text hidden]

Rodriguez, Maria <Maria.Rodriguez2@cityofchicago.org>
To: "Ojeda-dodds, Gisella" <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Dec 11, 2014 at 2:46 PM

Hi Gisella,

The only time that works for David tomorrow is 9am to 10am CST.

-Maria

From: Ojeda-dodds, Gisella [mailto:gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2014 10:18 AM
To: Rodriguez, Maria

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Ojeda-dodds, Gisella <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Rodriguez, Maria" <Maria.Rodriguez2@cityofchicago.org>

Thu, Dec 11, 2014 at 5:16 PM

9:45AM CST / 10:45AM EST is fine. I'll send the invite out now - what is the best number to have Nikki call? Gisella

[Quoted text hidden]

Rodriguez, Maria <Maria.Rodriguez2@cityofchicago.org>
To: "Ojeda-dodds, Gisella" <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Dec 11, 2014 at 5:19 PM

Great!

(b) (6)

From: Ojeda-dodds, Gisella [mailto:gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2014 4:16 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Ojeda-dodds, Gisella <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Rodriguez, Maria" <Maria.Rodriguez2@cityofchicago.org>

Thu, Dec 11, 2014 at 6:34 PM

Great - I've just sent the invite. Gisella

[Quoted text hidden]

Rodriguez, Maria <Maria.Rodriguez2@cityofchicago.org>
To: "Ojeda-dodds, Gisella" <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Dec 11, 2014 at 7:06 PM

Thanks!

From: Ojeda-dodds, Gisella [mailto:gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2014 5:34 PM
To: Rodriguez, Maria

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

**Bronzeville Historical Society, Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives,
Historic Pullman Foundation, Illinois Labor History Society,
Mercy Housing Lakefront, PullmanArts,
Pullman Civic Organization, Pullman Wheelworks Residents**

December 9, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As people who live and work in the Pullman neighborhood, we write to remind you of the massive amount of support for establishing a national monument in our community. We have been working for many years toward this goal and have grown that support, numbering now in the tens of thousands. To illustrate the passion for creating a national park at Pullman, the August public meeting moderated by National Park Service Director, Jon Jarvis, attracted nearly 600 people on the same night that Jackie Robinson West – our neighbor to the west – was playing in the Little League World Series!

The national monument designation at Pullman will come to a community that is experiencing strong, steady investment, which bodes well for assisting the National Park Service in its mission.

- Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives has invested more than \$5 million to renovate dozens of historic rowhomes within the proposed monument boundary.
- Mercy Housing invested more than \$15 million to preserve the Historic Pullman Wheelworks, also within the boundary and now apartments for 200 families.
- The State of Illinois is finishing a \$4 million renovation to the Hotel Florence.
- Pullman residents have invested more than \$3.5 million in private façade and residential improvements.
- In the last few years, more than \$100 million – 80 percent of which has come from private funds – has been invested into making Pullman a strong, sustainable and accessible neighborhood.

Seizing on the energy created by this investment, and by a national monument designation, Pullman will this winter, welcome teams of Chicago urban planners, designers, architects, and economists for a visioning workshop. At the end of the three-day workshop we will have plans for improving transit, leveraging educational programs, renovating historic buildings and attracting new businesses in our new national park. And in true Pullman fashion, we will begin to build support and investment for these improvements that will benefit residents, businesses, visitors, and the National Park Service.

With the year coming to a close, we hope to celebrate Pullman being designated as Chicago's first national park within the next few weeks. We are standing by eagerly for the opportunity to work with the National Park Service in making Pullman America's next great, urban national park.

Respectfully,

Sherry Williams
President/Founder
Bronzeville Historical Society

Michael Shymanski, AIA
President
Historic Pullman Foundation

David Doig
President
Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives

Larry Spivack
President
Illinois Labor History Society

Mark Angelini
President
Mercy Housing Lakefront

Tom McMahon
President
Pullman Civic Organization

Ann Alspaugh
President
PullmanArts

Marie Robinson
President
Pullman Wheelworks Residents

Cc: Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell, Senator Richard Durbin, Senator Mark Kirk, Congresswoman Robin Kelly, National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis,

Confidential - Draft Internal Working Document

Pullman Historic District

(b) (5)

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

MEETING WITH CHICAGO MAYOR RAHM EMANUEL

DATE: October 6, 2014
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 3:30PM – 4:00PM
FROM: John Blair, Director, OIEA (202)208-6649

I. PURPOSE

Our initial understanding was that Mayor Rahm Emanuel (D) was going to be in town, and that he wanted to say hello and give you an update on the STEM schools you visited in February. In the last few days, however, we now understand that the Mayor is chiefly interested in discussing that status of the proposed Pullman National Monument. Mayor Emanuel would also like to briefly thank you for the National Park Service’s working with the Chicago Cubs’ Baseball team on the historic preservation of Wrigley Field.

Note: You have an internal staff briefing on Pullman already scheduled for Friday afternoon at 2:00 pm. Your meeting with Mayor Emanuel is closed press.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel
- Tommy Beaudreau
- John Blair
- Melissa Green, City of Chicago Federal Affairs Director
- David Spielfogel, Senior Advisor to the Mayor

III. BACKGROUND

Pullman Historic District (from materials for your Internal Pullman Update on Friday 10/3)

The Pullman National Historic Landmark District covers approximately 300 acres of the Pullman neighborhood in southeast Chicago. Most houses are privately owned and maintained. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency manages the Administration and Factory Complex and the Hotel Florence as a historic site, and the city of Chicago manages the Pullman Landmark District. The Historic Pullman Foundation operates a visitor center and owns several properties in the district. Other organizations work toward the interpretation and improvement of the district.

From the start of the Pullman Palace Car Company in 1867, George Pullman employed a mostly white workforce to manufacture the palace cars, but he recruited the first porters, waiters, and maids from the population of former house slaves to serve the affluent customers. These service jobs, while lower-paying, had prestige in the African-American community.

The Pullman porters played a major role in the rise of the African-American middle class and the development of the civil rights movement of the 20th century. Pullman porters remained a group of

exclusively African-American men throughout the life of the Pullman car operations. Work as a Pullman porter garnered steady wages, the opportunity to earn sizeable tips and to travel, and respect in the African-American community.

In 1894 Pullman factory workers walked off the job. In solidarity with the Pullman workers, American Railway Union (ARU) members nationwide boycotted Pullman cars, disrupting rail traffic across much of the nation. With the support of the ARU, the strike that began as a walkout at the Pullman factory grew into one of America's largest labor strikes, paralyzing most of the railroads west of Detroit. On June 27, 1894, as the Pullman strike and boycott were growing, Congress passed legislation designating Labor Day a federal holiday, and President Grover Cleveland signed it. The Pullman strike of 1894 spurred final federal action in an attempt to placate workers across the nation.

The Pullman Palace Car Company, renamed the Pullman Company in 1900, was the focus of another important labor event. In 1937, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP), an influential African-American union founded in 1925 by A. Philip Randolph, won a labor contract for the Pullman porters from the company. The Pullman Company was the nation's largest employer of African Americans, and Pullman porters composed 44 percent of the Pullman Company workforce. The porters successfully voted to have the BSCP serve as their bargaining agent, forcing the Pullman Company to recognize the union. By 1937, the BSCP had successfully negotiated its first collective bargaining agreement with the Pullman Company, leading to higher salaries, overtime rates, better job security, and increased protection for workers' rights through grievance procedures. It was the first major labor agreement between a union led by African Americans and a corporation, a significant event contributing to the rise of the civil rights movement in the United States.

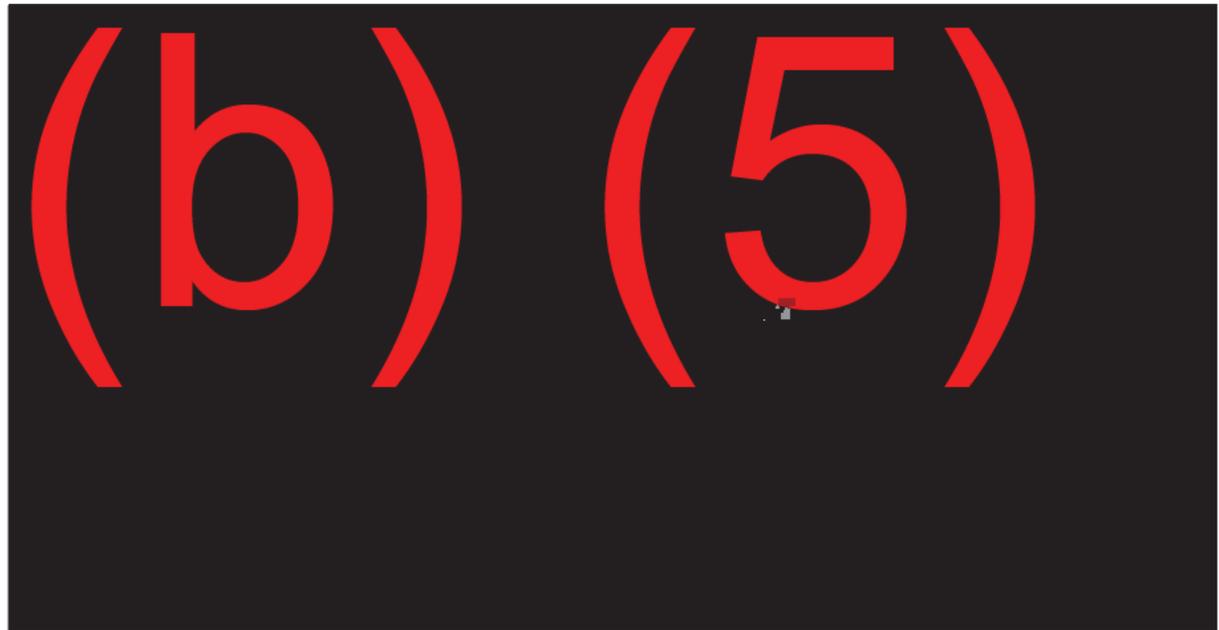
A. Philip Randolph expanded his agenda once he became the leader of the foremost black labor organization in the United States. In 1937, Randolph was chosen as the leader of the National Negro Congress (NNC), an umbrella organization that united many of the major black civil rights organizations of the day. Years later, when he was vice-president of the AFL-CIO and also working with various civil rights organizations, Randolph became one of the leaders of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Discussion:





Next Steps:



Wrigley Field, Chicago, Illinois

The Chicago Cubs are undertaking a \$300-million renovation of Wrigley Field and have submitted a certification application to the National Park Service (NPS) for the 20% historic rehabilitation tax credit. The NPS has met several times with the Cubs as well as been in contact with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and the city's Commission on Chicago Landmarks concerning the project. The NPS reviewed the Part 1 application (Evaluation of Significance) in March 2013 and determined that Wrigley Field is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The NPS conditionally approved the Part 2 application (Description of Proposed Work) on March 2014 and has approved several amendments to the Part 2 application. A proposed Jumbotron and another large sign in the outfield bleachers were approved as part of the March approval. Currently, one amendment remains under review by the NPS that includes the proposed relocation of the bullpen and additional commercial advertising in the outfield. The NPS is awaiting the submission of additional information from the Cubs sometime this month, including some revisions to their signage plan.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel has been largely supportive of the project in the Cubs' negotiations with the City over the proposed changes to the ballpark and other city restrictions on the ballpark's operations. The ballpark is a designated city landmark, and in July the Commission on Chicago Landmarks approved the further expansion of the bleachers and a revised signage scheme with additional and larger outfield signs than previously approved by the NPS. The NPS has indicated that any additional new signage must meet the Secretary's Standards, both individually as well as relative to its cumulative impact on the historic character and appearance of the ballpark.

The tax incentives program is administered by the NPS and the IRS, in partnership with the State Historic Preservation Offices. Newspaper reports indicate that the Cubs are in discussions with the owners of the rooftop clubs opposite the ballpark, who say that the proposed new outfield signs will block views and hurt their businesses. This issue is outside the purview of the NPS—the NPS's review is limited to certifying that a building is historic, and therefore eligible for the program, and that the rehabilitation preserves the building's historic character and features and meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

STEM Education/February Chicago Visit

The following background is simply to refresh your memory regarding your February 6, 2014, visit to Chicago. During that visit you met with Mayor Emanuel, discussed STEM Education and Early College STEM Schools (ECSS), and you visited the Michele Clark Academic Preparatory High School.

In February, you visited Michele Clark Academic Preparatory High School, a Chicago public school, located on Chicago's West Side in the heart of the South Austin Community. In 2002, Clark became a high school with the addition of the first 9th grade class, and now serves students in grades 6 - 12. Michele Clark Academic Preparatory High School is one of the five Chicago Public Schools with a STEM focus and corporate sponsor affiliate. Michele Clark partners directly with Cisco to prepare students for higher education and provides opportunities for potential employment with Cisco. More information on this program is below. Michelle Clark has a robotics club, which is building its own VEX robot through a partnership with Northeastern Illinois University. The program provides students with experiences in Engineering concepts, Physical and Digital robot design, computer programming skills, and preparation for qualifying VEX Competitions in Illinois. The VEX Robotics Design System is a robotic kit intended to introduce students to the world of robotics, and comes with 4 electric motors, 4 wheels, gears, and structural parts.

The school also has three completed Sea Perch robots, funded by a U.S. Navy grant. Michele Clark has its remote controlled sailboats, and one of its IT classrooms has now been upgraded with a high-tech Promethean board. The school's academic performance was strong in 2012-2013 and is doing well so far this year. The current 20-week Freshman On-Track rate is 95%, up from 89% last year.

Early College STEM Schools (ECSS) connect high school, college, and the world of work through dynamic partnerships and pioneers a new vision for college and career readiness. With a unique Early College model, students will follow CPS high school graduation requirements but will also have the opportunity to graduate high school with industry certifications, significant college credit,

and possibly an Associate's Degree. CPS, the City Colleges, and their corporate sponsors work together to ensure that students have an opportunity to pursue a career in technology and gain skills for the 21st century workforce, enabling them to realize their full potential.

Five CPS high schools partner with corporate sponsors:

- Michelle Clark – Cisco
- George Corliss – Verizon Wireless
- CVCA – Motorola Solutions
- Lake View – Microsoft
- Sarah E Goode STEM Academy – IBM

The ECSS program is a way for students to continue their education and launch a career path. Between 1973 and 2007, the United States added 63 million jobs. However, jobs held by those with no more than a high school education fell by two million and workers with a high school education or less make up just 41% of the workforce nationally. Economic forecasters believe that by 2018, nearly two out of three jobs in the United States will require at least some college education—nationally, 22 million more postsecondary education degrees need to be produced.

Here's a photo of you chasing Mayor Emanuel with a remote controlled robot during the February visit:



IV. ATTACHMENTS

These recent local news stories on Mayor Emanuel are just FYI if you're interested:

1. [WGNTV.com: Emanuel plan to offer CPS students with good grades free college tuition \[VIDEO\] \(below\)](#)
2. [Northwest Herald: Rahm Emanuel to Chicago agencies: Increase minimum wage to \\$13 in city \(below\)](#)
3. [RCI Ventures: Chicago sets multiple tourism records for Summer 2014 \(below\)](#)
4. [HuffPo Chicago: Rahm Emanuel Urges Illinois Lawmakers to Decriminalize Marijuana \(below\)](#)
5. [Al Jazeera America: Could Chicago's Rahm Emanuel lose his re-election race? \(below\)](#)

WGNTV.com: Emanuel plan to offer CPS students with good grades free college tuition [VIDEO]

Posted 8:37 AM, October 1, 2014, by Adrienne Balow and Julian Crews, Updated at 12:40pm, October 1, 2014

Mayor Rahm Emanuel wants to offer free college classes to any Chicago Public School student who graduates with good grades.

The Chicago Star Scholarship guarantees free tuition at any one of Chicago's seven City Colleges to CPS students who graduate with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and place into college level math and English. It will provide waivers from tuition, fees and books.

The mayor says it is designed to reward hard-working students, many of whom struggle to work their way through college.

This is a brand new scholarship. There is no application form or website yet. More details are expected soon from the City Colleges of Chicago.

These scholarships are targeted to CPS high school students who will be graduating in June 2015 and beginning community college a year from now.

Northwest Herald: Rahm Emanuel to Chicago agencies: Increase minimum wage to \$13 in city

Published: Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2014 11:03 a.m. CDT By AP

CHICAGO — Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has asked the city's sister agencies to pay all contractor and subcontractor employees a minimum wage of \$13 an hour.

The mayor signed an executive order earlier this month requiring city contractors and subcontractors to pay employees the higher minimum wage.

And on Tuesday morning, Emanuel asked other agencies to follow suit, including Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Transit Authority, the Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago City Colleges, the Public Building Commission and the Chicago Parks Department.

The mayor's office says about 2,400 employees would be affected if the agencies agree to do it. Employees affected would include landscapers, maintenance workers, bus drivers and custodial workers.

Emanuel and other Democrats are making a big election-year push to raise the state's minimum wage, which is \$8.25 per hour.

RCI Ventures: Chicago sets multiple tourism records for Summer 2014

Chicago is celebrating after setting multiple tourism records for the summer 2014 travel season.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Don Welsh, President and CEO of Choose Chicago, announced that for the first time, Chicago saw records across all key performance indicators – demand, occupancy, supply, average daily rate, revenue per available room and overall revenue.

The Windy City's record hotel performance during the peak tourism season of May – August shows that Chicago is on pace to achieve Mayor Emanuel's goal of 55 million visitors a year by 2020 and create 30,000 additional jobs.

Tourist destination

“This summer was a prime example of how, by making Chicago a destination for national and international travelers, leisure and business alike, we are making important gains that are bringing more opportunities to more Chicagoans,” said Mayor Emanuel.

“Our strategy is working and we will continue to aim higher to set new records next year, because bringing more conventions and tourism to Chicago means more jobs for residents and further supports our City's economic growth.”

This year, during the summer season, Chicago had a record high 4.56 million hotel rooms available for occupancy, an increase of more than 117,000 room nights from 2013. For the fifth consecutive year, demand outpaced growth in supply, resulting in higher occupancy rates. Chicago's hotels saw a record 87.2 percent occupancy during this period, a gain of 1.8 percent over 2013.

“Mayor Emanuel and our partners continue to support the mission and goals of Choose Chicago,” said Welsh. “The investments we have made in the regional, national and international markets are working. Visitors from around world are discovering the tremendous experiences Chicago offers year-round. We are extremely pleased with these results and the impact on Chicago's overall economy.”

In July, Mayor Emanuel and Choose Chicago announced Chicago had surpassed one million occupied rooms for the first time. In August, Chicago again surpassed one million occupied rooms and overall room demand for the summer season reached another record with 3.98 million rooms sold, a 4.4 percent increase over same period in 2013. In another key area, leisure room demand, Chicago saw a record 2.48 million rooms sold, a gain of 6.3 percent over 2013 and the largest May – August increase since 2009.

Hotel development

Chicago is among the fastest growing domestic markets for new hotel development. Supply grew at a rate of 2.6 percent, the fastest pace since the recession, and average daily rates for hotel rooms reached a record \$215.92, a gain of 2.5 percent. This marks the fifth consecutive year that Chicago had record summer pricing gains. In addition, Revenue per Available Room reached a record \$188.30, a 4.3 percent increase over last year.

All of this contributed to overall hotel revenue of \$858.5 million for the summer, a seven percent increase and the fifth consecutive year of growth, and generated a record \$47.9 million in city tax revenue for the City of Chicago. This year-over-year growth continues to spur new employment in Chicago. Since 2011, the City has added nearly 5,200 tourism-related jobs.

These milestones follow an exceptional first half of 2014, which produced record demand in Chicago with a 2.2 percent increase over the first six months of 2013. Chicago's hotel community offered an additional 313,000 room nights compared to the same period in 2013. This growth represents 4.67 million hotel rooms occupied in the first-half of 2014, which further supports the 133,000 jobs and more than \$13 billion in spending generated as a result of annual visitation to Chicago.

HuffPo Chicago: Rahm Emanuel Urges Illinois Lawmakers to Decriminalize Marijuana

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel on Tuesday urged Illinois lawmakers to decriminalize the possession of less than 15 grams of marijuana. He also pushed for a statewide penalty reduction from felony to misdemeanor for those caught with 1 gram or less of a controlled substance.

"It doesn't make sense that one arrest for a very small amount of a controlled substance can lead to a lifetime of struggles, sending people in and out of prison and putting up barriers to get a job or finding a place to live. We need action from Springfield," Emanuel said in a statement, per the Chicago Tribune.

The mayor testified Tuesday at a legislative hearing before the House-Senate Joint Criminal Reform Committee, which is looking for ways to ease overcrowding in the state's prisons and jails and to reduce racial disparities in sentencing which disproportionately affect blacks and Latinos.

To push for softer pot penalties is also part of a strategy to get lawmakers to strengthen penalties for gun crimes, Chicago news outlet WGN reports. Emanuel has faced consistent criticism for the rate of gun violence in Chicago since he became mayor in 2011.

Emanuel has previously argued that easing up on drug arrests frees up police to tackle gun crimes and other, more pressing issues.

In 2012, Emanuel successfully lobbied the Chicago City Council to pass an ordinance decriminalizing small amounts of marijuana within the city limits.

Two years on, however, the ordinance giving Chicago police the discretion to issue \$250 to \$500 tickets for possession of 15 grams or less of pot is considered a failure. Arrests for marijuana possession actually increased, despite police having an option to ticket offenders, and the city collected just \$67,256 of the \$310,755 in fines levied in the first year of the program, the Chicago Sun-Times reports.

Illinois currently has a pilot program in place for legal medical marijuana use.

Al Jazeera America: Could Chicago's Rahm Emanuel lose his re-election race?

Voters are unhappy with the mayor — but his fundraising prowess is a big deterrent for would-be challengers

September 29, 2014 5:00AM ET
by Mark Guarino

CHICAGO — Rahm Emanuel has everything a winning mayoral candidate would seem to need: name recognition, a campaign war chest nearing \$10 million and famous friends in Hollywood and the White House who are more than willing to slide into town at a moment's notice.

Yet polling has consistently shown that the former Obama administration chief of staff has one significant deficit in his campaign for re-election next February: The majority of voters in his city do not like him.

Over the last 12 months, Emanuel's approval ratings have been on a downward spiral. A Chicago Tribune poll released in August, for example, shows that 35 percent of likely voters approve of the job he has been doing, down from 50 percent about a year ago. The results are similar regardless of voters' race, income, age or gender. A Chicago Sun-Times poll from May shows similar dissatisfaction: Only 18 percent of those surveyed said Emanuel was doing a better job than previous mayor Richard M. Daley.

The polling results reflect a growing tension over leadership in Chicago. To many, Emanuel represents a problem. In 2012, the first full year of his term, the city's homicide count surpassed 500. And, many say, his decision to shut nearly 50 public schools — the largest mass school closing in U.S. history — and to strike development deals downtown instead of in lower-income neighborhoods has deepened the city's economic divide.

Critics say Emanuel, who once earned more than \$18 million over a two-year period as a Wall Street investment banker, professes concern for struggling households, but has done little on their behalf. They say his many unpopular measures — a rollout of traffic cameras, privatizing public transit and expanding charter schools amid mass teacher and custodian layoffs — contradict the mayor's narrative that he is fighting for all of Chicago.

“The Emanuel tenure has been a huge wake-up call for a lot of people,” says Tim Meegan, a high school social-studies teacher who is running for city-council alderman in the city's 33rd Ward, an ethnically diverse area on the city's northwest side. “He's not a working-class guy from the streets of Chicago, and he's refused to compromise except to the 1 percent. He's so insulated that he doesn't really understand the city he has been charged with governing.”

Emanuel has publicly brushed off the polls, saying they are likely tied to the sagging economy and that voters are feeling squeezed by shrinking opportunities in the job market. His campaign spokesperson Steve Mayberry wrote in an email that the mayor has created 26,000 new jobs and is fighting to raise the minimum wage.

“There's a lot more work to do — especially in the neighborhoods suffering most from joblessness and violence,” he wrote. “But by making the tough decisions that were avoided for too long, Mayor Emanuel is providing the strong leadership to make Chicago work for everyone.”

And, despite the polls, Emanuel remains, so far, in a comfortable position. He is not yet feeling the heat from any high-profile challenger who will outspend him. Despite Chicago's gaping budget holes, the most underfunded pension system in the U.S. and lagging unemployment — issues a GOP candidate in another city might pounce on — the Republican party here is virtually nonexistent. That means any opposition must originate from Emanuel's own party. But in a patronage town where loyalties are tribal, that can be risky.

And Emanuel, who established his political career as a prodigious fundraiser, is trying to ensure that critics from within his own party are dissuaded from even thinking of entering the race. Chicago Forward, a super-PAC representing Emanuel backers, has already raised more than \$1 million to advocate for the mayor's policies. Emanuel also persuaded a group of loyal alderman to form their own organization to advocate for his policies.

The divide-and-conquer approach has so far paid off: Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, enormously popular in Chicago and a clear winner over Emanuel in the polls, announced this summer that she would not run. Her decision came two months after the Tribune revealed that an Emanuel spokesperson was trying to pitch negative stories about her to reporters.

"You can't beat somebody with nobody and they have to have name recognition and they have to raise resources. At the moment, if Rahm ran today, Rahm would win despite what the polls show," says Dick Simpson, a political scientist at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Yet polling shows that, despite his efforts to mute the opposition from within his own party, Emanuel may still be vulnerable to Democrats who are voicing populist outrage over his alleged scandals and missteps. Chicago Alderman Bob Fioretti, one of the few dissenting voices in the city council, has announced his candidacy; Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis, who became the public face of the outcry over the school closings, is also expected to run.

Simpson says Emanuel is not invincible in the coming election and that the escalating nickel and diming from his office have gouged people at a time when they are hurting most. They see the mayor's pet projects — a giveaway of premium parkland to filmmaker George Lucas to house a personal art collection and the use of public tax money to build a South Loop basketball stadium for DePaul University — as producing little to no impact beyond the downtown area.

Take the red-light cameras. Emanuel insisted they were intended for public safety. But according to a 10-month Tribune investigation, it appeared the cameras were rigged to issue thousands of unjustified \$100 tickets, confirming public suspicions that their primary purpose was to generate income. A separate investigation showed that Redflex Traffic Systems, a city contractor, was involved in a \$2 million bribery scheme to win the contract. Two company officials, plus a city official, received federal indictments in August; they say they are not guilty.

The scandal underscores the perception that Emanuel is out of touch. It didn't help when, in the spring, media reports showed that he had regularly blown through speeding cameras, racking up 20 citations for various violations since 2012, but had them dismissed.

These misfires have galvanized the opposition and played directly into the "two Chicagos" narrative it embraces. Fioretti, a Chicago native and Democrat who recently declared his candidacy, says he will audit the city's books and issue a moratorium on charter schools.

Michael Kolenc, Fioretti's senior campaign strategist, says that Emanuel is not vulnerable on a single issue, but many. "Time and time again, he's not listened to Chicagoans and what they want. Instead, he's gone off on his own. So the streets are less safe, our schools need to be stronger, and we need to bring economic development to all parts of the city, not just one," he says.

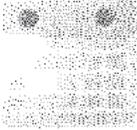
Mayberry, Emanuel's spokesperson, blasts Fioretti for "a notorious history of pandering and inconsistency on some of the city's most pressing issues" and says his "lack of political backbone has been on display since the day he assumed office."

Emanuel's most formidable opponent may be Lewis, who became a vocal critic of the mayor following a teachers' strike early in his first term. Lewis is currently gathering petitions to get her name on the ballot. The Tribune poll shows her beating Emanuel in a head-to-head challenge 43-39 percent. A Chicago Sun-Times poll shows her beating Emanuel 45-36 percent.

If either Fioretti or Lewis wins, they will inherit a rapidly worsening pension crisis that predates Emanuel. Observers say that means they too will be faced with the ugly choice of raising taxes or deferring the problem, like the current mayor and his predecessor, Daley, have done. The 2015 election year budget has a \$297.3 million deficit; it would be nearly triple that amount, but the city decided to defer the \$550 million jump in pension contributions for police and firemen until a later date.

Ralph Marteri, executive director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, in Chicago, says that even though Emanuel "is faced with fiscal constraints that are not of his making," he, and any potential successor, is responsible for enacting reform measures to ensure the city will not reach bankruptcy.

"We can't let any elected official off the hook, because that's what they all want," he says. "It's their job. Leading means telling taxpayers what they need to hear [more] than what they want to hear, then do that. Instead, you get pandering, and that never solves problems."



DOI Chicago Meeting

Created by: Nicole Buffa

(b) (5)

Time

7pm - 7:30pm (GMT (no daylight saving))

Tommy

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Guests

- McConville, Drew
- christy_goldfuss@nps.gov
- Jensen, Jay
- Holloway, Jenae
- Katherine Rupp
- Degnan, Michael
- Boots, Michael J.
- Nicole Buffa
- Rojas-Quico, Susie
- tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov

Date

Wed Oct 8, 2014

(b) (5)

Where

EEOB TBD

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Description

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

~~SECRET~~
M-pullman

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

INTERNAL PULLMAN UPDATE

DATE: October 3, 2014
LOCATION: Office of the Secretary
TIME: 2:00PM – 2:30PM
FROM: Christy Goldfuss, Deputy Director, NPS (202) 208-3818

PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is to update you on the Pullman Historic District, including next steps in the process.

BACKGROUND

The Pullman National Historic Landmark District covers approximately 300 acres of the Pullman neighborhood in southeast Chicago. Most houses are privately owned and maintained. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency manages the Administration and Factory Complex and the Hotel Florence as a historic site, and the city of Chicago manages the Pullman Landmark District. The Historic Pullman Foundation operates a visitor center and owns several properties in the district. Other organizations work toward the interpretation and improvement of the district.

From the start of the Pullman Palace Car Company in 1867, George Pullman employed a mostly white workforce to manufacture the palace cars, but he recruited the first porters, waiters, and maids from the population of former house slaves to serve the affluent customers. These service jobs, while lower-paying, had prestige in the African-American community.

The Pullman porters played a major role in the rise of the African-American middle class and the development of the civil rights movement of the 20th century. Pullman porters remained a group of exclusively African-American men throughout the life of the Pullman car operations. Work as a Pullman porter garnered steady wages, the opportunity to earn sizeable tips and to travel, and respect in the African-American community.

In 1894 Pullman factory workers walked off the job. In solidarity with the Pullman workers, American Railway Union (ARU) members nationwide boycotted Pullman cars, disrupting rail traffic across much of the nation. With the support of the ARU, the strike that began as a walkout at the Pullman factory grew into one of America's largest labor strikes, paralyzing most of the railroads west of Detroit. On June 27, 1894, as the Pullman strike and boycott were growing, Congress passed legislation designating Labor Day a federal holiday, and President Grover Cleveland signed it. The Pullman strike of 1894 spurred final federal action in an attempt to placate workers across the nation.

The Pullman Palace Car Company, renamed the Pullman Company in 1900, was the focus of another important labor event. In 1937, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP), an influential African-American union founded in 1925 by A. Philip Randolph, won a labor contract for the Pullman porters from the company. The Pullman Company was the nation's largest

employer of African Americans, and Pullman porters composed 44 percent of the Pullman Company workforce. The porters successfully voted to have the BSCP serve as their bargaining agent, forcing the Pullman Company to recognize the union. By 1937, the BSCP had successfully negotiated its first collective bargaining agreement with the Pullman Company, leading to higher salaries, overtime rates, better job security, and increased protection for workers' rights through grievance procedures. It was the first major labor agreement between a union led by African Americans and a corporation, a significant event contributing to the rise of the civil rights movement in the United States.

A. Philip Randolph expanded his agenda once he became the leader of the foremost black labor organization in the United States. In 1937, Randolph was chosen as the leader of the National Negro Congress (NNC), an umbrella organization that united many of the major black civil rights organizations of the day. Years later, when he was vice-president of the AFL-CIO and also working with various civil rights organizations, Randolph became one of the leaders of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

DISCUSSION

- (b) (5)
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NEXT STEPS

• (b) (5)
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(b) (5) (b) (5)



Fwd: Greetings!

Wed, May 28, 2014 at 12:42 PM

Beaudreau, Tommy <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>

fyi.

(b) (5)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Medina, Monica** <mmedina@ngs.org>

Date: Wed, May 28, 2014 at 12:24 PM

Subject: Greetings!

To: Tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov

Cc: Enric Sala <esala@ngs.org>, Sally Yozell - NOAA Federal <sally.yozell@noaa.gov>

Hi Tommy - I hope you are well. I heard from Sally Yozell that you had taken over for Laura Davis. I hope you are enjoying the new role - Congrats! I have also made a job change -- I am now at the National Geographic Society working on ocean policy here. It is lots of fun and a way to keep working on many of the same issues as I did when I was at NOAA.

I just left a message at your office. I wanted to see if I could talk with you briefly about an idea that we at NGS are hoping that DOI would be supportive of -- it is for a "monumental" deliverable associated with the Our Oceans Conference that Secretary Kerry is planning. It has to do with expanding the current boundaries of the Remote Pacific Islands Marine National Monument from its current 50 miles to 200 miles. There are many good reasons to do this. I am attaching both a short description of the proposal and a document providing the rationale for monument status of the expanded area. We also have a more detailed scientific report justifying expansion if you would like me to send it to you.

Bottom line -- these islands are uninhabited and more than 1000 miles from Hawaii. The unique and pristine ocean areas are partially protected now. But much much more could be protected under the Antiquities Act. And in doing so, the President could create the largest protected area on the face of the earth -- creating an unparalleled area of ocean wilderness -- a stroke for conservation that would never be matched again. President Obama, as you know, has often used the Antiquities Act to create monuments on land, but never used it for ocean conservation. This would be a fantastic first!

I would be happy to come in and discuss with you and/or Mike Connor. Just let me know what might be best. The conference is soon so I will be available whenever you could make time for me. Thanks so much! Best,
Monica

Monica Medina
Senior Director, International Ocean Policy
National Geographic Society
202 828-5498

(b) (5)

2 attachments

PRMI expansion proposal 2-pager-4.pdf
2482K

 **PRIMNM Expansion Report-2.pdf**
8386K

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Beaudreau, Tommy" <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>

Wed, May 28, 2014 at 1:24 PM

Feel free to send her my way if you want. Can get additional background and set up a meeting.
[Quoted text hidden]

--
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, May 30, 2014 at 11:25 AM

Please print this email and all the attachments for my Tuesday meeting on protected places.
[Quoted text hidden]

--
Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

2 attachments

 **PRMI expansion proposal 2-pager-4.pdf**
2482K

 **PRIMNM Expansion Report-2.pdf**
8386K

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Beaudreau, Tommy" <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, May 30, 2014 at 11:25 AM

I just talked to Jay on this. Let's connect!
[Quoted text hidden]

Beaudreau, Tommy <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, May 30, 2014 at 11:31 AM

Excellent, and definitely. I haven't responded to Monica yet.
[Quoted text hidden]

Fri, May 30, 2014 at 11:58 AM

Beaudreau, Tommy <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

To: "Medina, Monica" <mmedina@ngs.org>

Cc: Enric Sala <esala@ngs.org>, Sally Yozell - NOAA Federal <sally.yozell@noaa.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Monica,

It's fantastic to hear from you, and congratulations on your new position with NGS!. Really amazing. Yes, I'd love to get together to discuss this idea. Any chance you could meet on Monday (June 2) around 10 or 11?

Best,

TPB

[Quoted text hidden]

Fri, May 30, 2014 at 12:45 PM

Beaudreau, Tommy <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Medina, Monica** <mmedina@ngs.org>

Date: Fri, May 30, 2014 at 12:39 PM

Subject: Re: Greetings!

To: "Beaudreau, Tommy" <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Enric Sala <esala@ngs.org>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>

Yes - me too! Looking forward to it. :)

Monica Medina

Senior Director, International Ocean Policy

National Geographic Society

202 828-5498

On Fri, May 30, 2014 at 12:36 PM, Beaudreau, Tommy <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Excellent - let's do 10. Looking forward to catching up, among other things.

Best,

TPB

On Fri, May 30, 2014 at 12:32 PM, Medina, Monica <mmedina@ngs.org> wrote:

Tommy - That would be great! I can be there at 10 if that works for you. Thank you so much for making the time. Just let me know. 11 is fine too, but I have a hard stop at about 11:50. Have a great weekend. Best,
Monica

Monica Medina

Senior Director, International Ocean Policy

National Geographic Society

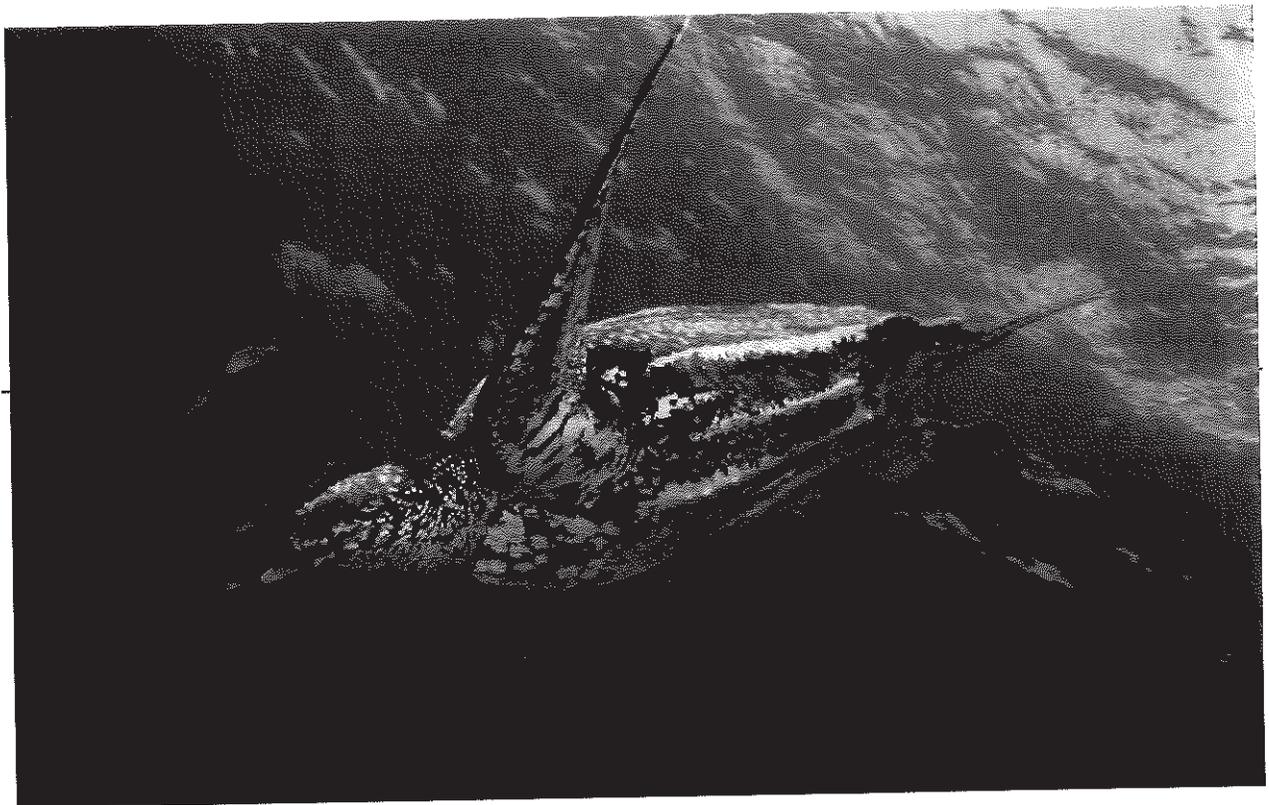
202 828-5498

[Quoted text hidden]

Expansion of the U.S. Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument

The largest ocean legacy on Earth

May 20, 2014



Report to the United States government prepared by:

Dr. Enric Sala - National Geographic Society, Washington, DC
Dr. Lance Morgan - Marine Conservation Institute, Sonoma, CA
Dr. Elliott Norse - Marine Conservation Institute, Redmond, WA
Dr. Alan Friedlander, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

Expansion of the U.S. Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Presidential Leadership and Legacy

President Obama has the authority and opportunity to leave the largest ocean conservation legacy in history by extending the existing U.S. Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument from the current 50 nautical miles around the seven U.S. Pacific Remote Islands out to the full extent of its 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) – an increase of 1.8 million square km of new protected area (increase 10 times the current 225,000 square km Monument).

That action would create the largest protected area on Earth (an expanded Monument over 2 million square km) – and include some of the world's most pristine deep sea and open ocean ecosystems, with unique and global biodiversity value¹. These pristine national treasures would receive full protection, meaning no extractive activities such as mining, drilling, and fishing would be allowed.

The new National Monument alone would protect 18 percent of the United States EEZ, and it would double the area of the ocean that is currently fully protected globally². This would make the United States the undisputable world leader in ocean conservation, and set a record in conservation that is unlikely to be matched again in the U.S. or anywhere else in the world.

By doing this, the President sends very clear and strong messages:

- a) Even as climate change threatens human life and property at home and abroad, The U.S. will show global leadership and do what is needed to protect our Earth.
- b) The United States will protect its ocean natural resource treasures for the benefit of our own citizens and for the benefit of all other nations because these waters are part of the oceans that connect all of us and give life to the planet.
- c) Of all the nations in the world, the U.S. is unmatched in its laws, public support, and technological capacity to conserve our oceans effectively.

¹ The largest monument on land in the United States is approximately 43,000 square kilometers. The largest marine no-take reserve is currently the United Kingdom's Chagos Islands that were protected in 2010, which measures 545,000 square kilometers.

² <http://www.mpatlas.org>

Global ecological importance

The waters surrounding the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument are of global ecological importance. If fully protected as Marine National Monuments with no extractive uses, the seven islands' EEZs would be havens for all kinds of marine wildlife, and a precautionary bulwark against the degradation and decline of marine ecosystems in the Pacific, which continues to unfold at an alarming rate. In addition, the areas would provide badly needed baselines for other Pacific nations that are increasingly working to restore their own degraded coral island and pelagic ecosystems – and to preserve the last wild places left. This guards against the “shifting baseline” syndrome, whereby our expectations of what is natural diminish over time because we cannot remember what healthy ecosystems are supposed to look like. Finally, the islands would be ideal places to monitor the ocean impacts of global climate change, such as coral bleaching and ocean acidification.

The waters and seafloor surrounding the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument harbor some of the best-preserved ocean habitats in the Pacific, and are home to many species of key ecological and commercial importance:

- Large predatory fishes, such as tuna, swordfish, marlin, and oceanic sharks are still found in these waters, even though their populations have been significantly depleted in the past 50 years; an estimated 90% of all large predatory fish worldwide have been wiped out, although the exact status of commercially exploited populations in the Pacific varies. Protection would increase the area where these commercially important species can grow and produce more eggs per capita without being exposed to the “wall of hooks” – and hence help replenish their populations.
- Five species of protected sea turtles also use these waters as migratory and feeding grounds, including the critically endangered leatherback turtle – which is near extinction because of human activities.
- The proposed area is habitat for 22 species of protected marine mammals, including a new species recently described by scientists, the Palmyra beaked whale. Seven of these marine mammals are considered endangered.
- Several million seabirds of 19 species congregate around or nest at the US Pacific Remote Islands. These seabirds forage in the waters surrounding the current Monument, out to 200 nautical miles and farther, feeding themselves and their chicks.

- The deep sea on the area proposed as an expansion, virtually unexplored, is dotted with an estimated 241 undersea mountains and other unexplored geological features that are hotspots of ocean biodiversity. These undersea mountains (seamounts) each typically harbors thousands of species new to science, and large numbers of endemic species found nowhere else on the planet, just as archipelagos like the Galapagos and Hawaiian Islands do.
- Protecting ocean ecosystems from multiple human impacts will help them to be more resilient from climate change providing refuges for endangered species to adapt to changes already underway.

Legal feasibility

President Obama would earn high praise domestically and abroad by using his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to extend protection for relatively pristine waters surrounding 7 US Central Pacific islands that President Bush started to protect in 2009. This action by President Obama, who has so far declared eleven Monuments on land but none in the sea, would be a natural and culminating step in his conservation legacy and demonstrate the United States' leadership on protecting these critical ocean resources necessary for the health and well-being of humankind.

- This is a unique opportunity for very large ocean conservation impact in United States' waters because of the sheer size and remote location of the waters that would be protected. The larger the area being protected the more beneficial it is for science and for conservation. These waters are the least fished in the United States' EEZ, hence this is the least contentious of any potential large Marine National Monument. Any proposal to create even much smaller marine reserves around our mainland or other islands would be received with strong opposition from the fishing lobby (both commercial and recreational). This new, expanded Monument provides would firmly establish President Obama as the leading figure in ocean conservation in U.S. history.
- The President has clear authority under the Antiquities Act to establish National Monuments to protect lands, submerged lands and marine waters that are controlled by the U.S. Since first used by Theodore Roosevelt, all but two succeeding presidents have used the Act to establish one or more National Monuments. The President who

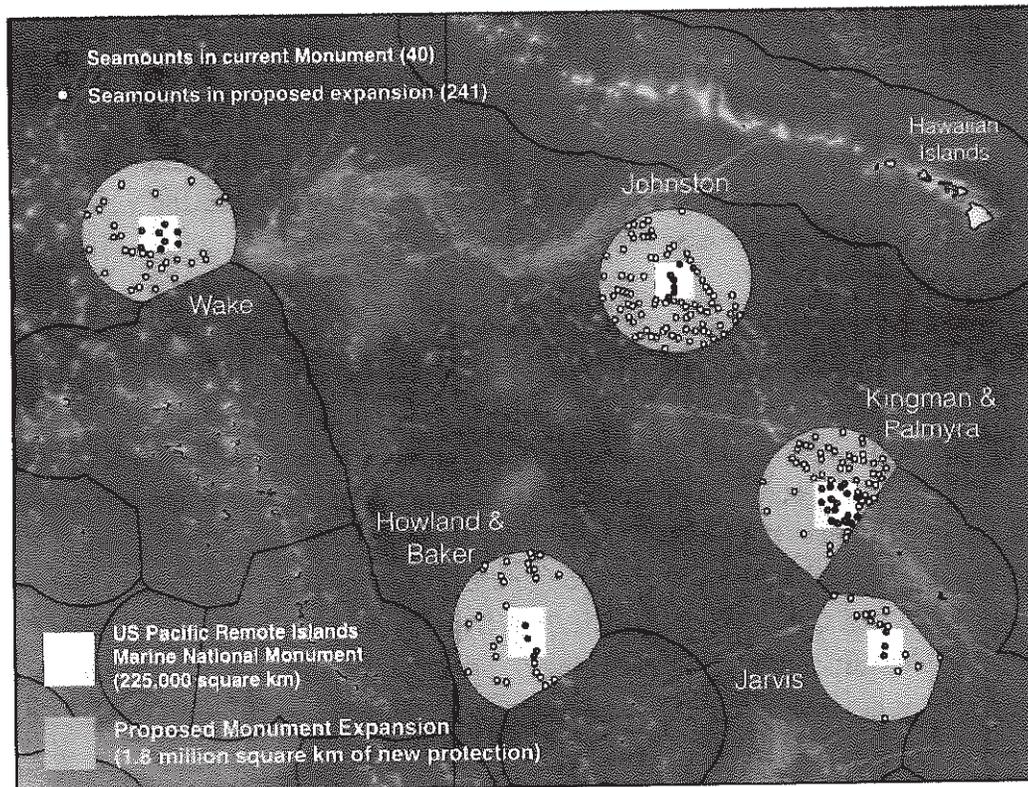
established the largest ocean area as Marine National Monuments to date is George W. Bush, who created four Monuments in the Pacific covering a total of 860,000 square km.

- Protection is not controversial because the islands are highly remote, under full U.S. control, uninhabited³, and principally used for conservation; yet without formal protections extending to the exclusive economic zone, ecosystem degradation in the near future from fishing or other development is likely. The 50 nautical mile buffers around 5 island or atoll/reef complexes are already managed for conservation and the extension of these boundaries will greatly expand these safe zones for marine life.
- There is no conflict with commercial fishing. Tuna fishing occurs episodically in the proposed area. The status of yellowfin and bigeye tuna is a cause for concern; both species are likely being overfished and are now fully exploited. The Honolulu-based longline fleet sets only 4% of their hooks in this area, and the annual catch by the purse seine fleet is only 5% of their tuna catch in the Pacific – and this effort occurs only at the edge of the U.S. EEZ. Both of these fleets obtain 95% of their catch from regions outside of the waters being considered for protection. Moreover, tuna move throughout the Pacific in yearly migrations, therefore the U.S. quota can still be caught outside the boundaries of the proposed Monument. However, tuna are crucial ecologically because they push small fish to the surface, which are then caught by seabirds, which in turn will feed their chicks on the islands of the current Monument.
- The new Monument will further emphasize the President’s legacy in pivoting the U.S. policy focus towards the greater Pacific region. It will greatly enhance the conservation value of the recent announcement by Kiribati that it will close the entire Phoenix Island Protected Area (408,250 square km that adjoin the U.S. territories of Howland and Baker islands) to commercial fishing. There is a growing movement among Pacific states, large and small, to protect and recover their ocean ecosystems and manage their fisheries more sustainably. In addition to the protections by Kiribati, other nations like Australia, New Caledonia, Palau, the Cook Islands and New Zealand have been developing national systems of marine reserves for a number of years. Protecting our own unique islands and their surrounding waters would make the U.S. *the* world leader in ocean conservation.

³ The only inhabitants are civilian and military employees of the U.S. government at Wake and Palmyra, who provide the capacity to manage the expanded monument.

Conclusion

There is widespread recognition that the oceans need more protection, especially no-take reserves, to protect and restore marine life. Currently less than 1% of the ocean is fully protected from fishing. The natural resource values of the oceanic region surrounding the Pacific Remote Islands MNM are superb, the need for their conservation is clear, and the timing is right for bold leadership by President Obama. The President is the only decision maker with the ability and authority to act swiftly and decisively to protect these national treasures, using the Antiquities Act. Should the President protect these places, he would make conservation history by establishing the world's largest protected area. President Theodore Roosevelt laid the seeds for the National Park system through his proclamation of 18 National Monuments; President Bush helped increase the legacy of our ocean heritage; and now President Obama can leave an incomparable ocean legacy by protecting our unique and vibrant Pacific ocean ecosystems and establishing the largest ocean conservation legacy in history.



President Obama can use the Antiquities Act to extend the boundaries of Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument around U.S. territories in the Central Pacific. That would send a strong message to Americans, our friends and others around the world, saying this is how Americans treat our lands and waters in an age of climate change and emerging ocean acidification.

Expansion of the U.S. Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument

Scientific and Economic Report

1. Introduction

The seven islands and atolls that are the core of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (Kingman, Palmyra, Jarvis, Howland, Baker, Wake, and Johnston – hereafter ‘the islands’ or ‘assessment areas’) and their surrounding waters are of global conservation interest. The islands and atolls harbor some of the most pristine coral reefs and deep reefs in the world. The surrounding waters contain dynamic and diverse open ocean (pelagic) habitats that are permanent or temporary home to many vulnerable and threatened species of ecological importance.

However, the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument protects only 50 nautical miles (nm) around the islands. Most of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the U.S. around these islands (from 50 to 200 nm) is currently open to exploitation.

President Obama has a unique and rare opportunity to create the largest protected area on Earth by expanding the current Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument from 50 to 200 nm. Here we describe why President Obama must establish the largest ocean conservation legacy in human history.

If fully protected as Marine National Monuments with no extractive uses, the eight islands’ EEZs would be havens for all kinds of marine wildlife, and a precautionary bulwark against the degradation and decline of marine ecosystems in the Pacific, which continues to unfold at an alarming rate. In addition, the areas would provide badly needed baselines for other Pacific nations that are increasingly working to restore their own degraded coral island and pelagic ecosystems – and to preserve the last wild places left. This guards against the “shifting baseline” syndrome, whereby our expectations of what is natural diminish over time because we cannot remember what healthy ecosystems are supposed to look like. Finally, the islands would be ideal places to monitor the ocean impacts of global climate change, such as coral bleaching and ocean acidification.

This report makes the case for expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, including the scientific justification and the benefits of protection for the United States and for other Pacific nations. The report focuses on the value of the waters and deep-sea habitats in the proposed area for Monument expansion (between 50 and 200 nm), which is currently unprotected.

2. Conservation Value

The waters and seafloor surrounding the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument harbor some of the best-preserved ocean habitats in the Pacific, and are home to many species of key ecological and commercial importance. An estimated 14 million seabirds representing 19 species use the islands as critical stopover points, as well as breeding areas and feeding grounds. Large tunas are still providing an important ecological function to foraging seabirds at these remote islets and atolls. Tunas drive prey, such as squid, towards surface waters where they are easily caught by seabirds. In short, seabirds rely on the tunas to help them feed their chicks, which in turn are eaten in near shore waters by reef sharks. Therefore, protecting the waters around the current Monument from fishing is critically important to maintaining the health of the coral reefs within the Monument. Twenty-two species of marine mammals inhabit and feed in these waters, including a recently discovered species of beaked whale. In addition, there are an estimated 241 undersea mountains that probably are deep-sea biodiversity hotspots.

This section of the report analyzes the scientific information available for these waters and seafloor, and their conservation value.

2.1. Open Ocean Waters

2.1.1. Large Predatory Fishes

Large predatory fishes, such as sharks, tunas and billfishes, are a key component of open ocean (pelagic) ecosystems. They are highly migratory, ranging widely throughout the tropical central and western Pacific. The tuna populations of this region are distinct from the eastern tropical Pacific tuna populations and other areas in the Pacific. Four species of tuna are common to this region: skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), yellowfin (*Thunnus albacares*), bigeye (*Thunnus obesus*), and albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*). There is growing concern over the regional status of bigeye and yellowfin, which are likely overfished or close to be overfished. Within the EEZ of the seven islands, bigeye and yellowfin are targets of the longline fishery in and around Johnston, Palmyra

and Kingman Reef, while the other species are more commonly targeted by the purse seine fleet near the equator in the waters of Howland, Baker and Jarvis (see “Fishing” section below). Other pelagic fishes that are kept by the longline fleet are blue marlin, black marlin, striped marlin, swordfish, sailfish, short-billed spearfish, mahi mahi, wahoo and bluefin tuna.

In 2003, a widely reported scientific study estimated the decline of large predatory fishes such as tunas at nearly 90% (1). Among the populations of pelagic fishes that are greatly reduced are many species of oceanic sharks (2) – the top predators in marine ecosystems (Figure 1). In 2006, another analysis further reported a 74% global decline in pelagic fishes from the pre-exploitation, pristine state (3). Globally it is clear that large, pelagic fishes are being unsustainably fished, and that without drastic improvements in management they will not recover.

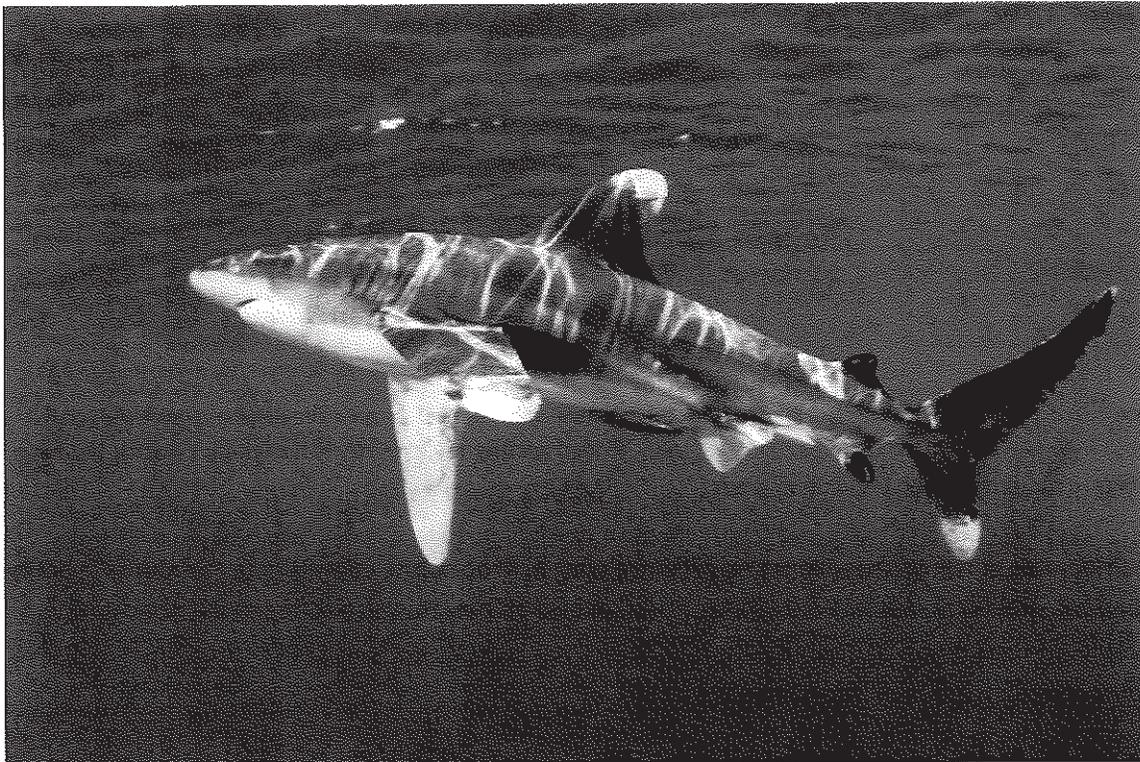


Figure 1. Oceanic whitetip sharks are among many kinds of large predators that are disappearing from ecosystems worldwide. Extending no-take protection to the edge of Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument Exclusive Economic Zones (to the 200 nautical mile limit) would make history by creating the world’s biggest safe refuge for pelagic sharks.

The loss of these top predators has significant impacts on the structure of ecosystems (4). As explained in greater detail in this document, tunas are important to the success of foraging seabirds in the tropics as they drive small fish and squid to the surface where they are accessible to diving seabirds (Figure 2). The observed declines of tuna stocks because of overfishing must be having deleterious effects on island seabird populations.



Figure 2. Tuna are ecological keystone species in US Central Pacific waters because they chase small fishes and squids to the surface, where seabirds can catch them to feed to their chicks (5, 6). 97% of the US' Pacific yellowfin and bigeye tuna catch happens in other areas (7).

The import of pelagic fishes from the offshore waters around the islands (see “Seabirds” section below) by adult seabirds not only helps raise seabird chicks, but also to feed reef sharks. For example, in the lagoon of Palmyra Atoll, 30% of the blacktip reef sharks (*Carcharhinus melanopterus*) were found to eat seabirds (8).

Tuna in the region are managed under international agreement by the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission. The four species of tuna and a number of other pelagic species provide a relatively small proportion of commercial fishing catch in the waters surrounding these islands (9). No international vessels are permitted to fish in the EEZ of the islands, and the US purse seine and longline tuna fleets take less than 5% of their annual tuna catch here (7). The areas surrounding the more southerly US territories- Jarvis, Howland, and Baker – are of almost no significance to the US tuna longline fleet (7).

Given the significant role of schooling fish to the health of seabirds in this region, and the small overall catch, protecting tuna and other fishes in these waters is the best way of ensuring the health of the surrounding pelagic ecosystems. Furthermore, restrictions on fishing in these areas are likely to help sustain these populations of fishes for the long term.

2.1.2. Sea Turtles

Sea turtles have inhabited the Earth for a very long time, as evidenced by 150 million year old fossils. In the last few centuries, humans have caused massive reductions in sea turtle numbers through direct capture of adults and collection of eggs, and indirectly through bycatch in commercial fisheries (10, 11). Although irresponsible fishing methods and practices are the main cause of turtle declines today, they are also harmed by entanglement in marine debris, destruction of feeding and nesting areas, and ingestion of garbage and plastic objects carelessly thrown into the sea. All of these stressors are significantly impacting dwindling sea turtle populations.

Sea turtles are listed as threatened or endangered with extinction by several international bodies (12) and are protected domestically under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)⁴. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) controls the international trade in endangered and threatened species and currently lists all species of sea turtles found in US waters in CITES Appendix 1, as the most endangered animals and plants⁵. Similarly, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categorizes all sea turtle species as endangered and lists the leatherback sea turtle, which has been documented in all the US Pacific territorial waters, as *critically endangered* (12).

Five species of sea turtle have been documented as present in the seven islands and surrounding waters: green (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), and olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) (13). Green and hawksbill turtles forage and nest in the US Pacific islands, and loggerheads, leatherbacks and olive ridleys forage and/or migrate through US Pacific waters (14). There are reports of green sea turtles nesting on Baker, Howland, Jarvis and Palmyra (15, 16). Green sea turtles also swim and forage in the waters surrounding each of these islands, as well as those of Kingman, Wake and Johnston. Hawksbill sea turtles are found in the waters surrounding Baker, Howland, Jarvis, Palmyra, and Kingman (17-19).

⁴ <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/turtles.htm>

⁵ <http://www.cites.org/eng/app/index.shtml>

The waters in this region are important migration paths for all sea turtle species. These waters are important to the migration of the critically endangered leatherback sea turtle. Benson and colleagues mapped satellite tag tracking data for 126 individual leatherbacks across the Pacific (Figure 3). These maps show leatherbacks are actively transiting and/or foraging in the EEZs of the monuments twelve months a year (Figure 4) (20). Considering the extremely low population of leatherback sea turtles globally (90% or greater in decline in the Pacific) (21), and the minuscule percentage that are successfully tagged, the fact these turtles have been tracked navigating US waters demonstrates that these EEZs are an important migration route between Indonesia and California⁶ and deserve strict protection.

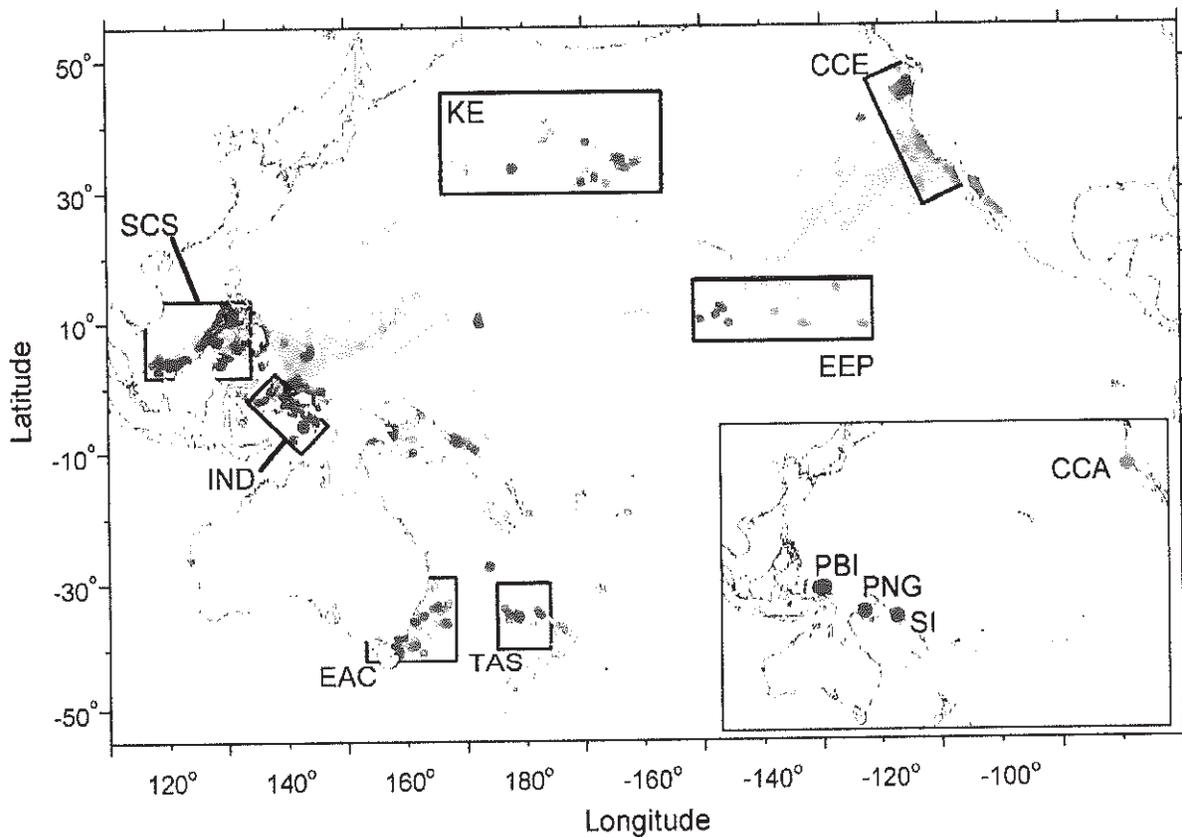


Figure 3. All 126 leatherback deployments presented as probability of transit. Large, darker circles indicate Area Restricted Search (ARS) behavior; small, lighter dots indicate transiting behavior. Color of track indicates deployment season: red ¼ summer nesters, blue ¼ winter nesters, green ¼ deployments at central California foraging grounds. Inset shows deployment locations; PBI ¼ Papua Barat, Indonesia, PNG ¼ Papua New Guinea, SI ¼ Solomon Islands, CCA ¼ central California. Black boxes represent ecoregions for which habitat associations were quantitatively examined (see text): SCS ¼ South China, Sulu and Sulawesi Seas, IND ¼ Indonesian Seas, EAC ¼ East Australia Current Extension, TAS ¼ Tasman Front, KE ¼ Kuroshio Extension, EEP ¼ equatorial eastern Pacific, and CCE ¼ California Current Ecosystem.

⁶ Donnelly, M. 2008, October 2. Director of International Policy. Interviewer: Jennifer Felt.

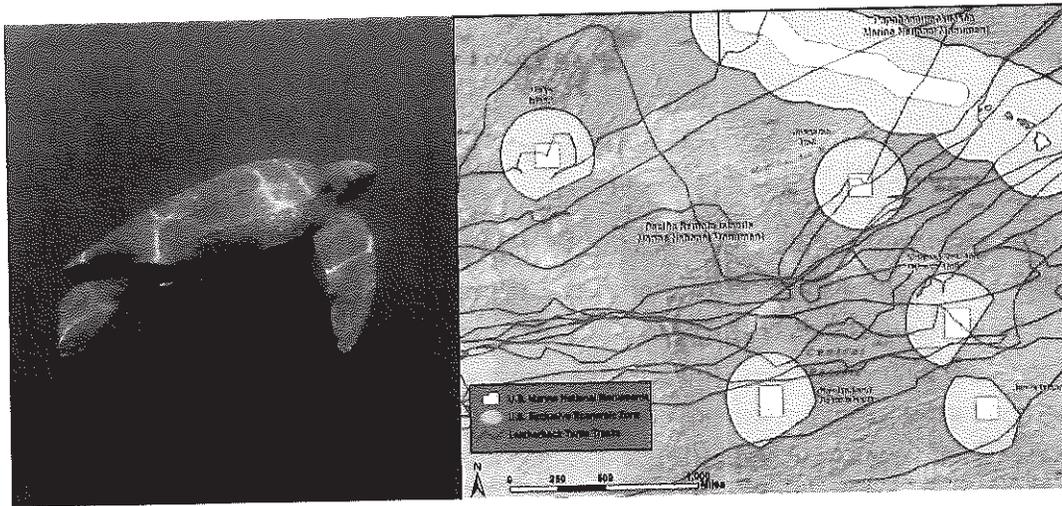


Figure 4. Seeking high concentrations of the jellyfish they eat, critically endangered Pacific leatherback sea turtles—the largest turtles in the world—migrate through the EEZ surround the USA’s Pacific Remote Islands, where President Obama could protect them from the “wall of hooks” and nets of the tuna fleet.

All five species of sea turtles found in U.S. island waters have been documented as bycatch fatalities in U.S. fisheries. Longliners fishing for tuna and other large pelagic fish accidentally catch and kill large numbers of sea turtles throughout Pacific waters. A report by Lewison and colleagues (22) estimated the effects of longline fisheries on turtle species in the entire Pacific:

“... despite infrequent rates of encounter, the analyses show that more than 200,000 loggerheads and 50,000 leatherbacks were likely taken as pelagic longline bycatch in 2000. The analyses suggest that thousands of these turtles die each year from longline gear in the Pacific Ocean alone. Given 80–95% declines for Pacific loggerhead and leatherback populations over the last 20 years, this bycatch level is not sustainable.”

Turtle bycatch numbers are compiled separately by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) observers for the tuna and swordfish fisheries. According to NMFS, tuna purse seine vessels have 100% observer coverage, and the tuna longline fleet has approximately 20% observer coverage. We requested turtle bycatch data for the seven areas from the Pacific Islands Regional Office of NMFS, but did not receive it. One thing in favor of the turtles is that tuna longline sets are “deep sets” that are less prone to hook turtles than shallow sets for swordfish.

As discussed earlier, the economic importance of commercial tuna fishing in the EEZs of the seven assessment areas is relatively small. Altogether, only 5% of the annual tuna catch by US

boats comes from these areas (7). A fully protected Monument across the entire EEZ of the islands would provide much needed sanctuary for migrating, foraging and nesting turtles and their hatchlings.

2.1.3. Seabirds

Seabirds are an important component of ocean and coastal ecosystems and play an especially important role in the central Pacific. Unfortunately, the population of just about every seabird in the greater region is declining (23). The major threats to seabirds and factors contributing to their decline are bycatch in fisheries, human settlements, nonnative predators such as rats and cats, habitat destruction, indirect fishery interactions, pollution, and global climate change and sea level rise (23, 24). Protecting and effectively managing the few remaining refuges for seabirds in the tropical Pacific, particularly uninhabited islands and their surrounding foraging grounds that they rely on for food, are essential for the continued health and survival of these species.

Over 3 million seabirds of 19 species use the lands and marine waters of the seven islands for breeding, foraging, or resting; and up to 14 million seabirds may use the waters around the islands for foraging (B. Flint, personal communication). These birds are primarily pelagic feeders that obtain the fish and squid they consume and feed to their young by associating with schools of large predatory fish such as tuna and billfish (5, 24). Large schools of predatory fish force schools of small pelagic fish to the surface where they become easy picking for seabirds; otherwise the fish would be too deep or scattered for the seabirds to reach (6) (Figure 5).

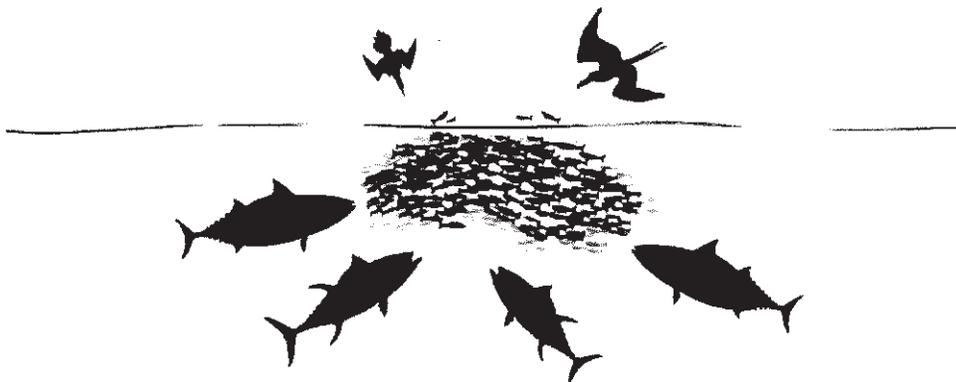


Figure 5. Schematic of subsurface-predator facilitated foraging (6).

It is especially important to have abundant schools of small prey and large predatory fish near breeding colonies because it is much harder for newly hatched and inexperienced birds to find food and successfully feed far from shore and return home safely (5, 24). Because tropical oceans have very low productivity, predators such as tuna and seabirds are adapted to unpredictable and patchy prey distributions. What food can be found exists mostly in ocean fronts and currents that concentrate nutrients. These zones of high nutrients encourage the growth of plankton and attract small pelagic fish, which in turn attracts tunas and seabirds. Commonly, there are eddies that form patches of high nutrients and food availability downstream of remote islands, aided in part by the nutrients brought back to the island and surrounding waters by the seabirds themselves. These areas of high nutrients attract small pelagic fish and in turn attract tunas and seabirds. The presence of natural densities of these tunas within the foraging radius of seabird colonies enhances the ability of birds to provide adequate food for themselves and their chicks (6, 24).

Although some food is available close to shore, breeding seabirds typically have to travel great distances to find enough food to feed themselves and their young (6). The red-tailed tropicbird has the longest recorded foraging distance around the islands, with a radius of 468 km (252 nm) (Figure 6) (6). Other longer-ranged species also feed beyond the 200 nm boundary of the islands' EEZ (Figure 7).



Figure 6. Red-tail tropicbirds nest on U.S. Central Pacific Islands but forage out to 252 nautical miles (468 kilometers) out at sea to feed their chicks. Protecting the EEZ out to 200 nautical miles (370 km) from these islands will protect the crucial feeding grounds of these and many other seabirds.

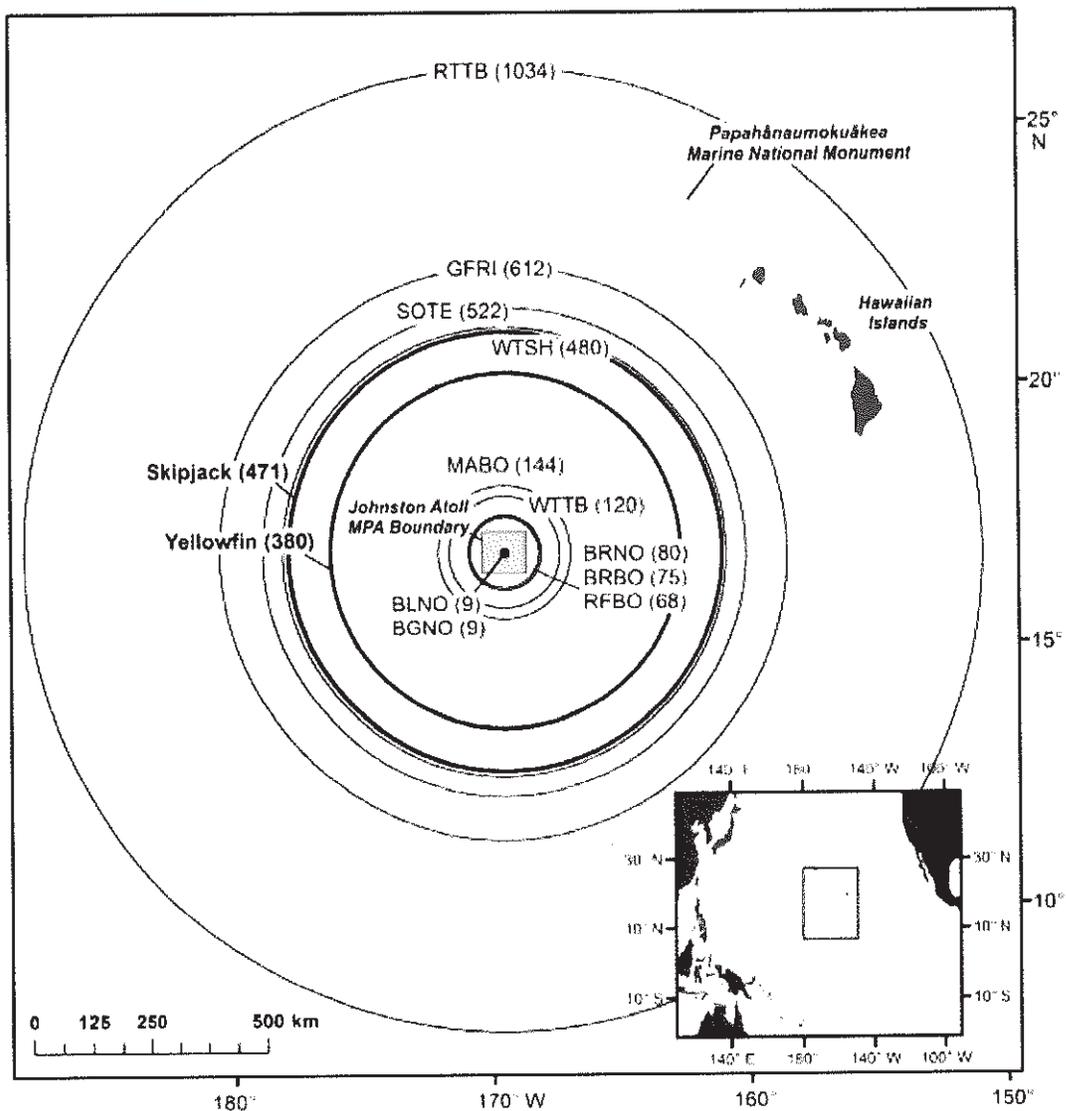


Figure 7. Foraging ranges of breeding tropical seabirds (thin lines) and tuna (thick lines), centered around Johnston Atoll, part of the US Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. Maximum foraging ranges and median lifetime displacement are shown in () following species names. Centering tuna movements around an island is hypothetical and done to show maximum potential overlap between tunas and seabirds (RTTB: red-tailed tropic bird; GFRI: great frigatebird; SOTE: sooty tern; WTSH: wedgetailed shearwater; MABO: masked booby; WTTB: white-tailed tropicbird; BRNO: brown noddy; BRBO: brown booby; RFBO: red-footed booby; BLNO: black noddy; BGNO: blue-grey noddy) [figure source: (6)]

Unfortunately, the patchy nature of food resources in the tropical Pacific and the association between tuna and seabirds exposes the birds to higher likelihood of contact with fishing vessels. Of the fisheries occurring in the US EEZ in the tropical Pacific, the most harmful to the seabirds is longlining for tuna. Longlining is a fishing method in which many baited hooks are attached to a fishing line that is typically miles long. As a reference, the Hawaii-based longline fleet deployed an astonishing 45.4 million hooks in 2012 (7). Seabirds get caught on the baited

hooks and drown. Globally endangered black-footed albatross (Table 1) in particular interact with longline fisheries. Data from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) observer program shows that a minimum of 450 black-footed albatrosses and Laysan albatrosses were killed in 2005-2007 in the longline fishery (25). This is an ongoing management concern.

Table 1. Seabirds found in the EEZ of the U.S. Pacific Remote Islands⁷ (26).

Seabirds	Breeding	ESA Status	IUCN Status
Audubon's Shearwater (<i>Puffinus iherminieri</i>)	Breeding		Least Concern
Band-rumped Storm-petrel (<i>Oceanodroma castro</i>)		Critical	Least Concern
Black Noddy (<i>Anous minutus</i>)	Breeding		Least Concern
Black-footed Albatross (<i>Diomedea nigripes</i>)	Breeding		Endangered
Black-naped Tern (<i>Sterna lunata</i>)			Least Concern
Black-winged Petrel (<i>Pterodroma nigripennis</i>)			Least Concern
Blue Noddy (<i>Procelsterna cerulea</i>)	Breeding		Least Concern
Bonin Petrel (<i>Pterodroma hypoleuca</i>)			Least Concern
Bridled Tern (<i>Sterna anaethetus</i>)			Least Concern
Brown Booby (<i>Sula leucogaster</i>)	Breeding		Least Concern
Brown Noddy (<i>Anous stolidus</i>)	Breeding		Least Concern
Bulwer's Petrel (<i>Bulweria bulwerii</i>)	Breeding		Least Concern
Christmas Shearwater (<i>Puffinus nativitatis</i>)	Breeding		Least Concern
Fairy Tern (<i>Sterna nereis</i>)	Breeding		Vulnerable
Flesh-footed Shearwater (<i>Puffinus carneipes</i>)			Least Concern
Gould's Petrel (<i>Pterodroma leucoptera</i>)			Vulnerable
Great Crested Tern (<i>Sterna bergii</i>)			Least Concern
Great Frigatebird (<i>Fregata minor</i>)	Breeding		Least Concern
Grey-backed Tern (<i>Sterna sumatrana</i>)	Breeding		Least Concern
Hawaiian Petrel (<i>Pterodroma sandwichensis</i>)		Endangered	Vulnerable
Herald Petrel (<i>Pterodroma heraldica</i>)			Least Concern
Kermadec Petrel (<i>Pterodroma neglecta</i>)			Least Concern
Laysan Albatross (<i>Diomedea immutabilis</i>)	Breeding		Vulnerable
Lesser Frigatebird (<i>Fregata ariel</i>)	Breeding		Least Concern
Little Shearwater (<i>Puffinus assimilis</i>)			Least Concern
Masked Booby (<i>Sula dactylatra</i>)	Breeding		Least Concern
Murphy's Petrel (<i>Pterodroma ultima</i>)			Near
Newell's Shearwater (<i>Puffinus newelli</i>)		Threatened	Threatened
Phoenix Petrel (<i>Pterodroma alba</i>)	Former Breeder		Endangered
Polynesian Storm-petrel (<i>Nesofregatta fuliginosa</i>)			Vulnerable

⁷ Personal communication with Beth Flint at the US Fish and Wildlife Service; <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>
<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

2.1.4. Marine Mammals

The waters surrounding the islands are home to at least 22 species of marine mammals, many of which are rare or endangered (Table 2).

Table 2: The status of species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for marine mammals in the Central Pacific.⁸

Marine Mammals	ESA Status	IUCN Status
Blainville's beaked whale (<i>Mesoplodon blainvillei</i>)		Data Deficient
Blue whale (<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>)	Endangered	Endangered
Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>)		Data Deficient
Bryde's whale (<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>)		Data Deficient
Cuvier's beaked whale (<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>)		Least Concern
Dwarf sperm whale (<i>Kogia simus</i>)		Data Deficient
False killer whale (<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>)		Lower Risk
Fin whale (<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>)	Endangered	Endangered
Hawaiian monk seal (<i>Monachus schauinslandi</i>)	Endangered	Critically Endangered
Humpback whale (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>)	Endangered	Vulnerable
Killer whale (<i>Orcinus orca</i>)		Data Deficient
Melon-headed whale (<i>Peponocephala electra</i>)		Least Concern
North Pacific right whale (<i>Eubalaena japonica</i>)	Endangered	Endangered
Palmyra beaked whale (<i>Mesoplodon hotaula</i>)		unknown
Pan-tropical spotted dolphin (<i>Stenella attenuata</i>)		Least Concern
Risso's dolphin (<i>Grampus griseus</i>)		Data Deficient
Rough toothed dolphin (<i>Steno bredanensis</i>)		Least Concern
Sei Whale (<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>)	Endangered	Endangered
Shortfinned pilot whale (<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>)		Lower Risk
Sperm whale (<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>)	Endangered	Vulnerable
Spinner dolphin (<i>Stenella longirostris</i>)		Data Deficient
Striped dolphin (<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>)		Least Concern

⁸ Data from: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/>; <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>; http://www.wpcouncil.org/protected/species_mammals.html; Fish and Wildlife Service Fact Sheets. 2008. Summary of interagency assessment process as of October 1st, 2008.

The life histories and conservation status of many of these species are not well known due to the difficulty and cost of research. However, it is safe to assume that many of these species rely on the waters surrounding the US islands to some degree for food, mating, calving, migration or play; many of the details await discovery.

The waters around Johnston Island are teeming with spinner dolphins and frequented by endangered whales such as blue whales, sperm whales, sei whales, Northern Pacific right whales, Cuvier's beaked whale, and even humpback whales, some of which are believed to give birth in the warm waters near shore (27). Johnston Island, Wake Island, and Palmyra Atoll are occasionally visited by the rare and endangered Hawaiian monk seal (28), and may hold potential as monk seal re-colonization areas. There are only about 1200 Hawaiian monk seals remaining (27), and starting experimental populations in other locations is a potential recovery strategy being considered. Kingman and Palmyra are known to have large numbers of dolphins swimming in their waters, as well as large resident pods of rare melon-headed whales. Recently a new species of marine mammal, a type of beaked whale, was described from Palmyra (29). Even Wake Island, once a fierce battleground, has its own resident population of spinner dolphins⁹.

All marine mammals in US waters are protected from "take" by the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and all of the whales are similarly protected by the International Whaling Commission, with limited exceptions for research. In addition, blue, fin, humpback, right, sei, and sperm whales, as well as the Hawaiian monk seal are endangered species protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Despite all this protection, these animals still are not safe. Every year, whales, dolphins and seals get caught and killed by fishing gear. Most of the deaths occur when marine mammals get snagged on a longline, trapped in a purse seine net, or entangled in derelict fishing gear (25).

Current data are not available, but in the period from 2005-2007, about half of the marine mammal species living in these areas have been caught on longline gear used for swordfish and tuna; the most frequent deaths involve false killer whales that are part of a small and distinct Hawaiian population. The sustainable take level for this whale is one death a year, suggesting major concern for this species¹⁰. Table 3 shows *estimated* deaths of marine mammals in the Hawaii-based longline fishery (both for swordfish and tuna) for 2005 and 2006, and *actual* deaths in 2007 (because the estimates were not complete).

⁹ Fish and Wildlife Service Fact Sheets. 2008. Summary of interagency assessment process as of October 1st, 2008.

¹⁰ Tosatto, Mike. Pacific Islands Regional Office, NMFS, NOAA. Personal Communication with Lance Morgan.

Table 3: Estimated numbers of fishery interactions with long-line fishing gear for the Hawaiian longline fishery (swordfish and tuna fleets) from 2005-2007 (25)

Species	2005	2006	2007*
Striped dolphin (<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>)	0	6	0
Bottlenose dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>)	0	2	3
Risso's dolphin (<i>Grampus griseus</i>)	4	7	4
Unidentified dolphin (Delphinidae)	0	9	1
Blainvilles beaked whale (<i>Mesoplodon blainvillei</i>)	6	0	0
False killer whale (<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>)	6	17	4
Shortfinned pilot whale (<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>)	6	6	1
Bryde's whale (<i>Balaenoptera edeni</i>)	1	0	0
Humpback whale (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>)	0	1	0
Unidentified whale (Cetacea)	1	14	1
Total	24	62	14

*2007 is observed interactions, not estimated ones, which would be higher.

Entanglement is another problem. Lost fishing gear can get entwined around a marine mammal making it hard to impossible for the whale, dolphin, or seal to feed or come to the surface to breathe. Marine debris from other sources, such as trash dumped overboard at sea, can also damage or even kill marine mammals and their prey if they consume or get entangled in it (see marine debris discussion below under threats).

Other factors affecting marine mammals living in the central and western Pacific are whaling, noise pollution, and vessel strikes. Whaling is not allowed in US waters, but occurred in the region for over a century, decimating populations in the process¹¹. All vessels traveling through water make some noise, some more than others. Many marine mammals, particularly whales and dolphins, are acoustically oriented animals that rely on audible feedback to locate prey and navigate. It is unknown how much damage noise pollution causes to marine mammals, but it has been known to confuse, disorient, and in extreme cases cause the death of marine mammals. No known vessel strikes of whales have been documented in the region; thus strikes are thought to be uncommon, but certainly possible¹².

¹¹ National Marine Fisheries Service. 2006. Biological opinion and incidental take statement under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act on the effects of the U.S. purse seine fishery in the western and central Pacific Ocean.

¹² National Marine Fisheries Service. 2006. Biological opinion and incidental take statement under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act on the effects of the U.S. purse seine fishery in the western and central Pacific Ocean.

2.2. Deep Seamounts

A seamount is a mountain rising from the seabed, but which does not reach the sea surface of the ocean. Seamounts are widespread throughout the world's oceans, and can arise along the mid-ocean ridges or as isolated features on the seafloor. Most often they occur in chains or clusters. Nearly all seamounts are volcanoes. Some are still erupting actively, such as Loihi seamount, southeast of Hawaii which will become a new Hawaiian island many thousands of years from now. Others, such as the Emperor Seamounts northwest of the Hawaiian Islands, stopped erupting tens of millions of years ago.

In addition to the shallow water coral ecosystems, there are likely hundreds of undescribed undersea mountains found in the EEZs of the islands. The Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument includes 40 seamounts; the proposed expansion would include 241 more seamounts (Figure 8, Table 4). Only a very small number (~300) of the estimated 14,000-100,000 seamounts worldwide have been visited and sampled by scientists. Consequently, most of the deep-water species and ecosystems of these seamounts remain undiscovered.

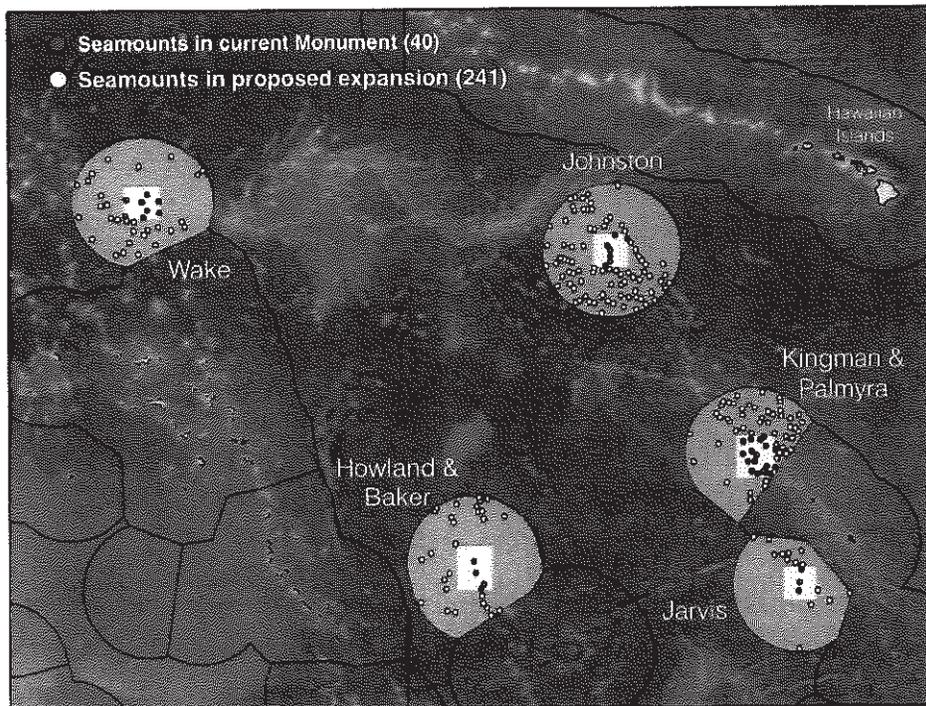


Figure 8. Seamounts (observed and estimated) at the EEZs of the U.S. Pacific Remote Islands ¹³.

¹³ Kitchingman, A. and S. Lai. 2004. Global seamount location database, Sea Around Us Project, University of British Columbia.

Table 4. Number of seamounts in the U.S. Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument and in the unprotected areas of their EEZ.

Assessment Island Area	Seamounts in current Monument	Seamounts in proposed expansion
Wake	8	37
Johnston	7	89
Howland and Baker	4	31
Kingman and Palmyra	18	67
Jarvis	3	17
TOTAL	40	241

Less than 0.2% of seamounts globally having been explored, and 15-44% of the species on a seamount or seamount group are found nowhere else on earth, which makes seamounts extraordinary biodiversity hotspots (30). Roughly 5-10% of invertebrates found on each survey of a seamount are new to science (31). Some seamounts are “lost worlds” having enormous pools of undiscovered species. Therefore all estimates of biodiversity loss and extinction are conservative because our scientific study of the deep sea is still meager (Table 5).

Table 5. Level of study of deep sea ecosystems

Habitat	Amount studied
Pelagic deepwater	<0.0001%
Abyssal plains	<1%
Continental slope (bathyal)	minimal
Ridges	10%
Seamounts	0.5%
Hydrothermal vents	10%
Canyons	Minimal
Cold seeps	2%

Given the numbers of seamounts and high levels of endemism, seamounts may well harbor the largest number of undiscovered large marine species left on Earth. Unique and undiscovered seamount species hold tremendous potential as medicines and for biomedical research. Many deep-sea species contain compounds that are currently in clinical trials to treat diseases such as cancer and AIDS. There is strong scientific evidence that deep sea biodiversity holds major promise for the treatment of ills that plague mankind.

Most of the world's ocean basins are flat, muddy abyssal plains, but seamounts are solid rocky mountains that tower above the plains. Seamounts protrude into the water column and have dramatic effects on the water currents around them. These currents both remove fine sediments from seamounts and bring them an unending supply of nutrients. Therefore, seamounts often attract a remarkable diversity of fishes and other open ocean animals. Because food availability above and on seamounts is often higher than in surrounding waters and seafloors, seamounts are biological hotspots that attract a diverse fauna. Pelagic predators such as sharks, tunas, billfishes, sea turtles, seabirds and marine mammals often congregate above seamounts. However, the seamounts in the EEZ of the islands do not harbor tuna fisheries (Figure 9) (32).

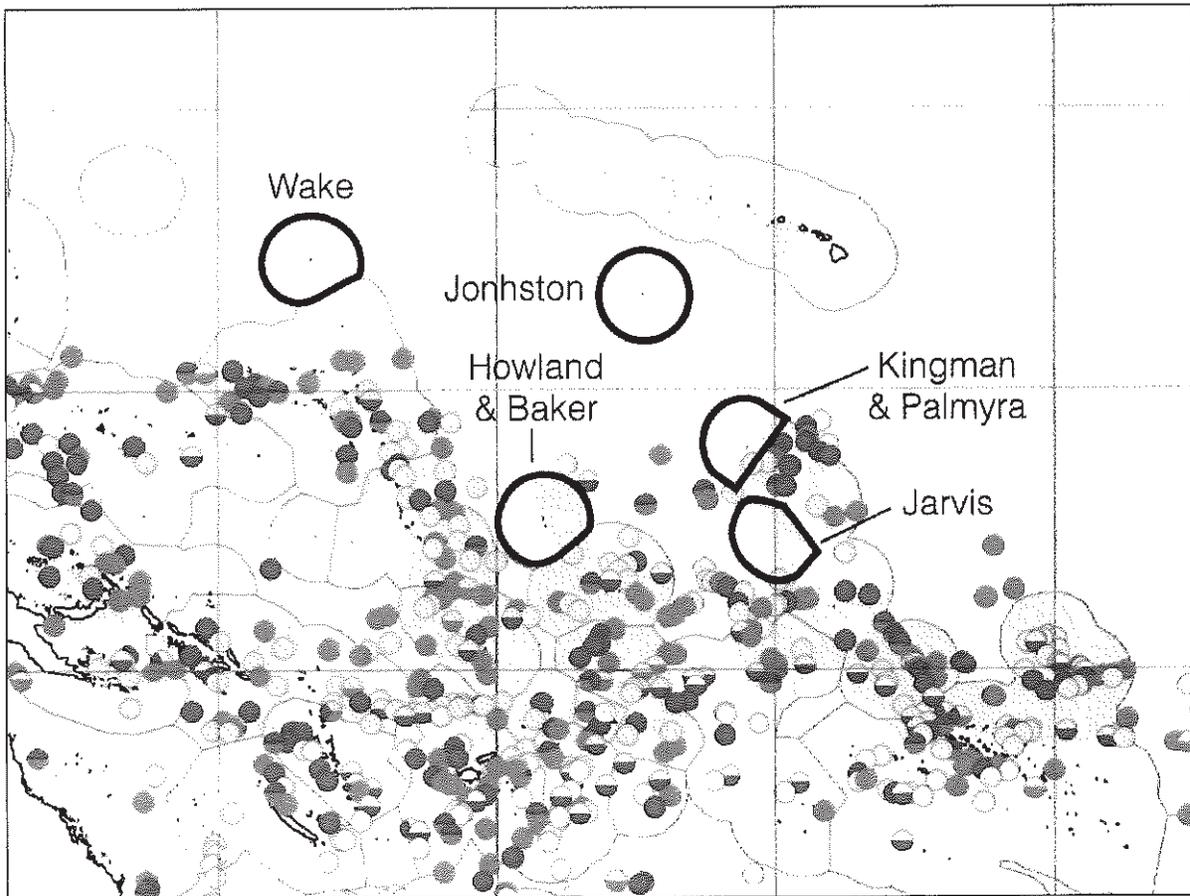


Figure 9. Location of seamounts with significant higher catch rates of tuna [adapted from (32)]. Relative catches of yellowfin tuna (yellow), bigeye (red), and albacore (blue) are depicted on each circle, corresponding to a specific seamount. The EEZs of the Pacific Remote Islands are highlighted in dark blue.

Deep-sea fish species such as orange roughy and eels gather on seamounts to spawn. Animals that live on the rocky crests and slopes of seamounts can also be very diverse and abundant. These include many suspension-feeding animals, such as deep-sea corals and sponges. Corals are especially important in seamount ecosystems because they can form extensive, complex but fragile three-dimensional structures that provide habitat for many other kinds of animals. On some seamounts, scientists have found many new species. Figure 10 shows species found in deep-water (up to 1360 m depth) EEZ areas of Jarvis, Kingman and Palmyra.

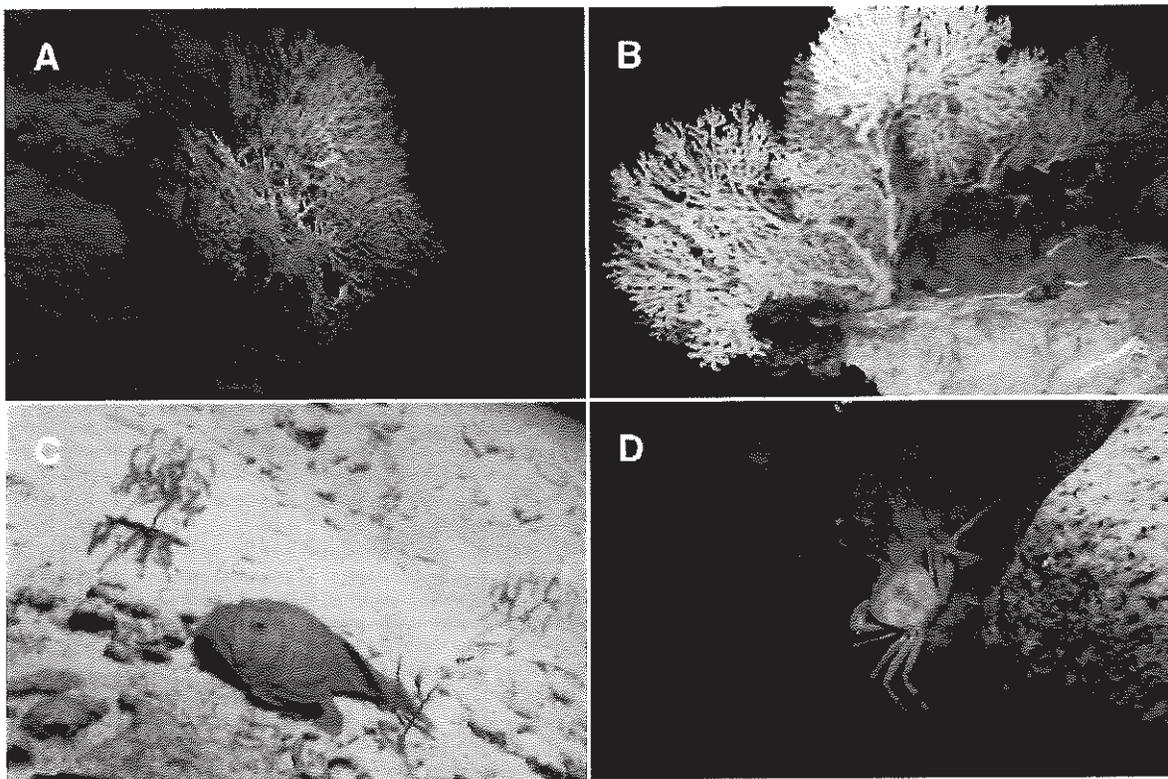


Figure 10. Deep-sea fauna of the Pacific Remote Islands' EEZ. (A) Soft coral and sea lillies at the Kingman/Palmyra EEZ, (B) soft coral at the Jarvis EEZ, (C) deep sea fish and corals at the Kingman and Palmyra EEZ, (D) deep-sea crab at the Jarvis EEZ. Photo credit: Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory (HURL).

3. Threats to the Region

The central Pacific region is at risk from a variety of human activities. Human use of the Pacific Ocean has intensified significantly in the last 40 years. Threats in the pelagic realm include the overfishing of target populations of large predatory fish, disturbance of seabird foraging grounds, the killing of non-target species (marine mammals, sea turtles, and seabirds) in fisheries, and marine debris. The lack of good research on these pelagic threats does not detract from their reality; our ignorance about them is one good reason to take the precautionary approach of fully protecting these relatively intact ecosystems while we can.

3.1. Fishing

Commercial fishing is a threat to the ecosystems of the seven islands because by definition it removes large numbers of fish, which in turn has ecosystem impacts. Industrial fishing, especially for tuna, has been occurring in the islands' waters for many years. Regrettably, its cumulative effects have not been assessed, although we know that population growth and economic globalization is placing an enormous strain on fisheries everywhere. The U.S. Hawaii-based longline fleet alone set a record 45.4 million hooks in Pacific waters in 2012 (7).

Overexploitation is a constant danger, whether by legal or illegal fishing. The macro impacts of fishing on large fish species has been addressed by Myers and Worm, who found that the world's oceans have lost more than 90% of their large predatory fish (1). Jackson indicates that more important than the percentage of decline is the shift in species abundance and composition (33). Industrial scale commercial fishing is a phenomenon of the last 60 years; it is now the principal extractive use of the islands' EEZ waters, and a use that could potentially grow as more boats chase fewer tuna.

Early commercial catch levels are not known. The enactment of a federal fisheries law in 1976 inaugurated a new era of catch reporting by US vessels; reporting has gradually improved, but is not yet comprehensive for all species. Although reef fish, bottom fish and shellfish have been taken sporadically in the past near some islands, there is little near shore fishing going on now. After establishment of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument in 2009, commercial fishing was closed within its boundaries.

Commercial fishing for tuna by longline and purse seine boats continues in the outer waters of the EEZs, and other species also are taken and kept, such as swordfish and mahi mahi (7, 9). Of the four species targeted by the tuna fleet, the bigeye population is the one most likely to be overexploited at this point in time. Yellowfin tuna is considered to be fully exploited, while

skipjack and albacore are nearing full exploitation levels. There is also anecdotal information and satellite observation of illegal fishing (e.g., shark-finning) in the region by non-US flagged vessels.

Tuna fishing effort varies from across the region. The longline fleet concentrates around Hawaii and Kingman, Palmyra and Johnston (Figure 11). Most of the purse seine catch is taken around Howland, Baker and Jarvis. The portion of the total US tuna catch obtained from the islands' collective EEZs prior to the monument designation in 2009 amounted to about 3% of the purse seine fleet catch, and 7% of the longline fleet's take. In 2012, the log book data for the long-line fleet showed about 5% of catch from the region under consideration (Figure 12), and almost no purse seine or other tuna catch in the area (7). The complete closure of these waters to commercial fishing should not result in significant impacts.

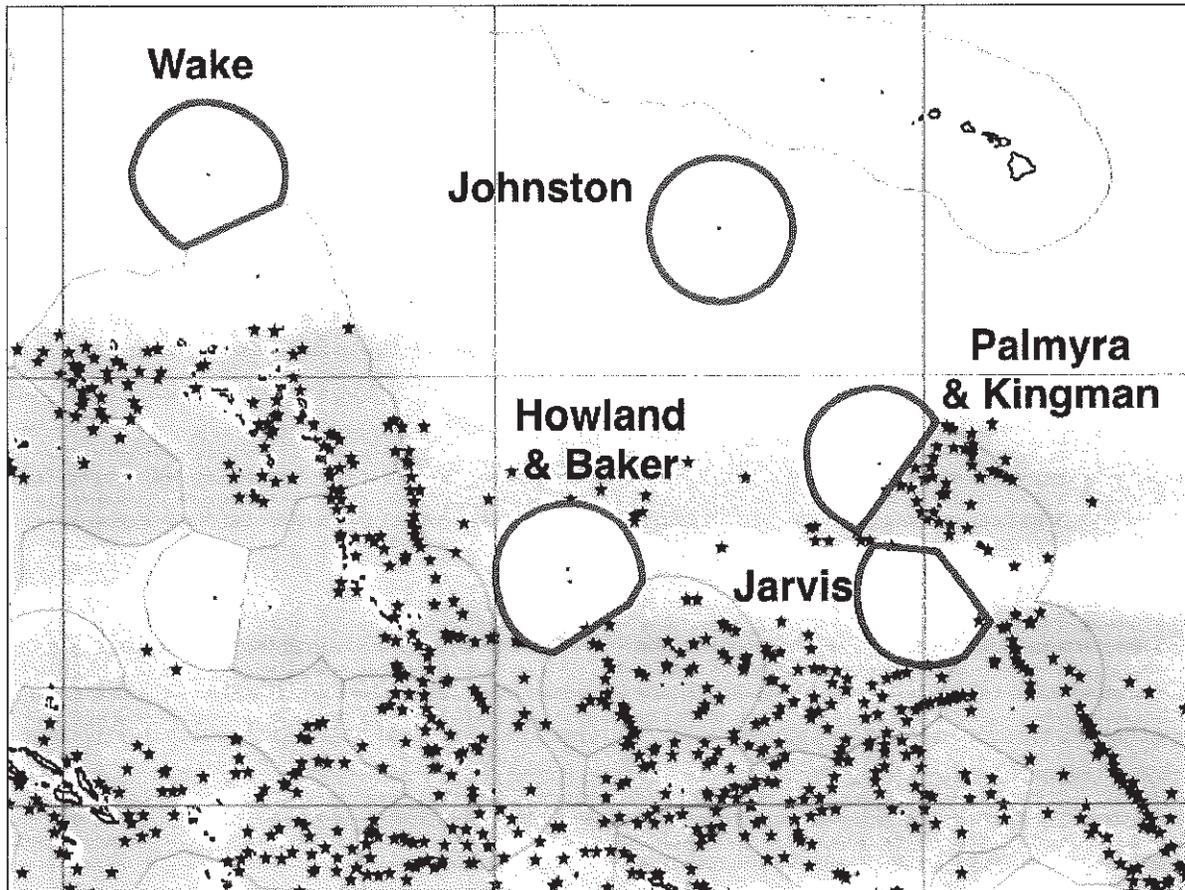


Figure 11. Location of the 1.8 million longline sets (blue dots) recorded in the South Pacific Commission's catch and effort database (1960–2007) [adapted from (32)]. Location of seamounts where tuna fishing occurs (black stars) is shown. The EEZs of the Pacific Remote Islands are highlighted in red. Note that the Pacific Remote Islands EEZs are among the least fished in the central Pacific.

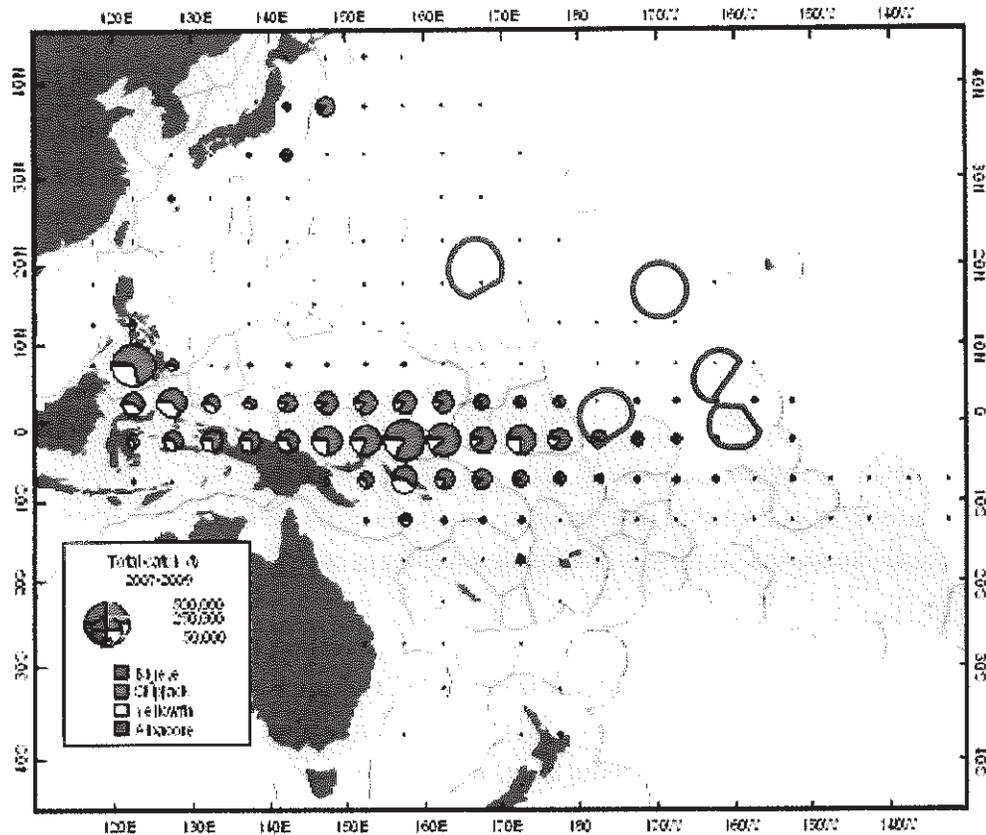


Figure 12. Tuna catches in the Western and Central Pacific [adapted from (9)]. The size of the circle is proportional to the total tuna catch in that specific region. The EEZs of the Pacific Remote Islands are highlighted in dark blue. Note that the Pacific Remote Islands EEZs have almost no tuna catch within their boundaries.

Recreational fishing occurs only at Palmyra Atoll, where the Fish and Wildlife Service allows limited catch and release fishing, whose main objective is help with fish tagging research, and to raise funds to help run the operation of the Palmyra Research Station.

A recreational fishery can have an impact as strong as a commercial fishery. Among populations of concern, recreational landings in the United States in 2002 accounted for 23% of the total nationwide, rising to 38% in the South Atlantic and 64% in the Gulf of Mexico (34). Moreover, recreational fishing affects many of the most-valued overfished species, all of which are taken primarily in the recreational fishery. Moreover, catch and release, even when conducted with apparently harmless gear, has a significant impact on target fish populations. A study conducted off Baja California showed that an average 26 percent of the caught-and-released striped marlin, and 100 percent of the fish released bleeding from the gill chamber, died within five days after release (35).

3.2. Illegal Fishing

All refuge waters in the assessment islands are closed to US and foreign commercial fishing. Because most of the islands are unoccupied and poorly monitored, it is not possible to easily catch US or foreign boats that may enter refuge waters. This issue is complicated by the fact that NOAA and FWS disagree over who has jurisdiction over which waters under what controlling authorities.

There is also some illegal foreign fishing in US island waters. We know this from foreign fishing vessel groundings at Kingman and Palmyra (36); the occasional arrest of a high seas vessel in our EEZ by the Coast Guard (more information in “threats” section); and anecdotal biological evidence of poaching, such as a decline in species numbers over time (e.g., sharks, bumphead parrot fish, and sharks at Palmyra); skewed age structures (grey reef sharks at Howland and Baker), and suspiciously low absences of expected numbers of fish (grey reef sharks at Wake) (33).

It is prohibited for foreign vessels to fish in the entire EEZs of the islands. Infrequent Coast Guard patrols and the lag time between spotting and apprehending a violator before the boat exits US waters means few illegal entrants are caught and prosecuted. The Coast Guard patrols Kingman, Palmyra and Johnston Island EEZs using direct flights from Honolulu. Regular aerial patrols of the other EEZs do not happen unless there is an extended deployment of a Coast Guard aircraft. As a result, even if an aircraft from Hawaii is deployed to Samoa or Guam, only one to two hours of active patrol time per dispatch could be dedicated to patrol the most remote EEZs, such as those of Howland, Baker, Jarvis or Wake Island. These factors, combined with an aging air fleet in need of modernization, challenge the Coast Guard’s ability to protect US living marine resources in the assessment areas. Despite these limitations, the Coast Guard has observed the presence in the islands’ EEZs of an average of 15 illegal fishing vessels per year for the last 4 years. In 2007, there were 11 illegal fishing vessels detected in the islands’ EEZs compared to nine illegal vessels in 2006¹⁴.

One such case is documented in the US Department of Homeland Security United States Coast Guard *Report on Illegal Incursions into the United States Exclusive Economic Zone by Foreign Fishing Vessels*. On February 23, 2007, a Coast Guard aircraft observed the Ecuadorian fishing vessel *San Andres* actively fishing approximately 80 nautical miles inside the US EEZ around Jarvis Island. The Coast Guard was unable to intercept this vessel with a cutter, but did obtain evidence of active fishing activity by the Ecuadorian vessel inside the US EEZ. The US will

¹⁴ United States Coast Guard. 2007. Report on illegal incursions into the United States exclusive zone by foreign fishing vessels.

request the government of Ecuador to take enforcement action against the vessel and prevent further occurrences¹⁵.

The vision of a fully protected reserve, which protects natural ecological functions, energetics and ecosystem processes, is incompatible with the extraction of fish or shellfish by commercial and recreational fishers. This was recognized by President Bush when he proclaimed the Papahānāmokuākea Marine National Monument, which prohibits all fishing (except subsistence fishing) within 50 nm of the island chain. At the time of the proclamation there was little recreational fishing taking place in the Monument, and only a few commercial fishermen were actively fishing for bottom fish and pelagic species. President Bush's proclamation capped commercial fishing at the existing catch level, and directed a phase out of the fishery within five years; recreational fishing was terminated immediately.

Given the massive amount of fishing capacity and power of the entire Pacific fishing fleet, closing the EEZ of the US central Pacific islands will offer a much needed respite for these large pelagic creatures. Critically endangered sea turtles, albatrosses and sharks will once again have significant areas where they are protected during their oceanic wanderings. The closure of these fishing grounds will have relatively small impacts to the combined fishing fleets (less than 5% of their average landings), which can be made up in other areas. Indeed the scientific value from studying these near pristine and intact ecosystems far outweighs the commercial opportunities that are lost. Extending the current Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument into the adjacent pelagic waters will provide a unique opportunity to study the linkages between ocean and coastal tropical atolls.

3.3. Minerals Extraction

Given the geological history of the Pacific Basin, there are no likely oil and gas deposits in the region. For a number of years there has been discussion of mining cobalt crusts and manganese nodules from the basin and some limited exploration. No mineral extraction is currently taking place on the seafloor of the islands EEZs. We believe seabed mining in the eight islands EEZs would be incompatible with preserving these areas as intact, fully protected ecosystems. Therefore, we recommend all minerals extraction be prohibited.

¹⁵ United States Coast Guard. 2007. Report on illegal incursions into the United States exclusive zone by foreign fishing vessels.

4. Protection Will Promote Scientific Research

The U.S. Pacific Remote Islands are home to some of the healthiest marine ecosystems remaining in the world; compared to other areas, they are relatively intact and rich in biodiversity. The islands have nearly four times as many shallow-water, reef-building coral species as the Florida Keys, and are home to hundreds of fish species, dozens of seabird species, and an untold number of invertebrate species, including many endemic species found nowhere else. The islands serve as stepping stones on dispersal highways for many coral reef species and marine colonizers that are now established throughout the Pacific. Seldom visited, and mostly uninhabited, the islands' surrounding marine waters are relatively free from the problems of most other marine ecosystems: over-exploitation, disturbance and pollution.

It is within this context that the great scientific value of the island areas must be understood – they offer a unique window into the past. Nowhere else do we have such remarkably intact tropical ecosystems from which to develop historical baselines of what “natural” islands and oceans are supposed to be. The assessment islands and their surrounding waters offer tremendous opportunities for scientific research on a number of topics if they are protected in their natural state. The islands offer:

- Pristine examples from which to assess the status of coral reef ecosystems throughout the Pacific, and an understanding of coral reef community dynamics without the impacts of fishing, pollution or runoff
- A historical baseline for setting coral reef restoration goals throughout the Pacific
- Sites to monitor the effects of climate change on healthy ecosystems
- Areas study the ecology of near shore ecosystems and their relationship to open ocean waters
- Sites to enhance knowledge of seabirds, sea turtles and marine mammals in open ocean settings and their congregation and migratory patterns—much remains to be done here
- Zones for exploration of the open ocean ecosystem, including its pelagic waters and the deep sea, all of which are not well understood
- Areas to implement and learn from terrestrial and coral restoration projects

Comprehensive coral reef research between NOAA, FWS and several other institutions began in 2000. NOAA has done integrated ecosystem assessments to develop benthic habitat maps; conducts biennial Pacific Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program cruises to each region/island; and conducts Oceanographic and water quality monitoring around each island. A modest budget allocation goes to this effort—about \$3M annually¹⁶. Scientists have mapped

¹⁶ Brainard, Rusty. 2008. Personal Communication.

and monitored all US-affiliated islands in the Pacific, allowing for status and health comparisons between the islands and with other non-US islands. These comparisons have only begun. Researchers must continue to more completely understand the differences between nearly pristine and less than pristine coral areas. In addition, The Palmyra Atoll Research Consortium (PARC) should be allowed to continue operation and supported. Very little work has investigated the deep sea and open ocean areas of this region and resources to support this are needed.

Scientific research has shown that these Central Pacific US remote atolls have the largest reef fish biomasses ever reported (37). Their biomass is between 5 and 30 times greater than that in unprotected US coral reefs (38, 39). These results indicate that fishing has removed between 20 and 97 percent of the reef fishes – including sharks – of US unprotected coral reefs. In addition, the biomass of large predators at Jarvis, Kingman, Howland and Palmyra is larger than the biomass of their fish prey (37). These findings support the idea that our previous understanding about the structure of coral reef fish assemblages is biased as a consequence of having studied mostly degraded reefs (40). Based on this consistent set of data, we conclude that large biomass and inverted biomass pyramids were the norm on coral reefs before exploitation by humans. These Central Pacific reefs are essential baselines to understand how natural reefs function, to understand what we have lost, and to identify rigorous, unbiased management and conservation goals. These systems need to be protected lest we forget what a healthy ocean looks like, and how an intact ecosystem functions. This latter point is even more significant given future uncertainty due to rising levels of atmospheric CO₂ and its impacts.

Fully protected from fishing, large tuna will inhabit the pelagic waters of the region and provide an important ecological function to foraging seabirds at these remote islets and atolls driving prey, such as squid, towards surface waters where they are easily caught by seabirds. The community dynamics that reveal themselves to scientists in these untrammelled waters are important insights that cannot be gained in areas under heavy exploitation.

Open ocean research also must be advanced to understand the importance of the ocean areas beyond the coral reef shelves. The assessment areas collectively encompass an estimated 281 seamounts, most of which have not been identified or explored. Given the high rates of species discovery at other seamounts and bottom habitats in the deep Pacific Ocean, we can easily surmise that hundreds to thousands of new species will be discovered in these waters. We recommend that research be continued and increased levels of funding. All research should continue under current agency research permits, consistent with the monuments' objective of protecting and restoring these unique areas. Funding must be increased for future research for coral reef, deep sea, and open ocean surveys and studies.

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APPENDIX 1

Recommendations for Protection and Management of the expanded Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument

General recommendations and use

In general, we recommend that the U.S. Pacific Remote islands be fully protected to the outer boundary of their EEZ as a Marine National Monument in order to safeguard these rare, relatively pristine and intact ecosystems. Resource extraction should be prohibited on all of the islands, in the waters of the EEZ and on the seafloor, with certain limited exceptions. The purposes of the Monument should be to protect and restore the scientific and historic resources therein, and to maintain natural biodiversity and ecological processes. Uses of the Monument would be limited to scientific research, education, and wildlife viewing by permit.

Management

Because of the existing Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) co-management of the Pacific Remote Islands MNM and its extensive management plan development, we recommend that FWS retain its full and exclusive authority over the islands and nearshore waters, and that seaward of this region, that NOAA should retain management out to the 200 nm zone (or extent of the EEZ) around the islands as an ocean reserve under its authorities. The President should direct NOAA and FWS to coordinate their research and law enforcement activities in their respective zones of management.

The following principles should apply to the areas under consideration:

- Commercial extractive activities are prohibited, including mining and drilling.
- Ships waste discharges and other discharges are prohibited unless relevant national and international treatment standards are met.
- Commercial and recreational fishing is prohibited in the entire zone, except as provided in the earlier proclamation for the Pacific Remote Islands MNM.

The special circumstances of the two military-managed islands call for special measures:

- Johnston Island and surrounding waters to 12 nm is transferred to the Department of the Interior immediately and managed by FWS as a refuge, with funding provided for staff to be based on the island.
- Wake Island remains under DOD management until such time as the DOD declares the island surplus to its needs, at which time it would revert to the Department of the Interior.
- Interior and DOD are directed to negotiate a cooperative wildlife management agreement for Wake Island's emergent lands. FWS and DOD are directed to co-manage the land areas and wildlife as mutually agreed upon. Funding is provided to place FWS staff on the island for wildlife law enforcement and management purposes.
- The marine waters of Wake to a distance of 12 nm are designated as an overlay national wildlife refuge with primary management authority granted to FWS. Appropriate regulations should be issued by FWS, in consultation with DOD, for recreational fishing in the 0-12nm zone around Wake Island. FWS is authorized to manage recreational fishing under the Refuge Administration Act, Consistent with the management goals of the monument.
- The waters from 12 to 200 nm at Wake are managed by NOAA as a fully protected area.

Military activities

As per the President's memo of August 26, 2008, DOD should be permitted to continue any activities it deems necessary for national defense in the waters surrounding Wake and the other islands.

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Expansion of Pacific marine sanctuary is consistent with Hawaiian practice

By Hannah Kihalani Springer

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M. General?

Ola aku la ka 'aina kaha, ua pua ka lehua i kai.

(Life has come to the kaha lands, for the lehua blooms are seen at sea.)

"Lehua" is a reference to the deep-sea fishermen of Kekaha, North Kona.

Kekaha is my home on Hawaii island and my family, descendants of subsistence fishermen, continue to supplement our table with fish caught in the waters that our ancestors fished for hundreds of years.

The 'olelo no'eau, or Hawaiian saying, above draws our attention to the Hawaiian inclination of connectivity.

Lehua blossoms are a metaphor for the fishermen of the kaha lands; the seasonal bloom of lehua coincides with the traditional lifting of the kapu on aku fishing.

The kapu was the regulatory system that maintained a sustainable yield of desired resources. Observations were made, conclusions drawn about conditions, and precautionary management actions were taken.

Our ancestors harvested from the waters around Hawaii with efficiency using these sophisticated management techniques -- and our ocean resources thrived because of it.

The people of old understood that rigorously managed fisheries benefited fish and fishers alike. The proposed expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM) is consistent with this Hawaiian practice.

Like the connectivity between the aku, lehua and fishermen, there are strong and poetic connections between the deep-sea waters of the PRIMNM and our nearshore island waters.

Ocean currents, migrating marine mammals and birds, and our history and voyaging canoes link us to these distant and uninhabited islands and atolls. In recent times, commercial fishermen, calling Honolulu their homeport, have become connecting factors as well.

These geographies, and their waters, abundant with wildlife, help maintain the productivity of Hawaii's ocean ecosystem and are a vital link in ensuring the health of the broader central Pacific.

Today in Kekaha, lineal descendants, applied scientists, old and new community members, are working on place-based, adaptive management of our nearshore fishery. We have learned that protected marine areas

can benefit ecosystems and replenish resources adjacent to protected areas.

The same applies to expanding the monument area from its current 50 miles to the 200-nautical-mile U.S. exclusive economic zone. Protecting this area ensures long-term viability of our resources, including fish species with commercial value.

If President Barack Obama fully protects the PRIMNM, commercial fishers can replace the less than 5 percent of U.S. tuna catch from this region in neighboring geographies, which are already active fishing grounds.

Even with the expansion of the PRIMNM, 94 percent of the exclusive economic zone area in the Pacific covered by the South Pacific Tuna Fishery would remain open for business to U.S. commercial fishers.

The U.S. has more fishing opportunities than any other country fishing in the region -- and yet, other Pacific Island presidents have already led the way in establishing large-scale marine reserves to ensure the ability to feed families, secure ocean livelihoods and perpetuate culture.

President Obama should join our Pacific neighbors in this effort.

The PRIMNM expansion presents an opportunity to include a memorial to the Hui Panala'au, the more than 130 young men from Hawaii who were sent on a colonizing mission to Howland, Baker and Jarvis by the federal government from 1935-1942.

Three of the young men died during their missions; three of them are still alive today, and all are deserving of the honorable recognition suggested by a descendant, Noelle Kahanu, at a Honolulu town hall meeting last month.

The people of old left lessons for us: a rigorous management system ensures the long-term viability of our resources.

Let us seize this opportunity to rise to the standards of those set by our ancestors not long ago.



*Hannah Kihalani
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Molly McUsic <mcusic@wyssfoundation.org>
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Thu, Jun 12, 2014 at 4:44 PM

(b) (5)

Hi Nicky,

I talked to a former solicitor and a former hill staffer on Interior appropriations. Both said if there is any rule that would limit how much money the park service got it is internal to the park service. In other words, the park service can get more money if you guys want them to. My guess is Jarvis is just doing a back of the envelope calculation based on other parks, and there is no rule connecting acres and money. Just between us, both of these people laughed out loud when I told and said that it was just the park service trying to get more acres.

Here is the language that gives you the options but you have probably already seen it.

The role of DOI in FS monuments was settled by two executive orders, in 1933 and in 1950, exercising presidential authority under various reorganization acts, both of which were ratified by Congress in 1984 (and thus cannot be undone without congressional consent). The latest relevant guidance from the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) is that the President "may delegate management responsibilities" for national monuments to agencies other than the Interior Department "if that agency has some independent statutory authority to manage the relevant resource, but the Department of the Interior must maintain concurrent management of the monument." Management may thus "generally be shared" between Interior and the other agency. OLC also said "no precise rules have been developed to govern how management authority must be allocated between the Department of the Interior and other managing agencies," but it noted that the "administrative practice . . . requires" that Interior "be consulted on all significant management decisions relating to the national monument and have the opportunity to bring any issue upon which it disagrees with the other managing agency or agencies to the President or his delegee for resolution."

Molly McUsic | President

The Wyss Foundation

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www.wyssfoundation.org

Almas

M-SG



PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: LORI WEIGEL, PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

DATE: JUNE 5, 2014

RE: KEY FINDINGS FROM A SURVEY OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY VOTERS REGARDING SUPPORT FOR PERMANATELY PROTECTING THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS

Public Opinion Strategies recently completed a survey of 400 voters throughout Los Angeles County with an oversample of Latino voters regarding their perceptions of a proposal to permanently protect the San Gabriel Mountains and rivers.¹ The survey finds strong and widespread support for the proposal as detailed in the survey.

In fact, a majority say the President should take action now on this proposal.

Voters perceive that protecting the San Gabriel Mountains and rivers offers many benefits for themselves personally and the community, with particular importance on clean water, air, wildlife, and ensuring there are places for children to recreate and experience nature. Specifically, the survey found:

- **Four-in-five Los Angeles County voters (80 percent) support protecting the San Gabriel Mountains and rivers.** Survey respondents received a brief explanation of the proposal in order to ensure all respondents had the same level of information on the topic:

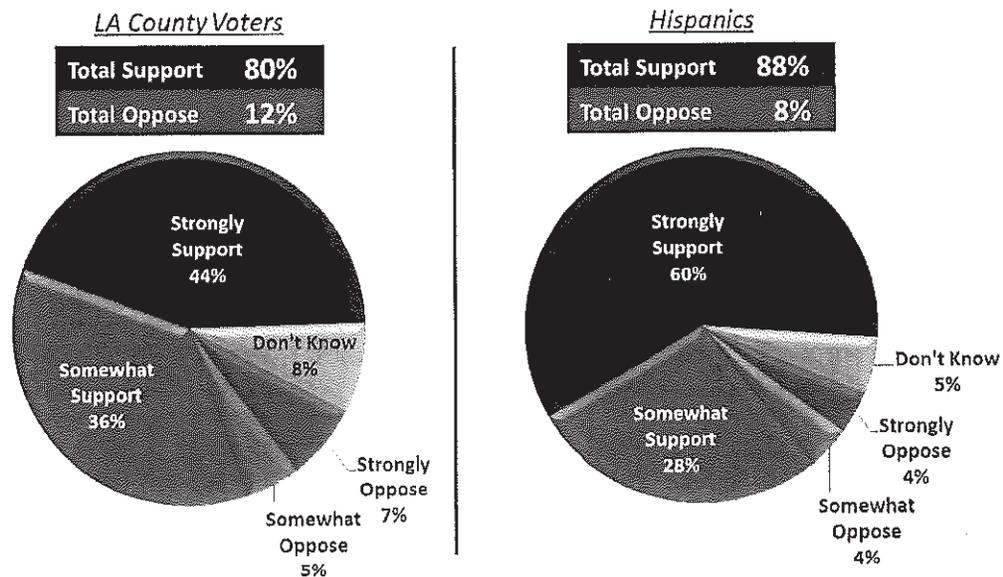
As you may know, the San Gabriel proposal would enhance protections for significant portions of the San Gabriel Mountains in the Angeles National Forest and provide close to home recreational opportunities for communities throughout Los Angeles County. The proposal, developed with community input, would bring greater resources to the area for maintaining and enhancing the public lands, with improved parking, improved rest rooms, better trash collection, and new recreation opportunities that extend into the San Gabriel

¹ **Methodology:** Public Opinion Strategies conducted a telephone survey of N=500 voters throughout Los Angeles County, California. The survey was conducted May 27-31, 2014 and has an overall margin of error of +4.38%. Sampling error for subgroups within the sample will be larger. The sample is proportional throughout the state and demographically representative of the electorate. Interviews were conducted both on traditional land lines and cell phones.

Valley. Recreational activities could include hiking, biking, picnicking, fishing, boating, and camping. Hunting would also be allowed in this area.

Fully 80 percent of Los Angeles County voters support the proposed protection of the San Gabriel Mountains and rivers, with almost universal support (88 percent) among Hispanic voters in the county. Opposition is in the single digits among Hispanics and only slightly higher overall.

Support for protecting the San Gabriel Mountains and rivers



The intensity of support for this proposal is also striking, as voters broadly are more likely to be strongly in support than strongly opposed by a **six-to-one margin**. Among Hispanic voters, that ratio is a significant **twelve-to-one**.

- **Support for protecting the San Gabriel Mountains and rivers is widespread and broad-based.** Majorities of all key subgroups of the electorate express this sentiment, including:
 - 82 percent of women and 76 percent of men;
 - 88 percent of Latinos, 82 percent of Asian Americans, 76 percent of African Americans, and 76 percent of White/Anglos;
 - 90 percent of voters under age 35, 85 percent of 35-44 year olds, 76 percent of 45-64 year olds, and 72 percent of seniors;
 - 90 percent of moms/women with a child in the household, 76 percent of dads/men with a child in the household, and 79 percent of those without a child under the age of 18 living at home;
 - 87 percent of self-described liberal voters, 81 percent of moderates and 74 percent of conservatives;

- 84 percent of Democrats, 82 percent of independents/Decline to State voters, and 68 percent of GOP voters; and
- 73 percent of those who hunt or fish.

Notably, support is strongest among the one-in-five residents who indicate having heard something about the proposed National Recreation Area prior to the survey. Among those already aware of the proposal, fully 84 percent express support for the idea.

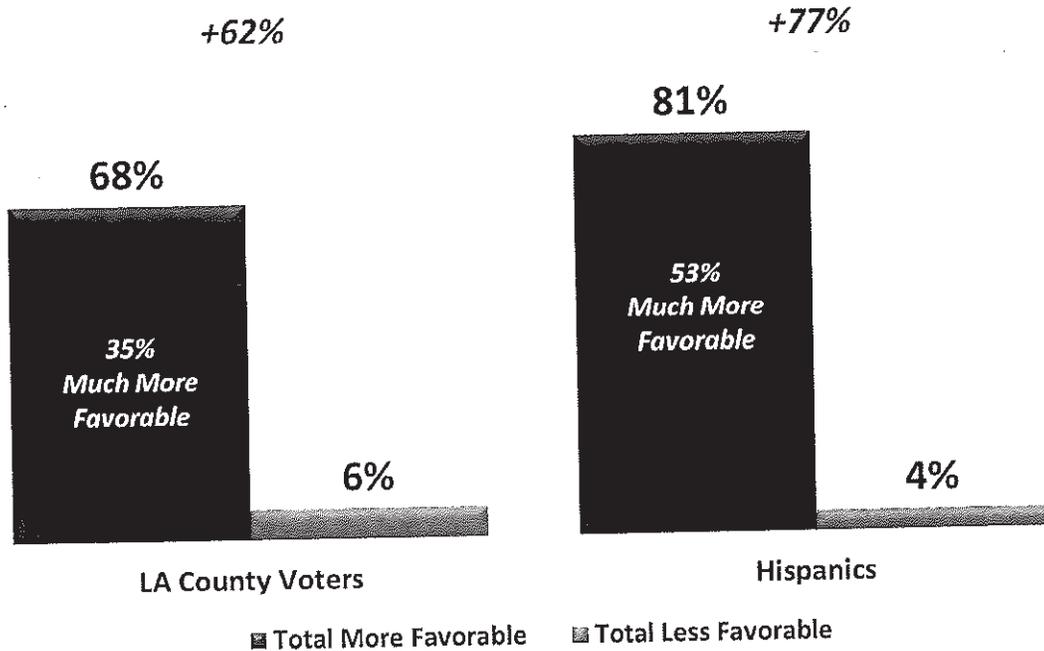
- **Virtually every potential benefit of protections for the San Gabriel Mountains is perceived to be important by Los Angeles County voters.** Respondents were asked to rate a randomized list of potential benefits of this proposal and asked to rate each one as either extremely, very, somewhat or not that important to them personally. As the following graph illustrates, virtually all of the potential benefits are ones that County residents deem to be at least somewhat important. And, 13 of the 17 potential benefits tested are viewed as extremely or very important by a solid majority of County voters.

Summary of Benefits - Ranked by % Extremely/Very Important

Benefits	% Extremely/ Very Important	% Total Important
Provide clean water for drinking	90%	95%
Protect clean air	83%	92%
Protect open space and natural areas that are threatened by development	78%	90%
Provide opportunities for children to get outside and explore nature	77%	91%
Protect habitat for threatened animals, such as the California condor and mountain lions	76%	90%
Reducing the amounts of trash, graffiti and user-created dams in and along the San Gabriel River	74%	93%
Provide greater education experiences so children can learn about nature	73%	95%
Preserve and enhance the natural, historic and scenic resources of the San Gabriel Mountains and the rivers that flow through the San Gabriel Valley.	73%	93%
Provide better maintenance and cleaning of trails, restrooms and parking areas, as currently the Forest Service relies on volunteers to pick up litter	67%	92%
Provide families with affordable places to spend time together, and relax	66%	93%
Providing better recreational opportunities for those who come to swim, hike, camp, and recreate here	62%	90%
Provide spaces for exercise and outdoor recreation to help address Los Angeles County's childhood obesity and diabetes health problems	61%	88%
Provide more restrooms, access trails, picnic sites, and educational signs to enhance visitor experiences	56%	89%
Provide opportunities for quiet and spiritual reflection	49%	81%
Increase the number of multi-lingual staff and rangers	43%	77%
Preserve opportunities for fishing	35%	76%
Preserve opportunities for hunting	15%	42%

- Elected officials and those running for public office would be wise to note that voters' positive associations with proposal extend to officials who support it. More than two-thirds of Los Angeles County voters say they would have a more favorable impression of a "candidate for public office if he or she supported this proposal regarding providing greater protection and attention to the San Gabriel Mountains and rivers."
- In fact, more than one-in-three say they would have a much more favorable impression (35 percent) reaching a level of intensity that signals this issue is a true motivator. Among Hispanics, as the below chart indicates, positive associations are extremely high (81 percent more favorable) and intense – a solid majority of 53 percent say they would be much more favorable toward a candidate who supports protections for the San Gabriel Mountains.

**Impact of Support for San Gabriel Mountains and Rivers
On Views of a Candidate for Public Office**



- In fact, a majority say they would tell the President to take action on this proposal now. A majority of 55 percent of all County voters and fully 70 percent of Hispanic voters say they would tell President Obama to take action on this proposal now.

M-SG



Memo

To: Interested Parties

From: San Gabriel Mountains Forever Coalition

Date: July 3, 2014

Subject: Recommended Implementation Guidance for Enhanced Management of the San Gabriel Mountains and rivers

The following memo summarizes potential management guidance for a San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, as suggested by the San Gabriel Mountains Forever coalition. These recommendations are made based on multiple conversations with community partners, agency staff, and administration officials, many of whom have inquired as to how enhanced management of the area should be implemented to accommodate the needs of the landscape and the communities that depend on it for drinking water, outdoor recreation, and more.

It is important to note that as a result of over the 10 plus years of public input on the San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains Special Resources Study conducted by the National Park Service, there has been consistent interest by stakeholders for a National Park Service role alongside the US Forest Service in the Angeles and San Bernardino national forests. SGMF realizes the Administration is interested in pursuing all avenues to achieve our desired outcomes. SGMF is receptive to other selected management arrangements that can achieve desired outcomes listed below. SGMF would appreciate detailed information on commitments made for achieving desired outcomes and proposed timeframes.

Desired Outcomes

The vision of San Gabriel Mountains Forever is the protection and enhancement of our mountains, rivers and parks with access for all. The SGMF is committed to working with the Administration to see the following types of outcomes in the proposed national monument:

- Protection of the area's natural, historic, and cultural resources
- Rehabilitate and re-open all recreation areas throughout the forest for sustainable recreation
- Establish new recreation areas, new parking areas, restrooms and educational kiosks, and new trails for communities located in areas underserved by recreational opportunities and access to the forest
- Implement a comprehensive signage system (including safety, way finding, and interpretive signage) and relate signage infrastructure throughout the proposed monument and urban access points

- Create a front line visitor reception program, welcoming and orienting visitors at all key entry points of a proposed national monument and at all key recreation areas
- Develop a comprehensive education program (including fire prevention and littering elements) to serve the needs of foothill communities and adjacent residents and visitors
- Enhance engagement and support of volunteer programs, local nonprofit organizations and community groups, which complete stewardship projects and educational programs in the forest
- Increase opportunities for youth to work within the forest undertaking restoration and trail maintenance, recreation outreach and planning, and public outreach and education.

Implementation Guidance

In order to best meet the desired outcomes of the SGMF for new San Gabriel Mountains National Monument (Monument), the community suggests the following implementation guidance:

Staffing

- Hire a full-time staff, at the appropriate management level and based on location, to manage and convene a public advisory committee as well as lead a management plan, visitor services plan, and access plan. SGMF recommends this position be filled within 90 days of the national monument proclamation. To best execute this position, we feel the staff member must have access to agency resources (including staff time and funds) necessary to carry out planning processes and activities identified.
- Conduct training for local agency staff, providing them with the tools necessary to nurture and develop a reciprocal relationship with the surrounding communities; this should include special emphasis on engagement with multicultural and disadvantaged communities and youth.

Planning Initiatives

- In the proclamation and management plan for the Monument, clearly prioritize the protection of the Monument's natural, historic, and cultural resources while providing for the education and enjoyment of its visitors.
- Prepare a visitor services study and plan to improve visitor experiences within the Monument through expanded recreational opportunities, and increased interpretation, education, resource protection, and enforcement for the Monument. The results of this study should be incorporated into the management plan for the Monument.
- Prepare an access study that studies public access to the Monument and make recommendations on improving accessibility. The results of this study should be incorporated into the management plan for the Monument. A Transit to Trails program should be implemented at the earliest possible opportunity.

Resources & Implementation

- Commit to providing the resources necessary to conduct and implement the plans and projects identified in the appropriate budget year, pending National Monument designation timing, and to subsequently prioritize submission of such budgetary request(s) to Congress to sustain funding for these objectives over the long term.

- Create a meaningful partnership with local stakeholders through the public advisory committee.
- Should there not be significant progress in the advancement of management improvements in a proposed National Monument SGMF shall revisit the need for additional agency or Administration or legislative alternatives to meet our desired outcomes.

~~MM~~
M-56

National Parks Conservation Association * The City Project * Los Angeles Conservation Corps *
Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council * Coalition for Responsible Community Development *
East Los Angeles Community Corporation * Little Tokyo Service Center * EndOil/Communities for
Clean Ports * Outward Bound Adventures, Inc. * Multicultural Communities for Mobility *
Acjachemen Nation * Los Jardines Institute (The Gardens Institute) * National Recreation and
Park Association * Search To Involve Pilipino Americans * Koreatown Youth and Community Center *
Asian and Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention Alliance * State Senator Tom Hayden (ret.) *
Social and Public Art Resource Center * Conservation Law Foundation * Los Angeles Wilderness Training *
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California * Amigos de los Rios

July 2, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: San Gabriel Mountains and Watershed protection

Dear Mr. President:

We are organizations in the Los Angeles and San Gabriel region that represent communities and members that stand to benefit from Congresswoman Judy Chu's recently introduced San Gabriel National Recreation Area Act.

A cornerstone of the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Act is the creation of a new unit of the national park system. This is specifically included to ensure the benefits of National Park Service involvement in our communities through a genuine commitment by the Administration to the region. A new unit of the national park system ensures that dedicated funding is provided for staff and resources, providing tangible benefits to our local communities. This is an important part of the support by local organizations for this legislation.

In the event that you consider using your executive authorities to designate a new national monument in this region, we believe it is critical for any national monument proclamation to include the creation of a new unit of the national park system, as intended by Congresswoman Chu's legislation. Anything less would fall short of local stakeholders' expectations in guaranteed new enhancements for the San Gabriel Mountains and Watershed. In addition, the proclamation should include health, environmental justice and Native American values and sacred sites as core goals for permanent protections. This should include jobs and apprenticeship programs for urban youth of color and low income youth, as well as the development of a Transit to Trails program. The proposed legislation addresses these values through a diverse public advisory council including environmental justice, comprehensive management and visitor plans, and a partnership among federal, state, tribal, and local authorities and the private sector.

We have been proud to provide local support to the Administration over the years on these efforts. The National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service have a unique opportunity in their nearly 100 year relationship to form a new partnership in which each agency's expertise comes together to benefit our communities. Such an outcome would enhance each agency's proud legacy and contribution to our public lands in the region. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Dennis Arguelles, Los Angeles Program Manager
National Parks Conservation Association

Bruce Saito, Executive Director
Los Angeles Conservation Corps

Mark Wilson, Executive Director
Coalition for Responsible Community Development

Mark Masaoka, Policy Director
Asian Pacific Planning & Policy Council

Gregg Allen, Board President
Outward Bound Adventures, Inc.

Robert Bracamontes
Acjachemen Nation

Kevin O'Hara, Vice President
National Recreation and Park Association

Johng Ho Song, Executive Director
Koreatown Youth and Community Center Alliance

State Senator Tom Hayden (ret.)

Veronica Eady, Vice President
Conservation Law Foundation

Xavier Morales, Executive Director
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California

Robert Garcia, Founding Director & Counsel
The City Project

Claire Robinson, Executive Director
Amigos de los Rios

Maria Cabildo, Executive Director
East Los Angeles Community Corporation

Gisele Fong, Executive Director
EndOil/Communities for Clean Ports

Betty Avila, Board Chair
Multicultural Communities for Mobility

Richard Moore, Coordinator
Los Jardines Institute (The Gardens Institute)

Joel F. Jacinto, Executive Director
Search To Involve Pilipino Americans

Scott Chan, Director
Asian and Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention

Debra J.T. Padilla, Executive Director
Social and Public Art Resource Center

Chelsea Griffie, Executive Director
Los Angeles Wilderness Training

Dean Matsubayashi, Executive Director
Little Tokyo Service Center



Call with Leslie Jones

Created by: Gisella Ojeda-dodds

Time

2:30pm - 2:45pm (Eastern Time)

Guests

- ✓ Nicole Buffa
leslie.jones@osec.usda.gov

Date

Wed May 28, 2014

(b) (5)

Where

Nikki to call Leslie at (202) 720-7173 or

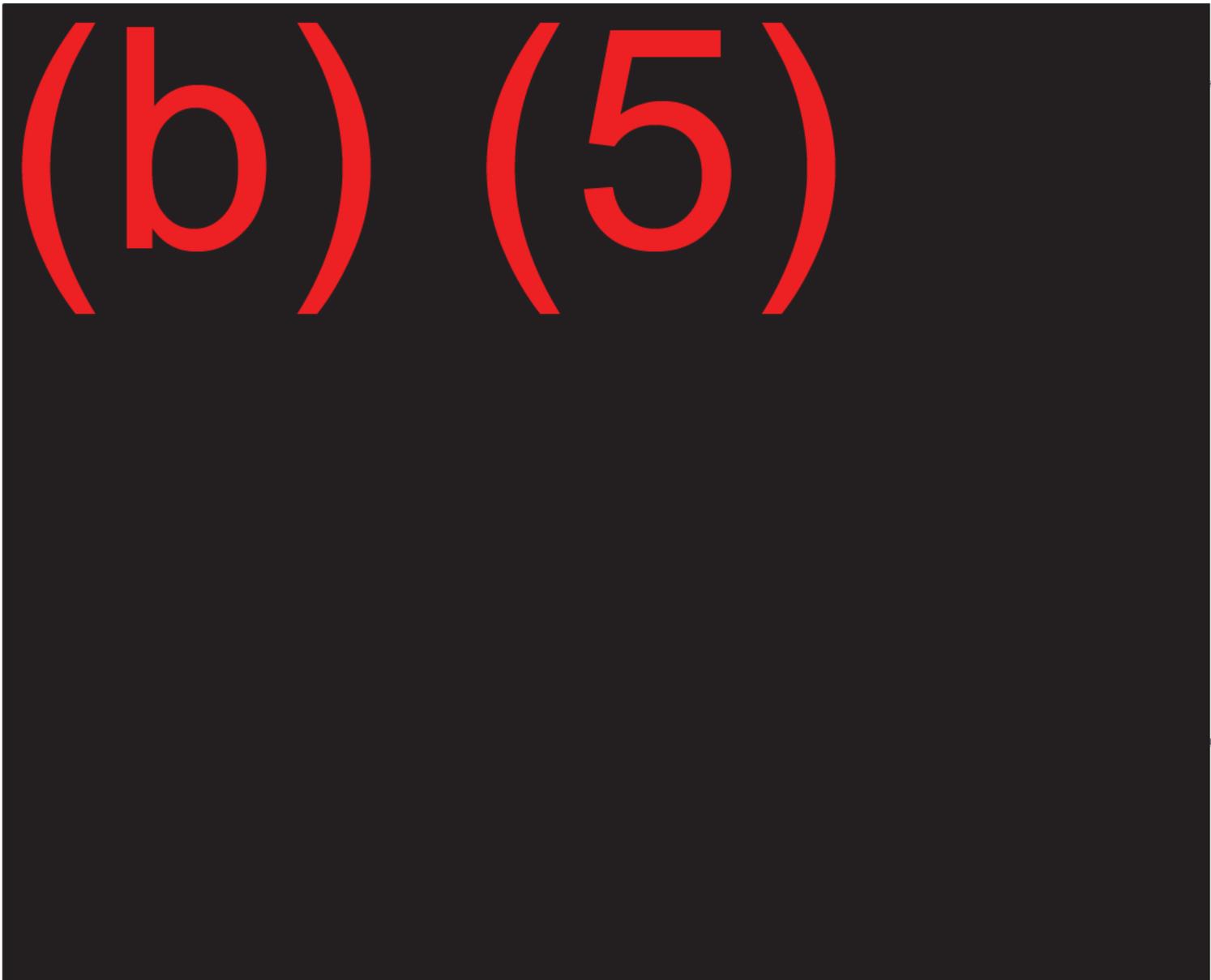
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San Gabriel

M-56

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, December 22, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Tue Dec 22 2015 05:00:18 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, December 22, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2015 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL VOWS TO PUSH KLAMATH PACTS DESPITE CONGRESS' INACTION. The [E&E](#) (12/21) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has vowed “to continue working on a landmark water-sharing and dam removal agreement on the Klamath River, after Congress failed to act on enabling legislation last week.” Jewell said, “I am deeply disappointed that authorizing legislation for the hard-fought Klamath Agreements was not passed during this session of Congress. In crafting these agreements, a diverse and committed group of coalition parties set aside ideology and years of conflict for the hope of long term progress and sustainability for tribes, the fishery and irrigated agriculture in the region.”

Additional coverage of the issue was provided by [Fox News](#) (12/21, 9.42M).

SAGE GROUSE PROTECTION BOOSTED BY INTERIOR'S NATURAL RESOURCE INVESTMENT CENTER.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (12/22, Subscription Publication) reports that “efforts by western states and the energy industry to enhance habitat protections for the greater sage grouse should benefit from the recently unveiled U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) Natural Resource Investment Center, said Secretary Sally Jewell.” The center is “designed to spur public-private partnerships for water conservation and sage grouse habitat programs similar to some of the government-industry programs that led to DOI’s decision in September to not list the bird as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.” According to the article, “besides fostering water exchanges across the West, the center is designed to create partnerships to enhance grouse habitat in Nevada, where a collaboration with DOI, Barrick Gold of North America and The Nature Conservancy has expanded efforts.”

HOUSE REPUBLICANS QUESTION EPA'S MINE SPILL ADDENDUM. The [E&E](#) (12/21) reports that House Natural Resources Committee Republicans are “accusing U.S. EPA of spreading ‘demonstrably false’ information related to this summer’s abandoned mine spill in Colorado.” Before a Natural Resources oversight hearing on the incident earlier this month, EPA “released an addendum to an agency internal review of the spill,” which “includes new interviews with two EPA staffers, who say the agency was conducting preliminary work at Gold King but was not planning more significant work until consultations with the Interior Department’s Bureau of Reclamation.” Last Friday, Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop and Investigations Subcommittee Chairman Louie Gohmert “fired off a letter to EPA’s Office of Inspector General questioning the addendum.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/22, 283K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/22, 263K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (12/21, 31K), the [Daily Signal](#) (12/21), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (12/21, 57K).

PEER, Questions EPA For Recent Chemical Accidents. The [Daily Caller](#) (12/22, Bastasch, 366K) reports Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) attorney Laura Dumais called the EPA a “proverbial plumber with the leaky pipes” in part because of the EPA’s refusal to release information about the “unidentified” chemicals found in an Arlington office ventilation center, which PEER said resulted in health problems in over 20 EPA employees. The Interior Department also criticized the EPA because its employees released 3 million gallons of toxic waste into the Animas River four months prior, an error the Interior Department said was preventable.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CASTNER RANGE PROPOSED AS NATIONAL MONUMENT. Additional coverage that Castner Range has been proposed for national monument status was provided by the [El Paso \(TX\) Inc.](#) (12/22, 31K).

WILDLIFE ADVOCATES CHEER OMNIBUS BILL. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (12/22, Clark, 251K), Jamie Rappaport Clark, President & CEO, Defenders of Wildlife, cheers the omnibus budget bill because it was “almost free of catastrophic anti-wildlife riders, making it a huge victory for imperiled species and the Endangered Species Act.” Clark recognizes “our conservation champions in Congress, the Obama administration and the tireless work of the conservation community,” who prevented “a whole slew of potential riders attacking our lands and wildlife...from inclusion in the final funding deal.”

CONGRESS URGED TO MAKE LWCF PERMANENT. In an editorial, the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (12/21, 209K) urges Congress to permanently restore the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The paper says that the LWCF has “enjoyed bipartisan support since its inception.” It concludes that “it’s time to remove the fund from the political arena and permanently re-authorize the program.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (12/20, Smith, 691K), [VTDigger \(VT\)](#) (12/21, 1K), and [WXPR-FM](#) Rhinelander, WI (12/22).

REPUBLICANS CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO ATTACK STREAM BUFFER RULE IN OMNIBUS. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (12/21, 654K), Charlie Drevna, senior fellow at the Institute For Energy Research, criticizes the omnibus bill for neglecting to help the “domestic manufacturing and energy sectors.” Of note, Drevan points out

“Republicans lost out on an opportunity to help protect...jobs by vacating” the stream buffer rule; “instead, the Omnibus helps support Obama’s war on coal.”

PROTECTION URGED FOR OWYHEE CANYONLANDS. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (12/22, Collier, 654K), Zach Collier, the owner of Northwest Rafting Company, argues that “protecting the Owyhee Canyonlands is good for business.” He writes that “a protective designation that would provide a ‘star on the map’ for the Owyhees would almost certainly boost the local economy as well as the whitewater industry across the state and region.” But more than anything else, what “fuels” Collier is “the opportunity to keep the river and the entire watershed just like it is.”

OP-ED: FEDERAL LAND WITHDRAWAL IS “POOR PUBLIC POLICY.” In a [Washington Examiner](#) (12/22, 112K) op-ed, National Mining Association president and CEO Hal Quinn objects to the Interior Department’s recent decision to withdraw 10 million federal acres from new mining operations, the largest land withdrawal in Federal Land Policy and Management Act history, for increased sage grouse protection in Western states. Quinn asserts the land withdrawal will restrict domestic mineral access and increase US dependence on foreign minerals, which has already doubled in the last 20 years, without significantly increasing sage grouse protection.

Empowering Native American Communities:

SPENDING BILL LEAVES OUT PROVISIONS DEFUNDING BIA, FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (12/21, 53K) reports that “Native American tribes including the United Houma Nation that are seeking federal recognition have received some encouragement under a federal spending bill that keeps the government operating in 2016.” The bill, “signed by President Barack Obama on Friday, increases spending for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, albeit only slightly.” However, “things could have been worse,” since “Republican congressmen threatened to defund the bureau, and another proposal would have stripped it of authority to grant federal recognition to tribes, leaving that solely in the hands of lawmakers.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Thibodaux \(LA\) Daily Comet](#) (12/21, 42K).

UPDATED RIGHT-OF-WAY RULE TO TAKE EFFECT ON MARCH 21. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/21, 705) reports that the BIA has “decided to give tribes, energy companies and utilities 90 more days to prepare for a final rule on rights of way on Native American land.” Kevin Washburn, the bureau’s assistant secretary, announced the new rule will take effect on March 21.

Additional coverage was provided by [JD Supra](#) (12/22, 6K).

CHUKCHANSI TRIBE CLEAR HURDLE TOWARD REOPENING COARSEGOLD CASINO. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (12/22, 270K) reports that the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians “cleared a critical hurdle Monday toward reopening its casino in Coarsegold, and the tribe could have the slot machines ringing again by early January.” The National Indian Gaming Commission “agreed Monday to allow Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino to reopen and the state Attorney General’s office, which has the final say, isn’t opposing the federal order.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: PROGRAM SEEKS TO COMBAT OVERDOSES. Additional coverage of the “partnership to equip Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement officer with naloxone” was provided by the [Mt. Pleasant \(MI\) Morning Sun](#) (12/19, 33K) and [Bartlesville \(OK\) Radio](#) (12/22).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: TURTLE MOUNTAIN INDIAN RESERVATION JOINS LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. Additional coverage of the land buy-back agreement with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians was provided by the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (12/22, 66K).

HISTORY OF BROKEN PROMISES RETRACED. In an op-ed for the [Longmont \(CO\) Times-Call](#) (12/22, 435), Tom Aron writes that “in 2015, President Obama publicly acknowledged the troubles we’ve put upon our Indians and he committed us to improving their health service, their economic growth, and their better future.” In retracing how the federal government has broken promises, Aron questions whether the government will “ever become honest with the Indians.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

BOR COMMISSIONER LOPEZ ADDRESSES COLORADO RIVER WATER USERS ASSOCIATION MEETING. Video of BOR Commissioner Estevan Lopez’s address to the Colorado River Water Users Association Meeting was provided by the [Frequency](#) (12/22, 17K).

EXPERTS SAY FOREIGN HACKERS LIKELY ABLE TO STRIKE US POWER GRID AT WILL. According to the [AP](#) (12/22, Burke, Fahey), in the last decade, “sophisticated foreign hackers have gained enough remote access to

control the operations networks that keep the lights on,” about a dozen times, “according to top experts who spoke only on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the subject matter.” While the breaches “have not caused the kind of cascading blackouts that are feared by the intelligence community” so many hackers “have stowed away in the largely investor-owned systems that run the US electric grid that experts say they likely have the capability to strike at will.”

YUROK TRIBE URGES COURT TO ALLOW WATER RELEASE TO PREVENT SALMON-KILL. [Law360](#) (12/22, 30K) reports that the Yurok Tribe on Friday “urged the Ninth Circuit to reverse a lower court decision blocking the U.S. Secretary of the Interior from releasing flows aimed at curbing disease and fish kill of salmon in a California river on the tribe’s reservation.”

ARIZONA SEEKS WATER FOR GROWTH. The [Arizona Republic](#) (12/19, 960K) reports that “Arizonans must find new sources, reuse more wastewater and get more efficient to protect their state’s future.” The article notes that “the federal government has said Colorado River flows likely will diminish further.” The BOR “averaged the results of existing climate models to predict a 9 percent decline in flows by 2060,” but “many climate scientists predict worse.”

DROUGHT MONITOR REVEALS IMPROVED DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/21, Jenkins, 113K) reports the Department of Agriculture, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s US Drought Monitor revealed on Thursday that Washington’s severe drought conditions ended. The Drought Monitor also revealed improved drought conditions in Oregon and Idaho, and slightly improved conditions in California. Reservoir and snowpack levels have also recovered, and according to the state Water Resources Department, California’s snowpacks reached 75 to 80 percent of their normal levels.

WATER SHORTAGE THREATENS CALIFORNIA FARMLAND, AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY DISAGREES ON SOLUTION. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (12/22, Kasler, 515K) reported the California Department of Conservation estimated 765,000 acres of irrigated farmland, including eight percent of the San Joaquin Valley’s prior agricultural base, have disappeared between 2000 and 2012 because of severe drought conditions. The state approved the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which will take effect in 2020, to limit groundwater extraction but farmers expressed concern about the combined potential negative impact that the restrictions and simultaneous climate change conditions will have on California’s agricultural and farming economy.

BOR TO BUILD NEW FIRE STATION ON OWN LAND. The [Star of Grand Coulee \(WA\)](#) (12/23, 41) reports that BOR officials announced Friday that “it will build its 21,500-square-foot fire station near the intersection of B Street and Highway 155.” According to the article, “the site, which was the bureau’s preferred site, is on land already owned by the federal government and is outside the west administration/industrial gate area.”

BOR SEEKS COMMENTS ON PARKING STRUCTURE PROPOSAL. The [Estes Park \(CO\) Trail-Gazette](#) (12/22, 13K) reports that the BOR has “released a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review and comment for a Town of Estes Park (Estes Park) proposal to construct up to a three-level parking structure on Reclamation lands.” If approved by BOR, “the parking structure would be constructed adjacent to the existing Estes Park Visitor Center and Transit Facility.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP SUES OVER SPOTTED FROG PROTECTION. Additional coverage of the lawsuit over spotted frog protections was provided by the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (12/22, 94K), [Courthouse News](#) (12/21, 7K) and [KUOW-FM Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (12/22, 15K).

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN US FACING REGULATORY ROADBLOCKS. The [AP](#) (12/22, Lieb) explores in a 1,400-word article how problems in developing transmission infrastructure are hamstringing the establishment of a renewable energy grid in the US. For example, regulators in Missouri – partly due to pressure from property owners – have “blocked the 780-mile-long Grain Belt Express power line from being built.” Renewable energy projects in Arkansas, Wyoming, and Arizona have also been blocked by regulators.

PROGRESSION HAWAII OFFSHORE WIND RAISES \$225K. The [Portland \(OR\) Business Journal](#) (12/22, Subscription Publication, 41K) reports that “an Oregon-based wind energy company working to develop a 400-megawatt project off Hawaii recently raised \$225,000.” Progression Hawaii Offshore Wind Inc. “filed its fundraising paperwork with the securities and Exchange Commission on Dec. 14.” According to the article, “the developers planned to submit its formal lease application with the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management by the end of the year.”

NAVAJO NATION TO BUILT FIRST UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR PROJECT. The [AP](#) (12/22, Fonseca, 263K) reports that an Arizona Navajo community will see its first utility-scale solar project by the end of 2016. Walter Haase, general manager of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority said the \$64 million 27-megawatt project leveraged federal loans and tax credits. Haase said the tribal utility will work to extend its agreement with the Salt River Project after the two years or find another buyer for the power and renewable energy credits.

Onshore Energy Development:

POLITICO MAGAZINE EXAMINES CONOCOPHILLIPS' PUSH TO DRILL IN ALASKA. In a nearly 8,000-word piece for [Politico Magazine](#) (12/21, MacGillis), Alec MacGillis, a political reporter for ProPublica, describes how, after then-Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt negotiated a deal in 2000 to prevent drilling in Alaska's western Arctic, the Obama Administration in 2013 granted ConocoPhillips the right to drill in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, saying that how ConocoPhillips "overcame years of resistance from courts, native Alaskans, environmental groups and several federal agencies is the story of how Washington really works."

The piece also appears at [ProPublica](#) (12/22, 6K).

LOCAL COLORADO LEADERS WANT BLM TO PROTECT THOMPSON DIVIDE FROM DRILLING. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/21, 705) reports that "a bipartisan delegation of local Colorado government leaders say they support a Bureau of Land Management draft plan that could cancel a number of hotly contested oil and natural gas leases inside the state's pristine Thompson Divide." According to the article, "the local leaders in and around White River National Forest submitted a letter Friday to BLM Colorado Director Ruth Welch stating they support the agency's 'proposed action' unveiled last month canceling 18 of the 25 leases held by two Houston-based companies inside the Thompson Divide."

The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (12/22, 32K) reports Garfield County Commissioner John Martin, Pitkin County Commissioner Steve Child, Glenwood Springs Mayor Mike Gamba, and Carbondale Mayor Stacey Bernot addressed a letter to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Director Ruth Welch on Dec. 17 thanking the BLM for reconsidering its proposed action to cancel or modify 75 already-issued oil and gas leases in the Thomson Divide and White River National Forest areas. The BLM scheduled a formal comment period effective until Jan. 8, and at a special meeting on Dec. 22, staff from Rep. Scott Tipton's office will discuss proposal comments submitted by Thomson Divide officials.

CONSERVATION GROUPS FILE LAWSUIT AIMED TO CHALLENGE APPROVAL OF FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT. [KRQE-TV](#) Albuquerque, NM (12/21, 34K) reports that "national conservation groups took legal action on Monday against the Office of Surface Mining, US Fish and Wildlife and other federal agencies." The lawsuit seeks "to challenge the feds on their approval of the Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine." The groups claim "the federal agencies' approval of the Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine Energy Project has negative impacts on communities, the climate and endangered species."

FORMER MASSEY CEO COULD FACE MILLIONS IN FEES, JAIL TIME. The [E&E](#) (12/18) reports that "former Massey Energy Co. CEO Don Blankenship may have to pay millions of dollars in restitution fees after a conviction that carries up to a year in prison." In U.S. District Court in Beckley, W.Va., on Wednesday, prosecutors argued "against easing his \$5 million bond to \$250,000 and lifting his travel restrictions, highlighting that potential fees make him a flight risk ahead of his April 2016 sentencing." Blankenship was "convicted on a misdemeanor conspiracy charge Dec. 3 for willfully neglecting mine safety standards."

Offshore Energy Development:

GEORGIA REPRESENTATIVE REJECTS BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO PREVENT GEORGIAN OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (12/21, Galloway, 1.15M) reports Rep. Buddy Carter and other Georgia representatives refused to sign a bipartisan letter directed to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management opposing seismic testing off of the Georgia coast because of the project's estimated \$700 million in revenue and 5,000 new jobs. In addition to the legislators contesting offshore drilling, over 93 Atlantic coastal communities expressed resistance to the Obama Administration's proposed early 2016 plan enabling seismic testing for offshore oil and gas.

[WBOC-TV](#) Salisbury, MD (12/22, Tuchman, 69K) reports Commissioners of Dewey Beach joined the over 93 municipalities who have voted against Atlantic offshore drilling and seismic testing. Dewey Beach Mayor Diane Hanson said if approved, the proposed offshore seismic testing will lead to oil drilling that "would be the end of our economy" in the event of an oil spill. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell rejected the opposition and called the project a "safe and responsible development of our nation's domestic energy resources" crucial to American job creation and decreased foreign oil dependency.

TRIAL SET FOR FEBRUARY OVER DEADLY 2012 PLATFORM BLAST. The [AP](#) New Orleans (12/22, 88K) reports that “two companies charged with manslaughter in a deadly 2012 rig explosion about 20 miles off Grand Isle are scheduled for trial in February.” The trial is set for Feb. 1 in federal court in New Orleans. U.S. District Judge Jane Triche Milazzo will “hear the case against Black Elk Energy and one of its contractors, Grand Isle Shipyards Inc.”

ALABAMA RENOVATES ABANDONED BEACHFRONT GOVERNOR’S MANSION WITH BP OIL SPILL MONEY. The [AP](#) (12/22, Reeves) reports that the state of Alabama “is using BP grant money left over from the 2010 Gulf oil spill to finally repair and renovate a beachfront governor’s mansion that has been abandoned for nearly two decades.” The costs are estimated at \$1.5 to \$1.8 million and the project should be finished by late May. While environmentalists “filed suit over the state’s plan to use BP restoration money to construct a hotel on the beachfront,” Jennifer Ardis, a spokeswoman for Gov. Robert Bentley, “said the state is ‘comfortable’ using money remaining from a separate BP grant to pay contractor Phil Harris Construction Inc. to fix the mansion.”

[America’s Great Outdoors:](#)

[Bureau of Land Management:](#)

SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER LYMAN WEIGHS APPEAL OF SENTENCE IN ATV PROTEST RIDE. The [AP](#) (12/22, 2.15M) reports that San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman said “he’s considering an appeal of a conviction that led to a 10-day prison sentence for his role in an ATV protest ride through a closed canyon, but also said he thought the judge’s sentence last week was thoughtful and considerate of the facts and situation.” Lyman said “on Monday that he was impressed that U.S. District Judge David Nuffer considered the realities of living in rural Utah in making his Friday ruling.” Lyman, “who has a couple of weeks to decide about an appeal, said he’ll depend on his attorney’s analysis of legal factors in making a decision about an appeal.”

In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/22, 339K) compares the sentences of Lyman, who “received the minimal sentence,” and Tim DeChristopher, who was “sentenced to two years in federal prison back in 2011 for his protest of how the federal government treats the land it owns in Utah.” The Tribune acknowledges that “legally, DeChristopher committed a felony while Lyman was guilty only of a misdemeanor.” But it concludes that “in the long run, true justice would be served if DeChristopher’s Peaceful Uprising campaign grows in prominence and strength, while Lyman’s crusade simply fades away.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/22, 339K).

BLM LOOKS TO COWS IN WAR ON INVASIVE GRASS. The [E&E](#) (12/21) reports that “cows have trampled Western rangelands for the better part of a century, gorging on native plants and making room for exotic grasses,” and now, “cheatgrass and other invasive species dominate 25 million acres of the Great Basin – an area the size of Kentucky – and are spreading to hundreds more acres each day, the Interior Department estimates.” As a result, “desperate federal land managers are turning to their old enemy to help turn the tide of invading weeds.” The BLM “wants cows to devour cheatgrass on tracts that burned in the 280,000-acre Soda Fire last August in southwest Idaho.”

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON SULPHUR WILD HORSE GATHER PLAN. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (12/21, 3K) reports that the BLM Management-Cedar City Office has “announced a 30-day public comment period beginning Monday and ending Jan. 19, 2016, for the Sulphur Wild Horse Gather Plan, which includes a proposed fence along a portion of state Route 21.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Horse](#) (12/22, 4K).

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON LOWER DESCHUTES BOATER CHANGES. [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (12/22, 32K) reports that the BLM Prineville District Office will be “accepting comments proposed improvements to the recreational experience in Segment 3 (Buck Hollow to Macks Canyon) on the Lower Deschutes River.” The comment period ends February 1, 2016.

BLM APPROVES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PREHISTORIC TRACKWAYS NATIONAL MONUMENT. [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/22, 1K) reports that the BLM has signed a Record of Decision approving the Resource Management Plan for the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument.

BLM EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR COPPER FLAT COPPER MINE PROJECT. [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/22, 1K) reports that the BLM has “extended the public comment period another 45 days for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Copper Flat Copper Mine Project (Project).” With this extension, public comments will be accepted until March 4, 2016.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RED RIVER LAND DISPUTE. Additional coverage of the Red River land dispute in Texas was provided by the [Heartland Institute](#) (12/21, 4K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE: HUNTING TROPHY PERMIT PROGRAMS TO BE HELD TO HIGHER STANDARD. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/22, 705) reports that the FWS on Monday “announced it will finalize Endangered Species Act protections for lions in Africa and India to confront growing threats from habitat loss, a declining prey base and increased killings from humans.” The decision, “which was cheered by wildlife advocacy groups, comes as lion populations have fallen by 43 percent over the past couple of decades and follows the July baiting and killing of a well-known lion named ‘Cecil’ in Zimbabwe that sparked international condemnation.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/22, Fears, 7.78M) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe said trophy permit programs need “to be held to a much higher standard.” The agency pledged to make sure “that all the revenue is transparent so we can be assured that these revenues aren’t contributing to some kind of corruption in the range states that distracts from management.” Ashe also said he will issue an order preventing hunters convicted of violating wildlife laws from obtaining permits. Permit fees will be raised to increase funding for Fish and Wildlife law enforcement.

For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (12/22, Pacelle, 251K), Wayne Pacelle, President and CEO, The Humane Society of the United States, writes that “the world must get past an era of a handful of people killing the most magnificent animals in the world to adorn their trophy rooms.” He says that “these creatures have their own desires to live, and we shouldn’t snuff them out for bragging rights and a higher perch in the pantheon of the trophy-hunting world.” Pacelle is optimistic that Monday’s “announcement is, without question, a turning point for the future of the lions now roaming Africa.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (12/22, Cama, 654K), [PBS NewsHour](#) (12/22, 168K), [PBS NewsHour](#) (12/22, 168K), [Reuters](#) (12/22, Farge), [NPR](#) (12/21, 1.78M), [NPR](#) (12/21, 1.78M), the [New Republic](#) (12/22, 232K), [TIME](#) (12/22, 19.1M), the [New York Times](#) (12/21, Goode, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), [US News & World Report](#) (12/21, 996K), [Fusion](#) (12/22, 280K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (12/22, 22K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (12/22, 629K), the [Fort Wayne \(IN\) Journal-Gazette](#) (12/22, 172K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/22, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/22, Freking, 283K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (12/22, Subscription Publication, 3.44M), the [Toronto \(CAN\) Star](#) (12/21, 119K), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (12/22), the [Austin \(MN\) Daily Herald](#) (12/22, 21K), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (12/21, 158K), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/22, Milman, 3.48M), [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#) (12/22, 104K), the [New Vision \(UGA\)](#) (12/22, 1K), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/22, Mailonline, 5.31M), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/22, 5.31M), the [Examiner](#) (12/22, 616K), the [National Geographic](#) (12/22, 31.87M), the [Discovery Channel](#) (12/22, 395K), [Vice](#) (12/22, 1.88M), [Popular Science](#) (12/22, 6.54M), the [Scientific American](#) (12/22, 3M), [Inquisitr](#) (12/21, 262K), [LiveScience](#) (12/22, 476K), the [Global Post](#) (12/21, 114K), [Townhall](#) (12/21, 127K), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/22, 251K), the [Daily Kos](#) (12/21, 391K), [Yahoo! News](#) (12/22, Sheridan, 6.43M), [Yahoo! News](#) (12/22, 6.43M), [KERO-TV Bakersfield \(CA\)](#) Bakersfield, CA (12/22, 2K), and [WCCO-AM Minneapolis \(MN\)](#) Minneapolis (12/21, 70K).

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR MIAMI TIGER BEETLE. [Courthouse News](#) (12/21, 7K) reports that the FWS said it is proposing the Miami tiger beetle, “once considered extinct, for protection as an endangered species.” Cindy Dohner, the FWS’ Southeast Regional Director, said, “The Miami tiger beetle is in trouble because it has only survived in increasingly rare urban pine rockland habitat. Its remaining habitat faces huge urban development pressures.”

FWS CONSIDERS DELISTING GIANT GARTER SNAKES. [The Hill](#) (12/21, Devaney, 654K) reports that the FWS is “considering weakening the protections for giant garter snakes.” The agency “listed giant garter snakes as a threatened species in 1993 but is now looking to delist the snake as part of a revised draft recovery plan.”

SCIENTISTS URGE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT, FWS TO DELIST GRAY WOLF IN MIDWESTERN STATES. The [Heartland Institute](#) (12/22, Burnett, 4K) reports 26 wildlife management professionals, including former Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) biologists, urged Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell and FWS director Dan Ashe in a Nov. 18 letter to delist the gray wolf from Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. The letter followed a recent federal decision restoring ESA protection to the gray wolf despite FWS and state wildlife agency objections.

BUSINESSMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TRAFFICKING IN ELEPHANT IVORY. The [AP](#) (12/21) reports that “a South Florida businessman has pleaded guilty to trafficking in elephant ivory.” Raymond J. Reppert Jr. entered his plea in Miami federal court Monday. Reppert “faces up to 5 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines at his Feb. 25 sentencing.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/22, 283K).

National Park Service:

NATIONAL PARK VISITATION ON TRACK TO BREAK RECORD. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/22, 339K) reports that the NPS says that “its 409 units are on pace to set a new annual visitation record.” The NPS’s Public Use Statistics Office “estimated 272.5 million recreation visits to the parks through October, the latest month that complete, though unofficial statistics are available.” NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis said, “With every visit to national parks, people write themselves a prescription for the health benefits that come when enjoying these natural and historical wonders. Americans have loved the national parks for a century and more. Our aim now is to help the next generation become not only visitors but park supporters and advocates too.” The article notes that “things could even get more busy in 2016, when the park service celebrates its centennial year with a number of special events planned.”

Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (12/21, Wright, 5.56M) reports in 2016, the NPS will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The article notes that “as part of the festivities, an initiative called ‘Find Your Park’ (Encuentra Tu Parque in Spanish) encourages Americans to explore the scenic beauty in their own backyards.”

Additional coverage of the centennial was provided by [Mongabay](#) (12/22, 6K).

“EVERY KID IN A PARK” INVITES 4TH GRADERS TO VISIT PRESIDENT CLINTON BIRTHPLACE HOME. [TXK Today \(TX\)](#) (12/22) reports that President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site is inviting “every fourth-grade class from the region to visit and learn about the president’s childhood as part of the ‘Every Kid in a Park’ program.” Christian H. Davis, supervisory park ranger for the birthplace home in Hope, Ark., said that “all fees associated with transportation will be covered by the historic site.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: EFFIGY MOUNDS NATIONAL MONUMENT SUPERINTENDENT TO PLEAD GUILTY TO STEALING REMAINS. Additional coverage that former Effigy Mounds National Monument superintendent Thomas Munson will “plead guilty to embezzlement and theft charges in connection with an accusation that he stole several ancient Native American remains from the Effigy Mound Monument federal museum in Iowa” was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (12/21, 47K).

BOTTLED WATER SALES BAN IN NATIONAL PARKS CRITICIZED. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (12/21, Goldstein, 251K), Dr. Harold Goldstein, Executive Director, California Center for Public Health Advocacy, the bottled water sales ban in national parks harms the public’s “health and well-being,” as well as the environment. He notes that “while plastic bottles filled with water are excluded in the name of environmental stewardship, plastic bottles filled with sugary drinks (sodas, sweet teas, energy drinks and the like) are still warmly embraced by park policy.” Goldstein suggests that “if we want to protect both the environment and the health of park visitors...let’s not set things up so that people who want bottled water are encouraged to buy the leading contributors to diabetes.”

US Geological Survey:

SENATE CONFIRMS NOMINATION OF KIMBALL TO BE USGS DIRECTOR. [Politico Pro](#) (12/21) reports that last Friday, the Senate confirmed Suzette Kimball to be director of the United States Geological Survey.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Greenwire](#) (12/21, Subscription Publication).

STUDY: CLIMATE CHANGE COULD CAUSE “MASSIVE” TREE DIE-OFF IN SOUTHWEST US. The [Washington Post](#) (12/22, Mooney, 7.78M) reports that a study published in Nature Climate Change found that “warming climate could trigger a ‘massive’ dieoff of coniferous trees...in the U.S. southwest sometime this century.” Nate McDowell of the Los Alamos National Laboratory led the research which included a field experiment conducted over five years that identified piñon pines and junipers as particularly vulnerable to reduced rainfall. McDowell “conducted the research along with 18 other authors from a diverse group of universities and federal agencies, including the U.S. Geological Survey.”

LAKES AROUND WORLD WARMING FASTER THAN OCEANS, REPORT SAYS. [Colorado Public Radio](#) (12/22) reports that “a survey of some lakes in Colorado – and across the world – shows they’re warming faster compared to oceans or the air around them.” According to Jill Baron, a research ecologist at the USGS, “scientists compiled data from 235 lakes, including two in Rocky Mountain National Park. Summer air and lake temperatures have been rising over the last decade in the park.” Baron, who was a co-author on the research, said, “These are some of the highest lakes in the world that were part of this study. And they’re behaving just like all the others.”

USGS TO CONDUCT LOW-LEVEL AIRBORNE TESTS IN SOUTHEAST MISSOURI. [KFVS-TV](#) Cape Girardeau, MO (12/22, 21K) reports that the USGS will be “conducting a high-resolution airborne survey in the St. Francois Mountains starting Monday, December 21.” For the next month, the USGS will be “making low-level flights in southeast Missouri regions including Iron, Madison, St. Francois and Reynolds counties.” According to the article, “the flights are being conducted so the USGS can collect information about the geology and mineral deposits of the region.”

Top National News:

OBAMA SAYS TRUMP IS “EXPLOITING” CONCERNS OF “BLUE-COLLAR MEN.” During his 37-minute year-end interview with Steve Inskeep of [NPR](#) (12/21, 1.78M), President Obama discussed many issues, including US policy on ISIL and terrorism, race in America, and climate change, but it is the President’s remarks on Donald Trump that are getting the most attention. While reports are generally straightforward accounts of Obama’s remarks, a wide array of print and online sources covered them.

The [AP](#) (12/22, Superville, 996K) reports that the President said Trump “is ‘exploiting’ the fears that working-class men in particular have about the economy and stagnant wages.” Obama said, “Particularly blue-collar men have had a lot of trouble in this new economy, where they are no longer getting the same bargain that they got when they were going to a factory and able to support their families on a single paycheck. You combine those things and it means that there is going to be potential anger, frustration, fear. Some of it justified but just misdirected. I think somebody like Mr. Trump is taking advantage of that. That’s what he’s exploiting during the course of his campaign.”

The [New York Times](#) (12/22, Davis, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) also says Obama said the national GOP frontrunner “is exploiting the resentment and anxieties of working-class men to boost his campaign” in his “most pointed response” to Trump since Trump called for a ban on Muslim entry to the US. The [Washington Post](#) (12/22, Nakamura, 7.78M) says the President “has mostly refrained from weighing in directly” on the 2016 campaign, “but his aides have disparaged Trump.”

The [Washington Times](#) (12/22, Boyer, 283K) says Obama’s “analysis was reminiscent of his comments in 2008, when he blamed economically disadvantaged voters who were ‘bitter’ and ‘cling to guns or religion’ for his poor showing among small-town Pennsylvanians” in the presidential primary there. But the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (12/21, Grier, 496K) writes that Obama “was not dismissing the worries of the voters involved,” but “was instead questioning Trump’s motives.” Still, the [New York Daily News](#) (12/22, Edelman, 3.59M) says the President “suggested that many of those anxieties, which sometimes manifest in candidates and voters alike suggesting the President is not American or not a Christian, are also tied to the fact that he is the first African-American commander-in-chief.”

[Fox News](#) (12/21, 9.42M) reports on its website that the President “used a radio interview” to accuse Trump “of ‘exploiting’ economic woes to tap into voter ‘fear’ and ‘frustration,’ in some of his most direct criticism to date” of the GOP candidate. On its website, [The Nation](#) (12/21, 367K) calls it “a broad and fascinating” interview, while [The Blaze](#) (12/21, 1.89M) says “the Drudge Report accused Obama of playing the ‘race card’ on Trump.” [BuzzFeed](#) (12/21, Nas, 10.99M), the [Daily Caller](#) (12/21, Guest, 366K), [Salon](#) (12/21, Kaufman, 868K), and the [TIME](#) (12/21, Rhodan, 19.1M) website also have reports.

Obama, DNC Attack Trump’s “Anti-Muslim Rhetoric” In Fundraising Pitch. [Politico](#) (12/21, McCaskill, 1.19M) reports that Obama and the Democratic National Committee are using Trump’s “anti-Muslim rhetoric as a fundraising pitch this holiday season. In an email signed by Obama sent to supporters, the president said he’s had his religion, birthplace and love for America questioned because of his name and background, and that he’s learned to listen closely when fear and ignorance start creeping into conversation.” Obama adds, “So I pay attention when I hear the Republican frontrunner for president call for a ban on Muslims entering this country. And when their other candidates say we should only admit Christian refugees, not Muslims, or that there should be a religious test to determine which people fleeing a war-torn country can enter ours.”

The [Washington Times](#) (12/22, Miller, 283K) writes that “campaign strategists” say Obama and Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton are criticizing Trump as “part of a calculated ploy by Democrats who want to help him win because they are convinced the billionaire businessman will lose in the general election.”

Trump Loses Some Black Celebrity Friends Over Comments. The [New York Times](#) (12/22, Haberman, Eder, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that accusations that Trump “is using racially charged rhetoric” in his campaign has turned some of his black one-time friends, like “hip-hop mogul” Russell Simmons, against Trump. The Times says Trump “has long courted personalities from the worlds of sports and entertainment, including the boxer Mike Tyson, the former Chicago Bulls forward Dennis Rodman, and the rapper and producer Sean Combs.” Not all of them are now critics, however. “Football legend” Herschel Walker says he still considers Trump a friend.

White Supremacist Movement Using Trump To Seek New Supporters. The [Washington Post](#) (12/22, Holley, Larimer, 7.78M) “Morning Mix” blog reports that “America’s dying white supremacist movement” has latched onto Trump’s campaign. Since “in an era of gay marriage and a black president...separatists can’t exactly swan dive into conversations with strangers about the white-power cause,” they now use Trump’s remarks as a lead-in to identify potential supporters. The Post says “white supremacist groups have enthusiastically embraced” Trump.

PolitiFact Declares Trump’s “Many Campaign Misstatements” The Lie Of The Year. [McClatchy](#) (12/22, Clark,

27K) reports that PolitiFact, after realizing that the “only real contenders” for its annual “Lie Of The Year” title “were all Trump statements,” designated “the many campaign misstatements of Donald Trump” as the winner. PolitiFact “had previously given ‘Mostly False, False or Pants on Fire’ to 76 out of Trump 77 statements.”

Report: “Dozens” Of Jersey City Muslims Celebrated 9/11. The [Washington Times](#) (12/22, Chasmar, 283K) reports that “several police officers and eyewitnesses” say “dozens of Muslims celebrated the fall of the twin towers on 9/11 in at least three locations in Jersey City.” The report is “‘the first credible indication’ of people celebrating in the area on 9/11,” according to NJ.com. Trump has “claimed that ‘thousands and thousands’ of Muslims rejoiced following the attack.”

Trump Demands Apology For ISIL Claim From “Liar” Clinton. [ABC World News](#) (12/21, story 3, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M) reported that after Hillary Clinton called Trump “ISIS’ best recruiter” in the Saturday Democratic presidential debate, “claiming ISIS uses videos of Trump to recruit more radical jihadists,” Trump has demanded an apology. ABC (Karl) added, “Hillary Clinton’s campaign is saying, quote, ‘Hell no,’ she won’t apologize.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/21, story 4, 2:25, Holt, 7.86M) said that “after a strongly worded statement from the Clinton camp, Trump shouldn’t hold his breath.” NBC (Tur) added, “For now, intelligence says Trump is right. ISIS has not used videos [of Trump] for recruiting.”

[Reuters](#) (12/22, Wise) reports Trump said of Clinton on NBC’s Meet The Press on Sunday, “She’s a liar and everybody knows that. She just made this up in thin air.” The [AP](#) (12/22) reports Trump said Monday that “he wants an apology.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/22, Gearan, Balz, 7.78M) writes that Clinton “is biding her time out of the spotlight and under less scrutiny,” and is happy to cede the spotlight to Trump for now. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/22, Tau, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) says in its front-page report that Trump was mentioned nine times in the Democratic debate.

Trump: “It’s Disgusting” That Clinton Used Bathroom During Debate. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (12/22, 921K) reports Trump appeared before a crowd of about 7,500 in Grand Rapids on Monday evening in his second appearance in Michigan since entering the presidential race. [MLive \(MI\)](#) (12/22, 698K) reports that during a 65-minute speech, Trump “poked fun” at Clinton’s “late return after a bathroom break in Saturday night’s televised debate.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/22, Johnson, 7.78M) reports Trump “asked the crowd four times where Clinton had gone. ‘I know where she went – it’s disgusting, I don’t want to talk about it,’ Trump said, screwing up his face, as the crowd laughed and cheered. ‘No, it’s too disgusting. Don’t say it, it’s disgusting.’”

Trump Leads Cruz And Rubio In One-On-One Match-Ups, But Trails Clinton. [Reuters](#) (12/22, Cassella) reports that a new Reuters/Ipsos poll shows that while Trump would defeat Sen. Ted Cruz 41% to 31% in a two-way race, and would defeat Sen. Marco Rubio 40% to 34%, Trump trails Hillary Clinton in a general election match-up 40% to 29%.

While conventional wisdom has suggested that Trump’s polling support may not equate to actual caucus and primary votes, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/22, Lauter, 3.6M) reports that a Morning Consult analysis concludes that “some surveys may actually be understating his support” because “some significant number of Trump supporters, especially those with college educations, are ‘less likely to say that they support him when they’re talking to a live human’ than when they are in the ‘anonymous environment’ of an online survey,” according to the firm’s polling director.

In a 1,900-word [USA Today](#) (12/22, 5.56M) analysis, Rick Hampson writes that “one of the many paradoxes of Donald Trump’s presidential candidacy is that it’s dominated politics without changing how politics are practiced.” Trump’s rivals “are not aping his tactics” or his rhetoric, and are not emulating Trump’s frequent use of insults and self-praise. If he “crashes,” Trump “may be remembered only as a cautionary tale, along with failed demagogues” like Huey Long and George Wallace. Still, his “success so far would seem to make him an appealing model.” But Hampson says it would be hard for anyone else to copy “a candidate so rich, so famous, so bombastic, [and] so opportunistic.”

Trump Tweets About Miss Universe Winner Error. [USA Today](#) (12/22, Mcdermott, 5.56M) reports that after host Steve Harvey read the name of the wrong contestant as the winner of the Miss Universe pageant on Sunday night, Trump – the former owner of the pageant – retweeted two tweets that said the error would not have happened if Trump were still in charge. Trump later tweeted, “Very sad what happened last night at the Miss Universe Pageant. I sold it 6 months ago for a record price. This would never have happened!” [ABC World News](#) (12/21, story 9, 1:25, Muir, 5.84M), the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/21, story 10, 2:10, Dubois, 5.08M), and [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/21, story 10, 2:00, Holt, 7.86M) all reported on Harvey’s error, but not Trump’s comments.

Egyptian Filmmaker Makes Short Film About Trump Event. The [New York Times](#) (12/22, Mackey, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) has a brief item on Egyptian filmmaker Mohamed Abdelfattah’s [seven-minute documentary](#) on a Trump campaign event near Phoenix, while Stephen Benedict Dyson writes in [Politico Magazine](#) (12/21, Dyson) about the politics of the “Star Wars” universe, which has some wondering if Trump is a real-life embodiment of Darth Vader.

SIX US TROOPS KILLED IN TALIBAN ATTACK. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/21, story 2, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M) reported that

six Americans were killed and two others wounded in a suicide attack near Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan. A “lone suicide bomber on a motorcycle drove into the group and detonated his vest.” Jim Miklaszewski said the attack comes as Afghan forces, “without direct US combat support,” are engaged in a “losing battle with the Taliban throughout large parts of Afghanistan.” [ABC World News](#) (12/21, story 2, 1:30, Muir, 5.84M) noted that the Taliban “immediately” claimed responsibility for the attack on Twitter.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/21, lead story, 1:55, Dubois, 5.08M) called the attack “tragic evidence today of the growing insurgency in Afghanistan.” Michael O’Hanlon, a national security analyst, was shown saying, “The threat remains roughly constant. The insurgency is resilient, and we have 100,000 fewer combined forces on patrol across the country.” [Reuters](#) (12/22, Harooni, Stewart) similarly reports that the attack, which came days after the Pentagon warned of the worsening situation in the country, illustrated the Taliban’s ability to strike prominent targets tied to the US-backed government.

[USA Today](#) (12/22, Zoroya, Brook, 5.56M) reports that the attack is the “largest loss of life this year for the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan,” according to two senior Defense officials. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said the attack “serves as a painful reminder of the dangers our troops face every day in Afghanistan.”

The [New York Times](#) (12/22, Mashal, Rosenberg, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that Abdul Shakor Qudosi, the district governor of Bagram, said three Afghan police officers were also wounded by the suicide bomber. The attack came as local officials in Helmand “pleaded” with the national government for reinforcements. They say that despite Sunday efforts by NATO forces, the district of Sangin remains largely under Taliban control.

The [AP](#) (12/22, O’Donnell) reports that a US official speaking on the condition of anonymity said some of the troops killed were American, but the exact number remained unclear. Meanwhile, the AP adds that Helmand’s deputy governor Mohammad Jan Rasulyar took the “unusual step of alerting Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to the dire security situation and requesting urgent reinforcements through an open letter posted on Facebook on Sunday.” Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said on Monday that Afghan Army commandos and special forces arrived in Sangin “to push a counter-offensive.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/22, Ryan, Constable, 7.78M) reports that that the attack, along with the Taliban’s capture of Sangin district, are the latest signs “of deepening violence across Afghanistan and the risks facing President Obama’s plan to leave the most intense fighting to local forces.” David Sedney, a former senior Pentagon official for Afghanistan and Pakistan who is now a senior associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said, “The military strategy is failing, and the [training] construct is under-resourced and undercapable.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/22, Stancati, Totakhil, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports that following the attack at Bagram Airfield, three rockets landed close to Kabul’s diplomatic quarter. The Journal says there was no immediate word from officials on whether the rockets caused casualties.

The [New York Times](#) (12/22, Southall, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that New York City police detective Joseph Lemm was among the six who were killed in the suicide attack. Lemm was on his third tour of duty in the Middle East, and his second tour with the National Guard in Afghanistan. NYPD Commissioner William Bratton said Lemm, a 15-year veteran of the police department, “epitomized the selflessness we can only strive for: putting his country and city first.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/22, Jaffe, 7.78M) says that for President Obama, “the deaths Monday of six U.S. soldiers near Bagram Air Base underscores the perils of his decision to keep as many as 9,800 troops in Afghanistan through much of next year.” A statement from Obama’s press secretary said the US “condemns this cowardly attack on members of the U.S. and Afghan forces, and we remain committed to supporting the Afghan people and their government.”

GRAHAM SUSPENDS HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. During a conference call with reporters on Monday and in a video posted in his campaign website, Sen. Lindsey Graham announced that he is suspending his presidential campaign. Coverage of Graham’s announcement, which includes reports on two network newscasts, focuses on what his departure will mean to the remaining GOP field, particularly as the jockey for endorsement and supporters ahead of the South Carolina primary in February.

While [McClatchy](#) (12/22, Douglas, Douglas, 27K) reports that Graham “entered the race hoping that his conservative national security credentials would appeal to voters, especially in his home state,” [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/21, story 5, 0:15, Holt, 7.86M) said Graham “was lagging behind badly in the polls including in his home state.” [ABC World News](#) (12/21, story 4, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported that Graham “never polled above single digits” and was “frustrated by the two-tier debates.”

The [AP](#) (12/22, Kellman, Barrow) notes that Graham “mustered little support in the polls,” and says his exit “will not

have an immediate effect on the race in the final stretch before the Feb. 1 Iowa caucuses and the Feb. 9 New Hampshire primary.” However, his withdrawal “could produce a ripple effect in his home state,” as he will “likely be a highly sought-after endorsement for those still in the race” after the New Hampshire primary and before voters go to the polls in South Carolina on Feb. 20. Graham has “given no indication of who he would back.” [Politico](#) (12/21, Strauss, 1.19M) reported that Graham’s exit from the race “set off a scramble among his rivals to try to pick up the support of the South Carolina senator and his backers.” Graham’s “one-time challengers quickly heaped praise on him,” and “behind the scenes, teams for the various campaigns started courting the ex-candidate’s supporters.” Politico noted that while Graham “barely registered at the polls and had weak fundraising numbers, his endorsement and supporters are hot items due to the early timing of the South Carolina primary and because Graham can offer foreign policy credibility to whoever he backs.”

Editorials are highly complimentary of Graham. For example, the [Washington Post](#) (12/22, 7.78M) says in an editorial the fact that Graham has left the race while Donald Trump “seemingly soars should prompt real worry within the Republican Party, not to mention the country at large.” the Post praises Graham’s “fearlessness in confronting Mr. Trump and the serial bigotry...that has become a trademark of his unfortunate campaign,” and says that while Graham “has pledged to support the Republican nominee, whoever it is, we hope he continues to show the principled leadership that marked his failed campaign and draws the line if it comes down to Mr. Trump.”

A [USA Today](#) (12/22, 5.56M) editorial says Graham is “conservative without being a rigid ideologue,” and calls him “the kind of politician Republicans need if they’re going to thrive as the nation becomes more ethnically and racially diverse.”

In its editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/22, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) praises Graham’s willingness to speak the truth about the fight against ISIL and reject the argument from the President, Hillary Clinton, Sen Bernie Sanders, Trump, and Sen, Ted Cruz that the group can be defeated cheaply and from the air.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “The Security Council Wakes Up On Syria.” The [New York Times](#) (12/22, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says in an editorial that the UN Security Council resolution on the plan to end the Syrian civil war “is a positive development. But it leaves unsettled crucial differences that have long plagued Syrian peacemaking efforts. And it leaves unresolved a host of tough decisions” that world and regional powers, “and Syria’s own president, Bashar al-Assad, must still make. ... Absent an end to the civil war, there can be no effective campaign to defeat the Islamic State. Yet there is still no agreement on who will represent the Syrian opposition, an array of moderate and extremist groups supported by different countries.”

“Congress Gets Out Of The I.M.F.’s Way.” The [New York Times](#) (12/22, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) editorializes, “After five years of Republican foot-dragging, members of Congress last week ratified an agreement that will increase the capital of the International Monetary Fund” and give China, India, and other developing nations “a greater say in the organization. This should strengthen the fund at a time when its expertise is needed to help revive a slowing global economy.” The Times says congressional Republicans “appear to have realized that their inaction was undermining America’s leadership in the world.”

“A Step Forward For Juvenile Offenders.” The [New York Times](#) (12/22, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says in an editorial that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo “took a bold step forward” toward juvenile justice reform this week “when he announced that his administration would seek out and pardon thousands of people who were convicted of nonviolent crimes while they were 16 or 17 years old and have stayed out of trouble with the law for a decade.”

WASHINGTON POST. “A UN Resolution On Syria Is Shattered – And Russia Is To Blame.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (12/22, 7.78M) says that less than 48 hours after the UN Security Council unanimously passed a resolution “demanding that ‘all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects’ as well as ‘any indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment,’” in Syria, “Russian planes carried out at least six airstrikes on civilian targets” in “blatant violation of the resolution Russia had just voted for.” The Post says that the Security Council ambassadors should be “embarrassed by this outrage,” and so too should Secretary of State Kerry, “who just last Tuesday emerged from a meeting with Mr. Putin saying that the Russian ruler would ‘take on board’ Mr. Kerry’s objections to airstrikes on Syrian targets outside Islamic State-held land.”

“A Sad Goodbye To Sen. Graham.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/22, 7.78M) says in an editorial the fact that Sen. Lindsey Graham has left the race while Donald Trump “seemingly soars should prompt real worry within the Republican Party, not to mention the country at large.” the Post praises Graham’s “fearlessness in confronting Mr. Trump and the serial bigotry...that has become a trademark of his unfortunate campaign,” and says that while Graham “has pledged to support the Republican nominee, whoever it is, we hope he continues to show the principled

leadership that marked his failed campaign and draws the line if it comes down to Mr. Trump.”

“When Death Comes At The Hands Of Private Security Guards.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/22, 7.78M) editorializes that three recent deaths in Washington, DC have been linked to altercations between individuals and private security guards. The Post argues that “it will be up to police and prosecutors to determine if there was criminal culpability in any of the cases, but the fact of these three deaths in three months demands that D.C. officials take a serious look at how they regulate the private police forces that help patrol the city.” The Post questions “whether the training required and received by private security officers is sufficient,” and is encouraged that “city officials are taking the concerns seriously,” and that “the administration has promised to review its oversight.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Treasury’s Latest Inversion Failure.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/22, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes that Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, rather than working with Congress to rewrite US tax laws to combat the trend of US companies moving overseas, has instead responded with a series of anti-inversion notices that lack a legal foundation. The Journal says that Monday’s merger between Illinois fertilizer company CF Industries and the Dutch company OCI can be used as a demonstrate why Lew’s recent moves haven’t worked to keep US businesses from moving abroad.

“Lindsey Graham’s Truth Telling.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/22, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) praises Sen. Lindsey Graham’s willingness to speak the truth about the fight against ISIL and reject the argument from the President, Hillary Clinton, Sen Bernie Sanders, Donald Trump, and Sen, Ted Cruz that the group can be defeated cheaply and from the air.

“The Voter Revolt In Spain.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/22, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes that the political uncertainty resulting from the Spanish election will jeopardize Spain’s economic reforms, which enabled the country to emerge from a deep recession. The Journal argues that the best scenario would be for Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy to form a minority government with Ciudadanos and adopt the new party’s proposed lower corporate and personal rates and simplified tax regime, transparency measures, and reductions of bureaucracy. According to the Journal, a failure by Rajoy to form a government would reinforce the notion that austerity reforms are political suicide in Europe.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, December 21, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2015 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

CONGRESS APPROVES SPENDING BILL. [Politico Pro](#) (12/20, Subscription Publication) reports that Congress sent the \$1.1 trillion omnibus spending bill to the White House Friday. Notably, “the bill contains no Republican riders targeting major elements of President Barack Obama’s environmental and climate agenda and legacy.” It leaves Interior Department “rules on hydraulic fracturing and stream buffer zone controls, among other high-profile initiatives.”

Conservationists Cheer Passage Of Spending Bill. [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (12/20) reports that “environmental advocates are celebrating this week after Congress passed a bipartisan spending bill that at one point included several provisions blocking conservation efforts.” The Land and Water Conservation Fund was “re-authorized to fund city parks and national park in-holdings.” The bill also “gave a 6% increase to federal land management agencies, a total of over \$32 billion.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (12/20, Conniff, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (12/21, 209K), the [Milwaukee \(WI\) Journal Sentinel](#) (12/20, Smith, 691K), the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (12/20, 102K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/20, 339K), and [WMUR-TV Manchester \(NH\) Manchester, NH](#) (12/20, 190K).

Vilsack Criticizes Congress For 2016 Forest Service Wildfire Budget. The [Washington Post](#) (12/19, Rein, 7.78M) reports that Agriculture Secretary Vilsack sent a letter to Congress on Thursday venting “months of frustration” and condemning the money allotted to the US Forest Service in 2016 as “way short of addressing what he describes as a ‘catastrophic’ problem of wildfires.”

The [E&E](#) (12/18) reports that in a letter sent to Congress’ four top appropriators, Vilsack said, “I will not authorize transfers from restoration and resilience funding.” He added, “The American public can no longer afford delays to forest restoration and other critical Forest Service activities caused by annual fire transfers. If the amount Congress appropriated in FY 2016 is not sufficient to cover fire suppression costs, Congress will need to appropriate additional funding on an emergency basis.”

WSJournal Analysis: Both Parties Benefit From Ending Oil Export Ban. A 1,609-word [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/20, B3, Harder, Berthelsen, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) analysis says the lifting of the 40-year-old oil export ban was made possible because its supporters were able to convince liberal opponents that a shift in policy could be to their advantage. Republicans offered Democrats key environmental concessions to help fight global warming. The Journal also indicates that both Republicans and Democrats were eager to avoid the same political pitfalls that befell the Keystone XL Pipeline, which was opposed by environmental groups, thus making it hard for Democrats to support.

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (12/18, 1.19M), the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (12/19, 294K), [MinnPost \(MN\)](#) (12/20, 4K), the [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (12/20, 70K), and [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\) Las Cruces, NM](#) (12/20, 1K).

SECRETARY JEWELL PRESSED ON TRAPPER COAL MINE PERMIT. [Politico Pro](#) (12/18) reports that Sens. Cory Gardner and Michael Bennet, Gov. John Hickenlooper, and Rep. Scott Tipton sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “asking her to ensure the Trapper coal mine gets its environmental assessment on time.” The mine was “caught

up in the same permitting issues that threatened the Colowyo Mine, but its owners worked out a deal with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to conduct an environmental assessment.” The Colorado officials are “calling for that assessment to be complete by an April 30 deadline.”

Additional coverage was provided by [E&E Daily](#) (12/18, Subscription Publication).

NEVADA COUNTIES UPSET OVER SAGE GROUSE DEAL. The [AP](#) (12/20, 64K) reports that Nevada counties are upset over a sage grouse deal “privately brokered” by Gov. Brian Sandoval and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. Attorneys for White Pine, Elko, Eureka and six other Nevada counties argue “it proves that the Bureau of Land Management planning amendments the Obama administration insists are necessary to continue to keep the bird off the list of endangered species are both illegal and impractical.” According to the article, “the counties suing to void the protections lost a bid earlier this month for a temporary restraining order blocking their implementation.” However, “the case continues before U.S. District Judge Miranda Du — who since her appointment in 2012 has inherited several cases involving similar conflicts.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (12/19, 59K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/20, 2.15M), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/20, 339K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (12/20, 1.17M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/20, Sonner, 283K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (12/19, 179K), the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (12/20, 356K), the [Mesquite \(NV\) Local News](#) (12/20, 16K), and [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (12/20, 32K).

Concerns Raised Over Sage Grouse Mining Reforms. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/18, 113K) reports that the BLM and U.S. Forest Service “held public scoping meetings on Dec. 15 in Boise and Dec. 16 in Idaho Falls on a proposal to stop all new mining claims within 10 million acres of focal sage brush habitat in the West, including 3.6 million acres in Idaho.” According to the article, “members of Idaho’s mining industry are concerned that proposed federal land-use restrictions to protect sage grouse in designated habitat go too far and were developed with too little public input.” BLM officials say “the mining restrictions were key in the U.S. Fish and Service’s recent decision against listing sage grouse as an endangered species.” They add that “if such habitat protections aren’t implemented, officials say a listing could still result, extending new burdens to protect the bird to private land and impacting a broad range of activities, such as ranching.”

Meanwhile, [OneNewsNow](#) (12/19, 7K) reports that the Interior Department “continues efforts to protect the sage grouse bird, but critics say the campaign will have no impact on the species, while the amount of land involved is ‘absurd.’”

HOUSE REPUBLICANS RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT EPA’S TOXIC SPILL PROBE. The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/20, 112K) reports that House Republicans are “leveling new charges against the Environmental Protection Agency for trying to change the chain of events that led the agency to cause a massive 3 million-gallon spill of toxic sludge in Colorado that sullied the waterways of three states.” A letter from the House Natural Resources Committee sent to the EPA’s Office of Inspector General (OIG) “spells out problems with a recent addendum the agency made to its own internal investigation that contradicts official investigations by the Department of Interior and the inspector general’s office.” The letter says, “The addendum states that its new narrative is based on ‘a followup interview with the two on-scene coordinators (OSCs) most closely associated with the event. However, the circumstances surrounding this interview raise concerns about its timing, appropriateness and potential to affect the [EPA inspector general’s] investigation.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (12/18, Bastasch, 366K).

SECRETARY JEWELL SPEAKS AT GEO-XII PLENARY. [Earthzine](#) (11/13, Davidson, Osenga) provided an audio recording of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “speaking at the GEO-XII Plenary in Mexico City on November 13, 2015.”

SEN. CRUZ BLOCKS BID TO PASS PUBLIC LANDS, WATER BILLS. The [E&E](#) (12/18) reports that citing “far too much federal land,” Sen. Ted Cruz last week “blocked a package of public lands and water bills from advancing on the Senate floor.” Cruz “objected to quick passage of 11 bills that passed the Energy and Natural Resources Committee with broad bipartisan support.” He said, “We do not need the federal government becoming the largest landlord in the United States.”

BILL INTRODUCED TO CREATE FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT. [KVIA-TV](#) El Paso, TX (12/20, 6K) reports that on Wednesday, Rep. Beto O’Rourke introduced a bill to create the Franklin Mountains National Monument. According to the article, “the Army is doing a remedial investigation” and “the Department of Defense would have to transfer the land to the Department of Interior for it to be added to the list of national monuments.”

In an editorial, the [El Paso \(TX\) Times](#) (12/19, 199K) urges support for the proposal.

SMITH ISLAND PROJECT TO RECEIVE FUNDING FROM RESILIENT LANDS AND WATERS INITIATIVE. The

[Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (12/19, 139K) reports that Snohomish County is “in line to receive \$1.4 million in federal funding for its Smith Island Restoration Project, which will turn hundreds of acres of fallow agricultural land back into a salt water estuary.” According to the article, “the project is a \$24 million effort to restore former tidelands that have long been cut off from salt water by extensive diking along Union Slough.” The funds come from the Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative, a joint effort by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Interior Department, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

BEST IMAGES FROM INTERIOR’S INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT SHARED. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (12/20, Subscription Publication, 3.44M) shares 20 of the Interior Department’s “best nature photos from 2015” from its Instagram account.

OBAMA GRANTS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES 1.3% RAISE. The [Washington Post](#) (12/20, Yoder, 7.78M) reports President Obama issued an order on Friday evening granting a 1.3 percent raise to most federal employees. According to the Post, 1 percentage point “will be paid across the board and the funds for the other 0.3 percentage point will be divided and paid in varying amounts by locality.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PARIS CLIMATE TALKS. Additional coverage of the Paris climate talks was provided by the [Arctic \(AK\) Sounder](#) (12/20, 6K).

PROTECTION URGED FOR BEARS EARS. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (12/20, 960K), Eric Descheenie and Alfred Lomahquahu, co-chairs of the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, write about the importance of protecting the Bears Ears, which they describe as “a place of traditional religious significance to tribes of the southwest United States.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

TURTLE MOUNTAIN INDIAN RESERVATION JOINS LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. The [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (12/20, 64K) reports that “the federal government says it has signed an agreement with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians to extend a land buy-back program to their reservation in northern North Dakota.” The agreement between the tribe and the Interior Department “paves the way for the government to buy fractionated land parcels from their multiple owners and give them to the tribe.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/20, 283K) and [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (12/20, 1K).

FEDERAL JUDGE THROWS OUT KANSAS LAWSUIT OVER OKLAHOMA CASINO. The [AP](#) (12/20, 283K) reports that “a federal lawsuit seeking to prevent an Oklahoma Indian tribe’s casino from expanding into Kansas was dismissed after the judge said his court doesn’t have the jurisdiction to decide the case.” In a decision announced Friday, U.S. District Judge Daniel Crabtree said “the court lacks the authority to review an advisory opinion by attorneys for the National Indian Gaming Commission that could allow casino gambling on tribal land in Cherokee County, Kansas.” The lawsuit was filed by Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt and the Cherokee County Commission.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Joplin \(MO\) Globe](#) (12/20, 63K) and the [Jefferson City \(MO\) News Tribune](#) (12/20, 92K).

NEW EDUCATION ACT PROVIDES HOPE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS. The [Princeton \(MN\) Union Eagle](#) (12/19, 89) reports that “there’s hope for the Bug School and other failing school buildings across America that are full of Native American students.” Last week, President Barack Obama signed into law the Every Student Succeeds Act, an education bill passed by Congress that replaces the No Child Left Behind Act. The bill includes an amendment “ensuring that American Indian children do not attend school in buildings that are dilapidated or deteriorating.”

COURT REJECTS TOWNS’ CHALLENGE TO ONEIDA SETTLEMENT. The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (12/20, 53K) reports that “a midlevel New York court has rejected the challenge by two upstate townships to the 2013 agreement by the state with the Oneida Indian Nation that allows the tribe to put up to 25,000 acres of land into trust.” The Appellate Division says “the agreement didn’t violate the constitutional home rule powers of the towns of Vernon and Verona and their rights to tax, regulate and govern land within their boundaries.”

PRIOR LAKE OPPOSES SHAKOPEE TRIBE’S LAND PLANS. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (12/21, 1.15M) reports that “the Prior Lake City Council is appealing to the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs in a land dispute that has divided local officials and may sour the city’s relationship with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC).” The Shakopee tribe, “which owns and operates Mystic Lake Casino Hotel and other area businesses, has been buying land and putting it into trust — a federal designation that allows it to keep the land forever, tax-free.” The City Council

is “trying to stop that from happening, arguing that it would take land off local tax rolls and derail the city’s long-term development plans.”

OREGON TRIBE APPROVES PLAN TO SELL MARIJUANA. The [AP](#) (12/20, Wozniacka) reports the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs has voted for “a plan to build a facility to grow marijuana on their reservation in central Oregon and sell it at tribe-owned stores outside the reservation.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (12/20, 94K).

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/18, Akina, Subscription Publication, 6.23M), Keli’i Akina, president and CEO of the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, criticizes the effort to create a semi-sovereign, race-based tribal government. Akina claims that the push for a tribe is supported by the elite while many Native Hawaiians oppose the idea.

[Office of Insular Affairs:](#)

SENATE TO CONSIDER BILL TO DROP AMERICAN SAMOA FLIGHT FEE. [Radio New Zealand](#) (12/20, 1K) reports that “a United States Senate committee has been assigned a bill that includes a provision to waive federal cabotage fees for domestic flights in American Samoa.” In October, the Office of Insular Affairs “submitted the proposed provision that would remove cabotage for flights between the main island of Tutuila and the Manu’a islands.”

RUM COVER-OVER EXTENDED AT RETROACTIVE HIGHER RATE. The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (12/20, 333) reports that Congress last Friday “extended a temporary tax measure that will keep rum tax revenues flowing to the territory’s coffers at the higher rate through the end of 2016.” According to the article, “the package of tax extenders, which keeps the territory’s rum cover-over revenue coming in at a \$13.25 per proof gallon rate instead of \$10.50, is now on its way to President Obama for a signature to become law.”

[Tackling America’s Water Challenges:](#)

DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR PROGRESS ON COLORADO RIVER PROBLEMS. The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (12/21, 270K) reports that “for the second time in a decade, the feds are warning that if water interests in Arizona, California and Nevada can’t find a fix for the Colorado River’s problems, the interior secretary will find it for them.” Deputy Interior Secretary Michael Connor “implied that was the department’s position in a talk Friday to hundreds of water officials, farmers and others gathered in Las Vegas for the 70th annual conference of the Colorado River Water Users Association.” Then, “after his speech, Connor came right out and said it in response to a reporter’s questions.” Connor said, “I’m optimistic at the progress that we’ve made so far, but we need to be very transparent about the risks we face and think through solutions. We feel it’s very important to stay on track and get it resolved.” Connor said that “by the time of next year’s conference, he hopes the states will have reached agreement and that his boss, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, will come to celebrate.” But “if not, he said, he or Jewell may have to carry out ‘contingency planning’ to manage the river.”

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP SUES OVER SPOTTED FROG PROTECTION. The [AP](#) (12/20, 2.15M) reports that “an environmental group is suing the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation over protections for the threatened Oregon spotted frog.” In a lawsuit Friday, the Center for Biological Diversity says the BOR is “operating two dams on the Deschutes River in a way that harms the frogs.” The center says “large fluctuations of the size of the dam reservoirs and flows in the river alternately flood or dry out frog habitat.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/18, 283K), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (12/20, 94K), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (12/20, 64K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (12/20, 10K), and [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (12/20, 32K).

BOR LOOKS TO MODERNIZE HUNGRY HORSE DAM POWER PLANT. The [AP](#) (12/18, 283K) reports that “federal officials are seeking public comment on the power plant at Hungry Horse Dam as they move forward with a proposed modernization of the plant.” The BOR, “which operates the dam and power plant, is looking for the public’s help in identifying concerns that should be addressed in an environmental assessment for the project.” The BOR is “proposing an overhaul of the power plant with major upgrades and modernization of the generating units, which have been in service since the dam opened in 1953.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (12/20, 200K) and the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (12/18, 15K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF KLAMATH BASIN WATER ACCORD. Additional coverage of the Klamath Basin accords was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (12/18, 515K) and [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (12/20, 464K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM WORKING ON PROPOSED SALE NOTICE FOR OFFSHORE WIND IN MID-ATLANTIC. [WHQR-FM](#) Wilmington, NC (12/21) reports that “now that the Environmental Assessment is complete” for offshore wind in the mid-Atlantic, “the next step in the development of offshore wind is the publication of a proposed sale notice.” Environmental advocates and researchers say that “while more needs to be understood about the marine ecosystem and how to mitigate disturbance to it, offshore wind is a welcome development in the arsenal of alternative energy.” A

WORK ON BLOCK ISLAND WIND FARM ADVANCING. The [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (12/18, Kuffner, 316K) reports on the progress of the Block Island Wind Farm. According to the article, “if all goes smoothly, by fall 2016, five towering wind turbines arranged in a curve along the southeast coast of Block Island will be spinning away.”

Onshore Energy Development:

COURT REJECTS BID TO FAST-TRACK FRACKING RULE CASE. [EnergyWire](#) (12/18, Subscription Publication) reports that a federal judge in Wyoming last week “rejected a request from environmentalists to fast-track a dispute over the Obama administration’s hydraulic fracturing rule.” A federal judge in September issued a preliminary injunction of the rule, and “the groups in October asked the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming to convert that PI decision to a final judgment in the case so they could move the full litigation to the appeals court.” But Judge Scott Skavdahl rejected the request, “finding that converting the PI decision to a final judgment would prevent the industry and state challengers from reviewing the complete administrative record in the case and arguing the merits on a slew of related issues.”

COALITION URGES BLM TO BOOST PROTECTION FOR CHACO CANYON. The [Greenwire](#) (12/18, Subscription Publication) reports that “a coalition of Native American and conservation groups pressed the Obama administration in Washington, D.C., this week to shield” Chaco Canyon in New Mexico from oil and gas drilling. The BLM has “issued more than 200 oil and gas permits covering most of the basin in recent years.” According to the article, “many sites – notably the Chaco Culture National Historical Park – are legally protected, but environmentalists and Pueblo leaders object to the bright lights and noise of drilling operations creeping toward the remote canyon revered for its cultural history and pitch-black sky.”

COUNTIES SEEK ADDITIONAL TIME TO COMMENT ON BLM LEASE PLAN. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (12/20, 73K) reports that “two Western Slope counties are asking the Interior Department for additional time to comment on proposed cancellations of natural gas leases on the Thompson Divide, while two other counties are urging the agency to move ahead.” Mesa and Rio Blanco counties on Thursday asked Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “to slow down the process of considering the proposed cancellation of 18 leases and modification to 47 others on the White River National Forest.” The BLM “should have originally set a 90-day comment period, said the Mesa-Rio Blanco county letter, noting that the agency took 18 months to prepare the draft environmental impact statement.”

SCIENTISTS PRESENT NEW EVIDENCE TYING NORTH TEXAS EARTHQUAKES TO INJECTION WELLS. In a brief, the [Dallas Morning News](#) (12/20, 1.26M) reported that “scientists presented new evidence this week suggesting that all five North Texas earthquake sequences, including those in Dallas, have been triggered by humans.” Scientists “believe that high-volume injection wells...may have triggered” an earthquake that struck Venus, Texas, near Dallas, in May. However, “they have not yet worked out a specific mechanism behind the Dallas and Irving quakes.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REPORT FINDS “LEASE SUSPENSIONS” COST TAXPAYERS. Additional coverage of the report released by The Wilderness Society on lease suspensions was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/20, 339K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS TO UPDATE OIL AND GAS RULES FOR WILDLIFE REFUGES. Additional coverage that the FWS is looking to “update 50-year-old regulations for oil and gas development on National Wildlife Refuge System lands” was provided by the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (12/20, 506).

PROTECTION URGED FOR ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE’S COASTAL PLAIN. In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (12/18, 203K), Princess Daazhrai Johnson, an actress and writer and former executive director of the Gwich’in Steering Committee, and Allison Akootchook Warden, an Inupiaq artist, supports a recently introduced bill “to protect the coastal plain of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.” They argue that “protecting the coastal plain and our traditional way of life is a matter of basic human rights.” They conclude that “some places should remain untouched and protected from destructive drilling and development – the coastal plain is one of these places.”

Offshore Energy Development:

ANALYSIS: OPPOSITION BUILDING TO DRILLING OFF ATLANTIC COAST. The [Washington Post](#) (12/20, Warrick, 7.78M) reported that the Virginia Beach city council's decision two weeks ago to reverse its support "is the latest blow to a plan that could bring offshore drilling to the Southeast Atlantic coast as early as 2017." In recent months, "at least 93 coastal communities...have joined a revolt against a pro-drilling movement that once seemed unstoppable in the Republican-dominated South." Resistance to the drilling "appears to be growing, particularly in coastal towns where politicians and business leaders are expressing doubts about whether oil and gas can deliver the economic benefits the industry's backers claim."

Additional coverage of offshore drilling in the Atlantic was provided by the [Florida Times-Union](#) (12/18, 226K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (12/20, Subscription Publication), and [Think Progress](#) (12/18, 293K).

BP: NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGES FROM PRODUCTION MORATORIUM AFTER DEEPWATER HORIZON. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/17, LaRose, 661K) reports that BP asked a federal judge on Tuesday to toss out "multiple lawsuits seeking damages from the company for the months-long moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico" in the wake of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon accident. BP claimed that "the same federal law that holds the company in large part responsible for the accident that killed 11 rig workers and injured 16 more also limits its liability to damage from the actual spill." Attorneys for the company say that the shutdown had been initiated by the U.S. government, rather than by the company itself.

FLORIDA COUNTIES ADVANCING DIFFERENT PLANS FOR BP OIL SPILL FUNDS. The [AP](#) (12/21, Nelson-Gabriel, 7.78M) reports that Florida counties have different plans for funds from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement. The AP describes the plans which range from "preserving bird habitat in the Everglades to boat ramps and waterfront parks in the Panhandle." Triumph Gulf Coast, a nonprofit organization, "will use settlement money to help diversify the economy of northwest Florida," while environmental groups are monitoring and spearheading projects in coordination with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF HILCORP'S ARCTIC ISLAND. Additional coverage of "plans by Hilcorp Alaska LLC to build a gravel island platform in the Beaufort Sea" was provided by the [Arctic \(AK\) Sounder](#) (12/20, 6K) and the [Bristol Bay \(AK\) Times](#) (12/20, Restino, 4K).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

SAN JUAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER LYMAN SENTENCED 10 DAYS IN JAIL FOR ATV PROTEST RIDE. The [E&E](#) (12/18) reports that San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman last week was "sentenced to 10 days in jail, three years of probation and a \$1,000 fine for organizing an illegal all-terrain vehicle ride through Recapture Canyon to protest what he deemed was a heavy-handed Bureau of Land Management." Lyman's co-defendant, Monte Wells, "who helped him advertise the protest, received five days in jail and three years of probation." Federal District Judge David Nuffer also "barred both men from advocating on public lands issues for three years, according to a Justice Department spokeswoman."

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (12/20, Mcentee), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/20, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/18, Press, 7.78M), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/20, 5.31M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/18, Mccombs, Whitehurst, 283K), [US News & World Report](#) (12/18, 996K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (12/18, Press, 3.6M), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (12/18, 148K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (12/20, 464K).

BLM TO USE INFRARED TO COUNT WILD BURROS AHEAD OF ROUNDUP. The [AP](#) (12/20, 2.15M) reports that "federal wildlife officials are planning to use infrared equipment to count the number of wild burros in an elusive eastern Utah herd ahead of a round-up next spring that's part of a new in-depth study of the animals." The BLM is "using the equipment to sense the animals' body heat because they tend to scatter and blend into the landscape, making them tough to count." Gus Warr, wild horse and burro specialist for the BLM in Utah, said, "It's cutting edge. We will be able to identify burros based off their heat signature. Burros are tough to identify and count because the jacks go off by themselves and the jennies and foals stick together. They blend into the background and they don't run. They'll just stand there and look at you."

Additional coverage as provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/20, 283K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (12/20, Press, 825K), and the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (12/19, 48K).

BLM HOLDS WILD HORSE ADOPTION. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/20, 403K) reports that four foals were

“rescued in a September roundup at Cold Creek, nearly 35 miles north of Las Vegas, according to BLM Assistant District Manager Karla Norris.” On Saturday, the BLM “hosted its second horse adoption event of the year in an effort to give the four foals a forever home.”

RIFLE, COUNTY SEEK TO ADDRESS HUBBARD MESA CONFLICTS. The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (12/20, 32K) reports, “County and Rifle city officials intend on requesting a meeting with the Bureau of Land Management to discuss user conflicts related to target shooting in the Hubbard Mesa area north of Rifle.” According to the article, “those officials hope to organize that meeting, and involve representatives from various user groups, prior to a series of public meetings in January dealing with the larger Roan Plateau draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) released in November.”

BLM SCHEDULES ROAN PLAN MEETINGS. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (12/21, 73K) reports that the BLM has “scheduled three public meetings in January in connection with its recently released draft management plan amendment for the Roan Plateau west of Rifle.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BLM DESIGNATES 2016 FEE-FREE DAYS. Additional coverage of the BLM’s fee-free days in 2016 was provided by the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (12/20, 476K).

BLM’S ROCK SPRINGS OFFICE UPDATING MANAGEMENT PLAN. In an op-ed for the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (12/20, 81K), Craig Thompson writes that the Rock Springs office of the BLM is “updating its plan in a document that will guide management of the public lands for the next 15 to 20 years.” Thompson points out the importance of “hunting, fishing and tourism on these public lands,” which “contribute to the \$4.5 billion the Outdoor Industry Association estimates people spend on outdoor recreation annually in the state.” He argues participation “in the BLM planning process by attending the meetings and commenting on the proposed plan.”

SUPPORT URGED FOR SEN. HATCH’S TEST-RANGE BILL. In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/20, 339K), Brad C. Smith, Utah Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Kevin S. Carter, director of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, write that Sen. Orrin Hatch’s “proposal to expand the Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR) will not only assist our military in testing new generations of aircraft and weapons systems.” They argue that “it will also create revenue for Utah’s public school endowment through the consolidation of school trust lands located within the UTTR.” According to the authors, “the state trust lands within the UTTR will be transferred to the federal government as part of the UTTR expansion to prevent future uses on the lands that could be incompatible with defense activities,” and “in exchange, Utah’s school trust will receive about 15 areas of federal lands elsewhere in the west desert area that are now managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

US TO INCLUDE AFRICAN LIONS UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. The [Washington Post](#) (12/21, Nutt, 7.78M) reports that the FWS will announce on Monday that the African lion has been added to the endangered species list, according to officials from the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Humane Society International. The officials believe the decision is based on a study by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature that found only 20,000-30,000 African lions remain in existence, though public outcry at the death of Cecil the lion may have had influence. The new regulation will not ban the hunting of lions in countries that permit it, but would prevent US hunters from importing trophies such as skins or heads without a permit.

The [New York Times](#) (12/21, Goode, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) also emphasizes that the move comes after years of petitioning by activist groups and new data on decreasing lion populations, though some activists point out that the killing of Cecil was a “defining moment,” spurring a ban on trophy imports in France and Britain as well as by 40 airlines. Wildlife experts say inclusion of lions under the US Endangered Species Act will likely influence international classifications of the species, moving them into Appendix 1, which would prohibit almost all international trade.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Associated Press](#) (12/21, Freking), [US News & World Report](#) (12/20, 996K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (12/21, Freking, 1.15M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/21, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/21, Freking, 283K), the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (12/21, 4K), the [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (12/21, 507K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/21, 339K), [ABC News](#) (12/21, 3.35M), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/21, 5.31M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (12/21, Freking, 6.43M).

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR MIAMI TIGER BEETLE. The [E&E](#) (12/18) reports that the FWS last week “proposed adding the Miami tiger beetle to the federal endangered species list, a move that would complicate plans to build a Wal-Mart shopping center and theme park in the bug’s sparsely vegetated, sandy home.” Cindy Dohner, FWS’s Southeast regional director, said in a statement, “The Miami tiger beetle is in trouble because it has only survived in increasingly rare urban pine rockland habitat. Its remaining habitat faces huge urban development pressures.”

NEW PRESERVE IN MISSOURI AIMS TO PROTECT ENDANGERED BATS. The [AP](#) (12/20, 2.15M) reports that “a nature preserve planned in the northeast Missouri town of Hannibal” will “serve as a protected area for tens of thousands of endangered bats.” The Sodalis Nature Preserve will be “built near the Mississippi River” and “the Canadian company Enbridge Inc., whose nearly 600-mile-long Flanagan South Pipeline passes near Hannibal, will pay for land acquisition, management and maintenance as part of a mitigation fund to offset the impact to federally endangered species and migratory birds.” The FWS, “along with The Conservation Fund and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, are also partners in the project, development of which was approved Tuesday by the Hannibal City Council.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (12/20, 767K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/20, Jim Salter |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/20, Salter, 283K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (12/20, Salter, 6.43M).

ARCHAEOLOGISTS SEEK CULTURAL EVIDENCE IN SHERBURNE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (12/20, 2.15M) reports that an archaeological survey that started late this fall in Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge seeks to find “evidence of Native American cultures, of fur traders and farmers.” According to the article, “the survey, which is to wrap up in May at a cost of no more than \$76,850, is one element of a \$520,000, 968-acre oak savanna restoration.” The article notes that the largest restoration in the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge’s “50-year history includes a long-planned timber harvest, which instigated the archaeological work.”

COLLABORATION KEY TO RESTORING HABITAT FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES ALONG RIO GRANDE. The [El Defensor Chieftain \(NM\)](#) (12/20, 10K) reports that “the groups involved with restoring the habitat of endangered species along the Rio Grande had plenty to celebrate at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge a couple of weeks ago.” Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge Manager Kathy Granillo said “the work completed so far could not have been done without the collaborated effort of several groups.” FWS Southwest Regional Director Dr. Benjamin Tuggle said, “The Service is proud to be leading the effort to recover endangered species in the Middle Rio Grande. When Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge received a \$297,000 Cooperative Recovery Initiative grant from the Service, we knew we could count on our partners at the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and the Bureau of Reclamation to work with us to help make this project a reality.”

FWS SEEK INPUT ON USE OF BIOCONTROLS AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES. The [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (12/20, 87K) reports that “invasive species continue to affect the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, and as part of its management of the refuge, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to continue using other species to combat the invasives’ spread.” According to Tim Yager, assistant refuge manager, “use of biological control agents, or biocontrols, has been ongoing in the refuge for at least 15 years.” Now, “the compatibility determination, a kind of approval for biocontrol use, is up for renewal, and the refuge is seeking public comments as they move forward with the process.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Winona \(MN\) Daily News](#) (12/20, 29K) and [WXOW-TV](#) LaCrosse, WI (12/19, 532).

KAGALASKA CARIBOU REMAIN AFTER SPRING ERADICATION HUNT. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (12/19, 203K) reports that “caribou remain on Kagalaska Island, despite an eradication project in May, according to Steve Delehanty, refuge manager of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.” According to the article, “federal officials don’t know yet if they’ll launch another extermination effort aimed at removing the invasive animals.”

FWS REOPENS COMMENT PERIOD ON TWO CRAYFISH SPECIES. The [AP](#) (12/21, 2.15M) reports that the FWS has “reopened the public comment period on the Guyandotte River crayfish and the Big Sandy crayfish.” The FWS says “surveys found one new location of the Guyandotte River crayfish in Wyoming County and one new location of the Big Sandy crayfish in the West Virginia portion of the lower Tug Fork basin.” The reopened comment period will run until Jan. 14, 2016.

WHOOPING CRANES WINTERING AT WHEELER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (12/20, 2.15M) reports on the whooping cranes that make the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge “their winter home.” Lizzie Condon, the Keep Whooping Cranes Safe coordinator for the International Crane Foundation, said “there are currently at least six whoopers at the Wheeler refuge right now, with the first arrivals landing on Nov. 14.”

VENOMOUS COBRA DISCOVERED ON SHIP THAT DOCKED IN NEW JERSEY. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/18, King, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports that a venomous Indian cobra is at the Bronx Zoo after it was found aboard a ship that docked this week in Newark, N.J., zoo officials said. The crew of the MV Maersk Sana discovered the snake while at sea and sent a photo of it to the FWS office in New Jersey, officials said. The FWS identified it as an Indian cobra and asked the Bronx Zoo for help, said Kevin Torregrosa, the zoo’s collections manager in herpetology.

Additional coverage was provided by [Inquisitr](#) (12/20, 262K), and [Canada Journal](#) (12/20).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS COULD REMOVE PROTECTIONS FOR YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY. Additional coverage of the contention over the possible removal of protections for Yellowstone grizzly bears was provided by [CounterPunch](#) (12/18, 17K), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/21, 118K), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (12/20, 54K), the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (12/20, 13K), [Global Animal](#) (12/18, 3K), and [Big Horn Radio Network](#) (12/20).

UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD'S ANTI-WOLF STANCE CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/20, 339K), Kirk Robinson, Ph.D., executive director of Western Wildlife Conservancy, and Allison Jones, MS, executive director of Wild Utah Project, write that the Utah Wildlife Board recently sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, "protesting in advance any plans to include parts of Utah in the recovery area for the highly endangered lobo (there are only 110 in the wild, all descended from just seven founders)." But they argue that "contrary to the board's assertion, the Endangered Species Act and supplementary law clearly provide that recovery areas with the best remaining habitat, even outside a species' assumed historic range, can be established (16 USC 532(5))." Moreover, they say that "scientific studies support a lobo recovery area extending into Utah because that ecological niche is currently vacant and because there is evidence from wolf remains and DNA showing that lobos once occupied it."

National Park Service:

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS INTERVIEWED. [National Geographic](#) (12/18, 31.87M) reports that as the NPS "prepares to celebrate the centennial of its founding," NPS Director Jarvis shared "his favorite park units, the ups and downs of the job, his hopes for the next 100 years, and more." Asked about his legacy, Jarvis said: "I'll leave that up to the historians, but I hope people will look back on this period at some point in the future and say, 'They didn't waste the opportunity of the centennial'—that the NPS used it smartly to build a relationship with the American people that then translated into the kind of political, monetary, volunteerism, and visitation support the parks will need for decades to come."

Mount Rushmore National Memorial Hosting Rose Parade Viewing. The [AP](#) (12/20, 283K) reports that Mount Rushmore National Memorial is "hosting a viewing party of the annual Rose Parade on New Year's Day." The theme of the parade in Pasadena, California, is "Find Your Adventure" and it "plans to shine light on the centennial celebration of the National Park Service."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the Centennial was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (12/20, 769K) and the [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (12/20, 12K).

SEN. BOXER SEEKS HISTORIC DESIGNATION FOR TULE LAKE CAMP. [E&E Daily](#) (12/18, Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. Barbara Boxer last week "introduced legislation that would require the National Park Service to separately manage a site in Northern California where nearly 19,000 Japanese-Americans were held during the World War II." The Tule Lake camp is already a unit of the NPS' World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, but Boxer thinks Tule Lake, "which was the largest internment camp during the war, should not be honored along with the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor and other battlefields included in the valor monument." She said in a statement, "This legislation will give Tule Lake the national recognition it deserves, while honoring the tens of thousands of Japanese-Americans who were forcibly relocated and incarcerated in one of our country's darkest moments."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (12/20, 654K).

Project Explores Japanese Internment Camps In New Mexico. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/20, 263K) reports on the Japanese-American Citizens League project "Confinement in the Land of Enchantment: Japanese Americans In New Mexico During WWII." The project "explores the New Mexico prison camps in Lordsburg, Santa Fe, Fort Stanton and Old Raton Ranch, which held Japanese-Americans during WWII."

HANFORD SITE TO BECOME NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (12/21, Geranios) reports on the opening of development of the Manhattan Project National Historic Park's Hanford site which "thousands of people are expected next year to tour." The main attractions will be B Reactor and "along with the ghost towns of Hanford and White Bluffs, which were evacuated by the government to make room for the Manhattan Project."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/20, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/20, Geranios, 283K), [CBS News](#) (12/20, 4.1M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/20, 3.48M), the [Japan Times](#) (12/21, 5K), [KGTU-TV San Diego \(CA\)](#) San Diego (12/20, 69K), and [WSPA-TV Greenville \(SC\)](#) Greenville, SC (12/20, 29K).

NPS TO STUDY POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF MILL SPRINGS. The [Somerset \(KY\) Commonwealth Journal](#) (12/20, 26K) reports that the NPS is "embarking on a two-year study to determine if the Mill Springs Civil War battlefield

spanning between Nancy and Mill Springs in Wayne County should be included in the national park system.” Justin Henderson, project manager for the NPS, explained, “At the conclusion of the special resource study process, the National Park Service through the Secretary of the Interior will submit its findings to Congress. Congress will then determine whether Mill Springs Battlefield should be added to the national park system. Only Congress has the authority to designate a new unit of the National Park Service.”

CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK TO CULL DEER WITH SHARPSHOOTERS. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (12/20, 1.07M) reports that the Cuyahoga Valley National Park “next year will join a growing list of public entities that have turned to lethal deer culling to control unnaturally large populations.” The national park wants “to take 350 deer a year for the next four years.”

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK PROPOSES NEW EMPLOYEE HOUSING. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/20, 118K) reports that “a duplex, four-plex and eight-plex would be built in developed areas inside Glacier National Park under a plan to address a housing shortage for National Park Service seasonal employees on the east side of the park.” Glacier spokeswoman Denise Germann said “the proposal is to construct a two-story eight-plex and one-story four-plex in the Swiftcurrent housing area at Many Glacier, next to the Swiftcurrent Ranger Station Historic District.” Public comment for the project will be accepted through Jan. 19.

NPS RENOVATING WILLIAM JOHNSON HOUSE. The [Natchez \(MS\) Democrat](#) (12/21, 26K) reports that “work is under way at a downtown historic house in preparation for the installation of new exhibits that will help tell a new piece of a story in Natchez’s history.” The NPS’ William Johnson House on State Street is “receiving masonry and plaster repairs as well as the replacement of historic wood shingle roofs on the McCallum House side of the museum.” Also, the site’s heating and air-conditioning system is “being upgraded to a more energy efficient system.”

NEW SUPERINTENDENT FOR SAN JUAN ISLAND ANNOUNCED. The [Journal of the San Juan Islands \(WA\)](#) (12/20) reports that Elexis Fredy has been “selected as the new superintendent at San Juan Island National Historical Park in Washington state.” Fredy “replaces Lee Taylor who left earlier this year to become deputy superintendent of Olympic National Park.” She begins her new role on Feb. 7.

HALEAKALA NATIONAL PARK SETS ASIDE COMMERCIAL-FREE DAY. The [AP](#) (12/20, 2.15M) reports that Haleakala National Park will be “closed to commercial tours Tuesday so that Native Hawaiians can use the area to practice cultural traditions.” According to the article, “the park will be open to visitors who pay regular park fees on a day set aside as part of the Commercial Services Plan at Haleakala.”

BIRD COUNT SCHEDULED AT THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (12/20, 283K) reports that Theodore Roosevelt National Park is “inviting volunteers to participate in the annual nationwide Audubon Christmas bird count.” According to the article, “the count scheduled Sunday is in its 116th year and is the world’s longest-running citizen science event.”

NPS SEEKS THIRD EXTENSION ON HOT SPRINGS CONTRACT. The [Hot Springs \(AR\) Sentinel-Record](#) (12/18, 34K) reports that the NPS, “in hopes of awarding a new concessions contract in early 2016, wants to extend its current agreement with the Hot Springs Advertising and Promotion Commission for the third year in a row.”

EL TOVAR AT GRAND CANYON TO UNDERGO MAJOR RENOVATIONS IN 2017. The [AP](#) (12/20, 2.15M) reports that “a landmark hotel at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon will close for a few months in 2017 for a major renovation.” According to the article, “crews will replace carpet, paint guest rooms, upgrade electrical and plumbing systems, refinishing wood flooring and make other improvements at El Tovar.” The project will “last from January 2017 until mid-April that year during the slow season.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/20, 263K), [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/18, Press, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/18, 283K), and [Skift](#) (12/19).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MOUNTAIN LION KITTEN SPOTTED NEAR LOS ANGELES. Additional coverage of the mountain lion kitten spotted in the hills around Los Angeles was provided by [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/20, Walters, 3.48M) and the [Los Angeles \(CA\) LAist](#) (12/20, 135K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: UAV OPERATOR ISSUED CITATION NEAR WASHINGTON MONUMENT. Additional coverage that a man who was flying a drone near the Washington Monument was cited was provided by the [AP](#) (12/20, 2.15M).

US Geological Survey:

CHEROKEE NATION TECHNOLOGIES HELPS USGS THROUGH NEW \$30 MILLION CONTRACT. The [Bartlesville \(OK\) Examiner-Enterprise](#) (12/20, 602) reports that Cherokee Nation Technologies is “providing scientific and

technical support to the United States Geological Survey in an effort to better understand the nation's biological resources." According to the article, "the \$30 million contract aids the USGS in developing and disseminating research-based information." Greg Kilkenny, president of Federal Solutions for Cherokee Nation Businesses, said, "The more we understand the species, habitats and ecosystems within our nation, the better we can support effective, collaborative decision-making. We are thankful for the opportunity to continue working with USGS and support such an imperative effort."

Top National News:

RYAN: REPUBLICANS GOT AS MUCH AS THEY COULD IN SPENDING DEAL. Media reports this morning cast House Speaker Ryan's comments on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) on Sunday as a spirited defense of the compromise spending legislation passed by Congress and signed by the President on Friday. Ryan argued that given the process that was in place when he assumed the speakership, he was able to "make the best of this process" and "get good wins for conservatives" including lifting the oil export ban, limiting the IRS so it "can't meddle in politics," and "more pro-life riders." Under the headline, "Paul Ryan Defends Compromise In Passing Spending Deal," the [New York Times](#) (12/21, A19, Fandos, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) quotes Ryan as saying, "We fought for as much as we could get. ... We advanced our priorities and principles. Not every single one of them, but many of them. And then we're going to pick up next year and pick up where we left off and keep going for more." Ryan "also said he would make a priority of restoring a 'more orderly appropriations' process in 2016" and said he would sit down with the President early next year "to try and 'find common ground without compromising principles.'"

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (12/21, Spicuzza, 691K) similarly headlines its story, "Paul Ryan Defends Compromise In Passing Spending Deal," and says he is "dismissing criticism from conservatives" over the bill. Ryan noted that "this is divided government. And in divided government you don't get everything you want. So we fought for as much as we could get." The [Washington Times](#) (12/21, Howell, 283K) reports that Ryan said the deal "to fund the government and solidify hundreds of billions of dollars of tax relief was a 'cake already baked' before he stepped into leadership, but that he made the best of it and seized key GOP wins that set the table for a productive 2016." Ryan also defended the tax break package, "rejecting critics who say it increases the deficit in a massive give-away to special interests."

In a separate analysis, the [Washington Times](#) (12/21, Dinan, Howell, 283K) says that while some conservatives "found plenty to dislike in the bill, saying it missed chances to reel in Mr. Obama," Ryan convinced his members that "while the deal fell short of everything he wanted, it won some permanent victories, including tax breaks and lifting a 40-year-old ban on exporting crude oil, while Democrats won only temporary victories in boosting spending or preventing Republicans from reining in Mr. Obama's executive actions." On its website, [MSNBC](#) (12/20, 733K) noted that conservative pundits like Mark Levin and Laura Ingraham "blasted the deal, saying that Ryan failed to leverage the must-pass spending bill to nix funding for Planned Parenthood or limit the entry of Syrian refugees," but, like other reports, said he is "dismissing conservative criticism." Ryan told NBC, "No matter what you do in this job you're going to get criticized. ... The question is are you focusing on your goals? Are you keeping your principles intact? Are you advancing ideas that make a difference in people's lives?"

In a column for [Bloomberg News](#) (12/20, Hunt, 3.4M), Al Hunt says Ryan "has experienced the easy part; big challenges loom." While "the right-wing agenda for the past several elections was to repeal and replace Obamacare; slash spending; cut tax rates; block President Obama's executive actions liberalizing immigration and strengthening environmental rules; and, more recently, defund Planned Parenthood and stop Syrian refugees from entering the country," none of those priorities are in the omnibus bill, and "when the current funding expires next September, in the midst of the general election, these right-wing politicians are less likely to give passes."

Ryan Coy About Seeking A Second Term As Speaker. [The Hill](#) (12/20, Richardson, 654K) said that during his interview on "Meet the Press," Ryan "refused to say...whether he wants to run for a second term as Speaker." While Ryan said "he had been enjoying the position, which party leaders had to pressure him into taking in October, 'more than I thought I would,'" he said he "wasn't thinking about staying on after 2016." [Politico](#) (12/20, Warmbrodt, 1.19M) reported that host Chuck Todd asked Ryan twice "whether he would want to remain speaker after 2016," to which Ryan replied, "I just haven't been thinking about it. ... I stepped into the breach, stepped up when I had a duty and an obligation to do so. I'm excited about the potential. I'm excited about the opportunity. I feel blessed and honored to have this position."

Hunt: "Prominent Republicans" Eye Ryan For 2016 Presidential Nomination. Hunt also noted in his [Bloomberg News](#) (12/20, Hunt, 3.4M) column that Ryan's name is being mentioned by "prominent Republicans" who "look at the chaotic presidential race and contemplate a possible deadlocked result." Ryan "doesn't carry the baggage of the other name that keeps coming up, Mitt Romney, and would be a fresher contrast to Hillary Clinton." While the Ryan camp "knows this is a long shot," it is "preparing to respond if the idea gains currency."

McConnell: Congress Trying To Make Progress Despite Divisions. On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (12/20, Tapper, 420K), Senate Majority Leader McConnell was asked about Congress' growing unpopularity. He said, "We were elected to try to do a job for the American people. We know we have divided government. There are plenty of things we disagree with the President on. ... We're in the process of putting an Obamacare repeal on his desk. We've already put on his desk through the Congressional Review Act efforts to repeal some of his onerous regulations on existing power plants and new power plants, and this ridiculous regulation called Waters of the US that would declare every puddle in America subject to EPA regulation. So the things that we differ on we will talk about, but we want to make some progress in the meantime."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/21, A5, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports that after reaching compromise on key issues this year, GOP congressional leaders are setting the bar lower for 2016, and laying down markers on issues like national security on which the parties can distinguish themselves from each other going into an election that will decide the presidency and control of the Senate. McConnell has said he will seek agreement where he can, but stressed the Senate agenda will be driven in part by the political needs of his members. Ryan similarly stressed the need to show the differences between the parties, telling NBC that "we're going to have one heck of a contrast in 2016."

AP Analysis: Opponents May Have More Success Chipping Away At ACA. An [AP](#) (12/21, Alonso-Zaldivar) analysis says "one lesson" from the budget deal is that Republican opponents of the ACA "may be able to get more by chipping away at it than trying to take the whole thing down at once." Noting that the spending bill "delayed a widely criticized tax on high-cost employer health insurance plans" and "temporarily suspended two taxes on industry already being collected," the AP says that unlike "frontal attacks on 'Obamacare' that have repeatedly failed, this tactic could well succeed" as "delays and suspensions have a way of becoming permanent."

Lobbyists Successfully Pushed To Preserve Tax Loophole. The [New York Times](#) (12/21, Lipton, Moyer, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that as congressional leaders were crafting the tax and spending bills, "lobbyists swooped in to add 54 words that temporarily preserved a loophole sought by the hotel, restaurant and gambling industries, along with billionaire Wall Street investors, that allowed them to put real estate in trusts and avoid taxes." The changes, "and the enormous windfall they generated, show the power of connected corporate lobbyists to alter a huge bill that is being put together with little time for lawmakers to consider," and "there were thousands of other add-ons and hard to decipher tax changes" throughout the legislation. The Times notes that "executives at companies with the most at stake are also big campaign donors."

CLINTON FOCUSES ON TRUMP IN DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE. All three broadcast networks reported Sunday evening on the Saturday night Democratic presidential debate, saying that even in a debate where he did not appear, Republican Donald Trump was a major topic. [ABC World News](#) (12/20, lead story, 2:45, Llamas, 5.84M) reported that Democrat Hillary Clinton drew "the most fire over what she said about Donald Trump helping ISIS recruit terrorists."

The

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 21 2015 05:00:51 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: Re: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, December 21, 2015

Hello,

I will be out of the office until Tuesday, December 22. If you need immediate assistance please contact sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov.

--

Jeremy Bratt
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Conversation Contents

Congressional Affairs Update

/5. Congressional Affairs Update/1.1 12.18.15.docx

"Gustavson, Angela" <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>

From: "Gustavson, Angela" <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>
Sent: Fri Dec 18 2015 15:15:00 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Angela Gustavson <angela_gustavson@fws.gov>
Subject: Congressional Affairs Update
Attachments: 12.18.15.docx

Good evening,

This week's Congressional Affairs Update - and the final one for 2015 - is attached.

Today, Congress passed an omnibus spending package for the remainder of FY 2016, which the President signed into law. The omnibus includes \$1.5 billion for the Service, an increase of \$69 million. A number of harmful riders that were proposed and included in previous legislation are not included in the final legislation.

Congress heads out on recess for the winter break. Our next Congressional Affairs Update will be sent out early January when Congress returns.

Have a very happy holiday,

Angela

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"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Dec 18 2015 15:15:10 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: angela_gustavson@fws.gov

Subject:

Re: Congressional Affairs Update

Hello,

I will be out of the office until Tuesday, December 22. If you need immediate assistance please contact sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov.

--

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R.4268 : To designate the Castner Range in the State of Texas, to establish the Castner Range National Monument, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep O'Rourke, Beto [TX-16] (introduced 12/16/2015) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Natural Resources; House Armed Services

Latest Major Action: 12/16/2015 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

H.R.4282 : To clarify the meaning of the term "prevailing party" with regard to the recovery of attorneys' fees.

Sponsor: Rep Cartwright, Matt [PA-17] (introduced 12/17/2015) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Judiciary

Latest Major Action: 12/17/2015 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R.4288 : To establish a multi-agency Federal team to improve and reform Federal disaster assistance.

Sponsor: Rep Norton, Eleanor Holmes [DC] (introduced 12/17/2015) Cosponsors (None)

Committees: House Transportation and Infrastructure

Latest Major Action: 12/17/2015 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S.2383 : Utah Test and Training Range Encroachment Prevention and Temporary Closure Act

Sponsor: Sen Hatch, Orrin G. [UT] (introduced 12/10/2015) Cosponsors (1)

Latest Major Action: 12/10/2015 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S.2400: Superfund Polluter Pays Restoration Act of 2015

Sponsor: Sen Booker, Cory A. [NJ] (introduced 12/14/2015) Cosponsors (3)

Related Bills: H.R.214, H.R.2768, S.187

Latest Major Action: 12/14/2015 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, December 18, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Fri Dec 18 2015 04:59:28 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, December 18, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2015 7:00 AM EST

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- + Additional Coverage Of Red River Land dispute.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + Lawsuit Seeks Protection For Coastal Marten.
- + FWS Could Remove Protections For Yellowstone Grizzly.
- + Environmental Groups Pressure EPA To Revisit GE’s Hudson River PCB Cleanup.
- + Houston-based Liquefied Natural Gas Company Donates Money To Help Track Ocelots.
- + Changing Of Refuge Name To Honor Billy Frank Jr. Welcomed.

National Park Service:

- + New York Democrats Propose Protection For Stonewall Inn.
- + Family Lawyer Criticizes Probe Of Boy’s Death At Lassen Volcanic National Park.
- + UAV Operator Issued Citation Near Washington Monument.
- + NASA Helps NPS Develop Beaver Management Planning.
- + Group Acquires Land To Benefit The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.
- + NPS Discovers Male Mountain Lion In Santa Monica Mountains.
- + Group Working To Honor Families Displaced By Shenandoah National Park.

US Geological Survey:

- + Study Finds “Intersex” Male Bass Throughout Protected Northeast US Waters.
- + USGS Mapping National Parks.
- + USGS: Barnett Shale Contains Twice As Much Natural Gas As Previously Thought.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Obama Seeks To Reassure Americans Ahead Of Holidays.
- + Pelosi: Democrat Votes To Pass Spending Bill May Not Be There.
- + Farook’s Friend Marquez Charged With Supporting Terrorism.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.
- + The Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE:

- + Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:

- + Today’s Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS:

- + Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

REP. BISHOP VOWS TO CONTINUE PUSH TO OVERHAUL LWCF. [Politico Pro](#) (12/17, Subscription Publication) reports that House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop “claimed partial victory over two reforms to the Land and Water Conservation Fund included in the year-end omnibus spending bill.” However, Bishop “vowed that his push for a full overhaul would continue and stopped short of endorsing the overall \$1.1 trillion spending bill.” According to the article, “while the three-year LWCF reauthorization in this week’s bipartisan spending pact goes beyond” Bishop’s preferred “time frame, it also prohibits the program from invoking eminent domain and raises the share that state-level programs must receive from LWCF’s annual pot of money – two of Bishop’s top priorities.”

[E&E Publishing](#) (12/17, 705) reports that Bishop said, “Those are two major reforms. Even though we could have done better, we should do better, and we’re still going to look at this thing, because that other 50 percent on the state programs, let’s face it, if you’re just buying more land and you can’t maintain what you’ve already got, there’s something wrong in the system in the first place.”

Additional coverage of the reauthorization of the LWCF was provided by the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (12/17, 174K), the [East Oregonian](#) (12/16, 24K), the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (12/16, 767K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (12/18, 73K), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (12/18, 54K), the [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (12/16, 127K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/18, 339K), [Public News Service](#) (12/17, 306).

Omnibus Report Seeks To Shape Public Land Policies. The [E&E](#) (12/17) reports that “while Congress’ \$1.15 trillion funding deal is mostly bereft of environmental policy riders, the bill’s report language seeks to shape numerous Obama administration policies affecting public lands, wildlife and energy issues.” According to the article, “the 109-page report for the section of the spending bill affecting the Interior Department and Forest Service offers a litany of concerns over programs ranging from energy royalties to bottled water sales at national parks.”

Spending Package Provides Funding Boost To Prevent “Fire Borrowing.” [E&E Daily](#) (12/17, Subscription Publication) reports that “while Congress’s fiscal 2016 spending package provides no long-term funding overhauls for wildfire, it does provide a one-time boost in suppression cash to prevent the disruptive practice of ‘fire borrowing.’” According to the article, “the package would provide \$2.1 billion for wildfire suppression, nearly \$600 million above what the government has spent annually, on average, battling fires over the past decade.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Associated Press](#) (12/18, Gruver), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/18, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/18, Gruver, 283K), the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (12/18, 209K), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (12/18, 94K), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (12/18, 150K), [Yahoo! News](#) (12/18, Gruver, 6.43M), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (12/18, 464K), and [KOMO-TV Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (12/18, 324K).

NPS Directed To Provide Report On Bottled Water Ban. [The Hill](#) (12/18, Wheeler, 654K) reports that the NPS will “be required to provide a report justifying a ban on bottled water at 19 parks around the country, under a provision included in the massive 1.8 trillion year-end fiscal deal in Congress.” According to the article, “the language, included in the conference committee’s report on the appropriations bill, falls short of the bottled water industry’s push for an end to the ban.” Rep. Keith Rothfus said, “We’ve preserved the issue. If the park service cannot provide the justification for a policy that seems to have no real benefit and is an inconvenience for families, we’ll be back.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (12/17, Rein, 7.78M).

Spending Bill Bars Official Portraits. The [E&E](#) (12/17) reports that the \$1.15 trillion omnibus spending bill would “bar the federal government from footing the bill for official portraits.” According to the article, “language tucked into the fiscal 2016 package would ban federal spending on portraits of Obama administration officials as high up as the president, as well as members of Congress.” Notably, a spokeswoman for the Interior Department said “a portrait of Secretary Sally Jewell has not been commissioned at this time.”

Language On Sage Grouse Welcomed. In an editorial, the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/18, 403K) welcomes “language that prohibits the federal government from listing the sage grouse as an endangered species while nearly quadrupling Bureau of Land Management spending on habitat conservation.” The paper argues that “the government’s current sage grouse preservation plan remains unnecessarily burdensome to states and industry trying to put public lands to economically productive use, but the omnibus bill ensures it can’t get worse — and that the Interior Department can’t retaliate against Nevada for suing over the provisions of that preservation plan.”

Advocates Says Endangered Species Have Become “Congressional Poker Chips.” Noah Greenwald, endangered species program director, Center for Biological Diversity, writes at the [Huffington Post](#) (12/18, Greenwald, 251K) that “it seems nothing short of a holiday miracle that gray wolves...have been spared from the annual year-end political games in Congress that routinely transform our federal budgeting process into a corporate wish-list where everything from endangered species to perks for the oil and gas industry are traded like so many plastic poker chips.” However, he says that “wolves continue to face the prospect of being stripped of their federal protections.” Greenwald concludes that “there’s much work left to be done, both to protect our most imperiled wildlife and to wrest our

government back from the pay-to-play special interest groups – from the livestock industry to the oil and gas polluters – who are doing everything in their power to push science and the will of the majority of Americans from the halls of Congress.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the spending bill was provided by [McClatchy](#) (12/18, 27K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/18, Phillips, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/18, Depillis, 7.78M), [Bloomberg BNA](#) (12/18, Schultz, 7K), [Reuters](#) (12/18, Gardner, Cornwell), the [Emmett \(ID\) Messenger-Index](#) (12/18, 22K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (12/18, Taylor, 1.15M), the [Spartanburg \(SC\) Herald-Journal](#) (12/17, 123K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (12/18, Subscription Publication, 3.44M), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (12/18, 74K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/18), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (12/18, 1.17M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/18, Andrew Taylor |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Will County \(IL\) Herald News](#) (12/17), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/18, 5.31M), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (12/17, 15K), the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (12/18), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (12/17, 98K), the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (12/18, 100K), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (12/18, 218K), and the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (12/17, 76K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR ANNOUNCES NATURAL RESOURCE INVESTMENT CENTER. Additional coverage of the new Natural Resource Investment Center was provided by [Wisconsin Business](#) (12/18), [BizTimes Milwaukee \(WI\)](#) (12/17, 43K), [WaterOnline](#) (12/18), [AmmoLand](#) (12/18, 7K), [Sustainable Brands](#) (12/18), [Fast Company Exist](#) (12/18, 22K), and the [Huffington Post](#) (12/18, 251K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR RELEASES BEST PHOTOS OF 2015. Additional coverage of the Interior Department’s best photos of 2015 was provided by the [Daily Mirror \(UK\)](#) (12/18, 798K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: COALITION OF TRIBES PROPOSES BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT. Additional coverage that a coalition of American Indian tribes is pushing for the designation of the Bears Ears National Monument was provided by [Colorado Public Radio](#) (12/18).

EUREKA COUNT OBJECTS TO NEVADA GOVERNOR’S GROUSE DEAL. The Eureka County Natural Resources Advisory Commission writes at the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (12/18, 22K) that they joined eight other affected Nevada counties in filing a legal challenge to the Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendment. However, immediately after the Attorney General joined the suit on behalf of the State, Governor Sandoval’s Office issued a press release claiming “litigation at this juncture threatens to compromise future collaborative efforts” and “a lawsuit now will chill ongoing discussions between the state and Department of Interior...by pursuing litigation now, the Attorney General is acting in his personal capacity and does not represent the State of Nevada, the Governor, or any state agencies.” The Commission concludes that urging “Sandoval to be much more transparent in his efforts to correct the LUPA, engage in principled discussions with Nevada counties and public land users in a common path forward, and change his direction by supporting the Nevada legal challenge.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

NEW YORK COURT REJECTS TOWNS’ CHALLENGE TO ONEIDA SETTLEMENT. The [AP](#) (12/18, 2.15M) reports that “a midlevel New York court has rejected the challenge by two upstate townships to the 2013 agreement by the state with the Oneida Indian Nation that allows the tribe to put up to 25,000 acres of land into trust.” The Appellate Division says “the agreement didn’t violate the constitutional home rule powers of the towns of Vernon and Verona and their rights to tax, regulate and govern land within their boundaries.” The court says “the negative town consequences didn’t result from the agreement or subsequent state legislation, but from the U.S. Interior Department decision to place the lands in trust.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: PILOT PROGRAM WILL EQUIP LAW ENFORCEMENT ON TRIBAL LANDS WITH NALOXONE. Additional coverage of the pilot program announced Wednesday to prevent overdoses on tribal lands was provided by [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (12/17, 47K), [Fox News](#) (12/17, 9.42M), the [Oklahoman](#) (12/17, Cosgrove, 470K), the [Fort Smith \(AR\) Times Record](#) (12/18, 106K), and the [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (12/17, 173K).

Office of Insular Affairs:

SURVEY DETAILS HEALTH CARE ISSUES IN VIRGIN ISLANDS. The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (12/18) reports that “representatives from a cross section of government, non-profit, and healthcare agencies filled the small conference room at the St. Thomas East End Medical Center Corporation (STEEMCC) on Wednesday to receive the long-awaited results from a comprehensive healthcare needs assessment that began in April 2015.” Researchers from the University of the Virgin Islands Caribbean Exploratory Research Center (CERC) of Excellence announced “the findings from surveying a broad spectrum of health related issues of approximately 600 adults and students on the east end of St. Thomas.” According to the article, “the outcomes reflected a community in need of health literacy and

radical change in the delivery of healthcare.” The final report will be delivered to the US Department of Interior, VI Governor’s office, the Department of Health, Frederiksted Health Care, Inc., federal partners and stakeholders.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

COLORADO OFFICIAL WHO CLASHED WITH EPA OVER GOLD KING MINE SPILL RESIGNS. The [AP](#) (12/18, Press, 1.15M) reports that “Colorado’s top environmental official is stepping down, months after he clashed with federal authorities over a massive spill of toxic wastewater from an inactive mine in southwest Colorado.” Mike King’s resignation was announced Thursday and takes effect Dec. 31. According to the article, “his departure comes on the heels of the resignation of Hickenlooper’s lieutenant governor and appears part of the regular string of exits of veteran officials as the administration moves into its final years.”

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (12/18, 3.35M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/18, 263K), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/18, 5.31M), the [Lincoln \(NE\) Journal Star](#) (12/18, 283K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (12/17, 31K), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/18, Press, 7.78M). Additional coverage of the spill was provided by [Colorado Public Radio](#) (12/18).

BOR LOOKS TO MODERNIZE HUNGRY HORSE DAM POWER PLANT. The [AP](#) (12/18, 2.15M) reports that “federal officials are seeking public comment on the power plant at Hungry Horse Dam as they move forward with a proposed modernization of the plant.” The BOR, “which operates the dam and power plant, is looking for the public’s help in identifying concerns that should be addressed in an environmental assessment for the project”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GILA RIVER DIVERSION PROJECT. Additional coverage of the Gila River diversion project was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (12/18, 74K).

ADVOCATES SAY BEAVERHEAD WATERWAY THREATENED. Guy Alsentzer and Wade Fellin, of Upper Missouri Waterkeeper, write at the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (12/18, 38K) that the Beaverhead waterway is being threatened by intense sediment and algal blooms that are impacting fishing and public water supplies. They say that during a meeting held by Montana officials and the US Bureau of Reclamation scientists pointed = to the fact that the Clark Canyon Dam has reached its “trapping” lifespan after 19 years of collecting sediment. They also say that proposals to turn the dam into a hydroelectric facility could exacerbate the problem. They urge the public to “demand our decision makers ensure any new hydroelectric facility protects local water quality, downstream users, fisheries, and proactively addresses a critical issue – the water quality threat posed by unnatural sediment trapped behind the dam.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS PROTEST POTENTIAL “LOOPHOLE” IN DRECP. The [Greenwire](#) (12/17, Subscription Publication) reports that conservation groups are “challenging a potential ‘loophole’” in the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan because it “could open nearly 1 million acres of public land to new development.” The DRECP “proposes to designate specific ‘development focus areas’ across 10 million acres of federal desert land where utility-scale renewable energy projects will be encouraged.”

BLM Urged To Resolve Key Issues In DRECP. Kim Delfino, California programs director for Defenders of Wildlife, and Barbara Boyle, senior representative of the Beyond Coal campaign, write at the [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (12/17, 1K) that “as the end of the 30-day comment period on the recently released Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) draws to a close, regional and national conservation groups have had the opportunity to reflect on the finer details of the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) plan.” They are happy that “the DRECP protects 3.85 million acres of lands with important natural resources and recreational values by designating them as part of the National Landscape Conservation System.” They say that “the BLM’s plan must close loopholes that leave close to a million acres of critical wildlife areas open to industrial renewable energy development” and that “800,000 acres of public land left ‘unallocated,’ including the biologically significant Pisgah Valley, the scenic Owens Valley and the remote Deep Springs Valley, must be closed to development.”

DEVELOPER’S FINANCIAL TROUBLES CLOUD FUTURE OF PALEN SOLAR PROJECT. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/17, 705) reports that Abengoa Solar’s “pending bankruptcy has clouded the future” of the Palen Solar Electric Generating System. The company, “in a formal petition filed this week with the California Energy Commission (CEC), announced that it has an agreement in place to transfer ownership of the Palen Solar Electric Generating System to a subsidiary of San Diego-based EDF Renewable Energy Inc.” Abengoa is “in bankruptcy proceedings, and is apparently selling off assets to reduce a heavy debt load that’s crippling the renewable energy giant, according to media reports.”

Onshore Energy Development:

LAWMAKERS QUESTIONS DELAYS IN ENERGY LEASE SALES. [E&E Daily](#) (12/17, Subscription Publication) reports that House Republicans on Wednesday “blasted” the BLM for “postponing a pair of recent oil and gas lease sales, accusing the agency of flouting its duty under the Mineral Leasing Act and for kowtowing to anti-leasing environmental groups.” In a letter to Interior Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Janice Schneider, the lawmakers claimed the BLM is “violating an MLA requirement to hold at least four lease sales annually in each state with leasable lands.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/18, Richardson, 283K), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (12/17, 15K), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (12/17, 76K), the [Huron \(MI\) Daily Tribune](#) (12/18, 19K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (12/18, 476K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (12/17, 825K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/18), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/18, 118K), and [KATV-TV Little Rock \(AR\)](#) Little Rock, AR (12/18, 106K).

Lawmakers Wants BLM To Move Oil, Gas Lease Auctions Online. [Politico Pro](#) (12/17) reports that “fifteen Republican Members of Congress, including Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop, are asking BLM to move its oil and gas lease auctions online.” The letter arrives as “the Utah field office canceled an auction in November, ‘to allow the time needed to better accommodate the high level of public interest in attending the sale.’” In a letter sent to BLM, the lawmakers “told BLM it should move the auctions online, and it should meet its legal requirement to hold auctions quarterly.”

JUDGE DENIES REQUEST TO EXPEDITE APPEAL IN BATTLE OVER BLM FRACKING RULE. [Law360](#) (12/18, 30K) reports that U.S. District Judge Scott W. Skavdahl, who blocked the Interior Department’s new fracking rule in September, “denied the government’s request that he quickly make a final ruling and expedite an appeal, saying Thursday it would be unfair to opponents of the regulations.” According to the article, “it was another win for states, petroleum industry groups and a Native American tribe that have challenged the Bureau of Land Management’s hydraulic fracturing regulations since they were introduced in March.”

INTERIOR PUSHES FOR SPLIT OF FRACKING CASE. [Law360](#) (12/18, 30K) reports that the Interior Department “continued its push to split up a suit challenging a delayed rule barring fracking on federal and tribal lands Thursday, arguing in Wyoming federal court it would be more efficient to decide the scope of the agency’s authority before handling other claims by states and industry groups.”

BOWIE RESOURCE PARTNERS REQUEST TO SELF-BOND. [Reuters](#) (12/18, Rucker) reports, in continuing coverage, that US coal company Bowie Resource Partners wants to self-bond the mines it recently bought from Peabody Energy Corp. The move could save Bowie up to \$6 million a year, but would put taxpayers on the hook for more than \$360 million in future cleanup costs for the company’s mining operations. If state officials in New Mexico and Colorado deny the move, Bowie would face costly insurance.

STUDY: ROYALTY INCREASES MAY HELP COAL RELATIVE TO NATURAL GAS. The [Wyoming Business Report](#) (12/18, 24K) reports that “a new study claims that raising royalty rates across the board for fossil fuels may benefit coal when compared to other feedstocks where higher royalties would represent a larger portion of total costs.” Study author Mark Haggerty, a researcher for Bozeman, Montana-based Headwaters Economics, said, “We find costs for natural gas would actually rise by a larger amount. It’s proportionately more expensive to deliver natural gas to market when compared to coal [under increased federal royalties].”

COLORADO OFFICIALS PRESSURE INTERIOR TO FINISH TRAPPER MINE STUDY. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (12/18, Harmon, 73K) reports “it’s imperative that work on an environmental assessment of the Trapper Mine in northwest Colorado be complete in five months,” according to a letter sent to the Department of the Interior and signed by Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO), Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sens. Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Cory Gardner (R-CO). The Daily Sentinel explains that “in the letter, the Colorado officials urge Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to provide the necessary resources to meet the April 30 deadline for the Trapper Mine study.”

UTAH AG UNLIKELY TO ISSUE OPINION ON LEGALITY OF CIB FUNDING. The [Moab \(UT\) Times-Independent](#) (12/18, Marcello) reports that “despite requests from several lawyers representing conservation and environmental groups, the Utah Attorney General’s Office is unlikely to publish a formal opinion as to whether the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (CIB) is in violation of federal laws and the state constitution for setting aside funding for major infrastructure projects.” The paper explains that “recently, the CIB has come under scrutiny for committing \$53 million to four counties to purchase ‘throughput capacity.’” Meanwhile, “a lawsuit could be filed at the state level, or according to Patrick Etchart, spokesman for the US Office of Natural Resources Revenue, entities could bring allegations to the federal government.” He said, “If we suspect any violation of the law, [our] enforcement [office] will refer to the Office of Inspector General or to the U.S. Justice Department and the U.S. Attorney’s Office.”

EPA CONSIDERS POLLUTION CONTROLS AT UTAH COAL POWER PLANTS. The [AP](#) (12/18, McCombs) reports

that the EPA “will consider requiring additional pollution controls at two of Utah’s oldest coal-fired power plants to cut down haze that environmentalist groups and the National Park Service say contributes to murky air at nearby national parks in southern Utah.” The AP explains that the EPA is considering two options. The AP says that first option, supported by environmentalists, would require new equipment to cut down on emissions. Meanwhile, the second option would be to rely “on existing measures already in place that officials say are already working to address the problem.” This option has the support of Rocky Mountain Power. The NPS has urged the EPA to “take strong action and remedy air quality” by requiring pollutant reductions at the coal plants. “The scenic views that characterize these parks are degraded on many days by industrial haze that impairs visibility and dulls sensational colors and contrasts,” wrote Tammy Whittington of the Park Service.

EARTHQUAKE OF 3.0 MAGNITUDE HITS HASLET, TEXAS. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (12/17, Wilonsky, 1.26M) reported on the first official 3.0 earthquake in Haslet, Texas. SMU researchers “say there’s mounting evidence that all five North Texas earthquake sequences have been caused by people – specifically, those involved in the gas-drilling, waste-water-injecting business.” The article adds that while “they’ve yet to make anything official,” SMU seismologist Heather DeShon told The Dallas Morning News, “We don’t think they’re natural. But we don’t understand the subsurface physics surrounding the Irving earthquake sequence, so we’re still considering all causes.”

OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKES MARK GROWING TREND OF EARTHQUAKES LINKED TO OIL, GAS ACTIVITY. [Rigzone](#) (12/18, Boman, 11K) reported that Oklahoma’s earthquake activity, which is “believed to have been triggered by saltwater disposal well injection activity, marks the latest in a trend of a growing number of U.S. earthquakes and their link to increased oil and gas activity.” Studies released this year “have highlighted the likely link between oil and gas wastewater injection and earthquakes.” The USGS “is working to gain a better understanding of the physical processes involved in inducing earthquakes, and has developed preliminary methods to estimated earthquake hazards associated with induced events.”

ADVOCATE CALLS FOR BETTER REGULATION OF OIL, GAS DRILLING IN NATIONAL PARKS. Elizabeth Glass Geltman, Secretary of the Environment Section of the American Public Health Association, writes at the [Huffington Post](#) (12/18, Geltman, 251K) that the National Park Service “recently proposed revisions to regulations governing oil and gas drilling in national parks, the so-called 9B regulations.” She says at “a moratorium on conducting oil and gas operations in national parks is not a realistic option” and that “the only way to eliminate all drilling in national parks would be for Congress to authorize purchase of the underlying mineral estates from private owners.” However, she says that this is not likely. In the alternative, she concludes that “creating modern rules to deal with new circumstances in oil and gas development is good for national park users, good for park maintenance, good for ecosystem preservation and good for public health.”

GESSING: BLM REGULATIONS WOULD HURT NEW MEXICO ECONOMY. Paul Gessing, president of New Mexico’s Rio Grande Foundation, writes at [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (12/17) reports that “under President Barack Obama’s administration, the BLM has become far more difficult for the oil and gas industries to deal with” and points to a decrease in oil and natural gas production on Federal lands. Meanwhile, he says that “a slew of new and proposed regulations will only make things more challenging,” include changes to the metering of production on Federal leases and rules on venting and flaring. He points to other proposed regulations as well.

Offshore Energy Development:

CLINTON “SKEPTICAL” ABOUT DRILLING OFF ATLANTIC COAST. [The Hill](#) (12/17, Cama, 654K) reported that Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton “told South Carolinians that she is skeptical of whether offshore oil and natural gas drilling should be allowed off southeastern states’ coasts.” Said Clinton on a radio program, “I am very skeptical about the need or desire for us to pursue offshore drilling off the coast of South Carolina, and frankly off the coast of other southeast states.” Under a Bureau of Ocean Energy Management plan, “energy companies would get one lease auction in 2021 for drilling rights in certain areas in the region that stretches from Virginia to Georgia.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/18, Milman, 3.48M).

OFFSHORE DRILLER PREPARES FOR EXPLORATION IN ALASKA NEXT YEAR. [EnergyWire](#) (12/17, Subscription Publication) reports that Caelus Energy LLC in February will begin “drilling its first exploration well on Alaska state lands in Smith Bay, a remote inlet located 60 miles southeast of Barrow.” According to the article, “if Caelus secures the required state and federal permits, the Dallas-based independent oil company plans to spud two wells at its leases during this winter’s drilling season, which stretches from January to May.” Caelus has “owned the Smith Bay lands only since June, when it acquired a 75 percent working interest in the 117,000 acres from NordAq Energy Inc.”

BP: NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGES FROM PRODUCTION MORATORIUM AFTER DEEPWATER HORIZON. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/17, LaRose, 661K) reports that BP asked a federal judge on Tuesday to toss out “multiple lawsuits seeking damages from the company for the months-long moratorium on drilling

in the Gulf of Mexico" in the wake of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon accident. BP claimed that "the same federal law that holds the company in large part responsible for the accident that killed 11 rig workers and injured 16 more also limits its liability to damage from the actual spill." Attorneys for the company say that the shutdown had been initiated by the US government, rather than by the company itself.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ACCUSED OF "ENERGY OBSTRUCTIONISM." Robert L. Bradley Jr., founder and CEO of the Institute for Energy Research, writes at the [Morrow County \(OH\) Sentinel](#) (12/17) that in October, the Obama Administration canceled two scheduled offshore lease sales in Alaska and "also declined requests to renew drilling rights set to expire soon." Bradley says that "these moves mean the end of Arctic energy exploration." Bradley points out that "earlier this year, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell talked up a 'balanced proposal' that would purportedly allow access to nearly 80 percent of Alaska's untapped energy supply." However, Bradley says that the President has done repeatedly blocked energy development. Bradley says that during the upcoming elections, "with hundreds of thousands of middle-class jobs on the line, Americans should reject the radical anti-energy policies of the previous seven years."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

UTAH OFFICIAL SET TO SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN ATV PROTEST RIDE. The [Greenwire](#) (12/17, Subscription Publication) reports that San Juan Commissioner Phil Lyman was scheduled to appear before federal District Judge David Nuffer in Salt Lake City Thursday morning "to receive his sentence for convictions of conspiracy and operating an ATV on federal lands closed to motorized travel." According to the article, "federal prosecutors, conservationists and a former BLM director are urging jail time to demonstrate that laws to protect the nation's lands and cultural treasures cannot be broken, particularly by an elected official." However, Lyman's lawyers are "urging Nuffer to sentence him only to probation and community service, arguing that Lyman deeply regrets his decision and has already suffered 'significant financial repercussions.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/18, 339K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (12/18, Subscription Publication, 3.44M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (12/18, 1.15M), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/18, 5.31M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (12/18, Press, 825K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/18, 2.15M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/18, Brady Mcombs |, Ap, 7.78M).

NEVADA RANCHERS WHO DEFIES BLM COLLECTED DROUGHT SUBSIDIES WHILE DENYING THE DROUGHT. [Grist](#) (12/18, 6K) reports that "in June, tough-talking ranchers in remote Battle Mountain, Nev., defied the federal government, herding cattle onto public rangeland that had been closed to grazing to protect it during the West's scorching drought." In the end, the federal government backed down and the BLM "canceled the drought closures and opened the range, just as the cattlemen wanted." However, "even as the conflict played out, some of these same ranchers were collecting drought subsidies from the federal government."

BLM, MOAB HALF MARATHON SPAR OVER NEW PERMIT. The [Moab \(UT\) Sun News](#) (12/18) reports that the BLM is requiring the Moab Half Marathon "to obtain a new permit that owner and organizer Ranna Bieschke says is unwarranted, and will harm event attendance." According to the article, "for the past nine years, the race has operated under a land use permit which came up for renewal every three years" but on March 22, 2015, the existing land use permit expired, and BLM officials said that the race would be "more appropriate under a Special Recreation Permit." In response, Moab Half Marathon, Inc., has "filed an appeal that asks the Interior Board of Land Appeals to issue a stay on the decision."

BLM HOLDS OPEN HOUSE FOR PROPOSED MINING CLAIM BAN. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (12/18, 22K) reports that "federal agencies drew a crowd of concerned citizens to their open house-style meeting Wednesday to discuss a proposed 20-year ban on mineral entry in nearly 2.8 million acres of Nevada." Gene Seidlitz, acting deputy state director of minerals management with the BLM, said the bureau is "in the process of gathering data and public comments regarding its proposal, which would ban new mining claims in 'sagebrush focal areas.'" He said that "those areas have already been segregated for up to two years to allow the BLM to study data on how mineral exploration fragments that habitat."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RED RIVER LAND DISPUTE. Additional coverage of the Red River land dispute was provided by the [Bluefield \(WV\) Daily Telegraph](#) (12/18, 44K), the [Goshen \(IN\) News](#) (12/18, 1K), and the [North Andover \(MA\) Eagle Tribune](#) (12/18, 91K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

LAWSUIT SEEKS PROTECTION FOR COASTAL MARTEN. The [AP](#) (12/18, 2.15M) reports that "an environmental

group is suing the government over its failure to protect coastal populations of the Pacific marten.” The Center for Biological Diversity and another group say the FWS’ “April 2015 decision to deny Endangered Species Act protection to the marten ignored science.” The center “first petitioned for protection for the marten in 2010.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/18, 283K) and [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (12/18, 32K).

FWS COULD REMOVE PROTECTIONS FOR YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY. Additional coverage that The [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (12/18, 13K) reports that the FWS “believes that the Yellowstone grizzly population is biologically recovered and is considering whether to move forward with a delisting proposal, said Serena Baker, Fish & Wildlife Mountain-Prairie Region 6 public affairs specialist in Lakewood, Colorado.” Baker said, “We continue to work with states, tribes and other partners to ensure that a robust conservation plan is in place to maintain a recovered grizzly bear population in the absence of ESA (Endangered Species Act) protections.”

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS PRESSURE EPA TO REVISIT GE’S HUDSON RIVER PCB CLEANUP. The [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (12/18, Nearing, 344K) reports that a coalition of several environmental groups petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday to “reexamine the ultimate effectiveness” of General Electric Co’s “six-year PCB cleanup of the upper Hudson River,” in an “apparent end-run around regional EPA head Judith Enck.” The [Switchboard](#) (12/18, 116K) provides additional coverage.

HOUSTON-BASED LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS COMPANY DONATES MONEY TO HELP TRACK OCELOTS. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (12/17, Schiller, 2.15M) reports that on Wednesday, Houston-based Annova LNG announced that it is “donating \$40,000 for GPS-enabled collars as well as cameras and other materials to allow researchers” to study ocelots. The article says that ocelots have taken “refuge in the thickest, thorniest brush in South Texas.” A photo gallery accompanying the article also shows an image of a “Texas license plate that benefits ocelots and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

CHANGING OF REFUGE NAME TO HONOR BILLY FRANK JR. WELCOMED. In an editorial, the [Olympian \(WA\)](#) (12/18, 78K) welcomes the changing of the name of the Nisqually wildlife refuge to the Billy Frank Jr. National Wildlife Refuge. The paper says that this move “honors Frank, a Nisqually tribal member who was a leader in defending tribal sovereignty and treaty rights starting with fish-ins along the Nisqually River in the 1960s.”

National Park Service:

NEW YORK DEMOCRATS PROPOSE PROTECTION FOR STONEWALL INN. The [Greenwire](#) (12/17, Subscription Publication) reports that New York Democrats introduced legislation Thursday to protect the Stonewall Inn. Rep. Jerrold Nadler is pushing an identical bill in the House. Gillibrand said in a statement, “The events at Stonewall in 1969 were a turning point for the LGBT rights movement in America – a critical chapter, alongside Selma and Seneca Falls, in the long history of America’s quest for equal rights.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Windy City Times](#) (12/18, 54K).

FAMILY LAWYER CRITICIZES PROBE OF BOY’S DEATH AT LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK. The [Daily Caller](#) (12/18, Watson, 366K) reports that the lawyer for the family of the boy who died at Lassen Volcanic National Park in 2009 is unsatisfied with a new Department of Interior Office of Inspector General report on possible destruction of evidence. Stephen Campora, the Botell family’s lawyer, said Department of Interior Acting Inspector General Mary Kendall “dances around the more serious questions — namely, whether” Lassen Superintendent Darlene Koontz “perjured herself by offering seemingly contradictory testimony to the court, or whether she intentionally sanitized the report from a historical landscape architect who said the park’s structure was ‘quite the worst trail I’d ever seen in terms of poor condition and safety hazards.’”

UAV OPERATOR ISSUED CITATION NEAR WASHINGTON MONUMENT. [USA Today](#) (12/17, 5.56M) reports that according to the U.S. Park Police, a man was issued a citation on Thursday for allegedly flying a UAV next to the Washington Monument, “the 10th reported incident this year involving illegal operation of a drone in a Washington-area national park in 2015.” The article notes that federal legislation bans “flying remote-controlled aircraft in the restricted airspace around Washington, D.C., and in any area administered by the National Park Service.”

NASA HELPS NPS DEVELOP BEAVER MANAGEMENT PLANNING. [National Parks Traveler](#) (12/17, 989) reports that NASA has been working with the National Park Service to come up with “solutions for dealing with the beavers” along the Natchez Trace Parkway. Citing a press release from the Park Service, the article says that beavers’ “excessive dam building causes issues with flooding, property damage, and road maintenance.” NASA has provided the National Park Service with “satellite data from December 1992 to January 2015” that is “intended to aid Park Service managers in wetland conservation and beaver management planning.”

GROUP ACQUIRES LAND TO BENEFIT THE INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE. [La Porte County \(IN\) Life](#) (12/18) reports that on Wednesday, Save the Dunes “acquired a significant property totaling nearly 100 acres in Hobart, Indiana.” The group has had “this property on their ‘wish list’ for years, as has the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.” Save the Dunes “plans to apply for grant funding to undertake ecological restoration, add site amenities, and then donate the property to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (12/18, 2.15M).

NPS DISCOVERS MALE MOUNTAIN LION IN SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. The [Moorpark \(CA\) Acorn](#) (12/18, 33K) reports that “a mountain lion dubbed P-45 by the National Park Service has recently been discovered in the Santa Monica Mountains.” P-45 was “captured Nov. 21 in the central portion of the Santa Monica Mountains and outfitted with a GPS collar.” According to the article “for local park biologists, the large adult male mountain lion captured in the Santa Monica Mountains last month is cause for both delight and puzzlement.”

Meanwhile, [KTLA-TV](#) Los Angeles (12/17, 368K) reports that “researchers tracking P-23, a well-known mountain lion living in the Santa Monica Mountains, recently discovered the big cat was caring for a kitten that had previously remained undetected.”

GROUP WORKING TO HONOR FAMILIES DISPLACED BY SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK. [WHSV-TV](#) Harrisonburg, VA (12/18, 39K) reports that a group is working to honor the families who “lost their homes when Shenandoah National Park was formed in the early 20th century.” The Blue Ridge Heritage Project “plans to build memorials in eight counties where families were displaced by the park’s formation.” Currently, “only one in Madison County has been finished, but there are plans for memorials in Rockingham, Augusta and Page counties.”

US Geological Survey:

STUDY FINDS “INTERSEX” MALE BASS THROUGHOUT PROTECTED NORTHEAST US WATERS.

[Environmental Health News](#) (12/18) reports that “eighty-five percent of male smallmouth bass tested in or nearby 19 National Wildlife Refuges in the U.S. Northeast had signs of female reproductive parts, according to a new federal study.” The study, led by the USGS and FWS, “also reported that 27 percent of male largemouth bass in the testing sites were intersex.” According to the article “the study is the first of its kind in National Wildlife Refuges and adds to growing evidence that endocrine disrupting chemicals are getting into U.S. lakes, rivers, streams and reservoirs—no matter how protected the waters seem.”

USGS MAPPING NATIONAL PARKS. [GISuser](#) (12/18) reports that the USGS has been “regularly contributing new and updated works of art for the national parks—maps.” The USGS is working to add all of the National Scenic Trails to The National Map Products.

USGS: BARNETT SHALE CONTAINS TWICE AS MUCH NATURAL GAS AS PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/17, Loh, 3.4M) reported that the Barnett Shale formation in Texas “contains 53 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, twice as much as previously estimated, U.S. government researchers said.” The formation “also contains 172 million barrels of shale oil and 176 million barrels of natural gas liquids, the U.S. Geological Survey reported Thursday.”

The [Texas Tribune](#) (12/17, Malewitz, 6K) added that “the fracking revolution prompted the agency to take another look at how much natural gas operators could recover from the Barnett with new drilling techniques, Kristen Marra, a scientist with the Geological Survey, said in a statement.” The revised estimate “drew cheers from oil and gas industry supporters, who have spent much of the year fretting about scaled-back production and worker layoffs due to plummeting oil prices.”

Top National News:

OBAMA SEEKS TO REASSURE AMERICANS AHEAD OF HOLIDAYS. President Obama on Thursday said there is no specific or credible intelligence about possible terrorist threats to the US homeland. Media reporting characterizes Obama’s speech at the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) as an effort to reassure Americans ahead of the busy travel period as he continues a recent effort to show strength against ISIL and terrorism. The [AP](#) (12/18) reports that while the President said there is no information suggesting an attack in the short term, he urged Americans to remain vigilant while continuing with their normal lives. [AFP](#) (12/18) reports that following a meeting with top security officials, Obama said, “At this moment, our intelligence and counterterrorism professionals do not have any specific and credible information about an attack on the homeland.”

On [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (12/17, 554K), Jim Acosta said Obama’s visit to NCTC was “one more attempted show of strength” from the President, and [CNN](#) (12/18, Liptak, Producer, 3.54M) reported on its website that the speech

“continu[ed] a week-long push to underscore his command of national security dangers.” According to the website, the President “said he understood why unease has spread” following attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, but “he sought to bolster the country’s mettle ahead of a busy holiday travel season.” The [New York Daily News](#) (12/18, Edelman, 3.59M) reports Thursday was Obama’s third “national security-focused speech” in 11 days and he “continued to execute a recent strategy to better communicate the progress of the nation’s fight against terrorism.” The [New York Times](#) (12/18, Harris, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says Obama “is struggling to fashion a message that reassures Americans that he is serious about battling” ISIL “while also avoiding the alarmism that he sees emanating from some Republican candidates.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/18, Parsons, 3.6M) reports Obama acknowledged “a new phase of terrorism including lone actors and small groups of terrorists” makes plots “harder to detect, and that makes it harder to prevent.” However, the President said that “as the threat evolves, so do we.” [The Atlantic](#) (12/18, Koren, 2.66M) reported on its website that Obama said officials will use the San Bernardino attack to “learn whatever lessons we can and make any improvements that are needed.”

[Voice of America](#) (12/18, Salinas, 64K) reported on its website that “Obama noted that while many Americans may not be aware of it...officials have taken in terrorists, disrupted plots, thwarted attacks and saved lives.” According to the [Washington Times](#) (12/18, Boyer, 283K) and [The Hill](#) (12/17, Fabian, 654K), Obama touted the “dedicated patriots working around the clock all across the country to protect us all.” Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (12/17, McCaskill, 1.19M) quoted Obama as saying the US is “constantly adapting, constantly improving, upping our game, getting better.” [Reuters](#) (12/18, Rampton, Edwards, Mason) quotes Obama as adding, “We’ve prevailed over much greater threats than this. We will prevail again,” he said.

[USA Today](#) (12/18, Jackson, 5.56M), meanwhile, reports Obama said the US and allies are combating ISIL in their stronghold of Syria and Iraq, “going after terrorists over there – where they plot and plan and spew their propaganda.” The President said the US is also increasing security at its borders to block “foreign fighters” from gaining entry to the country.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/18, Jaffe, 7.78M) reports Obama called on Americans uphold American values despite fears of terrorism. The President said terrorists “cannot defeat us on the battlefield, but they can lead us to change in ways that would undermine what this country is all about.” Obama added, “When we stay true to our values, nothing can beat us.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/17, lead story, 3:15, Snow, 7.86M) shows Obama saying, “We cannot give in to fear or change how we live our lives because that’s what terrorists want. That’s the only leverage that they have.” [TIME](#) (12/18, Berenson, 19.1M) similarly said on its website that Obama concluded his speech “with a call for national unity.” The President said “One of our greatest weapons against terrorism is our own strength and resilience as a people” and “our greatest allies in this fight are each other, Americans of all faiths and all backgrounds.” Obama said added, “When Americans stand together, nothing can beat us.”

NYTimes: White House Seeks To “Get Its Message Out” To Through Non-Traditional Mediums. The [New York Times](#) (12/18, Baker, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports the Administration is seeking to “get its message out to a variety of audiences that might not read traditional newspapers and magazines.” As an example, the Times says Obama this week “reached out beyond the usual high priesthood of foreign policy journalism to include younger writers with new media sources” for “off-the-record discussions” about his strategy against ISIL and terrorism. The Times also highlights that Vice President Biden posted on Medium and had photographs on Instagram during his recent visit to Ukraine.

PELOSI: DEMOCRAT VOTES TO PASS SPENDING BILL MAY NOT BE THERE. The [Huffington Post](#) (12/17, Barron-Lopez, 251K) reported that House Minority Leader Pelosi “reiterated her support” for the “sweeping year-end bill to fund the government,” but “sent a shiver through the Capital when she gave a resounding ‘No’ when asked if she’s confident she has the votes within her Democratic caucus to help push the omnibus spending bill over the finish line.” Pelosi said, “Members are reviewing it. There are people who have very serious concerns,” citing in particular the bill’s provision to lift the ban on crude oil exports. “A Democratic aide” told the Huffington Post that Progressive House Caucus Democrats have “started to mull the idea of voting against the omnibus solely because of the crude oil exports provision.”

[Politico](#) (12/17, Sherman, Bresnhan, French, 1.19M) said that while “the Capitol isn’t in full panic yet,” there seems to be “a rising level of concern on the Democratic side of the aisle that they will be short the votes needed to pass the omnibus spending bill.” Pelosi “is trying to convince members of her party that, while the bill isn’t perfect, it is better than a full-year continuing resolution, which would lower spending levels drastically.” [The Hill](#) (12/17, Lillis, 654K) reported that Rep. Luis Gutiérrez, “a leading member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus,” blasted the spending package Thursday, saying, “I think it’s a disgrace. ... I think Democrats have to stand up tomorrow and say, ‘no.’” A “similar verdict” came from leaders of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Reps. Keith Ellison and Raúl Grijalva “said they both intend to oppose the \$1.1 trillion spending bill when it hits the floor Friday.”

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (12/17, Lillis, 654K) noted that “a number of conservative Republicans” are expected to oppose the measure “over spending levels they deem too high and the absence of anti-terror provisions.” That means “GOP leaders will likely need a significant number of Democratic votes to move the package on to the Senate.”

House Approves Tax Package. In a 318-109 vote on Thursday, the House approved the first portion of the year-end budget deal, a “huge package of tax breaks for businesses and low-income workers,” the [New York Times](#) (12/18, Herszenhorn, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports. Under the measure, “several tax breaks that have been renewed repeatedly on a temporary basis” – including a business tax credit for research expenses, a benefit for certain capital investments, an enhanced child tax credit, and a \$2,500 college tax credit, among others – would be permanently extended. In a statement, House Speaker Ryan “called the measure ‘a pivotal step towards rewriting our broken tax code by ending Washington’s days of extending tax policies one year at a time.’” The House is scheduled to vote on the spending measure Friday. The [AP](#) (12/18, Fram) says Ryan “all but claimed the bill’s passage as a personal triumph, citing it as an example of his drive ‘to get our House back on track.’”

[USA Today](#) (12/18, Kelly, 5.56M) notes that “all but a handful of Republicans voted for the bill,” and “while a majority of Democrats voted against it,” more than “70 Democrats joined with Republicans to approve the legislation.” [Reuters](#) (12/18, Lawder) reports that while the measure is a victory for Republicans, some Democrats said it benefits corporations and business owners more than working families.

Senate To Pass Combined Spending, Tax Measure Friday. The [Washington Times](#) (12/18, Howell, 283K) reports that the House will vote on the spending portion of the package Friday “then send the entire package over to the Senate for final approval later in the day.” [Roll Call](#) (12/17, Lesniewski, 139K) said that Senate Majority Leader McConnell has announced an agreement to “allow the Senate to quickly call up and pass the combined measure after the House finishes work Friday – without a weekend session.”

Spending Bill Includes Pay Raise For Federal Employees. The [Washington Post](#) (12/18, Davidson, 7.78M) reports in its “Federal Eye” blog that the funding bill includes “an average 1.3 percent pay increase,” for federal workers, “among other fed-friendly provisions, while avoiding a hit on their pensions.”

Measure Includes Compensation For Victims Of Overseas Terrorism. [USA Today](#) (12/18, Tumulty, 5.56M) says the bill also includes financial compensation for “hundreds of survivors of overseas terrorist attacks dating to the late 1970s, as well as the family members of people killed in such attacks.” The measure will make about “\$1 billion...available for those people, including survivors of the bombings of the U.S. embassy in Beirut, Lebanon in 1983, the Beirut embassy annex in 1984, and the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya in 1998 – and family members of those killed in those attacks.”

AP Analysis: Lawmakers Still Placing Pet Projects In Spending Bill. An [AP](#) (12/18, Taylor) analysis reports that while “the custom of ‘earmarking’ has become relatively rare,” lawmakers “have found ways to help their states and districts, and the process is far more opaque than it used to be.” The AP cites a number of examples found deep in the “massive, 2,009-page spending bill and accompanying documents.” [Politico](#) (12/17, Bresnahan, 1.19M) said that while Sen Richard Shelby “loaded up the \$1.1 trillion spending bill with pet provisions,” he still plans to vote against it, “citing the lack of language to restrict Syrian refugees as the reason.” Politico said the move, which “demonstrates the potency of immigration as an electoral issue in Alabama and the power of Shelby’s fellow home-state senator, Republican Jeff Sessions, over the controversial topic in the Southern state,” could make Shelby the “unofficial chairman of the ‘hope yes, vote no’ caucus on Capitol Hill.”

[USA Today](#) (12/18, Singer, 5.56M) lists the “dozens of odd provisions included in the massive year-end spending bill, which provides \$1.1 trillion in federal spending but specifies many activities that may not be paid for out of that giant bankroll.”

An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/18, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) laments the fact the omnibus bill funds the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program for fiscal 2016 but does not reauthorize it and argues that while former-Speaker Boehner was a champion of the program, after his departure, there appears to be no one in the House GOP caucus to carry the mantle of poor, minority children.

WPost A1 Analysis Notes Change In House GOP’s Tone Under Ryan. A [Washington Post](#) (12/18, A1, Debonis, Kane, 7.78M) front-page analysis says there has been “a distinct change in tone for the House GOP under Ryan,” noting that while negotiations over the spending bill “took place in much the same way and produced similar results as they did under Boehner,” they did so “with almost none of the acrimony or divisiveness that had become the hallmark of Boehner’s tenure.” However, “one big question facing House Republicans is whether Ryan’s speakership will fundamentally change the way the party functions or whether the speaker is just enjoying a post-Boehner honeymoon.”

FAROOK’S FRIEND MARQUEZ CHARGED WITH SUPPORTING TERRORISM. In the first criminal charges filed in

connection with the San Bernardino attacks Enrique Marquez, a friend of shooter Syed Farook, has been arrested and charged by federal authorities with conspiring with Farook in 2011 and 2012 to commit crimes of terrorism as well as the unlawful purchase of two assault rifles used in the San Bernardino shootings, and for defrauding immigration officials by entering into a fake marriage with a member of Farook's family. The [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (12/18, Saunders, 143K) reports that according to a Justice Department statement, the criminal complaint filed in US District Court in Riverside, California charged Marquez with "conspiring with Farook to provide material support – including himself, a firearm and explosives – for crimes of terrorism, making a false statement in connection with acquisition of firearms, and immigration fraud." In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/17, lead story, 2:40, Pelley, 5.08M), Carter Evans reported that investigators say Marquez also purchased the powder used in pipe bombs that were found at the scene of the attack. [ABC World News](#) (12/17, story 2, 0:55, Muir, 5.84M) reported that Marquez actually called 911 after the San Bernardino attack occurred, telling the operator that Farook committed the shooting and had used guns that Marquez had purchased for him. On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/17, 554K), Pamela Brown reported that Marquez reportedly told investigators he purchased the weapons so that Farook could avoid scrutiny due to his Middle Eastern features.

[USA Today](#) (12/18, Johnson, Bacon, 5.56M) says Marquez is "accused of immersing himself in radical ideology shortly after meeting Farook in 2005 while the two were neighbors in Riverside." According to court documents, by 2011, "Marquez and Farook bonded in the firebrand rhetoric of now-deceased al-Qaeda cleric Anwar al-Awlaki and in the extremist literature of Inspire, the official publication of al-Qaeda in Yemen." The [Washington Post](#) (12/17, Horwitz, Berman, Goldman, 7.78M) says the government document "shows Farook as clearly being the force guiding Marquez toward violent extremism." Brian Ross reported in the lead story for [ABC World News](#) (12/17, lead story, 3:05, Muir, 5.84M) Farook helped radicalize Marquez by showing him "videos and publications from Al Qaeda." Marquez also reportedly warned friends to plans "of what he called a terror sleeper cell" in the weeks prior to the San Bernardino attack.

[Reuters](#) (12/18, Hosenball, Dobuzinskis) cites an affidavit which said Marquez told investigators he and Farook planned to attack the Riverside Community College library or cafeteria in 2011. Marquez and Farook also planned to attack a state highway with pipe bombs during rush hour and to shoot arriving police and emergency crews.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/17, Emshwiller, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) says Marquez faces a maximum of 15 years on the terrorism charge and 10 years each on the firearms and immigration charges. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/18, Serrano, Winton, 3.6M) calls the charges "a major development in the widening investigation" of the San Bernardino attack, but notes that the charges "do not allege that Marquez had any advance knowledge" of the attack.

Pete Williams said in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/17, lead story, 3:15, Snow, 7.86M) that the new details "vividly demonstrate the threat of homegrown terrorism." In an interview on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/17, 554K), Rep. Adam Schiff said that from the federal complaint, Farook "clearly was motivated" by radical Islamist propaganda before he married Malik. He added, "I think it begs the question of whether there was some online channel, some other mechanism or some third party who knew both and understood both were radicalized that helped putting them together."

US Theme Parks Increase Security. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/17, story 7, 1:45, Snow, 7.86M) reported that "the major theme parks in Orlando, including Disney, are upping security and adding metal detectors as so many families head there for Christmas vacation." NBC (Sanders) added that "at Disneyworld, SeaWorld, Universal and other parks, walk-through metal detectors and wand detectors became the most visible part of the theme park security."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/17, story 2, 1:50, Werner, 5.08M) reported that Disney officials say they have added "visible and non-visible security measures," including more uniformed officers and specially trained dogs." Inside the park, "guests will no longer see toy guns, not even water pistols" as they have been "removed from Disney stores and visitors will not be allowed to bring them into the parks."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Horror Stories From New York State Prisons." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (12/18, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) deplores the "culture of violence infests the sprawling state prison system" and the lack of accountability that provides "clear evidence that law enforcement officials are willfully looking the other way." The Times calls for "sustained and vigorous federal pressure" coupled with "leadership and commitment from New York's top political figures" to change the "deplorable system." The Times concludes by decrying as "a disgrace" the lack of action by "elected officials and prosecutors at the federal, state and local levels have done to prevent inmates from dying at the hands of prison guards."

"What Went Wrong With Navy SEALs." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (12/18, Subscription Publication,

11.64M) decries as “criminal and inexcusable” that SEAL Team 2 viciously beat detainees while assigned to train Afghan police officers in the village of Kalach, adding that SEAL command clearing them of all charges is “mind-boggling,” given the “clear evidence of misconduct.” The Times argues that the incident “harmed what the United States and its allies are trying to achieve in Afghanistan” and that, because special forces’ “mission is inherently secretive and violent,” leaders have to “enforce a clear understanding of lines these forces must not cross.”

“A Pause To Weigh Risks Of Gene Editing.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (12/18, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) lauds the call by an international panel of experts for a pause on altering the human genome in ways that could be inherited; this would provide time “to assess risks and benefits,” as well as “develop a ‘broad societal consensus’ on the work.” The technology, according to the times, “has outstripped the ability of scientists and ethicists to understand and cope with the consequences.” The Times calls the panel’s proposal “sensible,” as it offers a way “to move forward once a vigorous program of basic research has resolved lingering questions.”

THE WASHINGTON POST. “On Regime Change In Syria, The White House Capitulates To Russia.” The

Conversation Contents

Legislative Summary, Friday, December 18, 2015

Attachments:

/7. Legislative Summary, Friday, December 18, 2015/1.1 Legislative Summary-12-18-15.doc

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Subject: Legislative Summary, Friday, December 18, 2015

Attachments: Legislative Summary-12-18-15.doc

Legislative Summary, Friday, December 18, 2015

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Joseph Nevils
Legislative Assistant

Department of the Interior
1849 C St, NW 20240
(202) 208-4580 (O)
(202) 208-7619 (F)

Legislative Summary
 from
 the Legislative Counsel
Friday, December 18, 2015
 To: All Interested Interior Offices

Attached for your information is today's Legislative Summary.

In order to keep the Summary as up-to-date as possible, we request that any bureau or office contacted directly regarding hearings or markups notify this office immediately.

New information about scheduled hearings and business meetings appears shaded in yellow. Hearings printed in *bold italic* type indicate DOI involvement.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Joseph Nevils on (202) 208-4580, or via E-Mail (Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov).

2015 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
State Work Period December 21-31		
	Christmas December 25	
TBD	Target Adjournment	December 18

Scheduled Floor Action

House Floor

Friday, Dec. 18, 9 a.m.

The House may consider omnibus legislation funding the government for the remainder of FY 2016 and/or legislation extending dozens of expired tax provisions.

Senate Floor

Recent Legislative Activity of Interest

Senate:

By Mr. **MCCAIN** (for himself and Mr. **FLAKE**):

S. 2406. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to review certain decisions to grant categorical exclusions for Next Generation flight procedures and to consult with the airports at which such procedures will be implemented; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Measures Reported:

[S. 329](#), to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 114-182)

[S. 556](#), to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114-183)

[S. 782](#), to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a bison management plan for Grand Canyon National Park. (S. Rept. No. 114-184)

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[S. 2083](#), to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project. (S. Rept. No. 114-192)

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[H.R. 1324](#), to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado. (S. Rept. No. 114-194)

[H.R. 1554](#), to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado. (S. Rept. No. 114-195)

[H.R. 2223](#), to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado. (S. Rept. No. 114-196)

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By Mr. **OLSON** (for himself, Mr. **LATTA**, Mr. **CUELLAR**, and Mrs. **KIRKPATRICK**):

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H.J. Res. 79. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The Department has been Invited to the Following Hearings:

N/A

Tentative Hearings:

N/A

POSTPONEMENTS

N/A

Hearings of Interest:

Status of DOI Testimony
March 14, 2016

Bureau/Preparer	Witness	Committee	Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor	OCL Attorney	Date of Hearing	Date CLC Notified	Due to OMB	Bureau Notified	Date Due to CLC	Date Rec'd in CLC
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**The following requests for comments have been received
Thursday, December 17, 2015**

- HRG #135** INTERIOR (NPS) Questions for the Record from 9/17/15 Hearing
Re: Agency Implementation of the Federal Lands Recreation
Enhancement Act
(5 pages)
DUE 12/18/15 Atty: Pam Barkin
- MISC #125** INTERIOR (A/S-PMB) Questions for the Record from 10/28/15 Hearing
Re: H.R. __, Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Modernization Act
(4 pages)
DUE 12/18/15 Atty: Pam Barkin

Conversation Contents

Updated legislative summary is attached ...

Attachments:

/10. Updated legislative summary is attached .../1.1 Legislative Summary-12-18-15
cps.doc

"Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 17 2015 08:44:57 GMT-0700 (MST)
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Subject: Updated legislative summary is attached ...
Attachments: Legislative Summary-12-18-15 cps.doc

Please review and let us know if any necessary edits/updates so Joe can finalize and circulate.

Thanks, Chris

--

Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: 202.208.1403

Legislative Summary
 from
 the Legislative Counsel
Thursday Friday, December 17-18, 2015
 To: All Interested Interior Offices

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The Department has been Invited to the Following Hearings:

N/A

Tentative Hearings:

N/A

POSTPONEMENTS

N/A

Hearings of Interest:

| **N/A**

Status of DOI Testimony
March 16, 2016

Bureau/Preparer	Witness	Committee	Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor	OCL Attorney	Date of Hearing	Date CLC Notified	Due to OMB	Bureau Notified	Date Due to CLC	Date Rec'd in CLC
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**The following requests for comments have been received
Wednesday, December 16, 2015**

- HRG #59** **INTERIOR (BIE) Questions for the Record from 5/13/15 Hearing**
Re: Examining Organizational Challenges in Transforming Educational
Opportunities for Native American Children
(8 pages)
DUE 12/16/15 Atty: Tracy Goodluck
- HRG #103** **INTERIOR (A/S-IA) Questions for the Record from 7/8/15 Hearing**
Re: A Path Forward: Trust Modernization and Reform for Indian Lands
(2 pages)
DUE 12/17/15 Atty: Tracy Goodluck
- MISC #152** **USGCRP Report on Impacts of Climate Change on U.S. Human Health**
(67 pages)
DUE 1/6/16 Atty: Dominic Maione

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, December 17, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Thu Dec 17 2015 05:01:25 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, December 17, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015 7:00 AM EST

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- + [Interior Launches Online Tool Showing Colorado River Drought.](#)
- + [White House Recognizes Senior Executives From Interior, DOE, EPA.](#)
- + [Advocates Push For Renewal Of LWCF.](#)
- + [2015 Is Costliest Wildfire Season On Record.](#)
- + [Rep. O'Rourke Introduces Castner Range National Monument Act.](#)
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- + Lawmakers Question Interior Over Delays In Energy Lease Sales.
- + Rep. Gosar Criticizes Environmental Regulations For Impact On Coal Industry.
- + Groups File Complaint Against Arch Coal.
- + Oklahoma Landowner Seeks To Intervene In Drillers' BIA Lawsuit.

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- + Clinton Says "Skeptical" About Southeast Offshore Drilling.
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- + Montana Seeks Private Landowner Cooperation On Sage Grouse Recovery.
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- + 34 Congress Members Support Bottled Water Ban In National Parks.
- + Interior's IG Raises Concerns About Investigation Into Boy's Death At Lassen Volcanic National Park.
- + Fourth Graders Receive Free National Park Passes In Colorado.
- + Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Pass To Feature Local Student's Work.
- + Retired NPS Official To Plead Guilty In Theft Of Ancient Remains.
- + Report: Captain Lost Track Of Ship That Struck Arizona Memorial Dock.
- + NPS Extends Valley Forge Deer Culling.
- + Endangered Tadpoles From Sequoia And Kings Canyon National Parks Successfully Morphed Into Frogs.
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- + The Washington Post.
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BIG PICTURE:

- + Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:

- + Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS:

- + Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

OMNIBUS SPENDING DEAL CONTAINS \$12B FOR INTERIOR. The [Greenwire](#) (12/16, Subscription Publication) reports that Congress' omnibus deal "offers perks for the sage grouse and the National Park Service and contains almost no policy riders that would hamstring the Obama administration's agenda on public lands, energy and wildlife." The \$1.15 trillion spending package for fiscal 2016 "contains \$12 billion for the Interior Department, including substantial boosts to its three main land management agencies." The package also "includes a three-year extension and a one-time funding boost for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a partial victory for conservation groups, sportsmen, the Obama administration and pro-LWCF lawmakers from both parties."

[The Hill](#) (12/17, Cama, 654K) reports that "the small victory is far from what environmentalists and conservationists wished for, which was a permanent authorization of the program at its maximum \$900 million annual budget." Jennifer Rokala, executive director of the Center for Western Priorities, said in a statement, "The short-term renewal of America's most successful parks program is a sign of the ineffectiveness of this Congress and deep dysfunction in Washington."

The [E&E](#) (12/16) reports that "both parties were boasting of victories early" Wednesday morning. Democrats say "they protected Obama administration priorities and extended renewable energy incentives." Republicans say "funding for U.S. EPA, set to implement many of those White House priorities, will be at its lowest level since 2008 at \$8.1 billion."

Omnibus Package Includes Funding For Western Drought Response. [Politico Pro](#) (12/16) reports that "lawmakers weren't able to pull off an agreement on drought relief legislation for the parched West in the end-of-year spending deal, but they are pushing more money at the problem." The omnibus appropriations package unveiled Wednesday "includes \$100 million for Western drought response, with instructions to the Interior Department to spend it on things that can boost water supplies as quickly as possible."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (12/17, 270K), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (12/17, 620K), and the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (12/17, 515K).

Omnibus Orders Interior To Work With States On Stream Protection Rule. [Politico Pro](#) (12/16, Subscription Publication) reports that Congressional appropriators are directing the Interior Department "to work more closely with big coal mining states over the agency's proposed stream rule, although they stopped short of blocking the rule." In an explanatory statement, on the \$1.1 trillion omnibus spending bill, appropriators say they are "concerned" about the rule. The report says OSM should "reengage state partners in a meaningful manner before finalizing the Stream Buffer Zone rule."

Wildfire-logging Deal Left Out Of Omnibus Package. [E&E Daily](#) (12/16, Subscription Publication) reports that "a deal to reform wildfire spending and increase the pace of forestry work was left out of the fiscal 2016 omnibus package amid opposition from key Senate leaders and environmentalists, dealing a blow to the Obama administration and the timber industry that had worked for weeks to iron out a deal." The article notes that "it marks the second straight year the administration and a large contingent of allies – loggers, sportsmen and conservationists included – have failed to fundamentally reform how the Forest Service and Interior Department pay to fight increasingly expensive wildfires that are siphoning money from the agencies' forest programs."

Wolf Provision Left Out Of Budget Bill. The [AP](#) (12/17, 2.15M) reports that "a proposal that would have taken gray wolves in the western Great Lakes region and Wyoming off the endangered list did not make it into a massive year-end congressional tax and spending package, an omission that surprised its backers but was welcomed Wednesday by groups that support maintaining federal protections for the predators." Rep. Collin Peterson said "budget negotiators dropped the provision from the final bill, which was unveiled late Tuesday, because the White House had threatened a veto if the bill contained any changes to the Endangered Species Act."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (12/17, 1.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/17, 283K), [Bring Me The News \(MN\)](#) (12/16), and [WOOD-TV Grand Rapids \(MI\)](#) Grand Rapids, MI (12/16, 129K).

Federal Royalty Rates Untouched In Omnibus Bill. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (12/17, 73K) reports that a reduction in the federal royalty rates was "left out of an omnibus spending bill negotiated by House leaders this week." Industry is pushing for a rate of 2 percent, which they argue is "needed to better compete with producers in countries like China, where the industry benefits from subsidies and a recent devaluation in the country's currency." However, the Interior Department and BLM "oppose the 2 percent rate, saying the government must ensure a fair return to U.S. taxpayers and citing the anticipated loss of tens of millions of dollars of royalty revenues."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the spending and tax bills was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (12/17, Debonis, Snell, 7.78M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (12/17, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), the [The](#)

[East Oregonian](#) (12/16, 24K), the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (12/17, 51K), the [National Journal](#) (12/17, Subscription Publication, 53K), the [National Parks Traveler](#) (12/17, 989), the [Arizona Republic](#) (12/16, 960K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (12/17, Press, 825K), the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (12/16, 59K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (12/16, 141K), the [Oregonian](#) (12/17, 769K), the [Daily Signal](#) (12/16), [Science Magazine](#) (12/17, 402K), [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (12/17, 6K), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/17, 1K), and [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/17, 1K).

MEDIA ANALYSES: REPEAL OF OIL EXPORT BAN WON'T HAVE IMMEDIATE IMPACT. A [New York Times](#) (12/17, Krauss, Cardwell, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) analysis reports that it is unlikely that the repeal of the ban on US oil exports contained in the spending deal before Congress will “have a big immediate impact on crude prices or suddenly lift the American oil industry out of its tailspin of bankruptcies, job losses and dropped dividends.” The Times says “few experts see a big expansion of markets anytime over the next year at least,” and “the price spread between American oil and international benchmark prices has narrowed significantly in recent months, making American exports less competitive.” [Reuters](#) (12/17, Gardner) similarly says that while permitting oil exports would be a victory for the oil industry, with oil prices and US output falling, traders say that in the over-supplied global market, there may not be foreign buyers for the US oil.

[USA Today](#) (12/16, Bomey, 5.56M) reported that allowing US producers to export “is a welcome development to the industry but hardly a boon to the bottom line,” adding that “few analysts expect the price of oil to swing sharply up or down because of the decision.” In a second article, [USA Today](#) (12/16, Jervis, 5.56M) reported that “industry experts and producers generally applauded the move but warn that the low price of oil remains the biggest hurdle in propping up the sagging balance sheets of producers – something exports won’t impact.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/17, Harder, Ailworth, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports that according to US oil producers, the impact of lifting the export ban will be long term as they seek out new markets, increase production and possibly keep global fuel prices low. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (12/17, 2.15M) reported that “the industry’s ongoing price slump would delay the benefits” of lifting the ban. However, exporting US crude “could be a boon to the Houston economy when oil prices begin to climb again,” as “the area’s Ship Channel and pipeline terminals are the main link between U.S. oil fields and the international markets.”

The [Financial Times](#) (12/16, Meyer, Crooks, Subscription Publication, 1.37M) reported that US crude will not flood the global market due to the supply glut and demand for US oil shrinking with the diminishing price gap between Brent and WTI. In a second article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/17, Friedman, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) likewise reports that with the narrowing of the price gap between US crude and Brent, little oil is likely to be exported in the near future. Instead, US companies will try to stay in business through cost cuts and reduced spending on new drilling.

A [Bloomberg News](#) (12/17, Carroll, 3.4M) analysis reports that the arrival of US oil on the global market “will intensify competition for market share between oil-rich nations, publicly traded producers and trading houses, adding pressure to prices that have tumbled 67 percent in the past 18 months.” Bloomberg adds that “in the longer term, it may also extend a lifeline to shale drillers strapped for cash after amassing huge debt loads during the boom years.”

“Winners” In The Bill Include Big Oil, Renewable Energy. [The Hill](#) (12/17, Jagoda, Wheeler, 654K) reports that the deal’s winners include Big Oil and the renewable energy industry. The oil industry “emerged as a major beneficiary of the spending bill.” American Petroleum Institute President Jack Gerard said Wednesday, “Extensive research has determined that lifting the ban on U.S. crude oil exports would create American jobs, bolster the U.S. economy, and benefit consumers.” Renewable energy producers also “claimed a significant win” with the tax credit extension included in the bill. Said Tom Kiernan, CEO of the American Wind Energy Association, “This agreement will enable wind energy to create more affordable, reliable and clean energy for America by providing multi-year predictability as we have called for.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/17, Mufson, 7.78M) reports that lifting the ban “is a triumph for [API], shale oil producers in states like Texas and North Dakota, free trade economists from both parties, and Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), whose home state producers...will be able to get somewhat higher prices abroad.” Meanwhile, the Solar Energy Industries Association “said that the [tax credit extension]...would lead to \$125 billion in new private sector investment in the United States and that solar power would triple by 2022 to 95 gigawatts, equal to about 3.5 percent of U.S. electricity generation, offsetting emissions equivalent to 26 coal-fired power plants.”

[Reuters](#) (12/17, Gardner) reports separately that the renewable energy industry praised the bill, seeing it as a win for green energy. Reuters adds that the inclusion of the renewable tax extensions was key for many Democrats.

In an analysis, the [AP](#) (12/17) said the biggest proponents of ending the ban were oil companies such as Exxon Mobil and Continental Resources. The AP added that the economic benefits of lifting the ban “could be very broad.”

Some Environmentalists, Democrats Criticize Lifting Ban. [The Hill](#) (12/17, Cama, 654K) reports separately that

“environmental groups and some Democrats are furious” that the ban would be lifted by the spending bill. Environmentalists “said the extensions of wind and solar power tax breaks does not justify a provision that would generate billions of dollars for the oil industry.” House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) “said Democrats are ‘curious’ to look more closely at the renewable energy tax incentives and whether they’ll offset the environmental impact of increased oil exports.”

On its website, [CBS News](#) (12/17, Hennelly, 4.1M) reported that “environmental and consumer groups denounced the move, which they say will result in an dramatic increase of oil use worldwide, an acceleration of global warming and higher prices for U.S. consumers.” [TIME](#) (12/17, 19.1M) added that environmentalists “say any incentive to increase drilling runs contrary to that deal and lessens the chances of meeting the agreement’s goal of holding temperature rise well below 2°C (3.6°F) by 2100.” However, Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer said in a statement, “There is a lot to be said, pro and con, about this agreement...[but] the extension of tax credits for solar and wind energy is a game changer.”

Commentary. In a [USA Today](#) (12/17, 5.56M) op-ed, energy journalist Bill Loveless writes that the benefits of lifting the ban “may be more hypothetical than certain, at least for now.” According to studies by the US Energy Information Administration “and other oil-market watchers,” any “substantial impact of lifting the restrictions...won’t occur for years.”

Nonetheless, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/17, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) praises the move in an editorial, saying it will alleviate domestic saturation and could save many companies and thousands of jobs.

In his “Heard on the Street” column for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/17, Subscription Publication, 6.23M), Spencer Jakab says that the spread between WTI and Brent will likely shrink even further with the possibility of US oil exports. The narrowing of the gap will weigh on refiners, as it already has this year, and will provide only small comfort to oil producers with oil prices so low.

In his column for [Reuters](#) (12/17), John Kemp wrote that allowing oil drillers and refiners to sell their products at market prices without unnecessary restrictions is the best way to keep a healthy US oil industry.

INTERIOR LAUNCHES ONLINE TOOL SHOWING COLORADO RIVER DROUGHT. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/16, 705) reports that the Interior Department on Wednesday “launched an online tool seeking to make the effects of the 16-year drought plaguing the Colorado River more accessible to the public.” The website “features interactive photos, graphs and data tables that illustrate how the 1,400-mile-long river has been affected by its most significant drought in a century.” Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor said in a statement, “Innovation is absolutely critical to helping us deal with the severe threats to water supply posed by drought and climate change. Projects like this one show the power of open data to help us better understand our resource challenges.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Cache Valley \(UT\) Daily](#) (12/17, 639), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/17, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/17, Press, 283K), [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (12/16, 57K), [KBTX-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (12/17, 81K), and [KOLO-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (12/17, 2K).

WHITE HOUSE RECOGNIZES SENIOR EXECUTIVES FROM INTERIOR, DOE, EPA. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/16, 705) reports that senior executives from the EPA, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the departments of Energy and the Interior on Tuesday “took home the government’s top award for excellence in civil service,” the Obama Administration announced. The Office of Personnel Management stated that the list of more than 100 recipients of the 2015 Presidential Rank Awards “was not comprehensive and only includes winners agreeing to public recognition as of Dec. 15.” The article notes that “the winners were announced the same day President Obama signed an executive order titled ‘Strengthening the Senior Executive Service,’ which raised the aggregate spending cap on awards to 7.5 percent in fiscal 2017 from the current 4.8 percent.”

ADVOCATES PUSH FOR RENEWAL OF LWCF. [Public News Service](#) (12/16, 306) reports that “advocates are calling on Congress to permanently reauthorize” the LWCF. According to the article, “bills to reauthorize the fund have broad bipartisan support but have failed to clear a critical House committee.”

2015 IS COSTLIEST WILDFIRE SEASON ON RECORD. [USA Today](#) (12/17, Rice, 5.56M) reports “the 2015 wildfire season is now the costliest on record,” with \$1.71 billion spent to fight the fires, according to the US Forest Service on Wednesday. According to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, “with the season nearly over, 9.8 million acres burned in 2015, the second-highest total since records began in 1960.” The figures arrive after the Wildfire Funding Act – “a bipartisan effort” that would have classified wildfires like other national disasters “and ended the transfer of money from other programs to battle the blazes” – failed to make the federal budget this week.

REP. O’ROURKE INTRODUCES CASTNER RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT ACT. [KFOX-TV](#) El Paso, TX (12/17, 13K) reports that Rep. Beto O’Rourke has introduced the Castner Range National Monument Act. The measure would

“eventually transfer the mountain range from the Department of Defense to the Department of Interior.”

INTERIOR RELEASES BEST PHOTOS OF 2015. The [New York Post](#) (12/16, 2.59M) reports that the Interior Department has “released their best photos of 2015, featuring an array of images including animals, auroras and more.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Mail](#) (12/17, Dailymail.com, 5.31M) and the [Daily Express \(UK\)](#) (12/17, 217K).

JOURNALISTS MEET WITH WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN ON TRANSPARENCY. The [E&E](#) (12/16) reports that “journalists and advocates of open government discussed their problems gaining access” to the Obama Administration in a meeting Tuesday with White House spokesman Josh Earnest. The meeting “came after several letters from a coalition of journalism and public interest groups blasted the White House for failing to live up to President Obama’s promises of open government, including one this past August.” According to the article, “reporters have complained about blocked access to the administration, press officials monitoring interviews with federal employees and slow responses to Freedom of Information Act requests.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR ANNOUNCES NATURAL RESOURCE INVESTMENT CENTER. Additional coverage of the new Natural Resource Investment Center was provided by [Government Technology](#) (12/17, 7K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (12/15, 31K), the [Lake Tahoe \(CA\) News](#) (12/17), the [Environmental Leader](#) (12/16, 1K), the [Brownfield Aq News](#) (12/16), [Ecosystem Marketplace](#) (12/17), and [KNAU-FM Flagstaff \(AZ\)](#) Flagstaff, AZ (12/17, 1K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PARIS CLIMATE DEAL. Additional coverage of the Paris climate agreement was provided by the [Oracle Herald](#) (12/16), the [Wyoming Business Report](#) (12/16, 24K), and [Western Journalism](#) (12/17, 355K).

MARINE SUPPORTS NATIONAL MONUMENT STATUS FOR CALIFORNIA AREAS. Oscar Franquez Jr., a Santa Clarita native and a San Diego-based staff sergeant in the Marines, writes at the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (12/16, 534K) that, as a member of the armed services, he believes “we must preserve places like Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains by giving them the national monument designations they deserve.” He says that “for many of my fellow Marines, the California desert may be their first opportunity to experience and explore a desert landscape, to see desert wildlife, or visit ancient rock art.” Franquez concludes that “we must do everything in our power to conserve key areas of our public lands to ensure that our nation’s future generations can enjoy her beauty, setting the example for other nations to conserve and value their lands as well.”

ADVOCATE SAYS NATIONAL MONUMENTS WOULD PROTECT ANCIENT PLANTS. Robin Kobaly, executive director of The SummerTree Institute, writes at the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (12/16, 98K) that vast landscapes of “extremely long-lived ancient plants grace the open spaces of our California Desert and its proposed national monuments, not only imparting a unique texture and ambiance to the landscape, but together offering a bounty we are just beginning to understand.” She says that she supports “the designation of the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains national monuments because they protect ancient forests of desert plants and soils that are irreplaceable.” She points out that “new research shows that these unassuming ancient plants – each many hundreds to thousands of years old – are responsible for incredible contributions to our well-being, with many of those gifts remaining mostly unappreciated.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR PARTNERS WITH TWO MORE TRIBES ON BUY-BACK PROGRAM. The [Native American Times](#) (12/17, 337) reports that Interior Deputy Secretary Michael L. Connor announced agreements with the Round Valley Indian Tribes of the Round Valley Reservation in California and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota to implement the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations. Connor said, “Federal and tribal partners must do all we can to give landowners a meaningful chance to participate in this unique Program and receive compensation for their fractional interests. We welcome the active participation of the Round Valley Indian Tribes and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, which will be critical to the success of implementing the Buy-Back Program at their locations.”

STUDENTS AT BLACKFEET BOARDING DORMITORY RECEIVE NEW TABLETS. The [Cut Bank \(MT\) Pioneer Press](#) (12/17, 237) reports that students at the Blackfeet Boarding Dormitory received new tablets on Wednesday. About 90 new tablets were “handed out to every student there, the result of a partnership among Verizon, Microsoft and President Obama’s Generation Indigenous (Gen-I) initiative that is bringing wireless broadband connectivity to 10 Bureau of Indian Education facilities.”

Also providing coverage is [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (12/17, 2K).

HAWAIIAN SELF-GOVERNANCE UNCERTAIN AFTER ELECTION CANCELLED. The [AP](#) (12/16, 996K) reports that “the decision to cancel an election for Native Hawaiian self-government and skip ahead to a convention has many questioning whether the effort has a chance at achieving anything.” Nai Aupuni, “the organization guiding the election process, on Tuesday terminated the election to select 40 delegates who would meet at a convention and come up with a plan for self-determination for Native Hawaiians.” Instead, all 196 candidates will be offered seats at the convention, planned for four weeks starting in February.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Honolulu \(HI\) Civil Beat](#) (12/17, 41).

PILOT PROGRAM WILL EQUIP LAW ENFORCEMENT ON TRIBAL LANDS WITH NALOXONE. [Reuters](#) (12/17, Brandes) reports that, as early as next year, Oklahoma’s Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) law enforcement officers will be equipped with naloxone in a pilot program aimed at reducing opioid and heroin-related deaths among Native Americans.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (12/17, Krehbiel, 365K) reports that “officials with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Services and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy announced a memorandum of understanding Wednesday afternoon that will train BIA officers on how to identify opioid and heroin overdoses and administer an atomized dosage of naloxone.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oklahoman](#) (12/17, 470K), [KTUL-TV Tulsa \(OK\)](#) Tulsa, OK (12/17, 30K), and [KOKI-TV Tulsa \(OK\)](#) Tulsa, OK (12/17, Lincoln, 72K).

NATIVE AMERICAN BANK NAMED PERFORMANCE LENDER BY INTERIOR. The [Native American Times](#) (12/17, 337) reports that Native American Bank, N.A. has been “designated by the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development Division of Capital Investment as a Department of the Interior Performance Lender, President and CEO Thomas D. Ogaard recently announced.”

NAVAJO NATION SEEKS FUNDING TO IMPROVE RURAL SCHOOL BUS ROUTES. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/17, 339K) reports that San Juan County in Utah and the Navajo Nation is seeking funds to improve “roads used to bus children to school.” The funds to “convert 87 miles of dirt road to gravel” was “left out of a \$305 billion transportation funding bill signed by President Barack Obama earlier this month.” In a statement released Tuesday, San Juan County Commissioner Rebecca Benally said “the push for bus-route funding will continue in 2016.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (12/17, 476K).

POLICE OFFICER TESTIFIES HOMICIDE WEAPON WAS STOLEN FROM BIA AGENT. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (12/17, 200K) reports that “a Billings police officer testified the weapon used to kill David Vallie outside a downtown apartment complex was stolen from a Bureau of Indian Affairs special agent.” Jonathan Michael Martinez is “on trial for the deliberate homicide of Vallie on Oct. 2, 2014.” Officer David Firebaugh “testified he recovered a gun from a hit-and-run crash he investigated the day after Vallie’s death.” Firebaugh “ran the serial number and found it belonged to Bureau of Indian Affairs Special Agent John Dodd.”

PRIEST SAYS AUTHORITIES ARE TARGETING RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS. Patrick Beretta, part time chaplain, writes at the [Huffington Post](#) (12/17, Beretta, 251K) to criticize what he sees as the unfair targeting of religious schools by Federal and state authorities. He points to a recent Politico piece by Maggie Severns where she writes, “The network of schools for Native American children run by an obscure agency of the Interior Department remains arguably the worst school system in the United States.” Beretta says that “in light of this acknowledged disaster, the continued challenges directed at private religious education are inexcusable.” He says the Montana Department of Revenue has redefined the term: “qualified education provider” to exclude private religious schools. Matt Brower, the Director of the Montana Catholic Conference told a Montana Department of Revenue hearing that “over 23% of our students are Native American. ... Parents and others who wish to help students attend religiously affiliated schools by contributing to student scholarship organizations shouldn’t be discriminated against.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNS ESEA REAUTHORIZATION. The [Pacific News Center](#) (12/17) reports that President Obama has “signed an historic education bill that will mean millions in new education dollars for Guam public schools.” The “Every Student Succeeds Act” replaces the 2001 “No Child Left behind” law and “would boost territory Title I education funding by nearly 25% for Guam, according to Congressional Research Service estimates.” Also, “Bureau of Indian Education schools would be separated out from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act formula and receive their own, separate allocation.”

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SEN. FEINSTEIN CONTINUES EFFORTS ON DROUGHT BILL. The [E&E](#) (12/16) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein's "quest to introduce a bill addressing California's drought continued" Tuesday "when she sat down with federal officials responsible for ensuring compliance with the Endangered Species Act." Discussions with California House Republicans "fell apart late last week," but Feinstein said that "she still intends to introduce a bill this week." She met with federal wildlife agencies, "which have been skeptical of previous attempts to adjust protections for endangered fish in the state's main water hub, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta."

FIRST SCOPE FOR GILA DIVERSION PLAN DUE IN JANUARY. The [Silver City \(NM\) Daily Press](#) (12/16) reports that "the New Mexico Unit of the Central Arizona Project moved one step closer to having an actual plan for their controversial diversion of water from the Gila River, thanks to an agreement with the Interstate Stream Commission to hire an engineer for preliminary design work." According to the article, "the entity approved a memorandum of understanding with the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission on Tuesday that will allow the ISC hire an engineer for the 'up-to-30 percent' design of the as-yet-undefined project." However, the cost of the proposed project "still remains a point of contention among the public."

Additional coverage was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (12/17, 74K).

CALIFORNIA REGULATORS BACK OFF PLAN TO WITHHOLD WATER FOR SALMON. The [AP](#) (12/17, 2.15M) reports that California drought regulators have "backed off a plan to withhold water from farms and cities in favor of an endangered species of salmon, instead choosing a more flexible approach." The State Water Resources Control Board on Tuesday "voted to require that regulators work to ensure the Sacramento River does not exceed 56 degrees next year, the highest temperature at which juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon can survive." According to the article, "the board had been considering a plan that would have required the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to hold back an additional 200,000 acre-feet of water at Lake Shasta through next October, but that plan was met by opposition from farmers and groups representing downstream cities."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/17, 283K), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (12/17, 620K), [Courthouse News](#) (12/16, 7K), [KPIX-TV San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (12/16, 89K), [KTXL-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (12/16, 89K), and [KXJZ-FM Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (12/16, 6K).

BOR SEEKS INPUT FOR PROPOSED HUNGRY HORSE POWER PLANT MODERNIZATION. The [Char-Koosta News](#) (12/17, 12K) reports that the BOR is "seeking public comments to identify issues and concerns to be addressed in an Environmental Assessment for a proposed Hungry Horse Power Plant (HHPP) Modernization, part of Hungry Horse Dam in northwest Montana." According to the article, "the proposed modernization and overhaul project will alleviate safety-related concerns, potential limitations on plant operations, and increased risk to sustained long-term operation of the plant."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

LAWMAKERS QUESTION INTERIOR OVER DELAYS IN ENERGY LEASE SALES. The [AP](#) (12/17, 51K) reports that "members of Congress from eleven states say they're concerned about postponements to recent oil and gas lease sales." The legislators wrote Interior Department Assistant Secretary Janice Schneider "asking her to explain the delays by Jan. 5." The effort is led by Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop and Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (12/17, 64K), the [Escanaba \(MI\) Daily Press](#) (12/17, 781), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/17, 283K), and [KULR-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (12/17, 2K).

REP. GOSAR CRITICIZES ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS FOR IMPACT ON COAL INDUSTRY. [EPNewswire](#) (12/17) reports that Rep. Paul A. Gosar "recently criticized several proposed environmental regulations for their potential effects on the coal industry after taking part in committee hearings on the rules." Gosar said that "a measure proposed by the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) would impact the valuation of federal onshore oil, natural gas and coal royalties." Gosar said, "The Office of Natural Resources Revenue's proposed rule is a bureaucratic nightmare that will make it impossible to produce coal on federal lands, including tribal land. If implemented, this fundamentally flawed new regulation will kill jobs, result in an unconstitutional tax on coal exports and bankrupt even more American energy companies." He also "discussed the proposed changes to the Stream Protection Rule, which would create a wider margin between streams and mining operations." Gosar said, "The Department of the Interior's new stream buffer zone rule is even more troubling and will negatively affect both surface and underground coal mines. This terrible new regulation is projected to sterilize between 27 percent and 64 percent

of recoverable reserves. The associated decline in annual coal production will have a direct impact on employment and risks killing between 112,757 and 280,809 mining-related jobs.”

GROUPS FILE COMPLAINT AGAINST ARCH COAL. The [AP](#) (12/17, 2.15M) reports that the Powder River Basin Resource Council and the Western Organization of Resource Councils have “filed a complaint, saying one of the largest coal mine operators in Wyoming is violating state and federal mining laws.” The complaint claims Arch Coal is “mining coal without setting aside sufficient funds to reclaim land it disturbs.” The complaint was filed Wednesday with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality and the federal Office of Surface Mining.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (12/17, 200K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (12/17, 81K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (12/17, Press, 825K), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/17, 283K).

OKLAHOMA LANDOWNER SEEKS TO INTERVENE IN DRILLERS’ BIA LAWSUIT. [Law360](#) (12/17, 30K) reports that “an Oklahoma landowner seeking to intervene in a lawsuit that aims to compel the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to process oil and gas drilling applications struck back at efforts to block his involvement Wednesday in Oklahoma federal court, arguing his intervention is vital and won’t delay proceedings.” David W. Hayes, “who says he owns and lives on 475 acres in Osage County on which oil and gas wells have been drilled, said granting the parties’ request to block him from the case would be unfair.”

Offshore Energy Development:

CLINTON SAYS “SKEPTICAL” ABOUT SOUTHEAST OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (12/16, 291K) reports that Hillary Clinton told a South Carolina radio station that she is “very skeptical about the need or desire for us to pursue offshore drilling off the coast of South Carolina and...other Southeast states.” Clinton said such a move would delay a move to renewable energy resources needed to mitigate climate change.

Coastal Businesses Urge Gov. Haley To Oppose Offshore Energy Exploration. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (12/16, 291K) reports that more than 400 “mostly coastal small businesses” sent a letter to South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday “voicing their opposition to oil and gas drilling and seismic testing off the state’s coast because of fears it could harm the environment and tourism.” Haley’s spokeswoman, Chaney Adams, said the governor believes offshore exploration “is critical to our future because it means jobs, energy independence from other countries and security for our state.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WCSC-TV Charleston \(SC\)](#) Charleston, SC (12/17, 39K) and [WIS-TV Columbia \(SC\)](#) Columbia, SC (12/17, 89K).

BSEE LAUNCHES PILOT PROGRAM FOR OFFSHORE OIL SAFETY. [Safety And Health Magazine](#) (12/17) reports that the BSEE has “initiated a pilot program in an effort to improve safety at offshore oil and gas operations.” The bureau’s Risk-Based Inspection Program will “use data from audits and annual inspections to identify offshore facilities that possess a greater risk profile. Considerations such as the size of a facility and the production of hydrogen sulfide also will factor into the risk profile.” BSEE Director Brian Salerno said, “By focusing on facilities based upon their risk factors, BSEE can more efficiently and effectively manage limited inspection and audit resources. Risk factors include design, operating and environmental characteristics of the facility, which may correlate to a greater likelihood of experiencing an incident. However, it does not mean that the facility has a bad safety record or is a poor safety performer, only that certain risk factors are present that must be managed.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SHELL MOVES TO PRESERVE ARCTIC DRILLING RIGHTS. Additional coverage of Shell’s efforts to preserve its Arctic drilling rights was provided by the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (12/16, 203K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (12/17, Subscription Publication), and [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (12/16).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOEM ASKED TO HOLD OFF ON SEISMIC TESTING IN ATLANTIC. Additional coverage that “a bipartisan group of nearly three dozen members of the United States Congress has asked the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to rescind its decision allowing companies to explore for energy resources off the country’s southeastern coast” was provided by the [Daytona Beach \(FL\) News-Journal](#) (12/16, 162K).

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

TESTS CONFIRM GENETIC PURITY OF UTAH BISON HERD. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (12/17, Hollenhorst, 476K) reports that “new genetic tests confirm what has long been suspected: a herd of bison in the Henry Mountains is one of the few surviving populations of pure American plains bison, a species that once dominated the Great Plains and the western United States by the millions.” Professor Johan du Toit of Utah State University’s Department of Wildland

Resources explains that by “pure” he means “bison that have not been contaminated with cattle genes” and that “most of the bison that are around today, particularly those on private land, are hybrids.” The News points out that “the absence of cattle genes is not due to a lack of cross-breeding opportunities. The Henry Mountains bison roam freely in an area south of Hanksville where domestic ranch cattle also graze under permits from the Bureau of Land Management.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Phys \(UK\)](#) (12/17, 74K) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (12/17, 464K).

LAUGHLIN FOUNDER DONATES PERSONAL RETREAT TO BULLHEAD CITY, ARIZONA. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/17, Hawkins, 403K) reports Don Laughlin, founder of the Colorado River gaming town of Laughlin, and his associates conveyed title of his remote Chief Mountain retreat to Bullhead City, Arizona on Tuesday. The Review-Journal says that the \$7.7 million “property located in the Black Mountains of Arizona features more than 1,120 acres, a cabin, a bunker, a helipad and an acre lake stocked with fish.” City Manager Toby Cotter said terms of the deal require the city to “hold the land for at least five years” and that “the city can later sell the property or trade it to the Bureau of Land Management for parcels that the BLM holds closer to Bullhead City.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (12/17, 23K).

ATTORNEY: BLM “SHOWS CONTEMPT FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS.” Chance Weldon, an attorney with the Center for the American Future at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, writes at the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/17, 112K) that “since 2008, the Bureau of Land Management has claimed up to 90,000 acres of private property inside Texas along the Red River as federal land.” Weldon says that the property owners have tried and failed to get BLM to come to the table and that last month they filed a Federal lawsuit against BLM. He points out that in response, BLM released statements claiming the lawsuit is premature but that “BLM remains committed to working with adjacent landowners, counties and other stakeholders through our ongoing planning process to properly identify the extent of federal holdings in the Red River.” However, Weldon says that “all that BLM’s public statements signify is contempt for the situation it has put these families into by forcing them into a lawsuit to defend their homes.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

LAWSUIT SEEKS PROTECTION FOR COASTAL MARTEN. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/16, 705) reports that two conservation groups on Wednesday challenged the FWS’s decision to not protect the coastal marten under the Endangered Species Act. The lawsuit from the Center for Biological Diversity and the Environmental Protection Information Center also “challenges a new rule that FWS relied upon to avoid adding the elusive, forest-dwelling carnivore to the federal lists of endangered and threatened species.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (12/16, 56K) and the [Lost Coast Outpost \(CA\)](#) (12/16).

MONTANA SEEKS PRIVATE LANDOWNER COOPERATION ON SAGE GROUSE RECOVERY. [Montana Public Radio](#) (12/17) reports that Montana officials are “working out the details of the landmark agreement to save the greater sage grouse without having to put the bird on the Endangered Species List.” The Montana Sage Grouse Oversight Team met Tuesday in Helena. They are working to complete the state’s Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program by the first of the year.

EFFORTS TO KEEP ASIAN CARP FROM REACHING GREAT LAKES APPEAR UNSUCCESSFUL. The [AP](#) (12/17, Flesher) reports that the Obama Administration and state officials pledged swift action six years ago to stop the progress of Asian carp toward the Great Lakes. The AP says that over \$300 million has been spent since then but that “the quest for a surefire deterrent seems to be coming up empty.” Meanwhile, “an advisory panel that has debated solutions for several years is scheduled to hold what may be its final meeting Thursday, with no sign of a consensus plan.” The AP explains that this fall, two small silver carp were discovered farther up the Illinois River than ever before, meaning that the population had advanced “66 miles since January.” Charles Wooley, deputy Midwestern regional director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said, “We’d not seen that kind of movement in the last four or five years. ... And all of a sudden, boom.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/17, John Flesher |, Ap, 7.78M) and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/17, Flesher, 283K).

CHARLES M. RUSSELL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MANAGER DISCUSSES BISON, GRAZING, HUNTING. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (12/16, 76K) reports that Paul Santavy is “nearing his one-year anniversary as manager of the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.” In an interview before a meeting of the Russell Country Sportsmen’s Association on Tuesday, Santavy “discussed black-footed ferret recovery, grazing reform, declining budgets, the possibility of bison reintroduction on the refuge and his love for the second largest refuge in the Lower

TWO PANTHER DEATHS CONTINUE RECORD-BREAKING TREND IN FLORIDA. The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (12/16, 177K) reports that “the death of a 2-½-year-old female panther and a 6-year-old male panther continues the record-breaking trend of panthers killed in Florida this year.” Both carcasses will be sent to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Wildlife Research Lab in Gainesville for a necropsy, the agency said. In all, 39 Florida panthers have died this year.

MANATEE RESCUED IN SOUTH CAROLINA. [KTVU-TV](#) San Francisco (12/17, 11K) reports that “members of the SeaWorld Orlando Rescue Team took to the road this week to aid a manatee spotted in the upper reaches of the Cooper River in Charleston, S.C.” A rescue team along with FWS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Ocean Service, and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources were “able to help save this wayward manatee.”

ART DEALER SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN SELLING ENDANGERED RHINOCEROS HORNS. [KTVU-TV](#) San Francisco (12/17, 11K) reports that “a San Francisco art dealer was sentenced in federal court in Las Vegas today to one year and two days for his role in selling two horns from an endangered Black Rhinoceros for \$55,000.” Lumsden Quan was arrested on March 19, 2014 “after selling the horns to an undercover U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent who was posing as a Colorado wildlife collector.” According to the article, “Quan pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro in Las Vegas in August to one count of conspiring to violate the federal Lacey and Endangered Species acts and one count of violating the Lacey Act.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS COULD REMOVE PROTECTIONS FOR YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY. Additional coverage that the FWS is “once again poised to pursue removal of Endangered Species Act protections for grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem” was provided by the [Missoula \(MT\) Independent](#) (12/17, 65K).

FWS DECISION ON CHIMPANZEES ONE OF THE “LOBBYING VICTORIES OF 2015.” As one of the ten of the top “Lobbying Victories Of 2015,” [The Hill](#) (12/16, Wilson, 654K) picks a FWS decision earlier this year that “extended endangered-species protection to chimpanzees held in captivity altered how entities could hold them.” The winners are: “People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals; the Humane Society of the United States; Steve Ross, director of the Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago; and the Jane Goodall Institute.”

ROLE OF INTENT IN MIGRATORY BIRD ACT ENFORCEMENT EXAMINED. John Villasenor, a UCLA faculty member and senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, writes at [Vice](#) (12/17, 1.88M) about the case of an 11-year old Virginia girl and her mother who tried to rescue a baby woodpecker from a cat. However, the mother was confronted by a US Fish and Wildlife Service employee and was fined \$535 under the Migratory Bird Treat Act while being told that she could face conviction and imprisonment. Villasenor says that the FWS eventually backpedaled, citing a “clerical error,” but that “the incident illustrated the potential unintended consequences of criminal statutes drafted using language that is silent regarding the state of mind of the defendant.” He goes on to explore this issue, noting that “there are many other federal and state statutes that fail to speak to intent.”

National Park Service:

34 CONGRESS MEMBERS SUPPORT BOTTLED WATER BAN IN NATIONAL PARKS. [Food & Water Watch](#) (12/17) reports that “more than thirty members of Congress sent a letter to National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis supporting the parks going bottled water free over the objections of the industry.” According to the article, “the letter was sent in response to a bottled water industry attempt to ban the parks from using federal funds to implement a bottled-water-free policy via a controversial appropriations bill rider.” The letter, sponsored by Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva, “highlights the broad base of public support for these bottled-water-free policies in national parks.”

INTERIOR’S IG RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT INVESTIGATION INTO BOY’S DEATH AT LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK. The [Greenwire](#) (12/16, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General on Tuesday “highlighted inconsistencies and unanswered questions about the National Park Service’s investigation of a 9-year-old boy’s death at Lassen Volcanic National Park.” However, the watchdog’s report “ultimately did not corroborate any of the allegations made by lawyers representing the family of the late Thomas Botell Jr.”

FOURTH GRADERS RECEIVE FREE NATIONAL PARK PASSES IN COLORADO. [KUSA-TV](#) Denver (12/16, 559K) reports that federal agencies in Colorado handed out Every Kid in a Park passes to fourth graders Wednesday. According to the article, “students also got to participate in several interactive activities by the U.S. Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service in the Colorado Story Hall.”

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE PASS TO FEATURE LOCAL STUDENT'S WORK. The [Traverse Ticker](#) (12/17) reports that the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore has “announced the winner of its Kids’ Centennial Artwork Contest: Chloe Jerva, a sixth grade student at Glen Lake Community Schools.” According to the article, “the park held the contest to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and to also select an image for the front of the park’s 2016 Annual Park Entrance Pass.”

RETIRED NPS OFFICIAL TO PLEAD GUILTY IN THEFT OF ANCIENT REMAINS. The [AP](#) (12/17, 2.15M) reports that a retired NPS superintendent “appeared in court Wednesday to face allegations that he stole ancient Native American remains that he was supposed to protect and concealed them for decades.” Former Effigy Mounds National Monument superintendent Thomas A. Munson, “76, was released pending further proceedings after a brief arraignment hearing.” U.S. Attorney Kevin Techau said “his office has reached a plea agreement that calls” for Munson “to plead guilty to one count of embezzlement of government property.” The plea hearing is scheduled for Jan. 4.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/17, Ryan J. Foley |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/17, Foley, 283K), [ABC News](#) (12/17, 3.35M), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/17, 5.31M), and the [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#) (12/16, 300K).

REPORT: CAPTAIN LOST TRACK OF SHIP THAT STRUCK ARIZONA MEMORIAL DOCK. The [AP](#) (12/17, 2.15M) reports that “a hospital ship struck the dock of the USS Arizona Memorial in May after the pilot and ship’s captain lost track of where the ship was going as it was leaving Pearl Harbor, an investigation into the incident released Wednesday said.” According to a report by the U.S. Military Sealift Command, “the harbor pilot on board the USNS Mercy had poor control over tugboats guiding the ship” and “this resulted in the ship unexpectedly heading toward the Arizona.” The report said “it also led the pilot and the ship’s captain to lose track of where the ship was going for three minutes, leading the ship to hit the dock.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/17, Audrey Mcavoy |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/17, Mcavoy, 283K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/17, 263K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (12/17, 5.31M)
Human error blamed for ship hitting Arizona Memorial dock

NPS EXTENDS VALLEY FORGE DEER CULLING. The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (12/17, 641K) reports that “what originally was to be a four-year program of killing deer at Valley Forge National Historical Park has entered its sixth season.” The NPS said that “although the deer population has been reduced to the target level of 185 – down 85 percent from the 1,277 when the shootings started in 2010 – the culling operation still is needed to maintain the density.” The agency says that “deer-population control is critical to maintaining plant life that sustain other species in the park.”

ENDANGERED TADPOLES FROM SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS SUCCESSFULLY MORPHED INTO FROGS. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (12/17, 270K) reports that “critically endangered tadpoles that were emergency evacuated in August from remote locations in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks to the Oakland Zoo and the San Francisco Zoo, have now morphed into healthy mountain yellow-legged frogs, the National Park Service announced on Dec. 16 in Oakland.” Danny Boiano, aquatic ecologist for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, said, “Mountain yellow-legged frogs are getting hammered by non-native trout and disease, and urgent intervention was needed to keep two populations in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks from disappearing. The National Park Service is fortunate to partner with Oakland and San Francisco zoos on this project; along with several agencies and universities, we are all striving to recover these iconic endangered species.”

CRAYFISH INVADING CRATER LAKE, SOLUTIONS EXAMINED. The [AP](#) (12/17, Mann) reports from Medford, Oregon, where “underwater barriers in Crater Lake are being floated as one idea to slow the invasion of millions of non-native crayfish that are threatening a salamander known as the Mazama newt.” The AP explains that “crayfish were introduced to the lake by humans in 1915 to provide food for non-native fish. An explosion in the number of non-native species threatens not only the newt, but ultimately the awe-inspiring clarity of Crater Lake itself.” Dr. Sudeep Chandra, a biology professor at the University of Nevada in Reno, served as “chairman of a scientific panel that is working with Crater Lake National Park officials to find ways to slow down the crayfish invasion.” The AP says that the “panel suggested finding a way to sequester newt breeding areas just outside the lake” and that “installing the metal barriers, which likely would be made of aluminum, is another option but would require extensive environmental analysis.”

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK RANGER RECEIVES INTERIOR AWARD FOR SUPERIOR SERVICE. The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (12/17) reports that Yosemite National Park Ranger Shelton Johnson was given the Superior Service Award of the Department of the Interior for “his passion for connecting minorities to parks, his meticulous research that forms the basis of his innovative interpretive programs, and his superlative ability to articulate powerful messages for the National Park Service.”

NON-NATIONAL PARK OPTIONS FOR MAINE LAND ENCOURAGED. James L. Robbins, former president and owner of Robbins Lumber, writes at the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (12/16, 165K) that “in 2000, Robbins Lumber put a conservation easement on the 20,767 acres surrounding Niatous and West Lakes to protect the land forever.” He says that he told Roxanne Quimby about this project because I wanted her to know she had other options and her answer was that “it is a national park or nothing.” Robbins says that he opposes her park “because she only owns 87,500 acres of the 150,000 acres she promises to donate” and the other acres are owned by individual land owners who may feel threatened by the proposal. He concludes by urging Quimby to establish a conservation easement, because “it would be available for recreation, it would remain in the tax base, wildlife and other resources would be protected and the wood would still be available.”

Top National News:

OBAMA TO VISIT VICTIMS OF SAN BERNARDINO ATTACK. The White House announced on Wednesday that President Obama will visit the victims and families impacted by the San Bernardino attacks on Friday. Reporting on the story is generally focused on the information conveyed by the Administration regarding the visit, which is being described as limited, but also highlights that Obama has made similar visits throughout his presidency as a result of other mass shooting situations. FBI Director Comey’s announcement that the San Bernardino shooters did not issue public social media postings about their extremist views received more attention and analysis than the President’s plans.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/16, story 5, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M), Pete Williams reported the Administration said on Wednesday night that Obama will meet with San Bernardino attack victims and their families on Friday. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said, according to [USA Today](#) (12/17, Korte, 5.56M), “While he is en route to Honolulu, the president will stop in San Bernardino, California to visit privately with the families of the victims of the terror attack in San Bernardino earlier this month.”

The [AP](#) (12/17, Superville) characterizes the visit as “continuing a grim ritual of his time in office,” while the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/16, Memoli, 3.6M) says it will allow the President to “join in mourning the 14 victims.” [TIME](#) (12/17, Rhodan, 19.1M) and [Politico](#) (12/16, Gass, 1.19M) reported Earnest indicated the visit will be similar to the President’s travel to Roseburg, Oregon earlier this year following the mass shooting at Umpqua Community College. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/17, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) and the [Washington Times](#) (12/17, Boyer, 283K) explain the White House said Obama will conduct private visits with the family out of the media’s view.

The [Huffington Post](#) (12/16, Bendery, 251K), [Reuters](#) (12/17, Rampton, Edwards, Chiacu), and [Times of San Diego](#) (12/17, Sklar) report that the San Bernardino stop was added to the itinerary of a previously scheduled trip to Hawaii, where the President and his family will vacation for Christmas. The [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (12/17, Yarbrough, 143K) reports that a White House official indicated the President will not take part in any public events during the visit. Rep. Pete Aguilar, who represents San Bernardino, said in a statement, “I’m pleased that President Obama will be traveling to San Bernardino to meet with family members of those lost in the horrific attack at the Inland Regional Center.” Aguilar added, “I’ve conveyed to the White House the importance of the President’s presence in our region as we rebuild, and I join with our community in welcoming him to San Bernardino.”

[The Hill](#) (12/16, Fabian, 654K) “Briefing Room” blog said Obama “has spent this week trying to show the public he has a handle on the fight against” ISIL and he “has faced criticism that he has struck the wrong tone in response to the attacks” by “focusing too heavily on the issue of gun control and not speaking out forcefully enough against radical Islamic extremism.” According to The Hill, Friday’s visit “is a chance for Obama to convey sympathy to the families of the victims of the shooting.”

Comey: Malik Did Not Post Publicly On Social Media About Jihad Before Coming To US. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/16, story 4, 2:00, Pegues, 5.08M), Jeff Pegues reported Comey said Wednesday that San Bernardino shooter Tashfeen Malik only used private messages when discussing jihad on social media prior to coming to the US. Pegues said this “would have made it harder for immigration officials to see signs of her radicalization.” [Al Jazeera America](#) (12/17, 138K) similarly reported on its website that Malik “was wrongly said to have pledged allegiance” to ISIL on a social media account.

Comey said during a New York press conference, according to the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/17, Serrano, 3.6M), that media reports about Malik and her husband Syed Farook’s social media use have been inaccurate, calling them “garble.” The Times says Comey “emphasized the distinction between postings on social media and private messages using social media platforms.” The [New York Daily News](#) (12/17, Rayman, Schapiro, 3.59M) quotes Comey as saying, “Before there is a physical meeting of these two people resulting in their engagement and journey to the United States, they are communicating online, showing signs in that communications of their joint commitment to jihad and to martyrdom.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/17, Goldman, Berman, 7.78M) reports Comey said there is “no evidence of posting on social media by either of them at that period in time and thereafter reflecting their commitment to jihad or to

martyrdom.”

[The Atlantic](#) (12/17, Graham, 2.66M) reported Comey’s comments were an effort to “dampen speculation” about whether US intelligence “miss[ed] crucial warning signs about” the shooters, while the [Daily Beast](#) (12/17, Harris, 1.26M) said Comey “significantly altered the public understanding of how the couple plotted their rampage and what might have been done to stop them.” According to the Daily Beast, Comey “was adamant that even though the couple were communicating with each other...there was nothing that the FBI could have done to intercept and read their communications.” Comey said, “To be clear, and I think this is the way we all want it, we don’t intercept the communications of Americans,” adding, “This was an American citizen communicating overseas without predication to believe they’re involved in terrorist activity. If we don’t know something about somebody, we’re not combing through their emails or direct messages.”

Pete Williams reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/16, story 5, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M) that Comey also said that while investigators still haven’t discovered what else the shooters had been planning, the FBI has not found any indication that the couple, prior to the attack, was in “direct contact” with any foreign terrorist group, nor was there any indication that they were “part of a [terrorist] cell.” However, the [New York Times](#) (12/17, Baker, Santora, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports Comey added the shooters were “consuming poison on the Internet” and being radicalized over time. Comey said Malik and Farook “were radicalized before the emergence of ISIL,” adding, “And so untangling the motivations of which particular terrorist propaganda motivated in what way remains a challenge to these investigations and our work is ongoing there.”

[Reuters](#) (12/16, Ax) reports Comey said ISIL has “revolutionized” terrorism by attempting to inspire small attacks like the one in San Bernardino. Comey said, “Your parents’ al Qaeda was a very different model than the threat we face today.” Comey said ISIL has a three-pronged strategy of recruiting fighters to join its efforts in the Middle East, promoting attacks in other countries, and training operatives to commit violence in Europe and the US.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/17, Hong, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports Comey indicated that he is not ready to address whether the suspects’ families should have alerted authorities about the radicalization, but said he is “highly confident that in this case, as in nearly all of our other cases involving radicalization, that somebody saw something that was concerning and obviously didn’t tell law enforcement.”

Site Of Shootings To Reopen In January. The [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (12/17, Nolan, 143K) reports Inland Regional Center, the site of the attack, “will reopen some of its buildings on Jan. 4.” However, the specific location of the shooting, Building 3, “will remain closed indefinitely.” The Sun notes the facility “provides services to adults and children with developmental disabilities.

Conversation Contents

Re: Call : Congressman O'Rourke : Secretary Jewell

"Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 14 2015 13:48:00 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Nigborowicz, Timothy" <timothy_nigborowicz@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call : Congressman O'Rourke : Secretary Jewell

(b) (5)

OCL, do you agree?

On Monday, December 14, 2015, Nigborowicz, Timothy <timothy_nigborowicz@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Here's a request for a phone call from Congressman O'Rourke. The Secretary had a phone call with him on July 29 to discuss the same issue.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ramos, Diana <<a>Diana.Ramos@mail.house.gov>
Date: Mon, Dec 14, 2015 at 3:01 PM
Subject: Call : Congressman O'Rourke : Secretary Jewell
To: "<a>timothy_nigborowicz@ios.doi.gov" <<a>timothy_nigborowicz@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Rehmann, Marc" <<a>Marc.Rehmann@mail.house.gov>

Good afternoon Tim,

Congressman O'Rourke would like to schedule a call with Sec. Jewell, regarding Castner Range National Monument, please let me know if there are available times we can look at this week and feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Thank you for your time,

Diana Ramos | Scheduler

Congressman Beto O'Rourke, TX-16

1330 Longworth HOB | Washington, DC 20515

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Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling & Advance
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208-5723

"Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
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Congressman Beto O'Rourke, TX-16

1330 Longworth HOB | Washington, DC 20515

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202-341-8080 (cell)

"Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 14 2015 13:58:29 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
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My bad.

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Date: Mon, Dec 14, 2015 at 3:01 PM

Subject: Call : Congressman O'Rourke : Secretary Jewell

To: "<a>timothy_nigborowicz@ios.doi.gov" <<a>timothy_nigborowicz@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Rehmann, Marc" <<a>Marc.Rehmann@mail.house.gov>

Good afternoon Tim,

Congressman O'Rourke would like to schedule a call with Sec. Jewell, regarding Castner Range National Monument, please let me know if there are available times we can look at this week and feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Thank you for your time,

Diana Ramos | Scheduler

Congressman Beto O'Rourke, TX-16

1330 Longworth HOB | Washington, DC 20515

Office 202.225.4831 | Cell 202.748.3974

--

Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling & Advance
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208-5723

--

Stephene Harding
Deputy Director

Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
<a>Stephenne_Harding@ios.doi.gov
202-208-6174 (desk)
202-341-8080 (cell)

--

Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling & Advance
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208-5723

"Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Dec 14 2015 14:01:11 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Jamie Pool <jpool@blm.gov>, Benjamin Gruber <begruber@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Call : Congressman O'Rourke : Secretary Jewell

Apparently the same request was made to the BLM's front hallway.

+Jamie P and Ben G who received the request. (b) (5)

On Mon, Dec 14, 2015 at 3:58 PM, Iacobucci, Francis <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
My bad.

That said, (b) (5)

On Monday, December 14, 2015, Harding, Stephenne <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

It is actually an BLM issue, not an NPS issue.

On Mon, Dec 14, 2015 at 3:48 PM, Iacobucci, Francis <<a>francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)

OCL, do you agree?

On Monday, December 14, 2015, Nigborowicz, Timothy <<a>timothy_nigborowicz@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Here's a request for a phone call from Congressman O'Rourke. The Secretary had a phone call with him on July 29 to discuss the same issue.

----- Forwarded message -----

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"Nigborowicz, Timothy" <timothy_nigborowicz@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Nigborowicz, Timothy" <timothy_nigborowicz@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Dec 15 2015 09:45:48 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Call : Congressman O'Rourke : Secretary Jewell

Congressman O'Rourke already has a call scheduled with BLM (please see below). He is specifically requesting a phone call with Secretary Jewell.

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From: **Ramos, Diana** <Diana.Ramos@mail.house.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 15, 2015 at 11:27 AM
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Cc: "Rehmann, Marc" <Marc.Rehmann@mail.house.gov>

Thanks Tim! We actually already have a call set up with BLM, I've cc'd Marc Rehmann, our Senior Legislative Assistant, covering Castner Range, if you'd like more context for the call with Sec. Jewell.

Regards,

Diana Ramos | Scheduler

Congressman Beto O'Rourke, TX-16

1330 Longworth HOB | Washington, DC 20515

Office 202.225.4831 | Cell 202.748.3974

From: Nigborowicz, Timothy [mailto:timothy_nigborowicz@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 6:58 PM

To: Ramos, Diana

Subject: Re: Call : Congressman O'Rourke : Secretary Jewell

I'm sorry for the delay of this response, Diana. I've been told that someone from our Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will contact your office (if they haven't already). Please let me know if you don't hear from someone shortly. Thank you.

Tim Nigborowicz

Office of Scheduling and Advance

U.S. Department of the Interior

202-208-7551

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"Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Dec 15 2015 09:49:26 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Nigborowicz, Timothy" <timothy_nigborowicz@ios.doi.gov>
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Sarah C. Neimeyer, Director
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Office - (202) 208-5557
Fax - (202) 208-5533

"Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

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"Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Dec 15 2015 09:50:54 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Nigborowicz, Timothy" <timothy_nigborowicz@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call : Congressman O'Rourke : Secretary Jewell

sorry I didn't realize that Sally already heard him out. (b) (5)

I will now retreat to the quiet of my desk...

On Tue, Dec 15, 2015 at 11:49 AM, Neimeyer, Sarah <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

(b) (5)

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Conversation Contents

Updated legislative summary is attached ...

Attachments:

/15. Updated legislative summary is attached .../1.1 Legislative Summary-12-14-15
cps.doc

"Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Dec 11 2015 07:51:30 GMT-0700 (MST)
Pamela Barkin <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>, Joseph Nevils
<joseph_nevils@ios.doi.gov>, Joshua Mahan
<Joshua_Mahan@ios.doi.gov>, Dominic Maione
<Dominic_Maione@ios.doi.gov>, Tracy Goodluck
<tracy_goodluck@ios.doi.gov>, "Quinn, Matthew"
<Matthew_Quinn@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt
<jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding
<stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Chelsea Welch
<chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>, Felipe Mendoza
<felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Powell
<jason_powell@ios.doi.gov>, Ayesha Giles
<ayesha_r_giles@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Updated legislative summary is attached ...
Attachments: Legislative Summary-12-14-15 cps.doc

Please take a look and let us know any additional necessary edits/updates so Joe can circulate.

Thanks, Chris

--

Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: 202.208.1403

Legislative Summary
 from
 the Legislative Counsel
Friday ~~Monday~~, December ~~11~~14, 2015
 To: All Interested Interior Offices

Attached for your information is today's Legislative Summary.

In order to keep the Summary as up-to-date as possible, we request that any bureau or office contacted directly regarding hearings or markups notify this office immediately.

New information about scheduled hearings and business meetings appears shaded in yellow. Hearings printed in *bold italic* type indicate DOI involvement.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Joseph Nevils on (202) 208-4580, or via E-Mail (Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov).

2015 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
		No Votes December 11-14
State Work Period December 21-31		
	Christmas December 25	
TBD	Target Adjournment	December 18

Scheduled Floor Action

House Floor

Friday, Dec. 11

~~No votes are expected.~~

Senate Floor

Program for Monday: ~~After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 5 p.m.), Senate will begin consideration of the nominations of Alissa M. Starzak, of New York, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, John Conger, of Maryland, to be a Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Stephen P. Welby, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, and Franklin R. Parker, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and vote on confirmation of the nominations at approximately 5:30 p.m.~~

~~During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.~~

Recent Legislative Activity of Interest

Senate:

By Mr. **HATCH** (for himself and Mr. **LEE**):

S. 2383. A bill to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land in the State of Utah from all forms of public appropriation, to provide for the shared management of the withdrawn land by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of the Air Force to facilitate enhanced weapons testing and pilot training, enhance public safety, and provide for continued public access to the withdrawn land, to provide for the exchange of certain Federal land and State land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. **COONS** (for himself and Mr. **FLAKE**):

S. 2385. A bill to strengthen protections for the remaining populations of wild elephants, rhinoceroses, and other imperiled species through country-specific anti-poaching efforts and anti-trafficking strategies, to promote the value of wildlife and natural resources, to curtail the demand for illegal wildlife products in consumer countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. **GILLIBRAND** (for herself and Mr. **SCHUMER**):

S. 2386. A bill to authorize the establishment of the Stonewall National Historic Site in the State of New York as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. **WYDEN** (for himself, Mr. **BROWN**, Mr. **WHITEHOUSE**, Mrs. **GILLIBRAND**, Ms. **KLOBUCHAR**, Mr. **SANDERS**, Ms. **WARREN**, and Mr. **MERKLEY**):

S. 2387. A bill to restore protections for Social Security, Railroad retirement, and Black Lung benefits from administrative offset; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. **SANDERS** (for himself, Mr. **MARKEY**, and Mr. **MERKLEY**):

S. 2391. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend certain energy tax provisions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. **SANDERS**:

S. 2398. A bill to provide benefits and services to workers who have lost their jobs or have experienced a reduction in wages or hours due to the transition to clean energy, to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. **SANDERS**:

S. 2399. A bill to provide for emissions reductions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Measures Passed:

Further Continuing Appropriations Act: Senate passed H.R. 2250, further Continuing

Appropriations Act, 2016, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments: Senate passed an amended version of S. 209, to amend the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act of 2005.

House:

By Mr. **PASCRELL** (for himself, Mr. **PIERLUISI**, Mr. **RANGEL**, Mr. **LARSON** of Connecticut, and Mr. **SERRANO**):

H.R. 4213. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make residents of Puerto Rico eligible for the earned income tax credit and to provide for equitable treatment for residents of Puerto Rico with respect to the refundable portion of the child tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. **CARTWRIGHT** (for himself, Ms. **BASS**, Mr. **BLUMENAUER**, Mr. **BRADY** of Pennsylvania, Mrs. **CAPPS**, Ms. **CASTOR** of Florida, Ms. **CLARK** of Massachusetts, Mr. **CLEAVER**, Mr. **CONNOLLY**, Mr. **CUMMINGS**, Mr. **DEFAZIO**, Ms. **DELBENE**, Mr. **DEUTCH**, Mr. **ELLISON**, Mr. **FARR**, Mr. **GRAYSON**, Mr. **HASTINGS**, Mr. **HIGGINS**, Mr. **HUFFMAN**, Mr. **JOHNSON** of Georgia, Mr. **KEATING**, Mr. **BEYER**, Ms. **BONAMICI**, Ms. **BROWN** of Florida, Mr. **CAPUANO**, Ms. **JUDY CHU** of California, Ms. **CLARKE** of New York, Mr. **COHEN**, Mr. **CONYERS**, Mrs. **DAVIS** of California, Ms. **DEGETTE**, Mr. **DESAULNIER**, Ms. **EDWARDS**, Ms. **ESHOO**, Mr. **FATTAH**, Mr. **GRIJALVA**, Mr. **HECK** of Washington, Mr. **HONDA**, Ms. **JACKSON LEE**, Ms. **EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON** of Texas, Mr. **KENNEDY**, Ms. **KUSTER**, Mr. **LARSEN** of Washington, Mrs. **LAWRENCE**, Mr. **LEWIS**, Mr. **LOEBSACK**, Mr. **LOWENTHAL**, Mrs. **CAROLYN B. MALONEY** of New York, Ms. **MATSUI**, Mr. **MCDERMOTT**, Mr. **MEEKS**, Mr. **MOULTON**, Mrs. **NAPOLITANO**, Mr. **NOLAN**, Mr. **PAYNE**, Mr. **POCAN**, Mr. **PRICE** of North Carolina, Mr. **RANGEL**, Ms. **ROYBAL-ALLARD**, Ms. **SCHAKOWSKY**, Mr. **SCOTT** of Virginia, Mr. **KILMER**, Mr. **LANGEVIN**, Mr. **LARSON** of Connecticut, Ms. **LEE**, Mr. **TED LIEU** of California, Ms. **LOFGREN**, Mr. **LYNCH**, Mr. **SEAN PATRICK MALONEY** of New York, Ms. **MCCOLLUM**, Mr. **MCGOVERN**, Ms. **MENG**, Mr. **NADLER**, Mr. **NEAL**, Ms. **NORTON**, Ms. **PINGREE**, Mr. **POLIS**, Mr. **QUIGLEY**, Miss **RICE** of New York, Mr. **SARBANES**, Mr. **SCHIFF**, Mr. **SERRANO**, Mr. **SIRES**, Mr. **SMITH** of Washington, Mr. **SWALWELL** of California, Mr. **TAKANO**, Mr. **TONKO**, Mr. **VAN HOLLEN**, Ms. **VELÁZQUEZ**, Mrs. **WATSON COLEMAN**, Ms. **WILSON** of Florida, Mr. **SHERMAN**, Ms. **SLAUGHTER**, Ms. **SPEIER**, Mr. **TAKAI**, Mr. **THOMPSON** of California, Ms. **TSONGAS**, Mr. **VARGAS**, Ms. **MAXINE WATERS** of California, Mr. **WELCH**, and Mr. **YARMUTH**):

H.R. 4215. A bill to require regulation of wastes associated with the exploration, development, or production of crude oil, natural gas, or geothermal energy under the Solid Waste Disposal Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. **BUCK** (for himself, Mr. **GOSAR**, Mr. **BISHOP** of Utah, Mrs. **LUMMIS**, Mrs. **LOVE**, and Mr. **TIPTON**):

H.R. 4220. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to facilitate water leasing and water transfers to promote conservation and efficiency; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. **DESAULNIER** (for himself and Mr. **LAMALFA**):

H.R. 4228. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish additional requirements for certain transportation projects with estimated costs of \$2,500,000,000 or more, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. **NADLER**:

H.R. 4230. A bill to authorize the establishment of the Stonewall National Historic Site in the State of New York as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROHRBACHER (for himself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. ROYCE, and Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California):

H.R. 4233. A bill to eliminate an unused lighthouse reservation, provide management consistency by incorporating the rocks and small islands along the coast of Orange County, California, into the California Coastal National Monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management, and meet the original Congressional intent of preserving Orange County's rocks and small islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2406, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114-377, Part 1).

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Surface Transportation Board Reauthorization Act of 2015: S. 808, to establish the Surface Transportation Board as an independent establishment:

Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015: H.R. 4188, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017:

The Department has been Invited to the Following Hearings:

N/A

Comment [SC1]: Let's include this reference so people know it is intentionally blank

Tentative Hearings:

N/A

Comment [SC2]: Include this reference

POSTPONEMENTS

N/A

Comment [SC3]: Include this reference



Hearings of Interest:**Mon., Dec. 14 Mining Education Legislation****House Natural Resources S/C on Energy and Mineral Resources (Lamborn)**

Subcommittee field hearing on

H.R. 3734 (Hardy), To amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide support to mining schools

10:00 a.m.; Underground Classroom of the Edgar Mine, Colorado School of Mines
Experimental Mine, 365 8th Ave., Idaho Springs, CO
No request for DOI witness

Status of DOI Testimony
March 16, 2016

Bureau/Preparer	Witness	Committee	Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor	OCL Attorney	Date of Hearing	Date CLC Notified	Due to OMB	Bureau Notified	Date Due to CLC	Date Rec'd in CLC
-----------------	---------	-----------	-----------------------------	--------------	-----------------	-------------------	------------	-----------------	-----------------	-------------------

**The following requests for comments have been received
Thursday, December 10, 2015**

Conversation Contents

Clip: E&E: BLM airs concerns with Calif. conservation bills

"Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 10 2015 07:44:32 GMT-0700 (MST)
Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>
To:
Subject: Clip: E&E: BLM airs concerns with Calif. conservation bills

PUBLIC LANDS:

BLM airs concerns with Calif. conservation bills

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, December 10, 2015

A Bureau of Land Management official yesterday said the Obama administration cannot support two bills to protect and increase recreational access to public lands in California, a position that frustrated the bills' supporters.

Kristin Bail, who leads BLM's National Conservation Lands, told a House Natural Resources panel that the administration has major concerns with provisions in [H.R. 3668](#), a bill by Rep. Paul Cook (R-Calif.) that would conserve more than a million acres of public lands in the California Desert and restrict the president's powers to protect the lands under the Antiquities Act.

Bail said BLM cannot support provisions in the bipartisan [H.R. 1838](#), by Rep. Sam Farr (D-Calif.), that would reopen the 75,000-acre Clear Creek Management Area in San Benito and Fresno counties to recreation, including off-highway vehicles, and designate 21,000 acres of new wilderness and five river and creek segments as wild and scenic rivers.

The bill could expose the public and BLM employees to dangerous levels of cancer-causing asbestos, Bail said.

BLM's concerns over Cook's bill could spell trouble for the congressman's efforts to head off potential White House plans to designate the lands as national monuments that would preclude new mining development.

Cook's bill was introduced as an alternative to Sen. Dianne Feinstein's (D-Calif.) [S. 414](#), which calls for similar land protections and tighter restrictions on mining. After six years trying to pass the bill, Feinstein this summer asked Obama to consider protecting the lands using his Antiquities Act authorities. A visit to the region in October by two top-level Interior and Agriculture officials suggests the White House is seriously considering taking up Feinstein's request ([Greenwire](#), Oct. 7).

Cook said such a move would represent "a massive land grab" and touted provisions in his bill that he said would facilitate "responsible mining."

A key distinction is that his bill would allow 10 percent of the proposed 965,000-acre Mojave Trails Special Management Area to be mined, while Feinstein's bill, and presumably a presidential declaration, would ban future mining and call the area a national monument.

Cook's bill earned support yesterday from San Bernardino County Supervisor Robert Lovingood and Federal Lands Subcommittee Chairman Tom McClintock (R-Calif.).

While McClintock said he was concerned with the bill's wilderness provisions, he said both bills on the docket "move us generally in the right direction."

Compared to the Feinstein measure, Cook's bill is "a much more balanced approach that sustains local economic and recreational activities while protecting treasured desert landscapes," he said.

Yet Bail said BLM cannot support the measure, in large part because the proposed Mojave Trails Special Management Area "would fail to adequately protect the nationally significant resources found there and would undermine the ability of the Bureau of Land Management to manage the area for responsible recreational use."

She said other provisions of the bill would conflict with BLM's recently finalized Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, a sweeping effort with state and local stakeholders to zone federal lands in Southern California for renewable energy and conservation.

Notably, Bail said the administration "strongly opposes" the bill's curbs on the president's Antiquities Act authority, a restriction the White House has successfully fought in numerous other Republican bills over the past several years.

Democrats and conservationists yesterday also came out against the bill.

Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.) cited statements of concern from the Wilderness Society, Pew Charitable Trusts and National Parks Conservation Association and noted her own concern with several provisions, namely the Antiquities Act language.

"Congress divested its authority to protect public land for a reason," she said. "Political gridlock can stall or block conservation initiatives."

A statement released yesterday by the Campaign for the California Desert, a coalition of conservation, community and business leaders backing Feinstein's bill, said that Cook's proposal would allow too much mining, would threaten groundwater and would add 8,000 fewer acres to the Mojave National Preserve than Feinstein's bill.

"The differences between Congressman Cook's and Senator Feinstein's proposals make it clear that local communities cannot rely solely on the legislative process to effectively protect the California Desert for future generations," the campaign said.

"Local leaders will continue their call for President Obama to designate the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains National Monuments," it said.

Cook said his and Feinstein's bills are not that far apart, but he lamented that the senator "gave up" when she called on Obama to unilaterally act.

An impasse over the two bills raises the chance that Obama will invoke the 1906 antiquities law once more.

On Wed, Oct 28, 2015 at 10:39 AM, Duran, Leah <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Feinstein bill would not diminish SoCal mining -- report

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, October 28, 2015

A bill to protect more than 1.4 million acres of public lands in Southern California would not diminish the region's mining sector, according to a report released yesterday by the Sonoran Institute, a regional conservation group based in Tucson, Ariz.

The bill's proposed national monuments, parks and wilderness expansions would bolster jobs in the service, government and professional sectors, which play a much larger role than mining in the region's economy, the **report** found. Those jobs -- which drive what's known as "amenity-based" economic growth - - depend heavily on protected public lands, the report found.

Protections in Sen. Dianne Feinstein's (D-Calif.) **S. 414** "represent the highest and best economic use of public lands," said John Shepard, senior director of programs at the Sonoran Institute. "Mining is overshadowed by other economic sectors and trends that benefit from preserving the California desert's natural, cultural and other community benefits."

While the institute has taken no official position on Feinstein's bill, its report offers a ringing endorsement.

Feinstein's bill would designate two new national monuments, six new wilderness areas and expand three national parks while setting aside a handful of areas for off-highway vehicle recreation. The bill received a hearing this month before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where its prospects for passage are unclear (***E&E Daily***, Oct. 9).

In a parallel track, Feinstein is asking President Obama to designate lands in her bill -- Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains -- as national monuments using his authority under the Antiquities Act.

Mining access has emerged as a major sticking point for opponents of Feinstein's bill and Obama's use of the act.

San Bernardino County Supervisor Robert Lovingood told the committee the legislation could stifle mining opportunities and hamper a gold mine that could become California's second largest. Feinstein's bill would ban new mining claims within conservation areas, while honoring existing claims.

The minerals industry is "one of our most significant economic drivers," Lovingood said, adding that the county oversees roughly 100 mines. The federal government already owns 80 percent of the county, which prevents the collection of millions of dollars in property taxes, he said.

"The proposed national monument status withdraws public lands from mineral entry," he said. "This prevents the extraction of important mineral materials, such as aggregates, which are the basic materials necessary for maintaining roads, bridges and local infrastructure."

But the Sonoran Institute report -- which looked at the seven counties covered in the bill: San Bernardino, Inyo, Riverside, Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles and San Diego -- came to an opposite conclusion.

In the last 25 years, mining has represented no more than 0.25 percent of the region's overall employment, the report said, citing Department of Commerce data. In addition, mining's contribution to labor-related income never exceeded 1 percent and trended neither up nor down between 1970 and 2013, it said.

In 2013, the mining industry employed between 3,000 and 5,600 people.

However, mining and oil and gas jobs have made up a higher portion of jobs in some individual counties, representing 6 percent in Kern and 4 percent in Inyo. In San Bernardino, which would be home to the

largest amount of protected lands, mining and oil and gas represent 0.2 percent of jobs, the report found.

While Feinstein's bill would withdraw more than 1 million acres from future mining claims, it would honor the 1,176 active claims inside the proposed designation areas. In San Bernardino alone, there are 8,803 active mining claims and 600 square miles of high mineral potential areas outside the proposed designation areas, the report found.

The report cited mining research commissioned by the Bureau of Land Management to support its identification of renewable energy zones in the California desert.

"There is extensive ground outside of the legislation to continue to look for and develop mineral resources of all kinds," said Joe Marlow, a resource economist at the Sonoran Institute.

As mining and other extractive and agricultural jobs remained flat, service-based sectors emerged, a trend common across the West, the report said.

In addition, non-labor income -- which is an indicator of the presence of retirees -- shot up nearly threefold in the seven counties between 1970 and 2013, the report found.

Roughly 3.2 million people visited Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks and the Mojave National Preserve in 2014, and nearly 4.2 million visited BLM lands in 2013.

"We think conservation has a stronger economic argument" than mining and industrial projects, Shepard said. "The additional designations [in Feinstein's bill] are likely to encourage similar growth trends going forward into the future."

Imperial and Riverside counties have endorsed Feinstein's bill, though supervisors in San Bernardino remain split.

Some critics of the bill, including Lovingood, have backed [H.R. 3668](#) by Rep. Paul Cook (R-Calif.), a companion to Feinstein's bill that would allow more mining opportunities within the Mojave Trails National Monument and bar presidents from protecting the lands using the Antiquities Act.

On Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 10:59 AM, Duran, Leah <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

[Sen. Feinstein asks Obama to designate monuments in the Mojave Desert](#)

LA Times // Julie Cart // Oct. 13, 2015

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, champion of the California desert, is asking President Obama to take executive action to protect hundreds of thousands of acres in the Mojave Desert.

Since 2009, Feinstein has been unsuccessfully trying to convince her colleagues in Congress to designate the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains

areas as new national monuments. Now, the Democratic senator is calling on Obama to use the Antiquities Act to set aside desert tracts near Mojave National Preserve and Death Valley National Park.

In a public meeting scheduled for today in Palm Springs, Feinstein and other national, state and local officials will listen to public comment on setting aside the disparate pieces of public land for heightened protection.

All of the land proposed for monument designation is in federal hands and no transfers are required.

Obama has invoked the Antiquities Act sparingly. Most recently he designated the Berryessa-Snow Mountains National Monument in Northern California.

Monument designations can be controversial because they sometimes place restrictions on hunting, off-road recreation and other uses. But Feinstein's proposal would preserve existing recreational activities.

Obama has the option to designate the new monuments without consulting Congress, but Feinstein said she will continue trying to gain support for her legislation.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, December 10, 2015

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SECRETARY JEWELL TESTIFIES ON GOLD KING MINE SPILL. The [Greenwire](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that Natural Resources Committee Republicans “blasted” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Wednesday “for her agency’s investigation into U.S. EPA’s spill of polluted water from an abandoned Colorado mine spill last summer.” The legislators were “disappointed” that the BOR’s “technical assessment into the so-called Gold King mine spill didn’t dig deeper into EPA’s role or assign blame.” Rep. Cynthia Lummis said, “It gives us the appearance that the Department of the Interior apparently jointly decided by the EPA that these areas were beyond the scope of review.”

[The Hill](#) (12/10, Henry, 654K) reports that House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop “charged” that the Interior Department “couldn’t conduct an unbiased and independent investigation into the August mine waste spill.” But Jewell said “the office charged with conducting the report — the Technical Service Center — does such a minuscule amount of work for the EPA that it was able to conduct an appropriate review of the incident.” She said, “I know EPA wanted to get to the bottom of what happened, technically, at Gold King Mine and they looked for people of that expertise. The work of the Technical Services Center is very broad. Half of a percent or so is for the EPA.”

[Politico Pro](#) (12/9) reports that Jewell said that “there is no evidence crimes were committed by EPA workers responsible for the August spill of tainted mine water into the Animas River, though she sidestepped a question about whether those workers were negligent.”

The [AP](#) (12/10, 932K) reports that Jewell said a review by her agency showed the spill was “clearly unintentional.” She said, “I don’t believe there’s anything in there to suggest criminal activity.” But Republicans were “dissatisfied” and “they pointed to earlier statements in which Jewell and other agency officials said the Interior review focused on technical mining issues — not the potential culpability of those involved in the spill.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (12/9, 1.19M), [The Hill](#) (12/10, Cama, Henry, 654K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/10, Richardson, 283K), the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/10, 112K), [Colorado Public Radio](#) (12/10), the [Seymour \(IN\) Times Tribune](#) (12/10, 26K) the [Aurora \(CO\) Sentinel](#) (12/10, 64K), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (12/10, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/10, Brown, 283K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (12/9, 31K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/10, 263K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/10, 263K), [US News & World Report](#) (12/9, 996K), the [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (12/10, 516K), [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (12/10, 77K), the [Winona \(MN\) Daily News](#) (12/10, 29K), the [El Paso \(TX\) Inc.](#) (12/10, 31K), the [Houghton \(MI\) Daily Mining Gazette](#) (12/10, 23K), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (12/10, 464K), [WTEN-TV Albany \(NY\)](#) Albany, NY (12/9, 82K), [KECI-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (12/10, NBCMontana, 1K), [KRQE-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (12/9, 34K), [WBTV-TV Charlotte \(NC\)](#) Charlotte, NC (12/10, 81K), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/10, 1K).

GAO Asked To Investigate Interior’s Probe Of Mine Spill. [Politico Pro](#) (12/9) reports that House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop on Wednesday asked the Government Accountability Office to review the “scope, objectivity and thoroughness” of the Interior Department’s technical report on the Animas River spill. Bishop and other lawmakers “questioned whether Interior’s review of the spill caused by EPA workers was truly independent and unbiased, and they were particularly concerned that it makes no conclusion about negligence or criminal activity.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (12/10, Matthews, 825K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/10, 263K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/10, 339K), the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/10, 112K), and [Utah Policy](#) (12/10).

Rep. Bishop Disappointed With Secretary Jewell’s Planned Testimony. [Politico Pro](#) (12/9) reports that Bishop said, “The failure of Secretary Jewell’s testimony to address the concerns with the report raised by impacted states and the [U.S. Army Core of Engineers], why we still don’t know the root cause of the spill, the extent of impacts to Interior Department-managed land, water and other resources, or who should be held accountable, is deeply concerning. These questions need answers. We hope to get them during this hearing.”

Additional coverage was provided by [E&E Daily](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication).

Interior Report Says EPA Error Led To Mine Spill. [Politico Pro](#) (12/9) reports that “a lack of understanding of mine engineering issues ‘led directly’ to EPA’s Aug. 5 spill of 3 million gallons of tainted water from an abandoned gold mine into Colorado’s Animas River,” according to a technical review from the BOR. The article says that “while the causes of the mine spill trace back through decades of human-caused changes in groundwater flow patterns, the report concludes it was a lack of uniform requirements to handle abandoned mines that led to the spill.”

Dispute Between Colorado And EPA Over Gold King Mine Spill Deepens. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (12/9, 31K) reports that a disagreement between the EPA and Colorado’s Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety “only

deepened Wednesday, as the EPA released documents to back up its insistence that the state agency was involved in the decision-making leading up to the accidental Aug. 5 Gold King Mine spill by an EPA-contracted team.” According to the article, “the state agency has said it had no authority to assess, manage or approve work at the mine.”

SECRETARY JEWELL SAYS BANKRUPT COAL INDUSTRY COULD LEAVE TAXPAYERS WITH MAJOR BILL.

[Reuters](#) (12/10, Rucker) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told the House Natural Resources Committee that taxpayers could be left with \$3.6 billion in cleanup bills if coal companies go bankrupt due to the practice of self-bonding. “With the increased financial fragility of many coal mining companies, if they are self-bonded that does potentially leave the states and the taxpayers at risk,” Jewell said. “As with most things that are labeled too-big-to-fail, many of these companies are now failing,” said Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI), who called self-bonding a “textbook case of taxpayer exposure to polluter cleanup costs.”

SECRETARY JEWELL: NO TIMELINE FOR BLM’S FLARING RULE. [Politico Pro](#) (12/10, Subscription Publication) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Wednesday that the BLM’s “long-awaited rule for venting and flaring of methane produced by drilling sites on public lands may not be finished before she leaves her post.” She told reporters, “I know that it would certainly be my goal to have that rule finished during the time that I’m in this position. But there’s appropriate notification periods and working with OIRA and all of those things are necessary.”

UTAH TO PURSUE LAWSUIT TO SEIZE CONTROL OF FEDERAL LANDS. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/9, 705) reports that a panel of Utah state lawmakers on Wednesday “voted to order a legal team to prepare a lawsuit challenging the federal government’s ownership and management of roughly two-thirds of the Beehive State.” The Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands also “recommended Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes (R) consider filing the complaint as a case of original jurisdiction with the U.S. Supreme Court.” The article notes that “those moves followed” the release on Wednesday “of an independent, state-commissioned report that urged Gov. Gary Herbert (R) to consider such a lawsuit to force the United States to cede ownership of federal lands to the state.”

The [AP](#) (12/9, 270K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “considers Utah’s push a misguided effort that doesn’t take into account benefits or costs of managing public lands, agency spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw in a statement.” The statement said, “The Secretary has been clear on this issue – she’s happy to have thoughtful discussion about achieving balanced managements – but she’s not open to selling off public lands to the highest bidder.”

Meanwhile, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/10, 339K) reports that two University of Utah legal scholars are arguing that “Utah cannot legally claim the mineral riches locked in 31 million acres of public lands the state now is banking on taking from the federal government.” John Ruple and Bob Keiter in a new white paper, “These conclusions follow from well-established principles of law predating Utah’s admission to the Union that excluded from grants to the states all lands known to be mineral in character. Therefore, even if the state can establish a duty to dispose of the public domain, and show that such a duty necessitates granting the land to the state, the exclusion of minerals from those grants would severely limit the economic value of the land that would be conveyed to the states.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/10, 339K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (12/10, McCombs, 825K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (12/10, McCombs, 1.15M), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/10, 5.31M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/10, 2.15M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (12/10, 767K), the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (12/10, 81K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/10, Brady McCombs |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/10, McCombs, 283K), [ABC News](#) (12/10, 3.35M), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (12/10, 150K), the [Provo \(UT\) Daily Herald](#) (12/10, 155K), [Newswise](#) (12/10, 1K), [Yahoo! News](#) (12/10, McCombs, 6.43M), and [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (12/9, 148K),

DEMOCRATS STAND FIRM ON OPPOSITION TO GOP POLICY RIDERS. [Politico Pro](#) (12/9) reports that “Democratic leaders are hardening their opposition to GOP policy riders in a massive end-of-year spending and tax deal, acknowledging the two sides are still far apart even as Democrats prepare to send their latest counteroffer to Republicans.” According to sources, “Democrats were preparing a new offer to Republicans that would lessen the current ban on oil exports – a key GOP demand – in exchange for dropping a host of riders and reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as adding new working-class tax benefits and tax benefits for using renewable energy.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Bloomberg News](#) (12/9, Wingfield, 3.4M) and the [National Journal](#) (12/10, Subscription Publication, 53K).

Rep. Bishop Explains Stance On LWCF. [The Hill](#) (12/8, Cama, Henry, 654K) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, defended his decision Tuesday to allow the Land and Water Conservation Fund “to lapse earlier this year.” Bishop wrote Tuesday that the LWCF is “broken,” and that “it needs to be restored to its original functions.” In a Politico op-ed, Bishop wrote, “Since I chose to let the fund expire – due to fundamental flaws – on Sept. 30, a few have hurled criticisms and impugned the motives of members of Congress for wanting to reform the LWCF.” He added, “Efforts to blindly reauthorize the LWCF are denying the fact that the law’s

original intent to develop recreational opportunities close to home for more Americans was perverted long ago.”

Overhaul Of LWCF Criticized. In an op-ed for The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (12/10, 515K), Whit Fosburgh is president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, writes in criticism of Rep. Rob Bishop’s proposed reforms to the LWCF. Bishop points “to maintenance backlogs on federal public lands as justification for shifting money to the states and limiting federal land acquisition.” However, Fosburgh argues “acquiring land parcels that connect isolated public lands actually reduces maintenance costs in the long term.”

Congress Urged To Reauthorize LWCF. In an op-ed for the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (12/10, 38K), Rep. Ryan Zinke urges Congress to reauthorize the LWCF.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN WOULD IMPACT NATIONAL PARKS. The [Washington Post](#) (12/10, Rein, 7.78M) ran up updated version of a story that originally ran on September 23, “before Congress approved a temporary funding measure to avert a government shutdown.” The report says that “the legislation expires this week, leaving Congress faced with the same spending issues that went unresolved earlier this fall.” The Post notes that in the event of a government shutdown, Yellowstone National Park and 407 others would close to the public. The Post notes that “at Yellowstone, Park Superintendent Dan Wenk and his staff have worked to determine what new wildlife management programs and services are in place today that weren’t in 2013, when the government closed for 16 days in the most potent shutdown in modern history.”

INTERIOR WATCHDOG RETRACTS CLAIM ABOUT FORMER SALAZAR AIDE. The [Greenwire](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department’s inspector general has “retracted its claim that a former aide to then-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar broke the terms of his presidential ethics pledge.” The watchdog “released its full report on Steve Black, once a counselor to Salazar at the department.” According to the article, “the IG earlier this week had released a summary of the report asserting that Black had violated the pledge, but the office now said that isn’t the case.” Nancy DiPaolo, a spokeswoman for the Interior IG office, said, “Under Deputy IG Mary Kendall’s direction, it is our policy to be proactive and post summaries of investigations. We are still perfecting this process, and whenever we learn of a mistake, we quickly correct it. We became aware that the summary contained erroneous information, specifically, in that Steve Black had indeed violated the President’s Ethics Pledge. Our investigation did not conclude that a violation occurred. So, we posted the full report [yesterday] to more clearly show the details of the investigation.”

RED ROCK MONUMENT PROPOSAL DRAWING CONTROVERSY IN ARIZONA. The [Arizona Republic](#) (12/9, McKinnon, 960K) reports that a fistfight recently broke out during an educational conversation at the Oakcreek Country Club to discussed the proposed Sedona Verde Valley Red Rock National Monument. The Republic explains that the area is already managed by the US Forest Service but that “supporters insist the monument designation is the only way to protect the land from overuse and keep developers away.” The Republic says that “opponents and have gained strength drawing on anti-government sentiment, a growing movement to shift federal lands into state control and hometown issues like the nightmarish weekend traffic jams.” Meanwhile, proponents hope President Obama will designate the national monument before he leaves office. The report goes on to examine the dispute at length.

TWO HOUSE BILLS WOULD DESIGNATE NEW WILDERNESS AREAS IN CALIFORNIA. The [McClatchy](#) (12/10, 27K) reports that “off-road vehicles could again be roaring through Fresno County’s western hills and Southern California’s desert under bills weighed Wednesday by a House panel.” According to the article, “while the separate legislative packages would designate new wilderness areas for protection, the bills emphasize public use of federal lands.” However, “that puts them in the middle of a perennial access vs. conservation debate that often stymies Congress.”

SANTA CLARITA CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS EXPANDED SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) Signal](#) (12/10, 23K) reports that Santa Clarita City Council members voted “this week to support a piece of legislation that would expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument farther into the Santa Clarita Valley.” They “voted unanimously Tuesday night to support H.R. 3820, which would expand the monument’s boundaries by about 109,000 acres in the western Angeles National Forest — stretching the monument into areas near Placerita Canyon, Sand Canyon Road and Elsmere Canyon in the Santa Clarita Valley.”

BEST INSTAGRAMS FROM NATIONAL PARKS IN 2015 HIGHLIGHTED. [Mashable](#) (12/9, 1.8M) highlights “the 20 best Instagrams from U.S. parks in 2015.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: JUDGE REFUSES TO BLOCK RULES PROTECTING GREATER SAGE GROUSE. Additional coverage of U.S. District Judge Miranda Du’s decision to issue an injunction against “new U.S. rules intended to protect the greater sage grouse” was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/10, 263K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/10, Sonner, 283K), [KJZZ-FM](#) Phoenix (12/10, 8K).

FORMER FWS OFFICIALS CRITICIZES PROPOSED ALASKA ROAD. Lyle Laverty, former assistant secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks from 2007-2009, writes at [The Hill](#) (12/10, Laverty, 654K) in its “Congress Blog” against a

proposed road through Alaska's Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area, an idea that has been included as a rider in a funding proposal before Congress. He says that after extensive scientific analysis, the FWS in 2013 determined that the proposed road should not be built and that the Department of the Interior made the right decision to reject the proposed road. He points out that a "\$9 million, state-of-the-art hovercraft that the Aleutians East Borough purchased with federal funds proved capable of transporting an ambulance between King Cove and Cold Bay in 20 minutes, which is much faster than it would take to drive the proposed road." He concludes that "taxpayers have provided a transportation solution and the proposed road would set a terrible precedent for the National Wildlife Refuge System and designated Wilderness Areas all across the nation."

INTERIOR YOUTH AMBASSADOR IN PARIS FOR CLIMATE TALKS. In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (12/9, 203K), Esau Sinnok, a U.S. Department of Interior Arctic Youth Ambassador, writes about his experience visiting Paris, France, for the United Nations climate talks. Sinnok has met with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and other indigenous people, which gave him "insight into how issues of the Arctic and climate change are being handled by our world leaders." Sinnok wants "to tell leaders that climate change is affecting the Arctic more than other places of the world, and if the ice in Greenland melts, these villages and islands will be under water."

CASSIDY: OBAMA SHOULD SUPPORT OIL EXPORT. Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) writes at [The Hill](#) (12/10, Sen. Bill Cassidy (r-La.), M.d., 654K) in its "Congress Blog" that if President Obama wants to lower greenhouse gas "emissions and simultaneously address that which most Americans think is the greatest threat – terrorism – he should allow Americans to explore for and export oil." Cassidy says that "despite the lower GHG emissions and the economic and security benefits of increased domestic energy production, the Obama administration has slowed energy production on federal lands and closed off areas of exploration and development of offshore oil." He concludes that "if Obama really believes that no challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change, and if he is willing to acknowledge that most Americans feel that terrorism poses at least an equally serious threat, he should support exploring for and exporting American oil."

FEDERAL LAND OWNERSHIP CRITICIZED. Brian Seasholes, director of the Reason Foundation Endangered Special Project, writes at the [Daily Caller](#) (12/10, Seasholes, 366K) reports that the Federal government owns one-third of the US, or 640 million acres, and that "this enormous amount of federal land has profound impacts on the ability of many states, municipalities and communities to govern themselves effectively, raise taxes necessary for basic services, such as police, fire and schools, conserve the environment, and maintain viable economies that can provide living wages for ordinary people." He says that the House Committee on Natural Resources has created an online "Federal Footprint Map" that consists of many "layers" representing land and water managed by agencies or overlaid by Federal regulations. Seasholes concludes by pointing out that "there is a growing call, led by the American Lands Council and Representative Ken Ivory of Utah, to transfer some federal lands to states so these lands can be managed more responsibly."

Empowering Native American Communities:

HOUSE COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON INDIAN RECOGNITION BILL. The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (12/8) reports that "Nicholas Mullane, a longtime Republican selectman for the town of North Stonington, on Wednesday helped bolster a GOP bill that would strip the Obama administration of its authority to recognize Indian tribes." At a hearing of the House Committee of Natural Resources, Mullane said "he favors a bill introduced by Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, that would give tribes federal acknowledgment only by an act of Congress."

[E&E Daily](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that the House subcommittee "agreed that both Congress and the Bureau of Indian Affairs have injected politics where they shouldn't in decisions on who the United States recognizes as an Indian tribe, but witnesses and members at the hearing remained bitterly split on who should have that power moving forward."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (12/9, 77K).

INTERIOR SAYS TRIBAL LAND BUY ALLOWED UNDER CARCIERI. [Law360](#) (12/10, 30K) reports that the Interior Department "urged the D.C. Circuit to uphold the agency's ability to take land into trust for a Washington state tribe's casino project, saying Tuesday the controversial Carcieri ruling did not prevent the DOI from making the acquisition."

NAVAJO NATION GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DISCUSS BIA AND INDIAN HEALTH BUDGET. The [Flagstaff \(AZ\) Navajo-Hopi Observer](#) (12/9, 43K) reports that "members of the Navajo Nation Council, Vice President Jonathan Nez, and Acting Chief Justice Allen Sloan met Nov. 30 in hopes of presenting a unified voice to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health about the Fiscal Year 2016 budget." According to the article, "Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) said the proposed BIA budget for FY2016 includes an overall increase of 8 percent, or approximately \$12.2 million. While the proposed IHS budget increase could range from 5 percent to 22 percent."

NAVAJO COUNCIL CRITICIZES SEN. BARRASSO'S LAND-INTO-TRUST BILL. [Law360](#) (12/10, 30K) reports that "a Navajo Nation Council panel on Tuesday backed two congressional bills to reaffirm the U.S. Department of the Interior's authority to take land into trust for tribes, saying a similar bill sponsored by Sen. John Barrasso would undermine the sovereignty of tribes by putting conditions on the department's authority."

TEXAS CONTINUES OPPOSITION AGAINST TIGUA GAMBLING. The [El Paso \(TX\) Times](#) (12/9, 199K) reports that the Texas Attorney General's Office will "continue its epic court battle to keep El Paso's Tigua Indians from offering certain kinds of gambling." According to the article, "in a Wednesday evening filing in U.S. District Court, the state AG opposed the Tigua's request, in light of a recent opinion by the U.S. Department of the Interior that the tribe be allowed to offer games such as bingo, pull tabs and tip jars." In its filing, the state Attorney General's Office "cited a 20-year history of court losses and said the Tiguas' latest arguments are no more likely to succeed."

FORMER VILLAGE LEADERS NOT BUDGING AFTER LOSING ALASKA TRIBAL DISPUTE. The [AP](#) (12/10, 2.15M) reports that "former officials in an Alaska Native village are refusing to relinquish their old office and tribal records, despite a federal appeals panel's finding that they're no longer in charge." According to the article, "last week, the new leadership asked a federal judge to have Alaska State Troopers enforce a Nov. 4 court ruling that ordered former leaders to stop representing themselves as the governing body in the community of about 380."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (12/10, 62K).

LARGE-SCALE WARRANT OPERATION IN NORTH DAKOTA YIELD MULTIPLE ARRESTS. The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (12/10, 102K) reports that "during Operation No Sanctuary, the U.S. Marshals Service's High Plains Fugitive Task Force and Bureau of Indian Affairs cleared 29 warrants searching for fugitives who were wanted on federal, state, local and tribal charges." The Herald explains that Operation No Sanctuary was organized after the Spirit Lake Tribal Council passed a resolution declaring a state of emergency due to "rampant use, abuse, sale trade and transport of illegal drugs at epidemic proportion on the reservation." The Herald also points out that "in a separate but simultaneous operation, law enforcement also conducted compliance checks on 20 registered sex offenders on the reservation in which seven people were identified as potentially being noncompliant with federal, state or tribal registration laws, according to the release."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DEEPWATER WIND PROPOSES NEW OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT FOR LIPA. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (12/9, Harrington, 1.42M) reports that Rhode Island-based Deepwater Wind is proposing a new 15-turbine project for LIPA 30 miles off Montauk. The project comes in response to a LIPA/PSEG request for proposals for around 169 megawatts of power and "would deliver power specifically to the South Fork of Long Island."

Onshore Energy Development:

HOUSE COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON STREAM PROTECTION RULE.. [E&E Daily](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that "House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Republicans pelted a top Interior Department official with tough, rapid-fire questions" Tuesday "on the agency's proposed stream protection rule." Republican "members of two panel subcommittees expressed deep skepticism toward the Obama administration's assertion that the rule would not have a significant negative impact on the economy or mining jobs." Janice Schneider, assistant Interior secretary for land and minerals management, said the impact would be "minimal" and "largely offset" by compliance-related jobs.

[Politico Pro](#) (12/9) reports that Rep. Cynthia Lummis, "a member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus that helped oust Speaker John Boehner, said Interior could learn something from the cooperative approach new Speaker Paul Ryan has brought to running the House." During a hearing on the proposed stream rule, she told Schneider that "complaints from states that they had been shut out of the rulemaking process mean Interior should start over." She said, "I can tell you from just the last month in the House of Representatives, it makes a huge difference. Just the change in the new speaker, Speaker Ryan, has brought about that process of cooperation that didn't exist here before he was speaker. And his speakership has already proven the benefits when you allow your stakeholders to be part of the discussion, it really works."

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON ROYALTY REFORMS. [E&E Daily](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that Obama Administration "efforts to address the valuation of coal, oil and natural gas are generating concern among fossil fuel boosters on Capitol Hill." At issue is a January 2015 Office of Natural Resources Revenue proposal to "update valuation criteria. Administration officials have said the changes have been proposed to keep up with

energy industry changes.” However, “companies have called on ONRR to yank the proposal.” They raised concerns during a hearing of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources Tuesday.

Update Of Royalty Rate Charged For Drilling On Public Lands Supported. In an op-ed for the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (12/10, 67K), Jim Baca, who recently retired as the State of New Mexico’s Natural Resource Trustee, points out “the outdated rates companies pay to American taxpayers for the right to drill on our national public lands.” He notes that “the royalty — set at 12.5 percent of the value of the oil or gas extracted from the land — has not been updated since 1920.” Baca argues that “facilitating oil exports without addressing low royalty rates could shortchange New Mexico’s taxpayers to the tune of between \$47 million and \$534 million over the next decade, according to a study by the Denver-based Center for Western Priorities.”

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT BONDING DEALS. [E&E Daily](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that Janice Schneider, Interior assistant secretary for lands and minerals, said Tuesday that “preventing coal companies from abandoning their responsibility to return land and water to pre-mining conditions was a ‘huge priority’ amid the industry’s financial woes.” Schneider also “expressed concern about states working out deals with mining companies to address liabilities but also keep them from going further into debt and said the department is ‘still thinking through’ action on the issue.” The issue “came up during a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s proposed stream protection rule.”

BLM RESCHEDULES POSTPONED OIL, GAS LEASE SALE IN UTAH. The [Greenwire](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM has “rescheduled its postponed November oil and gas lease sale in Utah for Feb. 16,” the agency announced Tuesday. According to the BLM, “the sale of 39 parcels covering 38,000 acres of the Beehive State will be combined with another smaller lease sale for lands around Moab that has been planned for that date.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/10, 339K), the [Washington Times](#) (12/10, 283K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (12/10, 464K).

EPA HAZE RULES TARGET TEXAS COAL FACILITIES. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (12/9, Haber, 1.26M) reports that “with an eye to lifting the haze that hangs over Big Bend National Park and other federal parks and wilderness areas,” the EPA released new air pollution standards Wednesday for Texas – one of a handful of states that had continued to resist government efforts to cut down on the release of visibility-impairing sulfur dioxide.” Meanwhile, the state’s grid operator, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, has released analysis of a draft of the haze rule published by the EPA last year predicting that “when combined with President Obama’s order to reduce carbon emissions from the power sector as much as 4,700 megawatts of coal capacity could be shut down – roughly a quarter of the current fleet.” The Morning News points out that the tighter standards come as conditions in many national parks continue to worsen.”

BLM TO HOST OPEN HOUSE ON MONTANA MINERAL WITHDRAWALS TO PROTECT SAGE GROUSE. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (12/10, 200K) reports that “a proposal to withdraw certain lands from mining for up to 20 years to protect sage grouse habitat in portions of Fergus, Petroleum, Phillips and Valley counties will be the subject of a Wednesday open house in Malta” hosted by the BLM. According to the article, “information on the proposal and how to provide comments will be available at stations around the room; however, there will be no formal presentation.”

BLM HOSTING PUBLIC MEETING ON MINING ACTIVITIES. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (12/10, 45K) reports that the BLM is “hosting a meeting next week to let the public know about a proposal to withdraw 1.9 million acres of public land from mining activities.” The meeting will be HELD Monday at the BLM Lakeview District Office in Lakeview.

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM AWARDS LEASES IN WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO. [Marine Technology](#) (12/10) reports that the BOEM “completed its required evaluation to ensure that the public receives fair market value for tracts leased as part of Western Gulf of Mexico Oil and Gas Lease Sale 246.” The sale was held on August 19, 2015. According to the article, “after extensive economic analysis, BOEM has awarded leases on all 33 tracts receiving bids covering 190,000 acres to successful high bidders who participated in the sale, which made 4,083 unleased blocks covering nearly 22 million acres available offshore Texas.”

Additional coverage was provided by [E&P Magazine](#) (12/10).

BOEM, NAS ENTER RESEARCH PACT. [EnergyWire](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that in the coming year, the BOEM and the National Academy of Sciences “plan to supplement BOEM’s efforts to, among other things, develop the agency’s five-year offshore leasing program and modernize its infrastructure risk management systems.” BOEM “plans to publish its final environmental impact statement and leasing program proposal by the end of 2016,

Director Abigail Ross Hopper said during the bureau's first joint meeting with NAS to discuss an ongoing research partnership."

BSEE LAUNCHES NEW RISK-BASED INSPECTION PROGRAM. [EnergyWire](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that "a new federal program announced Monday will mean five high-risk offshore oil and gas facilities will soon be getting additional inspections." BSEE Director Brian Salerno said his agency will "be looking at 'several risk areas and operations' and 'taking a deeper look into how operators implement and support their safety readiness programs.'" According to the article, "picking the facilities will include looking at size, design and environmental risk factors; national inspection program data; and audits from the agency's Safety and Environmental Management Systems." Salerno said the program is focusing on those with heightened risk, but "it does not mean that the facility has a bad safety record or is a poor safety performer, only that certain risk factors are present that must be managed."

Additional coverage was provided by [Maritime Executive](#) (12/10, 21) and [World Oil](#) (12/9).

GOV. BRYANT PROPOSES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR BP OIL SPILL FUNDS. The [AP](#) (12/10) lists Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant's announced proposed economic development projects using recovery money from the 2010 BP oil spill.

COLE: SHELL'S ALASKAN ARCTIC DRILLING SIDELINED BY ECONOMICS, NOT JUST REGULATION. In a column for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (12/8, Cole, 203K), Dermot Cole wrote, "Fresh assertions that the Obama administration smothered Shell's Arctic dreams followed the news that Statoil gave up on its leases," as Alaska politicians and "other regular critics of the Obama administration...downplayed the economic factors, presenting both the Shell and Statoil actions as a product of excessive regulation." While the Obama administration "has increased its opposition to Arctic drilling...there is no doubt low oil prices and Shell's expensive failure to find oil are project killers." Added Cole, "If there is regulatory uncertainty, there is also economic uncertainty, brought on by court challenges, industry missteps and the crash in oil prices."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/8, Joling, 283K) and the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (12/8, Cole, 203K).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

HOUSE PASSES RED RIVER BOUNDARY BILL. In its "Floor Action" blog, [The Hill](#) (12/10, Marcos, 654K) reports that "the House approved legislation on Wednesday to require the Bureau of Land Management to disclaim lands along a river in Texas." According to the article, "passed largely along party lines by a vote of 253-177, the bill would direct the Interior Department to commission a survey of land spanning 116 miles along the Red River."

Also reporting on the story is the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (12/10, 1.26M).

White House Threatens Veto Of Red River Boundary Bill. [E&E Daily](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that the Obama Administration on Tuesday said "it would veto a bill aimed at settling a dispute between Texas landowners and the Bureau of Land Management over property boundaries along the Red River." Rep. Mac Thornberry's H.R. 2130 would "require BLM to pay for a survey of about 30,000 acres along 116 miles of the Red River – using a firm picked by officials in Texas." The legislation would "take too much authority away from the secretary of the Interior, who has historically been responsible for determining the boundaries of federal lands, according to a statement from the White House Office of Management and Budget."

Additional coverage was provided by [Breitbart](#) (12/9, 2M).

UTAH MAN THREATENS TO KILL BLM EMPLOYEE WHO DIDN'T WANT TO GIVE HIM A RIDE. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/10, 339K) reports that a Utah man is "accused of attacking and kidnapping an employee of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management while the victim was driving in rural Millard County." However, "investigators say the assault does not appear to be politically motivated, despite widespread anti-government sentiments and threats against BLM workers earlier this year in western Utah."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

LEAKED LETTER SHOWS FWS DIRECTOR ASHE SUPPORTS YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY DELISTING. The [Greenwire](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that "the federal government is preparing to lift endangered species protections for grizzly bears around Yellowstone National Park, according to a leaked letter from Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe to wildlife officials in the states abutting the park." According to the article, "dated Sept. 25,

the letter to Idaho, Montana and Wyoming officials sets out a number of conditions for protecting Yellowstone grizzlies but says there is a 'mutually understood process that will allow the service to proceed with a proposed delisting.'" The article says that "the plan under consideration would establish a 19,279-square-mile 'demographic monitoring area' in which bear populations are not allowed to dip below 600 'unless necessary to address human safety issues.'" Also, "hunting would be allowed to claim up to 10 percent of females and 22 percent of adult males if populations exceeded 747 bears."

Also providing coverage is the [Big Horn Radio Network](#) (12/10).

FWS Looks To Maintain Yellowstone Bear Numbers. The [AP](#) (12/10, 2.15M) reports that "wildlife managers will seek to maintain grizzly bear numbers in the three-state Yellowstone region near current levels as they move toward lifting protections for the threatened species," a FWS spokeswoman said Wednesday. According to spokeswoman Serena Baker, "a decision on whether to propose a rule to lift protections is expected in early 2016."

Additional coverage was provided by [US News & World Report](#) (12/9, 996K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/10, Matthew Brown |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/10, Brown, 283K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (12/10, 1.15M), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/10, 5.31M), the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (12/10, 1K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (12/10, Brown, 6.43M).

SENATORS TO UNVEIL ANTI-TRAFFICKING PACKAGE. The [Greenwire](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that "instead of taking up a House-passed bill to stem the illicit trade in endangered species and products made from them, members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are planning to introduce their own anti-trafficking package." The forthcoming legislation from Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy Chairman Jeff Flake and panel member Sen. Chris Coons differs from the House measure because "ours is somewhat broader," Coons said in an interview Tuesday.

GABON SEIZES IVORY CACHE. The [Greenwire](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that "more than 440 pounds of ivory has been seized in Gabon, potentially the largest seizure ever in the central African state, according to government officials." Wildlife enforcement advocacy group Eagle said "two Gabonese men originally from Nigeria and Cameroon were arrested Monday."

Also providing coverage is [Newser](#) (12/10, 303K).

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON STATE PARK TO ACQUIRE AUDUBON WETLANDS. The [AP](#) (12/8, 283K) reports that "the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund has partnered with six local citizens and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to buy the 649-acre tract known as Audubon Wetlands for John James Audubon State Park."

FWS WORKING ON DOCUMENT FOR BALLVILLE DAM REMOVAL. The [Fremont \(OH\) News-Messenger](#) (12/9, 13K) reports that the FWS "plans to publish a draft supplemental environmental impact statement for the Ballville Dam project on Feb. 10, 2016, Mayor Jim Ellis said Wednesday." According to the article, "once a final supplemental EIS is issued and the city gets a final permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it can start a dam removal project that has been discussed for several years and was reaffirmed by voters in a November ballot referendum."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MODOC SUCKER DELISTED. Additional coverage of the delisting of the Modoc sucker was provided by the [Scientific American](#) (12/10, 3M), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/8, 113K) and the [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (12/8, 45K).

National Park Service:

NATIONAL PARKS TELL AMERICA'S STORY. As part of its continuing series on national parks, the [National Geographic](#) (12/10, 31.87M) reports on the history of national parks. According to the article, "national parks were a good idea that has gotten better, and a big idea that has gotten bigger." NPS Director Jon Jarvis says that "its purpose is to tell America's story, not simply protect parcels of landscape."

National Geographic Program Teaches Students Value Of National Park Stewardship. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/10, 339K) reports that "as the centennial of the National Park Service approaches in 2016," Jeanethe Falvey, "a senior manager for National Geographic online education helped develop a program to teach third- through fifth-grade students how to be stewards for the parks." The "Find Your Park, Love Your Park" initiative "provides resources for teachers like an interactive map, outdoor activities and a tool for students to design their own park to instruct kids how to be responsible for public space." Falvey said, "Part of the whole reason for this is just studying appreciation of the natural world and parks and being able to visit a pristine place. Just pledging to learn about that is something we find to be pretty valuable as well."

NPS Seeks To Boost Number Of Volunteers. [KSNF-TV](#) Joplin, MO (12/10) reports that "with 2016 being the 100th

anniversary of the National Park System, rangers want to boost the number of volunteers to one million nationwide.” Volunteer coordinator, Diane Eilenstein, says “there’s room for more regardless of your age and whether you want to help inside or out in the park.”

HEARING HELD ON OBAMA ADMINISTRATION’S NPS FUNDING BILL. [E&E Daily](#) (12/9, Subscription Publication) reports that NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis on Tuesday “promoted an administration proposal to bolster the agency as the blueprint for how to effectively fund the park system in its second century, but senators raised concerns about the size of the federal contributions that the centennial bill calls for.” Jarvis told members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, “The future of the national park system is going to be dependent on somewhat of a new financial model, to be very blunt about it.” Jarvis said “that a significant stream of revenue would need to come from increased user fees, leveraged philanthropy, corporate sponsorships and international tourism.” He added, “But there’s also a requirement for appropriations to cover the basics of operations and facilities.”

NPS EVALUATING DRONES IN NATIONAL PARKS. The [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (12/10, 283K) reports that the NPS is “evaluating the impact drones might have” in national parks. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore spokesman Bruce Rowe said, “There is an interim rule prohibiting the use of drones in all national parks.” He added, “When the evaluation is complete, the NPS will propose a Service-wide regulation on drone use in the parks. The public will then have the opportunity to give their input before a permanent rule is finalized.”

INTERIOR URGED TO FUND SANDY REPAIRS AT RIIS PARK AND WEST POND. The [Forum \(NY\)](#) (12/9) reports that Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder is “calling on the federal government to commit funds to fix lingering Superstorm Sandy damage at Jacob Riis Park and Jamaica Bay West Pond, both of Gateway National Recreation Area.” In a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Goldfeder “urged the Obama administration to provide money for repairs to the famed Art Deco Riis Park bathhouse and the full restoration of West Pond.”

FRANKLIN PARK RENOVATION PROGRESSING. [Washington Post Magazine](#) (12/7) reports that “the much-discussed efforts to renovate Franklin Park hit some milestones this summer, but there’s still plenty of work ahead before it’s completed.” The next steps are “working through issues of money and management.”

MESA VERDE SEEKS INPUT ON REMOVAL OF FERAL HORSES, CATTLE. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (12/9, 31K) reports that Mesa Verde National Park is seeking public input “about how to remove feral horses and cattle from the park.” According to the article, “a band of 80 feral horses and about 12 head of cattle roaming Mesa Verde National Park have rangers at a loss for how to handle the trespassing animals, which have caused significant damage to archaeological sites and pose a risk to visitors.”

FINDINGS FROM NATURAL TRAP CAVE EXCAVATION RELEASED. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (12/10, 200K) reports that “another year of excavation concluded this summer at the Natural Trap Cave, and Julie Meachen, the project’s chief paleontologist, is beginning to release details of some of the researchers’ discoveries.” According to the article, “over the past two summers, researchers funded by National Geographic and the National Science Foundation removed pieces of long-deceased animals and pollen samples in hopes of mapping environmental changes between the last ice age and the present.” Meachen said “the recent digs produced samples from many of the large mammals discovered in excavations in the 1970s and ‘80s but no new species have been discovered.”

DISCOVERER OF DINOSAUR TRACKS AT LAKE POWELL WANTS TRACKS TO BE RESCUED. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (12/10, 464K) reports that “a photographer who discovered thousands of dinosaur tracks at Lake Powell says it’s time to start rescuing them before his spectacular finds are destroyed.” Andre Delgalvis “believes the tracks are threatened by Lake Powell’s wave action and by an invasion of tiny shellfish known as quagga mussels.” However, “at this point, it’s not clear if recovering the tracks is feasible or if it would be permitted by the National Park Service.”

AIRPLANE WRECKAGE NOT FOUND FOLLOWING REPORTED MYSTERY FIRE. The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (12/9, Onsurez, 18K) reports it is unclear whether a small fire initially believed to have been started Tuesday night in Texas by a plane crash currently under investigation by the FAA and the NTSB was really caused by a plane accident. FAA spokesman Lynn Lunsford said no wreckage had been found on Guadalupe Peak, adding that it would be unusual for a plane to crash without leaving debris. “First step is to find the wreckage and ID the aircraft,” said NTSB spokesman Terry Williams. “We have investigators on scene doing the on-scene phase of the investigation. Right now weather is a factor,” he added.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS POSTS JOB OPENING FOR PHOTOGRAPHER. Additional coverage of the NPS’ job posting for a photographer was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (12/9, 496K), the [Nature World News](#) (12/9), [Digital Photography Review](#) (12/9, 179K), [The Verge](#) (12/10, 1.13M), [The Week](#) (12/10, 1.62M), [Gear Junkie](#) (12/10, 3K), [Yahoo! News](#) (12/10, Byford, 6.43M), and the [Discovery Channel](#) (12/10, 395K).

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY FINDS ONE QUARTER OF ALASKA PERMAFROST COULD MELT BY 2100. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/10, Milman, 3.48M) reports that “up to a quarter of the permafrost that lies underneath the surface of Alaska could melt by the end of the century, spewing long-held carbon into the atmosphere and helping accelerate climate change, US government scientists have predicted.” The USGS “used satellite and on-ground data to estimate that 38% of mainland Alaska has permafrost, a band of soil, rock or sediment that is frozen underground for at least two consecutive years.” The USGS study states, “Increasing air temperatures have led to widespread thawing and degradation of permafrost, which in turn has affected ecosystems, socioeconomics, and the carbon cycle of high latitudes. Taken together, these results have obvious implications for potential remobilization of frozen soil carbon pools under warmer temperatures.”

RESEARCHERS GAUGE EFFECTIVENESS OF FISH HABITAT WORK. The [Port Huron \(MI\) Times Herald](#) (12/9, 75K) reports that “researchers say it’s too early to definitively tell if the nine fish habitat improvement projects in the St. Clair River from Port Huron to Harsens Island have made a difference.” However, “the preliminary results are encouraging.” According to the article, “crews from the USGS have been checking for fish eggs and larvae in areas close to the shore, such as the Blue Water River Walk in Port Huron, as well as in deeper parts of the river near artificial reefs.”

STUDY: WILDFIRE MAY DOUBLE EROSION IN WESTERN WATERSHEDS. [Arizona Public Media](#) (12/10, 2K) reports that a new study “predicts wildfires will dramatically increase soil erosion in the American West.” According to the article, “the study predicted two-thirds of watersheds will see at least a 10 percent increase in erosion by 2050” and “a quarter of watersheds will see a 100 percent increase.” Joel Sankey, a research geologist with the USGS in Flagstaff who led the research, said, “We know that one of the things that happens after wildfires is there can be a lot of erosion, and a lot of that soil can accumulate in downstream streams, lakes, reservoirs. That can have all sorts of impacts on the ecosystem and the watersheds themselves.”

Top National News:

IN WAKE OF RECENT TRUMP PROPOSAL, OBAMA DENOUNCES “BIGOTRY IN ALL OF ITS FORMS.”

Coverage of the President’s speech marking the anniversary of the 13th Amendment focused on what reports cast as his unmistakable – if not explicitly stated – rebuke of Donald Trump’s recent call to bar all Muslims from entering the United States. As [Bloomberg Politics](#) (12/9, Tartar, 303K) reports, the controversy about Trump’s anti-Muslim statements had largely drowned out the President’s own message on the terror threat last Sunday night, “racking up at least 250 headlines in the first 24 hours after his controversial announcement and another 200 or so since then.” Meanwhile, Obama “garnered a similar level of coverage as Trump during the first day after his terrorism speech, but then amassed just 50 headlines in the following 24-hour period.” Yesterday, Obama’s remarks sparked very positive media reviews and generated extensive print and online coverage, as well as reports on two network newscasts. [ABC World News](#) (12/9, story 3, 1:35, Llamas, 5.84M) said Obama took a “veiled shot at Trump,” and showed him saying, “We betray the efforts of the past if we fail to push back against bigotry in all its forms.” ABC went on to indicate Hillary Clinton yesterday told “supporters in Iowa [that] Trump traffics in prejudice and paranoia and that the other GOP candidates are one and the same.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/10, Gearan, Nakamura, 7.78M) also casts Clinton’s comments as “part of a new push by the Democratic front-runner, the White House and their allies to make the controversial billionaire the intolerant face of the Republican Party.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/9, story 4, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M), meanwhile, reported Obama “subtly” weighed in on the Trump controversy, and showed him telling his audience, “Our freedom is bound up with the freedom of others, regardless of what they look like or where they come from or what their last name is or what faith they practice.” [USA Today](#) (12/10, Korte, 5.56M) notes Obama “emphasized those last five words, which received a standing ovation from a bipartisan crowd in Emancipation Hall.” [Politico](#) (12/9, Wheaton, 1.19M), however, says it was Democrats who gave the President “a lengthy standing ovation.” Both ABC and NBC also noted boxing great Mohammed Ali condemned Trump on Wednesday. Though not mentioning the President, the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/9, story 5, 1:50, Garrett, 5.08M) also ran a story on the reaction to Trump’s proposal, in which it said it has “has thrown the [Republican] party into turmoil.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/9, Jaffe, 7.78M) reports that while Obama “spoke to ideas that he has returned to repeatedly in his presidency – especially the nation’s ongoing question to make real the promise of the country’s Declaration of Independence: ‘We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal,’” his speech “seemed tailored to the news of the week.” Obama, says the [New York Times](#) (12/10, Davis, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), “made subtle reference to the roiling political debate that is consuming the 2016 presidential race, implicitly rebuking...Trump,” though he made no explicit mention of him. The [AP](#) (12/10, Jalonick) similarly refers to a “veiled swipe” at Trump, as does the [New York Daily News](#) (12/10, Joseph, 3.59M). The Daily News also reports the President “even seemed to allude to Trump’s bombastic, obnoxious persona as he tweaked the GOP front-runner.” Said Obama, “However harshly, loudly, rudely challenged at each point in our journey, in America we can create the

change that we seek.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (12/9, Reilly, 251K) headlined its report “Obama Implicitly Criticizes Donald Trump’s Anti-Muslim Plan,” [CNN](#) (12/10, Bradner, 3.54M) referred to an “indirect reference to Trump,” [TIME](#) (12/10, Rhodan, 19.1M) cast Obama as using “his moment to juxtapose his vision of America with the leading Republican presidential candidate,” and [The Hill](#) (12/9, Fabian, 654K) detected “a clear shot at Trump” in the speech.

With nearly every report reaching similar conclusions, the [Washington Times](#) (12/10, Boyer, 283K) this morning indicates the President “didn’t call out Republican foes such as...Trump or Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, who have criticized his plan to accept refugees from Syria and Iraq.” The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (12/10, Lewontin, 496K) also focused on the rest of Obama’s message yesterday, noting that he pointed to the 13th Amendment “as a foundational document repudiating the legacy of slavery.”

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (12/10, 5.56M) argues that “political leaders...have strongly denounced...Trump’s offensive call to slam the door to the USA in the face of all Muslims,” but “reacting is not enough.” Instead, “more need to remind Americans that bigotry will only be exploited by ISIL in its effort to provoke an apocalyptic showdown between Islam and the West. ... Better yet, show up at a mosque, as President Bush did, and show the world what tolerance and unity really look like.”

Nearly Two-Thirds Of Republicans, 37% Of All Voters Back Trump Proposal. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (12/10, McCormick, 303K) reports that according to its Bloomberg Politics/Purple Strategies PulsePoll, “almost two-thirds of likely 2016 Republican primary voters favor...Trump’s call to temporarily ban Muslims from entering the US, while more than a third say it makes them more likely to vote for him.” The poll also found “support at 37 percent among all likely general-election voters for the controversial proposal.”

GOP Establishment Increasingly Concerned; Trump Leading By 20 In South Carolina. [The Hill](#) (12/9, Hagen, 654K) reported that according to a Fox News poll, Trump lead the South Carolina primary “with 35 percent support, followed by retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson at 15 percent,” and Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio “at 14 percent each.” Jeb Bush “sits in fifth place with 5 percent,” and Lindsey Graham “registers only 2 percent support in his home state.” Meanwhile, says [Politico](#) (12/9, Cheney, 1.19M), the GOP establishment is starting to come “with the harsh reality of...Trump’s rise, all but begging him not to mount a third-party run, even as some rivals talk about flouting their own pledges to support Trump if he’s the nominee.” As days go by, “party elders are left coping with their inability to guide and manage the tenor of the primary.”

In a front-page piece headlined “It’s Not Chaos. It’s Trump’s Campaign Strategy,” the [Washington Post](#) (12/10, A1, Schwartzman, Johnson, 7.78M) remarks on the fact that “insults and controversial proposals have propelled” Trump “to the forefront of the 2016 presidential race – and kept him there.” In fact, Trump’s campaign, though seemingly “lurching” and “chaotic,” features “a disciplined and methodical candidate, according to a Washington Post review of the businessman’s speeches, interviews and thousands of tweets and retweets over the past six months.” Moreover, he is managing to dominate the news cycle while “spending remarkably little.”

Netanyahu Rejects Trump’s Comments, But Will Meet With Him Later This Month. The [Washington Post](#) (12/10, Booth, 7.78M) reports that “Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will meet with...Trump” in Israel on December 28. Netanyahu tweeted late yesterday, however, that he “rejects Donald Trump’s latest comments about Muslims.” Says [McClatchy](#) (12/9, Clark, 27K), “Add...Netanyahu’s name to the list of politicians denouncing...Trump’s call to bar all Muslims from entering the US.”

Over 360,000 Britons Sign Petition To Ban Trump’s Entry Into UK. The [New York Times](#) (12/10, Bilefsky, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that “more than 360,000 people, angered by...Trump’s call to ban the entry of Muslims into the United States, have signed a petition accusing him of hate speech and asking the British government to bar him from the country.” In fact, “so many people have signed the online petition that Parliament is now required to consider debating the matter.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/10, Winning, Subscription Publication, 6.23M), among other news outlets, also reports the petition this morning.

Trump Business Interests In Muslim World Taking A Hit. The [New York Times](#) (12/9, Droubi, Creswell, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports from Dubai that “just hours after...Trump called for a ban on the entry of Muslims into the United States, one of his Middle Eastern business partners, the Dubai-based Landmark Group, responded by removing all Trump-branded products from the shelves of its Lifestyle retail stores.” In fact, “the value of the Trump name in the world’s vast Muslim population has been thrown into question since he made his comments.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/10, Fitch, Kholaf, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) runs a similar report this morning, under the headline “Dubai Retailer Stops Selling Trump-Branded Products.”

Trump Spokeswoman Defends Proposal On CNN. The [Washington Times](#) (12/10, Howell, 283K) reports Trump campaign spokeswoman Katrina Pierson “battled CNN conservative commentator S.E. Cupp Tuesday over the GOP

front-runner's call to ban all Muslims from entering the country, saying the plan is really nothing new." When Pierson said the proposal was about not allowing "insurgents" come into the country, Cupp retorted that it would in fact preclude "regular Muslims" from coming to the US. Pierson then said, "Yes from Arab nations. ... You know what? So what? They're Muslim!"

Palin Comes To Trump's Support. [The Hill](#) (12/9, Hensch, 654K) reported Sarah Palin wrote on Facebook yesterday that she supports Trump's "call for a ban on admitting Muslims into the US." Wrote Palin, "Herd mentality [is] running rampant with hypocritical and/or naïve pundits trying to crush...Trump because he's committed to clobbering the bad guys, and putting the good guys first. ... Trump's temporary ban proposal is in the context of doing all we can to force the Feds to acknowledge their lack of strategy to deal with terrorism."

COMEY: CALIFORNIA SHOOTERS WERE RADICALIZED TWO YEARS AGO. The [New York Times](#) (12/10, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that according to "senior American officials," Syed Rizwan Farook, who, along with his wife, Tashfeen Malik, carried out last week's shooting attack in San Bernardino, CA, "began discussing a terrorist attack with his wife even before she came to America last year." FBI Director Comey said during testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday that "the couple, who met online, had been talking of an attack as far back as two years ago." Comey said they were "talking to each other about jihad and martyrdom before they became engaged and married and were living in the US," adding that the "investigation to date shows that they were radicalized before they started courting or dating each other online."

[AFP](#) (12/10, Mathes) quotes Comey as saying the FBI "working very hard to understand whether there was anybody else involved with assisting them, with supporting them, with equipping them. And we're working very, very hard to understand, did they have other plans."

Conversation Contents

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Attachments:

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/21. OMB cleared statements for today's pm HNR hearing on BLM bills .../1.2 BLM statement H.R. 1838 Clear Creek OMB cleared.docx

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Sent: Wed Dec 09 2015 10:40:05 GMT-0700 (MST)
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To:
Subject: OMB cleared statements for today's pm HNR hearing on BLM bills ...
Attachments: BLM statement HR 3668 California OMB cleared.docx BLM statement H.R. 1838 Clear Creek OMB cleared.docx

Tommy -

I'm attaching two pieces of testimony that BLM (Kristin Bail, AD for NLCS and Community Partnerships) is scheduled to deliver at a House Resources Federal Lands s/c hearing this afternoon:

H.R. 3668, the California Minerals, Off-Road Recreation, and Conservation Act of 2015, which designates a number of recreation areas, wilderness areas, and wild and scenic rivers, among other things. (Cannot support as drafted)

H.R. 1838, the Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act. (Support).

Let me know if you have any questions.

Chris

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**Statement of
Kristin Bail
Assistant Director
National Landscape Conservation System & Community Partnerships
Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
House Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
H.R. 3668, California Minerals, Off-Road Recreation, and Conservation Act
December 9, 2015**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.R. 3668, the California Minerals, Off-Road Recreation, and Conservation Act of 2015. H.R. 3668 would designate six National Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Areas, six wilderness areas, and five Wild and Scenic Rivers and would authorize land transfers to Death Valley National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, and the Mojave National Preserve. The bill also would designate the Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), the Mojave Trails Special Management Area, and the Sand to Snow National Monument. In addition, H.R. 3668 would authorize land conveyances to the Town of Apple Valley and the City of Twentynine Palms, and includes a number of other miscellaneous provisions. Finally, the bill provides direction for the future conservation, management, and use of Federal lands within the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA).

The Department of the Interior (DOI, Department) would like to recognize the sponsor's efforts to address a number of resource, climate change, and management issues in the California desert. Due to the length and complexity of the bill, my testimony will briefly summarize the views of DOI. While the Department supports many of the conservation goals of H.R. 3668, we cannot support the bill as written. In particular, the Department opposes the designation of the Mojave Trails area as a Special Management Area, which would fail to adequately protect the nationally significant resources found there and would undermine the ability of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to manage the area for responsible recreational use. Additionally, the Department strongly opposes restrictions to the President's authority to protect important areas under the Antiquities Act of 1906. A number of additional important concerns are detailed below. We defer to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Defense regarding provisions in the bill concerning the lands and interests they administer.

Background

The California desert has been the subject of Congressional conservation efforts for nearly 40 years. The CDCA contains over 25 million acres and includes 16 million acres of public lands administered by the Department. It was singled out for special management in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). Section 601 of FLPMA recognized the unique location of the CDCA which is adjacent to the metropolitan areas of southern California and over 20 million residents. This location has always meant the management of the CDCA's fragile resources must balance the public's desire for conservation, recreational activities, public access, energy development, rights-of-way, and other uses. The CDCA Plan of 1980 and its associated amendments were vast in their scale, ambitious in their goals, and designed to accommodate a variety of uses and users.

By the early 1990s, increased development pressures on the desert and new public awareness led many to believe that further measures were necessary to adequately conserve the special places of the California desert. Through the leadership of members of the California congressional delegation, careful deliberation and an extensive public process led to the enactment of the 1994 California Desert Protection Act (CDPA), which protected 69 new wilderness areas, established three new units of the National Park Service, and provided strong protections for traditional cultural uses of the area by American Indian tribes. The areas conserved by the CDPA are some of the most beloved in the West and are invaluable resources for the people of the California desert and the nearby Los Angeles metropolitan area.

Over the past five years, Federal, state, and local partners have come together in a remarkable effort to plan for the responsible development of utility-scale renewable energy in the desert, balancing the promise of clean energy with our shared responsibility to protect the most special places and resources. As part of this effort, known as the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP), the BLM has conducted a comprehensive inventory and analysis of cultural, natural and recreation resources in the California desert, drawing on the expertise of both state and federal agencies as well as the input from local communities and the public. In the Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the DRECP, for example, new conservation allocations would protect significant and intact natural habitats and cultural resources and link existing Congressionally-designated National Conservation Lands. The BLM notes that some provisions of H.R. 3668 would not be compatible with designations identified in the DRECP. Because the DRECP process included extensive public involvement and coordination with Tribal, State, and local government agencies, the BLM recommends that the bill be amended to align wherever possible with the DRECP.

H.R. 3668

Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Areas

Title I of H.R. 3668 designates six OHV Recreation Areas totaling about 220,000 acres. The BLM supports the Dumont Dunes, Razor, and Stoddard Valley designations as they would provide congressionally designated areas for this popular recreational activity in the California desert and would be consistent with BLM management goals for these areas. The BLM notes, however, that the proposal to expand the existing El Mirage, Spangler Hills, and Johnson Valley OHV areas would conflict with some of the conservation designations identified through the public process of the DRECP, including protection of critical habitat for the desert tortoise, bighorn sheep, State-listed Mohave ground squirrel, and numerous rare and sensitive plants. We would like the opportunity to work with the sponsor on boundary modifications to these three areas to achieve greater consistency with the cooperative analysis and public input received through the DRECP in order to protect these critical habitats. We would also appreciate the opportunity to work with the sponsor and the Subcommittee on minor and technical amendments to this title, to address management discretion for commercial uses, the requirement for additional planning activities, and language concerning a project application that has been withdrawn.

Wilderness

Title II of H.R. 3668 would designate the approximately 92,000-acre Avawatz Mountains Wilderness, the approximately 8,000-acre Great Falls Basin Wilderness, and the approximately 80,000-acre Soda Mountains Wilderness. In addition, this section would expand the existing Golden Valley Wilderness by approximately 1,300 acres, the San Geronio Wilderness by approximately 6,000 acres, the Malpais Mesa Wilderness by approximately 15,000 acres, the Kingston Range Wilderness by approximately 53,000 acres, and Death Valley National Park Wilderness by approximately 88,000 acres. The Department supports each of these designations but defers to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for lands currently managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The proposed additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System will protect fragile desert ecosystems and provide important habitat for a diversity of plant and animal life. They also serve as a unique and irreplaceable living research laboratory. The Avawatz Mountains, for example, have been identified as important for regional habitat connectivity, enabling desert tortoise and other wildlife to move across a large landscape. The proposed wilderness areas meet the definition of wilderness. These lands have retained their primeval character and have been influenced primarily by the forces of nature, with opportunities for hiking, hunting, rock climbing and horseback riding for those who wish to experience the desert solitude and an outstanding backcountry experience. We would like to work with the sponsor and the Subcommittee on some management language modifications in section 203. In particular, with regard to Sections 203(e)(2) and 203(f), NPS and BLM have collaborated in the past to address cross-boundary issues. The Department would like to work with the sponsor to ensure flexible interagency coordination moving forward.

Title II proposes to release over 150,000 acres of twelve BLM-administered wilderness study areas (WSAs) from WSA status. The bill also includes new language that appears to prevent the BLM from conducting regular resource inventories and from considering public concerns regarding the management of these lands for a full range of multiple uses. The BLM strongly opposes language that would restrict the BLM's management of these lands following release from WSA status for a full range of multiple uses under FLPMA, including section 201, which provides for land inventory and identification across a broad range of resources and uses. We recommend the bill be amended to include standard WSA release language. The BLM would support the release of several WSAs under standard WSA release language, but notes that many of these areas, while not appropriate for the protection of wilderness characteristics, nevertheless contain important resources worthy of balanced management subject to the BLM's full inventory and public planning process. These WSAs include the Cady Mountain, Kingston Range, Avawatz Mountains, Soda Mountains, Great Falls Basin, and Death Valley 17 WSAs, which are small portions of WSAs that were not designated as Wilderness by this or other legislation. On the other hand, the Department notes that the Crater Mountain, White Mountains, Symmes Creek, Independence Creek, Southern Inyo, and Cerro Gordo WSAs contain significant wilderness characteristics and other unique resources. We would like the opportunity to work with the sponsor and the Subcommittee on language ensuring the continued protection of outstanding resources in these areas.

National Park System Additions

Title III of H.R. 3668 would expand the three California desert units of the National Park System: Death Valley National Park, Joshua Tree National Park, and Mojave National Preserve.

Altogether, a total of approximately 66,200 acres of BLM-managed lands would be transferred to the NPS, and the NPS would be given authority to acquire an additional 1,644 acres of non-federal land. In addition, the bill would establish several areas within Death Valley National Park as wilderness. These provisions would enhance opportunities for visitors seeking adventure and challenge, health and learning, and reflection and solitude in the great American desert lands of California. The Department strongly supports these additions and designations with amendments.

Within Death Valley National Park, the areas known as North Eureka Valley, Ibox, Panamint Valley, Warm Springs, and Axe Head (approximately 59,000 acres in total) would be designated as wilderness under the bill. In addition, the area known as the Bowling Alley, which consists of approximately 29,000 acres of land adjacent to Death Valley National Park, would be transferred from the BLM to the NPS and designated as wilderness. All of these areas are appropriate for wilderness designation because of their superlative scenery and wilderness qualities.

In addition to the approximately 29,000 acres at the Bowling Alley, about 6,400 acres of non-wilderness land in an area known as the Crater would be transferred from the BLM to the NPS for inclusion in Death Valley National Park.

At Joshua Tree National Park, approximately 2,900 acres of BLM land would be transferred to the NPS by H.R. 3668. The NPS would also be authorized to acquire approximately 1,639 acres from the Mojave Desert Land Trust, which plans to donate the land to the park. These lands, which are contiguous to several places along the northern boundary of the park, are located in primary wildlife corridors that link the park with other public lands in the Mojave Desert. The park would also be authorized to acquire and administer the Joshua Tree Visitor Center, currently located outside the park boundary and owned by the Joshua Tree National Park Association, enabling the park to protect this asset and provide for its continued public use.

At Mojave National Preserve, approximately 28,000 acres would be transferred from the BLM to the NPS for inclusion in the preserve upon termination of all mining and reclamation activities by Newcastle Gold, Limited, or any successor. Given the significant natural and cultural resources in this area as well as its proximity to the Mojave National Preserve, the Department cannot support the transfer as drafted in this title. These lands include a unique plant assemblage known as the Lanfair Valley Desert Grassland. The Spirit Mountains, one of the most significant Native American Traditional Cultural Properties in the Mojave Desert, can be viewed from this area, making this a culturally significant site as well.

The Department also opposes the inclusion of Section 303(e), which would give unrestricted water, mining, and access rights to the owners and operators of Castle Mountain Mine. Providing all of the water described in these provisions for the purposes of the mine would likely have irreparable adverse impacts on the preserve's resources and values.

On October 8, 2015, the Department testified before the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources in support of the immediate expansion of the Mojave National Preserve by 21,000 acres followed by a subsequent expansion of 8,000 acres upon the termination and reclamation of mining or ten years from enactment of the title if no mining activities have occurred.

The Department also recommends amending H.R. 3668 with respect to the Death Valley National Park wilderness designation by removing references to the “Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976” and “Conservation Areas” which are applicable to BLM-managed areas, but not to areas that are part of the National Park System. We believe that section 202(b) should use the same language that was used for the park wilderness designation in section 601(a) of P.L. 103-433 as enacted in 1994.

We further recommend designating an approximately 1-acre area known as Mormon Peak Communication Area, which serves as a major communications hub for the Death Valley National Park community, as potential wilderness rather than wilderness, until such time that a technological alternative becomes available to the present system. We also suggest narrowing the buffer zone along the roads in the park to 50 feet from the center line to follow established NPS practice for setbacks in wilderness.

In addition, the Department recommends deleting the proposed section 301(c)(2), which would require a memorandum of understanding between the NPS and Inyo County regarding access and use to gravel pits along Saline Valley Road within Death Valley National Park. This requirement is no longer relevant due to the fact that the NPS and the county are currently working together to find alternatives to the use of this site.

Finally, the Department would like the opportunity to work with the sponsor on a number of technical issues in several NPS-related sections of the bill, including accurate terminology, alignment with language for similar provisions in other laws, time frames, and minor clarifications.

Designation of Wild, Scenic, & Recreational Rivers

Title IV of H.R. 3668 amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274[a]) by adding segments of five rivers to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Three of these – the Amargosa River, Surprise Canyon Creek, and Whitewater River – cross public lands managed by the BLM and NPS. All three of these rivers are important and rare riparian areas in the deserts of southern California and provide habitat for a number of threatened, endangered and sensitive species. We support these designations and would like to work with the sponsor and Subcommittee on technical issues, including correcting what we believe may be an error in the legal description.

Black Lava Butte & Flat Top Mesa

Title V of H.R. 3668 establishes the Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa ACEC, which would include approximately 6,500 acres of BLM-managed public lands. The Department strongly supports this provision for the protection of the remarkable cultural resources located on Black Lava Butte but recommends minor technical amendments to enhance manageability.

Mojave Trails Special Management Area

The BLM testified before the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources in support of the designation of the Mojave Trails National Monument on October 8, 2015. The spectacular

and diverse landscapes of the BLM's National Conservation Lands currently include 23 National Monuments and 21 National Conservation Areas (NCAs). Each of the National Monuments and NCAs designated by Congress and managed by the BLM is unique. However, all of these designations have certain critical elements in common, including withdrawal from mineral entry under the public land, mining, and mineral leasing laws; limiting off-highway vehicles to roads and trails designated for their use; and language that charges the Secretary of the Interior with allowing only those uses that further the conservation purposes for which the unit is established.

The Mojave Trails area encompasses approximately 965,500 acres of BLM-administered public lands in the Mojave Desert of southeastern California along historic Route 66 between Needles and Ludlow, California. The area connects eleven existing designated BLM wilderness areas that lie between the Mojave National Preserve and Joshua Tree National Park. This area features stunning sand dunes, iconic mountain ranges, and critical wildlife habitat as well as the remains of historic World War II-era training camps, sites important to Native Americans, and the best preserved section of historic Route 66. Within the proposed Special Management Area are over 250,000 acres of lands acquired by the BLM in the late 1990s from the Catellus Development Corporation for conservation purposes through donation by local conservation partners and purchase with Land and Water Conservation Fund monies.

The BLM currently manages much of this area through administratively-designated ACECs and Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMAs), which protect the desert environment and the habitat of the threatened desert tortoise and many other listed and sensitive species. The area was identified for protection under all of the action alternatives analyzed in the DRECP, a collaborative public planning process with the State of California over five years in the making. Based on strong public support and extensive analysis, the Department believes that the significance of the natural and cultural resources in the Mojave Trails area merits their inclusion in the BLM's National Conservation Lands. As we have previously testified, the Department believes the Mojave Trails area could be managed under the common critical elements of the National Conservation Lands in a way that protects the area's significant resources and also allows for recreational use, including by off-highway vehicles.

Title VI of H.R. 3668 would designate this area as the Mojave Trails Special Management Area with a focus on mining and motorized recreation, which would severely conflict with the protection of significant natural and cultural resources. The title contains several management provisions related to mining, utilities, off-highway vehicle recreation, and existing rights that would significantly constrain the management discretion currently available to the bureau and would fail to protect habitat for sensitive wildlife and plant species and other unique resources. Indeed, we believe the provisions outlined in this title would result in management that is considerably less protective of the area's significant natural and cultural resources than is the case today. Therefore, the Department opposes the designation of the Mojave Trails area as a Special Management Area as identified in this title. Additionally, the Department opposes the title's waiver of important processes of NEPA and FLPMA.

Sand to Snow National Monument

Title VII of the bill establishes the Sand to Snow National Monument, which would include an incredibly diverse and biologically-rich terrain spanning from the San Bernardino Mountains to

the west and Joshua Tree National Park to the east. The proposed monument includes approximately 73,200 acres of BLM-administered public lands and approximately 62,200 acres of lands under the management of the U.S. Forest Service within the San Bernardino National Forest. From west to east, the proposed monument descends from the snows of the 11,000-foot Mount San Gorgonio through the sands of the Sonoran and Mojave deserts, extends to the unusual desert riparian oasis of Big Morongo Canyon, and finally connects to the stark beauty of Joshua Tree National Park. The DRECP includes proposed National Conservation Lands units for the proposed monument area in all the action alternatives analyzed.

The Department supports designation of the Sand to Snow National Monument for its outstanding natural values, but we would like the opportunity to work with the sponsor and Subcommittee on a number of issues in this title, including language on OHV use and utilities and alignment with language for similar provisions in other laws.

Land Conveyances, Withdrawals, & Related Provisions

Title VIII of H.R. 3668 provides for the release of federal reversionary land interests, addresses California State School land and energy development in Juniper Flats, and provides for a number of land exchanges and conveyances.

Section 801 would transfer the federal reversionary interest in certain lands and minerals to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC). The BLM supports the goal of conveying the reversionary interest to MWDSC. As with previous such proposals, we recommend amending the legislation to ensure the payment of fair market value for the reversionary interest and to address issues of technical clarity. The value of the reversionary interest would be established through an appraisal by the Department of the Interior's Office of Valuation Services. Upon receiving that appraisal, the District could make a decision on purchasing the reversionary interest. All costs associated with this conveyance, including the appraisal, would be the responsibility of the Metropolitan Water District.

Section 802 requires the Secretary to work with the California State Lands Commission to develop a process for exchange of state parcels within the new conservation designations. The BLM supports developing such a process, but would like to work with the sponsor on modifications to ensure it is consistent with existing authorities.

Section 803 prohibits the development of renewable energy generation facilities (excluding rights-of-way or facilities for the transmission of energy and telecommunication facilities and infrastructure) in the Juniper Flats area. The Department notes that the proposed Land Use Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the DRECP designates a small portion of scattered parcels east of Juniper Flats as Development Focus Areas for renewable energy development. The Department would appreciate the opportunity to work with the sponsor and Subcommittee on boundary adjustments to ensure consistency among the maps included with the bill.

Section 804 authorizes the exchange of approximately 1,300 acres managed by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service within the San Gorgonio Wilderness with a private individual. We are concerned that such an exchange would create private inholdings that prevent the protection of

wilderness characteristics and other unique resources for which the area was designated. The Department would like to work with the sponsor to ensure that section 804 is consistent with FLPMA, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including the requirement that all exchanges be in the public interest.

Sections 805 and 806 require the Secretary of the Interior to convey Federal land to the Town of Apple Valley and the City of Twentynine Palms for various uses. Since these are both no cost conveyances, the Department would like to work with the sponsor and the Subcommittee on language ensuring that the land would be used for purposes consistent with the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, verifying that the conveyances would be in the public interest, and including a reversionary clause.

Section 807 includes provisions related to the exercise of valid existing rights in areas identified for new designation or conveyance under the bill. The Department strongly recommends that all new designations and conveyances be subject to valid existing rights and urges a general statement protecting such valid existing rights.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Title IX of H.R. 3668 contains a number of miscellaneous provisions related to tribal uses and interests, deed restrictions on donated land, wildlife management, monument designations, and categorical exclusions for broadband. Specifically, section 901 provides for access by members of Indian tribes and requires the Secretary to develop a Tribal Cultural Resources Management Plan for the Xam Kwatchan Trail network. The Department generally supports this section and would like to work further with the sponsor on this important issue.

Section 902 stipulates that the designations under this Act should not impede military activities, such as overflights and training. The Department would like to work with the Department of Defense, the sponsor, and the Subcommittee to ensure consistency with other authorities, such as FLPMA.

Section 903 allows for the establishment of deed restrictions on the use of acquired or donated lands within the CDCA. The Department generally supports these provisions, but would like to work with the sponsor to ensure consistency with existing agreements and requirements, to provide for discretion and public input, and to ensure technical accuracy.

Section 904 permits fish and wildlife habitat restoration and management activities on lands designated as wilderness by both H.R. 3668 and the CDPA, when consistent with wildlife conservation objectives of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Section 904 also requires the Secretary of the Interior to authorize additional structures and facilities, as well as the continued presence of existing manmade structures and facilities, for wildlife water development projects where determined necessary to benefit wildlife by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in the wilderness areas and the National Monument designated by the bill. The Department has concerns with this approach and recommends that the sponsor and Subcommittee consider wildlife management language consistent with laws previously enacted by Congress designating wilderness.

Section 905 would restrict presidential authority to designate a national monument in the OHV areas, special management areas, or future additions to the Mojave National Preserve proposed in H.R. 3668. The Department strongly opposes this provision. The Antiquities Act has been used for over 100 years as an instrument to protect critical natural, historical, and scientific resources on Federal lands for the benefit of future generations. Sixteen presidents in both parties have used this authority to preserve unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

Finally, section 906 categorically excludes a proposed broadband corridor from review under NEPA. The Department strongly opposes this provision because the unknown environmental consequences of the corridor make it an inappropriate use of a categorical exclusion. Environmental analysis under NEPA is necessary to determine if the proposed corridor would create environmental conflicts with the resources protected by the proposed designations and if reasonable alternatives or mitigation measures would be needed to address those conflicts.

Conclusion

The Department of the Interior appreciates the sponsor's work on H.R. 3668 and supports the bill's conservation goals. The Department has a number of substantive as well as minor and technical modifications to recommend, and we look forward to continuing to work with the sponsor and the Subcommittee to address those issues.

**Statement of
Kristin Bail
Assistant Director
National Landscape Conservation System & Community Partnerships
Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
House Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
H.R. 1838, Clear Creek National Recreation Area & Conservation Act
December 9, 2015**

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Department of the Interior (DOI) on H.R. 1838, which would establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties in California; designate the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness on public lands in San Benito and Fresno Counties; and designate seven stream segments within the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) as wild and scenic rivers. The BLM supports the conservation designations in the bill.

The bill also seeks to expand recreational opportunities in the CCMA, including in an area that has been identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as containing naturally occurring asbestos. This action has the potential to expose the public to increased cancer risks. As a general matter, the Administration supports the goals of promoting responsible motorized and non-motorized recreation, including off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, while also protecting public safety, conservation, and other important uses of public lands. However, the National Recreation Area provisions of the bill are unclear about the BLM's ability to manage the lands to adequately protect public health and safety. The BLM therefore cannot support this provision of the bill as written. The BLM would like the opportunity to work with the sponsor to ensure the agency's ability to protect public health and safety is unambiguous.

Background

The BLM manages approximately 63,000 acres of public lands in the 75,000-acre CCMA in southern San Benito and western Fresno Counties, California. The CCMA offers a variety of settings and landforms that host many diverse natural and cultural resources, and offers recreation and other multiple-use opportunities, including grazing. The CCMA also contains a 30,000-acre area of serpentine rock containing naturally occurring asbestos. Until 1979, asbestos was mined in parts of the CCMA at the Atlas Asbestos Mine and mill, which is now a Superfund site.

Since the 1970s, Federal and state health agencies have expressed concerns about how recreational use in the CCMA by hikers, campers, hunters, botanists, rock collectors, and OHV users disturbs soils containing asbestos and creates the potential for exposure to and inhalation of airborne asbestos-laced dust, increasing the risk to human health. As a result of this concern, as well as the presence of the San Benito evening primrose (a special status plant species), the BLM has designated this 30,000-acre area within the CCMA as the Serpentine Area of Critical Environmental Concern (Serpentine ACEC). ACEC designations highlight areas where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, and scenic values, fish, or wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards.

Based on the concerns for the health of recreational visitors, the EPA initiated a risk assessment study in 2004 in connection with the clean-up of the Atlas Asbestos Mine Superfund Site, to evaluate visitors' exposure to airborne asbestos fibers in the CCMA. The EPA's Clear Creek Management Area Asbestos Exposure and Human Health Risk Assessment (completed in May 2008) concluded that asbestos exposure for many recreational activities in the ACEC may result in excess lifetime cancer risks. The study noted that children are at greater risk than adults because they are exposed to these high levels of asbestos at an earlier age. The study also showed that visiting the CCMA for a period of more than one day per year can put adults and children above the EPA's acceptable risk range for exposure to carcinogens and increase excess lifetime cancer risk from many typical CCMA recreational activities, including OHV use and hiking.

As a result of the EPA study, the BLM implemented a temporary closure of the Serpentine ACEC in May 2008 to all forms of entry and public use in order to protect public health and safety. The BLM collaborated with the EPA, stakeholders, and the public to incorporate the EPA's health risk information into land-use decisions for the CCMA. Through an extensive planning process, with full opportunity for public comment, the BLM determined that limiting an individual's time spent in the Serpentine ACEC is the most effective way to mitigate the health risks from asbestos exposure. Thus, the BLM limits high-risk activities within the Serpentine ACEC through its Clear Creek Resource Management Plan (RMP), which was finalized in February 12, 2014. Under the management plan, the BLM allows for a range of recreational uses and other activities in portions of the CCMA. It also limits the types of uses and places time restrictions during which an activity can take place within the Serpentine ACEC to minimize asbestos-related risk to public health and safety. Specifically, the RMP strictly limits vehicular and pedestrian access to the Serpentine ACEC. The BLM will reassess recreation opportunities and travel management decisions if significant new information becomes available concerning human health risks from exposure to airborne asbestos fibers in the CCMA.

H.R. 1838

As noted earlier, H.R. 1838 would establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties; designate public lands in San Benito and Fresno Counties as the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness; and designate segments of five creeks within the CCMA as wild and scenic rivers.

Clear Creek National Recreation Area

Section 3 of H.R. 1838 establishes the Clear Creek National Recreation Area, to be managed by the Secretary of the Interior, to promote motorized and non-motorized recreation, including OHV use, scenic touring, hunting and gem collecting. Under the bill, the Secretary would open the CCMA to the uses identified in the bill including motorized recreation, mountain biking, hiking, hunting, and camping. The bill provides direction for developing a comprehensive management plan that would provide for these activities.

While we appreciate the sponsor's work on new language clarifying that the Secretary may still close any area, trail, or route from use for the purposes of public safety or resource protection under a future permanent management plan, we are still concerned that the bill's provisions for interim management leaves the agency's ability to close areas for the protection of public health and safety in doubt. As mentioned above, certain activities in these areas are currently limited for health and safety reasons due to the risks from the carcinogen asbestos in the area. Public and employee health and safety has guided the BLM's approach in managing the area, and the agency would like to work with the sponsor to ensure the bill provides adequate authority for the BLM to manage the recreation area, including for the risk of exposure to asbestos, and on language addressing the significant potential risks to the public and employees.

While section 4 of H.R. 1838 provides the BLM an exemption from responsibility for the public's exposure to asbestos while recreating at the CCMA pursuant to section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9605), the bill does not reduce risk to the public; it only attempts to reduce liability to the BLM. As determined by the EPA, the potential public health risks are high in the Serpentine ACEC of the CCMA, especially with respect to young children. In addition, the BLM is required to meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards for employees working in a designated hazardous asbestos area within the Serpentine ACEC, as well as meet Federal, State, and local air and water quality regulations designed to protect public health and safety from uncontrolled releases of hazardous airborne pollutants.

Finally, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and the BLM's implementing regulations and land use planning guidance already provide for collaborative processes designed to involve Federal, State, Tribal, and local government agencies, as well as the public and local stakeholders, in the planning process. The

BLM would like the opportunity to work with the sponsor on technical modifications to the bill to ensure consistency with these existing land use planning authorities.

Joaquin Rocks Wilderness Area

Section 5 of H.R. 1838 proposes to designate 20,500 acres of public land in Fresno and San Benito Counties as the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness. The core of this area – more than 7,000 acres – has already been designated for special protection by the BLM as an ACEC. The centerpiece of the proposed wilderness area is the three large sandstone monoliths, known locally as Las Tres Piedras, which tower 4,000 feet above the southern San Joaquin Valley. The rocks are home to a number of raptors, including the prairie falcon and the majestic California condor. Vernal Pools at the top of the rocks provide important seasonal habitat, and are also an important water source for wildlife in this arid region. Rock art sites throughout the proposed wilderness attest to earlier occupation and may even include ancient astronomical references. The BLM supports the wilderness designation in H.R. 1838, and would like the opportunity to work with the sponsor on minor boundary modifications and mapping issues and on minor modifications to management language to be consistent with usual wilderness management language.

Wild & Scenic River Designations

Section 6 of H.R. 1838 proposes to add seven stream segments totaling just over 31 miles to the National Wild and Scenic River System within Fresno and San Benito Counties. All seven rivers find their origin in the mountains of Southern San Benito County in the Diablo Range and each represent distinct watersheds. The segments are all free flowing and contain outstandingly remarkable values as required by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The BLM supports these designations and would like to work with the sponsor to identify the most suitable classification for each of the seven segments.

Release of San Benito Mountain Wilderness Study Area

Section 7 of H.R. 1838 proposes to release nearly 1,500 acres of BLM-managed land in the San Benito Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) from WSA status. This small area does not contain lands that meet the basic requirements for wilderness. If the San Benito Mountain WSA is released from WSA status by Congress, it would be managed consistent with the goals and objectives and resource management actions for the Serpentine ACEC and the San Benito Mountain Research Natural Area, as described in the Record of Decision and Approved RMP for CCMA. The BLM supports this provision.

Conclusion

The BLM appreciates the work by Congressman Farr on H.R. 1838. Lands in the CCMA present complex resource management and public health and safety issues. While we support the proposed conservation designations, we cannot support provisions in the bill that could increase the exposure of public land users and employees to naturally occurring asbestos. We

would like to continue working with Congressman Farr and the Subcommittee to address future uses at the CCMA, including the growing and popular activity of responsible OHV use in California and across the West. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be glad to answer any questions.

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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DOI in the News:

LAWMAKERS CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON SPENDING BILL, TAX PACKAGE. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/8, 705)

reports that lawmakers in the Capitol have “just five days left to avoid a government shutdown, as negotiations proceed on an omnibus spending bill and a tax package.” Some “rumored Democrat asks in exchange for crude exports include an extension and full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund; money for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools programs; and a one-year moratorium on policy riders.” According to the article, “environmentalists said there’s a core group of Senate Democrats who are unlikely to support an exports deal unless Republicans make major concessions such as permanently banning offshore drilling in certain areas, as well as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.”

The [Greenwire](#) (12/7, Subscription Publication) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Friday that “her department is opposing all policy riders under consideration for a government spending bill that could undermine the Obama administration’s lands, energy and wildlife policies, though she conceded that the negotiations are largely above her pay grade.” However, Jewell said “her Capitol Hill allies are playing a stout defense and that she believes the White House will reject one particular rider by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) to permit a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.”

INTERIOR’S IG RELEASES TWO REPORTS RESOLVING CONTROVERSIES. [Politico Pro](#) (12/7, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department’s inspector general on Tuesday “released two reports that resolve long-running controversies.” In one report, the independent watchdog concluded that “an offshore lease sale in the Chukchi Sea was not scientifically altered to benefit the oil industry.” And “a second report corroborated accusations that a former aide to Interior Secretary Ken Salazar violated an ethics pledge but did not act illegally.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Greenwire](#) (12/7, Subscription Publication), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (12/7, 2K), and [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (12/7).

WESTERN GOVERNORS SPLIT ON OVERHAUL OF LWCF. The [Greenwire](#) (12/7, Subscription Publication) reports that governors at the Western Governors’ Association meeting last Friday said “they support reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but disagreed over whether the 50-year-old program should first be reformed.” According to the article, “the split has thus far kept the bipartisan Western Governors’ Association on the sidelines of the testy debate in Washington over how to reauthorize LWCF, which expired Sept. 30 for the first time since its enactment in 1965.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, “who delivered a keynote speech to WGA on Friday, said she does not support reforming the law, arguing that it works just fine.”

Congress Urged To Renew LWCF. In an editorial, the [Hendersonville \(NC\) Times-News](#) (12/6, 31K) supports renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It argues that “Congress should approve a commonsense solution to divide proceeds roughly 40 percent each for federal and state interests and 20 percent for special projects, such as lands in danger of development.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (12/8, 67K), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/8, 118K) and the [News Center \(WV\)](#) (12/8).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO TESTIFY BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COLORADO MINE SPILL. [National Journal](#) (12/8, Subscription Publication, 53K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will appear before a Wednesday hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee “about her agency’s role in the August spill of mining waste in Colorado, which was caused by an EPA-backed team.”

Additional coverage was provided by [E&E Daily](#) (12/7, Subscription Publication) and [Bloomberg BNA](#) (12/8, 7K).

SECRETARY JEWELL DELIVERS COP21 SPEECH. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (12/6, 47K) reports that “the world’s indigenous leaders met on November 27 for the International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) in the lead-up to the United Nations COP21 climate talks.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “discussed climate resilience in her COP21 speech, highlighting work in Indian country as examples of what the U.S. is doing to improve climate change within communities.” Jewell spoke of the work to “honor and capture” the “knowledge to strengthen our understanding of ecosystems and climate change.”

GOOD SAMARITAN BILL WORKING ITS WAY THROUGH CONGRESS. The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/8, 112K) reports that Rep. Joe Heck and Sen. Dean Heller are working on the Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act of 2015. The legislation would “require the departments of Interior and Agriculture to establish processes to give eligible organizations and individuals a decision within 48 hours on a permit to access public lands.” The article says that “the permits would be issued only in cases when it’s believed the missing person or people are presumed dead.” Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said “recommendations proposed by the department were taken into account in the bill, such as removing a certification requirement for eligible groups, clarifying that a Good Samaritan search-and-recovery is done only by eligible groups and that the government is released from liability.”

REPORT: FEDERAL AGENCIES SPENDING BILLIONS ON PR, MARKETING. The [Washington Times](#) (12/8,

Howell, 283K) reports that “according to government contract data compiled from USASpending.gov in an oversight report by spending watchdog OpentheBooks.com,” federal agencies “have spent more than \$4.3 billion on self-promotion and marketing” over the last seven years. The report says agencies “spent \$2.35 billion in salary and bonus payments to federal employees with the job title of ‘public affairs officer’ and more than \$2 billion on outside contractors for additional public relations projects.”

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT CHOSEN AS TRAVEL INSTAGRAMMER OF THE WEEK. [Johnny Jet Travel Insider](#) (12/8) picked the Interior as the Travel Instagrammer of the Week.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL PLANS WORKING GROUP TO ADDRESS REPATRIATION OF TRIBAL OBJECTS FROM FRANCE. Additional coverage that “French and U.S. officials are working together to address the issue of Native American artifacts being auctioned off against a tribe’s will” was provided by the [Lake Powell Life](#) (12/8).

ESTABLISHMENT OF GREAT BEND OF THE GILA NATIONAL MONUMENT URGED. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (12/7, 960K), Barnaby V. Lewis, Akimel Odham Elder of the Gila River Indian Community in Sacaton, and William H. Doelle, an archaeologist and serves as President and CEO of Archaeology Southwest, write that “the Great Bend of the Gila speaks to the diversity of our country’s cultural makeup as few places can.” They argue in support of establishing a Great Bend of the Gila National Monument.

Empowering Native American Communities:

LITTLE SHELL TRIBE SEEKS FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (12/8, 74K) reports on the effort by Montana’s Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians to be federally recognized. According to the article, “the state of Montana recognized the tribe in 2000, but the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) remains undecided — 36 years after the Little Shell Band first submitted its petition for recognition.” But after President Barack Obama “fulfilled a promise to Indian Country when the BIA announced revisions to the acknowledgment process” in April, the tribe is hopeful.

NATIVE HAWAIIANS SPEAK OUT ON FEDERAL RECOGNITION. [Intercontinental Cry Magazine](#) (12/8) reports that in 2014, the Interior Department “held a series of 15 public hearings throughout the Hawaiian islands to discuss the reestablishment of a ‘formal government-to-government relationship between the United States and the Native Hawaiian community.’” According to the article, “throughout the hearings, thousands of Native Hawaiian’s lamented the same cry; that they oppose the U.S. government being involved in Native Hawaiian nationhood.”

SUPREME COURT LIKELY TO LIMIT INDIAN TRIBAL COURT POWER IN CIVIL SUITS. The [New York Times](#) (12/8, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that the Supreme Court, in Monday’s case of Dollar General Corp. v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, No. 14-1175, “seemed poised to limit the power of Indian tribal courts to hear civil cases against outsiders.” Several of the Supreme Court’s “more liberal members” seemed to agree with a federal appeals court’s earlier decision that the Dollar Store’s connection to the tribe “was sufficient to allow the tribal court to have jurisdiction.” However, those Supreme Court members were in the minority. Chief Justice Roberts “repeatedly raised an objection about the juries in tribal courts,” and stated that “we have never before recognized Indian court jurisdiction over a nonmember” of the tribe.

DEMOCRATS URGED TO TAKE UP NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION REFORM AS 2016 ELECTION ISSUE. In her column for the [Syracuse University \(NY\) Daily Orange](#) (12/8, 27K), Keely Sullivan argues that “Native American schools in the landscape of the U.S. education system have been neglected and that the issue must be taken up by 2016 Democratic presidential candidates.” She argues that “with the power of the media at their disposal, presidential candidates are the best vehicles to raise awareness and public attention about reforming Native American schools.” Sullivan concludes that “the 2016 election has the ability and the clout to bring this issue to the forefront of mainstream media and American politics, candidates must exercise that power and refuse to sideline one of the nation’s biggest blunders.”

SUPPORT URGED FOR SPOKANE TRIBE’S PROPOSED CASINO. In an op-ed for the [Seattle Times](#) (12/8, 1.17M), Carol Evans, chairwoman of the Spokane Tribal Council, writes that in June, the Interior Department “approved our privately funded \$400 million project, and sent it to the governor’s office for his agreement.” According to Evans, “by approving the Spokane Tribe Economic Project (STEP), Gov. Jay Inslee has the opportunity to bring fairness to the West Plains of Spokane County, and to set a new off-reservation gambling policy for the state that is anchored in a proper respect for tribal ancestral territory.” Evans also says that “the federal government also predicts STEP will create 5,000 local jobs, a factor that motivates many community leaders to support our proposed casino.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

GILA DIVERSION PROJECT CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (12/8, 67K), David S. Smith is founder and executive director of CAVU, writes about “what is really at stake in the proposed diversion of the Gila River in Southern New Mexico.” He argues that “the world’s first designated wilderness area,” where “people fish, hunt, raft and camp” should be left alone. Smith asks, “Shouldn’t we spend the federal funds available to us now on conservation projects we can implement within the next year or two rather than committing to build a billion-dollar diversion with only a very small portion of the money we’d need in hand?”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CALIFORNIA SOLAR PLAN BEST BY CONTROVERSY. The [Public CEO](#) (12/8) reports that following the release of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan’s Final Environmental Impact Statement earlier this month, “a new conflict over alternative energy has broken out.” According to the article, “pitting lawmakers, regulators, customers and the solar power industry against one another, the dispute centered around how much solar users ought to be charged — and how much solar power ought to be incentivized. Heated argument”

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM DELAYS ANOTHER OIL, GAS LEASE SALE IN FACE OF CLIMATE PROTESTS. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/7, 705) reports that the BLM “for the second time in less than a month has postponed an oil and gas lease sale in the face of planned protests by the Keep It in the Ground movement.” The bureau’s Eastern States office in Washington, D.C., said “its Thursday sale of nine parcels totaling less than 600 acres in Arkansas and Michigan would be delayed until its next quarterly lease sale March 17.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (12/8, Cama, Henry, 654K), [Reuters](#) (12/8), the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/8, 112K), and the [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (12/8, 1K).

HOUSE PANEL TO ADDRESS STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [E&E Daily](#) (12/7, Subscription Publication) reports that members of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee’s Interior Subcommittee will press Janice Schneider, assistant secretary for land and minerals management, on the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s proposed stream protection rule. OSMRE has “long described the measure as a way of better enforcing the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, both related to surface and underground mines that may have an impact on waterways above.” But “coal companies, led by the National Mining Association, have long accused OSMRE of wanting to expand its powers rather than protect streams, and to shut down significant portions of the country’s mining.” Also, states are “balking at the proposal, calling it too long and costly and complaining about their inability to receive rulemaking documents before their release.”

HOUSE PANEL TO DISCUSS ROYALTY REFORM PROPOSAL. [E&E Daily](#) (12/7, Subscription Publication) reports that Republicans on a House Natural Resources subcommittee are expected to “push back” Tuesday against Obama Administration “reforms affecting coal leasing and royalty payments.” At the center of the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee hearing will be the Interior Department Office of Natural Resources Revenue’s coal valuation reform proposal to “make sure mining companies are paying their due for the government-owned fuel they extract.” The proposal would “require a calculation based on the first so-called arm’s length transaction and, if not feasible, through other new means.”

STUDY FINDS OPENING FEDERAL LANDS TO DRILLING WORTH \$20.7 TRILLION. The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/8, 112K) reports that “if all federal lands not open to drilling were freed up, the ensuing rush of energy production could contribute \$20.7 trillion to the nation’s economy in less than four decades.” Joe Mason, a banking professor at Louisiana State University and a senior fellow at the Wharton Business School, found “opening all federal lands to oil, gas and coal production — including national parks and monuments — would be a massive stimulus to the nation’s economy.” The study was conducted on behalf of the pro-fossil fuel group Institute for Energy Research.

STRONGER PROTECTION URGED FOR ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Dan Ritzman of the Sierra Club’s Our Wild America campaign writes for [The Hill](#) (12/7, Ritzman, 654K) that Sen. Michael Bennet’s “recently introduced legislation to protect the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness” has “long-standing public support and would officially safeguard one of America’s last truly wild places.” Senator Murkowski aims to expedite oil and gas leasing in the Refuge, following Shell’s withdrawal from the Arctic Ocean. Ritzman argues that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge “must be protected for the sake of our climate and future generations.”

In an op-ed for the [Concord \(NH\) Monitor](#) (12/5, 65K), Charles F. Bass calls for “stronger protection” of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. He warns that “the threat of oil drilling continues to hang over this iconic landscape teeming with caribou, polar bears and millions of migratory birds.”

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE ANNOUNCES SPECIAL INSPECTIONS FOR HIGH-RISK OFFSHORE OIL, GAS FACILITIES. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/7, 661K) reports that “high-risk offshore oil and gas facilities could face special inspections as part of a pilot program” announced Monday by the BSEE. The bureau will “choose five facilities for the special inspections based on past inspection and audit information and the results of risk-based modeling, officials said.” BSEE Director Brian Salerno said, “BSEE’s inspection teams will be focusing on several risk areas or operations. We will be taking a deeper look into how operators implement and support their safety readiness programs.”

SEISMIC BLASTING, DRILLING OPPOSED. The Shore Democrats Executive Committee writes in an op-ed for the [Lewes \(DE\) Cape Gazette](#) (12/7, 42K) to urge readers to ask their local officials to oppose offshore drilling and seismic blasting. The op-ed promotes the Assateague Coastal Trust’s website, which provides a “map with the ‘footprint’ of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill laid over the Atlantic Ocean off of our coast.” The committee opines of the noise created by the seismic testing, claiming it results in “Mass strandings and deaths of whales, dolphins and sea birds.” The op-ed adds that “There have already been 10 permits submitted by oil companies to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for drilling in the Atlantic between New Jersey and Florida.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DESIGNATES 2016 FEE-FREE DAYS. The [Emmett \(ID\) Messenger-Index](#) (12/8, 22K) reports that the BLM announced fee-free days on Jan. 18, 2016 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day), Feb. 13-15, 2016, Sept. 24, 2016 (National Public Lands Day), and Nov. 11, 2016 (Veterans Day). BLM Director Neil Kornze said, “Fee-free days make it easier than ever for Americans to connect with their public lands. Come discover opportunities to hike, bike, climb, fish and camp – right outside your back door.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KMVT-TV](#) Twin Falls, ID (12/8, 1K).

HOUSE TO VOTE ON RED RIVER BILL. [E&E Daily](#) (12/7, Subscription Publication) reports that “the House could vote as soon as Wednesday on a bill aimed at settling a dispute between landowners, state officials and the Bureau of Land Management over the ownership of land along the Red River, which divides Texas and Oklahoma.” Rep. Mac Thornberry’s H.R. 2130 would “require BLM to pay for a survey of 30,000 acres along 116 miles of the Red River.” The legislation would “also require BLM to sell the property after the survey is completed.”

BLM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR EAGLE COUNT. The [AP](#) (12/8, 2.15M) reports that the BLM is “looking for volunteers to help count eagles along standard routes in Wyoming.” According to the article, “volunteers with the Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey would count eagles along routes in Campbell, Johnson, Sheridan, Natrona and Converse counties on Jan. 9.”

BLM-MOAB MOVES CAMPSITE RESERVATION PROCESS TO RECREATION.GOV. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (12/7, 3K) reports that the BLM’s Utah Moab Field Office is “moving group campsite reservations to the website recreation.gov, including group campsites at Goose Island, Big Bend, Onion Creek, Dewey Bridge, Lone Mesa, Horsethief, Ledge, Ken’s Lake and Windwhistle campgrounds.”

TRONOX SAGE GROUSE PROJECT WINS BLM AWARD. The [Washington Times](#) (12/6, 283K) reports that “Tronox Alkali has been awarded the Bureau of Land Management’s Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award for the company’s efforts in sage grouse conservation in Sweetwater County.” Tronox was recognized for its Sage Grouse Initiative Project, “which is a strategy developed by the company to minimize its impact on sage grouse populations.”

BLM’S SAGE-GROUSE PLANS SUPPORTED. In an op-ed for the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (12/6, 44K), Judith Kohler, communications manager, public lands, for the Rocky Mountain Regional Center of the National Wildlife Federation, supports the BLM’s conservation plans for the greater sage-grouse. She argues that “the plans complement the work by private landowners, states, conservation organization and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service – the very on-the-ground efforts and planning that led to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s decision not to list the bird.” She claims that “those who want to derail this conservation effort are out of touch with the solid, bipartisan majority of Westerners who support the plans.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

STATES, FEDS NEGOTIATING MANAGEMENT OF YELLOWSTONE-AREA GRIZZLIES. The [WyoFile](#) (12/8)

reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe “wrote state game chiefs in September agreeing the Yellowstone-area grizzly bear population could decline to 600 — 114 fewer than today’s count of 714 — once federal protections are lifted.” According to the article, “Ashe’s Sept. 24 letter to Wyoming, Idaho and Montana officials was confirming the minimum number of bears and other measures the four agencies had agreed to at that point.” The article says that “Ashe and state officials are negotiating a complex agreement that would see the bear removed from protections of the Endangered Species Act and put under state management.”

FWS TO END PROTECTIONS FOR MODOC SUCKER. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/7, 705) reports that the FWS announced on Monday that “it will end Endangered Species Act protections for the Modoc sucker, the second fish in the history of the law to be removed from the federal lists of endangered and threatened species due to recovery.” According to the agency, “the suckers are well established in each of the streams where they were known to exist historically, and they appear to occupy nearly all available suitable habitat in the streams where they are currently found.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (12/8, Wheeler, 654K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/8, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/8, 283K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (12/8, 10K), and [KOIN-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (12/7, 55K).

UTAH OBJECTS TO BEING PART OF RECOVERY ZONE FOR MEXICAN WOLF. The [AP](#) (12/6, McCombs, 283K) reports that “Utah state officials are balking at the possible inclusion of southern Utah in a recovery zone for the Mexican gray wolf.” In a letter sent this week to the Interior Department, the Utah Wildlife Board argues that “scientific research shows the animals have never lived north of Interstate 40, which runs through New Mexico and Arizona.” The board puts forth that “trying to lure the wolves to Utah would actually harm the species because they would hybridize with Northern gray wolves.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/8, 263K), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (12/6, 48K), and [KJZZ-FM Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (12/8, 8K).

GILA TOPMINNOW SPOTTED IN ARIZONA. The [AP](#) (12/8, 2.15M) reports that “an endangered fish that hadn’t been seen in Arizona in a decade has been spotted in the Santa Cruz River.” According to the article, “researchers conducting an annual fish survey found the Gila topminnow last month near the U.S. border with Mexico.” The Sonoran Institute says “the fish hadn’t been seen since 2005 and that its resurgence is a sign that the water in the Santa Cruz River is cleaner.” Doug Duncan, a fish biologist with the FWS, said “the area has seen an improvement in water quality since a 2009 upgrade to the international wastewater treatment plan.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/8, 283K), the [Nogales \(AZ\) International](#) (12/8, 330), and [KNXV-TV Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (12/8, 184K).

MEMBERS OF INTERAGENCY GRIZZLY BEAR COMMITTEE TO CONVENE IN MISSOULA. The [AP](#) (12/8, 2.15M) reports that “state and federal grizzly bear experts from across the Pacific Northwest will be in Missoula this week to discuss ongoing efforts to remove the bears from federal Endangered Species Act protection.” The Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee will kick off its winter meeting Tuesday.

Additional coverage was provided by [Montana Public Radio](#) (12/8).

APPEALS COURT CLEARS SALVAGE LOGGING PROJECT IN OREGON. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/7, 113K) reports that “salvage logging on BLM land in Southern Oregon did not violate the Endangered Species Act by jeopardizing the threatened spotted owl, according to the 9th Circuit.” The court “upheld a previous ruling, which found that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service properly considered the impact of salvage logging on the threatened northern spotted owl.” The 9th Circuit also “rejected the allegation that the Fish and Wildlife Service ignored data that showed spotted owls expand their home range after fires.”

EFFORT SEEKS TO SAVE FISH IN COLORADO RIVER BASIN. [KUNC-FM](#) Greeley, CO (12/8, 5K) reports on the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, a “long-standing program” which is “part of a multistate effort to save four species of fish native to the Colorado River Basin: humpback chub, Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker and bonytail.”

MALAYSIANS ARRESTED IN OREGON ON WILDLIFE SMUGGLING CHARGES. The [AP](#) (12/8) reports two Malaysian nationals were arrested in Portland on federal allegations of smuggling orangutan skulls and parts of other wildlife into the US. According to the complaint, the two “own an online business that has been smuggling endangered wildlife into the U.S. since 2004.” The charges carry a maximum sentence of 20 years incarceration and a fine up to \$250,000. This story is also carried on the website of [KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (12/8, 324K). Additional coverage is provided by [Malay Mail Online](#) (12/8) and the [Rakyat \(MYS\) Post](#). (12/8)

SNAKE LOBBY DECRIED FOR DEFENSE OF “DANGEROUS, INVASIVE” SPECIES. In a 1,950-word piece for

[Slate](#) (12/8, Flesher, 1.24M), South Florida Sun-Sentinel reporter David Flesher rails against the reptile lobby for their support of the “wide availability of dangerous, non-native snakes” in the US, highlighting the “dangerous, invasive” nature of the species. The FWS is cited asserting “More than 1.2 million Burmese pythons, boas, ball pythons, and other constrictors were imported into the United States from 2004 to 2013.” Yet, “Under pressure from the [snake] lobby and its political allies, the Fish and Wildlife Service dithered for years,” Flesher writes, describing how the industry kills legislation to ban certain types of pythons. While Flesher concedes “many snake owners love their animals,” he concludes they are too dangerous to merit conservation.

National Park Service:

SENATE COMMITTEE TO HOLD OVERSIGHT HEARING OF NPS. [The Hill](#) (12/7, Devaney, Wheeler, 654K) reports that on Tuesday, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will “hold an oversight hearing of the National Park Service ahead of the agency’s 2016 centennial.”

RISING SEAS THREATEN STATUE OF LIBERTY. [New Jersey Local News](#) (12/6, 785K) reports that “rising sea levels due to climate change threaten the Statue of Liberty and it would cost \$1.5 billion to replace the landmark, according to the U.S. Interior Department.” Reports by the agency’s inspector general and the NPS said that “\$40 billion in national parks, historic sites, and monuments are endangered as water levels rise along with increased temperatures.” The article notes that “among the sites named are the Statue of Liberty and Gateway National Recreation Area, which includes the Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground National Historic Landmark in New Jersey.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Middletown \(NJ\) Patch](#) (12/8, 6K).

CEREMONY HELD IN REMEMBRANCE OF PEARL HARBOR ATTACK. The [AP](#) (12/8, 2.15M) reports that “a few dozen elderly men who survived the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor 74 years ago gathered Monday at the site to remember fellow servicemen who didn’t make it.” The U.S. Navy and NPS “hosted a ceremony in remembrance of those killed on Dec. 7, 1941.” According to the article, “more than 3,000 people joined the survivors.” The article says that “the event was held on a Navy pier overlooking the USS Arizona Memorial.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/6, 283K), the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (12/8, Mcavoy, 1M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/8, 263K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (12/8, 629K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (12/8, Press, 825K), [US News & World Report](#) (12/7, 996K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/8, Audrey Mcavoy |, Ap, 7.78M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (12/8, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), [CNN](#) (12/8, Hetter, Hunter, London, 3.54M), [USA Today](#) (12/7, Zoroya, 5.56M), the [Japan Times](#) (12/8, 5K), [WHDH-TV Boston \(MA\)](#) Boston (12/8, 188K), and [WKKJ-FM Chillicothe \(OH\)](#) Chillicothe, OH (12/8, 2K).

HARRIET TUBMAN NATIONAL PARK SET TO CLEAR HURDLE. The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (12/8, 53K) reports that “the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn is closer to becoming reality, but two federal government agencies need to act to formally establish the site.” Sen. Chuck Schumer said Monday that “a ‘general’ land transfer agreement has been reached between the A.M.E. Zion Church and the Department of Interior, which oversees the National Park Service.” Under the terms of the agreement, “the church agreed to sell the historic Thompson Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, which is located on Parker Street and will be part of the park, to the Interior Department.” The church and the NPS will “jointly operate the Home for the Aged and Tubman’s residence on South Street through a preservation easement.” According to Schumer, the Department of Interior and Department of Justice “must finalize the agreement to formally establish the Tubman park.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (12/8, 533K).

NPS TO TRACK WILD HOGS WITH GPS COLLARS. The [AP](#) (12/8, 2.15M) reports that “with wild hogs plaguing” Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, “officials are using GPS technology to keep an eye on where they roam.” They have been “approved to share 20 GPS collars that would allow biologists to track some of the hogs.” Park wildlife biologist Bill Stiver said, “Wild hogs are the most prolific large animal in North America. They can breed at six months of age and have two litters a year, each with three to eight piglets.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (12/7, 496K) and the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (12/8, Simmons, 229K).

JUDGE DISMISSES COMPLAINT OVER USE OF CANNABIS AT ROGER WILLIAMS NATIONAL MEMORIAL. The [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (12/7, Naylor, 316K) reports that “a federal judge on Monday dismissed a complaint filed by Anne Armstrong and Alan Gordon of The Healing Church, who said the government interfered with their ‘cannabis-related religious activity’ at the Roger Williams National Memorial in May.” Senior U.S. District Judge Mary M. Lisi said “the plaintiffs could have practiced their religion freely elsewhere.”

GLACIER PARK BREAKS VISITATION RECORD. The [AP](#) (12/8, 283K) reports that “despite wildfires this past summer, Glacier National Park has set an all-time annual visitation record already this year.” According to the article, “through Nov. 30, 2.35 million visitors had entered the park this year, beating 2014’s full-year record-setting number of 2.33 million visitors.” The article says that “a total of 19,505 visitors entered the park last month – a 24 percent increase from last November.”

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK PLANNING FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS PAST. The [AP](#) (12/8, Press, 7.78M) reports that Great Smoky Mountains National Park is planning the 40th annual Festival of Christmas Past this weekend. The park says the program will be held “from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at Sugarlands Visitor Center.” The festival is free.

FUNDING APPROVED FOR REVITALIZATION OF FRANKLIN PARK. The [Washington Business Journal](#) (12/8, Subscription Publication, 112K) reports that “the District is expected to front the estimated \$18 million cost of revitalizing Franklin Park, a major public space initiative on federally owned land in the heart of downtown Washington.” The National Capital Planning Commission “on Thursday unanimously, and enthusiastically, approved the concept plans for the overhauled 4.8-acre park, the second largest National Park Service-owned square in downtown D.C.” Peter May, the park service representative to the commission, said, “We’re grateful to the District’s interest and willingness to not just talk about making improvements, but actually put a lot of money into doing it. We’re very grateful for that, because with our own resources, it could take a while to realize anything close to this. And frankly it wouldn’t be as aggressive as what we are doing now.”

FIRE ISLAND BEACHES TO PARTIALLY BAN VEHICLES FOR DUNE STABILIZATION PROJECT. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (12/8, 1.42M) reports that “off-road driving will be off limits on some Fire Island beaches during a dune stabilization project that is expected to last into early next year, officials said.” According to Fire Island National Seashore Superintendent Chris Soller, “vehicles will be banned on beaches from Kismet east to Robbins Rest.” The article says that “the \$2.9 million project, largely financed by Sandy relief aid, is intended to restore navigation channels at the Fire Island communities.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS RESEARCH SHOWS URANIUM CONTAMINATES WESTERN WATER. In a 2,115 word piece, the [AP](#) (12/8, Knickmeyer, Smith, 2.15M) investigates the problem of uranium-contaminated water in California’s central farm valleys and in the Midwest, where the US Geological Survey has found “up to one in 10 public water systems have raw drinking water with uranium levels that exceed federal and state safety standards.” Although authorities are not currently working to prevent uranium contamination, USGS researcher Bryant Jurgens predicted that if they start, “it’s going to take many decades to reverse” the current levels of contamination, which he said are the result of decades of contamination.

In an accompanying piece entitled “5 Things To Know About Uranium Found In Drinking Water,” the [AP](#) (12/8, Knickmeyer, Smith, 2.15M) explained the cancer risks from long-term exposure to uranium, how farming methods and irrigation can lead to uranium’s presence in drinking water, and the geographical regions affected by the contamination. The AP laments, “officials are unable to point to any public health campaigns in the most-affected areas or any help with testing or dealing with wells that test for high levels,” while noting some schools and communities that are addressing the issue. The article adds that public water systems are tested for uranium and treated, but points out that private water systems are not.

Top National News:

OBAMA’S OVAL OFFICE ADDRESS FAILS TO QUIET CRITICS OF HIS ISIL STRATEGY. Continuing analysis of President Obama’s Sunday evening address on terrorism and the ISIL threat splits along ideological lines, with commentators on the left praising what they cast as Obama’s caution and call on Americans not to blame Islam as a whole for extremism and conservatives saying Obama failed to offer any new approaches or to acknowledge that the threat is larger than he has indicated in the past. There is also coverage of how terrorism is re-emerging as a presidential campaign issue, which analyses say could benefit Republicans.

The [Washington Times](#) (12/8, Boyer, Taylor, 283K) reports the White House defended the President’s counterterrorism strategy on Monday “against a flood of criticism that his prime-time address to the nation was weak.” From his “‘stay the course’ message in the face of the latest terrorist attacks to complaints that he veered into a partisan plea for gun control,” critics said the speech “failed to inspire confidence in his strategy or reassure nervous Americans” about security. Gerald Seib of the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/8, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) writes that the President intended to rally the nation behind his anti-ISIL strategy, but the speech seemed to have the opposite effect, widening the divide between Obama and his critics.

The [AP](#) (12/8, Hennessey) writes that when Obama “seized the spotlight for a rare prime time address” from the Oval Office on Sunday evening, he offered “no new policy prescriptions, no fresh military strategies and no timelines,” but rather, “came with one major message: It’s going to be OK.” The President “sought to calm nerves and quiet a chorus of critics” who say he “has been too slow to acknowledge the threat posed by Islamic radicalism and too tepid in his response.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/7, story 6, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M), correspondent Richard Engel said that “three out of the four” steps in the President’s plan to defeat ISIL “aren’t working.” Engel said that the US has been successful in hunting down terrorists through drone and coalition airstrikes. However, he said the program to train and assist ground forces “has been by any measure, a failure.” Engel also said that sealing Turkey’s border with Syria is “another approach tried and failed.” Finally, Engel reported that while there has been progress in the pursuit for ceasefires and political resolution in the Syrian war, the war “still has no end in sight.”

In a similar segment on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (12/7, 1.53M), Kevin Corke provided an assessment of Obama’s four-step plan. Corke said the airstrikes have been working, noting that it was confirmed on Monday that the “the head of ISIS in Libya was killed in a massive airstrike.” However, Corke said training and equipping Syrian opposition forces has had little success. Corke said that while Obama has conducted “lateral meetings” with Russia and Turkey and Secretary of State Kerry “continues to push for” a political agreement, there is “no guarantee” that Russia will “change its course and end support for the Assad regime.”

The [New York Times](#) (12/8, Callimachi, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that ISIL militants have made it clear that they want the US “and its allies to be dragged into a ground war,” which could “turn the occurrence into a new recruiting drive at the very moment when the terror group appears to be losing volunteers. It is partly that theory” that the President Obama referred to when he said the US “should pursue a ‘sustainable victory’ that involves airstrikes and supports local forces” fighting ISIL rather than increased allied intervention in the region.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/8, Eilperin, Mufson, 7.78M) reports the President “had made nine public statements” after the Paris attacks, but following the San Bernardino incident, “he decided that would not be enough.” In his [National Journal](#) (12/7, Subscription Publication, 53K) column, Charlie Cook writes that “one of the worst days to be president would be one in which advisers and supporters are pressing you to say or do something to address an almost impossible situation about which there really isn’t much you can say or do.” Obama “had to say something. A president is more than a commander in chief.” But “there was little he could say at this time, nothing consequential.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/8, Debonis, 7.78M) reports the President “called on Congress to vote on a new war authorization ‘to demonstrate that the American people are united and committed’ to the fight against” ISIL, but Congress “is hardly united behind the need for a new authorization – or most of the other proposals Obama outlined in his Oval Office address.” John McQuaid writes on the [Forbes](#) (12/7, 7.28M) website that “many people have been finding President Obama’s rhetoric pretty weak. Sunday night, he tried to correct this problem. Did he? Not really.” He “faces a strange, perhaps unprecedented problem for a president trying to reassure the nation facing attack from abroad. He is not trying to rally people for war, but against it.”

The [Military Times](#) (12/8, Shane, 792K) reports Republicans “panned” the speech “as more political spin than a real plan for defeating terrorists.” Peter Beinart of [The Atlantic](#) (12/7, 2.66M) writes that Obama “gave the address to convince an increasingly fearful nation that he takes the terrorist threat seriously. But he doesn’t, at least not in the way his political opponents do.” Many Republicans “still see the ‘war on terror’” in the “epic terms” of the first days after 9/11.

The [New Yorker](#) (12/7, Davidson, 4.84M) reports on its website that Obama “spoke about the positions that some politicians have found it easy or, rather, tempting, to push now and yet are dangerous or corrosive” – namely, blaming Muslims. Julia Azari of [Vox](#) (12/7, 874K) writes that the President attempted to “strike a delicate balance: to say something acknowledging ‘radical Islam’ while simultaneously challenging the politics of fear.” The [Daily Caller](#) (12/7, Harper, 366K) reports that the Center on American Islamic Relations, “the largest Islamic advocacy group in the country, lauded Obama’s televised speech, in which Obama urged Americans not to associate all Muslims with the terrorist attacks.”

David Corn of [Mother Jones](#) (12/7, 1.05M) writes that “in a highly political season...Obama has a tough task: to present the campaign against [ISIL], Al Qaeda, and other extremists in the proper context.” Polls show that “many Americans are wigged out about terrorism, particularly Republicans,” even though “since 9/11 jihadist terrorism in the United States has claimed the lives of 45 people, and 48 have been killed in terrorist attacks spurred by white supremacist or far-right extremist ideologies.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/8, 7.78M) says in an editorial that “the heart” of Obama’s speech “concerned what he does not want to do in response to terrorism. After reviewing steps he has already taken or proposed” to fight ISIL, he

“delivered what sounded like his main appeal: ‘Our success won’t depend on tough talk, or abandoning our values or giving into fear.’” But Obama “still is not doing what is needed to ‘destroy’” ISIL, which “would require a Sunni ground force, made up of Syrians, Iraqis and perhaps foreign troops from the Persian Gulf and Turkey, with substantial U.S. support.” David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (12/8, 7.78M) column that “at the center” of Obama’s strategy “is an empty space. It’s supposed be filled by a hypothetical ‘Sunni ground force,’ but after more than a year of effort, it’s still not there. Unless this gap is filled, Obama’s plan won’t work.”

The [Miami Herald](#) (12/8, 620K) says in an editorial that Obama “broke no new ground, and truth be told, he didn’t make the most persuasive case that his strategy...is the right one.” But still, “by and large hit the right tone and said what needed to be said.” The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (12/7, 496K) says in an editorial that the President “laid out a range of tasks necessary to defeat Islamic State and prevent another shooting like that in San Bernardino,” but “perhaps the most difficult yet critical task was this: that Muslim leaders speak out against interpretations of Islam that are ‘incompatible with the values of religious tolerance, mutual respect, and human dignity.’”

Marc Thiessen writes in his [Washington Post](#) (12/8, 7.78M) column that Obama “did nothing more Sunday night than repackage his old, failing strategy in the shiny wrapping of tougher language,” and in his [Washington Post](#) (12/8, 7.78M) column, Michael Gerson writes that Obama “warned against ‘tough talk.’ On this, at least, no one can accuse him of hypocrisy.” However, John Nichols writes on [The Nation](#) (12/7, 367K) website that “the agenda Obama laid out was an ambitious one.” And in his [Washington Post](#) (12/8, 7.78M) column, Eugene Robinson writes that “Obama’s plan to ‘destroy’ the group is cautious, slow and uncertain. But the one thing I haven’t heard from his critics is a better idea.”

Peter Dombrowski of the Navy War College writes on the [New Republic](#) (12/7, 232K) website that Obama “has adjusted tactics when needed” and “nonpartisan analysis...suggests it is working, albeit slowly. Few American politicians share the President’s faith, however.”

Speech Viewed In Context Of 2016 Politics. Ryan Grim of the [Huffington Post](#) (12/7, 251K) writes that “with the rise of the ultra-conservative wing of the GOP, and the surge of presidential contenders like Donald Trump, Ben Carson and Ted Cruz, all of whom have demonized Muslims in one way or another, it is nearly a requirement for a GOP candidate to dog whistle, or worse, against Muslims.” [Reuters](#) (12/8) columnist Bill Schneider writes that Trump is leading this populist wave by running on emotion, while Obama insists on cool analysis of the facts. But [National Journal](#) (12/7, Subscription Publication, 53K) says “the disconnect” between the President “and the American public on the urgency of the ISIS threat is a problem for his party in 2016, especially for Hillary Clinton.”

The [AP](#) (12/8, Peoples) reports that “minutes after” Obama finished his remarks, Sen. Marco Rubio “declared that he ‘may have made things worse.’ Jeb Bush called the president ‘weak’ and his approach ‘business as usual.’ And Donald Trump declared on Twitter, ‘We need a new President – FAST!’” The [New York Daily News](#) (12/8, Edelman, 3.59M) reports the candidates continued their critiques on Monday, with Bush saying on Fox News, “We’re at war with radical Islamic terrorism and the President continues to deny that.” Mike Huckabee said on MSNBC, “I think he blew a great opportunity. ... I did not hear that his main focus was we’re going to do whatever it takes.”

The [New York Times](#) (12/8, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says in an editorial that if the President is right that groups like ISIL want Americans to give into fear, then ISIL “must have been cheered by the presidential field, most of whom did their best to talk tough and stoke fear without advancing any workable ideas. ... This is the moment for presidential candidates to show they’re ready to advance solutions that are palatable to the majority of Americans who, despite their anger and fear, don’t support another long war. So far, the candidates’ talk offers next to nothing.”

Dan Balz of the [Washington Post](#) (12/8, Balz, 7.78M) writes that “the instantaneous reaction” to the speech “was as predictable as it was partisan. The battle over how to confront the threats from Islamic state militants has been baked into the politics of 2016.” Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (12/8, 7.78M) column that the President “addressed the nation Sunday night from the Oval Office...and the loyal opposition answered his rallying cry over the next day with a patriotic display of carping and dyspepsia. ... It was tiresome. There’s a real case to be made that Obama’s minimalist strategy isn’t working. But the only thing this reflexive complaining does is divide the country further.”

Obama’s Motivations For Standing For Speech Considered. In a blog post, the [Washington Post](#) (12/8, Borchers, 7.78M) looks at why the President chose to stand for the speech, writing that it may have been due to “the way he would be perceived and the way he would feel. ... Standing up makes you look more powerful and confident. ... More important to the president, however, might be what standing up does for his own comfort level.” In his two previous Oval Office addresses, “he seemed stiff and uncomfortable.” [Politico](#) (12/7, Wheaton, 1.19M) writes that the very idea of the Oval Office address may be on its last legs. While it “was once a symbol of presidential gravitas...more often than not, the president and his message can often get lost in the scenery.”

WTimes Says ISIL “Has Risen Rapidly” Under “Obama’s Watch.” The [Washington Times](#) (12/8, Scarborough,

283K) reports that “under President Obama’s watch,” ISIL “has risen rapidly from the ruins of its Iraq insurgency in 2010 into a full-service global terrorist group” with “affiliates in 19 countries, thousands of adherents in Europe and hundreds of followers in the United States.” The [Washington Times](#) (12/8, Taylor, 283K) says in another report that a study by the American Enterprise Institute released Monday says both ISIL and Al Qaeda “are no longer on the run and arguably are winning.” The [Huffington Post](#) (12/7, 251K) reports a new CNN/ORC poll finds that 53% of Americans “now favor sending ground troops into combat” against ISIL.

In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/8, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) op-ed, Sens. Lindsey Graham and John McCain write that while the President insists his anti-ISIL strategy is working, he has adopted a reactive and indirect approach that is not enough to defeat this growing and secretive enemy.

Two Fox News Contributors Suspended For Use Of Vulgarities In Discussing Obama Speech. [The Hill](#) (12/7, Byrnes, 654K) reports that retired Lt. Col. Ralph Peters, a Fox News analyst, was suspended after referring to Obama as “a total p----” on Fox Business on Monday, while Fox News contributor Stacey Dash was suspended for saying on the flagship network that the President “didn’t give a s-t.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/8, Battaglio, 3.6M) also reports on the two-week suspensions.

FBI SAYS SAN BERNARDINO ATTACKERS HAD BEEN RADICALIZED “FOR QUITE SOME TIME.” Coverage continues of the investigation into the background of San Bernardino attackers Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik. [ABC World News](#) (12/7, story 3, 3:00, Muir, 5.84M) reported that the FBI said Monday that they “were both radicalized for, quote, ‘quite some time.’” ABC (Ross) added, “There was no joy, no smiles, as the two future killers arrived in the United States for the first time as a married couple. ... Tonight, federal authorities are trying to determine if even then they were planning a war with America.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/8, Ryan, Dauber, 7.78M) reports FBI Los Angeles Field Office Assistant Director in Charge David Bowdich said at a news conference, “Both subjects were radicalized and have been for quite some time.” He “touched on the question of whether one of them guided the other down the path of radicalization, saying that police did not know yet when or how this might have occurred.” Bowdich said, “How did that happen and by whom and where did that happen? I will tell you right now, we don’t know those answers at this point.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/7, lead story, 2:50, Holt, 7.86M) reported that “federal authorities are trying to connect the dots to determine whether others may have been involved and whether the duo had even more targets in mind.” Asked if investigators had any sense of “who was in control during the attack,” Bowdich replied, “We do not have any sense who is in control.”

[USA Today](#) (12/8, Bacon, 5.56M) reports that Bowdich said there was evidence that Farook and Malik “had practiced shooting at local ranges in recent days. Bowdich called the investigation ‘massive,’ saying more than 400 interviews had been conducted and more than 300 pieces of evidence amassed.” On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/7, story 3, 2:50, Pelley, 5.08M), Carter Evans reported that two days before the attack, Farook took target practice at the Riverside Magnum Range with his AR-15. The [New York Times](#) (12/8, Nagourney, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports Bowdich said authorities “had recovered 19 types of pipes in the couple’s home that could have been made into bombs, up from the 12 types” that had been previously identified.

[ABC World News](#) (12/7, story 4, 2:20, Muir, 5.84M) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/7, story 2, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M) reported on some new details on the moments of the attack, interviewing survivors, while the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/7, story 4, 2:10, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that “six of the 21 people wounded last Wednesday remain in the hospital, two of them are in critical condition.”

Malik Attended “Conservative Religious School” In Pakistan. The [New York Times](#) (12/8, Masood, Walsh, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that officials also said Monday that Malik “spent a year studying at a conservative religious school for women” in Multan, Pakistan starting in 2013. Representatives of the Al Huda Center said that Malik “enrolled in an 18-month course to study the Quran,” but “left before finishing the course, telling administrators she was leaving to get married.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/8, Sahi, Bengali, 3.6M) says the school is part of a network of religious schools “that has educated thousands of mainly urban, upper-middle class Pakistani women in a conservative strain of Islam.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/8, Shah, Nauman, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) also reports on Malik’s attendance at the school.

Investigators “Taking A Close Look” At Former Neighbor Of Attackers. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/7, story 3, 1:45, Holt, 7.86M), correspondent Pete Williams reported that “a big question” is whether anyone else knew that Farook and Malik “were planning some kind of attack? Officials are questioning a former neighbor, Enrique Marquez. Today officials said publicly that five years ago he agreed to buy two assault-style rifles for Farook – the same two rifles that were eventually used in the San Bernardino shooting. Last week the FBI said Marquez was not a suspect. Tonight, after searching his house twice over the weekend, officials say they are taking a close look at him.”

TRUMP CALLS FOR "A TOTAL AND COMPLETE SHUTDOWN OF MUSLIMS ENTERING" US. In the wake of the recent deadly shooting spree in San Bernardino, California, and the terror attacks in Paris, GOP presidential frontrunner Donald Trump on Monday called for Muslims to be barred from entering the US. Trump's proposal, which received widespread media coverage – including reports in the lead segments of two-of-the-three network news broadcasts – was quickly criticized by the White House and GOP and Democratic presidential candidates alike.

In the lead segment for [ABC World News](#) (12/7, lead story, 3:35, Muir, 5.84M), David Muir reported that Trump on Monday issued an "unprecedented call to bar all Muslims from entering the" US, calling for "a, quote, total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering this country." ABC's Tom Llamas added that "Trump is telling the world Muslims are no longer welcome in America," issuing a call "for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States. Declaring, 'Our country cannot be the victims of horrendous attacks by people that believe only in Jihad, and have no sense of reason or respect for human life.'" Llamas said that Trump's remarks came "less than 24 hours after President Obama called for more tolerance for Muslims after that terrorist attack in California."

In a follow-up segment for [ABC World News](#) (12/7, story 2, 1:05, Muir, 5.84M), Martha Raddatz said, "Just think about what Donald Trump is saying right now. There are as many as seven million Muslims in this country. So, could their relatives not come in? What about athletes? Would Trump ban teams from coming from Muslim countries? Student visas? The White House has already responded, saying it's totally contrary to our value as Americans." In the lead segment for the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/7, lead story, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M), Major Garrett reported that Trump's GOP presidential rivals "uniformly condemned his proposal," while "Democratic presidential candidates issued withering criticism of Trump. Hillary Clinton called the comments 'reprehensible' and 'prejudiced' and said, 'This makes us less safe.'"

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/7, story 4, 2:30, Holt, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell reported that on Sunday night, "President Obama appealed to Americans not to turn against one another and let the war against ISIL become a war against Islam." The President was shown saying, "It is our responsibility to reject religious tests on who we admit into this country. It is our responsibility to reject proposals that Muslim-Americans should somehow be treated differently." Mitchell added, "Less than 24 hours later," Trump "did exactly that," issuing "a statement calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States."

In a follow-up segment for [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/7, story 5, 1:05, Holt, 7.86M), Katy Tur reported that Trump's proposal was "the latest in a long line of extreme comments coming from the candidate as he's become more hardline on the campaign trail. First, it was that he was open to a Muslim data base. Then surveillance of Muslims. And then closing all mosques. And now he said a ban on all Muslims coming into the country and even Muslim-Americans living abroad."

The [AP](#) (12/8, Colvin) reports that in a statement, the Trump campaign said "such a ban should stand 'until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on.'" The AP says that Trump's proposal was "swiftly condemned" by his GOP presidential rivals "and other Republicans." For example, Jeb Bush tweeted, "Donald Trump is unhinged. His 'policy' proposals are not serious," while Gov. John Kasich blasted the billionaire's "outrageous divisiveness." The AP adds that Trump's proposal was also criticized by "the heads of the Republican Party in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, the first three states to vote in next year's presidential primaries."

On its website, the [New York Times](#) (12/8, Rappeport, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reported that Trump's proposal drew "swift condemnation from his" opponents in the GOP presidential race, "raising the question of whether the billionaire businessman has finally gone too far." For example, Gov. Chris Christie told radio host Michael Medved that "this is the kind of thing that people say when they have no experience and don't know what they're talking about." And Kasich said of Trump, "This is just more of the outrageous divisiveness that characterizes his every breath and another reason why he is entirely unsuited to lead the United States."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/8, Barabak, Lee, 3.6M) reports, "The raw, exclusionary language, delivered unapologetically by a candidate of Trump's prominence, is without parallel in recent political history." [Politico](#) (12/7, Schreckinger, 1.19M) describes Trump's call as "one of his most provocative proposals to date," and added that while number of rival GOP candidates "were quick to dismiss his" plan, "to a certain type of Republican, looking to register a protest, Trump's very outrageousness is proof that he's not part of the system. And that's more important to many voters than conventional foreign-policy or military credentials."

The [Huffington Post](#) (12/7, Bobic, 251K) reports that Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said "that the ban would apply to 'everybody,' including Muslims seeking tourist visas." The [Washington Post](#) (12/8, Johnson, 7.78M) reports that Trump on Monday was asked during an interview with Fox News if "his policy would apply to Muslim military personnel stationed overseas who want to come home." Trump replied, "They will come home. We have to be vigilant. We have to take care of the Muslims that are living here. But we have to be vigilant." Trump went on to say, "Anybody here stays, but we have to be very vigilant. ... This does not apply to people living in the country except that we have to be vigilant."

On its front page, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/8, A1, Epstein, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports that during a Monday evening campaign rally in South Carolina, Trump – despite being widely criticized for the proposed ban – stood behind his proposal, telling the crowd, “It’s going to get worse and worse, folks. ... You are going to have more World Trade Centers.” The Journal adds that legal experts say the type of ban proposed by Trump is forbidden by the US Constitution.

In an online report, the [New York Times](#) (12/8, Healy, Barbaro, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) said, “Experts on immigration law and policy expressed shock at the proposal Monday afternoon. ‘This is just so antithetical to the history of the United States,’ said Nancy Morawetz, a professor of clinical law at New York University School of Law, who specializes in immigration. ‘It’s unbelievable to have a religious test for admission into the country.’ She added: ‘I cannot recall any historical precedent for denying immigration based on religion.’”

The [Washington Times](#) (12/8, Miller, McLaughlin, 283K) reports that during Monday’s South Carolina rally, Trump “called his proposal ‘common sense,’” adding, “We have no choice. We have no choice.”

[USA Today](#) (12/8, Jackson, 5.56M) reports that at the rally, Trump “read the press release announcing the Muslim immigration proposal,” and many in “the crowd gave the policy a 24-second standing ovation.” USA Today adds that the Council on American-Islamic Relations blasted Trump’s proposal “as unconstitutional and un-American. ‘It seems that Donald Trump is now channeling the worst of the worst of the Islamophobia industry in the United States,’ said CAIR spokesman Ibrahim Hooper.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/7, story 2, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M), Omar Villafranca reported, “In the wake of the attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, Muslims around the US say the rhetoric against them has become increasingly incendiary,” adding, “Last night in Philadelphia, a severed pig’s head was found outside a mosque.” Villafranca said that the Council of the American Islamic Relations “has received more reports about active Islamic intimidation, threats and violence targeting American Muslims in the past week-and-a-half [than] during any other limited period of time since the 9/11 terror attacks.”

WPost’s Bump: Poll Trump Cited In Justifying Proposal Has “Various Caveats.” In “The Fix” blog on the website of the [Washington Post](#) (12/8, Bump, 7.78M), Philip Bump said that in the statement announcing his plan, Trump cited polling from the Center for Security Policy to justify his proposal. The statement said, in part that “a poll from the Center for Security Policy released data showing ‘25% of those polled agreed that violence against Americans here in the United States is justified as a part of the global jihad.’” Bump added that the Center for Security Policy is operated “by Frank Gaffney, who is identified as an anti-Muslim extremist by the Southern Poverty Law Center.” Bump went on to point out “the various caveats” of the group’s poll, saying, for example, that it was “an opt-in Internet survey,” making “it less reliable as a national bellwether than more traditional polling methods where all members of a population have a chance of being selected.”

USA Today Accuses Trump Of “Fear-Mongering.” In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (12/8, 5.56M) blasts Trump over his proposal, saying that “he apparently doesn’t care about turning himself into a threat to national security or trashing the values of

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Please see attached.

Melissa Kuckro
Senior Legislative Affairs Specialist
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW - Room 3323
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-5682 (desk)
202-431-7269 (mobile)

□



Week Ending December 4, 2015

Note: This report covers activities since November 19.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

November 25 – The President signed into law **S. 1356** (Johnson, R-WI), the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2016. The law includes an extension of authority for the establishment of a commemorative work in honor of Brigadier General Francis Marion through May 8, 2018. It is Public Law 114-92.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

FLOOR ACTION

November 30 – The House passed the following bills of interest to the National Park Service:

- **H.R. 1541** (Grijalva, D-AZ-3), to amend title 54, United States Code, to make Hispanic-serving institutions eligible for technical and financial assistance for the establishment of preservation training and degree programs. The bill as passed also includes Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions. The bill passed by voice vote. The Department does not have a position on the bill.
- **H.R. 2288** (Goodlatte, R-VA-6), to remove the use restrictions on certain land transferred to Rockingham County, Virginia, and for other purposes. The bill as passed specified that only the 1-acre parcel of land with the child care center would be released from the use restriction. The bill passed by a vote of 407–0. The Department does not have a position on the bill.

December 3 – The House by a vote of 359-65, and the Senate by a vote of 83-13, approved the conference report on **H.R. 22** (Davis, R-IL-13), to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety program, and transit programs. This bill, which provides funding for the Federal Lands Highway program, is a five-year authorization which gradually increases the annual allocation of funding for the National Park Service from \$240 million in FY 15 to \$300 million in FY 20.

December 3 – The House, by a vote of 249-174, passed **H.R. 8** (Upton, R-MI-6), the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act. Among other provisions, the bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to permit oil and gas pipeline rights of way through units of the National Park System.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

December 1 – The House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Interior (Lummis) held an oversight hearing on Examining Invasive Species Policy. The Department witness was Jamie Reaser, Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council.

December 2 – The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands (McClintock) held a hearing on a discussion draft bill, “The National Park Service Centennial Act.” The Department’s testimony addressed provisions in the Administration’s legislative proposal of the same title, which was introduced by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ-3) as H.R. 3556. The draft bill contains some of the provisions in H.R. 3556. The Department’s witness was National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis.

NEW BILLS INTRODUCED

Introduced on November 19:

H.R. 4119 (Palazzo, R-MS-4), to authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and for other purposes.

S. 2309 (Brown, D-OH), to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the U.S. Civil Rights Network, and for other purposes.

S. 2318 (Barrasso, R-WY), to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund for 10 years, and for other purposes.

Introduced on November 30:

H.R. 4131 (Heck, D-WA-10), to direct the Chief of Engineers to transfer an archaeological collection, commonly referred to as the Kennewick Man or the Ancient One, to the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation.

H.R. 4132 (Poliquin, R-ME-2), to amend section 320301 of title 54, United States Code, to require approval of affected States before national monuments may be designated under that section, and for other purposes.

Introduced on December 1:

H.R. 4151 (Simpson, R-ID-2), to amend chapter 2003 of title 54, United States Code, to fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund and provide for the use of such funds, and for other purposes.

HILL VISITS & BRIEFINGS

November 23-24 – Don Hellmann, Assistant Director, Legislative and Congressional Affairs met with staff of Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI); Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND); Rep. Paul Cook (R-CA-8) and Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA-10) regarding the NPS Centennial Act.

November 24 – Melissa Kuckro, Senior Legislative Affairs Specialist, and Brandon Bies, Legislative Liaison, National Capital Region, met with staff of Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) to discuss a range of NPS issues in Maryland.

December 2-4 – Denise Ryan, Deputy Director, made courtesy visits to staff of several members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, including offices of Senators Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Al Franken (D-MN), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Joe Manchin (D-WV), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Cory Gardner (R-CO), Angus King (I-ME), and John Hoeven (R-ND).

December 2 - Chief Robert Maclean, Deputy Chief Jackie Burks, and Major Charles Guddemi, U.S. Park Police, briefed House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT-3) and Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-7-MD) on the government response to the non-traditional aviation threat. Jason Powell, Senior Counsel, DOI Congressional and Legislative Affairs, joined the briefing.

December 2 – Director Jon Jarvis, National Capital Regional Director Bob Vogel, and John Stanwich, NPS Liaison to the White House, joined U.S. Secret Service Director James Clancy at a briefing for Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC-At Large) on the White House fence.

December 2 - Chris Powell, Midwest Region Associate Regional Director for Communications, Legislation, Planning, Compliance and Partnerships, and Tokey Boswell, Midwest Region Acting Chief of Planning, briefed Rep. Darin LaHood (R-18-IL) on the New Philadelphia, Illinois Special Resource Study.

December 3 – Susan Farinelli, Legislative Affairs Specialist, and Lee Dickinson, NPS Special Use Permit Manager, briefed staff of Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) on special use permits.

December 3 - Chris Powell, Midwest Region Associate Regional Director for Communications, Legislation, Planning, Compliance and Partnerships, and Buffalo National River Superintendent Kevin Cherie and Deputy Superintendent Laura Miller, briefed Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) on the encroachment at Shaddox Cemetery and past incidences of illegal roadwork.

December 3 - Special Assistant to the Director Bruce Sheaffer, Deputy Comptroller Jennifer Madello, and Legislative Affairs Specialist George Helfrich, met with staff of Rep. Robin Kelly regarding funding for Pullman National Monument.

PARK VISITS AND TOURS

November 23 – Staff from the offices of Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) and Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at Cape Hatteras NS for the opening of a newly constructed Off Road Vehicle ramp. The ramp is the third of several beach access projects planned for the Seashore’s future.

November 24 – Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA-3) visited Lowell NHP to meet with Superintendent Celeste Bernardo and Assistant Superintendent Peter Aucella to discuss park issues.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

December 8 – The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (Murkowski) will hold a hearing on **S. 2257** (Cantwell, D-WA), to prepare the National Park Service for its Centennial in 2016 and for a second century of protecting our national parks' natural, historic, and cultural resources for present and future generations, and for other purposes. The hearing will take place at 10:00 a.m. in Room 366 Dirksen Senate Office Building. The Department's witness will be National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis.

December 9 – The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands (McClintock) will hold a hearing on two bills, including **H.R. 3668** (Cook, R-CA-8), to codify in law and expand certain off-highway vehicle recreation areas in the State of California, to designate as wilderness certain public lands in the State of California administered by the Bureau of Land Management, to expand the Death Valley National Park Wilderness and the San Geronio Wilderness in San Bernardino National Forest, to ensure the conservation and necessary management of wildlife in these wilderness areas, to establish the Mojave Trails Special Management Area in the State, and for other purposes. The hearing will take place at 2:00 p.m. in 1334 Longworth House Office Building. The Department's witness will be Kristen Bail, Assistant Director, National Landscape Conservation System and Community Partnerships, BLM.

December 9 – The House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop) will hold an oversight hearing on the Department of the Interior's Role in the EPA's Animas Spill. The hearing will be held at 10:00 a.m. in 1324 Longworth House Office Building. The Department's witness will be Secretary Sally Jewell.

UPCOMING HILL VISITS AND BRIEFINGS

December 8 - Cape Hatteras National Seashore Superintendent Dave Hallac, Deputy Superintendent Mark Dowdle, and Chief of Resource Management Michelle Havens, and Kyle Earnest, Legislative Affairs Specialist, will meet with Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC-3), and staff of Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC), as well as staff from the House Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, regarding the status of the legislatively mandated review of potential changes to the park's ORV rule.

December 8 – Mike Caldwell, Regional Director, Northeast Region, and Melissa Kuckro, Senior Legislative Affairs Specialist, will make courtesy visits to the offices of Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA), Ben Cardin (D-MD), and Mark Warner (D-VA) and Representatives William Keating (D-MA-9), John Larson (D-CT-1), and Jerrold Nadler (D-NY-10).

UPCOMING PARK VISITS AND TOURS

Nothing to report.

Conversation Contents

Grijalva memo for briefing book + attachments

/30. Grijalva memo for briefing book + attachments/1.1 GRCA Map.pdf
/30. Grijalva memo for briefing book + attachments/1.2 GRCA national monument
Greenwire.pdf
/30. Grijalva memo for briefing book + attachments/1.3 Grijalva incoming.pdf
/30. Grijalva memo for briefing book + attachments/1.4 Kornze respnse.pdf

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 03 2015 14:38:56 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Libby Marking <libby_marking@ios.doi.gov>, dailybriefingbinder
OS <dailybriefingbinder@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Grijalva memo for briefing book + attachments
Attachments: GRCA Map.pdf GRCA national monument Greenwire.pdf Grijalva
incoming.pdf Kornze respnse.pdf

At long last!

(b) (5)

"Marking, Libby" <libby_marking@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Marking, Libby" <libby_marking@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 03 2015 14:41:15 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Grijalva memo for briefing book + attachments

Thank you! Sorry to be picky but would you mind putting specific names/titles/phone numbers in the FROM: section, as well as put a list of these attachments at the bottom, since I'm not sure how you'd prefer them to be named?

On Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 4:38 PM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
At long last!

(b) (5)

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Libby Marking
Special Assistant
Department of the Interior
202-513-7778 (o)
202-507-3054 (c)
libby_marking@ios.doi.gov

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 03 2015 14:50:56 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Marking, Libby" <libby_marking@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Grijalva memo for briefing book + attachments

Done!

Please note that on the attachments, the letter Grijalva sent to us as the tracking cover sheet on it, which is unnecessary for the memo; it's just how we had the electronic copy. And ditto on Neil's response; it includes a response to Reps. Gallego and Kirkpatrick that do not need to be included.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
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Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 4:41 PM, Marking, Libby
<libby_marking@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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"Marking, Libby" <libby_marking@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Marking, Libby" <libby_marking@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 03 2015 14:51:38 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Grijalva memo for briefing book + attachments

Got it, thanks all for your work on this!

On Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 4:50 PM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Done!

Please note that on the attachments, the letter Grijalva sent to us as the tracking cover sheet on it, which is unnecessary for the memo; it's just how we had the electronic copy. And ditto on Neil's response; it includes a response to Reps. Gallego and Kirkpatrick that do not need to be included.

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> Special Assistant
> Department of the Interior
> 202-513-7778 (o)
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libby_marking@ios.doi.gov

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 03 2015 15:10:36 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Marking, Libby" <libby_marking@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Grijalva memo for briefing book + attachments

You're welcome!
Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
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Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 4:51 PM, Marking, Libby
<libby_marking@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
> Got it, thanks all for your work on this!
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>> Jeremy Bratt
>> Deputy Director
>> Congressional and Legislative Affairs
>> Department of the Interior
>> Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov

>> 202-208-1090 (desk)

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> Libby Marking

> Special Assistant

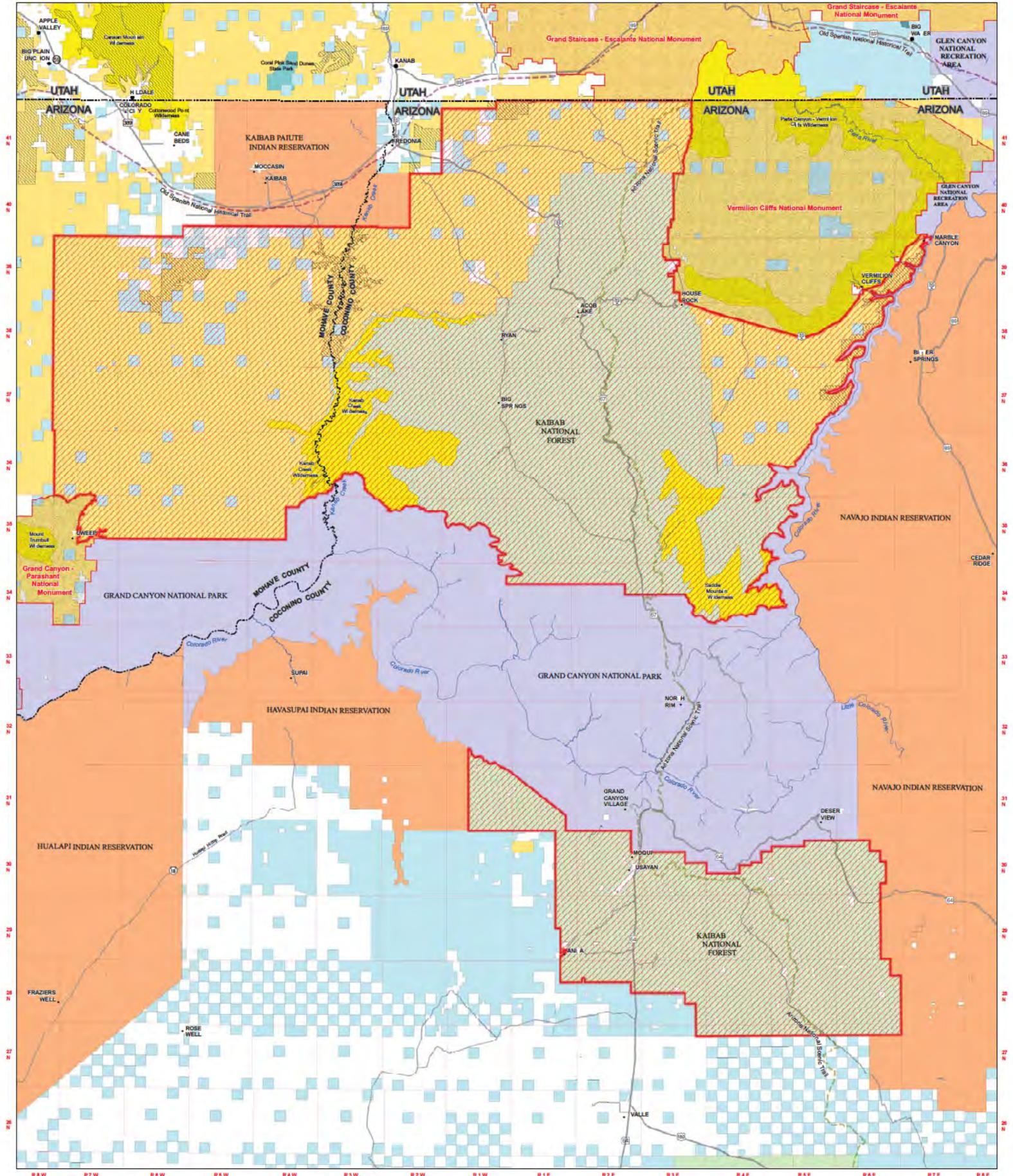
> Department of the Interior

> 202-513-7778 (o)

> 202-507-3054 (c)

> libby_marking@ios.doi.gov

Greater Grand Canyon National Monument
 September 11, 2015
 This map prepared at the request of Representative Raúl Grijalva



LEGEND

Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument	Private	County Boundary
Arizona National Scenic Trail	State	Indian Lands
Old Spanish National Historic Trail	USFS	Local or State Parks
ACECs	Perennial Streams	BLM
Wilderness Areas	Existing National Monuments	NPS

1:150,000

his map intended to be printed at 34 x 44 inches

Arizona State Office
 Bureau of Land Management
 United States Department of the Interior

Print this story, sponsored by Nuclear Matters.

NATIONAL MONUMENTS:

Grijalva bill would protect 1.7M acres around Grand Canyon

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Tuesday, October 13, 2015

House Natural Resources ranking member Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) yesterday said he will introduce a bill to protect 1.7 million acres of federal lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park from future mining and other threats, a measure that is unlikely to pass Congress but aims to provide President Obama a blueprint for protecting the lands under the Antiquities Act.

Grijalva unveiled the bill yesterday at a news conference in Flagstaff, Ariz., where he was joined by tribal leaders. The Havasupai, Hualapai, Navajo and Hopi tribes support the legislation, a Grijalva spokesman said.

The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument would consist of lands north and south of the national park, including much of the Kaibab National Forest and Kaibab plateau, a key watershed feeding the canyon that is home to mule deer, mountain lions and the endangered California condor.

Grijalva's bill also would establish an advisory council to help manage tribal sacred and cultural sites, forest restoration and wildlife consisting of officials from tribes, Arizona's Game and Fish Department, the scientific community, and conservation and sportsmen's groups. It would protect commercial and recreational hunting and preserve grazing and water rights, he said.

It also would make permanent the Obama administration's decision in 2012 to impose a 20-year ban on new mining claims across 1 million acres surrounding the canyon, though it would not close existing mines or impede valid existing claims, Grijalva said.

The "Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act" comes several months after Grijalva and Arizona Democratic Reps. Ann Kirkpatrick and Ruben Gallego sent a letter to Obama asking that he designate a Grand Canyon national monument using his executive powers ([E&ENews PM](#), Jan. 29).

The effort is backed by conservation groups including the Grand Canyon Trust, Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity.

Grijalva's bill faces tough odds in Congress in the run-up to a presidential election year. The congressman said yesterday he does not expect it will receive a hearing, according to the Associated Press.

Yet a presidential designation has been strongly opposed by Arizona's Republican lawmakers. In July, the House voted 222-206 for an amendment co-sponsored by Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) to the fiscal 2016 Interior Department and Forest Service spending bill to restrict agencies from implementing a presidential monument designation in Arizona and other Western states.

In March, Arizona's two Republican senators said a monument designation surrounding the Grand Canyon would block access for hunting, livestock grazing, wildfire prevention and mining.

Arizona's Game and Fish Commission has voted to oppose the monument, while five former commissioners have lent support to the monument.

"Certain special interest groups and a few misguided members of Arizona's delegation have been pushing for the president to circumvent Congress and make a massive 1.7-million-acre designation using the Antiquities Act for the Grand Canyon Watershed," Gosar said this summer. "Their intentions are clear: They want this designation in order to prevent hunting, mining, timber harvesting and grazing on this massive swath of land."

A Grijalva aide said lands in the bill all fall within Kirkpatrick's 1st District.

Grijalva is the latest Democratic lawmaker to try to push Obama's hand in designating national monuments before he leaves office. The Grand Canyon proposal would be more than twice the size of Obama's largest monument proclamation to date, the 700,000-acres Basin and Range National Monument that he designated this summer in Nevada.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) in August also prodded Obama to prepare a monument designation in excess of 1 million

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D Calif.) in August also prodded Obama to prepare a monument designation in excess of 1 million acres in Southern California if her legislation to protect the lands continues to stall in Congress ([Greenwire](#), Aug. 24). Feinstein's bill got a hearing last week before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee ([E&E Daily](#), Oct. 9).

Two top Obama administration officials are scheduled to meet with stakeholders in Palm Springs, Calif., today to discuss the merits of protecting the lands.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the bill; for a map of the national monument, [click here](#).

Twitter: [@philipataylor](#) | Email: ptaylor@eenews.net

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**THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE
REFERRAL**

February 03, 2015

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

ACTION COMMENTS:

ACTION REQUESTED: DIRECT REPLY W/COPY

REFERRAL COMMENTS:

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 1160214

MEDIA: EMAIL

DOCUMENT DATE: January 28, 2015

TO: PRESIDENT OBAMA

FROM: THE HONORABLE ANN KIRKPATRICK
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

SUBJECT: REQUESTS THE PRESIDENT TO PROTECT THE GRAND CANYON WATERSHED
AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT UNDER THE ANTIQUITIES ACT

COMMENTS:

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT,
UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE UNDERSIGNED AT (202) 456-2590.

RETURN ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE (OR DRAFT) TO: DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT,
ROOM 562, OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

**THE WHITE HOUSE
DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND
TRACKING WORKSHEET**



DATE RECEIVED: February 03, 2015

CASE ID: 1160214

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE ANN KIRKPATRICK

SUBJECT: REQUESTS THE PRESIDENT TO PROTECT THE GRAND CANYON WATERSHED AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT UNDER THE ANTIQUITIES ACT

ROUTE TO: AGENCY/OFFICE	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		CODE	DATE	TYPE RESPONSE	CODE
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS	KATIE FALLON	ORG	02/03/2015		

ACTION COMMENTS:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR		R	02/03/2015		
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ACTION COMMENTS:

ACTION COMMENTS:

ACTION COMMENTS:

ACTION COMMENTS:

COMMENTS: 2 ADDITIONAL SIGNEES

MEDIA TYPE: EMAIL

USER CODE:

ACTION CODES	DISPOSITION		
	TYPE RESPONSE	DISPOSITION CODES	COMPLETED DATE
A = APPROPRIATE ACTION B = RESEARCH AND REPORT BACK D = DRAFT RESPONSE I = INFO COPY/NO ACT NECESSARY R = DIRECT REPLY W/ COPY ORG = ORIGINATING OFFICE	INITIALS OF SIGNER (W.H. STAFF) NRN = NO RESPONSE NEEDED OTBE = OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS	A = ANSWERED OR ACKNOWLEDGED C = CLOSED X = INTERIM REPLY	DATE OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OR CLOSEOUT DATE (MM/DD/YY)

KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES
 REFER QUESTIONS TO DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT (202)-456-2590
 SEND ROUTING UPDATES AND COMPLETED RECORDS TO OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT - DOCUMENT TRACKING UNIT ROOM 562, EEOB.

1160214

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

Upon visiting the Grand Canyon, President Theodore Roosevelt famously stated: *"Leave it as it is. You can not improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it."*

Roosevelt meant what he said – he took action to protect this natural wonder. In 1906, he established the Grand Canyon Game Preserve, Two years later, he proclaimed the 800,000-acre Grand Canyon National Monument.

Today, it is time for a new monument to protect the greater Grand Canyon region. North and south of Grand Canyon National Park is the Grand Canyon watershed region. The heart of this proposed national monument is the Kaibab Plateau, where the Colorado River carves its way through the Grand Canyon and provides water for millions of people in Arizona, Nevada, and California, as well as further downstream in Mexico.

The Kaibab Plateau is home to sensitive plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. The area is a corridor for iconic wildlife such as mountain lions and mule deer, and it is a habitat for imperiled species such as the California condor and desert tortoise. South of the Grand Canyon, the Coconino Plateau contains deep groundwater that supplies life-giving seeps and springs. This area is also culturally rich and contains sites, including Red Butte, that are special and sacred to Native American tribes.

Not only is the Grand Canyon region an environmental treasure, it is also an economic driver for northern Arizona and our entire state. In 2013, 4.5 million visitors spent nearly a half a billion dollars in the region, supporting more than 6,000 local jobs.

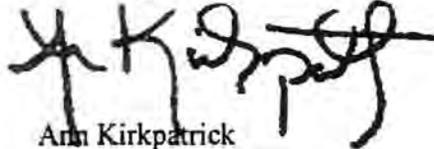
The Grand Canyon and its watershed deserve permanent protection from several existing and future threats. Uranium mining, for example, continues to threaten the water quality, wildlife, and intact habitat of the watershed. The region also lacks safe habitat connections between Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah. And the old-growth ponderosa pine forests of the North Kaibab Plateau lack permanent protections from logging, which threatens native wildlife diversity and climate resiliency.

Protecting this region as a national monument will not only protect ancient forests, corridors for migratory wildlife and thousands of archeological sites, it will also support clean drinking water,

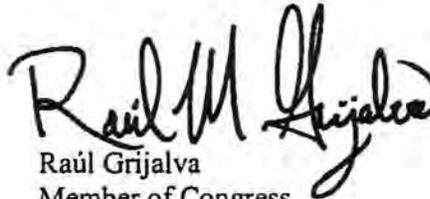
cultural heritage, and recreation. Native American tribes in the region have a deep connection to these lands and waters, so tribal consultations should be an important part of any efforts to establish a national monument.

We respectfully ask that you use your authority under the Antiquities Act to protect the Grand Canyon's watershed as a national monument. Thank you for your consideration.

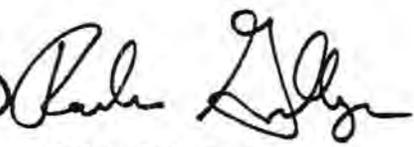
Sincerely,



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



AUG 13 2015

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gallego:

Thank you for your letter to President Barack Obama regarding potential future national monument designations for the Grand Canyon watershed region. The Bureau of Land Management was asked to respond to your letter.

This Administration has demonstrated a commitment to working with the public and members of Congress in making Federal land management decisions. We respect and value the importance of public and Congressional input in considering protections for our natural, cultural, and historic treasures. We constantly strive to take into account the interests of a wide range of stakeholders to both protect America's public lands and provide for economic development in a manner that is consistent with law and sound public policy.

We look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders to ensure that public lands in Arizona are managed appropriately for the use and enjoyment of this and future generations. A similar reply is being sent to the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely,

Neil Kornze
Director



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



AUG 13 2015

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

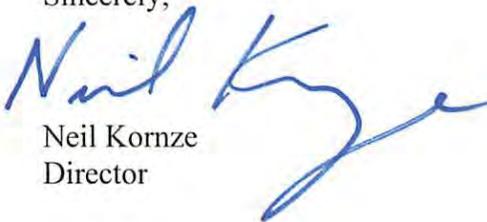
Dear Representative ^{Raúl}Grijalva:

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AUG 13 2015

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kirkpatrick:

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Sincerely,

Neil Kornze
Director

Conversation Contents

Grijalva Memo.docx - Invitation to edit

"Chelsea Welch (via Google Docs)" <drive-shares-noreply@google.com>

From: "Chelsea Welch (via Google Docs)" <drive-shares-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Thu Dec 03 2015 10:58:08 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Grijalva Memo.docx - Invitation to edit

Chelsea Welch has invited you to edit the following document:

▫ [Grijalva Memo.docx](#)

Open in Docs

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 03 2015 11:12:40 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Chelsea Welch <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Grijalva Memo.docx - Invitation to edit

I think this looks pretty good. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

How does that sound?

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 12:58 PM, Chelsea Welch (via Google Docs) <drive-shares-noreply@google.com> wrote:

Chelsea Welch has invited you to edit the following document:

[Grijalva Memo.docx](#)

Open in Docs

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.

"Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 03 2015 11:14:30 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Grijalva Memo.docx - Invitation to edit

Sounds good. Thanks!

On Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 1:12 PM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
I think this looks pretty good. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

How does that sound?

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

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[Grijalva Memo.docx](#)

Open in Docs

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.

--
Chelsea Welch
Special Assistant
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov
(202) 208-5348

"Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Dec 03 2015 12:45:44 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Grijalva Memo.docx - Invitation to edit

Just found out that they might want to discuss the California water bill as well. Anything you can add on that?

On Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 1:14 PM, Welch, Chelsea <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Sounds good. Thanks!

On Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 1:12 PM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
I think this looks pretty good. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

How does that sound?

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Wed Dec 02 2015 04:59:35 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, December 2, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2015 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:**INTERIOR SECRETARY SALLY JEWELL MODERATES STATE DEPARTMENT PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE.**

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (12/1, Gokey, 2K) reports on its website on Kotzebue city council member Maija

Natasha Luken's participation in a State Department panel Tuesday morning at the climate talks in Paris, which was moderated by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. The article called the Marshall Islands "the front lines of climate change," due to the threat of the sea level rising. Luken likened the threat to Alaska to that of the Marshall Islands, given their geographic proximity. [KTUU-TV Anchorage, AK](#) (12/2, 62K) reports similarly on its website. [Politico Pro](#) (12/1) also noted Jewell's Tuesday participation in "a session on resilience with an emphasis on island nations," providing information on how to access the session's live stream.

Climate Talks Attendance Costs Listed. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (12/2, Harrington, 70K) lists costs to taxpayers from Administration officials' attendance at the climate change talks in Paris, which total nearly \$2 million. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's hotel accommodations at the Tuileries Finances reportedly cost \$36,091, and her car service costs \$13,903. The article points out that "Obama's motorcade alone totals \$784,825."

JEWELL DISCUSSES NPS REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE. The [National Parks Traveler](#) (12/2, 989) continues coverage of the NPS report on how climate change is impacting America's national parks. The article says Interior Secretary Sally Jewell noted this report in her appearance at the climate talks in Paris, stating, "What's happening in our national parks is a small window into the impacts of climate change on natural and cultural resources around the world. As negotiations kick off in Paris today, this report offers positive examples of what we can do, at a local level, to adapt and build resilience in the face of a changing climate – even as we work to curb carbon pollution around the world." That article lists actions being taken by the NPS to combat climate change, including elevated designed and the addition of sediment and vegetation. "Sea level changes are subtle at some parks but already destructive at others where we are losing shoreline and infrastructure and where historical and cultural resources are also at risk," NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, adding, "The upside is that we're taking positive action as the result of adaptation planning we began in the National Park Service several years ago. This report illustrates actions we have underway to adapt to our changing climate, and as best we can, to preserve and protect the resources of our coastal parks."

The [Island Free Press \(NC\)](#) (12/2, Barnett) reports similarly. [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (12/1, Joling) also provides continuing coverage of the Associated Press report on its website.

INTERIOR SUPPORTS CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP TO COMBAT DEFORESTATION. [Business Green \(UK\)](#) (12/2, Shankleman) reports that Marks & Spencer and Unilever "signed a new pledge committing to prioritise the development of sustainable palm oil, beef, paper and other commodities, as part of a major public-private partnership aimed at tackling deforestation." The article says this initiative is supported by the Interior Department, quoting Interior Secretary Sally Jewell as saying on Tuesday morning in Paris, "This public-private partnership is a true model for how we can proactively work together to address climate change. ... The partnership tackles major and complex issues. We lose an average of 3.3 million hectares of forest each year even after restoration, and that's an area about the size of South Africa. Our challenge is to come together here in Paris and in the years to come to secure forests' role in addressing climate change because we all need to take action."

In its coverage of the conversation on combating deforestation at the Paris climate change talks, [Yale University \(CT\) Environment 360](#) (12/2, Pearce, 3K) says Interior Secretary Sally Jewell pointed out that, "Even allowing for reforestation, the world still loses 3.3 million hectares of forests each year."

GREEN GROUPS URGE OBAMA TO ATTACK CLIMATE CHANGE MORE AGGRESSIVELY. [The Hill](#) (12/2, Henry, 654K) reports over "150 environmental groups" are asking Obama to press "even further on global warming than what he has proposed as part of an international climate change pact." In a letter sent yesterday, "the groups pushed Obama to increase the amount of carbon pollution the U.S. will cut as part of a climate agreement" and "said he should commit to stopping development of untapped fossil fuels on federal land while working toward a transition to 100 clean energy around the globe by 2050." The article cites Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's September statement that America is "a nation that continues to be dependent on fossil fuels," in which she explained, "There are millions of jobs in this country that are dependent on these industries, and you can't just cut it off overnight and expect to have an economy that is, in fact, the leader in the world."

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES SPECIALIZED INVESTIGATIVE UNIT TO FIND STUDENTS TAKEN IN MEXICO. The [AP](#) (12/2) reports the "parents of 43 students who disappeared in southern Mexico at the hands of police and a drug gang have lifted a protest camp" in Mexico City. The decision, they say, is a "show of faith in a new investigation." The AP adds that on Monday, Interior Department deputy secretary for human rights Roberto Campa announced the "creation of a specialized investigative unit" at the parents' request, which he called the "fresh group" of investigators. This story is also carried by [Fox News](#) (12/1, 9.42M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/2, 7.78M), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/2, 5.31M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (12/2, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (12/2, 1.18M), the [Toronto \(CAN\) Sun](#) (12/1, 74K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/2), and on the website of [WRAL-TV](#) Raleigh, NC (12/2, 243K).

GLOBAL LEADERS LAUNCH SOLAR PUSH IN THIRD WORLD. In an article carried by the [Economic Times \(IND\)](#) (12/2, 1.92M), the Press Trust of India reports that solar industry experts on Tuesday "hailed" the launch of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), "saying the initiative will give [a] much-needed boost to a low-carbon future." A 120-

country program to implement solar power and infrastructure in developing nations, the ISA was unveiled Tuesday at the Paris climate summit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande. Among those weighing in on the alliance was Natural Resources Defense Council President Rhea Suh, who said, "It has the potential to propel international solar markets forward, all while fighting climate change, improving global health and boosting economies." A version of this PTI story is also carried on the [NDTV \(IND\)](#) (12/2, 342K) website.

[Money Control](#) (12/2, 85K) reports that ISA's launch at the Paris climate talks "shows India's leadership in clean energy, environmental experts here have said." Said the NRDC's Suh, "This unprecedented international solar collaboration sets an encouraging tone as country representatives gather today to reach a new global climate agreement. India's leading role in forming an International Solar Alliance anchors its own climate commitment to ramp up renewable energy."

JARVIS: CONGRESS SHOULD FULLY FUND CONSERVATION FUND. Jonathan B. Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, writes at the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (12/1, Jarvis, 433K) that "the National Park Service is well known for iconic parks out West, but you may want to look in your backyard to find a much closer park experience, thanks to the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund programs." He says that "it is hard to argue with a program that has helped so many communities improve public outdoor recreation, but unfortunately, Congress has allowed the authority for this program to expire, and only once in the history of the fund has Congress provided the full \$900 million the program is authorized to spend each year." Jarvis concludes that "Congress has an opportunity to affirm the importance of parks and public lands by permanently reauthorizing the LWCF and providing dedicated, full funding for the programs it supports."

NPS BOTTLED WATER SALES BAN LAMBASTED. In the "Contributors" blog of [The Hill](#) (12/2, Schatz, Contributor, 654K), Citizens Against Government Waste president Tom Schatz derides the NPS' "baffling" ban on bottled water sales, calling it "potentially perilous" to visitors who should be well hydrated while hiking challenging terrain. In addition, Schatz denounces the sales ban's expense to taxpayers and visitors, citing costs of construction of water filling stations and charges for refilling water bottles. Schatz says NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis "admitted" in Policy Memorandum 11-03 that the sales ban "contradicts the agency's healthy foods initiative, which is intended to provide multiple food options at park concessions, such as sustainably produced food from local sources," and said the policy raises health concerns. US House Rep. Keith Rothfus (R-PA) said NPS "confirmed that participating parks haven't been able to determine if the policy" has had the intended result of reducing trash.

INTERIOR AMONG AGENCIES CALLED OUT BY SEN. GRASSLEY FOR MISUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/1, Bogardus, 705) reports that on Tuesday Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) released a "stinging" report accusing federal agencies of abusing administrative leave. The study "found that 17 agencies spent nearly \$80.6 million on administrative or paid leave for employees who were out of work for a month or more in fiscal 2014," for "inconsistent and vague" reasons. Grassley said of the administrative leave practice, "Some agencies use it too extensively, and the taxpayers get short-changed. The statutory and regulatory vacuum on the use of paid leave has contributed to this problem." The Interior Department was listed as one of several agencies that "did not explain why it took many thousands of hours to resolve issues with security investigations or complete employees' investigations for misconduct before those employees retired, resigned, or were finally suspended, removed, or returned to duty."

DOI DISTRIBUTED \$47M TO NORTH DAKOTA IN 2015. In an article carried by the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (12/2, Dalrymple, 54K), Forum News Service reports that The Department of Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue has said that it disbursed \$47,164,777 to North Dakota in fiscal 2015. The payout is approximately \$20 million less than the state received last year and just over half its 2013 amount; explained North Dakota Budget Director Pam Sharp, "Its just part of the whole impact of the lower price of oil." The Office of Natural Resources Revenue, continues Forum News Service, said about \$853 million was paid out to American Indian tribes and individual Indian mineral owners. Spokesman Patrick Etchart said that distributions to Native American tribes has risen considerably in recent years, with much of the increase connected to oil production in the state.

This story is also carried on the website of the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (12/2, 102K).

TED WILLIAMS PRAISES INTERIOR'S SAGE GROUSE INITIATIVE. [Forbes](#) (12/1, Burke, 7.28M) features an interview with environmental writer Ted Williams, who "calls out the miscreants and criminals who trash our environment, and praises the heroes who fight for it." Williams graded President Obama's environmental policy a "B," saying he has "appointed decent, competent people" and "restored science to federal resource agencies." Williams said Obama's "Interior Department has done some good stuff, like the Sage Grouse Initiative" and "been a leader on climate change" in his opposition of the Keystone Pipeline as well as Don Young's "Empty Oceans Bill," which is "an assault on the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA OFFICERS TAKE CHILDREN FROM RESERVATION AMID CUSTODY FIGHT. The [AP](#) (12/2, Hanson) reports that two BIA officers “escorted two children off an American Indian reservation in Montana” in accordance with a state order, causing a “clash between state and tribal courts.” The attorney of the grandmother who had taken the children onto the reservation opined, “It disturbs me that it was so coordinated,” saying the BIA “didn’t consult with the tribe, but they did coordinate with a non-Indian guy to a great extent.” University of Montana’s Indian Law Clinic co-director explained the BIA “acts independently,” and is not under the jurisdiction of the tribe, which she called “a perpetual problem with BIA involvement in tribal affairs.” A federal court may end up with jurisdiction of the custody matter. This article is also carried in the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (12/1, 15K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (12/2, 1.15M), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/2, 5.31M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/2, Hanson, 7.78M), [Yahoo! News](#) (12/2, Hanson, 6.43M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/2, 2.15M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (12/2, Hanson, 1.18M), [US News & World Report](#) (12/1, 996K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (12/2, Press, 825K), the website of [ABC News](#) (12/2, 3.35M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (12/2, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), and on the website of [CBS News](#) (12/2, 4.1M).

BIA CONSIDERS OSAGE COUNTY DRILLING REGULATIONS OVER ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY. Relying on information in [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (12/2, Krehbiel-Burton, 365K), the [AP](#) (12/2) reports the Bureau of Indian Affairs may enact new regulations on oil drilling in Osage County, Oklahoma following the publication of a new environmental impact study. According to the article, the BIA could “three potential actions” on issuing drilling permits: “maintaining the status quo; adding some formalized county-wide measures regarding resource conservation; or implementing more up front, proactive measures, such as mandatory vehicle buffer zones around the breeding grounds of the lesser prairie chicken.” This story is carried in the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/2), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/2), and on the websites of [KRMG-AM Tulsa \(OK\)](#) Tulsa, OK (12/2, 20K) and [WRAL-TV Raleigh \(NC\)](#) Raleigh, NC (12/2, 243K).

CALIFORNIA COUNTIES BACK INTERIOR IN DISMISSAL OF TRIBAL LAND HOLDINGS SUIT. [Law360](#) (12/2, Sheehan, 30K) reports that on Monday the California State Association of Counties filed an amicus brief on behalf of the Department of the Interior in advocating for the Ninth Circuit to uphold a dismissal of the Mishewal Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley’s lawsuit against the agency. The tribe claimed the DOI violated the California Rancheria Act in its termination of land holdings.

Office of Insular Affairs:

OBAMA PLEDGES SUPPORT TO ISLAND NATIONS AT RISK FROM RISING SEAS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/2, Taylor, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports Obama pledged support for the small island countries that are most at risk from the rising sea levels associated with climate change. Obama said, “Some of their nations could disappear entirely and as weather patterns change, we might deal with tens of millions of climate refugees in the Asia Pacific region.” The [Washington Times](#) (12/1, Boyer, 283K) also offers coverage of this story.

The [New York Times](#) (12/2, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports in a front-page story entitled “The Marshall Islands Are Disappearing” on the threat of the rising seas to the Marshall Islands. The Times says the situation regarding the Marshall Islands presents a different scenario for the US than that of the other island countries, because a 1986 agreement allows the country’s residents to emigrate to the US, which is “a pass that will become more enticing as the water rises on the islands’ shores.” The article highlights the efforts of Tony A. deBrum, the foreign minister of the Marshall Islands, to convey the severity of the threat, and notes that deBrum hosted Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina in March, “showing her the impact of sea-level rise on his home country.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

WESTERN VALUES PROJECT LOBBIES TO REVIVE LWCF. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/1, Yachnin, 705) reports that on Tuesday the Western Values Project unveiled TV ads urging action to review the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and plans to spend “six figures” targeting legislators who supported the fund in the past. House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) is also targeted for “his efforts to move a measure that would reform the LWCF by restricting federal land purchases and focusing on the portion of funding that goes to states,” according to Greenwire. [Politico Pro](#) (12/1) specifies that the group warns that without change “Pennsylvania and Florida could lose support for projects at the Gettysburg National Military Park and the headwaters of the Everglades.”

CALIFORNIA PROJECTS 10 PERCENT DELIVERIES FROM STATE WATER PROJECT. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (12/2, Kasler, Reese, 515K) reports that California officials expect to deliver just 10% “of normal supplies from the State Water Project next year, or half as much as this year.” The Bee says that “the State Water Project is one of two major manmade systems that deliver Northern California water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to millions of Californians in the southern half of the state,” the other being the Federal Central Valley Project. The Bee explains that “this year the state project is shipping just 20 percent of historic supplies, while the federal project has left most customers with zero allocations.”

REPORT FINDS ARIZONA NOT PREPARED FOR CLIMATE RISKS. [Government Technology](#) (12/2, 71K) reports that a new report by Climate Central gave Arizona a C- grade for its efforts to prepare for future climate risks. Arizona officials disagreed with the assessment. Tom Buschatzke, the state water agency's director, said that "Arizona's requirement for all public water systems with at least 500 customers to have a drought-management plan is just as valuable for dealing with climate impacts as an adaptation plan." He also said that the "the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's 2012 Colorado River Basin study and a separate study that the water department and Arizona State University did for Phoenix's Salt River Project both looked at potential climate change impacts on water supplies." State forester Jeff Whitney also said that the state is making strides in address wildfire risk but that "national forests within Arizona's borders have suffered decades of mismanagement by the federal government." Whitney did point to steps taken by the Federal government to cut wildfire risk.

CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE WOULD REQUIRE VOTER APPROVAL FOR REVENUE BONDS. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/1, Varghese, 3.4M) reports that Dino Cortopassi, the 78-year-old farmer turned businessmen turned businessman, is spending \$4 million in support of an initiative placed on the November ballot that would require voter approval for revenue bonds exceeding \$2 billion. One project that would be impacted would be Governor Jerry Brown's "effort to improve the state's water supply includes building two \$15 billion tunnels under the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta." Bloomberg explains that "Cortopassi said he opposes the project because of its environmental impact and has raised funds for a group that's against it."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

GATES JOINS MONIZ TO PROMOTE CLEAN ENERGY FUND. [E&E Publishing](#) (12/2, Koss, 705) reported Bill Gates joined Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz in lobbying Congress "to sell the plan" to establish a clean energy fund "announced in Paris yesterday by President Obama and spearheaded by Gates, includes a pledge by 19 nations to double clean energy research and development funding to \$20 billion, with 28 major companies putting up billions of their own in aid." According to the article, "Moniz emphasized that Mission Innovation and Breakthrough Energy Coalition are unprecedented efforts in terms of size and approach," saying, "This is not just more venture capital."

CLEAN-ENERGY PATENTS SET FOR NEW RECORD THIS YEAR. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/2, Randall, 3.4M) reports that US patents granted for clean energy have increased annually since 2002 and is this year "on track to break another record after eight consecutive increases." Most of the patents 586 patents in the first half of 2015 have been for solar technologies, followed by fuel cells, electric vehicles, and wind power.

WIND DEVELOPER SAYS IT WILL HONOR VERMONT VOTE ON PROPOSED PROJECT. The [AP](#) (12/2, 2.15M) reports Iberdrola Renewables' which has proposed 96-megawatt wind turbine project in Vermont "says it will honor a public vote on the project" expected to be held during the November election.

LONG ISLAND FIRM LAUNCHES ROOFTOP SOLAR ARRAY. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (12/2, Harrington, 1.42M) reports that a 1.5-megawatt rooftop solar project for beer distributor Clare Rose by developer EnterSolar "will be formally recognized at a launch event in Yaphank on Wednesday."

Onshore Energy Development:

ECONOMIST ADVOCATES FOR "SOCIAL COST OF CARBON" MEASURE FOR FOSSIL FUEL EXTRACTION. In a piece for the "Upshot Blog" of the [New York Times](#) (12/1, Greenstone, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) Michael Greenstone, chief economist of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers from 2009 to 2010, says there is a "middle ground" in supplying energy without causing significant climate damage. Greenstone suggests that "leasing the rights to access fossil fuels on federal land but requiring the leases and royalty payments to reflect the full climate damages from these fuels...would put the market to work by unlocking fossil fuels that have the highest value in relation to their impact on the climate." As a "bonus," this "provides money to pay for some of the damage of climate change." Greenstone discusses how to measure the monetary value of climate damages through the Social Cost of Carbon and advocated for applying an SCC-related fee. In asserting there is "opportunity for policy overhaul," Greenstone cites how the Interior Department "is considering how to restructure lease terms for fossil fuels on federal lands."

INTERIOR INVESTIGATION LEADS TO FELONY CHARGES AGAINST OIL COMPANY. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/2, Schleifstein, 661K) reports the US Attorney's Office in New Orleans charged Talos Energy LLC's subsidiary Energy Resource Technology GOM, LLC. on Monday "with four federal felony counts involving safety and environmental regulations involving its operations in the Gulf of Mexico between 2012 and 2014." The article notes this case "was investigated by the Department of Interior's Office of Inspector General, with assistance from the BSEE," whose records from 2010 to 2014 indicate "the company was issued 215 warning 'incident of noncompliance' notices,

131 component shut-in incident or non-compliance warnings, and was ordered to shut in some operations 14 times. Also in 2014, the BSEE “fined the company \$80,000 in 2014 for improper actions that led to the death of a worker during the August 2011 collapse of a crane boom.” The article lists other rule violations by Energy Resource Technology GOM.

LAWMAKER: EPA REGULATIONS ON COAL WILL KILL JOBS, HURT AMERICANS. The [Williamson \(WV\) Daily News](#) (12/2, 1K) reports that West Virginia Rep. Evan Jenkins (R) urged his fellow lawmakers on Monday “to vote yes this week on two resolutions disapproving of the EPA’s new regulations on new and existing coal-fired power plants.” In an address on the House floor, Jenkins warned that the regulations would kill jobs and raise energy costs for all Americans – specifically hurting seniors, the middle-class, and those on fixed incomes. The News goes on to carry a transcript of Jenkins’ address; midway through it, he notes, “On the House Appropriations Committee, I helped to secure a provision in the Interior/EPA funding bill that would prohibit funding for the rulemaking on power plants to proceed.”

STUDY: COAL LEADING SOURCE OF POLLUTION CAUSING HEART DISEASE. The [Washington Post](#) (12/2, Fears, 7.78M) reports a new study by George D. Thurston, a professor of population health and environmental medicine at New York University, found long-term exposure to coal-fired power plant emissions “is significantly more harmful to the heart than other forms of carbon pollution.” According to Thurston, “Our results indicate that, pound for pound, coal-burning particles contribute roughly five times as much to heart disease mortality risk as the average air pollution particle in the United States.” Thurston and the study’s other 10 authors also “said the findings show the Environmental Protection Agency’s effort to strengthen regulation of power plant emissions standards – as part of the White House’s Clean Power Plan – does not go far enough.”

NATURAL GAS SURPASSES COAL AS TOP US POWER SOURCE FOR FOURTH TIME ON RECORD. [Reuters](#) (12/1) reported that US Energy Information Administration data shows that in September, natural gas overtook coal as a power source for the fourth time on record. Gas previously surpassed coal in April, July and August of this year. The EIA reported that 123,248 thousand megawatt hours of electricity were produced with gas in September versus 118,489 thousand MWh produced with coal.

REPORT: 150 OIL PROJECTS CANCELED OR DELAYED AMID DOWNTURN. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (12/1, Eaton, 28K) reported that new research from energy investment bank Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co. shows that the oil industry downturn has meant the cancellation of projects that could cut 19 million barrels a day over the new few years. Oil companies “have canceled or delayed final investment decisions on about 150 projects that are tied to 125 billion barrels of oil equivalent, which could stay underground for several years longer than expected amid a steep drop in crude prices...Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co. said Tuesday.” BP and Chevron “have deferred the largest number of projects while Exxon Mobil Corp. could delay the most oil barrels, about 2.5 million barrels a day of production capacity from 25 projects.” Royal Dutch Shell “is next, deferring 1.7 million barrels of oil a day, but its deal to buy BG Group this year has alleviated many of the growth issues it might face in coming years.”

IHS REPORT: OIL COMPANIES CONTINUE INVESTING IN GREATER EFFICIENCY DESPITE DOWNTURN. A new IHS analysis has found energy companies “continue to invest in initiatives that promise to help them save money and become more efficient, a necessary step if they want to remain competitive and meet the world’s appetite for oil in the coming decades” as well as “ride out the worst downturn in years,” the [San Antonio Express-News](#) (12/2, Meyers, 1.46M) reports. According to IHS, over “the past decade, the application of digital technologies has helped boost output by up to 8 percent and lower operating costs by up to 25 percent.”

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE DIRECTOR: PROPOSED WELL CONTROL RULE SEEKS TO ENSURE SAFETY, PROTECT ENVIRONMENT. [Maritime Executive](#) (12/2, 21) carries Monday’s op-ed by Brian Salerno, director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, who discussed proposed new rules designed to improve offshore safety. Industry standards “put in place after the Deepwater Horizon tragedy are a step in the right direction, but do not solve the problem,” as the standards “do not have the force of law, as regulations do.” The BSEE “understands that operators may need time to comply” with some of the proposed requirements, and has “built in additional time to meet those requirements” and “solicited comments about the proposed compliance dates to ensure they are appropriate.” Salerno wrote, “While we can never reduce 100 percent of the risk offshore, this proposed rule does reduce the likelihood of another catastrophic event. ... The proposed well control rule addresses and seeks to reduce many such risks, with the goal of ensuring the safety of offshore personnel and protection of the environment.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

GEORGE P. BUSH JOINING SUIT AGAINST BLM OVER RED RIVER LAND SEIZURE. The [AL](#) (12/2, Weissert) reports Texas' General Land Office's (GLO) Land Commissioner George P. Bush joined a lawsuit against the BLM that alleges the agency's seizure of "a 116-mile tract along the Red River that marks the border between Texas and Oklahoma" was unconstitutional. The article highlights opposition to BLM's seizure of the land. The BLM is quoted as stating it is committed to "working with adjacent landowners, counties and other stakeholders through our ongoing planning process to properly identify the extent of federal holdings in the Red River." BLM Spokeswoman Donna Hummel said, "We share the interest of all parties in clarifying ownership and identifying appropriate management alternatives." This story is also carried in the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/2, Weissert, 263K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/2, 2.15M), the [El Paso \(TX\) Times](#) (12/1, 199K), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/2, Weissert, 283K).

The [San Angelo \(TX\) Standard-Times](#) (12/2, Ingle, 2K) adds that the BLM will have to respond to the GLO's intervention. The Times Record News said it has yet to hear back from the BLM on its request for comment. The article links to the GLO's complaint, motion to intervene, and provides a map of the land in question. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (12/2, Blanchard, 1.26M) explains the BLM "claimed the land as public by citing a 1923 ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court that set the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma and awarded land in between the boundary to the federal government."

[PJ Media](#) (12/1, Straub, 69K) provides analysis that the legal issue in Aderholt vs. Bureau of Land Management is complex because the "dispute may hinge on whether the changes in the flow of the Red River came about through erosion – a gradual eating away at the banks – or avulsion – a sudden change brought about by flooding, tornado or some other natural event." In detailing the background on the case, the article cites BLM's deputy director of operations Steve Ellis' 2014 testimony before the House Subcommittee on Public Lands & Environmental Regulation, where he explained the agency seeks to "establish a long-term plan articulating the BLM's objectives and strategies for maintaining the health and productivity of public lands in the region."

The [Texas Tribune](#) (12/1, Malewitz, 6K) points to the potential future royalties from development of minerals on the land in question – which would flow to the state's Permanent School Fund should Texas own the land – as cause for the GLO's intervention. Because the land has yet to be developed, it is difficult to place a monetary value on the property. The Tribune notes that BLM "plans to finalize the management scheme by 2018 at the earliest, frustrating residents who want a resolution now." This story is also carried on the website of [WFAA-TV Dallas](#) (12/1, 391K). The [Dallas Morning News](#) (12/1, 1.26M) adds that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) "said he will file his own brief supporting the landowners." Similar coverage is provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/2, Rosenthal, 2.15M).

UTAH POLITICIANS JOIN PUSH FOR BLM TO PROTECT BONNEVILLE SALT FLATS. The [AP](#) (12/2, Price) reports on a letter by Republican officials in Utah to the BLM that urged protection of the state's famous Bonneville Salt Flats. Gov. Gary Herbert wrote the flats are "approaching ruin," and the AP noted how "rough salt led to a string of canceled motorsports in recent years." BLM spokeswoman Megan Crandall said the agency "remains committed to responsibly maintaining" the flats, and looks "forward to continued collaboration with our many partners and stakeholders to ensure the Salt Flats remain protected." This story is also carried in the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (12/2, Price, 22K), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/2, 5.31M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/2, Price, 7.78M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (12/2, Price, 1.18M), the [Columbus \(GA\) Ledger-Enquirer](#) (12/2, 122K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/2, 2.15M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/2, Price, 283K).

UTAH CLOSES HAZARDOUS MINE OPENINGS NEAR MOAB. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (12/2, Lockhart, 464K) reports online that "Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining workers closed several old and unsafe mine openings north of Moab this month, including five mine shafts." KSL explains that the project was funded by the BLM, "which owns the property where the mines are located." KSL says that "the closures were prioritized because of well-used mountain bike and jeep trails nearby that bring a lot of people to the area."

BLM TO HOST INPUT MEETING IN LAS CRUCES. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (12/1, 47K) reports that BLM's "Las Cruces District Resource Advisory Council will meet in Las Cruces on Dec. 8." The Sun-News says that "planned agenda items include updates on the New Mexico Copper Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument Record of Decision for the approved Resource Management Plan and EIS; lands with wilderness characteristics; Restore New Mexico; and grazing permit renewals."

FERM: "WHY IS THE BLM KILLING WILD HORSES?" Jack Ferm writes at the [St. George & Southern Utah Independent](#) (12/2, Ferm) that BLM is "tasked with protecting our heritage, including wild horses known colloquially as 'mustangs.'" Ferm says that "in the dichotomy of federal law, the BLM can use motorized vehicles to capture wild horses, but by law the BLM is not allowed to kill them (either directly or indirectly); whereas Fish and Wildlife Service can kill horses but can't use motorized vehicles to capture them." He says that BLM has knowingly sold horses to slaughterhouses. He says that this was done to make way for oil and gas leases on BLM property. Ferm claims that "all of this happened under the 'watchful' eye of the BLM staff, headed by Ken Salazar, a cattle rancher" and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, a former Mobil Oil executive.

EMERY COUNTY COMMISSION DISCUSS VARIOUS BLM ISSUES. The [Emery County \(UT\) Progress](#) (12/2, Stoddard, 8K) reports that the Emery County board recently heard from Kenneth R. Brown of the Western County Alliance. The Progress says he gave testimony at meetings held by BLM “concerning the wild horse and burro issue.” He said that there are currently bills in Congress that would transfer the jurisdiction of wild horses and burros to the states and Brown said “the states know the problem of wild horses and burros better than anyone.” Meanwhile, the commission approved the communication use lease between Emery County and BLM “for Mt. Ellen/South Summit Ridge Communication site.” Public lands director Ray Petersen “said they had requested the lease be in perpetuity, but the BLM renewed the lease for 30 years.” The commission also discussed issuing a letter in support of Green River City’s Waypoint Grant Application for the development of recreational infrastructure in and around Green River because “the BLM wanted approval from Emery County because Green River is involved.”

RUHS BEGINS DUTIES AS BLM NEVADA STATE DIRECTOR. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (12/2, 22K) reports that “John Ruhs began his duties as the new state director for the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada Monday.” The Free Press says that “Ruhs previously served as the Director of BLM’s Eastern States and had been the acting State Director for Nevada from April through September.” He said, “I’m happy to be back in Nevada permanently and look forward to continuing BLM’s mission as stewards of the land.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

TEXAS COUNTY WANTS SPIDER’S ENDANGERED STATUS LIFTED. The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (12/2, Herman, Subscription Publication, 405K) reports that Williamson County commissioners have “hired the Texas Public Policy Foundation’s Center for the American Future to represent the county for free in a potential federal lawsuit against” the FWS in an attempt to have the bone cave harvestman, a pale orange, eight-legged spider, removed from the endangered species list. Robert Henneke, the director of the foundation’s Center for the American Future, said in a statement that “the county believes the federal government has overstepped its authority in regulating a species that only lives within the State of Texas.” Meanwhile, Commissioner Valerie Covey said, “We don’t believe the bone cave harvestman is endangered.” The American Statesman says that the listing could impact the Southwest Bypass project, which would extend Leander Road to Texas 29. An FWS spokeswoman had no comment.

NEW MEXICO COUNTY PASSES RESOLUTION OPPOSING WOLF RELEASES. The [Ruidoso \(NM\) News](#) (12/2, Stallings, 39K) reports that Lincoln County commissioners have adopted a resolution backing Socorro County’s opposition to FWS’s plans to reintroduce Mexican gray wolves in Socorro County. The commissioners stated that they believe Lincoln County will be the next location for the release of the wolves if the plan moves forward. The News says that the resolution asks members of Congress to call for an investigation into the FWS’s “disregard of the positions of the local and state government, and to defund the wolf recovery program.”

TURTLE-SMUGGLER XU PLEADS GUILTY IN US FEDERAL COURT. In a wire story carried by [CBC News \(CAN\)](#) (12/2, 233K), the AP reports that Canadian national Kai Xu, 27, pled guilty in US federal court Tuesday “to smuggling or attempting to smuggle thousands of turtles from southeastern Michigan.” Xu was apprehended last year at a border crossing with 51 turtles “taped to his body.” He faces a potential sentence of 10 years in prison. According to an affidavit from an agent with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Xu was caught with 41 live turtles taped to his legs and 10 between his legs.

A similar version of this AP story, carried on the [KCPQ-TV](#) Seattle (12/1, 114K) website, says that the Detroit Free Press “reported that Gavin Shire of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service investigated the case against Xu and said there is a large demand for turtles in Asia — and not necessarily for pets.” Shire, continues the AP, told the Free Press that there is a significant amount of illegal and unregulated turtle consumption in Asia.

Other versions of this AP story were carried by the [Halifax \(CAN\) Chronicle Herald](#) (12/2, 336K) and [Toronto \(CAN\) Star](#) (12/1, 119K).

FWS: HIGH COURT SHOULDN’T REVIEW DECISION OVER SANTA ANA SUCKER. In a paywall article, [Law360](#) (12/2, Rodriguez, 30K) reports that the US Fish and Wildlife Service urged the US Supreme Court “not to review the Ninth Circuit’s decision supporting the agency’s move to double the size of the habitat of the Santa Ana sucker, a threatened fish unique to Southern California rivers.”

National Park Service:

PLANS FOR CONCERTS IN THE PARKS DRAWS CRITICISM. Kurt Repanshek writes at [National Parks Traveler](#) (12/2, Repanshek, 989) that more needs to be known about what C3 Presents plans to do if it gains greater access to national parks as concert venues. He says that the company spent \$15,000 lobbying the Interior Department during the third quarter. He notes that there has been criticism of a concert C3 Presents staged in September on West Potomac Park that some said “sets a troubling precedent that could signal an end to the days of free music in the

national park, ushering in an era of pricey, multi-day festivals. Reparatier says that the company has close ties to the Obama Administration and that “not only was the decision to allow C3 Presents’ paid-admission concert counter to Park Service policies stating that ‘all activities must be free and open to the public,’...but it was made by top Park Service staff in the Washington office who overruled underlings.”

SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES BILL ALLOWING BUFFALO HUNTING IN GRAND CANYON. The [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (12/2) reports that the “Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved a bill to allow the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to assist in better management and conservation of the bison population within Grand Canyon National Park.” The News says that the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act will next be considered by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. According to Kurt Davis, chairman of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, “Allowing volunteer sportsmen and women to assist in managing the bison population would be a direct cost savings to taxpayers and would quickly improve habitat within the Grand Canyon National Park.”

ENVIRONMENTALIST CONCERN RAISED BY REPRESENTATIVE’S FAILURE TO SUPPORT GRAND CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT. [E&E Daily](#) (12/1, Taylor, Subscription Publication) reports that US Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick’s (D-AZ) has yet to support H.R. 3882, a bill to designate “a national monument that would protect 1.7 million acres of old-growth pine forests, wildlife habitat and Native American sacred sites surrounding Grand Canyon National Park.” The article says this has raised the concern of environmentalists, as Kirkpatrick’s hesitation “could deter Obama from using his executive powers to protect the lands before leaving office,” insofar as the Representative’s district “encompasses most of the lands,” and because Kirkpatrick “is vying for Sen. John McCain’s (R-AZ) seat next November.”

YOSEMITE PARK DAYCARE HEAD PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLEMENT. Relying on information in the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/30, 270K), the [AP](#) (12/2) reports that former Yosemite National Park Child Care Center director Charity Brocchini “pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$42,000” between 2005 and 2009. She faces a possible 10-year prison sentence and a fine of up to \$250,000. The NPS Investigative Services Branch and the DHHS Inspector General investigated this case. This story is also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/2, 2.15M) and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/2, 283K) .

NPS ANNOUNCES REESE WITHERSPOON WILL HOST NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING. The [AP](#) (12/2) reports the NPS announced Reese Witherspoon will be the host of Thursday’s annual National Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. The NPS “also announced that actress and singer Bellamy Young, who appears on the ABC series ‘Scandal,’ will appear.” This story is also carried in the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (12/2, Press, 7.78M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (12/2, 2.15M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (12/2, 1.18M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (12/2, 283K).

US Geological Survey:

USGS RECORDS NINE OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKES OF 2.5 OR GREATER MAGNITUDE SINCE MONDAY. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (12/2, Peterson, 365K) reports that the US Geological Survey recorded “nine Oklahoma quakes of at least 2.5 magnitude since a 4.7 magnitude temblor recorded 3:49 a.m. Monday.” The article lists the USGS’ data on the seismic activity, and links to a map of recent Oklahoma earthquake activity.

Top National News:

OBAMA SAYS PARTS OF CLIMATE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE LEGALLY BINDING. In what the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/1, story 6, 3:05, Pelley, 5.08M) called “a last push for a climate agreement before flying home” from the Paris climate change talks, President Obama on Tuesday said some of the commitments made during the conference should be legally binding and vowed the US would abide by its promises. While there was heavy reporting on Obama’s comments, the coverage lacked great depth or analysis and generally highlighted that the President’s statements likely will exacerbate the already existing conflict with congressional Republicans.

The [AP](#) (12/2, Ritter) reports Obama said that parts of an agreement that emerges from the conference should be legally binding on participating countries. Obama said, “Although the targets themselves may not have the force of treaties, the process, the procedures that ensure transparency and periodic reviews, that needs to be legally binding and that’s going to be critical.” The AP says that while the President’s comments “won praise” at the conference, “it could rile conservatives in Washington, especially if he tries to put the deal into effect without seeking congressional approval.” [Vice](#) (12/1, Gold, 1.88M) summarized the President’s comments by saying, “In other words: Targets for cutting emissions shouldn’t be binding, but keeping track of nations’ progress on their commitments should be.” Obama argued, according to the [New York Daily News](#) (12/2, Good, 3.59M), that legally binding reviews will not hinder countries’ ability to update their commitments. The President said, “As the science changes and as technology changes, five years from now, 10 years from now, 15 years from now – in each successive cycle, countries can update the pledges that they make.”

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (12/2, Sink, 303K) reports Obama also vowed the US will meet the commitments it makes during the summit. In a statement that Bloomberg characterizes as a challenge to Republican lawmakers, Obama said, "My expectation is that we will absolutely be able to meet our commitments." The President added, "This is part of American leadership, by the way. This is part of the debate that we have to have in the United States more often. Too often American leadership is defined by sending troops somewhere." Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (12/2, Herszenhorn, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports Obama's statement comes as he "faced repeated questions" in Paris "about whether other leaders could trust" the US will fulfill its commitments after the end of his term, which is "a sentiment that some Republicans reinforced Tuesday." Sen. John Barrasso said Americans view the climate issue "as a very, very low priority," later adding, "The President's promise cannot be relied on." [USA Today](#) (12/2, Singer, 5.56M) reports that Obama indicated that despite Republican opposition to the eventual agreement, he believes a future GOP president will take a different stance. Obama said that "when you're in this job, you think about it differently than when you're running for the job." Obama added, "Your credibility and America's ability to influence events depends on taking seriously what other countries care about."

[AFP](#) (12/2) reports that Obama "accepted it was difficult to create political momentum for action, particularly in the United States." However, the President expressed confidence that the issue will be solved. Obama said, "Climate change ... is a problem that by definition is just about the hardest thing for any political system to absorb." The President added, "People don't feel it immediately so there's not a lot of constituency pressure on politicians to do something about it right away. It kind of creeps up on you." Obama said, [NPR](#) (12/2, 1.78M) reported on its website, "I actually think we're going to solve this thing." The President said, "Getting 200 nations to agree on anything is hard ... but I'm convinced that we're going to get big things done here." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/2, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes that any deal likely to be reached at the conference will have minimal impact. According to the Journal, the countries involved in the talks will accept anything that appears to be progress, but differences will prevent a meaningful deal.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/2, Mooney, 7.78M) reports that despite the attention on the first days of the climate summit, when world leaders made statements and pledges were made, the final 10 days "is where the world will determine just how much progress can be locked in to truly address climate change." Obama said, "The task that remains here in Paris is to turn these achievements into an enduring framework for progress that gives the world confidence in a low-carbon future." [Reuters](#) (12/2, Wallace, Doyle) reports that as the conference reaches this next stage, disagreements that have hindered a deal up until this point remain. The participating countries are working on a more than 50-page draft that continues to include unresolved issues. Reuters says the biggest remaining issue is how to raise the billions of dollars that developing countries will need to shift away from fossil fuels.

As Obama Mentions Miami, South Florida Officials Meet For Regional Climate Summit. The [Miami Herald](#) (12/2, Staletovich, 620K) reports that as South Florida officials met for their own climate summit in the "vulnerable" city of Key West, Obama mentioned the area while in Paris. Obama said, "You can put a price on the damage that climate change is doing – you know, you go down to Miami and when it's flooding at high tide on a sunny day and fish are swimming through the middle of the streets, you know that – there's a cost to that." According to the Herald, the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact features state officials, local leaders, scientists, and environmentalists hearing "the latest projections on climate-related ills" and talking about "tackling sea rise."

Obama Likens Response To Climate Change, Terrorism. The [Washington Times](#) (12/2, Boyer, 283K) reports Obama "defended spending his energies on a climate-change summit" at a time of increased concerns about terrorism, saying the issue presents a security challenge to the world. Obama said, "This one trend, climate change, affects all trends." The President added, "This is an economic and security imperative that we have to tackle now. Great nations can handle a lot at once." The [Baltimore Sun](#) (12/2, 700K) reports Obama "liken[ed] the challenge of climate change to the war on terrorism, which he said also demands a global, coordinated response." Obama said both climate change and terrorism represent a "generational problem" that requires a consistent effort by a coalition of countries. According to [The Hill](#) (12/1, Cama, 654K), Obama's comments "double down on the controversial position of his administration that climate change is as bad as terrorism, if not worse."

White House: 73 Companies Promise Steps Against Climate Change. [Voice of America](#) (12/1, 64K) reports the White House on Tuesday announced that 73 companies are pledging to take steps to contest climate change. The "goals include reducing emissions by as much as 50 percent, reducing water usage by 80 percent, and buying 100 percent renewable energy."

House Votes To Block Administration Rules On Power Plants Emissions. The [AP](#) (12/2, Daly) reports that as Obama pursued a global agreement on climate change, congressional Republicans "moved to block his plan to force steep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions from US power plants." The House passed resolutions on Tuesday that "disapprov[e] Obama's power-plant rules," while also "rendering them inoperative." According to the AP, the votes come after the Senate "approved identical motions last month under a little-used law that allows Congress to block executive actions it considers onerous," but the bills now "face almost-certain vetoes."

Harper, Heyward: World Leaders' Travel Is Hypocritical. In the [Washington Times](#) (12/2, 283K), Jennifer Harper writes that despite talking about the dangers of carbon emissions, the world leaders who gathered in France “can't escape the carbon aftermath of their personal aircraft and ground transportation.” Harper cites a [Brietbart](#) column by John Heyward that said “Climate change alarmists stubbornly refuse to live as if they believe a single word of what they're saying. The size of their carbon footprints is staggering.” According to Heyward, in 2015 “these conferences are unnecessary” due to “incredibly advanced telecommuting systems.”

Porter: Combating Climate Change Does Not Mean Giving Up Economic Growth. In a [New York Times](#) (12/2, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) column, Eduardo Porter writes that hanging over the climate talks is “a question that is unlikely to be openly discussed...Could civilization, as we know it, survive” without economic growth? Porter says that when “economic growth took off consistently around the world only some 200 years ago,” it was spurred by “innovation and lots and lots of carbon-based energy.” However, according to the author, “taking action against climate change” will not require giving up growth, because “we can glimpse technological paths that will allow civilization to keep growing and afford the world economy a positive-sum future.”

Smog Prompts Chinese Government To Warn Residents To Remain Indoors. [ABC World News](#) (12/1, story 8, 1:25, Muir, 5.84M) reported that as the talks went on, the Chinese government warned residents to stay indoors and ordered the temporary shutdown of factories due to severe smog.

WHITE HOUSE REPORTEDLY REJECTED PENTAGON PLAN TO CLOSE GUANTANAMO. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/2, A1, Lubold, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports on its front page that Administration officials say the White House has rejected the Defense Department's latest cost estimate for closing the Guantanamo Bay prison, saying that \$600 million is too pricey. The plan includes the cost of building an alternative facility inside the US. A Pentagon official said that after initial costs, the US facility would cost less than \$300 million per year to operate, compared to the approximately \$400 million per year spent at Guantanamo. The [Washington Times](#) (12/2, Morton, 283K) has a report based on the Journal story.

MCCONNELL: CONGRESS HAS CHANCE TO END ACA'S “BROKEN PROMISES.” The [Washington Times](#) (12/2, Howell, 283K) reports that as he “cu[ed] up votes this week on a fast-track measure to gut much of” the ACA and defund Planned Parenthood, Senate Majority Leader McConnell said Tuesday that Congress has an opportunity to end the law's “cycle of broken promises and failures with just 51 votes.” While the President “is sure to veto” the repeal measure, the effort “would serve as a test run for 2017, when Republicans hope to scrap the law for good with a new president and twin majorities in Congress.” McConnell said, “When the president picks up his pen, he'll have a real choice to make. ... He may well decide to stick to his rhetoric that the law is working better than even he intended and veto the bill. But he should instead decide to finally stand with a middle class that's suffered enough from this failed law and sign it. We'll see.”

[Politico](#) (12/2, Kim, Haberkorn, 1.19M) noted that McConnell “can only afford three GOP defections if he wants to pass the measure,” adding that currently, “two moderate Senate Republicans appear to be the likeliest contenders to jump ship, both over provisions in the bill that would defund Planned Parenthood.” Sens. Susan Collins and Mark Kirk are considered likely to vote against the bill, which means McConnell has “little room to spare.” Nonetheless, Senate Republicans “were confident they would ultimately secure 51 votes by the time they vote on Thursday.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “The Chicago Police Scandal.” The [New York Times](#) (12/2, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) in an editorial says that Emanuel “demonstrated a willful ignorance when he talked about the murder charges” against the police officer who “executed 17-year-old Laquan McDonald,” seeking “to depict the cop as a rogue officer. He showed a complete lack of comprehension on Tuesday when he explained that he had decided to fire” McCarthy, “not because he failed in his leadership role, but because he had become ‘a distraction.’”

“The G.O.P.'s Worst Budget Riders.” The [New York Times](#) (12/2, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) in an editorial says that Speaker Paul Ryan must decide by December 11 whether “to avoid a year-end shutdown fight or give in to right-wing demands.” The Times points to a number of riders that may be attached to a spending bill, which it says “would do great harm,” and are “ideologically driven,” or “serve narrow interests.” The paper urges the President to “do the right thing” and “Just say no” to these measures.

“An Opening In The War Against AIDS.” The [New York Times](#) (12/2, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) in an editorial urges international authorities to “move aggressively” against HIV, calling current progress “discouraging,” because infected persons “are not receiving” appropriate “care and are transmitting the virus.” The Times points out that treatment has become “remarkably easy” with a single pill daily containing all necessary medications. In addition, pharmaceuticals “are greatly reducing prices.” The Times concludes by agreeing with those who are “skeptical” about

the success of current measures, and states that lasting success will be attained only by developing a vaccine and “a cure.”

WASHINGTON POST. *“A ‘Tax Extenders’ Bill That Could Make Fiscal Matters Worse.”* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (12/2, 7.78M) voices opposition to a tax extenders bill reportedly in development which “would make permanent certain provisions...that deserve to be fixtures of the tax code on their merits, and already were, for all intents and purposes.” The Post says that doing so might encourage lawmakers to “make some tax breaks more generous while they acknowledge their permanence,” which could swell the deficit; the editorial also says the bill could “gut” revenue sources, ACA taxes on medical device and high-cost employer-provided insurance. The Post calls for Obama to block the bill, saying it is “better to accept another short-term ‘extender’ bill, as in the past, than to so thoroughly imperil the future.”

“This Week, Jason Rezaian Will Have Been In An Iranian Prison For 500 Days.” A [Washington Post](#) (12/2, 7.78M) editorial notes that on Thursday, reporter Jason Rezaian marks his 500th day of detention in Iran and criticizes the Administration for failing to “create incentives for the regime to release” him and other Americans.

“Rahm Emanuel Ducks And Dodges In Chicago.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/2, 7.78M) says in an editorial that the firing of Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy exposed the flaws of Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s “rickety one-bad-apple narrative.” Emanuel “beat a tactical retreat” by firing McCarthy and “naming a task force to address the police department’s obvious lack of accountability,” but he “has more explaining to do.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *“We’ll Always Have The Illusions Of Paris.”* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/2, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes that any deal likely to be reached at the Paris conference will have minimal impact. According to the Journal, the countries involved in the talks will accept anything that appears to be progress, but differences will prevent a meaningful deal.

“US Manufacturing Slides.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/2, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorial cites the decline of US manufacturing last month to its lowest level since the end of the recession as evidence that the President should focus more on the nation’s economic climate.

“Britain’s Choice On Syria.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/2, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) writes in an editorial that the vote in Britain’s parliament on Syrian airstrikes represents a serious moment in British foreign policy and a chance for Prime Minister David Cameron’s government to recover from its defeat on the 2013 Syria bombing proposal. The Journal says that sharp divisions among Labour party members may signal the end of Corbyn’s leadership and will likely push parliament to vote in favor of the strikes, albeit without much serious debate about the goals of the military campaign.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Yahoo Board To Weigh Sale Of Internet Business](#)

[ISIS Prevents Civilians From Fleeing Ramadi](#)

[Obama Rejects Plan To Close Guantanamo As Too Costly](#)

[Medicare Rules Reshape Hospital Admissions](#)

New York Times:

[Religion, Abuse And Rage In Colorado Suspect's Trail](#)

[Pacific Island Nation Struggles In The Path Of A Relentless Sea](#)

[College Protests Could Influence Key Racial Case](#)

[Top Officer Out As The Pressure Rises In Chicago](#)

[Facebook Chief Vows To Donate 99% Of His Shares For Charity](#)

[Statehood Project Is Troubled, Those Who Escaped ISIS Say](#)

Washington Post:

[Chicago Police Superintendent Fired By Mayor Amid Outcry Over Video Of Shooting](#)

[Many In Iraq See US As ISIS Ally](#)

[Zuckerberg, Wife To Donate 99% Of Stock In Facebook](#)

[Some Single Mothers Opt For Dual Households](#)

[A Grim Bargain](#)

[Carter: US Elite Force To Fight Islamic State In Iraq](#)

Financial Times:

[Chinese Make Big Play With Man City Stake](#)

[Greece Threatened With Schengen Suspension Over Migrant Response](#)

[Brazil's Record Fall In GDP Puts It On Track For Worst Recession Since 1930s](#)

Washington Times:

[Obamacare Repeal Bill Likely To Get To President For First Time](#)

[Anti-Terror Planning Began Only In Oct.](#)

[Obama Expands ICE Powers To Pursue, Deport Illegals](#)

[US More Open To Surrogate Parent Practice](#)

[Montenegro's Drive For NATO Angers Moscow, Strains Alliance's Standards](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Chicago Police Shooting-Police Chief Fired; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Air Asia Crash Investigation; Juneau Mayor-Suspicious Death; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; US Troops-ISIL; Paris Climate Summit; US Auto Sales; Facebook Founder-Share Sales.

CBS: Chicago Police Shooting-Police Chief Fired; US Troops-ISIL; Gilead Science Senate Report-Hepatitis Drug; Express Scripps-Pill Pricing; Paris Climate Summit; Severe Weather; Facebook Founder-Share Sales.

NBC: Chicago Police Shooting-Police Chief Fired; US Troops-ISIL; Turkey-Subway Explosion; Air Asia Crash Investigation; 2016 Politics; Severe Weather; Salt Intake Warning; Landline Statistics; JetBlue Pilot Recruitment; Facebook Founder-Share Sales.

Network TV At A Glance:

Chicago Police Shooting-Police Chief Fired – 8 minutes, 30 seconds

Severe Weather – 5 minutes, 55 seconds

US Troops-ISIL – 5 minutes, 55 seconds

Paris-Climate Summit – 4 minutes, 30 seconds

2016 Politics – 4 minutes, 25 seconds

Air Asia Crash Investigation – 4 minutes, 10 seconds

Facebook Founder-Share Sales – 1 minute, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Chicago-Police Accountability Task Force Created; Donald Trump-Gun Violence; Hillary Clinton-Gun Violence; Wall Street.

CBS: Chicago Police Shooting-Police Chief Fired; Chicago-Police Accountability Task Force Created; Baltimore-Freddie Gray Case; Obama Climate Change Agenda-Congress; Pentagon-ISIL Strategy; Severe Weather.

FOX: Assad-Czech TV Interview; Pentagon-ISIL Strategy; Congress-ACA, Planned Parenthood Measures; Illinois AG-Chicago Police Investigation; Gun Sales-Black Friday; Mississippi-Same Sex Divorce Case; Speaker Ryan-Planned Parenthood Shooting; Oklahoma Wesleyan University President Op-Ed.

NPR: Obama Climate Change Agenda-Congress; Congress-Transportation Measure; Pentagon-ISIL Strategy; UN-Iraqi Civilian Death Toll; Chicago Police Shooting-Police Chief Fired;

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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- + FWS Proposes Protections For Florida Plants, Freshwater Mussel.
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LAST LAUGHS

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DOI in the News:

JEWELL SPEAKS AT CELEBRATION OF VALLES CALDERA'S ADDITION TO NPS. In continuing coverage of the NPS' planned celebration of Valles Caldera's transition from trust management to the Park Service, the [AP](#) (10/10) featured the statements of US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell at Saturday's ceremony. Jewell is quoted as saying, "This spectacular area tells a story of New Mexico's rich natural and cultural heritage," adding, "We are honored to serve as stewards of this land to ensure that it remains cared for and shared with future generations." Jewell called Valles Caldera "a perfect example of the key role the Land and Water Conservation Fund has played in enhancing public lands from city parks to national parks over the last 50 years." Jewell is paraphrased as emphasizing "the value of the preserve to many native tribes," and as noting that "The Interior Department is committed to being stewards of the preserve and supporting the values held by the tribes."

This report was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/10, 344K) and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/13, 259K).

The [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (10/13, Clark) quoted Secretary Jewell as stating, "Today we celebrate an outstanding addition to the National Park family – the Valles Caldera ... This spectacular area tells a story of New Mexico's rich natural and cultural heritage. We are honored to serve as stewards of this land to ensure that it remains cared for and shared with future generations." Jewell said she joined "with Americans across the country in calling on Congress to permanently reauthorize and provide dedicated funding for this program in order to honor our nation's outdoor heritage and provide resources to local communities who want to invest in conservation, historic preservation and recreational opportunities." Other speakers at the dedication included Ken Smith, former chairman of the Valles Caldera Board of Trustees, along with NPS Regional Director Sue Masica and Park Superintendent Jorge Silva-Bañuelos, former executive director of the Valles Caldera Trust.

The [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (10/12, St. Cyr, 69K) also covers this story in a brief. The [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (10/13, Clark) reported in anticipation of the event.

WACO MAMMOTH SITE DESIGNATED NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Examiner](#) (10/13, Burmeier, 1.34M) provided the history of the Waco Mammoth Site, designated as a national monument in July 2015, which protects the location "where the extremely well-preserved fossils of a herd of Columbian Mammoths and other Ice Age animals have been found." Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell is quoted as saying, "Our National Parks inspire and teach us about our nation's natural history – in this case, about the prehistoric animals that walked our Earth tens of thousands of years ago," adding that, "The Waco Mammoth National Monument will share the wonder of these incredible mammoths with visitors from around the world and help introduce a new generation to the thrill of scientific discovery that only a special site like this can demonstrate first-hand." NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said the NPS "will work in partnership with the City of Waco and Baylor University to protect, preserve, and most importantly share the remarkable Waco Mammoth National Monument with the American people and visitors from around the world."

INTERIOR IG REPORT FINDS NPS IMPROPERLY RENTED OUT CABIN FOR POLITICIANS. The [AP](#) (10/9, Bob Moen) reported on an Interior Department Inspector General's report that found the NPS rented out the Brinkerhoff Lodge in Grand Teton National Park "as a low-cost family vacation getaway" to "politicians and others" including Vice President Joe Biden, despite its designation for official government business. The IG report "recommended that the Park Service change its practice of charging guests little or nothing for overnight stays and improve the lodge's management, fire safety and security." The AP listed politicians alleged to have stayed in the cabin.

This story was also carried by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (10/9, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/9, 2.28M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/9, Moen, 1.19M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/9, 5.59M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/9, Moen, 1.06M), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/11, Moen, 115K), and on the website of [WTRF-TV Wheeling \(WV\)](#) Wheeling, WV (10/13, 26K).

NPS spokeswoman April Slayton told [Greenwire](#) (10/9, Bogardus, Subscription Publication) that in response to the IG report the agency will not allow personal use of the lodge in the future, "and only government employees on official travel with a valid travel authorization will be allowed to stay at the lodge."

INTERIOR, FOREST SERVICE EVALUATING DRONES FOR FIGHTING WILDFIRES. [The Hill](#) (10/10, Cama, 471K) reported that the Department of the Interior and the US Forest Service is examining whether to employ unmanned helicopters in managing massive wildfires, adding that agencies officials will attend a demonstration in Idaho next week of an unmanned K-Max helicopter, developed by Lockheed Martin and Kaman Aerospace. In a joint statement, the two Federal agencies said, "The Interior Department and U.S. Forest Service are constantly examining new technologies to improve the safety and effectiveness of wildland firefighters on the ground," noting, "the challenges of safely operating during periods of reduced visibility and at night can preclude manned aircraft from supporting wildfire operations."

INTERIOR TO ESTABLISH NEW BISON HERD IN AZ. The [AP](#) (10/12) reports that the Interior Department agreed with Arizona state officials to establish a bison herd in northern AZ that had genetic lineage from western South Dakota's Wind Cave National Park. The Game and Fish Department is paraphrased as saying the "establishment of the herd is part of a national effort to conserve bison lineages that have high genetic purity, genetic diversity, and rare bison genes," adding that "Both herds have high levels of cattle DNA."

This story was also carried by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/13, 344K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/13, 259K), and the websites of [KNXV-TV Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (10/13, 103K) and [KOLD-TV Tucson \(AZ\)](#) Tucson, AZ (10/13, 23K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE CA GROUP APPEALS PAMUNKEY TRIBE'S FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The [AP](#) (10/9) continued coverage of Stand Up for California's "last-minute appeal" of the Interior Department decision to grant Virginia's Pamunkey Indian Tribe Federal recognition, because the California organization "that favors gambling limits" is concerned the tribe could open a casino, despite its stated intentions not to do so. Virginia state already recognizes the Pamunkey. The article featured opinion that the appeal is "unfounded, meritless, and unsupported by evidence."

This report was also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/9, 2.28M), the [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (10/13, 91K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/11, 337), and the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/13, 66K), as well as the websites of [KFMB-TV San Diego \(CA\)](#) San Diego (10/9, 53K) and [WCAV-TV Charlottesville \(VA\)](#) Charlottesville, VA (10/9, 3K).

The [Virginia Gazette](#) (10/9, Brauchle, 50K) featured the interview comments of Stand Up for California director Cheryl A. Schmit, who said the appeal has "nothing personal with the tribe, it's all about the process," asserting the tribe has failed to properly show its historical lineage. Schmit contended, "It's a very serious and solemn decision when the Department of Interior makes these recognitions," adding the Department "should be concerned about the integrity of these decisions."

HILL ANALYSIS THE FAIR MARKET VALUE OF COAL. In its "Pundits Blog," [The Hill](#) (10/9, Hein, Contributor, 471K) reported that the Department of the Interior should seek to "account for the upstream costs of coal mining on federal lands" as the Administration "makes strides to reduce downstream greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants." The Hill asserted that this will help to satisfy "fiscal reform advocates who demand a 'fair share' for energy production" and "environmentalists who seek to lessen the negative externalities associated with coal mining." The Hill also said the Federal government needed to close "fiscal loopholes" for coal companies, which reportedly cost taxpayers "up to \$1 billion each year in lost revenue." The Hill praised Secretary Sally Jewell's call for an "honest and open conversation about modernizing the federal coal program" as "a welcome first step."

JEWELL QUOTED REGARDING LAPSE OF LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. The [Covote Chronicle](#) (10/13, Harrison) reports that Congress allowed the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to lapse. The article quotes US Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell as commenting that, "after 50 years of resounding success in enriching America's great outdoors, the Land and Water Conservation Fund needlessly faces an uncertain future. I am extremely disappointed that, despite overwhelming bipartisan support, Congress has allowed this innovative and effective program to expire."

Montana Asserts Harms From Lapse Of Land And Water Conservation Fund. Continuing coverage of a previous [AP](#) (10/13, Whittle) report and relying on information in the [Montana Standard](#) (10/13, Kuglin, 36K), the [AP](#) (10/13) reports that the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks argued the loss of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which Congress allowed to lapse in Sept., "could harm the program that focuses on nongame species in need of management, such as small birds, reptiles and amphibians." The article notes that the state "has received more than \$14.3 million in State Wildlife Grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 2000," and that the Fund has "paid for \$41 million in Habitat Conservation Plan grants to the state since 2002."

The [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/12, 2.28M) also carried this report, and the [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (10/13, Whittle, 37K) provided additional coverage.

Additional Coverage. In an op-ed for [Vermont Business Magazine](#) (10/13, Leahy, 23K), Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) advocated for re-authorization of the now-lapsed Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Historic Preservation Fund.

Columnist Hannah Ryan wrote in a piece for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (10/9, Ryan, 116K) to decry the failure to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which she said could become "a great program that we didn't save."

COALITION ASKS INTERIOR, FWS TO RELEASE OF MEXICAN WOLVES DESPITE NM OPPOSITION. [Greenwire](#) (10/9, Hiar, Subscription Publication) continued coverage on Thursday of the activists' letter submitted yesterday to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and FWS Director Dan Ashe petitioning for the release of at least five packs of Mexican gray wolves in NM to strengthen the genetics of the endangered predators, in spite of state opposition.

DECISION NOT TO LIST SAGE GROUSE AS ENDANGERED PRAISED. Columnist Kelly Sloan wrote in the [Colorado Statesman](#) (10/9, Sloan, 17K) praising the Department of the Interior's decision not to list the greater sage grouse as endangered, calling it "good news" that an endangered listing was averted, "at least temporarily," because "an Endangered Species listing is traditionally one of the most injurious hammers in Interior's arsenal, one that can leave permanent economic scars."

Empowering Native American Communities:

CITIES OPT TO CELEBRATE NATIVE AMERICANS ON COLUMBUS DAY. The [Raycom News Network](#) (10/9, Wright) reported on cities and states recognizing the Federal holiday Columbus Day as "Indigenous Peoples Day" in order to celebrate Native Americans' contributions. In addition, Hawaii recognizes Columbus Day as "Discoverers Day," while some "States also have opted to ignore the Columbus holiday" altogether. [WFSB-TV New Haven \(CT\)](#) New Haven, CT (10/13, Wright, 269K) also carries this story on its website.

The [AP](#) (10/13) features the opinion of American Indian activists who contend a Federal holiday honoring Christopher Columbus "overlooks a painful history of colonialism, enslavement, discrimination and land grabs that followed the Italian explorer's 1492 arrival in the Americas"; meanwhile, advocates assert the holiday "celebrates centuries of cultural exchange between America and Europe, commemorates an iconic explorer and honors Italian-Americans, a group that has endured its own share of discrimination."

The [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (10/13, Melo, 447K) and the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/12, Butler, 28K) report similarly.

ED ANNOUNCES GRANTS FOR NATIVE YOUTH COLLEGE, CAREER READINESS. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (10/13, 364K) reports that ED has announced "more than \$5.3 million in grants to help Native American youth become college- and career-ready." ED's Native Youth Community Projects program will give "grants to a dozen recipients in nine states that will impact more than thirty tribes and involve more than 48 schools." The paper quotes Education Secretary Arne Duncan saying, "These grants are an unprecedented investment in our Native youth, and a recognition that tribal communities are best positioned to drive solutions and lead change. These grants are a down payment on President Obama's commitment last summer at his historic trip to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota to create new opportunities for our American Indian youth to cultivate the next generation of Native leaders."

POINTE-AU-CHIEN TRIBE SUING BP, OTHERS OVER OIL SPILL. The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (10/10, Somosot, 55K) reports federal court records show that "the Pointe-au-Chien Indian tribe is suing BP, Transocean and Halliburton for damages in connection with the severe loss of tribal lands and resources stemming from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010." The tribe's attorney "opted to not accept the compensation offered by BP, as it was insufficient to cover its out-of-pocket costs and amounted to less than \$75,000."

Office of Insular Affairs:

KIA'AINA EMOTIONALLY RECALLS MEETING TYPHOON VICTIMS. [Marianas Variety](#) (10/9, Villahermosa) reported on Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Esther Kia'aina's "teary-eyed" statement to the press on Wednesday, recalling meeting with victims of Typhoon Soudelor on Saipan. Kia'aina said, "I am completely amazed by the professionalism, cooperation and dedication by the CNMI government as well as the people's resiliency." Kia'aina stated the agency was present on Tuesday to "support the emergency management team to determine and to assess the current status of their recovery effort as well as to look at innovative ways of collaborating on long-term hazard mitigation planning and determining strategic areas and how to leverage resources."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CONGRESS ALLOWS LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND TO EXPIRE. [USA Today](#) (10/12, Theobald, 5.23M) reports that congress missed the Sept. 30 deadline for reauthorizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which "has had wide bipartisan support for 50 years." Supporters of the fund blame House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Ron Bishop, who is "among a group of conservatives who are leery of the federal government acquiring additional land when, for example, there is a \$11.5 billion maintenance backlog on existing National Park Service land." Meanwhile in the Senate, Sen. Mike Lee "blocked several attempts on the floor to permanently authorize the fund on the final day before it expired," noting that "more than two-thirds of his state is federal land" and "the federal government should focus on properly managing the land it already owns."

"CULTURE OF BADGERING" HELPED CUT CALIFORNIA WATER USAGE. The [New York Times](#) (10/12, Richtel, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that while California officials "credit their new conservation policies and the sting of thousands of warnings and penalties that they had issued to people for overuse," for the state's sharp reduction in water usage over the summer, "the most effective enforcers may be closer to home: the domestic water police," including "moms and dads, spouses and partners, children, even co-workers and neighbors who are quick to wag a finger when they spot people squandering moisture." The Times says this "culture of badgering has intensified since January 2014, when the drought led Gov. Jerry Brown to declare a state of emergency and ask Californians to voluntarily cut water use by 20 percent."

SENATORS SEEK COMPROMISE ON DROUGHT RELIEF LEGISLATION. [Greenwire](#) (10/9, Snider, Subscription Publication) reported that on Thursday US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) suggested that legislative "efforts to pass drought relief legislation for California and the West" will depend on whether negotiators can find areas of common agreement.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BIG DATA INVESTMENTS OPTIMIZING POWER FROM WIND. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/12, Hirtenstein, 2.66M) reports that Italy's Enel, is investing "small sums of money" to tap significant savings by examining the data that comes from hundreds of power plants. Italy's largest utility "already is squeezing more out of the wind farms it operates around the world" after operational data identified certain wind turbines had software that held back performance. CEO Francesco Starace "expects a deeper analysis of data to produce more savings and open new opportunities," Bloomberg reports, adding that he sees big data explaining and predicting consumer behavior in the long term and "Information about their machines' performance is immediately applicable in the short term." Starace said that the Enel is "investing in batteries of all kinds, hardware and software management, plants with and without batteries, putting storage in people's homes and electric vehicles."

INVESTORS COOLING ON RENEWABLE ENERGY SHARES. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/12, Warner, 455K) reports on renewables' downturn as "optimism is fading alongside sinking oil and gas prices." CSM reports that investors have "particularly soured on SunEdison's strategy of developing new wind and solar farms and then selling them to the companies it spun off," TerraForm Power and TerraForm Global as neither has returned reliable dividends. Similarly, NRG Energy's green spin-off NRG Yield was downgraded on Tuesday by Moody's as its 30 percent drop in share price would limit new project investments, CSM reports. "Despite wavering confidence, analysts predict

renewables will weather this downturn," CSM adds.

NEW MEXICO TO HAVE THREE NEW UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR FACILITIES BY END OF 2016. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/13, 259K) reports that by the end of next year, "New Mexico will be producing another 165 megawatts of solar electricity from three large-scale generating facilities scheduled to come online near Roswell and Deming." Southwest Public Service Co. "signed a long-term power purchase agreement with Florida-based NextEra Energy Resources to build and operate two 70 MW solar facilities near Roswell that, once operational in 2017, will be the largest such solar photovoltaic facilities in the state." Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association "also announced a deal, with D E. Shaw Renewable Investments LLC and Denver-based TurningPoint Energy for a 25-MW solar facility in Luna County, about 25 miles northeast of Deming." The projects are attracting "attention in the renewable energy industry because of the low-cost electricity they will provide."

DUKE ENERGY SAYS NEW SENSORS LEAD TO BIG SAVINGS AT PLANTS. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Business Journal](#) (10/13, Downey, Subscription Publication, 68K) reports "a four-year, \$80 million Duke Energy project" that deploys "sensors for key power plant equipment is nearing \$15 million in maintenance savings for the company this year." The project is called Duke's "Smart Generation" program. Duke "has put sensors on equipment such as boilers, turbines, generators, large pumps, transformers and other important power plant hardware. It is designed to avoid problems by catching them early." Duke's Michael Reid said, "It allows us to be more and more creative in solving problems."

TEXAS WIND POWER BOOM MAY SLOW AS TAX BREAK EXPIRES. The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (10/13, Blum, 884K) reports that as Texas tax breaks for wind projects expire, the state may lose its place as the top state for wind generation.

GERMAN SOLAR CONTRACTOR TO ENTER POWER PRODUCER BUSINESS IN NORTH CAROLINA. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Business Journal](#) (10/13, Downey, Subscription Publication, 68K) reports that Germany's Conergy "has made North Carolina ground zero for its strategy to move from being a construction contractor for solar projects to being an independent power producer that owns and operates solar projects." A total of 28 megawatts of solar capacity will be sold to Duke Energy with additional projects under development. Yann Brandt, Conergy's regional head for the Americas, says the company is also looking at California, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Florida.

GLOBAL WIND INSTALLATIONS POISED TO DOUBLE IN FIVE YEARS. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/12, Morales, 2.66M) reports that "cumulative wind-energy installations worldwide may double within five years as falling costs help producers compete with conventional power." According to the Global Wind Energy Council, wind developers installed a cumulative total of about 370 gigawatts worldwide by the end of last year. Bloomberg reports that to double installations in the next five years, developers would have to add 74 gigawatts a year, over last year's record 51.5 gigawatts added.

SUNEDISON TO EXIT BRITAIN AS GOVERNMENT CUTS ROOFTOP SOLAR SUBSIDIES. The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Reed, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that following the decision by Britain's Conservative government under Prime Minister David Cameron to cut rooftop solar subsidies for new installations by as much as 87 percent after January, SunEdison this week parted ways with its UK partner the Mark Group and said it would soon end the free installation program. CEO Ahmad Chatila told investors on Wednesday that SunEdison would "de-emphasize or exit" countries including Britain, while focusing on the United States, Latin America, India and China. In a statement, SunEdison said that "we are extremely disappointed that the draconian policy proposals made by the government" will "essentially eliminate the solar" market in Britain. The Times reports that in the government's view "it is time for the nascent industry to start surviving on its own" and the cuts are "part of a broad trimming back of renewable-energy programs."

Onshore Energy Development:

EMERGENCY PLAN ADDRESSES THREAT FROM UNDERGROUND FIRE NEAR NUCLEAR WASTE SITE. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (10/10, 2.46M) reported on the Westlake and Bridgeton Landfills near St. Louis where two things lurk "that should never meet: a slow-burning fire and a cache of Cold War-era nuclear waste, separated by no more than 1,200 feet." Government officials have "quietly adopted an emergency plan in case the smoldering embers ever reach the waste, a potentially 'catastrophic event' that could send up a plume of radioactive smoke over a densely populated area near the city's main airport." While the landfill fire has been burning "since at least 2010, the plan for a worst-case scenario was developed only a year ago" and not publicized until last week. Landfill operator Republic Services "downplayed any risk." The piece adds that "interceptor wells – underground structures that capture below-surface gasses – and other safeguards are in place to keep the fire and the nuclear waste separate."

ANALYSIS NUCLEAR POWER MAY OFFER SOLUTION FOR MICHIGAN'S CARBON EMISSION GOALS. A [Detroit Free Press](#) (10/11, Reindl, 910K) analysis questioned whether the future of Michigan's low-carbon energy drive lies in nuclear, rather than solar or wind, power. Currently, the state generates 23 percent of its power "from just four commercial reactors," which the Free Press indicates is "more than double the much-heralded 10% figure achieved across the state from renewable sources such as wind, biomass and solar." The article also highlights DTE's recently approved to construct a new "1,560-megawatt Fermi 3 reactor next to Fermi 2 near Monroe," even though they have not yet moved forward. Yet, hydraulic fracking is noted as a more inexpensive option that is currently hindering a potential move toward increasing the state's nuclear capabilities.

US SHALE OIL INDUSTRY CAN PROFOUNDLY IMPACT GLOBAL OIL MARKET. The [Financial Times](#) (10/12, Dale, Subscription Publication, 1.37M) reported that US shale oil can reshape the global market as it responds quickly to price changes, is exposed to capriciousness of banking, and introduced the industry to manufacturing-like processes.

Offshore Energy Development:

TUSCALOOSA NEWS SAYS OIL COMPANIES HAVE LEARNED FROM BP SPILL. The [Tuscaloosa \(AL\) News](#) (10/11, 78K) editorializes that "various lawsuits from individuals, businesses and stockholders of BP...remain in line to be adjudicated," but the "\$20 billion final agreement between five Gulf states – including Alabama – and BP to settle all civil claims against the oil company" is "a major penalty that will, as Attorney General Loretta Lynch said, 'inspire BP and its peers to take every measure necessary to ensure that nothing like this can ever happen again.'" The News says "oil companies since the Deepwater Horizon spill have made enormous strides in safety, to where they say disasters of this scale are less likely to happen moving forward."

Vitter Comments On BP Settlement. The [Bayou Buzz \(LA\)](#) (10/12, 4K) reports Sen. David Vitter last week issued a statement regarding the \$20.8 billion BP settlement for civil claims over the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Vitter said, "It's vitally important to hold BP accountable for the damage and ongoing consequences of the spill, especially when Louisiana relies so heavily on our coastal resources. As we look further into the details of the BP settlement, rest assured I will continue fighting to make sure Louisianians receive what we are justly owed."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE SPEAKS ON NEW BIKE TRAIL MAP APP. The [Phoenix Business Journal](#) (10/13, Totten, Subscription Publication, 5K) reported in its "Business" blog that the US Bureau of Land Management named the Black Canyon Trail, described as "an 80-mile ride an hour north of downtown Phoenix," as one of the "top 20 mountain biking trails in the US." The BLM "has created a national map detailing notable mountain biking trails." BLM Director Neil Kornze is quoted as saying "The BLM is proud to manage some of the world's best mountain bike trails...This new, mobile-friendly tool will help the public get a glimpse of these amazing places and plan their rides."

NEVADA PURCHASES LAND TO TRIPLE SIZE OF CAVE LAKE STATE PARK. Relying on information in the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/13, 22K), the [AP](#) (10/13) reports that the Nevada Division of State Lands purchased "2,980 acres in eastern Nevada surrounding Cave Lake State Park near Ely" from the US Forest Service, and will triple the size of the park. The article notes that the state has proposed acquisitions of two other land tracts that are both administered by the Bureau of Land Management. This report is also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/12, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/13, 344K), and on the website of [KSNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (10/12, 12K).

CONGRESSMAN SEEKS GREATER GRAND CANYON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT TO PREVENT URANIUM ORE MINING. The [AP](#) (10/13, Fonseca) reports that US Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) announced plans to propose a bill to create Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument among one million acres rich in uranium ore that are banned from the filing of new mining claims: a regulation that Grijalva wants to make permanent. Grijalva admitted the measure would probably not be granted a Congressional hearing, but aims to have "a template ready that President Barack Obama could consider signing as a proclamation for a new monument." While Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye "said the tribe has struggled with the effects of uranium mining" for decades, "Arizona Game and Fish Commission and sportsmen's groups criticized the effort to sidestep Congress and questioned the expense of running a national monument." The US Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service oversee much of the land in question.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/13, 259K) also carries this story.

SENATE CONSIDERS BILL TO PROTECT LAND IN SOUTHERN CA. [Greenwire](#) (10/9, Taylor, Subscription Publication) reported on testimony at Thursday's hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining, which considered a bill by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) "to protect 1.4 million acres of deserts, mountains and woodlands in Southern California." An elected San Bernardino County representative criticized the bill, arguing S. 414 would "cut off mineral development and stifle a key economic sector," while a conservationist argued the measure "would bolster tourism and is supported by environmentalists."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS REMOVES UTE WILDFLOWER FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES CANDIDATE LIST. Relying on information in the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/11, 28K), the [AP](#) (10/13) reports that the US Fish and Wildlife Service "removed Sleeping Ute milkvetch from a list of candidates for protection under the Endangered Species Act." Despite the wildflower's range that is limited to a certain portion of Ute Mountain Ute Tribal land, "the oil and gas development that once seemed to threaten the species is no longer expected to occur" there, according to a recent survey by the tribe that found "nearly five times as many of the wildflowers as found in 2000."

This story was also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/12, 2.28M) and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/12, 344K).

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN CREATURES, WILL REVIEW POLAR BEAR'S STATUS. [The Hill](#) (10/10, Devaney, 471K) reported on new standards promulgated in Tuesday's edition of the Federal Register. On Friday, the Fish and Wildlife Service proposed additional "protections for several animals endemic to American Samoa in the South Pacific Ocean," including "two types of American Samoan land snails, a distinct segment of friendly ground-doves, the Pacific sheath-tailed bat and the mao." In addition, the FWS said it "will conduct a five-year status review of the polar bear to determine whether it should be listed as an endangered species," following up on a 2008 review of the animal.

SURVEY SUGGESTS HIGH POLITICAL INFLUENCE AT FWS. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/13, Zaffos, 74K) reported that a recent survey by the Union of Concerned Scientists found "73 percent of Fish and Wildlife scientists say political influence is too high at the agency and a relative majority believes their office is less effective than it was five years ago." The article suggested US Fish and Wildlife Service officials may have been unduly influenced in their decision that the "greater sage grouse does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act."

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR FLORIDA PLANTS, FRESHWATER MUSSEL. The [AP](#) (10/11) reported the US Fish and Wildlife Service proposed protection of the Suwannee moccasinshell musselin in FL and GA as they are in decline due to "pollution, sedimentation and reduced water flows." Officials are paraphrased as saying "the moccasinshell's decline serves as a warning about the decline of clean water in the region." The FWS also proposed protections for five FL plants, including the Florida bristle fern. The [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/11, 344K) also carried this story.

FWS INVESTIGATES FATAL CALIFORNIA CONDOR SHOOTING IN AZ. The [AP](#) (10/10) reported that the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced its investigation of Thursday's "fatal shooting of an endangered California condor in northern Arizona." The Arizona Game and Fish Department said it conducted a preliminary investigation. This story was also carried by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/10, 2.28M) and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/10, 259K).

National Park Service:

CRITICS FIGHT MAINE WOODS NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL OVER FEARS OF NPS REGULATION. The [AP](#) (10/11, Sharp) reported on criticism to Burt's Bees founder Roxanne Quimby's proposal to donate "70,000 acres of woodlands — and millions of dollars — for a Maine Woods National Park," which a recent poll showed local residents disfavor two to one. While supporters of the proposal assert it would create jobs in an economically depressed area, opponents assert National Park Service regulations such as those aimed at protecting park vistas could limit industries in surrounding towns.

This report was also carried by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/11, 787K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/11, Sharp, 6.76M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/11, 2.28M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/11, Sharp, 1.06M), and the website of [ABC News](#) (10/11, Sharp, 3.97M).

NPS FINDS MAN DEAD IN TENT IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (10/11) reported that on Saturday the National Park Service said it found a man dead in his tent in Rocky Mountain National Park. He was found "in a backcountry camping site on the west side of the park in northern Colorado." This report was also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/11, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/11, 344K), and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/11, 259K).

NPS SEARCHES FOR MISSING DIVER IN LAKE POWELL, AZ. The [AP](#) (10/13) reports that the National Park Service and the Coconino County Sheriff's Office in Page, AZ continue to search for 29-year-old William "Billy" Burke of Wyoming "who disappeared after he jumped from a 90-foot cliff into Lake Powell." Although "Bystanders immediately searched for the man," the AP says "they couldn't find him." Due to the water's depth, "a remotely operated vehicle has been brought in to help the search." This story was also carried by the [Arizona Republic](#) (10/11, 1.12M) and [KNXV-TV](#) Phoenix (10/12, 103K) on its website.

PARKS FOUNDATION CONTEST WINNERS VISIT CO NATIONAL PARKS. The [AP](#) (10/13, Press) reports that the National Park Foundation is awarding eight winners of a contest to help promote the National Park Service's "Find Your Park" campaign with a trip to Colorado this week. As the NPS celebrates its centennial next year, the AP paraphrases the foundation as expressing a goal to "make sure parks stay relevant for the next 100 years." This story was also carried by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/12, 787K), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/12, 1.06M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/12, 2.28M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/13, 344K).

SENATORS PROPOSE STUDY THAT COULD MAKE EVERS HOME PART OF NPS. The [AP](#) (10/9, Pettus) reported that on Friday Mississippi senators Thad Cochran (R) and Roger Wicker (R) said they proposed legislation to "authorize a study on the national significance of" the home of Mississippi civil rights leader Medgar Evers, "as a step toward making it part of the Park Service," which the AP noted would "bring a steadier source of money from Washington." The article provided background on Evers, who "led voter registration drives and challenged Mississippi's staunchly segregated society." This report was also carried by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/9, Pettus, 2.28M) and [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/9, Pettus, 1.06M).

US Geological Survey:

SERIES OF SMALL EARTHQUAKES RECORDED IN NORTHERN OKLAHOMA. The [AP](#) (10/13) reports several "small earthquakes have been recorded across northern Oklahoma following two moderate earthquakes in the area on Saturday." USGS "reported that nine quakes ranging in magnitude from 2.5 to 3.7 were recorded between 5:07 p.m. Saturday and 5:27 a.m. Sunday." The most recent "seismic activity comes after a 4.5 magnitude temblor Saturday afternoon near Cushing and a 4.4 magnitude quake Saturday morning southwest of Medford." The AP adds that "Cushing is where the world's most important crude oil storage hub is located and it is used to settle futures contracts traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange." The Oklahoma Geological Survey has said it's "likely that many recent earthquakes in the state have been triggered by the injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas drilling operations." [Reuters](#) (10/11, Wade) also provides coverage of this story.

EDITORIAL ARCTIC MAY BECOME TOO COST PROHIBITIVE FOR INDUSTRY. The [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (10/9, 15K) editorialized that the Arctic may "become too cost prohibitive for new exploration and industry," and jeered so-called "kayaktavists" for attempting to stop a Royal Dutch Shell PLC drilling rig from leaving a Seattle port, while failing to use "vessels that are at least made of recycled plastic, if not made of wood." The US Geological Survey is cited as estimating "the Arctic holds an oil and gas bonanza."

Top National News:

COVERAGE OF OBAMA INTERVIEW FOCUSES ON CLINTON EMAIL COMMENTS. The President's interview with CBS' "60 Minutes," particularly his comments on Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while she was Secretary of State, continues to generate media coverage, with some reports casting his remarks as a defense of Clinton.

Cecilia Vega reported on [ABC World News](#) (10/12, story 2, 3:15, Muir, 5.84M) that the President "had some strong words for Clinton and her troubles with that private email server." Under the headline, "Obama Defends Clinton's Use Of Private Email Server, Sort Of," the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/12, Warner, 455K) highlights a number of the President's comments during the interview, but leads its coverage with his discussion of Clinton's email server, noting that he said her use of the server while Secretary of State was "a mistake" but "didn't endanger national security." The Monitor also noted that the President "denied prior knowledge of the private email server" and when asked about his Administration's "prosecution of individuals with classified material on personal computers, the president said he didn't think with Clinton there was an intent to 'hide something or to squirrel away information.'"

A [USA Today](#) (10/13, Cummings, 5.23M) story also focuses primarily on his comments about Clinton's emails, reporting that the President said, "I can tell you that this is not a situation in which America's national security was endangered," adding that "it is important for Clinton to answer questions on the subject 'to the satisfaction of the American public. And they can make their own judgment.'" The President also argued that "the political scandal around it has been 'ginned up' by her Republican opponents." [Western Journalism](#) (10/13, Huston, 303K) similarly noted on its website that while the President "conceded.. that the American people have every right to consider whether Clinton's actions were appropriate," he "added that the political season is fueling the fire."

Some commentators Monday evening also cast the President's comments as a defense of Clinton. For example, Paul Begala said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (10/12, 686K) that Clinton "needs to send him a bouquet of roses. That was as calm a defense — a lot of Democrats panic and my people are kind of weak that way and here is the President of the United States, the most beloved Democrat in America saying, 'Everybody calm down. National security was not compromised.'"

Bianna Keilar said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/12, 554K), "I do think for Hillary Clinton I think this is a good thing, especially in that the President also said she didn't pose a

national security risk. So she's got some backup there. He's also repeating some of what she said. But what took a long time...for her to come to – I think that apology and that she's going to continue to explain to the American people. I think this is him in a way sort of keeping her on track with that as her strategy going forward."

Other commentators took a different track. For example, Eric Bolling said on [Fox News' The Five](#) (10/12, 408K), "I think he destroyed her. I think he threw her right under the bus. ... At first Hillary Clinton said that they knew what was going on. He just said right up front, we didn't know what she did was wrong. She already apologized for it. Later on he gets to, hey, but there's nothing to see here... but I will tell you I was shocked he went that forceful right off the bat at her." Similarly, Carol Lee said on [MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (10/12, 487K) that the President "seemed to go out of his way not to do her any favors with his answer. He said he wasn't aware that she had a private server while she was Secretary of State. ... I think he made pretty clear that what happened was not something that he approves of and he also gave a classic answer deflecting to the American people to decide whether or not what she did passes muster with them."

Kevin Madden noted on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (10/12, 686K) that the President "did say Hillary Clinton has to answer these questions to the satisfaction of the American public and I think to this point she has not. He's not the arbiter here. The ultimate arbiter I think will be the public when they render electoral judgment on Hillary Clinton but also the investigators. There are investigations going on right now. They are going to decide whether or not in a non-partisan way whether or not there were violations or there was some wrongdoing here and that's ultimately where the test will be."

RNC Ad Blasts Clinton Over Email Scandal. [McClatchy](#) (10/12, Clark, 28K) reports that as Democrats prepare for the party's first presidential primary debate, the RNC has launched a new 30-second TV ad titled, "Not Telling Us The Truth...Again," which "bash[es] Hillary Clinton for her use of a private email account." According to the RNC, "the five-figure ad buy will run on national cable and online, with a digital component directly targeting social media supporters of Clinton's Democratic rival, Bernie Sanders." It comes "as Clinton's poll numbers have dropped and as she has launched her own cable TV ad highlighting House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy's claim that her poll numbers plunged because of the Republican-led Benghazi committee's work."

Gowdy Denies Fired Committee Aide's Claims. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/12, story 2, 2:10, Holt, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell reported that Rep. Trey Gowdy, chair of the Benghazi investigation committee, said that fired committee aide Brad Podliska's claim that the investigation turned into a partisan witch hunt against Hillary Clinton is a "lie," and that Podliska "was a lousy employee" who "mishandled classified information" and wouldn't "do what his supervisors instructed him to do." In response to Gowdy's claims, Podliska's attorneys on Monday said Gowdy "violated laws by talking about a confidential employment dispute."

Jake Tapper reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/12, 554K) that Podliska is threatening to sue the committee in part "for objecting to what he calls a partisan hyperfocus on" Clinton. The committee denies that, stating Podliska has "now run to the press with his new salacious allegations," after the committee refused his demands for money.

Eight Of Nine Benghazi Hearings Canceled This Year. Meanwhile, Nancy Cordes reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/12, story 2, 2:35, Pelley, 5.08M) that CBS News obtained internal documents showing that while the committee originally planned to hold nine hearings this year, only one is scheduled, "with Clinton as the lone witness later this month." Cordes reported that Republicans say the other eight were scrapped "because they have had difficulty procuring some of the relevant documents from the Obama Administration."

Clinton Aide Negotiated With Abu Dhabi For NYU While At State. The [Washington Post](#) (10/13, A1, Helderman, 6.76M) reports on its front page that during her first four months as then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's chief of staff at the State Department, Cheryl D. Mills also "worked part time at New York University, negotiating with officials in Abu Dhabi to build a campus in that Persian Gulf city." Mills, whose work at the State Department was unpaid, was "officially designated as a temporary expert-consultant," which "allowed her to continue to collect outside income while serving as chief of staff." The Post calls the arrangement "another example of how Clinton as secretary allowed close aides to conduct their public work even as they performed jobs benefiting private interests," adding that the situation "raises questions about how one of the State Department's top employees set boundaries between her public role and a private job that involved work on a project funded by a foreign government."

ADMINISTRATION PLANS "MAJOR CHANGES" TO HEALTHCARE.GOV. In what the [New York Times](#) (10/13, Pear, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says is at least a tacit acknowledgment of "the difficulties of some health care consumers," the Administration is planning to make "major changes to HealthCare.gov" in order to make it easier for consumers to find insurance plans in which their doctors are participating and to predict their healthcare costs for the next year. This, as officials are expecting that many consumers currently in ACA networks will have to switch plans and find new doctors due to "substantial premium increases coming in some states in 2016." According to the Times, "new features of HealthCare.gov will allow consumers to type in the names of their doctors, prescription drugs and preferred hospitals, and see which plans cover them, administration officials said."

OBAMA LAMENTS "US VERSUS THEM" MENTALITY AMONG SOME US CHRISTIANS. The [New York Review of Books](#) (10/12, 5K) website ran the first half of President Obama's September 14 conversation in Des Moines, Iowa with novelist Marilynne Robinson, one of the President's favorite writers. The transcript runs more than 3,900 words, and the remainder of the conversation will appear in the next issue. Media attention to the interview is limited, with wire sources and national newspapers mainly just noting that the interview was released – if they report on it at all – and saying that it was the latest unusual media move by the President. (Four sources mention his interview earlier this year with comedian Marc Maron, and several mention other appearances in non-traditional media.)

What coverage there is focuses largely on an exchange between the President and Robinson on faith and Christianity, which drew the attention of online conservative media. The talk also drew attention on Twitter, where [it was trending](#) Monday. Elizabeth Bruenig of the New Republic [called it](#) the "interviewer/interviewee match-up of the century," while CNN's Brian Stelter [termed it](#) "riveting," and HarperCollins executive editor Calvert Morgan [called Obama](#) "a president with the mind, soul, and humility to interview" the writer. But Carlos Lozada of the Washington Post [tweeted that](#) Obama showed "a brutally bleak view of religion in America" that [may have been](#) "another version of his 'cling to their guns and religion' thing."

[The Hill](#) (10/12, Fabian, 471K) reports that the President "lamented the rancorous, divided state of US politics" during the "unusual discussion." The Hill, as do many other outlets, quotes Obama as asking, "How do you reconcile the idea of faith being really important to you and you caring a lot about taking faith seriously with the fact that, at least in our democracy and our civic discourse, it seems as if folks who take religion the most seriously sometimes are also those who are suspicious of those not like them?" Robinson replied that "those 'turning in on themselves – and God knows, arming themselves' against an 'imagined other,' are not 'taking their Christianity seriously.'"

The [Washington Times](#) (10/13, Chasmar, 344K) reports that in the interview, Obama also "suggested that Christians who take their religion the most seriously often adopt an 'us versus them' mentality," and later in the interview said "that part of what makes America great is 'this nagging dissatisfaction that spurs us on.'" [Mediaite](#) (10/13, Feldman, 251K) similarly says that "as they spoke about religion, Obama brought up an 'us versus them' mentality amongst some Christians," a quote also carried by the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/13, Rushing, 5.59M) on its website.

Jason Howerton of [The Blaze](#) (10/12, 1.66M) says "it was Obama's line of questioning about Robinson's Christian faith was grabbing people's attention on Monday." Conservative news site [WND](#) (10/13, 152K) says the interview "took a strange turn" with the discussion of faith, which WND calls "his comment on devout Christians." The [Daily Caller](#) (10/12, Guest, 375K) took a different tack, focusing on the President's claim "that 'Fox News and conservative media' make him 'seem scary.'"

The [AP](#) (10/13, 530K) said in its brief report that the two discussed "faith, democracy, education and writing," while the [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Jaffe, 6.76M) reports that faith was a major topic, but does not delve into it. Instead, the Post calls the interview "the most highbrow, at times the weirdest and, in moments, the most revealing" of Obama's recent "unconventional media moves." However, the Post does not say what was weird about the discussion.

[TIME](#) (10/12, 19.55M) says "the conversation focused on faith, politics and their intersection in Robinson's work, which has long concerned itself with Christian thought," and the President's questions "revealed nearly as much about him as it did about his interviewee." Time says Obama disclosed that "his outsider status during his first presidential campaign allowed him to connect with small-town America," and that "one of the biggest struggles of his political career has been bridging the gap between 'our common life and our political life.'"

[CNN Money](#) (10/12, 2.15M) reports on its website that Obama has "interviewed David Simon, the creator of HBO's 'The Wire,' on the enforcement of drug laws and over-policing" and science educator Bill Nye "on the dangers of climate change," and continued his unusual role as an interviewer with Robinson. CNN Money says Obama's "questions to Robinson illuminate his views on policy and the world around him," including that "being a good Christian is hard" and that government can and should have a positive role in Americans' lives.

[Slate](#) (10/12, 1.38M) writes that in the interview, "we encounter a lovely meshing of two like sensibilities: Obama, a creature of grassroots politicking, has a touch of" the "serenity" and "preference for the simple and the true" of one of Robinson's best-known protagonists, while Robinson, "in her musings on faith, channels a blend of idealism and realism that feels distinctly Obamian."

[Entertainment Weekly](#) (10/12, Holub, 11.48M) reports on its website that the two went "back-and-forth a bit about the value of pessimism in American culture." Emma Cueto of women's culture and news site [Bustle](#) (10/12, 2.33M) writes that Robinson "seems very much to admire Obama and the difficult political situation he has to navigate. Both are clearly deep thinkers, and their conversation is fascinating." The [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#) (10/13, 310K) has a brief and straightforward item on the publication of the interview.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *"How To Keep People In Health Plans."* In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/13, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) considers the reasons behind the "sharp drop earlier this year in the number of people enrolled in health insurance plans purchased through federal and state marketplaces established under the Affordable Care Act." Some people were confused by "various notices telling them what information they need to submit to obtain subsidies," while many cited cost as a big factor. The Times calls for more states to expand Medicaid, along with "stronger outreach efforts" to help people understand what documents they need to provide.

"Is The Pentagon Telling The Truth About Afghanistan?" A [New York Times](#) (10/13, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial says that new data from the UN "on the military advances by a resurgent Taliban is alarming for what it says about the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan — and what it suggests about the American military's honesty about what is happening there." The Times argues that "as long as this country has troops and money invested in Afghanistan, Congress and the public need to hear the truth about how the mission is going."

"A Deal To Fix The Subways In New York." A [New York Times](#) (10/13, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial.

WASHINGTON POST. *"Iran's Ludicrous Conviction Of Jason Rezaian."* In an editorial on Iran's conviction of journalist Jason Rezaian, the [Washington Post](#) (10/13, 6.76M) laments the "showcase for the opacity, the brazen disregard for the rule of law and, ultimately, the sheer cruelty of Iran's Islamic regime," and adds that the entire "travesty ought to shame the Iranian government into releasing the journalist."

"Will Democratic Candidates Offer True Progress?" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/13, 6.76M) argues that while the "net effect" of the "left-wing populism" being espoused by Sen. Bernie Sanders has been to push Democrats' "reigning ideology leftward," the "challenge for [Hillary] Clinton and her fellow candidates, starting Tuesday night, is to stand up for policy nuance in a party whose voter base seems impatient with it." The Post opines that the "candidates who distinguish themselves" during Tuesday's Democratic debate "will be those capable of explaining, persuasively, how they will convert their grand promises into tangible progress. Populism may get votes; pragmatism gets results."

"A Stinging Loss For The Washington Football Team." A [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Board, 6.76M) editorial.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *"The Mullahs Say Thanks."* In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/13, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) casts Iran's missile test as evidence of Iran viewing the recently reached nuclear deal as a sign of weakness on the West's part. The Journal notes that Friday was journalist Jason Rezaian's 444th day of captivity — the exact number of days US diplomats spent as hostages in 1979 and 1980 — and that the announcement of his conviction was surely a sign. The missile test, meanwhile, is cast as an indication that Iran will simply not abide by provisions it doesn't like, and that it believes it will be able to act with impunity.

"Rubio's Family Leave Gambit." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/13, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says in an editorial that Marco Rubio has crafted a strong foreign policy agenda, but his domestic stances have been less encouraging. The Journal says Rubio has offered proposals on family leave and tax credits that echo the Democrats, rather than offering a principled conservative alternative.

"A Bad Tax Brainstorm." An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/13, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) decries the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's proposals to combat "base erosion and profit shifting," or BEPS, arguing that the OECD proposals are based on the premise that the world's fiscal problems are due to insufficient tax collection, rather than weak growth.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

Weary Vegas Seems Apropos For This Debate

[USC Dismisses Troubled Coach](#)

[Tehran Mourns Its Key Liaison In Syria](#)

[Divisive Symbol](#)

Tesla SUV Buyers Can Tap Loophole For Hefty Tax Break

Wall Street Journal:

[EMC Takeover Marks Return Of Michael Dell](#)

[Barclays Preparing To Name Jes Staley Its CEO](#)

[Libya's "Masked Men" Hunt Human Smugglers](#)

[The Two Parties Aren't Crazy. Just Changed](#)

New York Times:

[For-Profit Colleges Accused Of Fraud Still Receive US Funds](#)

[Deadly Ankara Attack Not Enough To Unify A Polarized Turkey](#)

[Latest Unease On Right: Ryan Is Too Far Left](#)

[US-Made Weaponry Is Turning Syrian Conflict Into Proxy War With Russia](#)

[Nudes Are Old News At Playboy](#)

[Hazing And Drinking Deaths At Asian-American Fraternities Raise Concerns](#)

[Confrontation With Black Partygoers Leads To Gang Charges For White Group](#)

Washington Post:

[At Home Ryan Walks A Fine Line](#)

[Afghan Decision Tests Obama](#)

[Democrats' Debate: Dullness As A Virtue?](#)

[A Sense Of Awe](#)

[Clinton Aide Also Had Job Dealing With Abu Dhabi](#)

[Iran Media: Post Reporter Rezaian Is Convicted](#)

Financial Times:

[Dell Agrees \\$63Bn Acquisition Of EMC](#)

[London Plays Up The Pomp For Xi's Visit](#)

Washington Times:

[Obama Deflects Blame For Botched Syria Plan](#)

[New Stage Different Clinton](#)

[Videos Stun Customers Of Planned Parenthood](#)

[Advocates Gain Steam To Allow Guns On Campus](#)

[GOP Looks To Blackburn As Candidate For Speaker](#)

[Tricky Trade Issues Await South Korea's Park On Washington Trip](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Alaska Jet-Cargo Fire; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton; 2016 Politics-President Obama Thoughts; 2016 Politics-Biden; Texas-Councilman Tased; Cleveland Police Shooting-Investigation; Memphis-Police Officer Shot; Iran-Washington Post Reporter Convicted; Wikileaks Founder-Ecuador; Lottery Scandal; Red Wine-Diabetes; Adopted South Korean Sisters Reunited.

CBS: South Carolina-Flooding Recovery; Hillary Clinton-Benghazi Committee; Turkey-Suicide Bombers; Blue Bell-Listeria Charges; Cleveland Police Shooting-Investigation; President Nixon-Vietnam War.

NBC: 2016 Politics-Democrats; Hillary Clinton-Benghazi Committee; Milwaukee-Gun Control Trial; Southwest Flights-System Errors; Texas Police-Tasing Incident; Iran-Washington Post Reporter Convicted; Zimbabwe-Lion Hunting Incident; LinkedIn-Unlimited Employee Vacation Time; San Diego Wedding-President Obama; Houston Baseball-George HW Bush Pitch; Adopted South Korea Sisters Reunited.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 7 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate; Iran-Washington Post Reporter; Turkey-Suicide Bombers Identification.

CBS: South Carolina-Flooding Recovery Efforts; South Carolina Football Coach Resignation; MLB Playoffs-New York Mets; 2016 Politics-GOP Leaders; 2016 Politics-Democratic Debate.

NPR: South Carolina-Flooding Recovery Efforts; Arkansas-Lethal Injection Drug Investigation; Israeli-Palestinian Violence; China Trade Report-Export Decrease; Japan-American Troops Relocated; South Africa-Sudan President War Crimes; Zimbabwe-Lion Hunting Incident.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No public schedule announced.

VICE PRESIDENT B DEN — No public schedule announced.

US Senate Senate on recess from 9 Oct – 19 Oct

US House House of Representatives on recess from 9 Oct – 19 Oct

Other 12:00 PM Congressional Fireside Chat with Co-Founder & President of Eventbrite Julia Hartz – The Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee and the Women's High Tech Coalition host a fireside chat about re-imagining the workplace with Co-Founder & President of Eventbrite, Julia Hartz. The event is a continuation of the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee Speakers Series, which brings Internet leaders and luminaries to the Capitol Complex to share their expertise with Internet policy leaders in Congress Location: Rayburn House Office Building Room 2237, 200 D St SW, Washington, DC www.netcaucus.org <https://twitter.com/NetCaucusAC>

11 30 AM Assistant Secretary of State Thomas-Greenfield meets Congo Ambassador to the U.S. – Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Linda Thomas-Greenfield meets Republic of the Congo Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Serge Mombouli Location: State Department, Washington, DC www.state.gov <https://twitter.com/StateDept>

3:00 PM Brookings event on the Central African Republic – 'Addressing crisis, supporting recovery: The Central African Republic at a crossroads' Brookings Institution Africa Growth Initiative discussion, on immediate efforts to stabilize CAR and long-term strategies for the country's economic recovery. Central African Republic Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Stanislas Moussa-Kembe delivers remarks, while panel features U.S. Special Representative for the Central African Republic Amb. W. Stuart Symington, Mercy Corps Vice President of Global Engagement & Policy Andrea Koppel, and Search for Common Ground Executive Vice President Sandra Melone Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

Tuesday, Oct. 13 – Wednesday, Oct. 14 DHS Secretary Johnson addresses Association of the U.S. Army – Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting and Exposition. Day two speakers include Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson, Assistant Secretaries of the Army Katherine Hammack and Heidi Shyu, and other U.S. Army officials Lo

Conversation Contents

OLCA Weekly Report for Week Ending October 9, 2015

Attachments:

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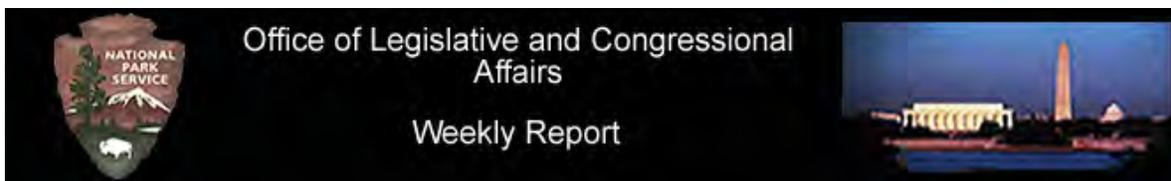
Subject: OLCA Weekly Report for Week Ending October 9, 2015

Attachments: 34 - October 9.docx

Please see attached.

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Week Ending October 9, 2015

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

Nothing to report.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

FLOOR ACTION

Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

October 7-8 – The House Committee on Natural Resources (Bishop) held a markup and approved the following bills of interest to the National Park Service:

- **H.R. 974** (Lummis, R-WY-At Large), to direct the Secretary of the Interior to promulgate regulations to allow the use of hand-propelled vessels on certain rivers and streams that flow in and through certain Federal lands in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, and for other purposes. The committee amended the bill to provide a definition of hand-propelled vessel and paddling and specify the applicable waters within the parks. The Department does not have a position on the bill as reported.
- **H.R. 1452** (Miller, R-FL-1), to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance. The bill was reported without amendment. The Department could support the bill if amended to protect the undeveloped lands that were part of the conveyance.
- **H.R. 2270** (Heck, D-WA-10), to redesignate the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, located in the State of Washington, as the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, to establish the Medicine Creek Treaty National Historic Site within the wildlife refuge, and for other purposes. The committee amended the bill to establish a Medicine Creek Treaty National Memorial and place it under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rather than the NPS. The Department does not have a position on the bill as reported.
- **H.R. 2406** (Wittman, R-VA-1), to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes. The committee adopted amendments, among others, requiring a bison management plan at Grand Canyon NP, prohibiting the NPS from restricting recreational or commercial fishing access at Biscayne Bay NP unless done in coordination with the State of Florida, providing the option to use funds in the federal land disposal account for deferred maintenance activities, and clarifying language regarding the transportation of bows through the National Park System. The Department does not have a position on the bill as

reported.

October 8 – The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining (Barrasso) held a hearing on several bills, including the following bills of interest to the National Park Service:

- **S. 414** (Feinstein, D-CA), to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area. The bill includes major expansions of Death Valley NP, Mojave National Preserve, and Joshua Tree NP, and also designates wilderness at Death Valley NP. The Department supports the bill with amendments.
- **S. 872** (Murkowski, R-AK), to provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes. The Department opposes the bill because it would delay completing the Alaska Land Transfer Program.
- **S. 1955** (Murkowski, R-AK), to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans. The Department opposes the bill because it would delay completing the Alaska Land Transfer Program.

Steve Ellis, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, was the Department's witness.

NEW BILLS INTRODUCED

Introduced on October 1:

H.R. 3668 (Cook, R-CA-8), to codify in law and expand certain off-highway vehicle recreation areas in the State of California, to designate as wilderness certain public lands in the State of California administered by the Bureau of Land Management, to expand the Death Valley National Park Wilderness and the San Geronio Wilderness in San Bernardino National Forest, to ensure the conservation and necessary management of wildlife in these wilderness areas, to establish the Mojave Trails Special Management Area in the State, and for other purposes.

Introduced on October 5:

H.R. 3683 (Clay, D-MO-1), to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network, and for other purposes.

Introduced on October 7:

H.R. 3707 (Tsongas, D-MA-3), to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Groundwork USA national office, to provide grants to certain nonprofit organizations.

S. 2164 (Wyden, D-OR), to extend the secure rural schools and community self-determination program and to make permanent the payment in lieu of taxes program and the land and water conservation fund.

Introduced on October 8:

H.R. 3711 (Vargas, D-CA-51), to authorize the Secretary of Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California, and for other purposes.

S. 2165 (Cantwell, D-WA), to amend title 54, United States Code, to permanently authorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 2169 (Tester), to amend title 54, United States Code, to extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

S. 2177 (Cochran), to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House, located in Jackson, Mississippi, and for other purposes.

HILL VISITS & BRIEFINGS

October 6-7 – Margaret Goodro, Superintendent, Lake Clark NP and National Preserve and Brandon Flint, Legislative Specialist, met with staff of Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK); Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Rep. Don Young (R-AK-at large) as a courtesy and to update them on park issues.

PARK VISITS AND TOURS

October 3 – Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY-12) visited Women’s Rights NHP with guests for a tour and overview by Chief of Interpretation Kimberly Szewczyk.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

October 20 – The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski) will hold a hearing to consider the following nominations:

- Mary L. Kendall, to be Inspector General at the Department of the Interior;
- Suzette M. Kimball, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey;
- Kristen Joan Sarri, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Policy, Management and Budget).

The hearing will take place in 366 Dirksen Senate Office Building at 10:00 a.m.

UPCOMING HILL VISITS AND BRIEFINGS

Nothing to report.

UPCOMING PARK VISITS AND TOURS

October 14 – Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR-4) and his staff will visit Hot Springs NP. They will discuss the future of the Bathhouse Row rehabilitation leasing program with Superintendent Josie Fernandez.

October 16 – Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) will participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Railroad Lift Bridge Restoration at the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal NHP.

October 15-16 - Staff of Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Reps. Kay Granger (R-TX-12), Curt Clawson (R-FL-19), Jim Bridenstine (R-OK-1), Ted Yoho (R-FL-3), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL-25) and staff of the House Natural Resources Committee will visit Everglades National Park for an orientation and overview. The Everglades Foundation is hosting the group.

October 23 – Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) will provide remarks at the opening of the Piscataway Living Building, part of National Capital Parks–East.

Conversation Contents

Clip: E&E: Feinstein's Calif. desert bill draws mixed reviews

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Subject: Clip: E&E: Feinstein's Calif. desert bill draws mixed reviews

Feinstein's Calif. desert bill draws mixed reviews

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Friday, October 9, 2015

A bill by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) to protect 1.4 million acres of deserts, mountains and woodlands in Southern California would cut off mineral development and stifle a key economic sector in San Bernardino County, a county elected official testified yesterday.

But a conservationist argued [S. 414](#), which would designate two new national monuments and six new wilderness areas and expand three national parks, is a "balanced approach to conservation" that would bolster tourism and is supported by environmentalists, elected officials, business leaders and off-highway recreation groups.

Both views were on display yesterday at a hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining, which featured testimony on 10 public lands bills.

Feinstein said her bill "fulfills a commitment made two decades ago to preserve the magnificent desert landscapes of my home state." She said it carries 140 endorsements, including Riverside and Imperial counties, eight chambers of commerce, three public utility companies, and dozens of environmental and motorized recreation groups.

The hearing came less than a week before two top Interior and Agriculture department officials are set to attend a public meeting near Palm Springs to discuss calls for President Obama to protect most of the lands in Feinstein's bill by executive decree ([Greenwire](#), Oct. 7).

Feinstein in August asked the president to designate three national monuments -- Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains -- using his authority under the Antiquities Act.

San Bernardino County Supervisor Robert Lovingood said he opposes a national monument. He also aired concerns with Feinstein's bill, saying it could stifle mining opportunities and hamper a gold mine that could become California's second largest.

"The mining concerns and economic development are paramount to us," he said, noting that San Bernardino oversees roughly 100 mines. The federal government already owns 80 percent of the county, which prevents the collection of millions of dollars in property taxes, he said.

But Feinstein's bill drew support yesterday from Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service witnesses. It is endorsed by San Bernardino Supervisor James Ramos and Frazier Haney, conservation director for the Mojave Desert Land Trust, who called it a balanced approach.

Panel Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) said a presidential monument designation would be premature and unnecessarily large.

"It would not address the other uses of the land this legislation balances, including off-road vehicle recreation," he said. "Are there objects that need to be protected here by the president that really can't wait for the legislative process?"

Alaska lands controversy

Much of yesterday's debate centered on [S. 872](#), a bill by committee Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) that would allow the five southeast Alaska Native communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee and Wrangell to organize as urban corporations and each receive 23,000 acres of land.

The bill was backed by Leo Barlow of the Southeast Alaska Landless Corp., who said 3,425 Alaska Natives who enrolled in those communities were deprived of owning acres around their traditional homelands under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The 1971 settlement provided aboriginal Alaskans a payment of \$962.5 million and conveyed to them more than 44 million acres of federal land.

"We have been handicapped and literally denied 44 years of opportunity," Barlow said.

But the Obama administration opposes the bill, said BLM Deputy Director Steve Ellis, who testified that it "risks setting a precedent for other similar communities to seek to overturn administrative finality and reopen their status determinations."

Ellis said the administration supports fulfilling ANCSA entitlements as soon as possible.

Buck Lindenkugel, an attorney for the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC), said his organization also opposes the bill because it would give portions of the Tongass National Forest to for-profit corporations.

"Our fundamental concern is maintaining the integrity of the Tongass," he said.

Murkowski said residents of the five communities have been denied the benefits received by other Alaska Natives and rejected Ellis' claim that her bill would set any precedents.

SEACC's concerns with Tongass selections are "unjustified fear," she added, because land selections would be overseen by the Interior secretary and need not occur within protected conservation areas in the forest.

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Leah Duran
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Conversation Contents

Final Version: California Desert Media Advisory

Attachments:

/112. Final Version: California Desert Media Advisory/1.1 10-09-15 California Desert Feinstein Advisory FINAL.docx

"Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Oct 09 2015 09:33:17 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Anita Bilbao <abi_bao@blm.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>
Subject: Final Version: California Desert Media Advisory
Attachments: 10-09-15 California Desert Feinstein Advisory FINAL.docx

Good morning all,

Attached please find the final advisory that will go out at noon.

Thanks,
~Leah

--

Leah Duran
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of the Interior
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Date: October 9, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
David Glasgow (USDA), david.glasgow@oc.usda.gov

Interior, Agriculture Departments to Join Senator Feinstein at Public Meeting to Hear Community's Vision for Conservation in the California Desert

WHITEWATER, Calif. – On Tuesday, October 13, U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor and U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie will join U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, as well as other federal, state, local and tribal officials, in a visit to the desert of Southern California.

At the invitation of Senator Feinstein, Connor and Bonnie will [attend Feinstein's public meeting to hear about the community's vision](#) for the management of public lands of the California desert, including the Senator's proposal to designate three new National Monuments: Sand to Snow National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument, and Castle Mountains National Monument.

For more than twenty years, Senator Feinstein has led the effort to protect the special places of the California desert. Located less than 100 miles from the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the desert is a beloved resource for millions of people. This region is a popular destination for outdoor recreation, including, hiking, rock climbing, camping, and off-highway vehicle travel. The region is also home to a wide diversity of wildlife, spectacular mountains and dunes, important historical resources, and areas of cultural significance to local tribes.

Who: **Michael Connor**, U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior
Robert Bonnie, U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment
Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator

What: Community meeting on California desert conservation priorities

When: Tuesday, October 13, 2015
1:45 p.m. PDT – Media check-in
2:00 p.m. PDT – Public meeting begins

Where: Wildlands Conservancy Whitewater Preserve

9160 Whitewater Canyon Road
Whitewater, CA 92282

Media: Credentialed members of the media who are interested in attending are required to [RSVP here](#).

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, October 9, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Fri Oct 09 2015 05:00:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, October 9, 2015

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

Holiday Message. In observance of the federal Columbus Day holiday, we will not publish on Monday, October 12, 2015. Service will resume on Tuesday, October 13, 2015. We wish our readers a safe holiday.

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DOI in the News:

OFFICIALS TO CELEBRATE VALLES CALDERA'S TRANSITION. The [AP](#) (10/9) reports that "state, federal and tribal officials will be gathering this weekend to mark the official transition of Valles Caldera National Preserve to the National Park Service." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will be "joined by members of New Mexico's congressional delegation, Native American leaders and other local officials for a celebration at the preserve Saturday." The article notes that "officials say public access is expected to increase with the change."

Additional coverage was provided by [Fronteras](#) (10/9), the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (10/9, 67K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/9, 344K), and [KRQE-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (10/9, 36K).

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES NEW JERSEY OFFSHORE WIND LEASE SALE. The [CNS News](#) (10/9, 182K) reports that "the federal government is auctioning off 343,833 acres of offshore federal land for wind energy development on Nov. 9, with bidding coming from 13 companies deemed to be 'legally, technically and financially qualified' to participate." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and BOEM Director Abigail Ross Hopper announced Wednesday that "343,833 acres offshore New Jersey will be offered for commercial wind energy development in a competitive lease sale on November 9, 2015." Jewell said, "On the heels of this summer's historic 'steel-in-the-water' milestone for the nation's first commercial offshore wind farm, today's announcement marks another major step in standing up a sustainable offshore wind program for Atlantic coast communities. This effort took significant engagement and cooperation with New Jersey and other stakeholders to advance clean energy development and reduce potential use conflicts, which moves us closer to harnessing the enormous potential of wind energy along the Atlantic coast."

DEMOCRATS BOYCOTT NATURAL RESOURCES MARKUP IN EFFORT TO RENEW LWCF. The [E&E Daily](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication) reports that "House Natural Resources Democrats yesterday afternoon ratcheted up pressure on Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) to allow the committee to consider legislation to revive the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a popular land acquisition and recreation program." Democrats "boycotted the first part of a markup on a series of public lands bills to protest Bishop's decision to not allow the committee to vote on H.R. 1814, a measure from ranking member Raúl Grijalva that would permanently reauthorize the LWCF." Grijalva has "formally asked Bishop three times to consider his legislation, most recently last Thursday."

Meanwhile, [Politico Pro](#) (10/8) reports that "Robert Dillon, a spokesman for Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski, sees a contradiction in greens' argument in ME yesterday that the \$20 billion accumulated by the fund only exists in theory: 'So is [the Center for American Progress] and the rest saying that the provision in LWCF that allowed the \$20 billion balance to accrue on paper is meaningless? If, as they claim, the fund doesn't really exist, then they should have no objection with allowing that provision to remain expired. The money either exists or it doesn't. You can't complain that there isn't more money going into the fund, and then turn around and say the balance in the fund is meaningless.'"

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (10/9, 51K), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (10/9, 116K), the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/7, 560K) and the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (10/7, 132K).

SENATE HOLDS HEARING ON DROUGHT RELIEF LEGISLATION. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/8, 99K) reports that "Thursday's Senate committee hearing on legislation to provide drought relief in the West showed why passing anything on this issue is so difficult." The hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee "focused on two bills to provide help to California's House-passed legislation sponsored by Rep. David Valadao, R-Hanford, Calif., and a proposal by Democratic California Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer." Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor said "the administration opposes Valadao's bill, claiming it would impede drought responses and increase legal disputes." Connor said "the administration favors most of the provisions of the Senate bill but is concerned some provisions could spark legal challenges."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salinas Californian](#) (10/8, 27K) and the [Courthouse News](#) (10/8, 7K).

Groups Lay Out Drought Proposals In Letter. The [E&E](#) (10/8) reports that "with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee preparing to dig into a series of hot-button Western drought proposals this morning, a coalition of conservation groups yesterday put their asks on the table." According to the article, "staffers from the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited and sportsmen's organizations have been talking for months about how to better prepare for parched conditions in the drought-prone West and make sure that the environment doesn't get short shrift when times get tough." Now, their proposals are "laid out in a letter the groups sent yesterday to ENR Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and ranking member Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), whose hearing this morning is aimed at creating a West-wide drought package."

Deputy Secretary Connor: Water Management Should Not Depend On El Niño. In an op-ed for the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/9, Subscription Publication, 3 35M), Interior Deputy Secretary Michael L. Connor writes that "hopes have been raised recently that a strong El Niño may end California's drought." But he argues that "pinning hopes on El Niño is not a solution to our long-term water shortages and it certainly is no substitute for the kinds of farsighted, aggressive drought response measures already instituted at the federal, state and local levels."

PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD ON CALIFORNIA DESERT PROTECTION PROPOSAL. The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (10/9, 303K) reports that "members of the public are invited to a meeting Tuesday, Oct. 13, with Obama Administration officials to voice their opinions on an effort by U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein to create national monuments in the California desert." Feinstein, has "introduced legislation to establish the Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow national monuments, more than 1 million acres all together." The legislation, called "the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015, also includes designation of 250,000 acres of wilderness and additions to existing national parks." Interior Deputy Secretary Mike Connor are among the invited participants of the public hearing.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (10/8, Writer, 2K) and the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (10/8, 142K).

ALASKA OFFICIALS VISIT DC FOR MEETINGS. The [Alaska Native News](#) (10/8, 245) reports that Alaska Gov. Bill Walker "returned to Alaska Thursday after a day of meetings in Washington, D.C., with key Obama administration officials." Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott "remained on Capitol Hill today to continue meetings with federal officials." Walker and Mallott "met with President Barack Obama's senior advisor, Brian Deese, and U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell about increasing oil production."

The [AP](#) (10/9, 2 28M) reports that Walker "lobbied members of President Barack Obama's administration on opening up parts of an Alaska refuge to oil drilling." Walker told Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "his hopes of filling the trans-Alaska pipeline with oil drilled from a small section of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." But "he says both Jewell and the president have told him the proposal would be met with a lot of pushback."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (10/8).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING ACT. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/8, 183K) reports that "this year, as it has eight times in the last 13 years, the Forest Service was forced to borrow from its thinning and forest-preservation programs to pay for firefighting." According to the article, "though the \$700 million the agency transferred this summer was eventually reimbursed in the budget bill passed last week, Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell said the borrowing is disruptive to the planning and execution of programs." The Obama Administration and all Washington and Idaho House representatives support the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act.

GOVERNORS, AGS DISAGREE ON OBAMA POLICIES. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/9, Kendall, Harder, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports on disagreement between governors and attorneys general about litigation over Obama Administration policies in states where those officials are from different parties. The Journal says that have one part of a state government preparing to implement regulations while another is trying to stop them could send differing messages to courts, the state's citizens, and other states.

MCDONALD'S RENAMES HAMBURGER TO "DENALI MAC." The [Greenwire](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication) reports that "the mountain of beef named after North America's tallest peak is changing its name to match its namesake's new moniker." According to the article, "the extra-large McKinley Mac, which replaces a typical Big Mac's hamburgers with two quarter-pounders, will now be called the Denali Mac at Alaska McDonald's restaurants."

NOAA SAYS CLIMATE CHANGE IS CAUSING CORAL BLEACHING. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/8, story 9, 2:20, Pelley, 5.08M) reported the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "sounded the alarm about coral, home to about a fourth of all the life in the oceans," on Thursday. Jeff Glor reported coral is bleaching, which "occurs when coral is exposed to warmer-than-normal water. The coral gets stressed and loses its coat of protection. If the coral remains exposed for long periods of time, it can die. NOAA says climate change is the primary cause." Bleaching started in the Pacific and Indian oceans last year "and NOAA says the Caribbean is next."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT OF TRIBAL TRUST LAWSUIT. Additional coverage of the trust settlement with the Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation was provided by the [Talequah \(OK\) Daily Press](#) (10/9, 20K).

STATE TAKEOVER OF PUBLIC LANDS CRITICIZED. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (10/9, Fosburgh, 471K), Whit Fosburgh, the president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, writes that "the notion that our federal lands would be better managed by individual states is fundamentally flawed." Fosburgh warns that "if we were to transfer America's public lands to individual states, millions of acres would be sold off to billionaires and global corporations—people who neither understand nor value America's future or outdoor heritage." Fosburgh acknowledges that "America's public lands are not managed perfectly, and there are real management issues that need to be addressed," but he concludes that "the idea that federal public lands should be handed over to individual states is not only flawed, it is never going to happen."

USE OF ANTIQUITIES ACT SUPPORTED. In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/9, 74K), Roger Clark, a program director of the Grand Canyon Trust, supports the use of the Antiquities Act to safeguard against "those who would trash our national treasures." He argues that "with Congress deadlocked, the president needs the flexibility to act when our nation's crown jewels need protection from previously unrecognized threats." Clark concludes that "if ever a law existed to fight the thieves of time, the Antiquities Act is it."

Empowering Native American Communities:

FEDERAL RECOGNITION PUT ON HOLD FOR PAMUNKEY INDIAN TRIBE. The [Washington Post](#) (10/9, Heim, 6.76M) reports that "the Pamunkey Indians, who claim Pocahontas as an ancestor and in July became the first state tribe to receive federal recognition, are facing a last-minute challenge by a California-based group that previously allied with casino giant MGM Resorts to try to block their bid." Stand Up for California, "a one-person nonprofit organization run by Cheryl Schmit, filed a request for reconsideration to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals on Tuesday, the last day of a 90-day window to appeal the Bureau of Indian Affairs's decision to award the Pamunkey federal recognition." The action "could delay or even derail the tribe's goal of federal recognition, a status it has been seeking for more than three decades."

BIA TO TIGHTEN GRIP ON LOWER BRULE SIOUX TRIBE'S MONEY AMID INVESTIGATIONS. The [AP](#) (10/9, 37K) reports that the BIA is "changing the way it sends money to South Dakota's Lower Brule Sioux Tribe amid allegations of financial mismanagement by the tribe in recent years." The bureau said "in a letter to the tribe that it plans to distribute money for contracted social services and other programs on a monthly basis, rather than in a lump sum on Oct. 1 as is typically done."

COURT TOSSES EX-PICAYUNE RANCHERIA OF CHUKCHANSI INDIANS COUNCILMAN'S LAWSUIT.. [Law 360](#) (10/9, 21K) reports that "a California federal court on Wednesday tossed an ex-Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians councilman's suit targeting the Bureau of Indian Affairs over his allegedly unconstitutional removal from the tribe's council, finding that it lacks jurisdiction to interfere in the intra-tribal matter." U.S. District Judge William B. Shubb said that "Patrick Hammond III's key claims involve tribal law and internal governance — areas outside of federal jurisdiction."

COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS ON ALASKA'S TRIBAL TRUST LAND APPEAL. [Law 360](#) (10/9, 21K) reports that "the federal government urged the D.C. Circuit on Thursday to toss the state of Alaska's bid to overturn a decision that would allow the U.S. Department of the Interior to take land into trust for Alaska Native tribes, arguing that the DOI's revision of the rule the state is challenging rendered the appeal moot."

HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY FORMALLY RESOLVES TO GAIN MORE AUTONOMY.. The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (10/8, 42K) reports that "Haskell Indian Nations University has formally resolved to move toward more autonomy from the federal government, including studying the possibility of becoming federally chartered instead of federally operated." The Haskell Board of Regents on Thursday "approved a resolution to study ways for increasing Haskell's autonomy and authority, and to pursue permanent legislation that would enable Haskell to establish an Endowment Association."

BUG-O-NAY-GE-SHIG SCHOOL BOARD HEAR FROM NEWLY HIRED STAFF. The [Bemidji \(MN\) Pioneer](#) (10/9, 27K) reports that Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School Board members "heard from newly hired staff at Thursday's meeting and discussed how to resolve the need for mental health counselors at the school." The article notes that "the high school topped the agenda at the August school board meeting, discussion focused on a congressional letter of support addressed to the U.S. Department of the Interior signed by U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken and Reps. John Kline, Tim Walz, Erik Paulsen, Betty McCollum, Keith Ellison, Tom Emmer, Collin Peterson and Rick Nolan urging the department to consider putting the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig school on a list of Bureau of Indian Education schools to receive funding."

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA VISITS CNMI. The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (10/9, 641) reports that Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan met Tuesday with Esther Kia'aina, the U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary for insular affairs, and "discussed three Interior-funded projects: the Marianas High School's solar energy bid project, the 'Connect Youth to Career' program, and the deferred maintenance project." Kia'aina on Tuesday also "visited the Northern Marianas College and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., among others." According to the article, "during her trip in the CNMI, which reportedly ended yesterday, she focused on what the CNMI plans for its hazardous mitigation plans, and committed on Wednesday to find remaining Interior fiscal 2015 funds, including for Capital Improvement Projects, for reprogramming to meet the immediate needs of the Northern Marianas."

The [Fiji Times](#) (10/9, 893) reports that Kia'aina has "advised CNMI lawmakers to discuss local labour and immigration issues with members of the US Congress, according to Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA TO LOOK INTO UNEMPLOYMENT AID ISSUE. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/9) reports that Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Esther Kia'aina "on Wednesday said she will look into the law that bars guest workers from seeking unemployment insurance assistance." She said, "That [issue] was brought to my attention only yesterday by the U.S. Department of Labor. I have to talk to the CNMI first.... I will leave it to the governor and his team to determine whether or not they want to federally authorize an unemployment insurance program. It is an important issue but I need you to know that the whole population is impacted and it's been challenging for the U.S. Department of Labor to have those issues addressed."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE 902 LETTER SENT TO WHITE HOUSE. Additional coverage of Gov. Eloy S. Inos' 902 letter was provided by the [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (10/9, 641).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR CONDUCTING TECHNICAL REVIEW OF GOLD KING MINE SPILL. [Politico Pro](#) (10/8) reports that the Interior Department will "conduct a wide-ranging technical review of the Animas River spill accidentally caused by EPA workers in August at the Gold King mine in Colorado, according to a Superfund work form obtained by POLITICO through a Freedom of Information Act request." According to the article, "the Aug. 20 document for the first time outlines how Interior's Bureau of Reclamation will conduct its review, for which \$125,000 has been allocated." The article notes that "the review is focused on technical matters rather than legal issues like potential negligence."

EPA Under Fire After Reports Of New Colorado Mine Spill. The [Washington Times](#) (10/9, Richardson, 344K) reports that the EPA is under fire amid "reports of another spill from a clean-up project at a Colorado mine, this time a relatively small discharge at the Standard Mine near Crested Butte." Local officials "have confirmed that more than 2,000 gallons of reportedly uncontaminated water were spilled from the mine side Wednesday into a local watershed." Josh Green, spokesman for Rep. Scott Tipton, "said the accident, coming on the heels of the Aug. 5 blowout at the Gold King Mine, raises more questions about the agency's competence and commitment to transparency." According to Green, "the EPA has yet to notify his office a day after the accident, which was first reported Thursday by the Crested Butte News."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

HOUSE APPROVES BILL TO SPEED UP TRIBAL ENERGY PROJECTS. [The Hill](#) (10/9, Henry, 471K) reports a bill was approved on Thursday by the House "to speed up energy development on Native American land and for Alaska natives." The bill "passed on a 254-173 vote, with about a dozen Democrats voting in favor." The bill "promotes energy production on Indian lands by streamlining the federal permitting process for tribal energy projects." The Interior Department under current law "is required to sign off on any lease a tribe might sign with an energy company." The legislation "looks to cut back on the permitting procedure for those leases."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona State University Cronkite News](#) (10/8) and the [Daily Caller](#) (10/9, Bastasch, 375K).

JUDGE SETS NOVEMBER 23 DEADLINE FOR DECISION ON BADGER-TWO MEDICINE DRILLING LEASE. [Montana Public Radio](#) (10/9) reports that "a U.S. District Court judge today gave the federal government until November 23 to decide whether a Louisiana company can drill for oil and gas on National Forest land in the Badger Two-Medicine area adjacent to Glacier National Park." Judge Richard Leon "rejected the timeline Interior proposed, saying it could potentially draw out the process for another two years."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/9, 2 28M), [KULR-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (10/9, 2K), and [KPLC-TV Lake Charles \(LA\)](#) Lake Charles, LA (10/9, 53K).

Offshore Energy Development:

UNESCO SAYS SHELL'S ARCTIC DRILLING THREATENED WORLD HERITAGE SITE. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/9, 219K) reported that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has "cheered" Shell's decision to halt its exploratory oil drilling in the Arctic because the drilling threatened Russia's Wrangel Island Reserve, the only designated World Heritage site in the Arctic. Said UNESCO in a statement on Wednesday, "This Arctic jewel, and the wealth of wildlife it supports, were threatened by Shell's Chukchi Sea operations." Although Shell's Burger prospect is about 360 miles from Wrangel Island, "an oil spill from the targeted Shell site could send a plume into the Wrangel Island Reserve buffer zone, UNESCO said, citing environmental analysis by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management."

Clinton's Split From White House On Arctic Drilling Noted. On its website, [ABC News](#) (10/9, Kreutz, 3.97M) reported on seven ways Hillary Clinton "has already distanced herself from the White House in the past six months as a candidate." One of the seven ways is that Clinton has "split from Obama with her opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline and Arctic drilling." Over the summer, Clinton "spoke out against off-shore drilling in the Arctic Ocean one day after the Obama administration gave Shell the go ahead to drill for oil and gas there." ABC added that "both Democratic presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Martin O'Malley had been vocal opponents on the two issues for months."

Deseret News: Shell's Arctic Department Indicator Of Changing Energy Picture. In an editorial, the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/9, 407K) writes that Shell's decision to leave the Arctic "represents neither a triumph for conservationists or a foreshadowing of a future oil crisis due to supply shortages," but "is rather an indicator of a dramatically changing energy picture influenced more by market forces than by regulatory policy." What Shell's decision "quite possibly does reflect, however, is that the long-term trajectory of demand and supply is taking a new course, and those who set national energy policy should consider the ramifications." The paper writes that "it is too soon to place a bet one way or the other on the future of big oil," and "essential the nation pursue an energy policy that is balanced and not based on an either-or proposition that serves to eliminate or elevate use of oil."

Commentary: Obama Cannot Fight Climate Change While Developing Fossil Fuels. In commentary carried by the [Irish Times](#) (10/9, Goldenberg, 371K), Suzanne Goldenberg, US environmental correspondent of the Guardian, writes that "it's time that" President Obama "said out loud what has long been recognised: waging an effective fight against climate change while developing new fossil fuel reserves just can't be done."

WEST COAST DEMOCRATIC SENATORS AIM TO BAN OFFSHORE DRILLING ON OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF. The [E&E Daily](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication) reports that "the Senate delegations of California, Oregon and Washington reintroduced a bill yesterday that would ban offshore drilling along the West Coast." Democratic Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein of California, Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray of Washington, and Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley of Oregon "announced the 'West Coast Ocean Protection Act,' aimed at getting a permanent moratorium against drilling off the coast."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

SAGE GROUSE INJUNCTION SOUGHT. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/9, 22K) reports that "the county is seeking an injunction against the federal government's Sept. 22 decision on land management concerning sage grouse habitat." According to the article, "Western Exploration LLC, Elko and Eureka counties and Quantum Minerals LLC filed the lawsuit Sept. 23 in U.S. District Court." The injunction was set for a hearing in Reno on Nov. 12.

Additional coverage was provided by [KNPR-FM Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (10/9, 1K).

Federal Sage Grouse Plans Criticized For Abandoning Scientific Integrity. For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (10/9, Molvar, Contributor, 471K), Erik Molvar, the Sagebrush Sea Campaign Director for WildEarth Guardians, writes that the new federal sage grouse plans "unveiled this September abandon scientific integrity." According to Molvar, "instead, a collection of special political favors for the oil and gas industry and other industries actually block sage grouse habitat protections from addressing the most important threats — and most powerful industries — in each state." He says that "the Interior Department should have stuck with the science and created an honest and forthright conservation strategy."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the sage grouse was provided by the [Colorado Statesman](#) (10/9, 17K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE BLM UNVEILS MAP OF MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS. Additional coverage of the BLM's map of mountain bike trails was provided by the [Moab \(UT\) Sun News](#) (10/9) and the [Ruidoso \(NM\) News](#) (10/8, 39K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

PHILADELPHIA DESIGNATED AS URBAN WILDLIFE REFUGE PARTNERSHIP CITY. [KYW-TV](#) Philadelphia (10/8, 45K) reports that "students from the Pennrose Elementary School gave nature a little lift with the release of Monarch butterflies to celebrate grants for more environmental activities in the vicinity of the John Heinz Wildlife Refuge." FWS Director Dan Ashe came to Pennrose "to announce the designation of Philadelphia as an Urban Wildlife Refuge Partner City and the release of some \$200,000 in grants." Ashe says "some of the funds also will support improvements to the network of trails leading to the refuge and neighborhood green spaces."

FWS PROVIDES GRANTS TO COMBAT DEADLY BAT DISEASE. The [Ruidoso \(NM\) News](#) (10/8, 39K) reports that "officials with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced last week that an additional \$2.5 million in grants has been awarded for research, management and communications projects about the white nose syndrome that has killed more than five million North American bats." The funds "aim to further the effort to stop the spread of the deadly fungal disease first documented in New York in 2007, and to protect colonies of flying mammals that are critical to the economy and environment." The FWS "provided grants to 26 projects in federal agency projects to increase capacity for research and response to WNS; for research and communication projects, \$30,000 or less each, for non-U.S. federal applicants; and research projects to address priorities

established by multi-agency working groups under a national response plan for WNS."

GROUPS FILE NOTICE OF PLAN TO SUE OVER BULL TROUT PLAN. The [AP](#) (10/9, 2.28M) reports that "a federal plan to bolster threatened populations of bull trout in five Western states falls short, two conservation groups said as they filed notice of their intention to sue the government." The plan "to aid the fish's recovery violates the Endangered Species Act, the groups Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Friends of the Wild Swan said in a notice Wednesday to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell." The FWS "last month released a proposal outlining ways to boost bull trout populations in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Montana and a tiny portion of Nevada," but "the groups say the plan doesn't set measurable goals for removing the species from the endangered list."

Additional coverage was provided by [NPR](#) (10/8, 1.85M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/9, Ridler, 344K), the [Centralia \(WA\) Chronicle](#) (10/9, 903), the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (10/9, 51K), the [Oregonian](#) (10/9, 756K), [KIVI-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, D (10/9, 861), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (10/9, 494K), [KTVB-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (10/8, 191K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (10/9, 494K).

GROUPS SEEK RELEASE OF MORE MEXICAN WOLVES. The [AP](#) (10/9, 2.28M) reports that "more than three dozen environmental groups asked the federal government Thursday to release at least five packs of Mexican gray wolves in New Mexico to bolster the genetics of the endangered predators." The groups sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and FWS Director Dan Ashe. The move "came after New Mexico wildlife officials declined to issue permits to the Fish and Wildlife Service for releases earlier this year in Gila National Forest."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/9, 259K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/9, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/9, Bryan, 344K).

FWS SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON PLANNING ACCESS TO RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN. The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (10/9, 100K) reports that the FWS is seeking comments on access to Rattlesnake Mountain. As the agency "makes plans to comply with a new federal law requiring that the public be allowed on the mountain, it's asking for comments on the best way to provide access and holding open houses on Oct. 14 to share information."

STUDY HIGHWAY RUNOFF KILLS SALMON BUT FILTERS CAN HELP FISH SURVIVE. The [AP](#) (10/9, 2.28M) reports that "toxic runoff that flows from highways into urban streams is killing coho salmon in Puget Sound, but simple filtering methods can help fish survive, a new study finds." According to the study published Thursday in the *Journal of Applied Ecology*, "salmon exposed to untreated highway runoff in controlled experiments became lethargic, lost their orientation and died within hours." The article notes that "the study included researchers from NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington State University and the Squamish Tribe."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/8, 560K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/9, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/9, Le, 344K), and [KCPQ-TV Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (10/8, 161K).

THREAT OF LISTING ENCOURAGES COLLABORATION. In his column for the [Idaho Statesman](#) (10/8, 190K), Rocky Barker writes that "using the federal Endangered Species Act as a shield rather than a sword has had some success this year." He notes that "the threat of listing brought about an incredible conservation effort by private landowners, 11 states and the federal government to protect sage grouse and a determination it didn't need listing." Also, on Wednesday, the FWS "determined the Southern Idaho ground squirrel, Goose Creek milkvetch, and the Great Basin population of the Columbia spotted frog were dropped from candidate species status."

National Park Service:

BILL WOULD INCREASE FUNDING TO NPS FOR CENTENNIAL. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/9, 407K) reports that the NPS "turns 100 next year, and the White House hopes this seniority merits a pay raise from Congress." According to the article, "a proposed bill — introduced Sept. 18 — aims to relieve some of the agency's financial strain by establishing a fund to finance 'signature projects and programs to enhance the National Park System as it approaches its centennial in 2016 and to prepare the parks for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment.'" The legislation "asks for a \$900 million fund for infrastructure spending, with an additional \$300 million to be allocated for 'signature' projects that parks will use to mark the centennial."

WATCHDOG REPORT ASSESSES MANAGEMENT OF VIP LODGE AT GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK. The [Greenwire](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication) reports that the NPS "lost out on tens of thousands of dollars in potential revenue by not billing visitors to a government-owned lodge in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park, the Interior Department's internal watchdog will report today in a stern assessment of the agency's management and operation of the facility." The report, "signed off by Interior Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall and expected to be released today, provides a comprehensive look at how the Park Service has utilized the Brinkerhoff Lodge in Grand Teton National Park." The article notes that "the lodge attracted controversy last year when Time first reported that Vice President Joe Biden, former U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, NPS Director Jon Jarvis and other senior officials had stayed at the four-bedroom log cabin located on the shore of Jackson Lake, seemingly for vacation at little or no cost to them."

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (10/9, Wolff, 942K) and [The Hill](#) (10/9, Cama, 471K).

HOUSE PANEL PASS MEASURE LIFTING BAN ON PADDLING YELLOWSTONE STREAMS. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/8, 183K) reports that the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee voted Thursday "to approve a controversial measure that would lift longstanding restrictions and allow kayaks, rafts and other 'hand-propelled' vessels to be used on hundreds of miles of rivers and streams in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks." The article notes that "conservation and angling groups opposed the changes."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/9, Brown, 344K) and the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/9, 115K).

NPS CLOSING LANDMARK BRIDGE AT ANTIETAM FOR REPAIRS. The [AP](#) (10/9, 2.28M) reports that the NPS says "it's closing the landmark Burnside Bridge at the Antietam National Battlefield for major repairs that will continue at least into next spring." Park managers said Thursday that "they will close the bridge Friday for the \$1.7 million preservation project."

NPS APPROVES PROGRAM ALLOWING LODGING DURING WINTER IN BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (10/9, 494K) reports that "for the first time since it was founded, Bryce Canyon National Park will have lodging available inside the park during the winter months." The NPS "approved a pilot program that will allow up to 35 motel rooms to remain open throughout the 2015-2016 winter season, according to the Bryce Canyon National Park website."

JUDGE GRANTS EXTENSION FOR ASSESSMENT OF ARKANSAS HOG FARM. The [AP](#) (10/9, 2.28M) reports that "a judge is giving two federal agencies more time to assess the environmental impact of a northern Arkansas hog farm in the Buffalo National River watershed." The judge "granted a three-month extension Wednesday to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency and the U.S. Small Business Administration." According to the article, "the agencies had asked for the extension, citing 'an unexpectedly large' amount of public comments on a draft environmental assessment of C&H Hog Farms in Mount Judea."

OFFICIALS CONFIRM PNEUMONIA OUTBREAK IN JOSHUA TREE BIGHORN SHEEP. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/8, 99K) reports that "Joshua Tree National Park officials Thursday confirmed a pneumonia outbreak in the park's bighorn sheep population." According to officials, "biologists have a formed an interagency task-force to monitor outbreaks, suggest best practices for limiting the range and effects of the disease and provide recommendations for management actions."

NPS TO HONOR BLACK FLORIDIAN CONSERVATIONIST. The [Fort Lauderdale \(FL\) Westside Gazette](#) (10/9, 86K) reports that "the Joneses bought their first island in Biscayne Bay in 1897 and lived there continuously until 1992." According to the article, "in the course of nearly a century, the African American family carved a prosperous livelihood out of limestone rock; raised two sons fluent in the language of land and sea; consorted with American presidents and elites, and ultimately saved the Bay to create Biscayne National Park." On Monday, Oct. 12, 2015 the NPS will "honor the family's youngest son, Sir Lancelot Jones, who resisted the blandishments of real estate developers and sold his island intact to the Service in 1970s."

YOSEMITE CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY. The [Merced \(CA\) Sun-Star](#) (10/9, 35K) reports that Yosemite National Park "on Oct. 1 welcomed approximately 1,500 people to its birthday party." Scott Gediman, Yosemite public affairs officer, "opened the program." During the ceremony, free park entrance passes were given "to fourth-graders, as part of a new White House initiative."

HISTORIC TIMPANOGOS CAVE MARKER UNCOVERED BY CONSTRUCTION CREWS. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (10/9, 494K) reports that "the installation of a new water line in American Fork canyon has resulted in a historic find." Timpanogos Cave National Monument Crews lifted the original boundary marker "out of the ground and people are still wondering why it was buried in the first place." Cami McKinney, a historian at Timpanogos Cave National Monument, said "the marker was replaced during the era when the National Park Service went from being administered by the Forest Service to the Department of the Interior."

NPS DENIES BID FOR FERRY SERVICE TO CUMBERLAND ISLAND HAS BEEN AWARDED. The [Brunswick \(GA\) News](#) (10/9, 45K) reports that "there is some confusion over whether the National Park Service has actually awarded the bid for ferry service to Cumberland Island." Calvin Lang, "the vendor who has provided passenger ferry service to

Cumberland Island National Seashore the past 25 years," believes he has been awarded the contract. But Bill Reynolds, a spokesman at the NPS' regional offices in Atlanta, said "the contract has not been formally awarded and he could not confirm Lang will provide the ferry service for the next decade."

GW MEMORIAL PARKWAY CONSTRUCTION TO CLOSE RAMP AT DCA THIS WEEKEND. The [Del Ray \(VA\) Patch](#) (10/9, Barton, 719) reports that on Saturday, the FHWA and the National Park Service will pave the northbound exit ramp connecting Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport to the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The road work is slated to begin at 7 a.m. and be completed by 7 p.m.; the exit ramp will be closed during the paving. According to the article, the paving work is part of a larger project on the GW Parkway and Route 233 bridge, which "will allow for better access to and from the airport, and add safety improvements to sidewalks and trails for pedestrians."

Changes Planned For Mount Vernon Trail. [Greater Greater Washington](#) (10/9, Russell) reports on the changes planned for a section of the Mount Vernon Trail, which runs alongside Reagan National Airport. The article says that there are three changes planned for the trail: "it's moving away from the George Washington Parkway where it passes under the Route 233 bridge, it's getting a new barrier wall under the Metro bridge that carries the Yellow and Blue lines into the airport, and it's moving around a large tree that forces a quick S curve."

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS. The [Knoxville \(TN\) Daily Sun](#) (10/9) reports that "Great Smoky Mountains National Park has recognized two volunteers who received regional and national awards for their service to the park." Tom Harrington was "recognized as the Southeast Regional Enduring Service Award recipient." Harrington has "served more than 20,000 hours in the Cades Cove area of the park." Also, Sterling Fisher has "volunteered for over 10 years throughout the park and was recognized as the Southeast Regional Youth Volunteer Awards and the National George and Helen Hartzog Youth Volunteer Award recipient."

STUDENTS HELP WITH DRAGONFLY MERCURY PROJECT. The [Daily Astorian \(OR\)](#) (10/8, 23K) reports that "Astoria High School biology students waded into the Yeon easement pond near Sunset Beach last week to collect dragonfly larvae for a National Park Service project." The larvae, "known as nymphs, were collected to determine their mercury levels, which help show overall levels in the national park ecosystems." The Dragonfly Mercury Project "relies on the national parks partnering with citizen scientists, such as the students, to compile the data." The article notes that "Lewis and Clark National Historical Park in Astoria is one of more than 50 national parks across the country to partake in the project" and "it is the only national park in Oregon to join."

NPS SHARES VIDEO FEATURING "RANGER RYAN" ON YOUTUBE. The [Lost Coast Outpost \(CA\)](#) (10/9) links to a video, featuring "Ranger Ryan," that was uploaded to the Redwood National Park Service's YouTube page a couple weeks ago.

CALVARY'S STEWARDSHIP OF YELLOWSTONE MIGHT HAVE PRESERVED NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM. The [Smithsonian](#) (10/9, 315K) reports that "before the National Park Service, Yellowstone was guarded by the cavalry." According to the article, "without them, we might not have national parks today."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE PAINTING OF LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION BEING RESTORED. Additional coverage that Carl Bersch's "Lincoln Borne By Loving Hands" is being restored was provided by the [Smithsonian](#) (10/9, 315K).

NO-FISHING ZONE IN BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Miami Herald](#) (10/9, 651K), Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen criticizes "the inclusion of a no-fishing zone in Biscayne National Park's General Management Plan (GMP)." She says that "putting a no-fishing zone at the forefront of Biscayne's coral-protection strategy would seem to suggest that NPS believes fishing is the primary threat to our reefs." However, "scientists have determined that poor water quality and periodic extreme water temperatures are responsible for most coral losses in Biscayne over the last two decades." She urges the NPS "to develop a GMP for Biscayne that can actually deliver the conservation benefits it's designed to provide, and do so with the support of all stakeholders in our community — the type of GMP that neighboring Everglades National Park recently proposed."

US Geological Survey:

LUCY JONES RECEIVES AWARD FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE. The [Greenwire](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication) reports that a USGS "scientist's immovable dedication to ensuring people in earthquake zones are ready for earth shaking has landed her a federal award for civil service." Seismologist Lucile "Lucy" Jones will "receive a Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal tonight from the Partnership for Public Service." Jones, "a 32-year veteran of USGS, led the research into foreshock and aftershock sequences that are now the basis for earthquake advisories in tremor-prone California." Acting USGS Director Suzette Kimball said, "I don't know how you put a dollar figure on it, but her work has helped mitigate substantial risks facing Americans in earthquake-prone areas, particularly in Southern California, and has helped decision-makers make better policies and take better precautions to respond to natural disasters and especially earthquakes."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, Xia, 4 07M) reports that Jones said, "I believe it is our obligation as scientists working for the American people to make information from our science understandable by non-scientists so that it can be used to support others in making our country safer from inevitable natural disasters." She served as Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's science advisor for seismic safety and helped push an initiative to strengthen the city's infrastructure.

Top National News:

AFTER MCCARTHY'S SURPRISE EXIT, PRESSURE ON RYAN TO RUN FOR SPEAKER. Rep. Kevin McCarthy's surprise decision to pull out of the race for speaker of the House led all three network newscasts last night and sparked extensive print and online coverage, with nearly all of them painting a starkly negative picture of the state of the GOP. Reports described an atmosphere of utter chaos and disbelief among Republicans, and an uncertain prognosis for a House caucus that appears hopelessly divided. The lead story on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/8, lead story, 2:45, Alexander, 7 86M) encapsulated much of the media's take on yesterday's upheaval, reporting that "the same forces that propelled political outsiders, including Donald Trump, to the top of the GOP presidential field, are fueling the revolt...in Congress." Karen Tumulty, meanwhile, wonders in a [Washington Post](#) (10/9, A1, Tumulty, 6.76M) front-page analysis whether Republicans "are on the verge of ceasing to function as a national political party," as "the most powerful and crippling force at work in the once-hierarchical GOP is anger, directed as much at its own leaders as anywhere else."

While the coverage mentions a number of potential replacements for Speaker Boehner, media analysts and many GOP lawmakers appear to be in agreement that Rep. Paul Ryan may be the only candidate capable of uniting the fractious GOP majority. The [New York Times](#) (10/9, Steinhauer, Herszenhorn, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), for example, says "many Republicans would like to see Mr. Ryan make a run," while [USA Today](#) (10/9, Slack, 5.23M) calls him "the next logical candidate," and [AFP](#) (10/9, Mathes) reports that he "has credibility among the establishment as well as rebellious conservatives."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/8, Wasson, 247K) says Ryan "was under pressure from some lawmakers" yesterday, according to "a leadership aide who spoke on condition of anonymity." According to another "aide," Ryan has "canceled fundraisers he had scheduled for the next two days." The [Washington Post](#) (10/9, Costa, Helderman, DeBonis, 6.76M) reports that Boehner "personally asked Ryan to run for speaker over two long phone conversations" yesterday, "according to two sources familiar with the exchanges." Interviewed by the [National Review](#) (10/9, Lowry, 504K), McCarthy also weighed in, "I personally want Paul Ryan."

[Politico](#) (10/8, Sherman, Palmer, Bresnahan, 942K) notes that Ryan had issued a statement reiterating his decision not to run shortly after McCarthy's announcement, but [USA Today](#) (10/9, Singer, 5.23M) indicates that "late in the day, colleagues were pressing him to reconsider." The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (10/9, Gilbert, 564K) similarly reports that Ryan's statement "didn't stop GOP colleagues from continuing to press him to change his mind, and feeding a frenzy of speculation over whether that might happen." In an editorial titled "The Republican Crack-Up," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/9, Subscription Publication, 5 95M) casts McCarthy's decision not to run as indicative of the self-destructive tendencies in some House GOP circles, and urges Ryan to run.

On its website, [NPR](#) (10/9, Taylor, 1.85M) noted that Rep. Charlie Dent "said Ryan was probably the only lawmaker who could get the necessary 218 votes in the caucus." Barring that, the [Huffington Post](#) (10/8, McAuliff, Grim, Levine, 164K) reported, Dent "suggested Republicans may even have to rely on Democrats to help pick a speaker." Said Dent, "I suspect at some point, if we can't get 218 Republicans to vote for a speaker candidate, we'll have to assemble a bipartisan coalition to elect a speaker." In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (10/9, 5 23M) calls for that very course of action, "if it weren't heresy for both parties."

Accounts of Thursday's events in the House, meanwhile, paint a vivid picture of chaos. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/9, Mascaro, 4.07M), for example, says the news left "Republicans in disarray," while [Politico](#) (10/8, Sherman, Palmer, Bresnahan, 942K) refers to a "bombshell withdrawal" and the [Huffington Post](#) (10/8, McAuliff, Grim, Levine, 164K) said the developments "sparked shock, tears and chaos in the GOP." [McClatchy](#) (10/9, Lightman, 28K) speaks of a "startling decision" by McCarthy and a "Republican civil war," and describes lawmakers coming out of the caucus meeting as "stunned, surly and in some cases, sad." [The Hill](#) (10/8, Wong, 471K) headlined its online report on the day's events "Shock! McCarthy Drops From Speaker's Race," and quoted Rep. Tom Rooney as saying that "McCarthy's withdrawal drove some lawmakers to tears." Said Rooney, "The person next to me was crying."

Adding to the sense of chaos during the GOP caucus meeting, the [New York Daily News](#) (10/9, Joseph, 3.75M) recounts, "many members didn't hear" McCarthy's announcement "initially because of microphone issues." Boehner "then told confused members the leadership vote would be postponed." [USA Today](#) (10/9, Shesgreen, 5.23M) says Boehner "seemed to have no inkling on Thursday that his deputy...was preparing to withdraw." He "only learned about McCarthy's decision... a few minutes before House Republicans were set to gather." The [Washington Times](#) (10/9, Dinan, 344K) notes that the outgoing speaker later told reporters, "We will announce the date for this election at a later date, and I'm

confident we will elect a new speaker in the coming weeks."

[AFP](#) (10/9, Mathes) reports that "seeking to calm the waters," Boehner also "issued a statement saying he would stay on 'until the House votes to elect a new speaker,'" and [Politico](#) (10/8, Gold, 942K) noted that he "canceled his planned Thursday night appearance on 'The Tonight Show.'"

On the other hand, said the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/9, Kiefer, 455K), "right-wingers were pleased to see McCarthy drop out," because "they see him as 'Boehner 2.0.'" In a statement, the Freedom Caucus "said it respects his decision to 'put the conference ahead of himself' and said the next speaker 'needs to yield back power to the membership.'" In fact, says [Politico](#) (10/8, Strauss, Glueck, 942K), "conservatives couldn't contain their glee" yesterday, while the [Washington Post](#) (10/9, Costa, 6.76M) reports they celebrated "the departure of one of the GOP's moderates and fastest-rising stars." Another [Washington Post](#) (10/9, Fahrnthold, 6.76M) article describes similar reactions at a Greenville, SC chapter of the Tea Party.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/8, Mclaughlin, 344K) reports that during an interview on WRKO radio in Boston, Sen. Ted Cruz said, "I think the reason we are seeing a change in leadership in the House is the American people are fed up...with Republican leadership that isn't listening to us and isn't honoring the promises that were made to the men and women who gave Republicans majorities in both houses."

Reports: McCarthy Didn't Have The Votes. Media coverage last night and this morning also weighs in on McCarthy's motives for his unexpected decision to pull out of the race. [ABC World News](#) (10/8, lead story, 2.30, Karl, 5.84M) reported that "by the time McCarthy himself emerged" from the meeting, "swarmed by cameras, he seemed more relieved than defeated." McCarthy was shown saying, "I think I shocked some of you, huh? The one thing I found in talking to everybody, if we are going to unite and be strong, we need a new face to help do that." The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/8, lead story, 2.30, Pelley, 5.08M) opened its broadcast reporting, "He left them speechless."

Interviewed by the [National Review](#) (10/9, Lowry, 504K), McCarthy "said he had thought about dropping out over the last week after the Benghazi gaffe, but figured, I'd push through." But he "realized he couldn't," because the House Freedom Caucus, "whose members he'd need to pick off to get to 218 on the House floor, had gone into 'lockdown' and 'wanted things I couldn't deliver.'" Asked if "the House is governable," McCarthy replied, "I don't know. Sometimes you have to hit rock bottom."

In an interview with [Politico](#) (10/9, Sherman, Palmer, Bresnahan, 942K) "after his bombshell announcement," McCarthy said, "For the betterment of the conference, if we are going to have all these battles about wanting to do something, it's easier if we have someone who comes and unites us. ... And there's something to be said about a fresh face."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/9, Mascaro, 4.07M) says that "McCarthy was expected to easily win," but the [AP](#) (10/9) reports that he confronted "insurmountable obstacles," and that he "had concluded he did not have a path to getting the needed 218-vote majority in the full House later this month."

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/9, Lockhead, Subscription Publication, 3.35M) similarly reports that according to "Republicans," McCarthy "had more than 200 votes out of the 247 Republicans in the caucus," but "could not reach the magic 218 majority of the full House needed not only to win election to speaker, but to govern effectively and pass legislation through the House without help from Democrats." Adds the Chronicle, "The arithmetic is all the more shocking given that Republicans have their largest majority since Herbert Hoover was president in 1928." As the [New York Times](#) (10/8, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) puts it, "Republicans expanded their numbers in the House and won the Senate in 2014 by asking voters to give them control of Congress and let them prove that they could govern the country. Right now they appear unable to govern themselves."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/9, A1, O'Connor, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports on its front page that in an interview, McCarthy said the vote wasn't his only concern, "It was only going to get worse. ... You've got the debt ceiling coming up, and everything else. This was for the good of the team."

On its website, [The Atlantic](#) (10/9, Berman, 2.69M) said "conservatives had effectively held McCarthy hostage, just as they had done weeks ago to Boehner: The 30-odd member Freedom Caucus was threatening to block his ascension unless he agreed to empower its members through committee and leadership slots, procedural reforms, and possibly even legislative promises that he would be unable to keep." Moreover, the "dynamic was even more significant that McCarthy's stumble on Fox News last week."

Chris Cillizza wrote in a post for the [Washington Post](#) (10/9, Cillizza, 6.76M) about theories being bandied about to explain McCarthy's motives, including "rumors of personal problems." However, he added, "those single-issue theories all miss the broader point here: There is a revolution happening within the Republican party right now. The establishment's hold on power is more tenuous than it has been at any time in recent memory."

Names Floated As Caucus Weighs "Caretaker Speaker." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/8, Wasson, 247K) reports that during the day yesterday, "talk emerged of a so-called caretaker speaker, who could hold the job through the November 2016 congressional elections, but Republicans were struggling...to find a volunteer." [Politico](#) (10/8, Sherman, Palmer, Bresnahan, 942K) says "House Republicans immediately began floating a number of names as potential caretakers." Among them are "retiring Minnesota Rep. John Kline, a close ally of Boehner," Texas Rep. Mac Thornberry, and Oklahoma Rep. Tom Cole.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/9, Costa, Helderman, DeBonis, 6.76M) mentions Reps. Trey Gowdy and Jordan, "head of the Freedom Caucus," as possibilities, and another [Politico](#) (10/8, French, 942K) piece brought up the names Rep. Candice Miller, National Republican Congressional Committee chairman Greg Walden, and Rep. Lynn Westmoreland, who is "also being floated as a potential interim speaker." [The Atlantic](#) (10/9, Berman, 2.69M) listed the potential candidacies of Reps. Jeb Hensarling, "a favorite among conservatives," as well as Steve Scalise and Tom Price.

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/8, Bendery, 164K) reported that Rep. Jason Chaffetz "said McCarthy's exit creates an opening for him to win," and mentioned Rep. Daniel Webster, who has "the endorsement of the House Freedom Caucus," as a candidate. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/9, Biernan, Mascaro, 4.07M) notes, however, that "many members said that they would not necessarily stick with Wednesday's endorsement of Webster and that all options are open as they try to choose a leader." The [Miami Herald](#) (10/9, Klas, 651K) reports that "central to" Webster's "pitch is his record of reform in the Florida House, after Florida Democrats narrowly lost their majority in 1996 and he became speaker with a 61-59 majority." Said Webster yesterday, "Everyone knows this is a top-down process, and my plan is to flatten the pyramid of power so every member has an opportunity to be successful."

[Reuters](#) (10/9, Cornwell, Sullivan), meanwhile, quotes Chaffetz as saying, "It was just absolutely stunning what happened. ... I don't know if I am the right person. I put my name in the hat because I do want to unite this party internally."

In addition to some of the names mentioned above, [USA Today](#) (10/9, Allen, King, 5.23M) mentions the potential candidacy of Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers in an online story. The [Washington Times](#) (10/9, Miller, 344K), meanwhile, reports that "some of the names that were immediately mentioned by lawmakers included": Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, Harold Rogers, Joe Barton, and Kline.

Centrist "Tuesday Group" Coalescing Behind Leaving Boehner As Speaker Indefinitely. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/9, Hughes, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.95M), meanwhile, reports that the centrist Tuesday Group is aligning behind the idea of leaving Boehner as speaker indefinitely. Said Rep. Carlos Curbelo, "By refusing to give Kevin McCarthy the maybe 10 to 15 votes he needed to get to 218, they decided to leave John Boehner serving as speaker. That's fine with me. Maybe we agree for once."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/9, Howell, 344K) describes "centrist Republicans" as "palpably frustrated with a group of conservatives within the House GOP caucus who ousted" Boehner and "likely sank...McCarthy's bid to replace him." Rep. Peter King, whom the WTimes erroneously identifies as a "New York Democrat," said yesterday, "This is unprecedented to have this small group, a tiny minority, hijack the party and blackmail the House."

Eugene Robinson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/9, Robinson, 6.76M), "If he chooses, Boehner can use his remaining weeks in office to keep his party from further injuring itself by shutting down the government or playing chicken with the debt ceiling." However, "it will only be a matter of time before the next speaker has to quell some far-right tantrum."

A [Washington Post](#) (10/9, Board, 6.76M) editorial says House Majority Leader McCarthy's exit from the race for House Speaker "threw the House into chaos," and says one reason for his decision may be that the Freedom Caucus demanded rule changes to "enhance the power of the fringes." The Post says the next speaker should not grant the Freedom Caucus "this or any other ransom, and the majority of Republicans should back him or her up."

White House Pokes Fun At GOP Chaos. On its website, [The Hill](#) (10/8, Fabian, 471K) reported that the White House said the fracas in the House "shows how Republicans are hurt by 'extreme ideology' within their own party." Press secretary Josh Earnest went on to say that "it might be easy to 'poke fun at the chaos,' but stressed that House Republicans need to choose a leader who can quell a vocal faction of conservatives 'that places their extreme ideology ahead of everything else.'" The [Washington Times](#) (10/9, Wolfgang, 344K) further quotes Earnest as saying, "We're having a little fun with all of this," and taking "a jab at" former Vice President Cheney, "who earlier Thursday endorsed Mr. McCarthy for speaker, hours before he quit the race." Quipped Earnest, "Dick Cheney's endorsement doesn't mean as much as it used to."

Trump Appears To Claim Credit For Derailing McCarthy. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/8, 247K) reports that appearing in Las Vegas, Donald Trump yesterday said of McCarthy's decision "They're giving me a lot of credit for that because I said you really need someone very very tough and very smart" as House speaker. The [Washington Times](#) (10/9

Sherfinski, 344K) notes that Trump added, "I know tough people, they're not smart – that's the worst, okay? That's the worst. ... You got to be smart. But we need smart, we need tough – we need the whole package."

User At DHS Address Edited McCarthy, Ellmers Wikipedia Pages Thursday. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/9, Ross, 375K) reported that a user at an Internet address originating from DHS offices in Springfield, Virginia made edits to the Wikipedia pages on McCarthy and Rep. Renee Ellmers (R-NC) Thursday, "alleging that the two Republicans were having an affair." The alleged affair, which both have denied, "became the source of intense speculation" after McCarthy dropped his bid for speaker. A DHS spokeswoman said, "DHS has immediately launched an investigation into this serious matter."

Guggenheim Securities Now Sees 40% Chance Stalled Congress Won't Raise Debt Limit. [Politico](#) (10/8, White, 942K) reports that "chaos in the US House of Representatives makes an already scary autumn even more uncertain for Wall Street with debt limit and shutdown fights looming and no one clearly in charge." Chris Krueger of Guggenheim Securities said yesterday, "We will not mince words — this is the political equivalent of a dumpster fire. ... We are increasing our odds from 30 percent to 40 percent for some kind of accident that would keep Congress from raising the debt ceiling in time due to brinkmanship, procrastination or political gridlock."

Dana Milbank titles his [Washington Post](#) (10/9, Milbank, 6.76M) column "Kevin McCarthy Falls To A Conservative Coup," and writes that the events "would be entertaining if the consequences weren't so serious." To Milbank, "the only thing that will likely end the thuggish tactics is public anger – and punishment at the polls – when the conservative hardliners are blamed for shutdowns, defaults, or whatever else results from their coup. And who would want to preside over that?"

OBAMA CONSIDERS EXECUTIVE ACTION REQUIRING GUN BACKGROUND CHECKS. The

Conversation Contents

For Review: California Desert Media Advisory by 3 PM TODAY

Attachments:

/114. For Review: California Desert Media Advisory by 3 PM TODAY/1.1 10-09-15 California Desert Feinstein Advisory Draft v2.docx

"Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Oct 08 2015 08:27:23 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Anita Bilbao <abi_bao@blm.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>
To:
Subject: For Review: California Desert Media Advisory by 3 PM TODAY
Attachments: 10-09-15 California Desert Feinstein Advisory Draft v2.docx

Good morning all,

Attached please find a draft media advisory for Deputy Secretary Connor's travel to CA at attend Senator Dianne Feinstein's public meeting on conserving the CA desert. Please have edits to me by **3 PM today**, and please reply only to me instead of replying to all. This will go out tomorrow.

Thank you,
~Leah

Interior, Agriculture Departments to Join Senator Feinstein at Public Meeting to Hear Community's Vision for Conservation in the California Desert

WHITEWATER, Calif. – On Tuesday, October 13, U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor and U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie will join U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, as well as other federal, state, local and tribal officials, in a visit to the desert of Southern California.

At the invitation of Senator Feinstein, Connor and Bonnie will attend Feinstein's public meeting to hear about the community's vision for the management of public lands of the California desert, including the Senator's proposal to designate three new National Monuments: Sand to Snow National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument, and Castle Mountains National Monument.

For more than twenty years, Senator Feinstein has led the effort to protect the special places of the California desert. Located less than 100 miles from the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the desert is a beloved resource for millions of people. This region is a popular destination for outdoor recreation, including off-highway vehicle travel, hiking, rock climbing, and hunting. The region is also home to a wide diversity of wildlife, spectacular mountains and dunes, important historical resources, and areas of cultural significance to local tribes.

Who: **Michael Connor**, U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior
Robert Bonnie, U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment
Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator (CA-14)

What: Community meeting on California desert conservation priorities

When: Tuesday, October 13, 2015
1:45 p.m. PDT – Media check-in
2:00 p.m. PDT – Public meeting begins

Where: Wildlands Conservancy Whitewater Preserve
9160 Whitewater Canyon Road
Whitewater, CA 92282

Media: Credentialed members of the media who are interested in attending are required to [RSVP here](#).

--

Leah Duran

Public Affairs Specialist

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Date: October 9, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

USDA

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, October 8, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Thu Oct 08 2015 05:00:32 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, October 8, 2015

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

DEMOCRATS CALLS ON REPUBLICANS TO VOTE ON LWCF EXTENSION. [Politico Pro](#) (10/7) reports that "Democratic are calling Republicans to bring an extension to the Land and Water Conservation Fund up for debate and vote, Democratic leadership said in a letter going out today." Democratic leaders say "a bipartisan bloc of 53 senators asked for an extension to be added to the recent continuing resolution used to fund the government, but Republican leadership blocked the move."

[Politico Pro](#) (10/7) reports that "House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop today signaled that he is in no hurry to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund, amid a showdown in the Senate that threatens to derail a separate chemical reform law." Bishop "asked the Obama administration for data on the program's effectiveness and said it would be a mistake to reauthorize the expired LWCF without first evaluating that information."

Meanwhile, [Political Pro](#) (10/7) reports that supporters of the Land and Water Conservation Fund are contesting "the idea that the Land and Water Conservation fund has a bank account with \$20 billion in it." Jessica Goad, Advocacy Director at the Center for Western Priorities, said, "It's misleading and inaccurate to claim that there is money left in the LWCF account, just sitting around ready to be used to protect our lands and waters. In reality, every penny has been plundered and the money has been spent. This talking point is nothing more than a convenient excuse for inaction and a cloak for some politician's real goal of blocking the renewal of one of our country's most successful conservation programs." Also, Matt Lee-Ashley, a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, adds, "Congressman Bishop seems to be asking for take-backsies – he axed the nation's most successful parks program last week, and now he says it's doing just fine. The truth is that LWCF has now expired."

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/7, 99K), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (10/6, 223K), the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (10/8, 1K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/8, 492K), and the [Greenwire](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SEN. FEINSTEIN'S PROPOSAL TO PROTECT CALIFORNIA DESERT. The [Greenwire](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication) reports that "top Interior and Agriculture officials will travel to Southern California on Tuesday to discuss a proposal for President Obama to protect more than a million acres of the region's deserts, woodlands, mountains and historical sites under the Antiquities Act." Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor and Agriculture Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie accepted Sen. Dianne Feinstein's "invitation to attend a public meeting at the Whitewater Preserve near Palm Springs to discuss her proposals to designate the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains national monuments, department representatives said." The article notes that "it's a strong sign that President Obama is considering using executive powers to ban mining and other industrial uses across desert vistas speckled with Joshua and juniper trees, prehistoric lava flows, wildlife and a turn-of-the-century mining town."

DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR TO TESTIFY AT SENATE HEARING ON WATER BILLS. [The Hill](#) (10/8, Cama, Henry, 471K) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing Thursday "on Western and Alaskan water bills." Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor will testify.

REPUBLICANS DEMAND RECORDS ON PLANS FOR NEW MARINE MONUMENTS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication) reports that "Republicans on the House Natural Resources Committee want all records on President Obama's plans for new marine monuments, accusing the administration of shutting out public input. "Chairman Rob Bishop and "other panel Republicans sent a letter today to the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration." The letter "asks for records of all meetings, correspondence and memos related to marine monument designations."

USGS' LUCY JONES AWARDED SERVICE TO AMERICA MEDAL. The [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Davidson, 6.76M) "Federal Eye" blog reported on the winners of the annual Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals.

The [My News LA \(CA\)](#) (10/7) reports that "seismologist Lucy Jones, the local face of the U.S. Geological Survey and a seismic safety adviser to Mayor Eric Garcetti, will receive the vaunted Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal, considered a top honor for government service, federal officials announced today." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "Dr. Jones is a role model, not only for her scientific accomplishments at the U.S. Geological Survey, but also for her public service to humanity. Besides conducting leading research on earthquakes, she turns complex scientific concepts into plain English, educating the public so they can take action to save lives and property." Jones is "one of eight federal workers who will be honored during the 'Sammies' award ceremony tonight in Washington, D.C. presented by the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service."

Additional coverage was provided by the [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (10/8, 1K).

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SEEKS HELP WITH CROWDSOURCING EFFORTS. The [Huffington Post](#) (10/8, 164K) reports that after Congress passed the America Competes Act in 2010, all federal agencies were allowed to begin "using prizes and challenges as a tool to accomplish their missions." The article notes that "the use of crowdsourcing by the U.S. government has grown by six-fold since January 2011, when President Barack Obama signed a revised version of Competes into law." On Wednesday, the Obama Administration, the Case Foundation, the Joyce Foundation and Georgetown University are "hosting an event to announce 23 new national challenges, including nine from non-governmental organizations."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT OF TRIBAL TRUST LAWSUIT. Additional coverage of the trust settlement with the Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation was provided by the [Sherman \(TX\) Herald Democrat](#) (10/7, 568), [KXII-TV Sherman, TX](#) (10/7, 46K), the [Durant \(OK\) Daily Democrat](#) (10/8, 20K), the [News United](#) (10/8), and the [Fort Smith \(AR\) Times Record](#) (10/8, 107K).

KING COVE RESIDENT PUSHES FOR ROAD THROUGH IZEMBEK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/7, 219K), Etta Kuzakin, president of the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove, writes about her experience taking a medevac flight to Anchorage to deliver her baby. She notes that "only 11 miles are needed to connect King Cove to existing roads in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, which lead directly to this airport." In conclusion, Kuzakin asserts that she plans "to move heaven

and earth to make this road a reality.”

Additional coverage of the road was provided by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/8, 1.19M).

Empowering Native American Communities:

HOUSE APPROVES BILL TO TAKE NEW MEXICO TRIBAL LAND INTO TRUST. [Law 360](#) (10/8, 21K) reports that “a bill to transfer land that once hosted a Native American boarding school to 19 unified New Mexico-based tribes landed on President Barack Obama’s desk Tuesday after the U.S. House of Representatives passed the measure without opposition.” The Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act will “place 11 acres once used by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to operate the boarding school into a trust to be run by the confederation of Pueblo tribes that operate the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque.”

BIA TO TIGHTEN GRIP ON LOWER BRULE SIOUX TRIBE’S MONEY AMID INVESTIGATIONS. The [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (10/7, 163K) reports that the BIA will “slow the amount of money that it sends to the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe amid allegations that millions of dollars in federal aid went missing over the past several years.” According to the article, “the allegations first brought to light by a Human Rights Watch report have spurred multiple federal investigations over what happened to more than \$20 million that went to the tribe when it was controlled by longtime Chairman Michael Jandreau, who died in April.” The article notes that “both the Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General and the Internal Revenue Service are investigating the tribe.”

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII’I TO UNVEIL NEW VOLUME ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN LAW. The [Maui \(HI\) Now](#) (10/6) reports that “the University of Hawai’i this week unveils a new volume on Native Hawaiian law during a special book signing reception at the Hawai’i Supreme Court and UH Law School.” According to the article, “the 1,400-page volume entitled ‘Native Hawaiian Law: A Treatise’ was compiled and edited by three members of the faculty at the William S. Richardson School of Law who specialize in Native Hawaiian law and is an update and continuation of the handbook, published in 1991.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE \$5.3 MILLION IN GRANTS AWARDED UNDER NATIVE YOUTH COMMUNITY PROJECTS PROGRAM. Additional coverage of the \$5.3 million in grants awarded under the Native Youth Community Projects program was provided by the [Pawhuska Journal Capital](#) (10/8).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY FACES FUNDING ISSUES. Additional coverage of Haskell Indian Nations University’s issues with funding was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/8, 2.28M), the [Hutchinson \(KS\) News](#) (10/8, 2K), the [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (10/7, 42K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/8, Hendricks, Williams, 344K), the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (10/8, 566K), the [Hilton Head Island \(SC\) Packet](#) (10/8, 89K), the [Rock Hill \(SC\) Herald](#) (10/8, 91K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (10/8, 494K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE BIA APPROVES MASHPEE WAMPANOAG CASINO. Additional coverage of the approval of the Mashpee Wampanoag casino was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/7, 32K).

NATIVE HAWAIIANS URGED TO REVIEW FEDERAL PROPOSAL. The [Lahaina \(HI\) News](#) (10/8, 36K) editorializes that “the U.S. Department of the Interior last week Tuesday announced a proposal to create an administrative procedure and criteria that the secretary of the interior would apply if the Native Hawaiian community forms a unified government that then seeks a formal government-to-government relationship with the United States.” The paper says that “it will be interesting to see how Hawaiians react to the proposal and process.” According to the editorial, “based on attending nation-building conferences in the past, the challenge will not lie in establishing government-to-government relationships. The hard part will be creating the new Native Hawaiian government.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

SECTION 902 TALKS SOUGHT. The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (10/8, 641) reports that “Gov. Eloy S. Inos has written to President Barack Obama to initiate Section 902 consultation talks pursuant to the CNMI Covenant.” During a press conference with Esther Kia’aina, Interior’s Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas, “who has been briefed on the request,” Enos said, “Yes, the official notification is coming out imminently in the next day or two on where we stand on the 902 [talks].”

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM UNVEILS NEW CALVO FIELDHOUSE GYM. The [Pacific News Center](#) (10/8) reports that the University of Guam has completed its makeover of the Calvo Fieldhouse. According to the article, “after five months of renovations, UOG opened up their fieldhouse with new gym floors and retractable bleachers.” The article notes that “this new gym completes the \$3 million dollar project funded by the Office of Insular Affairs Department of Interior.” Office of Insular Affairs Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina says, “The first phase was the gym next door \$1.3 million dollars which came out of the Capital Improvement Project Program and this \$1 million dollars came out of Compact Impact. The reason it’s important to understand that is that funding in general is difficult. We have to determine what funds are available to make sure we leverage that. I want to thank all of you because without that creative financing, we wouldn’t get projects like this coming to closure.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KUAM-TV Dededo \(GUM\)](#) Dededo, GUM (10/8, 171).

GUAM SEAL PARK RENOVATIONS TO BE FINISHED IN EARLY 2016. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (10/7, 61K) reports that “the images on Guam’s iconic seal — the oval that appears in the middle of the island’s flag with a proa, coconut tree and beach line — will soon come to life at the Guam Seal historical park in Hagåtña.” In March, the Office of Insular Affairs announced “nearly \$1.5 million in grant funding for various projects on island.” Administration spokesman Julius Santos “recently said the renovations are expected to be complete by the first quarter of 2016.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS CLAIM DELTA TUNNELS VIOLATE FEDERAL LAW. The [Central Valley \(CA\) Business Times](#) (10/8, 206) reports that “the twin water tunnels touted by Gov. Edmund Brown Jr. are a violation of federal law, says a coalition of environmental groups.” In a letter to state and federal authorities, the groups say, “The BDCP Delta Water Tunnels project is not a permissible project under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) because it would degrade water quality in the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. This in turn will adversely impact numerous recognized beneficial uses and public health.”

CALIFORNIA’S FARMERS DECRY ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS. [Fox News](#) (10/7, 8.91M) reports that “drought-stricken California farmers say environmental regulations barring them from irrigating their parched lands are making them the endangered species.” According to the article, “with the drought entering its fourth year, anger is building in central California at state and federal agencies, who critics say are putting wildlife ahead of jobs, families and the food supply.” The article notes that “blocked by environmentalists from pumping water from rivers onto their arid lands, farmers blame both regulations and the agencies and activists who go to court to enforce them.”

OP-ED WATER MANAGEMENT SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON EL NIÑO. In an op-ed for the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), Michael L. Connor writes that “hopes have been raised recently that a strong El Niño may end California’s drought.” But he argues that “pinning hopes on El Niño is not a solution to our long-term water shortages and it certainly is no substitute for the kinds of farsighted, aggressive drought response measures already instituted at the federal, state and local levels.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

RENEWABLE ENERGY SURGES AS DRILLING AND MINING FALTER. [McClatchy](#) (10/8, Cockerham, 28K) reports as fossil fuel production in the US drops, “solar and wind power is skyrocketing as technology and cheaper financing drive down the costs.” Bloomberg New Energy Finance analyst Jacqueline Liliinshtein said, “In the U.S., we’ve known that wind energy can be cheaper than (natural) gas in some states, but solar is now inching toward that same milestone.” McClatchy adds that “Texas leads the U.S. in wind power, with about 10 percent of its power from wind” while “California, Nevada and North Carolina are the nation’s top solar states and dominate the market.”

NORTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT WIND TURBINES. The [Wilmington \(NC\) Star News](#) (10/7, 111K) reports that “five energy companies have voiced interest in putting wind turbines off the North Carolina coast.” However, “not everyone is excited about the idea, including some residents of the Brunswick County towns that will see turbines on the horizon.” At a meeting Wednesday in Wilmington, the N.C. Renewable Energy Task Force “heard plans to open three areas to wind energy production: two of them off Brunswick County and one near Kitty Hawk.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Wilmington \(NC\) Port City Daily](#) (10/8).

PROGRESSION ENERGY PLANS 400MW FLOATING WIND PROJECT OFF HAWAII. The [Recharge News](#) (10/8, 633) reports that “US developer Progression Energy plans a 400MW floating wind project in the Pacific Ocean off the state of Hawaii, joining a list of companies interested in the concept for western states in federal waters that are too deep for conventional foundation technology.”

Onshore Energy Development:

WHITE HOUSE THREATENS VETO OF NATIVE AMERICAN ENERGY ACT. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/7, 219K) reports that “two House bills that are the focus of Alaska’s lawmakers – on crude exports and Native energy – drew veto threats from President Barack Obama Wednesday.” The White House “issued a policy statement threatening a veto of Alaska Rep Don Young’s ‘Native American Energy Act,’ arguing it would ‘undermine public participation and transparency of review of projects on Indian lands’ under environmental law, ‘set unrealistic deadlines and remove oversight for appraisals of Indian lands or trust assets,’ and cut off some fee payments under the Equal Access and Justice Act.” According to the article, “both bills are still likely to advance in the House, though an early veto threat is often a death knell for a bill’s ability to move through the Senate.”

BIA OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE BRINGS IN \$50 MILLION. The [Red Dirt Report](#) (10/7) reports that the BIA Concho Field Office “held an oil and gas lease sale today at the Redlands Community College in El Reno.” According to the article, “there were over 400 tracts covering over 31,000 mineral acres available for lease at the auction.” The article notes that “the sale totaled approximately \$50 million in oil and gas lease bonuses which will be paid to restricted Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal members who own the various mineral tracts.”

BLM OPENS PUBLIC SCOPING FOR OIL, GAS LEASE SALE. The [Tri-State Livestock News \(SD\)](#) (10/8) reports that the BLM has “opened a 15-day public scoping period on six nominated Oil and Gas Lease parcels located in Garfield, Sheridan, Richland, and Roosevelt counties Montana.” The public scoping period will end Oct. 21, 2015. The lease sale is tentatively scheduled for May 4, 2016.

UTAH’S OIL SHALE BUSINESS MOVING FORWARD DESPITE OIL’S DOWNTURN. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/8, 492K) reports that “cratering oil prices have slowed Utah’s oil-shale business, but the nascent commercial industry is still on its feet, moving forward on projects that proponents hope someday will unlock a vast trove of hydrocarbons embedded under the Uinta Basin.” The article notes that “Enefit is developing a major mine near the Colorado state line that originally envisioned surface mining on private land south of Bonanza, in Uintah County.” The BLM is “expected to release a draft Environmental Impact Statement later this year on Enefit’s proposed utility corridor across public land.”

SAN MIGUEL COUNTY MULLS LETTER CALLING FOR OIL AND GAS ROYALTY REFORM. The [Telluride \(CO\) Daily Planet](#) (10/8, 11K) reports that “at their meeting Wednesday morning, the San Miguel County Board of Commissioners will decide whether or not to sign a draft letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze calling for updated royalty rates for oil and gas leases on federal public lands.” The article notes that “the letter was drafted by the Center for Western Priorities, a Denver-based environmental advocacy group, as part of their ‘Fair Share’ campaign, and will be brought before the BOCC by Commissioner Art Goodtimes.” The draft letter states, “Federal oil and gas royalties returned to energy producing states are a crucial source of revenue for local governments. In San Miguel County, federal oil and gas royalties fund infrastructure projects, conservation programs, schools and other programs. The failure of the federal government to update the royalty rate systematically lobbies taxpayers in Colorado and across the West, depriving citizens of their fair share of revenue and leaving millions on the table every year.”

COURT’S DECISION STRIKING DOWN FRACKING RULE WELCOMED. The [Oklahoman](#) (10/8, 408K) editorializes that “a court decision striking down an Obama administration effort to stymie hydraulic fracturing on federal lands shows the administration has taken its anti-energy philosophy to new lengths.” The paper claims that “the administration is now imposing regulations to solve a problem that may not exist based on legal authority that resides only in bureaucrats’ imaginations.” The editorial concludes that “Oklahomans have good reason to cheer this judge’s decision whether they drill on public lands, private lands or none at all.”

Offshore Energy Development:

WEST COAST DEMOCRATIC SENATORS AIM TO BAN OFFSHORE DRILLING ON OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF. The [AP](#) (10/8) reports “a group of Democratic senators” yesterday “proposed permanently banning offshore drilling on the outer continental shelf off California, Oregon and Washington.” Legislation “to be formally introduced shortly would block federal leases for the exploration, development or production of oil or natural gas in any area of the outer continental shelf off the coast of the three states.” In a statement Sen. Barbara Boxer said, “We cannot afford to put California’s coastal economy at risk by drilling offshore.”

BP REIMBURSES LOUISIANA \$58M FOR STATE’S LEGAL COSTS IN OIL SPILL SETTLEMENT. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/8, 718K) reports that BP Plc will reimburse Louisiana \$58 million for outside attorney fees and litigation costs that were spent negotiating the \$20 billion settlement over the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. The reimbursement will be paid “separately from the more than \$8 billion Louisiana is getting for coastal restoration and other recovery projects,” and is also apart from the “more than 400 economic damage settlements” reached between BP and local entities.

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR SOUTHERN ARIZONA’S FIRST HOTSHOT WILDFIRE CREW. The [Arizona Public Media](#) (10/8, 2K) reports that the BLM “announced plans to give Southern Arizona its first hotshot wildfire crew.” According to the article, “the crew will be stationed at Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista, and is part of a partnership with the U.S. Army.” BLM Spokesman Adam Milnor said, “This crew is going to be available for prevention activities. That means prescribed burns, fuel treatments, that allow us to get ahead of fires and hopefully reduce the chance for catastrophic burns down the road.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KOLD-TV Tucson \(AZ\)](#), Tucson, AZ (10/8, 23K).

BOARDMAN-TO-HEMINGWAY ROUTE DECISION NOT EXPECTED UNTIL 2016. The [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (10/8, 19K) reports that “a final decision on the route for Idaho Power’s proposed Boardman-to-Hemingway transmission line will not come until sometime next year.” The BLM is “scheduled to issue its final environmental impact statement on the project and a final decision in 2016.” And “that will be followed by a site certificate from the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council in 2018 or 2019, Idaho Power’s Mitch Colburn said.”

OREGON RANCHERS RESENTENCED IN ARSON CASE. The [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (10/8, 172K) reports that “an Eastern Oregon rancher and his adult son on Wednesday finally got the prison sentences they deserve — according to the law — for deliberately setting fires that spread from their property onto federal land.” According to the article, “Dwight Hammond Jr., 73, and Steven Hammond, 46, were each sentenced to mandatory minimum sentences of five years, in proceedings scheduled after a federal appeals court ruled that a judge in Eugene had disregarded the law and let the ranchers off too lightly during their original sentencing hearing three years ago.” The article notes that “now-retired U.S. District Judge Michael Hogan in 2012 sentenced Steven Hammond to one year and a day in prison for setting intentional fires in 2001 and 2006, and ordered Dwight Hammond to spend three months behind bars for his involvement in the 2001 blaze, which burned in the Steens Mountain federal management and protection area.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (10/8, 756K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE BLM UNVEILS MAP OF MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS. Additional coverage of the BLM’s map of mountain bike trails was provided by the [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (10/8, 105K) and the [Phoenix New Times](#) (10/8, 169K).

SUPPORT URGED FOR BLM’S SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION MEASURES. In a letter to the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (10/8, 116K), Ben Deeble, president, Big Sky Upland Bird Association, calls “the federal decision to not list sage grouse as threatened” as “bittersweet” because “we have won, at least in a bureaucratic sense,” but “we haven’t won in a biological sense, as the birds still face extreme habitat loss risks in Montana.” Deeble claims that “Gov. Steve Bullock’s sage grouse conservation measures for oil, gas and coal fields here will be entirely ineffective.” He says that the BLM is “proposing far better protections for core sage grouse habitat, and people should be supporting them, not Bullock’s (and now U.S. Sen. Steve Daines’) call to allow more intensive industrial development across federal lands.”

BLM DECISION COMPLICATES CADIZ WATER SCHEME. In his column for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/7, 4.07M), Michael Hiltzik writes that the Interior Department “may have put the final kibosh on” Cadiz’s “always-questionable plan to pump groundwater out of the Mojave Desert and deliver it via a 35-mile pipeline to the Colorado Aqueduct, and thence to Southern California.” But, according to Hiltzik, “the real question about Cadiz is how it has managed to carry on a losing fight for so long.” He says that “the answer has much to do with political influence, so it’s worth taking a look at this company’s discreditable history, which we’ve been following for 13 years.”

Additional coverage was provided by [AllGov](#) (10/8, 2K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS SAYS 20 SPECIES DON’T NEED PROTECTIONS. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/7, 705) reports that the FWS announced Wednesday that “Endangered Species Act protections

are not warranted for most populations of the Sierra Nevada red fox and 19 other species." According to the agency, "the red fox subspecies – generally smaller than other North American foxes and characterized by large ears and a bushy white-tipped tail – is more widespread than originally thought."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/8, Devaney, 471K), [Bloomberg Research](#) (10/8, 2.66M), and [KTZV-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (10/8, 32K).

Eels Won't Be Listed As A Threatened Species. The [AP](#) (10/8, 548K) reports that "American eels will not be listed under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Wednesday, a victory for fishermen who catch the increasingly valuable species." The FWS "rejected a petition from the California-based Center for Environmental Science, Accuracy & Reliability to list the eels — prized in Asian cuisine — as threatened." The agency "issued a report Wednesday saying that 'there have been large declines in abundance from historical times,' but the species 'currently appears to be stable.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/8, 548K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/8, 2.28M), the [US News & World Report](#) (10/7, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/8, Whittle, 344K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/8, 5.59M), the [Business Insider](#) (10/8, 2.93M), and the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/7, 455K).

Page Springsnail Avoids Listing. The [AP](#) (10/8, 2.28M) reports that "a tiny snail found along springs in Yavapai County won't be listed under the Endangered Species Act." The FWS said Wednesday that "actions taken by the Arizona Game and Fish Department have restored much of the habitat for the Page springsnail. The agency says eight of the 10 snail populations are stable or increasing in size."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/8, 259K) and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/8, 344K).

FWS Opts Not To List Three Species In Idaho, Surrounding States. The [AP](#) (10/8, 2.28M) reports that "authorities say three species found in Idaho and neighboring states don't require federal protections under the Endangered Species Act." The FWS "in an announcement Wednesday says the southern Idaho ground squirrel, Great Basin population of the Columbia spotted frog and a plant called the Goose Creek milkvetch no longer merit candidate status for listing."

FWS Says Tahoe Yellow Cress Doesn't Warrant Listing. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (10/7, 179K) reports that "a tiny plant that grows only along the shoreline of Lake Tahoe does not need federal protection after years of successful efforts to prevent its extinction, officials announced Wednesday." According to FWS officials, "it appears the Tahoe yellow cress now has a promising future and does not need to be listed as an endangered or threatened species." Ted Koch, supervisor of FWS' Reno office, said that "fifteen years of work by a coalition of land managers, conservationists and private property owners has 'truly exemplified' the most basic function of the Endangered Species Act – cooperation toward conservation of sensitive ecosystems and the plants and animals that depend upon them to survive."

FWS PROPOSES LISTING KENTUCKY ARROW DARTER. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/7, 705) reports that the FWS is "proposing to list a Kentucky fish under the Endangered Species Act, raising the possibility that coal mining operations in the state will have to follow new requirements to protect the species." The service was "under a deadline to make a decision on whether to list the Kentucky arrow darter, due to a 2011 settlement with conservation groups." The agency had "worked with various state and federal agencies to come up with conservation measures and prevent the need for a listing." However, in a release Wednesday, the FWS said "the fish qualified for threatened status and proposed a critical habitat spanning 246 stream miles throughout 10 Kentucky counties."

FWS PLANS TO DOWNGRADE PROTECTION OF DEER SPECIES. The [AP](#) (10/8, 2.28M) reports that "federal officials plan to downgrade the Columbian white-tailed deer's status from endangered to threatened, maintaining the species' protection but under more flexible regulations." The FWS announced Tuesday that "they plan to downgrade the deer's status but keep it protected under the Endangered Species Act." The decision will "give state officials more leeway in managing deer populations."

TWO GROUPS FILE NOTICE TO SUE OVER BULL TROUT RECOVERY PLAN. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (10/7, 15K) reports that "a pair of environmental groups announced Wednesday they will sue the federal government unless a recovery plan for threatened bull trout is amended to address violations of the Endangered Species Act." The groups, Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Friends of the Wild Swan, "filed the 60-day notice to sue a little more than a week after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife released its final Bull Trout Recovery Plan on Sept. 28." According to the article, "the final recovery plan offers little variation from the draft plan proposed one year ago, drawing criticism from conservation groups who have been at the vanguard of legal challenges on the road toward bull trout recovery for more than two decades."

Additional coverage was provided by [Montana Public Radio](#) (10/8).

HAGERMAN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE UNVEILS BUTTERFLY GARDEN. The [Sherman \(TX\) Herald Democrat](#) (10/8, 568) reports that "the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge is unveiling a tool officials hope will help reverse the dying off of the monarch butterfly." The refuge's "new butterfly garden" is "a man-made tool that will serve a dual purpose, Alex Ocanas, who's heading up the butterfly garden and monarch conservation efforts at Hagerman, said." The article notes that "not only does the garden provide an oasis for the colorful creatures, it also serves as an educational platform."

GRANT AWARDED TO ADDRESS DEADLY BAT DISEASE. [Tennessee Today](#) (10/7, 40K) reports that "a UT team has received a federal grant to help combat a deadly disease affecting bats." According to the article, "the group's research will attempt to find resolutions to help manage this crisis by examining the waking from winter slumber, cave emergence, and foraging behavior." A \$248,500 grant was awarded from the FWS.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE CHESAPEAKE RESTORATION AGREEMENT SEEKS TO INCREASE BROOK TROUT HABITAT. Additional coverage of the Chesapeake Restoration Agreement was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Wheeler, 6.76M).

National Park Service:

AD CAMPAIGN URGES VISITORS TO "FIND YOUR PARK". The [AdWeek](#) (10/8, 377K) reports that in a "new ad for the National Park Foundation, which raises money to sustain government parks, Grey New York creates a world full of colorful lost souls trying to find their way home—to whichever tourist attraction happens to match their stripes." Titled "Find Your Park," the piece "actually nets out as visually charming, smartly riddled with rich and inviting landscapes, and armed with a strong, simple metaphor."

YELLOWSTONE TOURISM INCREASES. [ABC World News](#) (10/7, story 11, 0:10, Muir, 5.84M) reported, "Yellowstone National Park setting a new report. 3.8 million visitors through September alone, thanks to low gas prices and free admission for some students."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (10/8, 2.28M) and the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/7, 455K).

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK ON PACE TO BREAK VISITATION RECORD THIS YEAR. The [AP](#) (10/8, 2.28M) reports that "Glacier National Park could set a visitation record this year as the number of visits at the end of September remains above that counted at the same point last year, when the record was broken." The article notes that "Glacier visitation so far this year stands at more than 2.2 million, and is almost 23,000 people ahead of totals at the end of September last year."

AMATEUR HUNTERS WON'T BE ALLOWED IN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK DURING 2016 PYTHON CHALLENGE. The [Miami Herald](#) (10/8, 651K) reports that "ground zero for pythons in Everglades National Park will be off-limits to all but a handful of authorized python trappers during the 2016 Python Challenge." The article notes that "in early August, state organizers announced that the second Challenge set for January had for the first time expanded to include park territory, where authorized trappers would be required to turn live bagged snakes over to park officials." But "the news triggered complaints from an environmental group which said allowing hunters onto park territory set a bad precedent and wasted limited resources on an event with questionable results. National parks do not allow hunting." In an Sept. 25 letter, "park officials clarified strict registration requirements — including an apprenticeship with staff or training with the park's Python Control teams and a criminal background check — that will likely limit trappers in the park to about 36 volunteers already tracking snakes."

PHOTOGRAPHER SAYS PURCHASE OF GRAND TETON ELK LICENSE SHOWS RULES AREN'T BEING FOLLOWED. The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (10/8, 1K) reports that "a Jackson photographer who has sued to stop the annual elk hunt in Grand Teton National Park has secured a license to shoot an elk starting Oct. 24." Timothy Mayo said he purchased "the license to show that officials are not following laws requiring park hunters to be qualified and experienced." Mayo, "a plaintiff in the 2014 suit against the U.S. Department of Interior and National Park Service," said "he purchased his license over the counter at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department office in Jackson without demonstrating any marksmanship abilities."

HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER BILL OPENING PARKS TO PADDLING. The [AP](#) (10/8, 2.28M) reports that "a congressional committee will consider legislation to allow canoes, rafts and other 'hand-propelled' vessels to be used on hundreds of miles of rivers and streams in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks." The House Natural Resources Committee has scheduled a Thursday hearing on the bill from U.S. Rep. Cynthia Lummis.

NPS SIGNS CONTRACT WITH NEW YOSEMITE CONCESSIONAIRE. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/8, 265K) reports that the NPS "on Wednesday signed a contract with Yosemite Hospitality, LLC, a subsidiary of Philadelphia-based Aramark, to provide concession services in Yosemite National Park." The agency "announced in June that it picked Aramark to oversee a new \$2 billion contract over DNC Parks & Resorts, a subsidiary of Delaware North Co., which has been the main concession operator since 1993." Yosemite Hospitality's 15-year contract starts March 1 2016.

FRESNO COULD LOSE 49 ACRES FOR PROPOSED PARK. [KFSN-TV](#) Fresno, CA (10/8, 137K) reports that “a 49 acre field just off of Peach Avenue, near Butler in Southeast Fresno used to be home to a federal plant research station,” and “when it shut down, the city of Fresno thought it would be a good place for a park.” The NPS “agreed, and deeded it to the city, but the city has dropped the ball, and the government could take the land back.” In a recent letter, the NPS said that “the city has been given 90 days to comply or” it is “forced to consider reversion of the property to federal ownership for re-disposal.”

NEVADA STATE PRISON ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [AP](#) (10/8, 2 28M) reports that the Nevada State Prison has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK VOLUNTEER SELECTED FOR NORTHEAST REGIONAL GEORGE AND HELEN HARTZOG AWARD. The [Martinsburg \(WV\) Journal](#) (10/8, 36K) reports that Shenandoah National Park Volunteer John Marklin has been “selected as the Northeast Regional George and Helen Hartzog Award.” Marklin, “who won the award in the Individual Volunteer category, logged over 4,000 hours of volunteer service, for serving as both peregrine falcon restoration site attendant and campground host.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS SCIENTISTS USE TWITTER TO MONITOR EARTHQUAKES. [CNN Money](#) (10/7, 2.15M) reports that since 2009, USGS seismologists have teamed up with Twitter to get emergency alerts of earthquakes. Users who tweet “earthquake” help “American scientists get better at tracking these destructive phenomena.” Paul Earle, a seismologist at the federal agency, said, “It’s not a revolutionary change in what we do, but it just gives us that extra minute to start on our response.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Motherboard](#) (10/8, 10K).

BILL WOULD OVERHAUL VOLCANO MONITORING. [Wired](#) (10/8, 4.12M) reports that “two senators from across the aisle have introduced a bill to help improve and modernize volcano monitoring in the United States.” Sens. Cantwell and Murkowski’s new bill (S. 2065) would “create a National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System and unify the various volcano observatories under single umbrella.” It would also “create a National Volcano Watch Office that would operate around the clock and a National Volcano Data Center.”

Top National News:

OBAMA APOLOGIZES TO DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS FOR AFGHAN HOSPITAL BOMBING. Coverage of the President’s apology to Doctors Without Borders international president Joanne Liu – which included reports on all three network newscasts – highlighted the group’s undiminished outrage and its call for an independent, international investigation. [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/7, lead story, 2:55, Engel, 7.86M) reported in its lead story that the President’s apology “may be too late,” and Doctors Without Borders executive director Jason Cone was shown saying in response, “This doesn’t change anything. We appreciate the expression of condolences but it doesn’t change the fact we have 22 dead patients and staff that were killed as a result of this attack.” On its website, [TIME](#) (10/8, Worland, 19.55M) quotes Cone as further stating, “Today we say: enough. Even war has rules.”

[Fox News’ Special Report with Bret Baier](#) (10/7, 1.53M) reported that the Administration is “promising a transparent, thorough, and objective investigation,” but the group is still “calling for an international probe of what it considers a war crime.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/7, story 4, 0 35, Pelley, 5.08M) also noted in its brief report that the aid group “says it still wants an independent investigation,” while [USA Today](#) (10/8, Stanglin, Jackson, 5.23M) reports that Liu said “the strike ‘was not just an attack on our hospital, it was an attack on the Geneva Conventions,’” which “cannot be tolerated.” [Reuters](#) (10/8, Nebel, Bases) quotes Liu as also saying during her press conference in Geneva, “If we let this go, as if it was a non-event, we are basically giving a blank check to any countries who are at war. ... If we don’t safeguard that medical space for us to do our activities, then it is impossible to work in other contexts like Syria, South Sudan, like Yemen.”

On its website, [NBC News](#) (10/8, Abdullah, 3.73M) reported that the group “renewed its call...for an unprecedented international and independent humanitarian fact-finding commission,” sending “letters to 76 countries that have signed Article 90 of the additional protocol to the Geneva Conventions.” NBC noted that the US and Afghanistan, “which are not signatories,” would “have to give their consent to such a mission.” Interviewed by [Foreign Policy](#) (10/8, Hudson, 364K), Liu said, “We need an establishment of facts from a body that’s not going to have a conflict of interest in the matter. ... That’s essential to making a final determination to whether or not there was a war crime.” As [AFP](#) (10/8, Cartillier) reports, DOD, NATO, “and Afghan officials” are currently carrying out investigations into the incident.

[ABC World News](#) (10/7, story 7, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) indicated – very briefly – that the White House said, “quote, ‘When the US makes a mistake, we own up to it, we apologize.’” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Lee, Subscription Publication, 9 95M) notes that during his briefing yesterday, press secretary Josh Earnest he went on to say, “And we implement the kinds of changes that make it less likely that those kinds of mistakes will occur in the future.” [USA Today](#) (10/8, Stanglin, Jackson, 5.23M) reports that Earnest also “disputed claims the airstrike amounted to a war crime, saying there is no evidence ‘that this was anything other than a terrible, tragic mistake.’”

While the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/8, Parsons, 4.07M) reports that “it wasn’t immediately clear what moved Obama to say he was sorry,” the [New York Times](#) (10/8, A1, Shear, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) indicates in a front-page story that Earnest “said the president had decided to issue the formal apology in the wake of testimony from the top general in Afghanistan before a congressional committee.” By yesterday morning, he added, “Obama had concluded ‘that he had learned enough about this matter to conclude that it was appropriate for him to offer an apology.’”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/8, Parsons, 4.07M) also reports that Earnest “sidestepped the question of whether the White House would support the independent investigation that Liu has called for.” Along similar lines, the [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Deane, 6.76M) says Earnest “declined to say whether the White House would support demands from the aid group...for an independent probe.” [Politico](#) (10/7, 942K) notes, however, that Earnest said “Obama assured Liu that the Defense Department’s investigation would offer a ‘transparent, thorough and objective’ accounting of the facts and that he would follow through on any necessary changes.”

The [Tribune News Service](#) (10/8) reports that Obama’s call to Liu “came a day after the White House had stopped short of an apology,” and notes that “emerging details about the erroneous strike have only fueled growing condemnation by Doctors Without Borders and other aid groups.” Previously, says [The Hill](#) (10/7, Wong, 471K), “US officials...described the incident as having ‘collateral damage,’ and officials also appeared to at first blame Taliban forces or Afghan security.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/8, Boyer, 344K) also reports that on Tuesday, “the White House had refused to apologize publicly, citing three separate investigations that were underway.”

The [AP](#) (10/7) reports that the White House said Obama also “spoke with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and pledged to keep working closely with his government.” According to [Voice of America](#) (10/8, 32K), Obama expressed his condolences and commended “Afghan forces for their bravery in the fight to control the northern Afghan city in clashes with Taliban insurgents.”

In an interview on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/7, 554K), Rep. John Garamendi, a member of the Armed Forces committee, also called for a “fully transparent discussion and investigation,” and argued that the US should cooperate and allow for an international investigation. Said Garamendi, “It’s our reputation at stake. We’re an open country. What are we hiding here? Are we hiding a mistake? That would be a serious problem. Get it out there.”

Ross Baker, distinguished professor of political science at Rutgers University and member of the Board of Contributors of [USA Today](#) (10/8, Baker, 5.23M), writes in this morning’s edition that calling the incident a “war crime” is “characteristic of the overheated, inflammatory rhetoric used these days by modern media to capture the attention of a jaded public suffering from sensory overload that has become increasingly receptive to hyperbole, exaggeration and sometimes even outright falsehood.” Baker adds that “such language tends to conflate mistakes and malice and equates stupidity with sin,” and that “Doctors Without Borders cheapens the value of its own indignation by raising what seems to have been a deadly mistake to the level of a wanton moral transgression.”

NYTimes Analysis: “Frustrations” In Kunduz “Boiling” Before Taliban Assault. The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Rubin, Subscription Publication, 11 82M) reports that “frustrations” in Kunduz province “had been boiling even before the Taliban’s recent assault.” According to the Times, officials and residents of Kunduz “described feeling abandoned by the government, and left at the mercy of local strongmen and militia leaders — including the Afghan Local Police — and, in recent months, to the steady advance of the Taliban toward the city.” The Times says “that distrust has manifested itself in ethnic and factional divisions that carry uncomfortable echoes of the Afghan civil war.”

SOME ROSEBURG RESIDENTS FEAR OBAMA WILL “POLITICIZE” SHOOTINGS. The [Washington Times](#) (10/8, Boyer, 344K) reports that amid concerns from residents of Roseburg, OR that the President, who will visit the community on Friday, “intends to politicize” the recent shooting rampage at Umpqua Community College, White House press secretary Josh Earnest said, “Those individuals have nothing to fear,” adding, “The president’s made clear that the goal of his visit is to spend time with the families of those who were so deeply affected by this terrible tragedy. ... That’s the purpose of the president’s trip.” In its “The Oval” blog, [USA Today](#) (10/8, Jackson, 5.23M) noted that Roseburg Beacon publisher David Jaques told Fox News that the President “is not welcome because residents believe he will ‘grandstand for political purposes.’”

The [New York Times](#) (10/7, Healy, Turkewitz, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says the President’s visit has “stirred fiercely polarized responses,” and notes that many residents “are bristling at his renewed call for stricter gun laws,” adding that in some ways, last week’s shooting “has actually tightened the embrace of guns” in the town.

Senate Democrats To Unveil "Sweeping" Gun Legislation Thursday. [Politico](#) (10/8, Everett, Kim, 942K) reported that at a press conference Thursday, Senate Democrats will unveil "a sweeping package of legislation" being prepared by party leaders to build on "their failed 2013 attempt to require universal background checks for gun purchases, according to senators and aides." According to "sources familiar with the package," in addition to the background checks, the legislation, which is "unlikely to be officially introduced this week," will "add new money for the Justice Department's existing background checks system that has recently faltered and include provisions to prevent domestic abusers from buying guns." It also aims to ensure that all key records are sent to a federal database and would make straw purchasing a federal crime, and is "expected to include a proposal from Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) intended to cut down on gun trafficking."

The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Hershenhorn, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says Democrats are beginning "a new push for gun control legislation in the Senate and plan to block other bills until their measures get a vote." While the package "has little chance of passage in the Republican-controlled chamber," Democrats are "mindful of trying to put Republicans, especially those running for re-election in swing states in 2016, on record as opposing the measures."

WPost's Sargent: Administration Skeptical Key Clinton Gun Proposal Can Work. In the "Plum Line" blog on the website of the [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Sargent, 6.76M), Greg Sargent wrote that "one of the most newsworthy and controversial ideas" Hillary Clinton laid out this week in announcing several gun-control proposals was a pledge "to use executive action as president to fix the background check system if Congress" doesn't address the issue. However, "the Obama administration has already" weighed "the same executive-action" idea, "and has doubts over whether it can be made to work in practical terms, according to current and former senior administration officials." Sargent said the executive-action idea was among several proposals the Obama Administration considered in the wake of the 2013 Newtown shooting spree. Sargent quoted a "senior administration official" as saying, "It was very clear that it was way more complicated than the other stuff being looked at."

Boehner Blasts Democrats Over Gun Violence. House Speaker Boehner took a shot at Democrats on Wednesday, charging that if they "really cared about gun violence, they would have done something about it when they were running Washington," the [Huffington Post](#) (10/7, McAuliff, 164K) reported. Boehner's comments came in response to a question "about whether or not Congress should reconsider barring the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from studying gun violence as a health issue." Boehner said, "In '09 and '10, we had Democrat majorities in the House and Senate. We had a Democrat president. And this clearly was not a priority for them. The president can rail all he wants."

Police Say Oregon Gunman Killed Himself. Police officials said Wednesday that the gunman in last week's shootings, Christopher Harper-Mercer, committed suicide in the classroom where most of the shootings took place. The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Turkewitz, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that the Oregon State Police said in a news conference that after an exchange of gunfire with police, during which he was struck on the right side, Harper-Mercer returned to the classroom "where he had killed his teacher and fellow students" and shot himself. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/7, story 4, 1:45, Holt, 7.86M), Miguel Almaguer reported on Roseburg Detective Todd Spingath and Detective Sgt. Joe Kaney, who "heard the urgent calls for help on their radio" and "rushed directly toward the gunfire." The detectives, who exchanged fire with Harper-Mercer, hitting him in the side, "say they don't want to be called heroes," but "there are few other ways to describe them."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Frosch, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) cites law enforcement officials who say Harper-Mercer was discharged from Army basic training after only a month following a suicide attempt.

Public Safety Experts Take Issue With Carson's Comments. The [AP](#) (10/8) reports that "public safety experts" are taking issue with Ben Carson's "call for those caught in mass shootings to rush the attacker." These experts, which include the FBI, say rushing a shooter "should only be used as a last resort." Julianna Goldman noted on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/7, story 5, 2:20, Pelley, 5.08M) that in an appearance on "CBS This Morning" Wednesday, Carson "doubled down, repeating the suggestion that victims of last week's mass shooting at an Oregon community college could have done more to protect themselves." Tom Llamas said on [ABC World News](#) (10/7, story 4, 1:40, Muir, 5.84M) that Carson is "standing firmly behind his comments," adding that he "didn't seem to know about Chris Mintz, the army veteran who did rush the shooter and saved lives, though he was shot seven times." Carson "now says Mintz did exactly what should be done."

While the [AP](#) (10/8) notes that Carson is receiving "no support...from his presidential rivals," Llamas said on [ABC World News](#) (10/7, story 4, 1:40, Muir, 5.84M) that Carson is "getting support from his top rival," Donald Trump, who said "the whole Carson controversy is overblown."

Highlighting comments about the shooting from Carson and other Republican presidential hopefuls, the [Washington Post](#) (10/8, 6.76M) says in an editorial that the "increasingly unhinged commentary" from the GOP field is "worthy of attention, if only for what they say about the poverty of the argument against regulation of gun ownership." The Post argues that the Republican candidates are "tying themselves in knots on this issue, because there's no logical way to refute" that fact that "countries that do not allow so many guns to circulate so freely lose many, many fewer of their citizens to gun crimes or accidents."

Bush Says He Understands, But Disagrees With, Gun Control Advocates. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/7, story 6, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M) reported CBS' Major Garrett asked Jeb Bush about Ben Carson's comments on the victims of mass shootings Tuesday. Garrett said Bush "said the focus should be on the victims' families and that he has compassion for those calling for stricter gun laws but disagrees." Bush: "I know they're acting on their heart. Name a case where gun rights being restricted out of Washington would have changed the course of any of those cases. The bigger problem right now is that we have people that have growing despair, that are isolated from society, they're disconnected from the rest of us, and spiral out of control, and then commit these atrocious acts of violence, in many cases commit suicide."

Dionne: Gunmakers Must Be Held Accountable. In his [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Dionne, 6.76M) column, E.J. Dionne argues that the debate over guns must be "recast" as "a fight to hold those who make billions of dollars from the sale of firearms accountable for what their products do to individuals and communities." Noting that the Industrial Areas Foundation is "pushing the president to use the federal government's purchasing power to promote safer guns" by requiring companies seeking to do business with the government to "remove the barriers to getting smart guns and gun safety technologies to market" and "cooperate with law enforcement to 'identify and isolate dealers that provide large numbers of guns used in crimes.'"

JOHNSON OBAMA POLICIES PROMPTED DROP IN BORDER ARRESTS, DEPORTATIONS. The [Washington Times](#) (10/8, Dinan, 344K) reports that in remarks to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute's convention on Wednesday, DHS Secretary Johnson cited as "successful outcome of President Obama's immigration policies," the decline in border arrests and deportations. According to Johnson, "only about 331,000 illegal immigrants were caught on the border in fiscal year 2015," which is "the lowest number since 2011." Johnson said, "Our investments in border security have led to these results."

Senate Plans Vote On Bill Targeting "Sanctuary Cities." [Politico](#) (10/7, Kim, Everett, 942K) reported that Senate Republicans plan to hold a vote later this month on a "controversial immigration bill later this month" to punish "sanctuary cities that give safe harbor to immigrants here illegally." Sen. David Vitter's legislation would target such cities "by withholding key federal grants and increasing prison sentences for those who try to re-enter the United States after being deported."

Surge In Border Apprehensions Sparks Fears Of Another Crisis. [McClatchy](#) (10/8, Ordoñez, 28K) reports that there are "concerns about the potential of another migrant crisis" amid an "unexpected summer upsurge in the number of unaccompanied children and migrant families apprehended along the southwest border." McClatchy notes that in August, more than "4,500 unaccompanied children and 5,100 families were apprehended," which is "greater than any previous August since at least 2011." According to "experts," if "the upswing continues... it could be a sign of a meaningful trend." While US Customs and Border Protection "acknowledged a rise in the number of children and parents stopped at the border in July and August," it "emphasized that apprehensions are down overall for the year."

WSJournal: Report Finds Most Immigrants Are Assimilating. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) highlights a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, which found that most immigrants to the US are assimilating, belies arguments from Donald Trump and others that immigrants to the US are committing crimes and receiving welfare.

In his [Washington Post](#) (10/8, Meyerson, 6.76M) column, Harold Meyerson similarly argues that the "immigrant crime wave that right-wing media and many Republican politicians rail about...is either a figment of their imaginations or an article of faith that, whatever their individual beliefs, they seek to instill or inflame in their followers." Meyerson says those beliefs "are as valid as their predecessors' claims that the Irish or the Chinese, say, posed a danger to the United States and that no more of them should be allowed in."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "A Step Toward Justice In The Release Of 6,000 Prisoners." The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorializes, "When a nation locks up as many people as indiscriminately as the United States does, even big numbers start to lose their meaning." The release of 6,000 federal prisoners at the end of the month "following a decision last year by the United States Sentencing Commission to reduce sentencing guidelines for many nonviolent drug crimes" may sound like a lot, but "more than 2.3 million people are behind bars in America." The release "is just a small step toward more efficiency and justice."

"Alabama Puts Up More Hurdles For Voters." The [New York Times](#) (10/8, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorializes that Alabama's decision to "close 31 driver's license offices across the state, including those in every county in which blacks make up more than 75 percent of registered voters," will combine with its recent voter-ID law to "make it even more difficult for many of the state's most vulnerable voters" to obtain a common form of identification needed to cast a ballot.

"America's Gun Madness, As Seen From Europe." In a [New York Times](#) (10/8, Kamdar, Subscription Publication, 11 82M) "Editorial Observer" piece, Mira Kamdar compares gun laws in the US and France, saying that the fact that Christopher Harper-Mercer obtained five handguns, an assault rifle, and several magazines of ammunition before carrying out the mass shooting in an Oregon college is "unimaginable" in her home country. Kamdar says "limits on gun possession in France mean that people can go about their daily lives without fear of dying at the hands of shooters at school, stores or movie theaters."

WASHINGTON POST. "Republican Candidates' Dangerous Incoherence On Guns." Highlighting comments about the mass shooting in Oregon shooting from Ben Carson and other Republican presidential hopefuls, the [Washington Post](#) (10/8, 6.76M) says in an editorial that the "increasingly unhinged commentary" from the GOP field is "worthy of attention, if only for what they say about the poverty of the argument against regulation of gun ownership." The Post argues that the Republican candidates are "tying themselves in knots on this issue, because there's no logical way to refute" that fact that "countries that do not allow so many guns to circulate so freely lose many, many fewer of their citizens to gun crimes or accidents."

"Hillary Clinton Was Right To Speak Up On Syria." An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (10/8, 6.76M) praises Hillary Clinton for "touch[ing] off an important and overdue debate among Democrats about US policy in Syria" by saying she "favored the creation of a no-fly zone and humanitarian corridors 'to stop the carnage on the ground and from the air,' some of which is now being inflicted by Russian bombers." The Post argues that "by declining to protect moderate forces from Russian bombing, Mr. Obama is advancing the end state Mr. Putin seeks," and Clinton "was right to speak up."

"America's Voting Machines Are In Serious Need Of An Upgrade." The [Washington Post](#) (10/8, 6.76M) says in an editorial that "most Americans use voting machines that are at least a decade old and based on engineering and designs from the 1990s. The perils of ignoring the latter may not be apparent until the electoral system is suddenly wracked by mishaps. ... Unfortunately, the likelihood of major dysfunction grows as voting machines age." While funding for upgrades has been short, "at some point in the not-distant future, there is an excellent chance that electoral disasters will shake loose funding for upgrades; when that happens, local officials should be ready to move."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "Those Assimilating Immigrants." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) highlights a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, which found that most immigrants to the US are assimilating, belies arguments from Donald Trump and others that immigrants to the US are committing crimes and going on welfare.

"Hillary Trade Places With Clinton." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#)

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, October 7, 2015

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT OF TRIBAL TRUST LAWSUIT. The [AP](#) (10/7, 51K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell says "a \$186 million settlement has been reached with the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations over the government's handling of some tribal resources and properties." Jewell announced "the settlement Tuesday at a ceremony at the Choctaw Nation headquarters in Durant." The deal "ends a nine-year lawsuit alleging the federal government mismanaged 1.3 million acres of timberlands in southeastern and south-central Oklahoma, with some claims more than 100 years old." Under the agreement, "the government will pay the Chickasaw Nation \$46.5 million and the Choctaw Nation \$139.5 million. In return, the tribes will dismiss their lawsuit and set aside future litigation."

The [Oklahoman](#) (10/7, 408K) reports that Jewell said "she also hoped the agreement would help establish better relations between the two tribes and the federal government." She said "It recognizes that there has been a very painful history between the Choctaw Nation and the Chickasaw Nation and the United States government."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oklahoma Journal Record](#) (10/5, 9K), the [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (10/7, 364K), the [Sherman \(TX\) Herald Democrat](#) (10/7, 568), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/7, 344K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/7, 66K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/7, 337), [KOTV-TV Tulsa \(OK\)](#) Tulsa, OK (10/7, 81K), [KXII-TV Sherman \(TX\)](#) Sherman, TX (10/7, 46K), [KGOU-FM](#) Norman, OK (10/7, 2K), and [KTEN-TV](#) Sherman, TX (10/7, 1K).

SECRETARY JEWELL BACKS PACIFIC RIM TRADE. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/5, 219K) reports that "the U.S. reached an agreement Monday on a massive trade deal with 11 Pacific Rim countries that could have a major impact on Alaska seafood exports." The environmental provisions of the Trans-Pacific Partnership are "meant to address logging, illegal wildlife tracking, and 'illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing,' according to the U.S. trade office." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell called it a "historic accomplishment." Jewell said, "The TPP holds important tools to move trading partners toward more sustainable development – helping to protect precious natural resources and combat wildlife trafficking, illegal logging and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. It also includes commitments to conserve species like rhinos, elephants and pangolins and protect natural areas and forests."

SENATE IN "STALEMATE" OVER LWCF. [Politico Pro](#) (10/6) reports that Sen. Richard Burr says the Senate is "in 'sort of a stalemate' over his effort to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund by amending bipartisan legislation updating the Toxic Substances Control Act." Burr "acknowledged he is blocking quick consideration of the TSCA update until he secures an LWCF vote, and Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) announced through a spokeswoman that she was joining the effort."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/7, Henry, 471K).

PUBLIC EDUCATION LEADERS IN UTAH RAISE CONCERNS OVER NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATIONS. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (10/6, 46K) reports that "leaders in public education within Utah have voiced their concerns over the long-term impacts national monument designations could ultimately have on school land." For instance, Tim Donaldson, School Children's Trust director for the Utah State Board of Education, said "designations, such as the proposed Bears' Ears Monument, would capture school trust lands." According to the article, "in turn, this would make these areas of land virtually undevelopable, therefore causing schools to lose money."

NEW STUDY LINKS INCREASED WILDFIRES IN ROCKIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE. The [AP](#) (10/7, 6.76M) reports that new research published Monday from scientists at the University of Wyoming suggests that the recent, more extreme wildfire seasons in the Rocky Mountain region could become more common due to global climate change. Study co-author John Calder said that people in the region should expect "a new normal" to wildfire cycles with larger and more frequent blazes.

HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY SEEKS INDEPENDENCE. The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (10/7, 566K) reports that "government red tape...has an impact on staffing" at Haskell Indian Nations University. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "acknowledged the staffing concerns following the commencement address she gave at last spring's graduation." She said, "The funding hasn't kept up. We really need Congress to step up and support the budget for Indian education." But Haskell can "only expect 'stable funding' from the Department of Interior over the next couple of years," according to the office of U.S. Rep. Lynn Jenkins.

BEAR STORY MADE FROM VINE VIDEOS. [BuzzFeed](#) (10/7, 10.73M) compiles Vine videos from The Department of The Interior's Twitter, Explore.org and BEARCAM to form a narrative.

WACO MAMMOTH DESIGNATION LAUDED. In a piece for the [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 415K), Jody Seaborn lauds the dedication of the Waco Mammoth National Monument. Seaborn says that "adding the 'national monument' label to the site strengthens the good stewardship already taking place there and guarantees its continuation." Seaborn concludes by congratulating "all involved."

FEDERAL MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS CRITICIZED. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (10/7, Stewart, 471K), Rep. Chris Stewart questions why "people who don't live in my state, and have probably never even been there, get to decide what happens to that land." He notes that "federal ownership means the western communities which surround that land and which are most impacted by the decisions of federal land managers have little to no say in the name, let alone the policies that govern that land." According to Stewart, "that might be merely irritating if the feds did a decent job managing public lands," but because "they don't," it's "much more than just irritating; it's a disaster."

[Breitbart](#) (10/6, 1.49M) provides five examples of federal decisions that show "responsible land use."

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR UTAH ROADS CASE. In an op-ed for the [Denver Post](#) (10/7, Pendley, 787K), William Perry Pendley, president and CEO of the Mountain States Legal Foundation, writes that the U.S. Supreme Court on Friday is scheduled to consider whether to take a Utah roads case. Pendley criticizes the ruling by a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, blasting the reasoning, and its conflict with earlier 10th Circuit rulings.

Empowering Native American Communities:

CHINOOK TRIBE TRIES NEW TACTIC IN ONGOING QUEST FOR FEDERAL RECOGNITION. [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (10/7, 20K) reports that the Chinook Indian Nation is "taking a new approach" in its quest for federal recognition. According to the article, "every day for the last three months," Tribal Chairman Tony Johnson has "sent President Barack Obama a letter requesting clarification of tribal status via executive order."

TRIBES FILES LAWSUIT OVER EDUCATION REFORMS. The [Courthouse News](#) (10/6, 7K) reports that "the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Education are trampling tribal rights with their new 'Blueprint for Reform,' according to a lawsuit filed by the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in a South Dakota federal court on Oct. 2." According to the tribe's complaint, "the reforms would reduce staff at reservation educational line offices that serve to provide federal oversight and resources-such as grant money and special education-to tribal schools." The article notes that "some of the offices would be closed or consolidated into educational resource centers located in urban areas, sometimes hundreds of miles from the reservation, the tribe says, adding that the government did not properly consult it about the reforms – a violation of earlier treaties."

BIA SHOWS INGENUITY IN MASHPEE CASINO SITE RULING. [Law 360](#) (10/7, 21K) reports that "a recent decision by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to take land into trust for a Massachusetts tribe's planned \$500 million casino project highlights the agency's inventiveness in working around restrictions on such acquisitions and lays out a novel approach the agency looks ready to defend, experts say." The bureau "approved the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's request to have tribe-owned land in Mashpee and Taunton, Massachusetts, taken into trust for its First Light Casino project on Sept. 18."

NAVAJO ASK EPA FOR ROLLING MINE SPILL COMPENSATION. The [Greenwire](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Navajo Nation requested that U.S. EPA supply formal assurances that ‘all claims, known and unknown’ stemming from the Gold King mine spill will be fully paid out.” Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch “raised concerns about EPA’s claims process, asking the agency to confirm that accepting compensation does not eliminate the potential for future claims, as tribal members are in need of immediate assistance.” Branch said, “We need to assure our people, who are concerned for their futures, that their injuries will not go ignored.”

REPORT SAYS NAVAJO NATION’S JAILS COST MORE THAN NEEDED. The [AllGov](#) (10/7, 2K) reports that “the Navajo Nation, the nation’s largest Indian reservation, has two brand new jails that wound up costing far more than they should have, raising questions about spending on the projects.” According to a report from the Department of Justice’s inspector general, “the jails, which are largely empty, cost the federal government \$70 million in economic stimulus grants to build, but should have cost less than \$40 million.” Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz said “more than \$32 million of the money wound up being spent on the jails’ ‘excessive’ and ‘larger than planned’ size.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Native American Times](#) (10/7, 337).

FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF VIRGINIA TRIBES URGED. In an op-ed for the [Richmond \(VA\) Style Weekly](#) (10/7, 73K), Dale Wolf and Jack Fehino, members of the Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School class of 2011, write that “in February, U.S. Sens. Tim Kaine and Mark Warner introduced the bipartisan Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act,” and “while further action on this bill looms, similar bills aiming to cover additional tribes in Virginia and other states have advanced from the Senate Subcommittee on Indian Affairs, but the full body has yet to hear them.” They note that “if successful, then the legislation that Kaine and Warner introduced would grant federal recognition to half a dozen Virginia groups: the Chickahominy tribe, the Eastern Chickahominy tribe, the Upper Mattaponi tribe, the Rappahannock tribe, the Monacan Indian Nation and the Nansemond tribe.” But “unfortunately, efforts to get this law or something like it passed have been severely complicated by a relic of more prejudiced times.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

PUERTO RICO DUMP CLOSURE ONGOING. The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (10/6, 641) reports that “tires, wood, and other debris extraction is ongoing at the Puerto Rico dump, as the closure project enters its fourth month since a notice-to-proceed was given in May to turn the regulation-violating dump site into an eco-friendly community park, said one of the officials overseeing the project yesterday.” Carl Castro, of the Office of the Governor’s Capital Improvement Projects Office, said, “Project is on schedule.” The article notes that “the dump closure project kicked off last June, with CNMI and Office of Insular Affairs officials attending a groundbreaking ceremony.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA’S FEDERAL RESERVOIRS IN WORSE SHAPE THAN LAST YEAR. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/7, 535K) reports that “in the latest indicator of the severity of the drought, the federal government’s main reservoirs serving California have begun the new ‘water year’ at just a quarter full and in worse shape than last year.” The BOR said Tuesday that “the six key reservoirs of the Central Valley Project were a combined 200,000 acre-feet below the same time last year, a difference of about 6 percent.” In total, “the reservoirs, including Shasta and Folsom, are just 24 percent full.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

REPORT SAYS COAL ROYALTIES SHOULD BE UPDATED. [US News & World Report](#) (10/6, 811K) reports that “coal companies should be charged as much as five times what it costs them for surface mining on federal lands, according to a new report from a nonpartisan think tank at the New York University School of Law.” The study notes that “the royalties that companies pay to mine coal on federal lands have not been upgraded in decades, and through a variety of loopholes and incentives, companies have been allowed to fork over just a fraction of what would seem to be required by law – leaving as much as \$1 billion a year on the table for the past 30 years.” Jayni Hein, the study’s lead author and policy director at the NYU School of Law’s Institute for Policy Integrity, which released the report this week, said, “In some cases, it’s gaming the system, in other cases, it’s using the rules to the best of their advantage. There’s no reason these companies should be able to lease coal for the same price they were able to decades ago.”

BLM, ALASKA HOLDING SEPARATE OIL, GAS LEASE SALES. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM and state of Alaska are “holding separate oil and gas lease sales next month in northern Alaska, the two governments announced last week.” The BLM is “offering leases on 1.5 million acres of land in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska in the northwest corner of the state.” The Alaska Division of Oil and Gas is “opening bidding on tracts in state waters in the Beaufort Sea, on the North Slope and in the North Slope Foothills area.”

USGS STUDY MONTEREY SHALE HOLDS LESS FRACKING POTENTIAL THAN THOUGHT. The [AP](#) (10/7, Knickmeyer) reports on Tuesday, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) downgraded “the fracking potential of California’s vast Monterey Shale oil deposits,” with its newest USGS study saying that “most oil-rich portion of the giant shale formation holds just 21 million barrels of oil that can be recovered by intensive methods, such as hydraulic fracturing.” The piece adds the USGS study only quantified the San Joaquin Basin and that upcoming surveys “will estimate the recoverable petroleum in the other three basins.”

FORMER GLACIER NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENTS OPPOSE LEASES IN BADGER-TWO MEDICINE. In an op-ed for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (10/7, 116K), former Glacier National Park superintendents Phillip Iverson, Robert Haraden, H. Gilbert Lusk, Suzanne Lewis, Michael (Mick) Holm and Chas Cartwright, agree with the Blackfeet Nation that the Badger-Two Medicine is “sacred ground.” The authors note that “they have made many good-faith efforts to swap or to buy out these remaining leases – because they maintain that due to the fragile and pristine nature of the Badger-Two Medicine and Blackfeet culture, industrial development cannot be mitigated.” They argue that “industrial energy development of this world-class resource would represent an intolerable assault to the ecological and cultural values of Glacier National Park, as well as to the Blackfeet people.”

Offshore Energy Development:

LYNCH BP RECEIVES “LARGEST PENALTY IN THE HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW.” In continuing coverage, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/6, 455K) reports the Department of Justice’s \$20.8 billion settlement with BP over its handling of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill “may mark the beginning of the end of an especially dark chapter in environmental history.” The fines consist of several separate funds to be paid out over time. These funds include \$5.5 billion, which Attorney General Loretta Lynch says is “the largest civil penalty in the history of environmental law.” Lynch said at a Tuesday morning press conference: “At trial, our litigation team proved that the spill was the result of BP’s gross negligence. BP is receiving the punishment it deserves, while also providing critical compensation for the injuries it caused to the environment and the economy of the Gulf region,” adding, “I am proud that the Department of Justice has helped lead the way from tragedy to opportunity.”

Experts Defend Long Payout For BP Oil Spill Settlement. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/6, 718K) reports that according to some experts, a slow payout of BP’s \$20 billion settlement over the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill over the course of 15 years could actually benefit Louisiana and other coastal states. Supporters of the extended timeline say it will ensure the settlement money “is distributed efficiently and actually used as intended,” whereas “dumping a large pot of money on the coast is a recipe for problems and waste.” The long payout also benefits BP, as the company is able to earn interest on the money it sets aside for the oil spill payments.

Louisiana Indian Tribe Says BP Still Liable For Gulf Oil Spill Damages. [Reuters](#) (10/6, Rascoe) reports that a Louisiana Indian tribe filed a lawsuit last Thursday claiming that BP Plc. is liable for damage to the tribe’s cultural and natural resources because of damage from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS EMBOLDENED BY SHELL’S EXIT FROM ARCTIC. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/2, Dlouhy, 2.28M) reported that environmentalists opposing Arctic oil drilling “have claimed a high-profile success against Shell and aim to funnel the resulting enthusiasm into other fights against fossil fuels.” The Chronicle reported that “asked if the protests factored into its thinking, Royal Dutch Shell, which has its North American operations based in Houston, referred to a statement last week that cited the well results, high costs and challenging regulations.” Added the Chronicle, “There was no mention of environmentalists.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DECISION COMPLICATES CADIZ PLAN TO SELL MOJAVE GROUNDWATER. The [Greenwire](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM “rejected a California company’s plan to build a water pipeline connecting Mojave Desert groundwater to 100,000 homes in urban Southern California.” In a letter, BLM California Director Jim Kenna “told Cadiz Inc. it cannot avoid a federal environmental review by using an existing railroad right of way for its 43-mile pipeline.” Cadiz President Scott Slater said that “he was ‘disappointed the BLM decided to take a political path’ but planned to continue pursuing ‘all legal remedies.’”

SUPPORTERS OF ATV PROTEST RIDERS COMMENT ON SOCIAL NETWORK. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/7, 492K) reports that “San Juan County Commissioner Phil

Lyman's Facebook page, where his online friends continue to comment on his conviction and pending sentencing for arranging a protest ATV ride on protected Bureau of Land Management turf, reveals the mentality of his supporters." Lyman political ally and San Juan County Assessor Shelby Seely wrote, "Not sure why the government would want an illegal immigrant to run the BLM." Seely was "referring to former state BLM Director Juan Palma, whom Lyman supporters allege set up the commissioner by leading him to believe that he had the agency's blessing to ride in Recapture Canyon."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SAGE GROUSE DECISION MARKS SHIFT IN APPROACH TO CONSERVATION. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/6, 455K) reports that "the sage grouse is an unlikely lightning rod for public policy reform, but the eccentric-looking bird now finds itself at the center of a debate over the future of conservation of endangered wildlife in the United States." The decision last month by the Interior Department "not to list the sage grouse on the endangered species list and instead to put forth a kind of collaborative plan for the species' survival may mark a turning point in the country's approach to conservation." According to the article, "some environmentalists will now argue that in order for conservation to truly succeed, it must work on a macro-scale, with more than a single species as its focus," and "instead, they say, looking at entire ecosystems, as well as acknowledging the benefits that nature provides to humans, could be the path to conservation."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Blue Mountain \(OR\) Eagle](#) (10/6, 7K) and [Atlas Obscura](#) (10/7).

Report Highlights Success Stories Of ESA. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/6, 705) reports that "the Endangered Species Act has sparked partnerships between government regulators and private landowners that have restored imperiled species without the need for federal protection, according to a new report arguing that the landmark environmental law is working." "The report by the Sand County Foundation, "which works with private landowners on voluntary conservation efforts, highlights six so-called success stories, including the decision last month by the Fish and Wildlife Service not to pursue an ESA listing for the greater sage grouse."

HAWAII YET TO BAN IVORY SALES. The [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Fears, 6.76M) reports that "a thriving ivory retail market has placed Hawaii behind only New York and California in sale volume at a time when massive numbers of elephants are being illegally slaughtered for their tusks." However, "now, after California's governor signed a ban on sales Sunday and New York instituted a ban last year, Hawaii stands alone among America's big three as a place where the artifact can be sold over the counter for cash." The article notes that "at least three attempts at bans in the state House and Senate fell apart against a wall of opposition from merchants."

Washington State Voters Urged To Support Initiative 1401. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (10/7, Wasser, 164K), Sam Wasser, Director of the University of Washington Center for Conservation Biology, writes that his "work on analyzing DNA samples taken from confiscated shipments of illegal African elephant ivory has helped us pinpoint where the bulk of elephant poaching is taking place." He says that "in Washington State, we have the opportunity to make a big difference this November by supporting Initiative 1401, a statewide ballot measure before voters this fall." He notes that "California and New York are already working towards ending illegal wildlife trade in their states." If Washington does "the same, the three largest ports in the U.S. will be sending a collective message that environmental security and economic security must go hand in hand for us to live in a sustainable world."

FWS RELEASES RARE FERRETS AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Greenwire](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication) reports that 30 black-footed ferrets were released at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge on Monday. It was the "latest in a decades-long effort among the federal government, Western states and landowners to recover one of North America's most endangered species."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/7, 259K), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/6, 113K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/6, 455K), [Clapway](#) (10/6), [Tech Times](#) (10/6, 171K), [AOL](#) (10/6, 6.06M), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/6, 79K).

SURVEY FINDS FEDERAL SCIENTISTS CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL MEDDLING IN WILDLIFE DECISIONS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication) reports that "a majority of scientists at the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration believe their agencies give too much consideration to 'political interests,' according to a recent survey from a science advocacy group." The Union of Concerned Scientists "survey – which was sent to 37,593 scientists and technical experts at FWS, NOAA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration – found that concerns about inappropriate political influence were highest at FWS." The article notes that "seventy-four percent of the FWS respondents said the level of consideration of political interests was 'too high.'"

FWS PROPOSES NEW PROTECTIONS FOR TWO FRESHWATER FISH SPECIES . [The Hill](#) (10/7, Devaney, 471K) reports that the FWS is "proposing new protections for certain small fish often used as bait by fishermen." Under the agency's proposal, "the headwater chub and certain roundtail chubs would be listed as threatened species."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/7, 2 28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/7, 344K), the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (10/7, 51K), and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/7, 259K).

FWS PROPOSES TO DOWNGRADE STATUS OF COLUMBIAN WHITE-TAILED DEER. The [Oregonian](#) (10/7, 756K) reports that the FWS on Tuesday "unveiled a proposal to downgrade" the Columbian white-tailed deer's "status from endangered to threatened, continuing its protections under the Endangered Species Act with more leeway for state wildlife officials to get involved in managing deer populations." In a statement Tuesday, the agency's deputy regional director, Richard Hannan, said "the animal's recovery is a result of state, federal and tribal wildlife managers' combined efforts." He said, "The continued conservation success in the Pacific Northwest illustrates what we can accomplish when we all work together."

FWS DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL TO REMOVE YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLIES FROM FEDERAL PROTECTION. The [New York Daily News](#) (10/7, Couillard, 3.75M) reports that the FWS is "drafting a proposal to remove grizzly bears from federal protection at Yellowstone." The service "found that the recovery goals of grizzlies in the Wyoming park have been met and adequate methods are in place to continue the sustainability of the bear, spokesman Ryan Moehring told the Daily News." The article notes that "the proposal would only apply to the grizzly bears found at Yellowstone National Park — with other populations of grizzlies in Montana, Idaho and Washington state remaining on the endangered species list, Moehring said."

HOMEBUILDERS PRAISE DECISION NOT TO PROTECT TORTOISE. The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (10/7, 257K) reports that "while environmentalists weren't happy with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's decision not to list the Sonoran Desert tortoise as endangered, the Southern Arizona Home Builders Association and the Arizona Game and Fish Department were pleased." David Godlewski, SAHBA's president, said, "From a scientific standpoint, a listing wasn't warranted, and we think the additional regulations would have been challenging to the homebuilding industry and likely cause an increase in housing costs. It was a good decision for the industry and future homeowners."

CHESAPEAKE RESTORATION AGREEMENT SEEKS TO INCREASE BROOK TROUT HABITAT. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (10/6, 834K) reports that "last year, Maryland, the other bay watershed states, and the federal government signed a new Chesapeake restoration agreement that included a pledge to increase brook trout habitat 8 percent by 2025." The article notes that "that amounts to an expansion by more than 200,000 acres of stream watershed across all six states that drain into the bay." Ben Hutzell, a biologist with the FWS, "which has provided technical help and oversight for this and other stream restoration projects around the region," said, "Anytime we can do work to enhance habitat for brook trout, it gives us justification to do work in the area."

National Park Service:

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS VISITS MONROE TO PROMOTE "EVERY KID IN THE PARK" INITIATIVE. [KNOE-TV](#) Monroe, LA (10/7, 1K) reports that NPS Director Jon Jarvis "told stories about interacting with animals in nature to some fourth graders from Cypress Point Elementary at ULM's Natural History Museum to encourage them to visit national, state and local parks." He said, "Both the US Wildlife and Fisheries services and National Park Service sister agencies are really trying to do is get kids out to these places and we are really looking at parks and refuges near urban centers and Black Bayou is a perfect example of that." Jarvis is "trying to spread the message of a new initiative called Every Kid in the Park, which allows fourth grade students to apply for a free access pass to national parks."

NPS BEGINS CLEARING FORT ROSALIE SITE. The [AP](#) (10/7, 2.28M) reports that the NPS has "started clearing the way for a renovated Fort Rosalie." Throughout October, NPS "contractors will be removing vegetation from the site near the Natchez Visitor Reception Center." According to Natchez National Historical Park Superintendent Kathleen Bond, "contractors would be removing invasive plant species such as paper mulberry, pastoral trees and wisteria vines."

In an editorial, the [Natchez \(MS\) Democrat](#) (10/7, 25K) notes that the NPS is "beginning to clean up the former Fort Rosalie site in preparation for its public opening next year during Natchez's tricentennial birthday celebration." According to the paper, "the good news for locals is that NPS doesn't typically do subpar work." It looks forward to when "the first phase of Fort Rosalie is completed so Natchez residents can again stand on the ground where Bienville and his men stood and look out across the beauty of our corner of the world." The editorial thanks "the NPS for caring for some of our area's most significant historical sites."

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/7, 560K), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/7, 344K).

PYTHON HUNTERS WON'T BE ALLOWED IN EVERGLADES. The [Greenwire](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication) reports that the NPS will "not allow hunters to kill invasive

pythons in limited sections of Everglades National Park as part of a state-sponsored event that drew a formal protest last summer from watchdog group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility." NPS Southeast Regional Director Stan Austin "sent a letter in September to PEER stating that the agency never had any intention to kill pythons in the park." Instead, "volunteers trained by the Park Service may capture pythons in the park and turn them into NPS or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as part of the 2016 Python Challenge."

YELLOWSTONE SETS VISITATION RECORD. The [AP](#) (10/7, 2 28M) reports that "Yellowstone National Park has set a record this year with more than 3.8 million visits at the end of September, and is on track to top 4 million visits by the year's end." According to park statistics, "the number of recreational visits this year has surpassed a 2010 record of more than 3.6 million by nearly 5 percent." Yellowstone spokeswoman Amy Bartlett says "the increase in visitors can be attributed to the 'Find Your Park' campaign, lower gas prices and the upcoming National Parks Service centennial, which takes place next year."

NPS, GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE REACH DEAL ON PERMIT FOR SUICIDE BARRIER. The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (10/6, 67K) reports that Golden Gate Bridge and NPS officials have "worked out a tentative deal that would allow work on a \$76 million suicide barrier on the span to move forward." According to the article, "if approvals are given, the bridge district intends to advertise a construction contract by Oct. 13." Then, "bids would be opened in January, with another six weeks needed to go through the submissions made by bidders."

DOG RESCUED AFTER FALL INTO CRACK AT VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (10/7, 2 28M) reports that "a Big Island family was reunited with their dog after a rescue team removed the Labrador retriever trapped in a crack in the earth at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park." According to the article, "Marta Caproni and her boyfriend were walking the 4-year-old chocolate Lab, Romeo, and his littermate, Tommy, at the park when Romeo ran off and disappeared." A rescue team was able to remove Romeo by sending in Ranger Arnold Nakata.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES DENIES PLANS TO MOVE INDIANA BRIDGE. The [AP](#) (10/7, 86K) reports that "the National Register of Historic Places has denied Indiana's request to move a two-span steel truss bridge to southern Indiana, boosting the hopes of preservationists who want the structure to stay put." The Indiana Department of Transportation had "sought permission to move the western Indiana bridge's two sections to separate locations on the Salt Creek Trail, a walking trail that will eventually link Brown County State Park to Nashville's town limits."

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY CLIMATE CHANGE TO HIT MARSHALL ISLANDS HARDER, QUICKER THAN EXPECTED. [CBS News](#) (10/7, Casey, 7 05M) reports that a combined study conducted by scientists from the USGS, Deltares Institute and the University of Hawaii concludes that effects from climate change will cause sea levels to rise around the Marshall Islands more severely and sooner than expected. The study's lead author, USGS geologist Curt Storlazzi said to CBS, "many atoll islands will be flooded annually," which will contaminate freshwater access and displace up to a half million people due to rising sea levels and higher waves.

Top National News:

OBAMA KICKS OFF CAMPAIGN FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF TPP. Media reports are casting President Obama's [remarks](#) to business leaders yesterday and his interview with [Marketplace](#) as the launch of his campaign for Congressional passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The coverage, which once again included not a single mention on the network newscasts, indicates that at this stage, Obama is fashioning his arguments to persuade lawmakers – not the US public at large – of the need to approve the treaty. Notably for a debate in which Obama will require GOP support, for the second day in a row he described the treaty as a tax-cutting mechanism, saying it would eliminate "18,000 taxes that other countries.. effectively place on US goods and services when we try to sell there." Obama, notes [USA Today](#) (10/7, Jackson, 5.23M), also "said...Japan slaps a 38% tax on American beef, and Malaysia has a 30% tax on US auto parts," and the [AP](#) (10/7, Freking) quotes him saying, "If the tariffs are down, if the taxes are down on goods made in America, that means US companies are investing here and are able to sell over there." Reports describe him as confident that he will prevail, and continue to speculate about Hillary Clinton's eventual stance. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/7, Memoli, Parsons, 4.07M) reports that Clinton, campaigning in Iowa on Tuesday, "sidestepped the question of whether she would support the agreement, saying only that she intended to 'make a timely decision.'"

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/7, 492K) reports that Obama "made the case for the deal at a meeting Tuesday with executives and representatives from the manufacturing, farm and technology industries at the US Agriculture Department's headquarters." The White House "released a list of 19 participants who joined administration officials in the meeting on the trade deal, including John Engler, president of the Business Roundtable; Jay Timmons, president and chief executive officer of the National Association of Manufacturers; R. Bruce Josten executive vice president of the US Chamber of Commerce; Dean Garfield, president and CEO of the Information Technology Industry Council, and Tom Linebarger, CEO and chairman of Cummins Inc." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/7, Memoli, Parsons, 4.07M) says Obama "launched the pitch alongside Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack."

[Reuters](#) (10/6, Edwards) notes that Obama framed his brief remarks as just the launch of a broader push to promote the deal, and announced "a long healthy process of discussion, consultation before this ever comes to an actual vote." Obama, according to [USA Today](#) (10/7, Jackson, 5.23M), "told [the] business leaders.. he is confident that Congress will approve" the treaty.

In his interview with [Marketplace](#) (10/6, 45K), meanwhile, the President revealed that "he personally worked the phones to build support in the closing negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal." Said Obama, "I made calls to prime ministers, I made calls to presidents, I made calls to US businesses, I made calls to a lot of stakeholders, environmental groups, to explain to them why it is so important for us to make sure that we've got a high-standard set of rules governing trade and commerce in this region." Obama also told [Marketplace](#) (10/6, 45K), "We're not going to bring back all the manufacturing jobs that were lost. The economy is dynamic and is changing. ... The anxieties are real, the concerns are real, but the prescription is not for us to try to look backwards. The prescription here is for us to look forward, and that's what this trade deal does."

The [New York Daily News](#) (10/7, Joseph, 3.75M) further quotes Obama as saying at USDA headquarters, "This agreement has the strongest labor standards of any trade agreement in history, including setting fair hours, prohibiting child labor, prohibiting forced labor. It includes the highest environmental standards in history. ... It will be an enormous achievement for us to have some 40% of the worlds' economies operating under rules that don't hurt us."

The [AP](#) (10/7, Freking) indicates that "one of the administration's selling points is that it will put pressure on China to match various safeguards and openness to competition that's written into the agreement." Obama said yesterday, "Under this agreement, we, rather than countries like China, are writing the rules for the global economy." Under the headline "US Allies See Trans-Pacific Partnership As A Check On China," the [New York Times](#) (10/7, Perlez, Subscription Publication, 11 82M) reports that America's "allies" also "expressed optimism about the impact of the 12-nation accord on a region worried about its dependence on the slowing Chinese economy." In China, "where the government's initial opposition to the trade pact has softened recently, the Ministry of Commerce issued a statement on Tuesday saying that the accord was 'one of the important free trade agreements in the Asia-Pacific region.'"

The [Washington Times](#) (10/7, Wolfgang, 344K) reports that "outside of those big-picture complaints, lawmakers have raised a number of concerns related to several specific industries." The Times adds that "perhaps most notably, tobacco state lawmakers have objected to the fact that countries' health departments will be able to restrict or heavily tax the sale of American-produced cigarettes and related products."

In an online piece, Catherine Ho lists in the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) four potential obstacles to Congressional approval: "Republicans may be hesitant to hand Obama a victory. ... Obama may not have the support of some key Democrats. ... Powerful outside lobbying groups oppose the deal," and "if the final vote falls during primary season, vulnerable candidates could be nervous about backing a controversial deal." Along those lines, Sunlen Serfaty said on [CNN's New Day](#) (10/7, 226K) that Obama "certainly does face a tough battle ahead in Congress" because "this will inevitably be tangled into the politics of the presidential race."

Picking up on some of those themes, the [Tribune News Service](#) (10/7, 2.46M) reports that "to achieve a victory," the White House "will need help from Republicans and will need to overcome doubts from a key Democratic constituency," and adds that while "unions have lost political clout as their numbers have declined, their political action committees donated more than \$60 million to campaigns during the 2012 elections," and "about 90 percent of that money went toward Democratic candidates, according to the Center for Responsive Politics." Chris Shelton, president of the Communications Workers of America, said yesterday "the union will 'hold accountable those members of Congress who support this giveaway to the 1 percent.'"

[USA Today](#) (10/7, Jackson, 5.23M) similarly indicates that Obama is pursuing the deal in opposition to some of his natural allies in the Democratic Party and the labor movement. Bill Samuel, director of government affairs for the AFL-CIO, told [Bloomberg News](#) (10/7, 492K) in an interview that "selling the trade pact will be an 'uphill climb' for the White House," as the debate "comes up in the hothouse of a presidential election and a congressional election; never a good time to be selling free trade." [Al Jazeera America](#) (10/7, 109K) noted on its website that "it's unclear where Clinton will come down on the trade agreement," while Sen. Bernie Sanders "moved quickly to voice his opposition" and Gov. Martin O'Malley "has been highly critical of the trade pact in recent months."

McCormell Speaks Of TPP's "Troubling Parts," Trump Says "It's Not Good For Our Country." Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell, [Reuters](#) (10/7, Lawder) reports, yesterday spoke of "a number of troubling parts" to the deal, adding, "We're in the process, all of us, of reading the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement," and "I don't have any observation to make."

In a front-page story, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/7, A1, Meckler, Hook, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that if Democrats face a complicated political picture as they take a stand on the deal, for Republicans the situation is not a whole lot easier. GOP candidates will be forced to pick between the party's establishment and its populist base – a dangerous position given the current political climate. Donald Trump discussed his opposition to the deal on [Fox News' Special Report with Bret Baier](#) (10/7, 1.53M) saying, "it's not good for our country. We're losing our jobs. We're losing our money. We're losing our base. We're losing everything. These trade deals are negotiated by people that don't know what they're doing."

Marcus: Clinton Could End Up With "Worst Of All Worlds." Ruth Marcus, in the [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Marcus, 6.76M), says Clinton "is facing one of the most fateful decisions of the presidential primary season," a "true 'Sophie's Choice.'" In fact, "the best-case scenario for Clinton would have been to have negotiations blow up and therefore avoid having to take a position." Marcus adds that "history suggests she will duck. And also that, after much hemming and hawing on Clinton's part; after pundits like me pouncing on her evasiveness and inconsistency; after incessant pounding from interest groups and activists, Clinton will end up opposing the deal," which "would be the worst of all worlds – which is, all too often, exactly where Clinton finds herself."

WSJournal: TPP Is Flawed, But Still Could Do Some Good. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that the TPP has the potential to provide major economic and strategic benefits to the US. The Journal says it is withholding judgment on the deal – and whether the US could have done better – until the full details emerge, but it is worried that US negotiators may have given in too much to protectionist forces. In particular, it frets that five years is not enough time for IP protection, though it concedes that it is better than nothing for some of the countries. It also worries that some tariff schedules could be reduced faster. The Journal recommends that Congress carefully vet the agreement, adding that President Obama will need to do the heavy-lifting to persuade Congress to pass it.

US Trade Deficit Up In August. [Reuters](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports the Commerce Department said yesterday that the US trade deficit increased by 15.6% in August to \$48.3 billion.

Japanese PM Hails TPP. The [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Denyer, 6.76M) reports that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "hailed the hard-won Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal on Tuesday, saying it would help raise stubbornly anemic growth at home and boost the entire Asia-Pacific region." Said Abe, "This is the beginning of a new century of the Asia-Pacific. ... It will create a vast economic zone of an unprecedented size...and Japan will be there as a central player."

Accord A Key Issue In Canadian Campaign. The [New York Times](#) (10/7, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11 82M) reports from Ottawa that the deal arrived "amid an election campaign in Canada" and "ignited debate...instantly." While there are plenty of domestic issues in play, the TPP's "political effect could be enough to tip the balance in a contest where the Conservatives, New Democrats and Liberals, under [Prime Minister] Justin Trudeau, have been locked in a near three-way tie in polling since the campaign began in August." The Times adds that "the Liberal Party led the unsuccessful fight against free trade with the United States in 1988," but Trudeau "now describes his party as a champion of trade pacts." However, "he has said that he cannot endorse the Trans-Pacific deal until its full text is available."

EARNEST MEDICAID EXPANSION WOULD HELP COMBAT GUN VIOLENCE. [The Hill](#) (10/6, Hensch, 471K) reported in its "Blog Briefing Room" blog that White House press secretary Josh Earnest said that by "pushing for the expansion of Medicaid," the 2016 Republican presidential field could aid the fight against gun violence. Earnest argued that many of the GOP presidential hopefuls "talk about improving mental healthcare," adding, "One of the biggest providers of mental healthcare — especially in disadvantaged communities — is Medicaid. For those who say they want to work with the administration in limiting gun violence, we would welcome the support for the Affordable Care Act and expanding Medicaid."

Senate Democrats To Offer Gun Control Proposal Thursday. [The Hill](#) (10/6, Carney, 471K) reported in its "Floor Action" blog that a new gun control proposal is expected from senate Democrats in Thursday. Senate Minority Leader Reid told reporters, "We've had a number of meetings today with Democratic senators. ... So we're going to move forward. We have a program. We're going to do some press on this on Thursday." Reid "declined to get into details" of the Democrats' proposal, saying, "We're going to make sure this is inclusive, that all my caucus is involved in this, and we're not going to outline stuff here today."

WPost Calls For Gun Law Reform. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/7, 6.76M) calls for reform of the nation's gun laws, citing last weekend's shooting of an 8-year-old girl by an 11-year-old boy in Tennessee after the girl refused to let him see her puppy. The Post argues that "only reform of our gun laws can begin to reduce the number of children whose lives are lost or ruined because of guns."

Zalles: Ammunition Buyers Should Be Licensed. In a [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Zalles, 6.76M) op-ed, Jeffrey Zalles, president of the Marin County, CA chapter of the Brady Campaign, suggests that we stop "worrying about the guns" and focus "on the bullets," by requiring buyers of ammunition to be licensed and marking shells with a serial number. Zalles adds that to offset criticism from gun owners that this amounts to "a big-government intrusion into their privacy and constitutional rights," the NRA should be responsible for issuing the licenses.

Witnesses: Oregon Shooter Believed He Was "Freeing" Victims. [ABC World News](#) (10/6, story 6, 1:25, Karlinsky, 5 84M) reported that according to "law enforcement sources," alleged Oregon community college shooter Chris Harper Mercer left behind writings in which "he says other people think I'm crazy, but I'm not. I'm the sane one." ABC cites witnesses who say Mercer "seemed to think by killing his victims, he was freeing them." In a brief report, the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/6, story 7, 0 20, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that the first of the funerals for victims of the shooting will be held Thursday, adding that the President "will meet with relatives of the victims on Friday."

[ABC World News](#) (10/6, story 5, 2:05, Vega, 5.84M) reported that GOP presidential candidate Ben Carson was asked ,what he would do if he was confronted by a gunman who asked his religion, as the Oregon shooter did. Carson: "I'm glad you asked that question, because not only would I probably not cooperate with him, I would not just stand there and let him shoot me. I would say, hey guys, everybody attack him. He may shoot me but he can't get us all." ABC added that Carson "also bash[ed] President Obama's plan to visit with victims, saying, if he were elected, he would not go." In addition, he "suggest[ed] that even some kindergarten teachers should be armed."

The [New York Times](#) (10/7, Rich, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports on efforts by colleges and universities to guard against and prepare for mass shootings, noting that for most, such shootings "are now on the list of hazards — from fires and bombings to natural disasters like earthquakes and tornadoes in the South — for which they must prepare." since the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007, "colleges have been strengthening their security measures," and about "two-thirds of four-year colleges or universities with more than 2,500 students have dedicated armed officers on campus, according to the Department of Justice." In addition, colleges have "beefed up high-tech communications systems to send emergency instructions to students and staff members, and added features like automatic locking mechanisms for dormitory and classroom doors."

AP Analysis: Despite GOP Claims, Chicago's Gun Laws Aren't That Tough. An [AP](#) (10/7) analysis examines claims by Republican presidential candidates Chris Christie, Donald Trump, and Carly Fiorina that the increase in homicides and shootings this year in Chicago, which "has a reputation for having some of the country's strictest gun laws," is "proof that gun control doesn't work." The AP notes that the city's gun laws "aren't as tough as their reputation suggests," as "courts have overturned or gutted many of them in recent years, forcing a city that once banned handguns and gun shops to allow them both."

Milwaukee Officers Testify Against Store That Sold Gun Used To Shoot Them. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/6, story 8, 2:15, Diaz, 5 08M) reported that Milwaukee police officer Bryan Norberg testified Tuesday "against the Milwaukee store that sold the gun that nearly killed him" in 2009 when he and his partner Graham Kunisch "stopped 18-year-old Julius Burton for riding his bike on a city sidewalk." After struggling with the officers, "Burton shot Norberg in the mouth. Kunisch was hit in the eye." According to both offices, "the weapon was negligently and unlawfully sold by Badger Guns." The charging document states that in 2005, 537 guns recovered from crimes were traced back to the store.

STATE DEPARTMENT DEMANDS INFORMATION OVER CLINTON-PETRAEUS EMAILS. Ed Henry reported on [Fox News' Special Report with Bret Baier](#) (10/6, 1.53M) that Hillary Clinton is "playing defense" after the State Department on Tuesday sent a letter to her personal attorney "demanding to know why emails from January 2009 between Clinton and Gen. David Petraeus have emerged, despite her claim that official email did not start on the personal account until that March." Henry also reported that Clinton bought a product from a Connecticut company in 2013 "that backed up all the emails in her server." Henry said this brings up questions as to whether her deleted personal emails are "still alive," and whether the private company has "access to the official email that had classified information."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/7, Dinan, 344K) reports that the State Department has told Clinton to "go back to her Internet companies and try to recover email messages from any personal email accounts that she used during her time in government, saying it appears she didn't turn over all of her documents." The Times says that Patrick F. Kennedy, under secretary of state for management, wrote in an Oct. 2 letter to David Kendall, Clinton's attorney, that the agency "has become aware of messages Mrs. Clinton sent to other government officials in her first few months" as secretary of state, "but which she did not turn over" to the department.

[McClatchy](#) (10/7, Gordon, Kumar, 28K), citing an unnamed source, says that Clinton "hired a Connecticut company to back up her emails on a 'cloud' storage system, and her lawyers have agreed to turn whatever it contains over to the FBI." McClatchy adds that Senate Homeland Security panel Chairman Sen. Ron Johnson has "also asked the firm to turn over to the committee copies of any Clinton emails still in its possession." McClatchy says, however, "There were conflicting accounts as to whether the development could lead to recovery of any of Clinton's more than 31,000 personal emails, which she said she deleted from her private server."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Helderman, 6 76M) reports "The FBI's probe into the security of Clinton's e-mail has expanded to include a second private technology company

which said Tuesday it plans to provide the law enforcement agency with data it preserved from Clinton's account. The additional data, provided by Connecticut-based Datto Inc., could open a new avenue for investigators interested in recovering e-mails deleted by Clinton "that have caught the interest of GOP lawmakers." The Post adds, "Datto was hired to provide backups for the Clinton e-mail accounts starting in May 2013 by Platte River Networks, the Colorado-based tech firm hired earlier that year by the Clinton family to manage the system after Hillary Clinton concluded her term as secretary."

Email: Employee At IT Firm Hired By Clinton Feared A Cover-up. [Politico](#) (10/6, Bade, 942K) reported, "An employee at Platte River Networks "was concerned that instructions from a Clinton-linked company would have the tech firm 'covering up some shady [sic] sh[**]'," according to emails obtained by Senate investigators. Employees at the IT firm "in a mid-August email chain were trying to find records that showed that Clinton Executive Service Corp., the company paying the Platte River bill, had instructed them to reduce the length of time backups of Clinton's emails were kept." One of the employees is quoted as writing in the email chain, "Starting to think this whole thing really is covering up some shady sh[**]. I just think if we have it in writing that they told us to cut the backups, and we can go public saying we have had backups since day one, then we were told to trim to 30 days, it would make us look a WHOLE LOT better."

Email Chain Shows Mills Forwarded Now-Classified Information To Clinton Foundation. [Politico](#) (10/6, Bade, 942K) reported that Cheryl Mills, who served as then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's chief of staff, "twice forwarded information to the Clinton Foundation that was later deemed classified." Politico said that "a new email chain" that the conservative organization Citizens United obtained through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit shows that Mills "forwarded State Department background information about Rwanda and the Congo to the Clinton" Foundation. Politico added that ex-President Bill Clinton "was visiting Africa, including Rwanda, around the time that Mills sent the email." The former President "was also considering giving Rwandan President Paul Kagame a plenary role at the Clinton Global Initiative, according to the emails."

Group Wants State To Declare Whether Clinton Had Approval To Use Private Email System. [The Hill](#) (10/6, Hattem, 471K) reported that the conservative group Judicial Watch "is preparing a new attack in a protracted legal battle with the State Department over...Clinton's private email server." On Tuesday, attorneys with the group "said they would demand that the department declare whether Clinton received explicit approval to use a private email account and personal server while serving as secretary of State." Addressing US District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan on Tuesday, Michael Bekesha, an attorney for Judicial Watch, said, "We need to know whether or not Mrs. Clinton was authorized to use that system of records." Bekesha added that Clinton "was 'either approved' to use the sever...or she was a rogue employee."

Democrats To Propose Amendment To Shut Down Benghazi Panel. In a brief item, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/6, House, Rosenkrantz, 247K) reported that Rep. Louise Slaughter, the ranking Democrat on the House Select Committee on Benghazi, will propose a "House amendment to abolish" the panel. Slaughter spokesman James Owens said the congresswoman "will offer her amendment to a GOP bill creating a new select [committee] on Planned Parenthood." Bloomberg Politics said that the amendment "is unlikely to be advanced by GOP-controlled" panel. The move, which comes in the wake of House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy saying last week that the panel has hurt Democratic presidential frontrunner Clinton in the polls, "would be first official legislative attempt to scuttle" the committee.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Mr. Putin's Motives In Syria." A [New York Times](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial questions Putin's motives in Syria and argues that it "may not be too late for [him] to reconsider." Noting that the US and its allies "are in need of help and might well be open to cooperating with Russia on finding a combination of military and diplomatic measures that could curb the Islamic State" and "impose cease-fires that would give civilians some respite from the violence," the Times says this "should be the priority for both the West and Russia," adding that it "would certainly be a better way for Mr. Putin to satisfy his need for respect and a role in the Middle East."

"Shut Down The Benghazi Committee." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/7, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says the House Select Committee on Benghazi "should rename their laughable crusade...the Inquisition of Hillary Rodham Clinton." The Times says "the effort to find" Clinton "personally responsible for the deaths has lost any semblance of credibility" and "become an insult to the memory of four slain Americans." According to the Times, Clinton's testimony on Oct. 22 "should be the last salvo for a committee that has accomplished nothing," and if Republicans "insist on keeping the process alive, the Democrats should stop participating in this charade."

"Why Student Debtors Go Rescued." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/7, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) blames student loan servicers for not helping to prevent defaults through "poor customer service" that leads to borrowers not understanding their full range of options. The Times calls on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to begin "vigorously enforcing the law and creating rules under which this wayward industry will be required to do business."

WASHINGTON POST. "The Intolerable Detention Of Jason Rezaian Reaches A Grim Milestone." The [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Board, 6.76M) editorializes that reporter Jason Rezaian's status as a "de facto hostage" should be viewed "as intolerable to the United States as was the captivity" of the 52 American diplomats in Iran in 1981. The Post says that Rezaian "is not only not guilty of any crime, but also has never been plausibly accused of one, or prosecuted according to Iran's laws."

"Shot And Killed Over A Puppy." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/7, 6.76M) calls for reform of the nation's gun laws, citing last weekend's shooting of an 8-year-old girl by an 11-year-old boy in Tennessee after the girl refused to let him see her puppy. The Post argues that "only reform of our gun laws can begin to reduce the number of children whose lives are lost or ruined because of guns."

"South Sudan Is Still In Danger." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/7, Board, 6.76M) argues that while the prospects for "permanent peace" in South Sudan "remain tenuous," the US and others who have played a role in negotiations "must not abandon the people of this nation and must pressure the leaders to overcome their mistrust for a lasting settlement." The Post says that President Salva Kiir "should shelve" his unilateral plan to change the country's political map from 10 states to 28, as rebel leader Riek Machar has said the plan "definitely would" kill the peace deal if not amended. The Post also calls for both sides "to do more to stop" fighting, agree to terms for demilitarization in the capital of Juba, and bring "to justice those fighters and commanders who are responsible" for human rights violations during the civil war.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "The Pacific Trade Stakes." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that the TPP has the potential to provide major economic and strategic benefits to the US. The Journal says it is withholding judgment on the deal--and whether the US could have done better--until the full details emerge, but it is worried that US negotiators may have given in too much to protectionist forces. In particular it frets that five years is not enough time for P protection, though it concedes that it is better than nothing for some of the countries. It also worries that some tariff schedules could be reduced faster. The Journal recommends that Congress carefully vet the agreement, adding that President Obama will need to do the heavy-lifting to persuade Congress to pass it.

"Syria's Radiating Danger." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/7, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) calls Russia's violations of Turkey's airspace provocations and argues that each time they go unanswered, Russia, Iran, and Syria will be emboldened to test limits of the US.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Speaker Battle Could Take Toll](#)
[Renters Taking Cost Of Retrofits In Stride](#)
[Equal Pay For Women Gets A Boost](#)
[A Deity Stands Sentry In India](#)
[The Force Behind End-Of-Life Law](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Iraqis Urge Russia To Strike ISIS](#)
[Battle Brews Atop Media Giant Viacom](#)
[Fiorina's H-P Tenure: A Disputed Legacy](#)
[Trade Deal Throws Presidential Candidates A Curveball](#)

New York Times:

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[Test Scores Under Common Core Show 'Proficient' Varies By State](#)

Washington Post:

[Defending The Amazon](#)
[6 000 To Leave Prison Early](#)
[A Thinning Case That Fat Causes Heart Ills](#)
[An Enigmatic Computer Whiz — And Cruz's \\$11 Million Man](#)
[Supreme Court: Get Your Own Habeas Corpus In Line](#)

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[Hedge Funds Suffer Worst Post Crisis Lows As Market Turmoil Rocks Big Names](#)

Washington Times:

['Cadillac Tax' Repeal Mired In Dispute On Funding Fix](#)
[State Tells Clinton To Fill 'Gap' Still Left In Months Of Emails](#)
[Russia's Campaign In Syria Allows Iran To Pursue Other Regional Feuds](#)
[Senate Pushes Defense Policy Bill Through Filibuster Bar](#)
[Equal Pay Law May Cause Firms To Flee California](#)
[Romania Considers Legalized Bribery To Keep Doctors](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC Severe Weather-South Carolina Flooding; Weather Forecast; US Cargo Ship Search; United Flight-Pilot Illness; 2016 Politics-Ben Carson Gun Control; Oregon College Shooting-Shooter; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing Investigation; ISIL-Transportation; ATM Fee Increases.

CBS Severe Weather-South Carolina Flooding; US Cargo Ship Search; Syria-Russian Military Strikes; Syria Immigrant Crisis; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing Investigation; President Obama-Troop Reduction; Oregon College Shooting; Milwaukee Gun Violence Case; Michigan Town-Contaminated Water.

NBC Severe Weather-South Carolina Flooding; US Cargo Ship Search; 2016 Politics-Joe Biden; 2016 Politics-Marco Rubio; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing Investigation; Fantasy Football Site-Scandal;

Conversation Contents

Clip: A well-earned designation: Waco mammoth site officially dedicated a national monument

"Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Oct 06 2015 12:46:38 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Clip: A well-earned designation: Waco mammoth site officially dedicated a national monument

[A well-earned designation: Waco mammoth site officially dedicated a national monument](#)

Jody Seaborn // Austin Statesman // October 6, 2015

The Waco Mammoth Site is one of Texas' unique treasures. On Monday, the prehistoric graveyard of fossilized mammoth bones officially became a national treasure, too, when Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis dedicated it as a national monument.

Renamed the Waco Mammoth National Monument, the site was discovered in 1978 by two young men hunting for arrowheads and fossils near the Bosque River. Excavations over the next few decades uncovered the fossilized remains of 24 Columbian mammoths, the larger relative to the woolly mammoths, as well the remains of other animals from the Pleistocene Epoch, including a Western camel, a saber-toothed cat and a giant tortoise. Most of the mammoth fossils that have been discovered belong to a nursery herd of females and juveniles that died together in a flood some 68,000 years ago. It's the largest known concentration of mammoths that died in a single event.

At various times over the years, Republican and Democratic members of the Texas congressional delegation tried to persuade their colleagues in the House and Senate to pass legislation declaring the site a national monument but to no avail. Then in July, President Barack Obama, using the authority granted presidents by the American Antiquities Act of 1906, signed an executive order doing what a paralyzed Congress could not bring itself to do and named the Waco site a national monument, making it one of 19 national monuments Obama has established or expanded during his presidency.

President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act into law 109 years ago and it's one of the reasons we remember Roosevelt as a great conservation-minded president — along with the five national parks and 18 national monuments he created, and the 230 million acres he put under federal protection. But it is Obama who has protected more public lands than any other president — more than 260 million acres. Obama will leave office in January 2017 with a conservation and environmental legacy that will rank him with Roosevelt and Richard Nixon (yes, Richard Nixon!) among the nation's most environmentally progressive presidents.

Baylor University and Waco city officials deserve praise for recognizing the mammoth site's importance and for raising millions of dollars to develop the site into a 105-acre park, which opened to the public in 2009 and features a visitor center, an enclosed dig shelter and a walking trail. Adding the "national monument" label to the site strengthens the good stewardship already taking place there and guarantees its continuation. Waco and Baylor will partner with the National Park Service in a relationship that Jewell called a model for federal-local cooperation on protecting public sites and lands. Congratulations to all involved.

(By the way, anyone planning a day trip to the Waco Mammoth National Monument should be aware that the site is closed on Sundays and Mondays. Check the monument's website for hours and fees.)

On Mon, Oct 5, 2015 at 2:02 PM, Duran, Leah <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

[Waco Mammoth National Monument Dedicated](#)

WACO (October 5, 2015) Former first lady Laura Bush, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis took part in a dedication ceremony Monday morning to mark the designation of Waco Mammoth National Monument.

"It's our duty to protect places like this that will inspire the next generation of archaeologists, paleontologists, and historians, and show the rich diversity of our country's natural heritage," Jewell said.

The invitation-only ceremony was not open to the public.

On July 10 President Barack Obama designated the site as one of three new national monuments.

It's now managed by the National Park Service in cooperation with the City of Waco and Baylor University.

"The National Park Service has worked seamlessly with our partners at the City of Waco, Baylor University, and the Waco Mammoth Foundation to lay the groundwork for the continued success of the Waco Mammoth National Monument," Jarvis said.

A painstaking excavation of the site, which was discovered in 1978, has uncovered the remains of 25 Columbian mammoths that died nearly 68,000 years ago, probably after the nursery herd was caught in a flash flood.

In 2002, then U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco authored legislation which later became a law that directed the National Park Service to determine the feasibility of establishing a national park at the Waco Mammoth Site.

Three years later he secured \$200,000 for preservation efforts at the site and an additional \$200,000 for the Baylor Mayborn Museum's Mammoth Exhibit.

In March 2009 the U.S. Department of the Interior recommended including the site as part of the National Park Service, and Edwards introduced the "Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009," which would have implemented the Department of Interior proposal and authorized appropriations for the project.

The original U.S. Department of the Interior recommendation called for giving the Park Service the lead responsibility for protection, scientific study and visitor enjoyment of the site in partnership with the City of Waco and Baylor University, which was the option local leaders preferred.

The House passed the bill, but the measure later died in the U.S. Senate, the victim of a maneuver called an anonymous hold.

Subsequent measures introduced by Edwards' successor, U.S. Rep. Bill Flores, R-Bryan, called for designating the site as a National Monument.

The new bill didn't provide funding for the monument, but the authors said local support would make the national recognition possible without additional federal spending.

Ground was broken in 2008 for \$3.2 million visitor center and pavilion to protect the site, which has been operated since 2009 by the city in partnership with Baylor University and support from the nonprofit Waco Mammoth Foundation.

In April Jarvis toured the site and later said he would ask the Interior Department to seek Mr. Obama's approval to designate the site a national monument.

Two weeks later the Waco City Council voted to turn five acres of the site and the excavated remains over to the federal government, leaving just more than 100 acres as city property, but as administrative land in the national park system.

Under the 1906 Antiquities Act the President bypassed Congress and issued the executive order for the designation.

On Sun, Oct 4, 2015 at 11:39 AM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

http://www.wacotrib.com/news/city_of_waco/u-s-interior-secretary-to-visit-waco-mammoth-national-monument/article_1dfdccf0-01a9-5c3c-868b-cb608b586e90.html

U.S. Interior Secretary to visit, dedicate Waco Mammoth National Monument

Story Comments

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Posted: Saturday, October 3, 2015 7:31 pm

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By **J.B. SMITH** jbsmith@wacotrib.com

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will visit the Waco Mammoth National Monument to celebrate its recent designation as part of the national park system.

Jewell and National Park Service director Jon Jarvis will tour the site and participate in a 10 a.m. dedication ceremony with local leaders, including Baylor University President Ken Starr, Mayor Malcolm Duncan Jr. and Waco Mammoth Foundation founder Gloria Young. The event is by invitation only.

President Barack Obama in July designated the site at 6220 Steinbeck Bend Drive as a national monument, capping a yearslong effort by local officials to win the designation. The Waco Mammoth Foundation raised \$4.2 million to turn the mammoth dig site into an educational tourism attraction, built to National Park Service standards.

Staff photo— Rod Aydelotte

City parks workers Mike Fields, left, and David May,

Since 1978, the remains of 24 Columbian mammoths have been discovered at the site, some dating back 65,000 years. Among them are the nation's only known "nursery" herd of mammoths, thought to

right, prepare to attach a National Park Service sign to the entrance of the Waco Mammoth Site. be buried in a cataclysmic flood.

Buy this photo

On Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 3:55 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.kwtx.com/ourtown/home/headlines/Waco--Interior-Secretary-To-Attend-Mammoth-Site-Dedication-330416281.html>

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Related: **Four-way partnership crucial for new Waco Mammoth National Monument** Q&A with National Park Service veteran Bruce Whitlock

Waco: Interior Secretary To Attend Mammoth Site Dedication.

Updated: Fri 12:29 PM, Oct 02, 2015

WACO (October 2, 2015) U.S.

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park

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Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will take part in a dedication ceremony Monday to mark the designation of Waco Mammoth National Monument.

Waco Mammoth Site (File)

The invitation-only ceremony is not open to the public.

In July President Barack Obama designated the site as one of three new national monuments.

Jewell and Jarvis also plan to meet with local fourth graders in support of the administration's Every Kid in a Park initiative.

The site, which was discovered more than 30 years ago, contains the largest known concentration of mammoths that died in a single event.

A painstaking excavation of the site has uncovered the remains of 25 Columbian mammoths that died nearly 68,000 years ago, probably after they were caught in a flash flood.

In 2002, then U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco authored legislation which later became a law that directed the National Park Service to determine the feasibility of establishing a national park at the Waco Mammoth Site.

Three years later he secured \$200,000 for preservation efforts at the site and an additional \$200,000 for the Baylor Mayborn Museum's Mammoth Exhibit.

In March 2009 the U.S. Department of the Interior recommended including the site as part of the National Park Service, and Edwards introduced the "Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009," which would have implemented the Department of Interior proposal and authorized appropriations for the project.

The original U.S. Department of the Interior recommendation called for giving the Park Service the lead responsibility for protection, scientific study and visitor enjoyment of the site in partnership with the City of Waco and Baylor University, which was the option local leaders preferred.

The House passed the bill, but the measure later died in the U.S. Senate, the victim of a maneuver called an anonymous hold.

Subsequent measures introduced by Edwards' successor, U.S. Rep. Bill Flores, R-Bryan, called for designating the site as a National Monument.

The new bill didn't provide funding for the monument, but the authors said local support would make the national recognition possible without additional federal spending.

Ground was broken in 2008 for \$3.2 million visitor center and pavilion to protect the site, which has been operated since 2009 by the city in partnership with Baylor University and support from the nonprofit Waco Mammoth Foundation.

In April National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis toured the site and later said he would ask the Interior Department to seek Mr. Obama's approval to designate the site a national monument.

Two weeks later the Waco City Council voted to turn five acres of the site and the excavated remains over to the federal government, leaving just more than 100 acres as city property, but as administrative land in the national park system.

Under the 1906 Antiquities Act the President bypassed Congress and issued the executive order for the designation.

On Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 11:55 AM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Secretary-of-Interior-Jewell-Expected-at-Waco-Monument-Event-330402521.html>

Secretary of Interior Jewell Expected at Waco Monument Event

□

Dedication ceremonies are planned next week for the recently designated Waco Mammoth National Monument in

Central Texas.

Organizers say U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis are expected to attend Monday's event.

President Barack Obama in July proclaimed Waco Mammoth as one of three new national monuments. The others are Berryessa Snow Mountain in California and Basin and Range in Nevada.

The Texas site includes well-preserved fossils of a herd of Columbian Mammoths and remains of other Ice Age animals. Experts say some fossils identified at the site are thought to be more than 65,000 years old.

On Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 8:58 AM, Duran, Leah <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi all,

Attached please find a the final media advisory for the Waco Mammoth National Monument celebration that will be sent at 9 AM.

Thanks,
~Leah

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TOUTS PARTNERSHIP AT WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION. The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (10/6, 111K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "headlined the dedication of the Waco Mammoth National Monument on Monday, marveling at the local partnership that developed it and persevered to win the site national park status." She said, "From this point forward, Waco will be known for its mammoths, which it should be known for, and for its community stewardship and philanthropy that has been so well demonstrated." Jewell added, "I haven't ever been to an event like this where the community pulled together and recognized that the future is about partnerships. It's not about the federal government coming in and deciding everything and paying for everything." Jewell "joined former First Lady Laura Bush at the event, along with National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, Baylor University President Ken Starr, city and state elected officials, former U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, and current U.S. Rep. Bill Flores, R-College Station."

The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (10/6, 111K) editorializes that while Jewell and Jarvis "touted the prehistoric story of the site — the almost human behavior of a nursery herd of Columbian mammoths caught in a flood or mudslide, with some apparently trying to save their babies — they also savored the story of commitment and homegrown ingenuity by local folks who recognized the treasure in their midst and worked in unison to preserve and champion it."

Additional coverage was provided by [KXXV-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (10/6, 30K), [KWTX-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (10/6, 85K), and [KCEN-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (10/6, 98K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO VISIT WITH OKLAHOMA INDIAN NATIONS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 344K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "planning to visit with leaders of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations in Oklahoma to participate in a ceremonial signing of an agreement over tribal lands." Jewell will "visit Durant on Tuesday to recognize the settlement of a nine-year lawsuit alleging the federal government mismanaged 1.3 million acres of timberlands in southeastern and south-central Oklahoma." The article notes that "the case had been scheduled to go to trial in July, but all sides entered into a settlement agreement approved by a federal judge last month in which the tribal nations agreed to receive a cash payment of \$186 million."

Additional coverage was provided by [KXII-TV Sherman \(TX\)](#) Sherman, TX (10/6, 46K), [KOTV-TV Tulsa \(OK\)](#) Tulsa, OK (10/6, 81K), and [KTEN-TV Sherman \(TX\)](#) Sherman, TX (10/6, 1K).

SECRETARY JEWELL SUPPORTS TPP AGREEMENT. [Grist](#) (10/6, 6K) reports that "last night, the United States and 11 other countries (Australia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Vietnam, Brunei, Chile, New Zealand, Singapore) finished drawing up what is now the largest trade agreement in history — covering 40 percent of the world's economy." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "posted a photo of a cute elephant family on Twitter this morning with this message: Our kids should have a chance to see elephants & rhinos roaming the wild; trade deal can help that happen."

US ANNOUNCES PLANS TO COMBAT ILLEGAL FISHING, PROTECT OCEANS. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Urbina, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports the Administration on Monday announced plans to "step up the fight against illegal fishing, pollution and other crimes at sea," including the creation of two new national marine sanctuaries — one in Maryland and the other in Lake Michigan. According to Administration officials, they also plan to "expand the use of satellites that track illegal activity." Stressing the "urgency of the crisis," Secretary of State Kerry told an international conference in Chile "that the sea was acidifying 10 times faster than at any other point in history, and that one-third of the world's fish stocks were overexploited."

[AFP](#) (10/6, Clark) quotes Kerry as saying, "The problem is there are people fishing illegally, unregulated, vast areas of the ocean where people use fishing methods that have been prohibited."

[McClatchy](#) (10/6, Adams, 28K) reports that in a video message to conference participants, the President launched a program called "Sea Scout," which is "designed to increase cooperation among nations seeking to identify and prosecute illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing around the globe." The [AP](#) (10/6) reports Obama also recalled his childhood in Hawaii and Indonesia and said he always maintained "a special love for the ocean," and "said he would seek to protect more American waters in the coming months." The AP notes that Chile "made its own ambitious declaration, cordoning off a vast expanse of the South Pacific Ocean" near Easter Island. [Reuters](#) (10/6, Wroughton, Slattery) reports Chilean President Michelle Bachelet said the protected area would include some 3,800 km (2,361 miles) in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

According to the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Harvey, 6.76M), the two areas designated US sanctuaries "were nominated.. last year after the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reopened the public nomination process for the first time in 20 years."

TRIBES PUSH FOR BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/5, 32K) reports that "five Four Corners-area tribes have united to propose a 1.9 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument that would be the first truly collaborative land management effort between Native Americans and the federal government." According to the article, "the Coalition is minting a blueprint for a degree of co-management that has never been tried before." The plan "embodies true government-to-government relations and truly collaborative decision-making on all aspects of running a protected mass of land."

RESEARCHER FINDS WAY TO FIGHT CHEATGRASS. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that the "profusion" of cheatgrass is "a big reason today's Western fires burn more land, more frequently and with more ferocity than in the past, scientists say." Now, "after more than a half-century of largely failed efforts to thwart the Sherman's march of cheatgrass, a researcher may have a powerful new weapon against it." Ann Kennedy, a soil scientist with the Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, has "discovered naturally occurring soil bacteria that inhibit the growth of the weed's deep root system, its competitive advantage, even as those bacteria leave native plants untouched."

HAWAII SECESSIONISTS DEMAND NEW NAME FOR HONOLULU'S MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/6, Owens, 375K) reports that "now that President Barack Obama has decided to call Mount McKinley by the name Denali instead, NBC News has seen fit to call attention to an obscure MoveOn.org petition seeking to change the name of President William McKinley High School in Honolulu, Hawaii." The creator of the petition, Aoloa Patao, says that "the name of McKinley High must be changed because it is a sad reminder of the prolonged illegal occupation of the Hawaiian Kingdom by the United States." The article notes that "the online petition to rename McKinley High hosted by Moveon.org — a progressive advocacy group and political action committee — has garnered 1,080 signatures as of early Monday morning."

Additional coverage of the Denali name change was provided by the [National Review](#) (10/6, 504K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SECRETARY JEWELL LAUNCHES GRID ALTERNATIVES TRIBAL SOLARTHON. Additional coverage of the GRID Alternatives' Tribal Solarthon was provided by the [East Hampton \(NY\) Press](#) (10/6, 21K).

EXPIRATION OF LWCF CRITICIZED. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (10/6, Simon, Arce, 471K), Camilla Simon and Maite Arce, co-chairs of the Latino Conservation Alliance, criticizes Congress for allowing the Land and Water Conservation Fund to expire. They note that "the LWCF has also been an important economic driver supporting jobs and the revitalization of local communities." They are also "concerned about the playgrounds, recreation centers, ball fields, and state park projects for future generations that hang in the balance."

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (10/5, 41K) and the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (10/6, 54K).

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGED TO ESTABLISH MOJAVE TRAILS NATIONAL MONUMENTS. In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/5, 99K), Margit Chiriaco Rusche, vice president and founder of the General Patton Museum, writes that “the lands in the proposed Mojave Trails National Monument hold a significant piece of our nation’s World War II history, which is still marked on these desert landscapes.” Rusche wants “to protect the stories and artifacts in this unique expanse of California desert I call home so that we can share this piece of our heritage.” She encourages “President Obama to use the Antiquities Act to establish the Mojave Trails National Monuments.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBE SUES OVER BIE RESTRUCTURING. [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K) reports that “the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe on Friday sued the U.S. Department of the Interior over a planned restructuring of the Bureau of Indian Education, claiming the proposal violates a settlement agreement and will disrupt essential education services provided to Native American schools.” The South Dakota tribe claimed that “the BIE decided to reduce the number of educational line offices under its Blueprint for Reform without ‘meaningfully consulting’ with affected tribes and failed to secure congressional appropriations or authorization.”

BIA SAYS COMPLAINT BY TRIBE MEMBER IS PREMATURE. [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K) reports that the BIA “told a federal court Friday that a Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma member who is trying to revive her petition to change the tribe’s constitution brought her suit prematurely, since her administrative appeal challenging the BIA’s denial of the petition is still being considered.” According to the article, “the government told an Oklahoma federal court that it lacks jurisdiction to consider Anita Onco Johnson’s complaint until the Interior Board of Indian Appeals finishes evaluating her appeal.”

TRUMP SAYS WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM SHOULD KEEP THEIR NAME. The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/6, Rushing, 5.59M) reports that “Donald Trump and Jeb Bush have agreed on precious little throughout the 2016 Republican presidential primary race, but on this they agree: The Washington Redskins team name should stay where it is.” Trump on Monday said that “he disagreed with calls for the removal and retirement of the team name, as the former Florida governor had said last week on a new SiriusXM show intended to combine sports with politics.” Trump said “any controversy over the team name was simply an issue of political correctness run amok.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT WORKING TO AVOID WATER SHORTAGE. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (10/5, 1.12M), Lisa Atkins, president of the Central Arizona Project Board of Directors, writes that the Central Arizona Project has “stored enough water underground to fill Yankee Stadium more than 500 times.” According to Atkins, “anticipating a shortage, CAP and the Arizona Department of Water Resources is now working with others to store an additional 740,000 acre-feet of new water in Lake Mead.” She argues that “storing extra water in Lake Mead is critical in our efforts to avert a potential shortage in 2017.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR OPPOSES NATIVE AMERICAN ENERGY ACT. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/6, 65K) reports that “House Democrats are expected to oppose legislation this week that would remove regulatory burdens for energy production on Native American land that tribes say have cost them tens of millions of dollars.” The Native American Energy Act would “vest more regulatory authority over tribal energy production with the tribes themselves, rather federal regulators that have recently sought more stringent regulations on oil and gas production on federal land.” The article notes that “among its provisions is language that would exempt tribal land from new Interior Department regulations on hydraulic fracturing, an innovative oil and gas extraction technique commonly known as fracking.” Interior “opposes the bill in part due to that language.”

BLM PROPOSES TO UPDATE RULES AND FEES ON OIL AND GAS. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (10/5, 44K) reports that the BLM has announced that it is updating the rules and fees governing oil and natural gas extraction in an effort to catch up to advances in technology used by the energy industries.” Last week, the BLM announced a proposed rule updating and replacing its regulations, which have not been revised since 1989, related to the measurement of oil produced from federal and Indian onshore leases.” The article notes that “the proposed rule would replace Onshore Oil and Gas Order Number 4 (Order 4), which sets minimum standards for the measurement of oil extracted from public lands.”

MURRAY SUING OVER FOIA REQUEST. The [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (10/6, 55K) reports that “Murray Energy Corp. is suing the federal government over alleged failure to comply with the Freedom of Information Act.” The firm says the Interior Department and the Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation and Enforcement “have completely ignored” its “request for information about a new rule opponents have said will be detrimental to underground coal mines such as those the firm operates in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois and Utah.” According to the article, “in revealing its lawsuit, Murray stated that it filed an FOIA request on Sept. 4, seeking information about the OSMRE’s Stream Protection Rule.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Morgantown \(WV\) Dominion Post](#) (10/6, 52K), [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K), [WAJR-AM Morgantown \(WV\)](#) Morgantown, WV (10/6), and [WBKO-TV Bowling Green \(KY\)](#) Bowling Green, KY (10/6, 45K).

GREEN GROUP STUDY GAS PRODUCERS BENEFIT FROM BLM SUBSIDIES. [Inside Climate News](#) (10/6, McKenna) reports that according to a new study by Friends of the Earth, natural gas producers in North Dakota essentially receive a hidden federal subsidy worth tens of millions of dollars from “royalty-free flaring of natural gas from wells on public and tribal lands.” The article said the group’s study shows that over a six year period, “BLM subsidized the burning of \$524 million of natural gas by oil and gas companies operating on public and tribal lands in North Dakota.” Continental Resources, however, criticized the research, with Jeff Hume, the company’s vice chairman of strategic growth initiatives, saying the group had “obtained flare volume reports which are accurate, [but] what they don’t realize is the majority of gas that is reported as flared is inert gas, not hydrocarbons.” BLM spokesman Bradford Purdy also challenged the group’s claims, “saying producers that wish to flare must prove that capturing the gas would lead to a premature abandonment of recoverable oil reserves. Companies must also submit a plan that eliminates flaring within one year.”

WSJOURNAL BLASTS EPA’S REJECTION OF PEBBLE MINE PROJECT. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says a new report on the EPA’s rejection of Alaska’s proposed Pebble Mine project demonstrates an abuse of government power and disregard for the law and calls on the agency’s inspector general and Congress to look into the matter.

Offshore Energy Development:

DOJ ANNOUNCES RECORD \$20.8 BILLION SETTLEMENT WITH BP OVER GULF OIL SPILL. [USA Today](#) (10/6, Johnson, 5.23M) reports that the Justice Department announced a record \$20.8 billion settlement on Monday “with British energy giant BP Monday, more than five years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill stained more than 1,300 miles of the Gulf of Mexico’s coastline in the largest environmental disaster in U.S. history.” Attorney General Loretta Lynch said “the resolution marks the largest settlement against a single entity in U.S. history and will finance an unprecedented project to restore plant and wildlife habitats that were fouled by the spill of 3 million barrels of oil into the Gulf.” BP has agreed to pay a \$5.5 billion civil penalty, “the largest such penalty in the history of environmental law, and \$7.1 billion in damage claims under the Oil Pollution Act.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that the final settlement of \$20.8 billion raises the total from the initial \$18.7 billion settlement announced in July, and notes that “at either amount, it is the largest environmental settlement – and the largest civil settlement with any single entity – in the nation’s history.” Lynch called the final settlement “a major step forward in our effort to deliver justice to the Gulf region in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy – the largest environmental disaster our nation has ever endured.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Mufson, 6.76M) reports that “the highlights of the settlement include \$8.1 billion in natural resource damages, including \$1 billion BP agreed to pay earlier; \$5.5 billion plus interest for Clean Water Act penalties; and \$5.9 billion under a separate agreement to cover state and local government claims.” In July, “when the outlines of the deal were announced, BP put the cost of the settlement at \$18.7 billion,” and Attorney General Lynch “said the government was counting some coastline restoration money that BP did not count.” The Post notes that the settlement “does not, however, include \$4 billion BP agreed to pay earlier to settle criminal charges or the billions more it has spent cleaning up the oil spill and settling separate civil claims with private individuals.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) adds that a number of civil suits against BP remain pending, including a securities fraud trial set for January in which investors who bought BP shares claim that the company underestimated how much oil was spilled into the Gulf of Mexico, an estimate used to determine the fines BP would later pay.

The [AP](#) (10/5, Tucker) reports that the settlement, “once approved by a judge, would resolve all civil claims against BP and end five years of legal fighting over a 134-million gallon spill that affected 1,300 miles of shoreline,” and also “would bind the company to a massive cleanup project in the Gulf Coast area aimed at restoring wildlife, habitat and water quality.” BP is receiving the punishment it deserves, while also providing critical compensation for the injuries that it caused to the environment and the economy of the Gulf

region," Lynch said.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/5, Katakey, 2.66M) reports that the settlement "takes BP's total budget for the spill to more than \$54 billion, five years after an explosion at the Macondo well polluted the Gulf of Mexico and forced the company to shed more than third of its market value and assets to pay for the accident." [AFP](#) (10/5, Oberman) reports that Lynch said "she hopes the settlement will serve as a warning to companies about the need to operate 'in as safe a manner as possible.'"

[The Hill](#) (10/5, Henry, 471K) reports that BP "will pay \$4.9 million to Gulf Coast states affected by the spill, as well as \$1 billion to local communities there." The [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (10/5, 769K) reports that Florida "stands to receive \$2 billion for economic damages, the most of any Gulf Coast state, and \$680 million for restoration projects." The state "is also in line for \$572 million as part of the 2012 Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act, with that figure potentially growing to \$1.25 billion."

In his "The Economic Hub" column for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/5, 4.07M), Michael Hiltzik writes that "the estimate that more than \$15 billion of the final settlement will be tax deductible sounds correct to University of Michigan law professor David Uhlmann, former chief of the Justice Department's environmental crimes section." Restitution "on damage claims and restoration of the damaged environment have long been designated by the IRS as deductible charges. 'That makes sense,' he told me. 'They're business expenses.'"

The [Financial Times](#) (10/5, Chon, Subscription Publication, 1.37M), the [Washington Times](#) (10/5, Wolfgang, 344K), the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/6, Alpert, 718K), [Reuters](#) (10/5, Heavey, Rucker, Stephenson) and [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/5, Eaton, 7K) also report.

NOAA To Hold Public Meetings On BP Oil Spill Restoration Plan. The [AP](#) (10/6) reports that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has released an \$8.8 billion plan to restore Gulf of Mexico areas damaged by the BP oil spill. Public meetings seeking comment "are scheduled across the Gulf and in Washington for public comment on the 690-page plan," the AP reports.

DESPITE SHELL'S DEPARTURE, OBAMA ADMINISTRATION STILL PLANS TO ISSUE ARCTIC DRILLING REGULATIONS. [The Hill](#) (10/5, Cama, 471K) reported that the Obama Administration "still plans to issue regulations for oil and natural gas drilling in the Arctic Ocean despite Royal Dutch Shell's decision to abandon its drilling efforts 'for the foreseeable future.'" Brian Salerno, director of the Interior Department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, "said regulators are moving forward with their rules, even though drilling is not likely to return to the Arctic for years, or even decades." The agency "wants to require drillers to keep a backup rig nearby to drill relief wells for blowouts, be able to contain spills through mechanical means and restrict the drilling season based on ice cover, among other provisions." The oil industry and Republicans "have sharply criticized the proposal as overly prescriptive, expensive and unnecessary, while Democrats and environmentalists say the rules don't go nearly far enough to prevent oil spills."

Additional coverage of Shell's exit was provided by [Platts](#) (10/6, 1K) and [Knowledge@Wharton](#) (10/5, 4K).

Moody's: Shell's Departure Could Have Negative Impact On Alaska's Economy. [Reuters](#) (10/5, Carroll) reported that in a note released on Monday, Moody's said that Shell's departure from its Arctic oil exploration could have a negative impact on Alaska's economy. Shell's decision is considered credit negative for Alaska, despite the project occurring in federal waters, because it would have had indirect benefits to Alaska's economy, including job generation and improving the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System's economic viability.

Seattle Times Endorses Yoshino For Port of Seattle Commission Position. In an editorial, the [Seattle Times](#) (10/5, 962K) endorsed Marion Yoshino for Port of Seattle Commission Position 5. While presenting its reasons for the endorsement, the Times wrote that while both candidates "say the Port should have been more transparent regarding Shell," Yoshino "is more pragmatic, suggesting that revenue from today's oil projects can be used to research and invest in alternatives."

Commentary. In commentary carried by [The Hill](#) (10/5, Shogan, 471K), Cindy Shogan, executive director of the Alaska Wilderness League, praised Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) for introducing the Stop Arctic Ocean Drilling Act in the House and urged Congress to support the bill. Shogan mentioned Shell's press release explaining the company's withdrawal from the Arctic, adding that "what Shell didn't mention in its statement was the growing opposition to Arctic drilling and the beating the company was taking in the court of public opinion."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE UNVEILS NEW INTERACTIVE MOUNTAIN BIKE MAPS AT OUTERBIKE 2015. [KCSG-TV](#) St. George, UT (10/6, 43) reports that BLM Director Neil Kornze "attended one of the nation's most important mountain bike events to introduce a new access tool for trail riders all across the country." According to the article, "developed by the BLM, in partnership with the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) and the MTB Project, the mobile-friendly online tool features interactive maps for 20 of the nation's most popular trails on public lands." Kornze said, "The BLM is proud to manage some of the world's best mountain bike trails. This new, mobile-friendly tool will help the public get a glimpse of these amazing places and plan their rides."

BLM DECISION COMPLICATES CADIZ PLAN TO SELL MOJAVE GROUNDWATER. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, 4.07M) reports that "Cadiz Inc.'s plans to sell Mojave Desert groundwater to Southern California communities have hit a major federal roadblock." The BLM says "Cadiz cannot use an existing railroad right-of-way for a new water pipeline that would carry supplies from the project's proposed well field to the Colorado River Aqueduct." According to the article, "by using the railroad right-of-way, Cadiz had hoped to escape federal environmental review of the 43-mile pipeline, one of the project's most expensive components." However, "in a letter to Cadiz on Friday, BLM's California director informed the company that it needs U.S. approval for a separate pipeline right-of-way over federal land," and "that would trigger review under federal environmental law, a potentially lengthy and costly process that could impose new conditions on the project."

Additional coverage was provided by [KCET-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/6, 15K).

ENVIRONMENTALISTS HALT GRAZING ON CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that "a coalition of environmental groups has forced public land managers to delay a permit for grazing on Canyons of the Ancients National Monument." According to the article, "the seven groups collectively filed a protest against proposed grazing allotments in the Flodine and Yellow Jacket areas." They claim "drought condition data is out of date and that grazing doesn't fit with the monument's mission to protect ancient ruins."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, 344K) and the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, 787K).

PLAN TO LIMIT GRAZING TRIGGERS BACKLASH IN UTAH. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that "a proposal from the federal government to limit livestock grazing in parts of southern Utah's Washington County is triggering backlash from local officials." The proposed plan from the BLM is "intended to restore native vegetation and create habitat for the protected Mojave Desert Tortoise on two national conservation areas in the county." But "government officials argue the plan unfairly hurts ranchers, and could damage the economy."

BLM RANGERS FIND TWO MARIJUANA GROWS IN COLORADO. The [AP](#) Salt Lake City (10/6, 494K) reports that "authorities have arrested 10 people after the discovery of two large, unrelated marijuana grows on public land in western Colorado." The Department of Justice announced Monday that BLM rangers "acting on two separate tips found the grows south of Gateway near the Utah border." The rangers discovered "more than 1,200 fully mature marijuana plants, 211 kilograms of dried marijuana and a rifle at a site on the Dolores River corridor between Gateway and Naturita on Sept. 15." Also, "a second illegal grow was discovered nearby on Sept. 30."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, Paul, 787K), [KXRM-TV Colorado Springs \(CO\)](#) Colorado Springs, CO (10/6, Case, 2K), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/5, 79K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SAGE GROUSE DECISION REFLECTS SHIFTING APPROACH TO SAVING ENDANGERED SPECIES. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Goode, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that "to many conservationists," the Interior Department's "decision to avoid listing the grouse reflects a larger shift in thinking that is taking hold in academic departments and advocacy circles around the country, even as it stirs controversy." Some conservationists call "traditional approaches to species conservation have focused on saving individual animals or plants in specific locations" as "too narrow," and they argue that conservation efforts "must work on a larger scale, focusing not on preserving single species in small islands of wilderness but on large landscapes and entire ecosystems, and the benefits that nature provides to humans." According to this view, conservation efforts will "be more effective if they accept humans as a part of nature and come to terms with the fact that they have irrevocably altered the landscape."

Additional coverage was provided by [Law 360](#) (10/6, 21K).

FWS RELEASES RARE FERRETS AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2 28M) reports that “rare black-footed ferrets chattered angrily before dashing out of pet carriers and ducking into burrows Monday at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge — a milestone for the highly endangered animals and for the former toxic waste site on the industrial edge of Denver.” The FWS “released 30 ferrets at the site, part of a program to reintroduce them in 12 states where they once thrived, from Montana to Texas.” The article notes that “chemical weapons and pesticides were once manufactured there, but it became a wildlife refuge in 2010 after a \$2.1 billion cleanup.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “This remarkable place shows that nature will recover and will thrive if given a chance.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Dan Elliott |, Ap, 6.76M), [NPR](#) (10/5, 1 85M), the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (10/5, 59K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/6, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (10/6, 962K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, Press, 787K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, Elliott, 344K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6, 787K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (10/6, 99K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/6, 5 59M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/6, Elliott, 5.98M), and [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/5, 222K).

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR BLACK PINESNAKES, MUSSELS. [The Hill](#) (10/5, Devaney, 471K) reports that the FWS is “moving forward with new protections for black pinesnakes.” The service is “listing the black pinesnake, which is endemic to Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi, as a threatened species.” The agency is also “proposing to protect certain freshwater mussels.” The agency “proposed Monday listing the Suwannee moccasinshell, which is endemic to Florida and Georgia, as a threatened species.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/6, 2 28M), the [Biloxi \(MS\) Sun Herald](#) (10/5, 129K), [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, McConnaughey, 344K), and the [Hattiesburg \(MS\) American](#) (10/5, 34K).

FWS SAYS DESERT TORTOISE NO LONGER CANDIDATE FOR PROTECTION. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “the Sonoran desert tortoise is not at risk for extinction and will no longer be listed as a candidate for Endangered Species Act protections, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Monday.” The service says “the decision is partly because of the commitments various government agencies have made to protect the animal in Arizona.” Spokesman Jeff Humphrey said, “We and our federal and state partners will continue to monitor the tortoises. However the current modeling in science demonstrates that there’s virtually no probability of extinction over the next decade.”

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (10/6, 3.97M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/6, 5 59M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Astrid Galvan |, Ap, 6.76M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/6, Galvan, 344K).

FWS PROPOSE DOWNGRADING PROTECTION FOR COLUMBIAN WHITETAILED DEER. The [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (10/6, 20K) reports that “one of the original endangered species – the Columbian white-tailed deer – is slowly making its way toward recovery.” On Tuesday, the FWS “proposed downgrading its protected status from endangered to threatened.” The article notes that “their numbers along the Columbia River were down to around 450 back in 1967 when they joined the bald eagle and California condor in the first group of animals protected under the Endangered Species Act,” and “now there are more than 900 deer in the lower Columbia River area.”

TRIBES CONTINUE PUSH TO MANAGE, OPERATE NATIONAL BISON RANGE. The [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (10/6, 19K) reports that “the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes continue to talk with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about another annual funding agreement that would transfer various degrees of management and operation of the National Bison Range to them, one of their attorneys said Thursday.” However, “a group called Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility has opposed CSKT’s efforts at the Bison Range at every turn, saying it opens up 80 percent of the National Wildlife Refuge System and 57 national parks in 19 states to similar agreements with other Indian tribes.”

SURVEY FINDS FWS SCIENTISTS CONCERNED ABOUT POLITICAL MEDDLING IN WILDLIFE DECISIONS. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (10/6, Greenwald, 164K), Noah Greenwald writes that “a survey issued this week by the Union of Concerned Scientists finds that 74 percent of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service scientists reported that consideration of political interests was too high at the agency.” He says that “the survey comes as no surprise” as “we’ve witnessed a score of politically driven decisions by the Fish and Wildlife Service in recent years to deny or weaken protections for endangered species.” He argues that “the Endangered Species Act is clear that decisions about how best to protect wildlife on the verge of extinction must be based solely on the best available science,” but “time and again, political and economic interests worm their way in and influence decisions to the detriment of our most at risk plants and animals.” Greenwald hopes that President Obama will “take this survey to heart – after all, it’s his administration’s own scientists raising the alarm – and use his time left in office to reform the Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies being unduly influenced.”

National Park Service:

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS TO VISIT ULM. The [Monroe \(LA\) News Star](#) (10/5, 67K) reports that NPS Director Jarvis will “visit ULM on Oct. 6th and attend a variety of local events while sharing the importance of preservation.” Jarvis said, “Leading up to the National Park centennial anniversary in 2016, my visit to Monroe is a great opportunity to invite a new generation of Americans to visit their national parks and historic sites, as well as highlight the relevance of the park system in our nation. The centennial goal of the National Park Service is to create and connect with the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. I am looking forward to spending time with several classes of students from the area at a local park and Natural History Museum, amplifying the message of the Every Kid in the Park initiative and later speaking with college students and community members, inviting them all to learn, explore and engage with the natural and cultural resources of the park system. The National Park Service has something to offer everyone, in every corner of the country. We want everyone to know that and to benefit from America’s public lands.”

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION UNVEILS AD CAMPAIGN. [Fast CoCreate](#) (10/6, 100K) reports that “to show Americans that they are personally part of the country’s more than 400 national parks, the National Park Foundation and agency Grey New York enlisted the stunning work of body painter Natalie Fletcher.” According to the article, “in a new PSA and ad campaign, the official charity of America’s national parks shows visitors blending seamlessly into the incredible landscapes of national parks like Zion National Park to Federal Hall National Memorial.” The campaign seeks “to be a companion to the ‘Find Your Park’ movement for the upcoming National Park Service Centennial.”

NPS UNDER PRESSURE TO RENAME WASHINGTON’S “COON LAKE”. The [Raw Story](#) (10/6, 896K) reports that “the federal government is under pressure to rename a Washington lake for a black prospector instead of the racial slur that likely refers to him.” According to the article, “state officials agreed to change the name of Coon Lake and Coon Creek after a Seattle man convinced them the designation was intended as a racial slur against Wilson Howard, who worked claims and lived in the area in the 1890s.” The article notes that “the state’s board of geographic names officially changed the names to Howard Lake and Howard Creek in 2008, but the National Park Service continues to oppose the changes.” NPS officials said “they aren’t certain ‘coon’ referred to a black miner in an almost entirely white community more than 100 years ago — when newspapers regularly used the racial slur in reference to black people.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Mic](#) (10/6, 1.5M) and [Crosscut \(WA\)](#) (10/6).

NPS RESTORING PAINTING OF LINCOLN ASSASSINATION. The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Ruane, 6.76M) reports that the NPS is having Carl Bersch’s 1865 painting of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln “cleaned and restored for the first time in 35 years.” According to Laura Anderson, a NPS museum curator, “the piece, which depicts Lincoln being carried out of Ford’s Theatre in Washington after being shot by John Wilkes Booth, is thought to be the only image of the assassination painted by an eyewitness.” The painting eventually will be exhibited in the Ford’s Theatre complex.

ZION NATIONAL PARK INVESTIGATES CIRCUMSTANCES OF FLOODING DEATHS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that Zion National Park officials are “retracing what led up to the deaths of seven people in a flooded canyon last month before a panel convenes to assess what can be done to keep a growing number of visitors safe when spectacular natural settings turn perilous.” According to Zion National Park Superintendent Jeff Bradybaugh, “investigators are talking to family members and examining the communications the group made in the hours before they canyon filled with fast-moving water from a powerful storm on Sept. 14.” The article notes that “the investigation could lead to changes in the permit system that controls who enters the park’s 21 narrow slot canyons, whose unique geological quirks also make them deadly.”

FLASH FLOODING CLOSES DEATH VALLEY ROADS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2 28M) reports that “authorities say an intense wet rainstorm created flash flooding that closed roads in Death Valley National Park in California.” Death Valley National Park spokeswoman Linda Slater said Monday that “rangers toured remote roads and campsites and no injuries were reported after cloudbursts Sunday in the vast park near the Nevada-California state line.” The article notes that “all dirt roads in the park remained closed Monday, along with paved roads including Highway 178, or Badwater Road, between Furnace Creek and Shoshone, Dantes View Road, Greenwater Road and Scotty’s Castle Road.”

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK CONSIDERS USING BEETLES TO FIGHT DESTRUCTIVE INSECT. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that “predatory beetles could become a new tool in Shenandoah National Park’s effort to combat a destructive insect.” The park “plans to release predatory beetles at four locations within its boundaries.” Public input on the plan will be accepted through Oct. 15.

NPS APPROVES YELLOWSTONE TRAIL AND OVERLOOK IMPROVEMENTS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2 28M) reports that the NPS has “approved a project to repair and improve many of the overlooks and trails located along the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone National Park.” The NPS “found that the project would not cause any harm to historic and cultural resources in the area.” The project will improve overlooks and trails “as well as improve accessibility, pedestrian flow and safety.”

PYTHON CHALLENGE 2016 WON’T BE HELD EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (10/5, 651K) reports that “despite earlier reports to the contrary, Python Challenge 2016 will not be coming to Everglades National Park.” According to the article, “only a handful of authorized python removal agents will be participating

in the park come January 16, when the Python Challenge is set to begin."

ALCATRAZ ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE REHABILITATION PLANNED. The [Inside Bay Area \(CA\)](#) (10/6, 42K) reports that the NPS, "Coast Guard, the United States Lighthouse Society and the Land's End clothing company jointly announced Monday the first step toward restoring the lighthouse" on Alcatraz Island. The article notes that "lighthouse backers commissioned a \$25,000 architectural study to determine the scope and cost of the work – laying the groundwork for a major fundraising campaign to pay for it."

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SETS RECORD YEAR FOR VISITATION. [Reuters](#) (10/5, Prevost) reports that Yellowstone National Park has set a new annual visitation record. According to data compiled by the NPS, more than 3.8 million people have visited Yellowstone through the end of September. The figure breaks the previous annual record of 3.6 million visitors set in 2010.

VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED WITH AWARDS. The [AP](#) (10/6, 2.28M) reports that "Sterling Fisher started volunteering at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park when he was only 6 years old." On Friday, Fisher, now 18 year-old was "recognized as the recipient of the National Park Service's Hartzog Youth Volunteer Award." Fisher had "already contributed 300 hours of service to the park by the time he was 16," and "in high school, he organized a junior chapter of Friends of the Smokies whose 20 members have completed more than 400 hours of volunteer service." Also recognized on Friday was "longtime volunteer Tom Harrington." Harrington has "been a park volunteer for 17 years and has contributed more than 20,000 hours of service." He was "selected as the southeast regional winner for the Enduring Service Award."

US Geological Survey:

USGS, SIOUX FALLS SURVEYING GROUNDWATER. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (10/6, 126K) reports that "the City of Sioux Falls and the United States Geological Survey will begin conducting a state-of-the-art groundwater survey this week." Sioux Falls has "contracted with CGG Canada Services to be flying a helicopter over the Big Sioux Aquifer to collect, record and map its geophysical measurements." Officials say "the study will determine groundwater, soil, and sand characteristics to help in the future planning of water access points."

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES PENDING HILL DEBATE, TPP DEAL A "LEGACY-MAKING" WIN FOR OBAMA. While much of the reporting on the TPP agreement cautions about a potentially bruising fight ahead on Capitol Hill, media coverage overwhelmingly casts yesterday's announcement as historic, and as a major victory for President Obama. All three network newscasts, however, ignored the story last night.

This morning, the [New York Times](#) (10/5, A1, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) refers on its front page to a "potentially legacy-making achievement for...Obama," the "capstone for his foreign policy 'pivot' toward closer relations with fast-growing eastern Asia." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, Lee, 4.07M) similarly states the pact brings the President closer to his "legacy-making goal to expand America's influence in the Asia-Pacific region," and the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) reports in a front-page piece that the deal "potentially" handed him "a legacy-defining victory late in his presidency."

Along similar lines, [Foreign Policy](#) (10/5, Francis, Hudson, 364K) indicated on its website that the TPP "could become the most significant foreign-policy legacy" of the Obama Administration, while the [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Boyer, 344K) calls the agreement "the biggest free trade triumph of...Obama's presidency," and the [AP](#) (10/6, Wiseman, Rugaber, Yamaguchi) terms it "a major victory on a centerpiece of" his "international agenda."

[AFP](#) (10/6, Handley) reports that "Obama, who made the TPP a priority of his second term," said yesterday that the accord "reflects America's values and gives our workers the fair shot at success they deserve." Added Obama, "When more than 95 percent of our potential customers live outside our borders, we can't let countries like China write the rules of the global economy. ... We should write those rules, opening new markets to American products while setting high standards for protecting workers and preserving our environment."

[USA Today](#) (10/6, Jackson, 5.23M) reports that Obama "plans to sell the deal in person Tuesday at a meeting with business leaders who will gather at the Agriculture Department in Washington." Yesterday, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack said the agreement "would 'eliminate or significantly reduce tariffs on our products and deter non-science based sanitary and phytosanitary barriers that have put American agriculture at a disadvantage' to other countries." In a statement yesterday, the President said the TPP "levels the playing field for our farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers by eliminating more than 18,000 taxes that various countries put on our products," even as it "puts American workers first and will help middle-class families get ahead."

The [AP](#) (10/6, Wiseman, Rugaber, Yamaguchi) quotes USTR Froman as saying of the deal, "We think it helps define the rules of the road for the Asia-Pacific region." [USA Today](#) (10/6, Jackson, 5.23M) notes that Froman also said the deal "will 'promote economic growth' and 'support higher paying jobs.'"

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/5, Fredrikson, 455K) said that for the President, "the deal could represent a historic effort to protect not only commerce, but the economy and the environment as well and specifically ensure US competitiveness amid a growing China." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, Makinen, 4.07M) notes that China "has been pursuing its own bilateral trade deals with countries including Australia and South Korea," and "is also participating in talks on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which would link the 10 members of the Assn. of Southeast Asian Nations with Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea, accounting for about 30% of global gross domestic product."

Ian Bremmer, in an online analysis for [TIME](#) (10/5, 19 55M), indicated that in addition to the US, "all the other countries" involved "are expected to pass it, as well," though "the main remaining question is Canada, where the matter might be decided by an upcoming election." Bremmer concludes that "on balance, this is a good deal for the United States and an important win for the Obama administration."

The debate now moves to the US Congress, where, according to [Politico](#) (10/5, Gass, 942K), the "dysfunction and unpredictable nature of the US political system" mean the pact "could still conceivably unravel." For one thing, "with populism animating the base of both parties, a trade pact is bound to be unpopular with many early primary voters." The [Boston Globe](#) (10/6, Horowitz, 1.1M) sees "no guarantee" Congress "will pass" the agreement, as "Democratic support...has always been weak" and Republicans would have "to have to line up behind Obama, burnishing his legacy in the run-up to the 2016 presidential contest."

As the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (10/5, Trubey, 1.05M) notes, Obama "has to wait 90 days after agreement before signing the pact, and only then will Congress begin to debate it," and "as a result, a vote on the agreement likely will not happen until well into 2016." The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) also reports that "the vote will come during the presidential primary nominating contests," and notes that "opponents of the deal, including labor unions, environmental groups and liberal Democrats, have pledged to mount a final campaign to block the accord."

More optimistic is the [Dallas Morning News](#) (10/6, Lindenberger, 1.15M), which indicates in an analysis piece that the President "has the upper hand in the negotiations in Congress, as that body has already renewed presidential fast-track negotiation authority," and concludes that "the weight of the momentum, after years of negotiations, will likely be in favor of ratifying the agreement." Congressional approval, however, won't come "without significant opposition." On its website, [The Atlantic](#) (10/5, Berman, 2 69M) reported that "Administration officials sounded confident that Congress would ultimately ratify" the deal it, pointing out that the Administration "would be spending months going over it with lawmakers point by point."

According to [The Guardian](#) (10/5, Roberts, 3.3M), "the White House began lobbying Democrats" yesterday. Said press secretary Josh Earnest, "Our goal here is to talk about the benefits of the agreement. ... There are well-known differences of opinion on this and I don't anticipate we are going to persuade every member of Congress." In fact, the [New York Times](#) (10/6, Granville, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports, "many Democrats said the president would have to address their concerns over labor and environmental standards and investor protections when he returns to Congress seeking approval of the trade deal."

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/5, Carter, 164K), meanwhile, said that when it comes to the TPP, "Obama has the Senate sewn up," but cautioned that "Congressional Democrats...loathe the agreement" and that yesterday, "Republican leaders didn't exactly celebrate the administration's announcement." [The Hill](#) (10/5, Carney, 471K) noted on its website that Senate Majority Leader McConnell "warned...that Congress will give 'intense scrutiny'" to the deal, and said, "Serious concerns have been raised on a number of key issues." [Roll Call](#) (10/5, Lesniewski, Flemming, 113K) reported that McConnell also said, "In the months ahead, the Senate will review this agreement to determine if it meets the high standards Congress and the American people have demanded."

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/5, Reilly, 164K) reported that Sen. Orrin Hatch and Rep. Paul Ryan, "who co-sponsored legislation earlier this year to give Obama fast-track authority to expedite trade negotiations," yesterday "were hesitant to praise the agreement." Hatch "expressed concern that the deal squanders a 'historic opportunity to break down trade barriers for American-made products,'" and Ryan "said he is reserving judgment" on the deal until he can further review the agreement." [Reuters](#) (10/6, Cowan, Lawder) quotes Hatch as saying, "I am afraid this deal appears to fall woefully short." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/6, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) notes that Hatch also said, "I will carefully scrutinize it to see whether my concerns about rushing into a deal before meeting all US objectives are justified."

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (10/5, Trubey, 1.05M) notes that National Council of Textile Organizations President Augustine Tantillo said yesterday, "Though we are waiting to examine the final details, our briefings at the Atlanta TPP round lead us to believe that US negotiators were able to achieve a well-balanced and reasonable outcome." The AFL-CIO, however, said in a statement, "We ask the Administration to release the text immediately, and urge legislators to exercise great caution in evaluating the TPP."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) reports that the Sierra Club's Ilana Solomon charged that the Administration "is pursuing policies under extreme secrecy," adding, "The entire TPP has been negotiated behind closed doors. ... The lack of dialogue is abysmal." The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Nixon, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), however, says "environmentalists praised wildlife protections included in the sweeping Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal announced Monday, calling them groundbreaking." The Times quotes the World Wildlife Fund's David McCauley as saying, "The provisions in the Trans-Pacific Partnership go beyond what we have seen in other trade agreements."

The [Atlanta Business Chronicle](#) (10/5, Williams, Subscription Publication, 118K) reports that Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed came out in favor of the agreement, while UPS CEO David Abney called it "a historic agreement that represents real market opportunities for US companies of all sizes and a chance to compete on a more level playing field."

[USA Today](#) (10/6, Davidson, 5.23M) reports that the deal "should boost the US economy and lower consumer prices on some imports," according to experts such as "Eswar Prasad, a professor of trade policy at Cornell University." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/6, Lee, 4.07M), meanwhile, reports that "private studies suggest that the Pacific accord would add only modestly to US economic growth and have little overall effect on jobs," but "would have a proportionately larger effect in California." [McClatchy](#) (10/5, Hall, 28K) similarly indicates that "the immediate trade benefits are likely to fall largely on the West Coast because of geography and existing rail and port connections." However, "the agreement has broader importance because it encompasses countries that together account for about 40 percent of the global economy."

Sanders Blasts "Disastrous" TPP Amid Media Speculation About Clinton's Stance. The [Hill](#) (10/5, Needham, 471K) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders yesterday called the pact "disastrous," and declared himself "disappointed but not surprised" by it. Added Sanders, "Wall Street and other big corporations have won again." The [New York Observer](#) (10/5, Barkan, 203K) further quotes Sanders as saying, "It is time for the rest of us to stop letting multi-national corporations rig the system to pad their profits at our expense." [Politico](#) (10/5, Strauss, 942K) also notes Sanders' comments.

According to [USA Today](#) (10/6, Jackson, 5.23M), "Sanders' opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership could put political pressure on Hillary Clinton." In the [New York Daily News](#) (10/5, 3.75M), Cameron Joseph writes, "It will be interesting to see what stance...Clinton takes on the deal." Clinton "originally praised early versions as the 'gold standard' of trade agreements but has been more critical of it since she became a candidate – and it became an issue on the campaign trail." The [Guardian](#) (10/5, Roberts, 3.3M), meanwhile, indicated that "a key determining factor in whether TPP does pass Congress is likely to be...Clinton."

[Politico](#) (10/5, Guida, 942K) reports that "if Clinton supports the pact, she is sure to anger her party's base, especially labor and environmental groups." However, "opposing the deal is also a problem because it opens her to charges of flip-flopping."

Many Industries Back Deal, But Some Point To Shortcomings. In an analysis, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, A2, Kesmodel, Mauldin, Rockoff, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) breaks down industries seen as winning and potentially losing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. On the winning side are agriculture, aerospace, and apparel, while the pharma and tobacco industries pointed to shortfalls in the agreement. The Journal says that the agriculture sector strongly backs the deal, as do some industry groups such as the National Association of Manufacturers. Boeing and Intel also voiced support. Meanwhile, Ford raised concerns about currency manipulation, and the pharmaceutical trade group PhRMA pointed to what it said were insufficient intellectual property provisions.

The [New York Times](#) (10/5, Bradsher, Pollack, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports, "Dairy farmers in Pennsylvania. Auto-parts workers in the Midwest. Pharmaceutical companies concentrated around New Jersey." These are the "pivotal groups, not to mention consumers across the country," who "can expect a wide range of changes in the years ahead from the newly concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal."

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/5, 2.66M), meanwhile, reports that Darci Vetter, the Chief Agricultural Negotiator for the USTR, said the accord "will boost sales by 'billions,'" and added, "Our meat industry is a big winner."

The [Detroit News](#) (10/6, Shepardson, 493K) reports that it "has learned that under the deal, America's 25 percent tariffs on imported light trucks would remain in place for 30 years." Meanwhile, "the 2.5 percent tariffs on cars would be in place for 25 years, and begin to be phased out after 15 years – falling first to 2.25 percent, and then to 1.25 percent in year 20." [Reuters](#) (10/6, Hughes, Krolicki), meanwhile, says the pact will give Japan more flexibility to purchase parts from Asia for cars sold in the US.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/6, 2.66M) indicates that "US lawmakers sought strong and enforceable language on currency manipulation, but that wasn't in the TPP agreement and will have to be negotiated separately, Representative Sander Levin of Michigan said in a memo to fellow Democrats in the House Advisory Group for Negotiations prior to the deal's announcement." Bloomberg adds that the Treasury Department "will handle those talks."

WPost Praises TPP Deal. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/6, 6.76M) writes that "what's emerged from the talks suggests that the TPP will indeed live up to Mr. Obama's promise of a '21st-century' agreement: one that anchors the United States in a key region for decades to come, while increasing the scope of trade policy beyond just tariffs." Looking at the upcoming congressional debate, the Post concludes that "it's enough to note the fact that Washington can still get something done, and to celebrate that."

White House Hopeful About TTIP Talks. The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Boyer, 344K) reports that the TPP agreement "could provide a boost for a second major trade deal with the European Union that is still being negotiated." Earnest, notes [Reuters](#) (10/6, Edwards), said of the European trade deal, or TTIP, "The negotiations around TTIP are not quite as advanced, but if there is an opportunity for us, based on our consultations with our friends in Europe, to reach an agreement that would have the same kind of economic potential for American businesses and American workers, then we wouldn't hesitate to pursue it."

OBAMA WILL MEET WITH SHOOTING VICTIMS' FAMILIES IN OREGON FRIDAY. The [New York Times](#) (10/6, Shear, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports the White House said Monday that President Obama will travel to Roseburg, Oregon on Friday to meet privately with the families of those shot at Umpqua Community College last week. The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Eilperin, 6.76M) reports that "according to one White House official, who asked for anonymity to discuss the event in advance, 'further details about the president's travel to Oregon will be made available in the coming days.'" The President "was headed to the Pacific Northwest already on Friday" for a Seattle fundraiser for Sen. Patty Murray. [USA Today](#) (10/6, Korte, 5.23M) says it will be Obama's second visit to the town; "in 2008, he made an unscheduled campaign stop" there.

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/5, story 5, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M), John Blackstone reported that "students and staff returned to the community college campus today not for classes but for counseling and to retrieve things left behind in the rush to escape." CBS, as well as [ABC World News](#) (10/5, story 7, 1:25, Muir, 5.84M) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/5, story 5, 1:35, Holt, 7.86M), profiled some of the victims and spoke to family members.

Earnest Says White House Looking Into Executive Action On Guns. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/5, Ross, 375K) reports White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Monday that the White House "is considering whether President Obama can take executive action to enforce stronger gun control measures." Earnest said, "The President has frequently pushed his team to consider a range of executive actions that could more effectively keep guns out of the hands of criminals and others who shouldn't have access to them. That's something that is ongoing here." The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Wolfgang, 344K) reports Earnest also said "voters who feel passionately about the issue may have to cast their ballots solely based on a candidate's position on guns." He said, "It may be time for some voters to decide they're single-issue voters."

[USA Today](#) (10/6, Reynolds, 5.23M) contributor Glenn Harlan Reynolds writes that President Obama "issued a bold call" in saying it is time "to politicize" mass shootings "in service of getting rid of guns." But "no significant gun legislation" will make it through Congress, and gun control is "a bad electoral issue for Democrats." Reynolds says Obama is stressing the issue to draw attention away from other matters like foreign policy troubles and Hillary Clinton's campaign difficulties.

Bloomberg Group Proposes Five Gun-Control Executive Actions. The [Hill](#) (10/5, Devaney, 471K) reports Everytown for Gun Safety, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's gun control group, "is pushing President Obama to issue new gun regulations in the absence of congressional action." The group "released a list of five executive actions it says Obama could take to reduce gun violence."

According to the [New York Daily News](#) (10/5, Siemaszko, 3.75M), the proposals include "enforcing the federal Gun-Free School Zones Act by barring people from carrying guns within 1,000 feet of a school," requiring all "high-volume gun sellers – including private sellers" – to "obtain dealer licenses and comply with applicable laws, including background checks" on all sales, reporting "every would-be gun purchaser who fails a federal background check to local law enforcement for follow-up," helping states that currently require background checks "by giving them access to FBI data," and "barring anybody convicted of domestic abuse...from owning a gun."

Reid Pushes For Background Checks, Calls Republicans "Puppets Of The NRA." [Politico](#) (10/5, Kim, Everett, 942K) reports Senate Minority Leader Reid said Monday "that he is reaching out to other Democratic senators on moving background checks legislation," and criticized Republicans. He said, "One thing is clear: To pass background checks, we need Republicans to stop acting as puppets of the NRA."

Clinton Says She Would Seek Tighter Gun Restrictions As President The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/5, story 5, 2:10, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Hillary Clinton "added her

voice to the conversation about gun violence" Monday.

Conversation Contents

Clip: KWTX: Waco Mammoth National Monument Dedicated

"Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Oct 05 2015 12:02:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Clip: KWTX: Waco Mammoth National Monument Dedicated

Waco Mammoth National Monument Dedicated

WACO (October 5, 2015) Former first lady Laura Bush, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis took part in a dedication ceremony Monday morning to mark the designation of Waco Mammoth National Monument.

"It's our duty to protect places like this that will inspire the next generation of archaeologists, paleontologists, and historians, and show the rich diversity of our country's natural heritage," Jewell said.

The invitation-only ceremony was not open to the public.

On July 10 President Barack Obama designated the site as one of three new national monuments.

It's now managed by the National Park Service in cooperation with the City of Waco and Baylor University.

"The National Park Service has worked seamlessly with our partners at the City of Waco, Baylor University, and the Waco Mammoth Foundation to lay the groundwork for the continued success of the Waco Mammoth National Monument," Jarvis said.

A painstaking excavation of the site, which was discovered in 1978, has uncovered the remains of 25 Columbian mammoths that died nearly 68,000 years ago, probably after the nursery herd was caught in a flash flood.

In 2002, then U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco authored legislation which later became a law that directed the National Park Service to determine the feasibility of establishing a national park at the Waco Mammoth Site.

Three years later he secured \$200,000 for preservation efforts at the site and an additional \$200,000 for the Baylor Mayborn Museum's Mammoth Exhibit.

In March 2009 the U.S. Department of the Interior recommended including the site as part of the National Park Service, and Edwards introduced the "Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009," which would have implemented the Department of Interior proposal and authorized appropriations for the project.

The original U.S. Department of the Interior recommendation called for giving the Park Service the lead responsibility for protection, scientific study and visitor enjoyment of the site in partnership with the City of Waco and Baylor University, which was the option local leaders preferred.

The House passed the bill, but the measure later died in the U.S. Senate, the victim of a maneuver called an anonymous hold.

Subsequent measures introduced by Edwards' successor, U.S. Rep. Bill Flores, R-Bryan, called for designating the site as a National Monument.

The new bill didn't provide funding for the monument, but the authors said local support would make the national recognition possible without additional federal spending.

Ground was broken in 2008 for \$3.2 million visitor center and pavilion to protect the site, which has been operated since 2009 by the city in partnership with Baylor University and support from the nonprofit Waco Mammoth Foundation.

In April Jarvis toured the site and later said he would ask the Interior Department to seek Mr. Obama's approval to designate the site a national monument.

Two weeks later the Waco City Council voted to turn five acres of the site and the excavated remains over to the federal government, leaving just more than 100 acres as city property, but as administrative land in the national park system.

Under the 1906 Antiquities Act the President bypassed Congress and issued the executive order for the designation.

On Sun, Oct 4, 2015 at 11:39 AM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

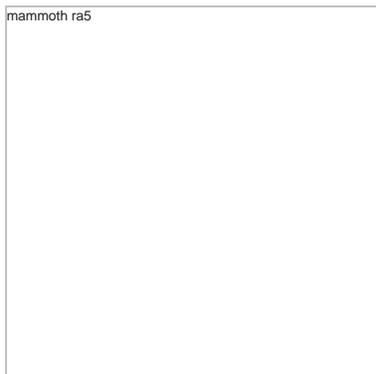
http://www.wacotrib.com/news/city_of_waco/u-s-interior-secretary-to-visit-waco-mammoth-national-monument/article_1dfdccf0-01a9-5c3c-868b-cb608b586e90.html

U.S. Interior Secretary to visit, dedicate Waco Mammoth National Monument

Story Comments

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Posted: Saturday, October 3, 2015 7:31 pm



Staff photo— Rod Aydelotte

City parks workers Mike Fields, left, and David May, right, prepare to attach a National Park Service sign to the entrance of the Waco Mammoth Site.

By **J.B. SMITH** jbsmith@wacotrib.com

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will visit the Waco Mammoth National Monument to celebrate its recent designation as part of the national park system.

Jewell and National Park Service director Jon Jarvis will tour the site and participate in a 10 a.m. dedication ceremony with local leaders, including Baylor University President Ken Starr, Mayor Malcolm Duncan Jr. and Waco Mammoth Foundation founder Gloria Young. The event is by invitation only.

President Barack Obama in July designated the site at 6220 Steinbeck Bend Drive as a national monument, capping a yearslong effort by local officials to win the designation. The Waco Mammoth Foundation raised \$4.2 million to turn the mammoth dig site into an educational tourism attraction, built to National Park Service standards.

Since 1978, the remains of 24 Columbian mammoths have been discovered at the site, some dating back 65,000 years. Among them are the nation's only known "nursery" herd of mammoths, thought to be buried in a cataclysmic flood.

On Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 3:55 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote: <http://www.kwtx.com/ourtown/home/headlines/Waco--Interior-Secretary-To-Attend-Mammoth-Site-Dedication-330416281.html>

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Waco: Interior Secretary To Attend Mammoth Site Dedication.

Updated: Fri 12:29 PM, Oct 02, 2015

WACO (October 2, 2015) U.S. Secretary of

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the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will take part in a dedication ceremony Monday to mark the designation of Waco Mammoth National Monument.

Waco Mammoth Site (File)

The invitation-only ceremony is not open to the public.

In July President Barack Obama designated the site as one of three new national monuments.

Jewell and Jarvis also plan to meet with local fourth graders in support of the administration's Every Kid in a Park initiative.

The site, which was discovered more than 30 years ago, contains the largest known concentration of mammoths that died in a single event.

A painstaking excavation of the site has uncovered the remains of 25 Columbian mammoths that died nearly 68,000 years ago, probably after they were caught in a flash flood.

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Three years later he secured \$200,000 for preservation efforts at the site and an additional \$200,000 for the Baylor Mayborn Museum's Mammoth Exhibit.

In March 2009 the U.S. Department of the Interior recommended including the site as part of the National Park Service, and Edwards introduced the "Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009," which would have implemented the Department of Interior proposal and authorized appropriations for the project.

The original U.S. Department of the Interior recommendation called for giving the Park Service the lead responsibility for protection, scientific study and visitor enjoyment of the site in partnership with the City of Waco and Baylor University, which was the option local leaders preferred.

The House passed the bill, but the measure later died in the U.S. Senate, the victim of a maneuver called an anonymous hold.

Subsequent measures introduced by Edwards' successor, U.S. Rep. Bill Flores, R-Bryan, called for designating the site as a National Monument.

The new bill didn't provide funding for the monument, but the authors said local support would make the national recognition possible without additional federal spending.

Ground was broken in 2008 for \$3.2 million visitor center and pavilion to protect the site, which has been operated since 2009 by the city in partnership with Baylor University and support from the nonprofit Waco Mammoth Foundation.

In April National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis toured the site and later said he would ask the Interior Department to seek Mr. Obama's approval to designate the site a national monument.

Two weeks later the Waco City Council voted to turn five acres of the site and the excavated remains over to the federal government, leaving just more than 100 acres as city property, but as administrative land in the national park system.

Under the 1906 Antiquities Act the President bypassed Congress and issued the executive order for the designation.

On Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 11:55 AM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

<http://www.nbccdfw.com/news/local/Secretary-of-Interior-Jewell-Expected-at-Waco-Monument-Event-330402521.html>

Secretary of Interior Jewell Expected at Waco Monument Event

▫

Dedication ceremonies are planned next week for the recently designated Waco Mammoth National Monument in Central Texas.

Organizers say U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis are expected to attend Monday's event.

President Barack Obama in July proclaimed Waco Mammoth as one of three new national monuments. The others are Berryessa Snow Mountain in California and Basin and Range in Nevada.

The Texas site includes well-preserved fossils of a herd of Columbian Mammoths and remains of other Ice Age animals. Experts say some fossils identified at the site are thought to be more than 65,000 years old.

On Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 8:58 AM, Duran, Leah <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi all,

Attached please find a the final media advisory for the Waco Mammoth National Monument celebration that will be sent at 9 AM.

Thanks,
~Leah

--

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Conversation Contents

Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation

"Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Oct 05 2015 10:51:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation

doi header

Date: October 5, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
April Slayton (National Park Service), April_Slayton@nps.gov

Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation

President's Proclamation protects rare Mammoth fossils, first and only recorded discovery of a nursery herd

WACO, TEXAS – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Former First Lady Laura Bush today joined community members to celebrate the President's designation of the [Waco Mammoth National Monument](#) as one of the nation's newest national monuments, permanently protecting the site where the extremely well-preserved fossils of a herd of Columbian Mammoths and other Ice Age animals have been found. President Obama [designated the area as a national monument](#) on July 10, 2015, as part of the Administration's commitment to protect our country's significant natural, historical and cultural treasures for the benefit of future generations.

The celebration took place at the new national monument, where Secretary Jewell and former First Lady Laura Bush were joined by National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, City of Waco Mayor Malcolm Duncan, Baylor University President and Chancellor Ken Starr, and many local, state and national conservation and community leaders.

"Today we celebrate decades of hard work and partnerships between the City of Waco, Baylor University, the Waco Mammoth Foundation and now the National Park Service," said Secretary Jewell. "It's our duty to protect places like this that will inspire the next generation of archaeologists, paleontologists, and historians, and show the rich diversity of our country's natural heritage."

The area in Texas provides a rare chance to understand and interpret the behavior and ecology of the extinct Columbian Mammoth. The oldest fossils identified at the site are thought to be more than 65,000 years old. In addition, both the excavation area and the land around it offer an excellent opportunity for further exploration and paleontological and geological research. In a nod to the recently launched [Every Kid in a Park initiative](#), which aims to get fourth graders nationwide to visit public lands, today, a group of fourth grade students were onsite to participate in an interactive learning activity.

"America will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service on August 25, 2016. Michelle Obama and I serve as the Honorary Co-Chairs of the Centennial Campaign, and our centennial campaign theme is Find Your Park," said Mrs. Laura Bush. "Today, as we designate the newest national park unit, it seems like the perfect moment to invite you to join me and Find Your Park. Everyone in Waco can find your own park right here at home at the Waco Mammoth National Monument."

The site remains the nation's first and only recorded discovery of a nursery herd, including females and their offspring, of mammoths from the Ice Age, an era defined as 2.5 million to 10,000 years ago. Of the 24 mammoths uncovered to date, at least 18 were part of the nursery herd. As a result of an unknown natural catastrophic event, the entire nursery herd died at the same moment in time, which left the skeletons relatively intact. The site offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to examine the matriarchal herd structure and behavior of this extinct species.

The site is now managed by the National Park Service in cooperation with the City of Waco and Baylor University. The National Park Service is conducting a [management planning process](#), working closely with partners, community members, and other groups that have devoted themselves to preserving the site for many years.

"The National Park Service has worked seamlessly with our partners at the City of Waco, Baylor University, and the Waco Mammoth Foundation to lay the groundwork for the continued success of the Waco Mammoth National Monument," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "We are proud to celebrate this special place, and thank the people of Waco for welcoming the National Park Service so warmly."

The site was discovered in 1978, when Waco residents Paul Barron and Eddie Bufkin were looking for arrowheads and fossils along the Bosque River and found a large bone protruding from the earth. Realizing the possible significance of this discovery, Mr. Barron and Mr. Bufkin immediately took the bone to the Strecker Museum at Baylor University where it was identified as the upper leg bone of a Columbian Mammoth.

Over the next 20 years, Baylor University oversaw the excavation of the site, where they found the remains of 24 Columbian Mammoths, including adults and juveniles, as well as a western camel, saber-toothed cat, dwarf antelope, American alligator, and giant tortoise. The Columbian Mammoths are the largest mammoth species – larger than its relative, the Woolly mammoth – and stood 12 to 14 feet tall and weighed seven to eight tons. Many of the discovered bones, including the remains of four Columbian Mammoths, as well as the skeleton of the camel, remain in place, providing visitors an opportunity to view them.

The City of Waco has operated the Waco Mammoth Site as a park since 2009, in partnership with Baylor University and with support from the nonprofit Waco Mammoth Foundation, Inc. The city donated to the United States approximately five acres, which includes the excavation site and the dig shelter, making it possible to establish the monument. Nearly the entire Waco Mammoth Site is within the boundary of the national monument.

The Antiquities Act was first used by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

The Waco Mammoth National Monument is one of three new national monuments announced by President Obama in July that help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique natural resources for the benefit of all Americans. The new monuments also include [Berryessa Snow Mountain](#) in California, and [Basin and Range](#) in Nevada.

With these new designations, President Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 19 national monuments. In total, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as [César E. Chávez National Monument](#) in California, [Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument](#) in Maryland, and [Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument](#) in Ohio.

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This email was sent to stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov by: U.S. Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street, N.W. | Washington DC 20240 | 202-208-3100



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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, October 5, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Mon Oct 05 2015 04:59:31 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, October 5, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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- + Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

JEWELL, JARVIS TO ATTEND DEDICATION OF WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT. [KWTX-TV](#) Waco, TX (10/2, 85K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will be at the dedication of the Waco Mammoth National Monument on Monday. They will also "meet with local fourth graders in support of the administration's Every Kid in a Park initiative." The site has the "largest known concentration of mammoths that died in a single event" at 25. They were apparently "caught in a flash flood" about 68,000 years ago. Similar coverage appears at [KXXV-TV](#) Waco, TX (10/2, Garcia, 30K). The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (10/4, Smith, 111K) reports that in addition to Jewell and Jarvis, Baylor University President Ken Starr, Mayor Malcolm Duncan Jr., and Waco Mammoth Foundation founder Gloria Young will all be there.

[KBTX-TV](#) Waco, TX (10/2, 81K) carried an Associated Press report, which also appeared at [KXAS-TV](#) Dallas (10/2, 363K), the [Longview \(TX\) News-Journal](#) (10/2, 64K), [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/2, 199K), [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/5, 259K), [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/2, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/2, 2 28M) and [Washington Times](#) (10/2, 344K).

JEWELL LAUNCHES GRID ALTERNATIVES TRIBAL SOLARTHON. [E&E](#) (10/1, Brown) reports in continuing coverage that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Thursday, at "Shinnecock Indian Nation on the eastern end of Long Island," launched the "GRID Alternatives' Tribal Solarthon," which will "provide photovoltaic cells and solar job training" to American Indian tribes in Arizona, California, New York, and South Dakota. Jewell said, "This partnership shows how the tribal, federal and private sectors can work together to remove barriers to economic development, advance tribal self-determination and add clean energy to the grid."

The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/2, 32K) reports on Secretary Jewell's week, noting that she "managed to meet the Pope," to "pay a visit to the Shinnecock Nation," and "announced a partnership with The North Face." Regarding the Shinnecock Nation visit, it quotes Jewell saying that the Tribal Solarthon "shows how the tribal, federal and private sectors can work together to remove barriers to economic development, advance tribal self-determination and add clean energy to the grid."

CONGRESS CRITICIZED FOR ALLOWING LWCF TO LAPSE. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/5, 2.28M) carried an Associated Press story about the benefits to Wyoming of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which was allowed to lapse by Congress. The AP also notes that Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) said that it can continue to "operate on about \$20 billion in its reserves."

Joel Connelly writes at the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/1, Connelly, 560K) lists several of the purchases made in the area by the fund and quotes a number of people praising the fund and criticizing the Congress.

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (10/3, Smith, 564K) writes that "conservation, hunting and environmental groups voiced strong displeasure" with the failure to reauthorize the fund.

Ron Pitz, executive director of KNOX Inc., writes at the [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (10/2, 606K), "Overnight, the nation lost funding for our parks and the future protection of our land."

David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited, at the [Denver Post](#) (10/4, 787K) writes that the fund's "future is now under a cloud."

REACTION TO SAGE GROUSE DECISION. [Outdoor Life Magazine](#) (10/5, Stemler, 41K) reports in its "Open Country" blog, on hunting "on Bureau of Land Management land in northwest Colorado to see if we could find sage grouse," describing it as "beautiful sagebrush country," that was "clearly well managed to benefit sage grouse—and the hundreds of other species that depend on sagebrush systems." The author also describes hearing Secretary Jewell speak at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge regarding the greater sage grouse and describes "seeing friends posting pictures from their own sage grouse hunts in other states" as evidence that Secretary Jewell was right in saying that conservation efforts have been successful.

Phil Rostad, a board member of the Montana Land Reliance, writes at the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (10/2, Rostad, 39K) that "Montana's private landowners can breathe a sigh of relief" because the sage grouse is not being listed. And the reason is that "Montana stepped up to the plate and wrote a plan to manage the bird that showed the feds we could do it without them." The story quotes Secretary Jewell saying, "Montana Governor Bullock has been critical in our efforts to demonstrate that the Endangered Species Act can be a vital catalyst for conservation."

The [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (10/5, Johnson, 19K) in an editorial says that the decision "not to list the greater sage grouse" is "an example of the federal government recognizing the efforts taken on the state level."

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (10/5, 94K) said that the decision "was a substantial victory," but also says that some other decisions "could add up to a de facto listing." The paper cites Secretary Jewell's announcement as containing "plans to establish official buffer zones around mating areas." The paper says that depending on what that means in practice, it "could be just like listing the bird as endangered."

CONNOR PRAISES PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AT ANTIETAM. The [Frederick \(MD\) News-Post](#) (10/2, Anderson, 78K) reports, "Last Wednesday, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor and members of the Civil War Trust met at Antietam National Battlefield to celebrate the Trust's successful preservation of 44 acres" as well as launching "a new fundraising push to preserve another 49 acres." Connor said, "The preservation of this tract at the center of the Antietam Battlefield is just an incredible accomplishment in the history of conservation," adding, "This land will become part of an outdoor classroom. It'll teach old and young alike about the momentous events that occurred, and that is invaluable." He also said, "These public/private partnerships are critical to our protection efforts."

JEWELL DOES NOT HAVE REGULAR PERSONAL AIDE. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/2, 705) reports on the "body men" who work as top aides to official's in order to keep them on schedule. It reports that according to Interior Department spokeswoman Emily Beyer, Secretary Jewell "always travels with members of her U.S. Park Police security detail and usually with a communications staff member," but does not "have a dedicated personal aide who travels with her to events in town and on the road."

AUTHOR WARNS SHUTDOWN COULD HARM ARIZONA. Christopher Fox Graham writes at [Journal Arizona](#) (10/1, Graham), criticizing Congress for the possibility that the government could be "shut down" noting that such an event would close the Tuzigoot and Montezuma Castle national monuments as well as Grand Canyon National Park. He reminds readers that in 2013, Secretary Jewell and then-Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer "negotiated a deal to temporarily reopen Grand Canyon National Park using state money."

KENDALL MAY FACE "ACRIMONIOUS CONFIRMATION FIGHT." [E&E Daily](#) (10/2, Bogardus, Subscription Publication) reports on Mary Kendall's nomination as Interior Department inspector general, saying it "could be an acrimonious confirmation fight." A hearing has been scheduled by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for October 20.

GROWTH OF NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL NOTED. Cheryl Kimball writes in the [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (10/3, Kimball, 131K) about the New England cottontail, noting its decline since the 1960s which she attributes to the reforestation of New England farmlands. The population of the rabbit "has rebounded to a noticeable degree"

apparently due to work by conservationists in providing more habitat. Kimball also points out that Secretary Jewell in September “was going to be in Dover to release specimens raised in captivity on private land with the appropriate habitat.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

ED GIVES CIRCLE OF NATIONS SCHOOL GRANT. The [Wahpeton \(ND\) Daily News](#) (10/2, Stanko, 9K) reports that ED is giving a \$440,000 grant to Circle of Nations School in Wahpeton, North Dakota, noting that Superintendent Leroy Chief said “the grant will go toward young peoples’ education through an improved high school and college preparation program, with the exploration of future careers.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

USGS, SIOUX FALLS PARTNER ON GROUNDWATER SURVEY. [KDLT-TV](#) Sioux Falls, SD (10/4, 1K) reports in an Associated Press story that the City of Sioux Falls and the United States Geological Survey this week “will begin conducting a state-of-the-art groundwater survey.” The AP story also appears at the [Yankton \(SD\) Press & Dakotan](#) (10/5, 25K), [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (10/3, 126K), and [Washington Times](#) (10/5, 344K).

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION GRANT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS. The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (10/5, 27K) reports, “Lake Havasu City has received a \$70,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation to help fund a water conservation rebate program” until March 31. The money will be used to support “low flush volume (1 6 gallon or less) toilets” as well as “swimming pool covers,” “hot water recirculation pumps,” and “smart irrigation controllers with rain or moisture sensor.”

NEW MANAGER OF BUREAU OF RECLAMATION’S SNAKE RIVER OFFICE NAMED. The [Idaho Business Review](#) (10/2, 35K) reports, “Roland Springer will serve as the new area manager for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Snake River Area office,” and will start October 19.

TUMALO IRRIGATION DISTRICT WORKS WITH BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ON PIPING PROJECT. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (10/3, Shorack, 94K) reports on a piping project being carried out by the Tumalo Irrigation District in partnership with the “Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the city of Bend and the Deschutes River Conservancy.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DEMOCRATS ON HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE SEEK HEARING ON CLEAN ENERGY PRODUCTION ON PUBLIC LANDS. [E&E Daily](#) (10/2, Bush, Subscription Publication) reports that Democrats on the House Natural Resources Committee “are demanding” a hearing on “clean energy production on public lands” to be held by the Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals. It has not held a hearing on the topic since 2011. All 17 Democratic members of the committee signed a letter requesting a hearing. The letter also points out that the BLM “has approved more than 10,000 megawatts of clean energy” since the 2011 hearing.

PROGRESS ON DEEPWATER WIND OFFSHORE WIND FARM “A SIGN OF HOPE.” [ClimateWire](#) (10/2, von Kaenel, Subscription Publication) reports that supporters of offshore wind energy are pointing to progress with Deepwater Wind’s offshore wind farm that has begun construction of the coast of Rhode Island as “a sign of hope.” Jeff Grybowski, CEO of Deepwater Wind, said, “With other states, when they see pictures of an actual vessel putting it in the water in the U.S., the light goes off – we can do this, it is possible.” The story also reports there are “new collaborative efforts” launched by the federal government, adding that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management “continues to auction off new leases.”

BOEM To Study Effects Of Wind Farm Construction Off Rhode Island. [WRNI-FM](#) Providence, RI (10/2, Espinoza) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will carry out a study of “real-time data on sounds and seafloor vibrations, among other disturbances, caused by the wind farm’s construction.” Rodney Cluck, BOEM’s chief of the Environmental Sciences Division, said, “When you’re pounding in the monopoles that go into the ground for the wind turbines, they have to use big hammers to pound them into the ground, that creates noise,” adding, “you need to know the decibel levels and you need to know that physics before you can know the impacts on a whale for example.”

BOEM TO HOLD MEETING ON POSSIBLE OFF SHORE WIND FARMS. The [Wilmington \(NC\) Star News](#) (10/4, Bellamy, 111K) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on Wednesday will hold a meeting in Wilmington, North Carolina to “discuss plans to open two areas off Brunswick and south New Hanover counties to leasing by wind energy companies.”

ELIAS SOLAR FACILITIES CAUSE ENERGY POVERTY. Columnist Thomas Elias writes for the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (10/2, Elias, 288K) that the expense of large solar facilities – of which several were built with federal grants but produce for private utilities like Southern California Edison – is causing an increase in California energy prices. Elias writes that “the cost of that energy comes to about \$84 per megawatt hour, compared to the average \$46 per megawatt hour wholesale cost of electricity,” helping to drive “energy poverty” when the price of electricity exceed 10 percent of household income. He calls for a greater focus on rooftop solar and a move away from utility-scale projects.

The column was also carried by the [Marysville \(CA\) Appeal-Democrat](#) (10/3, Elias, 69K) and the [Inland Valley \(CA\) Daily Bulletin](#) (10/2, Elias, 111K).

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR’S LEITER EXPLAINS ADMINISTRATION’S OPPOSITION TO CUT IN SODA ASH ROYALTY RATE. [E&E Daily](#) (10/2, Quiñones, Subscription Publication) reports that the Administration is “strongly opposing” bills that would “reduce the royalty rate for mining soda ash on public lands.” The bills, S. 2031 and H.R. 1992, would cut the rate from 6 percent to 2 percent. Amanda Leiter, Interior Department assistant secretary for lands and minerals management, is quoted saying the bills would lead to a “substantial loss of royalty revenue.” Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) defended his bill, saying, “America’s soda ash producers continue to battle unfair trade practices imposed by other nations.”

BLM ISSUES DRAFT RULE ON MEASURING NATURAL GAS PRODUCED ON FEDERAL AND TRIBAL LANDS. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/2, Taylor, 705) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has released “a draft rule updating standards for how companies measure natural gas produced on federal and tribal lands,” in response to “concerns raised by the Government Accountability Office and the Interior Department inspector general.”

The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (10/4, 3K) reports on the announcement, quoting BLM Director Neil Kornze saying, “It’s been almost 30 years since the standards in Onshore Order 4 have been revised,” adding, “The industry has taken major strides in recent decades and this update reflects those changes in addition to making our regulations more adaptable for the future.”

Leland Gould, Chairman, New Mexico Oil And Gas Association, writes in the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/5, Gould, 259K), that “new Bureau of Land Management regulations are not needed.” He argues that the new rules will overburden BLM employees, and may “lead to the closure of marginally economical wells and the state will lose hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue.”

CONTINENTAL RESOURCES DEMANDS FRIENDS OF THE EARTH RETRACT CLAIMS ABOUT ITS FLARING. [Greenwire](#) (10/2, Taylor, Subscription Publication) reports that Continental Resources Inc., “is demanding” that Friends of the Earth “retract” a claim that Continental was “flaring more gas than all other companies combined.” The company’s counsel wrote that in the absence of an apology, it would “pursue appropriate actions against all responsible parties.” The report “A Flaring Shame,” was released on Wednesday, and claims that Continental flared “nearly eight times as much gas as the next highest company.”

BLM PROCESS RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH PARK, COLORADO. The [Denver Post](#) (10/5, Handy, 787K) reports that South Park, Colorado is “on the radar of the Bureau of Land Management” for its potential energy development, but some worry that energy development could be “a serious economic threat,” because it may spoil “one of the state’s unparalleled playgrounds.” The Post also notes that “Denver, Aurora and Centennial get water from South Park’s rivers, streams and reservoirs.” BLM spokeswoman Vanessa Lacayo said that to date, “South Park has seen minimal drilling.” She added that “the BLM triggered the process without active interest in energy development” in the area. The [Washington Times](#) (10/3, Handy) carries an Associated Press story reporting that the area is known for the “South Platte River and for its native elk herds.” The AP story also appears at the [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/3, Handy, 2.28M).

GROUPS WANT END TO FOSSIL FUEL EXTRACTION ON PUBLIC LANDS. [Public Radio International](#) (10/4, 3K) reports, “A coalition of 400 groups...is demanding President Barack Obama end fossil fuel leasing on public lands.” They also maintain that he could end the practice himself.

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TAKING PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED EXPANSION OF PHOENIX, ROSSI MINES. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/1, 22K) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is seeking "public comment" on Newmont Mining Corp.'s proposed Greater Phoenix Mine Project, under which it would "expand and continue to operate the mine." In other news, the BLM has also had "two public meetings this week concerning a possible expansion of the Rossi Mine."

BLM PLANS LEAD TO CONFUSION IN UTAH. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (10/3, 3K) reports that in response to "fear and confusion" regarding the BLM's "proposed resource management plans for the Red Cliffs and Beaver Dam Wash national conservation areas," the St. George Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management is "trying to clear up some of what they call big misunderstandings among county residents and officials." Field Office Manager Brian Tritle said that the environmental impact statement "and any proposed restrictions apply mostly to the Red Cliffs and Beaver Dam Wash national conservation areas." He also said that the plans are subject to revision.

The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (10/4, 46K) reports that one result of the plans may be "to reduce livestock grazing within parts of Washington County's designated conservation areas." At present the BLM "is taking public comments" on the plans.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

USF& W REVIEWING 5TH CIRCUIT'S RULING ON MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT. The [AP](#) (10/4, Schmall, 2.28M) reports that the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals has found that the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act requires that the killing of a bird must be "intentional" in order to be a violation of the act. The US Fish and Wildlife Service "has maintained that no intent is required to violate the law." Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Laury Parramore said that the service and the US Justice Department are reviewing the decision. The AP story also appears at the [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Schmall, 6.76M), [Boston Herald](#) (10/5, Schmall, 548K), [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/5, Schmall, 2.28M), [Washington Times](#) (10/5, Schmall, 344K), and [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/5, Schmall).

USF& W SAYS WALRUS DEATHS CAUSED BY HUMANS. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/2, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that the US Fish and Wildlife Service says that "the death of some of the walrus at a haul-out site in northwest Alaska were caused by humans," and it "believes it has identified those responsible." The AP story also appeared at the [Washington Post](#) (10/2, 6.76M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/2, 1.06M), and [Washington Times](#) (10/2, 344K).

WARNING ISSUED ABOUT ALGAE IN DEER FLAT'S LAKE LOWELL. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/5, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that a health warning has been issued regarding "Canyon County's Lake Lowell," which is "part of the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, which is managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Services." The AP story also appears at the [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K).

USF& W GRANT TO FUND REPLANTING WITH NATIVE SPECIES. The [El Defensor Chieftain \(NM\)](#) (10/4, Turner, 10K) reports that \$297,000 grant U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Cooperative Recovery Initiative is helping to fund the removal of alien species and their replacement with native species in the plantings around the Sevilletta National Wildlife Refuge where Manager Kathy Granillo said, "We're sure they'll be pleased with the results."

National Park Service:

JARVIS TO PROMOTE PARKS IN VISIT TO LOUISIANA. [KNOE-TV](#) Monroe, LA (10/5, 1K) reports that National Parks Service Director Jonathan Jarvis "is set to visit ULM and make appearances at several events on Tuesday, leading up to the National Parks centennial anniversary in 2016." Jarvis will "promote the importance of the park system in our country to ULM students."

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK REACHES 125. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/2, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that on Thursday, about 1,500 people were in attendance at Yosemite National Park's 125th anniversary. The AP story also appears at [KHSL-TV](#) Chico, CA (10/5, 3K), the [Washington Times](#) (10/2, 344K), [Washington Post](#) (10/2, Press, 6.76M), and [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/2, 1.06M).

RADIO SHOW TAKES UP QUESTION OF CLOSING OFF PART OF NATIONAL PARK FOR "PAYING CUSTOMERS ONLY." The [Kojo Nnamdi Show](#) (10/1) took up the question of whether it was "right to cordon off part of a national park for paying customers only" in the wake of a music festival on the National Mall, for which "people paid upwards of \$100."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT RETIRES. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/2, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that "Rocky Mountain National Park Superintendent Vaughn Baker has retired after 42 years," and will "stay in nearby Estes Park." He was at the park for 13 years, having started at the National Park Service in 1984. The AP story also appears at the [Washington Times](#) (10/2, 344K). The [Estes Park \(CO\) News](#) (10/2) also reports the retirement.

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED RELEASE OF PREDATORY BEETLE. The [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press](#) (10/4, 280) reports that officials at the Shenandoah National Park "are seeking public opinion on a plan to release a predatory beetle" to combat "hemlock woolly adelgid," which is "an invasive insect that has devastated hemlock forests throughout the eastern United States." The park, so far, has seen "positive effects" with "subsurface soil injections of systemic insecticides." The hope is that the beetle could be effective with much less labor. The beetle is from the same area of Japan as the adelgid, and is its "primary predator." The beetle has been released in a number of other parks including Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The [Washington Post](#) carries an Associated Press story on the beetle proposal, citing the [Northern Virginia Daily](#) (10/5, Green, 48K).

NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON MOCCASIN BEND PROPOSALS. The [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (10/4, Cobb, 179K) reports that the National Park Service is seeking public comment on "four proposed Moccasin Bend management concepts" through November 13.

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK REMOVING BOULDERS FROM RIVER CHANNEL. The [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (10/3, 41K) reports that the National Park Service has contracted with Sealaska Constructors to remove boulders from the Elwha River channel in Olympic National Park in order to "ease fish passage."

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, APPALACHIAN TRAIL OFFICIALS MEET IN MAINE TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS WITH HIKERS. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/3, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that "officials with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the National Park Service say they will work to address bad behavior by long-distance hikers" with respect to Baxter State Park in Maine. The officials met on Friday in Maine. The AP story also appeared at the [Denver Post](#) (10/5, 787K), [Washington Post](#) (10/3, 6.76M), [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/3, 5.59M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/3, 1.06M), and [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K).

CALIFORNIA MAN INDICTED ON 21 COUNTS OF LOOTING NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACTS FROM PUBLIC LANDS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/4, Sahagun, 4.07M) reports that Jonathan Bourne, 59, "has been indicted on 21 felony counts related to the alleged looting of Native American artifacts from tribal and public lands including Death Valley National Park." He could be imprisoned for up to 98 years on the charges.

MISSISSIPPI DEDICATES SHILOH PARK, TURNS IT OVER TO NPS. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/4, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting on the dedication of Shiloh National Military Park in Corinth, Mississippi on Saturday. Mississippi dedicated the park and then "turn[ed] it over to the National Park Service." The AP story also appeared at the [Washington Times](#) (10/5, 344K).

PLAYWRIGHT WORKING ON STORY OF HOMESTEAD MOVEMENT. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/5, Bohling, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story about the Homestead National Monument of America in Beatrice, Nebraska, where Michael Cansfield, artist in residence, is writing a play, titled "The Awakening Land: Stories of National Expansion and the Homestead Movement." The AP story also appears at the [Washington Times](#) (10/4, Bohling, 344K).

NPS SAYS LOGAN PASS CLOSED FOR WINTER. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/3, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that the National Park Service announced that Sunday was "the last day to access Logan Pass by vehicle from the east side of Glacier National Park." The AP story also appeared at the [Washington Post](#) (10/5, 6.76M), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/3, 1.06M), and [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K).

VISITOR TO GRAND CANYON INFECTED WITH TICK BORNE FEVER. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/3, 2.28M) carries an Associated Press story reporting that a person who visited the North Rim of the Grand Canyon was diagnosed with "a rare tick-borne bacterial infection" according to National Park Service and Coconino County officials. They are investigating the case. The patient was successfully treated with antibiotics. The AP story also appears at the [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/3, 1.06M), and [Washington Post](#) (10/5, 6.76M).

FORMER NEVADA STATE PRISON LISTED ON NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/3, Whaley, 378K) reports that the closed Nevada State Prison "was listed Friday on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service." It opened in 1862. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (10/2, 179K) also reports on the listing.

SHREVEPORT'S BOOKER T WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ON NATIONAL REGISTER. The [Washington Times](#) (10/3, 344K) carries an Associated Press story reporting that Booker T. Washington High School in Shreveport, Louisiana has now been approved to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

DEARBORN NEIGHBORHOOD ON NATIONAL REGISTER. [WDIV-TV](#) Detroit (10/5, 348K) reports the Springwells Park neighborhood is "the first neighborhood in Dearborn to be included in the National Register of Historic Places."

US Geological Survey:

USGS, USF& W STUDY ST. FRANCIS RIVER CRAYFISH. The [Farmington \(MO\) Daily Journal](#) (10/3, Black, 1K) reports on the conclusion of a USGS "summer-long study of St. Francis River crayfish," citing the USGS' Ann Allert saying, "It's a very special crayfish. It's only found here in this one particular part of the world." The study was a joint effort of the USGS, US Fish and Wildlife, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The study was in response to mining in the area and was focused on the amount of metal in the crayfish.

USGS HOPED TO USE JOAQUIN TO TEST NETWORK. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (10/2, 1.3M) reports on the US Geological Survey's Surge, Wave and Tide Hydrodynamic Network that will "provide real-time information about water conditions" during storms. Joaquin was supposed to offer an occasion to test the system.

USGS CONDUCTING LOW FLOW SURVEY IN WESTERN STATES. The [Skagit Valley \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/3, Cauvel, 31K) reports on the USGS Western U.S. Low Flow Survey, which is measuring streamflow over time, in order to "better prepare communities throughout the region for drought." The study covers California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Top National News:

US OFFICIALS HOPEFUL TPP DEAL IS NEAR AS TRADE TALKS CONTINUE. Media reports of continuing trade talks in Atlanta cast US officials as hopeful and indicate that a deal may be announced soon. The [New York Times](#) (10/5, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), for example, says negotiators from the US "and 11 other Pacific Rim nations neared agreement on Sunday night on the largest regional trade accord in history, a potentially precedent-setting model for global commerce." According to the Times, announcement of a deal was delayed Sunday due to "final haggling over the arcane details of opening dairy markets," but US officials "said they were confident that a deal was imminent."

[Reuters](#) (10/5, Hughes) reports Australian Trade Minister Andrew Robb too said the deal was "largely completed," and Japanese Economy Minister Akira Amari said he had called Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to inform him that a deal was within sight. The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, A1, Nakamura, 6.76M) similarly says on its front page that US officials "said they were confident that meetings late Sunday and early Monday would produce a final agreement," and other nations "also expressed optimism that a deal would be reached." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, A1, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 5.95M), [Politico](#) (10/4, Palmer, 942K), and the [Washington Times](#) (10/5, Boyer, 344K) also report that a deal is near.

DESPITE VETO THREAT, SENATE TO TAKE UP DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL THIS WEEK. In its "Floor Action" blog, [The Hill](#) (10/4, Carney, 471K) predicted a "veto showdown" between the President and Republicans over the National Defense Authorization Act, noting that Senate Majority Leader McConnell "has teed up the Senate to turn to the" measure this week "despite a looming veto threat from the White House." While White House press secretary Josh Earnest called the bill "an 'irresponsible bluff to fund our national defense priorities,' reiterating that 'if the president got this bill he'd veto it,'" Senate Republicans "appear poised to try to either the call the president's bluff [sic] or force him to issue his fifth veto on legislation that they argue is vital for helping troops and protecting national security."

OBAMA HONORS FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS. The President addressed the 34th annual National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, MD on Sunday, where he praised the "courage, fortitude, and strength" of firefighters who made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives in order to save people they have never met." [USA Today](#) (10/5, Jackson, 5.23M) reports. The President offered "prayers and condolences to the families of 87 firefighters who have died in recent months," and "said the profession of firefighting holds a 'special place' in the imaginations of Americans because of the risks involved."

The [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (10/5, Fitch, 10K) notes that during the service, which recognized "84 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2014 and three others who died in previous years," the President told those gathered "that they were honoring 'extraordinary Americans,'" adding, "We can never repay them fully for their sacrifices."

In its "Blog Briefing Room" blog, [The Hill](#) (10/4, Richardson, 471K) reported that the President also "called for action to prevent wildfires before they start," saying, "So far this year, nearly 50,000 wildfires have burned more than 9 million acres – an area larger than the entire state of Maryland. ... At the season's peak, 32,000 firefighters were battling blazes from California to North Carolina. Thirteen have lost their lives. And today, we honor them as well."

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (10/4, Parker, 834K) says that during his 12-minute address, the President "asked the nation to renew its commitment to preventing fires and making sure to supply firefighters with 'equipment and the support that they need to get the job done and to come home safe. That's what we owe every one of you.'" The Sun adds that the President "remained for more than an hour" after his speech, "greeting each of the late firefighters' families before returning to a motorcade where he was joined by Rep. Steny Hoyer, a Maryland Democrat." The [Hanover \(PA\) Evening Sun](#) (10/4, Reed, 59K) notes that the ceremony was attended by "scores of fire personnel from all over the country."

The [AP](#) (10/4) notes that among the firefighters honored in the ceremony were Hartford, CT firefighter Kevin Bell and New Britain, CT Deputy Chief David Fiori. Bell "was killed in a house blaze and Fiori suffered a heart attack while on duty" last year. [WFSB-TV](#) New Haven, CT (10/4, Jain, Polansky, 269K) also reported on the two fallen Connecticut firefighters on its website.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "*The Biggest Questions Awaiting The Supreme Court.*" A [New York Times](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial says the Supreme Court's new term "will jump right back into high-profile constitutional battles," and says its decisions last term "showed a court willing to take into account the effects of the law on individual lives. This term, the justices have many opportunities to show that same type of awareness."

"Rein In Online Fantasy Sports Gambling." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says online sport gambling sites "have grown rapidly" because the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, "which prevented payment processors from working with gambling websites, included an exemption for fantasy sports." The Times says "giving people more ways to bet on the outcomes of sports is sure to threaten the integrity of sports and create more gambling addicts, especially among young people who are already more likely to engage in risky behaviors."

WASHINGTON POST. "*The Price We Pay.*" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/5, 6.76M) lists the names of those killed in mass shootings in recent years.

"Jeb Bush's Energy Plan." The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, 6.76M) says in an editorial that Jeb Bush's energy plan is "breathtakingly irresponsible" as it is "silent" on climate change. The Post approves of his call to push back "against the excesses of environmental activists," lift the crude export ban, and approve Keystone XL, but condemns his call for repealing the Administration's greenhouse gas regulations.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "*Trust Busting Higher Ed.*" In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) hails an effort by Sens. Marco Rubio and Michael Bennett for pushing legislation that would limit the ability of existing colleges and universities, operating under various agencies chartered by the Education Department, to block the emergence of alternative low-cost competitors by denying them access to federal aid.

"The Taliban And The Hospital." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) argues that while the bombing of a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Kunduz was a mistake, the Taliban, which has been trying to take Kunduz by force, is responsible for the lives lost.

"Supreme Court Plaintiff's Play." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) highlights a challenge to arbitration agreements in class-action suits that the Supreme Court will hear. The Journal argues that if the justices weaken the 1925 Federal Arbitration Act, it would be a payday for trial lawyers.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[US Is Accused Of War Crime](#)

State's Job Outlook: Sunny

HP Still A Tough Debate For Fiorina

Wall Street Journal:

[Activist Firm Trian Makes A Big Bet On GE](#)
[VW Emissions Probe Zeroes In On Two Engineers](#)
[Caution Hampered Pentagon's Syria Plans](#)
[Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Deal Within Reach](#)

New York Times:

[US Aims To Put More Pressure On ISIS In Syria](#)
[Taliban's New Leader Strengthens His Hold With Intrigue And Battlefield Victory](#)
[Doctors Without Borders Says It Is Leaving Kunduz After Strike On Hospital](#)
[Valeant's Drug Price Strategy Enriches It But Infuriates Patients And Lawmakers](#)
[A Conundrum For Jeb Bush: How To Use George W.](#)
[Campuses Debate Rising Demands For "Comfort Animals"](#)

Washington Post:

["Till Martyrdom Do Us Part"](#)
[High Court's Divisive Docket](#)
[A Problem In Fiorina's Senate Bid: Money](#)
[Youth Sports Are Down And Parental Pressure Is Up](#)
[US On Verge Of 12-Nation Pacific Rim Trade Pact](#)

Financial Times:

[World Bank Head Opens Case Over Capital](#)
[Nuclear Plants In 'Denial' On Hacking Risk](#)

Washington Times:

[Chaffetz To Challenge McCarthy As Speaker](#)
[Kurds Need Weapons To Pierce Stolen US Armor](#)
[Clinton Campaign Calls Bill Into Service On Trail](#)
[Political Eyes On Roberts As High Court Begins Term](#)
[US Partners Zeroing In On Massive Asia Trade Deal](#)
[Putin's Power: Russian President Keeps Tumultuous World Guessing](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC Severe Weather-Storm; Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship-Stranded; Oregon Shooting-Student Hero; Afghanistan-Doctors Without Borders Hospital Bombed; 2016 Politics-Campaign; Pope Francis-Kim Davis Meeting; NASA-Space Probe; University Of Louisville-Scandal.
CBS Severe Weather-Storm; US Cargo Ship Stranded; Guatemala-Mudslide; French Riviera-Flooding; Afghanistan-Doctors Without Borders Hospital Bombed; 2016 Politics-Joe Biden Campaign Speculation; House Speaker Vote; Oregon College Shooting; Chicago-Drug Overdose Increase; Credit Card Security Update.
NBC Severe Weather-Storm; Severe Weather-South Carolina; Weather Forecast; Afghanistan-Doctors Without Borders Hospital Bombed; California Shooting Plot; Oregon Shooting; US Cargo Ship-Stranded; Supreme Court Docket-Abortion; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Weather – 13 minutes, 40 seconds
Oregon College Shooting – 7 minutes, 50 seconds
Afghanistan-Doctors Without Borders Hospital Bombed – 6 minutes, 40 seconds
US Cargo Ship Stranded – 6 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship-Stranded; Supreme Court Docket-Obamacare; Daytona Florida-Shark Attack.
CBS Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship-Stranded; Afghanistan Hospital Bombing-US Investigation; North Korea-US Prisoner Released; House Speaker Vote-Challenger; Asian Markets.
NPR Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship Stranded; House Speaker Vote-Challenger; Guatemala-Landslide Deaths; Portugal-General Elections; Palestinian Attacks-Israel Measures.
FOX Severe Weather-South Carolina; US Cargo Ship Stranded; North Korea-US Prisoner Released.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Unavailable.

VICE PRESIDENT B DEN — Unavailable.

US Senate 4:00 PM Senate debates U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California nominee – Senate convenes, with agenda including executive session to consider the nomination of Dale Drozd to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of California Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House No scheduled events.

Other 11:30 AM DoD official speaks at 'Innovation and the Defense Industrial Base' Heritage Foundation event – 'Innovation and the Defense Industrial Base – A #DefenseReform Event' at Heritage Foundation, featuring Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisitions, Technology, and Logistics Principal Deputy Director of Manufacturing and Industrial Base Policy Dr Jerry McGinn, followed by a panel discussion with Abundance Partners Venture Partner Stephen Rodriguez, Covington & Burling partner Peter Lichtenbaum, and Airbus Group Director of Strategy & Development Sam Zega * Marks first of a series of public events on defense reform Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org [#DefenseReform](https://twitter.com/Heritage)

1:30 PM DHS Secretary Johnson thanks employees for successful papal visit and U.N. General Assembly – Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and U.S. Secret Service Director Joseph Clancy 'recognize and thank the men and women from across the Department of Homeland Security for their work in the development, implementation, and execution of security plans for the visit of Pope Francis to Washington, DC, New York and Philadelphia, and the 70th United Nations General Assembly' via joint media availability Location: U.S. Secret Service, 950 H St NW, Washington, DC www.dhs.gov <https://twitter.com/DHSGov>

4:00 PM Sister seeds to lettuce grown on the International Space Station planted at the USDA People's Garden – Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Krysta Harden and NASA Deputy Administrator Dava Newman join Washington, DC, area FFA and 4-H members to plant sister seeds to lettuce grown on the International Space Station at an event in the People's Garden at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with Deputy Secretary Harden and Deputy Administrator Newman also signing a new interagency agreement expanding commitment to promoting careers in science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and math to young people. After the signing, they hold a brief press availability Location: USDA People's Garden, corner of Jefferson Dr and 12th St SW, Washington, DC www.usda.gov <https://twitter.com/USDA>

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation annual corporate citizenship conference – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation annual corporate citizenship conference 'Connect the Dots: How Businesses Solve Global Challenges Locally', with private sector leaders showcasing successful business examples to highlight 'how businesses build engagements that align local impact to global strategy'. Speakers include Soledad O'Brien (Starfish Media Group), Daymond John (FUBU), JJ Ramberg (MSNBC), Lori Harnick (Microsoft), Blair Taylor (Starbucks), Geoff Bastow (UPS), Shannon Schuyler (PwC), Patrick Gaston (Western Union Foundation), Richard Leach (World Food Program USA), Hugh Welsh (DSM North America), Hugh Evans (Global Poverty Project), Connie Yowell (MacArthur Foundation), Elliot Kotek (Not Impossible), and Suzanne Clark (USCC) Location: Ronald Reagan Bldg, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://bcl.uschamber.com/> <https://twitter.com/usccfoundation>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that Donald Trump's hotel chain may have experienced a data breach that may have exposed people's debit and credit card information to hackers for more than a year. When asked how he planned on fixing the situation, Trump was like, 'I'm going to build a huge firewall.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "More of Hillary Clinton's emails were just released, and one shows that she had made a list of talking points for a trip to LA in case she ran into Ellen DeGeneres. Which is ironic, because Bill [Clinton] does the same thing in case he runs into Hillary."

Stephen Colbert: "It's a bit of a drizzly day here in New York, where the United Nations General Assembly is wrapping up their annual session and free parking festival."

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Conversation Contents

Clips: Waco Mammoth

"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Oct 02 2015 09:55:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Clips: Waco Mammoth

<http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Secretary-of-Interior-Jewell-Expected-at-Waco-Monument-Event-330402521.html>

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Thanks,
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"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Oct 02 2015 13:55:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: Waco Mammoth

<http://www.kwtx.com/ourtown/home/headlines/Waco--Interior-Secretary-To-Attend-Mammoth-Site-Dedication-330416281.html>

Waco: Interior Secretary To Attend Mammoth Site Dedication.

WACO (October 2, 2015) U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will take part in a dedication ceremony Monday to mark the designation of Waco Mammoth National Monument.

Waco Mammoth Site (File)

The invitation-only ceremony is not open to the public.

In July President Barack Obama designated the site as one of three new national monuments.

Jewell and Jarvis also plan to meet with local fourth graders in support of the administration's Every Kid in a Park initiative.

The site, which was discovered more than 30 years ago, contains the largest known concentration of mammoths that died in a single event.

A painstaking excavation of the site has uncovered the remains of 25 Columbian mammoths that died nearly 68,000 years ago, probably after they were caught in a flash flood.

In 2002, then U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco authored legislation which later became a law that directed the National Park Service to determine the feasibility of establishing a national park at the Waco Mammoth Site.

Three years later he secured \$200,000 for preservation efforts at the site and an additional \$200,000 for the Baylor Mayborn Museum's Mammoth Exhibit.

In March 2009 the U.S. Department of the Interior recommended including the site as part of the National Park Service, and Edwards introduced the "Waco Mammoth National Monument Establishment Act of 2009," which would have implemented the Department of Interior proposal and authorized appropriations for the project.

The original U.S. Department of the Interior recommendation called for giving the Park Service the lead responsibility for protection, scientific study and visitor enjoyment of the site in partnership with the City of Waco and Baylor University, which was the option local leaders preferred.

The House passed the bill, but the measure later died in the U.S. Senate, the victim of a maneuver called an anonymous hold.

Subsequent measures introduced by Edwards' successor, U.S. Rep. Bill Flores, R-Bryan, called for designating the site as a National Monument.

The new bill didn't provide funding for the monument, but the authors said local support would make the national recognition possible without additional federal spending.

Ground was broken in 2008 for \$3.2 million visitor center and pavilion to protect the site, which has been operated since 2009 by the city in partnership with Baylor University and support from the nonprofit Waco Mammoth Foundation.

In April National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis toured the site and later said he would ask the Interior Department to seek Mr. Obama's approval to designate the site a national monument.

Two weeks later the Waco City Council voted to turn five acres of the site and the excavated remains over to the federal government, leaving just more than 100 acres as city property, but as administrative land in the national park system.

Under the 1906 Antiquities Act the President bypassed Congress and issued the executive order for the designation.

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"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Sun Oct 04 2015 09:39:20 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: Waco Mammoth

http://www.wacotrib.com/news/city_of_waco/u-s-interior-secretary-to-visit-waco-mammoth-national-monument/article_1dfdccf0-01a9-5c3c-868b-cb608b586e90.html

U.S. Interior Secretary to visit, dedicate Waco Mammoth National Monument

Story Comments

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Posted: Saturday, October 3, 2015 7:31 pm

By **J.B. SMITH** jbsmith@wacotrib.com

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will visit the Waco Mammoth National Monument to celebrate its recent designation as part of the national park system.

Jewell and National Park Service director Jon Jarvis will tour the site and participate in a 10 a.m. dedication ceremony with local leaders, including Baylor University President Ken Starr, Mayor Malcolm Duncan Jr. and Waco Mammoth Foundation founder Gloria Young. The event is by invitation only.

President Barack Obama in July designated the site at 6220 Steinbeck Bend Drive as a national monument, capping a yearslong effort by local officials to

mammoth ra5

win the designation. The Waco Mammoth Foundation raised \$4.2 million to turn the mammoth dig site into an educational tourism attraction, built to National Park Service standards.

Since 1978, the remains of 24 Columbian mammoths have been discovered at the site, some dating back 65,000 years. Among them are the nation's only known "nursery" herd of mammoths, thought to be buried in a cataclysmic flood.

On Fri, Oct 2, 2015 at 3:55 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote: <http://www.kwtx.com/ourtown/home/headlines/Waco--Interior-Secretary-To-Attend-Mammoth-Site-Dedication-330416281.html>

Waco: Interior Secretary To Attend Mammoth Site Dedication.

Staff photo— Rod Aydelotte

City parks workers Mike Fields, left, and David May, right, prepare to attach a National Park Service sign to the entrance of the Waco Mammoth Site.

Updated: Fri 12:29 PM, Oct 02, 2015

WACO (October 2, 2015) U.S. Secretary of

Buy this photo

the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will take part in a dedication ceremony Monday to mark the designation of Waco Mammoth National Monument.

The invitation-only ceremony is not open to the public.

In July President Barack Obama designated the site as one of three new national monuments.

Jewell and Jarvis also plan to meet with local fourth graders in support of the administration's Every Kid in a Park initiative.

Related Stories

Related: **Four-way partnership crucial for new Waco Mammoth National Monument Q&A with**

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The site, which was discovered more than 30 years ago, contains the largest known concentration of mammoths that died in a single event.



Waco Mammoth Site (File)

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Thanks,
~Leah

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Conversation Contents

For fatal flaw review by 9:00a.m. Monday: Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation

/136. For fatal flaw review by 9:00a.m. Monday: Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation/1.1 Waco Mammoth National Monument Celebration rj.docx

"Johnson, Rachael" <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Johnson, Rachael" <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Oct 02 2015 15:54:31 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Roberta D'Amico <roberta_damico@nps.gov>, Molly Ross <molly_ross@nps.gov>, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Karen Hyun <karen_hyun@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, Russel Wilson <russ_wilson@nps.gov>, John Whitlock <russ_whitlock@nps.gov>
Subject: For fatal flaw review by 9:00a.m. Monday: Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation
Attachments: Waco Mammoth National Monument Celebration rj.docx

Attached please find a copy of the final version of the release for your review.

Please only send fatal flaw edits my way by 9:00a.m. Monday.

Thank you, and have a great weekend!

Date: October 5, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw
(Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
April Slayton (NPS), april_slayton@nps.gov

Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation

President's Proclamation Protects Rare Mammoth Fossils, First and Only Recorded Discovery of a Nursery Herd

WACO, TEXAS – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Former First Lady Laura Bush today joined community members to celebrate the President's designation of the [Waco Mammoth National Monument](#) as one of the nation's newest national monuments, permanently protecting the site where the extremely well-preserved fossils of a herd of Columbian Mammoths and other Ice Age animals have been found. President Obama [designated the area as a national monument](#) on July 10, 2015, as part of the Administration's commitment to protect our country's significant outdoor spaces for the benefit of future generations.

The celebration took place at the new national monument, where Secretary Jewell and former First Lady Laura Bush were by joined National Park Service Director Jonathon B. Jarvis, City of Waco Mayor Malcolm Duncan, Baylor University President and Chancellor Ken Starr, and many local, state and national conservation and community leaders to celebrate the designation.

"Today we celebrate decades of hard work and partnerships between the City of Waco, Baylor University, and now the National Park Service," said Secretary Jewell. "It's our duty to protect places like this that will inspire the next generation of archaeologists, paleontologists, and historians, and show the rich diversity of our country's natural heritage."

The area in Texas provides a rare chance to understand and interpret the behavior and ecology of the extinct Columbian Mammoth. The oldest fossils identified at the site are thought to be more than 65,000 years old. In addition, both the excavation area and the land around it offer an excellent opportunity for further exploration and paleontological and geological research. In a nod to the recently launched Every Kid in a Park initiative which aims to get fourth graders nationwide to visit public lands, today, a group of fourth grade students were onsite to participate in an interactive learning activity.

Quote from Former First Lady Laura Bush

The site remains the nation's first and only recorded discovery of a nursery herd, including females and their offspring, of mammoths from the Ice Age, an era defined as 2.5 million to 10,000 years ago. Of the 24 mammoths uncovered to date, at least 18 were part of the nursery herd. As a result of an unknown natural catastrophic event, the entire nursery herd died at the same moment in time, which left the skeletons relatively intact. The site offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to examine the matriarchal herd structure and behavior of this extinct species.

The site is now managed by the National Park Service in cooperation with the City of Waco and Baylor University. The National Park Service is conducting a

[management planning process](#), working closely with partners, community residents, and other groups that have devoted themselves to preserving the site for many years.

“The National Park Service has worked seamlessly with our partners at the City of Waco, Baylor University, and the Waco Mammoth Foundation to lay the groundwork for the continued success of the Waco Mammoth National Monument,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “We are proud to celebrate this special place and thank the people of Waco for welcoming the National Park Service so warmly.”

The site was discovered in 1978, when Waco residents Paul Barron and Eddie Bufkin were looking for arrowheads and fossils along the Bosque River and found a large bone protruding from the earth. Realizing the possible significance of this discovery, Mr. Barron and Mr. Bufkin immediately took the bone to the Strecker Museum at Baylor University where the bone was identified as the upper leg bone of a Columbian Mammoth.

Over the next 20 years, Baylor University oversaw the excavation of the site, where they found the remains of 24 Columbian Mammoths, including adults and juveniles, as well as a Western Camel, saber-toothed cat, dwarf antelope, American Alligator, and giant tortoise. The Columbian Mammoths are the largest mammoth species – larger than its relative, the Woolly mammoth – and stood 12 to 14 feet tall and weighed seven to eight tons. Many of the discovered bones, including the remains of four Columbian Mammoths as well as the skeleton of the camel, remain in place, providing visitors an opportunity to view them.

The City of Waco has operated the Waco Mammoth Site as a park since 2009, in partnership with Baylor University and with support from the nonprofit Waco Mammoth Foundation, Inc. The city donated to the United States approximately five acres, which includes the excavation site and the dig shelter, making it possible to establish the monument. Nearly the entire Waco Mammoth Site is within the boundary of the national monument.

The Antiquities Act was first used by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

The Waco Mammoth National Monument is one of three new national monuments announced by President Obama in July that help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique natural resources for the benefit of all Americans. The designations include [Berryessa Snow Mountain](#) in California and [Basin and Range](#) in Nevada.

With these new designations, President Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 19 national monuments. In total, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as [César E. Chávez National Monument](#) in California, [Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument](#) in Maryland, and [Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument](#) in Ohio.

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Rachael Johnson
Senior Writer
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-2570
Cell: (202) 836-2593

Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>

From: Kevin Thompson <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Oct 02 2015 16:34:19 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Johnson, Rachael" <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: For fatal flaw review by 9:00a.m. Monday: Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation

One minor edit. Paragraph two line four: should be joined by rather than by joined. Otherwise no other exceptions. Kevin

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 2, 2015, at 5:54 PM, Johnson, Rachael <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Attached please find a copy of the final version of the release for your review.

Please only send fatal flaw edits my way by 9:00a.m. Monday.

Thank you, and have a great weekend!

Date: October 5, 2015

Contact: Jessica
Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

April Slayton (NPS), april_slayton@nps.gov

Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation

President's Proclamation Protects Rare Mammoth Fossils, First and Only Recorded Discovery of a Nursery Herd

WACO, TEXAS – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Former First Lady Laura Bush today joined community members to celebrate the President's designation of the [Waco Mammoth National Monument](#) as one of the nation's newest national monuments, permanently protecting the site where the extremely well-preserved fossils of a herd of Columbian Mammoths and other Ice Age animals have been found. President Obama [designated the area as a national monument](#) on July 10, 2015, as part of the Administration's commitment to protect our country's significant outdoor spaces for the benefit of future generations.

The celebration took place at the new national monument, where Secretary Jewell and former First Lady Laura Bush were joined by National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, City of Waco Mayor Malcolm Duncan, Baylor University President and Chancellor Ken Starr, and many local, state and national conservation and community leaders to celebrate the designation.

"Today we celebrate decades of hard work and partnerships between the City of Waco, Baylor University, and now the National Park Service," said Secretary Jewell. "It's our duty to protect places like this that will inspire the next generation of archaeologists, paleontologists, and historians, and show the rich diversity of our country's natural heritage."

The area in Texas provides a rare chance to understand and interpret the behavior and ecology of the extinct Columbian Mammoth. The oldest fossils identified at the site are thought to be more than 65,000 years old. In addition, both the excavation area and the land around it offer an excellent opportunity for further exploration and paleontological and geological research. In a nod to the recently launched Every Kid in a Park initiative which aims to get fourth graders nationwide to visit public lands, today, a group of fourth grade students were onsite to participate in an interactive learning activity.

Quote from Former First Lady Laura Bush

The site remains the nation's first and only recorded discovery of a nursery herd, including females and their offspring, of mammoths from the Ice Age, an era defined as 2.5 million to 10,000 years ago. Of the 24 mammoths uncovered to date, at least 18 were part of the nursery herd. As a result of an unknown natural catastrophic event, the entire nursery herd died at the same moment in time, which left the skeletons relatively intact. The site offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to examine the matriarchal herd structure and behavior of this extinct species.

The site is now managed by the National Park Service in cooperation with the City of Waco and Baylor University. The National Park Service is conducting a [management planning process](#), working closely with partners, community residents, and other groups that have devoted themselves to preserving the site for many years.

"The National Park Service has worked seamlessly with our partners at the City of Waco, Baylor University, and the Waco Mammoth Foundation to lay the groundwork for the continued success of the Waco Mammoth National Monument," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "We are proud to celebrate this special place and thank the people of Waco for welcoming the National Park Service so warmly."

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Over the next 20 years, Baylor University oversaw the excavation of the site, where they found the remains of 24 Columbian Mammoths, including adults and juveniles, as well as a Western Camel, saber-toothed cat, dwarf antelope, American Alligator, and giant tortoise. The Columbian Mammoths are the largest mammoth species – larger than its relative, the Woolly mammoth – and stood 12 to 14 feet tall and weighed seven to eight tons. Many of the discovered bones, including the remains of four Columbian Mammoths as well as the skeleton of the camel, remain in place, providing visitors an opportunity to view them.

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Rachael Johnson
Senior Writer
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Office: (202) 208-2570
Cell: (202) 836-2593

<Waco Mammoth National Monument Celebration rj.docx>



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: October 5, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
April Slayton (NPS), april_slayton@nps.gov

Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation

*President's Proclamation Protects Rare Mammoth Fossils, First and Only
Recorded Discovery of a Nursery Herd*

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Conversation Contents

Secretary Jewell travel to Waco on 10/5

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Oct 02 2015 10:45:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Secretary Jewell travel to Waco on 10/5

Hello,

I wanted to inform you that on Monday, October 5, Secretary of the Interior Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis will attend a celebration in Waco, Texas to commemorate the recent designation of Waco Mammoth National Monument. Secretary Jewell and others will tour the site before the dedication ceremony and will also meet with local fourth grade students in support of President Obama's Every Kid in a Park initiative to distribute free passes to America's federal lands and waters.

Thank you,
Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

"Gustafson, Eric" <Eric.Gustafson@mail.house.gov>

From: "Gustafson, Eric" <Eric.Gustafson@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Fri Oct 02 2015 10:47:44 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Secretary Jewell travel to Waco on 10/5

Thanks, Jeremy. Bill looks forward to seeing the Secretary Jewell and Director Jarvis on Monday in Waco.

Best,

Eric

From Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent Friday, October 02, 2015 12:45 PM
To Jeremy Bratt
Subject Secretary Jewell travel to Waco on 10/5

Hello,

I wanted to inform you that on Monday, October 5, Secretary of the Interior Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis will attend a celebration in Waco, Texas to commemorate the recent designation of Waco Mammoth National Monument. Secretary Jewell and others will tour the site before the dedication ceremony and will also meet with local fourth grade students in support of President Obama's Every Kid in a Park initiative to distribute free passes to America's federal lands and waters.

Thank you,

Jeremy Bratt

Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

Conversation Contents

Final Version: Waco Mammoth National Monument Advisory

Attachments:

/142. Final Version: Waco Mammoth National Monument Advisory/1.1 10-2-15 Waco Mammoth National Monument Advisory Draft FINAL.docx

"Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Oct 02 2015 06:58:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Roberta D'Amico <roberta_damico@nps.gov>, Molly Ross <molly_ross@nps.gov>, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Karen Hyun <karen_hyun@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, Russel Wilson <russ_wilson@nps.gov>, John Whitlock <russ_whitlock@nps.gov>
Subject: Final Version: Waco Mammoth National Monument Advisory
Attachments: 10-2-15 Waco Mammoth National Monument Advisory Draft FINAL.docx

Hi all,

Attached please find a the final media advisory for the Waco Mammoth National Monument celebration that will be sent at 9 AM.

Thanks,
~Leah

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Leah Duran
Public Affairs Specialist
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-3311
Cell: (202) 713-8638



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

Media Advisory

Date: October 2, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
April Slayton (National Park Service), April_Slayton@nps.gov

Secretary Jewell to Celebrate Designation of Waco Mammoth National Monument in Texas

WACO, TEXAS – On Monday, October 5, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will attend a celebration in Waco, Texas to commemorate the recent designation of [Waco Mammoth National Monument](#). Secretary Jewell and others will tour the site before the dedication ceremony.

In July, President Obama [designated Waco Mammoth as one of three new national monuments](#), including Berryessa Snow Mountain in California and Basin and Range in Nevada. Waco Mammoth permanently protects the site where the extremely well-preserved fossils of a herd of Columbian Mammoths and remains of other Ice Age animals have been found. The National Park Service works in partnership with the City of Waco, Baylor University, and the Waco Mammoth Foundation to manage the Waco Mammoth National Monument.

The site provides a rare chance to understand and interpret the behavior and ecology of the extinct Columbian Mammoth. The oldest fossils identified at the site are thought to be more than 65,000 years old. In addition, both the excavation area and the land around it offer an excellent opportunity for further exploration and paleontological and geological research.

Secretary Jewell and Director Jarvis will also meet with local fourth grade students in support of President Obama's Every Kid in a Park initiative to distribute free passes to America's federal lands and waters. The Every Kid in a Park program seeks to connect young people with the great outdoors. As of September 1, the program allows fourth graders nationwide to go to www.everykidinapark.gov and obtain a pass for free entry for them and their families to more than 2,000 federally managed lands and waters nationwide for an entire year.

Bone Site Tour

Who: Ceremony participants and confirmed members of the media

What: Waco Mammoth National Monument bone site tour and opportunity for b-roll

When: Monday, October 5, 2015
8:20 a.m. CDT – Media check-in
8:30 a.m. CDT – Bone site tour begins
9:20 a.m. CDT – Bone site tour ends

Where: Waco Mammoth National Monument
6220 Steinbeck Bend Drive
Waco, TX 76708

Media: Credentialed members of the media [MUST RSVP here](#) by 6 PM EDT today, October 2, 2015.

Dedication Ceremony:

Who: **Sally Jewell**, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Russ Whitlock, Superintendent, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
Larry Groth, Former Waco City Manager, City of Waco
Gloria Young, Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, Waco Mammoth Foundation, Inc.
Malcolm Duncan, Mayor, City of Waco
Ken Starr, President and Chancellor, Baylor University

What: Waco Mammoth National Monument celebration

When: Monday, October 5, 2015
9:45 a.m. CDT – Media check-in
10:00 a.m. CDT – Dedication ceremony
10:45 a.m. CDT – Media availability
11:00 a.m. CDT – Distribution of Every Kid in a Park passes

Where: Waco Mammoth National Monument
6220 Steinbeck Bend Drive
Waco, TX 76708

Media: Credentialed members of the media [MUST RSVP here](#) by 6 PM EDT today, October 2, 2015.

###

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, October 2, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Fri Oct 02 2015 05:00:40 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, October 2, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL HELPS LAUNCH TRIBAL SOLARTHON. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (10/1, Harrington, 1.3M) reports that "the Shinnecock Indian Nation marked five years of federal recognition Thursday with Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to kick off a sustainable solar-energy program on the Southampton reservation." Jewell was "on Long Island to help launch a program called the Tribal Solarthon, a \$2-million initiative by nonprofit Grid Alternatives to expand renewable energy and job opportunities on Native American lands." According to the article, "at Shinnecock, the program begins with the installation of rooftop solar at two homes, including that of James H. and Marion Phillips, whose \$170 monthly energy bill is expected to be cut more than half by the system."

[Solar Industry Magazine](#) (10/1, Staff) reports that Jewell said, "GRID Alternatives' partnership with the Shinnecock Nation and other tribal communities serves as a model for helping to build a sustainable energy future and solar technology workforce in Indian country. This partnership shows how the tribal, federal and private sectors can work together to remove barriers to economic development, advance tribal self-determination and add clean energy to the grid."

SECRETARY JEWELL TO SPEAK AT NATIONAL SACNAS CONFERENCE. The [Native American Times](#) (10/2, 337) reports that "thousands of Chicano/Hispanic and Native American scientists will come to the National Harbor for one of the largest and most diverse gatherings of STEM professionals across the country next month, October 29th-31st." According to the article, "hosted by SACNAS (Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science, <http://sacnas.org>), over 3,000 students and science professionals of color will convene for a three-day conference of cutting-edge science, mentoring, networking, and professional development." The article notes that "this year's conference will be keynoted by top tier White House advisors, current and former public officials, and business leaders including" Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND EXPIRES. The [E&E Daily](#) (10/1, Subscription Publication) reports that the Land and Water Conservation Fund expired midnight Wednesday. However, "the political battle over the Land and Water Conservation Fund is sure to rage on into the fall, as lawmakers debate how to divvy up the hundreds of millions of dollars it receives each year." The article notes that "appropriators will still be able to draw from that fund when it comes time to pass another spending bill Dec. 11," but "the program's expiration means oil and gas companies have stopped paying into it."

[The Hill](#) (10/2, Henry, 471K) reports that Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid "blasted Republicans on Thursday for refusing to take up a bill" to reauthorize the LWCF. In a floor speech, Reid said, "It is a program supported by Democrats and Republicans, by rural communities and urban communities." He added, "But on Republicans' watch, one of the most important programs and one of the best programs to our nation's parks, and one of the most broadly supported programs in the country, has been allowed to lapse. It's gone."

The [Maryville \(TN\) Daily Times](#) (10/1, 64K) reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander "hopes that Congress will act soon to reauthorize the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which expired Wednesday."

Additional coverage was provided by [Outside](#) (10/1, 258K), the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (10/2, 67K), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/2, 74K), [Slate](#) (10/2, 1 38M), and the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (10/2, 235K).

"LIVE MONUMENTAL" CAMPAIGN PUSHES FOR NEW MONUMENTS. [KKOH-AM](#) Reno, NV (10/1) reports "while many Nevadans are uncomfortable with keeping development off the state's lands, outdoor recreation advocates are asking the President to create four new national monuments – including one that would protect 350 thousand acres of desert northeast of Las Vegas." According to the article, "they're part of the 'Live Monumental' campaign sponsored by KEEN Footwear, the culmination of a two month-long, RV road trip across the U.S. to gather support and signatures for petitions to be delivered to the nation's capital."

For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (10/2, Richardson, 471K), Kirk Richardson, executive director of the KEEN Effect Team, writes that "Live Monumental, supported by groups such as The Pew Charitable Trusts and The Wilderness Society, as well as hundreds of groups and thousands of individuals across our country has one goal: To safeguard these wild places for generations to come." He notes that "studies show that protecting these places is good for local business and helps their bottom line."

Rep. Cook Introduces Desert Conservation Bill. The [Twentynine Plams \(CA\) The Desert Trail](#) (10/2, 10K) reports that Rep. Paul Cook "introduced his own desert conservation, mining and recreation bill Thursday in the House of Representatives." The California Minerals, Off-Road Recreation and Conservation Act would "add land to the Johnson Valley off-roading area and give several other places in the Morongo Basin added government protection." Cook's legislation has "several points in common with a desert conservation bill Diane Feinstein introduced in Congress in February, but Cook's alternative allows more uses, including mining, in the Mojave Trails area and offers more protection to the Johnson Valley OHV area."

Utah State Sen. Dabakis Advocates For New National Monument In DC. [KUER-FM](#) Salt Lake City (10/2, 4K) reports that "Democratic State Senator Jim Dabakis is in Washington D.C. this week and will be meeting with White House officials on Friday to give his unique perspective on public lands." Dabakis is seeking protection of "more than 1 million acres in southeastern Utah known as Bears Ears." He said, "This is one of the great cultural heritage spots in America. You cannot touch that land, you can't plant a garden without coming up shards of one of the great civilizations that's ever been here."

MARSHALL ISLANDS PRESIDENT BRINGS CLIMATE PLEA TO DC. [Politico Pro](#) (10/1, Subscription Publication) reports that "the president of the Marshall Islands is worried about his country's literal survival." According to the article, "the chain of South Pacific atolls is in danger of sinking beneath the waves as climate change causes sea levels to rise." Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak and "his top aides will be D.C. this week to meet with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Obama Senior Advisor Brian Deese, and Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Jeff Flake." His hope is to "get the United States to throw its weight behind significant carbon restriction at negotiations in Paris and to persuade Congressional Republicans to follow through with Obama's \$3 billion green fund commitment."

[Politico Pro](#) (10/1) reports that Loeak said, "I'm not just here for ceremony – this particular trip to Washington is deeply personal for me. There is now less than two months to go until Paris, where the future of my country hinges on the leadership of countries like the United States."

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL DROPS ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS. The [E&E Daily](#) (10/1, Subscription Publication) reports that “the sage grouse rider wasn’t the only controversial environmental provision slashed from the final version of this year’s defense authorization bill.” The article notes that “the conference committee also cut language that would restrict Pentagon investments in the biofuel industry and endangered listings for the lesser prairie chicken and American burrowing beetle.” Legislators also “dropped a provision to transfer jurisdiction over the National Desert Wildlife Refuge from the Interior Department to the Department of Defense.”

WESTERN GOVERNORS DECRY FEDERAL INTRUSION. The [E&E Daily](#) (10/1, Subscription Publication) reports that “Western states are too often ignored in federal decisions affecting lands, water and wildlife that are crucial to state economies, governors told the House Natural Resources Committee yesterday.” According to the article, “governors aired complaints about the Obama administration’s regulations for sage grouse, oil and gas drilling, climate change and wolves, and demanded they be given a ‘meaningful’ seat at the table in future federal decisions.” The article notes that “the hearing on ‘respecting state authority’ served as a forum for governors and members – mostly Republicans – to highlight ways in which they feel the federal government has overstepped its bounds.”

REPORT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OWNS 28 PERCENT OF LAND IN US. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/2, 65K) reports that “the federal government owns 28 percent of the land in the United States, according to a report from the Congressional Research Service.” The article notes that “there has been a growing movement to transfer land from the federal government to states.” It also mentions the controversy over the King Cove road.

FEDERAL AGENCIES USE UP FUNDS TO END FISCAL YEAR. The [Washington Times](#) (10/2, Howell, 344K) reports that “federal agencies went on a spree last month, spending whatever leftover federal funds they had rather than give back the excess money to taxpayers before the federal fiscal year ended Wednesday.” Notably, the Interior Department “spent \$33,472 on toilet paper.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE INTERIOR PROPOSES NEW PATH TO SOVEREIGNTY FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS. Additional coverage of the proposal to create a procedure for Native Hawaiian recognition was provided by the [Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (9/30), the [Hawaii Tribune-Herald](#) (10/2, 48K), the [West Hawaii Today](#) (10/2, 24K), and the [Maui \(HI\) News](#) (10/1, 52K).

CONGRESS URGED TO FIND PERMANENT FIX TO WILDFIRE FUNDING. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (10/2, 94K) welcomes that “\$700 million in emergency funding to help with this year’s wildfire season costs” included in the spending bill. But it says that “what Congress really needs to do, though, is make progress on a permanent fix for wildfire funding.” It urges Congress to “stop the cycle” and “find a funding compromise.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR TRANSFERS ADDITIONAL \$10 MILLION TO COBELL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND. The [Native American Times](#) (10/2, 337) reports that the Interior Department on Thursday “announced that an additional \$10 million has been transferred to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund (the Fund), bringing the total amount contributed so far to nearly \$30 million.” Interior Solicitor Hilary Tompkins said, “I am thrilled that the first Cobell scholarships have been awarded. Graduating from college and law school was life changing for me, and wouldn’t have been possible without financial support. The Cobell scholarship program is key to advancing self-determination by opening doors to the next generation of leaders in Indian Country.”

DOJ IG FINDS PROBLEMS WITH CONSTRUCTION OF TRIBAL JAILS. The [Washington Post](#) (10/2, Rein, 6.76M) reports in its “Federal Eye” blog that the Justice Department’s Inspector General said in a report released on Wednesday that “two brand new tribal jails built by the Navajo Nation in Arizona and paid for by the federal government are sitting almost empty because they’re more than twice as large as planned – and now there’s not enough money to run them.” The IG report “shows how \$70.3 million in economic stimulus grants turned a crucial need in Indian country to incarcerate and rehabilitate adult offenders into two white elephants.” The audit by Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz “says about half of that money went out the door improperly, more than \$32 million of it on the jails’ ‘excessive’ and ‘larger than planned’ size,” and that “the construction lacked proper oversight not just by the Navajo Nation but the Justice Department itself.”

BIA ASKED TO INTERVENE IN DISPUTE OVER UTILITY LINES. The [Rio Grande \(NM\) Sun](#) (10/1, 33K) reports that “City of Española leaders are refusing to pay a \$1 million demand imposed by Santa Clara Pueblo officials, who allege the city’s utility lines trespass on tribal land.” Pueblo officials have “requested the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of New Mexico and the Bureau of Indian Affairs intervene on an ongoing dispute regarding the city’s utility lines running under the area’s roadways.”

GOV. INSLEE SAYS NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON SPOKANE TRIBE CASINO. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/1, 183K) reports that “Gov. Jay Inslee hasn’t made a decision yet on a request by the Spokane Tribe to open a casino near Airway Heights.” According to the article, “asked at a press conference Thursday about a time line for the pending decision, Inslee would only say: ‘When we make that decision, and at the right time. I can’t give you a specific date.’”

JUDGE RATIFIES DECISION TO TAKE AMADOR COUNTY LAND INTO TRUST. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/2, 535K) reports that “a Sacramento federal judge has ratified the federal government’s decision to take 228 acres of Amador County land into trust so an Indian tribe can build a casino on it.” The decision by U.S. District Judge Troy L. Nunley is “a seminal development in a fight that has stretched over at least 11 years and a tangle of litigation, and pits the lone Band of Miwok Indians against the county and a majority of its residents.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

US PUT TERRITORY CLIMATE MEASURES AT HIGH PRIORITY. The [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/2, 1K) reports that “the US government says climate change measures will get the highest priority when it comes to technical assistance funding for the island territories and associated states.” The Office of Insular Affairs is “accepting applications for 2016 technical assistance which will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis until funds are exhausted.” According to Assistant Secretary Esther Kia’aina, “the island communities continue to face extreme climate events, including typhoons and hurricanes, storm surges, high winds and king tides.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

BOR EXPECTED TO CREATE POSITION FOR SALTON SEA RESTORATION. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/1, 4.07M) reports on the push to “avoid a ‘looming catastrophe’ at the Salton Sea.” The article notes that “in September, the state named Bruce Wilcox, an Imperial Irrigation District employee, as assistant secretary for Salton Sea policy at the California Natural Resources Agency.” The BOR is “expected to create a similar position in coming weeks.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Bloomberg BNA](#) (10/2, 3K).

EL NIÑO COULD IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS AT FOLSOM LAKE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/1, 4.07M) reports that “in Folsom Lake, docks are sitting on dry, cracked land,” and “the main water source for the Sacramento suburbs is at 18% capacity.” A BOR spokesman said, “El Niño predictions for reservoirs like Folsom are speculative at this point, but it is possible that the El Niño could significantly improve water supply conditions.”

PADDLERS SET OUT TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR SACRAMENTO RIVER. The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (10/2, 81K) reports that “nearly 40 people set out on a four-day, three-night trip down the Sacramento River from Redding to Chico on Thursday” to “raise awareness of the Sacramento River.” On Thursday night, the paddlers “planned to stay at Rooster’s Landing south of Anderson.” Guest speaker was Bill Kuntz, a recreation planner for the BOR office in Redding.

PROPOSED WESTLANDS SETTLEMENT CRITICIZED. In a piece for the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/2, 265K), Lloyd G. Carter criticizes the proposed settlement of the Westlands Water District federal lawsuit. He notes that Taxpayers for Common Sense “described the closed-door negotiations between Westlands and attorneys for the Departments of Interior and Justice” disparagingly. Also, “north state members of Congress, commercial and recreational fishing groups, and virtually all environmental groups are calling it another example of Westlands’ political muscle.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SUPPORT FOR OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY BUILDS. The [ClimateWire](#) (10/1, Subscription Publication) reports that “New Jersey still has not fully developed a mechanism to get power from offshore wind turbines to the electricity market, but developers, state lawmakers and the federal government are all backing a new push to establish the offshore wind industry there.” Supporters of “offshore wind in the state have had to confront legal challenges and lukewarm political support.” In the US, “the offshore wind industry has suffered major setbacks in the past,” but “several recent moves have fueled hopes that the industry might pick up again to catch up with Europe’s thriving offshore wind market.”

CAPE WIND DISPUTES CLAIMS OF ITS DEMISE. The [North American Windpower](#) (10/2, 43K) reports that “reports of Cape Wind’s demise are not only greatly exaggerated, but they are also patently false, explains Dennis Duffy, vice president of regulatory affairs for Cape Wind, the embattled 468 MW offshore wind project proposed off the coast of

Nantucket Island, Mass." According to the article, "speaking during the developer's roundtable at the American Wind Energy Association's recently completed Offshore Windpower 2015 conference held in Baltimore, Duffy set the record straight for attendees, many of whom assumed the project was dead following the termination of two power contracts in January."

FEDERAL JUDGE DISMISSES OSAGE NATION WIND TURBINE LAWSUIT. The [AP](#) (10/2) reports that a federal judge in Oklahoma has dismissed a lawsuit from the Osage Nation and the Department of Interior that argued that excavating foundations for wind power turbines violates tribal mineral rights. The lawsuit, filed in November against Italy-based Enel Green Power, contended that the process of digging foundations for wind turbines removed limestone and other minerals that belong to the tribe. However, the judge determined that the interpretation put forth by the tribe was too broad, saying in his ruling, "A broader reading would mean that any time a surface owner digs a hole on his or her land that would disturb any quantity of common minerals, he or she would have to obtain either a permit or a lease for any digging and backfilling."

Onshore Energy Development:

REPORT CRITICIZES BLM'S HANDLING OF FLARING ABUSES. [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/2, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM's "handling of flaring of associated natural gas on public and tribal lands was criticized in a report released Wednesday by Friends of the Earth, which said too much gas is being flared royalty-free." According to the article, "centered on North Dakota's robust Bakken Shale production and called 'A Flaring Shame,' the report alleges that because of BLM's lack of vigilance between 2007 and April 2013 some 107 Bcf of gas was flared at the government's expense (\$524 million worth of resources), resulting in annual carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions equal to what would be produced by 1.3 million cars." The report said, "BLM has the discretion to determine when flaring is or is not economically justified. Using this discretion, the BLM has approved the flaring of millions of cubic feet – and millions of dollars worth – of taxpayer-owned resources."

GROUPS WEIGH IN ON MOAB MASTER LEASING PLAN. The [Moab \(UT\) Sun News](#) (10/2) reports that "stakeholders and local officials have begun to weigh in on the long-awaited Moab Master Leasing Plan, which, when finalized, will regulate future oil, gas and potash development on public lands within Grand and San Juan counties." The article notes that "the plan has garnered additional support from recreation and environmental interests, and is being met with caution from the resource extraction industry."

GOV. FALLIN SAYS STATES BEST POSITIONED TO RESPOND TO FRACKING CONCERNS. The [Oklahoman](#) (10/2, Monies, 408K) reports that in a speech Wednesday, Gov. Mary Fallin said that states should be trusted to formulate solutions to energy development and water usage issues. Fallin pointed to the success of FracFocus.org, calling it "a solution that came from the states and spread throughout the country to make that information public."

Offshore Energy Development:

SHELL DECISION TO HALT ARCTIC OIL EXPLORATION DISCUSSED. [The Economist](#) (10/2, 462K) reports on Shell's decision to halt its exploratory drilling for oil in the Arctic, reporting that the decision "boiled down to costs, financial and reputational." The article looks at how Shell's decision was impacted by low oil prices, the need to shore up its reserve base, and how "a company that was among the first oil majors to acknowledge the risk of human-induced global warming in the 1990s...was embarrassed to be pilloried for its Arctic drilling by environmental groups and politicians." The article writes that the "stockmarket is taking the news in its stride," although "internally, the abandonment of the Arctic project will lead to soul-searching," concluding that "if one day Arctic oil and gas look promising once more, don't expect much enthusiasm from Shell."

Additional coverage was provided by [Fortune](#) (10/1, 4.14M).

After Shell's Departure From Arctic, Anti-Drilling Activists Plan To Keep Up Pressure. [Fast Company](#) (10/1, Peters, 2.4M) examined the environmental anti-drilling movement, which considered Shell's announcement "a huge win." Although "Shell's Arctic division head said that it will likely be 25 years before they, or anyone else, tries again...activists plan to keep fighting." Organizations such as Oil Change International, Greenpeace and 350.org "plan to keep up the pressure, and push governments to refuse permits and perhaps eventually ban drilling."

In commentary carried by the [Huffington Post](#) (10/1, Sakashita, 164K), Miyoko Sakashita of the Center for Biological Diversity wrote that the "huge win" of Shell leaving the Arctic "will only be a temporary reprieve unless we can permanently ban offshore oil drilling in the Arctic." Sakashita added that "more than Congress or President Obama, the key to permanently ending Arctic oil drilling is the broad-based public movement that grew over years and rose up against Shell's dangerous project this summer."

The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/1, 560K) carried a piece from community issues writer Charlette LeFevre on the "kayakivists" who protested Shell's plans to drill in the Arctic.

Alaskan Impact Of Shell's Departure, Low Oil Prices Considered. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/1, Ambrose, 375K) reported that businesses in Unalaska, Alaska "are preparing for any potential economic hit" after Shell's announcement that it is withdrawing from the Arctic. Unalaska Mayor Shirley Marquardt said the "community will notice it, our business community will notice it because they utilized a lot of local businesses and hired a lot of folks," although she also "maintained an overall positive outlook for the town of Unalaska." Peggy McLaughlin, port director for Dutch Harbor, said, "The bottom line, I don't see that it's going to have a huge impact on us. We didn't budget for it either operationally or in terms of revenue."

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/1, 2.66M) reported on the impact of low oil prices on the state of Alaska, where the legislature "is readying for a fierce debate over" capping the state's oil dividend payments as well as levying taxes.

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI RECEIVES \$958K FROM DEEPWATER HORIZON CLAIM. The [AP](#) (10/2) reports that the city of Jackson, Mississippi "has received \$958,000 from a Deepwater Horizon claim even though the city was more than 150 miles from where any oil washed ashore." Jackson's claim "isn't part of the \$1.5 billion the state is receiving from the BP oil spill settlement." Jackson officials "say they hope some of the settlement will help with the \$400 million federal consent decree the city is under for improvements to wastewater treatment plants."

EDITORIAL GULF COAST STATES NEED OFFSHORE ROYALTIES. In an editorial, the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/2, 718K) criticizes Senate Democrats and President Obama for their attempts to repeal a 2006 law authorizing Gulf Coast states to receive a portion of offshore oil and gas royalties, calling on Congress to "make good on the promise made to us." The Times-Picayune says the state is relying on the money for coastal restoration projects, adding "President Obama and Congress should understand how important that is."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

FEDERAL AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING REPORT OF ARMED RESIDENT CONFRONTING FIREFIGHTERS. The [AP](#) (10/1, 811K) reports that "federal authorities are investigating an anonymous report that an armed landowner confronted firefighters battling an Idaho wildfire and accused them of not properly protecting a private elk-hunting ranch." According to the article, "the report recently posted on the National Interagency Fire Center's website said two hotshot crews refused an order to fight the fire because of safety concerns." An probe "into the report is underway and involves the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho Department of Lands, the fire center said."

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW UNDER WAY FOR HELI-SKIING PLAN. The [AP](#) (10/2, 344K) reports that "an environmental review is under way as the owners of Silverton Mountain pursue a proposal to diversify terrain for helicopter skiing on federal land." Silverton Mountain owners Aaron and Jen Brill were "hoping they could avoid an environmental assessment since one had been in 2008." Aaron Brill says "the delays from this new review will make it unlikely that their proposal will be approved by the Bureau of Land Management's Tres Rios Field Office in time for the ski season."

LAS VEGAS NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM COLLECTS ANCIENT ARTIFACTS. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/2, 378K) reports that "roughly 800 boxes of pottery shards, woven baskets and other artifacts collected across Southern Nevada are now in the hands of the Las Vegas Natural History Museum, which recently won federal approval to store such ancient treasures." Earlier this year, the BLM "declared the museum a repository for all archaeological and paleontological finds on public land in the area."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS, LULAC SIGN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON LATINO HEALTH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION. [Bloomberg Research](#) (10/2, 2.66M) reports that the FWS has "signed an historic partnership agreement with the oldest and largest Latino advocacy organization in the United States, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)." The FWS and LULAC will "work together to engage Latino families in outdoor recreational sports on public lands and raise awareness and action on wildlife conservation issues that impact Latino health."

DESERT TORTOISE RELEASED ON MARINE CORPS BASE AT TWENTYNINE PALMS. The [AP](#) (10/2, 2.28M) reports that "researchers have released a desert tortoise raised on a Marine Corps base as part of efforts aimed at reinvigorating the threatened population in the western Mojave Desert." The article notes that "the female tortoise

released Wednesday is the 35th one set free this year on the Marine Corps base at Twentynine Palms." According to the article, "the release ceremony was attended by Marine Corps officials along with authorities from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and researchers from the University of California Los Angeles."

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/2, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/2, Press, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/2, 344K), and the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/2, 5.59M).

FWS ADDS TWO MACAWS TO ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST. The [Phys \(UK\)](#) (10/2, 530) reports that "poaching and habitat loss have landed the military macaw and the great green macaw, two birds typically found in Central and South America, on the US endangered species list, officials said Thursday." The decision "makes it illegal to kill, harass or injure the birds; import or export them from the United States; or carry them across state and national borders."

NEW RECOVERY PLAN FOR WYOMING TOAD ANNOUNCED. The [AP](#) (10/2, 2 28M) reports that "a new recovery plan for the Wyoming toad announced Thursday seeks to carry forward recent success in finally getting the critically endangered amphibian to survive in the wild." The article notes that "three self-sustaining populations could enable the toad's downlisting to a threatened species." And "five could allow removal from the endangered species list altogether as soon as 2030, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery plan."

FWS ISSUES PERMIT TO HELP IN RECOVERY OF RELICT LEOPARD FROG. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (10/1, 46K) reports that "in a landmark agreement the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has issued the first permit in Nevada to the Nevada Department of Wildlife for implementing a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) in an effort to recover the relict leopard frog, a NDOW release said." The CCAA process "allows private landowners to voluntarily participate in the conservation of the relict leopard frog in an effort to recover the species, and hopefully, preclude the need to list the frog under the Endangered Species Act." Mike Senn, Field Supervisor with FWS, said, "We are excited about this landmark agreement and partnership with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, as it will help pave the way for important conservation efforts on private lands, that are vital to the recovery of the relict leopard frog."

EPA SAY GE CAN DISMANTLE HUDSON PCB CLEANUP PLANT. The [AP](#) (10/2, George M. Walsh |, Ap, 6.76M) reports that "federal regulators said Thursday they have no problem with General Electric dismantling a Hudson River PCB cleanup plant as six years of dredging wraps up, even though government advisers had asked to keep it in place while they assess results of the \$2 billion cleanup." The EPA said "the company could use a new, temporary facility if additional dredging is required."

RESEARCH PAPER RELEASED ON WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME. The [Washington Post](#) (10/2, Fears, 6.76M) reports that "more than 7 million bats have perished from white-nose since it was discovered in an Albany, N.Y. cave nine years ago, and a new research paper provides insight into why." According to Kenneth A. Field, the lead author of the research released Thursday, "as little brown bats observed for the study dozed in a coma-like sleep, their immune systems recognized the attacking disease but never didn't lift a finger to stop it." Field's "understanding of what was happening was limited by the step-by-step nature of research" and "more observation was needed to know exactly why the bats were so easily taken out."

ILLINOIS AG ASKS INDIANA TO RESCIND QUARRY PERMIT. The [AP](#) (10/2, 2 28M) reports that "Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan has asked an Indiana environmental agency to cancel a permit given to build a quarry in northwest Indiana, arguing there are potential impacts on the Kankakee River." Madigan "filed the legal appeal with the Indiana Office of Environmental Review on Tuesday and said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should have reviewed it because water will be discharged across state lines." The FWS has "opposed the permit, saying fish and freshwater mussels could be endangered."

CALTRANS RECEIVES APPROVAL TO IMplode PIER ON OLD BAY BRIDGE. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/2, Subscription Publication, 3.35M) reports that "the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has given Caltrans final permission to carry out a \$160 million implosion of the largest concrete pier of the old Bay Bridge eastern span next month, the state agency said Thursday." The article notes that "the project had already gotten the go-ahead from the state boards of water quality, fish and wildlife as well as federal agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Coast Guard."

SAGE GROUSE PROTECTION PLAN PRAISED. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (10/1, Rait, 471K), Ken Rait, who directs the U.S. public lands project at The Pew Charitable Trusts, praises the plan to protect sage grouse habitat. According to Rait, "in the end, the BLM found a workable solution to balance the needed levels of protection for the greater sage-grouse and its habitat with other multiple uses of these public lands." He says that "the administration deserves praise for developing strong plans that protect sage-grouse and other wildlife while balancing the interests of companies seeking to develop natural resources, people who want to enjoy recreational pursuits, and ranchers whose herds graze the public domain."

Additional coverage of the sage grouse was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/2, Devaney, 471K), [Bloomberg BNA](#) (10/2, 3K), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/1, 113K) and the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (10/1, 44K).

EDITORIAL: FEDERAL PROTECTIONS FOR GRIZZLIES SHOULD BE REMOVED. In an editorial, the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (10/2, 13K) gives a "thumbs down to the increase in grizzly bear relocations this fall." It notes that "even though the grizzly population has rebounded significantly over the past few decades, the animal is still considered threatened under the Endangered Species Act." It concludes that "for those of us in Wyoming, it's clear that grizzly bears are thriving and federal protections should be removed."

National Park Service:

SENIORS GET FREE DAY AT NATIONAL PARKS. [USA Today](#) (10/1, 5.23M) reports that "on Oct. 8, all national parks will grant complimentary access to seniors 62 and older." NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis said, "Spending time in parks has demonstrated benefits for physical and mental health, and the National Park Service is helping Americans make this connection." The article notes that "it's part of a partnership with Humana Inc., a Louisville-based health and well-being company that is serving as the official sponsor of the National Park Service's Centennial celebration."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (10/2, 651K) and [KHOU-TV Houston \(TX\)](#) Houston (10/1, 308K).

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR MOOSE HUNTER'S CHALLENGE TO HOVERCRAFT BAN. The [Greenwire](#) (10/1, Subscription Publication) reports that the Supreme Court has "agreed to hear an Alaska moose hunter's challenge to a federal ban on using hovercraft on National Park Service waterways." John Sturgeon has "taken annual moose hunting trips near Alaska's Canadian border on the Yukon River and its tributary the Nation River since 1971." In 2007, Sturgeon was "operating his personal hovercraft in the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve during a hunting trip when National Park Service enforcement agents told him the vehicle was banned in waters inside the preserve."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/2, Barnes, 6.76M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/2, 2.28M), the [Lincoln \(NE\) Journal Star](#) (10/2, 231K), [US News & World Report](#) (10/1, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/2, Press, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/2), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/2, 5.59M), and [Reuters](#) (10/1, Hurley).

HURRICANE JOAQUIN COULD TEST NEW WASHINGTON LEVEE. The [AP](#) (10/2, 344K) reports that "a new levee could be tested if Hurricane Joaquin hits the nation's capital." The NPS, "which operates the structure, says it's ready to erect the levee if a storm surge appears imminent."

Meanwhile, [WTOP-FM](#) Washington (10/2, 511K) reports that the NPS is "closing turf fields and canceling events around the Washington area as the region prepares for heavy rainfall and the possible arrival of Hurricane Joaquin." Park rangers and U.S. Park Police are also "clearing storm drains, setting up flood barriers and doing other prep work for major rainfall."

YOSEMITE CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY. [CNN](#) (10/2, Hetter, 5.17M) reports that Yosemite National Park celebrates its 125th anniversary on Thursday. The park's "celebrations will honor the land's heritage and its future." According to the article, "a blessing will be offered by descendants of the Ahwahneechee, the native peoples of the Yosemite Valley (the valley is also called Ahwahnee)." Also, "the celebration's honorary chairman is 9-year-old Gabriel Lavan-Ying, a Gainseville, Florida, boy who became a Yosemite National Park Ranger through the Make-A-Wish Foundation last year."

PROJECT LAUNCHED CONNECTING GREAT FALLS NATIONAL PARK WITH PATERSON RESTAURANTS. [Paterson \(NJ\) Times](#) (10/1) reports that "the Great Falls National Park, represented by a multidisciplinary team of young professionals, won the National Parks Now competition." The six-person team "submitted an initiative that is connecting Paterson restaurants to the park." The team "designed a campaign that is seeking to blur the line between the national park and the surrounding neighborhoods in order to motivate visitors through the lure of food to explore the Silk City."

APPROACHING STORM CANCELS BUXTON BEACH NOURISHMENT PLAN. The [AP](#) (10/2, 344K) reports that "a meeting about a beach nourishment plan for Buxton on Hatteras Island has been postponed because of the approaching storm." The meeting had been scheduled Thursday. The NPS says "the meeting on the environmental assessment of the beach plan will be rescheduled."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "EVERY KIND OF PARK" INITIATIVE AVAILABLE AT: [http://www.nps.gov/pressroom/pressreleases/2014/10/02/14-102.htm](#)

[Magazine](#) (9/25).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE NATIONAL PARKS INCREASING FEES. Additional coverage that the NPS is "raising entry fees for 100 parks, in some cases doubling or tripling them" was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/1, 455K) and the [Consumerist](#) (10/1, 57K).

US Geological Survey:

USGS DEPLOYING TIDE SENSORS ALONG VIRGINIA COAST. [WVEC-TV](#) Hampton Roads, VA (10/1, 44K) reports that USGS "field crews are deploying storm tide sensors along the Virginia coast ahead of Hurricane Joaquin." According to the article, "sensors will be deployed near Virginia Beach, along the Western Chesapeake Bay and on the Eastern Shore."

US BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES ACCEPTS "MARDI GRAS PASS" NAME. [WWL-TV](#) New Orleans (10/2, 105K) reports that "The federal government has officially adopted the name 'Mardi Gras Pass' for a highly disputed Mississippi River offshoot near Pointe à la Hache, marking a new twist in the contentious debate over who should control the waterway." The U.S. Board on Geographic Names, a division of the USGS, "accepted the name Mardi Gras Pass at the urging of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and John Lopez of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, who coined the name when he saw the channel break through the river bank on Mardi Gras Day, 2012." However, "a group of landowners have filed a complaint with USGS asking the board to reconsider."

Top National News:

FRUSTRATED OBAMA PLEAS FOR LEGISLATION TO CURTAIL RASH OF MASS SHOOTINGS. The President's [remarks](#) in the wake of the mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon are the subject of very heavy media coverage. The network news broadcasts, for example, spent nearly 26 minutes on the shooting. Almost universally, reports describe the President as visibly angry and frustrated as he called for "common sense" legislation to address gun violence, but many reports also note that passage of such legislation is unlikely since Republican leaders in Congress have shown no interest in pushing it.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/1, story 2, 0 50, Pelley, 5.08M) showed a clip of the President's comments, while in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/1, lead story, 1:40, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt said "a visibly emotional, angry, and frustrated President Obama echoed the nation's sorrow." The [Washington Times](#) (10/2, Wolfgang, 344K) says that as the President delivered his "15th statement in the wake of a mass shooting," he was "visibly shaken and angry," adding that he "attacked the American gun lobby, scolded the media and demanded that Congress take concrete action to stop the rash of recent mass shootings." The President "said news outlets should highlight that fewer Americans are killed by radical terrorists than by deranged gunmen in America."

Noting that "responding to mass shootings has been an unfortunate theme" of the Obama presidency, the [Huffington Post](#) (10/2, McLaughlin, 164K) said the President "sounded exasperated" as he "expressed frustration that it was necessary for him to frequently console victims' families and that he was again calling for new gun control regulations."

This year, the President has "already...given national statements in response to the movie theater shooting in Lafayette, Louisiana, and the Charleston, South Carolina, church massacre," the [Oregonian](#) (10/2, Theen, 756K) reports, adding that he said such shootings have "become routine," and "We've become numb to this." However, he added that this time "the nation's grief isn't enough," and "urged the Americans and Congress to take action on 'sufficient common sense gun safety laws.'" The [Washington Post](#) (10/2, Eilperin, 6.76M) notes that the President "bemoaned the fact that these tragedies had become so frequent...they no longer shocked the public," and said that "the 'routine' nature of mass shootings in America will continue unless the country's politics changes."

[USA Today](#) (10/2, Jackson, 5.23M) describes the President as "visibly frustrated," as he "again called for 'common sense' legislation aimed at preventing gun violence," adding that he "mocked opponents of gun control legislation, including those who say the solution is 'more guns,'" asking, "Who believes that?" The [New York Times](#) (10/2, Harris, Shear, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says the President was "visibly angry and frustrated" as he "lashed out at those who oppose gun limits by saying that their answer to such tragedies are more guns, not fewer." The President "pointed out that states with more gun restrictions tended to have fewer gun deaths, and countries like Britain and Australia with far stricter gun laws have much fewer gun deaths," adding, "So we know there are ways to prevent it."

The [AP](#) (10/2, Freking) also describes the President as "visibly frustrated," and notes that he had "some anger in his voice" as he "called for changes in the nation's gun laws." [AFP](#) (10/2) says the President "voiced his anger and sadness" over the shooting, as he "reiterated his frustration at the failure of the Republican-controlled US Congress to back new gun control measures," he "threw down the gauntlet to lawmakers," saying, "This is not something I can do myself. I have to have a Congress and state legislatures and governors who are willing to work with me on this." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/2, Tau, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) notes that the President said shooting tragedies like the one in Oregon are "a political choice that we make – to allow this to happen every few months in America."

[Reuters](#) (10/2, Mason, Rampton) also notes the President's anger and reports that while he said anyone who commits a mass shooting has a "sickness in their minds," he added that "we are not the only country on Earth who has people with mental illnesses who want to do harm to other people. ... We are the only advanced country on Earth who sees these kinds of mass shootings every few months."

[People](#) (10/2, Fowler, 46.16M) said the "visibly shaken" President compared "gun control to the issue of terrorism," saying, "We spend over a trillion dollars and pass countless laws and devote entire agencies to preventing terrorist attacks on our soil and rightfully so. And yet we have a Congress that explicitly blocks us from even collecting data on how we could potentially reduce gun violence. How can that be? ... We collectively are answerable to those families who lose their loved ones."

Noting that the President challenged the media to "tally up the number of Americans who've been killed through terrorist attacks in the last decade and the number of Americans who've been killed by gun violence, and post those side-by-side on your news reports," [Vox](#) (10/2, Beauchamp, 1.1M) posted a chart showing that more than "ten thousand Americans are killed every year by gun violence" while "so few Americans have been killed by terrorist attacks since 9/11 that, when you chart the two together, the terrorism death count approximates zero for every year except 2001."

David Wright noted on [ABC World News](#) (10/1, story 3, 1 20, Muir, 5.84M) that "there have been at least ten fatal shootings on US campuses this year and many more close calls," adding that schools across the nation now "hold drills for campus shootings." Lester Holt reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/1, story 4, 2:00, Holt, 7.86M) that the group Every Town for Gun Safety says "there have been 142 incidents in which a gun was fired on a school campus in this country since the massacre in Newtown in December of 2012 and this is the fourth shooting on a college campus just since the start of this school year in August."

[Newsweek](#) (10/2, Richinick, 198K) cast the President's comments as an "emotional yet exhausted plea to the country," and the [New York Daily News](#) (10/2, Slattery, 3.75M) says the President was "shaking at times as he gathered his thoughts." [McClatchy](#) (10/2, Clark, 28K) notes the President was "visibly upset" as he said "he 'hoped and prayed' it would be the last shooting he has to address as president, but added that, based on his experience 'there is no guarantee.'" While he did not mention the NRA by name, the President "asked responsible gun owners whether their views are reflected by 'the organization that suggests it's speaking' for them."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/1, Sink, 247K) notes that the "visibly angry" President "said he embraced criticism that he was politicizing the violence, and that Americans need to make clear to lawmakers whether they wanted new gun laws," and [Mic](#) (10/2, Krieg, 1 5M) reported that the President said he "welcomed a pitched partisan debate over the future of gun control in the United States," and "challenged Americans to respond more forcefully to this shooting."

Earlier in the day, White House press secretary Josh Earnest said that "tougher gun laws remained a 'top priority' for the administration, while the president remained 'realistic' about the prospect for new legislation." According to [Politico](#) (10/1, Gass, 942K), Earnest told reporters, "We've not yet seen that kind of strong bipartisan support across the country translate into legislative support in the United States Congress that's sufficient to pass legislation that would, again, implement these kinds of common-sense solutions." [The Hill](#) (10/2, Fabian, 471K) reported that Earnest said the "vast majority of Americans' support stricter gun laws, including closing the so-called gun-show loophole," but added that the President is "'realistic' about the dim prospects of congressional action on gun control," saying, "The president has been quite candid about how this is and has been a source of frustration for him."

Likewise, [Vox](#) (10/2, Lee, 1.1M) reported that Earnest "acknowledged that President Obama was unlikely to get his wish," because while he "favors passing new gun regulations, Republican leaders in Congress have shown no interest in doing so." Nancy Cordes noted on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/1, story 4, 2 00, Pelley, 5.08M), "Sympathy and best wishes are about all that the victims' families can expect from Congress which has not seriously debated strengthening gun laws since 2013," following the Sandy Hook massacre, and "even then, the Senate easily defeated legislation that would have increased punishment for gun trafficking and expanded background checks." Also on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/1, story 10, 2 05, Pelley, 5.08M), Jim Axelrod reviewed the unsuccessful efforts by Newtown families "to push for stricter gun control measures," and noted that "Americans are wondering what may come out of another massacre – shock, horror, sadness? Sure, but chances are, if history is any guide, you won't see change on that list."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/2, 6.76M) argues that while many details of the attack remain unknown, "one factor in the tragedy that unfolded on this college campus is the all-too-easy availability of guns in this country," and "we shouldn't have to wait for Congress to enact laws to combat what is clearly a crisis of gun violence." Noting that Congress "refuses to enact sensible gun control laws," the Post decries lawmakers' "cowardly obedience to the National Rifle Association."

[The Atlantic](#) (10/2, Calamur, Koren, 2.69M), which also described the President as “visibly frustrated,” noted that Oregon Gov. Kate Brown “expressed her ‘profound dismay’ at the incident,” while Rep. Pete DeFazio, whose district includes Roseburg, “said in a statement that ‘once we know more about what happened today, I plan to work with my colleagues in Congress to find ways to prevent tragedies such as these.’” In another segment on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/1, story 6, 1:15, Pelley, 5.08M), Dr. Jon Lapook discussed mental illness, noting that while “early intervention works,” the “big problem in the US and elsewhere is access to care.”

A number of reports focus on the details of the shooting, which the [Oregon Herald](#) (10/2, Gufferson) says left at least nine people dead and more than 20 others injured. According to Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, the gunman was a 20-year-old man, and Sheriff John Hanlin said at a press conference Thursday afternoon that “officers had ‘neutralized’” him “during an exchange of gunfire in a campus building at Umpqua Community College.” However, the [Washington Post](#) (10/2, Markon, 6.76M) cites a “law enforcement official,” who “identified the gunman as 26-year-old Chris Harper Mercer of Winchester, Ore.” The Post adds that while police “have refused to identify the shooter so far,” a “US official gave his name as Chris Harper Mercer.” On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/1, story 2, 2:30, Holt, 7.86M), Gadi Schwartz noted that the “rampage” lasted “about ten minutes until police finally made contact” with the shooter. On [ABC World News](#) (10/1, story 2, 0:35, Muir, 5.84M), Pierre Thomas described a “massive” presence of federal agents, noting that “local law enforcement is getting all the support they need from the federal government.” Reporting for [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/1, story 3, 0:45, Holt, 7.86M) from Roseburg, Jacob Soboroff similarly noted that “the FBI, the Douglas County sheriff, ATF and many other law enforcement agencies are here.”

In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/1, lead story, 2:50, Pelley, 5.08M), Pelley noted that this was “the fifth mass shooting to lead this broadcast since June,” and, in a [separate story](#), noted that the website ShootingTracker.com says “there have been 294 mass shootings in the first 274 days of this year.” Pelley also [interviewed](#) an eyewitness to the shooting, while in its lead story, [ABC World News](#) (10/1, lead story, 3:35, Muir, 5.84M) detailed the events and described “scenes of incredible grief” on the campus. The [Roseburg \(OR\) News-Review](#) (10/2, 53K) reports that a “relief fund for those impacted” by the shooting has been established by Greater Douglas United Way and Umpqua Bank.

COMEY CONFIRMS INQUIRY INTO CLINTON EMAIL SYSTEM. The [AP](#) (10/1, Tucker) reports that FBI Director Comey on Thursday “confirmed” that the agency “is looking into the security of the setup of Hillary Rodham Clinton’s email and that the agency has the appropriate ‘resources and personnel assigned to this matter.’” Speaking with reporters, Comey “acknowledged for the first time the existence of the FBI inquiry,” though “he declined to discuss details of the investigation and would not answer questions about when the inquiry might end or exactly what steps the FBI is taking as part of its review.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/2, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that Comey said “that he was certain the bureau would be able to complete the” probe of “Clinton’s personal email account in a timely manner and that he would make sure politics did not interfere with it.” Comey is quoted as saying, “I am confident we have the resources and the personnel assigned to the matter, as we do all our work, so that we are able to do it in a professional, prompt and independent way.”

In her [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/2, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) column, Kimberley Strassel writes that nearly every claim made by Clinton when she first discussed the email controversy during a news conference in March has proven to be untrue. Strassel goes on to highlight the various Clinton claims that she says have turned out to be false.

Russian Hackers Attempted To Infiltrate Clinton Emails. [ABC World News](#) (10/1, story 9, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported that Russian-based hackers attempted to infiltrate Clinton’s private email server during her tenure as secretary of state “at least five times.” Critics say the revelation is “a sign of just how insecure” Clinton’s server was.

The [New York Times](#) (10/2, Sanger, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that “Clinton’s private email” was a target of “spam sent to try to lure her into clicking on a malicious link — one that could have compromised the security of her communications.” The Times adds that “the evidence that Mrs. Clinton’s personal account had been on the receiving end of a ‘spear phishing’ attempt...raises the same question the F.B.I. is trying to answer as it” examines “the server that was once in Mrs. Clinton’s basement. And that is whether the attackers who successfully got into the unclassified systems at the State Department and the White House [in 2014] also got into Mrs. Clinton’s.”

[Politico](#) (10/2, Gerstein, Marks, 942K) reported that “the five fake speeding-ticket notices sent to Clinton and released by the State Department Wednesday were likely just a fraction of the spam and phishing messages she received on her so-called homebrew server.” Politico noted that a statement earlier this year from Clinton’s office said, “After her work-related emails were identified and preserved, Secretary Clinton chose not to keep her private, personal messages [including] items one would typically find in their own email account, such as offers from retailers, spam, etc.” Politico added that officials with the Clinton camp “declined to quantify how many of the roughly 30,000 erased messages were considered ‘spam’ akin to the five messages released Wednesday.”

[Fox News’ Special Report](#) (10/1, 1.53M) reported that Obama Senior Adviser Valerie Jarrett “is raising more doubts about Clinton’s email.” Jarrett said that the White House provided guidance to cabinet secretaries that “government business should be done on government emails and that if you did use a private email, that it should be turned over. That’s what [Clinton is] doing.” Fox noted that the number of Clinton’s emails with classified information “has now reached 403.”

WTimes Analysis: Clinton Has Used Her Campaign To “Raise The Profile” Of Abedin. The [Washington Times](#) (10/2, Miller, 344K) reports that with her 2016 White House run, Clinton has sought “to rehabilitate the battered image of longtime aide and confidante Huma Abedin. The steps Mrs. Clinton has taken to raise the profile of Ms. Abedin in the campaign include using her prominently in a fundraising email and deploying her to Twitter for the first time.”

“60 Minutes” Spokesperson Says State Didn’t “Plant” Questions. [Politico](#) (10/1, Gold, 942K) reported that CBS “is pushing back against an allegation in one of the newly released...Clinton emails that the State Department had successfully planted questions for an interview with Wikileaks’ Julian Assange. In an email sent to...Clinton on Jan. 28, 2011, Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the State Department P.J. Crowley said he had confirmed that ‘60 Minutes’ was planning to air an interview with Assange, but that he was assured that the interviewer would ask some questions ‘planted’ by the State Department.” In a statement, a spokesperson for “60 Minutes” said, “The idea of a ‘plant’ is as preposterous as this email writer’s attempt to get credit from his boss. We spoke to many sources for this story.”

BOEHNER BENGHAZI INVESTIGATION “HAS NEVER BEEN ABOUT” CLINTON. The [Huffington Post](#) (10/1, Barron-Lopez, 164K) reported that House Speaker Boehner on Thursday began “damage control” as he sought “to quell calls for Republicans to disband the Select Committee on Benghazi” in the wake of House Majority Leader McCarthy’s remarks. In a statement, Boehner said, “This investigation has never been about former Secretary of State Clinton and never will be.” Boehner added that the panel’s “very existence is only the result of the Obama administration’s obstruction of routine congressional investigations and its failure to properly comply with subpoenas and document requests.”

[McClatchy](#) (10/2, Douglas, 28K) reports that while Democrats have now called for the panel to “be disbanded,” Boehner “dismissed” those “complaints, saying ‘the fact remains that Secretary Clinton and the Obama administration have done everything they can do to delay, derail, and stop this investigation. The members of this committee have worked diligently and professionally to fulfill this important mission and they will continue to do so.’”

[USA Today](#) (10/2, Troyan, 5.23M) reports that in the wake of McCarthy’s remarks, Benghazi Committee Chairman Rep. Trey Gowdy, “who has insisted for months that his panel’s” probe “is non-political, was forced to play defense once again.” Gowdy is quoted as having said on Wednesday, “I would just encourage people to look at what is done as opposed necessarily to what is said. If you look at what we’ve done, I never mentioned [Clinton’s] name during a committee hearing. We’ve interviewed 54 people, and not a single one named Clinton. Of the next 50, one will be named Clinton.”

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (10/2, Dinan, Miller, 344K) reports that Minority Leader Pelosi on Thursday said that the Benghazi “probe should be shut down” and that “Republicans may have violated the House ethics rules by establishing what she said has now become a ‘political’ committee. I do believe this could be an ethical issue in the House,” she said.”

McCarthy: I Didn’t Intend “To Imply Anything” With Benghazi Comments. In an interview on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (10/1, 1.53M), Rep. Kevin McCarthy said “it was never my intention to imply anything” with his recent comments that the House Select Committee on Benghazi’s probe of the 2012 terrorist attack in Libya was hurting Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in the polls. McCarthy said the Benghazi investigation has “one sole purpose” – to find the truth, and added that the comments shouldn’t make it harder for the committee to interview Clinton, because “no one questions the integrity of the committee.”

Politico, WPost Analyses: For Clinton, McCarthy’s Remarks A “Gift.” Under the headline “McCarthy’s Benghazi Gift To Team Hillary,” [Politico](#) (10/1, Bade, 942K) reported that with McCarthy’s remarks on the Benghazi panel, the Clinton campaign “has found its opening. After months of being dogged by the controversy surrounding her private email account,” Clinton and her backers “are taking the offensive,” asserting that McCarthy’s comments validate “their view that the panel is a politically motivated effort to damage her campaign.”

And under the front-page headline “McCarthy’s Comments On Benghazi Probe May Be A Political Gift To Clinton,” the [Washington Post](#) (10/2, A1, Rucker, Costa, 6.76M) similarly reports that “Clinton’s upcoming appearance before the” Benghazi panel “was supposed to be a crucible: a chance for Republicans to prosecute the former secretary of state for her handling of the 2012 terrorist attacks” and “for her use of a private e-mail server.” However, because of McCarthy’s remarks, says the Post, “it may have turned into a political gift for” the Democratic presidential frontrunner, whose supporters assert the Republican’s “comments will help recast Clinton’s scheduled Oct. 22 hearing as a partisan inquisition rather than a fact-finding mission about the attacks in Libya.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Russia's Dangerous Escalation In Syria." A [New York Times](#) (10/2, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial says Russia's airstrikes in Syria "cross a dangerous line...that escalates the bloody conflict and risks bringing Russia into direct confrontation" with the US. The argues that the Russian strikes will also "certainly make a political settlement even harder to achieve."

"Mahmoud Abbas Gives Up On Peace." In an editorial regarding President Mahmoud Abbas' assertion that the Palestinians will no longer be bound by the Oslo Peace Accords, the [New York Times](#) (10/2, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says that because of the "failure of everyone — Palestinians, Israelis and Americans — to build on the promise of Oslo," the "sad political reality behind" Abbas' declaration is "that there was so little left to disown." Still, while Abbas "has effectively given up on ever achieving a negotiated Palestinian state" the Times argues that his speech "is not.. to be lightly dismissed."

"William Bratton's Shift On The Use Of Force." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/2, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says that NYPD Commissioner William Bratton's announcement that the department is "reforming its policies on the use of force" is a "good first step," and says the proposed new system is a "big improvement over the current system, which generally documents aggression only when an officer fires a weapon or happens to attack somebody in front of a cellphone camera."

WASHINGTON POST. "Another Infuriating, But Unsurprising Gun Tragedy." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/2, 6.76M) argues that while many details of Thursday's shooting in Oregon remain unknown, "one factor in the tragedy that unfolded on this college campus is the all-too-easy availability of guns in this country," and "we shouldn't have to wait for Congress to enact laws to combat what is clearly a crisis of gun violence." Noting that Congress "refuses to enact sensible gun control laws," the Post decries lawmakers' "cowardly obeisance to the National Rifle Association."

"Yet Another Blot On The Secret Service." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/2, 6.76M) says that Secret Service officials' improperly accessing Rep. Jason Chaffetz's job application "reflect

Conversation Contents

For review by Noon Friday: Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation

Attachments:

/145. For review by Noon Friday: Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation/1.1 Waco Mammoth National Monument Celebration PR Draftv1 eb.docx

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Subject: For review by Noon Friday: Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation
Attachments: Waco Mammoth National Monument Celebration PR Draftv1 eb.docx

Dear all--

Please find attached a draft for review which announces that Secretary Jewell and former first lady Laura Bush will help celebrate the designation of Waco Mammoth National Monument in Waco, Texas.

Please send edits back to me by Friday at Noon.

Thank you!

Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation

President's Proclamation Protects Rare Mammoth Fossils, First and Only Recorded Discovery of a Nursery Herd

WACO, TEXAS – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Former First Lady Laura Bush today joined community members to celebrate the President's designation of the [Waco Mammoth National Monument](#) as one of the nation's newest national monuments, permanently protecting the site where the extremely well-preserved fossils of a herd of Columbian Mammoths and other Ice Age animals have been found. President Obama [designated the area as a national monument](#) on July 10, 2015, as part of the Administration's commitment to protect our country's significant outdoor spaces for the benefit of future generations.

The celebration took place at the new national monument, where Secretary Jewell and former First Lady Laura Bush were joined National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, City of Waco Mayor Malcolm Duncan, Baylor University President and Chancellor Ken Starr, and many local, state and national conservation and community leaders to celebrate the designation.

"Today we celebrate decades of hard work and partnerships between the City of Waco, Baylor University, and now the National Park Service," said Secretary Jewell. "It's our duty to protect places like this that will inspire the next generation of archaeologists, paleontologists, and historians, and show the rich diversity of our country's natural heritage."

The area in Texas provides a rare chance to understand and interpret the behavior and ecology of the extinct Columbian Mammoth. The oldest fossils identified at the site are thought to be more than 65,000 years old. In addition, both the excavation area and the land around it offer an excellent opportunity for further exploration and paleontological and geological research.

The site remains the nation's first and only recorded discovery of a nursery herd, including females and their offspring, of mammoths from the Ice Age, an era defined as 2.5 million to 10,000 years ago. Of the 24 mammoths uncovered to date, at least 18 were part of the nursery herd. As a result of an unknown natural catastrophic event, the entire nursery herd died at the same moment in time, which left the skeletons relatively intact. The site offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to examine the matriarchal herd structure and behavior of this extinct species.

Quote from Former First Lady Laura Bush

The site is now managed by the National Park Service in cooperation with the City of Waco and Baylor University. The National Park Service is conducting a [management planning process](#), working closely with partners, community residents, and other groups that have devoted themselves to preserving the site for many years.

Quote from National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis

The site was discovered in 1978, when Waco residents Paul Barron and Eddie Bufkin were looking for arrowheads and fossils along the Bosque River and found a large bone protruding from the earth. Realizing the possible significance of this discovery, Mr. Barron and Mr. Bufkin immediately took the bone to the Strecker Museum at Baylor University where the bone was identified as the upper leg bone of a Columbian Mammoth.

Over the next 20 years, Baylor University oversaw the excavation of the site, where they found the remains of 24 Columbian Mammoths, including adults and juveniles, as well as a Western Camel, saber-toothed cat, dwarf antelope, American Alligator, and giant tortoise. The Columbian Mammoths are the largest mammoth species – larger than its relative, the Woolly mammoth – and stood 12 to 14 feet tall and weighed seven to eight tons. Many of the discovered bones, including the remains of four Columbian Mammoths as well as the skeleton of the camel, remain in place, providing visitors an opportunity to view them.

The City of Waco has operated the Waco Mammoth Site as a park since 2009, in partnership with Baylor University and with support from the nonprofit Waco Mammoth Foundation, Inc. The city donated to the United States approximately five acres, which includes the excavation site and the dig shelter, making it possible to establish the monument. Nearly the entire Waco Mammoth Site is within the boundary of the national monument.

The Antiquities Act was first used by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

The Waco Mammoth National Monument is one of three new national monuments announced by President Obama in July that help tell the story of significant events in American history and protect unique natural resources for the benefit of all Americans. The designations include [Berryessa Snow Mountain](#) in California and [Basin and Range](#) in Nevada.

With these new designations, President Obama will have used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 19 national monuments. In total, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as [César E. Chávez National Monument](#) in California, [Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument](#) in Maryland, and [Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument](#) in Ohio.

###



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: October 5, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

TBD (NPS)

Secretary Jewell, Former First Lady Laura Bush Join Texas Community to Celebrate Waco Mammoth National Monument Designation

President's Proclamation Protects Rare Mammoth Fossils, First and Only Recorded Discovery of a Nursery Herd

WACO, TEXAS – U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Former First Lady Laura Bush today joined community members to celebrate the President's designation of the [Waco Mammoth National Monument](#) as one of the nation's newest national monuments, permanently protecting the site where the extremely well-preserved fossils of a herd of Columbian Mammoths and other Ice Age animals have been found. President Obama [designated the area as a national monument](#) on July 10, 2015, as part of the Administration's commitment to protect our country's significant outdoor spaces for the benefit of future generations.

The celebration took place at the new national monument, where Secretary Jewell and former First Lady Laura Bush were joined National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis, City of Waco Mayor Malcolm Duncan, Baylor University President and Chancellor Ken Starr, and many local, state and national conservation and community leaders to celebrate the designation.

"Today we celebrate decades of hard work and partnerships between the City of Waco, Baylor University, and now the National Park Service," said Secretary Jewell. "It's our duty to protect places like this that will inspire the next generation of archaeologists, paleontologists, and historians, and show the rich diversity of our country's natural heritage."

The area in Texas provides a rare chance to understand and interpret the behavior and ecology of the extinct Columbian Mammoth. The oldest fossils identified at the site are thought to be more than 65,000 years old. In addition, both the excavation area and the land around it offer an excellent opportunity for further exploration and paleontological and geological research.

Quote from Former First Lady Laura Bush

The site remains the nation's first and only recorded discovery of a nursery herd, including females and their offspring, of mammoths from the Ice Age, an era defined as 2.5 million to 10,000 years ago. Of the 24 mammoths uncovered to date, at least 18 were part of the nursery herd. As a result of an unknown natural catastrophic event, the entire nursery herd died at the same moment in time, which left the skeletons relatively intact. The site offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to examine the matriarchal herd structure and behavior of this extinct species.

The site is now managed by the National Park Service in cooperation with the City of Waco and Baylor University. The National Park Service is conducting a [management planning process](#), working closely with partners, community residents, and other groups that have devoted themselves to preserving the site for many years.

Quote from National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis

The site was discovered in 1978, when Waco residents Paul Barron and Eddie Bufkin were looking for arrowheads and fossils along the Bosque River and found a large bone protruding from the earth. Realizing the possible significance of this discovery, Mr. Barron and Mr. Bufkin immediately took the bone to the Strecker Museum at Baylor University where the bone was identified as the upper leg bone of a Columbian Mammoth.

Over the next 20 years, Baylor University oversaw the excavation of the site, where they found the remains of 24 Columbian Mammoths, including adults and juveniles, as well as a Western Camel, saber-toothed cat, dwarf antelope, American Alligator, and giant tortoise. The Columbian Mammoths are the largest mammoth species – larger than its relative, the Woolly mammoth – and stood 12 to 14 feet tall and weighed seven to eight tons. Many of the discovered bones, including the remains of four Columbian Mammoths as well as the skeleton of the camel, remain in place, providing visitors an opportunity to view them.

The City of Waco has operated the Waco Mammoth Site as a park since 2009, in partnership with Baylor University and with support from the nonprofit Waco Mammoth Foundation, Inc. The city donated to the United States approximately five acres, which includes the excavation site and the dig shelter, making it possible to establish the monument. Nearly the entire Waco Mammoth Site is within the boundary of the national monument.

The Antiquities Act was first used by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

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###

Conversation Contents

For Review by COB Today: Waco Mammoth National Monument Advisory

Attachments:

/146. For Review by COB Today: Waco Mammoth National Monument Advisory/1.1 10-2-15 Waco Mammoth National Monument Advisory Draft v4.docx

"Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Oct 01 2015 07:15:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Roberta D'Amico <roberta_damico@nps.gov>, Molly Ross <molly_ross@nps.gov>, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Karen Hyun <karen_hyun@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, Russel Wilson <russ_wilson@nps.gov>, John Whitlock <russ_whitlock@nps.gov>
Subject: For Review by COB Today: Waco Mammoth National Monument Advisory
Attachments: 10-2-15 Waco Mammoth National Monument Advisory Draft v4.docx

Good morning,

Attached please find a draft media advisory for the Waco Mammoth National Monument celebration. Please have edits to me by **COB today**, and please reply only to be instead of replying to all. We'll send this out tomorrow morning at 10 AM.

NPS, please advise who should be listed as the media contact.

Thank you,
~Leah

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

TBD (NPS)

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WACO, TEXAS – On Monday, October 5, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Former First Lady Laura Bush will host a celebration at Waco Mammoth to celebrate its recent designation as a National Monument.

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The area provides a rare chance to understand and interpret the behavior and ecology of the extinct Columbian Mammoth. The oldest fossils identified at the site are thought to be more than 65,000 years old. In addition, both the excavation area and the land around it offer an excellent opportunity for further exploration and paleontological and geological research.

Secretary Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis will also meet with local fourth grade students in support of President Obama's Every Kid in a Park initiative to distribute free passes to America's federal lands and waters. The Every Kid in a Park program seeks to connect young people with the great outdoors. As of September 1, the program allows fourth graders nationwide to go to www.everykidinapark.gov and obtain a pass for free entry for them and their families to more than 2,000 federally managed lands and waters nationwide for an entire year.

Bone Site Tour

Who: Ceremony participants and confirmed members of the media
What: Waco Mammoth National Monument bone site tour and opportunity for b-roll
When: Monday, October 5, 2015
8:20 a.m. CDT – Media check-in

8:30 a.m. CDT – Bone site tour begins
9:20 a.m. CDT – Bone site tour ends

Where: Waco Mammoth National Monument
6220 Steinbeck Bend Drive
Waco, TX 76708

Media: Credentialed members of the media [MUST RSVP here](#). After the tour, transportation will be provided to the dedication ceremony.

Dedication Ceremony:

Who: **Sally Jewell**, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
Laura Bush, Former First Lady
Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Russ Whitlock, Superintendent, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
Larry Groth, Former Waco City Manager, City of Waco
Gloria Young, Chair, Waco Mammoth Advisory Board
Malcolm Duncan, Mayor, City of Waco
Ken Starr, President and Chancellor, Baylor University

What: Waco Mammoth National Monument celebration

When: Monday, October 5, 2015

9:45 a.m. CDT – Media check-in
10:00 a.m. CDT – Press conference
10:45 a.m. CDT – Media availability

11:00 a.m. CDT – Distribution of Every Kid in a Park passes

Where: Waco Mammoth National Monument
TBD

Media: Credentialed members of the media are encouraged to [RSVP here](#).

--

Leah Duran
Public Affairs Specialist
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Cell: (202) 713-8638



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

Media Advisory

Date: October 2, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, September 30, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Wed Sep 30 2015 04:59:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, September 30, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR PROPOSES NEW PATH TO SOVEREIGNTY FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS. [KGMB-TV](#) Honolulu (9/29, 76K) reports that the Interior Department on Tuesday "announced a proposal to create an administrative procedure that would apply if the Native Hawaiian community forms a unified government that then seeks a formal government-to-government relationship with the United States." Under the new proposal, "the Native Hawaiian community – not the Federal government – would decide whether to reorganize a Native Hawaiian government, what form that government would take, and whether it would seek a government-to-government relationship with the United States." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "The United States has a long-standing policy of supporting self-governance for Native peoples, yet the benefits of the government-to-government relationship have long been denied to Native Hawaiians, one of our nation's largest indigenous communities. Today's proposal is a testament to the Obama Administration's strong support for our nation's Native peoples' right to self-determination."

The [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (9/29, 349K) reports that "Hawaii's Congressional delegation unanimously hailed today's announcement." Sen. Mazie Hirono said, "The Native Hawaiian community's ongoing work toward self-determination takes a significant step forward today, and I applaud the Obama administration for its commitment to this effort." Sen. Brian Schatz said, "Native Hawaiians have the right to reorganize a government that they determine is best for them. With today's publication of proposed rules from the Department of the Interior, I urge Native Hawaiians and other interested individuals to stay engaged and to contribute their comments and concerns as the process moves forward."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Big Island \(HI\) Video News](#) (9/29), the [Maui \(HI\) Now](#) (9/29), the [Honolulu \(HI\) Civil Beat](#) (9/30, 41), the [Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (9/29), the [Hawaii 24/7](#) (9/29), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/30, 5.59M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/30, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/30, Kelleher Cathy Bussewitz |, Ap, 6.76M), [Yahoo! News](#) (9/30, Kelleher, Bussewitz, 5.98M), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (9/30, 99K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (9/30, Kelleher, Bussewitz, 1.19M), [KITV-TV Honolulu \(HI\)](#) Honolulu (9/30, 44K), [KHON-TV Honolulu \(HI\)](#) Honolulu (9/29, 72K), [KFVE-TV Honolulu \(HI\)](#) Honolulu (9/30), and [KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (9/29, 72K).

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NORTH FACE TO SUPPORT 21ST CENTURY CONSERVATION CORPS. The [Huffington Post](#) (9/29, 164K) reports that the Interior Department "announced a new partnership on Tuesday with outdoor retailer The North Face to promote the work of citizen conservation corps across the country." Through the partnership, North Face is "providing \$25,000 grants to four corps, which are part of the 21st Century Conservation Corps." The article notes that "the announcement is part of the Department of Interior's larger effort to attract private and corporate money to support getting more young people engaged in the outdoors and in conservation work."

Meanwhile, [Fast CoCreate](#) (9/29, 100K) reports that The North Face is "launching its first-ever global campaign, and is moving its lens from the land to focus on the people adventuring out in the world." According to the article, "created by agency Mekanism, the new commercial seamlessly moves from action sports to outdoor professionals like a photographer and marine biologist, all to spread the spirit of adventure."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Business Wire](#) (9/29), [MediaPost](#) (9/30, 5K), [CSR Wire](#) (9/30, 1K), and [Yahoo! Finance](#) (9/30, 5.57M).

SAGE GROUSE LANGUAGE DROPPED FROM NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/29, 705) reports that "lawmakers have agreed not to interfere with the Interior Department's management of the greater sage grouse in the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act." According to the article, "the conference committee's report drops language that had been included in the House version preventing Interior from listing the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act for 10 years." Senate Armed Services Chairman John McCain said "during a news conference about the bill that Interior's decision earlier this month not to list the bird made dropping the House language 'more palatable because there is a commitment on the part of the administration to negotiate with the governors and the legislators in the respective states.'"

[Politico Pro](#) (9/29) reports that the Interior Department announced last week that the sage grouse does not require federal endangered species protections, but Sen. Jim Inhofe and House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop "argued in a letter to Armed Services leaders last week that the language still should have been in the final bill."

Lawsuit Seeks To Block Sage Grouse Plan In Nevada. The [Greenwire](#) (9/29, Subscription Publication) reports that "a coalition of Nevada counties and mining companies that last week filed the first lawsuit challenging federal protection plans for the greater sage grouse is now asking a federal court to block the Obama administration from implementing them in the state." The 30-page motion "asks the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada to issue a preliminary injunction barring the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service from implementing the federal sage grouse plans in Nevada until the legal issues are resolved." Jessica Kershaw, an Interior spokeswoman, said "the agency cannot comment on pending litigation." However, "in an email, she said the federal grouse plans 'follow the best available science' and 'are both balanced and effective – protecting key sage-grouse habitat and providing for sustainable development.'"

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the sage grouse was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/29, 492K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/29, 73K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (9/29, 787K), the [Sidney \(MT\) Herald](#) (9/30, 10K), the [Mitchell \(SD\) Daily Republic](#) (9/30, 37K), the [Uintah Basin Standard \(UT\)](#) (9/30), [Platts](#) (9/30, 1K), the [WyoFile](#) (9/30), and the [WyoFile](#) (9/29).

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION URGES CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE LWCF. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/29, 705) reports that the National Governors Association on Tuesday "urged congressional leaders to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund before it expires tomorrow night, marking the latest show of bipartisan support for the 50-year-old law." The governors "sent a letter to the leaders of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources and House Natural Resources committees, warning that expiration would create funding uncertainties for states that receive grant money from LWCF." The letter stated, "Governors have used LWCF matching grants through the state assistance program for decades to fund parks and other outdoor recreation initiatives, and this program has been an instrumental tool for states to address their conservation needs."

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (9/30, Tsongas, 1.1M), the [Tallahassee \(FL\) Democrat](#) (9/28, 146K), the [Huffington Post](#) (9/29, Thakar, 164K), [Maine Wire](#) (9/29), and [Think Progress](#) (9/29, 453K).

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN LIKELY AVERTED FOR NOW. [Politico Pro](#) (9/29) reports that "Congress is one step closer to dodging a government shutdown." According to the article, "on a 77-19 vote Monday night, the Senate advanced a short-term spending bill that will keep federal government agencies operating through Dec. 11, defusing the latest

shutdown scare powered by conservative rage against funding for Planned Parenthood – for now.” The article notes that “once the spending measure passes the Senate – likely sometime Tuesday – the House will quickly take up the bill and send it to President Barack Obama, just in time to avoid a government shutdown.” However, “the stopgap bill sets up an even bigger spending fight on Capitol Hill in December, when Democrats and Republicans will battle over a broader budget deal.”

Additional coverage of the potential shutdown was provided by the [Frederick \(MD\) News-Post](#) (9/30, Carignan, 78K).

SIGNING CEREMONY FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT PARK TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 10 IN DC. The [Oak Ridge \(TN\) Today](#) (9/30) reports that “the birthday of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, which includes Oak Ridge, is now set for November 10, 2015.” Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell and Secretary of Energy Ernie Moniz “are scheduled to have a signing ceremony on Tuesday, November 10, in Washington, D.C.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oak Ridge \(TN\) Today](#) (9/30).

CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION DIVIDED ON REP COOK’S DESERT PROTECTIONS ALTERNATIVE. The [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (9/29, Writer, 2K) reports that “working closely for nine months with Rep. Paul Cook’s office on draft legislation to safeguard the state’s desert regions, an official with the California Wilderness Coalition said recently the organization is split on Cook’s proposed alternative to Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s desert protections bill.” Monica Argandona said, “We are very happy that Congressman Cook is including all of the wilderness and rivers in his bill and included an addition to the Malpais Mesa wilderness that is not in Senator Feinstein’s bill, but is very threatened and especially worthy of a wilderness designation.” However, “Argandona, the coalition’s Southern California conservation director, also said the group was ‘disappointed’ Cook’s draft bill didn’t include all of the 21,000 acres of Castle Mountain as an addition to the Mojave National Preserve.”

UTAH LEGISLATORS HEAD TO DC TO PUSH FOR MONUMENT. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/30, 407K) reports that Utah Sen. Jim Dabakis said “the ‘local’ process to garner land protections for areas like Bears Ears in southeastern Utah is not working so he and a group of Democratic legislators are headed to Washington, D.C., this week to encourage the Obama administration to use executive authority to declare the area a national monument.” the article notes that “Dabakis’ trip flies in the face of a three-year Public Lands Initiative process being shepherded by Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz, both R-Utah, that includes a national park and a national monument.” Dabakis “attacked the effort Tuesday.” He said, “Rep. Bishop has been seeking local input for two years, but he has only been talking to local county commissions. He has not been talking to the tribes; he has not been talking to people along the Wasatch Front; he has not been talking to the rest of America. He can’t even make a deal with his own local county commissions.”

AUTHOR SUGGESTS COMPROMISE IN DENALI NAMING CONTROVERSY. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/29, 219K) reports that “author Ron Lizzi of Connecticut is proposing what he’s billing as a compromise to the disagreement over the name of North America’s tallest peak.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell recently “replaced the name Mount McKinley with what many, but not all, Alaskans have long called it: Denali.” Lizzi “suggests calling the South Peak, elevation 20,310 feet, McKinley Peak, but leaving the name of the mountain Denali.”

SUMMIT ON CONTROL OF PUBLIC LAND HELD IN NEVADA. The [Eiko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (9/30, 22K) reports that Nevada Lt. Gov. Mark Hutchison said Tuesday “it’ll be important for ranchers, miners, power companies and recreational users to keep building momentum if they want states to gain control over vast Western rangeland currently managed by the federal government.” Hutchison “convened a meeting about public lands promising a push to acquire some of the more than 85 percent of Nevada currently administered by federal agencies including the military, forest service, park service and the Bureau of Land Management.” He said, “Western states are going to have to collaborate and bring a lot of pressure on Congress, because nothing happens in Congress without a lot of pressure.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (9/29, 199K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TALKS ABOUT INFLUENCE OF THE ARTS ON HER LIFE. On the website of the [National Endowment For The Arts](#) (9/29), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell discussed “the role of the arts in her life.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Playbill](#) (9/30, 27K).

REP. KIND PRAISED FOR SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENT. In an op-ed for the [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (9/29, 87K), Vicki Burke, a La Crosse County Board supervisor, praises Rep. Ron Kind for working to protect the outdoors. Kind has “introduced the bipartisan Sportsmen’s Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Enhancement Act.” And “several weeks ago, Kind brought Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to tour part of the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

MONTANA, VIRGINIA TRIBES PUSH FOR FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The [AP](#) (9/30, 2.28M) reports that “seven Native American tribes in Montana and Virginia made their case Tuesday before a congressional panel to grant them federal recognition that would give them tribal sovereignty and make them eligible for U.S. government benefits from education to health care.” According to the article, “the hearing before the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs was on legislation sponsored by U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Montana, and U.S. Rep. Robert Wittman, R-Virginia.” The article notes that “if they pass, the bills would make the members of the seven tribes eligible for government services and benefits from the U.S. Interior Department and its Bureau of Indian Affairs, whether or not they have tribal reservations.”

JUDGE SIDES WITH BIA IN DECISION TO TAKE LAND INTO TRUST FOR ENTERPRISE RANCHERIA OF ESTOM YUMEKA MAIDU. The [Courthouse News](#) (9/29, 7K) reports that “the small Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe can build a casino in a neighboring county after a federal judge rejected challenges brought by neighbors, including other tribal casinos.” U.S. District Judge Troy Nunley “sided with the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in their decision take 40 acres of land into trust for the Enterprise Rancheria of Estom Yumeka Maidu to build a 105,750-square-foot Class II casino in Yuba County.” Nunley “determined that government fulfilled its duties under the National Environmental Policy Act by considering a reasonable number of alternative sites for the casino before granting approval.”

FEDERAL JUDGES UPHOLD LAND TRUST DECISION IN FAVOR OF GRAND TRAVERSE BAND OF OTTAWA AND CHIPPEWA INDIANS. The [Traverse City \(MI\) Record-Eagle](#) (9/30, 70K) reports that “federal administrative judges upheld a decision to place a parcel of Acme Township land into a tax-exempt trust on behalf of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.” According to the article, “the order from a pair of Department of Interior judges issued this week comes after Grand Traverse County officials in 2013 formally challenged a decision by federal officials to place the land into trust.”

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PRAISED FOR WORK ON NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES. In a piece that appears in the [Bethel \(AK\) Delta Discovery](#) (9/23, 14K), Gloria Simeon writes that “because of President Obama and his cabinet appointees, in particular, Secretary Sally Jewell, our tribes have gained attention and recognition from the highest level possible.” She provides examples including “the annual gathering of nations, hosted by the White House for 6 years now, the youth conference held in July and most recently, a trip to Alaska by the President himself.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

ELSINORE VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT RECEIVES \$115,000 IN WATERSMART FUNDING. The [Fallbrook \(CA\) Valley News](#) (9/30, 1K) reports that “to further foster water supply planning efforts and engage community stakeholders in preparation for drought emergencies in the future, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District received \$115,000 to expand its drought contingency plan.” According to the article, “the funding, which was made available through the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation, will allow EVMWD to address several factors to sustain water supply security and reliability within the region over the next several years.” The article notes that “the grant was received through the Department of the Interior’s WaterSMART Program, which focuses on improving water conservation and sustainability, while helping water resource managers make sound decisions about water use.”

GROWERS IN ROZA IRRIGATION DISTRICT GET AN EXTRA WEEK OF WATER. The [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (9/30, 92K) reports that “the water will stay on one week longer than expected for growers served by the Roza Irrigation District, the Bureau of Reclamation said on Tuesday.” According to the article, “the district, which has junior water rights and received 47 percent of its normal allocation this season, had planned to shut down its system on Oct. 5 but it ended up having enough water to stay on until Oct. 12.”

KITTITAS RECLAMATION DISTRICT IRRIGATORS TO GET A LITTLE MORE WATER. The [Ellensburg \(WA\) Daily Record](#) (9/30, 16K) reports that the BOR has “informed the Kittitas Reclamation District that a small amount of irrigation water will be available to the district between Oct. 1 and Oct. 15.” KRD officials said “the countywide irrigation system is being readied for the small flow that will only be available to those KRD customers who haven’t used up their annual allotment (as set earlier this year) when the district shutdown in early August because of drought conditions.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PROMOTES OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT. The [ClimateWire](#) (9/29, Subscription Publication) reports that "the Department of Energy has awarded around a half-million dollars to New York, Maine, Rhode Island and Massachusetts state organizations to cooperate on scaling up the offshore wind industry in the region." Also, the BOEM has "begun organizing a multilateral group to collect and share expertise on offshore wind regulations and technology from industry leaders in Germany, Denmark and the United Kingdom." According to the article, "experts from abroad and from the United States shared strategies on scaling up the industry at a hearing held by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute."

Additional coverage was provided by [Renewable Energy News Europe](#) (9/30), [North American Windpower](#) (9/30, 43K), and the [Scientific American](#) (9/30, Von Kaenel, 2.99M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE INTERIOR TO HOLD OFFSHORE WIND AUCTION FOR 344,000 ACRES OFF NEW JERSEY. Additional coverage that the Interior Department will hold an offshore wind auction for 344,000 Acres off the New Jersey coast was provided by [POLITICO New York](#) (9/30, 51K), the [Windpower Engineering & Development](#) (9/30), the [Aberdeen \(NJ\) Independent](#) (10/1, 2K), and the [Old Bridge \(NJ\) Suburban](#) (10/1, 35).

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM PROPOSES UPDATES TO REGULATIONS ON HOW DRILLING COMPANIES MEASURE CRUDE PRODUCTION. The [Greenwire](#) (9/29, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM is "proposing updates to how drilling companies measure the oil they produce from federal and tribal lands, an effort to ensure taxpayers receive every royalty dollar they're due." The BLM will "post the proposed rule in tomorrow's Federal Register, kicking off 60 days of public comment." According to the BLM, "the rule would replace regulations last updated in 1989 and reflects considerable changes in technology and industry practices."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Wyoming Business Report](#) (9/30, 24K).

BLM ISSUES FINAL MINERAL COST RECOVERY FEE. The [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (9/30, 1K) reports that the BLM "issued a final rule Tuesday implementing the required annual adjustment to the fee schedule for mineral cost recovery projects, according to a statement." It will become effective Thursday.

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS CHALLENGES VALIDITY OF MINING PLANS IN THREE STATES. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (9/29, 10K) reports that WildEarth Guardians' "most recent foray into the courtroom — strikingly similar to the one that threatened to halt operations at Colowyo Coal Mine — challenges the validity of mining plans in three states." According to the article, "filed in the U.S. Court for the District of Colorado on Sept. 15, Guardians alleges the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement did not apply federal law when recommending the approval of mining plans in Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico." The article notes that "a national assessment could set a bar for the approval of any mining operations anywhere in the U.S., leading to a more robust evaluation before mining plan approval."

CANCELLATION OF SOLENEX LEASE WOULD TRIGGER "TAKINGS" CASE. The [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (9/30) reports that "as Judge Richard Leon of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia as well as the attorneys involved prepare for the next hearing set for October 6, the question that has not been answered — or even asked — is 'what happens if the Solenex lease is cancelled?'" According to the article, "even though the Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell may cancel the lease it would go before the U.S. Congress." And "if the Congress were to cancel the lease, an entirely different legal process would be triggered: a 'Takings' case."

TOUGH GLOBAL MARKET FOR COAL HITS TWO PROPOSED MINES IN ALASKA. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/29, 219K) reports that "a sagging global coal market is dragging down prospects for two proposed mines in Southcentral Alaska." According to the article, "both the Chuitna and Wishbone Hill coal projects are intended to profit off coal consumption in Asia, but formerly promising markets in China, Japan and South Korea have slumped amid stricter pollution controls, cheaper natural gas, a slowdown in manufacturing and an oversupply of coal."

PENNSYLVANIA TO MONITOR SEISMIC ACTIVITY. The [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (9/30, Parrish, 296K) reports that the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Protection announced on Tuesday it will install a system to monitor seismic activity across the state to gather real-time information "for all DEP decisions, not just oil and gas." The Tribune-Review notes that "the state has not had earthquakes connected to fracking or the deep wastewater injection wells blamed for tremors" in other states.

Offshore Energy Development:

CONTINUING COVERAGE SHELL HALTS ARCTIC OIL EXPLORATION. Royal Dutch Shell's announcement that it is halting its oil exploration in the Alaskan Arctic "for the foreseeable future" due to disappointing results from a test well in the Chukchi sea continues to receive significant media coverage. The [AP](#) (9/30, 962K) reported that Shell "spent more than \$7 billion on Arctic offshore development in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas and was dogged at every regulatory level by environmental groups." Environmentalists "said Tuesday that they will seize the opportunity to seek an end to all drilling in the region," the AP reports, but while Shell's decision "is a definite setback for oil companies, it does not mean offshore drilling is dead or that the Arctic Ocean has any greater protection now than it had last week."

[Inside Climate News](#) (9/29) examines the highs and lows of Shell's Arctic drilling program and includes a timeline of the events.

Alaska Reacts To Shell Decision. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/30, 705) reports that Shell's decision "shocked and angered Alaska state officials and Native group leaders who have been among the oil giant's most vocal supporters." Alaska House Speaker Mike Chenault (R) "spoke for many state oil supporters in describing Shell's decision as 'a punch in the gut.'"

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (9/29, 2.28M) reported that Shell's decision "shuts down an easy fix" for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, which is carrying about a quarter of the 2 million barrels of crude a day it was built to carry. The smaller amount is problematic as oil in the pipeline moves slower and gets colder as the pipeline carries less oil. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline "lays a critical role for...ConocoPhillips and Hilcorp, along with BP," which are extracting oil on the North Slope. Alaska Gov. Bill Walker "described the situation as urgent," saying Monday, "We need to get some oil in the pipeline. ... We need to do it as quickly as possible." [Fortune](#) (9/29, 4.14M) adds that Walker "has even suggested that the federal government allow natural gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/29, 3.3M) reported that "some Alaskans expressed dire worries about the ripple effect" of Shell's decision "on the state's oil-dependent economy, which has already suffered a blow from low oil prices." Meanwhile, "others saw the move as a reprieve for the state's fragile northern ecosystem that many Alaska Native communities rely on for food."

[Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/29, DeMarban, 219K) reported that despite Shell's departure, "the call for new icebreakers and the region's first deep-water port isn't diminishing." Shell's 30 ships this summer "provided an added measure of safety that will be gone next year, but international traffic is expected to continue rising even in the oil giant's absence, said Reggie Joule, mayor of the Northwest Arctic Borough." Without Shell, "the region is more at risk of a dangerous oil spill or a life-threatening tragedy at sea, he argued."

On its website, the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (9/29, 2K) reported on this week's Arctic Energy Summit in Fairbanks, which drew representatives from Canada, Russia, Iceland, Finland and Norway. Shell's announcement "has hovered at the edge of the proceedings — organizer Nils Andreassen of the Institute of the North asked for a moment of silence Monday morning to 'recognize the complexities' of operating in the region." However, Andreassen said, "This is still the decade of the Arctic. ... Whether Shell is here or not. I think you had President Obama in the state for a reason, and an attention to the Arctic by the U.S. that we've never seen before. And I don't think that's going away."

[KATN-TV](#) Fairbanks, AK (9/29, 5 05 a.m. AKDT, 1K), [KJUD-TV](#) Juneau, AK (9/29, 5 05 p.m. AKDT, 617), and [KTVE-TV](#) Fairbanks, AK (9/29, 11:28 a.m. AKDT, 76) also broadcast coverage of the story.

Oil Prices Considered As Possible Influence On Shell's Decision. On its website, [CNBC](#) (9/30, 1.79M) reported that "several big oil players have pulled back from the Arctic following a slump in oil prices that has seen the cost of a barrel of crude tumble to below \$50 by January 2015 from \$110 in June 2014." Shell "insisted on Monday that its reasons for pulling out of the Arctic were 'purely technical' and did not reflect either pressure from weak prices or fears of repercussions from any oil spill in a fragile environment.... However, energy analysts said that oil prices would have played a role in the decision, with some also citing concerns about lawsuits from environmental groups and the burden of increasing federal regulations."

[Wired](#) (9/29, 4.12M) added "don't give the environmentalists all the credit (or blame)," reporting that "where 2008 was a great year to start drilling, 2015 is a great year to quit," as oil has fallen below \$50 a barrel. On its website, the [CBC](#) (9/30, 225K) adds that "for the time being, analysts say oil and gas companies are more likely to stick with what works — shunning risky exploration on 'the frontier' in favour of established sources like the Alberta oilsands and the Mideast."

In contrast, Ken Silverstein of [Forbes](#) (9/29, 7.42M) said that at least one analyst "says cheap oil has little to do with Royal Dutch Shell's decision to temporarily discontinue operations.. because it would have been a long-term endeavor — 10 years or more — and that oil prices would certainly rise by then." Silverstein said that "instead, it has more to do with the associated resource finding, which is natural gas that is uneconomical at present to bring to market."

The [Seattle \(WA\) Weekly](#) (9/29, 208K) reported that if low oil prices are the cause of Shell leaving the Arctic, "it should temper some excitement about Shell's decision" because "when it comes to climate change, it doesn't matter whether oil is pulled out of the Chukchi Sea in Alaska or the Bakken formation in North Dakota," adding "carbon is carbon."

Difficulties Of Drilling Discussed. Fuel Fix (9/29, 7K) reported that Shell "is far from alone in making a big bet on an offshore play only to end up with disappointing results," as "from the Gulf of Mexico to the shores of Angola, offshore exploration has yielded plenty of dry holes." Said Dave Pursell with Tudor Pickingering Holt & Co, "It's hard to find oil and gas — that's the bottom line. ... It doesn't matter how much technology you throw at it, you have to put a drill bit in to see what's there."

[Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/29, Rosen, 219K) reports that Shell leaving is "the latest in a long series of dashed dreams for offshore oil development in the U.S. Arctic." The article looks at earlier attempts to drill offshore in the Arctic, such as BP's "notorious Mukluk flop" in the 1980s, and also examines some of the challenges potential offshore drillers face.

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (9/30, 18K), [TIME](#) (9/29, 19.55M), [T ME](#) (9/30, 19.55M), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/29, 535K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (9/30, 99K), [UPI](#) (9/29), [Yahoo! News](#) (9/30, Joling, 5 98M), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (9/29, 5.57M), [Common Dreams](#) (9/29, 12K), and [ENews Park Forest](#) (9/30, 2K).

BILL THAT WOULD UNDO OIL REVENUE SHARING PLAN CRITICIZED. In a piece for the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (9/30, 718K), Jarvis DeBerry writes that "Louisiana has not been compensated for the destructive side effects of oil-and-gas exploration." He notes that "there are some politicians — and their ranks seem to include President Barack Obama — who stand opposed to a law that promises to give Louisiana a fraction of oil-and-gas exploration royalties that the feds are now taking in whole." As of Tuesday, a "clean energy" bill that would "undo a plan that would give Gulf Coast states a share of off-shore drilling revenue had 30 sponsors, all of them Democrats or independents who vote with Democrats." According to DeBerry, "it's not just the bill that needs to be defeated, it's the mindset behind it: a mindset that ignores the losses Louisiana has suffered over the decades and characterizes the state's demand for compensation as a money grab."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM'S CONDITIONS COMPLICATE SALE OF OREGON PARK TO GOLF COURSE. The [Greenwire](#) (9/29, Subscription Publication) reports that "an Oregon developer hoping to buy state parkland to build a golf course must pay about \$450,000 more under conditions imposed by the Bureau of Land Management." Developer Mike Keiser is "seeking to buy a 280-acre portion of the Bandon State Natural Area, but the deal to turn the land over to his company, Bandon Biota LLC, may face complications from the new conditions."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/30, 94K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/30, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/30, House, 344K), and [WRAL-TV Raleigh \(NC\)](#) Raleigh, NC (9/30, 193K).

CEMEX APPEALS DECISION TO CANCEL SOLEDAD CANYON MINING CONTRACTS. The [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) Signal](#) (9/30, 23K) reports that "Cemex has appealed last month's Bureau of Land Management decision to cancel its mining contracts in Soledad Canyon, a spokeswoman for the BLM said Tuesday." Martha Maciel, deputy state director for the BLM's office of communications, said, "The appeal was filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, who now has jurisdiction over the case." According to the article, "in a statement released Tuesday, Cemex accused the BLM of an 'improper decision' and 'arbitrary actions,' noting the company has devoted 'considerable time' and money working with stakeholders over the past several years for a resolution to the dispute between the mining firm and the community opposed to the mine."

Additional coverage was provided by [KHTS-AM Santa Clarita \(CA\)](#) Santa Clarita, CA (9/30, 2K).

BLM PREPARING FOR SODA FIRE REHABILITATION. [KTVB-TV](#) Boise, D (9/29, 191K) reports that the BLM is "putting together a rehabilitation plan for land burned by the Soda Fire." According to the article, "crews at the BLM's regional seed warehouse in Boise are loading up trucks with hundreds of thousands of pounds of seed to rehab the area." The article notes that "the planting process will take several months and is expected to start in the next week or so." BLM spokesperson Jessica Gardetto said, "We immediately need to get into those areas and stabilize them, make sure we don't lose some of that valuable soil from erosion and then start planting seed as soon as possible so that we can combat any invasive weeds that may come in."

OPPONENTS OF WILD HORSE ROUNDUP CRITICIZED. In an editorial, the [Fort Morgan \(CO\) Times](#) (9/30, 3K) supports a roundup by the BLM that is "attempting to remove 167 excess horses from the more than 500 estimated to roam on BLM land in Rio Blanco County near Meeker." The paper acknowledges that "while it may be heart-wrenching to consider these wild animals are having their freedom curtailed," it questions "what are the options?" The editorial says that "the government should continue to explore ways to make fertility control a viable option." However, it concludes that "until a better system is developed, the only method that seems to be humane and effective as a management tool is roundups."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

GOVERNORS WANT SPECIES DELISTING PROCESS TO BE MORE PREDICTABLE. The [AP](#) (9/30, Gruver) reports that "the process of removing Endangered Species Act protections from recovered species should be made more straightforward and predictable not only for the benefit of business but of animals and plants still imperiled," Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and Montana Gov. Steve Bullock told a subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on Tuesday. Republican committee members "suggested changes to the law, such as requiring states to agree to endangered species listings, might be in order." FWS Director Dan Ashe testified that "providing enough funding for Fish and Wildlife would do the most good for the Endangered Species Act."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/30, 115K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/30, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/30, Gruver, 344K), and the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (9/29, 15K).

HOUSE DEMOCRATS ASK OBAMA TO VETO BILLS WITH ANTI-ESA RIDERS. The [E&E Daily](#) (9/29, Subscription Publication) reports that House Natural Resources ranking member Raúl Grijalva and "91 other Democrats yesterday called on President Obama to block any legislation that would weaken the Endangered Species Act." The letter "raised particular concerns about the stalled Interior-U.S. EPA appropriations bill (H.R. 2822)." The article notes that "in addition to provisions that would affect the greater sage grouse, northern long-eared bat and certain gray wolf populations, measures added on the House floor 'include language detrimental to the survival and recovery of the Sonoran Desert tortoise and several species of freshwater mussels,' they wrote."

Congress Urged To Stop Assault On Endangered Species Act. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (9/29, Clark, 164K), Jamie Rappaport Clark, President & CEO, Defenders of Wildlife, writes that "since January, over 80 legislative proposals have been proposed in Congress to dramatically reduce protections for imperiled wildlife protected under the Endangered Species Act." But Clark claims that "Congressional action is directly contradicting public opinion." She notes that "a nationwide poll released this summer found an overwhelming majority of Americans, 90 percent of the registered voters polled, support the Endangered Species Act." She urges Congress to "remember where the public stands on these issues and represent their constituents instead of special interests."

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR SPECIES FOUND IN HAWAII, GUAM, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. The [AP](#) (9/30, 2 28M) reports that the FWS "wants to add 49 species from Hawaii to the Endangered Species Act." The FWS also said Tuesday that "it wants to list 23 species of plants and animals on Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as threatened or endangered."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/30, 344K), the [Pacific News Center](#) (9/30), [KITV-TV Honolulu \(HI\)](#) Honolulu (9/30, 44K), and [KUAM-TV Dededo \(GUM\)](#) Dededo, GUM (9/29, 171).

FWS MOVES TO EXTEND PROTECTIONS FOR FOUR SOUTHERN FLORIDA PLANTS. The [Greenwire](#) (9/29, Subscription Publication) reports that the FWS has "moved to extend Endangered Species Act protections to four southern Florida plants that are under threat from development and the effects of climate change." The service "called for adding a shrub, the Big Pine partridge pea, and two herbs, wedge spurge and sand flax, to the endangered species list because the plants are in danger of becoming extinct." The agency's "proposal also said another shrub, the Blodgett's silverbush, is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future and therefore should be added to the threatened species list."

FWS PROPOSES TO LIST EASTERN MASSASAUGA RATTLESNAKE. [The Hill](#) (9/30, Devaney, 471K) reports that the FWS is "proposing new protections" for the eastern massasauga rattlesnake. The snake would be "listed as a threatened species under the agency's proposal."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/30, 2 28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/30, 344K), and the [Lodi \(WI\) Enterprise](#) (9/30).

GRANTS ANNOUNCED FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLY PROTECTION. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (9/29, 968K) reports that "a consortium that includes Monsanto and the

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced Monday the first grants to improve monarch butterfly habitat on 33,000 acres in the United States." The article notes that "matching funds will come from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the city of St. Louis, the Missouri Department of Conservation, Great Rivers Greenway, the St. Louis Zoo, and the Missouri Botanical Garden." According to the NFWF, "the consortium will give a total \$3.3 million for the grants, and they will be matched by \$6.7 million in grantee contributions."

Additional coverage of the effort to save monarchs was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/29, 455K), the [Dispatch Times](#) (9/30), and the [Examiner](#) (9/30, 1.34M).

DEATH OF CECIL THE LION PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON SPORT HUNTING, POACHING. The [Stanford University \(CA\) Daily](#) (9/29, 1K) reports that "when Cecil the lion was killed illegally this summer, it brought the international spotlight on the issues of sport hunting and poaching in Africa." According to the article, "scholars and conservationists like David J. Hayes J.D. '78, a distinguished visiting lecturer in law at Stanford Law School, have urged the U.S. government to take action." Hayes has "joined the collection of voices pointing out that the killing of Cecil is part of a larger problem." Hayes believes "hunting must be compatible with the health of the species and that there are steps the American government can take to discourage trophy hunting."

Additional coverage of the debate over trophy hunting was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (9/29, Clark, 164K).

US, DOMINICAN EXPERTS WORK TO PROTECT BICKNELL'S THRUSH. The [Dominican Today](#) (9/30) reports that "environment Ministry officials on Tuesday met with a high-level mission of the US Fish and Wildlife Service to coordinate actions to protect the migratory bird Bicknell's Thrush which is in danger of extinction and a resource that both countries share." According to the article, "the meeting at Environment headquarters was headed by US Fisheries Service regional director Cindy Dohner and Protected Areas and Biodiversity deputy minister Daneris Santana, who said among the actions to protect the migratory species figure construction of new watchtowers, more park rangers in areas where the bird winters and continued research and analysis of its habits." The article notes that "as part of the joint strategy to protect Bicknell's Thrush the experts will tour the bird's ranges starting Wednesday, and promote it as an attraction for birdwatchers and those who enjoy ecotourism adventures."

NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE PANEL DENIES FEDERAL WOLF PERMIT APPEAL. The [AP](#) (9/30, 2.28M) reports that "a showdown over the Mexican gray wolf left the federal government vowing Tuesday to move ahead with plans to recover the endangered species despite the refusal of state wildlife officials to issue permits allowing for the release of wolves in New Mexico." The New Mexico Game Commission "denied an appeal" by the FWS "during a packed meeting in Albuquerque." The decision "prompted a chorus of boos from the dozens of people in the audience who were holding signs that read 'More wolves, less politics.'" Officials with the FWS said "they were disappointed with the outcome given that delaying releases could compromise the genetics of the wild population in New Mexico and Arizona."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (9/30, 34K), the [Albuquerque Journal](#) (9/30, 259K), the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/29, 47K), the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (9/29, 44K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/30, Bryan, 344K), and the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (9/30, 69K).

FEDERAL AGENCIES WANT GENERAL ELECTRIC TO CONTINUE CLEANING UP ITS HUDSON RIVER POLLUTION. [International Business Times](#) (9/30, 835K) reports that "two federal agencies on Tuesday requested that the Obama administration postpone General Electric's plan to end its cleanup of the Hudson River without removing all the related pollution." According to the article, "while GE has said it is satisfied with its cleanup and is consequently shuttering its dredging operations this year, the Department of the Interior and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said in a letter that GE's current plan would leave fish in the river 'unacceptably contaminated' with the toxic chemicals called PCBs that the company spewed into the river decades ago." Following the letter, "the Environmental Protection Agency announced that it is extending the period of time the public can comment on General Electric's decommissioning plan."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/30, Hill, Press, 5.98M) and the [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (9/30, 530K).

APPEAL COURT HEARS ARGUMENTS IN UTAH PRAIRIE DOG CASE. The [AP](#) (9/30, 2.28M) reports that "a lawyer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service told an appeals court Monday that a federal judge in Utah went too far when he struck down protections for a kind of prairie dog found only in that state." Attorney Anna Katselas asked the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals "to overturn the decision and restore protection for the prairie dogs under the Endangered Species Act." However, "Jonathan Wood, an attorney for residents of Cedar City, Utah, who challenged the prairie dog rules, argued the federal government has no constitutional authority to protect a species found in only one state."

TWO GROUPS FILE LAWSUIT OVER LEAVENWORTH FEDERAL FISH HATCHERY. The [AP](#) (9/30, 2.28M) reports that "two conservation groups have sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, alleging its fish hatchery near Leavenworth violates federal clean-water rules." The Wild Fish Conservancy and the Center for Environmental Law & Policy claim "the hatchery is discharging pollutants into nearby Icicle Creek without a necessary permit and that it has not had a permit for 35 years, in violation of federal laws clean-water." They also allege "the hatchery releases chemicals, phosphorus, antibiotics and other pollutants into the waters."

BALD EAGLE SHOT AND KILLED NEAR STATE PARK IN NEW YORK. [USA Today](#) (9/29, 5.23M) reports that "a bald eagle was shot and killed this month near a state park in Chenango Forks, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." The service is "offering a \$2,500 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction." According to the FWS, "the mature bald eagle was found dead in Chenango Valley State Park on Sept. 19."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (9/30, 510K), the [Greater Binghamton \(NY\) Press & Sun-Bulletin](#) (9/29, 81K), and [WBNB-TV Binghamton \(NY\)](#) Binghamton, NY (9/30, 10K).

FORMER PH.D STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SUES OVER SEXUAL HARASSMENT. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/30, 1.19M) reports that a "2011 incident is one of a series recounted in a sexual harassment lawsuit" by Stephanie Jenkins, a former Ph.D. candidate, against the University of Minnesota, and Ted Swem, the endangered-species branch chief at the FWS in Fairbanks, Alaska, is "scheduled to go to trial in federal court Nov. 2." Swem "denies he sexually harassed her, and the U says Swem was not a university employee, but U.S. District Judge John Tunheim this month rejected a motion to dismiss the suit."

National Park Service:

PROPOSALS BY NPS UPSET ASSATEAGUE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE'S NEIGHBORS. The [Greenwire](#) (9/29, Subscription Publication) reports that "residents living near Virginia's Assateague Island National Seashore are frustrated by a pair of federal proposals to slowly eliminate the local fishing industry and relocate an eroding beach a mile and a half north." Jack Tarr, "mayor of Chincoteague Island for the past 17 years, worries that moving the beach north on Assateague Island could cut off tourism, and that ending commercial fishing of clams and oysters would eliminate part of the area's economy and heritage." Debbie Darden, superintendent of the Assateague Island National Seashore, said the NPS is "trying to enforce federal law that forbids the kind of oyster and clam 'farming' practiced by commercial fishermen in the national park – something the agency has admittedly never done."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (9/29, Shapira, 6.76M).

C& O CANAL NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK AMONG RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS FOR MARYLAND TRAIL PROJECTS. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (9/29, 834K) reports that "bicycle and pedestrian trails will be the primary beneficiaries of \$14.9 million in grants by the Maryland Department of Transportation, Gov. Larry Hogan announced Tuesday." The article notes that "the largest grants, totaling \$7 million, will go to the C&O Canal Aqueduct at Williamsport in Washington County." The funds will go to the NPS and its C&O Canal National Historic Park for "repairing a wall of the historic aqueduct to let it hold water again as well as other improvements."

GROUP SEEKS REVIEW OF MINING SITE NEAR TEDDY ROOSEVELT'S ELKHORN RANCH. The [AP](#) (9/30, 2.28M) reports that "an environmental group filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday against the U.S. Forest Service over the agency's decision to allow a man to mine gravel near former President Theodore Roosevelt's historic western North Dakota ranch." The lawsuit filed by the National Parks Conservation Association in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., contests "the Forest Service's decision to issue the mining permit." The suit "requests a more thorough analysis of how the proposed 25-acre gravel pit could affect Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch, located within the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and park visitors."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (9/30, 100K) and the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/30, 5.59M).

ARCHAEOLOGISTS MAPPING REVOLUTIONARY WAR SITE. The [AP](#) (9/30, 2.28M) reports that "archaeologists using 21st-century technology are mapping out the exact spots British soldiers and Colonial militiamen were standing as they fired at each other during a pivotal skirmish on the first day of the American Revolution." Parker's Revenge, "as the fight is known, occurred on April 19, 1775, after the battles of Lexington and Concord as the redcoats retreated to Boston." The nonprofit Friends on Minute Man National Park is "financing the project in a partnership with the National Park Service."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (9/30, 548K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/30, Mark Pratt |, Ap, 6.76M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/30, Pratt, 344K).

TWO MEN INVOLVED IN SHOOTING BY NPS RANGER SEEK DAMAGES. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/29, 183K) reports that "two men involved in a shooting

million, according to their civil lawsuit." Michael Franklin, attorneys for the two, said "medical records prove the pair weren't drunk when approached by National Park Service rangers prior to a shooting in September 2013."

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK REMOVING BOULDERS OUT OF ELWHA RIVER TO EASE WAY FOR FISH PASSAGE. The [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (9/30, 41K) reports that "several large boulders in the Elwha River channel just downstream of the Glines Canyon are being removed to ease fish passage." The NPS has "contracted Sealaska Constructors LLC to remove the boulders, said Barb Maynes, Olympic National Park spokeswoman." According to the article, "workers have detonated three controlled blasts to date, with at least one additional explosion still to come, she said, adding that the contract is included in the \$325 million Elwha River Restoration project cost."

WORKERS REPAIRING BREAK IN WATER PIPELINE IN GRAND CANYON. The [AP](#) (9/30, 2.28M) reports that "another break in the pipeline in Grand Canyon National Park means several areas below the North Rim will temporarily be without drinking water pending repairs." Park officials said Tuesday that "repairs should be completed by the end of the week if the work goes smoothly."

YELLOWSTONE GIANT GEYSER ERUPTS FOR NEARLY AN HOUR. The [AP](#) (9/30, 2.28M) reports that "one of Yellowstone National Park's largest geysers shot to life early Monday morning, an eruption that would have occurred in the dark if not for a full moon." According to the article, "a park webcam captured Giant Geyser blowing steam and water into the air at about 5:03 a.m. and lasting for nearly an hour."

FEES AT BANDELIER NATIONAL MONUMENT TO INCREASE. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/30, 259K) reports that "fees to enter Bandelier National Monument are going up." According to the park, "the increases will be used 'fund important maintenance and improvement projects within the park.'" Bandelier Superintendent Jason Lott said, "Fees at Bandelier and most other National Park Service areas that collect fees have not been updated since 2006. Park costs continue to rise, and comments we received during a formal public comment period were supportive of the proposed new fee structure. After careful consideration, and with the support of those public comments, we came to the conclusion that this is the right approach to improve facilities and services important to visitors. We particularly want to spruce things up as we approach 2016, the centennial of Bandelier and also the National Park Service"

COHEN RESEARCH SHOWS E-CIGARETTES "A SAFER ALTERNATIVE." Joanna Cohen, director of the Institute for Global Tobacco Control, and professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, writes in [USA Today](#) (9/29, 5.23M) that she cannot "with any degree of certainty — say e-cigarettes are good or bad." She argues for "immediate regulation," and suggests that the FDA could limit "advertising and promotion directed toward young people," as well as requiring child-resistant caps on nicotine liquids. She also calls for manufacturing standards. Finally, she urges authorities to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes anywhere that smoking is prohibited. She concludes the piece by saying that "all available research shows that e-cigarettes are a safer alternative" to cigarettes.

Top National News:

OBAMA DEFEATING ISIL WILL REQUIRE ASSAD TO STEP DOWN. Coverage of the President's remarks at a summit meeting on terrorism on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly focused heavily on his remarks on Syria. The story was covered on all three network newscasts, and generated extensive print and online reporting. Media analyses placed Obama's speech in the context of his disagreement with Russia's Vladimir Putin, which is widely seen — despite Secretary of State Kerry's assertions to the contrary — as complicating the Administration's task in Syria.

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/29, 554K), Jim Acosta reported, "If there's one big takeaway in" Obama's trip to the UN, it's that "his plan for ISIS got a lot more complicated." Acosta said that Obama yesterday "defended his plan" for defeating ISIL, which "includes removal" of Assad, but he also "conceded" that it "will take time." The [AP](#) (9/30, Karam) quotes the President as saying, "I have repeatedly said that our approach will take time. This is not an easy task," adding that he was "ultimately optimistic" IS L would be defeated.

[ABC World News](#) (9/29, story 5, 0:40, Muir, 5.84M) said the Administration's plan is "very complicated" because Putin "supports.. Assad." On [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/29, 1.53M), Kevin Corke reported that Obama said his private meeting on Monday with Putin "gave the Administration much needed clarity about [its] efforts to fight" IS L. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/30, Richter, Williams, 4 07M) says that "despite their bitter face-off" this week, Obama and Putin are "likely to be uneasy collaborators, rather than adversaries," in the fight against ISIL. While they "disagree bitterly" over Assad's future, "US officials have signaled their willingness to accept Assad's rule for now, given that his departure could lead to a total collapse of Syria and open the gates of Damascus to the extremist Islamist groups."

According to the [Washington Post](#) (9/30, Eilperin, 6.76M), the President "focused most of his comments" on IS L, "saying the practices of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has given the terrorists an opening." Said Obama, "We have IS L taking root in areas that already are suffering from failed governance in some cases — in some cases, civil war or sectarian strife. And as a consequence of the vacuum that exists in many of these areas, ISIL has been able to dig in."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/29, story 5, 2:50, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that the President reiterated his view that defeating ISIL "will require the end of the Syrian dictatorship." The [Washington Times](#) (9/30, Boyer, 344K) notes that Obama also said the US is "prepared to work with all countries, including Russia and Iran, to find a political mechanism" to oust Assad. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/30, Lee, Fassihi, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) too says the President said he is willing to work with Russia and Iran to reach a resolution.

At yesterday's meeting, [McClatchy](#) (9/30, Landay, 28K) reports the President "and other world leaders conceded" that ISIL "and other militants are expanding to new parts of the globe" as they "pledged to step up efforts to fight the spread of extremism." UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, "We know the crucial ingredients for success: Good governance, the rule of law, open, pluralistic societies, quality education and decent jobs, full respect for human rights." The President, reports the [New York Times](#) (9/30, Harris, Schmitt, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), called on world leaders "to fight violent extremism with not only weapons, but also ideas, jobs and good governance, a strategy he has long advocated." Military pressure alone, he argues, "will be insufficient to vanquish groups like...ISIL." The Times says the meeting "seemed to highlight the bewilderment of world leaders over how a movement like" ISIL "can continue to attract followers from around the world," and Vice President Biden "even...acknowledged in a candid moment...that little would come of Tuesday's meeting."

A [Washington Post](#) (9/30, Eilperin, 6.76M) analysis says that while the President came to the UN this week to "argue that the era of global superpower rivalry should be relegated to the past, and that only broad, international coalitions can tackle the dangers facing an interconnected world," his "optimistic, multilateralist vision ran into the harsh reality of world events." The Post says that "at each United Nations stop, the president's words and gestures reflected his determination to change the old calculus."

In an analysis titled "In Year Of Diplomatic Triumphs, Obama Still Dogged By Syria," the [AP](#) (9/30, Pace) says that despite several other "diplomatic breakthroughs" this year, the President "can't escape the shadow of Syria's intractable crisis," and he "returned to Washington Tuesday with the path forward no clearer than when he arrived in New York." The [Washington Post](#) (9/30, Deyoung, 6.76M), however, says that "after endless debates and years of numbing news, there is a sense" at the UN that the world's response to the Syrian war is "approaching a turning point, a pivot from which it could descend into an even more hellish conflict or move toward a plan that might eventually stem the carnage and the extremist legions it has spawned." According to the Post, "two new phenomena have jolted the status quo. The first is the streaming of hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees into Western Europe," and the second is "Russia's direct entry into the fray."

British Prime Minister David Cameron, the [Washington Times](#) (9/30, Boyer, 344K) reports, "challenged President Obama with some blunt talk on Islamist extremism" during yesterday's meeting. According to the Times, Cameron "reacted strongly" when the President "advised the assembled foreign leaders to avoid profiling Muslims because 'violent extremism is not unique to any one faith.'" Said the British leader, "Barack, you said it and you're right — every religion has its extremists. But we have to be frank that the biggest problem we have today is the Islamist extremist violence that has given birth to ISIL, to al Shabaab, to al Nusra, al Qaeda, and so many other groups."

[AFP](#) (9/30), meanwhile, reports Russia today will propose a UN Security Council resolution on fighting "terrorism," Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said. AFP notes that President Vladimir Putin during his speech to the UN General Assembly on Monday "urged its members to unite to fight IS and proposed a Security Council resolution on a coalition to include Assad and Iran," but it was "not immediately clear whether this draft resolution was the one referred to by Putin."

Kerry: Russian Involvement In Syria "Opens Up Options" For US. In an interview with [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/29, 554K), Secretary of State Kerry said that Russian involvement in Syria "opens up more options" for the US and "makes life more complicated for Putin." Kerry said Putin will have "a very serious problem with the Sunni countries in the region" if he continues to side with Assad. Kerry argued that Russia's presence is "an opportunity for us to force this question of how you actually resolve the question in Syria. The bottom line is, you cannot resolve it without including the Sunni political solution." He added, "That will mean you have to have some kind of transition, some kind of timing. As long as Assad is there, you simply can't make peace, period."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/29, story 4, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M), Kerry was similarly shown saying: "I had a chance to talk with President Putin at the end of the meeting. Look this is not easy for Putin. Everybody said he's made a big move. Well, Putin is there now. And if he wants to fight ISIL alone, that is a challenge."

Later on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/29, 554K), Wolf Blitzer said that Kerry's assertion that there needs to be a gradual transition of power away from Assad "sounds like a significant shift over these past few years." The [New York Times](#) (9/30, A1, Baker,

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, September 29, 2015

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DOI in the News:

SHELL HALTS EFFORTS TO FIND OIL, GAS IN ARCTIC. In news that continued to draw heavy media coverage, Royal Dutch Shell announced on Monday that it is ending its exploration for oil in Arctic waters near Alaska for the near future after disappointing findings from a test well. The move is being broadly viewed a judgment on the viability of drilling in the American Arctic, as well as a win for green groups.

[ABC World News](#) (9/28, story 8, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) broadcast a segment on a "major reversal" by Shell. Shell's "decision to drill in Alaska was controversial in part because of environmental concerns. Tonight, many environmentalists declaring victory." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/28, story 8, 0:35, Holt, 7.86M) broadcast that their Cynthia McFadden "toured Alaska with Shell's North America president [Marvin Odum] four weeks ago. At the time, he was cautiously optimistic about the operation. Today, he said the news was disappointing. Shell won approval to drill from the Obama Administration in mid-August for the first time in 24 years. It was a move fiercely fought by environmentalists and some of the locals."

The [New York Times](#) (9/29, A1, Krauss, Reed, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that the decision "came after the Burger J well, which the company drilled this summer, produced disappointing results." Shell said the well had "found indications of oil and gas, but these are not sufficient to warrant further exploration" of the Burger prospect, a "geological structure." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/29, Kent, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that Shell president Odum said, "This is a clearly disappointing exploration outcome for this part of the basin."

The [AP](#) (9/29, Joling, Fahey) reports that Shell "spent more than \$7 billion on the effort" and required the company to work through a "regulatory gauntlet" and fight green groups. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/28, 3.3M) reports that "publicly, Shell blames disappointing exploratory results, high operating costs and strict US environmental regulations for its decision to quit. ... But company sources also accept that Arctic oil polarised debate in a way that damaged the firm." Said one source, "We were acutely aware of the reputational element to this programme."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/29, Mufson, 6.76M) reports that "many Republicans seized on the announcement as evidence that Interior Department regulations had made it more difficult and costly for Shell to continue," while some activists claimed credit for the halting. The Post reports, "But a Shell official, who asked for anonymity to preserve working relationships, said 'Our decision to stop exploration for the foreseeable future was based purely on the well results of Burger J.'"

[Politico Pro](#) (9/28) reports that Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw defended the administration's work "on making sure that Shell's exploration activities are performed as safely as possible." According to the article, "as the company winds down operations in the Arctic region, she added by email, 'Interior will work to ensure that de-mobilization activities are done safely and responsibly, in accordance with these strong safety, environmental and emergency response standards.'"

[Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/28, Martinson, 219K) reports that Shell spokesman Curtis Smith "said Monday that current oil prices were not a significant driver in the decision." Said Smith, "At any given time we have a suite of investment options in our portfolio and not all of them can be funded." Shell "based the long-term feasibility of the project on expectations of prices 10 to 15 years from now, 'not the price environment we are experiencing today,'" he said. In a separate article, [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/28, 219K) also carries a timeline of Shell's presence in Alaska.

Environmentalists "Elated." [PBS NewsHour](#) (9/28, 7:08 p.m. EDT, 947K) broadcast that "environmentalists had condemned the project, saying a spill would devastate wildlife in the region." The [Washington Post](#) (9/29, Wang, 6.76M) called Shell's decision a "serendipitous moment" for environmentalists and reported that the "conservation community" responded to the announcement "with elation." [Mashable](#) (9/28, 2.12M), however, reports that "environmentalists are celebrating the announcement as a major victory over the Obama administration and the oil industry, although cost issues were most likely the main driver of this decision."

The [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (9/26, Yardley, 4.07M) reports that many environmental groups "were quick to declare victory – and momentum, arguing that the decision affirmed the need to shift away from fossil fuels to fight climate change."

The [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (9/28, 560K) reports that Greenpeace "claimed credit for the Shell decision to pull the plug." Annie Leonard, leader of Greenpeace USA, said, "This is a victory for everyone who had stood up for the Arctic whether they took to kayaks or canoes, rappelled from bridges, or spread the news in their own communities: Millions of people around the world have taken action against Arctic drilling and today they have made history."

[Slate](#) (9/28, 1.38M) reports that it's "unclear how central [the environmental] protests were in motivating Shell's turnaround, but...Shell has 'privately made clear it is taken aback by the public protests against the drilling which are threatening to seriously damage its reputation.'" Slate reports that environmentalists are "taking credit" but the "primary reason Shell gave for its decision was that it just didn't find enough oil." Shell also "cited an 'unpredictable federal regulatory environment'—likely a nod to Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's recent decision to break with the 'Obama administration and oppose the project."

[Inside Climate News](#) (9/28) reports that "whether or not Shell is really done with the Arctic is unknown," as Shell president Odum said, "Shell continues to see important exploration potential in the basin, and the area is likely to ultimately be of strategic importance to Alaska and the U.S." The article reports, "That's why activists...have told InsideClimate News they plan to keep pressuring the Obama administration to block future Arctic drilling."

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/28, 455K) reports that "there has been doubt expressed from within Shell's own leadership, as Ben van Beurden Shell's CEO is reportedly worried that Arctic drilling would damage the company's stance on climate change." The Monitor adds that "because van Beurden has previously promoted natural gas as a "transitional fuel" towards a lower carbon future, Shell's operations in the Arctic have challenged his reputation."

The [Financial Times](#) (9/28, Clark, Subscription Publication, 1.37M) reports that Shell's decision will make it easier for the company to back industry initiatives that address global warming, such as the new Energy Transitions Commission, which Shell helped launch.

Clinton Opposition To Arctic Drilling Considered As Factor In Decision. [Bloomberg News](#) (9/28, Barrett, 2.66M) reports that "possibly more significant than the immediate environmental activism is Shell's concern about who will oversee Arctic regulation come January 2017," noting an August tweet in which Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary

Clinton announced her opposition to Arctic drilling, tweeting, "Given what we know, it's not worth the risk." Bloomberg reports that Shell "may fear that a Clinton presidency would doom its chancy northern exploration."

Decision A "Disappointment" For Alaska Gov. Walker, Sen. Murkowski. The [New York Times](#) (9/28, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that "for many Alaskans, Monday was 'a huge disappointment, a really big disappointment,' as Gov. Bill Walker put it, reflecting on the tax revenue, jobs and investments that may be lost as Royal Dutch Shell abandons its plan to drill for oil in the Alaskan Arctic." Walker "said in an interview that any benefit from Shell's program was years in the future at best. But in the short term, he said, he feared ripple effects on the many subcontractors supplying Shell with goods or services."

The [AP](#) (9/29) reports that Shell's decision "may be disappointing to shareholders, but it's potentially devastating to Alaska." The decision "means the state must find another source to fill the 800-mile trans-Alaska pipeline and solve its economic woes...Walker said." Said Walker, "We need to get some oil in the pipeline, and we need to do it as quickly as possible and in the safest method possible." The AP reports that Walker "is suggesting the federal government open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to natural gas drilling."

[The Hill](#) (9/28, Henry, 471K) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), the chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, "said she was 'extremely disappointed' by Shell's decision" and "blamed tight federal regulations." [The Hill](#) (9/28, Henry, 471K) reports in a separate article that Murkowski "said the Obama administration should look to stabilize federal regulations on Arctic energy production and clear the way for more development in the future." Said Murkowski in a statement, "What we have here is a case in which a company's commercial efforts could not overcome a burdensome and often contradictory regulatory environment. ... [The Interior Department] placed significant limits on this season's activities, which resulted in a drilling rig sitting idle, and is widely expected to issue additional regulations in the coming weeks that will make it even harder to drill."

On its website, [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (9/28, 2K) says Murkowski "says forcing the company to use just one rig at a time was big blow to Shell." Said Murkowski, "That wasn't part of what they had anticipated. That was a huge financial setback for them — having that rig on standby."

[Mother Jones](#) (9/28, 758K) reports that decision "is a heavy blow to future offshore drilling projects in the Arctic, said Robert Dillon, a spokesman for Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), who has been one of the biggest congressional proponents of offshore oil drilling." Said Dillon, "it's certainly a disappointment. ... it's now becoming more and more questionable whether there's going to be offshore activity at all. A lot of uncertainty of how we go forward in Alaska."

On its website, [CBS News](#) (9/29, 7 05M) reported that Alaska's junior senator, Republican Dan Sullivan, "noted that environmental groups are cheering the news, but he said it's a sad day for Alaska and working Americans."

Shell Bracing For Financial Fallout. [US News & World Report](#) (9/28, 811K) reports that Shell "told investors it is already bracing for financial fallout from its Monday announcement, expecting a \$4.1 billion hit on its balance sheets." The [Motley Fool](#) (9/28, 631K) adds that the \$4.1 billion is "an enormous amount of money for a company that's already struggling under the weight of a 50% drop in crude prices" and "represents more than the company's entire net profit of \$3.4 billion last quarter." The "Investor Takeaway" is that despite the economic risks posed by offshore drilling, "the prize, which is a bounty of oil and gas resources, is often too tempting to pass up," which is "why it's unlikely that we've heard the last of Shell's attempts at finding oil in the region as that oil will be needed by our energy hungry world at some point in the not-so-distant future."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/29, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that Shell's announcement should be welcomed by investors as well as environmentalists because it is a welcome signal that Shell is bracing for sustained low oil prices. The Journal reports that Shell will now save the money it would have spent in Alaska, which the paper says accounted for about a fifth of Shell's \$35 billion exploration spending.

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/28, Bastasch, 375K) reports that the decision "shouldn't be too surprising given that low oil prices make it much less attractive to spend billions on oil and uncertain Arctic plays."

The [Financial Times](#) (9/28, Butler, 1 37M) reports that Shell can financially afford the money lost with the unsuccessful Burger J well, with Shell needing to face the bigger problem of a declining reserves base.

Shell Move Casts Doubt On Future Of Arctic Oil Exploration. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/29, 705) reports that Shell's decision "could play a major role in the Obama administration's decision whether to hold additional oil and gas lease sales in the region." Shell's decision "offered a political boost to Democrats and conservation groups that are lobbying the administration to cancel the Arctic lease sales it scheduled for 2016 and 2017 in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas, respectively, and to yank additional sales the administration included in its draft 2017-2022 leasing plan." Also noting Clinton's tweet about opposing Arctic drilling, Greenwire reports that these "two developments, combined with the low price of oil and tepid interest from other major companies to explore the U.S. Arctic, may provide political cover if the administration decides to pull back on its Arctic energy ambitions."

[McClatchy](#) (9/28, Cockerham, 28K) reported that the move "casts doubt on the future of offshore oil exploration in the American Arctic," as industry players globally were "closely watching Shell's pioneering efforts to see whether drilling would succeed in the remote and harsh environment off the northern coast of Alaska." McClatchy says the result of the exploration was a "disaster" that incurred "a loss of billions of dollars."

[Fortune](#) (9/28, 4.14M) reports that the news "will dismay shareholders, who have seen the company plow \$7 billion into a high-risk, high-return bet that has failed to pay off." Fortune adds that "it illustrates the souring climate for high-cost oil production against a backdrop of low prices around the world." [Vox](#) (9/28, 1.1M) reports that Shell's decision "means that no one is likely to drill off the Arctic coast of Alaska anytime soon," adding that "all of Shell's competitors, including Total and Statoil, had long ago shelved their plans to drill in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, deeming it too risky and difficult."

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/28, Katakey, 2.66M) reports that Shell's decision "means billions of barrels of crude will probably remain locked away in Arctic waters from the U.S. to Russia — at least as long as prices remain near \$50 a barrel." Said one analyst, "This effectively ends exploration for new Arctic oil until prices recover. ... Shell was the only company with a strong enough balance sheet that was currently exploring in the Arctic." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/28, Murtaugh, 2.66M) reports separately that Shell's decision "is the latest bit of bad news for" Alaska, which "went from producing one in every four barrels in the U.S. to an afterthought during the shale boom."

Shell: Too Early To Understand Seattle's Role In Demobilization. The [Seattle Times](#) (9/28, 962K) reports that Shell's "quest for offshore oil had raised the hopes of leaders of Seattle's maritime industry for years of business in servicing the fleets that would be working off Alaska." Said Shell spokesman Smith, "it's still too early to understand what the demobilization will look like, and what role Seattle will play — if at all," said Paul Queary, spokesman for Foss Maritime, which had a contract with Shell to use Terminal 5, "Obviously, we're disappointed. ... It was a big project with a lot of back-end potential for us."

The [Puget Sound \(WA\) Business Journal](#) (9/28, Subscription Publication, 59K) adds that Queary "said that Shell hasn't yet given Foss any details about what vessels might return to Seattle's port."

Shell Decision Discouraging For Those In Favor Of Developing Canadian Arctic Resources. The [Canadian Press](#) (9/29) reports that Shell's decision "is sending a discouraging signal to those who want to see Canada's Arctic offshore resources developed." Said energy consultant Doug Matthews, "The loss for Canada is we really could have learned something from the Shell operation about how to better operate in the Arctic waters." The article adds that "the probability that Canadian Beaufort resources will one day be exploited was already looking dicey."

New Environmental Group Wants Shell Capping Stack Sent To Nova Scotia. The [Halifax \(CAN\) Chronicle Herald](#) (9/29, MacIntyre, 336K) reports that John Davis, director of the newly-formed Clean Ocean Action Commission said on Monday that the capping stack at Shell USA's drill site off the coast of Alaska, which is used if a blowout preventer fails at an offshore drill site, should be sent to the East Coast now that Shell will not be drilling further in the Alaskan Arctic. Davis "said Monday the capping stack...would be insurance against environmental devastation off Nova Scotia."

Commentary. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/29, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) notes that Shell cited not just the weak results from drilling, but the unpredictable Federal regulatory environment in the region. The Journal adds that Shell's effort wasn't about the price of oil today, but about establishing a solid foundation a decade from now, and hopes that the next president will be friendlier to Arctic exploration.

In an editorial, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/28, Board, 4.07M) writes that "certainly, Shell's withdrawal is a victory — although perhaps a temporary one — for the environment. ... But in terms of policy, the environment has not won." The Times says Shell "is talking about the economic costs, while the bigger concern should be the environmental risks," and argues that "this is an opportunity for the federal government, which never should have allowed the Shell project to go forward, to reevaluate its policies in the still-pristine waters off Alaska."

In the [New York Times's](#) (9/28, 11.82M) "Dot Earth Blog," Andrew Revkin examines the factors that may have been involved in Shell's decision to halt the Arctic exploration, including low oil prices.

Writing for the [BBC News](#) (9/29, 1.68M) website, business editor Kama Ahmed said it "could have been Hillary Clinton's tweet that did it." Ahmed writes that Royal Dutch Shell CEO Ben van Beurden was "certainly bullish on Alaska" during an interview between the two earlier this year. Ahmed says that what has changed since then are that the first findings from Burger J were not promising, that Clinton's tweet "revealed that political risks were still substantial," and that Shell had other issues to deal with, including a pending takeover of BG Group, falling oil prices and falling Shell share prices.

In commentary for the [Rolling Stone](#) (9/28, 13.52M), Andy Bichlbaum of activist group the Yes Men, said in partnership with Funny or Die and stars Alexander Skarsgard and Jack McBrayer, his group "was to produce some short films that would lightheartedly popularize the beauty, value and importance of the fast-melting Arctic." Bichlbaum says "one of the main reasons the company failed was activists," adding that "the Yes Men did our part as well, working with Greenpeace on a (fake) Shell campaign to promote the company's (real) crazy plans, as well as on an iceberg-distribution scheme on the streets of Manhattan."

Writing for the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/28, 2.28M), Chris Tomlinson, writes that "there is no doubt that drilling" in the Arctic "makes no sense at \$45 a barrel," but Shell executives "apparently wanted to make a point," adding that Shell "wanted to stake its claim and set a precedent for drilling in those water." Tomlinson says that "only real way to prevent drilling in the Arctic is to find an economic transportation fuel to replace gasoline," a "battle environmentalists need to win, if they want to stop oil companies to stop drilling."

In commentary carried by the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (9/28, 962K), Jon Talton writes that the "big winners" in Shell's decision "are the planet, the Arctic environment, but even Shell shareholders." He adds that "shareholders will be hit with a charge but it's better than continuing to drill dry holes in the most challenging environment in the world."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the story is carried by [Reuters](#) (9/28, Schaps), [Agencia EFE \(ESP\)](#) (9/28), [AFP](#) (9/29), [Vice](#) (9/29, 1.29M), [USA Today](#) (9/28, Jones, 5.23M), [Investors Business Daily](#) (9/28, 542K), [National Geographic](#) (9/28, 31.65M), [Popular Science](#) (9/28, 6.51M), the [Discovery Channel](#) (9/28, 767K), the [Financial Times](#) (9/28, Adams, Crooks, Farchy, Subscription Publication, 1.37M), the [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (9/28, 122K), the [Irish Times](#) (9/29, 371K), and on the websites of [MTV](#) (9/28, 1.27M), [MSNBC](#) (9/28, 545K) and the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (9/28, 2K).

[MSNBC's Rachel Maddow Show](#) (9/28, 12:46 a.m. EDT, 370K), [NWCN-TV](#) Seattle (9/28, 8:21 p.m. PDT, 4K), [KTVA-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (9/28, 6:11 p.m. AKDT, 3K), [Nightly Business Report](#) (9/28, 6:37 p.m. EDT, 637K), [BBC World News](#) (9/28, 5:47 p.m. EDT, 603K), [MSNBC](#) (9/28, 5:29 p.m. EDT, 479K), [CNBC's Power Lunch](#) (9/28, 2:19 p.m. EDT, 235K), [Bloomberg TV's Markets](#) (9/28, 2:17 p.m. EDT, 50K), [KTVF-TV](#) Fairbanks, AK (9/28, 6:34 a.m. AKDT, 1K), [Fox Business' Varney & Company](#) (9/28, 9:44 a.m. EDT, 117K), [CNBC's Squawk Box](#) (9/28, 8:42 a.m. EDT, 147K), [Bloomberg TV What'd You Miss?](#) (9/28, 5:43 p.m. EDT), [CNN's Early Start](#) (9/28, 5:58 a.m. EDT, 255K), and [Bloomberg Business' On The Move](#) (9/28, 3:39 a.m. EDT) also broadcast coverage of the story.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Associated Press](#) (9/29), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/29, 2.28M), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/29, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 5.95M), the [Greenwire](#) (9/28, Subscription Publication), the [EnergyWire](#) (9/28, Subscription Publication), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/29, Wang, 6.76M), [US News & World Report](#) (9/28, 811K), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/28, 219K), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/28, 219K), the [Cordova \(AK\) Times](#) (9/28, 2K), [Newsweek](#) (9/28, 198K), [US News & World Report](#) (9/28, 811K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/28, 455K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/28, 455K), the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (9/29, Subscription Publication), [The Atlantic](#) (9/29, 2.69M), [UPI](#) (9/28), the [Maritime Executive](#) (9/28, 21), the [Huffington Post](#) (9/28, 164K), [KTVA-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (9/29, 1K), [KRCR-TV Redding \(CA\)](#) Redding, CA (9/29, 43K).

POPE FRANCIS DELIVERS SPEECH ON IMMIGRATION IN PHILADELPHIA. The [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/28, 1.06M) reported on Pope Francis speech on immigration in Philadelphia. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, "who emigrated to the US from England when she was 3, said the opportunities in the states are unmatched." She said, "Here it doesn't matter what your accent is, you can come from just about anywhere and be successful." NPS Director Jon Jarvis said that "when he greets the pope, he will thank him for visiting this place and for his encyclical on the environment." He said, "Independence Hall is a representation for the nation and for the world of the place where this nation was formed and where principles of freedom, civil rights."

The [Hanover \(PA\) Evening Sun](#) (9/29, 59K) reports that 300 NPS employees served "on an incident management team during and leading up to the papal address in Philadelphia this week." According to Katie Lawhon, an employee of Gettysburg National Military Park, "because Pope Francis spoke at a national park — Independence Hall — and his visit drew more than 40,000 people, the Park Service called in a team consisting of employees from nearly 60 parks and park offices."

Pope Francis' Water Glass Won't Be Protected As An Artifact. The [Washington Post](#) (9/29, Itkowitz, 6.76M) reports that Rep. Bob Brady "last week snatched Pope Francis's still mostly full glass from the House chamber podium and later shared sips of the leftover water with his wife and staffers." According to the article, some wonder whether "the glass should be considered an artifact, perhaps protected by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966." But NPS spokeswoman April Slayton said, "Even if such laws were to apply to the glass, (the law) does not establish the National Park Service as the repository of historic personal property, and there is no basis to require that historic property be turned over to it."

HOUSE PANEL TO HOLD HEARING ON MARINE MONUMENTS. The [E&E Daily](#) (9/28, Subscription Publication) reports that "House Republicans are focusing their ire over executive power on marine monuments this week, with a hearing that promises to stoke controversy over a proposal to protect deep-sea canyons in the Northeast." A House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans spokeswoman said "lawmakers will discuss both existing marine monuments and proposals for new ones in New England and Alaska."

HOUSE PANEL TO HOLD HEARING ON FEDERAL TIMBER POLICY. The [E&E Daily](#) (9/28, Subscription Publication) reports that a House Natural Resources panel on Tuesday will "examine state, tribal and local forest policies with an eye toward improving the federal government's timber programs." The oversight hearing before the Subcommittee on Federal Lands is "the committee's latest move to improve federal forest policy that the panel's Republican leaders say is hobbled by excessive planning and environmental litigation." Members will "hear from a timberland owner in Idaho, an Alaska state official and business leader, the head of a tribal forestry group, and a Colorado county commissioner."

FEDERAL AGENCIES RELEASE SHUTDOWN PLANS. The [Greenwire](#) (9/28, Subscription Publication) reports that "federal agencies' contingency plans in the event of a government shutdown would send thousands of federal employees home with no pay." Last Friday, "every federal government entity, big or small, released its latest shutdown plans." According to the article, "the documents outline which vital government functions would be kept up and running as well as which services would fall by the wayside during a lapse of appropriations." Also, "many of the plans flesh out who would be furloughed and who would have to work during a government shutdown."

EMPLOYEE MORALE INCHES UP AT INTERIOR. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/28, 705) reports that "federal employees' morale across the government inched upward this year, including at several environmental and energy agencies." The Office of Personnel Management released on Monday "engagement and job satisfaction scores from the 2015 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey." The article notes that "employee morale at U.S. EPA as well as at the Departments of Energy and the Interior crept upward...following the governmentwide trend of improved job satisfaction." According to the article, "at 61 percent, Interior posted a 1-point spike from 2014, too, on its job satisfaction score."

GLACIER MELT SHOWS NEED TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE. In a piece for [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/28, 3.3M), Wendell Tangborn argues that "fossil fuel burning must taper off dramatically and be replaced with renewable sources of energy if we are going to survive as a species on this planet." He says that "the earth's 190,000 glaciers, sentinels of climate change that appear to be more sensitive to the climate than are humans, are disappearing at an unprecedented pace, the canaries in climate change's coal mine." He notes that "the recent visit of President Barack Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to Alaska to observe glaciers and the effect of climate change symbolically emphasized the problem of global warming and its impact on the well-being of humans."

CONGRESS URGED TO RENEW LWCF. In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/29, 259K), Dede Feldman, a former state senator, writes that "in just two days, New Mexicans may lose the most powerful tool the state has for preserving public lands and creating national parks and open spaces across the state, from the Petroglyph National Monument to local Little League fields." Feldman urges Congress to renew the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. Feldman argues that letting the fund expire "wouldn't only be a major blow to New Mexico's natural, historic and recreational outdoor areas, but it would also adversely impact the local economy."

Empowering Native American Communities:

CHOCTAW AND CHICKASAW ACCEPT LAND-TRUST-MANAGEMENT SETTLEMENT. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (9/28, 32K) reports that "the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations have accepted a combined \$186 million in a settlement with the U.S. Department of the Interior for the government's alleged failure to protect trust land in the sale of 1.3 million acres of timberland between 1908 and 1940." Under the settlement, "the Choctaw will receive \$139.5 million and the Chickasaw Nation \$46.5 million from the U.S. Department of the Interior for a 2005 land-trust-management suit they filed against that agency and other parties."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTEN-TV](#) Sherman, TX (9/29, 1K).

SEN. MCCAIN UNDER FIRE FOR SUPPORTING SALE OF OAK FLAT. The [Huffington Post](#) (9/29, 164K) reports that Sen. John McCain has "been the subject of intense criticism from Native activists and their supporters over the past year for his role in orchestrating the sale of Oak Flat — an Apache holy site located in Arizona's Tonto National

Forest, to foreign mining conglomerates Rio Tinto and BHP Billiton." According to the article, "Congress' move to sell off Oak Flat, which continues a long history of taking land from the Apache, provoked outrage and protests among Native activists and their supporters."

The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (9/28, 32K) provides examples of "devastating tribal land grabs from the past 80 years," including the sale of Oak Flat.

APPEALS COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN POJOAQUE PUEBLO'S CASINO DISPUTE. The [AP](#) (9/29) reports that "attorneys for an American Indian community in New Mexico were to present oral arguments Monday in an appeal of a case they say could affect the way tribes and states negotiate gambling compacts." The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was "hearing Pojoaque Pueblo's appeal of a court ruling that blocked its efforts to have the U.S. Interior Department approve a gambling compact, rather than the state of New Mexico."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE GRANTS AWARDED UNDER NATIVE YOUTH COMMUNITY PROJECTS PROGRAM. Additional coverage that "the U.S. Department of Education is investing \$5.3 million to help Native American youth prepare for post-secondary opportunities in higher education and in the job market" was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (9/28, 32K) and the [Cherokee \(OK\) Phoenix](#) (9/29, 442).

Office of Insular Affairs:

\$7 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDS AWARDED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN AMERICAN SAMOA. The [RealEstateRama](#) (9/28, 210) reports that on Friday, Congresswoman Aumua Amata "announced the release of more than \$7 million in grant funding to American Samoa through the Office of Insular Affairs' (OIA) Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Program." The money will "be used to support priorities and much needed improvements to critical infrastructure in the territory." Amata said, "These infrastructure projects are essential to strengthening economic development in American Samoa. The territory's transportation, health, education, and water systems are outdated and in need of extensive refurbishing and repair. These funds will directly and positively affect our local schools, roads and health care."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

HUNGRY HORSE DAM TO UPGRADE VISITOR CENTER. The [Columbia Falls \(MT\) Hungry Horse News](#) (9/29) reports that "visitor facilities at Hungry Horse Dam will receive accessibility improvements starting in April." The BOR "awarded a \$1.2 million construction contract Aug. 27 to Advanced Solutions Group, LLC, a small business based in Kaysville, Utah." The article notes that "the work includes replacing the visitor center overlook, adding a walkway from the overlook to the visitor center, improving the parking lot, adding two viewing windows in the parapet wall of the dam and constructing a multi-purpose pad for viewing the Hungry Horse Reservoir."

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [San Francisco Examiner](#) (9/29, 412K), Trent W. Orr, an attorney based in San Francisco at Earthjustice, writes that "California's persistent drought has prompted elected officials, agency decision-makers and the concerned public to consider seriously innovative ways to stretch our finite water resources." However, "in the midst of this forward thinking, the Bureau of Reclamation, the federal agency that operates the Central Valley Project (CVP), has stubbornly set its sights on the 'solutions' of the past. The CVP and its state counterpart, the State Water Project (SWP), together form one of the world's largest water projects." He argues that "the wholesale re-plumbing of the Central Valley watershed to create the CVP-SWP has wreaked havoc on the environment, drowning wild rivers, blocking salmon from reaching their former spawning grounds, and rendering flows below the dams too low and too warm to support healthy populations of native fish."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES NEW OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY LEASES. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/28, 705) reports that the White House on Monday "announced new offshore wind energy leases and increased federal and international collaboration in an effort to meet President Obama's commitment to obtain 20 percent of non-hydropower renewable energy generation by 2030." The article notes that "the announcements kicked off the first-ever offshore wind summit hosted by the White House, which included representatives from federal and state offices and stakeholders." The BOEM will "exchange lessons learned, best practices and scientific information with offshore wind regulators from the United Kingdom, Denmark and Germany as part of an effort to create an International Offshore Wind Regulators Forum, the White House said."

Additional coverage was provided by [reNews](#) (9/29).

BOEM MEASURES ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF OFFSHORE WIND TURBINE CONSTRUCTION. The [Recharge News](#) (9/29, 633) reports that the BOEM has "begun a new study to conduct real-time, independent observations and data collection during construction of US offshore wind turbines."

The [North American Windpower](#) (9/29, 43K) reports that according to the bureau, "field work took place in August and September through the Real-Time Opportunity for Development Environmental Observations (RODEO) study, which is taking direct measurements of visual effects, sound produced by various activities, and seafloor disturbances caused by cabling or anchoring. It is also evaluating different types of monitoring equipment." Starting with "Rhode Island's Block Island project, the study will be ongoing during the next five years and will take measurements from projects as they come online."

Additional coverage was provided by the [reNews](#) (9/29).

ORR ADMINISTRATION'S PROMOTION OF SOLAR ENERGY IS HARMFUL TO US ECONOMY. In [The Hill](#)'s (9/28, Orr, 471K) "Congress Blog" blog, Isaac Orr, a research fellow for energy and environmental policy at The Heartland Institute, criticizes what he refers to as the Obama Administration's "solar energy socialism," in which "inefficient and costly forms of energy" like solar and wind continue to be promoted. Orr notes that a report by the Cato Institute, which used the EPA's own climate models, found that the Clean Power Plan would only reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 0.02 degrees C by the year 2100, "an amount so small it falls below the margin of error for the model." He concludes that further promotion of solar energy "will not lead to a utopia of cheap energy but will instead drive up costs for U.S. households and businesses and further tank the nation's economy along with the forms of energy," such as oil and natural gas, that "we depend on to power our hospitals, schools, and refrigerators."

Onshore Energy Development:

NEW REPORT SERVES AS PRIMER FOR STATES REGARDING EARTHQUAKES CAUSED BY FRACKING. The [AP](#) (9/29, Smyth, 6.76M) reports that the StatesFirst initiative, a group made up of "U.S. drilling states, seismologists, academics and industry experts," issued a 150-page report on Monday on human-caused earthquakes induced by hydraulic fracturing or the disposal of fracking wastewater. It "represents perhaps the most candid discussion" on the topic since tremors "began being linked to fracking and deep-injection wastewater disposal around 2009." The report "matter-of-factly references links between fracking or deep-injection wastewater disposal and earthquakes," but it "stopped short of suggesting model regulations." The report, which also included input from the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission and the Ground Water Protection Council, gathered information on the issue from 13 participating states. Many of those states have not seen human-induced earthquakes, but the report "urges them to put regulations and procedures in place for dealing with any eventual incidents."

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/28, Gass, 455K) says StatesFirst's report "conclusively links hydraulic fracturing and fracking wastewater disposal to local seismic activity, but stops short of prescribing model regulations." Ohio Oil & Gas Chief Rick Simmers, who co-chaired StatesFirst, said that differences in each state's drilling laws and geology differs, which is why the report says that means that "A one-size-fits-all approach would not be an effective tool for state regulators." Simmers also said that while there is a link between seismicity and both fracking and deep-injection wastewater disposal, the amount of tremors is "very rare" relative to the amount of drilling that takes place. Simmers said the main function of the report is to serve as a "primer for states, providing up-to-date scientific and technical data, along with suggested approaches for detecting and managing earthquakes." These suggestions included improving how seismic activity is monitored and developing new procedures to halt wastewater injection at times when seismic activity is at alarming levels, according to [Reuters](#) (9/29, Gillam). The article mentions that Rex Buchanan, interim director of the Kansas Geological Survey and co-chair of the group that issued the report, said the group has not previously seen the amount of seismicity discovered while creating the report.

The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (9/28, Hart, 109K) reports that Leslie Savage, chief geologist with the Railroad Commission of Texas, said that because fault lines and other geological formations differ from state to state, each state must individually determine "what hazards it may be susceptible to, the risk of those hazards impacting people living there and what measures to take." Furthermore, Buchanan said that faults in the deep subsurface aren't well known, and that it's unclear which faults "are under enough stress to produce earthquakes if injection increases the pressure around them." In addition, Ivan Wong, principal seismologist with consulting company AECOM, cautioned states to "be careful to sort out which earthquakes actually are caused by human activities."

The [AP](#) (9/29, Callahan) reports that Herschel McDivitt, a member of StatesFirst and director of Indiana's Department of Natural Resources' oil and gas division, said that while no human-caused earthquakes have occurred in the state, "We felt that it's important for us to learn about what these other states are learning." McDivitt said a study conducted by his department in conjunction with the Indiana University-based Indiana Geological Survey is focusing on whether deep-injection activities in the state can cause such quakes. The article notes that there are several fracking operations took place at vertical oil wells in Indiana's Gibson County between 2011 and 2014, but McDivitt said "that's still a small

volume compared with operations in other states.”

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP’S LAWSUIT CHALLENGES APPROVALS OF MINES. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/29, 73K) reports that “a conservation group that forced the federal government to fully account for the greenhouse-gas impacts of coal-mine expansions near Craig now is seeking to have the same occur in the case of a mine near Paonia.” WildEarth Guardians “recently sued the Interior Department and its Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to challenge the government’s approvals of expanded mining at the Bowie No. 2 mine in the North Fork Valley, a mine in New Mexico and two in Wyoming.” The group claims “the government failed to provide public notice of its decisions or account for the climate impacts of approving expanded coal mining — including the impacts from burning that coal.”

OSAGE MINERALS COUNCIL FILES LAWSUIT OVER REGULATIONS. The [Bartlesville \(OK\) Examiner-Enterprise](#) (9/29, 602) reports that “the Osage Minerals Council filed suit against the U.S. government June 30, claiming the burdensome regulations proposed under the new rules would cause ‘irreversible damage’ to the mineral estate.” The council said, “In fact, producers are plugging and abandoning their wells, rather than attempting to comply and continue to drill.” According to the article, “a temporary restraining order on the new regulations has been placed, allowing some oil producers to go back to work.”

OSM TO INSPECT SAGINAW ABANDONED MINE SHAFTS. [WSGW-AM](#) Saginaw, MI (9/29, 3K) reports that “the U.S. Department of Interior Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) will conduct an assessment of a couple of abandoned mine shafts in the city of Saginaw.” On Monday, “the Saginaw City Council approved Municipal Consent for Right of Entry forms, giving the OSM permission to perform the inspections on the Cass River Shaft in Wickes Park and the Buena Vista Shaft located in the right of ways of Hampshire and Treanor Streets and Livingstone Drive.”

Offshore Energy Development:

DEMOCRATIC BILL WOULD BLOCK OFFSHORE REVENUE SHARING FOR LOUISIANA. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (9/29, Alpert, 718K) reports that “Senate Democrats are proposing legislation that would repeal a 2006 law that provides revenue sharing to Louisiana and three other Gulf States from off-shore oil and gas production, starting in 2017.” According to the article, “the Democratic proposal would repeal oil and gas subsidies, invest in clean energy technologies and move to modernize the electricity grid.” The article notes that “it is consistent with an Obama administration budget proposal, which also would repeal off-shore oil and gas revenue sharing with the four Gulf States – Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas.”

WETLANDS ADVOCATES OPPOSE JINDAL’S REQUEST FOR BP FINES TO FUND INFRASTRUCTURE. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (9/29, Schleifstein, 718K) reports that on Saturday the America’s WETLAND Foundation announced its opposition to Gov. Bobby Jindal’s (R-LA) request that BP oil spill fine money be used for infrastructure. Jindal had “asked the state Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to change state policy” so the money could pay for part of a \$350 million highway bridge project, and the vote on the request has been tabled. The foundation’s chair, King Milling, asserted the need for restoration money to be used for restoration.

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS PROTEST BENTON TIMBER SALE. The [Corvallis \(OR\) Gazette-Times](#) (9/29, 31K) reports that “several environmental organizations are protesting a timber sale in south Benton County even though it uses an approach touted as providing important environmental benefits.” On Sept. 16, the BLM “awarded the Rainbow Ridge timber sale to Freres Lumber for \$2.6 million.” But “the sale won’t become final.. until a resolution is reached on a protest filed by Oregon Wild, Cascadia Wildlands and the Benton Forest Coalition.”

NEW REQUIREMENTS BY BLM COMPLICATE GOLF DEVELOPER’S PLAN TO BUY STATE PARK LAND IN OREGON. The [Oregonian](#) (9/29, 756K) reports that “add about \$450,000 to the price Mike Keiser must pay if he wants buy state parkland on Oregon’s south coast and turn it into a golf course,” and “then subtract the college scholarships and environmental restoration work he vowed to provide with revenue from the course.” The BLM, “which controls the fate of the 280-acre chunk of the Bandon State Natural area, has included those details in a list of hurdles Keiser must clear in order to buy the land.” According to the article, “the requirements cast a new layer of uncertainty over the controversial deal.”

BLM TO HOLD MEETING ON SLOAN CANYON PLANS. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/29, 378K) reports that “a paved road and parking lot, restrooms and hiking trails are part of the plans for Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, and the Bureau of Land Management wants to know your thoughts about it.” BLM “officials will hold a meeting from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday to present the proposal and answer questions.” Officials also will “discuss other alternatives for the 48,438-acre conservation area about 25 miles southeast of Las Vegas, BLM said.”

BLM SEEKS FEEDBACK ON ROSSI MINE EXPANSION. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (9/29, 22K) reports that the BLM has “scheduled public scoping meetings to identify issues relevant to a Halliburton Energy Services proposal to expand the Rossi barite mine 50 miles east of Battle Mountain.” According to the article, “the proposed expansion would extend the life of the mine for eight additional years, enlarging existing pits and digging new ones, as well as expanding existing waste rock dumps and creating new ones.” The BLM has “identified the following preliminary issues and concerns: archaeological and cultural resources, Native American traditional and cultural values, pit lakes, benefits of backfilling open pits, and wildlife issues, including mule deer migration corridor and sage-grouse habitat.”

NEW BLM FIELD MANAGER NAMED FOR COLORADO RIVER VALLEY FIELD OFFICE. The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (9/29, 32K) reports that the BLM has “named Karl Mendonca as the new field manager for the Colorado River Valley Field Office based in Silt.” Northwest District Manager Joe Meyer said, “Karl was selected based on his experience, skills as a leader, and familiarity with the issues in the field office. He has excelled in a series of positions since he began at the Colorado River Valley Field Office in 2003.”

PARTNERSHIPS SEEK TO PROMOTE ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT. In an op-ed for the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/28, 47K), Carrie Hamblen, the executive director of the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce, writing about meeting with several legislators and officials in Washington, D.C. “about what this community has accomplished since the designation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in 2014.” She notes that “over the next five years, the Bureau of Land Management must gather public input as they develop a management plan.” In the meantime, “agencies like the Las Cruces Green Chamber are working with others to create more awareness about OMDP, create more activity on the monument, and continue to develop partnerships that can capitalize on the economic, quality of life, and health benefits from our open spaces.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

GREATER SAGE GROUSE DECISION UPSETS GUNNISON COUNTY. The [Colorado Public Radio](#) (9/29) reports that “the federal government’s decision not to list the greater sage grouse as endangered has upset officials in Gunnison County.” The article notes that “that area has a separate species of sage grouse that was listed under the Endangered Species Act last year.” Jonathan Houck, a Gunnison County commissioner, said, “92 percent of occupied habitat on private land in the Gunnison basin has some kind of protective measure. When I look at those numbers and those efforts that to me says ‘unprecedented amount of work.’ At a personal level, it just seemed kind of dismissive.”

Russell: Federal Land Use Plans For Sage-Grouse Will Hinder Western States’ Economic Development. Barry Russell, president and CEO of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, writes in [The Hill’s](#) (9/29, Russell, 471K) “Congress Blog” blog critically of the Interior Department’s “non-warranted” proposed land use plans for the greater sage-grouse’s habitat, arguing that they “stand to have a severe economic impact on private land use and energy development across the American West.” Furthermore the plans “largely ignore the great strides made by state regulators, local officials, ranchers, and energy developers alike to protect the sage-grouse and its habitat.” Russell concludes that while the Interior’s plans are a “step in the right direction for the grouse,” the impact the plans have “on energy development must still be addressed.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the sage grouse decision was provided by the [Digital Journal](#) (9/29, 28K), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (9/28, 113K), the [Naples \(FL\) Herald](#) (9/28), the [Riverton \(WY\) Ranger](#) (9/29, 167), the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (9/28, 646), [Platts](#) (9/29, 1K), the [Riverton \(WY\) Ranger](#) (9/29, 167), the [Mini-Cassia \(ID\) Weekly News Journal](#) (9/29), [Northwest Aq Information Network](#) (9/29), [Sci-Tech Today](#) (9/29, 825), and [KIVI-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (9/29, 861).

SENATE PANEL TO HOLD HEARING ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. [Politico](#) (9/29, Purdy, 942K) reports that the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water will “look at ways to improve the Endangered Species Act.” FWS Director Dan Ashe, Montana Gov. Matt Mead and Wyoming Gov. Steve Bullock will “address lawmakers at a hearing on the issue Tuesday.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (9/28, Henry, 471K).

FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO RELEASE FINAL BULL TROUT RECOVERY PLAN FOR FIVE STATES. The [AP](#) (9/29, Ridler) reports federal officials will on Wednesday “release their final plan” to “recover struggling bull trout in five Western states with the goal of lifting Endangered Species Act protections.” The FWS “says the Bull Trout Recovery Plan outlines conservation actions needed to boost populations in six recovery units spread over Idaho Oregon Washington California and a tiny portion of northern Nevada.” Bull

trout recovery planning coordinator for FWS Steve Duke "said the plan can be used by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as well as other entities to guide conservation efforts." Duke said, "Beginning Wednesday, they'll know what the roadmap is for achieving recovery and fixing what's going on in their areas of recovery. ... I feel really good about what we've put out."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbus \(N\) Republic](#) (9/29, 75K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (9/29, 1.19M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (9/29, 962K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/29, 2.28M), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (9/28, 86K), the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (9/28, 179K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (9/29, Ridler, 5.98M).

FWS PROPOSES NEW PROTECTIONS FOR FOUR PLANTS. [The Hill](#) (9/29, Devaney, 471K) reports that the FWS is "proposing new protections for four plants." According to the article, "the Big Pine partridge pea, wedge spurge, and sand flax would be listed as endangered species, while the Blodgett's silverbush would be listed as a threatened species, under the agency's proposal."

FWS PROPOSES PROTECTIONS FOR 49 HAWAII SPECIES. The [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (9/29, 41) reports that "yellow-faced bees, pool shrimp and band-rumped storm petrels are among the 49 species that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed adding to the Endangered Species Act." The article notes that "in all, 10 animals and 39 plants are being proposed," and "of those, 48 are found only in Hawaii — some only on one island."

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION RAISES FUNDS TO PROTECT MONARCH BUTTERFLY HABITAT. The [Greenwire](#) (9/28, Subscription Publication) reports that "the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has quickly raised the equivalent of \$10 million to protect the imperiled monarch butterfly, the organization announced today." According to the article, "donors have offered more than \$6.7 million in financial and in-kind donations to the foundation's \$3.3 million for 22 grants to support the restoration of up to 33,000 acres of nesting and feeding grounds for the monarch, whose populations have dwindled dramatically over the past 20 years." NFWF "worked with four federal agencies — the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Bureau of Land Management — and agribusiness giant Monsanto Co. to raise the funds."

Meanwhile, the [Dayton \(OH\) Daily News](#) (9/29, 117K) reports that "a project that should give a lift to the 2,000-mile annual flight of the Monarch butterfly across North America is underway at Fiver Rivers MetroParks." According to the article, "a grant from the Clean Ohio Fund, along with money from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and local funds, will pay for the purchase within the next month of a 147-acre tract of farmland adjacent to Germantown MetroPark."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (9/29, Suhr, 787K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (9/29, 962K), and [Agri-Pulse](#) (9/29).

FWS WANTS PROTECTION RESTORED FOR UTAH PRAIRIE DOGS. The [AP](#) (9/29, 2.28M) reports that "a lawyer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service told an appeals court Monday that a federal judge in Utah went too far when he struck down protections for a kind of prairie dog found only in that state." Attorney Anna Katselas urged the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals "to overturn the decision and restore protection for the prairie dogs under the Endangered Species Act." But Jonathan Wood, "an attorney for residents of Cedar City, Utah, who challenged the prairie dog rules, argued the federal government has no constitutional authority to protect a species found in only one state."

FWS SETS ASIDE FUNDS FOR WOLF-LIVESTOCK CONFLICT. The [East Oregonian](#) (9/28, 24K) reports that the FWS has "set aside \$356,000 to help ranchers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho deal with wolves around their livestock." The article notes that "a total of \$190,000 will be awarded for livestock losses, with \$100,000 to Idaho, \$83,690 to Washington and \$6,310 to Oregon." Oregon will "also receive \$66,000 for non-lethal prevention, along with \$100,000 to Washington."

FWS TO AWARD FUNDING TO SUPPORT NONLETHAL METHODS OF PROTECTING WOLVES AND LIVESTOCK. [KNAU-FM](#) Flagstaff, AZ (9/29, 1K) reports that the FWS will "award more than a quarter-million dollars to Arizona and New Mexico wildlife agencies." The grant is "designed to develop nonlethal methods of protection of Mexican gray wolves and livestock." The Wolf Livestock Demonstration Project will "allow ranchers to monitor wolf movements with radio telemetry equipment."

FWS PLANS CHEMICAL LAMPREY TREATMENT THROUGH OWASCO RIVER. The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (9/29, 53K) reports that "representatives with the federal Fish and Wildlife Service will chemically treat a large section of the Owasco River to control its lamprey population." The lampricides are "designed to kill sea lamprey larvae burrowed at the stream bottom as part of the Lake Ontario tributary."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL RABBIT POISED FOR A COMEBACK. Additional coverage that the Interior Department "took the New England cottontail off the list of species under consideration for protection under the Endangered Species Act" was provided by the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (9/28, 223K).

OP-ED MOVE TO PROTECT CHIMPANZEES COULD BACKFIRE. In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (9/27, Walsh, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), Peter D. Walsh, a lecturer in primate ecology at Cambridge University, writes that a new listing under the Endangered Species Act that "effectively bans the use of captive chimpanzees in human biomedical research" could "unintentionally deliver a serious blow to wild apes." Walsh claims that "efforts to develop and deploy vaccines against Ebola and other infectious diseases ravaging these animals could grind to a halt." He notes that "commercial bushmeat hunting and habitat loss have caused catastrophic declines in chimpanzee and gorilla populations." However, "disease has become a third driver of the unfolding African ape apocalypse."

National Park Service:

NPS PREPARES FOR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. The [West Chester \(PA\) Daily Local News](#) (9/28, 50K) reports that NPS Jonathan B. Jarvis recently delivered an address at the Outdoor Writers Association of America conference in Knoxville, TN. After the speech, Jarvis "discussed some of the plans his agency has to celebrate their upcoming centennial anniversary." Jarvis emphasized that the NPS' mission is "to connect the next generation to our National Parks."

West Virginia Fourth Graders Taking Part In "Every Kid In A Park" Initiative. The [AP](#) (9/29, 51K) reports that "hundreds of students in southern West Virginia will see a performance at Theatre West Virginia as part of a federal government campaign to get children to enjoy the outdoors." The NPS says "nearly 1,100 fourth graders from Fayette, Nicholas, Raleigh and Summers counties are signed up to attend the live show at the Cliffside Amphitheatre in Grandview on Wednesday." The article notes that "the field trip was made possible through a National Park Foundation transportation grant with help from the Hinton Area Foundation and Theatre West Virginia."

Additional coverage of the "Every Kid in a Park" initiative was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/28, 115K).

NPS MONITORING ARCH RENOVATION PROJECT. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (9/29, 968K) reports that "the \$380 million renovation of the Gateway Arch grounds" is "the largest single project in National Park Service history." The article notes that "it is the first renovation to rely on a local tax, Park Service officials say." It is also "one of the most complicated projects ever — with six partners and at least three land owners." And "at the same time, it's a national model for one of the Park Service's most important current initiatives: Connecting urban residents to their national parks."

ZION NATIONAL PARK REVIEWING RESPONSE TO FLOOD. [KSTU-TV](#) Salt Lake City (9/28, 180K) reports that "Zion National Park is considering changing its permit system when it comes to back-country exploration." The park is "also reevaluating the whole operation, from what information it gathers from the National Weather Service to what information it supplies to those who visit." Parks rangers said "they are performing an 'after-action review' to check to see if they believe the park may have done anything wrong."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK TO RAISE FEES THURSDAY. The [AP](#) (9/29, 2.28M) reports, Rocky Mountain National Park is "introducing increased entrance fees this week, including a new day use pass." Also, "next year the park will increase campground fees to \$26."

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK ASKS VISITORS NOT TO THROW COINS IN DESERT POTHoles. The [AP](#) (9/29, 2.28M) reports that "Arches National Park officials are asking visitors not to throw coins in ephemeral pools, reminding them that desert potholes are not wishing wells." Park rangers "found a number of coins Sept. 22, they believe they were left there by passing hikers."

TWO MEN, DOG RESCUED FROM SAILBOAT OFF OCEAN BEACH. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/29, Subscription Publication, 3.35M) reports that "two men and a dog were rescued Monday after their sailboat was in distress off Ocean Beach, leading to the arrest of one of the men for unrelated outstanding warrants, U.S. Park officials said." According to Golden Gate National Recreation Area spokeswoman Alexandra Picavet, "the arrested man, of San Francisco, was in a 36-foot sailboat with a man from Texas when National Park Service Rangers and U.S. Park Police retrieved the men."

Additional coverage was provided by [KPIX-TV](#) San Francisco (9/28, 116K).

HIKER RESCUED AFTER NIGHT IN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (9/28, 99K) reports that "after spending a night in Joshua Tree National Park, a 21-year-old man from Great Britain was found by rescuers and transported to Hi-Desert Medical Center on Sunday morning." According to the NPS, "the man had been hiking in the park's Rattlesnake Canyon with a group on Saturday evening, but they were separated."

OP-ED NPS CAN'T AFFORD NEW GRAND CANYON MONUMENT. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/28, 1.12M), Kurt R. Davis, chairman of the Arizona Game and

"while the infrastructure, facilities and visitor experience at our national parks continue to deteriorate, groups like the Sierra Club should bear responsibility for adding to this bloated backlog if their proposal to create the 1.7-million-acre Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument becomes reality." Davis claims that the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument would cause "further damage to the foundation of our National Park Service system."

US Geological Survey:

GIANT SEQUOIAS SHOWING SIGNS OF STRESS BECAUSE OF CALIFORNIA'S DROUGHT. The

Conversation Contents

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Subject: Legislative Summary, Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Attachments: Legislative Summary-09-29-15.doc

Legislative Summary, Tuesday, September 29, 2015

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Legislative Summary
from
the Legislative Counsel
Tuesday, September 29, 2015
To: All Interested Interior Offices

Attached for your information is today's Legislative Summary.

In order to keep the Summary as up-to-date as possible, we request that any bureau or office contacted directly regarding hearings or markups notify this office immediately.

New information about scheduled hearings and business meetings appears shaded in yellow. Hearings printed in *bold italic* type indicate DOI involvement.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Joseph Nevils on (202) 208-4580, or via E-Mail (Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov).

2015 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
		No Votes October 2-5
State Work Period October 12-26	Columbus Day October 12	District Work Period October 12-19
		No Votes October 30
November 11	Veterans Day November 11	District Work Week November 6-13
State Work Period November 23-27	Thanksgiving Day November 26	District Work Week November 20-27
		No Votes December 4
		No Votes December 11-14
State Work Period December 21-31		
TBD	Target Adjournment	December 18

Scheduled Floor Action

House

Tuesday, Sept. 29, Noon

The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business and is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules. The chamber is also expected to consider a bill (HR 3495) that would allow states to exclude from Medicare reimbursement any health care providers that are involved in abortions.

Agenda

HR 3495 — Women's Public Health and Safety Act

HR 3596 — A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring provisions of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes

HR 3595 — A bill to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, and for other purposes.

Wednesday, Sept. 30, Noon

The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business and is expected to consider a bill (HR ?) that would prohibit sanctions relief for Iran unless it first pays the court-ordered damages it owes to victims of Iranian-backed acts of terrorism and a measure (Senate amendment to HR 719) that would continue government funding for FY2016.

Agenda

HR 719 — TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act

Thursday, Oct. 1, 9 a.m.

The House reconvenes at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber may consider a conference report to accompany a bill (HR 1735) that would authorize national defense programs and funding for FY2016.

Agenda

HR 1735 — Fiscal 2016 Defense Authorization (NDAA)

Friday, Oct. 2

No votes are expected

Senate

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Recent Legislative Activity of Interest

Senate:

By Mr. **MURPHY** (for himself and Ms. **COLLINS**):

S. 2076. A bill to establish a task force to review policies and measures to promote, and to develop best practices for, reduction of short-lived climate pollutants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. **PETERS** (for himself and Ms. **STABENOW**):

S. 2080. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance pipeline safety, to provide communities with access to improved information concerning the equipment and operations of pipeline facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Measures Passed:

National Estuaries Week: Senate agreed to [S. Res. 269](#), designating the week of September 19 through September 26, 2015, as ``National Estuaries Week".

House:

By Mr. **FLEISCHMANN**:

H.R. 3599. A bill to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. **BEN RAY LUJÁN** of New Mexico (for himself, Ms. **MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM** of New Mexico, Mr. **POLIS**, Mr. **PERLMUTTER**, and Ms. **DEGETTE**):

H.R. 3602. A bill to provide compensation to injured persons relating to the Gold King Mine spill, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to address mining-related issues, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. **NOEM**:

H.R. 3603. A bill to grant a Federal charter to the National American Indian Veterans, Incorporated; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. **NORTON**:

H.R. 3604. A bill to establish a grant program to assist States to establish or expand universal prekindergarten in public schools and public charter schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. **SABLAN** (for himself, Ms. **BORDALLO**, and Ms. **PLASKETT**):

H.R. 3607. A bill to increase from 10 to 15 years the term of office of the judges of the district courts of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. **VELÁZQUEZ** (for herself, Ms. **MAXINE WATERS** of California, and Mr. **SERRANO**):

H.R. 3610. A bill to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate the exemption of companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. **GUINTA**:

H.R. 3615. A bill to delay enforcement and establishment of certain water quality standards within the Great Bay Estuary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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By Ms. **NORTON**:

H.R. 3619. A bill to redesignate Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia as Rock Creek National Park; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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Tues., Sep. 29 Tribal Recognition

**House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska
Native Affairs (Young)**

Subcommittee hearing on

**H.R. 286 (Zinke), To extend the Federal recognition of the Little Shell
Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes; and**

**H.R. 872 (Wittman), To extend Federal Recognition to the
Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe –Eastern
Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the
Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe.**

Time: 2:00 pm; Room 1324 Longworth

Invitation Received 9.22.2015

**Witness: Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
(Testimony received)**

Tues., Sept. 29 Briefing - Endangered Species Act Implementation

**Senate Environment and Public Works S/C on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife
(Sullivan)**

**Subcommittee oversight hearing on Improving the Endangered Species Act:
Perspectives from the Fish and Wildlife Service and State Governors**

2:00 p.m.; Room SD-406 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 9.24.15

**Witness: Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(Briefing Statement received)**

.....

Thurs., Oct. 1 Soda Ash Competitiveness

Senate Energy and Natural Resources S/C on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining (Barrasso)

Subcommittee hearing on

S. 2031 (Barrasso), A bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands

2:30 p.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 9.24.15

Witness: Amanda Leiter, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management

(Testimony received)

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Wed., Oct, 7 Indian Affairs Land Policy

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (Barrasso)

Full Committee hearing on

S. 817 (Wyden), A bill to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon

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S. 1986 (Reid), A bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada

H.R. 387 (Ruiz), To provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians

2:15 p.m.; Room SD-628 Dirksen

Invitation Received 9.24.15

Witness: Larry Roberts, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Thurs., Oct.8 Lands Measures

**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Forests, and Mining (Barrasso)**

Subcommittee hearing on

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S. 1295 (Bennet) and H.R. 1324 (Polis), A bill to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado

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S. 2069 (Wyden), A bill To amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon

2:30 p.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 9.23.2015

Witness: Steve Ellis, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management

Tentative Hearings:

Wed., Oct.7 Invasive Species

*House Oversight and Government Affairs (Chaffetz)
Full Committee oversight hearing on invasive species issues*

*Time and location TBD
Potential witness TBD*

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*Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)
Full Committee legislative hearing on drought related bills*

*10:00 a.m.; Location TBD
Potential witness: Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary*

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Tues., Oct 20 Confirmation Hearing

*Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)
Full Committee confirmation hearing on nominations of
Kris Sarri to be Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget;*

Suzette Kimball to be Director of the U.S. Geological Survey; and

DOE nominee(s)

*10:00 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen
Witness: Nominees*

.....
Tues., Oct.27 Stream Protection Rule

*Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)
Full Committee oversight hearing on Stream Protection Rule*

*10:00 a.m.; Location TBD
Potential witness TBD*

POSTPONEMENTS



Hearings of Interest:

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Senate Armed Services Committee (McCain)

Full Committee oversight hearing on U.S. cybersecurity policy and threats

9:30 a.m.; Room G-50 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Clean Air Policy

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Inhofe)

Full Committee oversight hearing on President Obama's clean air policy

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-406 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Marine National Monuments

House Natural Resources S/C on Water, Power and Oceans (Fleming)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on The Potential Implications of Pending Marine National Monument Designations

10:00 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Defense Department Cyber Strategy

House Armed Services Committee (Thornberry)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Outside Perspectives on the Department of Defense Cyber Strategy

10:00 a.m.; Room 2118 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Federal Forest Management

House Natural Resources S/C on Federal Lands (McClintock)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on State, Local and Tribal Approaches to Forest Management: Lessons for Better Management of our Federal Forests

10:30 a.m.; Room 1334 Longworth

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Pipeline Safety**Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation S/c on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security (Fischer)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on the safety of the U.S. Pipeline network

2:30 p.m.; Room SR-253 Russell
No request for DOI witness**Tues., Sep 29 Markup – Energy and Health Bills, Reconciliation Measures****House Energy and Commerce Committee (Upton)**

Full committee markup on

H.R. 8, North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act**H.R. 3342**, A bill to require special packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes

4:00 p.m.; Room 2123 Rayburn

Wed., Sep 30 Great Lakes Restoration**House Transportation and Infrastructure S/C on Water Resources and Environment (Gibbs)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: A Review of the Progress and Challenges in Restoring the Great Lakes

10:00 a.m.; Room 3167 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness**Wed., Sep 30 Waters of the United States****Senate Environment and Public Works S/C on Fisheries, Wildlife and Water (Sullivan)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on the Army Corps of Engineers' participation in the development of the new regulatory definition of "Waters of the United States"

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-406 Dirksen
No request for DOI witness**Wed., Sept.30 Energy and the States****House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Respecting State Authority, Responsibilities, and Expertise Regarding Resource Management and Energy Development

10:00 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sept. 30 Cyber Strategy Implementation

House Armed Services Committee (Thornberry)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Implementing the Department of Defense Cyber Strategy

10:00 a.m.; Room 2118 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sept. 30 Cyber War Issues

House Foreign Affairs Committee (Royce)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Cyber War: Definitions, Deterrence and Foreign Policy

10:00 a.m.; Room 2172 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sept. 30 Markup – Homeland Security Bills

House Homeland Security Committee (McCaul)

Full Committee markup on

HR 3102 — A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reform programs of the Transportation Security Administration, streamline transportation security regulations, and for other purposes.

HR 3144 — A bill to require consultation with the Aviation Security Advisory Committee regarding modifications to the prohibited item list, require a report on the Transportation Security Oversight Board, and for other purposes

HR 3350 — Know the CBRN Terrorism Threats to Transportation Act

HR 3361 — Department of Homeland Security Insider Threat and Mitigation Act

HR 3490 — Strengthening State and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act

HR 3493 — Securing the Cities Act

HR 3503 — Department of Homeland Security Support to Fusion Centers Act

HR 3505 — A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the management and administration of the security clearance processes throughout the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes

HR 3510 — A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a cybersecurity strategy for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

HR 3572 — A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reform, streamline, and make improvements to the Department of Homeland Security and support the Department's efforts to implement better policy, planning, management, and performance, and for other purposes

HR 3578 — A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to strengthen and make improvements to the Directorate of Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes

HR 3583 — A bill to reform and improve the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Office of Emergency Communications, and the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes

HR 3584 — A bill to authorize, streamline, and identify efficiencies within the Transportation Security Administration, and for other purposes.

HR 3586 — A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve border and maritime security coordination in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

Draft Bill — Fusion Center Enhancement Act

10:00 a.m.; Room 311 Cannon

Wed., Sep 30 Markup – Energy and Health Bills, Reconciliation Measures

House Energy and Commerce Committee (Upton)

Full Committee markup on

H.R. 8, North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act

H.R. 3342, A bill to require special packaging for liquid nicotine containers, and for other purposes

10:00 a.m.; Room 2123 Rayburn

Thurs., Oct. 1 Gold King Mine Spill

Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee (Vitter)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Examining the Significant Costs and Related Burdens for Small Businesses Resulting from the Gold King Mine Waste Water Spill Near Silverton, Colorado

10:00 a.m.; Room SR-428-A Russell

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Oct. 6 Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)

Full Committee oversight hearing on The Potential Modernization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and Related Energy Security Issues

10:30 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

Status of DOI Testimony
March 17, 2016

Bureau/Preparer	Witness	Committee	Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor	OCL Attorney	Date of Hearing	Date CLC Notified	Due to OMB	Bureau Notified	Date Due to CLC	Date Rec'd in CLC
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**The following requests for comments have been received
Monday, September 28, 2015**

Conversation Contents

Edits to legislative summary for tomorrow ... are attached ...

Attachments:

/156. Edits to legislative summary for tomorrow ... are attached .../1.1 Legislative Summary-09-29-15 cps.doc

"Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Sep 28 2015 08:55:42 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Joseph Nevils <joseph_nevils@ios.doi.gov>, Pamela Barkin <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>, Dominic Maione <Dominic_Maione@ios.doi.gov>, Joshua Mahan <Joshua_Mahan@ios.doi.gov>, "Quinn, Matthew" <Matthew_Quinn@ios.doi.gov>, Tracy Goodluck <tracy_goodluck@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Powell <jason_powell@ios.doi.gov>, Felipe Mendoza <felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov>, Ayesha Giles <ayasha_r_giles@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Edits to legislative summary for tomorrow ... are attached ...
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Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: 202.208.1403

Legislative Summary
from
the Legislative Counsel
Monday Tuesday, September 28~~29~~, 2015
To: All Interested Interior Offices

Attached for your information is today's Legislative Summary.

In order to keep the Summary as up-to-date as possible, we request that any bureau or office contacted directly regarding hearings or markups notify this office immediately.

New information about scheduled hearings and business meetings appears shaded in yellow. Hearings printed in *bold italic* type indicate DOI involvement.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Joseph Nevils on (202) 208-4580, or via E-Mail (Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov).

2015 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
		No Votes October 2-5
State Work Period October 12-26	Columbus Day October 12	District Work Period October 12-19
		No Votes October 30
November 11	Veterans Day November 11	District Work Week November 6-13
State Work Period November 23-27	Thanksgiving Day November 26	District Work Week November 20-27
		No Votes December 4
		No Votes December 11-14
State Work Period December 21-31		
TBD	Target Adjournment	December 18

Scheduled Floor Action

House

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

On Tuesday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

Legislation Considered Under Suspension of the Rules:

1) H.R. 3596 - Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2015 (Sponsored by Rep. Chris Smith / Veterans' Affairs Committee)

2) H.R. 3595 - To extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, and for other purposes (Sponsored by Rep. Jeff Miller / Veterans' Affairs Committee)

H.R. 3495 - Women's Public Health and Safety Act (Subject to a Rule) (Sponsored by Rep. Sean Duffy / Energy and Commerce Committee)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH AND THE BALANCE OF THE WEEK

On Wednesday, the House will meet at 10:00 a.m. for morning hour and 12:00 p.m. for legislative business.

On Thursday, the House will meet at 9:00 a.m. for legislative business. Last votes expected no later than 3:00 p.m.

On Friday, no votes are expected.

H.R. _____ - Justice for Victims of Iranian Terrorism Act (Subject to a Rule) (Sponsored by Rep. Patrick Meehan / Foreign Affairs Committee)

Consideration of legislation related to Continuing Government Funding for FY2016

Possible Consideration of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 1735 - National Defense Authorization Act for FY2016

Senate

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Recent Legislative Activity of Interest

Senate:

By Mr. **MURPHY** (for himself and Ms. **COLLINS**):

S. 2076. A bill to establish a task force to review policies and measures to promote, and to develop best practices for, reduction of short-lived climate pollutants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. **PETERS** (for himself and Ms. **STABENOW**):

S. 2080. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance pipeline safety, to provide communities with access to improved information concerning the equipment and operations of pipeline facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Measures Passed:

National Estuaries Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 269, designating the week of September 19 through September 26, 2015, as ``National Estuaries Week'`.

House:

By Mr. **FLEISCHMANN**:

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No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sep 30 Great Lakes Restoration**House Transportation and Infrastructure S/C on Water Resources and Environment (Gibbs)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: A Review of the Progress and Challenges in Restoring the Great Lakes

10:00 a.m.; Room 3167 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sep 30 Waters of the United States**Senate Environment and Public Works S/C on Fisheries, Wildlife and Water (Sullivan)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on the Army Corps of Engineers' participation in the development of the new regulatory definition of "Waters of the United States"

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-406 Dirksen
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sept.30 Energy and the States**House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Respecting State Authority, Responsibilities, and Expertise Regarding Resource Management and Energy Development

10:00 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sept. 30 Cyber Strategy Implementation**House Armed Services Committee (Thornberry)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Implementing the Department of Defense Cyber Strategy

10:00 a.m.; Room 2118 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sept. 30 Cyber War Issues

House Foreign Affairs Committee (Royce)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Cyber War: Definitions, Deterrence and Foreign Policy

10:00 a.m.; Room 2172 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

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House Homeland Security Committee (McCaul)

Full Committee markup on

HR 3102 — A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reform programs of the Transportation Security Administration, streamline transportation security regulations, and for other purposes.

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10:00 a.m.; Room 311 Cannon

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Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee (Vitter)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Examining the Significant Costs and Related Burdens for Small Businesses Resulting from the Gold King Mine Waste Water Spill Near Silverton, Colorado

10:00 a.m.; Room SR-428-A Russell
No request for DOI witness

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Tues., Oct. 6 Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)

Full Committee oversight hearing on The Potential Modernization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and Related Energy Security Issues

10:30 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen
No request for DOI witness

Status of DOI Testimony
 March 17, 2016

Bureau/Preparer	Witness	Committee	Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor	OCL Attorney	Date of Hearing	Date CLC Notified	Due to OMB	Bureau Notified	Date Due to CLC	Date Rec'd in CLC
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Conversation Contents

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Attachments:

/158. Legislative Summary, Monday, September 28, 2015/1.1 Legislative Summary-09-28-15.doc

"Nevils, Joseph" <joseph_nevils@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Nevils, Joseph" <joseph_nevils@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Sep 25 2015 14:46:32 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Legs Summary Group <Allyson.Anderson@bsee.gov>, Legs Summary Group <mareid@blm.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Martin_Kodis@fws.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Jim_Gasser@nps.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Kaiini_Kaloi@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Congressional@usbr.gov>, Legs Summary Group <jctaylor@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <jason_powell@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <tracy_goodluck@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Duane_Galloway@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Tom.Bovard@sol.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Matthew_Quinn@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Abigail_D_Miller@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Susan_Hatton@doioig.gov>, Legs Summary Group <ariana.wisniewski@sol.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <tbukaweski@osmre.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Lori_Faeth@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Tracie_Lassiter@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Bryan_P_Leon@omb.eop.gov>, Legs Summary Group 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<Julie.Fleming@bsee.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Karen.Frazier@bia.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Cheri.Hunter@bsee.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Lee.Tilton@boem.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Chris_Salotti@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Lauren_Bogard@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <cyspears@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Ayesha_R_Giles@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <donald_Cairns@doioig.gov>, Legs Summary Group <wholmes@blm.gov>, Legs Summary Group <lwilliams@osmre.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Joan_Padilla@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>, Legs Summary Group <robertleach@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <russell.husen@sol.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Liberty.Metcalf@bia.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Stephen_Sander@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Robert_Howarth@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Shirley_Lewis@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <hfowler@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Dominic_Maione@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group 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<agarrison@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Mark_Bathrick@nbc.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Christopher_Stubbs@doioig.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Joshua_Mahan@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <cransom@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Lori_Williams@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <anelson@blm.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Caitlin_Snyder@fws.gov>, Legs Summary Group <tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Chris_Dionigi@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <david_mccoy@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <tiffany_taylor@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <kristen_sarri@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <robert.johnston@sol.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <kim_thorsen@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <aadler@usbr.gov>, Legs Summary Group <alyssa_hausman@fws.gov>, Legs Summary Group <jonizuk@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <bruce_delaplaine@doioig.gov>, Legs Summary Group <ryan.underwood@bsee.gov>, Legs Summary Group <karen_hyun@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <onrrcongressionalaffairs@onrr.gov>, Legs Summary Group <mark_bathrick@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <mariacamille_touton@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Francisco_Carrillo@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Legislative Summary, Monday, September 28, 2015
Attachments: Legislative Summary-09-28-15.doc

Legislative Summary, Monday, September 28, 2015

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Joseph Nevils
Legislative Assistant

Department of the Interior
1849 C St, NW 20240
(202) 208-4580 (O)
(202) 208-7619 (F)

Legislative Summary
from
the Legislative Counsel
Monday, September 28, 2015
To: All Interested Interior Offices

Attached for your information is today's Legislative Summary.

In order to keep the Summary as up-to-date as possible, we request that any bureau or office contacted directly regarding hearings or markups notify this office immediately.

New information about scheduled hearings and business meetings appears shaded in yellow. Hearings printed in *bold italic* type indicate DOI involvement.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Joseph Nevils on (202) 208-4580, or via E-Mail (Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov).

2015 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
		No Votes October 2-5
State Work Period October 12-26	Columbus Day October 12	District Work Period October 12-19
		No Votes October 30
November 11	Veterans Day November 11	District Work Week November 6-13
State Work Period November 23-27	Thanksgiving Day November 26	District Work Week November 20-27
		No Votes December 4
		No Votes December 11-14
State Work Period December 21-31		
TBD	Target Adjournment	December 18

Scheduled Floor Action

House

Senate

Monday, Sept. 28

The Senate is expected to be in session. A cloture vote is expected at 5:30 p.m. on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to a Transportation Security Administration-related measure (HR 719), with an amendment that would add a continuing resolution that would run through Dec. 11, 2015.

Agenda

HR 719 — TSA Office of Inspection Accountability Act

Recent Legislative Activity of Interest

The Department has been Invited to the Following Hearings:

Tues., Sep. 29 Tribal Recognition

***House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska
Native Affairs (Young)***

Subcommittee hearing on

***H.R. 286 (Zinke), To extend the Federal recognition of the Little Shell
Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes; and***

***H.R. 872 (Wittman), To extend Federal Recognition to the
Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe –Eastern
Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the
Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe.***

Time: 2:00 pm; Room 1324 Longworth

Invitation Received 9.22.2015

***Witness: Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
(Testimony received)***

Tues., Sept. 29 Briefing - Endangered Species Act Implementation

***Senate Environment and Public Works S/C on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife
(Sullivan)***

***Subcommittee oversight hearing on Improving the Endangered Species Act:
Perspectives from the Fish and Wildlife Service and State Governors***

2:00 p.m.; Room SD-406 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 9.24.15

***Witness: Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(Briefing Statement received)***

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Thurs., Oct. 1 Soda Ash Competitiveness

Senate Energy and Natural Resources S/C on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining (Barrasso)

Subcommittee hearing on

S. 2031 (Barrasso), A bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands

2:30 p.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 9.24.15

Witness: Amanda Leiter, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management

(Testimony received)

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Wed., Oct, 7 Indian Affairs Land Policy

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (Barrasso)

Full Committee hearing on

S. 817 (Wyden), A bill to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon

S. 818 (Wyden), A bill to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections

S. 1436 (Reid), A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes

S. 1761 (Boxer), A bill to take certain Federal land located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria

S. 1822 (Boxer), A bill to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

S. 1986 (Reid), A bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada

H.R. 387 (Ruiz), To provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians

2:15 p.m.; Room SD-628 Dirksen

Witness: Larry Roberts, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

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Thurs., Oct.8 **Lands Measures**

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining (Barrasso)

Subcommittee hearing on

S. 414 (Feinstein), A bill to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area

S. 872 (Murkowski), A bill to provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

S. 1295 (Bennet) and H.R. 1324 (Polis), A bill to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado

S. 1448 (Wyden), A bill to designate the Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary in the State of Oregon

S. 1592 (Flake), A bill to clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest

S. 1941 (Gardner) and H.R. 2223 (Lamborn), A bill to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado

S. 1942 (Gardner) and H.R. 1554 (Tipton), A bill to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado

S. 1955 (Murkowski), A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans

S. 1971 (Boxer), A bill to expand the boundary of the California Coastal National Monument

S. 2069 (Wyden), A bill To amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon

2:30 p.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 9.23.2015

Witness: Steve Ellis, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management

Tentative Hearings:

Wed., Oct.7 Invasive Species

***House Oversight and Government Affairs (Chaffetz)*
Full Committee oversight hearing on invasive species issues**

Time and location TBD
Potential witness TBD

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Thurs., Oct.8 Drought Legislation

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)
Full Committee legislative hearing on drought related bills

10:00 a.m.; Location TBD
Potential witness: Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary

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Tues., Oct 20 Confirmation Hearing

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)
Full Committee confirmation hearing on nominations of
Kris Sarri to be Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget;

Suzette Kimball to be Director of the U.S. Geological Survey; and

DOE nominee(s)

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen
Witness: Nominees

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Tues., Oct.27 Stream Protection Rule

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)
Full Committee oversight hearing on Stream Protection Rule

10:00 a.m.; Location TBD
Potential witness TBD

POSTPONEMENTS

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Hearings of Interest:

Tues., Sep 29 Cybersecurity Policy

Senate Armed Services Committee (McCain)

Full Committee oversight hearing on U.S. cybersecurity policy and threats

9:30 a.m.; Room G-50 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Clean Air Policy

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Inhofe)

Full Committee oversight hearing on President Obama's clean air policy

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-406 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Marine National Monuments

House Natural Resources S/C on Water, Power and Oceans (Fleming)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on The Potential Implications of Pending Marine National Monument Designations

10:00 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Defense Department Cyber Strategy

House Armed Services Committee (Thornberry)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Outside Perspectives on the Department of Defense Cyber Strategy

10:00 a.m.; Room 2118 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Federal Forest Management

House Natural Resources S/C on Federal Lands (McClintock)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on State, Local and Tribal Approaches to Forest Management : Lessons for Better Management of our Federal Forests

10:30 a.m.; Room 1334 Longworth

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Pipeline Safety**Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation S/c on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security (Fischer)**

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2:30 p.m.; Room SR-253 Russell
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Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee (Vitter)

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No request for DOI witness

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Full Committee oversight hearing on The Potential Modernization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and Related Energy Security Issues

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From: "Nevils, Joseph" <joseph_nevils@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Sep 24 2015 15:28:04 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Legs Summary Group <Allyson.Anderson@bsee.gov>, Legs Summary Group <mareid@blm.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Martin_Kodis@fws.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Jim_Gasser@nps.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Kaiini_Kaloi@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Congressional@usbr.gov>, Legs Summary Group <jctaylor@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <jason_powell@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <tracy_goodluck@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Duane_Galloway@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Tom.Bovard@sol.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Matthew_Quinn@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Abigail_D_Miller@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Susan_Hatton@doioig.gov>, Legs Summary Group <ariana.wisniewski@sol.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <tbukaweski@osmre.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Lori_Faeth@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Tracie_Lassiter@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Bryan_P_Leon@omb.eop.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Melissa_Kuckro@nps.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Marshall_J_Rodgers@omb.eop.gov>, Legs Summary Group <mgins@blm.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Lauren.Gonzales-Evans@onrr.gov>, Legs Summary Group <lkwan@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Darren.Pete@bia.gov>, Legs Summary Group <markee_connors@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Kimberly_Elmore@doioig.gov>, Legs Summary Group <john_D_Burnim@omb.eop.gov>, Legs Summary Group <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Suzanna_Park@doioig.gov>, Legs Summary Group <p2wilkin@blm.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Hannibal_Ware@doioig.gov>, Legs Summary Group <christopher_watts@nps.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Tricia_Hall@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Don_Hellmann@nps.gov>, Legs Summary Group <mjcolomb@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <camille_touton@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Pamela_Barkin@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Willie_Thomas@omb.eop.gov>, Legs Summary Group <wlukas@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <James_Douglas@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Julie.Fleming@bsee.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Karen.Frazier@bia.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Cheri.Hunter@bsee.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Lee.Tilton@boem.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Chris_Salotti@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Lauren_Bogard@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <cyspears@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Ayesha_R_Giles@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <donald_Cairns@doioig.gov>, Legs Summary Group <wholmes@blm.gov>, Legs Summary Group <llwilliams@osmre.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Joan_Padilla@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Kathy_Kupper@nps.gov>, Legs Summary Group <robertleach@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <russell.husen@sol.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Liberty.Metcalf@bia.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Stephen_Sander@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Robert_Howarth@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Shirley_Lewis@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <hfowler@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Dominic_Maione@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <christine_wiley@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <craig_dorsett@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <betsy_hildebrandt@fws.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Richard_Cardinale@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <esther_kiaaina@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <lesli_gray@fws.gov>, Legs Summary Group <harry_humbert@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Sarah_E_Peterson@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <RFulkerson@usbr.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Matthew_Huggler@fws.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Kris_Kolesnik@doioig.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Frank_Quimby@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <jennifer_gimbel@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Audrey_Haskins@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Lori_Caramanian@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <ctrent@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Peter_Teensma@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <tosh.sagar@sol.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Olivia_Ferriter@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <twest@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <agarrison@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Mark_Bathrick@nbc.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Francisco_Carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Christopher_Stubbs@doioig.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Joshua_Mahan@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <cransom@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Lori_Williams@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <anelson@blm.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Caitlin_Snyder@fws.gov>, Legs Summary Group <tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Chris_Dionigi@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <david_mccoy@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <tiffany_taylor@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <kristen_sarri@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <robert.johnston@sol.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <kim_thorsen@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <aadler@usbr.gov>, Legs Summary Group <alyssa_hausman@fws.gov>, Legs Summary Group <jonizuk@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <bruce_delaplaine@doioig.gov>, Legs Summary Group <ryan.underwood@bsee.gov>, Legs Summary Group <karen_hyun@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <onrrcongressionalaffairs@onrr.gov>, Legs Summary Group <mark_bathrick@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <mariacamille_touton@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Legislative Summary, Friday, September 25, 2015
Attachments: Legislative Summary-09-25-15.doc

Legislative Summary, Friday, September 25, 2015

--

Joseph Nevils
Legislative Assistant

Department of the Interior
1849 C St, NW 20240
(202) 208-4580 (O)
(202) 208-7619 (F)

Legislative Summary
from
the Legislative Counsel
Friday, September 25, 2015
To: All Interested Interior Offices

Attached for your information is today's Legislative Summary.

In order to keep the Summary as up-to-date as possible, we request that any bureau or office contacted directly regarding hearings or markups notify this office immediately.

New information about scheduled hearings and business meetings appears shaded in yellow. Hearings printed in *bold italic* type indicate DOI involvement.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Joseph Nevils on (202) 208-4580, or via E-Mail (Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov).

2015 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
		No Votes October 2-5
State Work Period October 12-26	Columbus Day October 12	District Work Period October 12-19
		No Votes October 30
November 11	Veterans Day November 11	District Work Week November 6-13
State Work Period November 23-27	Thanksgiving Day November 26	District Work Week November 20-27
		No Votes December 4
		No Votes December 11-14
State Work Period December 21-31		
TBD	Target Adjournment	December 18

Scheduled Floor Action

House

Friday, Sept. 25, 9 a.m.

The House reconvenes at 9 a.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider a bill (HR 348) that would expedite the approval process of certain projects.

Agenda

HR 348 — Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act

Senate

Friday, Sept. 25

The Senate is expected to be in session

Recent Legislative Activity of Interest

Senate:

By Mr. **UDALL** (for himself, Mr. **HEINRICH**, and Mr. **BENNET**):

S. 2063. A bill to provide compensation to injured persons relating to the Gold King Mine spill, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to address mining-related issues, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. **WYDEN** (for himself and Mr. **MERKLEY**):

S. 2069. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Measures Reported:

H.R. 34, to authorize and strengthen the tsunami detection, forecast, warning, research, and mitigation program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114-146)

Albuquerque Indian School Land Transfer Act: Senate passed S. 986, to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico.

House:

By Mrs. **MILLER** of Michigan (for herself and Mr. **MCCAUL**):

H.R. 3586. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve border and maritime security coordination in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. **SCHWEIKERT**:

H.R. 3592. A bill to establish a pilot program to reduce the number of vehicles owned by certain Federal departments and increase the use of ride-sharing services; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. **SCHWEIKERT**:

H.R. 3593. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations to ensure that a person who holds a private pilot certificate may communicate with the public to facilitate certain shared cost flights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The Department has been Invited to the Following Hearings:

Tues., Sep. 29 Tribal Recognition

House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs (Young)

Subcommittee hearing on

H.R. 286 (Zinke), To extend the Federal recognition of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes; and

H.R. 872 (Wittman), To extend Federal Recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe –Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe.

Time: 2:00 pm; Room 1324 Longworth

Invitation Received 9.22.2015

**Witness: Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
(Testimony received)**

Tues., Sept. 29 Briefing - Endangered Species Act Implementation

Senate Environment and Public Works S/C on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife (Sullivan)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Improving the Endangered Species Act: Perspectives from the Fish and Wildlife Service and State Governors

2:00 p.m.; Room SD-406 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 9.24.15

**Witness: Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(Briefing Statement received)**

.....
Thurs., Oct. 1 Soda Ash Competitiveness

Senate Energy and Natural Resources S/C on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining (Barrasso)

Subcommittee hearing on

S. 2031 (Barrasso), A bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands

2:30 p.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 9.24.15

Witness: Amanda Leiter, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management

.....
Wed., Oct, 7 **Indian Affairs Land Policy**

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (Barrasso)

Full Committee hearing on

S. 817 (Wyden), A bill to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon

S. 818 (Wyden), A bill to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections

S. 1436 (Reid), A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes

S. 1761 (Boxer), A bill to take certain Federal land located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria

S. 1822 (Boxer), A bill to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

S. 1986 (Reid), A bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada

H.R. 387 (Ruiz), To provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians

2:15 p.m.; Room SD-628 Dirksen

Witness: Larry Roberts, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Thurs., Oct.8 Lands Measures

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining (Barrasso)

Subcommittee hearing on

S. 414 (Feinstein), A bill to provide for conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area

S. 872 (Murkowski), A bill to provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

S. 1295 (Bennet) and H.R. 1324 (Polis), A bill to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado

S. 1448 (Wyden), A bill to designate the Frank Moore Wild Steelhead Sanctuary in the State of Oregon

S. 1592 (Flake), A bill to clarify the description of certain Federal land under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005 to include additional land in the Kaibab National Forest

S. 1941 (Gardner) and H.R. 2223 (Lamborn), A bill to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado

S. 1942 (Gardner) and H.R. 1554 (Tipton), A bill to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado

S. 1955 (Murkowski), A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide for equitable allotment of land to Alaska Native veterans

S. 1971 (Boxer), A bill to expand the boundary of the California Coastal National Monument

S. 2069 (Wyden), A bill To amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to modify provisions relating to certain land exchanges in the Mt. Hood Wilderness in the State of Oregon

2:30 p.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 9.23.2015

Witness: Steve Ellis, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management

Tentative Hearings:

Wed., Oct.7 Invasive Species

**House Oversight and Government Affairs (Chaffetz)
Full Committee oversight hearing on invasive species issues**

**Time and location TBD
Potential witness TBD**

.....
Thurs., Oct.8 Drought Legislation

**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)
Full Committee legislative hearing on drought related bills**

**10:00 a.m.; Location TBD
Potential witness: Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary**

.....
Tues., Oct 20 Confirmation Hearing

**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)
Full Committee confirmation hearing on nominations of
Kris Sarri to be Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget;**

Suzette Kimball to be Director of the U.S. Geological Survey; and

DOE nominee(s)

**10:00 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen
Witness: Nominees**

.....
Tues., Oct.27 Stream Protection Rule

**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)
Full Committee oversight hearing on Stream Protection Rule**

**10:00 a.m.; Location TBD
Potential witness TBD**

POSTPONEMENTS



Hearings of Interest:

Tues., Sep 29 Cybersecurity Policy

Senate Armed Services Committee (McCain)

Full Committee oversight hearing on U.S. cybersecurity policy and threats

9:30 a.m.; Room G-50 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Clean Air Policy

Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Inhofe)

Full Committee oversight hearing on President Obama's clean air policy

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-406 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Marine National Monuments

House Natural Resources S/C on Water, Power and Oceans (Fleming)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on The Potential Implications of Pending Marine National Monument Designations

10:00 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Defense Department Cyber Strategy

House Armed Services Committee (Thornberry)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Outside Perspectives on the Department of Defense Cyber Strategy

10:00 a.m.; Room 2118 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Federal Forest Management

House Natural Resources S/C on Federal Lands (McClintock)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on State, Local and Tribal Approaches to Forest Management : Lessons for Better Management of our Federal Forests

10:30 a.m.; Room 1334 Longworth

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Sep 29 Pipeline Safety**Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation S/c on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security (Fischer)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on the safety of the U.S. Pipeline network

2:30 p.m.; Room SR-253 Russell

No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sep 30 Great Lakes Restoration**House Transportation and Infrastructure S/C on Water Resources and Environment (Gibbs)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: A Review of the Progress and Challenges in Restoring the Great Lakes

10:00 a.m.; Room 3167 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sep 30 Waters of the United States**Senate Environment and Public Works S/C on Fisheries, Wildlife and Water (Sullivan)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on the Army Corps of Engineers' participation in the development of the new regulatory definition of "Waters of the United States"

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-406 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sept.30 Energy and the States**House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Respecting State Authority, Responsibilities, and Expertise Regarding Resource Management and Energy Development

10:00 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth

No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sept. 30 Cyber Strategy Implementation**House Armed Services Committee (Thornberry)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Implementing the Department of Defense Cyber Strategy

10:00 a.m.; Room 2118 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sept. 30 Cyber War Issues**House Foreign Affairs Committee (Royce)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Cyber War: Definitions, Deterrence and Foreign Policy

10:00 a.m.; Room 2172 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

Thurs., Oct. 1 Gold King Mine Spill**Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee (Vitter)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Examining the Significant Costs and Related Burdens for Small Businesses Resulting from the Gold King Mine Waste Water Spill Near Silverton, Colorado

10:00 a.m.; Room SR-428-A Russell

No request for DOI witness

Tues., Oct. 6 Strategic Petroleum Reserve**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on The Potential Modernization of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and Related Energy Security Issues

10:30 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

Status of DOI Testimony
March 17, 2016

Bureau/Preparer	Witness	Committee	Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor	OCL Attorney	Date of Hearing	Date CLC Notified	Due to OMB	Bureau Notified	Date Due to CLC	Date Rec'd in CLC
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**The following requests for comments have been received
Thursday, September 24, 2015**

- HRG #141** **COMMERCE Oversight Testimony 9/29/15**
Re: The Potential Implications of Pending Marine National Monument Designations
(5 pages)
DUE 9/24/15 Atty: Dominic Maione
- H.R. 702** **OMB Statement of Administration Policy**
Re: To adapt to changing crude oil market conditions
(3 pages)
DUE 9/24/15 Atty: Matt Quinn
- HRG #142** **INTERIOR (FWS) Proposed Testimony 9/29/15**
Re: Improving the Endangered Species Act: Perspectives from the Fish and Wildlife Service and State Governors
(5 pages)
DUE 9/24/15 Atty: Dominic Maione
- HRG #140** **EPA Oversight Testimony 9/30/15**
Re: The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: A Review of the Progress and Challenges in Restoring the Great Lakes
(8 pages)
DUE 9/25/15 Atty: Josh Mahan
- H.R. 286** **INTERIOR (A/S-IA) Proposed Testimony 9/29/15**
Re: Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2015
(2 pages)
DUE 9/25/15 Atty: Tracy Goodluck
- H.R. 872** **INTERIOR (A/S-IA) Proposed Testimony 9/29/15**
Re: Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2015
(2 page)
DUE 9/25/15 Atty: Tracy Goodluck
- S. 2063** **INTERIOR Request for Views**
Re: Gold King Mine Spill
(14 pages)
DUE 9/28/15 Atty: Chris Salotti

MISC #111 DHS Draft Bills on Coast Guard Legislative Proposals
(148 pages)
DUE 10/1/15 Atty: Dominic Maione

Conversation Contents

Public/Tribal meeting in AZ

Attachments:

/1. Public/Tribal meeting in AZ/8.1 image003.png

"Watkins, David" <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>

From: "Watkins, David" <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wed Dec 02 2015 12:35:25 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Buffa, Nicole (nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)"
<nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Public/Tribal meeting in AZ

Hello –

As discussed, Ranking Member Grijalva will be inviting the Secretary to AZ for a public meeting, as well as a meeting with Tribal leaders, to discuss the merits of a possible national monument designation for the Grand Canyon area.

Below are potential dates for these events. Please let us know if any of these might work and we will get going on a formal invitation.

Thanks.

David Watkins

Democratic Staff Director

House Natural Resources Committee

1329 Longworth House Office Building

(202) 225-6065

From: Villa, Cristina
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 1:15 PM
To: Watkins, David; Miller, Glenn
Cc: Bragato, Brandon
Subject: RE: Dear secretary jewel dw

Recess week of February 15th would work: Monday, February 15th (Presidents Day)-Thursday, February 18th. Holding these dates on RG's calendar.

Cristina Villa

Manager of Operations | Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (AZ-03)

Longworth 1511 Washington, D.C. 20515 | 202.225.2435



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Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Dec 02 2015 12:37:17 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Public/Tribal meeting in AZ

For discussion.

On Dec 2, 2015, at 2:35 PM, Watkins, David <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Hello –

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<image004.png><image005.png>

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"Watkins, David" <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>

From: "Watkins, David" <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wed Dec 02 2015 15:11:42 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Buffa, Nicole (nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, "Stephenne Harding (stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov)" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: FW: Public/Tribal meeting in AZ

Good evening –

I discussed the various strategic reasons for delaying a public meeting on this with Mr. Grijalva and he is fine with playing this in whatever way works best. I would raise the possibility of timing a possible designation to coincide with the NPS Centennial in August – is that something to shoot for and if so, would that mean doing the public/tribal meetings before summer?

Also – if we are delaying a public/tribal meeting with the Secretary until summer, is there something we can do in the interim to keep Tribal stakeholders engaged? For example, would a meeting with an appropriate DoI official, either in AZ or in DC, be possible in the interim?

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From: Watkins, David

Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 2:35 PM

To: Buffa, Nicole (nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)

Cc: Neimeyer, Sarah; Stephenne Harding (stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov)

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From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Dec 02 2015 15:35:30 GMT-0700 (MST)
To:
Subject: Re: Public/Tribal meeting in AZ

Hmmm. We don't have any authority to do this. We need to direct him to CEQ. Happy to do so unless one of you will.

On Dec 2, 2015, at 5:12 PM, Watkins, David <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov> wrote:

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calendar.

Cristina Villa

Manager of Operations | Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (AZ-03)

Longworth 1511 Washington, D.C. 20515 | 202.225.2435

 <image002.png>  <image004.png> <image005.png>

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"Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Wed Dec 02 2015 15:47:18 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Public/Tribal meeting in AZ

Nikki -- If you could have that conversation that would be best. Thanks, Sarah

On Wed, Dec 2, 2015 at 5:35 PM, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Hmmm. We don't have any authority to do this. We need to direct him to CEQ. Happy to do so unless one of you will.

On Dec 2, 2015, at 5:12 PM, Watkins, David <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Good evening –

I discussed the various strategic reasons for delaying a public meeting on this with Mr. Grijalva and he is fine with playing this in whatever way works best. I would raise the possibility of timing a possible designation to coincide with the NPS Centennial in August – is that something to shoot for and if so, would that mean doing the public/tribal meetings before summer?

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Thanks.

David Watkins

Democratic Staff Director

House Natural Resources Committee

1329 Longworth House Office Building

(202) 225-6065

From: Watkins, David
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 2:35 PM
To: Buffa, Nicole (nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov)

Cc: Neimeyer, Sarah; Stephenne Harding (stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov)
Subject: Public/Tribal meeting in AZ

Hello –

As discussed, Ranking Member Grijalva will be inviting the Secretary to AZ for a public meeting, as well as a meeting with Tribal leaders, to discuss the merits of a possible national monument designation for the Grand Canyon area.

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Democratic Staff Director

House Natural Resources Committee

1329 Longworth House Office Building

(202) 225-6065

From: Villa, Cristina
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 1:15 PM
To: Watkins, David; Miller, Glenn
Cc: Bragato, Brandon
Subject: RE: Dear secretary jewel dw

Recess week of February 15th would work: Monday, February 15th
(Presidents Day)- Thursday, February 18th. Holding these dates on RG's calendar.

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--

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Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Office - (202) 208-5557
Fax - (202) 208-5533

Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Dec 02 2015 15:48:35 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Public/Tribal meeting in AZ

They already did. He talked to her earlier today

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 2, 2015, at 5:47 PM, Neimeyer, Sarah <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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"Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Dec 02 2015 15:49:50 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Public/Tribal meeting in AZ

Thanks.

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<image002.png>



<image004.png>

<image005.png>

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Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Dec 02 2015 15:51:01 GMT-0700 (MST)

To: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Public/Tribal meeting in AZ
Attachments: image003.png

Happy to!

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[<image002.png><image003.png><image004.png><image005.png>](#)

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Fax - (202) 208-5533

Conversation Contents

Meeting with Ranking Member Grijalva

"Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 23 2015 08:01:32 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Watkins, David" <david.watkins@mail.house.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Meeting with Ranking Member Grijalva

David--

We're starting to prepare for the meeting with Ranking Member Grijalva on the 7th of December. Are there specific issues you want us to flag for Secretary Jewell in this meeting? I believe you mentioned some Grand Canyon Mining Withdrawal issues and obviously Gold King Mine, but wanted to see if there were other items.

Thanks,
Stephenne

--

Stephenne Harding
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Stephenne_Harding@ios.doi.gov
202-208-6174 (desk)
202-341-8080 (cell)

"Watkins, David" <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>

From: "Watkins, David" <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 23 2015 08:36:28 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Ranking Member Grijalva

Good morning.

His main focus will be the proposal for a National Monument around GRCA. He has introduced a legislative proposal (H.R. 3882), developed with the Tribes, but we are also focused on a designation under the

Antiquities Act. We have been working with Christy Goldfuss and Nicole Buffa (the majority of the area is FS, but not all).

Beyond that: LWCF, ESA, Gold King, NPS 100th.

David Watkins

Democratic Staff Director

House Natural Resources Committee

1329 Longworth House Office Building

(202) 225-6065

From: Harding, Stephenne [mailto:stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2015 10:02 AM
To: Watkins, David; Sarah Neimeyer
Subject: Meeting with Ranking Member Grijalva

David--

We're starting to prepare for the meeting with Ranking Member Grijalva on the 7th of December. Are there specific issues you want us to flag for Secretary Jewell in this meeting? I believe you mentioned some Grand Canyon Mining Withdrawal issues and obviously Gold King Mine, but wanted to see if there were other items.

Thanks,

Stephenne

--

Stephenne Harding

Deputy Director

Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of the Interior

Stephenne_Harding@ios.doi.gov

202-208-6174 (desk)

202-341-8080 (cell)

Conversation Contents

Call with the Ranking Member

"Watkins, David" <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>

From: "Watkins, David" <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 05 2015 09:19:24 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, "Stephenne Harding (stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov)" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Call with the Ranking Member

Good morning.

Ranking Member Grijalva would like to arrange a phone call with the Secretary. The agenda would include: the NPS Centennial, the Grand Canyon, and various BLM issues in Arizona.

Please let us know.

Thanks.

*David Watkins
Democratic Staff Director
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
(202) 225-6065*

"Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 05 2015 09:22:36 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Molly Click <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>, Romen Borsellino <romen_borsellino@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Call with the Ranking Member

Booch/Romen/Molly

Is this something we could schedule in the upcoming days?

Thanks,

Stephene

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Watkins, David** <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>

Date: Thu, Nov 5, 2015 at 11:19 AM

Subject: Call with the Ranking Member

To: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, "Stephene Harding (stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov)" <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Guerrero, Bertha" <Bertha.Guerrero@mail.house.gov>, "Villa, Cristina" <Cristina.Villa@mail.house.gov>

Good morning.

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--

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Deputy Director
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Department of the Interior
Stephene_Harding@ios.doi.gov
202-208-6174 (desk)
202-341-8080 (cell)

"Harding, Stephene" <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephene" <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 05 2015 09:22:56 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Watkins, David" <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

David--
Let us check the schedule and get back to you.
Thanks,
Stephene

On Thu, Nov 5, 2015 at 11:19 AM, Watkins, David <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov> wrote:

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202-208-6174 (desk)
202-341-8080 (cell)

"Villa, Cristina" <Cristina.Villa@mail.house.gov>

From: "Villa, Cristina" <Cristina.Villa@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 05 2015 14:19:59 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Harding, Stephene" <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov>, "Watkins, David" <David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>
Subject: RE: Call with the Ranking Member

Hello Stephene,

Clarifying that the Ranking Member would actually like to schedule a meeting with the Secretary

in her office. Of course, happy to make a call work if that is what her schedule permits.

Thank you,

Cristina Villa

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Longworth 1511 Washington, D.C. 20515 | 202.225.2435



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From: Harding, Stephenne [mailto:stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 11:23 AM
To: Watkins, David
Cc: Neimeyer, Sarah; Guerrero, Bertha; Villa, Cristina
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

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202-208-6174 (desk)

202-341-8080 (cell)

"Harding, Stephene" <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephene" <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 05 2015 14:26:45 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Villa, Cristina" <Cristina.Villa@mail.house.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

Thank you Cristina. I will note that to our scheduling staff.

On Thu, Nov 5, 2015 at 4:19 PM, Villa, Cristina <Cristina.Villa@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Hello Stephenne,

Clarifying that the Ranking Member would actually like to schedule a meeting with the Secretary in her office. Of course, happy to make a call work if that is what her schedule permits.

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From: "Harding, Stephene" <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Nov 05 2015 14:27:28 GMT-0700 (MST)
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To:
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

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On Thu, Nov 5, 2015 at 11:22 AM, Harding, Stephene <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Booch/Romen/Molly
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To: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, "Stephene Harding (stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov)" <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov>
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Stephene_Harding@ios.doi.gov
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202-341-8080 (cell)

"Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 06 2015 06:45:05 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Harding, Stephene" <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

Copy.

Romen - will you reach out?

On Thursday, November 5, 2015, Harding, Stephene <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling & Advance
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208-5723

"Click, Molly" <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Click, Molly" <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 06 2015 06:47:07 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

Will a memo be adequate enough to brief her or will you need time with her before?

On Fri, Nov 6, 2015 at 8:45 AM, Iacobucci, Francis <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Copy.

Romen - will you reach out?

On Thursday, November 5, 2015, Harding, Stephenne <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

FYI: They would actually like to have the Ranking Member come meet with SRJ here at Interior as schedule permits.

On Thu, Nov 5, 2015 at 11:22 AM, Harding, Stephenne <<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Booch/Romen/Molly

Is this something we could schedule in the upcoming days?

Thanks,
Stephenne

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Watkins, David** <<a>David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>

Date: Thu, Nov 5, 2015 at 11:19 AM

Subject: Call with the Ranking Member

To: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <<a>sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, "Stephenne Harding (<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov)" <<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Guerrero, Bertha" <<a>Bertha.Guerrero@mail.house.gov>, "Villa, Cristina" <<a>Cristina.Villa@mail.house.gov>

Good morning.

Ranking Member Grijalva would like to arrange a phone call with the Secretary. The agenda would include: the NPS Centennial, the Grand Canyon, and various BLM issues in Arizona.

Please let us know.

Thanks.

*David Watkins
Democratic Staff Director
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
(202) 225-6065*

--

Stephene Harding
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
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<a>Stephene_Harding@ios.doi.gov
202-208-6174 (desk)
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Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling & Advance
U.S. Department of the Interior
(202) 208-5723

--

Molly Click
Special Assistant to the Secretary
Department of the Interior
(202) 208-6087

Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 06 2015 06:48:34 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Call with the Ranking Member

Stephenne - Just to be on the safe side, can you start a memo and get it to Jeremy since some of the issues are in your portfolio -- BLM and Rio Tinto. Thanks, Sarah

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Date: November 6, 2015 at 8:45:05 AM EST
To: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Molly Click <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>, Romen Borsellino <romen_borsellino@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

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To: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <<a>sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, "Stephenne
Harding (<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov)"
<<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Guerrero, Bertha" <<a>Bertha.Guerrero@mail.house.gov>, "Villa,
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Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 06 2015 06:51:03 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Click, Molly" <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

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Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 6, 2015, at 8:47 AM, Click, Molly <molly_click@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Subject: Call with the Ranking Member

To: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <<a>sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, "Stephenne Harding (<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov)" <<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
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"Click, Molly" <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Click, Molly" <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 06 2015 06:51:53 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

ok, thanks! Enjoy your week off.

On Fri, Nov 6, 2015 at 8:51 AM, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
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To: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <<a>sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, "Stephenne Harding (<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov)" <<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
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"Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 06 2015 06:54:06 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

Will do.

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Date: November 6, 2015 at 8:45:05 AM EST
To: "Harding, Stephenne" <<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Sarah Neimeyer <<a>sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Molly Click <<a>molly_click@ios.doi.gov>, Romen Borsellino

<<a>romen_borsellino@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt

<<a>jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

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To: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <<a>sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>,

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Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 06 2015 06:58:20 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Click, Molly" <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

My guess is that Jeremy will actually staff this one. And thanks we are heading to the airport in about 45 minutes...

Sent from my iPhone

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ok, thanks! Enjoy your week off.

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<<a>David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>

Date: Thu, Nov 5, 2015 at 11:19 AM

Subject: Call with the Ranking Member

To: "Neimeyer, Sarah"

<<a>sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, "Stephenne Harding
(<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov)"

<<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Guerrero, Bertha"

<<a>Bertha.Guerrero@mail.house.gov>, "Villa, Cristina"

<<a>Cristina.Villa@mail.house.gov>

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"Click, Molly" <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Click, Molly" <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 06 2015 07:04:40 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

Where is that plane taking you?

On Fri, Nov 6, 2015 at 8:58 AM, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
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From: **Watkins, David**

<<a>David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>

Date: Thu, Nov 5, 2015 at 11:19 AM

Subject: Call with the Ranking Member

To: "Neimeyer, Sarah"

<<a>sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, "Stephenne Harding (<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov)"

<<a>stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Guerrero, Bertha"

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"Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 06 2015 08:21:43 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

Looks like this meeting is not until Dec 7th, so I'll hold off.

On Fri, Nov 6, 2015 at 8:54 AM, Harding, Stephenne <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Cc: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Molly Click <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>, Romen Borsellino <romen_borsellino@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
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Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Nov 06 2015 09:06:45 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Click, Molly" <molly_click@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Call with the Ranking Member

(b) (6)

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 6, 2015, at 9:04 AM, Click, Molly <molly_click@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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On Fri, Nov 6, 2015 at 8:58 AM, Sarah Neimeyer

<sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Watkins, David
<<a>David.Watkins@mail.house.gov>
Date: Thu, Nov 5, 2015 at 11:19 AM
Subject: Call with the Ranking Member
To: "Neimeyer, Sarah"
<<a>sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>,
"Stephenne Harding
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Cc: "Guerrero, Bertha"
<<a>Bertha.Guerrero@mail.house.gov>,
"Villa, Cristina"
<<a>Cristina.Villa@mail.house.gov>

Good morning.

Ranking Member Grijalva would like to arrange a
phone call with the Secretary. The agenda would
include: the NPS Centennial, the Grand Canyon,
and various BLM issues in Arizona.

Please let us know.

Thanks.

David Watkins
Democratic Staff Director
House Natural Resources Committee
1329 Longworth House Office Building
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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Wed Nov 25 2015 04:58:57 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, November 25, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2015 7:00 AM EST

Holiday Message. In observance of the federal Thanksgiving holiday, we will not publish on Thursday, November 26, 2015 and Friday, November 27, 2015. Service will resume on Monday, November 30, 2015. We wish our readers a safe and happy holiday.

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL AMONG CABINET OFFICIALS TO ATTEND PARIS CLIMATE TALKS.

E&E Publishing (11/24, 705) reports that President Obama will “kick off his trip to Paris for the upcoming international climate negotiations by meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping,” White House officials announced on Tuesday. Following the meeting with Xi, “Obama will participate in the opening ceremony and session of the climate talks where several heads of state are scheduled to speak, officials said.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will be among the Cabinet officials that will be present “throughout the two-week U.N. negotiations.”

Additional coverage was provided by **Reuters** (11/25, Volcovici), **Voice Chronicle** (11/25), and the **Tri-State Livestock News (SD)** (11/25).

INTERIOR NETWORKS HACKED 19 TIMES IN RECENT YEARS.

NextGov (11/25, 2K) reports that “foreign intelligence agents and other hackers attacked Interior Department networks 19 times in recent years,” and retrieved “unknown amounts of stolen data, according to agency inspectors.” The attacks are “unrelated to a previously disclosed assault on Interior networks connected to Office of Personnel Management systems, the agency says.” According to the article, “in the 19 previously undisclosed cybersecurity incidents, Chinese attackers and hackers with European network addresses copied data strictly from Interior systems.”

MOVEMENT PUSHES OUTDOOR ALTERNATIVE TO BLACK FRIDAY.

The **Las Vegas Review-Journal** (11/25, 403K) reports on Opt Outside, an “idea was spawned by outdoor retailer REI, which announced plans earlier this year to close all 143 of its stores the day after Thanksgiving and give its workers a paid day off to enjoy nature.” The company, once led by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, is also “encouraging its employees and customers to post pictures of their Black Friday adventures on social media using the hashtag #OptOutside.” The article notes that Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area are “getting in on the act, pitching themselves as ideal places to escape the annual retail rampage.”

LAWMAKERS PRESS FOR FULL PILT FUNDING. The **Missoulian (MT)** (11/25, 118K) reports that “Montana’s congressional delegation is joining with dozens of other U.S. senators and representatives in urging their leaders to figure out quickly how to fully fund” the Payments In Lieu of Taxes program. Sens. Steve Daines and Jon Tester “joined 33 fellow senators in signing a letter sent Friday” to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Harry Reid. Also, Rep. Ryan Zinke is “among those signing onto a similar letter going to House Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.”

Additional coverage was provided by the **Billings (MT) Gazette** (11/25, 200K) and the **Ravalli (MT) Republic** (11/25, 19K).

JUDGE WON’T ISSUE DECISION IN NEVADA SAGE GROUSE CASE BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

The **AP** (11/25, 2.15M) reports that U.S. District Judge Miranda Du is “postponing a decision on whether to block U.S. regulations protecting the greater sage grouse, partly because she’s not clear if the rules are really to blame for delays in construction of a rural water supply tank near Great Basin National Park along the border with Utah.” Du “granted an extension so lawyers can file additional briefs to supplement arguments they made last week during a two-day hearing in Reno.” The article notes that “that means she won’t rule before Christmas on the request by nine Nevada counties and two mining companies to issue a temporary injunction freezing the regulations.”

Additional coverage was provided by the **Sacramento (CA) Bee** (11/25, 515K), the **Provo (UT) Daily Herald** (11/25, 155K), the **Washington (DC) Times** (11/25, Sonner, 283K), the **Denver (CO) Post** (11/25, Press, 825K), the **Fresno (CA) Bee** (11/25, 270K), and **Natural Gas Intelligence** (11/25, Subscription Publication).

IDAHO OFFICIALS APPROVE SAGE GROUSE PLAN.

The **AP** (11/25, Ridler) reports that the Idaho Land Board has approved “the state’s plan to protect habitat for greater sage grouse on endowment lands, despite frustration with federal land managers.” The AP explains that “implementation of the plan for endowment lands was made contingent in April on federal agencies incorporating a much larger Idaho plan called the Governor’s Sage-Grouse Alternative concerning federal lands in Idaho.” The AP says that “Federal officials did include the governor’s plan but added more restrictions in late September when the Obama administration said greater

sage grouse didn't require federal protections under the Endangered Species Act." Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter said just before Tuesday's vote, "I'm convinced that, like many federal agencies, it's not about saving the bird, it's about control. And that kind of control is just unwarranted in this case."

PEW SURVEY: AMERICANS DISTRUST FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. The [Washington Post](#) (11/25, Davidson, 7.78M) "Federal Eye" blog reports that a new Pew Research Center survey, titled "Beyond Distrust," found Americans' overall views of the federal government "are very negative." Only one-fifth of those surveyed said they trust government "at least most of the time and think government programs are well run." Out of 17 Federal agencies listed, 13 received favorable views – with the US Postal Service at the top and the VA and IRS ranked at the bottom. The NPS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and NASA "all have favorability ratings of 70 percent or more."

UTAH LAW SCHOOL LAUNCHES ENVIRONMENTAL, NATURAL RESOURCES COLLABORATION INITIATIVE. [Newswise](#) (11/25, 1K) reports that "a new 3-part initiative launched this month by the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law Environmental Dispute Resolution Program aims to support the use of collaboration by agencies working on environmental and natural resource issues in the west." Newswise explains that "the first part occurred recently, when more than 40 leaders from nearly 30 state and federal agencies gathered at the law school for a one-day 'Forum on Collaboration.'" The forum included representatives from various state and Federal agencies, including "the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, US EPA, Federal Highway Administration, Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Parks Service, Bureau of Reclamation, US Geological Survey, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS WORK TO PROTECT FIVE NEW AREAS IN WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA. The [Reno \(NV\) News & Review](#) (11/25, Fitzgerald, 75K) reports that "for all who appreciate Nevada for its wildlife and wide-open spaces, Friends of Nevada Wilderness are working to protect five new wilderness areas in 2016 through their Wild Washoe Wilderness Campaign." The News & Review explains that "the proposed wilderness areas, which range in size from 23,600 to 235,000 acres, are located in northern Washoe County, west of the Black Rock Desert and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge." The report says that "to be eligible for federal protection under the Wilderness Act of 1964, a proposed wilderness area must consist of a parcel of at least 5,000 acres of undeveloped land with 'outstanding opportunities' for solitude and primitive recreation, such as hiking or hunting."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS TOUTS EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES IN ARIZONA. Additional coverage of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to Winslow, Arizona was provided by the [Flagstaff \(AZ\) Navajo-Hopi Observer](#) (11/25, 43K).

ADVOCATE SAYS ALASKANS "HAVE A RIGHT TO SNOW AND ICE." Robin Bronen, Executive Director of Alaska Institute for Justice, writes at the [Huffington Post](#) (11/25, Bronen, 251K) that "September and October were traditionally the months when the Bering and Chukchi seas began to freeze for the winter," however, "now these seas may not freeze until December or later." She explains that "loss of sea ice causes coastal villages to be exposed and vulnerable when storms occur." Bronen says that "we deserve the attention and help of the American people and the federal government" and that "due to intense and prolonged advocacy efforts, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell traveled to Kivalina to meet community residents in February 2015" with President Obama following in August. However, "despite these visits, no community knows when or if it will be able to relocate to higher ground and protect their unique way of life and connection to the land of their ancestors."

Empowering Native American Communities:

GROUP OF HAWAIIANS ASK SUPREME COURT TO BLOCK VOTE ON FUTURE TRIBAL PLAN. The [SCOTUSblog](#) (11/25, 7K) reports that "a group of Hawaiians, some of whom won't be able to vote in a special election that ends on November 30 that is a prelude to recognizing a new Indian-like tribe including many residents, asked the Supreme Court to temporarily stop the completion of that election until their challenge can be decided." They argued that "the election is based along strict racial lines, and is thus unconstitutional under the Fifteenth Amendment."

PROFESSOR SAYS DOLLAR GENERAL CASE THREATENS TRIBAL AUTHORITY. Ned Blackhawk, a professor of history and American studies at Yale, writes at the [New York Times](#) (11/25, Blackhawk,

Subscription Publication, 11.64M) that Thanksgiving began in partnership between Native American communities and their neighbors but that “tribal governments now face a grave threat to this kind of partnership and to their very sovereignty.” He says that “the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear oral arguments in a case regarding alleged sexual assaults by a Dollar General manager against a tribal minor, a 13-year-old who apprenticed in a store on Choctaw tribal lands in Mississippi.” Blackhawk explains that Dollar General is challenging tribal governments’ jurisdiction over businesses in Indian country. He concludes that “the Supreme Court should affirm the lower court rulings and preserve tribal authority in tribal lands.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

SEN. HEINRICH: DAMMING OR DIVERTING THE GILA RIVER IS NOT A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE.

[KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (11/25, 1K) reports that Sen. Martin Heinrich issued a statement after the Interior Department approved the Gila River agreement. Heinrich said, “We owe New Mexico’s taxpayers cost effective, science-based solutions if we are to manage our limited water supplies in this era of drought, climate change, and constrained budgets. Damming or diverting the Gila River simply does not meet that standard. I believe that now would be a good time for the state to put forward a more fiscally responsible alternative.”

Additional coverage of the agreement was provided by the [Silver City \(NM\) Daily Press](#) (11/24) and the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (11/25, 69K).

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR TO ASSESS WIND ENERGY OFF SOUTH CAROLINA COAST.

Additional coverage that the Interior Department is “assessing the offshore wind industry’s interest in acquiring commercial wind leases off the coast of South Carolina” was provided by [reNews](#) (11/25), the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (11/25, 322K), the [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (11/24, Slade, 291K), [Clean Energy](#) (11/24), and [Recharge News](#) (11/25, 633).

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR PLANS TO CANCEL BADGER-TWO MEDICINE LEASE. [EnergyWire](#) (11/24, Subscription Publication) reports that “federal officials seem poised to cancel plans for oil and gas development in a prized area of Lewis and Clark National Forest in Montana, likely ending decades of delays and indecision over drilling on a site considered sacred by some in the Blackfeet Indian Nation.” The Interior Department wrote in a legal filing that it would “initiate the process for cancellation” of the contested lease in the Badger-Two Medicine area of the national forest. According to the article, “the filing notes that the agency has not yet made a final decision but that initial findings indicate the lease was issued without full compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/24, 47K), the [Montana Standard](#) (11/25, 36K), the [Missoula \(MT\) Independent](#) (11/25, 65K), the [Marietta \(GA\) Daily Journal](#) (11/25, 44K), the [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (11/24, 28K), [Montana Public Radio](#) (11/25), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (11/25, 66K), and [Manufacturing](#) (11/24, 4K).

HOUSE PANEL LEADERS PRESS FOR EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON METHANE RULES. [Politico Pro](#) (11/24) reports that two senior House Republicans on Tuesday urged the EPA and the Interior Department “to further extend the public comment period for its proposed methane rules for the oil and gas sector and to more closely align their respective processes for reining in the greenhouse gas.” Reps. Ed Whitfield and Doug Lamborn, who chair Energy and Commerce and Natural Resources Committee subpanel, in a letter to EPA chief Gina McCarthy and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, wrote that “the parallel methane regulations ‘have the potential to propose requirements that are conflicting or duplicative, and to create significant uncertainty for future operations in the oil and gas sector.’”

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#) (11/25, 30K).

PHILLIPS 66 MAKES NEW QUAKE PLANS IN OKLAHOMA. [NPR](#) (11/24, Wertz, 1.78M) reports that Phillips 66, a refiner with 700,000 barrels of storage capacity in Cushing, Okla., “has overhauled how it plans for

earthquakes, a sign U.S. energy companies are starting to react to rising seismicity around the world's largest crude hub." NPR says that "the changes include new protocols for inspecting the health of crude tanks, potentially halting operations after temblors, and monitoring quake alerts." NPR points out that "in October, David McNamara with the U.S. Geological Survey warned in a peer-reviewed paper that the faults in Cushing are similar to those that have produced earthquakes strong enough to damage oil storage tanks and other infrastructure at the hub, which currently holds more than 50 million barrels of crude."

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (11/24, Hampton).

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE: MOAB LEASING PLAN REPRESENTS REALISTIC COMPROMISE. In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/25, 339K) reports that due to the uniqueness of the area, the debate between Utah's extractive and tourist industries is more of an even fight in Moab and Grand County than it is in some other counties. However, the Tribune says that "the stakes of a Master Leasing Plan are much lower than they are in public lands legislation like the Public Lands Initiative that Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz have pursued, which would include land swaps and wilderness designations." The paper concludes that "Utah's biggest public lands battles are still ahead, but give the players in the Moab Master Leasing Plan credit for biting off what they can chew. If it's going to be a model, then other players will need to have similarly realistic appetites."

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE HOLDS MEETING ON TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVELS. The [Marine Link](#) (11/25, 1K) reports that BSEE "staff participated in a workgroup meeting at the bureau's Ohmsett facility in Leonardo, N.J., as part of the workgroup's efforts to define Technology Readiness Levels for use in the oil spill response community." BSEE staff "discussed the criteria that could be used to determine the readiness of technology with equipment manufacturers, industry, and facility representatives, drawing from their different perspectives and expertise." The discussions are part of the BSEE-funded project Technology Readiness Level Definitions for Oil Spill Response Technologies and Equipment.

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM SOUTH DAKOTA FIELD OFFICE TO MOVE TO BELLE FOURCHE INDUSTRIAL & RAIL PARK. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (11/25, 171K) reports that the BLM's South Dakota Field Office will "anchor the eastern gateway to the Belle Fourche Industrial & Rail Park with new office and storage facilities." According to the article, "the 18 full time and summer seasonal employees will be moving from several facilities in Belle Fourche into a 5,600 square foot office facility with another 3,300 square feet of warehouse and 32,000 square feet of storage yard." According to Diane Friez, district manager for the BLM Eastern Montana/Dakotas district, "the new facility will consolidate employees in three locations, supplies and equipment from two more locations in Belle Fourche."

PHOTOGRAPHER SHAPES PUBLIC'S VIEW OF BLM. The [Greenwire](#) (11/24, Subscription Publication) profiles BLM wilderness specialist Bob Wick, the agency's unofficial photographer. Wick's images have "exposed thousands of Americans to the agency's National Conservation Lands." According to the article, "photos are shaping the public's view of BLM, an agency long known for promoting oil drilling, mining and grazing but less known for supporting outdoor recreation."

BLM ALLOWS HARVEST OF OREGON TRUFFLES WITH PERMIT. The [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (11/24, 141K) reports that the Salem District of BLM earlier this month "became the first agency to allow harvest of truffles on public land with a permit." According to the article, "the permits are only open to those who hunt truffles with a trained dog on specific patches of Salem BLM's 403,000 acres in the Coast Range and Cascade foothills." The article notes that "it will remain illegal to dig them up with a rake, which is popular but is seen as damaging to the environment."

TWO INDICTED FOR GROWING MARIJUANA IN COLORADO. The [Denver Post](#) (11/25, Mcghee, 825K) reports that the US Attorney's Office said a grand jury in Denver indicted Luis Adolfo Garcia and Luis Rios-Cortes on allegations they tended large, illegal marijuana grows near the Dolores River in western Colorado. The Bureau of Land Management found the grows, and about 1,720 pounds of marijuana was recovered in

the raids that led to the charges. US Attorney John Walsh said, “As we work with the DEA, BLM and our local law enforcement partners, we are seizing large amounts of marijuana.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SCIENTISTS DIFFER ON GREAT LAKES WOLF PROTECTIONS. The [AP](#) (11/25, 2.15M) reports that “gray wolves in the western Great Lakes region should not yet be removed from the federal endangered species list, a group of scientists and scholars said Tuesday, disagreeing with colleagues who said the population has rebounded sufficiently.” According to the article, “lifting government protection from wolves in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin could be justified if and when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ‘uses the best available science that justifies delisting.’ Currently it does not.” They said that “they were responding to 26 colleagues who sent a letter last week to U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell saying it was time for wolves to lose their endangered status in the western Great Lakes, where their combined population is estimated at 3,700.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/25, Flesher, 283K), the [Milwaukee \(WI\) Journal Sentinel](#) (11/25, 691K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (11/25, Flesher, 1.15M), [WISC-TV Madison \(WI\) Madison, WI](#) (11/25, 188K), [WWJ-TV Detroit \(MI\) Detroit](#) (11/24, 34K), [WHBL-AM Sheboygan \(WI\) Sheboygan, WI](#) (11/25, 1K), [WTAQ-AM Green Bay \(WI\) Green Bay, WI](#) (11/25, 4K), [WDIO-TV Duluth \(MN\) Duluth, MN](#) (11/25, 860), [WISN-TV Milwaukee \(WI\) Milwaukee](#) (11/25, 72K), and [WCCO-AM Minneapolis \(MN\) Minneapolis](#) (11/24, 70K).

Tribes Oppose Researchers’ Call For Delisting Gray Wolves. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/24, 47K) reports that “more than two dozen wolf researchers—including the founder of the International Wolf Center—sent a letter on November 18 to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior calling for the gray wolf to again be delisted in the Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin.” However, Lacey Hill, wildlife specialist for the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe in Wisconsin, said, “The tribes already have a stance that we want the wolves protected, we don’t want the wolves harvested.” The article notes that “the letter to Interior cites tribal governments among other agencies in the recovery of the gray wolf, but the philosophy of public hunting or trapping is not the philosophy endorsed by most tribes.” In fact, “for the Ojibwe in the area, the health of the wolf population has a unique cultural significance, tying the thriving of wolves to the thriving of the Ojibwe people.”

NEW WOLF PACK APPEARS IN WASHINGTON. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (11/24, 174K) reports that a new wolf pack – the Loup Loup Pack – has been “confirmed in north-central Washington near the towns of Omak and Twisp.”

The [Seattle Times](#) (11/25, 1.17M) reports that the new pack was confirmed by the FWS “on Tuesday, following a cluster of public wolf sightings.” Ann Froschauer, spokeswoman for the FWS, said “the precise number of animals in the Loup Loup Pack is not yet known, but biologists tracked up to six animals traveling together in recent snows.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (11/24, 113K).

FWS AWARDS GRANT TO BORDERLANDS RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO STUDY QUAIL, GRASSLANDS. The [Fort Stockton \(TX\) Pioneer](#) (11/25) reports that the FWS has “awarded a grant to the Borderlands Research Institute (BRI) at Sul Ross State University for a research project using quail as indicators of the health of Chihuahuan Desert grasslands.” The study is “to quantify grassland health using Montezuma, scaled, and Gambel’s quail as indicators.”

EFFORT SEEKS TO HELP ENDANGERED FISH RECOVER IN COLORADO RIVER BASIN. [KVNF-FM Paonia, CO](#) (11/25) reports on “a multi-state effort to save four species of fish native to the Colorado River Basin: humpback chub, Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker and bonytail.” The effort began “in 1988 when the federal government signed an agreement with Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, establishing what’s called the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program.”

FRANCE’S BAN ON LION TROPHIES MAY SPREAD TO US. [Take Part](#) (11/24, Kirby, 154K) reports that “wild lions scored a win last week, as the French government announced that it would ban the import of lion parts from animals killed as trophies.” Meanwhile, “Carney Anne Nasser, an attorney at the Animal Legal Defense Fund, said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has committed to relisting lions as ‘threatened’ under

the Endangered Species Act.” In addition, “there is the CECIL Act, introduced in Congress last July after an American dentist and trophy hunter killed the famous big cat.”

EARTHJUSTICE: CONGRESS SEEKS TO STRIP PROTECTIONS FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES. Marjorie Mulhall, Legislative Counsel for Earthjustice, writes at the [Huffington Post](#) (11/25, 251K) that “more than 80 bills and amendments have already been introduced this year in the U.S. House and Senate to weaken” the Endangered Species Act. She says that “there is a very real threat that some of these anti-species riders could become law, unless President Obama and Democratic leaders in Congress stand firm in rejecting them.” She points out in particular that there are riders that would remove Federal protections for gray wolves, the greater sage grouse, and the lesser prairie chicken. Mulhall says that this legislation “would prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from even considering protecting the greater sage grouse, a species whose population has plummeted by as much as 90 percent due to development, including mining and drilling operations.”

National Park Service:

MUPPETS’ MISS PIGGY TO JOIN PERFORMERS FOR DC TREE LIGHTING. The [AP](#) (11/25, 2.15M) reports that “Miss Piggy of ‘The Muppets’ will join other performers at the lighting of the National Christmas Tree in Washington next week.” The NPS and the National Park Foundation announced Tuesday that Miss Piggy will “help kick off the holiday season at the lighting on Dec. 3 on the Ellipse near the White House.” According to the article, “other performers set to appear include Fall Out Boy; Trombone Shorty; Crosby, Stills & Nash; Andra Day; Tori Kelly; Aloe Blacc; Kelsea Ballerini; and the Joyous String Quartet.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/25, Press, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/25, 283K), and the [Daily Mail](#) (11/25, 5.31M).

PARTNERSHIP WITH PHOTOGRAPHER TO BOOST NATIONAL PARK TOURISM. [WLRN-FM](#) Miami (11/25, 10K) reports that to celebrate the NPS Centennial, Miami-Dade County “partnered with award-winning photographer Clyde Butcher to showcase some of South Florida’s national parks in photographs throughout Miami International Airport.” According to the article, “close to 40 million people fly into Miami International Airport every year, so it seemed like the perfect place to attract potential park visitors.” Bob DeGross, spokesperson for the Big Cypress National Preserve, said, “We decided to use the airport because that’s where the majority of the visitors from across the country and around the world come into Miami.”

NPS OFFERING LEASES ON C&O PROPERTIES. The [AP](#) (11/25, 2.15M) reports that the NPS is “seeking applicants for the agricultural use of land in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.” The service said Monday “it’s offering long-term lease agreements on 25 properties in Allegany, Frederick, Montgomery and Washington counties. The leases will be for up to 10 years, starting in April.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/25, Press, 7.78M), the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (11/25, 51K), and [WJZ-TV Baltimore \(MD\)](#) Baltimore (11/24, 68K).

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK OPENS PUBLIC SCOPING FOR WILDERNESS STEWARDSHIP PLAN. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/25, 270K) reports that Yosemite National Park “opened public scoping for planning and environmental impact analysis for the Yosemite Wilderness Stewardship Plan. Public scoping comments will be accepted through Jan. 29, 2016.” According to the article, Yosemite Wilderness Stewardship Plan, “currently managed under the 1989 Wilderness Management Plan, needed an update to incorporate current information about visitor use patterns, methods of managing visitor use, techniques for trail design and construction, and concepts for managing stock in wilderness.” The new plan will “provide management direction and a framework that preserves wilderness in Yosemite.”

EXPLORERS EXTEND KNOWN LENGTH OF JEWEL CAVE TO MORE THAN 180 MILES. The [AP](#) (11/25, 2.15M) reports that “explorations of Jewel Cave in western South Dakota in the past two months have extended the known length of the cave from about 177 miles to a little more than 180 miles,” the NPS said Tuesday. Volunteer explorers also “discovered two small lakes, the first encountered in the cave.”

NPS AWARDS NEW 10-YEAR CONTRACT FOR FERRY SERVICE TO CUMBERLAND ISLAND. The [Florida Times-Union](#) (11/24, 226K) reports that “longtime operator Lang Seafood Inc. has been awarded the contract to provide ferry and other services beginning Jan. 1,” the NPS announced Tuesday. According to the article, “Lang’s previous 10-year contract expired in July 2014,” but the NPS “extended it as it issued a new prospectus and sought bids that included the privatization of some services on the island.”

CABLE TV HUNTING SHOW HOST PLEADS GUILTY IN POACHING CASE. The [AP](#) (11/25) reports that “the host of a cable TV hunting show has pleaded guilty as part of an investigation into poaching on a remote national preserve in Alaska.” According to the article, “the terms of a plea deal signed by Clark W. Dixon on Monday call for an 18-month prison sentence, a \$75,000 fine and forfeiture of trophies and weapons that the U.S. attorney’s office says were used in the illegal taking of game.” The article notes that “the charges involve activities between 2008 and 2013 at Noatak National Preserve in northwest Alaska.”

GERMAN WOMAN INJURED BY FALLING TREE IN GRAND TETON FILES LAWSUIT. The [AP](#) (11/25, Gruver, 283K) reports that “a German woman who was severely injured when part of a tree fell on her in breezy weather in Grand Teton National Park has sued the federal government, claiming park workers failed to remove the pine despite a policy to take hazardous trees from developed areas.” The incident occurred in 2013, “minutes after Anna Schneider of Koblenz, Germany, and her then-fiance arrived at a campsite in Colter Bay Campground.” According to her lawsuit, “Schneider suffered blood loss and several fractures when hit by a section of a tree measuring 41 feet long and 10 inches in diameter.”

NPS TO CELEBRATE AT AMISTAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The [Del Rio \(TX\) News Herald](#) (11/25, 14K) reports that the NPS of the Amistad National Recreation Area will “celebrate the 25th birthday of the most well known geographical section of Val Verde County Saturday at the visitor center off U.S. Highway 90 West.”

FIND YOUR STORY FEATURES NPS LAW ENFORCEMENT RANGER. On [YouTube](#) (11/24), a Find Your Story features NPS Law Enforcement Ranger Cole Goodman who has a unique connection to Mammoth Cave National Park.

EL PASO OFFICIALS UNVEIL EL CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA ADENTRO NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL SIGNS. The [El Paso \(TX\) Times](#) (11/24, Martinez, 199K) reports that “County officials Tuesday unveiled the new signs that will be placed throughout the El Paso area as part of a \$1.5 million effort to promote the historical route of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail.” El Paso County Commissioner Vince Perez, “along with other city and county representatives, unveiled the three designs for the National Park Service Historic Trail Signs that will be placed along major roadways stretching from Anthony, Texas, to San Elizario, indicating the route of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail, the oldest Euro-American trade route ever established in the United States.” The Times explains that “the effort to get the signs made and installed on the trail was started in 2006 by the National Park Service, the El Paso Community Foundation, the El Paso County Historical Commission and the Texas Department of Transportation, officials said.”

NPS SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [Payson \(AZ\) Roundup](#) (11/24, 21K) reports that the National Park Service has announced another opportunity for the public to weigh in on revisions to Grand Canyon National Park’s Backcountry Management Plan. The Roundup says that NPS is hosing open house meetings on December 2 and 7. In addition, “the NPS will also hold at least one webinar to reach the broadest range of stakeholders and interested public.”

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT. The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (11/25, Kozak) reports that “after 12 years as superintendent of Acadia and 38 years with the National Park Service, Sheridan Steele is retiring.” The Islander says that Steele called the growing popularity of Acadia a serious challenge and “feels he has had only mixed success in improving the quality of the visitor experience.” The Islander says that visitation was up by 12% in 2014 and preliminarily up by 8% in 2015. “Our budget is going down, and the demand for services is going up. Maintaining a quality visitor experience is a real problem,” said Steele. He also said, “Several of my goals were wrapped into one with the development of Schoodic Woods, for me a major accomplishment.”

POLLY HILL ARBORETUM JOINS NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Martha’s Vineyard Times](#) (11/24, 47K) reports that the Polly Hill Arboretum announced its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places as the Polly Hill Arboretum Historic District. It was added to the list in June.

MAINE’S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION PRAISED FOR RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT CREATION OF NATIONAL PARK. In an editorial, the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (11/24, 165K) praises members of Maine’s congressional delegation for “seeking a sensible way forward on the contentious issue of a establishing a national park in northern Maine.” According to the paper, their letter “offers a reasonable starting point for

negotiations on preservation of this land while allowing public access and promoting regional economic development.” It also notes that “the letter is especially helpful because the two Republicans and independent have varying levels of support for the national park proposal from Elliottsville Plantation Inc.”

Additional coverage that three members of Maine’s congressional delegation have expressed “serious reservations” about the creation of “a national monument in the Katahdin region” was provided by the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (11/23, 165K) and the [Lewiston \(ME\) Sun Journal](#) (11/24, 17K).

Top National News:

AFTER RUSSIAN JET IS SHOT DOWN, OBAMA SAYS TURKEY HAS RIGHT TO DEFEND ITS AIRSPACE. Media reports indicate that Turkey’s downing Tuesday of a Russian jet it said crossed into its airspace could further complicate the situation in Syria, as well as French efforts to unite the US and Russia in fighting ISIL. All three network newscasts noted the story, though only [ABC World News](#) (11/24, story 6, 0:25, Muir, 5.84M) reported the President’s reaction. Media analyses portray Obama as weighing in on Turkey’s side, even as he urged both sides to avoid a potential escalation of hostilities.

Calling it an incident that “has major implications for the war on ISIL and peace in Europe,” the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/24, lead story, 2:30, Pelley, 5.08M) reported in its lead story that NATO is “calling for calm...after Turkey shot down a Russian warplane.” Russian President Vladimir Putin “insists the plane was in Syrian airspace, but the Turks released...radar image, which they say shows the path of the plane...as it briefly entered Turkey.” After issuing “10 warnings without a response, a Turkish fighter jet shot it down.” [AFP](#) (11/25) reports the Pentagon “backed up Turkey’s claim” that the Russian jet had been warned “10 times – but failed to get a response,” and the [Washington Times](#) (11/25, Scarborough, 283K) reports spokesman Col. Steve Warren used the word “incursion” to describe the Russian flight.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/24, story 3, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M) said the incident has “ratcheted up tensions” in the region and the US is “calling for calm and warning against an escalation,” and [ABC World News](#) (11/24, story 6, 0:25, Muir, 5.84M) reported the President said yesterday that Turkey “has the right to defend itself.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/25, Parsons, 3.6M) reports the President “sought...to both defend a longtime NATO ally and keep the Syrian war from spiraling into an even deeper conflict” by acknowledging that Turkey “had the right to defend itself but also urged the two countries to ‘step back’ from the brink of conflict and seek out common interests.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/25, A1, Eilperin, DeYoung, 7.78M) quotes the President as saying, “Turkey, like every country, has the right to defend its territory and its airspace,” but called on all sides to “take measures to discourage any escalation.”

The [Washington Times](#) (11/25, Boyer, 283K), however, says the President used the incident to highlight that it “points to an ongoing problem with the Russian operations” in Syria. If Russia were targeting ISIL, Obama said, such mistakes “are less likely to occur.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/25, Naylor, Roth, Deane, 7.78M) reports the incident “marked a serious escalation that is likely to further strain relations between Russia and the NATO alliance,” which is “being thrust into a new Middle Eastern crisis.” Turkey, [Bloomberg News](#) (11/24, Neuger, 3.4M) reports, called an emergency meeting of NATO to discuss the incident.

James Rosen reported on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (11/24, 1.53M) that Obama spoke with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan after the incident, with the two leaders “discussing how to avoid incidents like [this] in the future.” Barbara Starr reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/24, 554K) that US military made “it clear” that it wants Russian and Turkish officials to sit down and talk things out.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/24, lead story, 2:30, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that a “visibly angry” Putin called Turkey’s actions a “stab in the back,” and [USA Today](#) (11/25, Bacon, Onyanga-Omara, 5.56M) reports he vowed that Turkey will pay “tragic consequences,” denying Turkish claims that the Russian jet had breached its airspace, and [The Hill](#) (11/24, Fabian, 654K) reports on its “Blog Briefing Room” blog that Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Tuesday “canceled a previously scheduled visit to Turkey.”

[ABC World News](#) (11/24, story 5, 2:45, Muir, 5.84M) reported both Russian pilots ejected, but are believed to be dead after landing in Syria and killed by rebels. The [Huffington Post](#) (11/24, Jones, 251K) reports that a Russian marine was also killed during a search-and-rescue mission for the pilots when the helicopter he was riding in was brought down by Syrian rebels. [USA Today](#) (11/25, Dorell, 5.56M) reports that according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, the rebels “used a TOW missile to force the helicopter to crash land,

and then hit it again with a second missile.”

[McClatchy](#) (11/24, Prothero, 27K) says the incident “could not have come at a worse time for the complex relationship between Russia, Turkey and a US-led coalition,” and [Bloomberg News](#) (11/24, Biryukov, 3.4M) says it “threatened to undermine efforts for a united front against Islamic State,” while the [New York Times](#) (11/25, Yeginsu, Nechepurenko, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports the “tensions immediately took on Cold War overtones.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/25, A1, Nissenbaum, Peker, Marson, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) notes that the incident marked the first time since 1952 that a NATO member shot down a Russian warplane.

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/24, story 2, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M), David Martin said the incident “has the potential to draw NATO allies into a conflict with Russia.” Noting Putin’s “angry reaction,” Martin said Russia sent a cruiser armed with surface-to-air missiles off the Syrian coast “ready to shoot down any planes that threatened its aircraft.” Jennifer Griffin similarly reported on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (11/24, 1.53M) that the incident has elicited “promises of retaliation” from Putin, who ordered a Russian cruiser deployed off the Syrian coast.

In an interview with the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/24, story 4, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M), former Ambassador Nick Burns warned the incident “could escalate,” but the Administration is “going to work very hard to see that it doesn’t.” Burns said it was “a gross violation of international law for the Russians even to fly close to that border, but to cross it, that’s a red line that can’t be crossed.”

Meanwhile, Steven A. Cook of the Council on Foreign Relations, writing in [Politico Magazine](#) (11/25, Cook), says that “when it comes to fighting the Islamic State and extremism more generally, Turkey – and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan – has become a significant part of the problem, rather than part of the solution.” In fact, Cook says, “there are few within the Obama administration who genuinely seem to believe Turkey can be part of the solution in Syria,” and “Washington appears happy just to have access” to its airbase at Incirlik. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/25, Subscription Publication, 6.23M), meanwhile, argues in an editorial that Russia is testing Turkey, and calls on the Administration to support Ankara.

CHICAGO OFFICER CHARGED WITH MURDER, DASHCAM VIDEO RELEASED. In its lead story, [ABC World News](#) (11/24, lead story, 2:30, Muir, 5.84M) reported that Chicago officials on Tuesday night were “urging calm” after white police officer Jason Van Dyke was charged with first degree murder in the death of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald, who was black. McDonald was shot 16 times, with Van Dyke continuing to fire even after the teen fell to the ground. Van Dyke turned himself in, and city leaders said he will be held accountable for his actions.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/24, lead story, 2:55, Holt, 7.86M) reported in its lead story that “urgent calls for calm” came from officials and community leaders as the city “braces...for the public release” of the dashcam footage from the murder. NBC showed a clip of the footage, which Cook County States Attorney Anita Alvarez described as “graphic...violent” and chilling. Alvarez added that Van Dyke’s actions “were not justified...and not a proper use of deadly force by police officer.” Gosk said authorities “anticipate” protests, and some local leaders are concerned about violence. Rahm Emanuel, Chicago Mayor: “Will we use this episode and this moment to build bridges that bring us together as a city or will we allow it to become a way that erects barriers that tear us apart as a city.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/24, story 6, 2:25, Pelley, 5.08M), Dean Reynolds similarly reported that there is “concern” that once the video is publicly available, “it could provoke a violent reaction and painful questions about why it took so long to arrest the shooter seen on the tape.” Reynolds added that Emanuel and the superintendent of police held a press conference at police headquarters where they “insisted” Van Dyke is “is in no way representative of the Chicago police department.”

[USA Today](#) (11/25, Madhani, 5.56M) reports that Mayor Emanuel said in a statement Tuesday that as Alvarez made clear, Van Dyke’s actions “violated those standards and also the moral standards that bind our community together. Rather than uphold the law, he took the law into his own hands and it’s now up to the justice system to hold him accountable.” Van Dyke’s attorney, Dan Herbert, criticized Emanuel for being “irresponsible” with his public statements against the officer. Meanwhile, Emanuel met with pastors, community leaders, and activists on Monday, urging peaceful protests. However, Gov. Bruce Rauner said Tuesday after watching the footage that he expected public reaction to be “strong.”

In a 1,300-word article, the [New York Times](#) (11/25, Davey, Smith, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that Judge Donald Panerese Jr. ordered Van Dyke held without bail. Panerese said he wanted to see the video prior to “revisiting the question of bond at a hearing on Monday.” The Times, which reported prior to the release of the video, said the charges against Van Dyke “seemed likely to blunt reaction to the release of the video.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/25, Elinson, Peters, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports that Herbert argued that the case needs to be tried in a court room, not in the streets, in the media, or on Facebook. Herbert said he expects to prevail in defending Van Dyke, claiming the officer was defending himself and others.

In a 1,500-word article, the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (11/25, Hussain; Grimm, 758K) reports that Alvarez acknowledged Tuesday that she moved up the public announcement of the murder charge because of the imminent release of the video. She said her action was “in interests of public safety” and to assure the public that authorities “are bringing a full measure of justice that this demands.” The Sun-Times mentions that Chicago Police Supt. Garry McCarthy, during a police graduation ceremony, appeared craft his remarks with Van Dyke in mind. McCarthy said that police officers have the “awesome responsibility” under the US Constitution to, “where appropriate, take away somebody’s life,” adding, “and it will be examined in retrospect over and over again.”

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (11/25, 2.33M) reports that dozens of black activists protested in the streets after watching the dashcam footage. The protests eventually grew to more than 300 people, and a confrontation with police on bicycles ensued “away from crossing the Balbo Avenue bridge toward Columbus Drive.” Three people were arrested, and an officer was taken to an ambulance. Meanwhile, parents and guardians of students in Chicago Public Schools received an email from the district’s chief education officer, Janice Jackson, alerting them of the video’s release. Schools won’t show the video, but Jackson said it could be a point of discussion.

Mitchell: Video Shows Police Lied About Shooting. The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (11/25, Mitchell, 758K) columnist Mary Mitchell said that one cannot watch the video of McDonald’s death “and hold onto any illusion that black people are exaggerating police brutality.” She said the footage shows that “everything that police said after the shooting was a lie.” She also criticized the length of the overall investigation, stating that “nothing on the tape that would shed any light” on why it took agencies a year to figure the case out.

Baltimore Sun: Blocked Video A Lesson For Baltimore About Accountability. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (11/25, 700K) editorializes that the Chicago police department and Mayor Emanuel made the situation regarding McDonald’s death “far more tense” by trying to prevent the release of the video. In the last few days, Emanuel “found himself scrambling to tamp down the possibility of violent unrest,” a lesson Baltimore officials “should heed as the city embarks on its program to equip police with body cameras.” While Van Dyke’s indictment “may have come just in time” to stop any “serious unrest,” it didn’t “repair the damage done” by the city’s “long effort” to block the release of the “only objective record of what happened that night.” If Baltimore police can taken anything from this situation, it’s that when “residents are promised accountability and transparency, they will accept nothing less.”

ECONOMY GREW FASTER THAN PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED IN THIRD QUARTER. The Commerce Department reported Tuesday that the gross domestic product grew at an upwardly revised rate of 2.1 percent in the third quarter of 2015, in line with economists’ forecasts. The third estimate is up from the second estimate of 1.5 percent growth, but is still weaker than the 3.9 percent GDP growth in the second quarter. The [AP](#) (11/24, Crutsinger) reports the upward revision is attributed to stronger business inventory numbers. The initial estimate of third quarter GDP indicated business inventories reduced growth by 1.4 percent, but the Commerce Department reduced that drag to 0.6 percent. The AP adds that the new estimate “should give the Federal Reserve confidence as it considers an interest rate hike at its next meeting in December.”

[Reuters](#) (11/24, Mutikani) reports MUFJ Union Bank economist Chris Rupkey said, “The economy continues to move along at a good clip relative to its potential. With growth like this, the Fed has the data it needs to light the candle finally and lift off on December 16.” [Bloomberg News](#) (11/24, Stilwell, 3.4M) reports the new estimate reflects “a smaller hit from efforts to rein in bloated inventories,” which “grew at a \$90.2 billion annualized rate from July through September, almost twice as much as previously estimated.”

[USA Today](#) (11/25, Davidson, 5.56M) reports trade “was more of a drag on the economy than initially estimated as a strong dollar made exports more expensive for foreign customers and imports cheaper for US consumers. Exports increased just 0.9%, while imports rose 2.1%.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/24,

Subscription Publication, 6.23M) and the [New York Times](#) (11/25, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) also report the story.

Consumer Confidence Falls Unexpectedly In November. The Conference Board reported Tuesday that its index of consumer confidence fell to 90.4 in November from 99.1 in October. Economists had expected the index to come in at 99.5. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/24, Donaldson, 3.4M) says the index found the “share of Americans who see greater job availability in the next six months declined to the lowest level since October 2011, and more expect their incomes to decline.” However, while consumers “were less upbeat about the labor market, the report showed buying plans held up and suggested steady spending as the holiday-shopping season begins.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/25, Torry, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports consumers’ lack of confidence in the job market is a cautionary signal for retailers as the holiday shopping season approaches. [RTT News](#) (11/24, 4K) also reports the story.

Home Ownership Has Declined Since Peaking 10 Years Ago. [USA Today](#) (11/25, Hampson, 5.56M) reports that there is “a national shift away from home ownership and toward renting.” After peaking 10 years ago, the US home ownership rate “has dropped from over 69% to under 64%, where it was a half century ago, with each percentage point representing more than a million households.” According to an Urban Institute study, “in 15 years the home-owning rate will sink to 61%.”

Economists Concerned By Leveling Off Of “Job Quits.” [USA Today](#) (11/25, Davidson, 5.56M) reports that after a steady rise after “the labor market bottomed out in January 2010,” the “number of workers switching jobs has leveled off this year,” which is causing concern among some economists “because a large number of ‘quits’ reflects a dynamic economy in which workers feel confident enough to leave one job for another.” the latest Labor Department data show that about “2.7 million Americans quit jobs in September.” While that is “a solid total,” it has “held steady for the past 13 months despite an unemployment rate that fell to 5.1% from 5.9% during that period.”

USDA: Farm Income To Fall 38% This Year. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/25, Newman, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports that USDA forecasters said Tuesday that net US farm income will decline 38% this year to \$55.9 billion, marking its lowest level since 2002.

Stocks Post Modest Gains. The [AP](#) (11/25, Jay) reports that stocks posted modest gains Tuesday “as investors shook off concerns about heightened tensions in the Middle East and a drop in consumer confidence.” The Dow added 19.51 points to close at 17,812.19. The S&P 500 finished 2.55 points higher at 2,089.14. The Nasdaq edged up 0.33 points to 5,102.81.

Poole: Obama To Blame For Low Rates. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/25, Poole, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) op-ed, William Poole, retired president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, writes that despite the criticism of the Fed for the continuing low interest rates, the President truly deserves the blame as long-term rates are a reflection of weak job creation and demand for credit. Poole argues that the Administration has not corrected its inherited economic problems and has added disincentives to growth that have kept long-term rates low.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “The Case Against Woodrow Wilson At Princeton.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/25, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says Princeton’s student protesters “performed a valuable public service last week when they demanded that the administration acknowledge the toxic legacy of Woodrow Wilson.” Wilson, the Times argues, “was an unapologetic racist whose administration rolled back the gains that African-Americans achieved just after the Civil War, purged black workers from influential jobs and transformed the government into an instrument of white supremacy.” Noting that the protesters want the university to “rename the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and the residential complex known as Wilson College,” the Times argues that the “overwhelming weight of the evidence argues for rescinding the honor that the university bestowed decades ago on an unrepentant racist.”

“A Better Way To Screen For Prostate Cancer.” The [New York Times](#) (11/25, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) editorializes that “A new study points to what may be a better approach” to prostate screening: “screen smarter.” The Times says “there has been vigorous debate about who should be tested” as “screening too many people leads to unnecessary treatment” and examining “too few” will result in “miss[ing] cancers that

could have been stopped.”

“One Jet Closer To A Wider Confrontation.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/25, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says “Turkey’s downing of a Russian fighter jet on Tuesday is just the kind of volatile incident that has been feared” since Moscow’s intervention in Syria and it creates “new uncertainty” in the conflict. The Times says “the situation cannot be allowed to escalate.”

WASHINGTON POST. “To Prevent Corporate ‘Inversions,’ The American Tax Code Needs To Be Fixed.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/25, 7.78M) editorializes that it is “unrealistic” to expect multinational firms to “follow patriotism rather than their bottom-line interests” given the current US corporate tax rate and fact that the US “tries to apply that rate to all global income.” The problem is not necessarily multinational mergers – it is mergers that are “driven by tax considerations rather than economic fundamentals.” The Post therefore argues that Congress should reform tax laws “to better align private-sector incentives with national interests.”

“Argentina’s Chance For A Fresh Start.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/25, 7.78M) editorializes that Argentina’s conservative president-elect Mauricio Macri not only gives the country opportunity for development and improved relations with the West, but also could “forge a path” for new leaders in Venezuela and other Latin American countries to follow, as they witness the success of free market and trade-promoting policies in countries such as Chile, Mexico, and Colombia. Macri’s economic reforms will be an “uphill battle,” facing obstruction from the National Congress and unions. The Post says that Macri could have a quick impact in foreign policy and that his “willingness to take a stand” could pressure the Venezuelan government against trying to impede upcoming elections.

“A Harvest Of Anti-Muslim Hatred.” An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (11/25, 7.78M) decries the “language of hatred” from protesters opposed to allowing the Islamic Center of Fredericksburg, VA “build a larger facility than the one it has inhabited peaceably for 15 years.” The Post says the “bigotry” which “showed its snarling face” is not surprising given “the toxic rhetoric of presidential candidates and governors, mainly Republicans, who have vilified Muslims since” the Paris attacks, and argues that Spotsylvania County should base its decision about the center on the merits, “not on the bigotry and intolerance that national leaders are cynically bringing into the mainstream.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Turkey’s Warning Shot.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/25, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) argues in an editorial that Russia is testing Turkey, and calls on the Administration to support Ankara.

“The Desolate Wilderness.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/25, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorial.

“And The Fair Land.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/25, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorial.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[‘Soft Targets’ In LA Draw Scrutiny](#)
[Pulled Into The Vortex Of Syria’s War](#)
[Inquiry Details Kunduz Strike Errors](#)
[CalPERS’ Private Equity Payouts Raise Cost Alarms](#)
[Police Shooting Videos May Not Tell Entire Story](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Turkey Shoots Down Russian Military Jet Near Syrian Border](#)
[Skies Darken For Accord On Syria](#)
[For Poor Countries, Well-Worn Path To Development Turns Rocky](#)
[Falling Corporate Profits Blur US Growth Outlook](#)

New York Times:

[Turks Bring Down Russia Warplane On Syrian Mission](#)
[Terror Threat Puts Belgium In Harsh Light](#)

[Chicago Braces As Video Of Shooting Is Released](#)
[Rare Alliance On Sentencing Begins Fray](#)
[A Point Guard With The Grace Of Baryshnikov](#)
[In Renovation Of A Golf Club, Trump Also Dressed Up History](#)

Washington Post:

[Downing Of Russian Jet Escalates Syria Crisis](#)
[US, France To Press Allies For More Assets In Fight Against Islamic State](#)
[Is Trump Good For Women? Ex-Employees Think So.](#)
[Scientists Lash Out Against 'Inquests'](#)
[Officer Charged In Teen's Death](#)

Financial Times:

[Global Security Fears Rise After Turks Shoot Down Russian Jet](#)
[Big Pay Packages Will Not Make Bankers Work Any Harder, Says Deutsche's Cryan](#)

Washington Times:

[Immigrant Children Are Sent To Homes Of Criminals](#)
[Downed Russian Jet Ups Syria Tension](#)
[Paris Terrorists Bungled Plans For More Massive Deaths, Destruction](#)
[Liberals Wary Of Clinton's Anti-Wall Street Stance](#)
[Africa Has High Expectations For Francis' First Papal Visit](#)
[Law School On The Radar For Reaction To Pro-Life Column](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Chicago Shooting-Police Officer Charged; FBI-Terror Alert; Paris Terror Plot; Brussels-Manhunt; Turkey-Russian Military Jet Shot; President Obama-President Hollande Meeting; Severe Weather; 2016 Politics; Syrian Refugees-US; Black Friday Sales; Costco-E Coli Outbreak; Presidential Medal Of Freedom.
CBS: Turkey-Russian Military Jet Shot; Russian Jet Shot-Responses; President Obama-President Hollande Meeting; Former US Ambassador-Interview; FBI-Terror Alert; Chicago Shooting-Police Officer Charged; Paris Terror Plot; Syrian Refugees-US; Presidential Medal Of Honor.
NBC: Chicago Shooting-Police Officer Charged; Minneapolis Protests-Shootings; Turkey-Russian Military Jet Shot; President Obama-President Hollande Meeting; Paris Terror Plot; FBI-Terror Alert; Severe Weather; Presidential Medal Of Honor; Traffic Report.

Network TV At A Glance:

Turkey-Russian Military Jet Shot – 9 minutes, 40 seconds
Chicago Shooting-Police Officer Charged – 7 minutes, 50 seconds
FBI-Terror Alert – 6 minutes, 10 seconds
President Obama-President Hollande Meeting – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Presidential Medal Of Freedom – 4 minutes, 5 seconds
Paris Terror Plot – 3 minutes
Syrian Refugees-US – 2 minutes, 45 seconds
Severe Weather – 1 minute, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Chicago Shooting-Police Officer Charged; Chicago Shooting Protests; Trump-9/11 Cheering Comments; Bush-Trump 9/11 Cheering Comments; Turkey-Russian Military Jet Shot.
CBS: Chicago Shooting-Police Officer Charged; President Obama-President Hollande Meeting; Turkey-Russian Military Jet Shot; Severe Weather-Washington.
FOX: Chicago Shooting-Police Officer Charged; Minneapolis Protests; State Department-Terror Attack Warning; Severe Weather-Washington; Trump-Immigration Comments; Bernie Sanders-Immigration Comments; Hillary Clinton-Syrian Refugees; Unsafe Toy List.
NPR: Chicago Shooting-Police Officer Charged; President Obama-President Hollande Meeting; State Department-Worldwide Travel Alert; US-South Korea Nuclear Deal; Costco-E Coli Outbreak; Blue Origin-Successful Test Flight; Houston-Stand Your Ground Case Ruling.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No scheduled public events.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends the Extraordinary summit of leaders of the Brdo-Brijuni Process on cooperation in Southeast Europe hosted by Slovenian President Borut Pahor and Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic.

US Senate: Senate on recess from 20 Nov – 30 Nov

US House: House of Representatives on recess from 20 Nov – 30 Nov

Other: 11:00 AM Annual Feast of Sharing in Washington, DC – Annual Safeway Feast of Sharing at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, with around 5,000 city residents expected to attend, including Washington, DC, Mayor Muriel Bowser, DC Councilmembers Charles Allen, Jack Evans, and Brandon Todd, and EventsDC President and CEO Greg O'Dell Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC eventsdc.com <https://twitter.com/dcsportsent>

2:30 PM President Obama pardons National Thanksgiving Turkey – President Barack Obama pardons the National Thanksgiving Turkey via a ceremony in the White House Rose Garden. He celebrates the 68th anniversary of the National Thanksgiving Turkey presentation, reflects on 'the time-honored traditions of Thanksgiving', and wishes American families a safe and healthy holiday * After the pardoning, the turkey and its alternate travel to their permanent home at Morven Park's 'Turkey Hill' turkey farm in Leesburg, VA Location: Washington, DC <http://www.whitehouse.gov> <https://twitter.com/WhiteHouse>

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Some more trouble for Ben Carson. Yeah, in a recent interview, he said that Thomas Jefferson wrote the US Constitution, when he actually in fact wrote the Declaration of Independence. Or as Carson's campaign staff put it, 'It's close enough. We'll take that one. It's not as bad. It could be much worse. He didn't say aliens.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, Donald Trump was recently being interviewed and he said that he is not a fan of the man bun trend. He wouldn't want to wear his hair that way. You know it's bad when even Donald Trump is like, 'I'm not putting that on my head.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that NBC has officially granted Mike Huckabee, John Kasich, Jim Gilmore, and Lindsey Graham free air time to equal Donald Trump's recent 'Saturday Night Live' appearance. When asked how they'll feature the candidates, NBC was like, 'Well let's just say the Thanksgiving Parade just got a few more clowns.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Over on the Democratic side, it was announced that Sting is going to perform at a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton next month. Hillary said she's been a huge Sting fan ever since he agreed to perform at her fundraiser."

Jimmy Fallon: "Rapper Killer Mike sat down to eat with Bernie Sanders at a soul food restaurant in Atlanta before intro

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 24, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015 7:00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR PLANS TO CANCEL LEASE ON LAND BLACKFOOT INDIAN TRIBES BELIEVE IS SACRED.

The [AP](#) (11/24, Brown, 283K) reports the Interior Department is planning “to cancel a long-suspended oil and gas drilling lease near Glacier National Park” located “on land considered sacred to the Blackfoot tribes of the U.S. and Canada, according to court documents filed Monday.” Leaders with the tribes “said such a move would make up for a wrong done to them in 1982, when the government issued the lease without consulting the tribes.” However, “the legal maneuvering in the case might not be over: The law firm representing the lease owner, Solenex LLC of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, indicated it would challenge any attempt to cancel the lease.” Government lawyers “said the lease was improperly sold more than three decades ago, in part because an environmental study did not consider the impact of drilling on the tribes.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (11/23, Brown, 1.15M), the [Daily Mail](#) (11/24, 5.31M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/24, Matthew Brown |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (11/24, 118K), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (11/23, 15K), the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (11/24, 51K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/23, 339K), [ABC News](#) (11/23, 3.35M), the [Bluefield \(WV\) Daily Telegraph](#) (11/24, 44K), the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/24, 270K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/24, 263K), the [Bluefield \(WV\) Daily Telegraph](#) (11/24, 44K), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Post-Gazette](#) (11/24, Press, 552K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/24, 2.15M), the [Montana Standard](#) (11/24, 36K), the [Thibodaux \(LA\) Daily Comet](#) (11/23, 42K), the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (11/24, 51K), the [Province \(CAN\)](#) (11/24, 461K), the [Law360](#) (11/24, 30K), [Yahoo! News](#) (11/24, Brown, 6.43M), [Yahoo! Finance \(CAN\)](#) (11/24, 49K), [KXLF-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (11/24, 2K), [KXLH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (11/24, 613), [KECI-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (11/24, 1K), [WVUE-TV New Orleans \(LA\)](#) New Orleans (11/24, 58K), [KWYB-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (11/24), [CKTB-AM Niagara \(CAN\)](#) Niagara, CAN (11/24), and [CFRB-AM Toronto \(CAN\)](#) Toronto, CAN (11/24).

INTERIOR APPROVES GILA RIVER AGREEMENT. The [AP](#) (11/24, 64K) reports that the Interior Department on Monday approved the Gila River agreement, with officials describing “the signing of the agreement as procedural, saying the agency does not have the discretion to deny further evaluation of the Gila project.” The article notes that “a decision on whether to move forward will follow extensive environmental and economic feasibility reviews, which could take years to complete.” Interior Deputy Secretary Mike Connor said, “There is no green light for any project at this point in time. There are a lot of controlling laws that have to be followed now, and this is kicking off that process.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/24, 263K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/24, 2.15M), the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (11/23, 24K), the [Silver City \(NM\) Daily Press](#) (11/23), the [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (11/24, 254K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/24, 263K), the [Rio Rancho \(NM\) Observer](#) (11/24, 35K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/24, Bryan, 283K), the [New Mexico Political Report](#) (11/24), [Yahoo! News](#) (11/24, Bryan, Press, 6.43M), [Public News Service](#) (11/23, 306), [KRQE-TV](#) Albuquerque, NM (11/23, 34K), [KUNM-FM](#) Albuquerque, NM (11/24, 4K), and [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (11/24, 1K).

INTERIOR TO VIEW WIND ENERGY AT NORTH MYRTLE BEACH. [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (11/24, Hudson, 33K) reports the Interior Department will “include North Myrtle Beach in new reviews to determine whether wind energy should be developed in federal waters along South Carolina’s coast.” The article reports Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has said offshore wind farms are part of President Obama’s renewable energy plan. The piece says the Obama Administration has touted wind energy as a source of jobs that could provide power for 14 million homes along the Atlantic coast.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/23, 705) reports that Jewell said in a statement, “We know South Carolina has important wind energy potential, and we will work with stakeholders through a collaborative effort to identify high potential/low conflict areas for development, supporting investment and jobs in South Carolina.”

Additional coverage was provided by [North American Windpower](#) (11/24, 43K).

SECRETARY JEWELL LISTS WOMEN HEROES AND MODELS DURING SPEECH. The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (11/23, Connelly, 767K) reports that “Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on Monday took a route rarely traveled at political fundraisers, [giving] an often-emotional talk about women who directly and indirectly influenced her life as she rose from bank executive to Recreational Equipment, Inc., boss to Cabinet secretary and overseer of 400 million acres of public land.” The Post-Intelligencer explains that Jewell was marquee speaker at Sen. Maria Cantwell’s annual “Women of Valor” luncheon, “an honors ceremony that also refills the three-term senator’s political coffers.” The paper says that Jewell spoke of her mother (a nurse practitioner at a Planned Parenthood clinic), Rachel Carson (producer of *The Sea Around Us* and *Silent Spring*), and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, among others.

INTERIOR’S IG TOUTS INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES IN REPORT TO CONGRESS. The [Greenwire](#) (11/23, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department’s acting inspector general on Monday “told Capitol Hill that her office’s investigative activities resulted in 242 months of jail time, \$5.6 million in criminal penalties and \$1.3 million in civil settlements and recoveries over the past six months.” According to the article, “from uncovering child pornography on a U.S. Geological Survey employee’s computer to investigating fraud allegations involving Chippewa Cree Tribe officials, the watchdog’s semiannual report to Congress touts the IG’s achievements from April 1 to Sept. 30.” Acting Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall said “the office’s audit-related activities resulted in monetary impacts of more than \$6.9 million during that period, a fraction of the \$39 million the IG reported in the first half of the fiscal year.” Kendall, “who has been nominated to lead the office permanently but has faced criticism from Republicans and watchdog groups for being too cooperative with Interior management, used the report to highlight her focus on public corruption within Interior.”

House Watchdogs Question Inspectors General On Access. The [Greenwire](#) (11/23, Subscription Publication) reports that “the House’s top watchdogs are questioning inspectors general from across the government on whether agencies are blocking their probes.” Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz and ranking member Elijah Cummings “sent letters in August to the IGs, asking whether they were being given full access to agency documents and staff for their probes.” One of the letters was sent to Mary Kendall, the acting IG for the Interior Department. Kendall’s response “notes one investigation ran into ‘excessive delay’ by the National Park Service, which was slow to respond to her investigators’ request during one probe.” In response to Kendall’s letter to Chaffetz and Cummings, a NPS spokeswoman said the agency is committed to working with the Interior IG.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY HELD ON C-44 RESERVOIR PROJECT. The [Florida Water Daily](#) (11/23) reports that “the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, alongside federal, state and local officials, celebrated the start of a major construction contract today for the reservoir component of the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area project, a critical restoration project to restore America’s Everglades.” Interior Department Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Michael Bean was among those who attended the ceremony.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CUT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS NEARLY 42 PERCENT. [Reuters](#) (11/23, Volcovici) reports that the White House on Monday announced that the Federal government will cut greenhouse gas emission from its operations to 41.8 percent below 2008 levels by 2025. Solar projects by NASA and DHS will be among the efforts which cover the government’s 360,000 buildings, 650,000 vehicles, and extensive supply chain.

FORMER INTERIOR OFFICIAL TO RETIRE FROM CONSERVATIONIST GROUP. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/23, 705) reports that Don Barry, “a former high-ranking Interior Department official who has spent the past 15 years working for conservation nonprofits, will retire from full-time employment next March, he announced last week in an email to colleagues.” Barry has “spent the past 4 ½ years as a leading executive at Defenders of Wildlife working alongside his longtime conservationist colleague Jamie Rappaport Clark, the group’s president.” Barry said “he intends to stay involved with wildlife conservation issues but that he looks forward to ‘doing less and spending more time with my wife, Teiko.’”

CONGRESS URGED TO RESTORE LWCF. In an editorial, the [Bainbridge Island \(WA\) Review](#) (11/24, 19K) urges Congress to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The paper supports a bipartisan reauthorization bill by Sens. Maria Cantwell and Lisa Murkowski, and opposes Rep. Rob Bishop’s bill. It argues that “Cantwell and Murkowski’s bill provides a fair and equal distribution between federal and state land projects.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Daily Kos](#) (11/23, 391K) and the [Public News Service](#) (11/23, 306).

CONGRESS URGED TO PASS WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING ACT. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (11/24, Tidwell, 654K), Tom Tidwell, chief of the U.S. Forest Service, writes about the benefits of forest restoration and the spiraling costs of fire suppression. Tidwell expresses support for bipartisan Wildfire Disaster Funding Act. He says that the legislation would “provide a fiscally responsible mechanism to treat wildfires more like other natural disasters, end ‘fire transfers’ and partially replenish the ability to restore resilient forests and protect against future fire outbreaks.”

In an editorial, the [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (11/24, 139K) also calls for wildfire reforms.

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (11/24, 81K).

PEOPLE URGED TO GO OUTDOORS ON BLACK FRIDAY. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (11/24, Klasky, 251K), Ben Klasky, President and CEO, IslandWood, writes that “REI plans to close all 140+ of its stores on” Black Friday, “paying its employees to take the day off and enjoy the great outdoors.” Although “cynics” have questioned REI’s “motives,” Klasky argues that “to characterize this decision as a PR stunt is shortsighted, and it discounts the magic that is taking place both at REI and in the larger world surrounding them.” He observes that “it’s extraordinary to think that on a single day, a Black Friday, a day that has been defined in the past by traffic accidents and trampled shoppers...nearly a million people have already signed up to spend the day outside.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Mashable](#) (11/23, 1.8M).

UDALL: PRESIDENT MUST BAN GRAND CANYON URANIUM MINING. Former Sen. Mark Udall (D-CO) writes at the [Huffington Post](#) (11/23, Udall, 251K) that when the president of the National Mining Association says that the impact of uranium mining on Grand Canyon National Park is “virtually nonexistent,” it’s “about as reassuring as BP saying that deep water oil drilling poses virtually no risk to the Gulf of Mexico.” Udall says that samples taken by the US Geological Survey “show that mining has already polluted 15 springs and five wells within the Grand Canyon’s watershed with toxic levels of uranium” and that “the National Park Service reports that existing uranium mines, including some closed more than two decades ago, have fouled the regional aquifer in their vicinity with uranium levels considered unsafe to drink.” Udall concludes that President Obama “should act now to protect the Grand Canyon from irresponsible development around this national treasure.”

PROFESSOR SAYS CHRISTIANS SHOULD CARE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE. [CNN](#) (11/23, 3.54M) offers opinions from a number of different experts on the question, “Can we avoid climate apocalypse?” Katharine Hayhoe, associate professor in the Department of Political Science and director of the Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University, part of the Department of Interior’s South Central Climate Science Center, writes that “to care about climate change, all we need to be is a human living on this planet, a human who needs food, water and air to survive and a safe, healthy environment in which to thrive.” She goes on to state that Christians “have even more reason to care” because “the Bible reminds us that humans have been given responsibility to care for every living thing on the planet.” She concludes that “we need our science to tell us that climate is changing, and that our choices matter,” while “we need our faith to make sure we make the right choice.”

MEDAL OF FREEDOM SELECTION PROCESS EXAMINED. The [Washington Post](#) (11/24, Eilperin, 7.78M) examines how Yogi Bera, who will be awarded a posthumous Medal of Freedom on Tuesday “ended up on the list of awardees,” saying the story “offers a glimpse into the quirky and secretive process surrounding one of the nation’s highest honors.” The selection process has no rules “aside from the fact that the president makes the final call.” The White House staff secretary “has run the process,” in recent decades “with input from the president’s senior advisers, Cabinet secretaries and the first lady’s office.” The Post also points out that William D. Ruckelshaus “is being honored in part because he refused to bow to pressure from Nixon as deputy attorney general” but “is also being honored because the lifelong Republican helped launch the Environmental Protection Agency.” The Post notes that that Administration’s “two Cabinet members with chief responsibility for the environment, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, also wrote letters on Ruckelshaus’s behalf.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

NATIVE HAWAIIANS URGED TO SPEAK OUT ON SELF GOVERNANCE. The [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (11/24, 41) reports that “with just a little more than five weeks left before the deadline for public comments on a proposed rule that would govern relations between the U.S. government and a potential Native Hawaiian government, leaders of multiple Hawaiian organizations and the larger Hawaiian community are urging people to make their voices heard.” Members of Imua Hawaii said that “it’s critical to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to leverage a formal government-to-government relationship.”

Additional coverage of the issue was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/23, 47K).

PANEL TALKS ABOUT HISTORY OF INDIAN GAMING AT NIGA MID-YEAR CONFERENCE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/23, 47K) reports that “to close out the National Indian Gaming Association’s (NIGA) 30-year anniversary, a history panel came together to share the unique beginnings of Indian gaming during the NIGA Mid-Year Conference, held November 2-4 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida.” NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr. reminded the crowd: “Many of us in Indian country have lived and worked in a world of advocacy standing up for tribal sovereignty and advocating for tribal governments rights to govern their communities. With that in mind, we come together today to learn about the importance of the history of Indian gaming and where it came from.”

BILL TO MAKE CONGRESS THE SOLE DETERMINANT OF INDIAN SOVEREIGNTY CRITICIZED. In a letter to the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/23, 47K), John Yellow Bird Steele, the president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, criticizes legislation that would make Congress “the only body with authority to Federally acknowledge Indian nations and tribes.” He argues “HR 3764 misreads the Constitution, overturns longstanding historical precedent, increases the bureaucracy and legislative burden on Indian tribes and politicizes the Federal Acknowledgment Process.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

BOR TO ANNOUNCE BERRYESSA RESORT BID RESULTS IN JANUARY. The [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (11/24, 73K) reports that “winners in the Lake Berryessa competition to revitalize resorts with new marinas, campgrounds, stores, restaurants and lodgings should be known in January.” The BOR is expected “to announce its picks to rebuild and operate up to five resorts” then.

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

PROJECT SHOWS THE RISK SOLAR THERMAL POSES TO BIRDS. Judith Lewis Mernit writes in a 5,039-word story for the [Denver Post](#) (11/21, Mernit, 825K) about the impacts of the Ivanpah solar thermal project on birds in the Mojave Desert. Ecologist Shawn Smallwood said Ivanpah “was the first time people really understood the magnitude of the issue.” Mernit writes that NextEra, BrightSource and NRG “all claim to be monitoring their plants to assess their impact on birds,” adding that NextEra and Brightsource have enlisted help from Sandia National Laboratory engineer Clifford Ho “to argue that it’s physically impossible for flux to vaporize birds.” However, the piece says Bureau of Land Management personnel and biologists differ in their assessment, as they “watched as 130 birds combusted mid-flight during a six-hour test of a power-tower plant, SolarReserve’s Crescent Dunes facility near Tonopah, Nevada” last January.

DEEPWATER WIND PLANNING WIND FARM OFF THE ROCKAWAYS. [Crain’s New York Business](#) (11/23, Geiger, 180K) has a profile of Clint Plummer, vice president of development of Deepwater Wind. The company wants to build what could be the largest offshore wind farm in the US 20 miles off the coast of the Rockaways. Crain’s says that that first phase could power a quarter of the state of Delaware and eventually could produce a quarter of New York City’s power. Crain’s explains that “Plummer thinks the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will hold an auction for the plot off the Rockaways sometime in 2016, opening the door for wind energy in the city.” Meanwhile, “auctions of three neighboring sites could allow the wind farm there to eventually be expanded to 500 turbines or more.”

Onshore Energy Development:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFERS AID TO HELP COMMUNITIES DEPENDENT ON COAL INDUSTRY.

The [Washington Times](#) (11/24, Wolfgang, 283K) reports on “the coal business” which has been in a “steep decline,” having “lost about 50,000 jobs,” from 2008 to 2012 due to “both Obama administration environmental regulations and the rise of cheaper, cleaner natural gas.” Altogether, “fewer than 70,000 people now work in the coal-mining industry.” The industry is expected to continue to lose jobs “as the administration moves ahead,” on its Clean Power Plan. In response to concerns about regional unemployment, the Administration has developed the “POWER + Plan” that would “pour billions of dollars into coal communities for job training, infrastructure investments and other efforts.” Presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton “has embraced” the idea with her own “detailed plan to keep coal communities from sinking into an economic abyss.”

MINING INDUSTRY PETITIONS LAWMAKERS TO DEFUND STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [E&E](#)

[Publishing](#) (11/23, 705) reports that the National Mining Association is “circulating a petition urging lawmakers to block the Interior Department’s proposed stream protection rule.” NMA’s Count on Coal site allows supporters to tell lawmakers to “please make sure any appropriations legislation bars OSM from adopting this job-killing regulation.” The petition says, “This is a rule in search of a problem, a textbook example of punitive, unnecessary and counterproductive regulations designed to destroy high-wage jobs and drive up energy costs for families and businesses.”

BLM PRESSES COMPANIES ON LEASE PLANS. The [E&E](#) (11/23) reports that the BLM “wants coal companies to say whether they still plan to pursue long-pending mining leases amid sustained weak market conditions, according to documents obtained by Greenwire.” The lease-by-application system “allows companies to request tracts containing government-owned coal reserves, usually to extend the life of existing mines.” However, “industry troubles have slowed production and lowered needs for coal companies to bring more reserves online.”

NPS ADVANCING PROPOSAL TO SEARCH FOR OIL IN BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. The [Greenwire](#) (11/23, Subscription Publication) reports that “a Texas company’s proposal to search for oil deposits across a 110-square-mile section of Florida’s Big Cypress National Preserve is advancing through the federal environmental review process, much to the chagrin of environmentalists who say the project would cause permanent damage.” The NPS has released an environmental assessment of a proposal by Burnett Oil Co. Inc. to “use so-called thumper trucks that would vibrate the ground, creating ‘seismic acoustical signals’ to help the company map out the subsurface geology across more than 70,000 acres in the north-central portion of the national preserve.” The document notes that while the preserve “consists almost entirely of wetlands,” the company’s survey teams “cannot avoid going into wetlands.” They also “cannot obtain the acoustical signals they need to map the subsurface geology to look for oil deposits ‘without physically touching the ground within the wetlands.’”

Additional coverage was provided by the [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (11/20, 720K).

SEN. BARRASSO CRITICIZES BIA ON TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. The [Law360](#) (11/24, 30K) reports that Senate Committee on Indian Affairs Chairman John Barrasso on Friday “slammed” the BIA for “dramatically” hindering energy development in Indian Country, claiming that “increased local control and simplified federal regulations would boost tribal prosperity.” Barrasso highlighted the BIA’s “red tape” and “inefficiency” as reasons for missed energy development opportunities in an op-ed published by Indian Country Today.

BLM EXTENDS COMMENT PERIODS FOR PROPOSED CHANGES FOR ONSHORE OIL, GAS REGULATIONS. The [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (11/24, 1K) reports that the BLM “extended the comment period for three proposed rulemakings that would replace or revise significant federal onshore oil and gas regulations.” According to the article, “comments on proposals that would affect Onshore Oil and Gas Orders 3, 4, and 5 now will be accepted until Dec. 14, it said in a Nov. 23 Federal Register notice.”

THREE MORE EARTHQUAKES HIT PARTS OF OKLAHOMA NEAR LAST WEEK’S TEBLOR. The [AP](#) (11/24) reports that three earthquakes, measuring 4.4, 3.5, and 3.0 on the Richter scale, were recorded Monday on “parts of Oklahoma near the site of last week’s 4.7 magnitude temblor.” No damage was reported. After last week’s quake, notes the AP, “the Oklahoma Corporation Commission’s oil and gas division released a plan calling for changes to oil and gas wastewater disposal wells in the area near the towns of Cherokee and Carmen.”

Offshore Energy Development:

REPORT EXAMINES FORCES SHAPING FUTURE OF NORTH CAROLINA COAST. In an extensive piece, the [Jacksonville \(NC\) Daily News](#) (11/23, Bellamy, 1K) reports on the political forces that are shaping the North Carolina coast. The Daily News notes that “as the federal government pushes energy independence, oil and wind companies are eyeing North Carolina waters.” Meanwhile, the Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management “plans to open two local areas to turbine leasing,” including the Wilmington West Wind Energy Area. The report says that “an environmental review completed this year found the plan would not cause significant environmental harm” but some, including NC Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Donald van der Vaart, “worry about what turbines could cost in property values and tourism dollars.” The report also goes into great detail about the potential impacts of climate change on the coast.

COLUMBIA’S ECOPETROL, ANADARKO TO EXPLORE FOUR GULF OF MEXICO BLOCKS. [Reuters](#) (11/23, Cobb, Acosta) reports that Columbian state-run oil company Ecopetrol, partially in partnership with a unit of Anadarko Petroleum Corp., will explore for oil in four blocks in the Gulf of Mexico.

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TO HOST HEARING ON ROUNDING UP WILD HORSES, BURROS IN UTAH. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (11/24, 476K) reports that the BLM in Utah will “host its annual statewide public hearing on the use of helicopters and motorized vehicles in the management of wild horses and burros on public lands.” The hearing will be held Tuesday, Dec. 8 in Price.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Horse](#) (11/24, 4K).

BLM SET TO BURN HUNDREDS OF SLASH PILES. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/23, 31K) reports that the BLM’s Tres Rios Field Office is “set to begin burning slash piles as early as Monday, conditions permitting.” According to the article, “four project sites located on BLM lands in Southwest Colorado will see burns.” BLM Fire Mitigation Specialist Chris Barth said, “There might be temporary signs up depending on the site telling people there are prescribed burns, but none of them will impact travel or folks in any way.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS CONSIDERS LIMITATIONS ON SWIMMING WITH MANATEES IN CRYSTAL RIVER. The [AP](#) (11/24, 2.15M) reports that “federal wildlife officials could further limit the number of swimmers allowed in Crystal River’s Three Sisters Springs during peak manatee season in Citrus County.” The FWS has “tentatively decided to reduce the number of swimmers to 13 at any one time after conducting a study and consulting with other officials, including the U.S. Coast Guard.” Crystal River City Manager Dave Burnell said the FWS will “decide by the end of December or early next year whether to make the number official.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lakeland \(FL\) Ledger](#) (11/23, 135K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/24, 283K), and [WOFL-TV Orlando \(FL\)](#) Orlando, FL (11/24, 90K).

HUNTER WHO SHOT PROTECTED GRAY WOLF WON’T FACE PROSECUTION. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/23, 705) reports that “a Colorado man who shot a protected gray wolf in the spring will not face federal criminal charges after an investigation determined he legitimately thought he was shooting a coyote.” According to an investigation by the FWS, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and the Department of Justice, “the hunter, who was not identified, was legally shooting coyotes in April in north-central Colorado near Kremmling along the Colorado River.” Dan Rolince, FWS Mountain-Prairie Region assistant special agent in charge, said, “Our investigation determined that the shooting resulted from misidentification rather than the intentional take of a protected species. Although the hunter did the right thing by reporting his mistake immediately, this is a good reminder to hunters to properly identify their targets before pulling the trigger.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (11/24, Coffman), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/24, 263K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/24, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/24, 283K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (11/24, 825K), and [Colorado Public Radio](#) (11/24).

SEN. BARRASSO INTRODUCES LEGISLATION REMOVING WOLF PROTECTIONS. The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (11/24, 1K) reports that Sen. John Barrasso has introduced “a companion bill to existing legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives that would strip federal protection for Wyoming’s wolves.” The legislation would “reissue a rule that in 2012 removed Endangered Species Act protection for wolves in Wyoming and gave management to the state.” The measure would “also give management of wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan back to the states, allowing hunting.”

FWS REJECTS REQUEST TO EXTEND COMMENT PERIOD ON PLAN TO BRING ELEPHANTS TO OMAHA ZOO. The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (11/24, 579K) reports that the FWS has “denied an extension sought by animal rights groups trying to delay the import of six elephants.” The groups asked the FWS “to extend the public comment period on the Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium’s application to bring the elephants to Omaha.” Laury Parramore, a spokeswoman for the FWS, said, “We believe the 30-day comment period provides sufficient time for comments to be submitted.”

AMAZON’S WILDLIFE THREATENED BY TRAFFICKERS. The [Mongabay](#) (11/23, 6K) reports that many species, “already under pressure from Amazon habitat loss and development, are now threatened by a growing wave of animal trafficking.” According to the article, “uncounted numbers of animals, and animal parts, are smuggled into the U.S. annually, with America’s 130 US Fish and Wildlife Service agents overwhelmed by the millions of tons of imported goods entering the nation.”

FWS INVESTIGATING DEATH OF BALD EAGLE. [KXMC-TV](#) Minot, ND (11/24, 1K) reports that the FWS is “investigating the shooting death of a bald eagle near Bantry in McHenry County.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SCIENTISTS SAY GREAT LAKES WOLVES SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM ENDANGERED LIST. Additional coverage of the letter signed by 26 wildlife scientists urging the federal government “to reconsider federal protections for the gray wolf in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin” was provided by the [Gaylord \(MI\) Herald Times](#) (11/24, 38K) and the [OutdoorHub](#) (11/23, 39K).

National Park Service:

DESPITE SLOW START, NPS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT “EVERY KID IN A PARK” PROGRAM. The [National Parks Traveler](#) (11/24, 989) reports that “nine months after President Obama heralded his Every Kid In A Park program, the initiative is showing some growing pains, but National Park Service officials are optimistic about the long-term benefits of the program.” NPS officials say that “they’ve had challenges to launch the program in the handful of months between the president’s announcement and September 1, when year-long passes for fourth graders that get them into all national parks and other public lands that require an entrance fee became available.” But “with more publicity about the program coming through partnerships with groups such as Scholastic, the Boy and Girl Scouts and Boys and Girls clubs, with transportation grants through the National Park Foundation intended to make it easier for fourth graders and their families to get to public lands, and with school field trips and next summer’s traditional vacation season yet to come,” Julia Washburn, the Every Kid in a Park team education lead for the Park Service, was “optimistic more and more youngsters would get involved with the program.”

LEGISLATION WOULD PROVIDE \$150M ANNUALLY FOR MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL PARKS. [National Parks Traveler](#) (11/22, 989) reports that legislation sponsored by Sen. Lisa Murkowski “calls for \$150 million annually to be deposited into an account the National Park Service could tap for ‘critical deferred maintenance’ in the National Park System.” The measure, the Sportsmen’s Act of 2015, passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last Wednesday. Under Murkowski’s bill, “the \$150 million earmarked for Park Service maintenance work, would come from revenues generated by energy exploration on the Outer Continental Shelf and be spent on maintenance projects ‘that support critical infrastructure and visitor services.’”

CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT CREATION OF NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE. The [AP](#) (11/24, 2.15M) reports that “three members of Maine’s congressional delegation told President Barack Obama they have serious reservations about a proposal to have more than 100,000 acres of Maine’s northern woods designated a national monument.” In the letter to Obama, Sens. Susan Collins, Angus King and Rep. Bruce Poliquin said “no decision about the future of the land should be made without taking into account the opinions of Maine residents who live near the land in the Mount Katahdin region.” The letter stated, “While we acknowledge the right of private land owners to donate their land, we have serious concerns about the executive branch using its power to unilaterally designate a national monument in our state. Mainers have a long and proud history of

private land ownership, independence and local control, and do not take lightly any forced action by the federal government to increase its footprint in our state.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/24, 283K), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (11/23, 158K), the [Oklahoman](#) (11/24, 470K), [WAGM-TV Presque Isle \(ME\)](#) Presque Isle, ME (11/24, 78), and [WMEA-FM Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (11/24, 333).

SUPREME COURT AGREES TO HEAR HUNTER’S HOVERCRAFT CASE. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/24, 705) reports that John Sturgeon “is at the heart of an obscure legal battle over whether he can use his hovercraft to hunt along Yukon River tributaries within” the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and “in a move that stunned legal experts and Sturgeon himself, the Supreme Court has agreed to hear his appeal.” E&E explains that the case began when National Park Service enforcement agents told Sturgeon that his hovercraft and jet boat “were banned from waters inside the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve in Alaska.” He sued NPS and Interior Department officials, arguing “that navigable waterways within the Yukon-Charley preserve belong to the state and that the NPS rules don’t apply.” However, the government argues that NPS has the authority to regulate craft on waterways within national parks. E&E notes that the courts have sided with the government thus far.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Law360](#) (11/24, 30K).

OLDEST ACTIVE NPS RANGER TO INTRODUCE FIRST FAMILY AT NATIONAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY. The [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (11/24, Karina Ioffe Kioffee@, bayareanewsgroup.com, 263K) reports that Betty Reid Soskin, the oldest active ranger in the NPS, next week will travel to Washington, D.C. “where she has been invited to introduce President Barack Obama and his family during the White House’s annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Dec. 3.” According to the article, Soskin was “in the middle of one of her presentations to a group of students” at Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park “when she received an urgent call from National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis telling her she had been invited to spend time with the first family.”

DEL. NORTON, NPS OFFICIALS TO HOLD MEETING ON BUZZARD POINT MARINA CLOSING. The [Hill Now \(DC\)](#) (11/23) reports that representatives from the NPS will “attend a meeting held by District Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton tonight to hear resident’s questions and concerns about the planned closing of the Buzzard Point Marina in Southwest.” The NPS, “which owns the Buzzard Point Marina, announced in September that they plan to close the marina at the end of the year, citing the need for costly renovations.” After members of the Buzzard Point Marina Boat Owner’s Association contacted Norton, “she requested that the NPS schedule a meeting to hear concerns from boat owners and other neighbors of the marina.”

MOUNTAIN LIONS IN LOS ANGELES AREA TRAPPED BY URBAN DEVELOPMENT. The [Scientific American](#) (11/24, 3M) reports that “there’s only around a dozen lions left in the Santa Monica Mountains, the range running from the Pacific Ocean through Los Angeles, America’s second-largest metropolis.” The animals are “trying to escape because they’re trapped on an island of habitat, fenced in by freeways, hostage to urban development and isolated from the rest of their population.” The article notes that “to further complicate matters, inbreeding, lions killing one another over territory and for mates and rodenticide from eating animals infected by poison are also destroying their population.”

LAND ACQUISITION PRESERVES VIEW AT WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK. [KELO-TV](#) Sioux Falls, SD (11/24, 29K) reports that “a 40-acre land deal on the southern boundary of Wind Cave National Park near Hot Springs is small in size but larger in what it represents about the future of the Black Hills and preserving a natural resource.” Park officials “recently purchased the property from a willing seller – a private landowner who actually initiated the buy – for \$280,000.” The NPS acquired “the property using Land & Water Conservation Fund money.”

NPS OFFERING LEASES ON C&O PROPERTIES. [WFMD-AM](#) Frederick, MD (11/24, 628) reports that the C&O National Historical Park is “taking bids for the agricultural use of properties in various locations in Frederick, Montgomery, Washington and Allegheny Counties.” NPS officials say “they plan to lease 25 tracts of land along the C&O Canal for a ten-year period beginning in April, 2016.”

PHONE BOOTH IN ARKANSAS ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. [Reuters](#) (11/23, Barnes) reports that a telephone booth in Arkansas has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: COINS TO COMMEMORATE NPS CENTENNIAL. Additional coverage of the special coins to help commemorate the NPS Centennial in 2016 was provided by the [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (11/24, 20K) and the [National Parks Traveler](#) (11/24, 989).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS OPPOSES YELLOWSTONE-GRAND TETON PADDLING BILL. Additional coverage of the NPS Director Jon Jarvis' "letter staunchly opposing the proposed Yellowstone and Grand Teton Paddling Act" was provided by the [Yellowstone Insider](#) (11/23).

FUNDING SOLUTION SUGGESTED FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL PARK. In an op-ed for the [Oak Ridge \(TN\) Today](#) (11/23, Abbatiello), Leonard Abbatiello is a former Oak Ridge City Council member, lauds "the recent creation of the Manhattan Project National Park," but notes that "there will be little done until it is funded." Abbatiello suggests that "it could all be funded by a small DOE 'internal tax' on each and every science and production program that DOE supports in these cities."

US Geological Survey:

SOUTH CENTER CLIMATE SCIENCE CENTER RECEIVES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. The [Norman \(OK\) Transcript](#) (11/22, 27K) reports that the South Center Climate Science Center on the University of Oklahoma's Research Campus is the recipient of the Department of Interior 2015 Environmental Achievement Award, an award for "Climate Science and Partnerships — Increasing the Tribal Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation." The center "received the award as a result of its partnerships with other agencies to develop programs for building tribal capabilities and conducting climate science research." The center is a consortium co-directed by the USGS and the University of Oklahoma.

Top National News:

OBAMA TEAM SPLIT AS US MOVES TO STEP UP EFFORTS AGAINST ISIL. While reports indicate that the Administration on Monday began a multipronged effort to step up its fight against ISIL, the [New York Times](#) (11/24, Sanger, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that "in interviews...White House, State Department and Pentagon officials have described fierce debates within the administration over how deeply to involve American forces" in its strategy. Despite the debate, "so far" the President "appears to be sticking to his incremental approach." On the ground in Syria, the US, France, and Russia all stepped up airstrikes targeting ISIL yesterday. Secretary of State Kerry, in Abu Dhabi, consulted with officials from the UAE and Saudi Arabia. Back in Washington, Vice President Biden met with diplomats from the coalition fighting ISIL as the President prepares to sit down later today with French President Francois Hollande. Coverage is heavy, though the moves are noted in the context of broader reports on the attacks in Paris and heightened security in Brussels and the US.

Meanwhile, the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/23, story 4, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that the Administration's actions come as a new CBS News poll finds that "only 23 percent of Americans believe the President has a clear plan for dealing with ISIL." Facing "pressure from politicians at home and Russian maneuvering abroad," [McClatchy](#) (11/24, Allam, Kumar, 27K) says, the Administration is "moving this week to reassert leadership of the international fight against the Islamic State."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/24, Gibbons-Neff, 7.78M) reported in its "Checkpoint" blog that the President's strategy for combating ISIL is drawing questions from within his own party, "and now some of his former advisers have taken to calling for a stronger approach." The piece goes on to list criticism of the President's policy from Hillary Clinton, former CIA Director and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, and former Defense Secretary Gates, among others.

In his [Washington Post](#) (11/24, Pincus, 7.78M) column, Walter Pincus examines the goals of the US-led coalition's "military and diplomatic activities" in Syria, writing that according to Brett McGurk, the President's special envoy to the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, "'suffocating the core' territory that the Islamic State had seized over the past two years and 'shrinking that area' were the focus" of coalition efforts. McGurk described the peshmerga retaking Sinjar "and cutting the main highway between Raqqa and Mosul as 'part of the suffocation. ... We want to isolate them in Raqqa; we want to isolate them in Mosul; and then continue to strangle and increase the pressure, and that's going to continue.'" Gates, Pincus adds, "said basically the Obama strategy was correct, but working too slowly," and called for "intensification of things we're already

doing...identifying tribes and others like Kurds who are willing to defend their own territory, their own villages, their own tribal lands and help them directly with military equipment and support.”

In a [National Journal](#) (11/23, Subscription Publication, 53K) op-ed, Ron Fournier is critical of the President’s handling of the fight against ISIL, writing that he is “stubbornly clinging to a strategy against ISIS that lacks clarity, creativity, and urgency” and “doesn’t seem to know how to rally us to a common cause.” Fournier notes that in a July 2013 column, he asked, “What if Obama can’t lead,” and adds, “I now have my answer.”

Kerry, the [AP](#) (11/24, Klapper) reports, said Monday that the US is seeking “new military, counterterrorism and diplomatic ideas to destroy” ISIL “faster.” He also said greater military cooperation with Russia “was possible under the right circumstances.” Speaking to reporters, Kerry said, “I’d like to see us go faster. The president would like to see us go faster.” But he “didn’t outline any specific...additions to the strategy.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/24, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) quotes Kerry as saying, “The goal is to accelerate everything. Everything helps move everything else. If we can get a cease-fire, if we can get a political process, that greatly facilitates what we can then talk to Russians and others about in terms of coordination.” Kerry, the [Washington Post](#) (11/24, Morello, 7.78M) reports, cited the recent attacks in Paris as “adding urgency to bids for Syrian peace talks.” The Post notes that “one sticking point” of the talks is whether the Islamist group Ahrar al-Sham should be invited. Kerry “said he had discussed the group in his talks on Monday and suggested that the United States could be willing to have the group be part of a possible resolution,” but it is “too soon to make a determination.”

[AFP](#) (11/24, Clark) reports Kerry traveled to Abu Dhabi to “encourage his Emirati and Saudi allies in their efforts to convince Syria’s rebel factions to agree a ceasefire” with the Assad regime. “That’s why I’m here,” he told reporters, repeating his hope that a ceasefire could be struck “in a few weeks.”

Kerry, [Reuters](#) (11/24, Wroughton) reports, told reporters that US efforts to topple ISIL should not be seen as helping to keep President Bashar al-Assad in power. “If certain entities perceive that whatever we’re doing is going to help Assad to stay, that complicates issues. So it has to be done in a way that manages the passions...among people who have been fighting Assad for four years,” he said.

[Politico](#) (11/23, Gass, 1.19M) reports that a “defiant” Kerry appeared Monday on [NBC’s Today Show](#) to “describe how the US is not being complacent but that the Islamic State...is not an invincible force.” Asked about criticism of the Administration’s strategy, Kerry said, “I believe ISIS is going to be defeated. ISIS is not 10 feet tall.”

[Voice of America](#) (11/23, 64K) reports in Abu Dhabi, Kerry met with Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the [Kuwait News Agency](#) (11/23) reports that following talks with Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Kerry told reporters, “We agreed today on a number of things that we will work on specifically to try to accelerate the defeat of Daesh and to bring about the peace and stability that the region wants.” [Gulf Today](#) (11/23) reports the two sides “stressed the importance of coordination, cooperation and consultation about intensifying efforts to fight” ISIL, while the [Khaleej Times](#) (11/23, 220K) says Kerry “was clearest in outlining his focus in the overall strategy: Getting Assad and moderate rebels into a political transition process.”

White House: US “Pulling More Than Our Weight” In Fight Against ISIL. The [Washington Times](#) (11/24, Boyer, 283K) reports that ahead of today’s meeting between the President and French President Francois Hollande, the White House “said Monday that the US is contributing more than its share to the fight against the Islamic State.” With Hollande expected to call on the Administration to do more, press secretary Josh Earnest said, “The United States is certainly pulling more than our own weight” in the 65-nation coalition.

[USA Today](#) (11/24, Jackson, 5.56M) quotes Earnest as saying, “There is a comprehensive strategy that is being implemented by the United States and the 64 other members of our coalition.” Meanwhile, Vice President Biden on Monday met with representatives from 59 of the 65 nations. Earnest said the conversation “focused on how countries who are part of our coalition can ramp up their contributions to our efforts.” [Politico](#) (11/23, Toosi, 1.19M) reports that according to an Iraqi diplomat who attended, Monday’s meeting covered “a range of topics, including the need to support Iraq’s current government and the United Nations’ stabilization fund for Iraq.”

Meanwhile, Hollande, the [Washington Post](#) (11/24, DeYoung, 7.78M) reports, on Monday, launched “a

diplomatic blitz designed to boost international cooperation and intensify efforts” against ISIL. He started the day by meeting with British Prime Minister David Cameron in Paris, and “will spend Tuesday in Washington with President Obama before meeting later in the week with the leaders of Germany, Italy and Russia.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/23, story 3, 2:25, Holt, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell reported that Hollande will reportedly “ask [the US] for more special forces in Syria,” but Barbara Starr reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/23, 554K) that the US will “press for France and Britain to send special forces to join with US commandos due to arrive in northern Syria at any time.” Hollande, the [New York Times](#) (11/24, Erlanger, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports, is also seeking “a faster political resolution to the Syrian civil war, a senior French official said, hoping that Moscow will be more willing now to push President Bashar al-Assad aside.”

Pentagon Investigating Whether Analysts Manipulated ISIL Intel. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/23, story 3, 2:25, Holt, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell reported that the Pentagon is looking into “whether intelligence was manipulated” to make the Administration’s strategy against ISIL “appear more successful.” Mitchell said that even after the Paris attacks, both President Obama and Secretary of State Kerry were “downplaying the ISIL threat,” but even some “leading Democrats” – including former Defense Secretary Panetta, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, and former US Ambassador to Iraq James Jeffrey – say the Administration’s rhetoric “doesn’t match the reality.”

On [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/23, 1.53M), Katherine Herridge said the White House “insisted” that Obama “would rather get that information and make changes to the strategy where necessary than not.” However, Herridge said that despite “multiple intelligence assessments” warning of ISIL’s rise, an official who was part of the White House discussion said the Administration kept “kicking the can down the road.” Furthermore, pressure on Centcom analysts reportedly included “at least two e-mails, now in the hands of the inspector general,” that suggested that analysts “cut it out” on the negative assessments and “toe the line.”

Iraqi Sunnis Lament Lack Of US Help In Fight Against ISIL. The [Washington Times](#) (11/24, Taylor, 283K) reports that “key” Sunni tribal leaders in Iraq “say US officials have failed to work with them in the fight against the Islamic State and assert that Russia is now increasingly eager to fill the void.” Sheikh Sabah Almahlawi, leader of the Albu Mahal tribe which played a central role in the first Sunni “awakening,” said, “The Americans are not connecting with the most important tribal leaders.”

US, France, And Russia Step Up Airstrikes. The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/23, story 4, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that US airstrikes have now destroyed nearly 500 tanker trucks ISIL uses to smuggle oil, and by “one estimate, the attacks have destroyed roughly half the trucks ISIL uses to bring in \$1 million a day in revenues.” The [AP](#) (11/24, Burns) reports the Pentagon said Monday that US airstrikes over the weekend “destroyed 283 tanker trucks used by the militants to transport oil from producing fields in eastern Syria to smuggling points.” The AP notes that the strikes are part of an “accelerated” campaign targeting a key source of income for ISIL. [AFP](#) (11/24) calls the strikes “another milestone as the US-led coalition intensifies its campaign” against ISIL and “focuses on their oil-smuggling infrastructure.”

Barbara Starr reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/23, 554K) that the Pentagon was “stepping up the targeting of ISIS’ oil infrastructure inside Syria over the weekend,” focusing on a “specific area in eastern Syria where the oil smuggling trucks had been assembling.”

Also on Monday, [AFP](#) (11/24, Jackson, Randolph) reports, France launched airstrikes from an aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean, striking ISIL targets in Ramadi and Mosul. Russia said Monday that it had hit 472 targets in Syria “in the past two days, including tanker trucks and oil infrastructure” in ISIL-held territory, [AFP](#) (11/24) reports separately, but [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/23, 1.53M) said the Pentagon is “pushing back” on Russian claims that its airstrikes have targeted over 1,000 ISIL oil tankers in the past few days. US officials say that claim is “nearly impossible with the kind of unguided bombs used by Moscow.”

Cameron To Seek Parliamentary Support For Expanding Airstrikes. The [Washington Post](#) (11/24, Morris, Ryan, 7.78M) reports British Prime Minister David Cameron visited Paris on Monday in a show of support and also “pledged to seek parliamentary support for expanding British airstrikes into Syria.” Cameron, [AFP](#) (11/24) reports, is expected to “make his case for strikes to parliament this week, and the indications are that dozens of opposition Labour MPs rebelling against their party leader could swing a subsequent vote in his favour.” The [AP](#) (11/24, Kirka) reports that during his visit to Paris, the British leader also “called for greater European Union-wide efforts to share intelligence to stop extremists and offered the use of the air base at Akrotiri on Cyprus for actions in Syria” against ISIL.

Calling it a “significant reversal of British government policy,” the [New York Times](#) (11/24, Castle, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports Cameron promised Monday to “bolster military spending, ending years of cutbacks that had prompted critics to claim that Britain was retreating from its global role.” [USA Today](#) (11/24, Onyanga-Omara, 5.56M) reports Cameron and French President Francois Hollande visited the Bataclan theater, where 89 were killed in this month’s attacks.

US ISSUES WORLDWIDE TRAVEL WARNING IN WAKE OF PARIS ATTACKS. The [AP](#) (11/24) reports the State Department is “alerting Americans to the possible risks of travel due to increased terrorist threats around the world” in the wake of this month’s attacks in Paris. The alert issued Monday “says current information suggests that Islamic State militants, al-Qaida, Boko Haram and other terrorist groups continue to plan attacks in multiple regions.” [Reuters](#) (11/23) reports that a State Department official noted the agency has issued worldwide travel alerts in the past and this latest alert updated previous warnings. The [Washington Times](#) (11/24, Morton, 283K) also reports on the alert, noting that the State Department cited “increased terrorism threats worldwide.”

Pete Williams reported in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/23, lead story, 1:35, Holt, 7.86M) that State Department officials “say this is not based on any intelligence, but it is intend to reinforce the message that the world is a dangerous place.” [ABC World News](#) (11/23, lead story, 2:55, Muir, 5.84M) reported in its lead story that the State Department did not list “specific locations, but here in New York, they’ve already taken added measures.” In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/23, lead story, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M), Jeff Pegues reported that the alert “says terror groups such as ISIL and al Qaeda continue to plan attacks using conventional and non-conventional weapons,” and in a separate story on [ABC World News](#) (11/23, story 2, 1:30, Muir, 5.84M), Jonathan Karl reported that the alert “comes specifically in response to the attacks that we have seen in Paris, in Mali, in Egypt and elsewhere.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/24, 3.6M) says that according to US authorities, “the likelihood of terrorist attacks would continue as members of the Islamic State returned from Syria and Iraq, and other individuals not affiliated with terrorist groups engaged in violence on their own.”

Safety Of US Air Travel Debated. In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (11/24, 5.56M) argues that while air passengers are “perhaps more nervous than they’ve been since those terrible months after 9/11,” a “little perspective should give travelers some comfort: Despite the holes, airports and airlines today are not the same soft, flabby targets they were in 2001.” Saying the TSA “is miles ahead of what passed for screening before that Sept. 11,” USA Today goes on to list key security improvements implemented since the 9/11 attacks, and argues that while “holes remain that need to be filled,” a “net that was tragically loose 14 years ago is considerably tighter today.”

In an accompanying op-ed in [USA Today](#) (11/24, Roman, 5.56M), Anthony C. Roman, CEO of Roman & Associates, investigation, risk management and counterterrorism consultants, takes a less optimistic view, arguing that he would like to “say we are ‘perfectly safe,’ but we are not.” Roman cites problems with the TSA including its “95% screening failure rate,” and “corrupt TSA luggage screening contractors,” among others and argues that the agency’s “middle management needs an overhaul” and training “needs to be better and performed more often.”

DEMOCRATS OUTRAGED AS PFIZER ANNOUNCES MERGER, MOVE TO IRELAND. [ABC World News](#) (11/23, story 7, 0:25, Muir, 5.84M) reported on the “mega-merger” between Pfizer and Allergan that “will create the largest drug company in the world.” The merged companies will be headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, the home of Allergan, “reducing how much they would have to pay in US taxes.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/23, story 7, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported the move will reduce Pfizer’s “corporate taxes by hundreds of millions of dollars,” and will be “the biggest move yet in a trend of US companies moving their headquarters abroad.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/23, story 7, 0:30, Holt, 7.86M) called it “controversial,” and “a practice the Obama Administration wants to curb,” adding that “Pfizer could pay billions less in corporate taxes.”

[USA Today](#) (11/24, McCoy, 5.56M) reports that the Administration’s “stepped-up regulatory attack on tax inversions,” is unlikely to prevent the merger, because Allergan is, according to the arrangement, “acquiring Pfizer,” and because Pfizer shareholders would own 56% of the new company, it will be “below the 60% threshold to qualify as a tax inversion under the U.S. tax code.” Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew said that he hoped “to work with Congress in a bipartisan manner...to eliminate inversions for good.” Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, has recommended a reduced corporate tax rate and “a

territorial tax system with base erosion protections.” Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid accused Pfizer of avoiding “its responsibility to pay its fair share,” and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that Pfizer “will leave U.S. taxpayers holding the bag,” while Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) said the merger “would allow another major American corporation to hide its profits overseas.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/24, Moyer, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) also reports that the Treasury’s proposed rules “would not have affected” the merger, because Pfizer shareholders will own less than 60% of the merged companies. Sen. Chuck Schumer called the merger “truly disappointing.” Sen. Sanders said, “The Obama administration has the authority to stop this merger, and it should exercise that authority.” Former secretary Clinton said, “We cannot delay in cracking down on inversions that erode our tax base.”

The [Washington Post](#) (11/24, A1, Johnson, Merle, 7.78M) reports the announced merger “immediately sparked criticism from Democrats and Republicans in Congress.” Sen. Reid urged “Congress to get serious,” to “prevent these kind of inversions.” While, “Republicans also denounced the deal,” at least “some were reluctant to place the blame on companies.” As an example, Rep. Patrick J. Tiberi (R-OH), a member of the Ways and Means Committee, said, “Other nations have restructured their tax code to make themselves more attractive to multinational corporations and we must do the same.” But Donald Trump called the deal “disgusting.” The Post notes that the US corporate tax rate is “one of the highest rates in the world.”

[Reuters](#) (11/24, Drawbaugh, Stephenson) reports on condemnations of the merger by Clinton, Sanders, and former Maryland Gov. Martin O’Malley, while noting that the White House did not comment. The [Washington Times](#) (11/24, Wolfgang, 283K) reports on Clinton’s criticism, in which she said, “For too long, powerful corporations have exploited loopholes that allow them to hide earnings abroad to lower their taxes.”

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (11/23, Epstein, 303K) reports that Clinton “attacked” the merger, as did Sanders and O’Malley. Bloomberg notes that the merger “plays into the campaign themes of the Democratic candidates,” but adds that some Republicans “including Donald Trump,” support lowering rates to end “to get rid of the incentive” for such mergers. White House press secretary Josh Earnest said that “he wouldn’t comment directly” on the merger, though he said that the President has a “longstanding concern and outright criticism” of such moves.

[Politico](#) (11/24, Karlin, 1.19M) also focuses its report on Clinton’s criticism, but quotes Earnest saying that such a move “essentially allows [companies] to renounce their citizenship, while continuing to benefit from all that America has to offer.”

The [AP](#) (11/23, Thomas) reports that Clinton and Sanders both “are bashing” the merger.

Pfizer CEO Calls Lawmaker, Administration Officials. The [New York Times](#) (11/24, A1, De La Merced, Gelles, Picker, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports on calls from Pfizer CEO Ian Read “to Washington lawmakers and Obama administration officials,” in which he argued that the merger “was actually good for the United States,” in that the company would have “more cash that it could invest in the United States and ultimately add jobs.”

Merger Said To Increase Pressure For Tax Reform. The [New York Times](#) (11/24, B1, Calmes, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that the merger “has put new pressure on all sides” to move on tax reform, pointing out that “lawmakers in both parties condemned Pfizer’s move and reiterated their calls for comprehensive tax reform.” The Times adds that in 2012, the Treasury Department issued “a detailed framework” for reform, and “senior congressional Republicans were broadly on board with that approach,” but the President “has hardly made corporate tax reform a priority.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. ***“Iran Sentences An American Journalist.”*** In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/24, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) similarly says Iran has shown zero transparen

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, November 20, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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DOI in the News:

SENATE PANEL ADVANCES ONE INTERIOR NOMINEE, BUT HOLDS OFF ON VOTE FOR TWO. [Politico Pro](#) (11/19, Subscription Publication) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved Suzette Kimball to be the new USGS director.

However, [Politico Pro](#) (11/19) reports that the panel did not vote on two Interior Department appointees: Kristen Sarri for assistant interior secretary for policy, management and budget, and Mary Kendall, the longtime acting interior inspector general who's up for the permanent position. Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski has "had a long-running feud with Interior and last month she told Sarri that she needed to be convinced that agency hopeful would be 'part of the solution and not part of the problem for Alaska.'"

Senate Panel Approves Sportsmen's Package With LWCF Renewal. The [Greenwire](#) (11/19, Subscription Publication) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday "passed by voice vote a sportsmen's package with language to permanently extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund with modest funding reforms." Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said she hoped the markup would be "quick, easy and ... painless."

Additional coverage was provided by the [E&E Daily](#) (11/19, Subscription Publication), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/20, 263K), and the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (11/20).

Senators Press For LWCF Reauthorization. [Politico Pro](#) (11/19) reports that "the Colorado Senate delegation along with North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr are asking Senate leadership to bring a bill to the Senate floor that would permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund." In their letter to McConnell, they also "asked to fully fund the program in year-end bills."

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (11/20, 122K), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (11/19, 118K), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (11/18, 203K), and the [Salinas Californian](#) (11/19, 27K).

WESTERN INVASIVE WEED SUMMIT CONCLUDES. The [AP](#) (11/20, Ridler) reports that "more than 200 federal and state land managers and scientists" participated in the 2015 Western Invasive Weed Summit that concluded Thursday in Boise. Janice Schneider, the Interior Department's assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management, said "a key to any success will be state and federal agencies as well as other entities finding ways to work collaboratively." She said, "It's critically important from an ecological perspective as well as an economic perspective. This is going to remain a top priority for this administration."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (11/20, 218K), the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (11/20, 81K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/20, Ridler, 283K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/20, 2.15M), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#), Salt Lake City (11/20, 464K).

REPORT TOUTS ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF NATIONAL MONUMENT NEAR GRAND CANYON. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/19, 705) reports that "a conservation-group-commissioned economic analysis of a long-shot national monument bill that would permanently protect 1.7 million acres around the Grand Canyon found the proposal would preserve about \$51 million per year in economic activity." The BBC Research & Consulting study, paid for by the Center for Western Priorities, notes that the "Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act" (H.R. 3882) would also benefit "the region by preserving lands that are historically and culturally significant, as well as an invaluable natural resource." The BLM and Forest Service lands that the legislation would "turn into a monument contain thousands of Native American archaeological sites and rock art from as early as 11,000 B.C." Also, "the proposal would protect old-growth ponderosa pine forests, imperiled wildlife like mountain lions and California condors, and the Colorado River watershed relied upon for drinking water by much of the Southwest."

INTERIOR SHARES PHOTO OF BIGHORN SHEEP'S STEEP DESCENT. [CBS News](#) (11/20, 4.1M) reports that a picture of “a bighorn sheep making a steep descent down a mountain” in the National Elk Refuge “made the rounds on social media after it was posted to Twitter by the U.S. Department of Interior on Wednesday.” According to the article, “while bighorn sheep are known for their agility in traversing steep terrain, some Twitter users didn’t believe the photo was real.” The Interior Department “tweeted back with a series of four images showing the sheep’s journey down the cliffside – no special effects or fakery involved, they insisted.”

INTERIOR SHOWS IMPROVEMENT IN 2015 FEDERAL PLAIN LANGUAGE REPORT CARD.

[FierceGovernmentIT](#) (11/20, Kanowitz, 277) reports that “more agencies are making the grade when it comes to providing the public with easily understandable information, the 2015 Federal Plain Language Report Card finds.” According to a report by the Center for Plain Language, “scores for complying with The Plain Writing Act of 2010 increased overall, and more agencies improved in the area of writing and information design than dropped.” The article notes that the Interior Department “went from an F to an A in compliance.”

RETIRED LAWMAKER SEES REPUBLICANS FAILING IN ATTACK AGAINST CLEAN POWER PLAN, WATERS OF THE US RULE. [E&E Daily](#) (11/19, Subscription Publication) reports that Rep. Jim Moran, who retired at the end of the last Congress predicted that Republicans will “fall short in attacking the Clean Power Plan (CPP) and the Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule in the omnibus appropriations measure under development.” Moran said “GOP efforts to halt the EPA climate rule through riders are a non-starter for the Obama administration.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL’S VISIT TO ARIZONA. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s visit to Arizona was provided by the [Oklahoman](#) (11/20, 470K), the [Cherokee \(OK\) Phoenix](#) (11/20, 442), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (11/20, 66K), the [Lake Powell Life](#) (11/20), [Arizona Public Media](#) (11/18, 2K), [Native News Online](#) (11/20), and the [Miami Herald](#) (11/20, 620K).

CONGRESS URGED TO ACT ON FUNDING WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (11/19, Sprenkel, 654K), Mary Ellen Sprenkel, CEO of The Corps Network, writes that “the current funding mechanism for fighting wildfires forces land management agencies to divert funds that otherwise would support routine maintenance and improvement projects.” According to Sprenkel, “the solution to this problem is to make federal disaster funding available for wildfire suppression.” She urges Congress to act “to ensure that the U.S. Forest Service has the funding it needs to fight wildfire and that we are able to continue to maintain and protect our natural resources by reauthorizing and fully funding LWCF.”

COLLABORATION URGED AS KEY TO BIODIVERSITY. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (11/20, Knight, 654K), Bruce I. Knight, principal of Strategic Conservation Solutions, writes that “the unprecedented collaboration among landowners, states, federal agencies, industries, conservation groups and individuals involved in sage-grouse conservation across the vastness of eleven Western states should not be an isolated instance, but the norm.” Knight emphasizes the “need to view it as a model for effectively protecting biodiversity.” He argues that “as policymakers consider the future of the Endangered Species Act, lessons from the Greater Sage-Grouse resurgence and other conservation successes should be central to managing species.”

NEW MEXICO PAPER URGES SECRETARY JEWELL TO REJECT GILA DIVERSION. In an editorial, the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (11/20, 67K) says that “the proposed diversion of the Gila River is bad for the river, bad for the wilderness that surrounds it and bad for New Mexico.” They also claim that the project is too costly at a billion dollars. The New Mexican urges that “Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell still has time to stop this misuse of money, land and water, with Monday the deadline for her to sign an agreement with New Mexico allowing the diversion to go forward.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

TRIBAL NATIONS GRATEFUL FOR OBAMA’S EFFORTS. Anna Wilding writes at the [Huffington Post](#) (11/20, Wilding, 251K) about the 7th Annual White House Tribal Nations Conference, which “centered on the president and members of his cabinet that discussed issues of importance to tribal leaders, with an emphasis on ways the Administration can continue to make progress on improving the nation-to-nation relationship and ensure these gains continue in future administrations.” Wilding notes that “a slew of new initiatives and funding programs were announced for the Tribal Nations, touching on areas of import such as Reducing Systemic homelessness, collaborating to increase protections for sacred sites, providing opportunities for native youth,

secondary and college education, drug rehabilitation, poverty, job growth, water supplies, environmental concerns and many others.” She says that “the mood in the auditorium was positive with an overwhelming sense of gratitude by Tribal Nations for the efforts the Obama administration has done to progress their cause.”

SENATE PANEL ADVANCES BILLS TO EXPAND TRIBAL LANDS IN OREGON. [E&E Daily](#) (11/19, Subscription Publication) reports that “two bills that would take land into trust for a pair of Oregon Native American tribes” has advanced through the Senate Indian Affairs Committee. The article notes that “the markup took less than five minutes before Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) segued into a separate hearing, with both pieces of legislation passing by voice vote.”

COURT BLOCKS SECOND ATTEMPT TO STOP NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION. [Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (11/19) reports that “for the second time, an attempt to put a stop to the Native Hawaiian election being led by the private non-profit organization Na’i Aupuni was rejected.” On Thursday, the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals tossed “a challenge to the ruling handed down by U.S. District Court Judge J. Michael Seabright, who ruled against two non-Hawaiians and four Native Hawaiians, who argued that their First Amendment rights were violated by the election, allowing the election to proceed”

TRIBAL TAKEOVER OF BIE SCHOOLS STILL CONTROVERSIAL. The [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (11/20, 66K) reports that “in the year-and-a-half since it was first presented to the public, the proposed tribal takeover of the Navajo Nation’s Bureau of Indian Education and grant schools has not gotten any more popular, at least if last Thursday’s public hearing here is any indication.” According to the article, “of the 10 or so people who spoke between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., only two were in favor of the plan and one cautiously optimistic.” The article notes that “the idea is still so unpopular that the Department of Diné Education is not revealing the names of the consultants working on the plan under the tribe’s Sovereignty in Indian Education grant, fearing retaliation.”

DOE GRANT TO HELP LITTLE WOUND SCHOOL RESPOND TO SUICIDES. The [AP](#) (11/20, 283K) reports that the U.S. Department of Education has “awarded Little Wound School on the Pine Ridge Reservation a \$325,000 grant to help the school recover from 12 suicide deaths on the reservation.” The Project School Emergency Response to Violence grant “aims to help the Oglala Sioux Tribe deal with the deaths of current and former Little Wound School students and relatives and friends of the students.” According to Education Secretary Arne Duncan, “the grant will help the community receive the services it needs to move forward in restoring the learning environment.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (11/20, 171K) and [KDLT-TV Sioux Falls \(SD\)](#) Sioux Falls, SD (11/20, 1K).

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA’AINA TO SPEAK AT CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN PUERTO RICO. The [Marianas Variety](#) (11/20) reports that Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina is visiting Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands this week. In Puerto Rico, Kia’aina will “provide remarks at the Climate Change in the Caribbean 2015 Conference for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.” After the conference, Kia’aina will travel to the U.S. Virgin Islands. Kia’aina said, “I look forward to learning about mutual efforts that can be undertaken between Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Caribbean region on climate change initiatives and sharing the President’s adaptation strategies and Interior’s efforts on community resiliency. Similar to the Pacific islands, it will take collaborative effort by all to combat the adverse impacts of climate change on island communities.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

COLORADO RELEASES WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [AP](#) (11/19, Elliott) reports that Colorado released its first-ever water management plan Thursday to cope with increasing competition for water as the West grows drier. The AP notes that “the plan sets conservation goals, outlines ways to share water during droughts and suggests ways to preserve the environment, recreation and agriculture while accommodating rapid population growth.” Meanwhile, it has controversial elements, including suggestions that could lead to building more dams and reservoirs. The AP points out that “the plan doesn’t have teeth — it will be up to state and local governments, water utilities, irrigation districts and others to provide the money and muscle to make it work. But it won’t be praised as a good step toward preparing for inevitable shortages in the future.”

BOR DRAWS DOWN WATER AT BLACK CANYON RESERVOIR. The [Emmett \(ID\) Messenger-Index](#) (11/20, 22K) reports that the BOR has “drawn down the Black Canyon Reservoir water to clean out debris.” During the drawdown, BOR crews will “clean the trash racks of accumulated wood and other debris and branches.”

FORMER BUREAU OF RECLAMATION COMMISSIONER CRITICIZES DAM PROJECTS. Sandra Postel, director of the Global Water Policy Project, writes at [National Geographic](#) (11/19, 31.87M) about Daniel P Beard, former commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and author of *Deadbeat Dams*. He says that political leaders “appear to be ostriches with their heads stuck in the bottom of empty reservoirs” and that “we seem to have a need to build something – anything – even when the project makes no sense at all.” Postel notes that this is a timely message in New Mexico where there is a November 23 deadline by which “Secretary of Interior Sally Jewel must decide whether to green-light the development of a major diversion project on the Gila, New Mexico’s last undammed river.” Postel says that the project has been “dalled a billion-dollar boondoggle by conservationists” and that “no one has identified who would foot the project’s bill, even as state officials continue to give the project a thumbs up.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

JUDGES REJECT ENVIRONMENTALISTS’ CHALLENGE TO SAN DIEGO TURBINES. The [E&E](#) (11/19) reports that federal judges on Thursday tossed “an environmental challenge to a major wind farm in Southern California.” The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held that “environmental groups including the Desert Protective Council had not shown that the Bureau of Land Management acted arbitrarily in greenlighting the Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility project in the desert east of San Diego.” The court said the BLM did not violate the National Environmental Policy Act as the environmentalists claimed, because BLM “sufficiently evaluated and disclosed the environmental impacts of the Ocotillo wind energy project.”

Onshore Energy Development:

HEARINGS HELD ON PROPOSED FRACKING IN WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST . The [AP](#) (11/20, 2.15M) reports that “both opponents and supporters of opening” Wayne National Forest to oil and gas drilling have been “out in force at public hearings this week.” The BLM has “proposed allowing drilling beneath about 31,900 acres of the forest through hydraulic fracturing.” According to the article, “an activist coalition including the Buckeye Forest Council, Sierra Club and other fracking opponents has called for a ‘full-scale environmental report’ before proceeding.” But “many landowners and companies favorable to fracking also have spoken out.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/20, 283K), the [Athens \(OH\) Messenger](#) (11/20, 142), and the [Willoughby \(OH\) News-Herald](#) (11/19, 107K).

OIL, GAS GROUP WANTS BIA TALKS ON RIGHT-OF-WAY RULE. [Law360](#) (11/20, 30K) reports that the Western Energy Alliance urged the BIA on Tuesday to “give stakeholders more time to weigh in on the agency’s new rule for rights of way on tribal lands, saying the group and the government need to discuss the major changes the rule would make.”

BLM MASTER LEASING PLANS EXAMINED. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (11/19, Gilman, 74K) reports that “in August, the BLM released a draft master leasing plan for nearly 800,000 federal acres here that would significantly curtail future development near national parks, trails and other sensitive sites.” The News explains that “proponents say its zoning-style approach is a model for how to resolve conflicts between drilling and other values...by heading them off before they start.” However, only seven of the dozen master leasing plans underway have been finalized and “none have been implemented, raising questions about how the approach will fare in the next administration.”

OKLAHOMA OFFICIALS RELEASE WELL SHUTDOWN PLAN FOLLOWING THURSDAY EARTHQUAKE. The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/19, story 11, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) broadcast that while an earthquake in Oklahoma yesterday did not cause serious damage, it “was felt for hundreds of miles.” Officials in the state “now want to close a couple of wells in the area” where the quake happened. Geologists, according to the

CBS report, “say an outbreak of quakes is likely caused by the underground injection of waste water from oil well fracking.”

The [AP](#) (11/20), reports that after yesterday’s quake, officials with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission released a plan that calls for shutting down two disposal wells in the state and reducing volume at 23 others. [Reuters](#) (11/20) and the [Oklahoman](#) (11/20, Wilmoth, 470K) publish similar reports.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BLM DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THOMPSON DIVIDE, ROAN PLATEAU.

Additional coverage of the BLM’s two draft environmental proposals for the Thompson Divide and Roan Plateau was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (11/20, Subscription Publication), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/18, 31K), and the [Aspen \(CO\) Daily News](#) (11/19, 27).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CONOCOPHILLIPS MOVES AHEAD WITH DRILLING PROJECT IN NPR-A.

Additional coverage that ConocoPhillips has “approved funding for a \$900 million drilling project on Alaska’s North Slope” was provided by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (11/20, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/20, 283K), and the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (11/20, 42K).

SALT LAKE TRIBUNE DECRIES UTAH’S “DEAL WITH THE CARBON DEVIL.” In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/20, 339K) asks if we must “continue to tolerate political leaders and government managers who just can’t do enough to make sure that the part of the economy that is devoted to literally setting fire to the here and now — and to hell with the future — continues to get everything it wants?” The Tribune says that the Utah managers of the US Bureau of Land Management have “Put off a scheduled oil lease auction for 39 spots on 37,580 acres of public land” but only “because they were expecting so many people to bid on those parcels that they needed to find a bigger room.” The Tribune also decries Rep. Rob Bishop’s (R-UT) plan to use royalty money from the extractive economy “to preserve less land and kick back more money to the oil and gas drillers to fund job training in the industry.”

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM DIRECTOR HOPPER ATTENDS PANEL DISCUSSION ON OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Florida Times-Union](#) (11/19, 226K) reports that “the possibility of oil wells off Georgia’s coast brought advocates and opponents to a state office building Thursday for the chance to sway the federal official who’ll make decisions on testing and drilling.” At the panel discussion organized by the Consumer Energy Alliance, BOEM Director Abigail Hopper said “she shares the president’s views on climate change, but her agency has a legal requirement to facilitate development of domestic energy resources.” Hopper said “her decision about whether to allow sonic testing and drilling along the Georgia coast won’t be released until the end of next year.” Also providing coverage is the [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (11/20, 150K).

Additional coverage of offshore drilling was provided by the [Hilton Head Island \(SC\) Packet](#) (11/20, 77K) and the [Coastal Observer \(SC\)](#) (11/20).

CHARGES FILED IN CONNECTION WITH 2012 FATAL OFFSHORE EXPLOSION. [Politico Pro](#) (11/19, Subscription Publication) reports that federal and state prosecutors on Thursday “filed charges against three companies and three men stemming from a fatal 2012 explosion on a Gulf of Mexico offshore drilling platform operated by Black Elk Energy.” Black Elk and Grand Isle Shipyards were charged with three counts of manslaughter. They also “face separate charges of violating the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act and the Clean Water Act, along with Wood Group PSN and the three individuals.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (11/20, 1.15M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/20, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/19, Kunzelman Kevin McGill |, Ap, 7.78M), the [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (11/19, 661K), [KATC-TV Lafayette \(LA\)](#) Lafayette, LA (11/20, 55K), [WWL-TV New Orleans \(LA\)](#) New Orleans (11/19, 163K), and [WGNO-TV New Orleans \(LA\)](#) New Orleans (11/19, 37K).

ATP OIL & GAS AGREES TO \$41M POLLUTION SETTLEMENT. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/19, 705) reports that ATP Oil & Gas Corp. has “agreed to pay more than \$41 million to settle claims that it violated clean water laws,” the Justice Department announced Thursday. The Obama Administration sued the company in 2013, claiming that ATP “illegally discharged oil and a chemical dispersant into the Gulf of Mexico from a floating platform located about 45 miles off southeastern Louisiana’s coast.” A settlement agreement lodged Thursday in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana “imposes a Clean Water Act civil penalty of \$38 million and resolves all U.S. claims against ATP in that case, DOJ said.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico Pro](#) (11/19, Subscription Publication), the [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (11/20, 1K), the [Maritime Executive](#) (11/20, 21), and [Law360](#) (11/20, 30K).

COMMENTARY: SUPPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL VICTORY IN ARCTIC IS HOLLOW. In commentary carried by the [Seattle Times](#) (11/19, 1.17M), Andreas Kuerste, a fellow with the Arctic Summer College, discussed Greenpeace's declaration of victory after Shell abandoned its exploratory drilling in the Alaskan Arctic, writing that "upon closer inspection, this supposed triumph is actually quite hollow." Shell "halted its Arctic oil exploration because the current economics of such activity just don't make sense." Moreover, added Kuerste, "the ultimate foundation of Shell's decision matrix is actually incredibly detrimental to the very environmental interests that groups like Greenpeace claim have been furthered by the company's Arctic exit: the low price of oil." Said Kuerste, "Environmental joy at the cessation of Alaskan offshore oil exploration is in fact the result of the overall striking intensification of global oil extraction."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

FORMER BLM UTAH CHIEF SEEKS TO GET LATINO YOUTH OUTDOORS. The [Moab \(UT\) Sun News](#) (11/20) reports that Juan Palma, the former Utah state director of the BLM, "recounted his boyhood impressions during a Nov. 7 hike to Delicate Arch, as a group of school-aged children from Moab rushed up the trail ahead of him." He "organized the four-hour trip with the hope that it will strengthen the students' connections to public lands." The article notes that "it was the first of several planned outings that the now-retired civil servant will lead in his new role as the chief conservation officer of HECHO, which stands for 'Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors.'"

PINAL COUNTY SEEKS INPUT ON NEW REGIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (11/20, 283K) reports that Pinal County will hold a public open house on Dec. 10 on the proposed Palo Verde Regional Park. The proposed park would "consist of over 31 square miles of mostly federal Bureau of Land Management land on the county's far west side."

Additional coverage was provided by [KNXV-TV](#) Phoenix (11/20, 184K).

EDITORIAL ADVOCATES FOR "REALISTIC WILD HORSE POPULATION CONTROL." Thomas Mitchell writes at the [Mesquite \(NV\) Local News](#) (11/20, 16K) that 20 "Republican members of Congress...sent a letter earlier this month to Neil Kornze, the director of the Bureau of Land Management, asking him to provide suggestions for how to rein in the exploding wild horse population in the West, which is damaging water resources, overgrazing the range and jeopardizing their own health, as well as that of other wildlife and the livelihoods of ranchers." Mitchell says that the letter does not "lay the entire blame for the current situation on the managers of the BLM, and asks guilelessly what congressional action could be taken to give the agency the flexibility it needs to accomplish herd management." He points out that the letters asks rhetorically whether "humane euthanasia" might be among the population control methods and Mitchell concludes that it "is the only workable solution that will allow contraceptive efforts to work in the long- run."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

NIH RETIRES RESEARCH CHIMPS. The [New York Times](#) (11/20, Fleur, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports in continuing coverage that NIH Director Francis Collins announced that agency would retire the remaining 50 chimpanzees set aside for biomedical research and would end support of invasive research on chimps. Dr. Collins said, "We find no evidence that there is a need to continue to do research of an invasive sort on chimpanzees, not now and not going into the future."

Also reporting on the story are [ABC News](#) (11/20, 3.35M), [CNN](#) (11/20, Cohen, Bonifield, 3.54M), [Christian Science Monitor](#) (11/19, 496K), [The Hill](#) (11/20, Ferris, 654K), the [Lafayette \(LA\) Daily Advertiser](#) (11/19, 112K), the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (11/20, 600K), the [Business Insider](#) (11/20, 3M), the [Daily Mail](#) (11/20, Afp, 5.31M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (11/20, Milman, 3.48M), [Ars Technica](#) (11/20, 1.15M), [Phys \(UK\)](#) (11/20, 74K), the [Times of India](#) (11/20, 672K), and [WBUR-FM Boston \(MA\)](#) Boston (11/19, 104K).

BOARDWALK UPGRADED AT SUNKHAZE MEADOWS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Bangor \(ME\)](#)

[Daily News](#) (11/20, 165K) reports that the FWS recently announced “the upgrade and replacement of 630 feet of boardwalk sections along the Johnson Brook Trail at the Sunhaze Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Milford.” According to the article, “the five-foot-wide aluminum and recycled plastic boardwalks will allow visitors to experience miles of trails that traverse through unique wetland habitats and forested uplands.”

US ZOOS WANT TO IMPORT 18 AFRICAN ELEPHANTS. [National Geographic](#) (11/20, Russo, 31.87M) reports that “three zoos in the United States—Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo, Wichita’s Sedgwick County Zoo and the Dallas Zoo—intend to import 18 African elephants from Swaziland.” National Geographic says that “the zoos say the move is essential because the elephants are crowding out rhinos and other animals in Swaziland—and if they don’t come to the U.S., they’ll have to be killed” but “in an open letter, 80 conservationists, scientists, and animal welfare advocates around the world have condemned the plan,” arguing “that elephants confined in zoos display abnormal behavior, suffer physical disabilities, and die young—and too often.” Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Laury Parramore said the service “may authorize the import of live African elephants from Swaziland if regulatory requirements under the Endangered Species Act and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species [CITES] are met.” National Geographic says FWS is accepting public comments until November 23.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SCIENTISTS SAY GREAT LAKES WOLVES SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM ENDANGERED LIST. Additional coverage of the letter signed by 26 wildlife scientists urging “the federal government to remove gray wolves in the western Great Lakes region from the endangered species list” was provided by the [Marquette \(MI\) Mining Journal](#) (11/20, 1K), the [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (11/20, 507K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/20, 283K), [KSTP-TV Minneapolis-St. Paul \(MN\)](#) Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN (11/20, 130K), [WEAU-TV Eau Claire \(WI\)](#) Eau Claire, WI (11/20, 62K), [WMTV-TV Madison \(WI\)](#) Madison, WI (11/20, 49K), and [WWJ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (11/19, 34K).

National Park Service:

2016 NPS CENTENNIAL COIN DESIGNS UNVEILED. [Coin World](#) (11/20, 4K) reports that “approved designs for the 2016 National Park Service Centennial gold \$5 half eagle, silver dollar and copper-nickel clad half dollar were unveiled Nov. 19 in ceremonies at 11:30 a.m. Eastern Time at the U.S. Department of the Interior.” According to the article, “net surcharges, after the U.S. Mint recoups all production and associated costs, are to be distributed to the National Park Foundation ‘for projects and programs that help preserve and protect resources under the stewardship of the National Park Service and promote public enjoyment and appreciation of those resources.’” The article notes that “none of the net surcharges may be used for land acquisition, according to provisions of the coin program’s authorizing legislation.”

REPORT FINDS GRAND CANYON INFRASTRUCTURE NEED REPAIRS. The [E&E](#) (11/19) reports that that “Grand Canyon utilities that provide drinking water and treat sewage are failing and need urgent repairs, according to an internal report and former employees.” The article notes that “a move to automate the water systems around the turn of the 21st century increased their efficiency.” However, “federal investigators have found those electronic controls are now outdated and at risk of attack.”

YELLOWSTONE RECONSIDERS BISON SLAUGHTER TARGETS. The [AP](#) (11/20, 2.15M) reports that Yellowstone National Park is “backing off its proposal to kill roughly 1,000 wild bison this winter as officials seek to reduce the animals’ annual migration into Montana.” Park officials “met with representatives of American Indian tribes, the state and other federal agencies Thursday.” The park “proposed delaying trapping until Feb. 15 and eliminating a target number to be removed from the herd.”

Additional coverage of Yellowstone Park’s proposal to cull 1,000 bison this winter was provided by [NPR](#) (11/19, 1.78M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (11/19, 496K), [Forbes](#) (11/19, 7.28M), and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/20, 263K).

IG REPORT FINDS NPS RANGERS BOUGHT AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, FLASHBANGS. The [Daily Caller](#) (11/20, Bastasch, 366K) reports that “National Park rangers may have gone a little overboard this year when they bought ‘flashbangs’ and automatic weapons,” according to an Interior Department inspector general report detailing how the Department is struggling with “weapons accountability.” The report states, “In FY 2015, we issued a management advisory to the NPS Director when we found that law enforcement rangers had purchased automatic weapons and ‘flashbang’ distraction devices, in violation of NPS policy, indicating that NPS continues to struggle with weapons accountability issues.” The report also said that “Interior law enforcement officials are increasingly at odds with national park visitors and those working or living on federal

lands” with Interior experiencing “a recent increase in complaints concerning law enforcement personnel, many of them involving use of force incidents.”

WASHINGTON POST NOTES FALL CHERRY BLOSSOMS BLOOMING ON NATIONAL MALL. The [Washington Post](#) (11/19, Fritz, 7.78M) reports in its “Capital Weather Gang” blog that there are cherry trees blossoming on the National Mall, seemingly out of season. The Post says that no tree experts were available at the National Park Service. The Post rejects that theory that weird weather has caused the trees to blossom in the fall. The Post says that “the more plausible explanation for this spring-like emergence is that this tree is one of the very few autumn-blossoming trees on the National Mall and around the Tidal Basin.” The Post notes that NPS “lists the ‘Autumn Flowering Cherry,’ or *prunus subhirtella* on their species list, and it’s included in the species location maps.”

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK GETS NEW STORAGE FACILITY, GARAGE FOR BUSES. The [Columbia Falls \(MT\) Hungry Horse News](#) (11/20, Peterson) reports that “Xanterra Parks and Resorts recently completed a brand new state-of-the-art, climate-controlled storage facility and garage on Highway 206 south of Columbia Falls.” The News explains that “work on the \$2-million-plus garage began last March and mechanics and staff moved in Oct. 1.” The News says that all of the company’s buses and other vehicle’s from the company’s fleet will be stored there. “It’s the first time the buses have been stored in a heated space during the winter,” said Dave Eglsaer, director of transportation for Glacier Park Lodges.

HUMAN-BEAR INCIDENTS AT RECORD LOW IN YOSEMITE. The [AP](#) (11/20) reports that Yosemite National Park “recorded the lowest number of human-bear incidents since 1975, when officials started tracking bears, who damage property, steal food, injure or kill people or act aggressively.” The AP notes that this marked the fourth year without an injury or fatality. The AP explains that “in 2015, there were 76 incidents, which resulted in roughly \$5,000 in property damage,” a 95% drop in the number of incidents and a 99% “dip in property damage from the record high in 1998, when there were approximately 1,600 incidents resulting in \$660,000 in property damage.” The AP says that “Park spokesman Scott Gediman credits a public education campaign for the reduction.”

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK TO GET RECORD NUMBER OF VISITORS IN 2015. The [Denver Post](#) (11/20, Johnson, 825K) reports that “Rocky Mountain National Park has already set a new record with 3.9 million people visiting the park by the end of October — a half million more visitors than all of 2014.” The Post says that “with this pace, the park likely will surpass 4 million visitors this year due to several factors including the park’s 100th birthday, dropping gas prices and increasing population along the Front Range.” In addition, “one of the major reasons for the increase in visitation is Rocky Mountain National Park’s centennial celebration, which included a year of events culminating in a Sept. 4 rededication.”

NEW COMPANY TO TAKE OVER CONCESSIONS SERVICES AT PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (11/20, 2.15M) reports that Ortega National Parks is “taking over concessions services” at the Petrified Forest National Park. It will “open a new ice cream and refreshment shop at the Painted Desert Inn.” However, “a gas station and convenience store at the park will close.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (11/20, 825K) and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/20, 263K).

LIGHT POLLUTION WEIGHED AGAINST SAFETY CONCERNS. Richard Brock writes at the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (11/19, 98K) reports in response to an opinion piece from Judith Fein that urged officials to “light up our streets to make them safer for pedestrians.” However, Broke says that while he empathizes with her safety concerns, he is also concerned about potential light pollution. He says that according to NPS Night Sky project manager Chad Moore (Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah), “At every park we have surveyed, we have detected artificial lights.” He concludes that “the important thing is to strike a balance, and that is what some desert cities are trying to do.”

US Geological Survey:

SEA ICE LOSS DRIVING CHUKCHI SEA POLAR BEARS TO LAND DURING SUMMER. The [Washington Post](#) (11/18, Harvey, 7.78M) reports that “a new study in PLOS One has brought to light” a problem for polar bears in the Chukchi Sea region. Bears are “spending more time on land in the summers as the amount of summer sea ice in the Chukchi Sea continues to shrink.” Karyn Rode, a research wildlife biologist with the USGS and lead author of the new paper, said, “For this particular population of polar bears, there’s been very

little study of land use.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Science Codex](#) (11/20, 1K).

CONNECTICUT LAWMAKER SEEK TO CHANGE NAME OF LANDMARK. The [Connecticut Post](#) (11/20, 270K) reports that Ted Kennedy Jr., a freshman state senator, is petitioning Connecticut’s environmental protection agency “to change the name of a navigational buoy and rock outcropping off his hometown of Branford shown on maps as ‘Negro Heads.’” Kennedy says “the landmark’s moniker is racist.” The article notes that “the change will likely to require the approval of a number of state and federal agencies, including the Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of Interior.”

WATER STUDIES FOR 34 LOUISIANA PARISHES MADE AVAILABLE ONLINE. The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (11/20, 70K) reports that “information about water, from its quality to how it’s used, is available online for 34 of Louisiana’s 64 parishes via a program that joins federal and state resources to produce local fact sheets.” The USGS says that “work to complete the rest of the parish information continues and should be done in the coming years.” Vincent White, a USGS civil engineer leading the project, said, “We’ve published 10 per year, so the ones that are public are made available almost immediately online.”

USGS ANALYZING COTTER-RELATED DOCUMENTS. The [Canon City \(CO\) Daily Record](#) (11/20, 22K) reports that the USGS is “about a quarter of the way through sorting environmental documents relevant to the Cotter Corp./Lincoln Park Superfund Site.” Suzanne Paschke, associate director for the Hydrologic Studies with the USGS Colorado Water Science Center, “updated Community Advisory Group members and officials involved in the project during Thursday’s monthly CAG meeting.” According to Mark Aguilar, Region 8 Superfund Remedial Program project manager, “once that process is complete, the agencies involved in the clean-up will talk to Cotter and allow the corporation to respond to the documents that were added by USGS.”

Top National News:

HOUSE PASSES TOUGHER REFUGEE SCREENING STANDARDS WITH SUPPORT OF 47 DEMOCRATS. The House on Thursday voted to approve tougher screening standards for Syrian and Iraqi refugees, intensifying the conflict with President Obama over his plans to admit 10,000 Syrian refugees by the end of the year. Media coverage overwhelmingly portrays the vote – in which 47 Democrats joined GOP lawmakers to achieve veto-proof support – as an embarrassment for the White House.

The [AP](#) (11/20, Lederman, Hennessey) reports 47 Democrats “weren’t buying” Obama’s defense of his refugee policy and in a “major embarrassment” to the President, they “abandoned” him as the House “approved fresh barriers for Syrian and Iraqi refugees.” [McClatchy](#) (11/20, Douglas, 27K) explains the House voted 289-137 in favor of a bill that bars the refugees from entering the US “unless the heads of the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence certify that each” individual does not pose a risk to the country. The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/19, story 5, 0:35, Pelley, 5.08M) notes the votes are enough to override a presidential veto.

[Politico](#) (11/19, Wheaton, 1.19M) reported the White House has been “caught flat-footed this week” and the vote leaves it “scrambling to regain control of the debate” around the refugee policy. The Administration, according to Politico, “has cranked up a multi-front effort to halt the legislation and try to reclaim the conversation” on the issue. A [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Jaffe, 7.78M) analysis says the Paris attacks raise the question of why Obama has not “done more to address the fear the attacks instill in ordinary Americans?” The Post says the “fear is evident in the efforts” of governors to prevent refugees from settling in their states and the congressional efforts to tighten restrictions on Syrians attempting to reach the US. The Post says Obama’s “steadfastness – some call it stubbornness – reflects lessons he took from the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks” when he feels the country fell into a “season of fear” and leaders chose “to betray core American values.”

On [ABC World News](#) (11/19, story 7, 1:50, Muir, 5.84M), Jonathan Karl reported that Obama said Thursday that refugees face tougher security screening than any other foreign visitors to the US. The [New York Times](#) (11/20, Steinhauer, Shear, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) quotes Obama as saying refugees must undergo a process that takes as long as two years and includes background checks by the National Counterterrorism Center, the FBI, and the Defense Department. Obama said, “That somehow they pose a more significant threat than all the tourists who pour into the United States every single day just doesn’t jive with reality.”

The [Washington Times](#) (11/20, Boyer, 283K) reports Obama also “accused Republican presidential candidates of stoking fears about the refugees and closing the Guantanamo Bay terrorist detention center to score political points.” The President said that “in the aftermath” of the Paris attacks, there is “a very strong tendency for us to get worked up around issues that don’t actually make us safer but make for good political soundbites.” Obama added, according to a separate [Washington Times](#) (11/20, Dinan, 283K) article, that “after the initial spasm of rhetoric, the people will settle down, take a look at the facts, and we’ll be able to proceed.”

[Politico](#) (11/19, Gass, 1.19M) reported Vice President Biden “used sharp language” on Thursday, during a speech at the Newseum, when he “warn[ed] that the United States’ promise of possibility and optimism” is fading. Biden said, “And if we ever lose that, then we will have lost something incredibly special and consequential here in the United States,” adding, “We’ll have lost the soul of the country, and I would argue we’re in danger of losing it now.”

The [AP](#) (11/20, Werner) reports House Republicans “said it was simply prudent to place new controls on the refugee system, without ending it entirely or requiring religious tests.” House Speaker Ryan said, “It just is common sense that we pause, re-evaluate and make sure that we have the proper standards in place to make sure something like what happened in Paris doesn’t happen here.” [USA Today](#) (11/20, Kelly, 5.56M) reports bill co-sponsor Michael McCaul, the Homeland Security Committee Chairman, said, “We are a nation at war. The streets of Paris could just as easily have been the streets of New York, Chicago, Houston or Los Angeles.”

The [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Debonis, 7.78M) reports “the bill’s fate, however, is uncertain” following a Wednesday veto threat from Obama and comments from “key senators” that they “are more concerned about security vulnerabilities other than the refugee program.” However, the Post says “efforts to place new security constraints” on Obama’s program “could bleed into negotiations” on a spending bill that must be in place by December. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/20, House, 3.4M) reports Ryan called the bill a “first step” in efforts to enact stronger security measures in response to the Paris attacks, adding that lawmakers could use the spending bill to force other changes in a move the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/20, Mascaro, 3.6M) says is “raising the specter of another government shutdown.”

[The Hill](#) (11/20, Carney, 654K) “Floor Action” blog, meanwhile, reported that Senate Majority Leader McConnell “is setting up the Senate to wade into a battle” over refugees as he “started the fast-track process” on the House-passed bill. McConnell said Americans “are concerned about the Administration’s ability to vet thousands of individuals from Syria” and “it simply makes sense to take a step back for now – to press ‘pause’ – so we can determine the facts” and ensure a proper screening process is in place. However, [AFP](#) (11/20, Mathes) reports Senate Minority Leader Reid “said the measure would face fierce opposition from Democrats” in his chamber. Reid said, according to [Politico](#) (11/20, French, Bresnahan, 1.19M), “the problem is not with refugees.” Reid added, “I haven’t read the House language,” but “I don’t think we’re going to be dealing with it over here.”

In an interview on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/19, 554K), Senate Intelligence committee member Mark Warner said that the House bill is “an overreaction.” Warner said that if necessary, “I absolutely believe we should improve the process, but we ought to let the law enforcement and intelligence professionals give us this guidance.”

[Politico](#) (11/19, Kim, 1.19M) reported Sen. Chuck Schumer, who previously said he would consider a pause in the refugee program, said on Thursday that is no longer the case. Schumer said that a briefing from the Administration eased his concerns as it showed that none of the 2,000 Syrian refugees over the past year had “been arrested or deported for terrorism.” According to Politico, Schumer and other Democrats “want to focus congressional scrutiny” on reforming the visa waiver program and “closing the so-called terror gap” that allows individuals on the FBI’s terrorist watch list to obtain firearms. [McClatchy](#) (11/20, Gordon, 27K) reports that despite the controversy, “experts say” that sneaking in among refugees “is hardly the easiest route for Islamic State terrorists to slip into the country.” According to McClatchy, the “Visa Waiver Program offers another option” for the extremist group as it “permits people holding European passports – including all the Islamic State-linked assailants” involved in the Paris attacks – to enter the US for up to 90 days without a visa. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/20, 7.78M) addresses the threat from Europeans, saying “It is legitimate to demand thorough screening of refugees,” but the House vote on Thursday “was political posturing.” According to the Post, “A reality-based response” to the ISIL threat “would direct extra security at the estimated 3,000 Europeans...who have traveled to Syria in the past two years.”

Despite Schumer's turnaround, [The Hill](#) (11/20, Lillis, Wong, 654K) reported that "several lawmakers and aides" indicated the White House's "eleventh-hour bid to rally Democrats...backfired." According to the Hill, "a number of Democrats who were on the fence...decided to vote yes after hearing" the Administration's argument. Rep. Steve Israel, who voted for the bill, said, "I've seen better presentations in my time."

The [Huffington Post](#) (11/20, Foley, 251K) reported "a number of Democrats peeled off" despite Obama's veto threat, as they are "under significant pressure from constituents to act after" the Paris attacks. The result was enough votes, according to the Post, "to override a veto, should there be one." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/20, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports that Democrats indicated that while they trust the Administration's assurances about the vetting process, the legislation added reasonable steps in light of concerns brought on by the Paris attacks. Rep. Gerald Connolly said the White House did not provide "a compelling reason to vote no." Addressing the vetting process, Connolly said "the public wants to be reassured it's especially sufficient," adding, "We shouldn't put ourselves in the position of having to defend something—a 'no' vote—that doesn't really make sense."

[Roll Call](#) (11/20, Pathé, Cahn, 139K) reported "Nearly every member of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee's Frontline Program for vulnerable members voted Thursday" for the new steps. Only one of the 14 members, Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, did not vote for the legislation. According to Roll Call, the vote gives the members "an opportunity to appear tough on national security, an issue they often struggle with." A House Democratic chief of staff said "the politics of it were difficult for some people because of the way that it could be construed."

Eight Syrians Arrive At Southern Border. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/20, Hennessy-Fiske, 3.6M) reports eight Syrians "showed up at a Texas border crossing seeking asylum this week, sparking concern that the US could soon be facing a wave of Syrian migrants" at the southern border. According to the Times, while lawmakers and officials are dealing with the refugee issue, "they have yet to address" asylum seekers.

The [New York Times](#) (11/20, Pérez-Peña, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that in addition to the individuals from Syria, groups from Pakistan and Afghanistan also tried to enter the US through the border with Mexico this week. Customs and Border Protection said that its agents "processed" the individuals and conducted checks "against numerous law enforcement and national security related databases," adding, "Records checks revealed no derogatory information about the individuals."

Poll: Americans Not Convinced US Should Be Part Of Refugee Solution. The [Huffington Post](#) (11/19, Edwards-Levy, 251K) cites a new [HuffPost/YouGov poll](#) as showing "there's considerably more support for sending US ground troops to fight the Islamic State than there is for accepting" Syrian refugees. According to the Post, "Americans are broadly sympathetic to the plight of refugees" and believe there is an obligation to help, but "there's less consensus that the US should be part of the solution." The survey shows 38 percent of Americans say the US should take in refugees, 39 percent say it should not.

Media: Republicans Respond To Paris Attacks With Anti-Refugee, Anti-Muslim Positions. The [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Fahrenthold, Delreal, 7.78M) reports that "some Republican politicians have responded" to the Paris attacks with anti-Muslim rhetoric. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/19, story 5, 2:25, Holt, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell similarly reported "the fear about Syrian refugees got ugly on the campaign trail." Donald Trump is shown saying, "Syrians are now being caught at the southern border just like I said. They're going to be pouring in. We don't know who they are, could be ISIS."

According to [Reuters](#) (11/20, Wise, Mcpike) and the [Huffington Post](#) (11/19, Bobic, 251K), Ben Carson compared Syrian refugees to "rabid dogs," saying that allowing them into the US would place the country at risk. While speaking at a campaign event in Alabama, Carson said, "If there is a rabid dog running around your neighborhood, you're probably not going to assume something good about that dog." The [AP](#) (11/20, Barrow) says Carson also urged a tougher screening process. He said, "By the same token, we have to have in place screening mechanisms that allow us to determine who the mad dogs are, quite frankly. Who are the people who want to come in here and hurt us and want to destroy us?"

The [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Sargent, 7.78M) "Plum Line" blog reported that Trump "once again upped the ante when it comes to how the US should respond" to the Paris attacks when he told Yahoo News that he would consider warrantless searches of Muslims and would not rule out registering members of the religion in a database or issuing them special identification. Trump said it will be necessary "to look at a lot of things very closely. We're going to have to look at the mosques. We're going to have to look very, very carefully." The [AP](#)

(11/20, Lucey, Colvin) reports that while in Iowa, Trump said he “would certainly implement” a mandatory database.

[Politico](#) (11/19, Strauss, 1.19M) reported Sen. Rand Paul’s libertarian support base “isn’t happy with his response” to the Paris attacks. According to Politico, Paul’s decision to propose “a dead-on-arrival bill to deny visas to anyone from countries with an active ‘jihadist movement’ – is rubbing many libertarians, who tend to favor open borders, the wrong way.”

Holocaust Museum Expresses Concern Over House Vote. The [Washington Times](#) (11/20, Howell, 283K) reports the Holocaust Museum issued a statement on Thursday that “voiced concern” over the House vote, saying Americans should not “turn our backs” on refugees. The statement said, “Acutely aware of the consequences to Jews who were unable to flee Nazism, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum looks with concern upon the recent refugee crisis.”

UNHCR: US, Other Countries Should “Welcome” Refugees. In a [USA Today](#) (11/20, 5.56M) op-ed, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres says the US and other countries “must welcome” refugees, “in the best of humanitarian traditions, and keep the gates of freedom open.” Guterres also defends the UN’s “resettlement process” as “stringent,” saying it “includes the collection of biometric data, detailed face-to-face interviews and cross-checking of stories” by the UN and governments.

USAToday: Syrian Refugees Part Of “Troubling Trend.” [USA Today](#) (11/20, Onyanga-Omara, 5.56M) reports the Syrian conflict and the refugees it is creating “is only part of a troubling trend that has reached unprecedented levels.” USA Today says more people worldwide “have been uprooted by war, persecution or natural disasters than ever before in history.” The UN Refugee Agency says that 55 million people were “forcibly displaced” at the end of 2014.

CBS Shows Images Of “Youngest Refugees” Trying To Sleep. The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/19, story 12, 0:35, Pelley, 5.08M) showed images of “some of the youngest refugees from the wars in the Middle East.” Swedish photographer Magnus Wennman “captures them as they sleep or try to far from the homes that they fled.”

COMEY: NO “CREDIBLE THREAT” OF PARIS-STYLE ATTACK IN US. [Politico](#) (11/19, Gass, Gerstein, 1.19M) reported that during “an unusual press briefing” at Justice Department headquarters Thursday, FBI Director Comey and Attorney General Lynch sought to “reassure Americans jittery” that ISIL might carry out similar attacks in the US. Comey said, “We are not aware of any credible threat here of a Paris-type attack, and we have seen no connection at all between the Paris attackers and the United States,” adding that “his agents investigate ISIL ‘propaganda’ such as a recent video with scenes of Times Square in New York, although he dismissed the significance of such messages.” [Reuters](#) (11/20, Edwards) notes that Comey said, “The threat here focuses primarily on troubled souls in America who are being inspired or enabled online to do something violent for ISIL. ... We have stopped a lot of those people this year.” Comey also noted that since the Paris attacks, his agency had taken its terrorism investigations “up a notch.” Comey, [USA Today](#) (11/20, Johnson, 5.56M) reports, said that “federal investigators have intensified surveillance on ‘dozens’ of potential suspects who might be at risk of attempting to mount” a Paris-style attack.

Jeff Pegues reported in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/19, lead story, 2:30, Pelley, 5.08M) that Comey “tried to tamp down fear today” when he said, “We are not aware of any credible threat here of a Paris-type attack. And we have seen no connection at all between the Paris attackers and the United States.” Pegues noted that officials are still concerned about lone-wolf attacks, mentioning that Comey says ISIL “propaganda influences what he calls troubled souls.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/19, story 4, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M) similarly reported that Comey “tried to calm the fears,” saying that “he’s seen no sign of ISIS members coming to the US in the past days or weeks.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/20, Lichtblau, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) notes that both Comey and Lynch said they “remained alert to the possibility of ‘copycat’ attacks inspired by the Paris killings.” On [ABC World News](#) (11/19, story 2, 0:40, Muir, 5.84M), Pierre Thomas reported that US authorities are aware of “dozens of people” with suspected terror ties inside the US, and authorities know where those people are. Comey said those suspects “are being covered like a blanket right now.”

US Cities Taking Extra Security Precautions. The [Huffington Post](#) (11/19, Grenoble, 251K) examined how “major US cities” have reacted to the Paris attacks and outlined extra precautions being taken in Washington,

New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/19, 554K), Deborah Feyerick reported that the NYPD is deploying counterterror tactical teams "to cover a range of potential threats."

Counterterrorism Officials Focus On "Homegrown Violent Extremists." The [New York Times](#) (11/20, Schmidt, Schmitt, Apuzzo, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that US counterterrorism officials are concerned the Paris attack "could provide the spark to inspire angry, troubled people to finally do something violent." This year, they have focused their resources on "homegrown violent extremists" as ISIL "altered its tactics" and "began using social media to urge its sympathizers in the United States to stay put and plot violence here." Agents "watch and wait, looking for some sign that yesterday's angry man with a gun is about to become today's terrorist."

WPost Analysis: Real, Imagined Threats Multiply In Wake Of Attacks. A [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Kunkle, Aratani, Lazo, 7.78M) analysis reports that since the Paris attacks, "threats — real or imagined — have multiplied almost everywhere." As "law enforcement officials have tightened security for the nation's trains, subways and airports" and "Americans are scared," the "heightened vigilance ha[s] also led to instances in which jittery travelers or security officials have singled out Muslims and others for special scrutiny." As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, "law enforcement and transportation officials face the challenges of keeping people moving and identifying potential threats while reassuring the public that no one will be subjected to racial or religious profiling," a task which "means balancing the notion that it's better to be safe than sorry with the principle that people should not be singled out based on stereotypes."

Ryan: Paris Attacks Likely Not A "One-Time Event." [Politico](#) (11/19, Sherman, 1.19M) reported that on Thursday, House Speaker Ryan warned that it is "wrong to assume that Paris is a one-time event." Speaking to a group of Capitol Hill reporters, Ryan said, "common sense and prudence dictate that we be on higher alert," adding, "We cannot assume that Paris was a one-and-done event. ... And I think most members are taking their jobs very seriously, and trying to act as responsibly as possible."

MASTERMIND OF PARIS ATTACKS CONFIRMED DEAD. French prosecutors have confirmed the death of Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the ringleader of the Paris attacks, in a pre-dawn raid on Wednesday. The [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Mekhennet, Faiola, Booth, 7.78M) says that while news of the Belgian militant's death "capped one of the highest-profile manhunts after last week's bloodshed in the French capital," at least "two other suspects believed closely linked to the carnage remained at large." Moreover, confirmation of Abaaoud's killing "did not allay concerns surrounding his ability to apparently move undetected from Syria back to Europe."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/20, A1, Bisserbe, Meichtry, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) also reports on the confirmation of Abaaoud's death, and on the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/19, story 2, 2:25, Pelley, 5.08M), Elizabeth Palmer reported that authorities are unclear whether Abaaoud was shot or if he blew himself up. Palmer said forensic officers "had to rely on skin samples and fingerprints to identify his dismembered body." Allen Pizzey added on the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/19, story 3, 1:50, Pelley, 5.08M) that Abaaoud's father "said he was relieved his son is dead."

The [New York Times](#) (11/20, De Freytas-Tamura, Peltier, Schreuer, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) notes that while Abaaoud's death "ended one chapter of the intense criminal investigation," many questions "remained unanswered: how Mr. Abaaoud planned and organized the attacks; whether the Islamic State is planning additional assaults outside its stronghold in Syria and Iraq; and the identities of at least two other attackers." [ABC World News](#) (11/19, story 5, 2:15, Muir, 5.84M) reported that French authorities on Thursday admitted that they "had no idea" Abaaoud was in Europe. While Abaaoud was on terror watch-lists "everywhere," authorities say he was able to travel undetected over the last year "in and out of Syria, all across Europe, to set in motion at least four different plots." [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/19, story 3, 2:30, Holt, 7.86M) noted that Abaaoud's death "is only raising new concerns about what's being viewed as a massive intelligence failure."

[Reuters](#) (11/20, Jarry,

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 17, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TO MEET WITH BIE STUDENTS IN ARIZONA. The [Nation Sun News](#) (11/16) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will travel to Arizona this week to meet with Bureau of Indian Education students. On Tuesday, Jewell is scheduled to visit the Winslow Residential Hall on the Navajo Nation. She will “highlight a new public-private partnership to bring high-speed wireless Internet and Microsoft Nokia tablets to 10 BIE dormitories.” Then, on Wednesday, Jewell will join fourth-grade students from the Santa Rosa Ranch School on the Tohono at Saguaro National Park to highlight the Every Kid in a Park initiative.

The [AP](#) (11/17, 283K) reports that in Winslow, Jewell will highlight a partnership with Verizon and Microsoft “to improve digital learning.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Rock Hill \(SC\) Herald](#) (11/17, 96K), the [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (11/17, 254K), and the [Wichita \(KS\) Eagle](#) (11/17, 257K).

DUWAMISH STILL WAITING FOR MEETING WITH SECRETARY JEWELL. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/16, 47K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told Duwamish Chairwoman Cecile Hansen and others “two months ago” that she would look over letters seeking a meeting regarding restoring Duwamish’s federal recognition and would talk about the issue with Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn. With no update, “Hansen and more than 50 community members returned to Jewell’s home in West Seattle on October 24 for a peaceful demonstration and to deliver a letter and petition requesting a meeting.” But there has still been “no response.”

GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS COMMITS TO SHARING DATA. The [Canadian Underwriter](#) (11/17) reports that the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations announced last Friday that “members are committed to sharing data on Earth observations.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, “As we near the historic Paris climate talks, it’s clear open data and international collaboration are key to countries moving the needle on climate change. We can and should share Earth observation data to help address climate challenges because science and open data are critical to understanding land, water, wildlife and climate change. They must be at the heart of every policy decision – no country can solve it alone.”

SENATE PANEL TO VOTE ON SPORTSMEN’S PACKAGE, INTERIOR NOMINEES. The [Greenwire](#) (11/16, Subscription Publication) reports that a Senate panel will vote Thursday “to advance part of a sweeping sportsmen’s package that would promote hunting, fishing and shooting access on federal lands and reauthorize a popular land sales and conservation program, among other provisions.” The Energy and Natural Resources Committee will also vote on four nominees for the Interior and Energy departments. However, “missing from the docket” are White House nominees Kris Sarri for Interior assistant secretary and Mary Kendall for Interior inspector general, “a sign of continued GOP concerns with Interior’s energy and lands policies, as well as Kendall’s performance as acting IG.”

HOUSE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW DRAFT BILL TO OVERHAUL LWCF. [E&E Daily](#) (11/16, Subscription Publication) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday will review a draft bill to overhaul the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Members will review committee Chairman Rob Bishop’s draft measure that would “funnel a greater portion of LWCF money to states to invest in projects like ballparks, boat ramps and trails, while setting strict limits on the purchase of new federal lands.”

[Politico Pro](#) (11/16) reports that “the political clash over reviving” the LWCF “escalated even further on Thursday,” as Bishop “released a reform proposal that greens and liberals slammed as a giveaway to the oil industry.” According to the article, “green groups are aghast at the LWCF overhaul plan Bishop released on Thursday, but the future of the program likely rests in the hands of the GOP senators who have pushed all year for a vote on reauthorizing it without changes.”

Rep. Bishop Requested \$500k For Land Acquisition In Utah In 2009. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/13, 705) reports that House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop in 2009 sought \$500,000 to be “spent to acquire federal lands at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge in his district, according to a House Appropriations Committee report.” According to the article, “the request is notable considering Bishop has recently introduced a draft bill that would significantly curb land acquisitions” under the LWCF.

Congress Urged To Reauthorize LWCF. In an op-ed for the [Ellensburg \(WA\) Daily Record](#) (11/17, 16K), Rep. Dave Reichert urges Congress to reauthorize the LWCF. He asserts that the LWCF is “the most successful conservation initiative in this nation’s history and the need to maintain funding levels is real and urgent.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (11/17, 67K), the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (11/17, 100K), and the [American Thinker](#) (11/17, 27K).

REPUBLICANS MAY ATTACH RIDERS TO INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES SPENDING BILL. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/17, 705) reports that both parties are arguing over policy riders while another government shutdown looms. E&E says that “House Republicans this week are planning a series of member-only ‘listening sessions’ on the six appropriations bills that did not pass the lower chamber this month, including the always thorny Interior, Environment and Related Agencies spending bill.” E&E explains that “in 2011, House Republicans inserted a rider into a budget deal blocking funding for the Bureau of Land Management’s ‘wildlands’ initiative to preserve wilderness-quality public lands across the West, prompting the Interior Department to scrap the plan.” Meanwhile, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has made clear that EPA’s Clean Power Plan and Waters of the US “rule are in Republicans’ sights during the current appropriations talks”, ClearView Energy Partners LLC’s Kevin Book “said brinkmanship over riders is likely to be muted by political constraints – including the need to demonstrate Republicans can govern.”

NEVADA MIDDLE SCHOOL AT CENTER OF SAGE GROUSE CHALLENGE. The [Greenwire](#) (11/16, Subscription Publication) reports that a Nevada middle school is “at the center of the latest legal challenge to new protections for the imperiled greater sage grouse set to go before a federal judge” Monday. According to the article, “while federal lawyers have called other grievances ‘speculative, at best,’ Washoe County’s complaint about having to find an alternative location for a new middle school is one that prompted the Bureau of Land Management to reopen the comment period on new regulations to protect sage grouse in lieu of an Endangered Species Act listing.” BLM spokesman Chris Rose said Friday that the agency “will be working with municipalities, industry and others on a case-by-case basis to address specific projects and identify actions that will preserve and enhance sage grouse habit and provide opportunities for development.”

Additional coverage of the case was provided by the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (11/17, 22K) and the [Daily Times Gazette \(ISR\)](#) (11/17).

Environmental Groups Seeks To Intervene In Sage Grouse Case. The [AP](#) (11/17) reports that three national environmental organizations are seeking to wade into the legal battle over sage grouse regulations in Nevada. The Wilderness Society, National Wildlife Federation and mining watchdog group Earthworks “filed a motion late last week seeking formal intervenor status in the case.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Modesto \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/17, 198K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/17, Sonner, 283K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (11/17, Subscription Publication, 3.44M) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (11/17, 464K).

Nevada Attorney General Prevented From Arguing At Sage Grouse Lawsuit Hearing. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/17, 403K) reports that Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt “won’t be allowed to argue Tuesday when a federal judge considers an injunction to block new public lands regulations, the judge ruled.” U.S. District Judge Miranda Du, “in an order issued Friday, said only the original plaintiffs in the case — Elko and Eureka counties, Quantum Minerals LLC and Western Exploration LLC — will be permitted to present issues and arguments.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the sage grouse land use plan was provided by the [National Law Review](#) (11/17).

FOREST SERVICE URGES CONGRESS TO OVERHAUL WILDFIRE BUDGET. The [Payson \(AZ\) Roundup](#) (11/14, 21K) reports that the U.S. Forest Service “remains in something approaching bureaucratic and budget meltdown, with wildfires torching the budget and thinning projects languishing.” The Forest Service “quickly exhausted its firefighting budget this year, spending a record \$243 million in a single week in a desperate effort to contain fires that consumed more than 750 California homes in a single, catastrophic week.” Forest Service officials have “appealed to Congress to completely overhaul the wildfire budget, to keep the predictable disaster of each fire season from consuming money for everything else the Forest Service does.”

Senate Panel To Hold Hearing On Wildfires. [E&E Daily](#) (11/17, Subscription Publication) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday will “hold a hearing to discuss past wildfire seasons and how to improve future management.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. In continuing coverage, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/16, 3.6M) reported that Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell signed an agreement last week creating the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. Moniz and Jewell said the park “would span three key parts of U.S. atomic bomb development: the Hanford Site in Washington, where plutonium was manufactured; Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, where the bomb was designed and assembled;” and Y-12 in Tennessee, “where uranium was separated.”

Additional coverage of the establishment of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park was provided the [Paris \(TN\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (11/17, 25K) and [Gizmodo \(IND\)](#) (11/17, 12K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF JOIN CONSERVATION EFFORT TO HELP MONARCH BUTTERFLIES. Additional coverage of the cooperation between the US and Mexico to help the monarch butterfly population was provided by [Fusion](#) (11/17, 280K).

OBAMA URGED TO DESIGNATE DESERT PUBLIC LANDS AS NATIONAL MONUMENTS. Michael Madrigal, president of the Native American Land Conservancy, writes at the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (11/16, 98K) to urge President Obama to act “on Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s request that he designate select desert public lands as the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, and Castle Mountains national monuments.” Madrigal says that “the proposed national monuments include a vast range of cultural and archaeological treasures, unique flora and fauna, and a rich connection to the history of Native American tribes in the area.” He concludes that “these lands are a real-life history book, and deserve the protection of national monument status to preserve our legacy and ongoing relationship with the land.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

MEASURE TO BLOCK ARIZONA CASINO FAILS IN HOUSE. In its “Floor Action” blog, [The Hill](#) (11/17, Cama, Marcos, 654K) reports that “a contentious and heavily lobbied bill” that would “block construction of a controversial casino in a Phoenix suburb” failed to pass in the House on Monday. According to the article, “House GOP leaders brought the bill to the floor under a fast-track process typically reserved for noncontroversial measures,” but “the bill narrowly fell short in securing the necessary two-thirds supermajority to move forward under the procedure in the 263-146 vote.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (11/16, 960K) and the [Sun City \(AZ\) Daily Sun](#) (11/17, 17K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR RELEASES 2015 STATUS REPORT FOR LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. Additional coverage of the 2015 Status Report for the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations was provided by the [Char-Koosta News](#) (11/17, 12K).

Office of Insular Affairs:

MARSHALLS RECEIVES \$8.9M IN COMPACT PAYMENTS. The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (11/17, 641) reports that the Interior Department’s Office of Insular Affairs “recently released to the government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands’ U.S. Compact grant payments for October totaling \$8,986,600.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

BOR STANDS BEHIND REPORT THAT COLORADO AGREED TO MINE PLAN. The [AP](#) (11/17, 1.15M) reports that the BOR on Monday “stood behind its assertion that Colorado officials signed off on a cleanup project that led to a 3 million-gallon toxic waste spill from an inactive gold mine.” BOR spokesman Peter Soeth said “the information in the report came from the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/17, Elliott, 283K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/17, 263K), the [Daily Mail](#) (11/17, 5.31M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (11/17, 825K), the [Houston \(TX\)](#)

[Chronicle](#) (11/17, 2.15M), the [US News & World Report](#) (11/16, 996K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/16, 7.78M), [Yahoo! News](#) (11/17, Elliott, 6.43M), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (11/17, 464K), and [WKBN-TV Youngstown \(OH\)](#) Youngstown, OH (11/16, 70K).

Additional Coverage Of Gold King Mine Spill. Additional coverage of the Gold King Mine spill was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/15, 47K).

BOR BLASTS LOWER REPUBLICAN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT WATER PLAN. The [Hastings \(NE\) Tribune](#) (11/17, 37K) reports that “surface water irrigation interests, including a key federal agency, had tough words for the Lower Republican Natural Resources District Thursday in assessing its proposed new integrated water management plan.” Representatives of the BOR and two regional surface irrigation districts “arose at a public hearing here to criticize plans for a relaxed pumpage reduction target contained in the proposed IMP.” According to the article, “while officials have said surface water irrigators will benefit from the new plan by being assured of at least some water deliveries each year, the irrigation districts and BOR are reacting negatively to what the plan says about groundwater pumping targets.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM DEVELOPING MITIGATION STRATEGY TO SPEED NPR-A DEVELOPMENT. [EnergyWire](#) (11/16, Subscription Publication) reports that “in early fall,” the BLM “met with an impressive group of Native leaders, conservationists, university experts, and state and federal regulators in Barrow, Alaska, to help hammer out proposals for offsetting the environmental impacts of future oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A).” The workshop was “one of a series of meetings BLM is holding to develop an all-encompassing, regional mitigation strategy for balancing environmental protection versus energy development in the oil-rich northeastern corner of the NPR-A, a 22.5-million-acre reserve in northern Alaska.” According to the article, “once the Alaska strategy is completed, it will be the first to focus on oil and gas development under an Interior Department initiative to write broad, regional management blueprints for energy development on thousands of acres of public lands across the nation. “

STATE, FEDERAL OFFICIALS FIGHTING OVER UTAH MINE PROPOSAL, SAGE GROUSE. [Politico Pro](#) (11/16) reports that a proposed coal project in Utah is “straining the compromise between states and the federal government over protecting the greater sage grouse.” Alton Coal is seeking to expand its operations into an area occupied by a group of grouse. The BLM is “expected to make a final decision by the end of the month.”

BLM TO HOLD MEETINGS TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE FRACKING LEASES IN WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST. The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (11/16, 518K) reports that “the federal government will hold three meetings this week concerning the possibility of opening Wayne National Forest to fracking.” Oil and gas companies have “formally expressed interest to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in hydraulically fracturing about 31,900 acres of the Wayne.” The BLM is “reviewing those requests to see if the federal government owns the mineral rights beneath those sections of the forest, and it plans to assess potential environmental risks.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [News Center \(WV\)](#) (11/17).

BLM AUCTIONS DRILLING RIGHTS TO GRASSLANDS AMID PROTESTS. The [Colorado Independent](#) (11/17, Ray, 1K) reports at the BLM office Thursday buyers “purchased 93 percent of nearly 90,000 acres up for sale for oil and gas drilling, most within the Pawnee National Grassland,” while outside protesters implored the government agency to “Keep it in the ground.” The Independent notes that the sale netted over \$5 million. The report says that “the Rainforest Action Network joined several groups, including the Center for Biological Diversity, Coloradans Against Fracking and 350 Colorado, in organizing the protest,” which includes “six activists linked arms to block the public entrance of the BLM office.”

BLM POSTPONES OIL, GAS LEASING AUCTION. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/17, 339K) reports that the BLM has “postponed a controversial auction of oil and gas leases that multiple groups had planned to protest Tuesday morning.” In a statement, the BLM said that the auction “has been postponed to allow the time needed to better accommodate the high level of public interest in attending the sale.” The Southern Utah

Wilderness Alliance had “planned to file protests on 15 parcels in and near the Mussentuchit basin, south of Emery, and another three in the Book Cliffs.”

BLM TO HOST PUBLIC MEETINGS ON MINING WITHDRAWAL IN SAGE GROUSE AREAS. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (11/17, 22K) reports that the BLM “will host public meetings next month on the possible 20-year withdrawal of lands from new mining claims in sage grouse focal areas.” The Free Press notes that the public comment period on the proposal has also been extended until January 15. According to the BLM, “neither the segregation for up to two years, nor any subsequent withdrawal, would prohibit ongoing or future mineral exploration or extraction operations on valid pre-existing mining claims, or any other authorized uses on these lands.” However, local and state officials say the withdrawal would harm the economies of rural Nevada.

BANKRUPTCIES STIR CONCERNS OVER COAL MINE CLEANUPS. [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (11/17, Paterson) reports that there are concerns about cleanup of the Eagle Butte Mine after owner Alpha Natural Resources filed for bankruptcy in August. WPR explains that “regulators estimate it would cost over \$400 million to restore the land that Alpha has mined in Wyoming,” however, “in its most recent financial filings, the company listed nationwide liabilities two-and-a-half times greater than its assets.” WPR explains that data from the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement show that in the top ten coal producing states, “over one million acres of land has been ‘disturbed’ for coal mining operations.” WPR says that reclaiming those mines is expansive and as the industry-wide downturn advances there may no longer be cash to pay for clean-up costs.

COAL COMPANIES ABANDON FUTURE PROJECTS. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (11/17, Storrow, 81K) reports that “coal companies have abandoned applications for federal leases boasting nearly 2 billion tons in reserves this year, offering further evidence of the industry’s deteriorating financial condition and raising doubts over its future.” The Star-Tribune notes that roughly 40 percent of American coal is mined on land overseen by the BLM but the Bureau has not approved any leases since 2012, “largely at the behest of companies that have held back as market conditions deteriorated.” Analysts say that “firms’ hesitancy to lease reflects the short and long-term challenges facing the industry.”

URANIUM MINES REOPEN NEAR GRAND CANYON. [KJZZ-FM](#) Phoenix (11/17, Sevigny, 8K) reports online that the Federal government has halted uranium mining near the Grand Canyon but that old mines can still reopen, including Canyon Mine on the Kaibab National Forest. KJZZ explains that the mine was shut down in the early 1990s but was reopened a few months ago. According to Donald Bills, a hydrologist with the US Geological Survey, scientists are “still in the process of building a database that will provide” evidence on the impact of these mines. Meanwhile, “the Grand Canyon Trust wants activity at Canyon Mine to halt until the U.S. Forest Service completes new environmental reviews.”

BLM POSTS PROPOSED PARCEL LIST FOR FEBRUARY 2016 LEASE SALE. The [Lake Powell Life](#) (11/17) reports that the BLM Utah Canyon Country District Office on Monday “posted the list of parcels proposed for auction at the quarterly competitive oil and gas lease sale scheduled for Feb. 16, 2016, in Salt Lake City.”

RESEARCH FELLOW: LINK BETWEEN INDUCED SEISMICITY, OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IMPORTANT TO STUDY. In commentary carried by the [Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#) (11/17, 463K), Isaac Orr, a research fellow with the Heartland Institute, wrote that an increase in earthquake activity in Oklahoma and Texas “spurred a coalition of scientists, regulators, industry experts and environmentalists to produce a 148-page report exploring why these earthquakes are occurring and how to prevent future incidents.” Said Orr, “Understanding the historical relationship between induced seismicity and oil and natural gas production is important for scientists and state regulators because it provides a road map for determining the causes of the current tremors and a toolbox of approaches to limit their occurrence in the future.”

Offshore Energy Development:

BUSINESS OWNER DISCUSSES OPPOSITION TO OIL DRILLING OFF US EAST COAST. In commentary carried by [The Hill](#) (11/16, 654K), Charles Robbins, owner of Cape Fear River Adventures, discussed a proposal to open the US East Coast to offshore oil and gas drilling. Wrote Robbins, “By announcing a leasing plan for oil drilling from Virginia to Georgia, the U.S. Department of the Interior is putting our pristine shoreline – and our coastal economy – at grave risk. It’s no surprise, then, that communities along the Southeastern coast are rising up to oppose drilling off our beaches.” Robbins wrote that “shockingly, since the BP blowout,

not a single law has been changed to make drilling any safer,” adding, “This remained the case this summer even as Shell actively drilled in the remote, dangerous Arctic Ocean. (Fortunately, this fall the Obama administration canceled the remaining two years of leases in Arctic, granting a much-needed reprieve for a pristine ocean wilderness the oil industry has long hoped to exploit.)”

ST. PETERSBURG COMMITTEE VOTES TO SPEND PART OF BP SETTLEMENT ON SEWER REPAIRS.

The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (11/17, Frago, 844K) reported, “A St. Petersburg City Council committee voted unanimously Monday to spend \$1.5 million of cash from the BP settlement on sewer system repairs.” The action “was the first slice taken from the \$6.5 million pot of money from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill settlement,” and “might just be the first step in spending the BP cash.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

RED ROCK NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA MARKS 25TH ANNIVERSARY. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/17, 403K) reports that the Red Rock National Conservation Area celebrated its 25th anniversary on Monday.

BLM CRITICIZED FOR SEIZURE OF PROPERTY ALONG RED RIVER. Leigh Thompson, attorney and policy analyst at Center for the American Future and the Armstrong Center for Energy and the Environment at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, writes at the [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (11/17, Subscription Publication, 405K) that the BLM “has come under fire for its brazen attempt to seize approximately 90,000 acres from private landowners along the Red River. And it should.” Thompson says that BLM has offered to let property owners claim property for title under the Color of Title Act but Thompson says that this is no real solution for several reasons, including that only 160 acres can be awarded under the act. Thompson also takes issue with the fact that this process would leave the mineral estate in the possession of the Federal government.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

PLAN TO EXPORT CHIMPS PUT TO THE TEST. The [Greenwire](#) (11/16, Subscription Publication) reports that five months after the FWS “moved to extend endangered species status to captive chimpanzees, a permit application by a Georgia research center will test the implications of the new rule.” Emory University’s Yerkes National Primate Research Center is “seeking to transfer eight chimpanzees to the Wingham Wildlife Park in southeastern England because of ‘changing research priorities.’” The federal Endangered Species Act requires the FWS “to consider whether the move will benefit the chimpanzee species, and the quality of any new facility.”

APPEALS COURT CONSIDERS ARGUMENTS IN DUNES SAGEBRUSH LIZARD CASE. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/16, 705) reports that federal judges “grappled” Monday with “the details of Texas’ plan to protect the dunes sagebrush lizard, as they considered whether to uphold the Fish and Wildlife Service’s decision to withdraw a proposed endangered listing of the species.” Attorneys for “both FWS and Defenders made their oral arguments in front of a three-judge panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.”

COURT ORDERS ADDITIONAL BRIEFS IN FAIRY SHRIMP CASE. [Courthouse News](#) (11/16, 7K) reports that “the government and three California developers must provide more information to determine whether a rule designating 57 acres of critical habitat for the endangered Riverside fairy shrimp will stand, a federal judge ruled.” U.S. District Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson in the District of Columbia “declined to award either party summary judgment, dismissing their motions without prejudice.” Though Jackson “found both party’s arguments compelling, she ruled on Nov. 13 that the administrative record contains insufficient evidence to decide the matter and ordered both sides to submit additional briefs.”

GROUP QUESTIONS COST OF ARCTIC SEABIRD REINTRODUCTION PLAN. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/16, 705) reports that Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility on Monday “raised concerns about the cost and analysis behind a Fish and Wildlife Service effort to reintroduce a threatened species of seabird to western Alaska.”

PETITION SEEKS ASKS FWS TO ADD WOOD TURTLES TO ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST. [WCAV-TV](#)

Charlottesville, VA (11/17, 4K) reports that Wild Virginia is petitioning to add the Wood Turtle to the Endangered Species List. According to Wild Virginia, the Wood Turtle is “considered imperiled in almost all 18 states in which it appears.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: DELMARVA FOX SQUIRREL REMOVED FROM ENDANGERED LIST.

Additional coverage of the delisting of the Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel was provided by [Nature World News](#) (11/16), the [Steelers Lounge \(PA\)](#) (11/17), [Discovery Channel](#) (11/17, 395K), and [Mongabay](#) (11/17, 6K).

WRITER DECRIES OREGON’S DECISION TO REMOVE WOLF PROTECTIONS. Brenda Peterson writes at the [Huffington Post](#) (11/17, Peterson, 251K) that wolves are “trapped along a cultural fault line between the Old and the New West.” She says that Oregon as “regressed to Old West prejudices by delisting the wolf from the state’s endangered species protection” and allowing ranchers to “apply for permits to shoot wolves if they suffer livestock loss.” Meanwhile, “there are movements to sue the state’s Wildlife Commission for the delisting, calling it unlawful and premature; they are asking the state legislature and Governor Kate Brown to reverse this decision.” Peterson concludes that “instead of regressing to prejudices of the Old West, the rest of us in the West can forge new win-win alliances between more far-sighted ranchers and hunters and conservationists.”

National Park Service:

“FIND YOUR PARK, LOVE YOUR PARK” INITIATIVE ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO VISIT NATIONAL PARKS. The [National Geographic](#) (11/17, 31.87M) reports that Find Your Park, Love Your Park is a new initiative by National Geographic with support from Subaru. The program, “timed to coincide with the National Park Service centennial in 2016,” features “five free downloadable activity modules for educators, each developed by National Geographic’s education specialists to empower students to claim their parks as places for recreation, conservation, and discovery.”

STUDENTS CREATE HUMAN BANNER TO CELEBRATE NPS CENTENNIAL. The [Golden Gate Xpress](#) (11/16) reports that “draped in blazing colors of orange and red to match the Golden Gate Bridge behind them, a crowd of more than 200 people formed a human sign reading ‘100!’ at Crissy Park Saturday in celebration of the National Park Service’s centennial anniversary.”

NPS OPPOSES STORE NEAR CHANCELLORSVILLE BATTLEFIELD. The [AP](#) (11/17, 2.15M) reports that the NPS “opposes a plan to build a country store with a bakery and deli across the street from a major Civil War battlefield in Spotsylvania County.” NPS Historian Eric Mink “recently wrote to the county that approving the store could lead to other development near the Chancellorsville battlefield.” According to Mink, the store would result in “visual intrusions” that would hurt visitors’ experience.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/16, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/17, 283K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (11/17, 81K), the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (11/17, 54K), and the [Decatur \(IL\) Herald & Review](#) (11/17, 118K).

NEW SECTION OF COLD HARBOR BATTLEFIELD SET TO OPEN. The [AP](#) (11/16, 7.78M) reports that “a recently preserved section of the Cold Harbor Civil War battlefield is set to be opened to the public.” The battlefield will “open Saturday following a dedication ceremony at 10 a.m.” The article notes that “funding from the National Park Service Centennial Initiative made the project possible, providing the necessary archaeology, maintenance, interpretive waysides, parking area and removal of non-historic structures needed to restore the battlefield landscape.”

YELLOWSTONE BREAKS OCTOBER VISITATION RECORD. The [AP](#) (11/17, 2.15M) reports that the NPS says “just over 252,000 people” visited Yellowstone National Park in October. The article notes that “that is 29 percent more than the previous October record.” The NPS says “the record visitation in October may be the result of unseasonably warm weather during the month and marketing.”

BROKEN TOILET SEATS AT NATIONAL PARK BLAMED ON ASIAN TOURISTS. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (11/16, Landers, 174K) reports that “the influx of Asian tourists in Jackson Hole has resulted in some cultural problems involving pit toilets around Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks.” Grand Teton park spokesman Andrew White says that about a dozen toilets had broken seats this summer after “park officials discovered that tourists from Asian countries were squatting, with their feet on the lids,

while using the facilities.”

HOWARD DUNCAN, RANGER AT BIG SOUTH FORK FOR 30 YEARS, TO RETIRE. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (11/17, Simmons, 229K) reports that in 1985 Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area “hired a 29-year-old former elementary school teacher and principal from Fentress County named Howard Duncan to be a part time ranger.” The News Sentinel explains that on December 31 Duncan will retire as an interpretive ranger with the NPS and “unlike many park service employees, Duncan spent his entire career at one park.” The report points out that “for 30 years he has been a walking library on all things Big South Fork — a gifted storyteller whose favorite subjects range from the geology of the Big South Fork’s river gorges to how the region was first settled.”

MAINE PARK PROPONENTS SAY NATIONAL MONUMENT COULD BE STEP TOWARD PARK DESIGNATION. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (11/16, Sambides, 165K) reports that “efforts to form a national park in Maine’s Katahdin region continue and include a formal lobbying effort in Washington, D.C., according to the park’s leading proponent, who says he has discussed but is not pursuing an interim ‘national monument’ designation on land adjacent to Baxter State Park.” The Daily News explains that “Lucas St. Clair, whose family owns the property eyed for the park, said the national monument tag would be sought only as a temporary step toward securing the national park designation.” Meanwhile, 63 pages of documents released by the Department of the Interior in response to a FOIA request show that lobbyist George Cooper “has held phone conferences, met or corresponded with Interior Department officials about a half-dozen times on behalf of the park effort since April 13.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS RESEARCH SHOWS TREATED LEACHATE STILL CONTAINS CONTAMINANTS. The [Waste Dive](#) (11/17) reports that new research from the USGS “shows that even after leachate is treated, it can contain multiple chemicals from residential, industrial, and commercial waste discarded into US landfills.” According to the article “scientists collected and analyzed treated and stored liquid waste samples from 22 landfills looking for 190 ‘contaminants of emerging concern’ (CEC), including pharmaceuticals, household products, and industrial chemicals.” Mike Focazio, coordinator for the USGS Toxics Substances Hydrology Program said that “this research is the first step in understanding environmental exposures to contaminants originating from liquid wastes in landfills.”

Top National News:

UNDER MEDIA PRESSURE, OBAMA DEFENDS ANTI-ISIL STRATEGY, POLICY ON REFUGEES.

Coverage of the President’s remarks in Antalya, Turkey highlighted not just his strong criticism of GOP positions on ISIL threat, but also what reports cast as the palpable tension between him and the news media. The [New York Times](#) (11/17, Shear, Baker, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), for example, reports that during “a sometimes tense news conference” in which he “sounded weary and defensive,” the President “forcefully” rejected “calls for escalating the use of military force...or turning away Syrian refugees at home.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/16, Eilperin, 7.78M) said on its website that Obama “appeared annoyed” at reporters, while [McClatchy](#) (11/17, Recio, 27K) reports that he “responded testily” and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (11/16, Olorunnipa, 303K) describes him as “doubling down on his strategy...in the face of rising calls from domestic allies and critics alike” that he doesn’t have one. In an editorial, meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (11/17, Board, 7.78M) refers to “a petulant-sounding...Obama,” and concludes that he “would be wise to set aside his defensiveness.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/16, story 4, Holt, 7.86M) similarly reported last night that Obama was “sounding defensive.” On [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/16, 554K), Wolf Blitzer similarly indicated that the President was “visibly annoyed,” the [New York Post](#) (11/17, Earle, 2.59M) describes him as “defensive,” [Bloomberg Politics](#) (11/16, Olorunnipa, 303K) says “his exasperation was evident” and [The Blaze](#) (11/16, Howerton, 1.89M) portrayed him as “visibly annoyed.” The [New York Daily News](#) (11/17, Edelman, 3.59M) reports that the President faced “intense criticism” yesterday, and [Politico](#) (11/16, Gass, Toosi, 1.19M) says “at times” he “appeared to lose patience.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/16, story 10, Pelley, 5.08M) showed Obama saying, “No, we haven’t underestimated their abilities. This is precisely why we’re in Iraq as we speak and why we’re operating in Syria as we speak. If you have a handful of people who don’t mind dying, they can kill a lot of people. That’s one of

the challenges of terrorism. It's not their sophistication or the particular weaponry that they possess, but it is the ideology that they carry with them and their willingness to die."

Mentioned in virtually all reports is Obama's [exchange](#) with CNN's Jim Acosta, who pointedly asked him, "Why can't we take out these bastards?" [NPR](#) (11/16, Naylor, 1.78M), meanwhile, noted that Obama has come under criticism over the last few days "for remarks he made in a broadcast interview that aired just before the attacks, in which he said ISIS had been 'contained.'"

At any rate, Howard Kurtz, in an online analysis for [Fox News](#) (11/16, 9.42M), detected "a new and darker mood in the media...and a far greater willingness to take on...Obama for the lack of progress against" ISIL. Kurtz called "the shift in tone" in Obama's relationship with reporters "remarkable" for "a president who has often received soft treatment in the past." The [Huffington Post](#) (11/16, Calderone, 251K) also referred to "an unusually blunt" media "approach...in questioning...Obama," while the [Talking Points Memo](#) (11/16, Cruz, 388K) described the President as "openly frustrated," "exasperated," and "testy." Jack Mirkinson, writing for [Salon](#) (11/16, Mirkinson, 868K), said that "Acosta's language may have been rougher than some might have used, but he was speaking for a press corps whose thirst for an apocalyptic confrontation with ISIS has been let loose," with the "establishment media...eagerly" reverting "to its default position when it comes to foreign policy: the more hawkish, the better."

David Corn, writing for [Mother Jones](#) (11/16, Corn, 1.05M), said, however, that "Obama was right. He does have a strategy, and for more than a year the United States has taken many actions to thwart ISIS." Michael Tomasky, in a similar [Daily Beast](#) (11/16, Tomasky, 1.26M) piece titled "Obama Takes On a Newly Hawkish Press," wonders whether the US is "seriously going to repeat the same damn mistakes we made after 9/11," and answers that "if the media gets its way, it seems the answer is an emphatic yes." To Tomasky, the press conference "was a disaster. Not for...Obama," who "did fine" even if his "Syria policy has been a failure." Rather, "it was a disaster for the press, for America, for the world. The media are going to help push us back into war."

[Voice of America](#) (11/16, Ramirez, 64K) reported that "ending wars and avoiding new ones has been a cornerstone of Obama's presidency," and yesterday he "indicated he wanted to avoid a repeat of the US-led war in Iraq, 'not because our military could not march into Mosul or Raqqa or Ramadi and temporarily clear out ISIL but because we would see a repetition of what we have seen before.'" Yesterday, notes the [AP](#) (11/17), Obama reiterated that "putting large numbers of US troops on the ground to combat the threat from the Islamic State would be 'a mistake.'" Instead, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/17, A1, Lee, Panetta, Sonne, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) quotes the President as saying, "There will be an intensification of the strategy that we've put forward," and "the strategy that we've put forward is ultimately the strategy that's going to work. ... It's going to take time." Obama, says the [Washington Post](#) (11/17, Jaffe, 7.78M), is now "in the unenviable position of championing a strategy that even he admits could take years to work, and could be marked by significant setbacks and more terrorist attacks like those in Paris."

[USA Today](#) (11/16, Michaels, 5.56M) notes that "critics countered that it is Obama's approach that's a mistake." Said Sen. John McCain, "Obama stands alone in his commitment to a failed strategy." In an interview on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/16, 554K), McCain also said he would like to see a no-fly zone instituted in Syria. [The Blaze](#) (11/16, Lucas, 1.89M) noted that Obama said yesterday that likely wouldn't work, stating, "A true safe zone requires us to set up ground operations, and the bulk of the deaths that have occurred in Syria, for example, have come about not because of regime bombing but because of on-the-ground casualties. ... Who would come in? Who would come out of that safe zone? How would it work? Would it become a magnet for further terrorist attacks? How many personnel would be required and how would it end? There's a whole set of questions that have to be answered there."

Moreover, says the [Washington Times](#) (11/17, Boyer, 283K), Obama "showed a flash of anger...with Republican critics of his anti-terrorism strategy, saying he is 'too busy' to engage in a rhetorical debate with them." [USA Today](#) (11/17, Jackson, 5.56M) notes that during the press conference, Obama "denounced some Republicans' 'shameful' calls to give preference to Christian refugees from Syria." Obama "said there should not be a 'religious test' applied to people who fleeing persecution," and Obama indicated that he "disagreed with his predecessor, Republican President George W. Bush, on many issues," but he "applauded his statements after the 9/11 attacks that the United States is not engaged in a war with Islam." On its website, [TIME](#) (11/16, Berenson, 19.1M) said Obama "sharply criticized Jeb Bush and Ted Cruz," while the [AP](#) (11/16, Woodward) says the attacks "are rapidly weakening US support for bringing in thousands more Syrian refugees."

[ABC World News](#) (11/16, story 7, Muir, 5.84M) reported that President Obama on Monday “declared America has a moral responsibility to allow some Syrian refugees to settle” in the US, but Republicans are “attacking” Obama’s plan to allow as many as 10,000 Syrian refugees into America. Sen. Ted Cruz said there is “no meaningful risk of Christians committing acts of terror,” and he and Jeb Bush “insist the emphasis should be on allowing Syrian Christians into the US.” [Reuters](#) (11/17, McPike) quotes Obama as saying, “When I hear folks say that, ‘Well, maybe we should just admit the Christians but not the Muslims,’ when I hear political leaders suggesting that there would be a religious test for which person who’s fleeing from a war-torn country is admitted, when some of those folks themselves come from families who benefited from protection when they were fleeing political persecution, that’s shameful.” [Politico](#) (11/16, Gass, 1.19M) notes that the President added, “That’s not American. That’s not who we are. We don’t have a religious test for our compassion.”

Dana Milbank, in the [Washington Post](#) (11/17, Milbank, 7.78M), denounces the “xenophobic bidding war among Republican presidential candidates,” and terms Bush and Cruz’s call for “admitting Christian refugees from Syria but not Muslims” a “particularly pernicious twist.” David Ignatius writes in the [Washington Post](#) (11/17, Ignatius, 7.78M) that Obama “rightly called such intolerant rhetoric ‘shameful.’ It’s also unwise. The same goes for Sen. Mario Rubio’s...argument that there is a “clash of civilizations” underway. What does he say to the Muslim victims in Beirut and Baghdad?”

On [Fox News’ The O’Reilly Factor](#) (11/16, 767K), Bill O’Reilly said Obama is “unrepentant and unwilling to admit that his strategy has failed.” O’Reilly added that Republicans “now have an opportunity to make a campaign issue out of” ISIL because it is “clear most Democrats will not stop backing Mr. Obama on the issue.” Charles Krauthammer [added](#) that the kindest way to explain Obama’s remarks on Monday “is that he is delusional.” Krauthammer added that Obama “has never thought the war on terror was important or existential.” On [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (11/16, 686K), Christiane Amanpour said that “most people” who have been looking at the Administration’s strategy “say now is the moment for everybody to agree that the strategy is not working.” She added, that there “needs to be...a ‘come to Jesus’ moment.” Blitzer said during [CNN Wolf](#) (11/16, 224K) that Obama’s “critics...are pounding on him right now, that his strategy has not worked.”

On [Fox News’ The Five](#) (11/16, 408K), Dana Perino said that whenever Obama “gets a chance to talk about these situations, he always starts with what he will not do rather than telling us what he will do. I find that strange.” Eric Bolling [added](#) that Obama has “completely lost control. He’s out in the woods.” Bolling later asked, “How many Americans are going to have to die before president Obama wakes up and starts taking [ISIL] seriously the way French President Hollande is doing?” Also on [Fox News’ The Five](#) (11/16, 408K), Kimberly Guilfoyle said Obama is “completely committed to his ideology and the decisions that he made previously without showing any capability to pivot, evaluate the new fact pattern, the new situation and the current dynamics.”

In an interview on [Fox News’ On The Record](#) (11/16, 654K), Rep. Adam Kinzinger called Obama’s remarks “a joke,” adding that the way Obama discussed those who disagree with his strategy came off in a “very immature way.” Kinzinger said, “I would have thought, in seven years he would have a lot thicker skin than he does but only seems to be getting thinner when he realizes his strategy is failing and people call him out on it.”

Rick Grenell, former US spokesman to the UN, said on [Fox News’ On The Record](#) (11/16, 654K) that “what we saw today is that...Obama was more interested in fighting his political battle back home rather than try to lead the world at this important time.”

In an interview on [MSNBC Live](#) (11/16, 232K), Marc Ginsberg, a former US Ambassador to Morocco, said Obama is “setting up a political straw-man” because he’s unwilling to put boots on the ground. Ginsberg said the current Administration “is not qualified to take on ISIS and develop an effective strategy.”

In an interview on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (11/16, 1.53M), Rep. Devon Nunes, chairman of the House Intelligence committee, criticized Obama’s strategy, saying there is a “lot of disconnect” between what the President has said and the “reality,” which is that ISIL has “just gotten bigger and better and deploying the same tactics that Al Qaeda was doing.” Nunes added that it seems the Administration “is surrounding themselves with a bunch of ‘yes men.’” On [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (11/16, 1.53M), Kevin Corke said that critics have accused Obama of “being isolated and allowing other countries to lead the way when it comes” to ISIL.

Officials Confirm One Paris Gunman Entered Greece Posing As Syrian Refugee. The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/16, story 4, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Greek Interior Minister Ioannis Mouzalas said that when Ahmad Al Mohammad, one of the Paris attackers, came to Greece claiming to be a Syrian refugee on Oct. 3, he had no criminal record and gave no indication that he could have been an extremist. CBS reported that because Mohammad wasn't on any international watch list, he was registered by Greek authorities and allowed to enter Europe.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/17, Adam, Kirchner, 7.78M) reports French prosecutors confirmed Monday that Mohammad's fingerprints "matched those taken in Greece last month in the clearest sign yet that one of the attackers blended in among the hundreds of thousands of migrants who have arrived in Europe this year." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/17, Walker, Bisserbe, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports Mohammad used a fake Syrian passport to enter Greece and that passport was found on his remains outside the Stade de France, where he detonated a suicide bomb.

GOP Lawmakers, Governors, White House Hopefuls Move To Block Refugee Influx. The [New York Times](#) (11/17, Healy, Bosman, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that GOP "fury over illegal immigration and border security took on a new dimension Monday as a growing number of governors, presidential candidates and members of Congress rushed to oppose or even defy...Obama's plan to resettle 10,000 Syrian refugees." [USA Today](#) (11/16, Kelly, 5.56M) says that "Congressional Republicans moved Monday to try to block funding for...Obama's plan" because of "growing concerns by lawmakers that those refugees could include Islamic State terrorists." Sen. Jeff Sessions, chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest, "sent a letter Monday to the Senate Appropriations Committee requesting that any upcoming spending bills require congressional approval for the president's refugee plan and for the funds to carry it out." Meanwhile, notes [Reuters](#) (11/16, Zengerle, Cornwell), GOP Rep. Bruce Babin circulated a letter yesterday requesting that Congress defund spending provisions allowing for the Syrian refugees' move to the US.

[USA Today](#) (11/16, Lyman, 5.56M) reports that Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley on Sunday "announced the state of Alabama" will "not accept refugees from the Syrian civil war," and "several other Republican governors" also "questioned plans to increase the number of refugees resettling in Alabama, including Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal." The [Huffington Post](#) (11/16, Foley, 251K) noted other governors "said Sunday and Monday that they will block Syrian refugees from resettling in their states, based on concerns about terrorism after attacks in Paris last week." The states in question are – in addition to Alabama and Louisiana – Arkansas, Indiana, Massachusetts, Michigan and Texas. Later last night, [Politico](#) (11/16, McCaskill, 1.19M) reported that "what started as a trickle of opposition turned into a deluge by late Monday as GOP governors from...Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Arizona, Maine," Wisconsin, Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio, as well as "Democratic Govs. Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire and Steve Bullock of Montana – joined...Bentley and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder in refusing to accept refugees from Syria."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/16, 554K) reported that the number of governors saying they don't want Syrian refugees in their states has reached 23. Dana Bash reported that despite "all of that opposition," a State Department spokesman "is saying they believe they can steadfastly bring in refugees and are committed to doing and they believe they can do it in a way that represents American values and keep Americans safe." The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/16, story 5, Pelley, 5.08M) noted that the governors said they will "direct state agencies not to provide Syrians the types of relocation services normally supplied to refugees." The [Washington Times](#) (11/16, Dinan, 283K) runs a similar story this morning, while [USA Today](#) (11/16, Korte, 5.56M) cautions that "despite protests from more than a dozen Republican governors who want to close their states to Syrian refugees, those governors probably have little power to stop them from coming," according to "legal scholars."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/17, 7.78M), [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/17, Hennessy-Fiske, Mascaro, 3.6M), [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/17, A1, Tau, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.23M), [Chicago Tribune](#) (11/17, Garcia, Briscoe, Pearson, 2.33M) and [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (11/17, Stein, 691K), among other news outlets, run similar reports. Reporting from Royal Oak, MI, meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (11/17, Friess, Morello, 7.78M) says that the debate has "startled Arab Americans nationwide, particularly in communities such as Detroit, where the new flow of refugees had been welcomed for its potential to boost local economic fortunes." State Department deputy spokesman Mark Toner "said families from Syria are subject to a rigorous, 18-to-24-month security screening before they are accepted into the refugee program. He declined to address the complaints of governors, saying, 'We believe it's incumbent on us to sit with them, consult with them, explain to them the process.'"

[Politico](#) (11/16, Kim, Sherman, Everett, 1.19M) reports that House Homeland Security Chairman Mike McCaul, meanwhile, “wrote a letter to Obama asking him to ‘temporarily suspend the admission of all additional Syrian refugees into the United States pending a full review of the Syrian refugee resettlement program, including of the aforementioned security risks.’”

[The Hill](#) (11/16, Carney, 654K) noted that GOP Sen. Sen. Rob Portman, “who faces a tough reelection battle next year, said the administration should stop resettling Syrian refugees in the United States ‘until there has been a thorough review of DHS and State Department vetting procedures to endure that no terrorists or individuals with links to Islamist extremist groups make it into the United States.’” Republican Sens. Mark Kirk, Kelly Ayotte, Dan Coats, Joni Ernst, Shelly Moore Capito and Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin also “sent a letter to Obama saying that ‘our first and most important priority’ should be making sure that refugees aren’t a threat to the United States.”

[Politico](#) (11/16, Strauss, 1.19M) notes that Sen. Rand Paul “announced Monday that he was introducing legislation calling for an ‘immediate moratorium’ on the United States issuing visas to refugees from about 30 countries with a ‘significant jihadist movement.’” The [Washington Times](#) (11/16, Miller, 283K) quotes Paul as saying, “The time has come to stop terrorists from walking in our front door.”

Ben Carson, notes the [Washington Times](#) (11/17, Mclaughlin, 283K), also weighed in, calling on Congress “to immediately strip funding for the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the United States.”

On its website, [The Hill](#) (11/16, Hagen, 654K) reported that former Gov. Mike Huckabee “called on Speaker Paul Ryan...to oppose Syrian refugees from entering the United States or resign from his leadership post.”

Rep. Devon Nunes, chairman of the House Intelligence committee, appearing on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/16, 1.53M), said the US shouldn’t take any Syrian refugees right now, “especially with the threat that we face,” because those coming are “young men with absolutely no information on them, how do you vet them?”

In an interview on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/16, 554K), Rep. Tulsi Gabbard called for the suspension of a visa waiver program for European citizens that she said “does not address the vulnerability of the open and porous borders between Syria and Turkey.” She added that the program should be suspended “until the intelligence community gets a handle on this.”

[McClatchy](#) (11/16, Allam, 27K) reports that according to the State Department, “Syrian refugees are subjected to the most intensive screening of any group, given the murkiness of the civil war they’re fleeing. Unlike in Iraq, where US officials had access to the former government’s files and their own intelligence records, such background materials are much scarcer for Syria. Most details about the Syrian screening process are classified.”

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/17, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) blames the President for the country’s apparent shift against the refugees, arguing that if he had shown a stronger commitment to defeating ISIL, he would not be facing a state of growing fear among Americans. The [Washington Post](#) (11/17, 7.78M) editorializes, meanwhile, that “the Paris attacks have shaken up the discussion on Syria,” but “the moral calculus regarding refugees who have been driven from their homes, beaten, tortured, gassed and raped hasn’t changed,” because “the humanitarian necessity is overwhelming” and “there is no excuse to sit by.”

Chris Matthews reported on [MSNBC's Hardball](#) (11/17, 713K) that Obama’s policy regarding Syrian refugees was “met with fierce resistance from the right in this country.” Matthews asked who will win this political fight. The Huffington Post’s Howard Fineman responded that the Republican “aim is to stoke as much fear as they can.” He said that Republicans “clearly think they have the upper hand. I’m not sure they don’t.”

Rachel Maddow said on [MSNBC's Rachel Maddow Show](#) (11/16, 769K) that while Republican governors “slammed the door” on Syrian refugees, the “leading lights of the Democratic party” in foreign policy are “proposing something quite different.” Maddow said that represents a “truly useful partisan divide for once.” Maddow also [said](#) that conservative politicians like Ted Cruz are “trying to outdo each other” in announcing that Syrian refugees shouldn’t be allowed in the US. She added that Cruz is introducing a bill to the Senate that would specifically ban Syrian Muslim refugees, but not Christians. Maddow added that Cruz “presumably...has invented a magic litmus paper that derives a person’s religion on their forehead.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/17, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports, meanwhile, that “Congress has come a long way from ‘freedom fries.’” Both parties, even as they disagree on the ideal policy course, are “expressing a new solidarity with France.”

Feinstein Calls For US Ground Troops In Fight Against ISIL. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (11/16, Olorunnipa, 303K) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein, “usually an administration ally, joined the call for more force beyond the several dozen special operations advisers Obama has said the US was deploying in Syria after the failure of a Defense Department program to train ‘moderate’ rebels.” Feinstein told MSNBC, “I can’t tell you how many troops on the ground we need. ... But we certainly need more than 50 special ops, and we need the ability to really make a difference on the ground.” Feinstein, says [Politico](#) (11/16, Collins, 1.19M), “sharply contradicted...Obama on Monday.”

Sen. Johnson Calls On US To Invade ISIL Territory. [USA Today](#) (11/16, Slack, 5.56M) reports that Sen. Ron Johnson, chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, “said Monday the United States should invade territory held by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.” Said Johnson, “It’s high time that we make a commitment in the world that Islamic terrorists have got to be wiped off the face of the planet. ... Because if we don’t, every day that ISIS survives, every day that they are not overtly losing, they are perceived as winners and perceived as winning and they’ll continue to inspire adherents to this barbarity.”

Gabbard: US Should Stop Targeting Assad, Focus On ISIL. In an interview on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/16, 554K), Rep. Gabbard argued that the Administration needs to stop the “illegal” war against Syria’s “sovereign government.” She said that the cause of chaos in Syria is that US, Saudi Arabia, and other countries have been arming rebel forces against President Bashar al-Assad, adding that this strategy counterproductive and is only working to strengthen our enemies. Instead, Gabbard argued that the US should “focus more pointedly” on ISIL. However, she said it would be “counterproductive” to send US troops on the ground in Syria. She believes the US must do more to equip “partners on the ground” like Kurdish forces, while also continuing to use our air assets. Gabbard also argued that the reason US allies have diminished their air strikes because they have become distracted by the mission of ousting Assad.

Reuters Poll Finds Ambivalence About US Military Commitment, Increased Terrorism Fear. [Reuters](#) (11/16, Gibson) reports that a new Reuters/Ipsos poll has found that most Americans want the US to intensify its assault on ISIL, though a majority also opposes sending US ground troops to Iraq or Syria. The story does not cite the actual polling numbers on that issue, but it notes that 63% expressed fear that a Paris-style terrorist attack could take place near them.

BRENNAN RENEWS SURVEILLANCE DEBATE, WARNS OF MORE ISIL ATTACKS. The [New York Times](#) (11/17, Shane, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that in the wake of the Paris attacks, CIA Director Brennan has “renewed a debate on government surveillance and privacy, denouncing ‘hand-wringing’ over intrusive spying and saying that leaks of classified information had made it harder to identify terrorists.” Speaking at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Brennan said, “In the past several years, because of a number of unauthorized disclosures, and a lot of hand-wringing over the government’s role in the effort to try to uncover these terrorists, there have been some policy and legal and other actions that have been taken that make our ability collectively, internationally, to find these terrorists much more challenging.”

[Reuters](#) (11/16, Landay) reports that Brennan also warned of future ISIL attacks, saying, “I would anticipate that this is not the only operation that ISIL has in the pipeline. And security intelligence services right now in Europe and other places are working feverishly to see what else they can do in terms of uncovering it.” [Politico](#) (11/16, Gerstein, Gass, 1.19M) reports Brennan also said “the Friday attacks were not likely a ‘one-off event’” in his “blunt comments.”

Morell: We’re In A “Whole New World” After Paris Attacks. The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/16, story 6, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “After Paris, we’re in a ‘whole new world,’” according to former deputy CIA director Michael Morell. Morell, now a CBS analyst, said, “I say ‘whole new world’ for two reasons. One is ISIS now has developed an attack capability in the West. They told us that they would do that. ... The second whole new world here is the targets they’ve chosen to attack. People don’t sympathize with, but they certainly understand, when ISIS attacks a government target or a military target or even Charlie Hebdo. ... It’s much more difficult to understand an attack on our very way of life that sows fear and terror.”

Trump Says He Would Consider Mosque Surveillance As President. The

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, November 16, 2015

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DOI in the News:

US, MEXICO SIGN AGREEMENT ON SHARING SATELLITE DATA DIRECTLY. The [AP](#) (11/15, 2.15M) reports that the United States and Mexico signed an agreement last Friday "for Mexico to capture and process land-surface imagery and data directly from a U.S.-operated satellite." The deal "means Mexico will be able to get the raw information from the Landsat 8 satellite immediately instead of waiting for filtered data to be released by U.S. authorities." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said that the agreement "acknowledges Mexico's capability and hunger, really, for this real-time data to address the challenges and the opportunities that they have on the ground. If you look at Hurricane Patricia ... that's the kind of information that Mexico could have been using in real time to help it prepare." She added, "And it lessens its dependence on the United States for interpretation of that data and enables it to directly integrate it with the data that it has, which can provide it more useful information than perhaps what they could do without that direct download."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salina \(KS\) Journal](#) (11/15, 88K), [US News & World Report](#) (11/13, 996K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/13, Peter Orsi |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/15, 339K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/13, Orsi), the [Daily Mail](#) (11/15, 5.31M), the [Oklahoman](#) (11/15, 470K), [Sudan Vision](#) (11/15), and [Yahoo! News](#) (11/13, Orsi, 6.43M).

Additional Coverage Of Secretary Jewell's Visit To Mexico. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's Mexico trip was provided by the [Dubuque \(IA\) Telegraph Herald](#) (11/15, 88K), [ABC News](#) (11/15, 3.35M), the [Lewiston \(ID\) Tribune](#) (11/15, 57K), [Yahoo! News](#) (11/13, Stevenson, 6.43M), the [Japan Times](#) (11/13, 5K), [Sudan Vision](#) (11/15), [Milenio \(MEX\)](#) (11/15, 42K), the [Mexico News Daily \(MEX\)](#) (11/15), [ANSA \(ITA\)](#) (11/15), [USA Hispanic](#) (11/13), [Milenio \(MEX\)](#) (11/15, 42K), [ABC News](#) (11/15, 3.35M), and

[Univision](#) (11/15, 798K).

REP. BISHOP SAYS ATTACK AD MEANS HE'S ON RIGHT TRACK WITH LWCF BILL. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (11/15, 476K) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop “reacted” last Thursday to a television ad targeting his proposal to overhaul the Land and Water Conservation Fund. He said, “I think I’ve hit a nerve or at least pocketbook issue somewhere. Anytime somebody becomes vitriolic or vicious on attack ads or personal, I think it means I’m on the right path.” The spot, which aired during the Republican presidential debate Tuesday, says “the fund has helped protect parks, playgrounds and trails across the country without costing taxpayers a dime and has support from Republicans and Democrats in Congress.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [National Review](#) (11/15, 533K) and the [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (11/15, 57K).

In an op-ed for the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (11/15, 356K), Cassandra Carmichael, Executive Director of The National Religious Partnership for the Environment, urges Senate leadership to work together on “reaching an agreement to save the LWCF and to ensure that efforts to weaken LWCF’s impact by Bishop do not move forward.”

Additional commentary appeared in the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (11/15, 67K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (11/15, 1.17M) and the [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (11/13, 139K).

BATTLE OVER SAGE GROUSE IN NEVADA HEADS TO FEDERAL COURT. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/15, 403K) reports that “the showdown over sage grouse in Nevada heads to a federal courtroom, where lawyers for the attorney general’s office and rural interests will ask a judge to block federal land-use restrictions intended to protect the bird and its habitat.” However, Justice Department lawyers argue that “granting an injunction could prompt the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reconsider its decision not to list the chicken-sized bird under the Endangered Species Act. States have been working for years to prevent a listing.” U.S. District Judge Miranda Du will “consider a motion for an injunction at a 9 a.m. hearing Tuesday in Reno.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Provo \(UT\) Daily Herald](#) (11/15, 155K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/15, 2.15M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (11/15, Press, 825K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/15, Scott Sonner |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/14, 31K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (11/14, 179K), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Tribune-Review](#) (11/15, 318K), [Fox News](#) (11/15, 9.42M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (11/15, Sonner, 6.43M).

BLM Proposes Strengthening Protections For Sage Grouse In Nevada. The [Greenwire](#) (11/13, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM is “proposing to significantly strengthen protections for a subpopulation of greater sage grouse in Nevada in part due to protests from conservation groups.” The BLM published a formal notice in last week’s “Federal Register outlining potential changes to proposed amendments to the agency’s Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management.”

COLORADO DISPUTES EPA CLAIM OF STATE AUTHORIZATION FOR GOLD KING CLEAN-UP. [The Hill](#) (11/13, Cama, 654K) reported that officials from Colorado have challenged the EPA’s “account of the state’s role in the August mine waste spill that the EPA caused.” The EPA has claimed that waste clean up at the Gold King Mine was approved by the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety, which Mike King, Colorado’s natural resource director, denied. King said “no one at DRMS directed any work at Gold King, nor did any DRMS personnel approve or disapprove any of the work EPA was conducting there.”

[Politico Pro](#) (11/13) notes that the Durango Herald reports that the “letter is a blow to the EPA’s contention that outside technical experts supported its plan to push a drainage pipe through debris covering the entrance to the Gold King Mine in Silverton on Aug. 5.”

Also providing coverage are [The Hill](#) (11/13, Cama, 654K), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (11/13, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/12, 31K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/15, 2.15M), [US News & World Report](#) (11/13, 996K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (11/13, Elliott, 1.15M), the [Daily Mail](#) (11/15, 5.31M), the [Arizona Republic](#) (11/12, 960K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/15, 263K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (11/15, 3.6M), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/14, 31K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (11/15, 66K), [KJZZ-FM Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (11/15, 8K), and [KRQE-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (11/13, 34K).

Link Between Navajo Suicides, Mine Spill Unclear. The [AP](#) (11/15, 2.15M) reports that Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and his vice president have been highlighting “recent tragedies” they tie to the Gold King mine spill that have “shaken some reservation towns to their cores.” They said “eight people killed themselves in communities impacted by the unleashing of toxic waste from a Colorado gold mine into the San Juan River on the Navajo Nation, burdened by the stress of seeing a sacred waterway polluted.” But “some residents in the affected communities were skeptical, wondering whether there’s a direct correlation between the mine spill and suicides” and “some saw the suggested link as an effort for tribal leaders to score political points on a national stage.” The article notes that “the communities also suffer deep hardships like rampant unemployment, poverty, alcoholism and domestic violence that are major contributors to high suicide rates — an issue on American Indian reservations nationwide.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/15, Felicia Fonseca |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Arizona Republic](#) (11/15, 960K), and the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (11/15, Fonseca, 825K).

Additional Coverage Of Spill. Additional coverage of the spill was provided by the [Ely \(NV\) Daily Times](#) (11/13, 776) and the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/15, 47K).

SECRETARY JEWELL INTERVIEWED AT 7TH ANNUAL WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL NATIONS CONFERENCE. At the 7th Annual White House Tribal Nations Conference, the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/12, 47K) asked Interior Secretary Sally Jewell about good and bad news in Indian Country. According to Jewell, “the bad news in Indian Country is that we have hundreds of years to make up for [with issues such as] oppression and people in tribal communities not being respected. I think that that has manifested itself in multiple generations of young people that have grown up ... with a sense of ‘we don’t matter,’” she said. But “the good news,” says Jewell, “is that I think we have turned the corner on that in a very significant way.”

SECRETARY JEWELL SPEAKS TO STUDENTS AT SACNAS EVENT. The [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (11/15, 29K) reports that students “took part in the largest multicultural and multidisciplinary science, technology, engineering and math conference in the country recently in Washington, D.C.” The event was sponsored by the Society for Advancement of Chicano/Hispanic and Native Americans in Sciences. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was among the speakers at the event.

K-MAX DEMONSTRATION TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK. [Fortune](#) (11/13, 4.24M) reports that Lockheed is “placing a particular emphasis on what K-MAX has to offer civil authorities battling wildfires from the air.” The article notes that last month, the company hosted a demo for the Interior Department outside of Boise, Idaho, “in which an unmanned K-MAX repeatedly filled a bucket slung from its belly with water from a pond and dropped it at precise points around a simulated wildfire.” Next week, “another demo in upstate New York will demonstrate K-MAX’s ability to autonomously work alongside a smaller spotting drone to seek out and suppress hot spots in another simulated wildfire environment.”

UTAH GOVERNOR MULLS SUPPORT OF NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Greenwire](#) (11/13, Subscription Publication) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert “hinted” last week “he could support a new national monument if it meant a compromise on the protracted debate over public lands management in his state.” At a monthly local news conference, Herbert said he was not specifically referring to the proposed Bears Ears National Monument. However, Herbert said a national monument and Utah Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz’s Public Lands Initiative, “a push for a partial state takeover of many federal lands, are not ‘mutually exclusive.’”

FEDERAL WORKERS RECEIVE GUIDELINES ON POLITICAL VIEWS AND SOCIAL MEDIA. [The Hill](#) (11/13, McCabe, 654K) reported that the Office of Special Counsel on Thursday issued guidelines on how Federal workers can use social media to express their political views without violating the Hatch Act. [Roll Call](#) (11/13, Cahn, 139K) reported that the Office of Special Council said it was issuing the guidelines because “social media and email — and the ease of accessing those accounts at work, either on computers or smartphones — have made it easier for federal employees to violate the Hatch Act.”

JOURNALISTS TO MEET WITH WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY ON TRANSPARENCY. The [Greenwire](#) (11/13, Subscription Publication) reports that “journalists have scored a meeting with the White House press secretary to discuss their complaints about access and transparency in the Obama administration.” According to the article, “representatives for the Society of Professional Journalists and the Society of Environmental Journalists will meet with White House spokesman Josh Earnest on Dec. 15.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. Additional coverage of the establishment of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/16, 3.6M), the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Monitor](#) (11/15), the [Herald Voice Daily News](#) (11/15), and the [Lewiston \(ID\) Tribune](#) (11/15, 57K).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S MITIGATION POLICY SUPPORTED. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (11/13, Morgan, 251K), Ann Morgan, a public lands advocate, writes that "last week President Obama ordered five federal agencies to ensure that development on national public lands results in a net benefit, or at a minimum no net loss, of land, water, wildlife and other ecological resources." She notes that "while it is far too early to understand the full impact of this new administrative policy, predictions of economic doom, as well as boom, were quick to materialize." Morgan ages that "it may be confusing, but it is an important step forward."

CONGRESS URGED TO ACT ON WILDFIRE FUNDING. In an editorial, the [Walla Walla \(WA\) Union-Bulletin](#) (11/15, 38K) notes that "earlier this year, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell said wildfires — suppression and prevention — should be funded just as the federal government funds relief efforts involving other natural disasters such as tornadoes in the Midwest and hurricanes in the South." The paper supports "a new framework to allow agencies such as FEMA to respond in the same way it does with hurricanes and tornadoes." It argues that "if this came to fruition it could provide more certainty in funding wildfire suppression so the state would save cash that could be used to fund fire prevention and forest rehabilitation efforts."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIE UNDERGOING REFORM. [Education Dive](#) (11/16) reports on the effort to "reform the BIE." In June 2014, the Obama Administration "announced a structural overhaul of the BIE, based on recommendations from the American Indian Education Study Group report 'Blueprint for Reform.'" Recently, "on November 5, 2015, a new pair of federal grants totaling approximately \$2.5 million dollars was announced, to help eight specific tribes."

MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBE CONVEYS LAND TO INTERIOR. The [Taunton \(MA\) Daily Gazette](#) (11/13, 39K) reports that "less than two weeks after finalizing a purchase deal with property owners worth \$34.5 million," the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe has "conveyed the 151 acres of East Taunton real estate to the federal government." According to the article, "by doing so, the Department of the Interior is able to officially place the land into trust as a tribal reservation for the Mashpee Wampanoag, which also has more than 170 acres of land in Mashpee designated as its homeland."

MAINE NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES SAY RELATIONS WITH STATE GOVERNMENT ARE ABYSMAL. The [AP](#) (11/15) reports Maine Native American tribes say their trust in the state government "is at a new low. What has long been an uneasy peace...has degraded with clashes on issues such as fishing rights and new casinos." Earlier this year, Gov. Paul LePage rescinded an order "directing state agencies and departments to create policies recognizing the sovereignty" of four tribes, and two of the tribes responded by giving up their seats in the state legislature. A third, the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, "issued a document saying they would no longer recognize the authority of state officials to interfere with their 'self-governing rights.'"

TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION URGES CONGRESS TO REJECT "KEEP THE PROMISE ACT OF 2015." For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (11/15, Manuel, 654K), chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona, writes that "if passed, H.R. 308 will not only renege on the United States' promises to the Tohono O'odham Nation, it will hand pink slips to the 1,800 men and women working on site and, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, will cost the American taxpayers as much as \$1 billion in liability." The Tohono O'odham Nation "urges Congress keep its word to the Nation and reject this deeply dishonorable legislation."

CONGRESS URGED TO SUPPORT THE TRIBAL LABOR SOVEREIGNTY ACT. In an op-ed for the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (11/15, Allen, Melendez, 654K), W. Ron Allen, chairman/CEO of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in Sequim, Washington, and Arlan Melendez, chairman of the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony of Nevada, urges Congress to support the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act. The legislation "would provide much-needed guidance to the National Labor Relations Board in the wake of its decisions that treat Indian tribal governments like second-class citizens and ignore our governmental status when it comes to the National Labor Relations Act."

PAPER SUPPORTS FRUITPORT TOWNSHIP CASINO. In an editorial, the [MLive \(MI\)](#) (11/15, 698K) supports moving forward with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians plans for a casino in Fruitport Township. According to the paper, “public opinion now appears heavily in favor of getting the casino built and operating.” However, it observes that “moving the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs is a slow process to say the least.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

MARSHALLS RECEIVES \$8.9M IN COMPACT FUNDING PAYMENTS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (11/15) reports that “the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs recently released to the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands’ Ministry of Finance, U.S. Compact grant payments for October totaling \$8,986,600.”

INTERIOR HOLDS UP BIKINI LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET. [Marianas Variety](#) (11/16) reports that for the first time in several decades, the Interior Department did not approve prior to October 1 the Bikini Local Government’s “annual budget, which generally amounts to somewhere between \$6 and \$7 million depending on the results of its trust fund investments from year to year.” However, the report notes that “there were indications that budget approval is now on course for being resolved, possibly this week.” [Marianas Variety](#) says that the new factor in the equation is Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Esther Kia’aina, “who stepped into the process usually handled at Interior staff level, holding up budget approval and sending critical letters to both Bikini Mayor Wilson Note and President Christopher Loeak and Foreign Minister Tony deBrum raising concerns about Bikini budget issues last month.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

BOR RELEASES STUDY ON COST OF GILA RIVER DIVERSION PROJECT. [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (11/15, 1K) reports that the BOR “released its final Value Planning Study that provides preliminary cost estimates of alternatives for a Gila River diversion project.” According to the article, “the final report confirmed estimates that the Gila River diversion project is likely to cost \$1B or more when including costs for operations and maintenance over the life of the project.”

[KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (11/15, 1K) reports that “Albuquerque’s Inaugural Poet Laureate (2012-2014), Hakim Bellamy, released his latest song, Everywhere is a Gila, to draw attention the looming deadline for Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to sign an agreement with New Mexico that would allow a billion-dollar diversion of the Gila River to go forward.” The piece, “accompanied by aerial and ground shots of America’s first wilderness area and the adjacent area slated for diversion, encourages listeners to take action by writing to Jewell in opposition to the project.”

Additoinal coverage of the River diversion project was provided by the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (11/15, 47K).

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT URGES STATES TO COOPERATE ON COLORADO RIVER WATER. The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (11/14, 534K) reports that California, Arizona and Nevada are “slowly moving to a new model of cooperation” on Colorado River water. The article notes that “the federal government is encouraging them to think about renegotiating the historic agreements and legal decisions known as the Law of the River.”

BOR DETAILS PLANS FOR HYRUM DAM SPILLWAY REPLACEMENT. The [Logan \(UT\) Herald Journal](#) (11/15, 47K) reports that “preliminary plans for the replacement of Hyrum Dam’s spillway show it will cost between \$20 million and \$25 million, and the project is expected to be complete by 2020, a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation representative told an audience in a meeting Thursday night in Wellsville.” Mike Talbot, resident engineer with the BOR, “detailed preliminary plans for the spillway’s replacement and shedding additional light on concerns about the spillway’s shape.” He said, “Risk mitigation means a lot to the bureau. We’re responsible for the safety of the project, especially if it fails and wipes out people’s property, or even kills people. If we do nothing, that is a possibility.”

PROJECT INTRODUCES ZERO-EMISSION CARS TO GRAND COULEE DAM. [KREM-TV](#) Spokane, WA (11/13, 43K) reports that “a pilot project will introduce more than two dozen zero-emission, low-maintenance utility vehicles to the Grand Coulee Dam.” Matt Tillman, Grand Coulee’s Administrative Officer, said, “In the last couple of years, Grand Coulee has added about 130 employees. We’re trying to introduce these electric vehicles as a way to offset our current gas fleet vehicles. Grand Coulee spends over \$100,000 on fossil fuel

each year. We're expecting to be able to cut that consumption by 10 to 15 percent."

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR EXTENDS WATER CONSERVATION ORDER. The [AP](#) (11/15, Press) reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown on Friday extended his water conservation order, allowing the measures "to continue through October if California still faces a drought in January." The AP reports that the "order also extends the suspension of some environmental rules, expedites permits to rebuild power plants that were damaged by wildfires and allows some Californians to capture more water."

FISH LADDERS URGED TO BRING SALMON OVER THE FOLSOM DAM. In an op-ed for the [Auburn \(CA\) Journal](#) (11/15, 32K), Jack Sanchez, president of the Auburn-based Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead, writes that "Californians must get salmon and steelhead over rim dams in order to prevent extinction." He argues that "fish ladders or some counterparts like fish elevators or fish pipelines over Folsom Dam and the North Fork Dam on the North Fork of American River would help reopen the dams now blocking natural passage for the fish."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE PLANS TO BUILD SOLAR PROJECT. The [AP](#) (11/16, 825K) reports that the Southern Ute Indian tribe plans to build a solar plant that will power about 10 tribal buildings in the capital of their Colorado reservation, "just in time to meet an end-of-the-year deadline to use a \$1.5 million Department of Energy grant" covering half of the project's cost.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan was provided by the [Imperial \(CA\) Valley Press](#) (11/15, 46K) and the [Daily Caller](#) (11/13, Follett, 366K).

Onshore Energy Development:

STATE, FEDERAL OFFICIALS FIGHTING OVER UTAH MINE PROPOSAL, SAGE GROUSE. The [Washington Post](#) (11/15, Fears, 7.78M) reports that Utah and Federal "officials are in a tense standoff over a coal-mining operation's proposed expansion near the habitat of the sage grouse in the area." The Post explains that the Bureau of Land Management claims that a move by Alton Coal to expand mining operations "onto 3,600 acres controlled by the Interior Department could decimate the tiny population of sage grouse there." However, state officials claim the development would create jobs with displaced sage grouse easily moving nearby. The Post says that a decision by the BLM is expected by the end of the month. "It's definitely the first big test post-listing decision," said Allison Jones, a wildlife biologist and director of the nonprofit Wild Utah Project, which opposes the expansion. "A lot of promises were made to keep the sage grouse from being listed. Let's see if those promises are kept."

TRAPPER MINE TOUTS RECLAMATION EFFORT. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/15, 73K) reports that mine reclamation efforts can create "an inviting place for many animals, from iconic species such as pronghorn and elk to less familiar ones such as the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and the grasshopper sparrow," according to people at the Trapper Mine and experts at Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Trapper's efforts "led to be it being recognized in 2002 by the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement as one of the top three examples nationally for mined-land reclamation in the modern history of coal mining." Forrest Luke, the mine's environmental manager, said, "Here at Trapper we mine on steep slopes, so a lot of work goes into re-establishing drainages that are hydrologically stable."

CLINTON LIKELY WILL NOT ENDORSE SANDERS' FOSSIL FUEL BILL. [The Hill](#) (11/13, Henry, 654K) reported Hillary Clinton's top advisers on Friday indicated that she likely will not endorse the newest campaign to block fossil fuel production on federal land introduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders and other senators last week. The Hill states that Clinton won't "rule out letting companies extract fossil fuel from public land," but that there should be increasing royalties and revenue paid out to the government.

BLM LEASES 90,000 ACRES OF PUBLIC LAND IN COLORADO FOR OIL, GAS WELLS. The [Examiner](#) (11/15, 616K) reports that "despite protests from environmental groups, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Denver leased 90,000 acres of public land for oil and gas development (fracking) in Colorado on

Thursday.” According to the article, “dozens of protesters with giant puppets, polar bears, oil derricks, signs and banners staged a climate rally Thursday outside of the BLM’s oil and gas lease sale in Lakewood, Colorado, urging President Obama to ‘keep it in the ground.’” It was “part of a national movement calling on the president to define his climate legacy by stopping new federal fossil fuel leases on public lands and oceans.”

CLINTON PROPOSES PLAN TO REVITALIZE COAL COMMUNITIES. The [Greenwire](#) (11/13, Subscription Publication) reports that “Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton’s new plan for revitalizing coal communities is the latest in a string of proposals aimed at hard-hit Appalachia.” However, “it’s unclear whether the plan will be enough to undo years of growing skepticism about national Democrats in states like Kentucky and West Virginia, which have felt the brunt of the changing energy markets and increased regulation.”

WSJournal Criticizes Clinton’s Climate Policy To Eliminate Coal Jobs, Subsidize Miners. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/14, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) criticizes Hillary Clinton’s new \$30 billion proposal designed to offset environmental policies that would hurt the coal industry by allocating tax revenues to help coal miners who will lose their jobs.

Additional coverage of the plan was provided by [TIME](#) (11/12, 19.1M) and the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (11/13, 496K).

EXPERTS ARGUE FOR, AGAINST OIL COMPANY LIABILITY IN EARTHQUAKE LAWSUITS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/16, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports on lawsuits pending in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas against oil and gas companies over damages caused by earthquakes linked to injection wells. The article includes contrasting arguments regarding liability from law professor Blake Watson from the University of Dayton and Katrina Rorke, director of energy policy and a senior fellow at the R Street Institute in Washington. Watson argues that assigning liability to the oil and gas companies follows a logical progression while Rorke argues that holding the energy companies liable is an unreliable way to manage the risk of damage from fracking-inducing earthquakes.

USGS RECORDS 4.3 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE IN OKLAHOMA SUNDAY. The [AP](#) (11/15) reported that the US Geological Survey “recorded a 4.3 magnitude earthquake near Fairview in northwestern Oklahoma” at 3:45 a.m. on Sunday. No injuries or damages were reported. The AP added, “A recent paper by the Geological Survey singled out Oklahoma, concluding that quakes are induced by injecting deep into the earth massive amounts of wastewater that are the byproduct of oil and gas production.”

ACTIVISTS: OIL, GAS “BELONG TO ALL CITIZENS EQUALLY.” [The Hill](#) (11/13, Molvar, Contributor, 654K) “Pundits Blog” reported that Sen Bernie Sanders, along with four other senators, have sponsored the Keep it in the Ground act, “which would end all new leasing of coal, oil and gas on public lands and waters.” The article indicates that this move, along with a recent protest on BLM land against the “most recent oil and gas lease auction,” signals the growing progress being made toward “address[ing] climate change and amplifying the national debate over whether the federal government should be in the fossil fuels business at all.” The Hill states that both events also point toward how activists view “deposits of oil, gas and coal belong to all citizens equally, not to the fossil-fuel industry.”

In her column for the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (11/15, 81K), Edith Cook supports “high-level action on climate and on protecting the land.” The piece also appears in the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (11/15, 44K).

WEST VIRGINIA ATTORNEY GENERAL DECRIES “ATTACKS ON COAL.” In an op-ed for the [Williamson \(WV\) Daily News](#) (11/15, 1K), West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey decries the Obama Administration’s “attacks on coal.” As one example, he points to “President Obama’s Office of Surface Mining recently proposed to adopt a disastrous rule relating to streams near mines.” He claims that “this rule is specifically designed to make coal-mining activity impossible, costing many thousands of coal-mining jobs.”

MISSOULIAN: BLM SHOULD CANCEL LEASES IN BADGER-TWO MEDICINE. In an editorial, the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (11/15, 118K) says that the Badger-Two Medicine, 130,000 acres of roadless wildlands, is a sacred place to the Blackfeet people but “for the past 30 years, the U.S. government has allowed oil development interests to hold drilling leases in this sacred place; leases that never should have been issued in the first place.” The paper says that the leases were issued without the tribe’s input and without consideration for any environmental or cultural impacts, “eventually leading the Forest Service to prohibit any additional leases and the federal government to suspend the existing ones.” The Missoulian criticizes the Federal

government for allowing the leases to remain suspended and says that one lease, held by Sidney Longwell, “may determine whether leases covering more than 40,000 acres in the Badger-Two Medicine can be developed.” The paper concludes that the Bureau of Land Management should cancel the leases.

Offshore Energy Development:

OFFSHORE INDUSTRY BLASTS PROPOSED WELL CONTROL RULE. [Platts](#) (11/15, Magill, 1K) reports that Dan Naatz, senior vice president of government affairs with the Independent Petroleum Association of America, said that a rule, which the US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is proposing to improve well control in offshore operations, “not only would make it harder to operate” in the offshore environment, but also would “put standards in place that don’t enhance safety.” He cited an analysis by the American Petroleum Institute that found the rule would result in 26% fewer wells drilled per year in the Gulf of Mexico, a 10% reduction in capital investment, and a loss of 50,000 jobs by 2027. BSEE spokesman Gregory Julian responded, “We believe that this rule will drive down risks associated with drilling operations to help ensure the safety of personnel and the protection of the environment.”

LOUISIANA CONGRESSMEN OPPOSE WELL CONTROL PROPOSAL. The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (11/13, Batte, 53K) reports that “Louisiana’s House delegation is making another push to halt the Obama Administration’s effort to revamp offshore equipment standards and well designs aimed at avoiding another BP Spill.” The Courier says that in a letter to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, written by Rep. Charles Boustany (R-LA) and co-signed by the rest of the state’s House delegation, congressmen argue that the “one-size-fits-all approach” would increase the risk of another incident. “It will also stifle innovation and delay implementation of new technologies which would improve safety and operations,” Boustany wrote. “We know this is not BSEE’s intent, and we urge re-evaluation of the proposed rule.”

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, SOUTH CAROLINA COASTAL REPUBLICANS OPPOSE ATLANTIC DRILLING. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (11/15, 291K) reports that “proposals to allow testing for oil and gas off the Eastern Seaboard and possibly open the Atlantic to offshore drilling have made for unlikely allies among environmentalists and conservative Republicans.” Reps. Mark Sanford and Tom Rice, “Republicans who represent the South Carolina coast from North Carolina to the Georgia state line, have come out publicly against exploration off the state’s shores.” According to the article, “their opposition reflects the sentiment in their coastal communities, nearly all of which are against the proposal, but it puts them at odds with others in their party and the GOP’s ‘all of the above’ energy policy that supports new pipelines and offshore testing and drilling.”

BP SETTLEMENT FUNDS NOT ALLOCATED AMID LOCAL ELECTIONS. The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (11/16, McManus, 844K) reports that \$6.4 million of BP settlement money in Clearwater’s coffers “is off-limits until after the March election over fear that officials’ ideas for the money could be misinterpreted as campaign promises” for local officials.

JUDGE DENIES NEW ORLEANS TRUST ACCESS TO SECRET BP DOCUMENTS. The [AP](#) (11/16, 2.15M) reports that attorneys for the Wisner Donation Trust seeking “copies of three projects labeled ‘BP Secret’ and up to 15 scientific reports prepared for BP’s lawyers” have been denied by a Federal magistrate. “Magistrate Judge Joseph Wilkinson ruled Friday that the ‘BP Secret’ documents are irrelevant to Wisner’s lawsuit.”

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (11/16, 661K) adds background on the three BP projects.

HOPKINS: DRILLING OFF GEORGIA SHORE WOULD BENEFIT US. Hunter Hopkins, the executive director of the Georgia Petroleum Council, writes at the [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (11/15, 150K) that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has recently decided to allow energy firms to survey off Georgia’s coastline, where at least 4.7 billion barrels of oil and 37.5 trillion cubic feet of gas lie. He said that this “could drive investment and job growth throughout Georgia — and bring the United States even closer to true energy security.” He says that “a recent poll shows that 77 percent of Georgians are in favor of opening up coastal territories for drilling” and that the state’s political leaders are in favor as well.

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM'S PLANS SPARK MORE DEBATE ON UTAH'S PUBLIC LANDS. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (11/13, 48K) reports that "Monday is the deadline for public comment on the Bureau of Land Management's proposed resource management plans for a pair of national conservation areas in Washington County." The plans have "sparked intense debate over a slew of issues, from grazing permits to access to water, from open access for off-road vehicles to whether the endangered California Condor should be reintroduced to the area." The article notes that "they could also help determine the future of plans to build a 'Northern Corridor' highway across sensitive tortoise habitat in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve."

REP. THORNBERRY HEARS CONCERNS ABOUT RED RIVER DISPUTE. [KAUZ-TV](#) Wichita Falls, TX (11/15, 447) reports that Rep. Mac Thornberry visited Wichita Falls last week and "spoke about his Red River Private Property Protection Act, along with the Bureau of Land Management Lawsuit." The article notes that "Wichita County's decision to join Clay County, Wilbarger County and private landowners in the lawsuit over tens of thousands of acres along The Red River was announced Thursday."

SOLUTIONS PROPOSED TO CONTROL WILD HORSE POPULATION. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/15, 403K) editorializes that "wild horses, as beautiful as they are, should qualify as an invasive species." It argues that the current "arrangement is unsustainable." The paper supports "humane euthanasia" as a solution.

In an op-ed for the [Denver Post](#) (11/15, Roy, 825K), Suzanne Roy, director of the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, supports a contraceptive called PZP as "a humane, cost-effective and publicly supported approach to wild horse management."

Additional commentary appears in the [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (11/16, 31K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

DELMARVA FOX SQUIRREL REMOVED FROM ENDANGERED LIST. [The Hill](#) (11/15, Cama, 654K) reports that the Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel "no longer needs federal protection, officials ruled Friday." The squirrel was "removed from the list after it was determined to not be at risk of extinction." Obama Administration officials are "touting the removal as an example of the success of the Endangered Species Act." Michael Bean, the Interior Department's principal deputy assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks, said in a statement, "The fox squirrel's return to this area, rich with farmland and forest, marks not only a major win for conservationists and landowners, but also represents the latest in a string of success stories that demonstrate the Endangered Species Act's effectiveness."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Greenwire](#) (11/13, Subscription Publication), the [Easton \(MD\) Star Democrat](#) (11/16, 49K), the [Lewes \(DE\) Cape Gazette](#) (11/15, 42K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/15, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/13, Press, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/13, 283K), the [Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#) (11/13, 387K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (11/15, 338K), the [Courthouse News](#) (11/13, 7K), [CNS News](#) (11/15, 132K), the [Tech Times](#) (11/15, 211K), [Bloomberg Research](#) (11/15, 3.4M), [WBOC-TV Salisbury \(MD\)](#) Salisbury, MD (11/15, 69K), and [WBOC-TV](#) Salisbury, MD (11/15, 69K).

FWS SUED OVER RED WOLF PROTECTIONS. The [Greenwire](#) (11/13, Subscription Publication) reports that conservation groups filed a complaint last week "in federal court asserting that the Fish and Wildlife Service has failed to protect a population of rare red wolves." The plaintiffs "argue that FWS has not fulfilled its legal responsibility to protect the wolves now living in North Carolina." Specifically, the agency "halted the reintroductions of captive-bred wolves without conducting a five-year review status and allowed a landowner to shoot a 6-year-old female wolf that may have been caring for wolf pups."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/15, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/13, Jonathan Drew |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/13, Drew, 283K), the [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (11/15, 291K), [ABC News](#) (11/15, 3.35M), the [Daily Mail](#) (11/15, 5.31M), the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (11/15, 356K), and [Take Part](#) (11/13, 154K).

SENATE BILL WOULD DROP PROTECTIONS FOR WOLVES IN FOUR STATES. The [AP](#) (11/13, 113K) reports that "two U.S. senators announced a renewed push Thursday to strip federal protection from gray wolves in the western Great Lakes region and Wyoming — and to prohibit courts from intervening in those states on the embattled predator's behalf." Legislation introduced last "week would order the Department of

the Interior to reissue orders from 2011 and 2012 that dropped wolves in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Wyoming from the endangered species list.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Monroe \(MI\) Evening News](#) (11/13, 50K) and [WWJ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (11/14, 34K).

TRIBES OPPOSE LIFTING OF PROTECTIONS FOR GRIZZLY BEARS. The [AP](#) (11/13, Brown, 1.15M) reports that “American Indians across the Western U.S. are challenging moves by federal wildlife officials to lift protections for grizzly bears that roam a vast wilderness centered on Yellowstone National Park, citing worries over potential trophy hunting of a species many tribes consider sacred.” According to the article, “U.S. wildlife officials and their state counterparts in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming contend the region’s 700 to 1,000 bears are biologically recovered.” FWS spokeswoman Serena Baker says “the agency will try to balance the tribes’ concerns against science that shows the grizzly bear population has rebounded in the Yellowstone region since protections were imposed in 1975.”

Also providing coverage are the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/15, 263K), the [Huron \(MI\) Daily Tribune](#) (11/15, 19K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (11/15, Press, 825K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/13, Matthew Brown |, Ap, 7.78M), [KCPQ-TV Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (11/13, 114K), and [KOLD-TV Tucson \(AZ\)](#) Tucson, AZ (11/15, 49K).

STUDY IDENTIFIES GULF COAST ECOSYSTEMS AT RISK FROM CLIMATE CHANGE. The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (11/14, 506) reports that “sea turtles breeding along the Gulf Coast are among the species deemed most vulnerable to climate change and rising sea level, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded in a new vulnerability assessment that looked at four Gulf ecosystems and 11 species dependent on them.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “The Gulf Coast region supports some of the most diverse species and ecosystems in the world. It also faces some of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. The Gulf Coast Vulnerability Assessment will help our agency identify and assess areas that are susceptible to climate change and other stressors while working with our partners to protect and conserve this ecological safe haven for generations to come.”

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$20M FOR FLORIDA GULF COAST RESTORATION PROJECTS. [Florida Water Daily](#) (11/13) reports that “the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is awarding nearly \$20 million from its Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund to six state projects designed to remedy harm and reduce the risk of future harm to natural resources affected by the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “The Gulf Coast supports some of the world’s most diverse wildlife habitats, including coastal wetlands and estuaries that are critical for millions of migratory birds, as well as some of the world’s largest fisheries. Helping these vital areas recover from the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill is a monumental task – one made easier by these and other strategic, partnership-driven restoration projects supported by the GEBF. Working together, we’re making a difference for the Gulf and its wildlife, as well as millions of people who share the landscape and make their living from it.”

FOWLER BEACH SITE OF RESTORATION PROJECT AT PRIME HOOK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. [Delaware State News](#) (11/15, 729) reports that “Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge is the site of a \$38 million restoration project currently being undertaken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” On Friday, “members of the media, wildlife observers and state and federal officials came out to witness the work being done.” According to the article, “officials aim to create new mud flats and pools of water, with the goal of attracting all sorts of wildlife.”

PLAN TO EXPORT CHIMPS PUT TO THE TEST. The [New York Times](#) (11/15, Gorman, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that “when the Fish and Wildlife Service decided in June to classify all chimpanzees, captive or wild, as endangered, the ruling meant that any biomedical experiment or export of chimps from the United States, whoever owned them, would be subject to a strict permit process under the Endangered Species Act.” However, “for many chimps still in research institutions, a future as happy retirees in sanctuaries has yet to materialize.” Also, “how the new rules will play out is an open question.” According to the article, “a partial answer is about to come in the first test of the new endangered listing, a permit application now before the Fish and Wildlife Service.” The article notes that “the application is not to conduct experiments, but to transfer eight chimpanzees from the Yerkes National Primate Research Center at Emory University in Atlanta to the Wingham Wildlife Park in southeast England.”

QUESTIONS RAISED OVER TROPHY HUNTING. [KNTV-TV](#) San Jose, CA (11/15, 142K) reports that “a

former top U.S. official is raising questions over America's ability to vet trophy-hunting programs abroad before determining whether certain trophy shipments should be granted approval to enter the U.S." David Hayes, a former Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, said, "Major wildlife populations, iconic populations – elephants, rhinos – are being decimated by sophisticated international syndicates that are taking the wildlife products – the rhino horn, the ivory and the tiger bone – and are selling them globally." The article notes that "since 2010, the federal government has documented 2,963 violations relating to the import of sport-hunted trophies into the United States, according to records obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

Additional coverage of trophy hunting was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (11/13, Harvey, 7.78M).

NEW MEXICAN GAME COMMISSION WANTS NEW FEDERAL PLAN FOR WOLVES AHEAD OF ANY RELEASES. The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (11/15, 67K) reports that "the New Mexico State Game Commission has said it doesn't want more captive Mexican wolves released until the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has an updated recovery plan for the endangered species." According to the article, "the commission's stance doesn't bode well for an appeal by Ted Turner's staff at the Ladder Ranch to continue importing and housing captive Mexican wolves at a facility there."

\$4 MILLION MADE AVAILABLE TO FARMERS TO BOOST MONARCH HABITAT. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (11/15, 932K) reports that "the Department of Agriculture is devoting \$4 million for technical assistance to farmers in 10 states, including Missouri and Illinois, to help them plant milkweed and other plants critical to the monarch butterfly." According to the article, "the iconic butterfly is under pressure from the loss of milkweed that is essential to its reproduction and survival in its annual migration across the United States, and on monarch wintering grounds in Mexico."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lake Expo Online \(MO\)](#) (11/15) and the [Decatur \(IL\) Herald & Review](#) (11/15, 118K).

Also providing coverage of the butterfly are [My Mother Lode \(CA\)](#) (11/15, 1K) and [Switchboard](#) (11/15, 116K).

GROUPS SEEK DELAY ON ELEPHANT IMPORT DECISION. The [Wichita \(KS\) Eagle](#) (11/16, Salazar, 257K) reports that animal welfare groups are asking the Fish and Wildlife Service "to give the public more time to comment on the Sedgwick County Zoo's request to get six new elephants." The Eagle says that this would delay the approval of the importation of 18 elephants from Africa to three American zoos until January, at the earliest. Meanwhile, Sedgwick County Zoo director Mark Reed "says that could put off the planned Memorial Day weekend opening of the Elephants of the Zambezi River Valley exhibit." The Eagle explains that the groups are asking the Department of the Interior to "release all of the documents the zoos submitted to the government when they applied for the permits."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (11/16, 2.15M).

CANADIAN CITIZEN SENTENCED FOR RHINO-SMUGGLING. The [Greenwire](#) (11/13, Subscription Publication) reports that "a Canadian man was sentenced to two years in U.S. federal prison for trafficking more than a dozen cups carved from endangered rhinoceros horns, federal officials announced today." According to the article, "Linxun Liao, 35, admitted to purchasing 16 rhino horn libation cups worth more than \$1 million at American auction houses before arranging to smuggle them into China."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Global News \(CAN\)](#) (11/15, 55K), [ENews Park Forest](#) (11/13, 2K), and [Law Fuel](#) (11/15).

SCHWARZENEGGER STARS IN VIDEO CAMPAIGN FOR ANTI-POACHING CAMPAIGN. The [Tech Times](#) (11/15, 211K) reports that Arnold Schwarzenegger "stars in Wildlife Conservation Society's (WCS) new video as part of a campaign to save African elephants from illegal poaching." According to the article, "the video shows Schwarzenegger blowing up an elephant tusk with explosives in order to get rid of the demand for ivory tusks."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (11/13, Neslen, 3.48M) and the [Drum \(UK\)](#) (11/14, 261).

WYOMING GOVERNOR PUSHES FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REFORM. The [AP](#) (11/15) reports that Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead said at the outset of a workshop on the Endangered Species Act that "imperiled

plants and animals have had an unacceptably low rate of recovery and removal from Endangered Species Act protections.” He said, “We need better than a 1 percent success rate.” The AP notes that Mead has made reforming the act a priority of his term as Chairman of the Western Governors’ Association. Mead also pointed out that Wyoming officials and the US Fish and Wildlife Service “agree that some animals that remain protected under the act, such as grizzly bears and Wyoming’s wolf population, have recovered.” He pointed to the recovery of the black-footed ferret and greater sage grouse as successful examples of cooperation between property owners and government.

CRAIGHEAD URGES LAWMAKERS TO SUPPORT ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. Lance Craighead, executive director of the Craighead Institute in Bozeman, writes at the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (11/15, 200K) that “the Endangered Species Act is the most effective tool I’ve seen for protecting endangered animals and promoting biodiversity.” He says that members of Congress have tried to dilute the act even though the American public overwhelmingly support the act. Craighead argues that Congressional end-runs around the Act are unpopular, misguided, and shortsighted. He concludes Montana’s delegation should “stop attacking the Endangered Species Act and start letting scientists make the decisions about which species need its protection.”

CATTELINO URGES COLORADO SENATORS TO PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. Caitlin Cattelino, of Defenders of Wildlife, writes at the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (11/16, 122K) that 80% of Coloradans support the Endangered Species Act but it is still “facing constant attacks in Congress.” She says that there have been 80 bills and amendments introduced this year that would ship away at the ESA. She concludes by urging Sens. Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner to listen “to the citizens of Colorado and help protect Colorado’s wildlife for future generations.”

National Park Service:

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH JACK JOHNSON. [KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (11/13, 47K) reports that the Interior Department has “announced a partnership with Jack Johnson that will give fourth-grade students in Hawaii a chance to visit national parks under the Every Kid in a Park program.” According to the article, “Johnson and his wife Kim have made a commitment via their Kokua Hawaii Foundation to fund \$100,000 worth of field trip grants, with the goal of reaching all 17,000 fourth-grade students in the state.” Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor said, “Thanks to Jack Johnson’s generous support and commitment to conservation, Hawaii’s fourth-graders will be able to visit the federal lands in their backyards.”

Also providing coverage are the [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (11/16, 349K), [Design & Trend](#) (11/14, 68K), [KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (11/12, 47K), and [KITV-TV](#) Honolulu (11/15, 47K).

National Geographic Launches Free “Find Your Park, Love Your Park” Initiative. [JustMeans](#) (11/13, 1K) reports that “to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service in 2016, the National Geographic Society, with support from Subaru of America, Inc., has launched the ‘Find Your Park, Love Your Park’ educational initiative ([www. NatGeoEd.org/LoveYourPark](http://www.NatGeoEd.org/LoveYourPark)), developed to teach fourth graders across the United States about the importance of U.S. national parks and to empower students to preserve and protect them.” According to the article, “National Geographic has developed five free downloadable activity modules for educators, including an interactive map of all U.S. national parks, which invite kids to visit, explore and protect national parks.”

NPS PROPOSES NEW MUSEUM AT STATUE OF LIBERTY. The [AP](#) (11/15, 2.15M) reports that the NPS has “proposed building a larger museum on Liberty Island that would be available to all of the approximately 4 million annual visitors to the site, not just the 20 percent or so who have statue tickets.” The agency “earlier this month announced the opening of public comment on the idea, among the initial steps to making it a reality.” According to the article, “the next step would be working with a private foundation to raise money for the planned 20,000-square-foot museum, since no federal dollars would be used for the project.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (11/15, 1.17M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/15, Deepti Hajela |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (11/14, 496K), the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (11/15, 294K), the [Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) (11/15, 54K), the [Vancouver \(CAN\) Sun](#) (11/15, 539K), and [New Europe](#) (11/15, 67K).

HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT TO DISPLAY QUILTS TO CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL. The [Beatrice \(NE\) Daily Sun](#) (11/15, 14K) reports that Homestead National Monument of America will be

“displaying 13 art quilts, created to celebrate the centennial of the National Park Service, during December 2015 at the Homestead Education Center.” The exhibition, “National Parks in Quilts,” will open Dec. 1, with a reception on Dec. 6 at 1 p.m.

QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT ISLE ROYALE WOLVES. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (11/14, 921K) reports that “over the past few years, varied proposals have been floated and considered for saving the Isle Royale wolves: from taking no action and letting nature decide, to adding wolves to prevent inbreeding that can produce unhealthy pups, or culling a burgeoning moose herd — growing because of the steep drop in predator wolves — without adding wolves.” According to the article, “wary of setting a precedent and aware of the threat posed by litigious wilderness groups urging a hands-off approach, the National Park Service this summer launched a \$250,000 study to help decide the future of the island’s three remaining wolves.” However, “coming nearly five years after the Park Service was alerted to the dire prospects for the 16 or so wolves left then, and two years after park managers began asking geneticists how to respond, questions are being raised now as to whether the bureaucracy poses as much a threat to the wolves of Isle Royale as climate change does.”

YELLOWSTONE RECEIVES CRITICISM FOR EUTHANIZING GRIZZLY BEAR. The [AP](#) (11/15, 2.15M) reports that “Yellowstone National Park officials have received much criticism — some based on inaccurate information posted on social media — for their decision to euthanize a grizzly bear that killed a Montana man this past summer, a park wildlife manager said.” Kerry Gunther, Yellowstone’s lead bear management biologist, said, “People posted my phone number and my email, as well as other park staff, and we got hundreds and hundreds of emails and phone calls. My voicemail was overloaded, my email was overloaded.” He added, “A lot of it I would classify as hate mail and some of it thinly veiled threats, not only to me but to other park staff. This really kind of took us by surprise. I think it’s a wave of the future: People have learned to use social media as a weapon, and a few people putting out false information can really stir up lots and lots of people who may not know any of the real facts of the situation.”

SHARPSHOOTERS PREPARING FOR REDUCTION OF CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARK DEER. The [AP](#) Washington (11/16, 378K) reports that the NPS says “government sharpshooters are preparing for the seventh season of deer-herd reduction at Catoctin Mountain Park near Thurmont.” The NPS says “Park Central and Manahan roads will be closed intermittently from Monday through Dec. 17 while shooting occurs.”

SMOKY MOUNTAINS PARK HAS SECOND BUSIEST OCTOBER IN ITS HISTORY. The [AP](#) (11/16, 2.15M) reports that “the Great Smoky Mountains National Park had its second busiest October in the park’s history this year.” The NPS says “1,370,640 people visited last month.” The agency says “only October 1987 registered more visitors.”

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 10, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015 7:00 AM EST

Holiday Message. In observance of the federal Veterans Day holiday, we will not publish on Wednesday, November 11, 2015. Service will resume on Thursday, November 12, 2015. We wish our readers a safe holiday.

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DOI in the News:

TWO FEDERAL OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT LEASES AWARDED OFF NEW JERSEY. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/9, Martin, 3.4M) reports that RES Americas Developments and US Wind, a unit of Italy's Toto, "won leases to build wind farms off the coast of New Jersey in a U.S. Interior Department auction Monday." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in the statement that the auction "underscores the emerging market demand for renewable energy and marks another major step in standing up a sustainable offshore wind program for Atlantic coast communities."

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/9, 705) reports that the BOEM's "online auction lasted seven rounds and drew competitive bidding from three companies." RES America Developments Inc. "submitted a winning bid of \$881,000 for the rights to develop 160,000 acres in the southern half of a wind energy area about 8 miles from Atlantic City." US Wind Inc. "submitted a winning bid of \$1 million to develop 183,000 acres in the northern half." Fishermen's Energy, "whose efforts to build a 25-MW pilot offshore wind farm nearer the Garden State shores have been stymied by the state's Board of Public Utilities, was the third bidder."

[The Hill](#) (11/10, Henry, 654K) adds that offshore wind energy development "been a priority for the Obama administration" and that Monday's auction was the Federal government's fifth such auction to date.

The [AP](#) (11/10, Parry, 2.15M) adds that director of Environment New Jersey Doug O'Malley said that the auction "is the best news for off-shore wind in New Jersey" since Gov. Christie signed a bill five years ago advancing off-shore wind in the state.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/10, Parry, 283K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/10, Wayne Parry |, Ap, 7.78M), the [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (11/10, 77K), the [South Jersey \(NJ\) Times](#) (11/10, 55K), [NJ Spotlight](#) (11/10), [North American Windpower](#) (11/10, 43K), [reNews](#) (11/10), [Law360](#) (11/10, 30K), [Yahoo! News](#) (11/10, Parry, Press, 6.43M), [WJZ-TV Baltimore \(MD\)](#) Baltimore (11/9, 68K), [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (11/9, 57K), and [WHYY-FM Philadelphia \(PA\)](#) Philadelphia (11/10, 23K).

SIGNING CEREMONY TO BE HELD FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (11/10, Collins, 229K) reports Interior Secretary Jewell and Energy Secretary Moniz will participate in a signing ceremony today to "formally establish the Manhattan Project National Historic Park." Jewell and Moniz "will sign a Memorandum of Agreement establishing the park, which will have locations in Oak Ridge; Los Alamos, New Mexico; and Hanford, Washington." The [Atomic City Underground](#) (11/9, Munger) reports that "a bunch of happenings" are slated "this week in Oak Ridge to celebrate the park creation, including 'special access' tours at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Y-12 National Security Complex — two of the facilities that contributed to the World War II project that developed the first atomic bombs."

The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (11/9, Connelly, 767K) reports the agreement "provides for the National Park Service to welcome visitors and develop interpretive services." The Department of Energy "at Hanford would soldier on with its perpetually-behind-schedule cleanup of the nation's largest concentration of high-level nuclear waste."

The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (11/10, 100K) gives a "thumbs up to all of the people of the Tri-Cities who made this happen."

The [Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) (11/10, 5K), the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Monitor](#) (11/10, McKenna), the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (11/10), the [Oak Ridge \(TN\) Today](#) (11/9), and [KNDU-TV](#) Yakima, WA (11/10) also provide coverage of the upcoming signing ceremony.

FIRST PART OF DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN TO BE RELEASED TUESDAY.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (11/9, 98K) reports that “state and federal officials plan to release part one of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan on Tuesday, nearly seven years to the day after then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger called for such a plan.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will “speak to reporters on a press call at 10 a.m. Tuesday.” Joining her on the call will be John Laird, California Secretary for Natural Resources, BLM Director Neil Kornze and California Energy Commission Karen Douglas.

REP. MEEHAN OPPOSES OVERHAUL OF LWCF. [Politico Pro](#) (11/9) reports that Rep. Pat Meehan will have “no truck with Rep. Rob Bishop’s bill to revise the Land and Water Conservation Fund.” In a statement, Meehan said, “The draft is a radical departure for the LWCF, America’s most successful conservation program. It diverts money away from conservation, throws up roadblocks to preservation and sets top-down, arbitrary funding formulas.”

FWS Director Ashe Urges Congress To Reauthorize LWCF. In an op-ed for the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (11/10, 291K), FWS Director Dan Ashe urges Congress to “step up and act to ensure that the LWCF is reauthorized and permanently funded at \$900 million per year, consistent with the promises made to the American public 50 years ago.” Ashe highlights that “cooperative conservation tools employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and leveraged with Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars are easing land conflicts in 22 counties” in California. Also, “in Riverside, one of the largest, most complex regional habitat conservation plans in the United States is funded by the LWCF.”

Congress Urged To Reauthorize LWCF. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (11/6, Rogers, 251K), Will Rogers, President of The Trust for Public Land, commends REI “for closing its stores and urging people to get outdoors on the traditional post-Thanksgiving shopping day widely known as Black Friday.” According to Rogers, “of the more than 800,000 people who have clicked to join REI’s ‘#OptOutside’ campaign, it’s a good bet that many of them are planning to spend Black Friday in an outdoor place protected with help from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).” Rogers urges Congress to “show that it understands the contributions of parks and conserved lands to the nation’s health and wellbeing” by reauthorizing the LWCF.

MESA COUNTY RECEIVES PILT PAYMENT. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/10, 73K) reports that “the Interior Department last week sent out \$34.5 million in checks to more than 1,900 local governments, including Mesa County.” Mesa County received its 2015 payment in lieu of taxes of \$3.3 million.

LAWMAKERS ASK AGENCIES IF THEY ARE USING STINGRAYS. The [National Journal](#) (11/10, Subscription Publication, 53K) reports that “a bipartisan group of House lawmakers wants to know just how many federal agencies are using Stingrays.” According to the article, “in a letter sent Monday, House Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz, ranking member Elijah Cummings, and the top two members of the panel’s IT subcommittee—Reps. Will Hurd and Robin Kelly—asked 24 key agencies to share their policies for using the surveillance technology.” The lawmakers “cast a wide net, targeting agencies likely to operate the devices—the Defense Department, for example—as well as agencies like the Agriculture Department, the Interior Department, the Veterans Affairs Department, and the General Services Administration.”

AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL SAYS COOPERATION CAN SAVE BIG-GAME MIGRATION ROUTES. The [AP](#) (11/10, 2.15M) reports that “more cooperation between government and private landowners, such as that which has kept the greater sage grouse off the endangered species list, can help protect big-game migration corridors in Wyoming, a federal official who oversees the U.S. Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service said Monday.” U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Robert Bonnie “made a pitch for federal programs that encourage private landowners to conserve wildlife habitat.” Bonnie “pointed to the Interior Department’s announcement in September that the greater sage grouse didn’t need protection under the Endangered Species Act as a success made possible by cooperation between landowners and government.”

OBAMA URGED TO DESIGNATE THREE NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (11/10, Viek, 654K), Claudia Viek, CEO of CAMEO (California Association for Micro Enterprise Opportunity), makes “the business case that President Obama heed Sen. Feinstein’s (D-Calif.) request that he designate three new national monuments in this region – Castle Mountains, Mojave Trails, and Sand to Snow – and protect one of the richest landscapes in North America.” She claims that “many businesses in this region depend on tourists, outdoor adventure seekers, and travelers for their

livelihood.” Viok argues that “national monument designations will attract new attention and enhance tourism and recreation in the region, thus increasing the dependability of customer flow, a must-have ingredient for these businesses.”

Sen. Feinstein’s Desert Protection Legislation Supported. In an op-ed for the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (11/9, 310K), John Shepard, senior director of programs with the Sonoran Institute; writes in support of Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act (CDCRA) of 2015. He claims that research has “found that the CDCRA will have minimal impact on mining and builds on the natural and cultural attractions that have been significant drivers of the economy.” Shepard argues that “that the legislation’s proposed protective designations represent the highest and best economic use of the region’s public lands.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN ANNOUNCES TWO INITIATIVES TO PROVIDE LEARNING, TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATIVE YOUTH. The [RealEstateRama](#) (11/9, 210) reports that Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn “announced two Indian Affairs initiatives offering learning and training opportunities to Native youth: the Native American Water Corps internships and the Energy Challenge for Native Youth.” Washburn said, “The Water Corps internships and Energy Challenge are two examples of how we are striving to meet President Obama’s commitment to Native youth and to supporting tribal nations. These programs provide secondary and post-secondary Native students with opportunities to stretch themselves academically, contribute to improving their communities, and test themselves and their ideas in real-world situations that will help them grow personally and professionally.”

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN ANNOUNCES UPDATED REGULATIONS TO HELP END HOMELESSNESS IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES. The [RealEstateRama](#) (11/9, 210) reports that “as part of the 7th Annual Tribal Nation’s Conference, the White House announced yesterday an Interagency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for setting a Path to End Homelessness in Native American communities.” According to the article, “in support of that interagency effort, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has finalized updates to regulations on the Housing Improvement Program (HIP), as an important part of the Obama Administration’s Tiwahe initiative, which is designed to promote the stability and security of American Indian families.” Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said, “The Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Housing Improvement Program final rule takes into account the comments we received to make the program more effective in increasing housing in tribal communities, which is an important goal of the Tiwahe Initiative to support families in Indian Country. I’m also pleased that the final rule goes further in supporting the housing needs of our Native veterans, who have long served to protect their tribal homelands and the nation, and supports President Obama’s initiative seeking to end homelessness in Indian Country.”

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENTS THRIVE AT BEMIDJI CHARTER SCHOOL. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (11/10, 1.15M) reports on the success of TrekNorth Junior and Senior High, a charter school in Bemidji. The article notes that American Indian students at the school “— nearly half of the school’s 250 students — outperform their peers statewide.” According to the article, “the school has won attention from the state for its excellence and significant progress toward closing the achievement gap between white and Indian students.”

SOUTH DAKOTA TRIBE BURNED POT CROP OVER FEARS OF FEDERAL RAID. The [AP](#) (11/10, Cano) reports from Flandreau, SD that a South Dakota American Indian tribe “that sought to open the nation’s first marijuana resort burned its crop after federal officials signaled a potential raid, the tribal president said Monday.” Flandreau Santee Sioux President Anthony Reider told the AP that “the tribe had three weeks of discussions with authorities that culminated with a meeting in Washington that included a Justice Department official and U.S. Attorney for South Dakota Randolph Seiler.” Reider “said the tribe wasn’t told a raid was imminent – only that one was possible if the government’s concerns weren’t addressed.” Justice Department spokesman Wyn Hornbuckle “declined to comment on specific discussions that may have taken place with tribes,” but he said federal prosecutors “have been directed to assess the threats and circumstances in their districts and consult closely with tribal partners and the Justice Department.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: EIGHT TRIBES RECEIVING FEDERAL EDUCATION GRANTS. Additional coverage that “eight Indian tribes will collectively receive nearly \$2.5 million in grant awards from the U.S. Departments of Education and Interior, aimed to help prepare Indian students for college” was provided by the [iSchoolGuide](#) (11/6).

Office of Insular Affairs:

HOFSCHEIDER OPPOSES ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTING FOR TINIAN MONARCH. The [Marianas Variety](#) (11/10) reports that Senator Jude U. Hofschneider “opposes a petition to include the Tinian Monarch or the Tinian flycatcher on the list of endangered species, saying the bird is no longer endangered.” In a letter to Robyn Thorson, Pacific regional director of FWS, Hofschneider said “he saw an announcement published in the Federal Register dated Sept. 18 indicating that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was proposing a status review of the bird commonly known in Chamorro as Chuchurikan Tinian and whose scientific name is *Monarcha takatsukasae*.” Hofschneider said “since the issuance of the petition by the Center for Biological Diversity, biologists from CNMI Fish and Wildlife have ‘worked arduously’ to address the issue of the Tinian Monarch.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

STAKEHOLDERS OF ANIMAS-LA PLATA PROJECT REACH SETTLEMENT. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/9, 31K) reports that “stakeholders of the Animas-La Plata Project reached a settlement Monday over disputed water rights in the reservoir southeast of Durango.” Chief District Judge Gregory Lyman will “review the details of the settlement in the coming weeks, and the court will reconvene 1:30 p.m. Dec. 10 to hear his ruling.”

BOR ALLOCATES MORE WATER FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS IN SACRAMENTO VALLEY. [KXJZ-FM](#) Sacramento, CA (11/9, 6K) reports that the BOR is “releasing 50,000 acres of water for rice fields in the Sacramento Valley between now and December 10th.” According to the article, “with the release, migrating birds will have about one-third of the water they normally have for the winter.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

HUGE WIND FARM PROPOSED OFF MARTHA’S VINEYARD. The [Boston Globe](#) (11/9, Fitzgerald, 1M) reports that “a major European energy company is proposing what could be North America’s largest offshore wind farm 15 miles south of Martha’s Vineyard, outlining its plans less than a year after the proposed Cape Wind project in Nantucket Sound suffered a stunning financial setback.” DONG Energy A/S on Monday said “it would build up to 100 giant wind turbines, generating as much as 1,000 megawatts of electricity — more than double the output Cape Wind had proposed for its site off Cape Cod.” But “DONG Energy faces lengthy Massachusetts and US permitting processes that include environmental reviews and approvals for where its power lines would come ashore.” The article notes that “other than getting the transfer of the lease approved by the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, DONG Energy has yet to file any applications for the projects with the federal or state government.”

Onshore Energy Development:

TWENTY-SIX NATIONAL PARKS OUT OF COMPLIANCE WITH EPA OZONE MANDATES, NPS BLAMES COAL PLANTS. [Fox News](#) (11/9, Richards, 9.42M) reports on its website that the EPA’s newest ozone pollution rules have placed 26 national parks out of compliance and the National Park Service “is pointing the finger at power plants.” Scientists and officials from California point to vehicles, tourism, and wildfires, Fox reports.

ARKANSAS ATTORNEY GENERAL VOICES RAISES ABOUT PROPOSED BLM OIL, GAS RULES. The [Legal Newsline](#) (11/10, 108) reports that Arkansas Attorney General Leslie Rutledge “issued a letter to the director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Neil Kornze voicing concerns over proposed rules for onshore oil and gas operations.” Rutledge’s letter claims that “the new BLM rules violate the state’s rights to control their own lands under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920.” The letter also raises concerns that “state entities were not contacted to advise of potential impacts in the state when the policies were being considered.”

GARFIELD COUNTY SUPPORTS PARTIAL LIMIT ON THOMPSON DIVIDE LEASING. The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (11/10, 32K) reports that “Garfield County commissioners took a big step

Monday in the effort to protect at least part of the Thompson Divide area from future federal mineral leasing, endorsing permanent withdrawal of some acreage in conjunction with a proposed lease exchange." Commissioner Tom Jankovsky "put forward a letter, to which his fellow commissioners agreed, expressing continued support for a legislative lease exchange proposed by energy companies SG Interests and Ursa Resources." Also, "the commissioners said they support the withdrawal of about 39,000 acres in the Garfield County portion of the larger Thompson Divide region from consideration for future oil and gas leases."

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE URGED TO RECONSIDER WELL-CONTROL RULES. The [Lafayette \(LA\) Daily Advertiser](#) (11/9, 112K) reports that Rep. Charles Boustany opposes the Interior Department's "pending new guidelines for those who would drill in the Gulf of Mexico." Boustany "lodged his concerns in a Nov. 6 letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, whose department, through the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, is responsible for proposed new mandates for drillers." The article notes that "Boustany's six Louisiana colleagues in the House of Representatives co-signed the letter, which characterized the department's pending regulations, developed in the five years since the Deepwater Horizon disaster, as a 'one-size-fits-all' approach that would undermine safety and production."

STUDY: DISPERSANTS INEFFECTIVE ON BP DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL. The [AP](#) (11/10, Borenstein, 844K) reports that the chemical dispersant Corexit 9500 used on the 2010 BP oil spill "may not have helped crucial petroleum-munching microbes get rid of the slick," a new study published Monday in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* suggests. "The dispersants did a great job in that they got the oil off the surface," University of Georgia marine scientist Samantha Joye said. "What you see is the dispersants didn't ramp up biodegradation." Joye's team chronicled nearly 50,000 species of bacteria in the gulf and their reactions to oil with and without the dispersant, finding that bacteria was more effective without the dispersant. Joye suggests that oil not degraded by bacteria in 2010 may still be coating the floor of the gulf.

MEETING FOR PUBLIC TO PROPOSE USES FOR \$8.8 BILLION FROM BP TO RESTORE GULF OF MEXICO. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (11/10, 2.15M) reports that a meeting will be held in Galveston on Tuesday evening for "Houston-area residents" to have an opportunity "to offer opinions" on the use of \$8.8 billion from BP "to restore the Gulf of Mexico." The existing plan contains "five goals" but no details as to how to achieve those goals.

SEISMIC SURVEYS IN ATLANTIC OPPOSED. In a letter to the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (11/10, 322K), William Achurch writes in opposition to seismic testing in the Atlantic. He notes that "a letter to President Obama signed by 75 doctoral and research scientists says there would be 20 million blasts in all and describes the devastating impacts to marine mammals, sea turtles and fish." Achurch says that "if there is a material supply off our coast, it is not going anywhere, and we can leave it for another day when we might actually need it. This is what a true conservative would do."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

GOV. SANDOVAL SUPPORTS SAGE GROUSE SUIT, BUT NOT TIMING. The [AP](#) (11/10, 283K) reports that "several Nevada counties are acting prematurely in suing to block U.S. regulations intended to protect the greater sage grouse, said Gov. Brian Sandoval, who says he supports the lawsuit but not its timing." Sandoval, "who is at odds with the state attorney general, said he won't rule out joining the claim that will go before a federal judge in Reno on Nov. 17." However, "the best approach for now is to present the state's objections as public comment through administrative channels," said Sandoval.

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (11/10, Subscription Publication, 3.44M), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/10, 339K), the [Montana Kaimin](#) (11/10, 11K), and the [Idaho Statesman](#) (11/10, 218K).

BLM RELEASES ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY ON SOUTHLINE TRANSMISSION PROJECT. The [AP](#) (11/10, 283K) reports that "federal officials say the impacts of a proposed transmission line between New Mexico and Arizona would be minimized under an alternative supported by agencies in both states." The BLM "released its

environmental impact statement for the Southline Transmission Line Project on Monday.” Officials say “the preferred alternative would avoid negative effects on grape growers and national defense operations near Wilcox, Arizona.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/10, 263K) and [KOLD-TV Tucson \(AZ\) Tucson, AZ](#) (11/10, 49K).

BLM FUNDS ARCHAEOLOGIST’S SEARCH FOR ARTIFACTS FROM 1877 ARMY CAMPSITES. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (11/10, 200K) reports that “this summer, archaeologist Dan Eakin’s work investigating the route and campsites of the Nez Perce Indians as they fled the U.S. Army in 1877 across Yellowstone National Park was extended to the sagebrush plains close to the Wyoming-Montana border.” Eakin “coordinated the effort that also included personnel from the Bureau of Land Management Cody Field Office, the Forest Service, a Nez Perce tribal member and volunteers.” The work was funded by the BLM.

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED WATER LOAD OUT FACILITY NEAR MOAB. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (11/10, 476K) reports that the BLM’s Moab field office is seeking public comments “on Grand County’s proposed water load out facility adjacent to state Route 279 (Potash Road) on the north side of the Colorado River.” According to the article, “following the public input period, which ends Dec. 4, the BLM will prepare an environmental assessment to analyze potential impacts associated with the project.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FARM FOUNDATION’S 2015 FORUM ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT BEGINS TUESDAY. [Bloomberg BNA](#) (11/10, 7K) reports that “the Farm Foundation’s 2015 forum on the Endangered Species Act starting at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the National Press Club will focus on key elements to protect the Greater Sage Grouse, and similar collaborative efforts to preserve other species.” The article notes that “Jason Weller, chief of the Agriculture Department’s Natural Resources Conservation Service will speak, along with Michael Bean of the Interior Department.”

WAYNE COUNTY APPROVES DEAL TO CONSTRUCT DOCK, FISHING PIER AT DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE GATEWAY. The [AP](#) (11/10, 283K) reports that “Wayne County officials have approved a deal to construct a dock and fishing pier at a wildlife refuge along the Detroit River.” On Monday, “county commissioners OK’d the use \$500,000 from a parks fund and another \$500,000 in a state Natural Resources grant for the project with the 20 cities and townships in the Downriver Community Conference.” The article notes that “remaining funds for the \$2.8 million project at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Gateway in Trenton and Gibraltar are to come from other sources.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Escanaba \(MI\) Daily Press](#) (11/10, 781).

ENVIRONMENTALISTS SUPPORT SMALLER OF TWO EXPANSION PLANS FOR SILVIO O. CONTE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Daily Hampshire \(MA\) Gazette](#) (11/10, 3K) reports that “local environmentalists who testified during a hearing Monday on management options for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge said they prefer the smaller of two expansion plans.” According to the article, “roughly 60 people attended the hour-long session at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on a draft comprehensive conservation plan and environmental impact statement that would guide management of the 36,000-acre refuge for the next 15 years.” Alternative C, “which seeks to expand the refuge by adding up to 197,296 acres, is the preferred option of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said Andrew French, the refuge manager,” and “it is also the option that was supported by all of the environmental organizations attending the hearing.”

FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD REVIEWS PUBLISHES NEW RULES. The [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (11/5, 18K) reports that “the Federal Subsistence Board, the ruling body of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Office of Subsistence Management, published two new rules on Nov. 2. and Nov. 4, seeking to allow for more flexibility in determining which areas of the state are considered to be rural.” The article notes that “parts of Sterling, Fritz Creek and Anchor Point are now classified as rural and thus have subsistence priority.” Theo Matuskowitz, the supervisor and regulation specialist for the Office of Subsistence Management, said the office is “preparing a final recommendation for a determination process in January.”

SPEAKER RYAN’S SUPPORT OF HUNTING CRITICIZED. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (11/10, Newkirk, 654K), Ingrid Newkirk, president of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, criticizes Speaker

Paul Ryan's support of hunters. Newkirk notes that fewer Americans are hunting, and claim that "the panicky last gasps of the hunting industry can also be seen in the 'right to hunt' amendments that it has been sending to state legislatures in hopes of protecting hunting despite public opinion against it." She hopes that Ryan will "stop doing the hunting industry's bidding and shift his support away from the cruel blood sport."

National Park Service:

CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ NATIONAL MONUMENT HOSTS STUDENTS FOR "EVERY KID IN A PARK" EVENT. The [National Park Foundation](#) (11/10) says it is "excited to support the White House youth initiative Every Kid in a Park." It notes that "on October 8, 2015, César E. Chávez National Monument hosted 130 youth from two schools for an Every Kid in a Park event." Through a grant from the National Park Foundation, "students traveled to the park where they were introduced to stories about civil rights leader César E. Chávez."

TENSIONS FLARE OVER OREGON IRRIGATION CANAL OWNERSHIP. The [AP](#) (11/10, 64K) reports that "a National Park Service decision has reignited century-old tensions over the ownership of irrigation canals that bring water to central Oregon." The agency "recently decided not to recognize the Central Oregon Irrigation District as the owner of Pilot Butte Canal." According to the article, "that decision will prevent the district from formally objecting to a 1 ½ -mile section of the canal being listed on the National Register of Historic Places."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/10, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/10, 283K), and [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (11/10, 32K).

AFTER HISTORIC FLOODING, DEATH VALLEY ASSESSES DAMAGE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/10, 3.6M) reports that the northern section of Death Valley this year was "hammered by back-to-back storms, followed by a powerful weather system that dropped nearly 3 inches of rain in five hours, triggering a 1,000-year flood event that battered historic structures, chewed through roadways and altered the rugged landscape with layers of mud and rocks." The article notes that "hardest hit was one of the park's best-known tourist stops, the area surrounding Scotty's Castle, a rambling medieval-style villa erected in steep and narrow Grapevine Canyon in the 1920s." Now, park Supt. Mike Reynolds said, "we're gearing up for a long, hard recovery."

EVENT OFFERS RETROSPECTIVE OF CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL. The [AP](#) (11/10, 2.15M) reports that a state-sponsored tourism group is presenting "an audiovisual retrospective of 150th anniversary events" of the Civil War "from the last five years." The re-enactments are "part of the annual meeting of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area at Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg." The article notes that "the program includes slides and video compiled by the National Park Service from nearly 30 sesquicentennial events."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/10, Press, 7.78M) and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/10, 283K).

NPS INVOLVED IN OLYMPEX PROJECT. The [AP](#) (11/10, Phuong Le |, Ap, 7.78M) reports that "using everything from a customized DC-8 jetliner to ground radars to four-inch rain gauges, scientists are fanning out across one of the soggiest places in the United States this month to measure raindrops and snowflakes like never before." Led by NASA and the University of Washington, "the field experiment on the Olympic Peninsula attempts to validate, on the ground, how well global satellites measure precipitation from space, which is crucial for areas of the world that lack rain gauges or other equipment." The article notes that a number of partners are involved in the OLYMPEX project, "including the Quinault Indian Nation, Environment Canada, the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service."

TRIBE BUTTS HEADS WITH NPS OVER WILDFIRE POLICIES. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/9, 47K) reports that "nearly two months" after the "Spotted Eagle" fire, Heart Butte "residents are still visibly shaken and traumatized by their close call with the wildfires." The article notes that "there is a history of bad blood between the Blackfeet tribe and the National Park Service about wildfire and forest management policies." According to the article, "the tribe is seeking \$60 million in damages caused by a fire that started in Glacier National Park and burned 19,000 acres on the reservation."

CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK WINS GRANT FOR MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (11/10, 1.07M) reports that Cuyahoga Valley National Park "won \$120,000 to help pay for the second

phase of a three-part mountain bike trail system.” Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director Jim Zehringer “handed out over \$1 million in grants Monday morning: one for the national park, a \$362,000 grant for Akron’s Adams Run Trail, \$255,000 for Springfield Township trails and playgrounds, \$500,000 for a Towpath extension in Independence and \$36,000 for new restrooms at Cuyahoga Falls’ Water Works Park.” According to the article, “the mountain bike trail grant will help complete a 6.2-mile loop on the opposite side of the Ohio Turnpike from the park’s first 2.3-mile East Rim Mountain Bike Trail, which opened last month.”

WORK ON ALUM CAVE TRAIL IN SMOKIES PROGRESSING. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (11/10, Simmons, 229K) reports that last week, the Alum Cave Trail “received some finishing touches, and closer to the trailhead, crews took advantage of the dry weather to fill in mud holes with gravel manufactured on site by breaking large rocks with sledgehammers.” On Nov. 19, “the crew will wind up its first season of intensive trail rehabilitation along the 5.5-mile Alum Cave Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.”

WORLD WAR I NATIONAL MEMORIAL FACES UPHILL BATTLE. In a piece published in [TIME](#) (11/10, 19.1M), Marilyn Shevin-Coetzee and Frans Coetzee examine why World War I is “lacking an official national memorial on Washington D.C.’s National Mall.” According to the article, “prompted by the upcoming centenary of the war’s end to be celebrated in 2018, and by the poignant fact that no American veterans of the conflict could be on hand to mark that event (Frank Buckles, the last survivor, died in 2011 at the age of 110), renewed efforts over the past few years have sought to focus public attention on the importance of properly commemorating America’s involvement in World War I.” However, “it has been an uphill struggle.”

TYLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE JOINS NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. [KSLA-TV](#) Shreveport, LA (11/10, 62K) reports that the Tyler County Courthouse has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

US Geological Survey:

STUDY: WILDFIRES ON ARCTIC TUNDRA INDUCE PERMAFROST MELT, LAND CHANGE. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (11/9, 2K) reports that “wildfire on Arctic tundra can cause permafrost melt from the top down, contributing to landscape slumping, known as thermokarst.” The USGS “study used airborne technology called LIDAR to collect billions of data points on the landscape surface.”

USGS STUDY SHOWS ANAMMOX CAN REMOVE NITROGEN FROM GROUNDWATER. [Water Technology Online](#) (11/10) reports that “scientists demonstrated that nitrogen can be removed from groundwater through the action of naturally occurring bacteria.” The study was “carried out by researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in collaboration with partners from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the University of Connecticut.” Together, researchers “conducted the first-ever field measurements of anammox activity in groundwater.”

Top National News:

OBAMA, NETANYAHU SEEK TO NARROW DIFFERENCES IN FIRST TALKS SINCE IRAN DEAL. Media reports of the President’s meeting Monday with Israel’s Benjamin Netanyahu – their first since a nuclear deal vehemently opposed by the Israeli leader was signed between Iran and world powers – cast the talks as an effort by the two to overcome their differences. The [Washington Post](#) (11/10, Eglash, 7.78M) , for example, says the two leaders “sounded conciliatory notes,” with Netanyahu noting “shared values,” “shared interests,” and “a shared destiny.” Both US and Israeli officials, the [New York Times](#) (11/10, Davis, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports, “were hoping the meeting would...help them move past the fireworks of previous confrontations.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/10, Lee, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports the two appeared to be more cordial than in previous meetings, and the [Daily Intelligencer](#) (11/9, Kirby, 600K) says they “appeared to be ready to make up, or at least start trying to work past their differences.” Dana Milbank, however, writes in his [Washington Post](#) (11/10, Milbank, 7.78M) column that the meeting “was a tense and perfunctory affair,” and they didn’t hold a customary press conference. Instead, the White House “allowed only a small pool of journalists to film the two leaders’ trade statements in the Oval Office.” Obama, who he describes as “grim and barely glancing at Netanyahu, acknowledged the ‘strong disagreement’ on the nuclear deal,” while Netanyahu “didn’t mention” it at all. The [New York Daily News](#) (11/10, Joseph, 3.59M) also notes that they “largely avoided talking about the Iran nuclear deal – Netanyahu, who railed against it for months, didn’t mention it at

all, while Obama made a brief reference to their 'narrow' differences on the issue." Kevin Corke said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/9, 1.53M) that they both "acknowledged the elephant in the room: that the Iran nuclear deal drove a huge wedge between them, but wouldn't keep them from moving forward together." The President, reports [Bloomberg Politics](#) (11/10, Talev, 303K), told Netanyahu that while their differences on the deal are "no secret," they must work together in fighting terrorism and seeking peace with the Palestinians. According to [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/9, story 5, 0:30, Holt, 7.86M) – the only network to report on the talks last night – the violence between Palestinians and Israelis was "a main topic of discussion." [USA Today](#) (11/10, Korte, 5.56M) reports the two leaders "insisted that they haven't given up hope for peace...despite a changing political and diplomatic environment that seems to make such an accomplishment impossible for the remainder of Obama's presidency."

Netanyahu, the [Washington Post](#) (11/10, Eglash, 7.78M) reports, "reiterated his commitment to a two-state solution," and Obama said he would seek from Netanyahu "his thoughts on how we can lower the temperature between Israelis and Palestinians, how we can get back on a path towards peace, and how we can make sure that legitimate Palestinian aspirations are met through a political process, even as we make sure that Israel is able to secure itself." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/10, 3.6M) reports that while the two "said...they hope to lower tensions in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and get both sides back on a path toward peace," that "goal seemed far from reach," and [Reuters](#) (11/10, Edwards, Heavey) reports the White House on Monday reiterated its belief that a peace deal is unlikely during the President's remaining time in office.

According to the [AP](#) (11/10, Pace), Netanyahu "was said to be offering a series of confidence-building measures toward the Palestinians," but "documents revealed Monday" showed that Israel has given "preliminary approval for a new settlement project in the West Bank." Jeffrey Goldberg writes for [The Atlantic](#) (11/9, 2.66M) that Netanyahu "has shown very little interest in changing, in any sort of dramatic way, the reality on the ground, in particular the reality of slow but inexorable settlement growth on the West Bank." Meanwhile, Bret Stephens, writing in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/10, Stephens, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) column, argues that Palestinian hatred for Israelis – and not Israeli settlements – is to blame for the failure to reach a peace deal.

[Reuters](#) (11/10, Heller, Spetalnick) reports the President and the Israeli leader also discussed a new military aid package for Israel, which [AFP](#) (11/10, Beatty) reports is "worth more than \$30 billion" and "will only come into effect after a current accord expires in 2017." Officials told AFP the deal will include the sale of "advanced US weapon systems, perhaps including hi-tech F-35 jets, precision munitions and V-22 Ospreys." According to the [Times Of Israel](#) (11/10, 33K), they "agreed on an increase to Israeli defense aid," but "the particulars...still need to be hammered out." The [Washington Times](#) (11/10, Boyer, 283K) reports Netanyahu "thanked" the Administration for its aid to help "maintain Israel's qualitative military edge," and [Politico](#) (11/9, Toosi, 1.19M) too says he "repeatedly thanked...Obama for his commitment to Israel's security." [Voice of America](#) (11/9, Bredemeier, 64K) similarly notes they "embraced the long-standing military and security alliance between their countries." [Al Arabiya](#) (11/9, 22K) also reports on the meeting.

Obama Will Not "Intervene" To Allow Pollard To Leave For Israel. The [Washington Post](#) (11/10, Deyoung, 7.78M) reports the President "will not intervene" to allow Jonathan Pollard to travel to Israel after his scheduled parole from federal prison next week, Administration officials said. Under the terms of his release, Pollard must remain in the US for five years. Last week, deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said he "wouldn't be surprised" if Netanyahu raised the Pollard case during Monday's meeting, but the Israeli leader "did not respond" to reporters' questions yesterday about Pollard.

Think Tank Under Fire For Inviting Netanyahu. The [Washington Post](#) (11/10, Mufson, 7.78M) reports on its "Post Politics" blog that the Center for American Progress is under fire for hosting a speech by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Eighteen organizations and 117 individuals – "largely from academia and non-governmental organizations" – have signed an open letter circulated by the Jewish Voice for Peace and the Arab American Institute saying they are "dismayed that CAP will sponsor an address by Netanyahu" this week.

McConnell, Reid To Meet With Netanyahu Today. [The Hill](#) (11/9, Carney, 654K) reports on its "Floor Action" blog that Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Reid will meet with Netanyahu later today.

Arab League Seeks End To Israel's "Escalation" Of Violence. [AFP](#) (11/10, 6.43M) reports Arab League foreign ministers "searched on Monday for ways to halt what one called Israel's 'dangerous escalation' of violence against Palestinians." Secretary-General Nabil al-Arabi urged the UN Security Council "and others to

work towards an end to the conflict.”

Bachmann Urges Jews To Convert To Christianity During Trip To Israel. The [Washington Times](#) (11/10, Blake, 283K) reports, “Citing an imminent end of times,” former presidential candidate Michele Bachmann “rounded out a recent tour of Israel by urging Jews to convert to Christianity.”

OBAMA LAUNCHES PERSONAL FACEBOOK PAGE WITH MESSAGE ON CLIMATE CHANGE. The [AP](#) (11/10, Hennessey) reports President Obama “launched his own [personal Facebook page](#) Monday, in a fresh attempt from the social media-savvy president to spread his message through nontraditional channels.” The page “gained more than 200,000 likes in the first three hours.” While there has been an official “Barack Obama” Facebook page for years, it has been run by his campaigns and political operation. [Reuters](#) (11/10, Edwards) says the new page, like the President’s Twitter account, lets the President address followers in the first person in a more conversational style.

The [New York Times](#) (11/10, Hauser, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) writes that “it seems unlikely that a man whose daily schedule often includes meetings with world leaders and briefings on national security will have much time to post pictures of his meals or comment on pet photos.” But the page is a part of a White House social media push “to bring more spontaneity and accessibility to the presidency.”

[McClatchy](#) (11/10, Kumar, 27K) reports that in his first post, the President wrote, “Hello, Facebook! I finally got my very own page. I hope you’ll think of this as a place where we can have real conversations about the most important issues facing our country – a place where you can hear directly from me, and share your own thoughts and stories.” The [New York Daily News](#) (11/10, Alba, 3.59M) says the post contained “a video of him walking through the White House’s backyard – something Obama does every night before dinner.”

The [New York Post](#) (11/10, 2.59M) reports that there was a policy angle to the post as well, with the President “calling on citizens to speak out about climate change, and educate friends on the issue.” He wrote, “Now, we’ve made a lot of progress to cut carbon pollution here at home, and we’re leading the world to take action as well. But we’ve got to do more.”

[KCTV-TV](#) Kansas City, MO (11/9, 10:14 p.m. CST, 381K) reported, “It’s never too late to join Facebook. President Obama made his very own page today. His first post was a two-minute video showing the President in the backyard of the White House. The message pushes viewers to fight climate change and preserve the planet.” [WTTG-TV](#) Washington (11/9, 10:54 p.m. EST) reported that the President “joined the masses and created his own Facebook page. But there’s got to be a political motivation behind it.” [WPSG-TV](#) Philadelphia (11/9, 10:14 p.m. EST, 74) noted that “the President has been more active on social media as the end of his second term gets closer. He joined Twitter back in May.” [KING-TV](#) Seattle (11/9, 9:14 p.m. PST, 457K) and [WFXT-TV](#) Boston (11/9, 10:42 p.m. EST, 269K) are among the other local stations that had reports on Obama’s new Facebook page.

[The Hill](#) (11/9, Trujillo, 654K) says Facebook “by far has the most users of any social media site,” and [Politico](#) (11/9, Gass, 1.19M) says Obama “is upping his social media game.” [Fortune](#) (11/10, Zillman, 4.24M) reports on its website that “the President’s profile identifies him as ‘Dad, husband, and 44th President of the United States.’” [USA Today](#) (11/10, Korte, 5.56M) writes on its website, “President Obama is now on Facebook. But no, you can’t be his ‘friend.’”

[TIME](#) (11/10, Frizell, 19.1M) reports on its website that White House spokesman Eric Schultz said the page will ultimately be turned over to Obama’s successor. Schultz said, “The President Obama account, like other institutional social media accounts, will be passed over to the next administration.”

Additional online coverage appeared at [Bustle](#) (11/9, Yurcaba, 1.62M), [Mic](#) (11/9, Eggert, 969K), [New York Magazine](#) (11/10, Evans, 2.26M), [NPR](#) (11/9, Detrow, 1.78M), [Rolling Stone](#) (11/9, Stuart, 13.32M), [US News & World Report](#) (11/9, Dicker, 996K), [Vanity Fair](#) (11/9, Nguyen, 7.19M), and [The Verge](#) (11/9, Plaugic, 1.13M), among other sources.

Obama To Attend Paris Climate Talks For Two Days. [Reuters](#) (11/10, Edwards, Heavey) reports the White House said Monday that President Obama will seek ambitious climate targets in international talks in Paris later this month. [The Hill](#) (11/9, Cama, 654K) reports White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Obama will be in Paris for two days of the two-week event, November 30 and December 1.

Biden Addresses Climate Change At Event With Fire Chiefs. [USA Today](#) (11/10, Korte, 5.56M) reports the Administration “enlisted Western fire chiefs in its campaign to fight the effects of climate change Monday, arguing that changing weather patterns will result in more intense and frequent wildfires.” At a Monday White House event, Vice President Biden said, “I can’t prove any one fire is a consequence of climate change. But you don’t have to be a climatologist, you don’t have to be a nuclear engineer to understand that things have changed, they’ve changed rapidly.”

Some States Going Farther Than Obama On Climate. [McClatchy](#) (11/10, Adams, 27K) reports that while 24 states have filed a lawsuit challenging the President’s Clean Power Plan as an overreach of federal authority, some states are going farther than the White House on the climate. In California, Rhode Island, and Washington state, among others, “state officials already are deploying strategies that could slow some of the impact of climate change.”

Greenhouse Gas Levels Hit Record High In 2014. [Reuters](#) (11/10, Monier) reports the World Meteorological Organization said on Monday that atmospheric greenhouse gas levels hit a record high last year, with carbon dioxide levels averaging 397.7 parts per million.

Meat/Cancer Connection Said To Be Linked To Climate Debate. Jeff Stier of the National Center for Public Policy Research and food writer/cooking instructor Julie Kelly write in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/10, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) that the recent warning about a link between processed and red meat and cancer is really a part of the climate change debate, since supporters of stricter regulation of emissions have long pointed out the impact of meat production on emissions.

OBAMA SAYS KEYSTONE AND SIMILAR PROJECTS WOULD MAKE PLANET “UNINHABITABLE.” The [Washington Times](#) (11/10, Boyer, 283K) reports President Obama said on Monday “that the Keystone pipeline and other such fossil-fuel development projects would make Earth ‘uninhabitable.’” The President told a group of activists, “As long as I’m president and as long as you’re out there organizing, America’s going to hold ourselves to the same high standards with which we want to hold the rest of the world.”

In an analysis, the [AP](#) (11/10, Werner) writes that President Obama’s “decision to block the Keystone XL oil pipeline has exposed an endlessly polarized Washington, and likely hardened its divides.” While the President is “being praised to the skies by environmentalists and most Democrats, and denounced in apocalyptic terms by Republicans and the business community,” any consensus on climate change or new energy policy “looks farther away than ever.” Jason Grumet of the Bipartisan Policy Center said, “This became a tribal issue of bizarre proportion.”

The [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (11/9, Danner, 600K) writes that “key questions in the wake of the decision include what the Keystone fight has meant, and potentially will mean, for American environmentalism, as well as how it will come to define Obama’s legacy on climate change.” The Keystone decision is the President’s “most significant, if symbolic, move to limit the growth of the world’s fossil fuel supply.”

In a [USA Today](#) (11/10, 5.56M) op-ed, Robert Bryce of the Manhattan Institute and Steven Hayward of the Pepperdine University School of Public Policy write that the Keystone decision is actually “a Pyrrhic victory” for environmentalists because something they “hate even more than Keystone: hydraulic fracturing, or fracking,” made it possible by introducing new sources of oil and lowering the price of gas. Without it, “the political cost of stopping Keystone would have been prohibitive.”

Coal, Other Pipelines Next In Environmentalists’ Sights. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/10, Roston, 3.4M) says Keystone was a “political symbol,” and emboldened activists will next take on other pipelines as well as coal production. [Politico](#) (11/9, Grunwald, 1.19M) says coal is actually a bigger issue than pipelines – coal “produced about half of America’s power in 2005, but it’s down to 36 percent and falling fast,” due mainly to Administration rules. Politico says that even though Obama “officially favors an ‘all-of-the-above’ energy policy,” his presidency “has been a catastrophe for coal.”

TransCanada Says It Could Resubmit Keystone Application Under Next President. The [Washington Times](#) (11/10, Wolfgang, 283K) reports TransCanada “said Monday that it theoretically could resubmit its Keystone application in January 2017, assuming the next president is more favorable to new American oil and gas infrastructure projects,” but stressed that it has not yet made such a decision.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “A Rebuke To India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/10, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says that members of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government and Bharatiya Janata Party have “shredded his promise of inclusion by inflaming sectarian tensions.” According to the Times, by electing a “‘grand alliance’ of secular parties united by their antipathy to the Hindu nationalist B.J.P.” to “178 constituencies in the 243-member legislative assembly to the B.J.P.’s 53,” voters in the northern state of Bihar “have sent Mr. Modi a message: Put an end to the hatemongering.”

“Egypt’s Brazen Crackdown On Critics.” The [New York Times](#) (11/10, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says in an editorial that “the arbitrary detention of civilians in Egypt, and their prosecution in military courts, have become appallingly routine in recent years as the government has cracked down on all forms of dissent under the guise of fighting terrorism,” and the Obama Administration “has done too little to confront” Egypt’s “expanding authoritarianism.”

“Gov. Christie Doesn’t Want Your Vote.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/10, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) criticizes New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie for his Monday veto of “a bill that would make voting easier by, among other things, expanding early-voting opportunities, introducing online registration and, perhaps most significant, automatically registering eligible voters when they get a driver’s license, unless they decline.” In vetoing the measure, Christie argued that “that it would cost too much, that residents already have plenty of ways to register and that automatic registration would encourage...voter fraud.” However, Christie offered no “actual evidence of fraud. That’s because there isn’t any.” The Times adds that Christie “seems persuaded, as many other Republicans are, that the party’s odds are better when fewer Americans vote.”

WASHINGTON POST. “Burma’s Elections Represent A Triumph Of Hope.” An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (11/10, 7.78M) calls Burma’s elections and the “surge of voting” for opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her NLD party “a triumph,” but notes that the country “has not rid itself of the army’s heavy-handed influence.” If the NLD secures a majority, the Post notes, it will still “have to contend with the generals, who also retain control over key security posts.” Moreover, the winning party “must lift up the disenfranchised and persecuted ethnic communities, including the Rohingya Muslims,” which is an issue Suu Kyi was “reluctant to face” during the campaign.

“The Truth Still Matters, Mr. Carson.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/10, 7.78M) says that Ben Carson has said that he is receiving more scrutiny than past presidential candidates. The Post adds, “Ask anyone from Gary Hart to Hillary Clinton about media scrutiny of his or her biographical claims.” The Post adds that Carson’s “false claim that he was offered a full scholarship to West Point, among other statements, makes one wonder about his honesty and self-regard.” The Post concludes, “The whole episode is notable not for what is different about Mr. Carson and his treatment — but about what is the same. When you are running for president, it generally has mattered whether you tell the truth. We hope it still does.”

“Russia’s Doping Game Gets Exposed.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/10, 7.78M) says that Russia’s mentality, as described in the World Doping Agency’s report, “is that cheating is justified — and patriotically obligatory — on the assumption that every other country must be cheating too.” The Post says that’s why, on top of calling for various Russian athletes and sports officials to be banned, the agency is recommending that the International Olympic Committee “consider disqualifying Russia completely” from the Rio Olympics until Russian authorities begin complying with anti-doping regulations. The Post says that is a “harsh sanction,” but is “justified by the nauseating extent of Russia’s contempt for international norms.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “ObamaCare’s Failure Contagion.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/10, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) says the failure of the majority of the ACA’s co-ops is spreading as their pending or outstanding obligations to policyholders, doctors or hospitals after their liquidation are passed on to other insurers doing business in the same state and consumers will ultimately pay the cost.

“Little Sisters Of the Government.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/10, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes that with the Little Sisters of the Poor’s challenge to the ACA’s birth control mandate before the Supreme Court, the law faces an important test of whether America’s tradition of religious pluralism can withstand a resurgent cultural liberalism.

“Yale’s Little Robespierres.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/10, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes

about racial concerns at Yale University. The Journal points out that on October 28, Yale Dean Burgwell Howard and Yale's Intercultural Affairs Committee sent out an email advising students against "culturally unaware" Halloween costumes, and provided students with some guidance in the matter, which raised concerns from some about political correctness and censorship. The Journal also notes protests on campus over why the school has not addressed allegations that a black woman had been kept out of a fraternity party. The Journal argues that the racial concerns are evidence that universities stifle free speech in the name of sensitivity.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Debate Heats Up Over Charter Effort](#)

[Blow Is Dealt To Migrant Plans](#)

Tenacious Hope In Troubled City

[SeaWorld San Diego To Revamp Killer Whale Show](#)

Turmoil, Then Jubilation

Wall Street Journal:

[Ericsson And Cisco Form An Alliance, Pooling Telecom And Internet Savvy](#)

[University Of Missouri System President Tim Wolfe Resigns](#)

[Republican Candidates Push Bold Tax Plans](#)

[Ukraine: Cyberwar's Hottest Front](#)

New York Times:

[University Of Missouri President And Chancellor Step Aside Amid Protests](#)

[Russian Athletes Part Of State-Sponsored Doping Program, Report Finds](#)

[Myanmar Election Has Aung San Suu Kyi's Party Confident Of Landslide](#)

[Trial Of Vincent Asaro Highlights Loss Of Mafia's Code Of Silence](#)

[Cuban Peers Dispute Ted Cruz's Father's Story Of Fighting For Castro](#)

[Classified Report On The CIA's Secret Prisons Is Caught In Limbo](#)

Washington Post:

["I Could Probably Die"](#)

[Russian Doping Said To Run Deep](#)

[Expecting Van Of 16, Pastor Got Horrific Call](#)

[U Missouri President, Chancellor Resign Over Handling Of Racial Incidents](#)

[Opposition Appears To Win Landslide In Burma](#)

Financial Times:

[Saudis Eye First Global Debt Raising As Oil Dip Takes Toll](#)

[Russia Threatened With Rio Olympic Ban Over "Deep-Rooted" Drug Cheating](#)

[Catalan Parliament's Declaration Raises Stakes In Push To Break From Spain](#)

Washington Times:

[Missouri University Leaders Forced Out](#)

[Obama's Amnesty Plan Loses In Court](#)

[Netanyahu Shifts To Two-State Solution With Palestinians](#)

[Trump, Carson Lack Endorsements](#)

[Ruling Would Halt NSA Snooping Immediately](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: University Of Missouri-President Resignation; Jordan-Training Facility Attacked; Russian Plane Crash Investigation; Louisiana Marshals Shooting-Child; Texas Judge Shot; 2016 Politics-Ben Carson; Russian Athlete Scandal; Blood Pressure Guidelines; Mississippi Road Collapse; School Bus Safety; Colorado High School-Texting Scandal.

CBS: University Of Missouri-President Resignation; Louisiana Marshals Shooting-Child; School Bus Safety; 2016 Politics-Republican Debate; Jordan-Training Facility Attacked; Russian Plane Crash Investigation;

Security Clearance Process-Investigation; Russian Athlete Scandal; Blood Pressure Guidelines; Sea World-Killer Whale Show; Mississippi Road Collapse; Alexander Hamilton-Broadway.

NBC: University Of Missouri-President Resignation; Louisiana Marshals Shooting-Child; Russian Athlete Scandal; Jordan-Training Facility Attacked; Obama-Netanyahu Meeting; 2016 Politics-Ben Carson; Blood Pressure Guidelines; School Bus Safety; Starbucks-Cup Controversy; Mississippi Road Collapse.

Network TV At A Glance:

University Of Missouri-President Resignation – 7 minutes, 55 seconds

2016 Politics – 6 minutes, 50 seconds

Louisiana Marshals Shooting-Child – 6 minutes, 20 seconds

School Bus Safety – 4 minutes, 25 seconds

Russian Athlete Scandal – 3 minutes, 25 seconds

Mississippi Sinkhole – 3 minutes, 15 seconds

Blood Pressure Guidelines – 2 minutes, 50 seconds

Jordan Training Facility Attack – 1 minute, 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: University Of Missouri-President Resignation; Bill Cosby-Defamation Case; South Carolina College Shooting; 2016 Politics-Republican Debate; Wall Street.

CBS: President Obama Immigration Plan-Protests; US Surveillance Program-Scrapped; University Of Missouri-President Resignation; Sea World-Killer Whale Show; Severe Weather-Tornadoes.

NPR: Obama-Netanyahu Meeting; Jordan Training Facility Attack; University Of Missouri-President Resignation; Alabama Police Suspension-Excessive Force; Louisiana Child Killed-Memorial; 2016 Politics-Republican Debate; Sea World-Killer Whale Show; Asian Stock Markets.

FOX: South Carolina College Shooting; Texas Judge Shot-Suspect; 2016 Politics-Republican Debate; 2016 Politics-Carson Scrutiny; Netanyahu-Kerry Meeting.

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White House:

PRES

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, November 9, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Mon Nov 09 2015 04:58:11 GMT-0700 (MST)
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015 7:00 AM EST

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- + [Opposition To Coast Dairies National Monument Proposal Wants Campaign To Slow Down.](#)
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- + Three Affiliated Tribes Changes Plans Amid Drop In Oil Prices.
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- + Coastal Communities Mull Offshore Oil, Seismic Surveying.
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- + Debate Erupts Over BLM's Plan For Red Cliffs National Conservation Area.
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- + Salton Sea Restoration Begins At Red Hill Bay.
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DOI in the News:

WHITE HOUSE HOSTS SEVENTH ANNUAL TRIBAL NATIONS CONFERENCE. The [National Journal](#) (11/8, Subscription Publication, 53K) reports that "Native American leaders from across the country met Thursday at the White House for the seventh annual Tribal Nations Conference, where much of the focus was on youth, education, and the startling number of suicides on Native American land." According to the article, "more than 160 federally recognized tribes sent leaders to the conference, an all-day event that began with speeches from Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and White House Senior Adviser Valerie Jarrett." The article notes that "the main focus of the conference was Obama's Generation Indigenous, or Gen-I, program, which he launched in 2014 after a June trip to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Nation brought him to tears."

The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/6, 47K) reports that President Barack Obama "surprised an auditorium filled with tribal leaders, government department officials, reporters and Native youth on Thursday when arrived earlier than expected and walked on stage to join five native youth at the closing of the 7th Annual White House Tribal Nations Conference." Obama "also took part in a sit-down panel discussion with Native youth." Obama said "he knew it was traditional for him to deliver a long speech, but instead he cut it short because he wanted to hear from the youth."

[E&E Daily](#) (11/6, Subscription Publication) reports that Obama pledged "to keep working on climate change, trust land consolidation and other challenges facing Native Americans through the end of his final term – a deadline that unnerves many tribal leaders who praise his administration's work in Indian Country." According to the article, "having visited Indian Country more than any sitting president in history, Obama said his administration has made considerable progress, but with plenty of work still undone, he asked Congress for another \$1.5 billion for tribal programs for the upcoming year."

[Al Jazeera America](#) (11/8, 138K) reports that "the president's push for education is part of a larger effort to engage Native American communities around the country with major policy changes related to employment, health care and crime."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Hermiston \(OR\) Herald](#) (11/6, 676), the [Watertown \(NY\) Daily Times](#) (11/9, 66K), and [KDAL-AM](#) Duluth, NM (11/6).

Eight Tribes Receiving Federal Education Grants. [US News & World Report](#) (11/6, 996K) reports that "on Thursday, the administration announced another \$2.5 million in grants that will be awarded to eight different tribes to lay the groundwork for them to assume control of the schools in their communities." William Mendoza, appointed director of the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education, said, "Through these partnerships, we will be putting tribes in the driver's seat by designing culturally responsive programs to help Native children reach their education potential. These efforts will help reduce the achievement gap and make our Indian students more college and career-ready."

Additional coverage was provided by [Education Week](#) (11/6, 130K) and the [Sault Ste. Marie \(MI\) Evening](#)

[News](#) (11/6, 18K).

Adidas Offers To Help Schools Drop Native American Mascots. [Yahoo! Sports](#) (11/6, 7.72M) reports that “sports team mascots using Native American imagery and logos are coming under ever-increasing scrutiny for racial insensitivity, and now apparel manufacturer adidas has upped the ante: the company is offering both design assistance and financial aid to high schools that wish to change their mascots.”

Also providing coverage is [Reuters](#) (11/6).

Obama: Teams Should Drop Native American Mascots. The [Huffington Post](#) (11/6, Klein, 251K) reports that Obama “praised Adidas’ offer to help schools rebrand.” He said, “In terms of eliminating racism or stereotypes, that’s an obligation of the entire society, but it’s especially important in the school. If you walk into a school on the first day and you’re already feeling that stereotypes are embedded in the culture and the cheers and all that, that kid is feeling set apart and different.”

Interior To Sign MOU With DOE To Assist Indian Tribes To Develop Energy Resources. [Breaking Energy](#) (11/6) reports that “at the White House Tribal Nations Conference, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced that it will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of the Interior to assist Indian Tribes throughout the United States to develop their energy resources.” According to the article, “DOE and Interior will develop and share policies, technical information, strategic plans and best practices in Indian Country in the lower 48 states and Alaska to enhance the reliability and security of the North American energy infrastructure to better serve and create market opportunities for Indian Country.”

Tribes Protest Coal Export Terminal Project. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/5, 705) reports that “leaders from 10 Northwest tribes rallied outside the White House Tribal Nations Conference today, urging President Obama to block the proposed construction of a coal export terminal in Washington state.” According to the article, “with many in traditional attire, council members urged the Obama administration and Army Corps of Engineers to kill the Gateway Pacific Terminal project in Bellingham.” The Lummi Nation has “assembled a coalition of neighboring tribes to oppose the project, which it argues would be built atop a sacred ancient village site and imperil its treaty fishing rights along the Pacific Coast.”

Klamath Basin Water Deal Faces December Deadline. [Public News Service](#) (11/9, 306) reports that “a decade of negotiations between more than 40 parties for water rights, river health and salmon survival expires at the end of December if it isn’t approved by Congress.” In fact, “Congress may be the biggest challenge yet for the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, which covers water use in northern California and southern Oregon.” At last week’s White House Tribal Nations Conference, “Kathy Hill – a member of the Klamath Tribal Council who was on the negotiating team for the agreement – said she heard mixed views about the future of the agreement.” Hill said, “[U.S. Interior Secretary] Sally Jewell was optimistic. But then another person, not with the administration, told me, ‘You know, nothing’s going to get through this House this year.’ And that’s the mood, I think maybe, in Washington, D.C.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Public News Service](#) (11/9, 306).

PUBLIC MEETING ON MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL PARK THIS WEEK. Drawing from the Tri-City Herald, the [AP](#) (11/9) reports on a public meeting on the new Manhattan Project National Historical Park scheduled in Kennewick for Thursday. Federal officials on Tuesday will attend “a signing ceremony in Washington, D.C., to establish the new national park, which will include Hanford’s historic B Reactor.”

Energy Department Halts Registration For ‘Special Access’ Tours At Y-12, ORNL. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (11/6, Munger, 229K) reported that the Energy Department on Friday decided to halt “registration for ‘special access’ tours of historical sites after demand far exceeded the plan to limit participants to 140.” The tours slated for Nov. 12 “will include stops at Manhattan Project facilities at Y-12 and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.” The special event is a part of Oak Ridge’s “celebration of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, which will be formally established during a signing ceremony next week in Washington, D.C.” Y-12 spokesman Steven Wyatt “said about 300 people registered online for the bus tours, which will include stops at the original pilot facility (Building 9731) and Beta-3 uranium-enrichment facility at Y-12 as well as the ORNL’s Graphite Reactor.” On Tuesday, Energy Secretary Moniz and Interior Secretary Jewell “are scheduled to sign a memorandum of agreement creating the park at three sites – Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, N.M., and Hanford, Wash. – that were critical to the World War II development of the first atomic bombs.” The [Atomic City Underground](#) (11/6, Munger) also provided coverage of this story.

REP. BISHOP PROPOSES OVERHAUL OF LWCF. [E&E Daily](#) (11/6, Subscription Publication) reports that House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop last week “unveiled his long-awaited proposal to overhaul the Land and Water Conservation Fund, setting the stage for what could be a long-term battle to reauthorize the 50-year-old program.” According to the article, “Bishop’s draft bill would greatly curtail the purchase of new federal lands, roughly triple the portion of money that has gone to states, and require that at least 20 percent of the money support offshore energy permitting and workforce development and at least 15 percent go to counties with large amounts of federal lands, among many other provisions.” The “legislation drew cautious praise from some Republican lawmakers, state park advocates and the oil and gas industry, but was roundly panned by a conservationists, sportsmen and some urban parks proponents.”

Proposed Changes To LWCF Criticized. The [National Parks Traveler](#) (11/8, 989) criticizes Rep. Rob Bishop “overhaul of the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.” According to the Traveler, “while he argues that over the last five decades the original intent of the LWCF was skewed, that more money was going to federal land acquisition than for state projects, he doesn’t try to rebalance the funding flow as he sees it but rather would redirect a large portion of the revenues raised through fees from off-shore drilling projects to open up more off-shore drilling.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Summit \(CO\) Daily News](#) (11/9, 37K), the [Hendersonville \(NC\) Times-News](#) (11/8, 31K), the [Plattsburgh \(NY\) Press Republican](#) (11/9, 59K), and the [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (11/9, 70K).

INTERIOR WOULD “WELCOME” RULE REVIEW COMMISSION, OFFICIAL SAYS. [E&E Daily](#) (11/6, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department “would ‘welcome’ the creation of an independent commission to review and potentially appeal federal regulations,” Associate Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Klein told a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee last week. During a hearing of the Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management, Klein said, “We would welcome outside expertise on how to better quantify relative costs and benefits and do that kind of analysis. Having an outside commission to provide us with that expertise is a great idea and one we would welcome working with.”

ALASKANS APPEAL DECISION IN IZEMBEK ROAD CASE. The [Greenwire](#) (11/6, Subscription Publication) reports that “Alaskan governments and tribal groups announced they will appeal a federal judge’s ruling that upheld Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s rejection of a proposed gravel road through wilderness in the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge.” According to the article, “the city of King Cove, Aleutians East Borough, tribal groups and the state of Alaska filed the appeal notice Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska.”

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SEEK MOVEMENT AGAINST FOSSIL FUEL PRODUCTION ON FEDERAL LAND. [The Hill](#) (11/7, Henry, 654K) reported that environmental groups that are backing a bill introduced on Wednesday by Sens. Bernie Sanders and Jeff Merkley that would “block all future lease sales for coal, oil, natural gas and other energy development” are hoping to parlay this legal measure into a broader movement toward “ending future fossil fuel production on federal land.” While energy companies have “scoffed at the effort” to move the bill through Congress, environmental groups believe they may have a chance at achieving their goal.

Sen. Sanders Introduces Bill To Protect Oak Flat. The [Black Star News](#) (11/8, 146K) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders and Sen. Tammy Baldwin have introduced legislation “to stop the transfer of federal land to a foreign-owned corporation, which plans to develop the largest copper mine in North America.” The land, “known as Oak Flat, is located in the Tonto National Forest and has significant religious and cultural value to Apaches, Yavapais, and other Native Americans in the region.”

OPPOSITION TO COAST DAIRIES NATIONAL MONUMENT PROPOSAL WANTS CAMPAIGN TO SLOW DOWN. The [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (11/7, 100K) reports that “the effort to turn the rolling hills of Coast Dairies near the tiny town of Davenport into a national monument is still moving too fast say many on the ‘Slow Coast,’ a nickname for the stretch of quiet coastline north of Santa Cruz to Half Moon Bay.” However, the article notes that while “the campaign has drummed up a lot of excitement, gathered 14,500 signatures of support since it kicked off in February and has political backing, a small vocal minority persists.” The group “raised the question of whether its opposition could halt the monument since public support is part of the designation process.”

ANDRUS CENTER TO HOST WESTERN INVASIVE WEED SUMMIT. The [Idaho Statesman](#) (11/9, 218K)

reports that “this month the Andrus Center for Public Policy and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies are hosting a Western Invasive Weed Summit from Nov. 17-19 at the Wyndham Garden Airport Hotel at 3300 S Vista.” Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Janice M. Schneider will be “a keynote speaker, providing an update from a national perspective.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Boise \(ID\) Weekly](#) (11/9, 103K).

GERMAN MAGAZINE: GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SPIED ON US, OTHER ALLIES. According to [USA Today](#) (11/8, Stanglin, 5.56M), the German weekly Der Spiegel reported Saturday that Germany’s foreign intelligence service, BND, “has systematically spied on its closest allies and friendly countries across the world, including snooping on US, French and British embassies, the US Department of the Interior, US diplomatic offices at the United Nations and even the Vatican.” The magazine said the BND conducted the spying operations “despite German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s angry response to reports in 2013 that the US had spied on her mobile phone.”

Additional coverage was provided by [PJ Media](#) (11/8, 69K), [Iran English Radio](#) (11/9), [Press TV \(IRN\)](#) (11/7, 7K), [Sputnik News](#) (11/7, 46K), [RT](#) (11/9, 297K), and [Der Spiegel \(DEU\)](#) (11/9, 3.08M).

NEVADA’S PILT PAYMENT CRITICIZED. In a piece for the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/9, 403K), editorial writer Glenn Cook criticizes the PILT payments that Nevada receives. He notes that “although Nevada has a higher percentage of federal land than any other state — more than 80 percent — it gets less for that land than any other state in the West.” Cook argues that “the lack of state-controlled and privately owned land greatly limits Nevada’s economic growth.” He concludes that “PILT will never provide adequate compensation for that.”

REP. WALDEN OPPOSES ANTIQUITIES ACT DESIGNATION FOR OWYHEE RIVER CANYON. Rep. Greg Walden’s op-ed opposing a declaration under the Antiquities Act to protect the Owyhee River canyon in Eastern Oregon was printed in the [East Oregonian](#) (11/6, 24K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

NAVAJO LEADERS BLAST EPA’S HANDLING OF GOLD KING MINE SPILL. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/9, 263K) reports that almost two months after his congressional testimony on the Gold King Mine spill, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye said that “the EPA has been slow to mitigate the damage and compensate tribal victims, which he said threatens to undermine decades of hard-won progress in the Navajo Nation’s relationship with the federal government.” Begaye said, “We’re not seeing any action. If we were seeing the cleaning of the canals, if we were seeing some of the deposits of minerals along the river being removed or compensation to farmers right now because they have expended dollars they don’t have, then, yeah, we’d believe them. But they haven’t done anything yet. Nothing has been done.” EPA officials said that “the agency is working in good faith to fix the damage from the spill, compensate those who suffered financial harm and ensure future water quality.”

INTERIOR ORDERED TO PAY ATTORNEY FEES TO NOOKSACK TRIBAL MEMBERS. The [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (11/9, 101K) reports that the Interior Department “must pay \$22,000 in attorney fees to members of the Nooksack Indian Tribe following their fight to get public documents about a tribal election.” U.S. District Court Judge Richard Jones “awarded the fees to Rudy St. Germain and Michelle Roberts as part of the final decision in their two-year case to get information under the Freedom of Information Act.” The case was then dismissed Friday, Oct. 30.

LAND FORMALLY RECOGNIZED AS RESERVATION FOR COWLITZ TRIBE. The [Daily News \(WA\)](#) (11/9, 72K) reports that “the federal government Friday officially declared 156 acres of land as the Cowlitz Indian Tribe’s initial reservation.” The decision was “largely expected after the Department of Interior took the land into trust on behalf of the tribe in March, said Bill Iyall, Tribal Chairman.” But “this proclamation was a formal step needed to seal the fate of the land as the tribe’s ‘initial reservation,’ he said.”

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENTS THRIVE AT BEMIDJI CHARTER SCHOOL. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (11/9, 1.15M) reports on the success of TrekNorth Junior and Senior High, a charter school in Bemidji. The article notes that American Indian students at the school “— nearly half of the school’s 250 students — outperform their peers statewide.” According to the article, “the school has won attention from the state for its

excellence and significant progress toward closing the achievement gap between white and Indian students.”

APPEALS COURT BACKS TOHONO O’ODHAM NATION’S CASINO LAND CLAIM. The [AP](#) (11/6, 283K) reports that “a federal appeals court panel says an Arizona law designed to block a southern Arizona tribe’s plans to build a casino in Glendale is unconstitutional.” The ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals says the Tohono O’odham Nation is “now free to ask for more land it owns in Glendale to be taken into federal trust as a reservation.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (11/6, 960K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/9, 263K), and the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (11/9, 66K).

MASHPEE WAMPANOAG CASINO LAND DEAL FINALIZED. The [Taunton \(MA\) Daily Gazette](#) (11/6, 39K) reports that “a 115-acre East Taunton land deal worth \$34.5 million between the Mashpee Wampanoag Indian tribe and a half-dozen property owners was finalized this week.” The tribe acquired “the land in anticipation of building a more than \$500 million casino and resort on the site, located off Stevens Street near Route 140, across from Silver City Galleria mall.” The Mashpee Wampanoag “received word in September from the U.S. Department of Interior and its Bureau of Indian Affairs that it would allow 151 acres in East Taunton and 170 acres in Mashpee to be placed into trust as the tribe’s reservation.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Taunton \(MA\) Daily Gazette](#) (11/5, 39K) and the [Taunton \(MA\) Daily Gazette](#) (11/8, 39K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NEW NIGC COMMISSIONER NAMED. Additional coverage that E. Sequoyah Simermeyer has joined the National Indian Gaming Commission was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/7, 47K) and [Law360](#) (11/9, 30K).

NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [National Review](#) (11/9, 533K), Hans A. von Spakovsky, a senior legal fellow at The Heritage Foundation, criticizes the “election in Hawaii to set up a separate government that excludes anyone who doesn’t meet the state’s definition of ‘Native Hawaiian.’” According to Spakovsky, “this is the second time that Hawaii has tried to conduct such a restrictive election, which resembles the whites-only elections held in some parts of the South before the Civil Rights movement began in the 1950s.” Spakovsky argues that “since the voting is already ongoing in an election that has excluded hundreds of thousands of Hawaiians from participating, the Ninth Circuit should immediately apply the Supreme Court’s precedent in *Rice* and enjoin the election.”

Additional coverage of the election was provided by the [Honolulu \(HI\) Star-Advertiser](#) (11/9, 349K).

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

BOR SEEKS TO AVOID SALMON KILL FROM WARMING WATERS AT SHASTA LAKE. The [Greenwire](#) (11/5, Subscription Publication) reports that “a historic drought is testing the limits of technology and water policy at the state’s largest reservoir, with the fate of endangered salmon hanging in the balance.” At issue at Shasta Lake is “how baby salmon fare in warmer water.” The BOR is “aiming to avoid a repeat of last year, as water levels fell and grew warmer behind Shasta Dam, leading to unusually high mortality of winter-run chinook salmon.”

Additional coverage was provided by [NPR](#) (11/6, 1.78M), [WAMU-FM](#) Washington (11/9, 30K), and [KSJR-FM](#) Collegeville, MN (11/6, 56K).

MAMMOTH TUSK UNEARTHED AT AMERICAN FALLS RESERVOIR. The [AP](#) (11/6, Ridler, 1.15M) reports that “a 12-foot Columbian mammoth tusk has been unearthed in Idaho and scientists say more of the fossil skeleton might still be buried at the site.” The “left tusk was found earlier this year at American Falls Reservoir.” Researchers with the Idaho State University “unearthed about 60 percent of the skull last year and about 8 feet of the right tusk after a volunteer with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation spotted the fossil.”

Additional coverage was provided by [CBS News](#) (11/9, 4.1M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (11/9, 5.31M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/9, 2.15M), [US News & World Report](#) (11/6, 996K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/6, Keith Ridler |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/6, Ridler, 283K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (11/9, 81K), the [Idaho State Journal](#) (11/9, 59K), the [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (11/6, Ap, 1.18M), [Yahoo! News](#) (11/6, Ridler, 6.43M),

[KIFI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (11/9, 3K), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (11/9, 464K), and [KXLY-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (11/9, 69K).

GOV. BROWN'S STANDS FIRM ON DELTA TUNNELS DESPITE FLURRY OF CRITICISM. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/9, 515K) reports that "Gov. Jerry Brown's response to the latest volley of opposition to his plan to divert water under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta lacked the cheekiness he exhibited in May, when he playfully told his critics to 'shut up.'" Brown "accused opponents of doing a 'profound disservice to California's future,' but the subtext was the same: No matter how difficult the financing or loud resistance to the project may grow, the fourth-term governor is plowing ahead." Brown says "the \$15.5 billion project, with implications for everything from the area's farming community to its scenic drives, will bring stability to a water system on which millions of Californians rely."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

JUDGE RULES AGAINST PROPOSED NEVADA WIND PROJECT OVER THREATENED WILDLIFE.

Drawing on reporting by the Las Vegas Sun, the [AP](#) (11/9, 2.15M) reports that a US District Judge in Las Vegas "said the federal Bureau of Land Management failed to fully determine the effect that 87 wind turbines" proposed by Apex Clean Energy south of Las Vegas could have on "sensitive and threatened species." The decision comes after a three-year legal fight by environmentalists, the AP adds. The plaintiffs' attorney, Dave Becker "said the ruling highlights a dilemma for environmental advocates who generally support renewable energy projects including solar and wind, but also want to protect threatened species and sensitive habitats," the AP reports.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/9, 283K), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (11/8, 48K), and [KTVN-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (11/9, 80K).

BLM ADVANCES SOUTHLINE TRANSMISSION PROJECT. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/6, 705) reports that the Obama Administration has "completed a yearslong environmental review of a 360-mile transmission line project across southern New Mexico and Arizona that is expected to promote renewables in the West." According to the article, "a notice announcing completion of the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Southline Transmission Project conducted by the Bureau of Land Management was published in today's Federal Register but under U.S. EPA's section." The "notice begins a 30-day public review period running through Dec. 7."

BOEM SEEKS COMMENTS ON WIND FARM PLAN OFF LONG ISLAND'S SOUTH SHORE. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (11/9, 1.42M) reports that "a proposed wind farm off Long Island's South Shore isn't likely to start construction until at least 2022, but fishing interests at a hearing in Montauk on Friday questioned whether it should be built at all." The BOEM was "on Long Island last week soliciting comments about the project, stalled in lease approvals since it was first proposed in 2009."

NORTH CAROLINA CONSIDERS IMPACT OF WIND TURBINES. The [Wilmington \(NC\) Star News](#) (11/7, 110K) reports that the BOEM "plans to open two local areas to turbine leasing." Although an "environmental review completed this year found the plan would not cause significant environmental harm," some "worry about what turbines could cost in property values and tourism dollars."

TRIDENT WINDS AIMS TO BUILD 1-GIGAWATT OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT OFF CALIFORNIA. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (11/9, Rogers, 634K) reports that Trident Winds has submitted a filing with Morro Bay city officials for a 100-turbine, 1-gigawatt offshore wind project 15-miles off the San Luis Obispo County shoreline. "It's not oil. It's not fossil fuel. It doesn't spill," said CEO Alla Weinstein who sees permitting taking six or seven years. "Some environmentalists are taking a wait-and-see attitude," such as the Sierra Club, while others "are already girding for a fight," the Mercury News reports.

Onshore Energy Development:

US WON'T CHALLENGE JUDGE WHO WANTS NEW LOOK AT MONTANA COAL MINE. The [AP](#) (11/9, 2.15M) reports that the Interior Department "won't fight a court recommendation for the agency to take a new look at the environmental effects of burning fuel from Montana's largest coal mine." U.S. Magistrate Judge

Carolyn Ostby said “in October that federal officials improperly approved a 117-million ton expansion of the Spring Creek Mine on federal leases near the Montana-Wyoming border.” However, “re-analyzing the Montana mine will take longer than the 180 days proposed by Ostby, U.S. Justice Department attorney John Most wrote in a Friday court filing.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (11/7, 15K), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (11/7, 76K), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (11/9, 118K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/7, Brown, 283K), the [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (11/9, 19K), and [KGWN-TV Cheyenne \(WY\)](#) Cheyenne, WY (11/9, 519).

MASTER LEASING PLANS FACE UNCERTAIN FUTURE. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (11/9, 74K) reports that “hoping to strike a better balance, in August, the BLM released a draft ‘master leasing plan’ for nearly 800,000 federal acres here that would significantly curtail future development near national parks, trails and other sensitive sites.” The article notes that “only seven of the dozen master leasing plans underway in Wyoming, Colorado and Utah have been finalized, most this summer.” According to the article, “none have yet been implemented, raising questions about how the approach will fare if the next administration swings right.”

REPUBLICANS “TAPPING INTO THE DISCONTENT” IN KENTUCKY’S COAL COUNTRY. The [AP](#) (11/8, Schreiner) reports that Republican candidates are “tapping into the discontent” emerging in Kentucky’s coal country, which has historically been deeply Democratic. The article highlights shifting political loyalties as the future of coal looks increasingly uncertain. Support for Democrats has waned and the AP notes that “There is visceral disgust with President Barack Obama, and his environmental policies have been widely denounced by locals as anti-coal.” In this climate, Republicans have “stirred the backlash, denouncing Obama for waging a ‘war on coal.’”

THREE AFFILIATED TRIBES CHANGES PLANS AMID DROP IN OIL PRICES. The [AP](#) (11/8, Ogden, 283K) reports that “the decline in oil prices in past months is having an impact on the Three Affiliated Tribes and their oil-rich Fort Berthold Reservation.” More than a year ago, the tribe “broke ground for a refinery, Thunder Butte Petroleum Services Inc., to be constructed on reservation land west of Makoti.” But after Mark Fox took office in late 2014 as tribal chairman, the refinery plans were “revamped.”

TWO TRAINS DERAIL IN WISCONSIN IN TWO DAYS, SPILLING OIL, ETHANOL. The [AP](#) (11/8) reports that a Canadian Pacific Railway train derailed Sunday in Watertown, Wisconsin, spilling less than 1,000 gallons of crude oil and prompting evacuations, “the second day in a row a freight train derailed in the state.” The Federal Railroad Administration tweeted that investigators were at the scene. The Jefferson County Office of Emergency Management said that residents of 35 homes were asked to evacuate. The AP explains that the derailment “came a day after a freight train derailed near Alma in western Wisconsin,” spilling thousands gallons of ethanol. Meanwhile, BNSF said railroad crews stopped the leaks from five tanker cars and placed containment booms along the shoreline. A statement from the FRA said officials from the EPA, Coast Guard, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the state Department of Natural Resources were responding.

The [New York Daily News](#) (11/9, Chiusano, 3.59M) reports that the derailment near Alma led to a voluntary evacuation uprooted 150 people from their homes but that it was “lifted around 2 p.m. on Saturday and all families affected have returned to their homes.” BNSF said that “there were no reports of fire, smoke or injuries.”

The [Watertown \(WI\) Daily Times](#) (11/8, 27K) reports that Watertown Police Chief Tim Roets said, “So far today we’ve avoided what could have been a major disaster. I’m hoping it’s a wakeup call for improving safety in the movement of these materials.” The Daily Times points out that “long trains of tanker cars filled with oil are regularly seen passing through Watertown” and that “the trains are usually 100 or more cars long and all or nearly all of them contain oil which can be highly explosive in the event of an accident.”

[WITI-TV](#) Milwaukee (11/8, 215K) reports that the FRA said, “A Canadian Pacific train has derailed near Watertown, Wisconsin, and Federal Railroad Administration investigators and hazmat specialists are en route. Some of the tank cars were carrying crude oil.” Meanwhile, Sarah Zarling, an oil train activist, said that she “has been warning about train derailments – and Sunday’s incident happened a few blocks from her home.”

Also reporting are [CBS News](#) (11/9, 4.1M), [Reuters](#) (11/8, Goldberg, Bernstein), [WKOW-TV](#) Madison, WI (11/8, 86K), [WKOW-TV](#) Madison, WI (11/8, 86K), [WKBT-TV](#) La Crosse, WI (11/9, 32K), and [WISC-TV](#) Madison, WI (11/9, 188K).

MODERATE EARTHQUAKES CONTINUE OVER WEEKEND IN NORTHERN OKLAHOMA. The [AP](#) (11/9, 283K) reports that a “series of moderate earthquakes continues to shake northern Oklahoma,” with the US Geological Survey recording 22 quakes recorded from Friday through Sunday, “including magnitude 4.2 and 4.1 temblors near Medford.” The AP adds, “The Oklahoma Geological Survey has said many recent earthquakes in the state likely were triggered by the injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas drilling operations.”

CATTLE RANCHER SUPPORTS STREAM PROTECTION RULE. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (11/9, Pfister, 654K), Ellen Pfister, a cattle rancher, writes that “the proposed Stream Protection Rule would safeguard communities from destructive coal mining practices like long walling and keep pace with current science and modern mining practices.” Pfister says that “these new rules would minimize impacts to surface and groundwater such as the springs on my property by requiring companies to avoid mining practices that permanently pollute and diminish streams, and require coal companies to test and monitor the condition of streams that their mining might impact before, during and after their operations.” She concludes that “the Interior Department’s work to update and modernize these three decades old rules and regulations is absolutely essential if we are to keep a bad situation from getting worse.”

SUPPORT URGED FOR TRAPPER MINE. In an editorial, the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (11/6, 10K) urges the community to submit comments in support of Trapper Mine. The paper warns that “if the mine’s supporters don’t tell the government why the mine should stay open, it puts another economic driver in our community at risk of closing.” It emphasizes that “this public comment period is vital to ensuring that OSM understands Trapper Mine’s social, economic and environmental impacts.”

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE MAKES LEADERSHIP CHANGE FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIVE REPORT. [WWL-TV](#) New Orleans (11/6, 163K) reports that its investigation into problems at the BSEE have “helped lead to a leadership change.” The bureau said “in an internal email last week that it has replaced the head of its Environmental Enforcement Division.” That move came shortly after a report by WWL-TV “showed the division was understaffed, faced massive work backlogs and for years failed to hire new people to fill positions that were fully funded in the federal budget.”

COASTAL COMMUNITIES MULL OFFSHORE OIL, SEISMIC SURVEYING. The [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (11/7, 1K) reports that “municipalities along the Delmarva coast are considering resolutions regarding seismic surveying, a method for detecting oil and gas beneath the ocean floor.” The article notes that “on the state level, Delaware is opposed to the surveying” and “Virginia just confirmed its support for surveying and requested that the federal government prevent further delay of permit approval.” However, “in Maryland, where Ocean City just passed a resolution opposing seismic surveys in September, the state has no stance.”

SHELL OIL REPRESENTATIVE DISCUSSES ATLANTIC DRILLING IN GEORGIA. The [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (11/6, Landers, 150K) reported Shell Oil geological advisor and regional manager Gary Steffens told “about 25 business people and environmentalists” at a downtown Savannah, Georgia forum Thursday that drilling in the Atlantic from Virginia through Georgia could result in at least nine billion barrels of oil. The US Department of Interior released a five-year draft plan for drilling in the Atlantic in January that is expected to be finalized in the first quarter of 2016 to be sent off for approval by Congress. Brydon Ross, of forum sponsor Consumer Energy Alliance, said the plan in its current form would allow exploration and drilling 50 miles or farther offshore from Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia.

EX-BP ENGINEER CLEARED OF OBSTRUCTION IN BP OIL SPILL CASE. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/6, Hasselle, Brubaker Calkins, 3.4M) reports that former BP engineer Kurt Mix “pleaded guilty to deleting text messages in what the U.S. said was a bid to hide spill rate estimates” during the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Mix faced 20 years in prison and was the first of four men charged. Mix received 6 months of probation and must perform 60 hours of community service. [Reuters](#) (11/7, Finn) reports that Mix’s lawyer Joan McPhee said the resolution of the case has vindicated Mix and that the case should never have been brought. The [AP](#) (11/7, 825K) adds that Mix’s attorney said the plea agreement resulted from an “unraveling” government case.

BP Engineer: Aggressive Prosecution Could Deter Future Disaster Response. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/9, Subscription Publication, 6.23M), Kurt Mix, a BP project engineer from 2006-2012, says he was wrongly targeted by the Department of Justice following his work to stop the 2010 oil spill. Two years after the spill, Mix faced two felony charges of obstruction of justice. After three years of trials, the DOJ

extended an offer to drop the felony charges on the condition that Mix accept guilt of a misdemeanor for deleting text message conversations from his phone without BP's permission. Mix said the DOJ had acted out of control, speculating that fear of prosecution could deter people from responding to disasters in the future.

[Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (11/8, 28K) provides coverage of the op-ed on its website.

BP ENGINEER: AGGRESSIVE PROSECUTION COULD DETER FUTURE DISASTER RESPONSE. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/9, Subscription Publication, 6.23M), Kurt Mix, a BP project engineer from 2006-2012, says he was wrongly targeted by the Department of Justice following his work to stop the 2010 oil spill. Two years after the spill, Mix faced two felony charges of obstruction of justice. After three years of trials, the DOJ extended an offer to drop the felony charges on the condition that Mix accept guilt of a misdemeanor for deleting text message conversations from his phone without BP's permission. Mix said the DOJ had acted out of control, speculating that fear of prosecution could deter people from responding to disasters in the future.

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM OPEN TO SAGE-GROUSE MAPPING CHANGES. The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (11/9, 32K) reports that "Garfield County officials remain optimistic over possible changes to habitat mapping for the greater sage-grouse in Colorado, changes that those officials said could ease restrictions on development, specifically in the oil and gas industry, while protecting the bird's habitat in an area northwest of Parachute." The article notes that "the optimism stems from two recent developments: an assurance from the Bureau of Land Management that habitat mapping can change as new data becomes available; and an effort by Colorado's northwest communities to conduct new habitat mapping across the region." David Boyd, public affairs specialist for the BLM Northwest Colorado District, said Friday, "As new information becomes available that changes the maps, we can incorporate that into the plan. The process we use will just depend on what those changes are."

DEBATE ERUPTS OVER BLM'S PLAN FOR RED CLIFFS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/9, 339K) reports that "a cantankerous debate has erupted over a thoroughfare local officials want to cut through" the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area. The BLM is "wrapping up long-anticipated management plans for Red Cliffs, which holds 44,859 acres of public land, and a new NCA in Utah's very southwest corner, called Beaver Dam Wash, covering 63,480 BLM acres." According to the article, "with the recent release of a draft Environmental Impact Statement, county officials are steaming mad with what they see as a lack of 'balance' in the various alternatives of the plan," and "even worse, the BLM's 'preferred' alternative does not feature the so-called northern transportation corridor, which officials say is needed to accommodate future traffic loads and alleviate pressure on St. George's roads."

ACTION URGED TO END HORSE SLAUGHTER. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (11/6, Bershader, 251K), Matthew Bershader, ASPCA President and CEO, writes that recent news have "brought new attention to the horrific practice of slaughtering horses for human consumption and make clear the imperative behind ending horse slaughter decisively and permanently in the United States." Bershader supports the Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act, H.R. 1942/S. 1214, which he calls "common sense legislation that would permanently ban the slaughter of horses for human consumption in the U.S., as well as prohibit the export of horses to other countries for slaughter." He urges readers to "tell representatives that the slaughter of animals like Phedras has to end, and criminals like Tom Davis have to be stopped once and for all."

Additional coverage that the BLM has "been implicated in a scheme to illegally sell captured wild horses to a Colorado rancher, who then sold the animals for slaughter" was provided by the [Raw Story](#) (11/9, 1.24M) and the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (11/9, 67K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SENATE DEMOCRATS PRESS OBAMA ON ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTIONS. [E&E Daily](#) (11/6, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Democrats last week "called on President Obama to oppose attempts to attach provisions to spending bills that would weaken the Endangered Species Act or remove federal protections from any species listed under the law." A letter signed by 24 Democratic senators and

Vermont's Bernie Sanders, said, "The extinction of earth's species is now at its highest rate since the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, with human activity – including significant ecological impacts from climate change – initiating an extinction crisis on our planet." They added, "Unfortunately, some in Congress are seeking to undermine the Endangered Species Act." They claimed that "the fiscal 2016 Interior appropriations bills from the House and Senate contain 'a record number of anti-environmental provisions.'"

SALTON SEA RESTORATION BEGINS AT RED HILL BAY. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/8, 3.6M) reports that "officials last week took a step – albeit a modest one – toward restoring the beleaguered Salton Sea and possibly avoiding a predicted environmental and health catastrophe." A ceremony held Thursday and "attended by officeholders and others concerned with issues of water, wildlife and public health marked the beginning of a \$3.5-million project to restore 420 acres of Red Hill Bay on the southeastern shore of the Salton Sea." Christian Schoneman, a project manager with the FWS, "hopes that the project, by reducing 'fugitive dust released during wind events,' will be a guide for other projects."

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (11/6, 98K) gives the "ambitious Salton Sea wetlands work" a "thumbs up."

HUGE FISHING PIER, OUTDOOR CENTER PLANNED AT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE GATEWAY. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (11/9, 921K) reports that "plans are in the works for a dock and fishing pier at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Gateway." The project will "extend 775 feet into the Detroit River and include a fishing pier that can accommodate 100 people, a floating dock for the Michigan Sea Grant educational program boat, seating areas, shade structures and interpretive signs." The article notes that "the \$2.85-million project is expected to be completed by the end of 2016."

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT LEAVES LESS SHELTER FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS. [Reuters](#) (11/7, Bernstein) reports that the California's ongoing drought has left migrating waterfowl with fewer places to land, threatening their health due to overcrowding. Meghan Hertel, who works on habitat issues for the Audubon Society in California, said, "They're left with fewer and fewer places to go, which will start to have impacts on their population. They can die here from starvation or disease or be weaker for their flight back north."

FWS STUDYING RARE SALAMANDER IN MISSISSIPPI RIVER. The [AP](#) (11/9, 2.15M) reports that "one fortunate byproduct of a 2008 train derailment is that scientists are gaining a better understanding of a rare salamander species that lives in the Mississippi River." The FWS is "working on a long-term survey of mudpuppies in the river near Guttenberg." The article notes that "already, five mudpuppies have been captured as part of the survey, so the work is off to a good start."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dubuque \(IA\) Telegraph Herald](#) (11/9, 88K).

FWS RECOMMENDS PHASING OUT ULTRALIGHT ASSISTANCE FOR WHOOPING CRANES. The [AP](#) (11/9, 2.15M) reports that "whooping cranes migrating south with the help of ultralight planes may have to start fending for themselves." The FWS is "recommending phasing out the use of ultralight aircraft that have been shepherding a reintroduced population of juvenile cranes to their southern wintering grounds, including the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge along Florida's Gulf coast." An Oct. 15 report "detailing the agency's five-year plan for whooping cranes, says the use of the planes and humans costumed as cranes creates artificial conditions that eventually could make the birds less self-sustaining." But the report "also notes the practice, started in 2001, has proven invaluable to maintaining the growing population."

COURT GRANTS EXTENSION IN WOLF CREEK LAWSUIT. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (11/8, 44K) reports that "the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado granted the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service an extension on Monday to release documents related to a decision to exchange more than 200 acres of federally managed land at Wolf Creek Pass for 177 acres of private land, according to court documents." The federal agencies "requested the extension because the requested information is 'extremely voluminous' and includes decisions by two federal agencies, according to court documents." The court ordered the agencies "to release the documents in two phases. The first phase of documents will be released Nov. 9, followed by a second phase on Nov. 13."

FWS TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR BUILDING AT FORSYTHE. The [Press of Atlantic City \(NJ\)](#) (11/9, 216K) reports that the FWS will "hold a public meeting" on Nov. 17 "to discuss plans for the construction of a new administrative office building at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge."

COMMENTS SHOW SUPPORT FOR RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN ACCESS. The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#)

(11/9, Cary, 100K) reports that “a request for public comments on how the federal government should manage public access to Rattlesnake Mountain has been met with enthusiasm.” The FWS had “received 90 written responses by Friday, with a week left for the public to submit comments.” According to the article, “the appreciation for the mountain, whether from people who want to finally see the view from the top or those who think it is too special to be spoiled by people, is evident.” However, “the comments are light on creative suggestions as to how required public access to the mountain could be managed by the limited staff of the Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: WOLF OR-7’S COLLAR NO LONGER WORKING. Additional coverage that wolf OR-7’s collar has stopped working was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/8, 3.6M).

PLANS FOR ASSATEAGUE ISLAND CRITICIZED. In a piece for the [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (11/9, 93K), Linda J. White criticizes the proposal by the FWS to move the beach at Assateague Island. Chincoteague officials have “sent letters to federal and state officials asking some pretty good questions about Fish and Wildlife’s 1,123-page plan.” According to White, the questions “illustrate the problems that occur when large federal agencies with big-picture mandates interface with small communities whose traditions and history pre-date not only the agencies, but the United States itself.”

National Park Service:

NPS REOPENS USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL AFTER INSPECTION SHOWS DOCK IS SAFE. The [AP](#) (11/9, 64K) reports that the NPS is “reopening the USS Arizona Memorial to visitors after engineers determined its dock is safe.” The agency said Friday that “only minor repairs are needed.” The NPS “on Thursday suspended memorial visits after officials noticed bolts connecting the dock to the memorial were stressed.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (11/9, 5.31M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/9, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/7, Press, 7.78M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/6, 283K).

NPS PROPOSES NEW MUSEUM FOR STATUE OF LIBERTY. [USA Today](#) (11/6, 5.56M) reports that the NPS is “proposing a new Statue of Liberty museum to replace the one located inside Lady Liberty.” Currently, the museum is “only accessible to visitors who buy a ticket to the statue’s pedestal or crown.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [National Parks Traveler](#) (11/9, 989).

CHATTANOOGA MOVING POLICE FIRING RANGE TO ACCOMMODATE NPS PLAN. The [AP](#) (11/9, 2.15M) reports that “the city of Chattanooga is moving a police firing range to make way for a National Park Service management plan in the area.” According to the article, “keeping the range on the Tennessee riverbank at Moccasin Bend would delay the National Park Service’s long-term plans for the area.” The service “plans to incorporate the 33-acre area into an existing park.”

NPS REMOVES GARBAGE BINS TO REDUCE OCEAN BEACH TRASH. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/9, Subscription Publication, 3.44M) reports that “in a seemingly counterintuitive move, the National Park Service has removed most of the garbage cans along Ocean Beach — in hopes of reducing litter.” According to the article, “park officials say the move has been successful, but neighbors and beachgoers call it a failure.” Adrienne Freeman, public affairs specialist for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, said, “If trash really starts to accumulate, we are going to put the trash cans back. But we are seeing a cleaner beach. People have started taking personal responsibility for the beach that they use.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KRON-TV](#) San Francisco (11/6, 85K).

NPS EXPLAINS TREE REMOVAL ALONG C&O CANAL. [WTOP-FM](#) Washington (11/9, 378K) reports that “in response to community outcry over eight trees chopped down along the C&O Canal towpath near Swain’s Lock, the National Park Service is admitting it did not communicate well with park lovers its plan to reforest the area.” Kevin Brandt, the park superintendent, said, “We didn’t meet the standard of communication. What we’re really trying to do here is communicate visitor safety is truly important to the Park Service.” The NPS will “take the comments under advisement and decide how to move forward.”

YELLOWSTONE BREAKS VISITATION RECORD. The [AP](#) (11/9, 2.15M) reports that “park officials say Yellowstone National Park attracted an unexpectedly large amount of visitors this year.” According to park spokeswoman Amy Bartlett, “there were more than 4 million recreational visits by the end of October, when

roads to many popular attractions close for the season.” The article notes that “crowds could also pour in next year, as the National Park Service turns 100 years old.”

More Chinese Tourists Visiting Yellowstone National Park Area. The [Seattle Times](#) (11/9, 1.17M) reports that “merchants in downtown Jackson say they noticed an increase in the number of Chinese tourists who are making the Yellowstone National Park region a destination.”

NPS IMPLEMENTS NEW PERMITTING SYSTEM AT CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (11/9, 464K) reports that since Sept. 1, the NPS “requires permits for day use on two major backcountry roads in Canyonlands: The White Rim Road through the Island in the Sky District and the Elephant Hill Road through the Needles District.” Kate Cannon, the superintendent of four parks in Utah including Canyonlands says “this was a preemptive decision, based on growing interest in driving these dirt roads.” According to the article, “permits for overnight use of the two roads have been required for years, but Cannon says day use — those who want to go out and come back the same day — has been on the rise.” Cannon says “it’s not just a matter of preserving the environment, but saving the solitary experience the overnight campers savor.”

STUDENTS CREATE MOBILE APP FOR MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK. The [Centralia \(WA\) Chronicle](#) (11/9, 903) reports that “this July, 20 students from the University of West Florida collaborated with the National Park Service and Next Exit History to create a number of digital tours for Mount Rainier National Park.” The article notes that “the project was meant to coordinate with the 2016 Centennial celebration of the establishment of the National Park Service.”

NORTH JEFFERSON FOURTH GRADERS RECEIVE FREE PASSES. The [Martinsburg \(WV\) Journal](#) (11/9, 38K) reports that “North Jefferson Elementary School’s fourth graders gathered in the school’s gymnasium Nov. 2 to receive, from the National Park Service, free passes that entitle them to visit any national park in the United States free of charge for one year.”

DROUGHT DRIVES BEARS DOWN TO TOWN NEAR SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (11/9, 2.15M) reports that “Three Rivers is literally crawling with hungry bears driven down from” the mountains in Sequoia National Park “by drought in search of food to fatten up for winter. Everyone seems to have photos of the creatures on their phones or anecdotes of encounters.” According to the article, “the four-year drought shriveled the berry crop in the Sierra Nevada and oaks on parched hillsides produced fewer acorns, forcing the bears into the valleys carved by the branches of the Kaweah River that give this town its name.”

SEVERE STORMS SHUT DOWN FORT PICKENS. The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (11/7, 124K) reports that “Gulf Islands National Seashore shut down the Fort Pickens area for 10 days after severe storms struck last week.” According to the article, “the closure negatively impacted the National Park Service unit, but only to an extent.”

STURGEON CASE SEEN AS CRUCIAL FOR ALASKA’S SOVEREIGNTY. The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (11/9, 42K) editorializes that “the case of John Sturgeon versus the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior is strikingly important with regard to the sovereignty of the state of Alaska.” According to the paper, the decision by the Supreme Court will, “regardless of which way the decision comes down, have a direct affect on Alaskans traveling on state waterways that transit units of the National Park System.” It hopes that “the justices read the language as Congress intended” because “if not, the Last Frontier, with its promise of freedom and expanse, will lose a little more of itself to the multitudinous pages of a rulebook.”

NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE’S NORTH WOODS DEBATED. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (11/6, 165K) editorializes that “a Maine North Woods national park has been the subject of debate for more than two decades.” It notes that during that “time, the economic landscape of the Katahdin region has shifted dramatically — for the worse — and the ownership of much of the timberland stretching from Millinocket to the Canadian border has changed hands,” and “the park plan, too, has changed.” The paper argues that “the proposed national park and recreation area will not cure the Katahdin region’s economic woes, but it can be a focal point of its remaking with benefits spreading to Bangor and beyond.”

In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (11/6, 165K), Patricia Callahan wishes that “the whole debate would just go away” because she is “just sick about so many people not getting along.” She questions whether “all this division, acrimony, animosity and mistrust worth it.” Callahan asks, “If all parties can’t enjoy, share and benefit from a resource intended for them, then what good is the resource?”

Top National News:

OBAMA REJECTS KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE. President Obama on Friday announced that he was rejecting the application to build the Keystone XL pipeline in the US, saying that it does not benefit either US national security or the economy. However, media coverage – which includes less than two minutes on the three broadcast networks combined – overwhelmingly focuses on Obama's statement that the decision will improve the US' standing in climate change discussions, which reporting generally views sympathetically.

The [AP](#) (11/7, Lederman) reports Obama on Friday denied TransCanada's application to build the Keystone pipeline, "declaring the proposed project wouldn't serve US national interests and would have undercut" American leadership on climate change. [ABC World News](#) (11/6, story 7, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported the President said the pipeline wouldn't "help the environment, the economy, or lower gas prices."

On [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/6, 1.53M), Kevin Corke reported that "it was an abrupt ending for a seven years-long review," noting that the decision came just "days" after TransCanada "asked the US State Department to pause its review." According to [McClatchy](#) (11/6, Cockerham, 27K), Obama said he made the decision after Secretary of State Kerry informed him on Friday that the State Department's review of the project determined it was not in the US' national interest. Obama said, "The pipeline would not have made a meaningful long-term contribution to our economy" and "Shipping dirtier crude oil into our country would not have increased America's energy security." In an editorial, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/7, 3.6M) says Obama's decision "takes an important stand for the safety and quality of drinking water, the health of wilderness areas and the future of the world's climate." The Times adds that approving the pipeline would have been "an ever-more-desperate push to produce fossil fuels to burn will not get the world where it needs to be on its biggest environmental threat."

[CNN](#) (11/6, Labott, Berman, 3.54M) reported on its website that the decision "comes as the White House continues to promote its environmental agenda and efforts to fight climate change" and Obama plans to "attend the Paris climate talks." According to the [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Eilperin, Mufson, 7.78M), Obama said, "America's now a global leader when it comes to taking serious action to fight climate change. And frankly, approving this project would have undercut that global leadership. And that's the biggest risk we face, not acting." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (11/7, Drajem, 303K) reports the President "has given himself the job of cajoling commitments from other countries" at the talks "for a deal that would for the first time bind all nations to limit their greenhouse gas emissions." Bloomberg says "the rejection of Keystone adds one more notch to his climate record, enhancing his authority in pressuring fellow world leaders."

[USA Today](#) (11/7, Jackson, 5.56M) reports that Obama on Friday confirmed his upcoming attendance at the Paris talks. The President is expected to be in Paris for only a day and stated, "Three weeks from now, I look forward to joining my fellow world leaders in Paris, where we've got to come together around an ambitious framework to protect the one planet that we've got while we still can." The [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Mooney, 7.78M) says the announcement's timing, less than a month before the Paris talks, "can hardly be coincidental." The Post says "There's no doubt that President Obama is trying to shape a climate legacy and that showing leadership on all things climate related is his way of doing so." According to the Post, the rejection "is likely to give those talks major momentum."

The [New York Times](#) (11/7, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) agrees with Obama in an editorial, saying that the President "already has strong credentials on climate change," but "Rejecting the Keystone pipeline should further enhance his credibility and that of the United States on this issue." However, the [Washington Post](#) (11/7, 7.78M) editorializes that "world governments are smart enough to recognize what many activists apparently have not: The Keystone XL fight hardly matters in the grand scheme of the global climate." Instead, according to the Post, "Perceptions of US climate leadership depend" on the Environmental Protection Agency's rules that lead to reducing remissions, "not on domestic political psychodrama."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/7, Parsons, Richter, 3.6M) reports some opponents of the pipeline "long warned about the negative effects of tar sands oil mining on wildlife and people," while others said it "would lock the US into dependence on an oil that is destructive and hard to extract." Meanwhile, supporters "argued in favor of the economic benefits" and "pointed to the jobs that the construction of the pipeline would create" and reducing of reliance on Middle Eastern oil sources.

[The Hill](#) (11/6, Cama, Fabian, 654K) reported that Obama felt some of those arguments were exaggerated and being exploited by both sides of the debate. Obama said the Keystone pipeline “has occupied what I, frankly, consider an overinflated role in our political discourse,” adding, “It became a symbol too often used as a c

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, November 5, 2015

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DOI in the News:

WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL CONFERENCE TO FOCUS ON YOUTH. [McClatchy](#) (11/5, 27K) reports that “the seventh annual White House Tribal Nations Conference on Thursday will focus on Native American youth.” The article notes that “the conference’s major focus will be on the impact of Generation Indigenous, or Gen-I, an initiative launched last December to connect and empower Native youth following Obama’s visit to the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said that “the administration’s 2016 budget proposal ‘makes Indian Country a priority,’ dedicating \$20.5 billion to Native American services such as education, social services, health, justice, infrastructure and natural resources.”

Additional coverage of the White House Tribal Nations Conference was provided by the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (11/4, 203K), the [Oklahoman](#) (11/5, 470K), the [Oregonian](#) (11/5, 769K), and the [Hermiston \(OR\) Herald](#) (11/4, 676).

REP. BISHOP TO RELEASE LANGUAGE TO REFORM LWCF. [Politico Pro](#) (11/4, Subscription Publication) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop will “release language to reform the Land and Water Conservation Fund this week, a step that he has said must proceed reauthorization of the 50-year-old program.” The House Natural Resources chairman also “criticized lawmakers who called to make the fund permanent since its authorization lapsed in September.” Bishop said in a statement, “Those who want to simply reauthorize and make permanent the program would forever subject the American people to government bureaucrats that want their land and have the means to take it. I will introduce reform language this week that will prohibit LWCF funds from going to eminent domain projects and restores funding to the Stateside program.”

States Lost LWCF Cash In 1976. The [E&E Daily](#) (11/4, Subscription Publication) reports that in 1976, lawmakers “voted to nix an existing provision that, unless appropriators decided otherwise, ensured 60 percent of LWCF money went to states and 40 percent to federal land acquisition.” As a result, “the state guarantee disappeared, but the federal share was kept intact.”

Oceana Gets Grant From LWCF For Park. The [Pineville \(WV\) Independent Herald](#) (11/5) reports that “the Town of Oceana is receiving a \$30,000 grant to continue upgrades on Gilliland Park.” Oceana City Clerk Clark Manning said “the grant application was submitted and was approved by the Land and Water Conservation Fund ‘after a lot of work.’”

Congress Urged To Reauthorize LWCF. In a piece for the [Jonesborough \(TN\) Herald and Tribune](#) (11/5, 13K), Frances Lamberts urges Congress to reauthorize the LWCF. He asserts that “the LWCF has been one of the most successful and popular conservation programs in modern U.S. history.”

SENATORS UNVEIL BILL TO STOP DRILLING ON PUBLIC LANDS. [Politico Pro](#) (11/4, Subscription Publication) reports that “Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders and green allies want to build on the so-far successful effort to block the Keystone XL pipeline by getting the U.S. government out of the coal, oil and gas business in the name of fighting climate change.” Sanders “on Wednesday will help unveil a Senate bill that would bar any new federal lands or waters from being leased for fossil energy development, a move that allows Sanders to further stake out territory to the left of Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton on climate change.” According to the article, “while the Keep it in the Ground Act stands virtually no chance of passing a Republican-controlled Congress, its title evokes an emerging rallying cry among the activists who are on the cusp of defeating the controversial oil pipeline and who persuaded the Obama administration to scale back plans for offshore drilling in the Arctic last month.”

The [E&E Daily](#) (11/4, Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. Jeff Merkley said, “This bill is about recognizing that the fossil fuel reserves that are on our public lands should be managed in the public interest. And the public interest is for us to help drive a transition from fossil fuels to a clean-energy future.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/5, Wolfgang, 283K), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (11/5, 112K), [Reuters](#) (11/4, Becker), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (11/4, 10K), [UPI](#) (11/4), [Think Progress](#) (11/4, 293K), [Vox](#) (11/4, 874K), and [Between the Lines](#) (11/5).

REPUBLICANS SLAM REP. GRIJALVA’S GRAND CANYON BILL. The [E&E Daily](#) (11/4, Subscription Publication) reports that House Republicans on Tuesday “slammed” a bill by Rep. Raúl Grijalva “to designate a 1.7-million-acre national monument around the Grand Canyon, signaling trouble for the measure and making

it likely its supporters would ask President Obama to protect the land using the Antiquities Act.” Grijalva’s “Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act” would “permanently ban mining and other industrial uses north and south of Grand Canyon National Park.” The legislation “aims to protect tribal sacred sites and safeguard a watershed that provides drinking water to major cities including Las Vegas and Los Angeles.” The measure has “been formally endorsed by the Hualapai, Havasupai and Hopi tribes and Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and has garnered support from other tribal leaders.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (11/4, 506).

Tribal Leaders Want Help In Protection Of Sacred Sites. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/4, 705) reports that “a trio of tribal leaders from Montana, Washington state and Arizona want President Obama’s help protecting their sacred lands from development.” The chairmen of the Blackfeet Nation, Lummi Nation and Colorado River Indian Tribes “sent a letter to the administration earlier this week demanding action on their individual but unified concerns ahead of the White House Tribal Nations Conference.” They wrote, “For decades, cultural and sacred areas have been targets for development. While we make decisions to benefit our people and our tribal economies, it isn’t about development and profit at any cost. ... Once these lands are desecrated, there’s no turning back.”

INTERIOR SHARES VIDEO OF SKUNK DOING HANDSTAND AT SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK. [KCPQ-TV](#) Seattle (11/4, 114K) reports that “a spotted skunk was recently caught doing a handstand at the Saguaro National Park in Arizona, the Interior Department said on its Instagram site.” The department said “this ‘strange interaction’ was captured by Saguaro’s wildlife camera in Happy Valley, Ariz.” The agency said, “Like the other three groups of skunks, spotted skunks are capable of spraying a strong unpleasant scent as a form of defense. But before spraying, spotted skunks will sometimes go into a handstand and attempt to intimidate any would be aggressors like this skunk is doing with the wildlife camera.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (11/5, Mazza, 251K) and [KTLA-TV](#) Los Angeles (11/4, 368K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: PRESIDENT OBAMA SIGNS CONSERVATION MEMORANDUM. Additional coverage of the Obama Administration’s new mitigation policies was provided by [Argus Media](#) (11/5) and [Mondag](#) (11/5, 3K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL PILT PAYMENTS. Additional coverage of the additional PILT payments announced by the Interior Department was provided by the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (11/4, 15K), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (11/5, 200K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (11/5, 403K), and the [Nevada Appeal](#) (11/5, 51K).

USE OF ANTIQUITIES ACT TO ESTABLISH ATLANTIC MARINE MONUMENT OPPOSED. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (11/5, Williams, 654K), Jon Williams, president of the Atlantic Red Crab Company of New Bedford, Massachusetts, writes that “an ongoing campaign led by large, well-funded environmental organizations is urging President Obama to use the 1906 Antiquities Act to designate parts of the Atlantic Ocean—such as Cashes Ledge in the Gulf of Maine and the New England Canyons and Seamounts—as marine National Monuments.” He argues that the Antiquities Act, “while undoubtedly created in good faith, has been misused in the case of marine monuments to a frightening extent.” Instead, he says that “the best way to manage our nation’s public resources is to involve the public.” Williams concludes that “those of us whose livelihoods could be devastated by the proposed marine monument designations can only hope that the administration will heed its own guidelines.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

REPORT: LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM HAS RESTORED 1.5M ACRES TO TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS SINCE 2012. [KJZZ-FM](#) Phoenix (11/5, 8K) reports that “the federal Land Buy-Back program for tribal nations has restored about 1.5 million acres of land into trust for tribal governments since launching in 2012,” according to a new status report released by the Interior Department. According to Interior Deputy Secretary Mike Connor, “the department has paid about \$715 million to landowners to buy back their land since the program began.” He said, “The real value that I see, particularly to Indian Country, is its giving economic return to those individual land owners who own an interest who are getting some return. Whereas the tiny fractionated interests that some of them hold, it’s hard to get an economic return.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Law360](#) (11/5, 30K).

INTERIOR TO ISSUE NEW RULES ON NATIVE AMERICAN REMAINS. [The Hill](#) (11/5, Devaney, Wheeler, 654K) reports that the Interior Department will “issue new rules for disposing of unclaimed Native American remains, funeral objects, sacred objects, and other cultural items found on federal lands.” The rules stem from the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. According to the article, “the federal government would be allowed to dispose of the remains only after making attempts to find the Indian tribes to which they belong.”

SCHOOLS INCREASINGLY BANNING ATTIRE WITH NATIVE AMERICAN MASCOTS. The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, George, 7.78M) reports that Jared Hautamaki, whose 5-year-old son attends school in Silver Spring, Md., has “testified before the county school board, started a petition drive and stirred community debate about what constitutes offensive attire at school.” Hautamaki is “calling on county school officials to ban students and staff in the district from wearing clothing with the name or logo of sports teams with Native American mascots, including Washington’s NFL team.” The article notes that “his efforts come after a Maryland private school recently ended the use of the ‘R-word’ on campus, including on student attire, and as an increasing number of schools nationally drop the Redskins name and others linked to Native American culture.”

[Tackling America’s Water Challenges:](#)

BOR SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED NEW BULKHEAD AT GRAND COULEE DAM. The [Star of Grand Coulee \(WA\)](#) (11/4, 41) reports that “Grand Coulee Dam could get a new fixture for help in repairing the big gates at the top of its spillway, one of which has been leaking since last summer.” The BOR is “seeking public comment to identify issues and concerns to be addressed in an Environmental Assessment for a proposed drum gate maintenance structure at Grand Coulee Dam.”

EDITORIAL: CALIFORNIA’S WATER ISSUES WOULD BE BETTER ADDRESSED THROUGH MARKET MECHANISMS. [Bloomberg View](#) (11/4, 86K) editorializes that “California’s cities are adapting to the state’s worst-in-a-century drought, hitting aggressive targets for water reduction set by Governor Jerry Brown in April.” But “the bigger challenge is to change the behavior of farmers, who consume 80 percent of the state’s water and have so far been spared the same magnitude of restrictions.” It argues that “the way to see that California’s increasingly scarce water is well-allocated is to stop sheltering it from the laws of supply and demand.”

[Securing America’s Energy Future:](#)

Renewable Energy:

FEDERAL JUDGE REJECTS APPROVAL OF SEARCHLIGHT WIND ENERGY PROJECT. The [Greenwire](#) (11/4, Subscription Publication) reports that “a federal judge in Nevada has thrown out the Obama administration’s approval of what was projected to be the Silver State’s largest wind power project, ruling that the Interior Department did not properly evaluate potential impacts to golden eagles and Mojave Desert tortoises.” U.S. District Judge Miranda Du’s “seven-page order issued late Friday is a sharp rebuke of the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the 200-megawatt Searchlight Wind Energy Project conducted by the Bureau of Land Management and a biological opinion conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service.” The article notes that “legal experts say this is the first time a court has formally ruled invalid a final EIS, biological opinion and record of decision for a renewable energy project.”

NRG SEEKS EAGLE TAKE PERMIT. The [reNews](#) (11/5) reports that the FWS has “released a draft environmental assessment for an ‘eagle take permit’ for NRG Yield’s 150MW Alta East wind farm in California.” The FWS said “the project could kill up to three golden eagles over five years without having a significant impact on eagle populations in the area.”

Onshore Energy Development:

DRAFT MEMO SEEKS TO IMPROVE PROTECTIONS FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES IN COAL MINING PERMITS. The [Greenwire](#) (11/4, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department is “moving to coordinate interagency efforts to protect endangered species in coal mining permitting.” A draft memorandum

of understanding between the OSMRE and the FWS is “meant to help mining regulators boost scrutiny of species impacts in mine permitting.” OSMRE spokesman Chris Holmes said, “When completed, this MOU will serve as a model for state regulatory agencies to use in streamlining the coordination process for the protection, conservation and enhancement of threatened and endangered species and associated critical habitat at coal mining sites.”

ADVOCATES MOVE TO REOPEN CASE TO BLOCK DRILLING NEAR GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. The [EnergyWire](#) (11/4, Subscription Publication) reports that “conservation groups and tribal advocates are trying a new approach to block oil and gas development near Glacier National Park: asking a federal court to reopen a 20-year-old case on the matter.” The Pikuni Traditionalist Association and Brave Dog Society, “tribal heritage groups, partnered with a coalition of national and state conservation organizations in Montana for last week’s legal action, which seeks to revive a lawsuit that would block development in an area considered both ecologically and culturally important.” The groups argued in a legal brief filed Friday, “Road and bridge construction, well pad development, and the industrial activity associated with oil and gas drilling are fundamentally antithetical to and incompatible with Plaintiffs’ interests and represent a direct threat to those interests.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Cut Bank \(MT\) Pioneer Press](#) (11/5, 237).

WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST COULD BE OPENED TO FRACKING. The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (11/4, 518K) reports that “the federal government is considering, again, opening Wayne National Forest to fracking.” According to the article, “oil and gas companies have formally expressed interest to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in hydraulically fracturing about 31,900 acres of the Wayne.” The BLM is “reviewing those requests to see if the federal government owns the mineral rights beneath those sections of the forest, and it plans to assess potential environmental risks.”

The [AP](#) (11/5) and the [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (11/5, Junkins, 55K) also covered the story.

SAGE GROUSE DECISION CLARIFIES PLAN FOR BOARDMAN-TO-HEMINGWAY TRANSMISSION LINE. The [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (11/5, 19K) reports that “with the decision not to list greater sage grouse as an endangered species, Idaho Power has a clearer picture of the direction for its proposed Boardman-to-Hemingway transmission line.” Idaho Power officials are “evaluating the effects of Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service land-use plan amendments on sage grouse conservation measures in relationship to its operations and maintenance of facilities in sage grouse habitat.”

COLORADO GOV. HICKENLOOPER SEEKS HIGH COURT RULE ON ATTORNEY GENERAL LAWSUITS. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/5, 73K) reports that “attorneys for Gov. John Hickenlooper filed a petition with the Colorado Supreme Court on Wednesday to ask it to determine if the governor, and not the state’s attorney general, has the ultimate authority to decide when the state can sue the federal government.” According to the article, “the petition was spurred because Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman has filed three such cases against federal agencies without approval from the governor, something Hickenlooper said is a separation-of-powers issue between his office and hers. Both offices are elected directly by Colorado voters.” One of the “cases involve a suit against the Bureau of Land Management over hydraulic fracturing rules.”

Additional coverage as provided by the [Denver Post](#) (11/5, Finley, 825K).

Offshore Energy Development:

ACTIVISTS SEEKS TO MAKE OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING CENTRAL THEME OF 2016 CAMPAIGN. The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (11/5, 177K) reports that “environmental activists hope to make opposition to offshore oil drilling a central theme of the 2016 campaign, spotlighting an issue that resonates throughout the nation’s most important swing state of Florida.” The anti-drilling coalition Sea Party 2016 “has enlisted a broad range of advocates, including liberal environmental organizations and tea-party backed conservatives from coastal states.” Coalition members “say drilling off the U.S. coastline isn’t just bad for the environment, it’s bad for business, too.”

ALASKA HOUSE APPROVES COMPLAINT AGAINST DECISION TO CANCEL ARCTIC LEASE SALES. The [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (11/4, Brooks, 18K) reported that the Alaska House “approved a formal complaint against the Obama administration’s decision to cancel oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic.” Unlike a

bill agreeing to purchase TransCanada's stake in an LNG project, which passed the House unanimously Wednesday, "the Arctic complaint broke mostly along majority/minority lines as it passed 27-12, with one representative absent." Senate Joint Resolution 301 "declares that the Alaska Legislature is unhappy with the federal government's decision to cancel Arctic Ocean lease sales, saying in part, the 'Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Department of the Interior to reconsider its actions and continue to promote oil and gas exploration in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas.'" The decision to cancel the lease sales followed Shell's announcement that it would not continue its exploratory oil drilling in the Alaskan Arctic.

JEFFERSON PARISH TO SPEND BP SETTLEMENT MONEY ON COASTAL RESTORATION, FLOOD PROTECTION. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (11/5, 661K) reports that the Jefferson Parish Council has broken a months-long stalemate by deciding to divide its \$35 million in BP settlement money between the council's five districts for flood protection and coastal restoration.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOEM DIRECTOR HOPPER SPEAKS AT COLUMBIA CONFERENCE.

Additional coverage of BOEM Director Abigail Ross Hopper's comments before a Columbia conference sponsored by Consumer Energy Alliance on offshore energy development was provided by the [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (11/5, 33K).

BP OIL SETTLEMENT CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Alabama Live](#) (11/4, 855K), Jeff Dute, former Outdoors Editor of the Mobile Press-Register, writes that "done the right way, thinking outside the box and with an eye to the future, there is no reason Alabama's share of the BP oil spill settlement cannot be the foundation of a legacy of unparalleled job creation, land acquisition and environmental protection." But he argues that "as the settlement now stands, it will accomplish neither." Dute says that "Alabama should create a non-governmental trust fund or endowment and place all of the money into whichever account can be guaranteed to earn the highest interest rate."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON BILL FOR RURAL NEVADA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/5, 403K) reports that "Republicans on the House Natural Resources Committee lined up Wednesday behind legislation aimed at expediting economic development in rural Lincoln, Nye and White Pine counties and in the city of Mesquite." At a hearing on the bill, Committee Chairman Rob Bishop "indicated that he plans to move forward with the legislation within the next month, telling Bureau of Land Management Deputy Director Steven Ellis that if the BLM has concerns about the proposal he should hurry up with an alternative." Rep. Cresent Hardy "testified Wednesday in favor of the bill." Ellis "testified that BLM supports much of what Hardy sought to accomplish in the legislation but objects to some specific provisions."

ELK BASIN DINOSAUR BONES DUG UP. The [AP](#) (11/5, 2.15M) reports that "for more than 70 million years, it sat preserved underground until the front leg and shoulder of a hadrosaur, a type of duck-billed dinosaur, was dug up in Elk Basin." According to the article, "the bones were initially discovered around 15 years ago by Marilyn Wagweisner, about 15 miles outside of Powell and a few miles northwest of the gas plant in Elk Basin." The BLM contacted Collections manager for the Tate Geological Museum, J-P Cavigelli, "in the spring of 2014 and asked if he was interested in collecting the remainder of the dinosaur." Now, "Cavigelli is digging up the remainder of the hadrosaur bones."

BLM BEGINS DEMOLITION OF HINSDALE HOUSE. The [Coos Bay \(OR\) World](#) (11/5, 32K) reports that the BLM "began dismantling the Hinsdale House, north of Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area on Spruce Reach Island, the week of Oct. 26." According to the article, "the home is in disrepair and the agency is removing it to protect the health and safety of the public."

BLM BEGINS WHITE RIVER TRAVEL BLUEPRINT. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/5, 73K) reports that the BLM has "scheduled two public meetings as it begins to evaluate how travel should be managed on lands within its White River Field Office's jurisdiction." The bureau is "starting an environmental assessment to amend its resource management plan to determine areas open to cross-country travel by motorized and mechanized vehicles, closed altogether to such vehicles, or open to them only on designated routes." White River Field Manager Kent Walter said, "Our ultimate goal is to identify a comprehensive travel network that balances current and future transportation needs while managing for other resources and uses."

BLM OFFERING HORSES FOR ADOPTION AT BOISE WILD HORSE CORRALS. The [AP](#) (11/5, 283K) reports that “horses rounded up following a giant wildfire in southwestern Idaho are being offered for adoption.” The BLM is “making 38 horses available for viewing Friday and then adoption on Saturday at the Boise BLM Wild Horse Corrals located south of Boise.” Also, “two more halter-trained horses captured elsewhere are...being offered.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

STUDY FINDS ILLEGAL POT FARMING OPERATIONS ARE POISONING THREATENED WEASELS. The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Harvey, 7.78M) reports that “a new study, released Wednesday in the journal PLOS ONE, investigated the causes behind fisher mortality in California and identified a common form of rat poison — which you wouldn’t normally expect to find in the middle of their remote forest habitat — as an ‘emerging threat’ to the species.” Researchers “concluded that 10 percent were killed by rodenticide poisoning.” The toxicants were discovered to be associated with marijuana cultivation sites.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Phys \(UK\)](#) (11/5, 530) and [KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (11/5, 15K).

NO DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ON GRIZZLY BEAR DELISTING. The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (11/5, 1K) reports that “federal wildlife managers meeting in Teton Village on Tuesday said there are no immediate plans to propose a rule that could return management of the Greater Yellowstone’s grizzly bears to the states.” According to the article, “speculation has been that the process to pull Endangered Species Act protections for the ecosystem’s grizzlies would be underway by the end of the year.” FWS “personnel admitted Tuesday there have been talks, but said no decisions have been made.”

FWS STUDIES STATUS OF RARE GLACIER INSECTS. The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (11/5, 51K) reports that “two stoneflies found in high-elevation coldwater streams in and near Glacier National Park are being considered for protection under the Endangered Species Act by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” According to the article, “the joint status review will examine the condition of the meltwater lednian stonefly and the western glacier stonefly, found only in a handful of streams in Montana.”

COLORADO HUNTERS BENEFIT FROM SAGE GROUSE PROTECTIONS. The [Public News Service](#) (11/5, 306) reports that “the third combined season for deer and elk kicked off last weekend, and Colorado hunters are taking full advantage of the U.S. Interior Department’s decision not to list the greater sage-grouse as an endangered species.” Kent Ingram, president with the Colorado Wildlife Federation, is “hopeful the conservation tactics and partnerships that helped avoid a listing will continue to protect wildlife in Colorado.” Ingram notes “the sage sea and the Piceance Basin in particular is critical for deer and elk numbers as they move down from higher elevations when the weather turns.”

ACTION URGED TO RESTORE SALTON SEA. In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (11/4, 98K), Rep. Raul Ruiz writes that “the longer we wait to act” for the Salton Sea, “the costlier it becomes to fix the problem, harming the public’s health and the economic well-being of our communities.” The Red Hill Bay Restoration Project is “the first large scale project to help prevent the dust exposure.” He notes that “the Red Hill Bay project was a collaborative effort between Sens. Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, Congressman Juan Vargas, state Sen. Ben Hueso, Assembly member Eduardo Garcia, Supervisor John Benoit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), the State of California, and the Salton Sea Authority.”

GOV. MEAD TESTIFIES ABOUT ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. In a piece for the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (11/5, 1K), Todd Wilkinson writes that “several weeks ago, Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead joined his counterpart from Montana, Steve Bullock, in testifying before a U.S. Senate Committee about the federal Endangered Species Act.”

National Park Service:

CAMPAIGN PUSHES FOR PROTECTION OF NINE “CROWN JEWEL” PARKS. The [Greenwire](#) (11/4, Subscription Publication) reports that the National Parks Conservation Association on Wednesday “launched a new campaign urging the Obama administration to protect nine parks the group sees as threatened by oil and gas drilling, transmission lines, real estate development, and overfishing, among other threats.” The #ParksInPeril campaign will “use social media, mailings and potential advertisements to galvanize public support for protecting ‘crown jewel’ parks – Grand Canyon, Grand Teton, Arches, Glacier, Yosemite, Biscayne

and Yellowstone national parks; the Mojave National Preserve; and the Colonial National Historic Park.” NPCA is also “lobbying directly with top officials at the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and other agencies to issue long-term protections for those parks.”

NATIONAL PARK NON-COMPLIANT WITH EPA OZONE STANDARDS, DISAGREEMENT EMERGES

OVER WHY. [US News & World Report](#) (11/5, Richards, 996K) reports that while communities across the nation “spend billions conforming to” the Environmental Protection Agency’s new ozone standards, the 26 national parks that have fallen into “non-compliant levels” under the new standards “may be off the hook.” The article discusses the dispute over the origin of the ozone causing non-compliance, with the National Parks Service “blam[ing] power plants,” while California officials and scientists saying emissions from park tourism “are mostly to blame.” Meanwhile, the piece notes that critics of the new standards say it will be “the most costly regulation in history,” with NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons stating, “The costs of compliance with this regulation would largely be borne by manufacturers, and the EPA can only identify a little more than a third of the controls we would need to install to comply. It calls the rest ‘unknown controls,’ because it simply cannot tell us what we will have to do.” Timmons added, “This regulation’s strict mandates will force manufacturers to shut down, scrap or modify existing facilities. This means higher costs for consumers and lost jobs.”

DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE TO KICK OFF ANNIVERSARY COUNTDOWN. The [AP](#) (11/5, 283K) reports that “the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is kicking off a yearlong countdown to the park’s 50th anniversary as a top Lake Michigan tourist attraction.” The NPS and “its partners will host a 49th birthday party Thursday for the park at the Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center in Porter.” According to the article, “that party will feature at least 10 birthday cakes to kick off the yearlong celebration of the 15,000-acre national park that Congress created in 1966 along 15 miles of Lake Michigan’s northwestern Indiana shoreline.”

NPS SEEKS INPUT ON NEW STATUE OF LIBERTY MUSEUM. [NY1-TV](#) New York (11/5, 35K) reports that the NPS is seeking input “on a proposal to build a new museum on Liberty Island.” The 20,000-square-foot facility, located on the northwest part of the island, would “replace the existing Statue of Liberty Museum on the statue’s pedestal.” The NPS says “only 20 percent of the island’s visitors get to visit the museum and are required to reserve tickets in advance,” and “the new building would allow more people to visit the museum at a time.”

CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK OPENS FIRST MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL.. The [Akron \(OH\) Beacon Journal](#) (11/5, 278K) reports that “the first mountain bike trail in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park is now open.” The NPS has “announced a 2.3-mile loop in northern Summit County is open to mountain bikers, hikers and runners.” Superintendent Craig Kenkel said, “With the opening of the first phase of the East Rim Trail, I’m thrilled that visitors will have a new way to explore our national park.”

COLLEGE STUDENTS HELP GLACIER NATIONAL PARK TO CREATE NEW MOBILE APP. [KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (11/5, 1K) reports that “a group of 20 college students from the University of West Florida traveled across the United States in 2015, visiting and working with over 20 different National Park Service units.” According to the article, “the students, in collaboration with Next Exit History™ (NEH), worked with NPS staff to create engaging digital tours of each park they visited, including the creation of content for Glacier National Park.” Next Exit History™ is a “free GPS-based mobile app developed by the UWF in partnership with Historical Research Associates (HRA), of Missoula Montana.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS AWARDS FUNDS FOR BATTLEFIELD ACQUISITIONS. Additional coverage of the grants announced by the NPS “to help preserve land at three Civil War battlefields threatened with damage or destruction by urban and suburban development” was provided by [WYMT-TV](#) Hazard, KY (11/5).

US Geological Survey:

USGS WORKING ON EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR LANDSLIDES. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/4, 3.6M) reports that the USGS is “working on an early warning system that would alert Californians to landslides.” The project arrives “as the state prepares for what is likely to be a wet winter.” Jonathan Stock, a USGS geomorphologist, said, “We wanted to be in a position where we could answer the questions of what rains cause widespread landsliding before they’re asked.”

SCIENTISTS FIND SOIL HEALTH IMPROVING IN US AND CANADA, DUE TO ACID RAIN DECLINE. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (11/4, 496K) reports that “a group of scientists from the United States and Canada

have found that the acidity of soils in some parts of the continent has declined, abating years of harm to plants and aquatic life by reversing the depletion of a critical nutrient in soil: calcium.” Researchers have “determined this by testing soil samples collected in 27 locations between 2009 and 2014, in the forests of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Ontario and elsewhere in the northeastern US and eastern Canada” and “they compared their results to those compiled by the same group of scientists working at the same locations between eight and 24 years ago.” Gregory Lawrence, a USGS soil and water chemist, said in a statement, “The start of widespread soil recovery is a key step to remedy the long legacy of acid rain impacts on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.”

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: STATE’S REJECTION OF KEYSTONE REVIEW SUSPENSION LIKELY DOOMS PIPELINE. The State Department formally said Wednesday that it will not suspend its review of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline project as TransCanada requested earlier this week. While the White House did not comment Wednesday, media reports are portraying State’s decision as an indication that President Obama plans to rule on the project before he leaves office, almost certainly opting to kill the controversial pipeline.

The [AP](#) (11/4, Daly) reports the State Department said “it is continuing a review” of the pipeline despite the request. Spokesman John Kirby said State “advised TransCanada on Wednesday of its decision to continue the review,” saying “there was no legal requirement for officials to suspend the review.” [Reuters](#) (11/4, Volcovici) says the White House declined to comment.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Warrick, 7.78M) reports TransCanada said it “respected the decision and would ‘continue to demonstrate that Keystone XL is in the national interest of the United States.’” The statement continued, “We will continue to focus on building a pipeline that will put 2,200 Canadian construction workers and 9,000 in the United States to work, not to mention tens of thousands more on the full value chain that the State Department itself identified in its review.” The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (11/5, Morton, 579K) also reports on TransCanada’s statement. [Fuel Fix](#) (11/5, Dlouhy, 28K) says a Nebraska commission is evaluating “the proposed route through that state, a process that could take seven months to a year.”

On [CNBC’s Closing Bell](#) (11/4, 4:19 p.m. EST, 142K), CNBC’s Eamon Javers said, “All of this is about running out the clock on the end of the Obama Administration. The Obama Administration has signaled that it would like to make a decision, probably likely rejecting the Keystone pipeline before the end of President Obama’s term. The company obviously doesn’t want that to happen and would like to delay this regulatory procedure until a new administration comes in Washington after the 2016 elections.” [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (11/4, Baier, 1.53M) briefly reported on the decision.

[McClatchy](#) (11/5, Cockerham, 27K) reports environmental groups “cheered the decision.” Tiernan Sittenfeld of the League of Conservation Voters said, “We couldn’t agree more with the State Department’s decision. After such a long review process this was a ridiculous ploy from TransCanada. We’re confident that President Obama will build on his climate leadership once again by swiftly rejecting this dirty pipeline.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5, Tau, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) says the project has been a political football throughout the Obama presidency. The President has been skeptical of the project, saying most of the economic benefits will go to Canadian oil producers, not US workers. [The Hill](#) (11/4, Cama, 654K) says a delay “would have almost certainly pushed the federal decision into the next president’s term – a potential win for TransCanada if a Republican is elected.” The [Washington Times](#) (11/5, Wolfgang, 283K) says State’s decision “seems to eliminate the possibility a potential Republican president...would be the one to decide Keystone’s fate.”

The [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (11/5, Fuller, 600K) called the State Department’s decision a “not-so-big shocker.” The [Canadian Press](#) (11/5, Panetta) says the decision was “unwanted news” for TransCanada. [AFP](#) (11/5), the [Huffington Post](#) (11/4, Barron-Lopez, 251K), and the [Globe and Mail](#) (11/5, Liebert, Sink, 1.12M) are among the other sources reporting on the rejection.

Sanders Says Obama Should Reject Keystone Immediately. [The Hill](#) (11/4, Henry, 654K) reports Sen. Bernie Sanders said Wednesday that Obama should “reject the Keystone XL pipeline immediately to strengthen the U.S. hand going into the upcoming Paris climate talks.” At a news conference, Sanders said, “I would hope very much that President Obama will stand up as soon as possible and say that the Keystone

pipeline is a no brainer, that you do not extract and transport some of the dirtiest fuel on earth, end of discussion.”

Maddow: State Decision “Kind Of Amazing.” On [MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow Show](#) (11/4, 9:32 p.m. EST, 769K), host Maddow said, “A funny thing happened on the way to TransCanada asking the Obama Administration to please suspend their application for Keystone. The Obama Administration has now said no, we will not suspend your application. This is kind of amazing. ... I’m not sure what TransCanada was expecting for a response when they tried to pull their project, but I imagine this wasn’t it.”

Keystone Opponent: “They Know They Are Beaten.” Keystone opponent Bill McKibben of 350.org said on [Bloomberg TV’s Markets](#) (11/4, 2:18 p.m. EST, 50K), “Keystone’s throwing in the towel. They know that they are beaten, at least until they can get a friendly face in the White House. ... This is an astonishing victory for the people’s movement. When we talked four years ago, it seemed like this pipeline was a done deal, because a pipeline had never been blocked before. Now, not only is Keystone in abeyance, but...there has been the ‘Keystone-ization’ of pretty much every fossil fuel project on the continent as people have risen up in real resistance.”

Scientific American: “Tough Times” For Alberta Tar Sands. [Scientific American](#) (11/5, Biello, 3M) says on its website that “tough times have come to Alberta’s tar sands,” which “enjoyed a long boom” before the collapse in oil prices. With oil “hovering around \$50 per barrel, companies working the oil sands could barely make existing projects worthwhile, let alone start new ones.” Scientific American says if TransCanada had simply followed the new route that “follows existing easements rather than cutting a new swath through private properties” from the start in 2008, “the \$8 billion, nearly 2,000 kilometer-long pipeline would likely be up and running today.”

WHITE HOUSE: OBAMA NOT TO BLAME FOR GOP VICTORIES. As the White House sought to direct blame for Republican victories in Tuesday’s elections away from the President, a number of reports are casting the results as a rebuke of the President and Democrats.

The [Washington Times](#) (11/5, Boyer, 283K) reports that the White House said Wednesday that the President is not blame for Republican victories in Tuesday’s elections. White House press secretary Josh Earnest tried “to explain those election results, which included GOP victories in the only gubernatorial contests in the nation, in Kentucky and Mississippi,” saying “that both states are ‘red,’” and noting that Democrats “did well in ‘blue’ states such as New Jersey and Pennsylvania.” Earnest said the results are “not the president’s fault, adding, ‘Obviously the president would like to see Democrats do better.’” Earnest also said there are “a variety of explanations’ for Republicans’ success in states elections under Mr. Obama, including GOP-controlled redistricting, the tendency of Democrat to live in big cities, and the success of Republicans in get-out-the-vote campaigns.”

On its website, [NPR](#) (11/5, 1.78M) took a different view, calling the results “a stinging rebuke to President Obama and the Democratic Party,” and adding that the results “cap off yet another disappointing election cycle for Democrats since President Obama entered the White House.” Greg Sargent noted in his “Plum Line” blog for the [Washington Post](#) (11/4, 7.78M) that under the President, Democrats “are down five Senate seats (from 51 in 2006 to a likely 46 today, counting independents who caucus with them) and around 45 House seats, depending on final recounts.”

On [Vox](#) (11/5, 874K), Ezra Klein cited a post on the Washington Post’s “Plum Line” [blog](#) on which Sargent called the results a “brutal reality check for the Democratic Party” along with other negative tweets from commentators about Democrats’ fortunes, including a tweet from Republican operative Rory Cooper, who wrote, “Under President Obama, Democrats have lost 900+ state legislature seats, 12 governors, 69 House seats, 13 Senate seats. That’s some legacy.” The [Daily Caller](#) (11/4, Stoltzfoos, 366K) also highlighted Cooper’s tweet.

A [USA Today](#) (11/5, 5.56M) editorial casts the results in a more positive light for Democrats, saying that while they “represent another strong off-year showing for Republicans,” the GOP “shouldn’t gloat” because “a larger, younger and more diverse electorate expected next year” means they “face a demographic challenge in winning the White House, and they are in danger of losing the Senate majority they just won in 2014.”

WPost Analysis: Results Give Democrats Reasons For Confidence About 2016. A [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Weigel, 7.78M) analysis says that Tuesday’s results suggest that “the country’s partisan divide has

deepened.” While Republicans saw “the big wins,” Democrats “walked away with fresh confidence that their map can win a third presidential election.” Democrats “finished Tuesday with confidence that they’d cracked the suburbs.” In addition, turnout in urban areas “a key to Democratic hopes in 2016, was strong enough to notch wins” as Democrats “took back city hall in Indianapolis and held it in Charlotte.” Democratic strategists “suggested that they benefited from anger at Republican control, epitomized by Indiana’s bungle of a Religious Freedom Restoration Act,” a strategy which, “if applied to 2016...points to an election fought by inches, on the issues most likely to drive out the base.”

In his [Washington Post](#) (11/5, 7.78M) column, E.J. Dionne writes that the biggest lesson from Tuesday’s results is that “the red parts of the country are getting even redder while the blue and some of the purple parts get bluer.”

Ball: Democrats Misread Voters’ “Enthusiasm For Social Change.” On the website of [The Atlantic](#) (11/5, 2.66M), Molly Ball wrote that voters on Tuesday “rejected recreational marijuana, transgender rights, and illegal-immigrant sanctuaries; they reacted equivocally to gun-control arguments; and they handed a surprise victory to a Republican gubernatorial candidate who emphasized his opposition to gay marriage.” Ball noted that while Democrats “have become increasingly assertive in taking liberal social positions in recent years,” Tuesday’s results “suggest that the left has misread the electorate’s enthusiasm for social change, inviting a backlash from mainstream voters invested in the status quo.”

Louisville Courier-Journal Analysis: Kentucky Is A GOP “Stronghold.” In an analysis, the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (11/5, Gerth, 433K) calls Kentucky Gov.-elect Matt Bevin’s victory on Tuesday “stunning,” and says “it has become abundantly clear” that Kentucky “is a Republican stronghold.” The [Huffington Post](#) (11/4, Jackson, 251K) called the results of the Kentucky governor’s race “a surprise to many,” noting that “polls showed a close race when the result was a 9-point victory for Bevin.” While the polls “actually did correctly project Conway’s proportion of the vote correctly,” the “miss was a substantial underestimate of Bevin’s support – he ended up with 52.5 percent of the vote, compared to an average of 41 percent in the polls.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/5, Stolberg, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) calls Bevin “a big question mark,” adding that Democrats “are terrified that he will not work with them,” and Republicans, “who have heard him say he is ‘not beholden to any party per se,’ worry about who he will bring with him to the State Capitol in Frankfort. One thing seems certain: He is going to shake things up.”

Opponents Of Houston Anti-Discrimination Measure Focused On Bathrooms. The [New York Times](#) (11/5, Fernandez, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports on the efforts of a “coalition of social conservatives, Republican officials and pastors” to repeal a Houston measure “banning discrimination based on factors like age, race and sex,” noting that they “focused on what public facilities a transgender person could use.” The Times calls it “something of a triumph for political messaging” that voters “did not talk about the tools that supporters said the ordinance would have provided to fight discrimination” or gay rights, but “often focused on bathrooms.” On the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/4, story 8, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M), Omar Villafranca noted that “opponents dubbed it ‘The Bathroom Bill’ and made the name stick through a series of ads that claimed women and children would become vulnerable to sexual predators in ladies’ rooms.” Although the ordinance “made no mention of bathrooms,” it was “the inclusion of gender identity that opponents like Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick seized upon.”

[Reuters](#) (11/5, Ortiz) says that according to political experts, the 61 percent to 39 percent vote against the measure is an indication that Democrats and progressive voters joined social conservatives in opposing it.

The [New York Times](#) (11/5, Fernandez, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) also notes that opponents of the measure called its defeat “a blow to President Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton, who both endorsed it.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Somashekhar, 7.78M) calls the measure’s defeat “a setback for the gay rights movement,” and adds that the vote showed “the movement is still finding its footing on its next big priority: ending discrimination against gay and transgender people.”

An editorial in the [New York Times](#) (11/5, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says the defeat of the measure is a “painful setback” which shows that “vilifying people for their gender identity remains politically acceptable in America.” The Times says transgender people “should take comfort in knowing that history will not be kind to the haters who won on Tuesday.”

WPost Analysis: Backlash Over Guns May Have Cost Virginia Democrats The Election. A [Washington](#)

[Post](#) (11/5, McCartney, 7.78M) analysis reports that “aggressive advocacy of gun control” by Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and state Democrats in a key Senate race in the Richmond area “may have backfired by producing a pro-Republican backlash.” In the District 10 Senate race, which “proved decisive” in Republicans’ keeping control of the Senate, Republican Glen Sturtevant benefited from “huge turnout in the conservative Powhatan area that analysts attributed to the gun issue.” Republicans ran ads saying Democrat Daniel A. Gecker was “trying to win the seat with \$700,000 of outside help from pro-gun-control TV advertisements paid for by a group linked to former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg.”

San Francisco’s “Sanctuary Sheriff” Loses Re-Election Vote. The [Washington Times](#) (11/5, Dinan, 283K) reports a California group “launched a ballot initiative to eliminate sanctuary cities, hoping to take power away from state and local lawmakers” who are preventing their police departments from cooperating with deportation orders. The effort, according to the Times, “got a boost Tuesday when San Francisco’s ‘sanctuary sheriff’ lost his reelection bid. Ted Hilton, “the man behind the new ballot initiative,” said Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi’s loss “should be a warning sign to elected officials in other sanctuary cities that the majority are opposed to their refusing to cooperate with federal authorities.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/5, Holson, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports Vicki Hennessy was elected San Francisco’s first female sheriff on Tuesday after she “pledged to work with the whole criminal justice system...to build better relationships.” Hennessy “will succeed” Mirkarimi, whose term “was marked by personal scandals, confrontations Mayor Edwin M. Lee, and...the release of an illegal immigrant in his jail who had several felonies.” Hennessy “said she would take a more inclusive approach in work federal immigration officials,” making decisions on a “case-by-case basis” regarding the question of whether to provide notice when an illegal immigrant with a criminal records was due for release.

SENATE BACKS RESOLUTION TO SCRAP EPA CLEAN WATER RULES. Over the objections from the White House the Senate voted 53-44 Wednesday for a “resolution of disapproval” that would, “scrap new federal rules to protect smaller streams, tributaries and wetlands from development and pollution,” the [AP](#) (11/5, Jalonick) reports. The House has yet to vote on the measure, which the White House said it will veto. [The Hill](#) (11/4, Henry, 654K) said Sen. Susan Collins was the only Republican to oppose the measure, adding that three Democrats voted for it.

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (11/5, 932K) says the vote “was a foreshadowing of the final 14 months of Obama’s presidency, with the Republican Congress seeking every opportunity to push back against broad Obama initiatives whose resolutions may come only in court — and after Obama leaves office in 2017.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “In Houston, Hate Trumped Fairness.” An editorial in the [New York Times](#) (11/5, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says the defeat of an equal rights measure in Houston “that opponents maliciously and misleadingly characterized as a boon for cross-dressing sex offenders,” shows that “vilifying people for their gender identity remains politically acceptable in America.” The Times says transgender people “should take comfort in knowing that history will not be kind to the haters who won on Tuesday.”

“Death Among Middle-Aged Whites.” A [New York Times](#) (11/5, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) editorial notes a recent Princeton study that found between 1999 and 2013, white middle-aged Americans “began dying at a sharply increased rate, largely a result of problems with legal and illegal drugs, alcohol-related liver disease and suicide.” The Times calls for action, warning that “if sickness and death rates continue to rise in this age group, an influx of chronically ill people will strain Medicare, Medicaid and the Social Security disability insurance program...and the next generation to hit that age could suffer a similar fate.”

“Democrats Undermine Efforts To Protect Retirement Savers.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/5, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) criticizes 47 House Democrats that are threatening to derail the Administration’s effort to “protect Americans from retirement advisers who put their own interest in earning commissions above their clients’ need for expert advice.” The Times says the President, “who has pledged to veto the Republican bill to block the rules, should also be forthright in disagreeing with House Democrats who now seek to delay” the measure and “with any Senate Democrats who go along with them.”

WASHINGTON POST. “Congress Misses A Chance To Improve The Transportation Bill.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/5, 7.78M) questions House Speaker Ryan’s claims of running a more open

House, arguing that “the process apparently isn’t open enough to allow for a vote on the most obvious transportation solution: raising the gasoline tax to pay for the country’s roads and rails.” The Post says that during debate of the transportation bill, two proposed gas tax amendments were blocked by the House Rules Committee.

“Increase Transparency Surrounding The Export-Import Bank.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/5, 7.78M) says that with the exception of a mandate to create a “new chief risk officer,” the Ex-Im re-authorization bill contains “precious little in the way of structural reform.” According to the Post, “What’s needed is a shift to ‘fair-value reporting’ – in effect, a line in the federal budget recording the true value to taxpayers of the financial risk Ex-Im incurs on their behalf.”

“Metro’s Attempt To Pick A New Leader Falls Apart.” A [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Board, 7.78M) editorial.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “The ObamaCare Albatross.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) cites Matt Bevin’s victory in the Kentucky governor’s race as evidence that the ACA is a political disaster for Democrats. Noting the low turnout in Tuesday’s elections, the Journal warns Republicans against taking too many lessons for 2016, but adds that they should not repeat their 2012 error of nominating a candidate who will not argue for replacing the ACA.

“Iran’s Clenched Fist To America.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorial says the recent arrest of Iranian-American Siamak Namazi and the continued detention of four other Americans in Iran are a sign that Tehran is not likely to cooperate with US, despite the nuclear agreement.

“Show Us Your Donors.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) editorializes that a case challenging California’s requirement that groups seeking to solicit charitable funds in the state disclose the names of their donors goes to both the First Amendment’s right to assembly and to free speech, and also urges the Supreme Court to hear the case and rule against California.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[UK Suspects Bomb In Jet Crash](#)

[US Sees Flurry Of Iranian Hacking](#)

[Activist Investor Bill Ackman Plays Defense](#)

[Big Banks Lock Horns With Personal-Finance Web Portals](#)

New York Times:

[Ruling In Mexico Sets Into Motion Legal Marijuana](#)

[Officer’s Death Stuns Illinois Town A 2nd Time](#)

[Britain Halts Sinai Flights, Fearing Bomb](#)

[Hired Guns Help De Blasio Shape City’s Message](#)

[Rubio Seeks To Tamp Down Scrutiny Of Finances](#)

[Doctor At Silver’s Trial Tells Of Favors Traded](#)

Washington Post:

[In GOP, A Divide Over Benefits](#)

[For Some Officers, Immunity In Killings](#)

[Illinois Police Officer Whose Death Prompted A Manhunt Was Killed In ‘Carefully Staged Suicide,’ Officials Say](#)

[Britain Halts Flights To City In Sinai Amid Security Fears](#)

[Comeback Tour As Therapy Session](#)

[US Hit More Than Hospital In Kunduz](#)

Financial Times:

[VW Told To Overhaul Governance Structure After Emissions Scandal](#)

[Value Of Bitcoin Nears \\$500 As Chinese Flock To Join Russian Fraudster’s Scheme](#)

Washington Times:

[Russian Jet Crash In Egypt Likely Caused By Bomb, US And British Officials Say](#)

[Obama Rejects Request To Suspend Keystone Pipeline Review](#)

[California Initiative To Eliminate Sanctuary Cities Boosted By San Francisco Sheriff's Ouster](#)

[Navy Chaplain Resumes Ministry After Fight Over Beliefs](#)

[South America's Leftist Governments Losing Grip On Power After Years Of Dominance](#)

[Senators Accuse NFL, Other Leagues of 'Paid Patriotism'](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Russian Plane Crash Investigation; San Diego-Police Shooting; California-College Knife Attack; Illinois-Officer's Death Ruled Suicide; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; 2016 Politics-Jeb Bush; Chipotle-E Coli Outbreak; Congress-Predatory Debt Collecting; Youth Football Injuries; Toxic Crab Meat; Girl Scouts-Cookie Price Hike.

CBS: Russian Plane Crash Investigation; Russian Plane Crash Investigation-Analysis; Illinois-Officer's Death Ruled Suicide; California-College Knife Attack; 2016 Politics-Marco Rubio; Clinton Family Charities-Tax Refiling; Ohio-Marijuana Legalization Vote; Houston-LGBT Discrimination Vote; Vatican Scandal; Former Walmart CEO-Parachute Landing; Forbes-World's Most Powerful People List; Target-Store Closings; Kraft-Heinz Job Cuts; NASA-Astronauts Wanted; Uber Driver Attack.

NBC: Russian Plane Crash Investigation; ISIL Tactics; Russian Plane Crash Investigation-Analysis; Illinois-Officer's Death Ruled Suicide; California-College Knife Attack; 2016 Politics-Republicans; Severe Weather; Prescription Drug Costs; Congress-Non Disparagement Clauses.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russian Plane Crash – 11 minutes, 25 seconds

2016 Politics – 8 minutes, 30 seconds

Illinois-Officer's Death Ruled Suicide – 7 minutes, 30 seconds

California-College Knife Attack – 2 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russian Plane Crash Investigation; California-College Knife Attack; Illinois-Officer's Death Ruled Suicide; Ohio-Missing Alabama Boy Found.

CBS: Russian Plane Crash Investigation; Illinois-Officer's Death Ruled Suicide; California-College Knife Attack; San Diego-Police Shooting; NFL-Paid Patriotism Allegations.

FOX: Russian Plane Crash Investigation; 2016 Politics-Polls; San Diego-Police Shooting; Country Music Awards; Kraft-Heinz Job Cuts; Illinois-Philip Morris Case; NFL-Paid Patriotism Allegations; San Francisco-Shoplifter Manhunt.

NPR: Russian Plane Crash Investigation; Senate-Army Misconduct Discharges; Illinois-Officer's Death Ruled Suicide; Alabama-Civil Rights Trial; Canada-New Prime Minister Sworn In; FDA-New Asthma Drug Approved.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — 2015 White House Tribal Nations Conference, hosted by President Barack Obama, to provide leaders from the 567 federally-recognized tribes with an opportunity to interact directly with high-level federal govt officials and White House Council on Native American Affairs members, with each tribe invited to send one representative. President Obama delivers remarks and participates in a conversation with Native youth.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — National League of Cities Congress of Cities and Exposition. Day two includes remarks from Vice President Joe Biden.

MICHELLE OBAMA — Michelle Obama continues Qatar/Jordan trip as part of Let Girls Learn and Joining Force initiatives.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on agency review of existing regulations – Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Agency Progress in Retrospective Review of Existing Regulations', with testimony from Associate Deputy Secretary of the Interior Elizabeth Klein; Environmental Protection Agency Office of Policy Office of Regulatory Policy and Management Acting Director William Nickerson; Associate Deputy Secretary of Labor Megan Uzzell; and US

Department of Agriculture Office of Budget and Program Analysis Deputy Director for Program Analysis Christopher Zehren. Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Homeland Security 1 202 224 2627.

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the roles and missions of the armed forces – Hearing on 'Revisiting the Roles and Missions of the Armed Forces', with testimony from Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies Dean Lt. Gen. (Ret.) David Deptula; Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments Senior Fellow Robert Martinage; Hudson Institute Center for American Seapower Deputy Director Bryan McGrath; and Brookings Institution Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence Co-Director Dr. Michael O'Hanlon. Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/> Contacts: Senate Armed Services Committee 1 202 224 3871.

10:00 AM Senate Forestry Committee hearing on effects of wildfires – Hearing on 'Wildfire: Stakeholder Perspectives on Budgetary Impacts and Threats to Natural Resources on Federal, State and Private Lands', with testimony from Ruffed Grouse Society/American Woodcock Society Director of Conservation Policy Dan Dessecker; National Federation of Federal Employees National President William Dougan; American Forest Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Ken Stewart; Colorado River Water Conservation District External Affairs Department Manager Chris Treese; and Trout Unlimited President and CEO Chris Wood. Location: Rm 328A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/> Contacts: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee 1 202 224 2035.

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Rebecca Goodgame Ebinger to be US District Judge for the Southern District of Iowa; Leonard Terry Strand to be US District Judge for the Northern District of Iowa; Julien Xavier Neals to be US District Judge for the District of New Jersey; Gary Richard Brown to be US District Judge for the Eastern District of New York; and Mark Young to be US District Judge for the Central District of California. Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/> Contacts: Senate Judiciary Committee press 1 202 224 7703.

10:00 AM 'Fighting Global Hunger through Partnerships in Agriculture and Nutrition' panel discussion on Capitol Hill – 'Fighting Global Hunger through Partnerships in Agriculture and Nutrition' panel discussion on Capitol Hill, hosted by InterAction and Feed the Future, exploring the challenge of effectively leveraging interagency coordination and building enduring partnerships in the fight against global hunger. Speakers include bipartisan Sens. Bob Casey (invited) and Johnny Isakson, Peace Corps Director Carrie Hessler-Radelet, USAID Associate Administrator Eric Postel, and former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. Location: Rm 385, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.interaction.org/> <https://twitter.com/InterActionOrg>. Contacts: Burt Edwards InterAction Director of Media & Web Strategy bedwards@interaction.org 1 202 552 6554 BurtEdwds.

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters. Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC [http://intelligence.senate.gov.](http://intelligence.senate.gov/) Contacts: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence 1 202 224 1700.

US House: 9:00 AM House expected to vote on legislation related to the Highway Trust Fund – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of House Amendments to Senate Amendments to 'HR. 22 – DRIVE Act' – legislation related to the Highway Trust Fund * Administration has said the bill has 'significant shortcomings' – including maintaining funding at current levels, 'which are widely acknowledged to be below the level needed to maintain the nation's surface transportation infrastructure, let alone improve it' – although it has said it does support the bipartisan effort to advance a surface transportation bill. Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/> Contacts: House of Representatives 1 202 224 3121 House of Representatives Press Gallery 1 202 225 3945. last votes expected no later than 3:00 pm.

9:00 AM House Oversight subcommittee hearing on Iran – National Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Iran's Power Projection Capability', with testimony from Iran Policy Committee member Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Thomas McNerney; Federation for Defense of Democracies Vice President for Research Jonathan Schanzer; Heritage Foundation Center for Foreign and National Security Policy Director Steven Bucci; and RAND Corporation Senior International Policy Analyst Alireza Nader. Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> Contacts: House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform 1 202 225 5074.

9:30 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'HR. 2241, Global Health

Innovation Act of 2015', 'HR. 2845, African Growth and Opportunity Act Enhancement Act of 2015', 'HR. 3750, First Responders Passport Act of 2015', and 'HR. 3766, Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2015'. Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>. Contacts: House Foreign Affairs Com

Conversation Contents

Legislative Summary, Thursday, November 5, 2015

Attachments:

/65. Legislative Summary, Thursday, November 5, 2015/1.1 Legislative Summary-11-05-15.doc

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Subject: Legislative Summary, Thursday, November 5, 2015

Attachments: Legislative Summary-11-05-15.doc

Legislative Summary, Thursday, November 5, 2015

--

Joseph Nevils

Legislative Assistant

Department of the Interior
1849 C St, NW 20240
(202) 208-4580 (O)
(202) 208-7619 (F)

Legislative Summary
from
the Legislative Counsel
Thursday, November 5, 2015
To: All Interested Interior Offices

Attached for your information is today's Legislative Summary.

In order to keep the Summary as up-to-date as possible, we request that any bureau or office contacted directly regarding hearings or markups notify this office immediately.

New information about scheduled hearings and business meetings appears shaded in yellow. Hearings printed in *bold italic* type indicate DOI involvement.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Joseph Nevils on (202) 208-4580, or via E-Mail (Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov).

2015 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
November 11	Veterans Day November 11	District Work Week November 6-13
State Work Period November 23-27	Thanksgiving Day November 26	District Work Week November 20-27
		No Votes December 4
		No Votes December 11-14
State Work Period December 21-31		
TBD	Target Adjournment	December 18

Scheduled Floor Action

House Floor

Thursday, Nov. 5, 9 a.m.

The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill related to the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 1735)

Agenda

HR 1735 — Fiscal 2016 Defense Authorization (NDAA)

Friday, Nov. 6

No votes are expected.

Senate Floor

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Recent Legislative Activity of Interest

Senate:

Measures Reported:

[S. 1550](#), to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish entities tasked with improving program and project management in certain Federal agencies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114-162)

[S. 2138](#), to amend the Small Business Act to improve the review and acceptance of subcontracting plans, with amendments.

Measures Considered:

Federal Water Quality Protection Act: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of [S. 1140](#), to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term ``waters of the United States''.

Waters of the United States--Agreement: By 55 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 296), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of [S.J. Res. 22](#), providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the definition of ``waters of the United States'' under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

House:

By Mr. **THOMPSON** of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. **LAMALFA**):

H.R. 3881. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to repeal provisions relating only to the Allegheny National Forest; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. **GRIJALVA**:

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By Mr. **GRAYSON**:

H.R. 3898. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for two years the credit for qualified small wind energy property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. **GRAYSON**:

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By Mr. **GRAYSON**:

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By Mr. **GRAYSON**:

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By Mr. **GRAYSON**:

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By Mrs. **KIRKPATRICK**:

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By Ms. **TSONGAS**:

H.R. 3916. A bill to prohibit entities from using Federal funds to contribute to political campaigns or participate in lobbying activities; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

The Department has been Invited to the Following Hearings:

Thurs., Nov. 5 Regulations Review

Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs S/C on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management (Lankford)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Agency Progress in Retrospective Review of Existing Regulations

9:30 a.m.; Room 342 Dirksen

Invitation Received 10.7.15

Witness: Liz Klein, Associate Deputy Secretary

.....

Thurs., Nov.19 Offshore Regulations

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Offshore Oil and Gas Production Regulations

10:00 a.m.; Room 366 Dirksen

Notice Received 10.29.15

Witness: Brian Salerno, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

.....

Wed., Dec. 9 Gold King Mine

House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)

Oversight hearing on Gold King Mine spill

Time and Location TBD

Witness: Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior

Tentative Hearings:

Wed., Nov. 18 Indian Education

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (Barrasso)

Full Committee hearing on

S. 410 (Udall), Building upon Unique Indian Learning and Development Act

2:15 pm; Room 628 Dirksen

Tentative Witness: Charles Roessel, Director, Bureau of Indian Education

Wed., Nov. 18 LWCF

House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)

Legislative hearing on Land and Water Conservation Fund related legislation

Time and Location TBD

Tentative Witness: Kris Sarri, Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget

.....
TBD

NPS Centennial

House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)

Hearing on NPS Centennial

Time: TBD

Witness not yet determined

.....
TBD

Invasive Species

House Oversight and Government Reform S/C on Interior (Lummis)

Committee oversight hearing on Examining Invasive Species Policy

Time and location TBD

Tentative Witness: Jamie Reaser, Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council

POSTPONEMENTS

TBD

Stream Protection Rule

**House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Interior
(Lummis)**

***Oversight hearing on A Proposed Rule to Protect Streams and Wildlife from
Adverse Impacts of Surface Mining***

2:00 p.m.; Room 2247 Rayburn

Invitation Received 10.29.2015

***Witness: Janice Schneider, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals
Management***

Hearings of Interest:

Thurs. Nov. 5 EPA and Pebble Mine

House Science, Space and Technology Committee (Smith)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Examining EPA’s Predetermined Efforts to Block the Pebble Mine

9:00 a.m.; Room 2318 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Thurs., Nov. 5 Wildfire Issues

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee (Roberts)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Wildfire: Stakeholder Perspectives on Budgetary Impacts and Threats to Natural Resources on Federal, State and Private Lands

10:00 a.m.; Room 328-A Russell
No request for DOI witness

.....
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Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)

Full Committee oversight hearing to review past wildfire seasons to inform and improve future federal wildland fire management strategies

10:00 a.m.; Room 366 Dirksen
No request for DOI witness

.....
TBD Paris Climate Change Negotiations

Senate Environment and Public Works S/C on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety (Capito)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on potential impacts of the 2015 Paris international climate change negotiations

Time TBD; Room 406 Dirksen
No request for DOI witness

TBD MAP-21 Program

House Oversight and Government Reform S/C on Transportation and Public Assets (Mica)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Program Consolidation

Time TBD; Room 2154 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Status of DOI Testimony
 March 22, 2016

Bureau/Preparer	Witness	Committee	Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor	OCL Attorney	Date of Hearing	Date CLC Notified	Due to OMB	Bureau Notified	Date Due to CLC	Date Rec'd in CLC
DS	Klein	S-HSG	Regulations Review		11/5/15	10/7/15	--	DS	--	--

**The following requests for comments have been received
Wednesday, November 4, 2015**

- H.R. 3089** **OMB Request for Views**
Re: GONE Act
(11 pages)
DUE 11/5/15 Atty: Josh Mahan
- MISC #130** **USICH Report on How to Better Coordinate Federal Programs Serving Youth Experiencing Homelessness**
(23 pages)
DUE 11/9/15 Atty: Tracy Goodluck
- MISC #131** **NSTC Draft Strategy**
Re: A 21st Century Science, Technology, and Innovation Enterprise for America's National Security
(23 pages)
DUE 11/9/15 Atty: Pam Barkin

Conversation Contents

Update legislative summary is attached ...

Attachments:

/66. Update legislative summary is attached .../1.1 Legislative Summary-11-05-15 cps.doc

"Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Nov 04 2015 10:03:57 GMT-0700 (MST)
Joseph Nevils <joseph_nevils@ios.doi.gov>, Pamela Barkin <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>, Dominic Maione <Dominic_Maione@ios.doi.gov>, Joshua Mahan <Joshua_Mahan@ios.doi.gov>, Tracy Goodluck <tracy_goodluck@ios.doi.gov>, "Quinn, Matthew" <Matthew_Quinn@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Chelsea Welch <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>, Ayesha Giles <ayesha_r_giles@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Powell <jason_powell@ios.doi.gov>, Felipe Mendoza <felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Update legislative summary is attached ...
Attachments: Legislative Summary-11-05-15 cps.doc

please provide Joe with any additional updates/edits that you think are necessary.

Thanks, Chris

--

Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: 202.208.1403

Legislative Summary
from
the Legislative Counsel
~~Wednesday~~Thursday, November ~~4~~5, 2015
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TBD	Target Adjournment	December 18

Scheduled Floor Action

House Floor

Wednesday, Nov. 4, Noon

The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to complete consideration a bill (HR 22) that would reauthorize federal highway and transit program for six years.

Agenda

HR 22 — Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Thursday, Nov. 5, 9 a.m.

The House reconvenes at noon for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill related to the National Defense Authorization Act (HR 1735)

Agenda

HR 1735 — Fiscal 2016 Defense Authorization (NDAA)

Friday, Nov. 6

No votes are expected.

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During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Recent Legislative Activity of Interest

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Measures Reported:

S. 1550, to amend title 31, United States Code, to establish entities tasked with improving program and project management in certain Federal agencies, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 114-162)

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The Department has been Invited to the Following Hearings:

Wed., Nov. 4 — Federal Lands Legislation

House Natural Resources S/C on Federal Lands (McClintock)

Subcommittee hearing on

H.R. 1815 (Hardy), Eastern Nevada Land Implementation Improvement Act

H.R. 3342 (Fleming), To provide for stability of title to certain lands in the State of Louisiana

10:00 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth

Invitation Received 10.27.15

Witness: Steve Ellis, Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management

(Testimony received)

Wed., Nov. 4 — Minerals Legislation

House Natural Resources S/C on Energy and Minerals Resources (Lamborn)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on U.S. Geological Survey Science for Effective Abandoned Mine Lands Remediation and

H.R. 3843 (Lamborn), Locatable Minerals Claim Location and Maintenance Fees Act of 2015

H.R. 3844 (Hice), Energy and Minerals Reclamation Foundation Establishment Act of 2015

10:30 a.m.; Room 1334 Longworth

Hearing Noticed 10.29.15

Witness: Dr. Geoffrey Plumlee, Research Geochemist, U.S. Geological Survey

(Testimony received)

~~Wed., Nov. 4 Indian Affairs Legislation~~

~~House Natural Resources S/C on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs (Young)~~

~~Subcommittee hearing on~~

~~H.R. 2009, (Grijalva), Pascua Yaqui Tribe Land Conveyance Act of 2015~~

~~H.R. 2719 (Kilmer), Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act~~

~~H.R. 3079 (McClintock), To take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me Wuk Indians~~

~~2:00 p.m.; Room 1334 Longworth~~

~~Invitation Received 10.29.15~~

~~Witness: Michael Smith, Deputy Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs~~

~~(Testimony received)~~

.....
Thurs., Nov. 5 Regulations Review

~~Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs S/C on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management (Lankford)~~

~~Subcommittee oversight hearing on Agency Progress in Retrospective Review of Existing Regulations~~

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~~Witness: Liz Klein, Associate Deputy Secretary~~

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~~Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)
Full Committee oversight hearing on Offshore Oil and Gas Production Regulations~~

~~10:00 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen~~

~~Notice Received 10.29.15~~

~~Witness: Brian Salerno, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement~~

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*House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)
Oversight hearing on Gold King Mine spill*

Time and Location TBD

Witness: Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior

Tentative Hearings:

Wed., Nov. 18 Indian Education

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (Barrasso)

Full Committee hearing on

S. 410 (Udall), Building upon Unique Indian Learning and Development Act

2:15 pm; Room 628 Dirksen

Tentative Witness: Charles Roessel, Director, Bureau of Indian Education

Wed., Nov. 18 LWCF

House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)

Legislative hearing on Land and Water Conservation Fund related legislation

Time and Location TBD

Tentative Witness: Kris Sarri, Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget

.....
TBD

NPS Centennial

House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)

Hearing on NPS Centennial

Time: TBD

Witness not yet determined

.....
TBD

Invasive Species

House Oversight and Government Reform S/C on Interior (Lummis)

Committee oversight hearing on Examining Invasive Species Policy

Time and location TBD

Tentative Witness: Jamie Reaser, Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council

POSTPONEMENTS

TBD

Stream Protection Rule

House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Interior
(Lummis)

*Oversight hearing on A Proposed Rule to Protect Streams and Wildlife from
Adverse Impacts of Surface Mining*

2:00 p.m.; Room 2247 Rayburn

Invitation Received 10.29.2015

*Witness: Janice Schneider, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals
Management*

Hearings of Interest:

Wed., Nov. 4 — Customs and Border Protection Issues

House Homeland Security S/C on Border and Maritime Security (Miller)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on A New Approach to Increase Trade and Security: An Examination of CBP's Public Private Partnerships

10:00 a.m.; Room 311 Cannon

No request for DOI witness

Wed., Nov. 4 — Human Trafficking Report

House Foreign Affairs S/C on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations (Smith)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Demanding Accountability: Evaluating the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Report

1:00 p.m.; Room 2172 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

Wed., Nov. 4 — Federal IT Acquisition

House Oversight and Government Reform S/C on Information Technology (Hurd)

House Oversight and Government Reform S/C on Government Operations (Meadows)

Joint Subcommittee oversight hearing to review the implementation of the Federal Information Technology Reform Act

2:00 p.m.; Room 2154 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

Wed., Nov. 4 — American Indian Tax Issues

Senate Indian Affairs Committee (Barrasso)

Full Committee panel discussion on American Indian tax issues

4:00 p.m.; Room SD 628 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

Thurs. Nov. 5 — EPA and Pebble Mine

House Science, Space and Technology Committee (Smith)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Examining EPA's Predetermined Efforts to Block the Pebble Mine

9:00 a.m.; Room 2318 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

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Full Committee oversight hearing on Wildfire: Stakeholder Perspectives on Budgetary Impacts and Threats to Natural Resources on Federal, State and Private Lands

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No request for DOI witness

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Senate Environment and Public Works S/C on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety (Capito)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on potential impacts of the 2015 Paris international climate change negotiations

Time TBD; Room 406 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

TBD MAP-21 Program**House Oversight and Government Reform S/C on Transportation and Public Assets (Mica)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Program Consolidation

Time TBD; Room 2154 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

Status of DOI Testimony
 March 22, 2016

Bureau/Preparer	Witness	Committee	Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor	OCL Attorney	Date of Hearing	Date CLC Notified	Due to OMB	Bureau Notified	Date Due to CLC	Date Rec'd in CLC
DS	Klein	S-HSG	Regulations Review		11/5/15	10/7/15	--	DS	--	--

**The following requests for comments have been received
Tuesday, November 4, 2015**

MISC #129 INTERIOR Request for Views
Re: S. __, Waterfront Community Revitalization and Resiliency Act of
2015
(17 pages)
DUE 11/9/15 Atty: Dominic Maione

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Tue Nov 03 2015 04:59:30 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 3, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015 7:00 AM EST

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

DOI IN THE NEWS:

- + Secretary Jewell Asked To Address Coal's Contribution To Climate Change.
- + Secretary Jewell To Deliver Opening Remarks At White House Tribal Nations Conference.
- + Obama Administration Announces Rule To Protect Subsistence Priority.
- + Fight Continues For Land And Water Conservation Fund.
- + K-Max Helicopter Could Help In Fight Against Wildfires.
- + Navajo Council Supports Proposed Bears Ears National Monument.
- + As President, Kasich Would Push To Eliminate Commerce Department.
- + Rep. Walden Opposes Antiquities Act Designation For Owyhee River Canyon.
- + Action Urged On Reducing Wildfire Risk, Protecting Water Supply.
- + Navajo Nation Wants EPA To Focus On Cleaning Up Gold King Mine Spill.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

- + Native Hawaiians Voting On Delegates For Independent Government.
- + Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 Criticized.
- + Tribal, Reservation Systems Criticized.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + BOR Treats Cybersecurity As High Priority.
- + Californians Weigh Ballot Measure That Would Require Voter Approval Of Delta Tunnels.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Renewable Energy:

- + Experts Debate Solar Energy's Environmental Costs.
- + Montana Water District Aims To Produce Hydropower At Pump Site.
- + Altamont To Replace Turbines Blamed For Killing Birds.
- + CRIT Appeals To Obama In Dispute Over Solar Projects.
- + Bans On Wind Projects In California Criticized.

- + New York Urged To Veto Offshore LNG Terminal In Favor Of Offshore Wind Power.

Onshore Energy Development:

- + Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Recommends Canceling Drilling Leases On Sacred Land.
- + House Oversight Panel To Probe Stream Protection Rule.
- + Sen. Murkowski Criticizes Energy Policies That Restrict Drilling.
- + USGS Reports Two Earthquakes In Central Oklahoma.
- + Congress Urged To Allow Oil Exports In Exchange For Flaring Ban.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + BOEM Director Hopper To Attend 2015 Atlantic Energy Forum.
- + Jefferson Parish Council Nears Agreement On BP Settlement Money.
- + Conference Participants See Avenues To US-Cuba Oil Drilling In Future.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS:

Bureau of Land Management:

- + House Subcommittee To Consider Bills On Louisiana Property Dispute, Nevada Wilderness.
- + BLM Begins Large Oregon Wild Horse Roundup.
- + Bidding Tops \$6,500 For Old, Battered Wild Horse.
- + Colorado Counties Seek Funds For Mapping Sage Grouse.
- + Additional Coverage: Probe Says BLM Sold Nearly 1,800 Wild Horses For Slaughter.
- + BLM Praised For Management Of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + House Set To Clear Global Anti-poaching Bill.
- + Asian Carp Found 12 Miles Closer To Lake Michigan.
- + FWS Reviewing Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.
- + Continuing Coverage Of New Mexico Jewelry Store Raids.
- + Researchers Find Bats Infected With White-nose Syndrome In China.
- + Plan Calls For Killing Barred Owls To Try To Save Endangered Spotted Owls.
- + Washington State Weighs Measure To Combat Animal Trafficking.
- + Recovery Plan Released For Snake River Fall Chinook Salmon.
- + Judge To Hear Arguments Over Fish Passage At Conowingo Dam.
- + Additional Coverage: New Study Finds Yellowstone Grizzly Bears Thriving.
- + Audobon Society Committed To Greater Sage-Grouse Plan.
- + Elimination Of Furbearer Trapping Urged.

National Park Service:

- + New Mexico State Parks Announce Partnership With "Every Kid In A Park" Program.
- + Ad Promotes NPS Centennial.
- + NPS Releases Management Plan For Grand Teton Corridor.
- + NPS Removes Ocean Beach Trash Cans In Effort To Reduce Litter.
- + Ojibwe Want Madeline Island On National Register Of Historic Places.

US Geological Survey:

- + USGS Using Monitoring System To Predict Landslides.
- + Researchers Say Earthquake Warning System Could Provide Crucial Heads-up.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Obama Takes Push For Criminal Justice Reform To Newark.
- + Obama Mocks GOP In Comments At Broadway DNC Fundraiser.
- + White House: Obama Will Make Keystone Decision Before Leaving Office.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE:

+ [Headlines From Today's Front Pages.](#)

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:

+ [Today's Events In Washington.](#)

LAST LAUGHS:

+ [Late Night Political Humor.](#)

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ASKED TO ADDRESS COAL'S CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE. [Politico Pro](#) (11/2, Subscription Publication) reports that "the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee's top Democrat today led seven fellow Democrats in urging Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to address the extent to which coal leased on federal lands contributes to climate change." Sen. Maria Cantwell and her colleagues "asked Jewell to take steps beyond those proposed in a pending reassessment of the leasing program to ensure 'its obligation to mitigate the negative impacts of' coal from federal lands." They said, "Until the market price for coal reflects its true cost to society, taxpayers will continue to bear the costs of more extreme weather, collapsed ecosystems, stranded infrastructure, increased incidences of heart and lung disease, and other effects of climate change."

The [Greenwire](#) (11/2, Subscription Publication) reports that "the lawmakers – also including Sens. Al Franken of Minnesota, Martin Heinrich of New Mexico, Ed Markey of Massachusetts, Jeff Merkley of Oregon, Patty Murray of Washington, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island – say coal leasing is ripe for deep reforms."

[The Hill](#) (11/3, Cama, 654K) reports that "Jewell called this year for an 'honest and open conversation about modernizing the federal coal program,' including its contribution to climate and whether taxpayers are getting a commensurate price for coal." However, "communities that rely on coal for jobs and cheap power have pushed back in federal listening sessions, as has the coal industry."

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (11/2, Gardner), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (11/2, 1.17M), and [Law360](#) (11/3, 30K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO DELIVER OPENING REMARKS AT WHITE HOUSE TRIBAL NATIONS CONFERENCE. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (11/2, 44K) reports that the Interior Department announced Monday that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will deliver the opening remarks at the White House Tribal Nations Conference on Thursday in Washington, D.C. and "participate in one of three town hall sessions."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES RULE TO PROTECT SUBSISTENCE PRIORITY. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/30, 705) reports that the Obama Administration on Monday "released a final rule that it says provides more flexibility for determining which Alaskans get special rights to hunt and fish on federal lands." The joint rule by the Interior and Agriculture departments will "update the government's procedure for determining which areas of the state qualify as 'rural' under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980."

[Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/30, 203K) reports that Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor said, "The Obama administration is fully committed to protecting the subsistence rights of rural Alaskans." Sen. Lisa Murkowski, "who had introduced legislation to reverse the Saxman decision along with Rep. Don Young, said she's pleased with the changes."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Ketchikan \(AK\) SitNews](#) (11/2) and [Law360](#) (11/3, 30K).

FIGHT CONTINUES FOR LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. The [Public News Service](#) (11/2, 306) reports that "advocates for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which Congress allowed to expire last month, say the fight is not over to restore funding." The article notes that "in a recent weekly address, President Obama called on Congress to reauthorize the LWCF." Also, Richard Mode, an affiliate representative for the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, said, "There is a concerted effort by a group of legislators who see the value of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and are trying to get it reauthorized

with dedicated, full funding.”

WSJournal: Feds Should Give Money To States, Focus On Upkeep Instead Of Buying Land. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) argues the Land and Water Conservation Fund should only be reauthorized with restrictions, condemning the Administration’s purchase of land using it. The Journal argues the federal government already has enough land and isn’t managing it well. Additionally, the Journal suggests that environmental groups profit by purchasing land the government is considering buying and then selling it at a premium. The Journal argues that purchases by the fund should be suspended and its money given to states and used for upkeep of Interior Department lands.

Congress Urged To Reauthorize LWCF. In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/2, 339K), Michael Bean, principal deputy assistant secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks in the U.S. Department of the Interior, urges Congress to reauthorize the LWCF and the Historic Preservation Fund. He argues that “the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been instrumental in the state of Utah to protecting land, water and wildlife.” Beans notes that “as U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell has said many times, failure to reauthorize these funds will result in needless uncertainty and deprive local communities of future conservation, historic preservation, and recreation opportunities, not just in Utah but throughout the nation.”

In an op-ed for the [Central Kitsap \(WA\) Reporter](#) (11/3, 53K), Rep. Derek Kilmer writes in support of the LWCF. He says that “renewing this program gives Congress the opportunity to focus, at least for a little while, on progress rather than on partisanship.”

K-MAX HELICOPTER COULD HELP IN FIGHT AGAINST WILDFIRES. The [Aviation Week](#) (11/3, 1K) reports that optionally piloted aircraft can “fly unmanned at night and through the morning, using sensors to locate and attack fires.” Lockheed Martin and Kaman have “conducted a demonstration of the concept for the U.S. Interior Department and the U.S. Agriculture Department’s Forest Service using the unmanned K-Max helicopter—piloted versions of which are already used to fight wildland fires.” According to Mark Bathrick, director of the Interior Department’s Office of Aviation Services, “the concept of using OPAs grew out of frustration at only supporting firefighters on the ground for a third of the available day.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KING-TV](#) Seattle (11/2, 457K) and [KREM-TV](#) Spokane, WA (11/2, 43K).

NAVAJO COUNCIL SUPPORTS PROPOSED BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Lake Powell Life](#) (11/3) reports that “the Navajo Nation Council has reiterated its support for the Bears Ears National Monument proposed for Utah.” The article notes that “the council’s clarification came after several Republican lawmakers commented in October that Native American tribes did not back the monument designation, which would keep the land from resource development.”

AS PRESIDENT, KASICH WOULD PUSH TO ELIMINATE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT. The [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) (11/2, Thompson, 577K) reports that Republican presidential hopeful John Kasich on Monday said that “he wants to eliminate the 47,000-person Commerce Department if he becomes president in 2016, renewing a call he took up when he served in Congress.” Referring to “the department a ‘Franken-agency,’ Kasich’s campaign said his plan would help ‘dismantle the Washington bureaucracy’ and could lead to savings that would help balance the federal budget.” According to the article, “the Kasich plan to eliminate the Commerce Department would reassign its weather-related components, such as the National Weather Service, to the Department of the Interior.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (11/2, 518K), [Bloomberg Politics](#) (11/2, 303K), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (11/3, 6.15M), and [WOSU-FM Columbus \(OH\)](#) Columbus, OH (11/3).

REP. WALDEN OPPOSES ANTIQUITIES ACT DESIGNATION FOR OWYHEE RIVER CANYON. In an op-ed for the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (11/2, 113K), Rep. Greg Walden opposes a declaration under the Antiquities Act to protect the Owyhee River canyon in Eastern Oregon. Walden asserts that “residents of Eastern Oregon don’t want another ‘Washington, D.C. knows best’ federal designation that would further destroy our way of life.” Walden doesn’t want “a presidential declaration locking up more of our public lands and choking our local ranch economy.”

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (11/3, 94K) urges Obama to not use “executive authority to declare the Owyhee Canyonlands a national monument.” It notes that “those near the Owyhee don’t have that confidence that a designation would be an economic spur and also preserve everything they love.” By encouraging

debate, the paper advises, the proposal could win support.

ACTION URGED ON REDUCING WILDFIRE RISK, PROTECTING WATER SUPPLY. In an op-ed for [Roll Call](#) (11/3, 139K), Tom Martin, president and CEO of the American Forest Foundation, writes about addressing “two serious issues in the West: reducing wildfire risk on private and family lands and protecting the limited clean water supply.” He argues that “if we are to protect the limited water supply for westerners, we must protect the forests that support clean water from being decimated by wildfire.”

NAVAJO NATION WANTS EPA TO FOCUS ON CLEANING UP GOLD KING MINE SPILL. In an op-ed for the [Daily Caller](#) (11/3, Begaye, 366K), Russell Begaye, President, Navajo Nation, writes that “last week investigators from the U.S. Department of Interior concluded that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency could have prevented the Gold King Mine spill that has devastated the Navajo Nation.” Begaye says “we’ve lost trust in the EPA, whose response has been marked by a lack of transparency.” Now, he says “what we need is for the EPA to spend less time worrying about itself and more time focused on cleaning up the Animas and San Juan rivers.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

NATIVE HAWAIIANS VOTING ON DELEGATES FOR INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT. The [ColorLines](#) (11/3) reports that polls have opened for a “30-day voting period” in which Native Hawaiians “will have the opportunity to elect delegates” for their “own government, independent of the United States.” According to the article, “the delegates will then meet for eight weeks this winter to draft a constitution that—if ratified by the people—will guide them toward self-governance, deciding everything from the structure to how it will interact with folks in Washington, D.C.”

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT OF 1978 CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for [Newsweek](#) (11/3, 164K), Clint Bolick, a research fellow at the Hoover Institution, writes that the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 was “intended to protect the best interests of Indian children and the stability of Indian tribes by setting minimum federal standards for termination of parental rights, foster care and adoptions,” but “unfortunately, ICWA elevated the interests of tribes above those of individual children, and it weakened the protections of children that state laws provide.” He claims that as “long as ICWA stands, countless children will be left in abusive homes and prevented from or delayed in becoming part of a permanent loving homes.” By filing a class action lawsuit, Bolick hopes “to avoid the possibility that our case will be decided on narrow factual grounds, and instead secure a precedent that invalidates ICWA and the regime of subjecting children to adverse treatment because of the racial quantum of their blood.”

TRIBAL, RESERVATION SYSTEMS CRITICIZED. Letters to the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) call for the end of the tribal and reservation systems and the abolishment of the BIA.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

BOR TREATS CYBERSECURITY AS HIGH PRIORITY. [Federal Computer Week](#) (11/2, 263K) reports that “after the Office of Personnel Management data breach, agencies embarked on a governmentwide cybersecurity sprint that produced measurable improvements in two-factor authentication and, more recently, a new cybersecurity strategy.” The BOR “offers a peek at how the sprint’s urgency has filtered down to smaller agencies.” Last month, the BOR “justified awarding three contracts in September without competition on the basis of ‘urgent and compelling’ cybersecurity needs.” According to BOR officials, “the contracts reflect the new federal reality of treating cybersecurity as an urgent, serious concern.”

CALIFORNIANS WEIGH BALLOT MEASURE THAT WOULD REQUIRE VOTER APPROVAL OF DELTA TUNNELS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/30, Mcgreevy, 3.6M) reports that “Californians will act on a ballot measure next year that would require voter approval of many large public works projects, including Gov. Jerry Brown’s twin-tunnel plan to divert water south around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.” The initiative would “require voter approval before the state could fund projects costing more than \$2 billion with revenue bonds, those repaid using receipts from projects they pay for rather than taxpayers in general.” Brown is “proposing such bonds for the \$15-billion twin-tunnel project to be repaid by water users.”

Meanwhile, the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/3, 515K) reports that “with the future of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta approaching a critical stage, a group of Southern California water agencies is working to buy

four Delta islands, a move that has drawn accusations that the parcels could be used to orchestrate a south-state water grab.” The article notes that “the powerful Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and three water agencies in Kern County are working on a joint plan to buy the four agricultural islands, according to the head of the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District in Bakersfield, one of the participants.” Eric Averett, general manager of the Rosedale district, said “the islands could be useful in forging ahead with the Delta tunnels project – officially known as California WaterFix.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

EXPERTS DEBATE SOLAR ENERGY’S ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS. In the “Room For Debate” section of the [New York Times](#) (11/3, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) opinion pages three energy experts examine “The Environmental Costs of Solar Energy.” [Janine Blaeloch](#) of the Western Lands Project makes the case that “the U.S. government is committed to a mistaken and damaging renewable-energy policy that promotes and heavily subsidizes industrial-scale solar and wind development on public lands.” However, environmental lawyer [Philip Warburg](#) writes that “if we’re serious about shifting America’s power base to renewable energy, we need to regard our open lands as a valued energy resource, not a no-go zone.” [Erica Brand](#) of Nature Conservancy believes “new tools and scientific planning allow us to prioritize where we put solar energy to create a successful blueprint for exploiting the sun” and that scientists, governments and industry “must consider nature upfront, in the early stages of planning.”

MONTANA WATER DISTRICT AIMS TO PRODUCE HYDROPOWER AT PUMP SITE. Drawing on reporting by the Helena Independent Record, the [AP](#) (11/3, 2.15M) reports that the Helena Valley Irrigation District “is looking to retrofit its existing pump plant at Canyon Ferry Dam to produce hydropower.” The BOR is accepting public comment on the environmental assessment of the 9.4-megawatt project, the AP adds.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (11/3, 200K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/3, 283K), the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (11/3, 38K), and [KECI-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (11/3, 1K).

ALTAMONT TO REPLACE TURBINES BLAMED FOR KILLING BIRDS. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/3, Subscription Publication, 3.44M) reports Altamont Winds Inc., “a wind farm company with out-of-date turbines that wildlife biologists blame for the deaths of scores of raptors on the Altamont Pass has agreed” that following “years of squawking from environmentalists and regulators to replace the bird-killing blades.” The company “closed down its turbines for the season, and wrote in a letter to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that it had decided to ‘permanently shut down and cease operations’ of all 828 of the power generators.” Altamont “has applied with Alameda County for a permit to replace the old equipment with 33 larger, state-of-the-art turbines that kill far fewer birds.” The move was praised “by environmental organizations as a big victory in the battle to protect golden eagles and other raptors, thousands of which are pulverized every year by the spinning blades that are visible to drivers in the hills between Tracy and Livermore.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/3, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/3, 283K), [KCRA-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (11/3, 227K), and [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (11/3, 1K).

CRIT APPEALS TO OBAMA IN DISPUTE OVER SOLAR PROJECTS. The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (11/3, 27K) reports that “representatives from the Colorado River Indian Tribes have sent a letter to President Obama, requesting immediate protection for lands threatened by development.” The tribes “protested the utility-scale Genesis Solar PV project on BLM land about 30 miles west of their tribal reservation, which was approved by the California Energy Commission five years ago.” According to CRIT, “the project unearthed approximately 3,000 sacred objects. CRIT’s cultural practice was to rebury those artifacts, but federal government officials required that those objects to be stored and studied.”

BANS ON WIND PROJECTS IN CALIFORNIA CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/3, 515K), Michael B. Gerrard, director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School, and Nancy Rader, executive director of the California Wind Energy Association, write that “wind energy projects are being banned or severely restricted in several California counties and, more significantly, across vast federal lands in the state.” They note that “under a draft plan from the federal Bureau of Land Management, 80

percent of the high-quality wind resources on remote federal lands in the vast deserts of Southern California would be permanently off-limits.” They argue that “bans on wind projects cannot be part of a responsible solution to the climate problem.”

NEW YORK URGED TO VETO OFFSHORE LNG TERMINAL IN FAVOR OF OFFSHORE WIND POWER.

For her blog at the [Switchboard](#) (11/3, 116K), Kit Kennedy urges New York to reject “an offshore LNG terminal, called the Port Ambrose project, in the same area proposed for an offshore wind power project.” She argue that “when there’s a conflict between clean energy and dirty fossil fuels, clean energy should always prevail.” According to Kennedy, “not only would the offshore wind power project eventually generate enough clean electricity to power 125,000 homes, and create more than 2,000 good jobs, it would improve grid reliability in the overstressed New York-Long Island area, because offshore wind power projects generate the most electricity when we need it most: on cold winter days and hot summer afternoons.”

Onshore Energy Development:

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK RECOMMENDS CANCELING DRILLING LEASES ON SACRED LAND. The [AP](#) (11/3, 2.15M) reports that U.S. Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack “has recommended the cancellation of long-suspended oil and gas drilling leases near Glacier National Park, federal officials disclosed Monday.” The 18 leases “are on land considered sacred to the Blackfoot Indian tribes of the United States and Canada.”

The [AP](#) (11/3, 118K) reports that “conservation groups are asking a judge to revive a lawsuit ahead of a U.S. government decision on whether to cancel long-suspended drilling leases on the Rocky Mountain Front.” According to the article, “the lawsuit filed by the National Wildlife Federation and others was terminated in 1997 after the government suspended the exploratory oil and gas leases owned by Solenex LLC in the Badger-Two Medicine area of the Helena National Forest.” EarthJustice attorney Timothy Preso said, “If they do anything other than cancel these leases, we want to be able to move ahead with our legal challenge.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/3, 283K), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (11/3, 118K), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (11/3, 150K), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (11/2, 15K), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (11/2, 76K), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (11/3, 54K), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (11/2, 76K), [Montana Public Radio](#) (11/3), and [Truth-Out](#) (11/3, 8K).

HOUSE OVERSIGHT PANEL TO PROBE STREAM PROTECTION RULE. The [E&E Daily](#) (11/2, Subscription Publication) reports that “the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee will pick up the baton this week in Congress’ ongoing scrutiny of the Interior Department’s proposal to protect waterways from coal mining.” The House Natural Resources Committee has “long been the main venue of discussion for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s stream protection rule.” However, “last week, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing scrutinizing the proposal’s potential impacts, and this week the Oversight Subcommittee on Interior will probe further.” The article notes that “the main issue will likely continue to be the significant divide between states and mining companies and environmental groups on the rule’s soundness and impact.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (11/3, Cama, 654K) and [Politico](#) (11/2, Glueck, 1.19M).

Coal Industry Study Finds Stream Protection Rule Could Cost 78,000 Jobs. The [Bluefield \(WV\) Daily Telegraph](#) (11/3, 44K) reports that “Senate Republicans are challenging the number of coalfield jobs that could be lost as a result of implementing the Obama administration’s stream protection rule.” The Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation Enforcement “believes the rule would shed less than 300 jobs — most would be replaced.” But “a new study paid for by the coal industry’s lobbying group found upwards of 78,000 job could be lost in the coalfields if the rule is implemented.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (11/3, 70K).

SEN. MURKOWSKI CRITICIZES ENERGY POLICIES THAT RESTRICT DRILLING. The [E&E Daily](#) (11/2, Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski “hammered the Obama administration over the weekend for energy policies she claimed threaten the nation’s security and jobs.” Murkowski said “the administration’s decisions ‘ignore the will of hard-working Alaskans’ by closing the door to new oil production needed to sustain the Trans-Alaska pipeline.” In the weekly Republican address to the nation, which aired Saturday, she said, “These decisions mean fewer jobs, less security for our country, and more of our dollars

going overseas. It is only a matter of time until the administration applies this shortsighted strategy to the rest of our nation.”

Additional coverage was provided by [World Oil](#) (11/2).

USGS REPORTS TWO EARTHQUAKES IN CENTRAL OKLAHOMA. The US Geological Survey, the [AP](#) (11/3, 283K) reports, “says two earthquakes struck central Oklahoma on Monday, including one with a 4.1 magnitude.” Originally, the USGS “reported the quake with a magnitude of 4.4, but revised it downward.” The quake “was recorded at 10:57 a.m. Monday 4 miles west of Langston.” The AP adds that “the Oklahoma Geological Survey has said it is likely that many recent earthquakes in the state have been triggered by the injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas drilling operations.”

CONGRESS URGED TO ALLOW OIL EXPORTS IN EXCHANGE FOR FLARING BAN. In a piece for [Forbes](#) (11/2, 7.28M), Jim Krane, the Wallace S. Wilson Fellow for Energy Studies at Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy, argues that “Congress should allow US producers to export crude oil – as long as they capture and market the associated natural gas they produce, rather than waste it.” Kane says that “by predicating a lifting of the export ban on an end to flaring, the Obama administration would be in the enviable position of having it both ways: creating an immediate environmental benefit while supporting economic activity in the US oil sector.”

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM DIRECTOR HOPPER TO ATTEND 2015 ATLANTIC ENERGY FORUM. The [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (11/3, 322K) reports that the 2015 Atlantic Energy Forum will feature BOEM Director Abigail Ross Hopper “as well as other federal, state, and local public policy leaders, members of the business community, environmental organizations and key stakeholders that will discuss offshore energy development in the Atlantic and implications for South Carolina’s economy, jobs and environment.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WBT-AM Charlotte \(NC\)](#) Charlotte, NC (11/3, 4K) and [WOLO-TV Columbia \(SC\)](#) Columbia, SC (11/3).

JEFFERSON PARISH COUNCIL NEARS AGREEMENT ON BP SETTLEMENT MONEY. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (11/3, Samuels, 661K) reports that the Jefferson Parish Council is considering two separate but similar resolutions on what to do with the approximately \$35 million it received from the BP oil spill settlement. Councilman Paul Johnston said he would back either resolution, but that whichever one is approved, it should be passed with a 7-0 vote.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS SEE AVENUES TO US-CUBA OIL DRILLING IN FUTURE. [USA Today](#) (11/3, Loveless, 5.56M) reports that participants of the recent conference in Havana say that US companies can “probably” still participate in Cuba’s plans to resume offshore oil drilling. Robert Muse, a Washington attorney and specialist in the legalities of US-Cuba trade, said that there is “tremendous presidential discretion under the embargo. ... [Obama] could license any imaginable export from the United States to Cuba.” Muse also said that the Commerce Department’s “Safe Seas, Clean Seas” policy announced in January appears to invite US companies to “seek approval for all sorts of activities in Cuba’s oil sector, including drilling for oil.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE TO CONSIDER BILLS ON LOUISIANA PROPERTY DISPUTE, NEVADA WILDERNESS. The [E&E Daily](#) (11/2, Subscription Publication) reports that “this week, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands will consider two bills – one aimed at conservation projects and wilderness areas in eastern Nevada and another to invalidate a Bureau of Land Management re-survey in Louisiana.” H.R. 3342 would “invalidate a 1960s BLM re-survey of land in northwestern Louisiana that has long been the object of dispute – and prevent further re-surveys of the land.” According to the legislation, the BLM had “told private landowners near Lake Bistineau that their properties “appear to be still vested in the United States” – in other words, on government property – according to a 1967 re-survey of land that had previously been mapped and titled based on an 1842 federal survey.” The bill “charges that BLM never notified potentially affected landowners after the re-survey was approved in 1969 and that the disputed 200 acres of

land contain more than 50 homes.”

BLM BEGINS LARGE OREGON WILD HORSE ROUNDUP. The [AP](#) (11/3, 2.15M) reports that “wild horse advocates are calling for a stop to one of the largest roundups of wild mustangs in Oregon history.” The BLM “on Monday began preparations to gather up to 1,500 wild horses roaming freely on about 625 square miles of the Beatys Butte herd management area east of Lakeview in southern Oregon.” The article notes that “wild horses are protected under federal law, and selling them for slaughter is illegal.” The BLM said it has taken additional steps to “prevent this type of situation from happening.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (11/2, 141K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/3, Wozniacka, 283K), and the [Oregonian](#) (11/3, 769K).

BIDDING TOPS \$6,500 FOR OLD, BATTERED WILD HORSE. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (11/2, 194K) reports that “bidding has reached unprecedented heights for a battered old horse at the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley, just north of Reno.” At the time of the article’s publication, “bidding for the 15-year-old stud stallion stands at \$6,530, based on 467 bids.” The online auction ends Tuesday morning.

COLORADO COUNTIES SEEK FUNDS FOR MAPPING SAGE GROUSE. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/3, 73K) reports that “a coalition of northwest Colorado counties is seeking a \$380,000 state Department of Local Affairs grant for more detailed mapping of greater sage-grouse in the region.” Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado “hopes to tap money that’s being made available through a new state law aimed at improving cooperation between the federal government and local communities on public lands issues.” The article notes that “the mapping push comes in response to the Bureau of Land Management’s recently finalized land-management plans for sage-grouse habitat in northwest Colorado and 10 other states.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: PROBE SAYS BLM SOLD NEARLY 1,800 WILD HORSES FOR SLAUGHTER. Additional coverage of the report that says “the government’s largest sale of wild horses was to a rancher who sent almost 1,800 mustangs to slaughterhouses across the Mexican border and lied to federal officials” was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Rein, 7.78M), the [Examiner](#) (11/3, 616K), and the [Natural News](#) (11/3, 78K).

BLM PRAISED FOR MANAGEMENT OF GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (11/3, 74K) reprints a letter from Collin Smith, an aspiring geologist, to the BLM in Utah. Smith talks about his “first trip to Utah’s Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.” He praises the BLM for doing “a fantastic job making the monument a wonderland for a geologist-in-training such as myself.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

HOUSE SET TO CLEAR GLOBAL ANTI-POACHING BILL. The [E&E Daily](#) (11/2, Subscription Publication) reports that the “Global Anti-Poaching Act” (H.R. 2494), “a popular bipartisan bill to curb wildlife trafficking is likely to clear the House this week.” The legislation would “name and shame countries involved in the illicit trade and provide increased assistance to nations attempting to fight it.” The article notes that “provisions to make the penalties for smuggling or selling endangered species and products made from them equivalent to the ones for weapons and drug trafficking are also included in the bill.”

ASIAN CARP FOUND 12 MILES CLOSER TO LAKE MICHIGAN. The [AP](#) (11/3, 2.15M) reports that “federal crews have discovered two Asian carp in the Illinois River, 12 miles closer to Lake Michigan than where others of that size previously were seen.” FWS “teams found two silver carp about 6 ½ inches long late last month in the river’s Marseilles Pool near Seneca, Illinois.” The article notes that “that means the leading edge of the river’s juvenile Asian carp population is about 66 miles closer to Lake Michigan than it was at the beginning of this year.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/3, 283K), the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (11/2, 518K), [USA Today](#) (11/2, Spangler, 5.56M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (11/2, 496K), [UPI](#) (11/2), [WWJ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (11/2, 34K), [WPBN-TV Traverse City \(MI\)](#) Traverse City, MI (11/3, 14K), and [WOOD-TV Grand Rapids \(MI\)](#) Grand Rapids, MI (11/2, 129K).

FWS REVIEWING EASTERN MASSASAUGA RATTLESNAKE. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (11/2, 921K) reports that the FWS “last month recommended” that the Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake be “moved to the threatened species list, starting a review that will take as long as a year.” The decline in their population has

been “spurred by both habitat loss and the fact that people fear them, said Jennifer Moore, professor of biology at Grand Valley State University.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lansing \(MI\) State Journal](#) (11/2, 238K) and the [Livingston County \(MI\) Daily Press & Argus](#) (11/2, 4K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF NEW MEXICO JEWELRY STORE RAIDS. [KOB-TV](#) Albuquerque, NM (11/3, 78K) reports that “a newly-unsealed search warrant related to the federal raids of several New Mexico jewelry shops that were allegedly selling fake Native American goods shows federal agents have pursued the case for the last three years.” According to the article, “the warrants also show how investigators followed the money to prove how the stores sold jewelry claiming to be Native American, which actually came from the Philippines.” The warrants “include picture proof from the US Fish and Wildlife Service that outlined their evidence.”

RESEARCHERS FIND BATS INFECTED WITH WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME IN CHINA. [Science Daily](#) (11/3, 59K) reports that “bats in northeast China are infected with the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome,” according to a team of American and Chinese researchers. As a result of the new findings, Marm Kilpatrick, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at UC Santa Cruz., and Winifred Frick, who lead several research projects on white-nose syndrome at UC Santa Cruz, have received funding from the FWS “to study the dynamics of the disease in China.”

PLAN CALLS FOR KILLING BARRED OWLS TO TRY TO SAVE ENDANGERED SPOTTED OWLS. The [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (11/3, 91K) reports that “federal and state wildlife agencies had frequently killed members of one animal species on behalf of another, but none of the National Environmental Policy Act processes leading to those campaigns had included an ethics review.” The article analyzes the decision to kill “3,600 barred owls in four carefully chosen areas known to be home to previously healthy populations of spotted owls — one in the wooded slopes around Cle Elum — to see if the spotted owls would rebound.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (11/3, 91K).

WASHINGTON STATE WEIGHS MEASURE TO COMBAT ANIMAL TRAFFICKING. The [Greenwire](#) (11/2, Subscription Publication) reports that Washington state will vote Tuesday “on whether to approve the broadest restrictions on endangered species trafficking of any state to date.” According to the article, “the first such ballot initiative anywhere in the country, I-1401 would establish sentences of up to five years in prison for anyone convicted of trading in animal products, including those from tigers, lions, sea turtles, elephants and rhinoceroses.” Proponents say that the measure, “backed and funded by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, would help crack down on the smuggling of animal parts that occurs in the state’s major ports.”

RECOVERY PLAN RELEASED FOR SNAKE RIVER FALL CHINOOK SALMON. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/2, 705) reports that the National Marine Fisheries Service “released a recovery plan today for Snake River fall Chinook salmon that suggests re-establishing a long-gone population to increase the fish’s chance of survival.” According to the article, “the draft plan details several options for rebuilding the population of salmon that spawn in the main stem of Snake River and its major tributaries.” The plan “emphasized that recovery is ‘very possible’ with one population,” but “a second population above Hells Canyon Dam would ‘safeguard against further decline.’”

JUDGE TO HEAR ARGUMENTS OVER FISH PASSAGE AT CONOWINGO DAM. The [Seven Valleys \(PA\) Bay Journal](#) (11/3, 146K) reports that “Exelon Corp. has taken the unusual step of requesting a ‘trial-type hearing’ to challenge recommendations made by federal biologists who are calling for a massive upgrade to fish passage operations at its Conowingo Dam.” According to the article, “the request is in response to a ‘preliminary prescription’ from the U.S. Department of Interior in August.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NEW STUDY FINDS YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY BEARS THRIVING. Additional coverage of the new study that found that “grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park area saw unprecedented growth this year” was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (11/2, 496K).

AUDOBON SOCIETY COMMITTED TO GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLAN. For the [Audubon Society](#) (11/2, 1.65M), David Yarnold notes that “when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently made a major announcement about its decision not to list the Greater Sage-Grouse under the Endangered Species Act, Audubon’s Brian Rutledge was the only representative from a national conservation organization on the stage with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.” According to Yarnold, “that’s because Brian pioneered the win-win

formula that will lock in new protective management plans on 60 million acres of public land across the West.” Yarnold vows that Audubon will “continue to play a central, pivotal role in ensuring this plan’s future success.”

ELIMINATION OF FURBEARER TRAPPING URGED. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (11/3, Eisenberg, 251K), Cristina Eisenberg, an ecologist, writes that In 2013, three environmental groups filed “a lawsuit to protect lynx in Montana and uphold the ESA.” The lawsuit “focused on unintentional lynx capture in traps set for other furbearers.” According to Eisenberg, “the Montana-aimed lynx lawsuit established powerful case law for large carnivores threatened by furbearer trapping.” While “other states that allow furbearer trapping are more proactively self-regulating to avoid litigation,” she argues that “the most sensible and ethical solution would be for our society to eliminate furbearer trapping entirely, the way we banned slavery. “

National Park Service:

NEW MEXICO STATE PARKS ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP WITH “EVERY KID IN A PARK” PROGRAM. The [Sangre De Cristo \(NM\) Chronicle](#) (11/3, 8K) reports that New Mexico State Parks has “announced a plan to provide every fourth grader with a day pass, which will allow them to explore 11 New Mexico state parks for free.” The article notes that “the partnership with the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers is part of the Every Kid in a Park program, which encourages kids and their families to explore the outdoors.”

Grant Benefits St. John Students. The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (11/3, 333) reports that “St. John students learned about environmental services and native wildlife as they snorkeled and kayaked through the mangrove ecosystem on Wednesday during the first in a series of field trips to the Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument with the National Park Service.” The St. John division of the NPS “received an \$8,000 grant from the National Park Foundation as part of President Barack Obama’s ‘Every Kid in a Park’ initiative, which is aimed at getting every fourth-grader to visit a national park this year, according to National Park Service ranger Laurel Brannick.”

AD PROMOTES NPS CENTENNIAL. The [Reading \(PA\) Eagle](#) (11/3, 160K) reports that “Richard Nickel and four others were chosen to promote the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016.”

NPS RELEASES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR GRAND TETON CORRIDOR. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/30, 705) reports that the NPS has “released a long-awaited management plan for a popular and scenic corridor within Grand Teton National Park to address increased vehicle traffic and growing human-bear interactions.” The NPS “this week released a nearly 700-page draft comprehensive management plan and draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Moose-Wilson corridor that, among other things, proposes ‘limiting the number of vehicles entering the corridor at any one time during peak use periods using timed sequencing techniques.’”

NPS REMOVES OCEAN BEACH TRASH CANS IN EFFORT TO REDUCE LITTER. The [SFist](#) (11/2, 124K) reports that the NPS has “removed a series of garbage cans along the Ocean Beach promenade with the intended goal of reducing litter.” The agency, “which manages the popular stretch of Ocean Beach, believes that the previously existing trash cans encouraged beach-goers to leave behind their garbage, and that by removing the cans people will be inclined to pack out what they have packed in.” The NPS has “posted signs calling the removal of the trash cans an experiment, but has not provided details as to when the experiment will end.”

OJIBWE WANT MADELINE ISLAND ON NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/2, 47K) reports that “the Ojibwe of the broad Lake Superior region don’t need a federal designation to verify to them the cultural, spiritual and historical importance of the Lake Superior island called Mooningwanekaaning, the Place of the Golden-Breasted Flicker Woodpecker.” However, “several Ojibwe bands, with help from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers...hope that gaining nomination, and perhaps ultimately a listing, on the National Register of Historic Places will help protect Madeline Island.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS USING MONITORING SYSTEM TO PREDICT LANDSLIDES. [KPIX-TV](#) San Francisco (11/2, 89K) reports that “high above the hills of Marin County, U.S. Geological Survey geologist Jonathan Stock is installing a new transmitter.” According to the article, “it is one of four landslide monitoring stations the USGS maintains in the Bay Area’s slide ‘hot zones.’” The article notes that “this winter could be see a lot of landslides

with the largest El Niño California has seen in over 50 years on its way.”

RESEARCHERS SAY EARTHQUAKE WARNING SYSTEM COULD PROVIDE CRUCIAL HEADS-UP. The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Niiler, 7.78M) reports that “the United States has avoided the strongest temblors in recent years, but West Coast residents and earthquake scientists continue to worry about ‘the big one’ there.” Now, “researchers say that with a combination of ground sensors and satellite-based instruments, they are getting closer to giving people a crucial minute or two of warning, though they acknowledge that predicting exactly where and when an earthquake will strike remains an elusive goal.”

Top National News:

OBAMA TAKES PUSH FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM TO NEWARK. President Obama’s appearance in Newark, New Jersey to address criminal justice reform received generally sympathetic coverage, noting that Obama has made the issue a key agenda point in his final years in office and that some sort of reform has bipartisan support. ABC had just a brief report Monday evening and CBS none at all, but NBC devoted five minutes to an interview with Obama, in which the President went into great detail about his motives for seeking reform. A secondary story is Gov. Chris Christie’s own event on law enforcement in Camden on Monday, which is being portrayed as an intentional contrast to Obama’s events in Newark. The New Jersey governor criticized Obama’s crime policies, and the White House said Christie’s remarks are those of a desperate and fading presidential candidate – a narrative that the coverage essentially agrees with.

[ABC World News](#) (11/2, story 7, 0:30, Muir, 5.84M) briefly reported that the President “gave a push to give former prison inmates a second chance,” touring “a drug rehab facility in Newark. He wants to make it easier for them to receive training, find jobs and housing.” The [AP](#) (11/2, Lederman, Colvin, 996K) reports the President “toured a drug rehab and met with former inmates” in “rough-and-tumble” Newark, “calling on the nation to ensure those regaining their freedom get a second chance instead of a return ticket to prison.” Speaking at the Rutgers law school, Obama said, “There are people who have gone through tough times, they’ve made mistakes, but with a little bit of help, they can get on the right path.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/2, Baker, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says the President, accompanied by Sen. Cory Booker and Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, visited Integrity House “to highlight efforts to ease the re-entry of offenders leaving prison.” [Reuters](#) (11/3, Mason) says the President has made criminal justice reform a priority for the final stretch of his term.

The [Newark \(NJ\) Star-Ledger](#) (11/3, Salant, 785K) reports the President, addressing a crowd of more than 200, announced several initiatives, “including naming Newark one of five new municipalities that will work with local colleges and employers to offer job training and placement for former prisoners” and programs “to help juveniles seal criminal records and to improve the chances of former prisoners to get government jobs.” The [Bergen \(NJ\) Record](#) (11/3, Rizzo) reports the President “said too many employers dismiss applicants because they’ve checked a box stating they have a criminal history.”

[USA Today](#) (11/3, Korte, 5.56M) says it is “unclear how many federal agencies would be affected” by Obama’s directing agencies to “ban the box.” Many “already delay asking about criminal history until later in the hiring process, but Obama is directing the Office of Personnel Management to issue guidance making that practice universal” across the government. Civil rights groups “applauded the move, many had hoped for an even more sweeping executive order” that would have required federal contractors to make the same commitment. [Slate](#) (11/2, Neyfakh, 1.24M) reports under the headline “Barack Obama Takes Executive Action To ‘Ban The Box.’”

The [New York Daily News](#) (11/3, Joseph, 3.59M) says the Newark trip “is the latest public effort by Obama to try to bring attention – and reform – to the criminal justice system.” The [Washington Times](#) (11/3, Boyer, 283K) says the issue “holds a rare chance of bipartisan cooperation,” and [The Blaze](#) (11/2, Lucas, 1.89M) says the President “cited several prominent businesses, including Koch Industries,” as examples of those that have banned the box.

On its website, [Al Jazeera America](#) (11/3, 138K) calls the speech Obama’s “broadest push for criminal justice reform.” [Bustle](#) (11/3, Barbato, 1.62M) writes, “It only took about seven years, but the president finally made it to Newark.” [New Jersey Local News](#) (11/2, Wilchert, 785K) also reports on the event.

In an analysis, the [AP](#) (11/3, Hennessey) writes that “in the national conversation about crime and punishment,

Obama hasn't been afraid to identify with the people being policed, as well as with the police," in "a remarkable shift in tone after decades of politicians worrying more about being labeled soft on crime than too hard on criminals." He has discussed his own youthful drug use and his concerns as a father of teenagers, and has "told stories of being pulled over for speeding – and not always deserving the ticket." Sentencing Project Executive Director Marc Mauer said, "He's the first African-American president and his life experiences are different than others. He's lived it – directly or indirectly – more than other presidents have."

In his interview with [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/2, story 6, 5:00, Holt, 7.86M), the President said, "Pretty much up and down the line what we see is disparities in how white, black, Hispanic suspects are treated. Higher arrest rates, tougher sentencing, longer sentences. Where it is happening, you can't always isolate within the system. There may be several biases that take place. There may be predispositions that end up resulting in these disparities but we know they are happening."

However, [Politico](#) (11/2, Wheaton, 1.19M) wrote that Obama "is hoping there's no Willie Horton among the 6,000 inmates he just released early from federal prison." While "reducing the prison population is a key part of Obama's push for criminal justice reform in his last year as president," the "infamous Willie Horton ad" of the 1988 presidential campaign is "on the minds of activists on both sides." But those being released "are not first degree murderers – they're low-level drug offenders, and almost a third are immigrants just headed for a different type of pre-deportation detention." Still, those opposed to Obama's action "are already looking for the next Horton."

Obama Says Reform Does Not Mean Not Punishing Violent Criminals. [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/2, story 6, 5:00, Holt, 7.86M) ran a five-minute interview with Obama on criminal justice reform. The President said, "Nobody is talking about no jail in all circumstances. The question is just how do we go through the various levels of the criminal justice system and tailor it so we are getting the best results, which is safe streets and a reduce incarceration that results in us as a society spending \$80 billion a year. And some of it is necessary. ... If you have violent criminals out there, they need to be incapacitated and taken off the streets."

Christie Criticizes Obama, Saying He Is Taking Credit For Others' Achievements. The [AP](#) (11/3, Colvin) reports that Christie, who made an appearance at Camden County Police Headquarters on Monday, accused the President "of trying to take credit for criminal justice reforms that Christie put into place." Christie said, "I think it's wonderful for the President to come to New Jersey and acknowledge the work that's been done in New Jersey by leaders of New Jersey." He later told the AP, "I think for the President to come and you know try to take a victory lap here is beneath him. But it's his call."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Nakamura, 7.78M) says the last time both men were in New Jersey at the same time, they "merrily strolled the boardwalk in Asbury Park and even played an arcade game." But "with Christie desperate to rejuvenate a moribund 2016 presidential campaign, Obama has become a convenient political foil, never mind that three years ago they had forged an unlikely cross-party alliance to respond to the devastation of Hurricane Sandy." [Politicker \(NJ\)](#) (11/2, Aregood, 843) reports Christie said, "I think I have a history of welcoming the president of the United States here, a well-documented one. But that doesn't mean I can't disagree with him when he's wrong and I believe he's wrong, and it is nice of him to show up on the law enforcement issue. He really hasn't much."

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (11/2, Hanna, 641K) says Christie pledged "to stand with law enforcement while pushing his campaign-trail accusations that President Obama – who was in New Jersey to address criminal justice reform – has failed to support police." The [Burlington County \(NJ\) Times](#) (11/2, Levinsky, 52K) reports Christie designated November 5 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in the state, saying, "It's important for the state to recognize and acknowledge the great sacrifice and contribution all of you are making and as governor I want to help to lead that effort."

The White House said in response that Christie was trying to use the issue to benefit his presidential campaign. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Haddon, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said the remarks were not surprising for "somebody whose poll numbers are closer to an asterisk than they are double digits," a remark also quoted by the [New York Daily News](#) (11/3, Edelman, 3.59M) and [The Hill](#) (11/2, Fabian, 654K). The [Washington Times](#) (11/3, Boyer, 283K) reports Earnest said, "Clearly this is part of his strategy to turn this [campaign] around. We'll see how that works out."

OBAMA MOCKS GOP IN COMMENTS AT BROADWAY DNC FUNDRAISER. The [AP](#) (11/3, Lederman) says President Obama offered "a solo comedy act roasting the Republican Party" at a Democratic National

Committee fundraiser at Broadway's Richard Rodgers Theatre. The President set aside "his typical fundraiser spiel" and "left a crowd of more than 1,300 in stitches" with his remarks about the GOP and its presidential candidates in particular. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (11/3, Wingfield, Banks, 303K) reports Obama said, "Unemployment and uninsured rates were up and we were hopelessly addicted to foreign oil and bin Laden was still on the loose. This apparently was the golden age that I messed up."

[Reuters](#) (11/3, Mason) reports the President also joked that the GOP presidential contenders say they could face down Russian President Vladimir Putin, "and then it turns out they can't handle a bunch of CNBC moderators." The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Nakamura, 7.78M) reports the President continued, "If you can't handle those guys then I don't think the Chinese and the Russians are going to be too worried about it." The Post calls Obama's remarks "some of his most barbed comments to date" about the presidential race, and said he "appeared to relish poking fun at his rivals."

The [Huffington Post](#) (11/3, Fang, 251K) reports the President also "took specific aim at climate-change deniers," calling the time Sen. Jim Inhofe "brought a snowball onto the Senate floor to attempt to disprove the existence of climate change 'cray.'"

[Variety](#) (11/3, Johnson, 535K) says the fundraiser "was tied to a performance of 'Hamilton,' the hit Broadway musical that is a hip-hop take on the life of Alexander Hamilton and has won praise from many D.C. politicians." The President said of the show, "Michelle and I love this show. It also happens to be the only thing Dick Cheney and I agree on...that is a cultural landmark."

[Politico](#) (11/2, Trudo, 1.19M) says Obama "made jokes ranging from climate change to the recently defeated New York Mets, but it was his joke about the last GOP presidential debate...that made the most impact." The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Baker, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says the President "was in campaign mode even though he is not running." The [Washington Times](#) (11/3, Boyer, 283K) also covers the President's remarks.

WPost's Milbank, Robinson Blast GOP Candidates Over Debate Criticism. In his [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Milbank, 7.78M) column, Dana Milbank mocks the GOP campaigns over their complaints about the CNBC-hosted debate and the campaigns' proposed "requirements for future debate moderators." Milbank sarcastically offers a list of promises that he'll adhere to if he is chosen to moderate the next debate, writing, for example, "Candidates will be seated in Barcaloungers. If candidates feel overheated, the moderator will fan them while they answer and provide them with their choice of lemon or cucumber ice water."

In his [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Robinson, 7.78M), Eugene Robinson also criticizes the Republican candidates over their outcry about the CNBC debate moderators, writing that the GOP "is in chaos and the candidates, led by Trump and [Ben] Carson, are driving the bus. We'll face down Vladimir Putin and the leaders of Iran, the contenders all say, but somebody save us from reporters asking rude questions."

McGurn: CNBC Debate Showed Viewers That Republicans' Claims Of Media Bias Are True. In his [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, McGurn, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) column, William McGurn says that Republicans have long complained that the mainstream media is biased against their party and candidates, and that last week's CNBC-hosted debate showed the millions of viewers that tuned into the event that the Republicans' claims are true.

Trump To Negotiate Debate Changes Directly With TV Networks. On [ABC World News](#) (11/2, story 6, 2:20, Muir, 5.84M), Tom Llamas reported, "Tonight, as many of the Republican presidential candidates unite, hoping to take control of future debates, Donald Trump says he'll negotiate for himself." Trump was shown saying, "The networks are making a fortune with the debates. We should be like a basketball player. We should go on strike and say, 'We want money for Wounded Warriors, or we want money for a great charity.'" Llamas added, "Trump isn't signing a letter many other campaigns plan to send to television networks. An early draft including demands for at least 30 seconds of opening and closing statements. No 'gotcha' lightning rounds. And no show-of-hands questions."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Costa, Weigel, Farhi, 7.78M) reports, "The format and content of upcoming debates became increasingly uncertain on Monday after...Trump's campaign said" he "would negotiate his terms directly with television executives instead of as part of a joint effort with his rivals. The move by Trump, coming just hours after his and other campaigns" met "to craft a three-page letter of possible demands, thwarts an effort to find consensus after what most candidates agreed was a debacle hosted by CNBC last week."

Trump Jabs At Rubio While Discussing Proposed Debate Changes. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (11/2, Breitman, 303K) reported that during a Monday interview with Bloomberg Politics' "With All Due Respect," Trump jabbed at Sen. Marco Rubio while talking about "proposed changes to the party's presidential debates...saying he hoped the debate venues would be better air conditioned in the future. '[Rubio] is the one that sweats the most,' Trump said," adding, "He's the youngest but I have never seen any human being sweat like that." Bloomberg Politics added that Trump "repeatedly jabbed at Rubio, calling him 'highly overrated.'"

Trump: DNC's Wasserman Schultz "Crazy" And "Highly Neurotic." [Politico](#) (11/2, Gass, 1.19M) reported that during a Monday appearance on Sirius XM's "Breitbart News Daily," Trump said that DNC chief Debbie Wasserman Schultz "is a 'crazy,' 'highly neurotic woman' but" she "negotiated a great deal" for Democratic debates." In response to a question about "whether he or" RNC chief Reince Priebus "would do a better job hammering out a television deal for debates," Trump said, "Well, I'm not allowed to say that, OK? But I can tell you [Priebus is] a very good guy." Turning his focus to the Democrats, Trump "said, '[y]ou have this crazy Wasserman Schultz — Deborah Wasserman Schultz — who is in there, a highly neurotic woman.'" Trump added, "This is a woman that is a terrible person," but "in all fairness, she negotiated a great deal for Hillary [Clinton] because they gave Hillary all softballs" during the first Democratic presidential debate.

WHITE HOUSE: OBAMA WILL MAKE KEYSTONE DECISION BEFORE LEAVING OFFICE. [Reuters](#) (11/2) reports the White House said Monday that the President will make a decision on whether to grant a permit to TransCanada to build the Keystone XL pipeline before he leaves office. "Our expectation at this point is that the president will make a decision before the end of his administration on the Keystone pipeline, but when exactly that will be, I don't know at this point," White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters. Asked whether the decision could come this year, Earnest said, "It's possible. It's also possible it could happen next year."

TransCanada Requests US Suspend Permit Application. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, A6, Harder, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports TransCanada on Monday asked the State Department to suspend its permit application. "In order to allow time for certainty regarding the Nebraska route, TransCanada requests that the State Department pause in its review of the Presidential Permit application for Keystone XL," the company said in the request. "This will allow a decision on the Permit to be made later based on certainty with respect to the route of the pipeline."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Eilperin, 7.78M) notes that the Nebraska Public Service Commission is "reviewing the pipeline's route in the state, after residents there challenged the state's approval process for the project," and the company argued that it would be "appropriate" to delay any federal decision until the Nebraska route is settled.

The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Davis, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says a delay "would be almost certain to put off a final decision on the pipeline until Mr. Obama left office, making it likely that the pipeline would be a hotly debated topic in the 2016 presidential race." The [Washington Times](#) (11/3, Wolfgang, 283K) similarly says the move "raises a real possibility Mr. Obama will not be the one to make a decision on the pipeline and that the next president, perhaps one more inclined to back new oil-and-gas infrastructure in the US, will be the final arbiter." Environmental groups, [USA Today](#) (11/3, Dorell, 5.56M) reports, "cheered" the announcement and urged the President "to kill the project for good."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "The Scare Tactics Of Turkey's President Erdogan Pay Off." A [New York Times](#) (11/3, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) editorial says in a "chilling taste of what may be coming, on the day after Turkey's election Turkish police officers raided a weekly magazine charged with 'insulting the Turkish president,'" and the editor was detained and distribution was halted. The Times says the "question now is whether" Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan "will use his office to ensure the survival of democracy."

"Support Houston's Equal Rights Ordinance." The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) editorializes that Houston voters will be asked today "if they want to keep or repeal the city's strong and enlightened equal rights ordinance, which was approved by the City Council last year and put on hold pending this week's vote." Opponents of the law "have perversely turned a broad, sensible measure that protects people from discrimination in employment, city services, housing and public accommodations, among

other things, into a debate about sexual predators in women's restrooms." The Times argues that Houston residents "should not succumb to that ugly fearmongering," and it contends that "those who vote 'yes' to retaining the ordinance will be affirming the city's most valuable asset: its longstanding culture of inclusiveness."

"G.O.P.: Save Your Candidates From Themselves." The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) editorializes against the effort by Republican presidential candidates to change the arrangement of debates, alleging that they are seeking to avoid difficult questions, and that they objected to being "asked to explain a policy proposal or past action that's of legitimate concern to voters." Inste

Conversation Contents

Capitol Press: It's time for the Obama administration to come clean on potential national monument

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Subject: Capitol Press: It's time for the Obama administration to come clean on potential national monument

[It's time for the Obama administration to come clean on potential national monument](#)

By Greg Walden
For the Capital Press

We don't need a presidential declaration locking up more of our public lands and choking our local ranch economy.

We've seen this movie before. A lame duck president uses the Antiquities Act to declare huge swaths of public lands off limits so he can have an environmental legacy. Right up until the night before he declared the Grand Staircase Escalante a national monument, the Clinton White House told the Utah congressional delegation no such plans were in the works. And in his final month in office, President Clinton declared seven national monuments.

I fear the Obama administration — urged on by outside interests groups and wealthy corporations seeking a marketing niche — is up to the same "dark-of-night" declaration on the Owyhee River canyon in Eastern Oregon.

Last Thursday night, in Adrian (population 177), more than 500 people turned out to a public meeting organized by state Rep. Cliff Bentz to voice their deep concerns about this possibility. Extra chairs had to be brought in to the local gymnasium, and people were still standing in the aisles.

One person who wasn't there? Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. Although I called on her or a senior representative to attend the meeting, no senior members of the administration attended.

If they had, they would have heard a message loud and clear: Residents of Eastern Oregon don't want another "Washington, D.C. knows best" federal designation that would further destroy our way of life.

Yet, despite this public outcry, I believe the administration is playing hide the ball from the public. The Obama administration needs to come clean about what it has planned for these millions of acres of land in Eastern Oregon.

Those of us familiar with Eastern Oregon know that the Owyhee River canyon in Malheur County is home to some of the most beautiful landscapes in the country. We also know that these lands are an important part of the economic base for Malheur County, which generates more than \$370 million annually in agriculture business according to Oregon State University, of which \$134 million comes from cattle.

The Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies manage 4.5 million acres, or 73 percent of the land in the county, making public lands grazing an integral part of most local family ranch operations, many of whom have cared for this high desert country since the 1860s. For generations, these local families have been good stewards of the lands. They've worked cooperatively and collaboratively with federal agencies to manage these lands with an eye towards the long-term viability of the range and their family's livelihood.

Much like thinning an overstocked forest, grazing helps reduce the amount of fuel available to large rangeland fires that threaten watersheds and sage grouse habitat in the arid climates of southeastern Oregon. When fires do start, the volunteers in the Rural Fire Protection Association are positioned to respond promptly and are highly effective, thanks to their intimate knowledge of local terrain and weather.

Over the years, these ranchers have developed springs and other water sources that have supported their cattle, but also countless numbers of wildlife that share the range. The latter benefit has been particularly valuable during recent droughts.

In towns like Adrian and Jordan Valley, ranching is the base of the community. Whether through hiring employees, or buying needed supplies for the ranch or their family, they are injecting money into the local community.

A monument designation larger than the states of Rhode Island and Connecticut would greatly restrict or eliminate grazing and other productive uses of the land. It will shake the foundation of these communities and cause harmful economic impacts to the county and the surrounding region.

I've worked with my colleagues in the House to include language in the funding bill for the Department of Interior prohibiting the creation of this national monument. Our farmers, ranchers and rural communities are most affected by the decisions made on public lands. I will continue to work to return the focus on locally driven management efforts, and stop these unilateral actions that lock up our public lands and negatively impact our communities.

The Obama administration has done enough damage to the West through their overzealous regulations. We don't need a presidential declaration locking up more of our public lands and choking our local ranch economy.

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden represents Oregon's Second Congressional District, which covers 20 counties in Southern, Central and Eastern Oregon.

Published:

November 2, 2015 10:10AM

On Mon, Nov 2, 2015 at 8:17 AM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Capitol Press: Walden asks Interior Department where it stands on Malheur monument proposal

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Sean Ellis

Published:

November 1, 2015 6:08PM

Members of Oregon's congressional delegation are weighing in on a proposal to set aside 2.5 million acres of Malheur County through national monument or wilderness designations. Other Eastern Oregon counties are also supporting Malheur County residents in their opposition to the plan.

ADRIAN, Ore. — Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., has asked Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to formally outline where the federal government stands on a proposal to designate 2.5 million acres in Malheur County as a national monument or wilderness area.

The Owyhee Canyonlands Conservation Proposal, which would impact about 33 percent of the county's total grazing land, is strongly opposed by the county's ranchers and farmers.

Walden hopes to receive a response to that Oct. 28 request soon and will keep pushing until he gets one, said Andrew Malcolm, Walden's communications director.

"We want them to make clear what their intentions are on this proposal," he said.

In his letter to Jewell, Walden said locking up that much land, which is equal to 43 percent of the county, is "understandably concerning to local communities."

"These hard-working local residents deserve to know where the federal government stands on the proposal that would affect their daily lives far beyond anyone else's," Walden stated.

He also said the proposal could harm agriculture, which "provides the economic base for Malheur County."

Agriculture generates \$370 million annually in farm-gate receipts in the county, and \$134 million of that total comes from the livestock industry.

Because the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies manage 73 percent of the county's lands, "public lands grazing (is) an integral part of most local family ranch operations," Walden stated. "Greatly restricting use of that land through a monument designation could have disastrous economic impacts to the county and the surrounding region."

Walden told Jewell that "it's very important that you ... outline formally to Malheur County (residents) where the DOI stands on this proposal...."

Oregon Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, both Democrats, have also weighed in on the issue and, in a joint statement, said any proposal needs to protect ranching families as well as other existing rights in the area.

"Malheur County has been home to ranch families for generations," their Oct. 29 letter states. "We want to ensure that agriculture, ranching and other uses of this landscape continue into Oregon's future."

Five other Eastern Oregon counties also support Malheur County in its opposition to the proposal.

A Harney County Court resolution opposing the plan said it could reduce ranching operations in

Southeastern Oregon, "as the majority of ranches are tied to federal grazing."

The proposal is being spearheaded by the Oregon Natural Desert Association and the group's executive director, Brent Fenty, said the plan's supporters would be happy to work with Malheur County residents to help craft a proposal palatable to both sides.

"We're certainly ready and willing to have those conversations," he said.

According to Fenty, 100 Oregon businesses have signed letters urging Wyden to support the proposal and more than 10,500 petition signatures favoring the plan have been collected.

Fenty said proposal proponents support congressional action to approve the plan but opponents say they anticipate supporters will ask President Barack Obama to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to designate the land as a national monument or wilderness area.

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Conversation Contents

Capitol Press: Walden asks Interior Department where it stands on Malheur monument proposal

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From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Nov 02 2015 06:17:10 GMT-0700 (MST)
Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, "interior_press@ios.doi.gov" <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Capitol Press: Walden asks Interior Department where it stands on Malheur monument proposal

Capitol Press: Walden asks Interior Department where it stands on Malheur monument proposal

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, November 2, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Mon Nov 02 2015 05:00:43 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, November 2, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2015 7:00 AM EST

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LAST LAUGHS:

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES DISTRIBUTION OF ADDITIONAL PILT FUNDS. The [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (11/2, 19K) reports that the Interior Department announced Friday that “more than 1,900 local governments” are “receiving additional Payments in Lieu of Taxes funds,” totaling about \$34.5 million.

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/31, 203K) reports that “rural communities in Alaska will get \$2.2 million from the Interior Department as part of a Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program.” Interior Deputy Secretary Michael L. Connor said, “Rural communities help define the character of our diverse and beautiful country, contributing significantly to our nation’s economy.”

REP. BISHOP SAYS HE WANTS TO FIX LWCF. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/2, 339K) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, allowed the Land and Water Conservation Fund “to expire at the end of September by blocking movement on a bipartisan bill to renew it.” Bishop “says the program, while well-intentioned when it began, has become a ‘slush fund’ for the Interior Department secretary and that local and state governments are receiving a pittance of what they should get.” But While Bishop “works to reform the fund’s goals, communities across America that had been hoping for federal dollars to buy up and preserve space are out in the cold.”

Congress Urged To Reauthorize LWCF. In an editorial, the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/1, 73K) calls on Congress to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund., The paper says that “it’s hard to think of a state that benefits more from the LWCF than Colorado.” It asserts that “the LWCF is working just fine and shouldn’t be crimped in any way.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (11/1, 87K).

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, STATES AT ODDS OVER LAND MANAGEMENT. The [San Angelo \(TX\) Standard-Times](#) (11/2, 2K) reports that “in 2015, all 11 Western states considered measures calling for the transfer of federal land to state control,” but “only a handful of bills passed, and none resulted in a transfer of land.” According to the article, “those long odds, and a reluctance to spend state money on land management, have spurred some states to try a different approach.” The article notes that “instead of taking on the federal government in a futile fight for ownership, they are arming counties with money and expertise to help them

convince federal officials to hew more closely to residents' interests.”

In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (11/1, 960K), Sen. Steve Pierce, chairman of the Senate Natural Resources and Rural Affairs Committee, criticizes “federal land management in the West.” He claims that “the desk jockeys in Washington, D.C., not only seem to lack empathy for all the families in Arizona and the West who make a living working the land, we often are under downright attack from this administration.” However, Piece is hopeful because “we have at least one presidential candidate paying attention to the West and has laid out a plan to turn things around.” According to Pierce, “Jeb Bush proposed a set of policies touching on everything from water storage to hunting rights that shows he understands the relationship between Washington, D.C., and the West is broken.”

In an op-ed for the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/2, 403K), Mark Hutchison, Nevada’s lieutenant governor, writes that the Nevada Association of Counties on Sept. 29 hosted the Summit on Public Lands in Nevada. According to Hutchison, “the purpose of this event was to have a detailed and open conversation to identify opportunities and recommendations for Nevada to strengthen its role in the health, sustainability and management of our public lands.” He says that “there were frank discussions on how wildfires, access, multiple use and permitting processes are managed on our public lands and the effects they have on our communities.”

In an editorial, the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (10/31, 194K) opposes the growing movement in the West “to turn federal lands over to states.” It argues that “doing this would be the wrong way to address growth concerns, has the potential to harm Nevada taxpayers, and goes against the wishes of many hunters, hikers and other outdoor recreationists who fear losing access to currently public lands.”

Additional coverage of the tension between states and the federal government over land management policies was provided by the [Laramie \(WY\) Boomerang](#) (11/2, 17K).

REP. WALDEN SEEKS INFORMATION ON MALHEUR MONUMENT PROPOSAL. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (11/1, 113K) reports that Rep. Greg Walden has asked Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to “formally outline where the federal government stands on a proposal to designate 2.5 million acres in Malheur County as a national monument or wilderness area.” The Owyhee Canyonlands Conservation Proposal, “which would impact about 33 percent of the county’s total grazing land, is strongly opposed by the county’s ranchers and farmers.” Walden “hopes to receive a response to that Oct. 28 request soon and will keep pushing until he gets one, said Andrew Malcolm, Walden’s communications director.”

BLM PONDERES ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN SAGE GROUSE HABITAT. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (11/1, 74K) reports that the BLM is considering “oil and gas development leases on some 5.2 million acres in prime sage grouse habitat in the West.” Approval of the parcels had been postponed because the bureau’s “intention was to wait until regulations were in place that would allow operators to move ahead with minimal impact on the bird’s shrub-steppe habitat.” Following the recent decision not to list the bird, “those parcels of land could go back on the auction block – and environmental groups say that could result in harm to grouse populations, which had been slowly recovering.” According to the article, “though no decisions have been made yet, the BLM hopes to determine what to do with the land — which is more than twice the size of Yellowstone — by the end of the year.”

FIREFIGHTING COSTS TOP \$45 MILLION IN NORTHWEST MONTANA. The [AP](#) (11/2, 283K) reports that “wildfires in northwest Montana cost more than \$45.7 million to fight this year.” According to the article, “preliminary tallies from the Northern Rockies Coordination Center counted at least 529 wildfires that scorched more than 219,000 acres in the region.”

FREEDOM CAUCUS COULD SOON TURN EYE TO ENERGY ISSUES. The [E&E Daily](#) (10/30, Subscription Publication) reports that Rep. Cynthia Lummis is hoping to focus the Freedom Caucus’ “newfound political muscle on energy issues.” According to the article, “during an interview on Capitol Hill last week, Lummis, who hails from Wyoming – the country’s top coal producer – said that while energy isn’t a focus for the caucus now, she’s hopeful the group will turn its powerful gaze to those issues in the West.”

REPORT FINDS ERRORS IN COST-BENEFIT ANALYSES BY AGENCIES. The [Greenwire](#) (10/30, Subscription Publication) reports that “federal agencies need to ‘step up their game’ when it comes to analyzing the costs and benefits of prospective regulations, according to a new report from the nonprofit group Resources for the Future.” The report looked at “nine case studies of 34 environmental regulations and found

few instances where agencies' predictions were realized." Written by Richard Morgenstern, the report illustrates "a number of common analytical mistakes made by agencies."

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGED TO CREATE GREATER GRAND CANYON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (11/1, 960K), Danny Giovale writes that Rep. Raul Grijalva and "leaders from the Havasupai, Hualapai, Hopi and Navajo tribal nations recently announced the next step in the tribal-led effort to permanently protect the area around the Grand Canyon." Giovale, "as the owner of the outdoor gear company Kahtoola, who makes a living selling products to help folks enjoy the outdoors, and as a lifelong explorer of the Grand Canyon area," adds his "support to the tribal effort and attest to the value of protecting this area." Giovale says that "President Obama has an opportunity to ensure that all Americans have the chance to experience the grandeur of Grand Canyon's watershed through the creation of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument."

WPOST: CONGRESS MUST PASS LEGISLATION ENSURING IG ACCESS. The [Washington Post](#) (11/1, 7.78M) editorializes that Congress should move forward on bipartisan legislation that "deserves to be passed" and would guarantee that inspectors general have access to all records and "remain an important mechanism of accountability and oversight." The Post criticizes the Justice Department's "foot-dragging" on releasing FBI records to IG Michael Horowitz as part of "a larger problem" of IGs facing "hurdles to their independent investigations created by the very departments they are supposed to keep an eye on."

DOLE: CONGRESS SHOULD APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR NATIONAL EISENHOWER MEMORIAL. In a [Washington Times](#) (11/1, Dole, 283K) op-ed, former Sen. Bob Dole highlights the importance of completing the Eisenhower National Memorial and criticizes "a handful of Republican members of Congress" for blocking Federal funding of the project. Dole urges Congress to "appropriate the necessary funds that will, at last, bring alive the vision of the 1999 legislation establishing the memorial."

Veterans Group Criticizes Eisenhower Memorial Design. The [Military](#) (10/31, 209K) reports that Concerned Veterans for America is "criticizing plans for a multi-million memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower, the country's 34th President who led U.S. and Allied forces in Europe in World War II as Supreme Allied Commander." The group said "the memorial design – to feature 80-foot high columns, metal-sculpted tapestries and statues depicting Eisenhower as President and as a 5-star Army general – is 'a disgrace,' and also hit the project over costs, recently estimated to be about \$144 million." Concerned Veterans for America Outreach and Research Analyst Shaun Rieley said in a statement on Thursday, "The ugly, confusing, and grandiose design does not befit a man who asked to be buried in the same \$80 government-issued casket provided to the common soldier."

Empowering Native American Communities:

NATIVE HAWAIIANS FACE "MONUMENTAL DECISIONS." In an op-ed for the [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (11/2, 349K), Kawika K. Burgess writes that "the Native Hawaiian community is at a historic crossroad" with the "opportunity, being facilitated by Nai Aupuni, to reorganize our lahui (community of people) and take the first steps on the long road toward rebuilding the nation." Burgess notes that "at the same time we also face a separate question from the United States Department of Interior as to whether or not our lahui should pursue a federal rule, which would allow for federal recognition of our lahui if we so chose." Burgess stresses that "these monumental decisions will not only impact us, but also our children and the future generations of Hawaiians, as well as the broader community in Hawaii."

Additional coverage of the election was provided by [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (11/2, Brown, 1.57M).

DECISIONS ON TIGUA GAMING EXPECTED TO BE CONTESTED. The [El Paso \(TX\) Times](#) (11/1, 199K) editorializes that "El Paso's Tigua Indians received a rare dose of positive news in its decades-long efforts to legally operate a casino on tribal land" when "the National Indian Gaming Commission and the solicitor general of the U.S. Department of the Interior issued opinions that said the tribe could offer what's known as Class II gaming at Speaking Rock Casino." However, it says that "those opinions, filed under seal with an El Paso federal court in early October and unsealed last week, are unlikely to be the final word on the subject." Instead, "the rulings could set the stage for another Tigua legal battle with the state, and another fight between Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and the Obama administration."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/30, 47K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HEARING HELD ON TRIBAL RECOGNITION BILL. Additional coverage that “a congressional subcommittee heard testimony last week on a bill providing that Indian tribes only be recognized by an act of Congress rather than by the executive branch of the U.S. government” was provided by the [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (10/31, 77K).

Office of Insular Affairs:

MIGRANT FUNDING REQUEST HELD UP IN CONGRESS. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (11/1, 61K) reports that “legislation that Guam and Hawaii representatives proposed to raise federal government funding to help the islands pay for public services to regional migrants remains stuck in committee.” The article notes that “it’s been eight months since the introduction of H.R. 854, also called the Compact Impact Aid Act of 2015, which proposes to raise the annual funding for Guam, Hawaii, the Northern Marianas and American Samoa from \$30 million to \$185 million.” The legislation “awaits consideration in the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs of the Natural Resources Committee, according to Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo’s office.”

PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS MAKE LAST PLEA BEFORE PARIS CLIMATE TALKS. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (11/2, Milman, 3.48M) reports that at a summit last week in Fiji, “islanders thrashed out their collective plea to the world to help address the health impacts of climate change, particularly upon women, infants and adolescents.” Fijian prime minister Frank Bainimarama said, “We in the Pacific are innocent bystanders in the greatest act of folly of any age,” lamenting what he sees as a lack of “necessary political will” among rich countries.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA DISTRICTS FINED OVER WATER USE. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/31, story 5, 1:45, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that California is going to assess \$61,000 fines against Beverly Hills, Coachella, and other districts that have failed to decrease water consumption during the drought.

GROUP OPPOSES DELTA TUNNELS PLAN. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/2, 515K) reports that “Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, executive director of Restore the Delta, addressed reporters Friday on the steps of the state Capitol, speaking in opposition to a plan pushed by Gov. Jerry Brown to build a pair of massive tunnels in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.” The article notes that “Friday marked the deadline to submit comments on the project’s environmental impact documents.”

BOR TO DISCUSS BIGHORN RESERVOIR WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (11/2, 200K) reports that the BOR will “discuss water supply conditions in the Bighorn Basin and the agency’s proposed fall/winter operating plan for Yellowtail Dam/Bighorn Lake at a public meeting on Thursday.”

EFFORT TO EXPAND RANGE OF SALMON IN CALIFORNIA CRITICIZED. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/2, 270K) editorializes that “the fate of the Chinook salmon in California” has been impacted by global warming. However, it argues that “the herculean effort to get water flowing through dried-up sections of California’s second-longest river has been tied completely to bringing back salmon.” The paper says that this “is a colossal mistake. The focus instead should be on the river’s overall health.” It concludes that “in the midst of global warming, trying to expand the range of salmon – instead of saving them where they are – is a fool’s errand.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ALTAMONT WINDS SHUTTING DOWN IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA PASS. Drawing on coverage from the Contra Costa Times, the [AP](#) (11/2) reports Altamont Winds, a company that some environmentalists have “blamed for thousands of bird deaths in Northern California’s Altamont Pass,” is “shutting down.” The wind power company “notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service it will cease operations on Sunday in an effort to reduce bird deaths.” The company “is one of four operating some 3,000 turbines in the pass.” Alameda County has “found that up to 4,600 birds, including golden eagles, died in the wind farm area each year from 2005 to 2012 – although many deaths occurred when the turbines were powered down.”

BLM RENEWABLE ENERGY HEAD RETIRES AT 67. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/30, 705) profiles retiring manager of the Bureau of Land Management's National Renewable Energy Coordination Office, Ray Brady. He "implement the president's 'New Energy for America' agenda, calling for using public lands to drive a sweeping expansion of renewable energy production," E&E reports and chronicles that effort.

Onshore Energy Development:

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE TO HOLD HEARING ON STREAM PROTECTION RULE. The [National Journal](#) (11/2, Subscription Publication, 53K) reports that "the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee's Subcommittee on Interior holds a hearing Wednesday on a proposed Interior Department rule placing limits on coal producers operating near streams." According to the article, "the stream protection rule has been criticized by the industry for being too restrictive, but the administration says it will protect drinking water and nearby land."

Fourteen States Say New Waterway Rules Will Hurt Mining. The [AP](#) (10/31, 2.15M) reports that "the attorneys general of Ohio and West Virginia are leading an effort to oppose new federal rules that clarify which small streams, wetlands and other waterways the government can shield from pollution and development." According to the article, "Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey — along with their counterparts from a dozen other states — signed a letter to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement this week saying that the rules will hurt coal mining operations." The letter says "the rules immensely broaden the federal government's authority at the expense of mining and fail to respect state control over the industry."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/31, 283K), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (11/2), and [WFMJ-TV Youngstown \(OH\)](#) Youngstown, OH (11/2, 70K).

Stream Protection Rule Criticized. In an op-ed for the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/2, 73K), Brent Wahluquist, a former director of the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, writes that the Obama Administration's "assault on the production and use of coal in the United States has been relentless and is showing no signs of letting up despite the fact that coal production has already dropped by well over 15% since the administration took office." He criticizes the Interior Department's "new so called Stream Protection Rule (SPR) designed to curb the production of coal and increase federal intervention into state run regulatory programs." He claims that "Interior is proposing to fix problems that simply don't exist."

The piece also appears in the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (11/2, 87K).

SEN. MURKOWSKI CRITICIZES ENERGY POLICIES THAT RESTRICT DRILLING. [The Hill](#) (10/31, Richardson, 654K) "Briefing Room" blog reported that Sen. Lisa Murkowski used the Republican weekly address on Saturday to criticize President Obama's energy policies that restrict drilling in her home state of Alaska. Murkowski said the Administration has "repeatedly denied Alaska's best opportunities to produce energy for our nation and the world." According to Murkowski, the Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies "are issuing a barrage of regulations that will have limited environmental benefit, but will absolutely reduce our ability to produce energy here at home."

COURT REJECTS REQUEST TO BLOCK DRILLING IN CHACO CANYON REGION. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/30, Subscription Publication) reports that "environmentalists suffered another loss in court this week, as a federal judge denied their request to block oil and gas drilling in the Chaco Canyon region of New Mexico while litigation on the issue continues." The Navajo group Diné Citizens Against Ruining our Environment, "along with the Natural Resources Defense Council, WildEarth Guardians and the San Juan Citizens Alliance, requested the injunction in September – essentially asking for a pause on development while the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals considers whether a lower court was correct in denying a similar request." However, "the court denied the request, noting in a short order that the groups had not met the basic standards for injunction, which include a likelihood of success on the merits of the case and irreparable harm without an injunction."

REPORT SEEKS TRANSPARENCY IN COAL REGULATIONS. The [Richmond \(KY\) Register](#) (11/2, 16K) reports that "a House of Representatives committee recently filed legislation aimed at amending the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act to ensure transparency in the creation of environmental regulation after an extensive report called into question the regulatory effect of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and

Enforcement.” The House Natural Resources Committee said “the legislation seeks to improve overall transparency in the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s (OSMRE) regulatory actions.” According to the article, “this legislation would ensure the publication of all scientific products used by OSMRE, thereby providing stakeholders the opportunity to comment on the validity of such products, committee members contend.”

ENVIRONMENTALISTS CALL FOR FEDERAL INTERVENTION IN WYOMING MINE RECLAMATION. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (11/2, 200K) reports that “there are growing calls for Washington to intervene following a deal” between Wyoming regulators and “the bankrupt coal miner Alpha Natural Resources that left the vast majority of the company’s \$411 million cleanup bill unsecured.” According to the article, “environmentalists question the legality of the agreement, which allowed Alpha to continue mining in exchange for a \$61 million super-priority claim in the company’s bankruptcy proceedings.” The Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Control “notably reserved its enforcement rights as part of the Alpha-Wyoming agreement, but department officials have been tight lipped in public about the subject.”

BLM CLEARS LEASES FOR DRILLING ON PUBLIC LAND. The [AP](#) (11/2, Bryan) reports that the Bureau of Land Management last week “cleared the way for drilling on more than a dozen parcels of national forest land in northern New Mexico,” despite opposition from environmentalists. “The team determined that the environmental analysis completed for the lease sale was in conformance with the BLM’s resource management plan and the Forest Service’s oil and gas environmental impact statement and therefore the BLM will be issuing the leases,” BLM spokeswoman Donna Hummel said.

NATURAL GAS PIPELINE BUILDER ANNOUNCES ROUTE CHANGES. The [AP](#) (11/2, 2.15M) reports that “energy companies behind the Atlantic Coast Pipeline are proposing changes in the route of the proposed 564-mile natural gas pipeline.” According to the article, “in a filing Friday with federal regulators, Dominion Energy said the changes would reduce the potential impacts on salamander habitats in the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia and the George Washington National Forest in Virginia.” Dominion also said “it is proposing an alternative to avoid crossing the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.” The change was made at the request of the FWS.

COAL FACILITIES TRANSITION TO CLEAN ENERGY. [POWER](#) (11/2, 1K) profiles several coal facilities which are being “repurposed for cleaner energy projects that benefit multiple stakeholders.” The article shows that “several existing and planned projects demonstrate that there may be multiple paths toward that transition.”

MAYORS WORRIED BLM REGULATIONS WILL HURT OIL, GAS PRODUCTION. In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/2, 263K), Bloomfield Mayor Scott Eckstein, Farmington Mayor Tommy Roberts, Kirtland Mayor Mark Duncan, Aztec Mayor Sally Burbridge and San Juan County Commission Chair Keith Johns write that “a wave of new Bureau of Land Management regulations is coming that will likely reduce New Mexico’s oil and natural gas production and lead to a loss of billions of dollars to the state and federal government over the next two decades.” Of particular concern are the venting and flaring rule and the proposed update of BLM’s Onshore Order 3. They “believe that BLM must – and can – carefully balance environmental protection and royalty issues with revenue and job concerns.”

FEDERAL AGENCIES CRITICIZED FOR LACK OF URGENCY ON RARE EARTH MINERALS. In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (11/2, Pendley, 283K), William Perry Pendley, a lawyer, is president of Mountain States Legal Foundation, writes that “despite the declaration by six federal agencies (Defense, Energy, U.S. Geological Survey, National Academies of Science, Congressional Research Service, and the Government Accountability Office) that rare earths present a ‘crisis,’ the bureaucracy plods along.” In response, “Senate and House legislation is pending to require timely action by federal agencies — not on all major projects — only those involving critical minerals, including rare earths.”

Offshore Energy Development:

AD CAMPAIGN LOBBIES FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [UPI](#) (10/30) reports that “industry supporters have started an ad blitz in southern U.S. states, arguing offshore oil and gas exploration can exist side-by-side with the environment.” The campaign organized with the help of the American Petroleum Industry. Drilling proponents say “opening Atlantic basins up to oil and gas drillers would bring net benefits to the region.”

Offshore Drilling In Atlantic Opposed. In an op-ed for the [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (10/30, 1K), Chris Bason opposes offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. He notes that “according to the Bureau of Ocean

Energy Management, 34 species of marine mammals may be impacted by these activities.” Bason asserts that “we cannot gamble on a disaster like Deep Water Horizon off our coast.”

BP FILES MOTION TO WITHDRAW APPEAL OVER GULF OIL SPILL OVERPAYMENTS. The [AP](#) (10/31) reported that BP “is ending its effort to recoup money it paid in economic damage claims to businesses and individuals under a settlement arising from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.” BP on Friday “filed a motion to withdraw an appeal over what it said were overpayments worth hundreds of millions of dollars and involving more than 790 businesses.”

SHIPWRECKS HOLDING OIL POSE LEAK THREAT TO US WATERS. The [AP](#) (10/31, Seewer) reported that “dozens of shipwrecks scattered along America’s coasts are thought to be holding oil and certainly will start leaking someday as corrosion eats away at their tanks.” Preventing that “just isn’t possible, experts say, because funding for such a huge effort doesn’t exist and there are too many unknowns about the locations of those wrecks and the cargo left inside.” According to the AP, there are “87 shipwrecks on a federal registry that identifies the most serious pollution threats to U.S. waters,” with “most of those wrecks are along the Atlantic seaboard, torpedoed by German submarines during World War II.”

ARCTIC DISAPPOINTMENT REFLECTED IN SHELL’S Q3 RESULTS. [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (10/29) reports that Royal Dutch Shell’s most recent quarterly financial results, and “Shell’s dry hole in the Chukchi Sea is just one factor.” The article notes that “for its canceled Arctic project, Shell wrote off \$2.6 billion this quarter.” CEO Ben Van Beurden, “in a conference call with reporters, repeated the reasons Shell halted work on its Arctic leases after drilling a single dry hole.” He said, “Due to the high cost and the challenging and unpredictable regulatory environment, we have decided to just cease further exploratory activity offshore Alaska for the foreseeable future.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BILL WOULD REVAMP FEDERAL AGENCIES’ LAW ENFORCEMENT. The [Greenwire](#) (10/30, Subscription Publication) reports that a new bill by Rep. Cresent Hardy would “overhaul the Forest Service’s law enforcement program, shifting authority away from Washington, D.C., to local foresters and district rangers.” Hardy’s H.R. 3824, “which he introduced late last week, comes months after a Western sheriff complained to a House committee that the current law enforcement command structure creates a disconnect with local communities. “

COLORADO SUPREME COURT REJECTS CHALLENGE TO “OVER THE RIVER” PROJECT. The [AP](#) (11/2, 2.15M) reports that “an art project to drape fabric panels along a 42-mile stretch of the Arkansas River has passed another hurdle.” The Colorado Supreme Court has “denied a request for further review of the Colorado State Parks agreement that allows artist Christo’s ‘Over The River’ temporary work of art to move forward.” The article notes that “the case is also on appeal in federal court challenging a ruling that upheld the federal Bureau of Land Management’s approval of Over The River.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/31, 283K) and the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (11/2, Blevins, 825K).

FAMILY DONATES HISTORIC SITE ALONG OREGON TRAIL TO BLM. The [AP](#) (10/30, 283K) reports that “tourists, school groups and history fans will soon be able to visit a historic site along the Oregon Trail after the owners have donated it to the Bureau of Land Management.” The Norstebon family has “donated the Canyon Creek Station in Elmore County to the agency.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (11/2, 218K).

ARIZONA RANCHER INSPIRED BY BUNDY. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (11/1, 3K) reports that “inspired by the actions of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and his stance against federal control of public lands, a rancher on the Arizona Strip has also declared the Bureau of Land Management to be an illegitimate agency and said he will no longer comply with or recognize it.” LaVoy Finicum, of Cane Beds, Arizona, has “chosen to discontinue paying grazing permit fees and to ignore when the BLM allows certain allotments – or pasture areas – to be used for grazing.” But “unlike Bundy, who has had a strained relationship with the BLM and

similar federal agencies for over 20 years now, Finicum's relationship with the local BLM has been largely positive and civil."

GRAZING IN CANYONS OF THE ANCIENTS NATIONAL MONUMENT DEBATED. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/1, 31K) reports that "ranchers and environmentalists were briefed on grazing plans in McElmo Canyon by officials from the Bureau of Land Management." During a recent public tour of the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument's "controversial Flodine allotment, the pros and cons of cattle grazing were debated between environmentalists who argue it is inappropriate in a fragile desert with ruins, and local ranchers who depend on it for their livelihood."

BLM BEGINS ASSESSMENT FOR TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [Rifle \(CO\) Citizen Telegram](#) (11/2, 8K) reports that the BLM "recently announced a public scoping period for travel and transportation management in the White River Forest." According to the article, "the White River Field Office is beginning an environmental assessment that would amend its 1997 resource management plan to determine which areas within the 1.5 million-acre field office would be open to cross-country motorized and mechanized use, which would be limited to designated routes, and which would be closed to motorized and mechanized vehicles." White River Field Manager Kent Walter said, "Our ultimate goal is to identify a comprehensive travel network that balances current and future transportation needs while managing for other resources and uses."

BLM HOLDS FINAL WILD HORSE ADOPTION EVENT OF THE YEAR. The [AP](#) (11/2, 2.15M) reports that the BLM said that "it processed 179 wild horse adoptions in Wyoming this year." The bureau "hosted its final horse adoption of the year Friday at the Rock Springs Wild Horse Holding Facility." Five horses were adopted.

BLM HOSTING LEARNING SESSIONS ON SAGE GROUSE HABITAT IN UTAH. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (10/31, 48K) reports that "a 'highly fragmented' greater sage-grouse habitat in Utah has the Bureau of Land Management scrambling to address the threat to the species." According to the article, "the public will be able to attend two Steppe Forward learning sessions to learn about the greater sage-grouse and the BLM's conservation plans in relation to the birds."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RED RIVER DISPUTE. Additional coverage of the Red River dispute was provided by the [Texas Tribune](#) (11/1, 6K).

ADDITIONAL SCRUTINY URGED FOR MOJAVE DESERT AQUIFER PLAN. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/31, 98K) editorializes that Cadiz Inc., which "owns a vast swath of land in the Mojave Desert northeast of Palm Springs is looking to pump billions of gallons of groundwater per year to sell to Southern California water districts." According to the paper, "despite the need for new water supplies as the state continues to suffer well into the fourth year of an historic drought, there should be clarity on this issue before the project is allowed to move forward." It says that "one way to answer these questions would be for an independent agency to study the aquifer recharge question." The paper notes that "environmentalists have suggested that the U.S. Geological Survey do a survey of its own to clear up the discrepancy between the studies done by Cadiz and the opponents of the project."

In an op-ed for the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (10/31, 143K), Adell L. Amos, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the University of Oregon School of Law, and Sam Kalen, co-director of the Center for Law and Energy Resources in the Rockies at the University of Wyoming School of Law, argues that the BLM's "recent decision that a 43-mile, 7-foot diameter groundwater pipeline does not further the purpose of an 1875 railroad right-of-way should not be controversial." They says that "in the end, BLM exercised sound professional judgment in a climate where water is becoming increasingly scarce and highly valuable."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

NATIONAL EAGLE AND WILDLIFE PROPERTY REPOSITORY SHOWS CASUALTIES OF ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. [ABC News](#) (11/1, 3.35M) reports on the National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repository, which houses "approximately 1.5 million seized and confiscated illegal wildlife products." Supervisory Wildlife Repository Specialist Coleen Schaefer said that "while Americans may be familiar with isolated wildlife hunting incidents like Cecil the lion, Schaefer explained that commercialized, illegal trafficking is a larger issue at the moment because it's increasing." She added, "Wildlife trafficking as I mentioned has changed from a crime of opportunity to a well-structured organized crime operation. It is a multi-billion dollar operation where it's funding insurgencies. It's third to trafficking humans and drugs and firearms."

FWS INVESTING IN PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN ATLANTIC COASTAL DEFENSES AGAINST FUTURE STORMS. In an op-ed for the [New Jersey Local News](#) (11/2, 785K), Wendi Weber, Northeast Regional Director for the FWS, writes that “federal funding for Hurricane Sandy recovery has spurred an unprecedented effort to strengthen natural defenses along the Atlantic Coast to protect communities and wildlife against future storms.” She notes that the FWS and other Interior Department agencies are “investing \$787 million in hundreds of projects to clean up and repair damaged refuges and parks; restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline; connect and open waterways to improve flood control; and increase our scientific understanding of how these natural areas are changing.” According to Weber, “these investments support the goal of President Obama’s Climate Action Plan to make communities more resilient to increasingly intense storms predicted with a changing climate.”

The [Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#) (10/29, Murray, 387K) reports that Hurricane Sandy marked “a shift in the approach state, federal and local regulators take to make shorelines storm ready and resilient.” According to the article, “from New England to the Carolinas, dredges have pumped millions of cubic yards of sand, in the three years since Sandy struck, to build storm-ready beaches and form engineered sand dunes.” The article notes that “Delaware alone received \$30 million in federal Sandy relief money to restore sand that was swept away during the hurricane in 2012” and “another \$38 million is being spent at Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge to restore wetlands and fill shoreline breaches that Sandy worsened.”

Meanwhile, [WYPR-FM](#) Baltimore (11/1, 3K) reports that “some of the Chesapeake Bay’s pristine wildlife refuges are drowning, casualties of erosion and the rising waters caused by climate change.” So, the FWS is “moving to save to of Maryland’s prized refuges with money allocated for recovery from superstorm Sandy and new science techniques.” The article notes that “part of the solution is found in a partnership of Fish and Wildlife, the Conservation Fund and the National Audubon Society to map where the largest marshes are likely to migrate without running into roads or future developments.”

NEW STUDY FINDS YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY BEARS THRIVING. The [AP](#) (11/2, 2.15M) reports that “grizzly bears in the Yellowstone National Park region are thriving and have the potential to continue to thrive in the long term, according to a study by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team.” The study, “published in *Molecular Ecology*, looked at 729 bears and found that estimates of effective population — the number of bears passing genes to the next generation — in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem has quadrupled since the 1980s, growing from 100 to about 450.” Researchers also “found that genetic diversity in the population was stable.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (11/1, 76K), the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (11/2, 111K), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/2, 283K).

Interagency Grizzly Bear Subcommittee To Discuss Delisting. The [AP](#) (11/2, Ridler, 283K) reports that “members of an Interagency Grizzly Bear subcommittee are meeting Tuesday and Wednesday in Jackson, Wyoming, where delisting will be one of the topics.” Chris Servheen, grizzly bear recovery coordinator with the FWS said, “We’ve talked about the idea of doing that and we all agree that the population is recovered. But there’s no proposal that it be delisted.”

Removals Of Grizzly Bears Up In Yellowstone So Far In 2015. The [AP](#) (11/2, 2.15M) reports that “wildlife managers have euthanized 24 grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem so far this year, the highest number in the past five years.” The article notes that “most of the bears, which are a protected species under federal law, had killed livestock or had become habituated to human food sources, according to information posted on the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team’s website.” According to the article, “factors that influence the situation include a larger population of bears pushing to the fringes of its core recovery area and a reduction in the availability of natural food sources.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [US News & World Report](#) (10/31, 996K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/2, Press, 7.78M), and the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (11/2, Dailymail.com, 5.31M).

EVENTS ACROSS US MARK “BAT WEEK”. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (11/2, 1.15M) reports that “Saturday was the last day of Bat Week, an event held across the U.S. and beyond, and workshop participants at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Center in Bloomington assembled bat houses, lots of them.” According to the article, “they were contributing to an international attempt to set a world record by making 5,000 homes for the furry flying creatures.” The article notes that “Saturday’s event also aimed to educate

residents about fungal diseases like white-nose syndrome, which has killed up to 6 million bats since its 2006 discovery in New York.”

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION URGED TO TAKE “IMMEDIATE ACTION” AGAINST ASIAN CARP. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (11/1, 921K) reports that Sen. Debbie Stabenow “on Sunday urged the Obama administration to take ‘immediate action’ to respond to the threat of Asian carp after U.S. Fish and Wildlife said the species has been found 12 miles nearer to Lake Michigan.” Stabenow said, “I remain extremely concerned that Asian carp are getting closer and closer to Lake Michigan. Time is running out.” The article notes that “late last week, the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, a group of federal and state agencies monitoring the spread of the invasive carp, reported that Fish and Wildlife crews detected two small silver carp upstream of Seneca, Ill., in the Illinois River, on Oct. 22.”

TISHOMINGO HATCHERY WORKING TO REPLENISH ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE POPULATIONS. The [Oklahoman](#) (11/2, 470K) reports that The Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery is working to replenish alligator snapping turtle populations. Under the hatchery’s captive-rearing program, “alligator snapping turtles from Tishomingo were tagged, stocked in the Caney River and Pond Creek in northeastern Oklahoma, and later re-caught.”

NORTH CAROLINA ZOO RECEIVES GRANT FOR GORILLA CONSERVATION. The [AP](#) (11/2, 2.15M) reports that “the North Carolina Zoo’s conservation program has received a \$51,460 federal grant to help conserve gorillas in the wild.” The zoo said in a statement Friday that the money from the FWS will “go toward researching Cross River gorillas, the most endangered type of gorillas in the world.” According to the article, “a team of scientists and field biologists will work to determine patterns that cause parasite infections in the gorillas; determine how diseases found in humans can impact gorillas; establish health and disease threat monitoring protocols.”

INTERIOR WORKING TO RESTORE BISON. The [Denver Post](#) (11/2, Finley, 825K) reports that “ten pure bison bolted from a pen into open space Sunday — cheered by 400 supporters and reproduction managers — hoof steps forward in a growing national project of restoring bison to the prairie.” According to the article, “bringing back bison here marks a fresh use of city and county land preserved for recreation at a time when U.S. bison recovery efforts rely on insufficiently large federal refuges and tribal lands.” The article notes that the Interior Department is “building 17 restoration herds — about 10,000 bison overall on 4.6 million acres in 12 states.”

WASHINGTON STATE WEIGHS MEASURE TO COMBAT ANIMAL TRAFFICKING. The [New York Times](#) (11/2, Johnson, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that “on Tuesday, what wildlife experts say could be the most far-reaching statewide law on animal trafficking in the nation — and the first such proposal to go to a statewide vote — will be on the ballot here in Washington State.” The new law would “condemn and criminalize the modern trade that is wiping out many threatened species but would allow, with strict rules, the antiques that echo an earlier time and fashion sensibility.” Supporters claim “the measure, backed and funded by Paul Allen, a co-founder of Microsoft, would strike a crucial blow against trafficking in animal products, with protections for tigers, lions and marine turtles as well as elephant tusks and rhino horns. Convicted offenders could face up to five years in prison.” But “opponents say that however earnest the intentions behind it, the Washington initiative, I-1401, is too strict in looking back at what antiques would be considered legal.”

MASSACHUSETTS URGED TO BAN SALE OF IVORY. [WCVB-TV](#) Boston (11/2, 436K) reports that “animal protection groups are joining Massachusetts lawmakers to urge the state to ban the sale of ivory and rhinoceros horn.” Supporters argue “elephants and rhinos are being killed in growing numbers for their tusks and horns, and anti-trafficking laws can help to discourage poaching and save the animals from extinction.” The article notes that “a bill sponsored by Sen. Jason Lewis of Winchester and Rep. Lori Ehrlich of Marblehead that would outlaw the import, sale or purchase of ivory and rhino horn was heard earlier this month by a legislative committee.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: WOLF OR-7’S COLLAR NO LONGER WORKING. Additional coverage that wolf OR-7’s collar has stopped working was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (11/2, 2.15M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/30, Press, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/30, 283K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (11/2, 5.31M), and the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (11/2, Subscription Publication, 3.44M).

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT URGED TO VIEW STATES AS PARTNERS ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ISSUES. In an op-ed for the [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Tri-State Neighbor](#) (11/2, 79K), South Dakota Gov. Dennis

Daugaard argues in favor of “allowing states to play a more active role in the administration” of the Endangered Species Act. He asserts that “in a state such as South Dakota, where 80 percent of the land is privately owned, it should be standard practice to gather input from landowners early in the process.” Daugaard hopes “the federal government will come to see the states as partners in accomplishing this goal.”

National Park Service:

“EVERY KID IN A PARK” PROGRAM TOUTED. The [West Side \(OH\) Leader](#) (11/1, 31K), Jennie Vasarhelyi, chief of interpretation, education and visitor services for Cuyahoga Valley National Park” writes that on Sept. 1, the NPS launched a new program to invite the next generation to parks.” According to Vasarhelyi, “Every Kid in a Park is more than a centennial-year program; we expect it to continue into the future.”

Fourth-graders Visit Cape Cod National Seashore. The [Wicked Local Cape Cod \(MA\)](#) (10/29, 12K) reports that “Eastham Elementary School fourth graders spent last Thursday morning, Oct. 22, at Salt Pond Visitor Center where they were feted like royalty as part of the national ‘Every Kid in a Park’ program that will grant fourth graders from all over the U.S. admission into national parks for a year.” Kathy Tevyaw, deputy superintendent of the Cape Cod National Seashore, told the students “your teachers, and all the rangers here, have done a fabulous job in teaching you who we are, about our uniforms and why we do the things we do every day to save special places like this so 30 years from now, you can look back and say 2015 ‘was a really special year because I took a pass home to my family that allowed me to get into every National Park in the country, that allowed me to visit every national park for free.”

With Help Of “Every Kid In A Park” Initiative, Family Spends Six Months Visiting National Parks. The [Petoskey \(MI\) News-Review](#) (11/1, 30K) reports that “when it was announced last winter that all fourth-grade students and their families could receive free passes to National Park Service parks and attractions, a local family planned an adventure.” According to the article, “Rich Bachus, Carol Johnston and their 9-year-old daughter, Laney Johnston-Bachus, have spent the last six months traveling around the country exploring as many national parks as they possibly could.” The article notes that “the family has traversed the country with the help of the ‘Every Kid in a Park’ initiative.”

SOLAR CHALLENGE CARS TO STOP AT HOMESTEAD MONUMENT IN 2016. The [AP](#) (11/2, 2.15M) reports that “officials say Homestead National Monument in southeast Nebraska will serve as a stop for American Solar Challenge cars next year.” The rally is part of the NPS’ centennial celebration.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/2, 283K) and the [Lincoln \(NE\) Journal Star](#) (11/2, 283K).

COLLEGES TO COMMEMORATE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLOSING OF JAPANESE-AMERICAN INTERNMENT CAMPS. The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (11/1, 294K) reports that “the University of Central Arkansas and Hendrix College will be in the spotlight in the coming days.” According to the article, “the two college campuses, along with other venues in Conway and throughout the state, will host several events to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the closing of the Japanese-American internment camps.” Gayle Seymour, professor of art history and associate dean of the UCA Department of Fine Arts and Communication, said “her department received a ‘major’ grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese-American Confinement Sites Grant Program, to host an expansive, multicity art and history initiative to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the closing of the camps.”

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK’S UPDATED MANAGEMENT PLAN NOW IN EFFECT. The [Key West \(FL\) Keynoter](#) (10/31, 28K) reports that “Everglades National Park’s updated general management plan, including new rules for the park’s Florida Bay waters, became official Oct. 23.” NPS Southeast Regional Director Stan Austin said, “This is an important milestone to guide park decisions and priorities for many years to come.” Everglades Park Superintendent Pedro M. Ramos noted, “The more complex projects, especially those changing visitor use and access ... will not start before 2016, and may take several years to complete.”

NPS OFFICIALS LOOKING AT MESA VERDE OPTIONS. The [AP](#) (11/2, 2.15M) reports that “officials at Mesa Verde National Park are looking for someone to take over the old visitor center at Mesa Verde’s Far View Center after it was abandoned in 2013 in favor of a new facility at the park’s entrance.” According to the article, “suggestions include using the Far View Center as a performance hall, conference space, restaurant or Native American cultural center.” The article notes that “the park doesn’t have the money to run both the Far View Center and the new visitors and research center.”

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK ASKS FOR PUBLIC INPUT ON HANDLING MASSIVE CROWDS. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (11/2, 464K) reports that Arches National Park is looking for the public's help in addressing overcrowding at Arches. The NPS has been "working on the problem for years, studying overcrowding at Arches since 2006." However, "accommodating visitors is only half of the job." Kate Cannon, the superintendent for Arches and three other Utah parks, says "it's a balancing act: weighing the needs and safety of visitors against those of the landscape."

NPS FINDS PROCESS OF GETTING EXHIBITS SITUATED IN GREENEVILLE A "CHALLENGE." The [Greeneville \(TN\) Sun](#) (11/2, 43K) reports that "two exhibits, crafted and designed by the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site and the National Park Service's exhibit shop in Virginia, have yet to be placed in Greeneville." The article notes that "one of the exhibits reflected the county and region's pro-Union stance during the secession crisis" and "the other exhibit, called a wayside by the National Park Service, was about the role of the abolitionist newspaper, The Emancipator." NPS spokesman Bill Reynolds said that "the process to get those waysides situated in Greeneville 'proved a challenge.'"

NPS RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT SAUSALITO RIDGELINE HOME PROPOSAL. The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (11/1, 66K) reports that "a proposal to build a home on the edge of a national park in Sausalito is troubling the National Park Service and has raised the hackles of those who fought to keep the area from being developed during a historic and pitched battle in the 1960s." The article notes that "story poles erected at the site make it clear the home at 44 Wolfback Ridge Road would become a dominant feature on the edge of the Gerbode Valley, land that is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area near Rodeo Beach." In a letter to the Sausalito Planning Commission, park Superintendent Chris Lehnertz wrote the home would be "visible to the hundreds of thousands of annual visitors to the Marin Headlands, would constitute a glaring visual intrusion on the park, and would diminish the experience of park visitors."

FRIJOLE RANCH AT GUADALUPE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK CLOSED FOR RESTORATION. The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (11/1, 18K) reports that "the Frijole Ranch History Museum at Guadalupe Mountains National Park will be closed through Dec. 12 for restoration work on the historic building." According to the article, "wood components used in the windows and doors of the structure would be repaired."

PEDESTRIAN KILLED AFTER BEING STRUCK BY TRAIN AT CUYAHOGA VALLEY SCENIC RAILROAD. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (11/2, 1.07M) reports that "a train struck and killed a woman at Cuyahoga Valley National Park, according to a park spokesperson."

Additional coverage was provided by [WJW-TV](#) Cleveland (11/1, 266K).

NPS HOLDING YOUTH ART CONTEST PART DURING NEW RIVER GORGE WILDFLOWER WEEKEND. The [AP](#) (11/2, 2.15M) reports that the NPS is "holding a youth art contest for students in Fayette, Nicholas, Raleigh and Summers counties." The contest is part of the New River Gorge Wildflower Weekend.

US Geological Survey:

RACIAL SLURS NOT UNCOMMON IN FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED SITES. [Yahoo! News](#) (10/30, Brown, Rich, Vocativ, 6.43M) reports that "the United States is literally covered in racial slurs from Dead Negro Hollow, Tennessee, to Wetback Tank, New Mexico, to Dead Injun Creek, Oregon." It notes that "at least 1,441 federally recognized places across the nation include slurs in their official name, a Vocativ data analysis of millions of records reveals." According to the article, "the U.S. Geographic Names Board only changes names in wilderness areas if there is a strong overriding need, so many offensive place names are in federally owned boondocks."

USGS UNVEILS NEW GUIDELINES TO MONITOR SOLAR STORMS. The [redOrbit](#) (11/2, 5K) reports that "citing the need for 'enhanced monitoring' of solar storms capable of disrupting the power grid, interfering with satellites and knocking out GPS systems, the US Geological Survey (USGS) has unveiled a new set of guidelines to monitor and deal with powerful space weather events." According to the article, "the guidelines, developed in collaboration with the US Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and other federal agencies, looks to limit the potential damage caused by solar flares and coronal mass ejections, include coming up with new benchmarks for geoelectric fields induced in the Earth during magnetic storms, which can in turn be used to strengthen the power grid."

USGS POSTS PHOTOS SHOWING 1,000-YEAR FLOOD STRIKING DEATH VALLEY. The [Huffington Post](#) (11/2, 251K) reports that “in October, a system of storms caused what the U.S. Geological Survey dubbed a ‘1,000-year flood event’ in Death Valley National Park, California.” The USGS has “posted dramatic new satellite imagery of the flooding.”

Top National News:

RYAN SAYS HE WILL UNIFY HOUSE GOP, WARNS HE WON'T DEAL WITH OBAMA ON IMMIGRATION.

House Speaker Ryan made the rounds of the Sunday political talk shows yesterday to discuss his new role as Speaker and his plans for uniting the divided House Republican caucus. While the network news broadcasts did not cover Ryan's comments, print, wire, and online coverage are fairly heavy. Much of the coverage focuses on Ryan's comments about his vision for his Speakership, including his desire to unify the GOP caucus and lead it to consensus. However, his comments on other issues are also covered, with particular attention being paid to his assertion that an immigration reform measure will not be considered while President Obama is in office.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/2, Savage, 3.6M) reports that Ryan said “he will not consider or negotiate an immigration reform bill during President Obama's tenure,” noting that he “had promised the conservative House Freedom Caucus, which opposes easing immigration laws, that he would not move forward on the issue before a new president takes office.” Ryan blamed the President, saying on NBC's “Meet the Press,” “The president has proven himself untrustworthy on this issue because he tried to unilaterally rewrite the law himself. Presidents don't write laws. Congress does.” [Reuters](#) (11/1, Dunham) notes that on [CBS' Face The Nation](#), Ryan said, “I think it would be a ridiculous notion to try and work on an issue like this with a president we simply cannot trust on this issue. ... He tried to go it alone, circumventing the legislative process with his executive orders, so that is not in the cards.”

A brief report from [The Hill](#) (11/1, Wong, 654K) also highlighted Ryan's comments on the President's trustworthiness on the immigration issue and noted that Ryan “said he won't bring other immigration bills to the floor unless they have backing from a majority of House Republicans.” The [Huffington Post](#) (11/1, Stein, 251K) said Ryan's point “is complicated by one minor factor: Obama didn't just try to go it alone.” The President, “along with senators from both parties, passed a comprehensive bill in the Senate.” The measure was never considered in the House, and it was “only then that the president issued his executive actions, which House Republicans have since sued him over.”

The [AP](#) (11/1, Welsh) notes that the move “removes the prospects of a clash with the same House conservatives who made John Boehner's life difficult and helped push Boehner into retirement.” Ryan “suggested” that “clashing with Obama over an issue as complex and volatile as comprehensive immigration reform...is not helpful for the GOP now,” adding that it's “possible to get smaller immigration-related policy passed.” On ABC's “This Week,” Ryan said, “If we believe and have consensus on things like border enforcement and interior security, then fine.” The [New York Times](#) (11/1, A14, Fandos, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says Ryan's comments “effectively push[ed] off the issue to at least 2017,” and notes that his message “signaled an antagonism toward the White House that both echoed his predecessor, John A. Boehner, and is likely to appeal to the conservatives within the party that forced the previous speaker's resignation.”

[Roll Call](#) (11/1, McPherson, Dumain, 139K) said Ryan “will face difficulties uniting the conference on an approach to overhauling the immigration system, especially since he has said in the past that he supports providing a path for unauthorized immigrants to obtain legal status.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/1, A14, Fandos, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) says Ryan “laid out an agenda for unifying his party and outlined his approach to relationships with congressional colleagues, Mr. Obama and the Republican presidential candidates.” Ryan, the Times adds, “repeatedly made clear that he will take a different approach than Mr. Boehner, whose almost five years as speaker were fraught with Republican Party infighting.” The [New York Daily News](#) (11/1, Durkin, 3.59M) says Ryan told CBS, “I'm redesigning this job. I don't think it can work going forward like it's worked in the past. I can't pick up where John let off. It has to be done differently.” However, he “acknowledged the limits of what Congress can do in a divided government — saying he doubts they'll be able to strip federal funding from Planned Parenthood.” Ryan said on CNN's “State of the Union,” “I think we need to be very clear about what we can and cannot achieve and not set expectations that we know we can't reach given the constraints of the Constitution.”

[Politico](#) (11/1, Shutt, 1.19M) noted that Ryan said he was “not elected speaker to dictate, but to work alongside fellow Republicans to set the House agenda,” telling CBS’ “Face the Nation,” “I was not elected dictator of the House. I was elected speaker of the House. And that means we do it in a bottom up approach. We reach consensus. ... As Republicans, we have common principles. We need to take those common principles and apply them to the problems of the day through consensus to show the country a better way forward. And it’s my job to lead to that consensus, but not to dictate that consensus.” Similarly, the [Daily Caller](#) (11/1, Guest, 366K) reported that Ryan told NBC, “I was elected Speaker of the House to unify the Republican Conference, not to dis-unify the Republican Conference. ... That means, my job is to lead us to consensus and to on big controversial issues, operate on that consensus. And that is exactly how I intend to serve as Speaker.”

Asked how he can control members of the Freedom Caucus on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (11/1, Bash, 420K), Ryan stated, “I think members were frustrated that they did not have the opportunity to express their own views on the floor. I think the legislative process has been too tightly controlled and has to be reopened up. I want members of Congress representing their constituents, having the ability in the process to advance ideas.” Ryan told [ABC’s This Week](#) (11/1, Raddatz, 2.73M), “There are basically a number of things I think we need to do to get the House working again like the Founders intended it to work. To make it a more open and participatory process, and that is why I told my colleagues if you want me to do this job then I have to do it differently than it has been done.”

The [Washington Post](#) (11/2, Debonis, 7.78M) says Ryan “blamed a policy vacuum for causing months of Republican infighting on Capitol Hill,” telling [Fox News Sunday](#), “We fight over tactics because we don’t have a vision.” Ryan told Fox and the other networks that he “would put forth a more robust GOP agenda that would serve as a blueprint for Republican candidates going into the 2016 presidential and congressional elections.” Ryan added, “We have to have a vision and offer an alternative to this country so that they can see that if we get the chance to lead, if we get the presidency and if we keep Congress, this is what it will look like, this is how we’ll fix the problems working families are facing.” Ryan said on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (11/1, Dickerson, 2.64M), “We’ve taken plenty of tactical risks here in Congress, I think it’s time we take some policy risks by showing people what we really believe, who we are and how we can fix this country’s problems. We have been timid around here for too long, in my judgment. And I think we have to offer people a bold agenda.”

Ryan told [NBC’s Meet the Press](#) (11/1, Todd, 3.08M) that there are four things he believes need to be done: get the House working like it was intended to work, find common ground to advance the nation’s principles, become a more effective opposition party, and to be a proposition party. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/1, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) says Ryan has offered broad ideas on how he would push a GOP agenda, including an overhaul of the tax system and replacing the ACA, and in Sunday’s interviews, he did not elaborate on the ideas, which, the Journal notes, will be difficult to pass during the current Administration and when Senate Republicans are six votes shy of the 60 they need to get past procedural obstacles.

A [USA Today](#) (11/1, Jackson, 5.56M) analysis says that at the same time Ryan is going “up against congressional Democrats and the Obama administration, he faces suspicious conservative House members who question his commitment to their cause.” While he was elected with the support of the Freedom Caucus, “some conservatives continued to question his views, citing his support for free trade legislation and past backing of some form of legal status for immigrants who are in the country illegally.” The [Huffington Post](#) (11/1, Barron-Lopez, Delaney, McAuliff, 251K) notes that “Republicans and Democrats see in Ryan someone who actually has a chance, slim as it may be, to repair the divides in Congress.” While Ryan’s work on the House Budget Committee made him “a hero to the right, the rare policy wonk who was willing to challenge GOP complacency on the budget, and even take credit for Social Security and Medicare reform ideas that Democrats felt sure would doom him,” he “also seems to have acquired enough perspective on how the other half lives to at least include them in his vision.” Democrats “have responded positive

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, October 30, 2015

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DOI in the News:

BASIN AND RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION CELEBRATED. [El Mundo Las Vegas](#) (10/30) reports that “We not only support the conservation of national parks but also other activities; we preserve some areas but also support development,” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told El Mundo in an interview at the Basin and Range land designation celebration last Saturday, October 17th. “I supervise things related to the public lands and water that belong to all Americans,” said Jewell. “I am also responsible for overseeing agreements with Native Americans. A large part of my duties relate to the development of agreements with the U.S. Geographical Survey, which pertain to earthquakes, volcanos, etc.,” she added. “Nevada is the state with the greatest number of federal lands; 87 percent, the majority of these lands, fall under the Bureau of Land Management, and they must, under law, be managed for multiple and sustainable uses. I believe it’s important to note that federal lands were given to the federal government by the states, so it’s in the Nevada constitution that the lands would become federal lands, and it’s our responsibility to manage them and support development in their use,” highlighted Jewell. She also mentioned that although the Latino population is strong, not very many Latinos visit protected areas. “I would like to invite El Mundo readers to visit these places,” said the Interior Secretary.

[El Mundo Las Vegas](#) (10/30) reports that “I cannot express my great appreciation to President Barack Obama for what he has done to preserve the beauty of the Nevada desert for our grandchildren and future generations,” said Senator Harry Reid at Springs Preserve last Saturday, October 17th. During the formal announcement of President Obama’s decision to designate “Basin and Range” as a national monument, the [crowd’s] applause reflected [their] approval of Reid’s heartfelt words. “I love Nevada,” he continued, “and with it, the raw and beautiful desert. The President’s designation protects more than 700 acres of desert and can already be considered a historic, transcendent decision to preserve what we have – its flora, its fauna, its natural treasures – for future generations.” It was mentioned at the event that Nevada environmental groups pushed for the designation and that both Reid and Congresswoman Dina Titus spoke to President Obama about the site and influenced the designation. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell also highlighted Reid’s leadership and his actions alongside Titus to defend the environment and protected areas.

SECRETARY JEWELL URGED TO END TO KLAMATH IMPASSE. The [Oregonian](#) (10/30, 769K) reports that “former Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber has petitioned U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and the Obama administration to finally calm the water management issues in the Klamath Basin.” In a letter dated Oct. 21 Kitzhaber “implored Jewell to end the five-year congressional deadlock over the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement.”

FUTURE OF COLORADO TRAIL PROJECTS UNCERTAIN WITH EXPIRATION OF LWCF. The [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (10/29, 59K) reports that “a hefty chunk of annual funding for Colorado trails hangs in the balance because of the jeopardized Land and Water Conservation Fund, which recently expired and faces obstacles for renewal in Congress.” The article notes that “the state’s annual allocation has waned as the average size of the fund has declined, but grant-matching funds from the LWCF have paid for Rolland Moore Park off South Shields Street, Edora Park off East Prospect Road and campgrounds at Horsetooth Reservoir, among other projects.” Colorado began “using the money almost exclusively for trail projects about 12 years ago.”

Congress Urged To Reauthorize LWCF. In an op-ed for the [Seacoast Online \(NH\)](#) (10/28, King, 28K), Sen. Angus King says that he is “committed” to reauthorizing the LWCF. He says that the fund has helped “areas increase accessibility to visitors and enhance their positive impact on the local economy.” According to King,

the fund “supports local recreational efforts that benefit Maine communities.”

HOUSE REPUBLICANS REVIVE BILL ENCOURAGING CLEAN UP OF MINES. The [AP](#) (10/30, 2.15M) reports that “Congressional Republicans revived ‘Good Samaritan’ legislation Thursday designed to encourage companies and nonprofits to help clean up thousands of abandoned mines across the nation by protecting them from liability for environmental accidents.” The article notes that “the proposal was one of three the House Natural Resources Committee unveiled after the Environmental Protection Agency inadvertently unleashed 3 million gallons of wastewater laced with heavy metals from an inactive Colorado gold mine in August.” A second measure would allow the BLM and “nonprofits to solicit donations to clean up abandoned mines and oil and gas wells. The BLM oversees more than 380,000 square miles of federal land.” Finally, “the third would funnel more money toward training mining engineers as the current generation nears retirement.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/30, Elliott, 283K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/30, Press, 825K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/30, 263K), the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (10/30, 122K), [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/29, 57K), and [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/29, 559K).

BILL WOULD REQUIRE BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS TO ASSESS FINANCIAL VALUE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION. [Politico Pro](#) (10/29) reports that Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Cory Gardner say “the federal government doesn’t measure the economic value” of outdoors activities, “and the two senators are out to fix it.” The lawmakers are “introducing a bill today that would require the Bureau of Economic Analysis to assess the financial value of outdoor recreation in the economy.” Shaheen said, “The outdoor recreation sector is a critical sector of our economy – and it’s time we start counting it.”

Also reporting on the story is the [E&E Daily](#) (10/29, Subscription Publication).

FOUR REPUBLICAN SENATORS LAUNCHES NEW COALITION WITH NEW APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENT. [Politico Pro](#) (10/29, Subscription Publication) reports that “four moderate Senate Republicans – including two facing tough reelection bids – are joining forces to rethink how the GOP approaches environmental issues.” Sens. Kelly Ayotte, Mark Kirk, Lindsey Graham and Lamar Alexander will “launch a new informal coalition on Thursday in an effort to broaden the Republican conference’s approach to environmental policy beyond its crusade to overturn EPA regulations.” The Energy and Environmental Working Group will “be a way for us to bring together members of our party and start an ongoing conversation about these topics – like how we can best protect our environment and climate, pursue common sense and market-based reforms to grow our economy and promote cleaner energy production,” Ayotte said in a statement.

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/29, Cama, 654K).

HOUSE PANEL HOLDS HEARING ON BILL REFORMING FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT. The [E&E](#) (10/29) reports that “Obama administration officials joined Democrats and a conservationist yesterday in opposing provisions in a draft bill that would require Congress to approve any new or increased fees to visit national parks, refuges or federal recreation areas.” The comments came as “part of a broader debate at a hearing before a House Natural Resources panel on the future of recreation fees on public lands.” At issue before the Subcommittee on Federal Lands was “a draft bill by full committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) that would extend and reform the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which is set to expire in less than two years.”

BILL WOULD EXPAND SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS MONUMENT. The [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) Signal](#) (10/30, 23K) reports that “the boundaries of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument could creep farther into the Santa Clarita Valley under a bill recently introduced by Pasadena Congresswoman Judy Chu.” Chu announced “last week she has introduced a bill to expand its boundaries and create a new national recreation area around the San Gabriel River corridor.” She said, “The designation of the San Gabriel Mountains as a national monument was an important step towards making our mountains healthy again, but we still have a long road ahead in order to see that goal through.” Her bill, H.R. 3820, would “expand the monument’s boundaries by about 109,000 acres in the western Angeles National Forest — stretching into areas near Placerita Canyon, Elsmere Canyon and Sand Canyon Road in the Santa Clarita Valley.”

GROUPS PRESS CONGRESS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROVISIONS OF TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP. [Politico Pro](#) (10/29, Subscription Publication) reports that “a coalition of environmental and consumer groups are laying out their vision for what the Trans-Pacific Partnership should look like and urging members of

Congress to vote against the deal if it doesn't meet those standards." According to the article, "in a letter today to lawmakers, Food and Water Watch, Greenpeace USA, the Sierra Club and other groups highlighted their demands for the environmental chapter as well as enforcement provisions and rules overall." The article notes that "the pact, reached in Atlanta earlier this month, will likely meet some, but not all, of their demands on the environment."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/30, Cama, Needham, 654K).

OBAMA URGED TO DECLARE NEW ENGLAND CANYONS AND SEAMOUNTS NATIONAL MONUMENT.

For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (10/30, Sancho, 654K), Gorka Sancho, Ph.d., a professor of Biology at the Grice Marine Laboratory of the College of Charleston, writes that more should be done to protect "vitally important areas" in the Atlantic Ocean. Sancho notes that "more than 140 marine scientists across the country have voiced their support for the permanent protection of the biologically diverse and vulnerable ocean habitats found in the New England Canyons and Seamounts as a marine monument." Sancho urges President Obama "to reclaim the United States' leading role in protecting our oceans by declaring the New England Canyons and Seamounts National Monument."

Empowering Native American Communities:

CONGRESS STRUGGLES WITH CARCIERI FIX. [Politico](#) (10/30, 1.19M) reports on "how the Supreme Court and a divided Congress have stymied efforts by poor tribes to recover long-lost lands." The issue at hand is "how Congress should respond to a 2009 ruling in which the justices narrowed the mandate of the Indian Reorganization Act that has guided federal policy since the New Deal." According to the article, "getting a simple legislative fix is anything but simple in Congress, as major stakeholders have seized the chance to demand larger changes — not just in IRA but also the direction of Indian gaming."

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON TRIBAL RECOGNITION BILL. The [E&E Daily](#) (10/29, Subscription Publication) reports that "a House Natural Resources subcommittee squabbled yesterday at a contentious hearing on legislation that would give Congress control over tribal recognition, a process that's now managed by the Interior Department." Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop is "making a bid to fix what he sees as Interior overstepping its bounds." His bill would "give final authority for all approvals of tribal recognition to Congress."

CHINOOK INDIAN NATION CONTINUES FIGHT FOR FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The [Courthouse News](#) (10/29, 7K) reports on the Chinook Indian Nation's quest for federal recognition. Chinook Tribal Chairman Tony Johnson "launched the Executive Recognition Project in June of this year." The article notes that "every day since June 8, the tribe has sent a letter to President Barack Obama, asking him to take another look at their situation."

ACTIVIST CALLS FOR BOYCOTT OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION. The [Maui \(HI\) News](#) (10/30, 52K) reports that "Native Hawaiian activist and Molokai resident Walter Ritte Jr. announced Wednesday that he is no longer seeking to be a delegate to a Native Hawaiian constitutional convention, calling the process 'not pono' and asking others to boycott the election of delegates beginning next month." In remarks at a news conference at the University of Hawaii-Manoa on Wednesday morning, Ritte said "he 'concluded' that the 'aha or constitutional convention being funded and promoted by the state Office of Hawaiian Affairs is 'a continuation of the U.S. goal to illegally occupy the Hawaiian Islands and have been unprincipled, defective and divisive.'" Ritte said, "I cannot participate in a process that is not pono and have decided to remove my name from consideration to be a delegate in the 'aha. We need to be steadfast and remain on the path that our kupuna have laid because we are still a sovereign and independent state."

Additional coverage of the election was provided by [Al Jazeera America](#) (10/30, 138K).

SEQUOYAH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS RETURN TO DORMS AFTER RENOVATIONS. The [Cherokee \(OK\) Phoenix](#) (10/30, 442) reports that "after temporarily being relocated to the old Jack Brown Center for approximately six weeks, Sequoyah High School students recently moved back into school dormitories after the dorms underwent renovations." According to the article, "with Bureau of Indian Education funding, each dorm building received a new roof as well as fresh paint, any repairs that were needed and new furnishings including washing machines and showers."

US INDICTS 17 IN PROBE OF ARIZONA RESERVATION DRUG TRAFFICKING. The [AP](#) (10/30) reports from Phoenix that federal prosecutors “have announced a joint law enforcement operation targeting drug trafficking on an American Indian reservation in western Arizona.” The Arizona US Attorney’s office announced on Thursday that “a federal grand jury indicted 17 people in the investigation focused on the Colorado River Indian Tribes’ reservation.” Prosecutors said “charges against those indicted include drug trafficking and conspiracy to commit trafficking.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL RECEIVES GRANT MONEY. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (10/29, 61K) reports that “federal funds will help move forward the renovation of a maternity ward at the island’s public hospital.” Guam Memorial Hospital will “receive \$2.26 million in compact-impact money to be used as initial funding for the renovation of its Family Birth Center and to help finance a related bank loan.” Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina “this week announced the release of \$7.6 million in grant funding to the government of Guam through the Office of Insular Affairs’ Compact Impact Assistance Program.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

FARMERS NEAR SACRAMENTO RIVER STRIKE DEAL TO USE WATER FOR WINTER BIRDS. The [Chico \(CA\) Enterprise-Record](#) (10/29, 90K) reports that, “migrating waterfowl are looking for wet places to land and feed,” but the drought in California “means less winter water available for fields and less water for those hungry birds.” This week, “several Sacramento River farm water districts finalized a deal with the federal Bureau of Reclamation to use water later in the year, to provide water for birds in November.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oroville \(CA\) Mercury-Register](#) (10/29, 1K).

JUDGE CONSIDERS MOTION TO DISMISS IRRIGATOR LAWSUIT AGAINST BOR. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/29, 113K) reports that “a U.S. District Court judge will decide in the next two months whether to dismiss a lawsuit filed by group of Eastern Washington irrigators against the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.” Lawyers for the Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association and the agency “made their arguments before Chief Judge Rosanna Malouf Peterson at a hearing Oct. 28 in Richland, Wash.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CALIFORNIA DROUGHT KILLING OFF SALMON. Additional coverage of the drop in Chinook salmon numbers in the Sacramento River was provided by [Reuters](#) (10/30, Bernstein).

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM DIRECTOR HOPPER SAYS OFFSHORE WIND IN NEW YORK IS TOP PRIORITY. The [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (10/30, 344K) reports that speaking at the fall conference of the Alliance for Clean Energy New York, BOEM Director Abigail Ross Hopper said Thursday that “helping New York state develop offshore wind projects is a top priority right now.” Hopper said that “she would like to see offshore wind projects get off the ground by the time Obama leaves office, but there is no set timeline.”

Onshore Energy Development:

REPORT CONDEMNS OSMRE PRACTICES. The [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (10/30, 70K) reports that “a House of Representatives committee recently filed legislation aimed at amending the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act to ensure transparency in the creation of environmental regulation after an extensive report called into question the regulatory effect of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.” The House Natural Resources Committee said “the legislation seeks to improve overall transparency in the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s (OSMRE) regulatory actions.” The bill was “drafted partly in response to the OSMRE’s ongoing rule-making process governing the interaction between surface mining operations and streams — known as the Stream Buffer Zone rule (SBZ) which requires OSMRE to make publicly available all scientific products used in its regulatory actions and also calls for a study to investigate the regulatory efficiencies of the rule the OSMRE seeks to amend.”

TRAPPER PUBLIC COMMENT OPENS. The [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (10/29, 30K) reports that “on Thursday, the beginning of the public comment period on the environmental assessment for Trapper Mine coincided with a visit to the area by Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman.” The Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation “kicked off the 30-day comment period with a well-attended public outreach meeting at Moffat County Fairgrounds Pavilion.”

CLOUD PEAK CUTS PRODUCTION. The [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/30, 101K) reports that “Montana’s largest coal producer expects to reduce shipments to Asia next year through a West Coast port, which should reduce coal-train traffic through Bellingham and other Whatcom County cities.” Cloud Peak Energy Inc. announced Wednesday that “it had renegotiated its long-term agreement to ship coal through British Columbia’s Westshore Terminals.” Cloud Peak said “production volumes at its Spring Creek Mine near Decker, Montana, would be reduced accordingly.”

BLM’s Coal Policy Analyzed. [The Atlantic](#) (10/30, 2.66M) reports that “as many government agencies have changed how they address climate change, the BLM has not: It remains the BLM’s statutory imperative to find a fair market price for coal.” According to the article the “unreformed” BLM can sell its minerals abroad, “becoming a kind of global coal slumlord.”

SENATE TO HOLD HEARING ON OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKES. The [AP](#) (10/30) reports regulators from the oil and gas industry and seismologists “are scheduled to testify about a dramatic rise in the number of earthquakes in Oklahoma.” The Senate Energy Committee has slated “a hearing on Friday to study the increase in seismic activity.” The AP adds “growing scientific evidence suggests the sharp rise in earthquakes in Oklahoma is linked to the injection of wastewater from oil and gas drilling deep into the earth.”

Offshore Energy Development:

SHELL CONSIDERING OPTIONS ON ALASKA ASSETS, LEASES. The [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/29, 2.15M) reported that “in a statement released with its third quarter earnings Thursday, Shell said it was ‘considering our options in order to protect the remaining value of our assets and leases’ in Alaska.” Shell CEO Ben van Beurden “also suggested Shell wants to keep its options open in the U.S. Arctic,” saying on an earnings call, “While Burger turned out to be uneconomic, there are of course other potential prospects in Shell’s Chukchi leasehold as well as other areas offshore Alaska.” The Interior Department “just rejected Shell’s bid to ‘suspend’...its Beaufort and Chukchi sea leases, which otherwise expire between 2017 and 2020,” but Shell could appeal that decision. The article noted, however, that holding onto the territory comes with escalating annual rental payments.

Additional coverage was provided by [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/29, 28K) and the [UPI](#) (10/29).

OIL COMPANIES SAY OFFSHORE DRILLING IS SAFE. The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (10/29, 33K) reports that “Briarcliffe Acres last week became the latest municipality to pass a resolution against offshore drilling, joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns including Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach in a stance against oil exploration.” Critics have “lobbied against drilling and exploration, resurrecting images of the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, which they say can happen here if a deepwater rig is on the way.” However, “representatives of Shell Oil, ION Geophysical Corp. and Consumer Energy Alliance told a small group in a Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce conference room Thursday that much has changed since Deepwater Horizon.” They said “tapping into the oil could keep jobs at home, bring billions to the state, won’t be seen from the coast and the whole process is safer now.”

CONOCOPHILLIPS ENDS DEEPWATER EXPLORATION TO FOCUS ON US SHALE PLAYS. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/29, Eaton, 2.15M) reports that ConocoPhillips will withdraw from its deep-water exploration by 2017 in order to focus on “other potential investments, especially onshore shale plays,” particularly the Texas and Midwestern shale plays.

TRANSOCEAN SUIT OFFICIALLY ENDED AFTER SETTLEMENT WITH FIVE GULF STATES. The [AP](#) (10/30) reports that Federal lawsuits filed by Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas against Transocean were officially dismissed Thursday by the request of all parties after reaching a settlement. The four Gulf states will receive a combined \$31 million, with Florida’s share not yet disclosed, the AP adds. The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (10/30, 758K) adds that Transocean admitted no guilt in the settlement of the 2011 oil spill.

TEXAS LAWYER AMONG SEVEN ACCUSED OF FRAUD LINKED TO BP OIL SPILL CLAIMS. [AP](#) (10/29) reports Texas lawyer Mikal Watts is among seven people “accused of faking more than 40,000 damage claims after the BP oil spill in 2010, federal prosecutors said Thursday.” The charges include conspiracy, mail and wire fraud, and identity theft and involve 41 alleged victims, US Attorney Gregory Davis said, urging potential additional victims to come forward. The Federal investigation began in 2011, two years before BP sued Watts and his firm claiming that “more than half of Watts’ clients were not commercial fishermen, were never properly signed up or were dead,” the AP reports.

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

WILD HORSE ADVOCATES OUTRAGED BY SLAUGHTER OF 1,800 HORSES. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/29, Glionna, 3.6M) reports that wild-horse activists are outraged by a government report that has “confirmed their suspicions: The Bureau of Land Management sold 1,794 federally protected wild horses to a Colorado rancher who sent them to slaughter.” Horse advocates claim that the report by the U.S. Interior Department Office of Inspector General shows “a picture of government incompetence and a willful evasion of the law.” They are now “collecting petition signatures to pressure Western legislatures to overhaul the government program that removes wild horses from the range.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (10/30).

Crowdfunding Set Up For Old Wild Horse In BLM Auction. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (10/29, 194K) reports that “a battered and scarred wild horse named Sarge who has been rounded up twice off the Nevada range is up for auction by the BLM, and Ann Marie Yow has started a crowdfunding page because she fears he will go to a buyer who will not care for him well or maybe even sell him for slaughter.” The article notes that “even though Sarge is relatively old and pretty beat up, the BLM’s adoption site already has 238 bids for him, with a current high bid of \$2,580.” According to the article, “the interest likely stems from his notoriety in wild horse advocacy and ranching circles.”

JUDGE ORDERS RECAPTURE CANYON ATV PROTEST RIDERS TO PAY \$96K IN DAMAGES. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/29, 705) reports that a federal judge on Wednesday “ordered a Utah county commissioner and his co-defendant to pay \$95,956 for damage caused in an illegal all-terrain vehicle protest ride through Recapture Canyon in May 2014.” Federal attorneys argues that “while San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman and Monte Wells did not cause the damage themselves, they were responsible because they organized and publicized the ride through social media, radio, newspapers and television” and District Judge David Nuffer agreed.

JUDGE CONSIDERS LAWSUIT OVER SUICIDE IN ARTIFACT LOOTING CASE. The [AP](#) (10/30, 2.15M) reports that “a federal judge peppered attorneys with questions Thursday that suggested he’s struggling to decide if federal agents unleashed excessive force against a southern Utah doctor who killed himself a day after his 2009 arrest in a multistate artifact looting investigation.” During a hearing in Salt Lake City, U.S. District Judge Robert Shelby “told an attorney for James Redd’s family that he doesn’t see sufficient evidence to suggest the action taken by federal Bureau of Land Management agents necessarily violated Redd’s constitutional rights.” However, “Shelby also told a Department of Justice attorney representing the agent being sued that the case alarms him, making him consider asking a jury to determine if agents crossed the line during the raid.” Shelby said “he would issue a ruling at a later date.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (10/30, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/30, 339K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/30, Brady Mccombs |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/30, Mccombs, 283K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/30, 5.31M), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (10/30, 464K).

HISTORIC CANYON CREEK STATION DONATED TO BLM. [KTVB-TV](#) Boise, ID (10/29, 131K) reports that the Canyon Creek Station in Elmore County has been donated to the BLM. Anita Fickle said “her family decided the site of so many stories should be public property.” The article notes that “handing the station over to the BLM means the agency, with help from the Idaho Heritage Trust, can restore the station and open it up for school groups, tourists and history buffs alike.”

DINOSAUR FOSSILS HELICOPTERED OUT OF BISTI WILDERNESS. [KRQE-TV](#) Albuquerque, NM (10/29, 34K) reports that “two dinosaurs were pulled out of New Mexico’s northwestern badlands with the help of helicopters” on Thursday. The fossils were airlifted “so they could begin their journey to the museum in Albuquerque.” The article notes that “the massive effort was a collaboration between museum staff, the BLM and the NM National Guard with the use of their Blackhawk helicopters.”

BLM EMPLOYEE VIOLATED POLICY IN POSTING ONLINE COMMENTS. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/29, 113K) reports that “a BLM employee who impersonated an agency retiree to make comments on a story on the Capital Press website violated agency policy, according to an agency spokesperson.” But “it’s unclear...how seriously the agency is taking the violation.” The BLM has “identified an employee who used a government computer to impersonate a former coworker and post comments on an article on [capitalpress.com](#) about the arson convictions of two Oregon ranchers.”

BLM EDUCATION SPECIALIST RETIRES AFTER 23 YEARS. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/28, 31K) reports that “education specialist Megg Heath is retiring from the Bureau of Land Management’s Dolores field office after 23 years of service.” According to the article, “as BLM’s National Lead for Education, Heath connected teachers with curriculum focused on the science and cultural resources of public lands.”

NEVADA’S SAGE GROUSE LAWSUIT SUPPORTED. In an op-ed for the [Lahontan Valley \(NV\) News](#) (10/30, 11K), Bob Clifford, chairman of the Fallon Tea Party, writes that “Attorney General Adam Laxalt has taken exactly the right action in joining, and now leading, the lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management, the Department of the Interior and other DOI agencies.” He claims that “the direction is clearly to use greater sage grouse actions to shut down as much of land in the western states as possible, legal and ethical, or not.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS AWARDS \$2.5M IN GRANTS TO COMBAT DEADLY BAT DISEASE. The [JAVMA News](#) (10/29, 4K) reports that the FWS has “awarded an additional \$2.5 million in grants in the ongoing effort to combat white-nose syndrome, the lethal fungal disease that has killed millions of North American bats since its 2007 discovery in New York.” The agency “announced the new funds Sept. 29.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “Previous research funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has led to major breakthroughs in our understanding of white-nose syndrome, providing a measure of hope that we can defeat this devastating disease.”

FWS ISSUES NEW RULE OPENING WYOMING FOR REINTRODUCTION OF BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/29, 705) reports that the FWS announced Thursday “it will finalize a rule that opens all of Wyoming up to low-risk reintroductions of black-footed ferrets, one of the most endangered mammals in North America.” According to the article, “issued under a section of the Endangered Species Act that allows for experimental reintroduction efforts, the rule would designate captive-bred ferrets released into Wyoming as ‘nonessential’ to the survival of the species.” Under the rule, “landowners wouldn’t need to ask Fish and Wildlife for permission to incidentally harass or kill black-footed ferrets found on their property.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/30, 2.15M), the [Mattoon \(IL\) Journal Gazette & Times Courier](#) (10/30, 37K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/30, Gruver, 283K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/30, 81K), [KGAB-AM Cheyenne \(WY\)](#) Cheyenne, WY (10/30, 274), and [KGWN-TV Cheyenne \(WY\)](#) Cheyenne, WY (10/30, 519).

THREE CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH NEW MEXICO RAIDS. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/30, 263K) reports that “an indictment unsealed this morning in federal court names three individuals with criminal violations of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, which makes it illegal to sell products in a manner that falsely suggests it is Indian-produced if it is not.” According to the article, “details of the investigation aren’t yet known, but federal agents executed search warrants in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and other locations — more than a dozen— in New Mexico and elsewhere on Wednesday.”

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/30, 263K) reports that “U.S. Attorney Damon Martinez and Nicholas Chavez, regional law enforcement chief for U.S. Fish and Wildlife, announced 16 search warrants executed and the unsealing of an indictment, though copies of both remained unavailable many hours after the documents had been unsealed by U.S. District Court.” The article notes that “the indictment charges Nael Ali, 53, of Albuquerque; Christina Bowen (Sandoval), 41, of Los Lunas; and Mohammed Abed Manasra, 53, of Albuquerque.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/30), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/30, Contreras, 283K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/30, 263K), [ABC News](#) (10/30, 3.35M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/30, 5.31M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/30, Russell Contreras |, Ap, 7.78M), [KOAT-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (10/30, 56K), and [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (10/30, 78K).

FWS PLACING NEW RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTATION OF 11 SPECIES OF INJURIOUS FISH. [The Hill](#) (10/30, Devaney, 654K) reports that the FWS is “placing new restrictions on the importation of 11 species of injurious fish that could either harm people or have a negative impact on agriculture.” According to the article, “the injurious fish include the crucian carp, Eurasian minnow, Prussian carp, roach, stone moroko, Nile perch, Amur sleeper, European perch, zander and wels catfish.”

PLANS FOR DOCK, FISHING PIER AT DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE PROGRESS.. The [AP](#) (10/30, 2.15M) reports that “plans are moving forward for a dock and a fishing pier at the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.” The DTE Energy Foundation has “awarded \$25,000 toward construction of the dock and pier at the Refuge Gateway in Trenton.” According to the article, “those involved say the grant helped the project to recently go to bid.”

SOME OFFICIALS UNSATISFIED WITH SAGE GROUSE DECISION. The [Price \(UT\) Sun Advocate](#) (10/30, 19K) reports that “local government officials across the west are somewhat relieved, but not entirely satisfied with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decision that the greater sage-grouse does not warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act.” For example, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert “released a statement in reaction to the announcement, saying local efforts were ignored in the decision making process.” Also, Carbon County Lands and Access Administrator Rex Sacco said, “The federal government has gone further than their authority allows in trying to control more land.”

ENDANGERED WOODPECKER SPECIES RELOCATED TO GREAT DISMAL SWAMP. The [AP](#) (10/30, 2.15M) reports that “four pairs of endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers have been relocated to Virginia’s Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.” The FWS says “the woodpecker hadn’t been seen in the refuge since 1974 and was re-established there earlier this month.”

ENDANGERED WOLF PACK BEING SLAUGHTERED AFTER FALSE STORY OF AN ATTACK. The [Wisconsin Gazette](#) (10/30) reports that “in the wake of a discredited claim of an alleged ‘attack’ against a hunter and NRA cheerleader last month in Adams County, the Wisconsin DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are slaughtering protected wolves in the 4,965-acre Colburn Wildlife Area.” The article notes that “the eradication has been ordered despite the fact that Great Lakes wolves were relisted last year under the Endangered Species Act, thus making it illegal to hunt the animals.”

PETITION DRIVE SEEKS TO PRESERVE ULTRALIGHTS IN WHOOPING CRANE MIGRATIONS. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (10/30, 691K) reports that “an organization that leads young migrating whooping cranes from Wisconsin to Florida with ultralight aircraft is mounting an online petition drive to protest plans by federal authorities to phase out the planes.” According to the article, “efforts for a full recovery of the cranes has faltered and prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this month to recommend that the slow-flying aircraft be grounded — possibly as early as next year.” Operation Migration, “a nonprofit organization that pioneered the use of ultralights in 2001, is going on the offensive after the agency recommended that its program come to an end.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ANIMAL ADVOCATES OPPOSE IMPORTATION OF ELEPHANTS FROM SWAZILAND. Additional coverage that “seventy-five scientists, conservationists and animal welfare advocates wrote a letter opposing the federal approval of import permits that would send 18 elephants from the South African country of Swaziland to zoos in Wichita, Dallas and Omaha” was provided by the [Wichita \(KS\) Eagle](#) (10/30, 257K).

National Park Service:

LAURA BUSH, DAUGHTER JENNA CO-WRITING CHILDREN’S BOOK ABOUT NATIONAL PARKS. The [AP](#) (10/30, 2.15M) reports that “former first lady Laura Bush and daughter Jenna Bush Hager are working on another children’s book.” The Bushes are “collaborating with illustrator Jacqueline Rogers on ‘Our Great Big Backyard,’ a picture story about a girl named Jane whose family road trip to the country’s national parks leads

to her ‘paying attention to the majestic sights and spending less time looking at her screen.’” The article notes that “the book is coming out in May to coincide with the centennial of the National Park Service.” Laura Bush and first lady Michelle Obama are honorary co-chairwomen of the centennial.

Additional coverage was provided by [US News & World Report](#) (10/29, 996K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/30, Hillel Italie |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/30, 5.31M), [People](#) (10/30, 45.92M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (10/30, Italie, 6.43M).

SOUTH DAKOTA LOOKS FORWARD TO LANDMARK EVENTS NEXT YEAR. The [AP](#) (10/30, 2.15M) reports that “tourism in South Dakota got a boost this year with two landmark anniversaries, and officials hope next year will see the same.” The article notes that “two key anniversaries next year” are the 75th anniversary of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the NPS’ centennial.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/30, 283K) and [Skift](#) (10/29).

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE PARTNERS WITH NPS. The [Broadway World](#) (10/30, 97K) reports that “Bright Star Touring Theatre based in Asheville, North Carolina is partnering with the National Park Service to provide performances for National Park patrons in 2016. “The company was “awarded a federal contract to create an original play entitled The Black Experience in the Heartland.” The article notes that “the partnership coincides with the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service and is intended to draw diverse audiences to National Parks in honor of the Centennial.”

SHELBURNE BOY SCOUT TROOP 602 PLAN NATIONAL PARK TRIPS. The [Shelburne \(VT\) News](#) (10/29) reports that “the highlight of the 2015-16 season” for Shelburne Boy Scout Troop 602 will be “a trip to three national parks in northern California and southern Oregon.” The article notes that “the trip is in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service (NPS) in 2016.” According to the article, “the troop began preparing for the trip last April when the boys visited Washington D.C. to learn about the roles of the NPS in conserving our national treasures.” The scouts “met with NPS Director Jon Jarvis and toured the National Mall with an interpretive ranger—a visit that ended with a special trip to the top of the Washington Monument.”

WATCHDOG RELEASES INFORMATION ON HIRING PRACTICES AT NPS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/29, Subscription Publication) reports that “an internal government watchdog yesterday publicly released information about questionable hiring, contracting and spending at the National Park Service.” The disclosures were “included in a batch of a dozen report summaries released by the Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General.” The article note that “the most significant report summary included in yesterday’s releases concerned a partially substantiated allegation that the superintendent of an unnamed park improperly hired her lover.” The OIG “confirmed in a December 2014 report that the anonymous superintendent had ‘selected her roommate (with whom she shared a two-bedroom apartment) to fill a 1-year term position as a seasonal law enforcement training program manager.’” However, “the investigators ‘found no evidence’ that the two were romantically involved with each other.”

NPS DEVELOPING PLANS FOR THE MISSOURI RIVER. [WNAX-AM](#) Yankton, SD (10/30) reports that the NPS is “developing management plans for three areas of the Missouri National Recreational River near Yankton.” According to the article, “the changes could include more signs, picnic tables, restrooms and more camping areas.” A series of public input meetings are being held this week.

ESPN RECEIVES PERMIT FOR LIVE COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREGAME SHOW NEAR INDEPENDENCE MALL. The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (10/30, Laughlin, 641K) reports that Philadelphia has “allowed ESPN to close for more than 48 hours a block of Market Street – a major city thoroughfare – near Independence Mall to set up its roving weekly college football GameDay live telecast.” Also, “a permit issued Wednesday by the U.S. Department of the Interior’s National Park Service gave ESPN Productions Inc. permission to operate from 6 a.m. Thursday to 7 p.m. Saturday.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ONE ACRE ADDED TO FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE BECAUSE OF HURRICANE SANDY. Additional coverage that one acre has been added to Fire Island National Seashore was provided by [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (10/30, 1.42M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FLOODING DAMAGES DEATH VALLEY. Additional coverage of the damaged caused by flooding in Death Valley was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (10/30, Fritz, 7.78M).

US Geological Survey:

RESEARCHERS SAY ALLIGATOR POPULATION IN EVERGLADES DECLINE DURING DRY SEASONS.

The [Gainesville \(FL\) Sun](#) (10/29, 86K) reports that “alligator populations in the Everglades decline during dry seasons, a team of researchers from the University of Florida, U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have discovered.” Examining “a decade of night spotlight counts in the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, the researchers found that alligator populations declined in large numbers after dry years, and rebounded during wet seasons.” USGS research ecologist Hardin Waddle, lead author of the study, said, “They don’t need it wet all the time, but if dry events increase in frequency and intensity, this could be problematic for alligator numbers in the greater Everglades ecosystem.”

Top National News:

RYAN SWORN IN AS SPEAKER, VOWS TO FIX “BROKEN” HOUSE. Rep. Paul Ryan’s election to House Speaker on Thursday garners extensive print and online coverage, receiving four and half minutes of coverage on the network news broadcasts. While reports almost universally note that Ryan, who promised to fix the “broken” House, was elected to unite a deeply divided GOP caucus, they also indicate that he will have to act quickly to show hardliner conservatives in the caucus that his speakership will be different than that of former Speaker Boehner.

The [New York Times](#) (10/30, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) notes that among the 236 lawmakers who voted for Ryan were “several of the hardline conservatives who had worked to oust” former Speaker Boehner, adding that the “personal jubilation and high expectations felt by Mr. Boehner” when he was elected to the post, “have been replaced with a grim recognition that Mr. Ryan’s ascent stems not from electoral victory but rather the chaos in the ranks of his party’s sizable majority.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/29, story 5, 1:45, Holt, 7.86M) said that while Boehner’s exit “clears the way for a fresh start,” the “handover comes from a deep conflict” within the GOP, and the [AP](#) (10/30, Werner) says Ryan has is “charged with healing Republican divides and quieting the chaos of Capitol Hill.”

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/29, House, 303K) says Ryan was elected “with a mandate to unite his fractious caucus – and no clear path to do it,” and notes that while Ryan “is being promoted as someone who as speaker can help resolve internal party differences,” he “has much to prove and perhaps little time to prove it.” Reporting that Ryan vowed to mend differences within the party and repair the “broken” House, [Reuters](#) (10/29, Lawder, Cornwell) quotes him as saying, “We’re not solving problems, we’re adding to them and I am not interested in laying blame. ...We are not settling scores, we are wiping the slate clean.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/29, story 4, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M) said Ryan “started out with some tough talk for the members he now leads,” and a brief report on [ABC World News](#) (10/29, story 4, 0:30, Muir, 5.84M) noted that Ryan promised “to restore order to Congress.”

[AFP](#) (10/30, Mathes) says Ryan’s ascent to the Speaker’s chair “puts a conservative ideas man at the helm of the House during a crucial period,” but [McClatchy](#) (10/30, Douglas, Toohey, 27K) reports that Ryan, who was “elected to be the savior of a House Republican conference at war with itself,” is not “likely to have much of a honeymoon as speaker” as there is “plenty of stuff in there that could put Ryan knee-deep in early challenges.” Bloomberg says Ryan “must quickly show hard-line conservatives that his speakership will be different from Boehner’s.”

[USA Today](#) (10/30, Kelly, 5.56M) says Ryan vowed to “give committee chairman and rank-and-file members more power over crafting the legislation that comes before the House,” which was “a key demand of the rebellious Freedom Caucus.” In addition he “promised a return to ‘regular order,’ where bills come to the House floor for a vote only after a committee has held hearings on the legislation and voted to recommend the bill to the full House.” The [New York Times](#) (10/30, Huetteman, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) notes that Ryan “is striking many of the notes [conservatives] want to hear: a more inclusive style of leadership, a devolution of power from the leadership suites to the committee rooms and a House of Representatives that is truly representative,” and they “must decide whether they will give him a chance to make good on those promises — or continue their rebellious ways and possibly be crushed.”

The [Washington Times](#) (10/30, Howell, Miller, Shastry, 283K) says Ryan’s election “turn[s] the page on a lengthy period of GOP tumult,” adding that he “heralded a new era in which every member would have a say in legislation that pursues a new kind of American ideal.” Said Ryan, “How reassuring it would be if we actually

fixed the tax code, put patients in charge of their health care, grew our economy, strengthened our military, lifted people out of poverty and paid down the debt. ... At this point, nothing could be more inspiring than a job well done. Nothing could stir the heart more than real, concrete results.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/30, McKinnon, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) reports that following his loss as Mitt Romney’s running mate in the 2012 presidential election, Ryan has focused on making the Republican Party appeal to a wider range of voters, and speaks often of trying to make the party more inclusive and its message more hopeful, including overhauling the tax system to foster economic growth and increase wages and employment, and reforming poverty programs to make them more fair and more effective. As Speaker, Ryan’s colleagues say, he will have greater power to highlight those policies. However, a [New York Times](#) (10/30, Herszenhorn, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) analysis questions whether Ryan’s “big ideas” will “ultimately weigh him down in an era defined by confrontation and small-bore compromise.” The Times says that “recent experience...suggests that he will continue to harbor expansive aspirations, but will set more modest goals.” In his [Washington Post](#) (10/30, 7.78M) column, Dana Milbank says that while it “may not be long before Ryan winds up in the same position Boehner was for five years,” he “may be the only one who has a shot at repairing the chamber, because of his youth (he’s 45), his renown...and his popularity.”

The President called Ryan to offer his congratulations, the White House said Thursday, adding that “he hopes they will be able to work across party lines,” [The Hill](#) (10/29, Fabian, 654K) reported. White House press secretary Josh Earnest “described the call as ‘cordial’ and said the two leaders discussed the bipartisan budget agreement.” Said Earnest, “The president is hopeful he will be able to work with Congressman Ryan on behalf of the American people.”

Republicans Who Voted Against Ryan Received Thousands From His Leadership PAC. [Roll Call](#) (10/29, Cahn, Kelly, 139K) reported that of the 10 Republicans voted for a candidate other than Ryan, five “took thousands of dollars from the new speaker’s leadership political action committee since the 2010 election, a CQ Roll Call analysis shows.” Ryan’s Prosperity Action PAC “gave \$35,000 spread among those five members who did not vote for him for speaker.”

“Loyalists” Tout Boehner’s Legacy. [Politico](#) (10/29, Bresnahan, 1.19M) reported that “Boehner loyalists” say the “unhappy and premature” end to his political career “masks a string of real accomplishments that will become clearer later.” Among them, they say, are “ushering in the biggest House GOP majority in eight decades, making the Bush tax cuts permanent and reforming Medicare.” They add that “in time it will become clear that governing is no easier for Paul Ryan than it was for Boehner — and, in some ways, it could be worse.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/30, Kane, 7.78M) says Boehner’s exit breaks up Capitol Hill’s “Big Four,” noting that he, House Minority Leader Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader McConnell, and Senate Minority Leader Reid have, “for almost nine straight years...led their respective caucuses together — longer than any other quartet of party leaders in congressional history,” and have “have overseen a historically unpopular Congress, no matter which party held the majority.”

MEDIA ANALYSES: IN WAKE OF GOP DEBATE, RUBIO ASCENDING, BUSH ON THE ROPES.

Wednesday’s GOP presidential debate continued to receive widespread media coverage, including reports on all three network newscasts. The bulk of the coverage focuses on the clash between Jeb Bush and Sen. Marco Rubio over the Florida lawmaker’s missed votes in the Senate, and the impact of that exchange. The clash specifically, and Bush’s debate performance in general, is depicted in reports and analyses as having left the former Florida governor’s White House hopes badly damaged. Rubio, meanwhile, is cast as having emerged from the debate with a good deal of momentum.

For example, on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/29, story 2, 2:30, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported on what he described as “fast-moving fallout from” Wednesday’s debate, saying that Bush’s targeting of Rubio resulted in “a devastating swing and a miss, leaving Bush reeling, donors frustrated, and some wondering if his campaign is nearly over.” NBC’s Hallie Jackson added that “NBC News has learned Jeb Bush promised his donors today he will work to get better as a candidate and as a debater. That conference call an attempt to calm donors’ nerves as Marco Rubio’s team looks to recruit any shaky Bush support.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/29, story 3, 2:25, Pelley, 5.08M), Major Garrett reported that the debate clash between the two Floridians “deepened the impression of Rubio on the rise and Bush on the decline.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/30, Delreal, 7.78M) reports that following Wednesday’s debate, “Bush’s once-formidable

campaign appears to be nearing a state of collapse,” which “has provided an opening to...Rubio...who is getting a new look from the party establishment.” On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/29, story 3, 2:05, Alexander, 7.86M), Peter Alexander said that in the wake of the debate, “NBC News has learned both [Sen. Ted] Cruz and Marco Rubio’s campaigns have seen a fundraising spike, roughly a million dollars each, since last night.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/30, Tumulty, 7.78M) reported that in Wednesday’s debate, Rubio demonstrated “that he could take a hit, and swing back — something that might have been in doubt, given his youth and the roughness of this election cycle.” The Post adds that Rubio’s “strategists have said he was waiting for a moment to put his natural political talents on display. It came Wednesday night.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/30, Peters, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports that in the wake of the debate, Rubio on Thursday “stepped into the national spotlight he always feared would come too early and prepared for a bruising collision with Jeb Bush.” At the same time, “the mood among Mr. Bush’s supporters was despondent, with some questioning in private conversations whether the accumulation of three unsteady” debate performances “had finally blocked his path to the nomination.”

In a report that was published not long after the conclusion of Wednesday’s debate, the [Huffington Post](#) (10/29, Conroy, Stein, 251K) focused on the Bush-Rubio clash, saying that when the exchange was over, “it was hard not to feel sympathy for Bush, his once promising campaign appearing to hit a new low in front of a live audience assumed to be in the tens of millions.” The Post added that if the debate “will be remembered for one thing, it will likely be as the moment when the hierarchy for the campaign’s two Florida Republicans was rearranged.”

The [AP](#) (10/30, Barrow, Bustos) reports that the “testy exchange between Rubio and Bush” during Wednesday’s debate “could help reshape the GOP race as Rubio tries to capitalize on Bush’s struggles.” Appearing Thursday on ABC’s “Good Morning America,” however, Rubio said “that he has ‘admiration’ for Bush and wants only to underscore policy differences between the two.”

With the GOP candidates slated to face off in another debate in three weeks, “Meet the Press” moderator Chuck Todd. Chuck said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/29, story 4, 1:15, Holt, 7.86M), “I think what we’re going to learn the next three weeks, can Jeb Bush right his ship? The pressure really is on him. It’s on him to perform with donors, on him to perform with voters. And the next debate, as important as this one was, now this next one is even that much more important.” On [ABC World News](#) (10/29, story 3, 2:55, Muir, 5.84M), Tom Llamas reported on the Bush-Rubio clash in Wednesday’s debate, saying, “Tonight many calling [it] a game-changing moment in the Republican race. An attack that backfired.” Llamas added, “Bush now facing tough questions about his campaign’s future.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/30, Rucker, Balz, O’Keefe, 7.78M) reports that “Bush faces the real possibility that a substantial amount of money and momentum would move to...Rubio...as the party’s mainstream conservative wing’s favored candidate unless he moves quickly to rebalance his candidacy.” The Post adds that Bush’s “debilitating [debate] performance was for many allies a cause of alarm,” sowing “serious doubts about his ability to effectively prosecute the case against not only his” GOP opponents, “but also the potential Democratic nominee, Hillary Rodham Clinton, in what is expected to be a brutal general election campaign.”

Writing in “The Fix” blog on the website of the [Washington Post](#) (10/29, 7.78M), Chris Cillizza – in the wake of Bush’s widely panned debate performance – wrote that the former Florida governor “just isn’t all that good at this. And he knows it,” referring to campaigning for president. Cillizza added, “If Bush wasn’t having much fun before, he really won’t be having any fun now. And for a candidate who pledged that he would run ‘joyfully,’ he looks anything but that right now.”

Writing for [Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/29, Heilemann, 303K), John Heilemann said that in the wake of “the sheer and epic awfulness of Bush’s debate performance” on Wednesday, “the scale of the failure is now evident for anyone with eyes to see. Coupled with his dismal standing in the public polls nationally and in the early states, the fund-raising difficulties he now faces, and the cutbacks to his organization that have recently taken place, it’s impossible to overstate the severity of the malady that now afflicts him.”

[Reuters](#) (10/30, Oliphant) reports that Bush’s debate performance will likely increase skepticism about his odds of winning the GOP nomination. The [AP](#) (10/30, Pace, Beaumont, Ronayne) reports that “Bush emerged from” Wednesday’s “debate as a candidate in crisis, with supporters struggling to understand why he keeps underperforming and advisers promising a turnaround before it’s too late.” Stumping yesterday in New

Hampshire, Bush “insisted his White House bid was ‘not on life support.’” Even so, his “advisers concede November will be his campaign’s most crucial period to date, a stark contrast to their previous assertions that Bush was best-positioned to outlast rivals in a long campaign.”

In her [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/30, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) column, Peggy Noonan similarly says that Bush’s debate performance was just the latest example illustrating that he’s not well-suited to be a national candidate. In his [Washington Post](#) (10/30, 7.78M) column, Eugene Robinson – pointing to the Bush-Rubio exchange over Rubio’s missed votes in the Senate – says that “the most significant impact” of Wednesday’s debate “may have been to dramatically lengthen the odds that Bush” will win the presidency.

USA Today: This Week, “Hopeful Signs” From GOP. In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (10/30, 5.56M) says that during Wednesday’s debate, “it was not impossible to see some glimmers of hope for the GOP. For the first time, a candidate who could have a reasonable chance of winning” the presidency, Rubio, “had a breakout performance.” USA Today adds, “Hopeful signs also emerged in recent days beyond the debate,” with House Republicans finding “a way to keep the government open and to pay its bills on time.” In addition, House Republicans chose the “sensible, if highly conservative,” Rep. Paul Ryan to replace Speaker Boehner. USA Today adds, “These developments signal a good week for Republicans and for the country, which needs two vigorous parties for the simple reason that neither has all the answers.”

Writer: Bush Backtrack On Tax Hike In A Budget Deal Bodes Ill For GOP. In a column for [Bloomberg View](#) (10/29, Wilkinson, 86K), Francis Wilkinson wrote that during Wednesday’s debate, moderator John Harwood said that during a 2011 GOP presidential debate, all of the candidates “pledged to oppose a budget deal containing any tax increase even if it had spending cuts ten times as large.” Wilkinson wrote, “That 2011 pledge was prime evidence that the” GOP “had departed the realm of politics for religion, where doctrinal devotion trumps the crass realities of the material world.” Wilkinson wrote that in 2011, Bush “had suggested that he would embrace such a preposterously bountiful political windfall in a hurry.” However, said Wilkinson, when Harwood on Wednesday asked Bush if he still stood by his 2011 position, the candidate “demurred,” signaling that he’s no longer “a bridge to a time when the Republican Party wasn’t a danger to itself and others.”

Bush Continues To Criticize Rubio Over Missed Senate Votes. In a brief item, the [Washington Times](#) (10/29, Riddell, 283K) reports that Bush on Thursday “doubled-down on his attacks against...Rubio for missing Senate votes.” Appearing on Fox News, Bush was “asked if he was wrong to question Mr. Rubio.” Bush replied, “No, it wasn’t a mistake. It’s a mistake to run for office and not serve. He can do both, but the simple fact is he’s not doing that.”

Reid: Rubio Should Resign From Senate. [Politico](#) (10/29, Kim, Everett, Bresnahan, 1.19M) reported that Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid on Thursday called on Rubio “to resign his Senate seat as he racks up no-shows on his voting record while campaigning for the White House.” Speaking with Politico, Reid said of Rubio, “Why shouldn’t he [resign]? He hates the Senate.” Reid added, “Why should the taxpayers of this country and people of Florida put up with having only one senator? Doesn’t seem fair to me.”

[USA Today](#) (10/30, King, 5.56M), in a report focusing on why Rubio, who “says he’s frustrated with the job, and he hardly bothers to show up for work,” chooses not to resign from the Senate, says that “the short answer is that probably wouldn’t help” his “campaign to be labeled a quitter. And his Senate seat gives Rubio a high-profile platform to weigh in on high-profile issues.”

Politico: French Upset Over Bush’s “French Work Week” Remark. Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (10/29, Gass, 1.19M) reported that Bush’s jab at Rubio during Wednesday’s debate, when the former governor said “that the Senate has a ‘French work week’ of ‘three days,’” seems “to have earned the consternation of the French media.” Yesterday, “French Canal+ journalist Laura Haim asked press secretary Josh Earnest what President Barack Obama thought of that remark,” and mentioned “that the French ambassador to the U.S. had made a fuss over the statement.” Politico added that French Ambassador to the US Gérard Araud “tweeted his complaints about Bush’s statement during the debate,” saying, “A French work week of 3 days? No but a pregnancy paid leave of 16 weeks yes! And proud of it.”

Report: Internal Bush Campaign Document Questions Rubio’s “Character And Ethics.” In a blog entry that was featured as the lead story Thursday on Drudge Report, [US News & World Report](#) (10/30, Catanese, 996K) reported that it had “obtained” what it described as, “The full [PowerPoint] presentation” that Bush aides earlier this week shared their campaign donors. The presentation, said US News & World Report,

includes “biting, detailed slights” of Rubio, “pointedly questioning” his “character and ethics.” For example, said US News & World Report, one page of the presentation is “titled ‘Marco Is A Risky Bet,’ and it bullet-points Rubio’s ‘misuse of state party credit cards, taxpayer funds and ties to scandal-tarred former Congressman David Rivera.’” US News & World Report also quoted the document as saying, “Those who have looked into Marco’s background in the past have been concerned with what they have found.”

CNBC, Debate Moderators Continue To Draw Criticism. Meanwhile, another focus of the continuing coverage of Wednesday’s GOP presidential debate is the criticism of the CNBC debate moderators – John Harwood, Becky Quick and Carl Quintanilla – by the candidates and party officials. Moreover, the moderators and the network itself are drawing critical scrutiny from some other media outlets. For example, the [Washington Post](#) (10/30, Zezima, 7.78M) reports, “The moderators, their questions and their lack of control over” the GOP contenders “became a central part of the debate’s narrative,” with “the shower of criticism that followed” demonstrating “how powerfully anti-media rhetoric can resonate with the Republican base. The debate’s host, cable network CNBC, gave them plenty of material.”

On its website, the [New York Times](#) (10/30, Parker, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reported that during the debate, CNBC “and its moderators were roundly criticized by both the candidates onstage and even some of their own colleagues.” And on Thursday, the GOP “campaigns called for an overhaul of the debates.” For example, yesterday in Colorado, GOP presidential hopeful Ben Carson told reporters that “he had asked his staff to reach out to the other campaigns ‘to talk about a change’ in how Republican debates are conducted,” saying “of CNBC and its moderators, ‘You’ve got to be really bad for the whole audience to boo you.’”

[Politico](#) (10/29, Strauss, 1.19M) reported that during a Thursday appearance on Fox News, Sen. Marco Rubio “blasted the CNBC moderators for the questions they asked” during the GOP debate. Rubio is quoted as saying the questions asked by the moderators “were clearly designed to get us to fight against each other or get us to say something embarrassing about us and then get us to react.” Rubio added, “And that’s the purpose of what these questions were. And it became irritating.” Under the headline “High Ratings, Criticism, Give CNBC Mixed Victory In Republican Debate,” [Reuters](#) (10/30, Gibson, Toonkel) reports that while the debate moderators were criticized over their questions, CNBC drew its largest audience ever, as 14 million viewers watched the event.

In his column for [USA Today](#) (10/30, 5.56M), Rem Rieder writes that “the biggest loser of the Wednesday night GOP d

Conversation Contents

Clip: E&E: Feinstein bill would not diminish SoCal mining -- report

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To:
Subject: Clip: E&E: Feinstein bill would not diminish SoCal mining -- report

Feinstein bill would not diminish SoCal mining -- report

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, October 28, 2015

A bill to protect more than 1.4 million acres of public lands in Southern California would not diminish the region's mining sector, according to a report released yesterday by the Sonoran Institute, a regional conservation group based in Tucson, Ariz.

The bill's proposed national monuments, parks and wilderness expansions would bolster jobs in the service, government and professional sectors, which play a much larger role than mining in the region's economy, the [report](#) found. Those jobs -- which drive what's known as "amenity-based" economic growth -- depend heavily on protected public lands, the report found.

Protections in Sen. Dianne Feinstein's (D-Calif.) [S. 414](#) "represent the highest and best economic use of public lands," said John Shepard, senior director of programs at the Sonoran Institute. "Mining is overshadowed by other economic sectors and trends that benefit from preserving the California desert's natural, cultural and other community benefits."

While the institute has taken no official position on Feinstein's bill, its report offers a ringing endorsement.

Feinstein's bill would designate two new national monuments, six new wilderness areas and expand three national parks while setting aside a handful of areas for off-highway vehicle recreation. The bill received a hearing this month before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where its prospects for passage are unclear ([E&E Daily](#), Oct. 9).

In a parallel track, Feinstein is asking President Obama to designate lands in her bill -- Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains -- as national monuments using his authority under the Antiquities Act.

Mining access has emerged as a major sticking point for opponents of Feinstein's bill and Obama's use of the act.

San Bernardino County Supervisor Robert Lovingood told the committee the legislation could stifle mining opportunities and hamper a gold mine that could become California's second largest. Feinstein's bill would ban new mining claims within conservation areas, while honoring existing claims.

The minerals industry is "one of our most significant economic drivers," Lovingood said, adding that the county oversees roughly 100 mines. The federal government already owns 80 percent of the county, which prevents the collection of millions of dollars in property taxes, he said.

"The proposed national monument status withdraws public lands from mineral entry," he said. "This prevents the extraction of important mineral materials, such as aggregates, which are the basic materials necessary for maintaining roads, bridges and local infrastructure."

But the Sonoran Institute report -- which looked at the seven counties covered in the bill: San Bernardino, Inyo, Riverside, Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles and San Diego -- came to an opposite conclusion.

In the last 25 years, mining has represented no more than 0.25 percent of the region's overall employment, the report said, citing Department of Commerce data. In addition, mining's contribution to labor-related income never exceeded 1 percent and trended neither up nor down between 1970 and 2013, it said.

In 2013, the mining industry employed between 3,000 and 5,600 people.

However, mining and oil and gas jobs have made up a higher portion of jobs in some individual counties, representing 6 percent in Kern and 4 percent in Inyo. In San Bernardino, which would be home to the largest amount of protected lands, mining and oil and gas represent 0.2 percent of jobs, the report found.

While Feinstein's bill would withdraw more than 1 million acres from future mining claims, it would honor the 1,176 active claims inside the proposed designation areas. In San Bernardino alone, there are 8,803 active mining claims and 600 square miles of high mineral potential areas outside the proposed designation areas, the report found.

The report cited mining research commissioned by the Bureau of Land Management to support its identification of renewable energy zones in the California desert.

"There is extensive ground outside of the legislation to continue to look for and develop mineral resources of all kinds," said Joe Marlow, a resource economist at the Sonoran Institute.

As mining and other extractive and agricultural jobs remained flat, service-based sectors emerged, a trend common across the West, the report said.

In addition, non-labor income -- which is an indicator of the presence of retirees -- shot up nearly threefold in the seven counties between 1970 and 2013, the report found.

Roughly 3.2 million people visited Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks and the Mojave National Preserve in 2014, and nearly 4.2 million visited BLM lands in 2013.

"We think conservation has a stronger economic argument" than mining and industrial projects, Shepard said. "The additional designations [in Feinstein's bill] are likely to encourage similar growth trends going forward into the future."

Imperial and Riverside counties have endorsed Feinstein's bill, though supervisors in San Bernardino remain split.

Some critics of the bill, including Lovingood, have backed [H.R. 3668](#) by Rep. Paul Cook (R-Calif.), a companion to Feinstein's bill that would allow more mining opportunities within the Mojave Trails National Monument and bar presidents from protecting the lands using the Antiquities Act.

On Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 10:59 AM, Duran, Leah <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

[Sen. Feinstein asks Obama to designate monuments in the Mojave Desert](#)

LA Times // Julie Cart // Oct. 13, 2015

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, champion of the California desert, is asking President Obama to take executive action to protect hundreds of thousands of acres in the Mojave Desert.

Since 2009, Feinstein has been unsuccessfully trying to convince her colleagues in Congress to designate the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains areas as new national monuments. Now, the Democratic senator is calling on Obama to use the Antiquities Act to set aside desert tracts near Mojave National Preserve and Death Valley National Park.

In a public meeting scheduled for today in Palm Springs, Feinstein and other national, state and local officials will listen to public comment on setting aside the disparate pieces of public land for heightened protection.

All of the land proposed for monument designation is in federal hands and no transfers are required.

Obama has invoked the Antiquities Act sparingly. Most recently he designated the Berryessa-Snow Mountains National Monument in Northern California.

Monument designations can be controversial because they sometimes place restrictions on hunting, off-road recreation and other uses. But Feinstein's proposal would preserve existing recreational activities.

Obama has the option to designate the new monuments without consulting Congress, but Feinstein said she will continue trying to gain support for her legislation.

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, October 28, 2015

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From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Wed Oct 28 2015 04:59:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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- + Animal Advocates Oppose Importation Of Elephants From Swaziland.
- + North American Bat Monitoring Program Spurred By Deadly Bat Disease.
- + Oregon Voters May Decide Whether To Ban Ivory Sales.
- + Big Canoe Creek Flowing Free After 130-Year Old Dam Removed In Springville.
- + Additional Coverage: FWS Proposes Recovery Plan For Gila Chub.
- + Additional Coverage: Africa's Lion Population At Risk Of Being Halved, Study Says.

National Park Service:

- + Gateway Arch To Celebrate Fiftieth Anniversary.
- + Report Estimates Cost Of Rising Seas On National Parks.
- + Death Valley National Park Hit By Flooding.
- + Mesa Verde's Historic Far View Center Seeks New Tenant.
- + Action Taken Against Invasive Green Sunfish.
- + Olympic Hot Springs Closed To Visitors Due To Fatality.
- + Man Accused Of Illegally Killing Elk In Grand Teton.

US Geological Survey:

- + Study Says Global Warming Unlocking Carbon Stores In Permafrost.
- + USGS Publishes New Lunar Maps.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Media Analyses: Obama Defense Of Police Officers Contained Rebuke Of FBI Chief.
- + Obama Endorses Bipartisan Budget Deal As House Conservatives Express Dismay.
- + Sidestepping GOP Leaders, House Votes To Authorize Ex-Im Bank.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.
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DOI in the News:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SAYS EFFORTS TO BLOCK SAGE GROUSE PROTECTION COULD BACKFIRE. The [AP](#) (10/28, 2.15M) reports that “attempts by rural Nevada counties, mining companies and others to block new U.S. policies intended to protect the greater sage grouse could backfire on the critics and ultimately force the reconsideration of a recent decision to keep the bird off the list of endangered species, federal land managers warn.” Justice Department lawyers “representing three U.S. agencies say it took an unprecedented effort by officials in 11 western states from California to the Dakotas to persuade the Fish and Wildlife Service last month to reverse its 2010 conclusion that protection of the grouse was warranted under the Endangered Species Act.” In a brief filed Friday in U.S. District Court in Reno, U.S. Attorney Daniel Bogden wrote that “any injunction blocking implementation would ‘diminish the protections for sage grouse ... undo four years of collaboration and could undermine FWS’ finding.” U.S. District Judge Miranda Du has “set a hearing for Nov. 12 in Reno to consider granting a preliminary injunction blocking the amendments.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (10/28, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), the [Vallejo \(CA\) Times Herald](#) (10/27, 49K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/28, Scott Sonner |, Ap, 7.78M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/28, Sonner, 1.15M), the [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (10/28, 254K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/27, 174K), the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (10/28, 81K), the [Nevada Appeal](#) (10/28, 51K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/28, Sonner, 283K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/28, 5.31M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/28, Sonner, 6.43M), and [KATU-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (10/28, 184K).

Utah Agency Releases Plan To Help Sage Grouse. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/28, 476K) reports that “the Utah Natural Resources Conservation Service plans to continue removing juniper from more than 25,000 acres throughout Utah with its partners as part of its efforts to help the sage grouse and its habitat.” Also, “a strategy unveiled Tuesday includes installing fire breaks on some 2,500 acres and working with land owners and other agencies to secure nearly 11,000 acres of agriculture conservation easements so high development-prone areas remain protected.” The article notes that “the rangewide effort involves a commitment of Utah Natural Resources Conservation Service funding of \$211 million and continues local partnerships that include the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the state water resources agency and the Bureau of Land Management.”

USGS Releases Handbook On Restoration Of Sagebrush. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/26, 705) reports that federal regulators on Tuesday “released the first of a three-part handbook designed to help land managers across the West restore dwindling sagebrush steppe ecosystems that support greater sage grouse and hundreds of other species.” The 56-page handbook released by the USGS “takes a broad look at sagebrush landscapes, with a focus on helping land managers prioritize areas where reseeding or planting would be most successful and identifying the best strategies for restoring these specific areas.” According to the article, “the subsequent two parts of the handbook will provide guidance for how to restore habitat at a landscape level and at a site-specific level, respectively.”

EIGHT NEW HAMPSHIRE PROJECTS GET LWCF GRANT FUNDING. [New Hampshire Public Radio](#) (10/28, 2K) reports that “projects in eight New Hampshire communities have been awarded federal Land and Water Conservation grants totaling \$930,000.” The article notes that the future of the LWCF is “up in the air, after Congress allowed the program to expire at the end of last month.”

An op-ed for the [Lewiston \(ME\) Sun Journal](#) (10/27, 17K) calls on Congress to reauthorize the LWCF. The piece notes that “since the program was created by Congress 50 years ago, projects in Maine have received more than \$172 million to help maintain and expand places such as Acadia National Park and the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site – support that has helped these areas increase accessibility to visitors and enhance their positive impact on the local economy.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (10/28).

OBAMA URGED TO PROTECT CALIFORNIA DESERT. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/27, 98K) reports that conservancy groups have “successfully lobbied Sen. Dianne Feinstein to include Camp Iron Mountain in her request to President Barack Obama to designate three national monuments in the California desert: Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains.” Feinstein has “introduced three desert protection bills over the past six years, but they’ve gone nowhere – victims of the Senate’s chronic gridlock.” Then, “earlier this year, Feinstein changed tactics, urging President Obama to create the monuments using executive authority.”

In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/28, 515K), Xavier Morales, executive director of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, writes that “members of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California recently trekked to Whitewater to express our strong support for Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s efforts to secure national monument status for the Mojave Trails, Castle Mountains and Snow to Sand.” He asserts that “preserving open spaces like these in our magnificent desert is important for the health of Californians and Latinos in particular.” Morales urges President Barack Obama to “use the Antiquities Act to swiftly protect our California desert.”

CONSERVATIONIST WARNS ABOUT BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR PUSH TO TRANSFER FEDERAL LANDS. The [WyoFile](#) (10/28) reports that “efforts to wrest federal lands from public ownership are an orchestrated, multi-layered strategy that can’t be brushed off as a fringe idea, a leading conservationist warns.” According to Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, “the federal-lands transfer movement has built momentum to the point it can’t be ignored.” The article notes that “a revived Sagebrush Rebellion has seen legislators in 11 Western states introduce 37 land transfer bills with six of them passing and another four finalized as ‘study’ legislation.”

Utah’s Position On Federal Lands Criticized. For [Hatch Magazine](#) (10/28), Ty Hansen criticizes Utah for its push to take over federal lands. He says that “the anti-federal sentiment in Utah is pretty serious, and the flames of that trumped-up, industry-funded ‘rebellion’ are troublesome, so much so that they’re part of the rural culture of the state (see Phil Lyman’s middle-finger ride into Recapture Canyon).”

OUTDOOR RETAILER REI WILL CLOSE ON BLACK FRIDAY. [Politico Pro](#) (10/27) reports that REI, the outdoor retailer which was formerly headed by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, has “decided to [ditch](#) (10/27) the Black Friday mayhem and close for the day, proposing instead that people go outside.”

Also reporting on the story are the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (10/28) and the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/28, 825K).

EX-INTERIOR SECRETARY CALLS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSION IN REPUBLICAN DEBATE. The [Denver Post](#) (10/28, Finley, 825K) reports that Democrat leaders led by former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on Tuesday “challenged Republican presidential candidates...to tackle climate change, public lands and needs of the recreation economy” in their Wednesday debate. Colorado’s \$13 billion-a-year, 125,000-job recreation industry “requires a healthy environment with well-funded care for public lands, Salazar said.” The Post also reports that Salazar called Attorney General Cynthia Coffman’s legal challenge of the Clean Power Plan “out of step with the role and responsibilities of an attorney general.”

JEB BUSH’S PROPOSED PUBLIC LAND POLICIES LAUDED. In an op-ed for the [Colorado Statesman](#) (10/28, 17K), Rob Sisson, executive director of ConservAmerica, argues that “a bloated and distant bureaucracy in Washington, D.C., manages our public lands as if they were Crown holdings in medieval England.” According to Sisson, “with the announcement of his Western Land and Resource Management platform, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush proves he is an excellent fit for the Roosevelt conservation mantle.” He adds that “with his call to relocate the Department of the Interior to the West, Bush shows he isn’t just a capable manager but a visionary, too.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIE UNDERGOING OVERHAUL. [Education Week](#) (10/28, 130K) reports that “while Congress and the Obama administration have pressed the Bureau of Indian Education to overhaul operations at the schools it oversees on or near American Indian reservations, more than 90 percent of the 950,000 American Indian children attend traditional public schools run by local districts.” One central goal of “the ongoing overhaul” of the Bureau of

Indian Education, “known as the Blueprint for Reform, is to shift the agency’s role from provider to partner, paving the way for tribes to eventually run their own schools.” Although “the overhaul has hit snags and missed deadlines,” BIE Director Charles “Monty” Roessel “remains optimistic.” He said, “It’s given us an opportunity to engage with tribes more. Our system is broken, and we need to fix it.”

CLATSOP-NEHALEM TRIBE SEEKS FEDERAL RECOGNITION FOR SECOND TIME. The [Daily Astorian \(OR\)](#) (10/27, 23K) reports that “a resolution to restore federal recognition of the Clatsop-Nehalem Confederated Tribes is making its way through the U.S. Congress for a second time.” Rep. Suzanne Bonamici “introduced the legislation, known as House Resolution 3736, or the Clatsop-Nehalem Restoration Act on Oct. 9.” the measure was “assigned to the House Natural Resources Committee and is expected to go to a subcommittee.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Chinook \(WA\) Observer](#) (10/27, 19K).

COURT URGED TO BLOCK CHEROKEE NATION OF OKLAHOMA’S BID TO BLOCK DECISION TO TAKE LAND INTO TRUST. [Law360](#) (10/28, 30K) reports that “the federal government on Monday urged an Oklahoma federal court to reject the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma’s bid to block the government from taking former reservation land into trust for another tribe, arguing the U.S. Department of the Interior didn’t need the Cherokees’ approval to make the acquisition.”

DEA RAID OF WISCONSIN TRIBE’S CANNABIS CROP RAISES CONCERNS. [US News & World Report](#) (10/26, 996K) reports that federal agents “swarmed the Menominee Indian tribe’s Wisconsin reservation Friday and eradicated 30,000 cannabis plants, confusing and alarming tribal leaders, policy reformers and attorneys who work with other American Indian tribes considering growing marijuana or hemp.” Menominee leaders “say the plants were intended for lawful research into growing industrial hemp, which is processed and utilized for fiber, food and oil and is distinguishable from marijuana by its lower levels of the high-inducing compound tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).” The Drug Enforcement Administration “and acting U.S. Attorney Gregory Haanstad contend the seized plants were in fact marijuana, but a search warrant affidavit filed last week by a DEA agent does not identify a specific THC level as grounds for the search-and-seizure operation.”

EAST TEXAS TRIBE PLANS TO OFFER ELECTRONIC BINGO AFTER CLARIFICATION.. The [AP](#) (10/28) reports that “a Native American tribe in East Texas says it plans to offer electronic bingo on its tribal land after receiving clarification on the issue from a federal agency.” The Interior Department and the National Indian Gaming Commission on Tuesday “affirmed the right of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas to operate gaming activities on its 10,200-acre reservation east of Livingston.”

[KFOX-TV](#) El Paso, TX (10/28, 13K) reports that the Interior Department has “confirmed that gaming operations on tribal lands are under the jurisdiction of the National Indian Gaming Commission said the Tigua Governor Carlos Hisa Tuesday.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/28, 2.15M), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (10/28, 1.46M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/28, 283K), and [KRIS-TV Corpus Christi \(TX\)](#) Corpus Christi, TX (10/28, 2K).

NAVAJO PRESIDENT BEGAYE CALLS FOR ACTION ON BENNETT FREEZE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/27, 47K) reports that Navajo President Russell Begaye is “calling for less talk and more action when it comes to rehabilitation of the former Bennett Freeze.” Since the freeze was lifted in 2006, “very little progress has been made and the estimated 6,700 residents of the former Bennett Freeze still live in conditions that have not changed in nearly half a century.” Begaye said, “People are suffering from substandard homes. People are living with roof leaks, with sheetrock hanging down, with dirt floors. I just can’t imagine how cold it would get out there in the wintertime.”

BISHOP: AMERICAN INDIANS DESERVE TO DECIDE ACTIONS ON THEIR LANDS. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/28, Bishop, Subscription Publication, 6.23M), GOP Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, argues that special interest groups with ties to the White House will be able to influence what is permitted on tribal lands as long as Indian land titles are Federally owned. Bishop specifically focuses on how this has affected tribal abilities to profit from opportunities of energy production. He therefore calls for the Native American Energy Act, which seeks to reduce “Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands,” and the Tribal Recognition Act, which would give Congress sole power in giving a tribe Federal acknowledgment, to be voted on and signed into law by President Obama or the next

president.

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA ANNOUNCES \$7.6M IN FUNDING FOR GUAM. The [Pacific News Center](#) (10/28) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina "this week announced the release of \$7.6 million in grant funding to the Government of Guam through the Office of Insular Affairs' Compact Impact Assistance Program." The article notes that "the funding will support, in part, Guam Governor Eddie Calvo's proposed Compact Impact projects for fiscal year 2016, which total \$14.9 million." Kia'aina said, "Social services at Guam's hospital and correctional facilities are heavily impacted by migrants from the Freely Associated States. While we continue to work with the Government of Guam to address long-term solutions requiring federal statutory changes, we are pleased nonetheless to support the Governor's budgetary priorities for this allocation of Compact Impact funding."

Also providing coverage is [KUAM-TV Dededo \(GUM\)](#) Dededo, GUM (10/28, 171).

BIKINI ISLANDERS SEEK REFUGE IN US FROM RISING SEA LEVELS. [BBC News](#) (10/28, 1.57M) reports that "about 1,000 Bikini islanders have applied to relocate to the United States as rising seas threaten their adopted home." They were "moved from their Pacific atoll as result of atomic bomb tests in the 1940s," but "their new home, on another of the Marshall Islands, is struggling against huge tides and increasing storms." The islanders have "asked Washington to change the terms of a trust fund to allow them settle in the US."

Also providing coverage are the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/28, 7.78M), the [Daily Express \(UK\)](#) (10/28, 217K) and the [Discovery Channel](#) (10/28, 395K).

PALAU DECLARES WORLD'S SIXTH LARGEST MARINE RESERVE. The [Independent \(UK\)](#) (10/28, 1.02M) reports that "the Pacific island nation of Palau's announced on Thursday that it is designating a 193,000-square-mile fully protected marine reserve that would be the sixth largest such area in the world and would help protect over a thousand species of fish and some 700 species of coral." The article notes that "the news is even more momentous given that plans to set aside over 1 million square miles of highly protected ocean have now been announced in 2015 alone, more than during any prior year, according to figures provided by the Pew Charitable Trusts."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR MUST DISCLOSE SOME CALIFORNIA WATER WELL INFORMATION. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/27, 113K) reports that "geological data about water wells in California cannot be turned over to an environmental group, but the names and addresses of owners must, a federal judge ruled." Federal authorities will "not have to disclose the location, construction or depth of California water wells to an environmental group under a recent federal court ruling." But the decision does require the BOR "to turn over the names and addresses of the well owners and water transfer participants to AquAlliance, which advocates for 'hydrological health' in Northern California."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FWS CONSIDERING FIVE-YEAR EAGLE "TAKE" PERMIT FOR CALIFORNIA WIND FARM. The [Greenwire](#) (10/27, Subscription Publication) reports that the FWS is "considering whether to allow a California wind farm to incidentally kill up to three federally protected golden eagles over the next five years." The permit would require NRG Yield Inc., "which owns the 153-megawatt Alta East Wind Project in Kern County, to retrofit at least 74 area power poles within a year to prevent electrocutions of birds and take other steps to reduce mortality."

PAPER SUPPORTS ADDING EAGLE MOUNTAIN TO JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/27, 98K) editorializes that "the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has given a second vote of confidence to a proposed 1,300-megawatt hydropower plant proposed for the open pits of the Eagle Mountain iron ore mine." The commission "last week denied two appeals – from the National Park

Service and a local group known as the Desert Protection Society – of its June 2014 granting of a license for the project proposed by Eagle Crest Energy of Los Angeles.” But “despite FERC’s support,” the paper argues that “this remains a flawed idea.” Instead, it argues that “adding Eagle Mountain to Joshua Tree National Park would best serve the public by conserving valuable resources and protecting the local ecosystem with the bonus of adding the historical attraction that is the old mining town to the park.”

Onshore Energy Development:

SENATE HOLDS HEARING ON STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [Politico Pro](#) (10/21) reports that Interior Department and industry officials “clashed” Tuesday “over the potential job losses from the administration’s proposed stream protection rule.” During a hearing on the rule, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski “questioned the difference between the administration’s estimation that the rule would lead to the loss of about 200 net jobs lost with the National Mining Association’s new study concluding that the rule would kill between 40,038 and 77,520 jobs in the mining sector.” Assistant Interior Secretary Janice Schneider said “the study’s ‘extraordinary overestimate’ of lost jobs and coal production rested on assumptions not supported by the rule, including that it would prohibit long-wall mining.” National Mining Association President and CEO Hal Quinn “replied that Interior’s calculations were based on hypothetical mine scenarios, and that the firm that conducted NMA’s analysis based its conclusions on discussions with 36 operating mines.”

Also reporting on the story are the [Greenwire](#) (10/27, Subscription Publication), the [Greenwire](#) (10/26, Subscription Publication), [The Hill](#) (10/28, Cama, 654K), the [Washington Times](#) (10/28, Sherfinski, 283K), and [Big Horn Radio Network](#) (10/28).

Senators Ask About Mine Cleanup. The [AP](#) (10/28, 470K) reports that “the risk that coal companies in Wyoming and elsewhere could leave the public responsible for millions of dollars in mine-cleanup costs is a serious issue being examined by the Interior Department,” Schneider said. She said that Interior has been “working with state agencies to make sure adequate financial arrangements exist to cover reclamation costs for any coal mines that shut could down.” Schneider added that “proposed federal regulations that seek to protect streams from coal mining could help some because they contain stricter bonding requirements to cover costs.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (10/27, 15K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/28, 81K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/28, Gruver, 283K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/28, 2.15M), and the [Montana Standard](#) (10/28, 36K).

Attorneys General Oppose Stream Protection Rule. The [West Virginia Record](#) (10/28, 313) reports that “West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey and Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine are leading an effort opposed to the federal government’s proposed Stream Protection Rule, which would regulate coal-mining activities near streams.” According to the article, “in the letter signed by attorneys general in 14 states, they call the proposal a one-size-fits-all plan that broadens the federal government’s authority at the expense of coal mining operations in West Virginia and across the country.” The AGs claim that “the proposal violates multiple federal laws, including the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, the Clean Water Act and the U.S. Constitution.”

NAVAJO NATION GROUPS SUE OVER HAZE PLANE. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/27, 705) reports that “Navajo Nation groups are suing U.S. EPA and the Department of the Interior over a plan to curb haze-causing emissions from the Navajo Generating Station.” The coalition says “it obtained documents showing EPA and Interior met in secret to develop the plan with a group that included owners of the station.” To’ Nizhoni Ani, Black Mesa Water Coalition and Diné Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (10/27, 506), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/28, 476K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/28, Fonseca, 2.15M), the [Provo \(UT\) Daily Herald](#) (10/28, 155K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/28, Fonseca, 283K), [Courthouse News](#) (10/27, 7K), and [KOLD-TV Tucson \(AZ\)](#) Tucson, AZ (10/28, 49K).

POWDER RIVER BASIN COAL SHIPPED OVERSEAS. The [Washington Post](#) (10/16, A1, Warrick, 7.78M) reports that the Obama Administration is “seeking to curb the United States’ appetite” for the Powder River Basin’s coal, “which scientists say must remain mostly in the ground to prevent a disastrous warming of the

planet.” But “each year, nearly half a billion tons of this U.S.-owned fuel are hauled from the region’s vast strip mines and millions of tons are shipped overseas for other countries to burn.” In fact, “government and industry reports predict a surge in exports of Powder River coal over the next decade, at a time when climate experts are warning of an urgent need to reduce coal burning to prevent global temperatures from soaring.”

GROUPS TO APPEAL IN CASE SEEKING TO FORCE BLM TO REVIEW EFFECT OF COAL LEASING ON CLIMATE CHANGE. [Politico](#) (10/28, 1.19M) reports that Microsoft billionaire Paul Allen’s foundation is “underwriting a case brought last year by Friends of the Earth and The Western Organization of Resource Councils against the Department of the Interior intended to compel BLM to review the effect of coal leasing on climate change.” The lawsuit was “dismissed in the D.C. District Court in August, but yesterday the two groups filed a notice of appeal to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.”

COMMERCIAL OIL PRODUCTION BEGINS IN NPR-A. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/27, 203K) reports that “commercial oil production has begun in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.” ConocoPhillips Alaska made that announcement on Tuesday, “saying oil has begun flowing at its CD5 drill site, part of the Alpine field on the North Slope.” According to the article, “the production is coming from Alaska Native lands within the boundaries of the Indiana-sized reserve, created as a naval petroleum reserve after World War I.”

POWER PLANTS IN NEW MEXICO INSTALL EMISSIONS CONTROLS. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/28, Fenton, 263K) reports that the San Juan Generating Station and Four Corners Power Plant have “begun installing pollution controls to comply with federal regulations intended to reduce atmospheric haze.” According to the article, “the multi-million-dollar retrofitting projects underway at both coal-fired power plants [are] to be completed by 2018.” The article notes that “the retrofitting work aims to reduce emissions, especially of pollutants like nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxides and particulate matter, which impact visibility.”

TRAPPER COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS THURSDAY. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (10/27, 10K) reports that “the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement will begin the 30-day public comment period on Trapper Mine’s environmental assessment with a community outreach meeting on Thursday.” Representatives from OSMRE and Trapper Mining, Inc., will be “present to explain the National Environmental Policy Act and answer questions on the process.”

KANSAS SEES SPIKE IN EARTHQUAKES ALONG OKLAHOMA BORDER, RAISING FRACKING QUESTIONS. The [Washington Post](#) (10/28, Schuessler, 7.78M) reports that “a sudden spike of earthquakes in southern Kansas is raising eyebrows in the region.” Between Oct. 15 and Oct. 26 there were 52 earthquakes in Kansas, while Kansas experienced only 19 earthquakes total between 1990 and 2010 and no recorded earthquakes in 2011 or 2012. Earthquakes in Kansas “jumped from four in 2013 to 817 in 2014, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.” The Post reports that “all of the state’s earthquakes over the past stretch occurred in just two southern counties that run along the Kansas-Oklahoma border, raising questions about the quakes’ ties to hydraulic fracking in the region – although industry disputes the connection.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS PROPOSES UPDATE OF OIL, GAS REGULATIONS. Additional coverage that the NPS is proposing to update its oil and gas regulations was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/28, Subscription Publication) and the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/28, 74K).

Offshore Energy Development:

GREEN GROUPS CALL FOR ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS OF SEISMIC SURVEYS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/27, Subscription Publication) reports that “environmental groups say the Obama administration has ‘grossly underestimated’ the risks of seismic surveys on marine mammals, citing new data that update the distribution of whales and dolphins along the East Coast.” The BOEM estimates seismic surveys will “result in as many as 138,000 injuries to marine mammals and 13.5 million disturbances, which can be anything from disrupting communication to changing swimming direction.” However, “environmental groups say updated government data indicate that many more marine mammals are in the survey area than previously estimated.” In a letter to BOEM yesterday, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Center for Biological Diversity, Oceana and “more than a dozen other groups call for a new analysis.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: US, MEXICO SEEK TO STRENGTHEN OFFSHORE SAFETY. Additional coverage that the US and Mexico signed a letter of intent Oct. 20 “to strengthen cooperation, coordination and information sharing related to the development, oversight, and enforcement of safety and environmental regulations for development of offshore hydrocarbon resources” was provided by the [E&P Magazine](#) (10/28).

STUDY: CORAL DAMAGE FROM BP OIL SPILL WORSE THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. The [AP](#) (10/28, Burdeau, 7.78M) reports that a new study claims “gulf coral damage from the massive BP oil spill is more extensive than previously thought.” Researchers from Florida State University researchers and federal scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration concluded that damage to the coral is the result of an “acute, isolated event rather than ongoing natural processes.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM OPENS INVESTIGATION AFTER COMPANY SPRAYS PESTICIDE ON PUBLIC LAND WITHOUT LICENSE. The [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (10/28, 10K) reports that the BLM has “opened an internal investigation after the federal agency allowed an Oregon-based contractor to spray pesticides on public land without a valid license.” According to the article, “the spraying in early October prompted the Oregon Department of Agriculture to secure a restraining order to stop Applebee Aviation from operating while its license was suspended.” According to spokesman Michael Campbell, “BLM investigators now want to know how the company was able to spray pesticides on BLM land without a valid license.”

TWO KILLED IN EXPLOSION INSIDE WORLD WAR II-ERA TANK AT GUN RANGE IN OREGON. The [New York Daily News](#) (10/28, Salinger, 3.59M) reports that “an explosion inside a World War II-era tank killed two people at a gun range in central Oregon Tuesday afternoon, police said.” The article notes that “the gun range, which operates on 600 acres of land leased from the Bureau of Land Management, noted a high level of fire danger on its website Tuesday.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DELAYS DECISION ON RED WOLF RECOVERY PROGRAM. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/27, 705) reports that “for the third time in just over a year, the Fish and Wildlife Service today pushed back the date by which it aims to decide the fate of its troubled red wolf recovery effort.” The agency “initially said late last year that an internal review of the program would be completed ‘in early 2015,’” and “then this summer, the agency said the evaluation wouldn’t be done until the end of the year.” But “now, top officials say it won’t be completed until the middle of next year.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (10/28, 356K).

Team Formed To Examine Red Wolf Population. The [AP](#) (10/28, 2.15M) reports that “federal officials overseeing the only wild population of red wolves announced the formation Tuesday of a planning team that includes representatives on different sides of the issue.” The team includes staff members from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, a representative from Defenders of Wildlife, “a county official, a landowner and several researchers.” FWS regional director Cindy Dohner said “the new team will address shortcomings related to landowner input and bring together a wide range of expertise.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/28, Drew, 283K), the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (10/28, 374K), and [WBT-AM Charlotte \(NC\)](#) Charlotte, NC (10/28, 4K).

ANIMAL ADVOCATES OPPOSE IMPORTATION OF ELEPHANTS FROM SWAZILAND. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/26, 705) reports that “more than 70 animal welfare advocates today called on the Fish and Wildlife Service to reject a permit from three U.S. zoos to import 18 wild African elephants from Swaziland.” They said, “The proposed importation has no single redeeming virtue.” The advocates said, “We call on the Kingdom of Swaziland and the zoos involved in the import to do what is in the best interests of these elephants and relocate them to a protected park or sanctuary in Africa.”

NORTH AMERICAN BAT MONITORING PROGRAM SPURRED BY DEADLY BAT DISEASE. The [AP](#) (10/27, 996K) reports that “an effort spanning 31 states and 10 Canadian provinces has been working to better understand the ecological role that bats play, and the threats they face from climate change, habitat loss and wind energy development.” The North American Bat Monitoring Program “involves acoustic surveys to detect the high-pitched frequencies emitted by the flying mammals as they capture bugs and navigate in the dark.” According to researchers, “the monitoring program has been spurred by a disease called white-nose

syndrome that has killed millions of bats and is spreading.”

OREGON VOTERS MAY DECIDE WHETHER TO BAN IVORY SALES. The [AP](#) (10/28, Cooper, 283K) reports that “animal welfare advocates said they will push for a ballot measure asking Oregon voters to outlaw ivory sales after a bill seeking a ban stalled earlier this year in the Legislature.” The ballot initiative would “end the sale of products derived from a variety of endangered or heavily poached animals, including elephants, rhinos, lions, sea turtles and sharks.” Supporters “hope to tamp down demand for exotic animal parts and discourage poaching in Africa and Asia,” but “critics countered that criminalizing the sales of parts from animals killed long ago will do nothing to stop the poachers responsible for the killing of elephants today.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (10/28, 769K) and [KVAL-TV](#) Eugene, OR (10/28, 69K).

BIG CANOE CREEK FLOWING FREE AFTER 130-YEAR OLD DAM REMOVED IN SPRINGVILLE. The [Alabama Live](#) (10/28, 855K) reports that the Coosa Riverkeeper will hold an event in Birmingham on Wednesday to commemorate the second anniversary of the “removal of Goodwin’s Mill Dam.” The FWS is listed among the organizations which supported the dam removal project.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS PROPOSES RECOVERY PLAN FOR GILA CHUB. Additional coverage that the FWS has proposed a recovery plan for the endangered Gila chub was provided by the [Arizona State University Cronkite News](#) (10/27).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: AFRICA’S LION POPULATION AT RISK OF BEING HALVED, STUDY SAYS. Additional coverage of the decline in Africa’s lion population was provided by [TIME](#) (10/28, 19.1M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/27, 496K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/28, 2.15M), the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (10/28, 136K), the [New York Post](#) (10/27, 2.59M), the [Sydney \(AUS\) Morning Herald](#) (10/27, 39K), and the [Toronto \(CAN\) Star](#) (10/27, 119K).

National Park Service:

GATEWAY ARCH TO CELEBRATE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY. The [AP](#) (10/28, Press, 7.78M) reports that the NPS on Wednesday will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Gateway Arch. St. Louis’s mayor and NPS officials will “speak about the anniversary, and visitors can get a glimpse of the grounds’ renovations.” The article notes that “up to 1,000 free cupcakes will be distributed, and rides to the top of the Arch will cost just \$1 — the price of tram tickets from 50 years earlier.”

Additional coverage was provided by [NPR](#) (10/28, 1.78M).

REPORT ESTIMATES COST OF RISING SEAS ON NATIONAL PARKS. The [Huffington Post](#) (10/27, Xprize, 251K) reports that in June, the NPS, “in partnership with the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina University, put out a Coastal Assets Report listing thousands of National Park properties that would be damaged by a one meter rise in sea level by the end of this century and calculating its current replacement value.” The article notes that “the grand total for the 10,000 assets in harm’s way” is \$40 billion. Moreover, “this phase of the study covered just 40 of a total of 118 “coastal units” that the NPS is responsible for, so the grand total could easily double or almost triple if a full survey were completed.”

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK HIT BY FLOODING. The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (10/28, 291K) reports that “a series of storms in recent days dropped more than 3 inches” on Death Valley National Park, “sending a wall of water down a picturesque canyon, snapping two dozen power poles and swamping historic buildings 2 feet deep in mud.” The result is “a massive mess, a major cleanup effort and the closing of some significant attractions, including one site that’ll be shut for as long as a year.” The article notes that “Scotty’s Castle and Grapevine Canyon in the park’s northern reach are closed.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (10/27, 3.6M).

MESA VERDE’S HISTORIC FAR VIEW CENTER SEEKS NEW TENANT. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/27, 31K) reports that “Mesa Verde’s Far View Visitors Center sits abandoned and needs a new tenant.” However, “despite a plethora of ideas for a new use at Far View — including a performance hall, conference space, restaurant, or a Native American cultural center — nothing has gained traction, said park superintendent Cliff Spencer.” He said, “We’ve been looking for four years and are still trying to find a use for it. Right now, we’re looking at leasing it. Whatever the alternative, it will have to pay for itself.”

ACTION TAKEN AGAINST INVASIVE GREEN SUNFISH. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (10/27, 3K) reports that the NPS and Arizona Game and Fish Department will “administer two treatments of the fish toxin rotenone to eliminate invasive Green Sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*) from a backwater slough.” The slough is “located on the Colorado River within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, three miles below the Glen Canyon Dam.” According to the article, “the first treatment is planned between Nov. 2 and 6, followed by a second treatment ten days later to address fish that may have hatched after the first treatment.”

OLYMPIC HOT SPRINGS CLOSED TO VISITORS DUE TO FATALITY. The [AP](#) (10/28, 2.15M) reports that “officials say a Silverdale man has died in a hot spring pool within Olympic National Park, prompting the closure of Olympic Hot Springs.” Park officials said that “rangers responded to a report of a fatality Monday and found 61-year-old Bruce Gunderson had died in a pool.” Olympic National Park Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum said “although use has always been at the visitor’s discretion, the pools are closed until further notice due to health and safety concerns.”

MAN ACCUSED OF ILLEGALLY KILLING ELK IN GRAND TETON. The [AP](#) (10/28, 2.15M) reports that “a Wilson man who holds a cow-elk only tag has been cited for killing a bull elk in a portion of Grand Teton National Park that is closed for hunting.” Robert Baltensperger was “cited for four infractions related to the illegal killing of a bull Saturday near Schwabachers Landing.”

US Geological Survey:

STUDY SAYS GLOBAL WARMING UNLOCKING CARBON STORES IN PERMAFROST. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/27, 496K) reports that “for thousands of years, a large percentage of the world’s carbon stores have been safely locked in permafrost, the frozen layer of soil and organic matter that covers much of the planet’s northernmost latitudes,” but “as temperatures rise and some permafrost melts, that carbon is being released into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide at an alarming rate.” The article notes that “for some ancient permafrost, about half its carbon could decompose in just one week after a thaw, according to a new study by the US Geological Survey, which analyzed 35,000-year-old permafrost soils found in Alaska and Siberia known as yedoma.” Kim Wickland, the USGS scientist who led the team said, “It had previously been assumed that permafrost soil carbon this old was already degraded and not susceptible to rapid decomposition upon thaw.”

USGS PUBLISHES NEW LUNAR MAPS. [Digital Trends](#) (10/28, 429K) reports that “new lunar maps published recently by the USGS provide an unprecedented look at the moon’s surface, allowing you to couch surf your way across moon craters, volcanoes and Apollo landing sites.” The two maps were “assembled using information from NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) spacecraft and recently published in high-resolution format on the USGS website for printing or download.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Yahoo! Sports](#) (10/28, 7.72M) and [Blastr](#) (10/27, 70K).

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: OBAMA DEFENSE OF POLICE OFFICERS CONTAINED REBUKE OF FBI CHIEF.

The President’s [speech](#) in Chicago before the International Association of Chiefs of Police generated one report on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/27, story 3, 2:10, Pegues, 5.08M), as well as extensive print, online, and local TV coverage. Most stories highlighted Obama’s defense of police officers, and nearly every report framed his message as a response to comments last week by FBI Director James Comey. As the [AP](#) (10/28, Superville) notes, the FBI chief “said that police anxiety over cellphone cameras and viral videos partly explains why violent crime has climbed recently in several large US cities.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/28, Ross, 7.78M) says Comey “is in a spot of trouble with the boss,” and “it is an understatement to say that the White House and officials inside the Justice Department...weren’t happy” with his theory.

[NPR](#) (10/27, Peralta, 1.78M) noted that “the White House sought to distance itself from” Comey even before the speech, with White House spokesman Eric Schultz telling reporters “crime has spiked in some places and declined in others,” and adding, “The available body of evidence does not support the notion that law enforcement officers around the country are shying away from doing their job.” The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/27, Chen, 496K), meanwhile, quoted Press Secretary Josh Earnest as saying “the evidence ‘does not support the notion that law enforcement officers around the country are shying away from fulfilling their

responsibilities.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/27, story 3, 2:10, Pegues, 5.08M) reported that Obama also “cautioned against jumping to conclusions about why crime has spiked in some major cities.” Obama was shown saying, “We do have to stick with the facts. We – what we can’t do is cherry pick data or use anecdotal evidence to drive policy or to feed political agendas.” [USA Today](#) (10/28, Korte, 5.56M) reports that Obama also argued that police “can reduce violent crime while also being more sensitive to minority communities.” [WCIU-TV Chicago](#) (10/28, 7:03 p.m. CDT) showed the President saying, “I want to be as clear as I can be. I reject any narrative that seeks to divide police and the communities that they serve. And I reject the story line that says when it comes to public safety, there’s an us and a them.”

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (10/28, Pearson, 2.33M) notes that the President further “defended police officers who have come under intense scrutiny amid a breakdown in relations between law enforcement and minority communities, and said police can’t be expected to contain problems that society refuses to solve.” The Tribune also says Obama’s words “came as the White House sought to distance Obama from comments by his FBI director.” The [New York Daily News](#) (10/28, Edelman, 3.59M), meanwhile, refers to a “passionate defense of police officers” by the President and quotes him asserting that “too often, law enforcement gets scapegoated for the broader failures of our society and criminal justice system.” [WLS-TV Chicago](#) (10/28, 6:03 p.m. CDT, 354K) similarly indicated that the President “was very sympathetic to the plight of law enforcement officers in the United States,” and [WBBM-TV Chicago](#) (10/28, 6:02 p.m. CDT, 61K) reported that he “sought to build a bridge between law enforcement and the communities they serve.” Greg Gutfeld said on [Fox News’ The Five](#) (10/27, 408K), “I have to commend...Obama for saying one thing that goes against Black Lives Matter.”

[Slate](#) (10/27, Neifakh, 1.24M) saw a “veiled rebuke to...Comey” in Obama’s comments, while [TIME](#) (10/27, Rhodan, 19.1M) said Obama “tiptoed” into the “discussion on the issue of increased scrutiny on police by suggesting that the media does officers a disservice by focusing attention on instances of wrongdoing.” Said Obama, “Let’s face it, the media tends to focus on the sensational and the controversial and folks on both sides who say stuff that’s not designed to bring folks together.”

In his remarks, the [New York Times](#) (10/28, Shear, Subscription Publication, 11.64M) reports, the President also “made his case on Tuesday for an overhaul of the nation’s sentencing laws, telling a gathering of top law enforcement officials here that putting large numbers of nonviolent drug offenders in prison was neither fair nor an effective way of combating crime.” To the Times, Obama is “seeking to shift the conversation about policing and racial bias away from charges of police abuse to a larger discussion about ways to improve the fairness and effectiveness of the criminal justice system.” [Al Jazeera America](#) (10/27, Kahn, 138K) noted that the President went on to say, “This is not some bleeding heart attitude here. Violence is real in this city and around the country, and I have seen firsthand the devastation the drug trade has wrought on individual lives and entire communities. ... It is possible for us to come up with strategies that effectively reduce the damage of the drug trade without relying solely on incarceration.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/27, Reilly, 251K) similarly reported that Obama “said ‘our divides are not as deep as some would like to suggest,’ and called for more understanding between citizens and police.” David A. Graham, writing for [The Atlantic](#) (10/27, Graham, 2.66M), said the President was trying “to strike a balance between those two perspectives: those of the activists, and those of law-enforcement officers like Comey.” However, “the conversation was fairly soft. It was classic Obama: Admitting that every side had something to offer, steering a moderate path, and calling on all sides to step up and compromise.” Mary Mitchell writes in the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (10/28, Mitchell, 758K) that “Charlene Carruthers, national director of the Black Youth Project 100, wasn’t impressed” with Obama’s tone yesterday. Said Carruthers, “Once again there is too much focus on improving relations between the police and the black community. I believe police are complicit in the marginalization and oppression of our people.”

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/27, Jonsson, 496K), meanwhile, reported that “for those convinced that US cops are switching to more laid-back tactics, Comey’s decision to wade into the debate is significant.” Heather MacDonald, “a Manhattan Institute scholar who documented evidence of the Ferguson effect for an influential Wall Street Journal story in May,” told the Monitor, “It’s a huge deal that Comey is acknowledging this, because he’s the nation’s keeper of the most official crime data that we’ve got.”

Before the President’s speech, Ron Allen said on [MSNBC](#) (10/27, 733K), “It’s clear he and the FBI Director disagree about this ‘Ferguson effect’ and the impact it may or may not be having on police officers.” Allen added that it is “very unusual for a sitting president to address the group,” but “clearly, this issue of criminal

justice reform, gun control, gun safety, whatever you want to call it, is something that's very much on the President's mind."

The [Daily Northwestern](#) (10/27, Jacobs, 44K) reports that Obama also "said claims of racial bias in law enforcement are not unfounded," and argued that "violent crime is...preventable with stricter gun laws ensuring weapons don't get in the hands of criminals." [WCIU-TV Chicago](#) (10/28, 7:03 p.m. CDT), however, showed Obama saying, "Please do not believe this notion that somehow I am out to take everybody's guns away. Nobody is doing that. We are talking about commonsense measures to make sure criminals don't get them."

Obama, notes the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/28, Parsons, 3.6M), had met previously with "families of slain police officers while in Chicago to try to persuade law enforcement officials to work more closely with communities they police," and with "the families of children who have died in Chicago's epidemic of violence as he attempts to focus attention on all victims – police and community alike." [The Blaze](#) (10/27, Lucas, 1.89M) quoted Obama as saying, "Fewer gun safety laws don't mean more freedom, they mean more fallen officers. ... They mean more grieving families, and more Americans terrified that they or their loved ones could be next." [The Hill](#) (10/27, Fabian, 654K) and [Reuters](#) (10/28, Harte) run similar accounts of Obama's comments.

Don Lemon said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/27, 554K) that the President "needs to continue to do exactly what he's doing, and I think he needs to go in even harder. I thought his speech today was brilliant," adding, "But I think that he needs to, while he has the executive power, while he is the chief executive, he needs to figure out what to do next and how he can make a difference."

Obama Recalls Being Profiled. The [Huffington Post](#) (10/27, Bendery, 251K) reported that the President "said Tuesday that he knows racial profiling by police is a real concern – in part because he's experienced it firsthand." Recounting incidents when "he'd been pulled over in his car by police," Obama said, "Most of the time I got a ticket, I deserved it. I knew why I was pulled over. ... But there were times when I didn't." Obama then "cited a report released this week showing that many African Americans have similarly been pulled over or frisked for no clear reason."

Study: Drivers Less Likely To Yield To Black Pedestrians. The [Washington Times](#) (10/28, Chasmar, 283K) reports that a new study by researchers at Portland State University and the University of Arizona claims that drivers "are less likely to yield for black pedestrians than white pedestrians, contributing to disproportionate safety outcomes for minorities." According to the study, "a black pedestrian's wait time at the curb was about 32 percent longer than a white person's, and black participants were about twice as likely to be passed by multiple cars," a finding the study says supports "its hypothesis that minority pedestrians experience discriminatory treatment by drivers at crosswalks."

Rubio: White House Hasn't Defended Police Enough. Sen. Marco Rubio said on [Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor](#) (10/27, 767K) that while "there is a legitimate issue in this country with especially young African-American males with minority communities in general that feel like they are targeted or they have a bad relationship with local law enforcement," there is "another issue at play here, that is the overwhelming and vast majority of law enforcement officers in this country are just trying to do their jobs," and "it is troubling that there are groups and rhetoric out there now encouraging people to demonize law enforcement." Rubio continued, "I think it's unfortunate that the White House has not acknowledged that enough."

Pence Aide Objects To Obama Comment On Guns. The [Indianapolis Star](#) (10/27, Cook, 570K) reports that in his remarks, "Obama suggested Tuesday that Indiana and other states with few gun restrictions are to blame for Chicago's homicide problem." Said the President, "There are those who criticize any gun safety reforms by pointing to my hometown as an example. ... The problem with that argument, as the Chicago Police Department will tell you, is that 60 percent of guns recovered in crimes come from out of state. You've just got to hop across the border." Matt Lloyd, a spokesman for Indian Gov. Mike Pence, said in response, "Blaming Chicago's crime problems on Indiana is unfortunate and inaccurate."

Report: One In 14 Children Has A Parent In Prison. A report from the national research organization Child Trends says one in 14 children has "at least one parent behind bars," [USA Today](#) (10/28, Eversley, 5.56M) reports. According to the report, "Parents Behind Bars: What Happens to Their Children," children in this situation "suffer from low self esteem, poor mental and physical health, and other problems." USA Today notes that the group hopes its findings "will prod prisons, schools and lawmakers to make changes that will help young people who have incarcerated parents."

Obama Attends Bulls Game. The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (10/28, Ogden, 758K) noted on its website that the President attended the game between the Bulls and Cavaliers last night, taking “his courtside seat across from the Cleveland bench with just under three minutes remaining in the first quarter.”

OBAMA ENDORSES BIPARTISAN BUDGET DEAL AS HOUSE CONSERVATIVES EXPRESS DISMAY.

Media analyses are offering cautious but largely favorable reviews of the budget deal between the White House and Hill leaders, which is being cast as a victory for the White House and a defeat for House conservatives. The [New York Times](#) (10/28, Davis, Subscription Publication, 11.64M), for example, calls the agreement “a major victory” for the President, which vindicates “his hard line this year against spending limits that he argued were a drag on the economy” and buys him “freedom for the final 14 months of his term from the fiscal dysfunction that has plagued his presidency.” To the [AP](#) (10/28, Werner), meanwhile, the package means that Speaker Boehner, “all but forced to resign under conservative pressure,” has managed to craft “an in-your-face rebuttal to his hardline antagonists.”

All three network newscasts briefly covered the story for a combined 80 seconds. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/27, story 7, 0:30, Pelley, 5.08M) said that “those frustrated by Washington gridlock might be surprised to hear that the White House...has reached a budget agreement with House Republican leaders led by...Boehner,” and as a result “there will be no more government cliffhangers in the Obama Administration.” [ABC World News](#) (10/27, story 8, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) referred to “a breakthrough in the budget stalemate between Congress and the White House” which made “some conservatives unhappy,” and [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/27, story 4, 0:30, Holt, 7.86M) said “the threat of shutdown” is now “on the next president’s plate.”

Obama endorsed the deal yesterday during a news conference in Chicago. [Reuters](#) (10/28) notes that he urged both parties to “come together to pass this agreement without delay,” and not “get sidetracked by ideological debates that have no place in America’s budget process.” On its website, [USA Today](#) (10/28, Korte, 5.56M) quotes Obama as saying, “It’s the right thing to do,” and “it’s an actual bipartisan compromise, which hasn’t been happening in Washington a lot lately.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/28, Boyer, 283K) notes that the President also said the agreement “reflects our values,” and expressed satisfaction that it “will finally free us from this cycle of shutdown threats, last-minute patchwork fixes.” Moreover, said [The Hill](#) (10/27, Fabian, 654K), Obama celebrated the fact that the deal is “paid for, in part, by a measure that makes sure private equity firms and hedge funds pay what they owe in taxes, just like everybody else.” The Hill added that “putting aside fiscal fights with Republicans could...free Obama to focus priorities such as trade and criminal justice reform during his last 15 months in office.”

[The Blaze](#) (10/27, Lucas, 1.89M) noted that White House spokesman Eric Schultz yesterday touted the President’s role in crafting the agreement, saying, “Unlike in previous budget agreements, this was a process that the president and the White House was heavily engaged in. The president made a number of calls throughout this process to leaders of both parties in the House and in the Senate. ... Those calls started in earnest around early- to mid-September.”

The [Washington Times](#) (10/28, Boyer, 283K) reports that Vice President Biden also weighed in on what he dubbed “a good deal,” adding, “I want to compliment John [Boehner] and the entire Congress on coming up with” it. [Voice of America](#) (10/27, 64K) noted that “Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said the new deal will help the middle class, keep the nation safe, and create an additional 340,000 jobs.” [Politico](#) (10/27, White, 1.19M) tends to agree, arguing that “the sudden breakout of fiscal peace in Washington could produce one clear winner: The US economy.”

Also defending the agreement yesterday was Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. [Politico](#) (10/27, Kim, 1.19M) reports that he said, “I think the agreement speaks for itself. ... The debt ceiling is a part of it, and it has along with it, other matters, including what we have said from the beginning was essential to get Republican support for raising the debt ceiling, which is entitlement reform of some significance.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/28, Snell, 7.78M) reports that Boehner yesterday called the agreement “a good deal,” and “added that the alternative was a clean debt-ceiling suspension with no extra funding for troops.” Boehner also “conceded that he was cleaning a ‘dirty barn’ for his likely replacement as speaker,” Rep. Paul Ryan, who “wasn’t involved in the secretive negotiations.” [Reuters](#) (10/28, Lawder, Cornwell) quotes the outgoing speaker predicting that the measure will “pass with a bipartisan majority, and I’ll be really happy.”

Yesterday, noted [Voice of America](#) (10/27, 64K), Ryan “joined” in the conservative “criticism” of the agreement, saying, “I think this process stinks. ... This is not the way to do the people’s business. Under new

management, we're not going to do the people's business this way." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/27, Dopp, House, 303K) reports that Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid "dismissed Ryan's" criticism, asserting that "the negotiations were held under the 'same process he used with Patty Murray two years ago, so he should go back and look at his clippings.'"

With his comments, says the [Washington Post](#) (10/28, Debonis, 7.78M), Ryan "started walking a fine line between appeasing the conservative lawmakers he will routinely have to corral in his new job and endorsing budget legislation that those conservatives oppose." His "message appears calibrated to avoid alienating GOP lawmakers who have pressed for a more bottom-up approach to House management while also steering clear of the deal's specifics," and "so far, it appears to be working," as "exiting the conference meeting Tuesday, most conservative Republicans said they did not blame Ryan for the...deal." [Politico](#) (10/27, French, 1.19M) similarly reports that "conservative lawmakers in the House Freedom Caucus say they're satisfied that" Ryan "is just as aggravated as they are with how the \$80 billion budget and debt ceiling deal set to pass Congress this week was negotiated." Said Rep. Raul Labrador, "I think we have to take him at his word and he is being sincere." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/28, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 6.23M) quotes Rep. Matt Salmon as saying, "My understanding is...Paul wants to do things completely differently: He wants to build things from the ground up." Rep. Ken Buck, meanwhile, said, "This is John Boehner's deal."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/27, Dopp, House, 303K) reports that Ryan did not disclose how he will actually vote on the agreement, "because I quite frankly haven't seen it."

[The Hill](#) (10/27, Swanson, Wong, 654K) described Ryan as "distancing himself from a pending...deal," which [Roll Call](#) (10/27, Lesniewski, 139K) said could give him "some breathing space to foster an environment of empowering committees and members, at least until the beginning of December." On the other hand, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/28, Mascaro, 3.6M) estimates that the deal "may set the Wisconsin Republican on a collision course with the same conservative faction that nudged Boehner to early retirement."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/27, Kapur, 303K) reports that Rep. John Fleming, "a founding member of the hardline group House Freedom Caucus," yesterday called the agreement "the worst of the worst," while Salmon "objected to the spending hikes, describing the deal as 'robbing Peter to pay Paul.'"

[Politico](#) (10/27, Everett, 1.19M) reports that Ted Cruz "launched a searing critique" of the deal, "slamming outgoing House Speaker John Boehner for leaving Congress via a 'golden parachute' and accusing GOP leaders of capitulating to...Obama." Said Cruz, "It is complete and utter surrender. ... We now have a GOP Congress, but no one watching this budget surrender would know it." Stephen Moore, a [Fox News](#) (10/27, 9.42M) contributor, similarly described the deal as "unconditional fiscal surrender" and "the worst budget deal to be negotiated by the GOP since George H.W. Bush agreed to violated his no new taxes pledge in 1990 at Andrews Air Force Base."

In an analysis piece, the [Washington Times](#) (10/28, Dinan, 283K) says Democrats "said the deal meets all their goals: It boosts domestic spending by the same amount as defense spending, and it forced the GOP to back away from major entitlement cuts that Republicans had insisted be part of any deal." Meanwhile, Republicans "said they pushed back against Mr. Obama by attaching conditions to the debt ceiling increase and winning a boost in defense spending, saying it was worth the increase in domestic spending if it meant giving the Pentagon more money, too."

The [Military Times](#) (10/27, Shane III, Gould, 792K) reports that the deal "would give Pentagon planners the fiscal stability they have been begging for, but falls about \$5 billion short of what they hoped to receive in fiscal 2016." The [Stars And Stripes \(DC\)](#) (10/27, Tritten, 11K) notes that Rep. Mac Thornberry, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, "said he will support" it, "though it provides less than Congress had planned for the military and sets another spending limit next year." Dr. Tom Coburn, a former US senator, and William Ruger, Vice President for Research and Policy at the Charles Koch Institute and a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, write in [USA Today](#) (10/27, Coburn, Ruger, 5.56M) that "lost in the debate over the right amount of money to add to the defense budget, it seems, is a thoughtful consideration of whether we could more wisely spend what has already been allocated," and cautions that "as long as we keep talking about adding to the budget without first asking what we're paying for, we undercut any wide

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, October 26, 2015

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- + [Concerns Surround Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.](#)
- + [BOEM Director Hopper To Address Alliance for Clean Energy New York On Offshore Wind Opportunities.](#)
- + [Federal Permitting System For Wind Projects To Protect Birds Urged.](#)

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- + BLM Approves Permit For Greater Moose's Tooth Project.
- + BLM Considering Auctioning Deferred Leases In Sage Grouse Habitat.
- + Former Forest Service Leaders Blast Badger-Two Medicine Leases.
- + NPS Proposes New Oil, Gas Regulations.
- + Senate Committee To Hold Hearing On Stream Protection Rule.
- + House Approves Bill To Expedite Permits For Strategic Mining.
- + Trapper Mine Seeks To Rally Support.
- + Earthquakes Near Cushing, Oklahoma Said To Be National Security Threat.
- + Fracking, Regulations Driving Surge In Natural Gas Use.
- + Oil Boom Leads To Increase In Worker Deaths.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + Debate Continues Over Offshore Drilling In Atlantic.
- + US, Cuba Gather For Symposium On Offshore Oil Development.
- + Analysis: Energy Efficiency, Environmental Safety Can "Go Hand-In-Hand."
- + BP Earnings May Disclose Effect Of Oil Spill Settlement.
- + Oil Industry Company Works On Oil-Eating Bacteria To Clean Oil Spills.
- + Commentary Discusses Interior's Decision To Cancel Arctic Lease Sales.

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Bureau of Land Management:

- + Report: BLM Sold Nearly 1,800 Wild Horses For Slaughter.
- + Event Celebrates Prehistoric Trackways Monument.
- + BLM Plans To Capture Wild Horses In Southwestern Idaho.
- + Australian Biologist Visits Havasu To Learn From BLM.
- + Cycling Group Blazing Trails In Acton Recreation Area.
- + BLM Truck Left On Its Side After Car Crash In Las Vegas.
- + Five Charged With Conspiring To Steal BLM Equipment.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + FWS Recommends Phase-out Of Whooping Crane Ultralight Flights.
- + Release Of Mexican Wolves Cleared.
- + Report Recommends New Category Under Endangered Species Act.
- + Project Seeks To Protect Shoreline Of Glenn Martin National Wildlife Refuge.
- + Florida's First Bear Hunt In 21 Years Begins.
- + Group Threatens Another Lawsuit Over Moapa Dace.
- + Plan Seeks To Introduce Santa Ana Sucker Fish Into New Streams.
- + Michigan Senators Say Juvenile Fish Study Highlights Asian Carp Threat.
- + Thousands Of Exotic Animals Are Shipped Through Seattle Each Year.
- + Grizzly Bear Euthanized After Repeated Encounters In Wyoming.
- + Wyoming Commission Urges Delisting Of Grizzly Bear.
- + Man Faces Prison Again For Stealing Sea Turtle Eggs.
- + Additional Coverage: National Wildlife Property Repository Exposes Cost Of Illegal Wildlife Trade.

National Park Service:

- + NPS Bans Several Controversial Hunting Practices On Preserves In Alaska.
- + Lewis And Clark National Historic Trail To Focus On Volunteerism To Mark Centennial.
- + Missouri Couple Visiting All 59 National Parks Ahead Of Centennial.
- + Gateway Arch Monument Undergoing Renovations.
- + NPS Takes Over Valles Caldera.
- + Sage Grouse Surge At Jackson Hole Leks.
- + BASE Jumping Allowed At New River Gorge Bridge Once A Year.
- + NPS To Close Unsanctioned Footpaths Along Blue Ridge Parkway.
- + Flooding Closes Of Death Valley's Scotty's Castle.
- + Grand Teton Holding Annual Elk Hunt.
- + Great Smoky Mountains National Park Issues Warnings About Foraging Bears.
- + NPS To Mark Birthday Of Teddy Roosevelt.
- + Photos Show America's Immigrants As They Arrived On Ellis Island.
- + Additional Coverage: NPS Changes Stance On Controversial Lake Name In Washington.

US Geological Survey:

- + [Los Angeles School To Test Earthquake Alert System](#) .
- + [USGS Releases Report On Groundwater Flow In Yakima Valley](#).

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times](#).
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DOI in the News:

REP. WALDEN INVITES SECRETARY JEWELL TO OWYHEE MEETING TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (10/25, 94K) reports that Rep. Greg Walden “wants to know what Interior Secretary Sally Jewell thinks about a potential national monument designation for the Owyhee Canyonlands in Malheur County.” Walden “opposes the idea, and sent a letter Friday to Jewell, asking her or a high-level Department of Interior official to come to a Thursday meeting on the topic in Adrian, near the Oregon-Idaho border on the Snake River.” He wrote, “I invite you (or a senior representative of your choosing) to attend this important forum to provide information on the (Obama) Administration’s consideration of this proposal and hear directly from the communities that would be directly impacted by the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) actions.”

Additional coverage was provided by [My Central Oregon](#) (10/23).

More National Monument Designations Urged. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (10/25, Richardson, 471K), Kirk Richardson, executive director of KEEN Effect, writes in support of new national monument designations for the Mojave Trails, California; Owyhee Canyonlands, Oregon; Gold Butte, Nevada; and Birthplace of Rivers, West Virginia. He argues that “protecting these four places is critical to building healthy communities and enhancing quality of life for millions of Americans.” Richardson also claims that “energy development and other extractive industries pose a threat to clean air and water, and damage recreation—a key economic engine.”

Sen. Feinstein Pushing For Protection Of Public Lands. In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/24, 99K), Sen. Dianne Feinstein writes about the public meeting held last week at the Wildlands Conservancy’s Whitewater Preserve to discuss three new national monuments. She “left the meeting even more convinced that we must do everything we can to preserve this special land for generations to come.” Feinstein says that “whether or not President Obama designates the monuments, I remain committed to doing all I can to get the entirety of my legislation enacted.”

OBAMA: CONGRESS SHOULD REAUTHORIZE LWCF “WITHOUT DELAY.” [The Hill](#) (10/24, Richardson, 471K) “Briefing Room” blog reported President Obama “is calling for Republicans in Congress to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund ‘without delay.’” During his weekly address on Saturday, Obama said, “For more than half a century, this fund has protected more than five million acres of land – from playgrounds to parks to priceless landscapes – all without costing taxpayers a dime.”

[Voice of America](#) (10/24, 32K) quoted Obama as saying the US is “home to some of the most beautiful God-given landscapes in the world,” adding, “it’s our responsibility to protect these treasures for future generations, just as previous generations protected them for us.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/25, 5.59M) and the [High Country](#)

[\(CO\) News](#) (10/26, 74K).

Congress Urged To Reauthorize LWCF. In an op-ed for the [Agri-Pulse](#) (10/25), John Larson, the Executive Director of Programs for American Farmland Trust, urges Congress to reauthorize the LWCF. He writes, “As we search for strategies and monies to preserve our nation’s productive farm and forest lands, the LWCF offers a critical opportunity to increase voluntary conservation easements that help keep private working lands in production and benefit both wildlife and the environment.”

INTERIOR’S MINE SPILL REPORT INTENSIFIES PRESSURE ON EPA. The [Greenwire](#) (10/23, Subscription Publication) reports that the release last week of the Interior Department’s of its “investigation into this summer’s abandoned mine spill in Colorado is intensifying scrutiny of U.S. EPA’s role in the accident.” EPA critics are “intensifying their questions after its release.” Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye said, “This report exposes the role the EPA’s gross negligence had in triggering a disaster that has culturally and economically devastated the Navajo Nation. The EPA and all responsible parties must be held accountable.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/25, 492K), the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (10/23, 506), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/25, Paul, 787K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/25, Paul, 787K), the [Government Executive](#) (10/25, 3K), and [Sputnik News](#) (10/24, 33K).

NEVADA, SEVEN COUNTIES JOIN LAWSUIT AGAINST FEDERAL SAGE GROUSE PLANS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/23, Subscription Publication) reports that “the state of Nevada and seven more counties in that state have joined a federal lawsuit seeking to overturn sweeping federal land-use plan amendments designed to protect the greater sage grouse – a move that appeared to upset Gov. Brian Sandoval (R).” The amended complaint filed last week “adds Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt (R) and the seven Nevada counties – Lander, White Pine, Lincoln, Humboldt, Washoe, Churchill and Pershing – along with Paragon Precious Metals LLC and Ninety-Six Ranch LLC to the original lawsuit filed last month in the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (10/25, 378K) and the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (10/25, 179K).

Sage Grouse Rules Explained. In his column for the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/25, 22K), Larry Hyslop tries to explain the “very complex restrictions” of the Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Effort “in a general way, with help from Lauren Mermejo, the BLM’s Great Basin sage grouse project manager.”

OUTDOORS INDUSTRY MUSCLES PUSHES PUBLIC LANDS AS POLITICAL ISSUE. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (10/23, 179K) reports that in western political battlegrounds, such as Nevada and Colorado, “political experts and special interest groups are already trying to galvanize allies and marginalize enemies for the 2016 campaign cycle” and “when it comes to winning votes from outdoors enthusiasts public lands become the political battlefield.” The article points to “a recent push from the Outdoor Industry Association to highlight swing state voters’ affinity for keeping public land in Nevada and Colorado in the hands of the federal government.” The association, “which represents about 4,000 outdoor recreation supply manufacturers, distributors, retailers and others, hired the polling firm Public Opinion Strategies to highlight opposition among likely voters to proposals that would prompt the federal government to unload public land holdings.”

REPUBLICAN SENATORS INTRODUCE BILL TO LIMIT ADMINISTRATION’S REGULATIONS. [The Hill](#) (10/23, Carney, 471K) “Floor Action” blog reported that Sens. Mike Enzi, Mike Crapo, Kelly Ayotte, and Steve Daines “introduced legislation that would allow lawmakers to pass concurrent resolutions to explain the meaning of a law and what authority it gives to federal agencies” in order to “help curb incorrect interpretations by the Obama administration.”

NATIONAL PARKS ARE MOST INSTAGRAMMED SPOTS IN SEVEN STATES, DC. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/22, 4.07M) reports that “going state by state, the website Busbud last month looked at the most Instagrammed places in America.” The article notes that “in seven states plus the District of Columbia, national parks were the top picks for those posting Instagram photographs.” The article highlights Interior’s Instagram account, “where photos of America’s public lands are posted every day.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: AGREEMENT FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT PARK TO BE SIGNED ON NOVEMBER 10. Additional coverage that “the U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Energy will sign an agreement on Tuesday, November 10, that establishes the Manhattan Project National Historical

Park” was provided by the [Oak Ridge \(IN\) Today](#) (10/25). Also, the [Oak Ridge \(IN\) Today](#) (10/25) reports that “Oak Ridge will have two community events on November 12 to celebrate the establishment of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

FEDERAL JUDGE RULES NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION MAY PROCEED. [KITV-TV Honolulu](#) (10/25, 44K) reports that “in an extensive oral ruling that lasted more than 40 minutes, federal Judge Michael Seabright said a scheduled election by the group Na’i Aupuni can move forward on Nov. 1.” According to the article, “although the Office of Hawaiian Affairs provided the group a \$2.6 million grant to conduct the election as well as the ensuing ‘Aha, or constitutional convention, Seabright said the registration of more than 95,000 native Hawaiians by Na’i Aupuni is a private matter not governed by state election laws.” Seabright said, “I believe the evidence demonstrates that the Na’i Aupuni election is a private election and not a state election. No public official will be elected or nominated, (and) no matters of federal, state or local law will be determined through this election process by itself.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

PALAU MOVES TOWARD CREATION OF NEW OCEAN RESERVE. The [National Geographic](#) (10/25, 31.65M) reports that the nation of Palau has “approved the creation of an enormous marine reserve that’s bigger than the U.S. state of California.” On Thursday, “Palau’s Congress signed off on keeping 80 percent of its territorial waters from any extractive activities, including fishing and mining.” The other “20 percent will remain open to fishing by locals and a limited number of small commercial operations.”

DHS CRITICIZED FOR ACCOMMODATING MARIANAS EMPLOYERS. For the blog at the [Center For Immigration Studies](#) (10/26), David North writes that “the Department of Homeland Security under the Obama administration is going out of its way to be super nice to employers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan).” The agency has “announced in the Federal Register that it has reduced the ceiling on the number of temporary alien workers in these islands by 1,000, down to 12,999.” North criticizes the move, arguing that “the CNMI, where the unemployment rate is three times as high as it is on the mainland, does not need anything like 12,999 foreign workers, if it needs any at all.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA’S GOP DELEGATION DEMANDS PLAN TO STORE EL NIÑO WATER. The [E&E Daily](#) (10/23, Subscription Publication) reports that House Republicans from California last week “urged Gov. Jerry Brown (D) and President Obama to direct actions that will help save water if El Niño-driven storms bring heavy rains this winter.” The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Prediction Center has “estimated that the current El Niño climate pattern will rank among the top three most severe the country has ever experienced.” The letter asked “whether the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Marine Fisheries Service ‘have plans in place to capture El Niño-related precipitation for human use?’”

BOR REACHES SETTLEMENT ON DEAD STEELHEAD LAWSUIT. The [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Independent](#) (10/24, 119K) reports that when the BOR “accidentally killed an alleged 393 juvenile trout two years ago along a short stretch of creek right below Lake Cachuma, the Bureau got off by agreeing to do what it had already been mandated to do 15 years before: keep enough water in the creek to prevent the fish from croaking.” The BOR “agreed to install two functioning electrically powered pumps to keep the creek — Hilton Creek — flowing with two cubic feet of dam water a second and two diesel powered emergency back-up pumps in case the two main pumps failed.” Also, the BOR “agreed to install the electronics necessary to automatically activate the back-up pumps whenever the main pumps fail, which they reportedly did at least nine times in 2013.” The agreement was “announced this past week in response to a lawsuit filed by Cal Trout, a steelhead advocacy group represented by the Environmental Defense Center (EDC), and joined a handful of water agencies who depend on Lake Cachuma — aka Bradbury Dam — for their supplies.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CONCERNS SURROUND DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/23, 99K) reports that “state and federal officials are expected to release part one of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan in November, designating energy development zones and conservation zones across 17 million acres of California desert.” The article notes that “it’s not yet clear how the plan will differ from a draft released last year, but conservationists and renewable energy groups already have major concerns about how effective it will be — even after nearly seven years of work, tens of millions of dollars in consultants’ fees and more than 12,000 public comments.” Some of the concerns are “the possibility that huge swaths of land won’t get designations of any kind, for conservation or for clean energy,” and “continued confusion over the legal process for permitting energy projects,” and “most of all, uncertainty over several million acres of private land, whose collective fate won’t be decided until some unknown point in the future.”

Editorial: State Must Ensure Protection Of Land For Renewable Energy Facilities. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/25, 535K) editorialized that the Desert Renewable Energy Act, which has received more attention in California than elsewhere in the country, critically “balances the environmental impact of dramatically expanded solar, wind and geothermal power infrastructure with the ramped-up demand for clean energy.” However, the Bee cautions that as infrastructure grows it will “consume” and “disrupt” thousands of acres of habitat for a variety of California species. The Bee urges the state to identify what land will and will not work for new facilities and calls on the BLM to ensure such land is protected.

The piece also appears at the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/25, 265K).

BOEM DIRECTOR HOPPER TO ADDRESS ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY NEW YORK ON OFFSHORE WIND OPPORTUNITIES. The [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (10/25, 530K) reports that BOEM Director Abigail Ross Hopper will speak about “offshore wind opportunities in New York” when the Alliance for Clean Energy New York meets Thursday.

FEDERAL PERMITTING SYSTEM FOR WIND PROJECTS TO PROTECT BIRDS URGED. In an op-ed for the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (10/26, 641K), Michael Parr, vice president and chief conservation officer of American Bird Conservancy, writes that “a major problem with ‘green’ wind power is the flawed voluntary system by which wind companies are permitted to assess bird impacts and develop bird protection plans.” According to Parr, “under regulations promulgated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, compliance with siting and operational considerations that take bird mortality into account are wholly voluntary.” As a solution, Parr suggests establishing and funding “a federal permitting system for wind projects that requires siting and operational input from federal wildlife biologists, both during the assessment process, and in response to any recorded bird mortality.”

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM APPROVES PERMIT FOR GREATER MOOSE’S TOOTH PROJECT. The [Greenwire](#) (10/23, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM has “formally issued a permit that will allow ConocoPhillips Co. to drill the first oil production well in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A).” The bureau “already approved in February a record of decision for the \$890 million Greater Mooses Tooth-1 (GMT1) project, which calls for up to 33 development and injection wells on a single, nearly 12-acre drilling pad on the reserve’s northeast corner (Greenwire, Feb. 16).” However, the BLM “needed to issue a formal drilling permit, along with a right-of-way (ROW) grant before production could begin at the reserve, said agency spokesman Mitch Snow.”

[Politico Pro](#) (10/23) reports, “Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski also hailed the permit approval in a statement ... But also warned that the process took too long.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/23, Cama, 471K) and [E&P Magazine](#) (10/23).

BLM CONSIDERING AUCTIONING DEFERRED LEASES IN SAGE GROUSE HABITAT. The [Greenwire](#) (10/23, Subscription Publication) reports that “for several years, the Bureau of Land Management imposed a de facto moratorium on oil and gas leasing in prime sage grouse habitat, deferring the sale of more than 5 million acres industry had nominated to drill in seven Western states.” According to the article, “the idea was to wait until BLM had regulations in place that could allow drilling to proceed without destroying the bird’s sage-steppe habitat.” But “now that sage grouse have been deemed safe from extinction, BLM is considering which

of those lands to put on the auction block.”

FORMER FOREST SERVICE LEADERS BLAST BADGER-TWO MEDICINE LEASES. The [Greenwire](#) (10/23, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Interior Department should cancel all the natural gas drilling leases in the Badger-Two Medicine area of Montana’s Lewis and Clark National Forest, according to 19 retired Forest Service leaders, including former agency Chief Dale Bosworth.” The letter “calls on Interior to heed the advice of the federal historical preservation council, which determined exploratory wells on land east of Glacier National Park considered sacred by the Blackfeet Tribe would lead to the ‘serious and irreparable degradation’ of the Badger-Two Medicine area.”

NPS PROPOSES NEW OIL, GAS REGULATIONS. [The Hill](#) (10/24, Devaney, 471K) reports that the NPS is “proposing new oil and gas regulations to protect national parks.” The new regulations will “protect park resources, values, and visitors” from oil and gas operations that occur on national parks, the agency said.

SENATE COMMITTEE TO HOLD HEARING ON STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [Bloomberg BNA](#) (10/25, 3K) reports that on Tuesday, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold “a hearing on the Interior Department’s stream protection rule.” The article notes that “witnesses are: Assistant Interior Secretary Janice Schneider; West Virginia Environmental Protection Cabinet Secretary Randy Huffman; Wyoming Environmental Quality Director Todd Parfitt; and National Mining Association President Hal Quinn.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [National Journal](#) (10/26, Subscription Publication, 144K).

HOUSE APPROVES BILL TO EXPEDITE PERMITS FOR STRATEGIC MINING. The [E&E Daily](#) (10/23, Subscription Publication) reports that the House passed legislation last week “to significantly streamline the processing of mining permits on federal lands, a top industry priority.” Legislators “voted 254-177 for Nevada Republican Rep. Mark Amodei’s H.R. 1937, which would set permitting timelines, give states more power in approving projects and limit litigation.” The measure, “versions of which have passed in previous Congresses, stems from U.S. reliance on imports for key minerals, including rare earth elements.”

TRAPPER MINE SEEKS TO RALLY SUPPORT. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (10/25, 73K) reports that “representatives of the Trapper Mine are taking nothing for granted as a new federal environmental review of its expansion area begins following a court ruling earlier this year.” According to the article, “mine officials aren’t even sure the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement can get the job done on time, and that’s got them worried.” Trapper also isn’t “assuming that just because a similar review based on the same ruling resulted in the Colowyo Coal Mine between Craig and Meeker being able to continue mining, Trapper will enjoy the same outcome” and “that’s why the mine is launching a ‘Stand With Trapper’ campaign aimed at rallying support for the mine as the review gets underway.”

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (10/26, 73K) reports that “Colorado coal production in 2015 continues to fall after dropping to a 20-year low last year, state data shows.” The article notes that “Trapper has been able to keep mining” while the “review begins.”

EARTHQUAKES NEAR CUSHING, OKLAHOMA SAID TO BE NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/24, Philips, 2.66M) reported that the oil stockpile in Cushing, Oklahoma, which is second in size only to the federal government’s Strategic Petroleum Reserve, now “faces an emerging threat: earthquakes.” The rise of earthquakes in Oklahoma “has corresponded to increased fracking activity and oil production in the state,” and “seismologists believe the quakes are the result of wastewater injection wells used by the fracking industry.” As the earthquakes “appear to have migrated closer to Cushing, the issue of what to do about them has morphed from a state issue to one of national security,” as Cushing and its stored oil are not only “crucial to the financial side of the oil market” but “integral to the way physical crude flows around the country.”

FRACKING, REGULATIONS DRIVING SURGE IN NATURAL GAS USE. Under the headline “Fracking Topples Old King Coal,” the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/26, 213K) explores how domestically-produced natural gas is “replacing coal as the dominant way Americans receive electricity.” Record-low prices have particularly helped to drive the trend; indeed, Black & Veatch managing director Peter Abt “said ‘with respect to growth, we are in a period of sustained low prices,’ with enough gas reserves to last a century.” Also responsible are the EPA’s recent establishment of its Clean Power Plan, and “anticipation” by companies and states “of a climate deal in Paris in December requiring emissions to be lower.” The Examiner goes on to note that the share of electricity obtained from natural gas “exceeded that of coal for the second time in history this year, according to the Energy Information Administration, the Department of Energy’s analysis arm.”

OIL BOOM LEADS TO INCREASE IN WORKER DEATHS. In an in-depth piece, the [San Antonio Express-News](#) (10/26, Hiller, 884K) reported that on the increase in worker deaths as a result of the oil boom, particularly in Texas. According to the Express-News, “open-records requests, thousands of pages of federal safety investigations, lawsuits and police reports document the human price of the state’s most recent oil boom, when soaring crude prices set off a multiyear drilling frenzy.” Texas “had half of the country’s oil field deaths last year — 71 of the 142 workers who died in the hunt for hydrocarbons, new data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Texas Department of Insurance indicate.”

Offshore Energy Development:

DEBATE CONTINUES OVER OFFSHORE DRILLING IN ATLANTIC. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (10/25, 365K) reports that the debate continues over offshore drilling in the Atlantic. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley “continues to push for it, even as coastal residents rally against it and nearly every local government has come out against it.” Opponents “point to high-profile oil-production messes such as the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, and say the fragile South Carolina coast and its multimillion-dollar tourism and fishing economy could be crippled by a similar mishap.” But “supporters point to the day-by-day operations taking place in other states without major incidents and say the potential for jobs and revenue outweighs any real risks.”

US, CUBA GATHER FOR SYMPOSIUM ON OFFSHORE OIL DEVELOPMENT. [USA Today](#) (10/25, Loveless, 5.23M) reported that more than 120 people from the U.S., Cuba and other countries gathered last week for the Safe Seas Clean Seas Symposium on offshore oil development. The conference “was organized by the Houston consulting firm Hunt Petty LLC to promote cooperation in preventing and responding to spills in Cuban waters as Havana plans to resume drilling next year, following unsuccessful exploration in recent years.”

ANALYSIS: ENERGY EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY CAN “GO HAND-IN-HAND.” The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (10/25, Holt, 326K) argued that in order for Americans to continue seeing low energy prices, it is imperative that we “develop and sustain a responsible yet effective long-term, all-of-the-above energy policy that utilizes each and every resource available to us — fossil fuels, nuclear, solar, winds and biofuels — regardless of where they come from, onshore and off.” Citing the Director of the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Abigail Ross Hopper, the Times-Dispatch contends that energy efficiency and concern for the environment are not necessarily opposed. Ross Hopper said, “It is not one or the other ... We are trying to address these issues from all fronts.”

BP EARNINGS MAY DISCLOSE EFFECT OF OIL SPILL SETTLEMENT. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/23, Eaton, 2.28M) reports that when BP announces its third quarter earnings on Tuesday, executives may hint at how the company’s \$2.8 billion settlement with the Department of Justice will shape the company’s corporate future. The Chronicle adds that “from 2003 to 2008, BP’s organic reserve replacement ratio...was well ahead of Exxon Mobil, Chevron, Shell, Total, Statoil and Eni. In the years after the spill, it outpaced only Shell.” However, “BP’s shareholder returns, down 18 percent from the beginning of the year to Sept. 21, haven’t fallen as far as returns for Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Exxon Mobil, or Shell, in part because of the cost cutting, according to JPMorgan.”

OIL INDUSTRY COMPANY WORKS ON OIL-EATING BACTERIA TO CLEAN OIL SPILLS. The [AP](#) (10/26) reports that oil industry company Compliant Resources “is trying to establish a biological process in which oil-eating bacteria are used to clean up a spill with the help of a Williston-based research center.” Compliant Resources CEO Rick Reese “calls his method aggressive bioremediation instead of land farming, a similar concept, mainly because it’s seen limited success.”

COMMENTARY DISCUSSES INTERIOR’S DECISION TO CANCEL ARCTIC LEASE SALES. In commentary for [The Hill](#) (10/23, Hein, Contributor, Livermore, 471K), Jayni Hein, policy director at the Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law, and Michael A. Livermore, associate professor of law at the University of Virginia School of Law, discussed the US Department of the Interior’s recent decision to cancel two upcoming Arctic lease sales slated for 2016 and 2017. The authors wrote that the decision “signals a clear shift in Arctic offshore leasing policy and marks a victory for environmentalists who have long highlighted the risks inherent in leasing in this remote and unpredictable region.” However, it also “makes good economic sense: It reflects the value of delay in light of the significant economic, environmental and social uncertainties associated with offshore drilling in the Arctic.” The authors added that “Shell’s own decision to

abandon drilling reflects an understanding of the value of waiting for more information about oil prices, operational costs and risks.”

Additional coverage of Arctic drilling was provided by the [Arctic \(AK\) Sounder](#) (10/23, 6K), the [Bristol Bay \(AK\) Times](#) (10/23, 4K), and the [Chicago \(IL\) Daily Herald](#) (10/25, 397K).

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

REPORT: BLM SOLD NEARLY 1,800 WILD HORSES FOR SLAUGHTER. The [Washington Times](#) (10/25, Howell, 344K) cites a new report the by the Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General that found the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) Wild Horse and Burro Program (WH&B) “wrongfully” sold 1,794 wild horses to Colorado rancher Tom Davis, “who sent them to slaughter.” The Times adds BLM officials have subsequently “said they are taking the matter very seriously and have taken preventative measures to ensure horses sold by the agency do not end up at slaughterhouses in the future.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Greenwire](#) (10/23, Subscription Publication), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/25, Howell, 344K), the [Canon City \(CO\) Daily Record](#) (10/25, 22K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/25, Ingold, 787K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/25, 259K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/25, 2.28M), the [Salina \(KS\) Post](#) (10/25), [USA Today](#) (10/24, Hughes, 5.23M), [Bay Area \(CA\) Indymedia](#) (10/24, 2K), the [Inquisitr](#) (10/25, 527K), and [Newsweek](#) (10/25, 198K).

EVENT CELEBRATES PREHISTORIC TRACKWAYS MONUMENT. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (10/24, 47K) reports that “about 75 outdoor enthusiasts gathered Saturday morning to celebrate a bundle of milestones for the nearly 7-year-old Prehistoric Trackways National Monument, located northwest of Las Cruces.” For one, “a new entrance sign — the monument’s first — was installed and unveiled at the site.” Also, “a plaque was unveiled to commemorate a donor who gave a land easement that clears legalities for a road that accesses the monument.” The BLM also is “set to soon sign off upon a finalized management plan for the monument.” In addition to unveiling the new sign and plaque, the BLM said “Saturday’s events also were to mark the 15th anniversary of its National Landscape Conservation System, the BLM unit which manages sites like the national monument.”

BLM PLANS TO CAPTURE WILD HORSES IN SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO. The [AP](#) (10/23, 344K) reports that “federal officials hope to capture an estimated 31 wild horses in southwestern Idaho that eluded an emergency helicopter gather following a giant wildfire.” BLM officials say “the horses need to be captured because there’s not enough forage to sustain them.” Officials also “say the horses need to be temporarily removed to help rehabilitation efforts in the 436-square-mile area that burned in August.”

AUSTRALIAN BIOLOGIST VISITS HAVASU TO LEARN FROM BLM. The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (10/25, 27K) reports that Australian biologist Andrew Norris arrived in Lake Havasu City on Wednesday “to learn all he can from the Bureau of Land Management’s fish and wildlife conservation programs, at the behest of Queensland, Australia’s Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.” Norris “toured fisheries in North Carolina, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Arizona this month in an attempt to learn from U.S. agencies and installations.” According to the article, “his research may be used to institute conservation programs within Queensland, which comprises the Island-continent’s northeastern region.”

CYCLING GROUP BLAZING TRAILS IN ACTON RECREATION AREA. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/25, 179K) reports that a partnership has formed between the BLM and cyclists, and Pedal United, a local group of cyclists are “blazing new trails” in the Acton Recreation Area. According to the article, “they hope to bring more mountain bikers to the area with the larger goal of multi-use development in mind.”

BLM TRUCK LEFT ON ITS SIDE AFTER CAR CRASH IN LAS VEGAS. The [AP](#) (10/25, 344K) reports that a BLM “pickup truck was left straddling a wall on a Las Vegas overpass after a three-car crash.” According to the article, “the accident happened on West Sahara Avenue above Interstate 215 on Saturday around 11:15 a.m.” The two BLM employees in the truck were “taken to the hospital with minor injuries.” No other injuries were reported.

FIVE CHARGED WITH CONSPIRING TO STEAL BLM EQUIPMENT. The [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#)

(10/25, 172K) reports that “a prolific thief from Springfield who was last released from prison in early 2014 is back behind bars, facing a variety of federal charges that accuse him of illegal gun possession and the theft of equipment from a Bureau of Land Management maintenance yard near Marcola.” According to the article, “federal indictments unsealed this past week charge Larry Alan Larsen, 45, and four others with conspiring to steal a tractor and a flatbed trailer from the BLM facility on Shotgun Creek Road during the early morning hours of April 13.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS RECOMMENDS PHASE-OUT OF WHOOPING CRANE ULTRALIGHT FLIGHTS. The [AP](#) (10/25, 1.19M) reports that the FWS is “recommending an end to the use of ultralight aircraft to lead endangered whooping cranes from Wisconsin on their first fall migrations to Florida, and the phase-out could happen as early as next fall.” The FWS said “in a report this month that the birds in Wisconsin and other eastern states could go extinct within 75 years without better management.” So the agency “wants to end or scale back on strategies that rely heavily on captivity and other artificial means, saying they don’t appear to yield better results than other methods.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/25, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/25, 344K), the [Milwaukee \(WI\) Journal Sentinel](#) (10/23, Bergquist, 564K), and [WMTV-TV Madison \(WI\)](#) Madison, WI (10/25, 43K).

RELEASE OF MEXICAN WOLVES CLEARED. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/23, 455K) reports that “after decades of depleted numbers, many wolf species are making a slow comeback despite some opposition to their reintroduction.” The article notes that “the controversial topic represents a shift in the perception that wolves represent a danger to mankind.” However, “even with the backing of the federal government, reintroducing wolves doesn’t always have an easy solution.” A permit request by the FWS “to reintroduce the Mexican gray wolf into parts New Mexico this year was denied by the state-controlled New Mexico Department of Fish and Game.” The FWS announced in “mid-October it would use its federal authority to subvert opposition and push to install the wolf recovery program.”

The [El Defensor Chieftain \(NM\)](#) (10/25, 10K) reports that the Interior Department has “granted permission for the release of Mexican wolves into the state despite objections by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the Socorro County Board of Commissioners.” Last week the director of the FWS “notified the director of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish that the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program is being exempted from the DOI Fish and Wildlife policy to comply with New Mexico’s permitting requirements.” FWS Public Affairs Specialist Jeff Humphrey said, “The Mexican wolf is still at risk of extinction. It is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s obligation under the law to recover this species, and reintroductions into the wild from the more genetically diverse captive population are an essential part of that recovery process. Our preference is always to work collaboratively with states and we ask New Mexico to reengage with us in these efforts. We look forward to continuing our productive species recovery work with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish on a host of other threatened and endangered species in the state.”

REPORT RECOMMENDS NEW CATEGORY UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. [Think Progress](#) (10/25, 453K) reports that “a new report from the Center for American Progress recommends that the federal government create a new category under the Endangered Species Act — ‘at risk.’” According to the article, “an at risk species would be a lower category than the ESA’s threatened or endangered listing, and wouldn’t afford a species any legal protections.” However, “it would encourage voluntary efforts to conserve the at-risk species’ habitat, and would prioritize federal funding for incentives for this voluntary conservation.”

PROJECT SEEKS TO PROTECT SHORELINE OF GLENN MARTIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (10/24, 834K) reports that “rocks, boulders and sand are being spread along nearly four miles of eroding shoreline to protect the Glenn Martin National Wildlife Refuge on the north end of Smith Island.” The article notes that “the \$8.5 million project” will also “help shield a portion of Ewell, the largest of three small villages here, from wind-driven waves.”

FLORIDA’S FIRST BEAR HUNT IN 21 YEARS BEGINS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/23, Subscription Publication) reports that “with Florida’s first bear hunt in 21 years set to start Saturday, the number of bear hunting licenses the state has sold has now passed the 3,000 mark.” The article notes that “despite the ongoing controversy over the state wildlife commission’s decision to allow the hunting of bears for the first time since 1994, one thing is clear: The license sales have been a huge financial boon for the agency.” According to the article, “so

far, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has raked in more than \$300,000 for the licenses.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (10/23, 171K) and [Reuters](#) (10/24, Stein, Liston).

GROUP THREATENS ANOTHER LAWSUIT OVER MOAPA DACE. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/25, 378K) reports that “for the second time in six years, an environmental group is threatening to sue federal regulators over an endangered fish it says could be wiped out by proposed groundwater development in Clark and Lincoln counties.” The Center for Biological Diversity on Friday “filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management over the Moapa dace.” Rob Mrowka, a senior scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity, said “large-scale pumping by the authority and others, including developers hoping to build a master-planned community at Coyote Springs, ‘will spell disaster for one of the rarest native fishes in Nevada.’”

PLAN SEEKS TO INTRODUCE SANTA ANA SUCKER FISH INTO NEW STREAMS. The [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (10/24, 142K) reports that the Santa Ana sucker fish will be “introduced into three mountain streams in the San Bernardino Mountains, under a recently proposed plan by the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District.” According to the article, “the district’s board of directors recently approved spending \$140,000 to hire Dudek, a San Diego-based environmental and engineering firm, to develop a ‘translocation plan’ that would initially involve breeding about 1,500 sucker fish at a fish farm and placing them in the streams where they could flourish and multiply.”

MICHIGAN SENATORS SAY JUVENILE FISH STUDY HIGHLIGHTS ASIAN CARP THREAT. The [AP](#) (10/23, 344K) reports that “Michigan’s U.S. senators say a recent discovery about small fish and electric barriers shows the need for quick action to prevent Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes.” The FWS “reported last week that some juvenile fish could be caught in underwater spaces beneath commercial barges and pulled across electric barriers near Chicago meant to keep the invasive carp away from Lake Michigan.” In a letter Thursday to the Office of Management and Budget, Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters “request funding of interim measures while the Army Corps of Engineers studies whether defenses could be upgraded at a nearby lock and dam complex.”

THOUSANDS OF EXOTIC ANIMALS ARE SHIPPED THROUGH SEATTLE EACH YEAR. The [Seattle Times](#) (10/25, 962K) reports that “Americans routinely hunt animals in far-off lands, especially Africa, and ship their kills home.” The article notes that “Seattle, as one of 18 ports where wildlife is typically imported, plays a quiet but substantial role in bringing those trophies back.” According to the article, “since 1999, more than 39,000 African trophy animals have been legally shipped through Seattle.”

GRIZZLY BEAR EUTHANIZED AFTER REPEATED ENCOUNTERS IN WYOMING. The [AP](#) (10/25, 2.28M) reports that “Wyoming wildlife officials have euthanized a 2-year-old grizzly bear that repeatedly roamed into populated areas.” The FWS “had to weigh in on the problem because Yellowstone-area grizzlies are listed as a threatened species.” Game and Fish educational specialist Tara Hodges, “the state and federal officials a decided the bear should be euthanized because it had become used to humans and was spending time in developed areas.”

WYOMING COMMISSION URGES DELISTING OF GRIZZLY BEAR. The [AP](#) (10/25, 15K) reports that “the Park County Commission in northern Wyoming has passed a resolution urging the federal government to remove Endangered Species Act protections for the grizzly bear as soon as possible.” The resolution approved unanimously last week urged the FWS “to ‘move forward with all due haste’ in removing Greater Yellowstone Area grizzlies from the list of ‘threatened’ species.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (10/25, 75K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/26, 2.28M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/26, 344K).

MAN FACES PRISON AGAIN FOR STEALING SEA TURTLE EGGS. The [AP](#) (10/25, 2.28M) reports that Lewis Jackson was “arrested July 7 in coastal Georgia with 84 sea turtle eggs swiped from a turtle nest on” Sapelo Island’s “unspoiled beach.” This “wasn’t his first offense.” Jackson had “served six months in federal prison after pleading guilty to stealing 156 loggerhead eggs in May 2012.” Now he “could return to prison for up to five years.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (10/25, Bynum, 1.1M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/25,

5.59M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (10/24, Press, 4.07M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/25, Russ Bynum |, Ap, 6.76M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/25, Bynum, 344K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NATIONAL WILDLIFE PROPERTY REPOSITORY EXPOSES COST OF ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE. Additional coverage of the National Wildlife Property Repository was provided by the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (10/25, 1.05M), the [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (10/25, 92K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (10/23, 2.46M), the [Summit \(CO\) Daily News](#) (10/25, 35K), and [MLive \(MI\)](#) (10/25, 739K).

National Park Service:

NPS BANS SEVERAL CONTROVERSIAL HUNTING PRACTICES ON PRESERVES IN ALASKA. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/23, 219K) reports that “driving a deeper wedge between state and federal game managers, the National Park Service on Friday banned a handful of controversial hunting practices on the 20 million acres of Alaska’s national preserves where sport hunting is allowed.” The new regulations, “published Friday, override Alaska regulations, and officials contend they subjugate the state’s role, established under the Alaska National Interest Lands Act, as the managing authority of fish and wildlife on all Alaska lands.” However, the NPS “countered that the new rules only cement temporary regulations that have been imposed annually for several years.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [National Parks Traveler](#) (10/25, 989) and [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (10/25, 128K).

LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL TO FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERISM TO MARK CENTENNIAL. The [Daily Nonpareil \(IA\)](#) (10/25) reports that “along with free park passes for fourth graders, the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail will mark the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service with a focus on volunteerism.” The article note that “Chalotte Murtishaw will serve as one of 70 Centennial Volunteer Ambassador interns across the country working to connect communities to parks through volunteer group service opportunities.”

MISSOURI COUPLE VISITING ALL 59 NATIONAL PARKS AHEAD OF CENTENNIAL. The [AP](#) (10/25, 2.28M) reports on Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, “both 26,” who “plan to visit all 59 national parks before the park system celebrates its 100th anniversary next summer, finishing Aug. 18 at St. Louis’ national park, the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, which includes the Gateway Arch.”

GATEWAY ARCH MONUMENT UNDERGOING RENOVATIONS. [Reuters](#) (10/24, Bailey) reports on the history of St. Louis’ Gateway Arch. The article notes that The Arch grounds and underground museum are now undergoing major renovations, with \$380 million in public and private funding. For the 50th anniversary, the NPS plans to celebrate with 1,000 free cupcakes and \$1 rides to the top of the Arch, the original price.

NPS TAKES OVER VALLES CALDERA. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/26, 74K) reports that “on Oct. 1, the Park Service announced it would assume management of Valles Caldera, thereby ending a failed experiment in privatizing land management.” New Superintendent Jorge Silva-Banuelos, “the trust’s former executive director, promises increased access to tourists, hunters and fishermen.” On Oct. 10, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “dedicated Valles Caldera — one of the country’s newest national parks.”

SAGE GROUSE SURGE AT JACKSON HOLE LEKS. The [AP](#) (10/26, 344K) reports that “the sage grouse population in Jackson Hole increased nearly 50 percent at eight active breeding sites.” According to the article, “grouse counts jumped from an average of 17 males to 25 per lek.” The article notes that “a lek in Grand Teton National Park stood out in particular.” This year, “its peak of 103 males accounted for nearly half of the 211 displaying male grouse observed in the region.”

BASE JUMPING ALLOWED AT NEW RIVER GORGE BRIDGE ONCE A YEAR. [CNN](#) (10/23, Moody, Moorhead, Rosen, 5.17M) reports that “every year on the third Saturday in October, adrenaline junkies from around the world flock here to jump legally from the New River Gorge Bridge.” BASE jumping is allowed “as part of an annual festival celebrating the bridge.” According to the article, “enjoying what is a crime every other day, jumpers free fall from the bridge before parachuting into the gorge, where National Park Service rangers and safety crews provide support--instead of citations--below.” Dave Bieri, a National Park Service ranger, said, “When we do it here one day a year we can monitor it. We can make it as safe as we possibly can.”

NPS TO CLOSE UNSANCTIONED FOOTPATHS ALONG BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY. The [Roanoke \(VA\)](#)

[Times](#) (10/25, 257K) reports that “more than 40 short, unsanctioned footpaths that connect the Blue Ridge Parkway to nearby roads and neighborhoods in the Roanoke Valley would be closed under a plan that recently passed a major milestone.” The plan also “calls for construction of a 3.5-mile network of mountain bike trails at Explore Park, while keeping bikes off the Chestnut Ridge Loop Trail.” According to the article, “in the works for years, the trail management plan recently was completed with a finding by the National Park Service that it would not pose an environmental or public safety risk to a network of paths that follow the parkway’s roughly 16-mile route along the southern edge of Roanoke.”

FLOODING CLOSURES OF DEATH VALLEY’S SCOTTY’S CASTLE. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/25, 378K) reports that “Scotty’s Castle, a palatial ranch named for a con man that’s become one of the most popular tourist attractions here, could remain closed until spring 2016 or later after its grounds sustained extensive damage from flash floods over the weekend.” Last week, “crews were working to fix the road to Scotty’s Castle enough that employees will be able to get there Friday to start assessing damage and planning repairs.” However, “it will be much longer until the site is reopened to the public — perhaps six months or more, park spokeswoman Abby Wines said.”

GRAND TETON HOLDING ANNUAL ELK HUNT. The [AP](#) (10/25, 2.28M) reports that “all the 650 permits available for the elk hunt at Grand Teton National Park have been issued ahead of this year’s annual event.” The elk hunt, also known as an elk reduction program, was set to begin Saturday.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK ISSUES WARNINGS ABOUT FORAGING BEARS. The [AP](#) (10/25, 2.28M) reports that “officials with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park have issued warnings and at least one closure because of increased activity by bears foraging for scarce food.”

NPS TO MARK BIRTHDAY OF TEDDY ROOSEVELT. The [Arlington \(VA\) Sun Gazette](#) (10/25, 119K) reports that the NPS will “celebrate the 157th anniversary of the birth of Theodore Roosevelt Nov. 1 with a day of activities at Roosevelt Island.”

PHOTOS SHOW AMERICA’S IMMIGRANTS AS THEY ARRIVED ON ELLIS ISLAND. The [Washington Post](#) (10/25, Swanson, 6.76M) highlights pictures “of people in their native costume passing through Ellis Island in the early 20th Century.” The pictures were “taken by Augustus Sherman, an amateur photographer who worked as the chief registry clerk on Ellis Island from 1892 until 1925.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS CHANGES STANCE ON CONTROVERSIAL LAKE NAME IN WASHINGTON. Additional coverage that Coon Lake will be renamed to Howard Lake was provided by [The East Oregonian](#) (10/23, 24K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/25, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/23, 344K), and the [Crosscut \(WA\)](#) (10/25).

US Geological Survey:

LOS ANGELES SCHOOL TO TEST EARTHQUAKE ALERT SYSTEM . The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/24, Xia, 4.07M) reports that “in a major sign that California’s earthquake early warning system is moving forward, officials announced Friday that Eagle Rock High School will provide the first classrooms to test the program developed by the U.S. Geological Survey and a team of scientists.” USGS seismologist Lucy Jones said Friday, “This is really about helping us understand what works, what doesn’t. By putting it in with ordinary people — with not geeks, not Caltech — we can start seeing ... how people hear the information, how they process it, how they make decisions.”

Additional Coverage: Study Finds 99.9 Percent Chance Of Major Los Angeles Earthquake In 3 Years. Additional coverage of the study that said “there was a 99.9% chance of a magnitude 5 or larger earthquake in the greater Los Angeles area by April 2018” was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/23, Lin, 4.07M).

USGS RELEASES REPORT ON GROUNDWATER FLOW IN YAKIMA VALLEY. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/24, 113K) reports that a new USGS “report on groundwater flow in the Yakima Valley may not be all that meaningful because it contains a lot of assumptions and vague conclusions, says an attorney for four dairies that settled a lawsuit last May over nitrate contamination.” However, “the attorney, Brendan Monahan, also says the report could help show dairies were not significant sources of contamination.” Matt Bachmann, a USGS hydrologist in Tacoma and author of the report, said “the study wasn’t designed to blame anyone but determine where nitrates are coming from and that they are coming from a large area that includes the dairies.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “The Concealed-Carry Fantasy.” The [New York Times](#) (10/26, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorializes that “sensational gun violence” appears to encourage “the myth of the vigilant citizen packing a legally permitted concealed weapon,” as a solution. Instead, the Times cites a study indicating that “concealed-carry, licensed shooters killed themselves or others” rather than a dangerous criminal. The Times says that “dangerous vigilantism” is more likely than “the mythic self-defense being peddled as concealed carry.”

“F.C.C. Makes Telephone Calls For Inmates Cheaper.” The [New York Times](#) (10/26, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) in an editorial says the FCC has now taken two steps toward lowering the cost of phone service for inmates in jails and prisons, saying “there is one left: to apply similar rules to newer technologies — like email, voice mail and person-to-person video.” The Times also says that the new rules do not touch the problem of corrections departments receiving commissions from communications companies.

“Shifting Advice On Mammograms.” The [New York Times](#) (10/26, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorializes on updated guidelines from the American Cancer Society regarding mammograms, calling it “another wrinkle for women who are trying to make informed decisions about their health care.” The Times says that with differing conclusions from the ACS, and the United States Preventive Services Task Force, insurers should still be required “to continue covering all women starting at 40” for the cost of mammograms.

“Auto Workers Point The Way To Higher Pay.” The [New York Times](#) (10/26, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) in an editorial says that higher pay for employees at American automobile manufacturers means that “non-union foreign carmakers in the United States” will probably offer similar benefits. The Times says that the new UAW contract “implicitly defines \$30 an hour as a decent middle-class wage.” The Times argues that if such contracts become more common, the country could be moving towards “a future of higher pay and rising living standards.”

WASHINGTON POST. “Progress On Antibiotics.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/26, 6.76M) editorial praises what it says is “real movement away from the practice” of using antibiotics in farm animals “for growth promotion.” As examples, the Post cites a law signed by California Gov. Jerry Brown to “impose restrictions on the use of farm antibiotics starting in 2018” and “the announcement by the food chain Subway that next year it would start serving chicken and turkey raised without antibiotics.”

“Too Many Behind Bars.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/26, 6.76M) editorializes that the federal Bureau of Prisons “will release 6,000 inmates locked up for nonviolent drug crimes at the end of the month,” and “if a bipartisan group of senators gets its way, that will be just the beginning.” The group last week “pushed a criminal justice reform bill through the Judiciary Committee that backers say would reduce the federal prison population by tens of thousands.” The Post lauds the “progress,” but adds that “even if the bill passes, the number of people in prison in the United States would still be astoundingly high,” and would “remain far higher than that of most other nations.” About half of federal offenders “are incarcerated on drug crimes, but the vast majority of prisoners are in state, not federal, prisons, where the proportion of drug offenders is significantly lower,” so “even if states adopted similar reforms focusing on nonviolent drug offenders, the effect would be limited.”

“For Fairfax School Board.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/26, Board, 6.76M) editorial.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “The Decline Of ObamaCare.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/26, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) cites HHS estimates that ACA enrollment will grow to between 9.4 million and 11.4 million in 2016, which is a significant reduction from original estimates of 20 million, as evidence that the ACA is not performing well, and argues that if the law continues to do so, voters will be a different model in 2017.

“Preet’s Insider-Trading Retreat.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/26, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that media are underplaying a recent decision by Manhattan US Attorney Preet Bharara to dismiss insider-trading charges against seven defendants after the Second Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the charges were unfounded. The Journal argues that Bharara owes the defendants an apology for bringing the charges, which resulted in convictions or guilty pleas that are now overturned.

“The Oncoming Train Crash.” In an editorial that is highly critical of the requirement that railroads install positive train control technology, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/26, Journal, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) argues the deadline for implementation should be extended, and faults Sen. Barbara Boxer for preventing the inclusion of an extension in a measure to temporarily extend the Highway Trust Fund.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

A “Hammer” For Policing The Police
It’s A Dune Deal
Where The Censorship Never Ends
As Syria Suffers, “Poetry Is A Witness”
[Gun Debate On The Streets](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[US Companies Warn Of Slowing Economy](#)
[Afghans Look To Russia For Military Hardware](#)
[Wal-Mart Shrinks The Big Box, Vexing Vendors](#)
[Sam Zell Edges Out Of Apartments](#)

New York Times:

[The Offshore Game Of Online Sports Betting](#)
[Calm Manner Has Ben Carson Rising In Polls](#)
[Caught Between Protesters And Israel, Palestinian Security Forces Shift Tactics](#)
[Ex-Im Bank Dispute Threatens GE Factory That Obama Praised](#)
[Russian Ships Near Data Cables Are Too Close For US Comfort](#)
[Facebook’s Internet For All Is A Tough Sell In India](#)

Financial Times:

[US Widens Deutsche’s Russia Trades Probe](#)
[EU Ignored Emissions Warnings In 2013](#)

Washington Times:

[Islamic State Not Russia’s Top Priority](#)
[Post-Deal Aggression By Iranians Creating Headaches For Democrats](#)
[IRS Not Out Of Hot Water Even With Justice Cases Closed](#)
[Colorado Group Moves To Replace Obamacare With Single-Payer Plan](#)
[“YouTube Effect” Of Suspect Videos Worries Law Enforcement](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Oklahoma Homecoming Parade Tragedy; Severe Weather-Flooding; Hurricane Patricia; US Kurdish Prison Raid; Refugee Crisis; 2016 Politics-Candidates; Package Tracking; School Testing-Federal Regulations.

CBS: Oklahoma Homecoming Parade Tragedy; Severe Weather-Flooding; 2016 Politics-Candidates; US Kurdish Prison Raid; Pregnancy Diet; Healthcare Costs; Cell Phone Technology-Facial Recognition.

NBC: Oklahoma Homecoming Parade Tragedy; Severe Weather-Flood; Weather Forecast; US Kurdish Prison Raid; Refugee Crisis; 2016 Politics-Candidates; 2016 Politics-Joe Biden; Vatican-Synod; Amtrak Train-Chris Christie; Michigan Plant-Rosie The Riveter; Marine Corps Marathon.

Network TV At A Glance:

Oklahoma Homecoming Parade Tragedy – 8 minutes, 40 seconds
Severe Weather-Flooding – 8 minutes, 35 seconds
2016 Politics – 7 minutes, 45 seconds
US Kurdish Prison Raid – 5 minutes, 05 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning’s Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: British Columbia-Whale Watching Boat Accident; Severe Weather-Flooding; Joe Biden Decision Comments; Jimmy Fallon-Accident.

CBS: British Columbia-Whale Watching Boat Accident; Hong Kong-Ferry Accident; United Auto Workers-GM Agreement; Oklahoma Homecoming Parade Tragedy-Suspect Detained; 2016 Politics-Donald Trump; Joe Biden Decision.

NPR: British Columbia-Whale Watching Boat Accident; United Auto Workers-GM Agreement; Republican Candidates-Debate; Former UK Prime Minister-US Iraq Invasion Comments; NBA Coach-Saunders Death; Government Drug Trials-Gender Roles; Oklahoma Homecoming Parade Tragedy-Suspect Detained.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Hosts Indonesian President Joko Widodo at the White House to chart a new phase for the US-Indonesian partnership discussing plans to expand existing areas of bilateral cooperation, including in defense, trade and investment, climate, and energy, as well as ways to pursue new growth areas for the partnership.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled public events.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate considers judicial nomination – Senate convenes, with agenda including executive session to consider the nomination of Lawrence Wilardo to be US District Judge for the Western District of New York Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: No scheduled events.

Other: 9:00 AM Inaugural Transatlantic Apprenticeship Exchange Forum held at Urban Institute – ‘How Did England Generate Two Million Apprenticeships? Lessons for US Organizations from British Training Providers’ – inaugural Transatlantic Apprenticeship Exchange Forum, hosted by Urban Institute, New Work Training, and American Institute for Innovative Apprenticeship, aiming to ‘forge closer working relationships and new models of collaboration between apprenticeship providers, organizations, and policymakers in Europe and their American counterparts’. Speakers include Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship Administrator John Ladd and Maryland State Sen. James Rosapepe, as well as Paul Champion (Profound Group, UK), Justine Crozier (Learning Curve Group, UK), Dominic Gill (IT Skillsman, UK), Tamar Jacoby (Opportunity America), Peter Marples (Aspire Achieve Advance, UK), Jackie Page (Highbury College, UK), Chris Payne (ITS Group, UK), Stuart Skinner (City & Guilds, UK), Sarah Ayres Steinberg (JPMorgan Chase Foundation), and Jen Worth (American Association of Community Colleges) Location: Urban Institute, 2100 M St NW, Washington, DC www.urban.org <https://twitter.com/urbaninstitute>

9:30 AM Education Secretary Duncan speaks at CGCS event on student testing – Secretary of Education Arne Duncan speaks at Council of the Great City Schools panel discussion on ‘Student Testing in America’s Great City Schools: An Inventory and Preliminary Analysis’ report, released today at NPC news conference. Other speakers include Council of Chief State School Officers Executive Director Chris Minnich, CGCS Executive Director Michael Casserly, and Education Writers Association Executive Director Caroline Hendrie Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.cgcs.org> <https://twitter.com/GreatCitySchls>

12:00 PM Aspen Institute hosts the inaugural 2015 Siemens Technical Scholars panel discussion on how the nation’s top community college programs are tackling the challenge of delivering first-rate preparation of young adults for jobs in middle-skill STEM fields. Panel includes Thomas Kochan from MIT Sloan School of Management, Bethany McCormick from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Robert Templin from Northern Virginia Community College Location: Aspen Institute, 1 Dupont Circle, Suite 700, Washington, DC www.aspeninstitute.org <https://twitter.com/AspenInstitute>

12:00 PM Center for American Progress releases report saying judges of color face unique obstacles in judicial elections – Center for American Progress releases new report saying that judges of color face unique obstacles in judicial elections, with event including keynote from Congressional Black Caucus chair (and former North Carolina Supreme Court Justice) Rep. G. K. Butterfield and panel discussion featuring Washington State Supreme Court Justice Steven Gonzalez, Jones Day Partner-in-Charge of

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

/85. Fwd: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015/1.1 InteriorNewsClips151021.doc

/85. Fwd: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015/2.1 InteriorNewsClips151021.doc

"Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Oct 21 2015 06:22:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: DOI_Politicals <doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015
Attachments: InteriorNewsClips151021.doc

Please let me know if you do NOT receive the daily clips each morning from Bulletin News at 7:00 AM. Please do not reply all.

Best,

Blake

Blake Androff
Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bulletin Intelligence** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 7:00 AM
Subject: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SEN. MURKOWSKI SEES TOUGH ROAD FOR INTERIOR NOMINEE. [Politico Pro](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Lisa Murkowski said that Interior Department pick Kristen Sarri would “have a lot of explaining to do at a hearing on six nominees today.” While Murkowski was “pleased that President Barack Obama had renamed Mount McKinley this summer to Denali, the Alaska Republican said she was still frustrated with the Interior Department’s ‘heartless decision’ to deny a road in King Cove.” Murkowski also “criticized Interior for closing off oil production in Alaska and last week’s cancellation of offshore sales and lease extension.”

Meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (10/21, Barton, 375K) reports that Murkowski is “torn between leaving the Department of the Interior’s independent watchdog post vacant, or confirming President Barack Obama’s nominee crippled by recurring allegations of ‘playing games with Congress.’” She said, “I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent [inspector general], and I’m disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years.” Murkowski continued, “But I am also committed to ensuring that the individual

we confirm is fully independent ... The tenure that you have been involved with thus far in this position has been marked by controversy.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/21, Henry, 471K), [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (10/20), and [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/20, 2K).

HISTORIC \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH CHOCTAW, CHICKASAW NATIONS LAUDED. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/20, 32K) reports that “tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior heralded the outcome of a \$186 million settlement signed earlier this month between the federal government, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw nations to solve a longstanding land trust dispute as a new chapter in relations.” During the October 5 signing ceremony, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby “gave a nod to the impetus provided” by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He said, “We respect the vital role Secretary Jewell has taken in helping make this historic settlement a reality. We are confident she will play an essential role in our efforts to continue strengthening the relationship between our governments, because we believe she has a unique appreciation for the mutual benefits of a positive government-to-government relationship.” Jewell said, “Today’s agreement is the latest addition to a record number of longstanding settlements resolved under this Administration. This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country.”

U.S. TREASURY CONFIRMS \$20B BALANCE FOR LWCF. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/21, 705) reports that “the Land and Water Conservation Fund that expired earlier this month for the first time in its 50-year history currently contains nearly \$20 billion, according to the U.S. Treasury, which maintains the program’s balance sheets.” But “whether that is ‘real’ money available to be spent on federal land acquisitions, private land easements and state recreation projects depends on whom you ask.” The article notes that “the \$19.8 billion can only be reduced until Congress reauthorizes the program.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/20, 31K).

PROPOSED DESIGNATIONS OF THREE NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT “LAND GRAB.” [Fox News](#) (10/20, 8.91M) reports that “a group of off-roaders and others are attempting to fight a proposed designation of three national monuments in the California desert under the Antiquities Act.” The Obama Administration is “considering using the federal Antiquities Act to bypass the legislative process at the request of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, whose efforts to have the Mojave Trails and Castle Mountain, both in the Mojave Desert, and a section of the Sonoran Desert named federal sites were repeatedly blocked by Republicans.” According to the article, “a White House move could put the land under federal control, which critics say could cut funding for upkeep or even restrict access.”

UNMANNED HELICOPTER OFFERS NEW WAY TO FIGHT WILDFIRES. The [Voice of America](#) (10/21, Banse, 32K) reports that the K-MAX “unmanned, water-dropping” helicopter was tested by the US government. The helicopter can fly through limited visibility. Brad Koeckertiz, the unmanned aircraft program manager with the US Department of Interior, says that unmanned helicopters such as the K-MAX will be integrated into routine measures to fight wildfires over the next few of years. The article notes that the K-MAX helicopters have already been used by the US Marines in Afghanistan, to “resupply remote outposts at night” and replace “dangerous convoys on the ground.” The article notes that the growing uses for drones is also why the FAA is seeking to register all drones.

Additional coverage was provided by [Vertical Magazine \(CAN\)](#) (10/21).

JEB BUSH PROPOSES MOVING INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FROM D.C. TO WESTERN CITY. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/20, Lucas, 199K) reports that “Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will unveil his proposals for Western land and resource management in a campaign stop in Reno on Wednesday morning, in a speech likely to resonate with conservative voters opposed to what they see as federal overreach in the Western states.” Bush is “expected to speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park before appearing at a forum sponsored by the LIBRE Initiative at the College of Southern Nevada Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas at 6 p.m.” In the proposal, Bush will “call for moving the headquarters of the Department of Interior from Washington, D.C., to a city in the western United States like Denver, Salt Lake City or Reno and will say that as president he would direct federal agencies to give broad latitude to states to determine land-use issues.”

STUDY: ALASKAN WILDFIRES COULD EXACERBATE GLOBAL WARMING. The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Mooney, 6.76M) reports that some greenhouse gas sources outside the scope of forthcoming UN climate talks are beyond governments' control, such as raging peat fires in Indonesia this year, emitting "as much as Japan produces in a year from fossil fuels." Elsewhere, a new study in Nature Climate Change reaffirms concerns about the emissions of northern fires in Alaska. The Post reports that "climate researchers are still trying to figure out how all of these factors will interrelate," but fire is a "powerful determinant of how much carbon resides in land, rather than in the air, across our globe."

INTERIOR'S VINE ACCOUNT HIGHLIGHTED. [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K) highlights the Interior Department has a great Vine account. Providing a link, Politico says "this is Internet gold."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA RULE ANNOUNCES RULE GIVING TRIBES MORE CONTROL OVER ELECTIONS. [Law360](#) (10/20, 21K) reports that the BIA "on Monday announced its final rule for Native American tribal elections conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying the new rule will encourage tribes to take control of their elections and help protect the voting rights of tribe members living in urban areas." Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said "in a statement Monday that the rule will allow tribes to opt out of having the interior secretary conduct their elections."

The [Native American Times](#) (10/20, 337) reports that Washburn said, "Though many federal responsibilities concern the lands we hold in trust for tribes and Indian people, more than 55 million acres nationwide, the United States has a moral obligation to preserve connections between Indian people and their tribes that it once sought to destroy. For the future of Native nations and the health of Indian Country, American Indians in urban areas must work harder to maintain connections with their tribes. One important aspect of that relationship is participation in the civic and political life of their tribal governments. For that reason, our Secretarial election amendments seek to prevent tribal members living in urban areas from being inadvertently disenfranchised in Secretarial elections."

HEARING FOCUSES ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, Kelleher) reports from Honolulu that a federal court hearing began on Tuesday "in a lawsuit by people who want to put a stop to an election process that is underway for Native Hawaiians." The lawsuit, filed in August, "says it's unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election." The state "argues in court documents that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it's not involved in next month's vote to elect delegates for a convention to determine self-governance for Native Hawaiians." Tuesday's hearing "is focused on the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction," and the plaintiffs "want the judge to limit voter registration activities or stop the election altogether."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/21, 66K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (10/21, Kelleher, 5.98M).

INTERIOR SIDES WITH ALASKA NATIVE GROUP IN INVESTIGATION OF MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE TRIBAL COLLECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, 2.28M) reports that "a Massachusetts college was found in violation of a federal law regulating the possession and sale of potentially sacred artifacts following a complaint from an organization of Alaska Natives." The Interior Department said "an investigation substantiated the complaint against Andover Newton Theological School filed in June by the Sealaska Heritage Institute." The institute's president, Rosita Worl, said "the school possesses at least two southeast Alaska artifacts, including a Tlingit halibut hook that is considered sacred."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, D'oro, 344K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 548K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/21, 5.59M), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (10/21, 651K), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/21, D'oro, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (10/21, 3.97M), and the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/20, 219K).

US ATTORNEY SAYS BIA OFFICER WAS JUSTIFIED IN DEADLY SPIRIT LAKE SHOOTING. The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that US Attorney Chris Myers "says" that an investigation by his office came to the conclusion that BIA Officer Terry Morgan was justified in shooting and killing "31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16." The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (10/21, 100K) reports that the US Attorney's Office "said" the shooting was justified because Charboneau posed a "real and immediate" threat to officers

and another person at the scene after he refused to put down his gun, which was pointed at the officers. The Grand Forks Herald reports that, as a result of the investigation, Federal prosecutors “will not file charges against” Morgan.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (10/21, 1K), the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (10/21, 14K), [KXJB-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/21, 18K), [KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/20, 3K), [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (10/21, 1K), and [KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#) Bismarck, ND (10/21, 1K).

CRIME JUMPS AFTER TRIBES CUT FROM BIA FUNDING. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Romney, 4.07M) reports on a “time of crisis for public safety on tribal lands.” According to the article, “a federal law decades ago shifted the primary burden of criminal law enforcement on tribal lands in California and five other states to local authorities,” but “many lack the resources to do the job and, in some cases, sufficient knowledge of tribal law and culture to win the trust of tribal members.” After “tribes were cut off from steady funding for their own justice systems,” crime has “flourished.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YAKAMA NATION’S PETITION TO SELF-GOVERN APPROVED. Additional coverage that the BIA on Monday granted the Yakama Nation’s petition for “retrocession” was provided by the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 101K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (10/20, 86K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, 344K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/20, 183K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), the [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K), [KNDU-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#) Yakima, WA (10/21, 3K), and [KUOW-FM Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (10/21, 15K).

GILLETTE’S SERVICE IN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PRAISED. In an editorial, the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/21, 37K) lauds Jodi Gillette’s service in the Obama Administration. According to the paper, Gillette’s “positions gave her a voice in a White House that has seemed genuinely concerned about Native American issues.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA’AINA PROPOSES MARSHALLS FUND CHANGES. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “a top US official has submitted a proposal to the Senate and House to allow the people of Bikini to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands.” Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina says “it is an appropriate course of action to take regarding the welfare and livelihood of the Bikinian people.” The Bikinians were “displaced by US nuclear weapons testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands.” According to the article, “in addition to cramped living quarters and a lack of suitable sustainable resources, the islands have been experiencing more frequent storms and king tides resulting in salt water inundation and the destruction of crops.”

[Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “a representative from Bikini Atoll says a proposal to allow people to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands is not wanted.” Bikini liaison officer Jack Niedenthal says “the US should take full responsibility for any resettlement including providing extra financing.” Niedenthal said, “We still got a ways to go, we still have to do some more lobbying and some more talking to people in Washington to make them understand that what’s being proposed by the assistant secretary is what we view as ‘Plan B’. It’s not ultimately what we want in terms of helping our people.”

CHINA STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIP WITH PACIFIC REGION. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that “China and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat further strengthened their relationship on Friday when the two met at a ceremony to hand over \$1.05 million to assist the Pacific region.” Forum Secretariat Secretary General Meg Taylor and Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Zhang Ping “attended the ceremony and delivered speeches respectively.” Zhang “reiterated his nation’s ongoing interest in the region saying, ‘China attaches great importance to the South Pacific region. The Chinese side stands ready to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation with Pacific Island Countries and contribute to the development and capacity building in the region.’”

COUNTRIES IN PACIFIC URGED TO BEGIN TALKS ON CLIMATE MIGRATION. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “all countries in the Pacific are being urged to start discussions on how to help people forced to move from low lying atoll nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu.” According to the article, “184 million people worldwide were displaced by disaster between 2008 and 2014 and at special meetings in Geneva last

week 110 countries gave the nod to a Protection Agenda for dealing with future migration challenges.” The article notes that “the experiences of small island countries which face rising seas due to climate change helped form the global action plan under the Swiss Norwegian Nansen Initiative.”

JOURNALIST SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY OF GUAM ON CLIMATE ISSUES, CORRUPTION IN PACIFIC ISLANDS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that “author and journalist Giff Johnson spoke to students at the University of Guam on Monday evening about climate change and development in the Pacific islands.” Johnson’s “lecture, entitled ‘Idyllic No More: Pacific Island Climate, Corruption and Development Dilemmas,’ is based on his latest book — a compilation of essays detailing the looming climate threat to the region, its booming fishing industry, and the U.S. nuclear test legacy in the Marshall Islands.” Johnson called attention to “climate-driven migration from remote Pacific islands to Guam and mainland U.S.”

RISING SEA LEVELS THREATEN KIRIBATI. The [National Geographic](#) (10/21, 31.65M) provides a picture gallery of the threat of rising sea levels driven by climate change on Kiribati.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

WATER SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED FROM NEW MELONES. The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “more than 7 billion gallons of water is scheduled to be released from New Melones Reservoir beginning today to ensure flows in the Stanislaus River will keep temperatures cool enough for adult salmon migrating up the river to spawn this fall.” Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District said “it would benefit river conditions and fisheries, as well as the needs of agriculture and more than 200,000 residential customers downstream.” The article notes that “earlier this year, the irrigation districts sparred with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — which manages New Melones Reservoir — over spring pulse flows that they feared would leave as little as 147,000 acre-feet in the reservoir by the end of September.”

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTE TO OPPOSE DELTA TUNNELS PLAN. The [Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (10/21, 14K) reports that “at a meeting on Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a resolution in formal opposition of California WaterFix, also known as the twin tunnels plan.” Supervisor Kathy Miller said, “The WaterFix is just a thinly veiled version of the former (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and continues to push the fatally flawed twin tunnels, which will simply sacrifice one region of California for the benefit of another.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, DOMINION BOTH SUPPORT OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT. On his [Bacon’s Rebellion \(VA\)](#) (10/21, Bacon) blog, James Bacon reports on an Environment Virginia-sponsored webinar held Tuesday morning in which representatives from Dominion, environmental groups, and the McAuliffe Administration all voiced support for the utility’s experimental offshore wind farm project. For environmentalists, Bacon writes, the project represents the beginning of an industry that would increase the use of green energy along the Atlantic and displace fossil fuels. For the Governor’s office, it represents increased green energy coupled with economic development that takes advantage of the Newport News area’s shipbuilding industry.

Onshore Energy Development:

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY FINED \$2.1 MILLION FOR UNDER-REPORTING NATURAL GAS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department on Monday “announced a \$2.1 million civil penalty against Chesapeake Energy Corp. for misreporting the amount of gas it produced and sold from American Indian lands in Oklahoma.” Chesapeake “failed to comply with a 2011 order that found ‘systemic errors’ in the company’s monthly production reports for more than 100 Indian leases, according to Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue.” The company “agreed to amend the monthly reports, but it continued to maintain inaccurate information on the agency’s data systems, ONRR said.” The firm was “assessed a penalty based on ‘knowing or willful maintenance’ of the inaccurate information, ONRR said.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), and [KOKC-AM Oklahoma City \(OK\)](#), Oklahoma City

(10/20, 1K).

TEXAS ENERGY REGULATOR OPPOSES STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K) reports that “Texas’ top energy regulator on Tuesday said the agency will oppose a U.S. Department of the Interior proposed rule aimed at better protecting streams and other waterways from nearby mining activity, saying the regulation encroaches on ground better left to the state.” Texas Railroad Commission Chairman David Porter on Tuesday said “the state would sign on to the multistate Interstate Mining Compact Commission’s comments opposing the proposed waterway regulation.”

USGS REPORT STATES EARTHQUAKES COINCIDE WITH OKLAHOMA OIL BOOMS. [KOCO-TV](#) Oklahoma City (10/21, 93K) reports that “a study by the United States Geological Survey states that the earthquakes from the past 100 years seem to coincide with the oil boom in Oklahoma.”

OKLAHOMA REGULATORS SHUT DOWN THREE MORE DISPOSAL WELLS. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication) reports that “Oklahoma oil and gas regulators dealing with a dramatic increase in earthquakes near the pipeline hub of Cushing have shut down three more disposal wells.” Also, “another well was shut down by the company that owns it after regulators said they were concerned it was drilled too deep.” In addition, “the operators of seven other wells were told in a letter written Friday and released yesterday that they must reduce the volume of drilling waste that they inject deep underground.”

OKLAHOMA LIMITS DISPOSAL WELLS AMID CUSHING QUAKE. [Reuters](#) (10/21, Hampton, Brandes) reports that Oklahoma’s oil and gas regulator on Monday said it could impose new limits on all saltwater disposal wells within a 10-mile radius of Cushing. Reuters reports that Oklahoma now experiences as many as two magnitude 3.0 quakes per day, up from two per year. Thirteen wells have been ordered shut and approvals for new wells have been halted, Reuters reports. Scientists told Reuters that shutting wells could ease tectonic disruption in Oklahoma.

STUDY: FRACKING CAN CAUSE METHANE LEAKS IN NEARBY ABANDONED OIL WELLS. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Valdmanis) reported that according to a study published Tuesday in the Water Resources Research journal, fracking can cause methane leaks in nearby abandoned oil wells. The methane leaks could be a large source of unrecorded greenhouse gas emissions, according to the study. The study said that energy companies could reduce the probability of such methane leaks by trying to identify abandoned wells before they begin fracking, although the task could be difficult due to large numbers of unmarked abandoned wells.

BLM CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE PICTURES UNDER FOIA REQUEST. For the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (10/21), Darryl L. Flowers criticizes the BLM for failing to provide pictures in connection with “the proposed Solenex, LLC natural gas well on public lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest” that were requested under the Freedom of Information Act. The paper received “sixteen photos” and “two photos were missing.” He notes that “curiously, the two omitted photos were the only ones that included a person in the photos.”

Offshore Energy Development:

FEDS INVESTIGATE WORKER’S DEATH ON DRILLSHIP CONTRACTED BY CHEVRON. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/20, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that officials from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Coast Guard are investigating “the death of a worker on a drillsip in the Gulf of Mexico that was preparing to bore a well for Chevron.” Fuel Fix says that “the Pacific Santa Ana drillsip was just beginning operations for Chevron in about 4,800 feet of water at the site and had not yet penetrated the sea floor when an employee of that drilling contractor was fatally injured.” Fuel Fix adds that Chevron has a 36 percent working interest in the Keathley Canyon well-leasing block where the incident occurred, an area where “Chevron outlined ambitions to drill up to seven wells” earlier this year.

The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that Amy Roddy, spokeswoman for Pacific Drilling SA, the ship’s owner, “said the company is not releasing any details about the man to respect his family’s privacy. She also refused to disclose how the man died or details of the accident, citing an ongoing investigation.”

[NASDAQ](#) (10/20, Sider) reports that Chevron has contracted the ship since 2012. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/21, Larino, 718K) adds that “operations have been shut down and personnel remain onboard, according to the drillsip’s operator.”

[Offshore Engineer](#) (10/20, Leon) reports that “the ship was to use its dual gradient drilling functions for Chevron’s Anchor-1 prospect last year in Green Canyon block 807, but the well was junked due to mechanical failures. However, in January of this year, Chevron hit high quality oil pay in multiple Lower Tertiary Wilcox Sands at a second Anchor well also drilled by the Pacific Santa Ana.”

The [Dow Jones Newswires](#) (10/21, Sider) reports that this is the first death related to offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico this year.

[Reuters](#) (10/21), [gCaptain](#) (10/21, 2K), [Upstream Online](#) (10/21, Schmidt, Brenner, 20K), and [Maritime Executive](#) (10/20, 21) also cover the story.

BRIARCLIFFE ACRES VOTES AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (10/21, 36K) reports that “in a storm of debate over offshore drilling, Briarcliffe Acres surfaced as the latest coastal town to join a united front against seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas off of South Carolina’s beaches.” According to the article, “missing councilwoman Abby Stewart, who has been with family on the west coast, the town council unanimously passed a resolution Monday, joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns in a stance against offshore drilling.”

SHELL VESSEL RESCUES FRENCHMAN, CAT FROM SAILBOAT STRANDED IN SEAS NEAR ALASKA.

The [AP](#) (10/21, Thiessen) reports that a Frenchman and the cat tucked inside his clothing were rescued on Tuesday after he leapt from his sailboat to a waiting rescue ship sent by Shell. The man activated a location beacon in the high seas south of Alaska and told the Coast Guard his sailboat had lost its rudder and rigging in the high winds and 20-foot waves. The Coast Guard contacted Shell’s oil drilling rig, the Polar Pioneer, which is on its way to Port Angeles, and the rig “sent a support ship, the Tor Viking, to rescue the sailor.” The AP reports that “it wasn’t immediately clear if the man would continue with the Shell ships to Washington state.”

CUNNINGHAM: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SHUTS THE DOOR ON ARCTIC DRILLING. In an analysis of the Interior Department’s recent decision on the future of Arctic drilling, [Oil Price](#) (10/21, 2K) reporter Nick Cunningham writes the Interior Department’s decision to cancel lease sales through 2017 “leaves almost no possible pathway for an oil company to drill in the Arctic for years to come, perhaps killing off drilling for a decade or so at a minimum.” Cunningham goes on to write that “it was likely that there wouldn’t have been new drilling in any event, given Shell’s decision and current market conditions, but Interior’s decision officially shuts the door on the Arctic in the medium-term.”

Casey: Interior’s Actions On Arctic Drilling Trends “Toward A Permanent Clampdown.”

[CleanTechnica’s](#) (10/20, 15K) Tina Casey writes that “in the absence of local regulations, the Feds are the only game in town and it seems that the Arctic’s role in the US economy is too important to trust to compliance by oil companies.” Casey adds that, even though the Interior’s actions last week on Arctic drilling may be “only temporary, but the trend is toward a permanent clampdown.”

4-Traders: Federal Government To Blame For Low Arctic Drilling Interest. In an op-ed piece on the Interior’s Arctic drilling decision, [4-Traders](#) (10/21, 5K) writes the Federal government’s “difficult” regulatory obstacles is to blame for the lack of interest among oil companies to explore for oil and natural gas in the Arctic. 4-Traders writes that the “demand for oil and natural gas isn’t going away, so energy domestic exploration must continue in the Arctic and elsewhere. But as we’ve seen, by putting up unnecessary regulatory hurdles, regulators can cause job and economic growth opportunities to be missed.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TO REVIEW HAGERMAN-HAILEY TRANSMISSION LINE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (10/21) reports that the BLM will review the Hagerman to Hailey transmission line, paying “special attention to the greater sage grouse in the area.” Stacey Baczkowski, a biologist with Idaho Power, says “the company has been working with the BLM for the last few years to make sure the line is built with the bird in mind.” Baczkowski says “the power company plans to build the new transmission line as close to the current one as possible, and will follow BLM rules about construction during sage grouse mating times.”

UTAH WATER DISTRICT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT BLM REVISION TO LAND-USE PLAN. The

[Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/21, 407K) reports that “federal policies that either aim to instill more oversight or water or deny access altogether have some Utah leaders frothing over what they say is a repeated pattern of overreach that threatens local economies and livelihoods.” Ron Thompson, general manager of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, said “possible revisions to a land-use plan by the Bureau of Land Management in Washington County have severe ramifications should one particular approach be adopted.” Thompson said “the BLM — under one option — is ignoring key considerations that went into the passage of the bill, including water supplies being left unhindered and right of way corridors left intact.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HELICOPTER CRASHES NEAR SEARCHLIGHT DURING CATTLE ROUNDUP. Additional coverage of the helicopter crash near Searchlight during a cattle roundup was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/21, 378K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CONSERVATION LEADERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONSERVATION SUMMIT. [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K) reports that “more than 40 leaders from the leading conservation groups in America are meeting in Springfield this week for a National Conservation Summit hosted by The Johnny Morris Foundation.” According to the article, “participants include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Geographic, Audubon Society, and Ducks Unlimited.” The article notes that “the purpose of the historic gathering is to collectively discuss opportunities to educate and engage the public in efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitats in preparation for the grand opening of America’s Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in 2016.”

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (10/20, 49K) reports that “three exhibits of America’s Wildlife Museum & Aquarium, formerly Wonders of Wildlife, were open to media for a tour on Oct. 20, 2015 at the museum located next to the Bass Pro Shops flagship store in Springfield, Mo.” More than 40 conservation leaders attending a National Conservation Summit “hope the new Bass Pro Shops wildlife museum and aquarium will convey to visitors when it opens in mid 2016.” FWS Director Dan Ashe, “one of the summit attendees,” called the museum “one of the foremost conservation attractions in the world.” He said, “Through conservation efforts, we can be successful in sustaining these populations of animals that are threatened or endangered. People hear about the industrial-scale poaching of elephants that’s happening in Africa. That’s not hunting. With this museum, here’s an opportunity to tell the story of how we can protect wildlife habitat, and that when hunting is done well, with appropriate regulations, it sustains wildlife populations.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K), [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K), and [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K).

CNMI QUESTIONS INCLUSION OF SOME SPECIES ON ENDANGERED LIST. The [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “the Northern Marianas government says the decision to list 23 species in Guam and the CNMI as threatened or endangered was rushed.” The government says “it supports the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s listing of seven of the 17 CNMI species, but it questions the inclusion of some of the other species.” The Department of Land and Natural Resources says “a number of the species do not meet the definitions of threatened or endangered and don’t require federal protection.”

FWS LOOKS TO RESTORE HABITAT ON ROOT RIVER. The [Rochester \(MN\) Post-Bulletin](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “federal wildlife officials are seeking public input on a plan to restore and enhance habitat on 825 acres of Minnesota land along the Root River in Houston County.” Managed by the FWS “as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the Root River Tract sits to the east of Hwy. 26 between La Crescent and Brownsville.” The article notes that “the site includes 664 acres of hunting and farmland purchased in 2009 with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

SHOOTING OF CALIFORNIA CONDOR IN ARIZONA UNDER INVESTIGATION. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that FWS special agents and Arizona Game and Fish Department “law enforcement personnel are investigating the lethal shooting of an endangered California condor that occurred on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona Oct. 8.”

MAN CLAIMS HE BLOCKED ARIZONA BIKE TRAIL TO PROTECT OWLS. The [AP](#) (10/21, 344K) reports that “the 81-year-old man who blocked a Flagstaff-area mountain bike race says he did it to protect an endangered owl species.” J.D. Protiva “appeared in federal court Monday on misdemeanor charges related to blocking the Elden Springs Trail before the August race.” Protiva says “the path goes through protected Mexican spotted owl habitat.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MONARCHS GET HELP AS CALIFORNIANS PLANT DROUGHT-TOLERANT MILKWEED. Additional coverage that monarch butterflies could benefit from the California drought was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/21, 259K), [KABC-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/21, 413K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (10/21, 345K).

FWS INVESTING IN PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN ATLANTIC COASTAL DEFENSES AGAINST FUTURE STORMS. In an op-ed for the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (10/20, 172K), Wendi Weber is Northeast regional director for the FWS, writes that “federal money for Hurricane Sandy recovery has spurred an unprecedented effort to strengthen natural defenses along the Atlantic Coast to protect communities and wildlife against future storms.” She notes that the FWS and other Interior Department “agencies are investing \$787 million in hundreds of projects to clean up and repair damaged refuges and parks; restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline; connect and open waterways to improve flood control; and increase our scientific understanding of how these natural areas are changing.” According to Weber, “these investments support the goal of President Barack Obama’s Climate Action Plan to make communities more resilient to increasingly intense storms predicted with a changing climate.”

National Park Service:

MUSIC VIDEO CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF NPS. The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (10/20, 53K) reports on “a locally made music video that celebrates 100 years of the National Park Service.” According to the article, “published on Oct. 15, the Centennial video has more than 18,500 views on the NPS facebook page and more than 530 on the Youth Ambassador Program’s YouTube page, the group that made it.” NPS Director Jon Jarvis, “who met the traveling crew in Washington, D.C., makes a cameo appearance in the video to say, ‘It’s great to celebrate a hundred years with YAP!’”

Kentucky Lieutenant Gov. Luallen Touts National Parks. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/20, 414K) reports that Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen on Tuesday “touted the economic impact of Kentucky’s travel and tourism industry” in “an address to the Kentucky Travel Industry’s annual conference in Bowling Green.” Following her remarks, Luallen “recognized five national parks in Kentucky as part of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016.” She “presented proclamations to representatives of the parks.”

Couple Visiting 59 National Parks In 12 Months. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/21, 1.03M) reports that “Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, St. Louis natives, are two months into their grand adventure: 59 parks in 12 months – part celebration of the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary, part exercise in youthful spontaneity.” Their goal is to “see the best of the United States, and inspire others – particularly other millennials – to do the same.” The article notes that “their mission meshes well with a new campaign of the Park Service, which celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2016.”

WATCHDOG RELEASES REPORT ON NPS CONSTRUCTION FUNDS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “a federal watchdog yesterday released a disputed report alleging that the National Park Service is violating congressional intent by dipping into its construction account to cover security, air testing and other reimbursable expenses that should have been paid up front by other agencies.” The NPS construction account is “only for expenses that relate to ‘construction, improvements, repair or replacement of physical facilities,’” the Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General report said, “citing the language of the agency’s appropriation.” However, “the OIG found that 17 out of a sample of 21 interagency agreements that used Park Service construction funds to cover reimbursable costs did not appear to include ‘a valid construction purpose.’” The article notes that “these included \$4.9 million that NPS spent from its construction account on security at the Department of the Army’s Memorial Day and Independence Day concerts at the Capitol in 2014 and \$37.5 million over seven years on air quality monitoring at national parks that will be paid back to NPS by U.S. EPA.”

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES GRAND CANYON BISON MANAGEMENT ACT. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act “allowing the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to better manage and conserve the bison population within the park Oct. 8.” The legislation “requires the U.S. Department of Interior and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on a plan that allows sportsmen holding a valid state-issued hunting license to assist in management of the bison population within the park.”

THUNDERSTORMS CAUSE FLOODING, MUDSLIDES IN DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. The

[Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “mudslides and flooding after severe thunderstorms in Death Valley National Park on Sunday trapped three park rangers and about 20 visitors – many out to see a clear night sky – in a volcanic crater overnight.” Park spokeswoman Abby Wines said “the stranded people spent the night in Ubehebe Crater, maintaining contact with park headquarters until they were able to reach safety yesterday morning.” The article notes that “no injuries were reported, but Wines said the unexpectedly severe storms knocked out power in the area, damaged and closed several roads, and filled a historic visitor’s center with several feet of mud and debris.”

NPS SET TO CONTINUE WITH TREE-CUTTING AT POTOMAC CAMPGROUND. The [Bethesda \(MD\) Magazine](#) (10/21) reports that “after complaints from two nearby residents and a call from County Council member Roger Berliner temporarily halted tree-cutting operations Friday at a Potomac campground, the National Park Service said it plans to resume the tree-cutting and will probably do so in the next few days.” John Noel, deputy superintendent for the C&O Canal National Historical Park, said that “he went to the Swain’s Lock Recreation Site to examine the 26 trees proposed to be removed and 32 others proposed to be pruned at the site’s campground.” Noel “agreed that the trees are rotting and in danger of falling on park users below.”

STUDENTS GO ON CANOE TRIP AROUND WOLF LAKE. The [Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (10/20, 105K) reports that “all classes in Grades 6 through 9 at George Rogers Clark Junior-Senior High School in Hammond recently experienced a unique field trip right in their own back yard — a canoe trip around Wolf Lake located only a few blocks from the school.” The trip was “made available through a partnership with the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center and Wilderness Inquiry.”

NEW COLONIAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT THANKS COMMUNITY FOR ADVOCACY. The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (10/20, Williams, Subscription Publication, 201K) reports that the Colonial National Historical Park’s new Superintendent, Kym Hall, thanked the community for its opposition to Dominion’s Skiffes Creek transmission project in her first appearance before the York County Board of Supervisors on September 1. “The view should be protected,” she said.

DEVILS TOWER TO HOST STAR VIEWING PARTIES. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/21, 115K) reports that the NPS “announced that Devils Tower will host a series of star viewing parties October through December.” The article notes that “the eight parties are free of charge, and will last approximately two hours.”

NPS URGED TO RECONSIDER RACIST NAME FOR A WASHINGTON LAKE. In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/21, 74K), Glenn Nelson writes that Washington state officially calls Howard Lake “by what is believed to be its oldest known name,” but the federal government “recognizes the lake by a name that causes the jaws of most people of color to drop: Coon Lake.” Nelson notes that “the federal government did not follow the usual course of supporting the state’s action, mostly because of opposition from the National Park Service, which manages the area that contains the lake.” The NPS, “acting on research from its North Cascades unit, originally defended its stance by claiming that there was ambiguity around the use of the term ‘coon.’” According to Nelson, “in the years leading up to its 2016 centennial, the Park Service has done a lot of talking and writing about the need for diversity and inclusiveness.” He concludes that “it’s past time for the Park Service to back away from its misguided opposition, encourage Secretary Jewell to come to its rescue, and allow another black life to matter.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS SEISMOLOGIST QUESTIONS PREDICTION OF 99.9 PERCENT CHANCE OF MAJOR LOS ANGELES EARTHQUAKE IN 3 YEARS. The [Southern California Public Radio](#) (10/20, 68K) reports that “a controversial new study from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory” claims “there is a 99.9 percent chance of an earthquake” in Los Angeles “between magnitude 5 and 6.3 in less than three years.” The study, published earlier this month by the American Geophysical Union’s Earth and Space Science journal, has “taken many in the seismic community by surprise.” Lucy Jones with the USGS said the “methodology doesn’t fully explain the prediction, and the study doesn’t adequately address this either.” Jones said that, according to the USGS’ “models, there is only an 85 percent chance of a magnitude 5 or 6 quake in the same region over a three-year period.”

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: TRUDEAU'S ELECTION LIKELY TO FOSTER IMPROVED US-CANADA TIES. On the day after Justin Trudeau became Canada's Prime Minister-designate, media reporting universally characterized the election results as a likely boost for US-Canada relations. Coverage focuses on Trudeau's promise of a less combative foreign policy style and the perception that he will be more willing to accept a US rejection of the Keystone pipeline. Reporting – including a combined 2 minutes and 50 seconds on the three broadcast networks – also indicates that despite Trudeau's decision to withdraw his aircraft from the US-led coalition against ISIL, he is likely to be a more willing partner on climate change and other issues.

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, story 9, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported President Obama on Tuesday congratulated Trudeau, who “swept into power with a message of optimism saying Canada beat fear with hope.” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Korte, 5.23M) reports Obama made the phone call “in an attempt to lock down continued cooperation with the northern neighbor on trade, terrorism, and climate change.” The White House, according to USA Today, “signaled that not much would change in the relationship” between the neighbors following the Liberal party's victory. [CBC News](#) (10/20, Fitzpatrick, 225K) reported on its website that the White House indicated Obama and Trudeau “agreed on the importance of deepening the ‘already strong’ bilateral relationship” between the countries “and committed to strengthen joint efforts to promote trade and to combat terrorism and climate change.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports the White House and current Prime Minister Stephen Harper “clashed over climate policy” and the Keystone pipeline. While White House spokesman Josh Earnest on Tuesday said “it would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue,” Chuck Todd reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that “we now have a Canadian government that is politically more in line with the American government.” According to Todd, “Relations have been good but they have not been so great of late. Will they now get better? That is why Americans should care.”

In an article entitled “5 Reasons The US Should Care About Canada's New Prime Minister,” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hjelmgard, 5.23M) lists ways in which Trudeau “is likely to affect policies in Canada and the United States.” According to USA Today, Trudeau “promised to improve strained relations” with Obama and said “he wants to find constructive ways of working with Washington on other issues.” Another [USA Today](#) (10/21, Kovac, 5.23M) article reports that Trudeau and Harper “differ in their approach to foreign policy,” with the incoming leader being less vocally pro-Israel and more focused on environmental issues.

In an analysis piece, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/21, 2.66M) says “a prompt rejection” of the Keystone pipeline by Obama “would make the job easier” for Trudeau “as he seeks to reset the country's relationship with the US, which he says was damaged” by Harper. According to Bloomberg, Trudeau “could use a quick US denial” of the pipeline “to focus discussions” with Obama “on issues such as trade and climate.” Bloomberg notes there has been “speculation” that Obama “would reject the pipeline shortly after the Canadian election.” However, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Cama, 471K) reported, Secretary of State Kerry said Tuesday that Canada's election results will not change the White House's approach to the Keystone issue. Kerry said the decision “is being based on the merits and countervailing balance of all the input that has come from a very exhaustive agency review.” Kerry reiterated that he seeks a decision “as fast as possible.”

[Reuters](#) (10/21, Mason, Rampton) reports the White House indicated it would like the new Canadian government to take increased actions to address climate change. Earnest said that while Canada has “made a substantial and important commitment” ahead of the Paris climate talks, “We believe that it's possible that there is more that Canada can do in this regard.”

However, writing for [Mother Jones](#) (10/20, 758K), Suzanne Goldenberg claimed “those hoping for a U-turn in Canada's climate change policy...are in for a reality check.” According to Goldenberg, while Trudeau does not align directly with many of Harper's views or policies, “it would be a mistake” to see the new Canadian leader or his party “as climate champions.” In [Slate](#) (10/20, 1.38M), Joshua Keating argued that at least with regard to the Keystone pipeline, Trudeau does present a change from Harper. Keating characterizes Trudeau as “a very different leader” from Harper and says he will make the Keystone pipeline less of a focal point of US-Canada relations. According to Keating, Trudeau “has described his support for the pipeline as ‘steadfast,’ but it's clearly not the make-or-break issue for him that it was for Harper.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Vieira, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports Trudeau said he will work to restore Canada's reputation of defending minorities and become more involved in multilateral policy making. At a rally in Ottawa, Trudeau said, “To this country's friends around the world, I want to say this: Many of you have worried Canada has lost its compassionate and constructive voice in the world over the past 10 years. I

have simple message for you: We're back." The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports that Trudeau "is likely to present a very different face to the world" than Harper, "but the most noticeable difference will probably be in tone." Trudeau has vowed to "put an end to Mr. Harper's often belligerent style of politics and diplomacy." Trudeau said Tuesday that "a positive, optimistic, hopeful vision of public life isn't a naïve dream – it can be a powerful force for change." The Times says Trudeau has previously indicated a desire to end Harper's reliance on military solutions and tough rhetoric, and instead focus on working within international organizations, such as the United Nations.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 10, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, "Canada took a left turn" as "Trudeau and the Liberal Party rode in on a landslide." In a [USA Today](#) (10/21, 5.23M) op-ed, author David Andelman says "most of the reasons" Canadian voters chose Trudeau to lead the country "boiled down to one fundamental: The Liberal Party leader was simply nicer than his opponent. And most Canadians believe they are, too." Similarly, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that Canadians wanted a change from the Harper government, which had become isolated and sought to restrict debate. The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) agrees, editorializing that Trudeau's election "shows how ready Canadians were to emerge from a decade under the Conservative government of the secretive and combative Stephen Harper."

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau told Obama on Tuesday that Canadian fighter aircraft will withdraw from the US-led coalition against ISIL, but the new Canadian leader did not present a timeline for the move. In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, A1, Brown, 6.76M) reports Trudeau said, "I committed that we would continue to engage in a responsible way that understands how Canada has a role to play in the fight against ISIL," adding, that Obama "understands the commitments I've made around ending the combat mission." According to the Post, a "senior Administration official," said Obama and Trudeau discussed joint anti-terrorism efforts and, "We expect Canada will continue to be a valuable contributor to the 65-member global coalition" against ISIL.

Trudeau's Win Could "Lead To Full Marijuana Legalization" In Canada. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hughes, 5.23M) reports Trudeau's win "may lead to full marijuana legalization" for Canada. According to USA Today, Trudeau promised during his campaign that "Canada would create a system to tax, regulate and sell marijuana, along with stiff penalties for anyone giving pot to children or caught driving while stoned." USA Today says American "cannabis activists hailed Tuesday's election as a milestone, suggesting that a day may soon come when cross-border trade talks include...legal weed."

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau's "promise to legalize recreational cannabis" will likely "help the nation's nascent medical marijuana industry." Investors, according to AFP, "are betting" they could build on companies' current production of marijuana for medical use and "quickly scale up to serve recreational pot users too, once Trudeau makes good on his promise."

NYTimes Analysis: Trudeau Is "No Dynast" Despite Father Being Former Prime Minister. In a 1,350-world profile piece, the [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that despite there being "many easy parallels to draw between" Trudeau and his father, former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Canada's incoming leader "is no dynast who slipped effortlessly into a family political machine." The Times notes that Trudeau "did not even enter politics until 18 years after his father gave it up, and seven year after his father's death." According to the Times, Trudeau "built his own cadre of advisers, mostly from his own generation" and sometimes "chose more difficult roads – partly, it appears, to show he had not been handed a life in politics on a platter."

In the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, 6.76M) "Reliable Source" blog, Emily Heil says Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, "have a lot in common with the Obamas." According to Heil, "they'd have lots to talk about, apart from liberal politics, like fitness!"

IN APPARENT REVERSAL, BIDEN SAYS HE PRIVATELY URGED OBAMA TO AUTHORIZE UBL RAID.

Vice President Biden did not reveal Tuesday whether or not he will enter the Democratic presidential race, but his remark that he privately advised President Obama to launch the 2011 raid that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden – which contradicted Biden's past public comments that he advised against the raid – is being interpreted as a possible line of attack against Hillary Clinton. All three broadcast networks reported on the statement, combining for nearly eight minutes of coverage, and ABC led with it. The tone of the coverage is mixed, with most reports calling it a reversal, and some concluding that Biden may be undercutting his own reputation for candor.

There was also Twitter discussion of Biden's remarks. Anthony De Rosa, a digital producer for The Daily Show who has nearly 89,000 followers, [tweeted](#), "Biden sounds like Brian Williams with his evolving recollection of the Bin Laden raid." Jonathan Martin of the New York Times [tweeted](#), "@vp today signals: he'll run & it'll get negative FAST or: he's not happy about being sidelined." His Times colleague Maggie Haberman [tweeted](#), "Biden's subtle digs at Clinton indicate that if he runs it'll be ugly." In addition, the hashtag [#BidenWatch](#) emerged on Twitter, with Fox Business Network's Trish Regan [tweeting](#), "Sure sounds like he's running...", Mashable's Juana Summers [tweeting](#) Biden's Wednesday official schedule, and Al Jazeera America's David Shuster [tweeting](#) that "Hallie Biden, widow of the late Beau Biden, says her family supports a Presidential campaign '100%'".

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M) reported that "as the pressure mounts for Joe Biden to decide whether he'll run...many [are] now asking, did he change his story?" ABC (Karl) added, "Biden has described Obama's decision as especially courageous because in that key meeting when it came time to decide, most of the President's advisers, including Biden himself, were not in favor of the raid." On Tuesday, he "offered an entirely different account of what happened on that fateful day." Biden was shown saying, "So as we walked out of the room and we walked upstairs, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts. But it would have been a mistake, imagine if I had said in front of everyone, 'don't go, or go,' and his decision was a different decision." Karl: "But until today, Biden has said he told Obama and his team that night to hold off on the raid."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 6, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Biden "sounded more like a presidential candidate, talking up his foreign policy credentials, doing some rewriting of his own history and firing a shot over the bow of the Democratic frontrunner." CBS' Nancy Corden added that Biden "never mentioned" Clinton by name, "but it was all too clear the comparison he was making when he said this about his stature overseas." Biden: "I will get sent to go speak to Putin or go speak to whomever, and it's because the secretary of state, we've had two great secretaries of state, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the President." Cordes added that Biden left Clinton "out of his story" about the Bin Laden raid.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 3, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) also said of Biden, "If anything, he is beginning to sound more like a candidate, taking not-so-veiled swipes" at Clinton. NBC (Welker) added that Biden "said he and the President were in lock-step when it came to authorizing the raid against Bin Laden." The [AP](#) (10/21, Lederman) says Biden "backtracked on his previous claims to have advised Obama against the raid" in "an unusual reversal."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/21, Talev, 247K) reports that in his remarks at an event honoring his vice presidential predecessor Walter Mondale, Biden "portrayed himself as the central player" in the Administration "on everything from working with congressional Republicans to the killing" of Bin Laden. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Singer, 5.23M) says Biden "revised his account of his advice" to Obama after Mondale said he "would only disagree with President Jimmy Carter in private during his tenure as vice president."

The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Harris, Martin, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says with the remark, Biden "sought...to dispel" the notion that he had opposed the raid, which "might dog him on the campaign trail." Biden said he "never gave his own views on controversial issues until the rest of the cabinet had spoken, mindful that he did not want the rest of the team to see a difference between his opinion and that of the president." Biden said only then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates and then-CIA Director Leon Panetta "had expressed definitive views on the raid," and "pointedly did not mention" Clinton, who "has said that she was in favor of the raid."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Jaffe, 6.76M) says Biden "seemed to change his account" with a revision that "seems designed to buttress his qualifications to serve as commander-in-chief." But Biden "seems to have contradicted his earlier memories of the final meeting before the bin Laden raid." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Nelson, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says Biden cast himself as Obama's chief adviser on many issues, and sought to downplay Clinton's advisory role as secretary of state. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/21, Memoli, 4.07M) says Biden used the event "to highlight his close relationship with President Obama that would be at the heart of Biden's potential presidential campaign."

The [New York Daily News](#) (10/21, Joseph, 3.75M) says Biden's "new details make him out to be a supporter of the high-stakes raid that killed Bin Laden – a big shift from the common narrative that he resisted it, one Clinton's allies have hinted could be a main attack line if Biden does jump into the race." The [Boston Globe](#) (10/21, Linskey, 1.1M) says Biden "has been on record recommending against the move."

[Politico](#) (10/20, Dove, 942K) says Biden “contradicted” his own previous accounts as well as “what Obama himself said about the decision during his third 2012 debate with Mitt Romney.” The President said at the time, “Even some in my own party, including my current vice president, had the same critique as you did.” [The Hill](#) (10/20, Fabian, 471K) reports White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest “dodged multiple questions” about Biden’s remarks, “saying he would not comment on private conversations between the president and the vice president.”

[Politico](#) (10/20, Wheaton, 942K) writes that “for a politician who projects authenticity,” Biden “seemed to stumble around the truth” Tuesday, not just on the Bin Laden raid but also in claiming “to have veto power over nominations and to speak for the president with more authority than other top officials do.” [TIME](#) (10/20, 19.55M) says on its website that Biden’s “narrative runs in the face of the one Biden himself offered in 2012.” The [Daily Caller](#) (10/20, Ross, 375K) says Biden “contradicted himself” with the remarks. Gregory Krieg of [Mic](#) (10/20, 1.5M) writes that Biden “really sounds like someone who is running for president.” [The Blaze](#) (10/20, 1.66M), the [CNN](#) (10/20, Koran, 5.17M) website, [Roll Call](#) (10/20, Bennett, 113K), and [Yahoo! Politics](#) (10/20, Knox, 582K) are among the other outlets reporting on Biden’s remarks.

Ex-Administration Official Says Biden Opposed Raid. [The Hill](#) (10/20, Parnes, 471K) reports that “a former senior Administration official involved in deliberations” on the raid “said Biden did not back the operation,” remarking, “Both then-CIA Director Leon Panetta and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton favored the raid and they did so in presentations made in the Situation Room. Secretary Clinton made her views known. Leon made his position known. And I don’t recall the Vice President sharing the same view.”

Biden Says He Used Mondale As Vice Presidential Example. The [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (10/21, Davis, 447K) reports Biden said he used Mondale “as an example when he became vice president.” Biden said that when he was asked to be Obama’s running mate, “The first person I called was Fritz.” Biden and Mondale “talked for an hour to open a daylong celebration of the 87-year-old Mondale’s career.”

Biden Says He Would “Develop Prostate Cancer Or Something” If He Disagreed With Obama. The [Washington Times](#) (10/21, Wolfgang, 344K) reports Biden joked at the event “that he would ‘develop prostate cancer or something’ if he had a fundamental disagreement with President Obama and was forced to resign from his post.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/21, Wolfgang, 344K) says in another article that “Biden’s list of gaffes got longer” with the “awkward joke.”

Biden, At 10%, A Distant Third In New Hampshire Poll. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/21, Epstein, 247K) reports that a Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm New Hampshire Poll shows Biden a distant third among likely voters in the lead-off primary. Sen. Bernie Sanders leads with 41%, followed by Clinton at 36%, and Biden 10%, with other candidates each at one percent or less.

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

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DOI in the News:

SEN. MURKOWSKI SEES TOUGH ROAD FOR INTERIOR NOMINEE. [Politico Pro](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Lisa Murkowski said that Interior Department pick Kristen Sarri would “have a lot of explaining to do at a hearing on six nominees today.” While Murkowski was “pleased that President Barack Obama had renamed Mount McKinley this summer to Denali, the Alaska Republican said she was still frustrated with the Interior Department’s ‘heartless decision’ to deny a road in King Cove.” Murkowski also “criticized Interior for closing off oil production in Alaska and last week’s cancellation of offshore sales and lease extension.”

Meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (10/21, Barton, 375K) reports that Murkowski is “torn between leaving the Department of the Interior’s independent watchdog post vacant, or confirming President Barack Obama’s nominee crippled by recurring allegations of ‘playing games with Congress.’” She said, “I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent [inspector general], and I’m disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years.” Murkowski continued, “But I am also committed to ensuring that the individual we confirm is fully independent ... The tenure that you have been involved with thus far in this position has been marked by controversy.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/21, Henry, 471K), [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (10/20), and [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/20, 2K).

HISTORIC \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH CHOCTAW, CHICKASAW NATIONS LAUDED. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/20, 32K) reports that “tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior heralded the outcome of a \$186 million settlement signed earlier this month between the federal government, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw nations to solve a longstanding land trust dispute as a new chapter in relations.” During the October 5 signing ceremony, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby “gave a nod to the impetus provided” by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He said, “We respect the vital role Secretary Jewell has taken in helping make this historic settlement a reality. We are confident she will play an essential role in our efforts to continue strengthening the relationship between our governments, because we believe she has a unique appreciation for the mutual benefits of a positive government-to-government relationship.” Jewell said, “Today’s agreement is the latest addition to a record number of longstanding settlements resolved under this Administration. This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country.”

U.S. TREASURY CONFIRMS \$20B BALANCE FOR LWCF. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/21, 705) reports that “the Land and Water Conservation Fund that expired earlier this month for the first time in its 50-year history currently contains nearly \$20 billion, according to the U.S. Treasury, which maintains the program’s balance sheets.” But “whether that is ‘real’ money available to be spent on federal land acquisitions, private land

easements and state recreation projects depends on whom you ask.” The article notes that “the \$19.8 billion can only be reduced until Congress reauthorizes the program.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/20, 31K).

PROPOSED DESIGNATIONS OF THREE NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT “LAND GRAB.” [Fox News](#) (10/20, 8.91M) reports that “a group of off-roaders and others are attempting to fight a proposed designation of three national monuments in the California desert under the Antiquities Act.” The Obama Administration is “considering using the federal Antiquities Act to bypass the legislative process at the request of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, whose efforts to have the Mojave Trails and Castle Mountain, both in the Mojave Desert, and a section of the Sonoran Desert named federal sites were repeatedly blocked by Republicans.” According to the article, “a White House move could put the land under federal control, which critics say could cut funding for upkeep or even restrict access.”

UNMANNED HELICOPTER OFFERS NEW WAY TO FIGHT WILDFIRES. The [Voice of America](#) (10/21, Banse, 32K) reports that the K-MAX “unmanned, water-dropping” helicopter was tested by the US government. The helicopter can fly through limited visibility. Brad Koeckertiz, the unmanned aircraft program manager with the US Department of Interior, says that unmanned helicopters such as the K-MAX will be integrated into routine measures to fight wildfires over the next few of years. The article notes that the K-MAX helicopters have already been used by the US Marines in Afghanistan, to “resupply remote outposts at night” and replace “dangerous convoys on the ground.” The article notes that the growing uses for drones is also why the FAA is seeking to register all drones.

Additional coverage was provided by [Vertical Magazine \(CAN\)](#) (10/21).

JEB BUSH PROPOSES MOVING INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FROM D.C. To Western City. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/20, Lucas, 199K) reports that “Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will unveil his proposals for Western land and resource management in a campaign stop in Reno on Wednesday morning, in a speech likely to resonate with conservative voters opposed to what they see as federal overreach in the Western states.” Bush is “expected to speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park before appearing at a forum sponsored by the LIBRE Initiative at the College of Southern Nevada Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas at 6 p.m.” In the proposal, Bush will “call for moving the headquarters of the Department of Interior from Washington, D.C., to a city in the western United States like Denver, Salt Lake City or Reno and will say that as president he would direct federal agencies to give broad latitude to states to determine land-use issues.”

STUDY: ALASKAN WILDFIRES COULD EXACERBATE GLOBAL WARMING. The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Mooney, 6.76M) reports that some greenhouse gas sources outside the scope of forthcoming UN climate talks are beyond governments’ control, such as raging peat fires in Indonesia this year, emitting “as much as Japan produces in a year from fossil fuels.” Elsewhere, a new study in Nature Climate Change reaffirms concerns about the emissions of northern fires in Alaska. The Post reports that “climate researchers are still trying to figure out how all of these factors will interrelate,” but fire is a “powerful determinant of how much carbon resides in land, rather than in the air, across our globe.”

INTERIOR’S VINE ACCOUNT HIGHLIGHTED. [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K) highlights the Interior Department has a great Vine account. Providing a link, Politico says “this is Internet gold.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA RULE ANNOUNCES RULE GIVING TRIBES MORE CONTROL OVER ELECTIONS. [Law360](#) (10/20, 21K) reports that the BIA “on Monday announced its final rule for Native American tribal elections conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying the new rule will encourage tribes to take control of their elections and help protect the voting rights of tribe members living in urban areas.” Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said “in a statement Monday that the rule will allow tribes to opt out of having the interior secretary conduct their elections.”

The [Native American Times](#) (10/20, 337) reports that Washburn said, “Though many federal responsibilities concern the lands we hold in trust for tribes and Indian people, more than 55 million acres nationwide, the United States has a moral obligation to preserve connections between Indian people and their tribes that it

once sought to destroy. For the future of Native nations and the health of Indian Country, American Indians in urban areas must work harder to maintain connections with their tribes. One important aspect of that relationship is participation in the civic and political life of their tribal governments. For that reason, our Secretarial election amendments seek to prevent tribal members living in urban areas from being inadvertently disenfranchised in Secretarial elections.”

HEARING FOCUSES ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, Kelleher) reports from Honolulu that a federal court hearing began on Tuesday “in a lawsuit by people who want to put a stop to an election process that is underway for Native Hawaiians.” The lawsuit, filed in August, “says it’s unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election.” The state “argues in court documents that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it’s not involved in next month’s vote to elect delegates for a convention to determine self-governance for Native Hawaiians.” Tuesday’s hearing “is focused on the plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction,” and the plaintiffs “want the judge to limit voter registration activities or stop the election altogether.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/21, 66K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (10/21, Kelleher, 5.98M).

INTERIOR SIDES WITH ALASKA NATIVE GROUP IN INVESTIGATION OF MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE TRIBAL COLLECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, 2.28M) reports that “a Massachusetts college was found in violation of a federal law regulating the possession and sale of potentially sacred artifacts following a complaint from an organization of Alaska Natives.” The Interior Department said “an investigation substantiated the complaint against Andover Newton Theological School filed in June by the Sealaska Heritage Institute.” The institute’s president, Rosita Worl, said “the school possesses at least two southeast Alaska artifacts, including a Tlingit halibut hook that is considered sacred.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, D’oro, 344K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 548K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/21, 5.59M), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (10/21, 651K), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/21, D’oro, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (10/21, 3.97M), and the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/20, 219K).

US ATTORNEY SAYS BIA OFFICER WAS JUSTIFIED IN DEADLY SPIRIT LAKE SHOOTING. The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that US Attorney Chris Myers “says” that an investigation by his office came to the conclusion that BIA Officer Terry Morgan was justified in shooting and killing “31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16.” The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (10/21, 100K) reports that the US Attorney’s Office “said” the shooting was justified because Charboneau posed a “real and immediate” threat to officers and another person at the scene after he refused to put down his gun, which was pointed at the officers. The Grand Forks Herald reports that, as a result of the investigation, Federal prosecutors “will not file charges against” Morgan.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (10/21, 1K), the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (10/21, 14K), [KXJB-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/21, 18K), [KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/20, 3K), [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (10/21, 1K), and [KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#) Bismarck, ND (10/21, 1K).

CRIME JUMPS AFTER TRIBES CUT FROM BIA FUNDING. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Romney, 4.07M) reports on a “time of crisis for public safety on tribal lands.” According to the article, “a federal law decades ago shifted the primary burden of criminal law enforcement on tribal lands in California and five other states to local authorities,” but “many lack the resources to do the job and, in some cases, sufficient knowledge of tribal law and culture to win the trust of tribal members.” After “tribes were cut off from steady funding for their own justice systems,” crime has “flourished.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YAKAMA NATION’S PETITION TO SELF-GOVERN APPROVED. Additional coverage that the BIA on Monday granted the Yakama Nation’s petition for “retrocession” was provided by the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 101K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (10/20, 86K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, 344K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/20, 183K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), the [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K), [KNDU-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#) Yakima, WA (10/21, 3K), and [KUOW-FM Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (10/21, 15K).

GILLETTE’S SERVICE IN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PRAISED. In an editorial, the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/21, 37K) lauds Jodi Gillette’s service in the Obama Administration. According to the paper, Gillette’s

positions gave her a voice in a White House that has seemed genuinely concerned about Native American issues.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA’AINA PROPOSES MARSHALLS FUND CHANGES. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “a top US official has submitted a proposal to the Senate and House to allow the people of Bikini to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands.” Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina says “it is an appropriate course of action to take regarding the welfare and livelihood of the Bikinian people.” The Bikinians were “displaced by US nuclear weapons testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands.” According to the article, “in addition to cramped living quarters and a lack of suitable sustainable resources, the islands have been experiencing more frequent storms and king tides resulting in salt water inundation and the destruction of crops.”

[Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “a representative from Bikini Atoll says a proposal to allow people to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands is not wanted.” Bikini liaison officer Jack Niedenthal says “the US should take full responsibility for any resettlement including providing extra financing.” Niedenthal said, “We still got a ways to go, we still have to do some more lobbying and some more talking to people in Washington to make them understand that what’s being proposed by the assistant secretary is what we view as ‘Plan B’. It’s not ultimately what we want in terms of helping our people.”

CHINA STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIP WITH PACIFIC REGION. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that “China and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat further strengthened their relationship on Friday when the two met at a ceremony to hand over \$1.05 million to assist the Pacific region.” Forum Secretariat Secretary General Meg Taylor and Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Zhang Ping “attended the ceremony and delivered speeches respectively.” Zhang “reiterated his nation’s ongoing interest in the region saying, ‘China attaches great importance to the South Pacific region. The Chinese side stands ready to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation with Pacific Island Countries and contribute to the development and capacity building in the region.’”

COUNTRIES IN PACIFIC URGED TO BEGIN TALKS ON CLIMATE MIGRATION. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “all countries in the Pacific are being urged to start discussions on how to help people forced to move from low lying atoll nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu.” According to the article, “184 million people worldwide were displaced by disaster between 2008 and 2014 and at special meetings in Geneva last week 110 countries gave the nod to a Protection Agenda for dealing with future migration challenges.” The article notes that “the experiences of small island countries which face rising seas due to climate change helped form the global action plan under the Swiss Norwegian Nansen Initiative.”

JOURNALIST SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY OF GUAM ON CLIMATE ISSUES, CORRUPTION IN PACIFIC ISLANDS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that “author and journalist Giff Johnson spoke to students at the University of Guam on Monday evening about climate change and development in the Pacific islands.” Johnson’s “lecture, entitled ‘Idyllic No More: Pacific Island Climate, Corruption and Development Dilemmas,’ is based on his latest book — a compilation of essays detailing the looming climate threat to the region, its booming fishing industry, and the U.S. nuclear test legacy in the Marshall Islands.” Johnson called attention to “climate-driven migration from remote Pacific islands to Guam and mainland U.S.”

RISING SEA LEVELS THREATEN KIRIBATI. The [National Geographic](#) (10/21, 31.65M) provides a picture gallery of the threat of rising sea levels driven by climate change on Kiribati.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

WATER SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED FROM NEW MELONES. The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “more than 7 billion gallons of water is scheduled to be released from New Melones Reservoir beginning today to ensure flows in the Stanislaus River will keep temperatures cool enough for adult salmon migrating up the river to spawn this fall.” Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District said “it would benefit river conditions and fisheries, as well as the needs of agriculture and more than 200,000 residential customers downstream.” The article notes that “earlier this year, the irrigation districts sparred with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — which manages New Melones Reservoir — over spring pulse

flows that they feared would leave as little as 147,000 acre-feet in the reservoir by the end of September.”

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTE TO OPPOSE DELTA TUNNELS PLAN. The [Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (10/21, 14K) reports that “at a meeting on Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a resolution in formal opposition of California WaterFix, also known as the twin tunnels plan.” Supervisor Kathy Miller said, “The WaterFix is just a thinly veiled version of the former (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and continues to push the fatally flawed twin tunnels, which will simply sacrifice one region of California for the benefit of another.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, DOMINION BOTH SUPPORT OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT. On his [Bacon’s Rebellion \(VA\)](#) (10/21, Bacon) blog, James Bacon reports on an Environment Virginia-sponsored webinar held Tuesday morning in which representatives from Dominion, environmental groups, and the McAuliffe Administration all voiced support for the utility’s experimental offshore wind farm project. For environmentalists, Bacon writes, the project represents the beginning of an industry that would increase the use of green energy along the Atlantic and displace fossil fuels. For the Governor’s office, it represents increased green energy coupled with economic development that takes advantage of the Newport News area’s shipbuilding industry.

Onshore Energy Development:

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY FINED \$2.1 MILLION FOR UNDER-REPORTING NATURAL GAS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department on Monday “announced a \$2.1 million civil penalty against Chesapeake Energy Corp. for misreporting the amount of gas it produced and sold from American Indian lands in Oklahoma.” Chesapeake “failed to comply with a 2011 order that found ‘systemic errors’ in the company’s monthly production reports for more than 100 Indian leases, according to Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue.” The company “agreed to amend the monthly reports, but it continued to maintain inaccurate information on the agency’s data systems, ONRR said.” The firm was “assessed a penalty based on ‘knowing or willful maintenance’ of the inaccurate information, ONRR said.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), and [KOKC-AM Oklahoma City \(OK\)](#) Oklahoma City (10/20, 1K).

TEXAS ENERGY REGULATOR OPPOSES STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K) reports that “Texas’ top energy regulator on Tuesday said the agency will oppose a U.S. Department of the Interior proposed rule aimed at better protecting streams and other waterways from nearby mining activity, saying the regulation encroaches on ground better left to the state.” Texas Railroad Commission Chairman David Porter on Tuesday said “the state would sign on to the multistate Interstate Mining Compact Commission’s comments opposing the proposed waterway regulation.”

USGS REPORT STATES EARTHQUAKES COINCIDE WITH OKLAHOMA OIL BOOMS. [KOCO-TV](#) Oklahoma City (10/21, 93K) reports that “a study by the United States Geological Survey states that the earthquakes from the past 100 years seem to coincide with the oil boom in Oklahoma.”

OKLAHOMA REGULATORS SHUT DOWN THREE MORE DISPOSAL WELLS. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication) reports that “Oklahoma oil and gas regulators dealing with a dramatic increase in earthquakes near the pipeline hub of Cushing have shut down three more disposal wells.” Also, “another well was shut down by the company that owns it after regulators said they were concerned it was drilled too deep.” In addition, “the operators of seven other wells were told in a letter written Friday and released yesterday that they must reduce the volume of drilling waste that they inject deep underground.”

OKLAHOMA LIMITS DISPOSAL WELLS AMID CUSHING QUAKES. [Reuters](#) (10/21, Hampton, Brandes) reports that Oklahoma’s oil and gas regulator on Monday said it could impose new limits on all saltwater disposal wells within a 10-mile radius of Cushing. Reuters reports that Oklahoma now experiences as many as two magnitude 3.0 quakes per day, up from two per year. Thirteen wells have been ordered shut and

approvals for new wells have been halted, Reuters reports. Scientists told Reuters that shutting wells could ease tectonic disruption in Oklahoma.

STUDY: FRACKING CAN CAUSE METHANE LEAKS IN NEARBY ABANDONED OIL WELLS. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Valdmanis) reported that according to a study published Tuesday in the Water Resources Research journal, fracking can cause methane leaks in nearby abandoned oil wells. The methane leaks could be a large source of unrecorded greenhouse gas emissions, according to the study. The study said that energy companies could reduce the probability of such methane leaks by trying to identify abandoned wells before they begin fracking, although the task could be difficult due to large numbers of unmarked abandoned wells.

BLM CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE PICTURES UNDER FOIA REQUEST. For the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (10/21), Darryl L. Flowers criticizes the BLM for failing to provide pictures in connection with “the proposed Solenex, LLC natural gas well on public lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest” that were requested under the Freedom of Information Act. The paper received “sixteen photos” and “two photos were missing.” He notes that “curiously, the two omitted photos were the only ones that included a person in the photos.”

Offshore Energy Development:

FEDS INVESTIGATE WORKER’S DEATH ON DRILLSHIP CONTRACTED BY CHEVRON. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/20, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that officials from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Coast Guard are investigating “the death of a worker on a drillsip in the Gulf of Mexico that was preparing to bore a well for Chevron.” Fuel Fix says that “the Pacific Santa Ana drillsip was just beginning operations for Chevron in about 4,800 feet of water at the site and had not yet penetrated the sea floor when an employee of that drilling contractor was fatally injured.” Fuel Fix adds that Chevron has a 36 percent working interest in the Keathley Canyon well-leasing block where the incident occurred, an area where “Chevron outlined ambitions to drill up to seven wells” earlier this year.

The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that Amy Roddy, spokeswoman for Pacific Drilling SA, the ship’s owner, “said the company is not releasing any details about the man to respect his family’s privacy. She also refused to disclose how the man died or details of the accident, citing an ongoing investigation.”

[NASDAQ](#) (10/20, Sider) reports that Chevron has contracted the ship since 2012. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/21, Larino, 718K) adds that “operations have been shut down and personnel remain onboard, according to the drillsip’s operator.”

[Offshore Engineer](#) (10/20, Leon) reports that “the ship was to use its dual gradient drilling functions for Chevron’s Anchor-1 prospect last year in Green Canyon block 807, but the well was junked due to mechanical failures. However, in January of this year, Chevron hit high quality oil pay in multiple Lower Tertiary Wilcox Sands at a second Anchor well also drilled by the Pacific Santa Ana.”

The [Dow Jones Newswires](#) (10/21, Sider) reports that this is the first death related to offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico this year.

[Reuters](#) (10/21), [gCaptain](#) (10/21, 2K), [Upstream Online](#) (10/21, Schmidt, Brenner, 20K), and [Maritime Executive](#) (10/20, 21) also cover the story.

BRIARCLIFFE ACRES VOTES AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (10/21, 36K) reports that “in a storm of debate over offshore drilling, Briarcliffe Acres surfaced as the latest coastal town to join a united front against seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas off of South Carolina’s beaches.” According to the article, “missing councilwoman Abby Stewart, who has been with family on the west coast, the town council unanimously passed a resolution Monday, joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns in a stance against offshore drilling.”

SHELL VESSEL RESCUES FRENCHMAN, CAT FROM SAILBOAT STRANDED IN SEAS NEAR ALASKA. The [AP](#) (10/21, Thiessen) reports that a Frenchman and the cat tucked inside his clothing were rescued on Tuesday after he leapt from his sailboat to a waiting rescue ship sent by Shell. The man activated a location beacon in the high seas south of Alaska and told the Coast Guard his sailboat had lost its rudder and rigging in the high winds and 20-foot waves. The Coast Guard contacted Shell’s oil drilling rig, the Polar Pioneer, which is on its way to Port Angeles, and the rig “sent a support ship, the Tor Viking, to rescue the sailor.” The AP

reports that “it wasn’t immediately clear if the man would continue with the Shell ships to Washington state.”

CUNNINGHAM: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SHUTS THE DOOR ON ARCTIC DRILLING. In an analysis of the Interior Department’s recent decision on the future of Arctic drilling, [Oil Price](#) (10/21, 2K) reporter Nick Cunningham writes the Interior Department’s decision to cancel lease sales through 2017 “leaves almost no possible pathway for an oil company to drill in the Arctic for years to come, perhaps killing off drilling for a decade or so at a minimum.” Cunningham goes on to write that “it was likely that there wouldn’t have been new drilling in any event, given Shell’s decision and current market conditions, but Interior’s decision officially shuts the door on the Arctic in the medium-term.”

Casey: Interior’s Actions On Arctic Drilling Trends “Toward A Permanent Clampdown.”

[CleanTechnica’s](#) (10/20, 15K) Tina Casey writes that “in the absence of local regulations, the Feds are the only game in town and it seems that the Arctic’s role in the US economy is too important to trust to compliance by oil companies.” Casey adds that, even though the Interior’s actions last week on Arctic drilling may be “only temporary, but the trend is toward a permanent clampdown.”

4-Traders: Federal Government To Blame For Low Arctic Drilling Interest. In an op-ed piece on the Interior’s Arctic drilling decision, [4-Traders](#) (10/21, 5K) writes the Federal government’s “difficult” regulatory obstacles is to blame for the lack of interest among oil companies to explore for oil and natural gas in the Arctic. 4-Traders writes that the “demand for oil and natural gas isn’t going away, so energy domestic exploration must continue in the Arctic and elsewhere. But as we’ve seen, by putting up unnecessary regulatory hurdles, regulators can cause job and economic growth opportunities to be missed.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TO REVIEW HAGERMAN-HAILEY TRANSMISSION LINE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (10/21) reports that the BLM will review the Hagerman to Hailey transmission line, paying “special attention to the greater sage grouse in the area.” Stacey Baczkowski, a biologist with Idaho Power, says “the company has been working with the BLM for the last few years to make sure the line is built with the bird in mind.” Baczkowski says “the power company plans to build the new transmission line as close to the current one as possible, and will follow BLM rules about construction during sage grouse mating times.”

UTAH WATER DISTRICT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT BLM REVISION TO LAND-USE PLAN. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/21, 407K) reports that “federal policies that either aim to instill more oversight of water or deny access altogether have some Utah leaders frothing over what they say is a repeated pattern of overreach that threatens local economies and livelihoods.” Ron Thompson, general manager of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, said “possible revisions to a land-use plan by the Bureau of Land Management in Washington County have severe ramifications should one particular approach be adopted.” Thompson said “the BLM — under one option — is ignoring key considerations that went into the passage of the bill, including water supplies being left unhindered and right of way corridors left intact.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HELICOPTER CRASHES NEAR SEARCHLIGHT DURING CATTLE ROUNDUP. Additional coverage of the helicopter crash near Searchlight during a cattle roundup was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/21, 378K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CONSERVATION LEADERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONSERVATION SUMMIT. [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K) reports that “more than 40 leaders from the leading conservation groups in America are meeting in Springfield this week for a National Conservation Summit hosted by The Johnny Morris Foundation.” According to the article, “participants include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Geographic, Audubon Society, and Ducks Unlimited.” The article notes that “the purpose of the historic gathering is to collectively discuss opportunities to educate and engage the public in efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitats in preparation for the grand opening of America’s Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in 2016.”

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (10/20, 49K) reports that “three exhibits of America’s Wildlife Museum & Aquarium, formerly Wonders of Wildlife, were open to media for a tour on Oct. 20, 2015 at the museum

located next to the Bass Pro Shops flagship store in Springfield, Mo.” More than 40 conservation leaders attending a National Conservation Summit “hope the new Bass Pro Shops wildlife museum and aquarium will convey to visitors when it opens in mid 2016.” FWS Director Dan Ashe, “one of the summit attendees,” called the museum “one of the foremost conservation attractions in the world.” He said, “Through conservation efforts, we can be successful in sustaining these populations of animals that are threatened or endangered. People hear about the industrial-scale poaching of elephants that’s happening in Africa. That’s not hunting. With this museum, here’s an opportunity to tell the story of how we can protect wildlife habitat, and that when hunting is done well, with appropriate regulations, it sustains wildlife populations.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K), [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K), and [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K).

CNMI QUESTIONS INCLUSION OF SOME SPECIES ON ENDANGERED LIST. The [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “the Northern Marianas government says the decision to list 23 species in Guam and the CNMI as threatened or endangered was rushed.” The government says “it supports the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s listing of seven of the 17 CNMI species, but it questions the inclusion of some of the other species.” The Department of Land and Natural Resources says “a number of the species do not meet the definitions of threatened or endangered and don’t require federal protection.”

FWS LOOKS TO RESTORE HABITAT ON ROOT RIVER. The [Rochester \(MN\) Post-Bulletin](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “federal wildlife officials are seeking public input on a plan to restore and enhance habitat on 825 acres of Minnesota land along the Root River in Houston County.” Managed by the FWS “as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the Root River Tract sits to the east of Hwy. 26 between La Crescent and Brownsville.” The article notes that “the site includes 664 acres of hunting and farmland purchased in 2009 with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

SHOOTING OF CALIFORNIA CONDOR IN ARIZONA UNDER INVESTIGATION. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that FWS special agents and Arizona Game and Fish Department “law enforcement personnel are investigating the lethal shooting of an endangered California condor that occurred on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona Oct. 8.”

MAN CLAIMS HE BLOCKED ARIZONA BIKE TRAIL TO PROTECT OWLS. The [AP](#) (10/21, 344K) reports that “the 81-year-old man who blocked a Flagstaff-area mountain bike race says he did it to protect an endangered owl species.” J.D. Protiva “appeared in federal court Monday on misdemeanor charges related to blocking the Elden Springs Trail before the August race.” Protiva says “the path goes through protected Mexican spotted owl habitat.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MONARCHS GET HELP AS CALIFORNIANS PLANT DROUGHT-TOLERANT MILKWEED. Additional coverage that monarch butterflies could benefit from the California drought was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/21, 259K), [KABC-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/21, 413K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (10/21, 345K).

FWS INVESTING IN PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN ATLANTIC COASTAL DEFENSES AGAINST FUTURE STORMS. In an op-ed for the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (10/20, 172K), Wendi Weber is Northeast regional director for the FWS, writes that “federal money for Hurricane Sandy recovery has spurred an unprecedented effort to strengthen natural defenses along the Atlantic Coast to protect communities and wildlife against future storms.” She notes that the FWS and other Interior Department “agencies are investing \$787 million in hundreds of projects to clean up and repair damaged refuges and parks; restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline; connect and open waterways to improve flood control; and increase our scientific understanding of how these natural areas are changing.” According to Weber, “these investments support the goal of President Barack Obama’s Climate Action Plan to make communities more resilient to increasingly intense storms predicted with a changing climate.”

National Park Service:

MUSIC VIDEO CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF NPS. The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (10/20, 53K) reports on “a locally made music video that celebrates 100 years of the National Park Service.” According to the article, “published on Oct. 15, the Centennial video has more than 18,500 views on the NPS facebook page and more than 530 on the Youth Ambassador Program’s YouTube page, the group that made it.” NPS Director Jon Jarvis, “who met the traveling crew in Washington, D.C., makes a cameo appearance in the video

to say, 'It's great to celebrate a hundred years with YAP!'"

Kentucky Lieutenant Gov. Luallen Touts National Parks. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/20, 414K) reports that Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen on Tuesday "touted the economic impact of Kentucky's travel and tourism industry" in "an address to the Kentucky Travel Industry's annual conference in Bowling Green." Following her remarks, Luallen "recognized five national parks in Kentucky as part of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016." She "presented proclamations to representatives of the parks."

Couple Visiting 59 National Parks In 12 Months. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/21, 1.03M) reports that "Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, St. Louis natives, are two months into their grand adventure: 59 parks in 12 months – part celebration of the National Park Service's 100th anniversary, part exercise in youthful spontaneity." Their goal is to "see the best of the United States, and inspire others – particularly other millennials – to do the same." The article notes that "their mission meshes well with a new campaign of the Park Service, which celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2016."

WATCHDOG RELEASES REPORT ON NPS CONSTRUCTION FUNDS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "a federal watchdog yesterday released a disputed report alleging that the National Park Service is violating congressional intent by dipping into its construction account to cover security, air testing and other reimbursable expenses that should have been paid up front by other agencies." The NPS construction account is "only for expenses that relate to 'construction, improvements, repair or replacement of physical facilities,'" the Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General report said, "citing the language of the agency's appropriation." However, "the OIG found that 17 out of a sample of 21 interagency agreements that used Park Service construction funds to cover reimbursable costs did not appear to include 'a valid construction purpose.'" The article notes that "these included \$4.9 million that NPS spent from its construction account on security at the Department of the Army's Memorial Day and Independence Day concerts at the Capitol in 2014 and \$37.5 million over seven years on air quality monitoring at national parks that will be paid back to NPS by U.S. EPA."

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES GRAND CANYON BISON MANAGEMENT ACT. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act "allowing the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to better manage and conserve the bison population within the park Oct. 8." The legislation "requires the U.S. Department of Interior and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on a plan that allows sportsmen holding a valid state-issued hunting license to assist in management of the bison population within the park."

THUNDERSTORMS CAUSE FLOODING, MUDSLIDES IN DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "mudslides and flooding after severe thunderstorms in Death Valley National Park on Sunday trapped three park rangers and about 20 visitors – many out to see a clear night sky – in a volcanic crater overnight." Park spokeswoman Abby Wines said "the stranded people spent the night in Ubehebe Crater, maintaining contact with park headquarters until they were able to reach safety yesterday morning." The article notes that "no injuries were reported, but Wines said the unexpectedly severe storms knocked out power in the area, damaged and closed several roads, and filled a historic visitor's center with several feet of mud and debris."

NPS SET TO CONTINUE WITH TREE-CUTTING AT POTOMAC CAMPGROUND. The [Bethesda \(MD\) Magazine](#) (10/21) reports that "after complaints from two nearby residents and a call from County Council member Roger Berliner temporarily halted tree-cutting operations Friday at a Potomac campground, the National Park Service said it plans to resume the tree-cutting and will probably do so in the next few days." John Noel, deputy superintendent for the C&O Canal National Historical Park, said that "he went to the Swain's Lock Recreation Site to examine the 26 trees proposed to be removed and 32 others proposed to be pruned at the site's campground." Noel "agreed that the trees are rotting and in danger of falling on park users below."

STUDENTS GO ON CANOE TRIP AROUND WOLF LAKE. The [Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (10/20, 105K) reports that "all classes in Grades 6 through 9 at George Rogers Clark Junior-Senior High School in Hammond recently experienced a unique field trip right in their own back yard — a canoe trip around Wolf Lake located only a few blocks from the school." The trip was "made available through a partnership with the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center and Wilderness Inquiry."

NEW COLONIAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT THANKS COMMUNITY FOR ADVOCACY. The [Newport News](#)

[\(VA\) Daily Press](#) (10/20, Williams, Subscription Publication, 201K) reports that the Colonial National Historical Park's new Superintendent, Kym Hall, thanked the community for its opposition to Dominion's Skiffes Creek transmission project in her first appearance before the York County Board of Supervisors on September 1. "The view should be protected," she said.

DEVILS TOWER TO HOST STAR VIEWING PARTIES. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/21, 115K) reports that the NPS "announced that Devils Tower will host a series of star viewing parties October through December." The article notes that "the eight parties are free of charge, and will last approximately two hours."

NPS URGED TO RECONSIDER RACIST NAME FOR A WASHINGTON LAKE. In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/21, 74K), Glenn Nelson writes that Washington state officially calls Howard Lake "by what is believed to be its oldest known name," but the federal government "recognizes the lake by a name that causes the jaws of most people of color to drop: Coon Lake." Nelson notes that "the federal government did not follow the usual course of supporting the state's action, mostly because of opposition from the National Park Service, which manages the area that contains the lake." The NPS, "acting on research from its North Cascades unit, originally defended its stance by claiming that there was ambiguity around the use of the term 'coon.'" According to Nelson, "in the years leading up to its 2016 centennial, the Park Service has done a lot of talking and writing about the need for diversity and inclusiveness." He concludes that "it's past time for the Park Service to back away from its misguided opposition, encourage Secretary Jewell to come to its rescue, and allow another black life to matter."

US Geological Survey:

USGS SEISMOLOGIST QUESTIONS PREDICTION OF 99.9 PERCENT CHANCE OF MAJOR LOS ANGELES EARTHQUAKE IN 3 YEARS. The [Southern California Public Radio](#) (10/20, 68K) reports that "a controversial new study from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory" claims "there is a 99.9 percent chance of an earthquake" in Los Angeles "between magnitude 5 and 6.3 in less than three years." The study, published earlier this month by the American Geophysical Union's Earth and Space Science journal, has "taken many in the seismic community by surprise." Lucy Jones with the USGS said the "methodology doesn't fully explain the prediction, and the study doesn't adequately address this either." Jones said that, according to the USGS' "models, there is only an 85 percent chance of a magnitude 5 or 6 quake in the same region over a three-year period."

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: TRUDEAU'S ELECTION LIKELY TO FOSTER IMPROVED US-CANADA TIES. On the day after Justin Trudeau became Canada's Prime Minister-designate, media reporting universally characterized the election results as a likely boost for US-Canada relations. Coverage focuses on Trudeau's promise of a less combative foreign policy style and the perception that he will be more willing to accept a US rejection of the Keystone pipeline. Reporting – including a combined 2 minutes and 50 seconds on the three broadcast networks – also indicates that despite Trudeau's decision to withdraw his aircraft from the US-led coalition against ISIL, he is likely to be a more willing partner on climate change and other issues.

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, story 9, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported President Obama on Tuesday congratulated Trudeau, who "swept into power with a message of optimism saying Canada beat fear with hope." [USA Today](#) (10/21, Korte, 5.23M) reports Obama made the phone call "in an attempt to lock down continued cooperation with the northern neighbor on trade, terrorism, and climate change." The White House, according to USA Today, "signaled that not much would change in the relationship" between the neighbors following the Liberal party's victory. [CBC News](#) (10/20, Fitzpatrick, 225K) reported on its website that the White House indicated Obama and Trudeau "agreed on the importance of deepening the 'already strong' bilateral relationship" between the countries "and committed to strengthen joint efforts to promote trade and to combat terrorism and climate change."

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports the White House and current Prime Minister Stephen Harper "clashed over climate policy" and the Keystone pipeline. While White House spokesman Josh Earnest on Tuesday said "it would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue," Chuck Todd reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that "we now have a Canadian government that is politically more in line with the American government." According to Todd, "Relations have been good but they have not been so great of late. Will they now get better? That is why Americans should care."

In an article entitled “5 Reasons The US Should Care About Canada’s New Prime Minister,” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hjelmggaard, 5.23M) lists ways in which Trudeau “is likely to affect policies in Canada and the United States.” According to USA Today, Trudeau “promised to improve strained relations” with Obama and said “he wants to find constructive ways of working with Washington on other issues.” Another [USA Today](#) (10/21, Kovac, 5.23M) article reports that Trudeau and Harper “differ in their approach to foreign policy,” with the incoming leader being less vocally pro-Israel and more focused on environmental issues.

In an analysis piece, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/21, 2.66M) says “a prompt rejection” of the Keystone pipeline by Obama “would make the job easier” for Trudeau “as he seeks to reset the country’s relationship with the US, which he says was damaged” by Harper. According to Bloomberg, Trudeau “could use a quick US denial” of the pipeline “to focus discussions” with Obama “on issues such as trade and climate.” Bloomberg notes there has been “speculation” that Obama “would reject the pipeline shortly after the Canadian election.” However, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Cama, 471K) reported, Secretary of State Kerry said Tuesday that Canada’s election results will not change the White House’s approach to the Keystone issue. Kerry said the decision “is being based on the merits and countervailing balance of all the input that has come from a very exhaustive agency review.” Kerry reiterated that he seeks a decision “as fast as possible.”

[Reuters](#) (10/21, Mason, Rampton) reports the White House indicated it would like the new Canadian government to take increased actions to address climate change. Earnest said that while Canada has “made a substantial and important commitment” ahead of the Paris climate talks, “We believe that it’s possible that there is more that Canada can do in this regard.”

However, writing for [Mother Jones](#) (10/20, 758K), Suzanne Goldenberg claimed “those hoping for a U-turn in Canada’s climate change policy...are in for a reality check.” According to Goldenberg, while Trudeau does not align directly with many of Harper’s views or policies, “it would be a mistake” to see the new Canadian leader or his party “as climate champions.” In [Slate](#) (10/20, 1.38M), Joshua Keating argued that at least with regard to the Keystone pipeline, Trudeau does present a change from Harper. Keating characterizes Trudeau as “a very different leader” from Harper and says he will make the Keystone pipeline less of a focal point of US-Canada relations. According to Keating, Trudeau “has described his support for the pipeline as ‘steadfast,’ but it’s clearly not the make-or-break issue for him that it was for Harper.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Vieira, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports Trudeau said he will work to restore Canada’s reputation of defending minorities and become more involved in multilateral policy making. At a rally in Ottawa, Trudeau said, “To this country’s friends around the world, I want to say this: Many of you have worried Canada has lost its compassionate and constructive voice in the world over the past 10 years. I have simple message for you: We’re back.” The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports that Trudeau “is likely to present a very different face to the world” than Harper, “but the most noticeable difference will probably be in tone.” Trudeau has vowed to “put an end to Mr. Harper’s often belligerent style of politics and diplomacy.” Trudeau said Tuesday that “a positive, optimistic, hopeful vision of public life isn’t a naïve dream – it can be a powerful force for change.” The Times says Trudeau has previously indicated a desire to end Harper’s reliance on military solutions and tough rhetoric, and instead focus on working within international organizations, such as the United Nations.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 10, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “Canada took a left turn” as “Trudeau and the Liberal Party rode in on a landslide.” In a [USA Today](#) (10/21, 5.23M) op-ed, author David Andelman says “most of the reasons” Canadian voters chose Trudeau to lead the country “boiled down to one fundamental: The Liberal Party leader was simply nicer than his opponent. And most Canadians believe they are, too.” Similarly, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that Canadians wanted a change from the Harper government, which had become isolated and sought to restrict debate. The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) agrees, editorializing that Trudeau’s election “shows how ready Canadians were to emerge from a decade under the Conservative government of the secretive and combative Stephen Harper.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau told Obama on Tuesday that Canadian fighter aircraft will withdraw from the US-led coalition against ISIL, but the new Canadian leader did not present a timeline for the move. In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, A1, Brown, 6.76M) reports Trudeau said, “I committed that we would continue to engage in a responsible way that understands how Canada has a role to play in the fight against ISIL,” adding, that Obama “understands the commitments I’ve made around ending the combat mission.” According to the Post, a “senior Administration official,” said Obama and Trudeau discussed joint anti-terrorism

efforts and, "We expect Canada will continue to be a valuable contributor to the 65-member global coalition" against ISIL.

Trudeau's Win Could "Lead To Full Marijuana Legalization" In Canada. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hughes, 5.23M) reports Trudeau's win "may lead to full marijuana legalization" for Canada. According to USA Today, Trudeau promised during his campaign that "Canada would create a system to tax, regulate and sell marijuana, along with stiff penalties for anyone giving pot to children or caught driving while stoned." USA Today says American "cannabis activists hailed Tuesday's election as a milestone, suggesting that a day may soon come when cross-border trade talks include...legal weed."

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau's "promise to legalize recreational cannabis" will likely "help the nation's nascent medical marijuana industry." Investors, according to AFP, "are betting" they could build on companies' current production of marijuana for medical use and "quickly scale up to serve recreational pot users too, once Trudeau makes good on his promise."

NYTimes Analysis: Trudeau Is "No Dynast" Despite Father Being Former Prime Minister. In a 1,350-world profile piece, the [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that despite there being "many easy parallels to draw between" Trudeau and his father, former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Canada's incoming leader "is no dynast who slipped effortlessly into a family political machine." The Times notes that Trudeau "did not even enter politics until 18 years after his father gave it up, and seven years after his father's death." According to the Times, Trudeau "built his own cadre of advisers, mostly from his own generation" and sometimes "chose more difficult roads – partly, it appears, to show he had not been handed a life in politics on a platter."

In the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, 6.76M) "Reliable Source" blog, Emily Heil says Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, "have a lot in common with the Obamas." According to Heil, "they'd have lots to talk about, apart from liberal politics, like fitness!"

IN APPARENT REVERSAL, BIDEN SAYS HE PRIVATELY URGED OBAMA TO AUTHORIZE UBL RAID.

Vice President Biden did not reveal Tuesday whether or not he will enter the Democratic presidential race, but his remark that he privately advised President Obama to launch the 2011 raid that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden – which contradicted Biden's past public comments that he advised against the raid – is being interpreted as a possible line of attack against Hillary Clinton. All three broadcast networks reported on the statement, combining for nearly eight minutes of coverage, and ABC led with it. The tone of the coverage is mixed, with most reports calling it a reversal, and some concluding that Biden may be undercutting his own reputation for candor.

There was also Twitter discussion of Biden's remarks. Anthony De Rosa, a digital producer for The Daily Show who has nearly 89,000 followers, [tweeted](#), "Biden sounds like Brian Williams with his evolving recollection of the Bin Laden raid." Jonathan Martin of the New York Times [tweeted](#), "@vp today signals: he'll run & it'll get negative FAST or: he's not happy about being sidelined." His Times colleague Maggie Haberman [tweeted](#), "Biden's subtle digs at Clinton indicate that if he runs it'll be ugly." In addition, the hashtag [#BidenWatch](#) emerged on Twitter, with Fox Business Network's Trish Regan [tweeting](#), "Sure sounds like he's running...", Mashable's Juana Summers [tweeting](#) Biden's Wednesday official schedule, and Al Jazeera America's David Shuster [tweeting](#) that "Hallie Biden, widow of the late Beau Biden, says her family supports a Presidential campaign '100%'".

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M) reported that "as the pressure mounts for Joe Biden to decide whether he'll run...many [are] now asking, did he change his story?" ABC (Karl) added, "Biden has described Obama's decision as especially courageous because in that key meeting when it came time to decide, most of the President's advisers, including Biden himself, were not in favor of the raid." On Tuesday, he "offered an entirely different account of what happened on that fateful day." Biden was shown saying, "So as we walked out of the room and we walked upstairs, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts. But it would have been a mistake, imagine if I had said in front of everyone, 'don't go, or go,' and his decision was a different decision." Karl: "But until today, Biden has said he told Obama and his team that night to hold off on the raid."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 6, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Biden "sounded more like a presidential candidate, talking up his foreign policy credentials, doing some rewriting of his own history and firing a shot over the bow of the Democratic frontrunner." CBS' Nancy Corden added that Biden "never

mentioned Clinton by name, "but it was all too clear the comparison he was making when he said this about his stature overseas." Biden: "I will get sent to go speak to Putin or go speak to whomever, and it's because the secretary of state, we've had two great secretaries of state, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the President." Cordes added that Biden left Clinton "out of his story" about the Bin Laden raid.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 3, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) also said of Biden, "If anything, he is beginning to sound more like a candidate, taking not-so-veiled swipes" at Clinton. NBC (Welker) added that Biden "said he and the President were in lock-step when it came to authorizing the raid against Bin Laden." The [AP](#) (10/21, Lederman) says Biden "backtracked on his previous claims to have advised Obama against the raid" in "an unusual reversal."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/21, Talev, 247K) reports that in his remarks at an event honoring his vice presidential predecessor Walter Mondale, Biden "portrayed himself as the central player" in the Administration "on everything from working with congressional Republicans to the killing" of Bin Laden. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Singer, 5.23M) says Biden "revised his account of his advice" to Obama after Mondale said he "would only disagree with President Jimmy Carter in private during his tenure as vice president."

The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Harris, Martin, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says with the remark, Biden "sought...to dispel" the notion that he had opposed the raid, which "might dog him on the campaign trail." Biden said he "never gave his own views on controversial issues until the rest of the cabinet had spoken, mindful that he did not want the rest of the team to see a difference between his opinion and that of the president." Biden said only then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates and then-CIA Director Leon Panetta "had expressed definitive views on the raid," and "pointedly did not mention" Clinton, who "has said that she was in favor of the raid."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Jaffe, 6.76M) says Biden "seemed to change his account" with a revision that "seems designed to buttress his qualifications to serve as commander-in-chief." But Biden "seems to have contradicted his earlier memories of the final meeting before the bin Laden raid." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Nelson, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says Biden cast himself as Obama's chief adviser on many issues, and sought to downplay Clinton's advisory role as secretary of state. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/21, Memoli, 4.07M) says Biden used the event "to highlight his close relationship with President Obama that would be at the heart of Biden's potential presidential campaign."

The [New York Daily News](#) (10/21, Joseph, 3.75M) says Biden's "new details make him out to be a supporter of the high-stakes raid that killed Bin Laden – a big shift from the common narrative that he resisted it, one Clinton's allies have hinted could be a main attack line if Biden does jump into the race." The [Boston Globe](#) (10/21, Linskey, 1.1M) says Biden "has been on record recommending against the move."

[Politico](#) (10/20, Doveve, 942K) says Biden "contradicted" his own previous accounts as well as "what Obama himself said about the decision during his third 2012 debate with Mitt Romney." The President said at the time, "Even some in my own party, including my current vice president, had the same critique as you did." [The Hill](#) (10/20, Fabian, 471K) reports White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest "dodged multiple questions" about Biden's remarks, "saying he would not comment on private conversations between the president and the vice president."

[Politico](#) (10/20, Wheaton, 942K) writes that "for a politician who projects authenticity," Biden "seemed to stumble around the truth" Tuesday, not just on the Bin Laden raid but also in claiming "to have veto power over nominations and to speak for the president with more authority than other top officials do." [TIME](#) (10/20, 19.55M) says on its website that Biden's "narrative runs in the face of the one Biden himself offered in 2012." The [Daily Caller](#) (10/20, Ross, 375K) says Biden "contradicted himself" with the remarks. Gregory Krieg of [Mic](#) (10/20, 1.5M) writes that Biden "really sounds like someone who is running for president." [The Blaze](#) (10/20, 1.66M), the [CNN](#) (10/20, Koran, 5.17M) website, [Roll Call](#) (10/20, Bennett, 113K), and

"Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Oct 21 2015 09:12:39 GMT-0600 (MDT)

To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

No I didn't. I must not be on the political listserv.

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 11:11 AM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
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Please let me know if you do NOT receive the daily clips each morning from Bulletin News at 7:00 AM. Please do not reply all.

Best,

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Blake Androff
Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
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To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

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DOI in the News:

SEN. MURKOWSKI SEES TOUGH ROAD FOR INTERIOR NOMINEE. [Politico Pro](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Lisa Murkowski said that Interior Department pick Kristen Sarri would “have a lot of explaining to do at a hearing on six nominees today.” While Murkowski was “pleased that President Barack Obama had renamed Mount McKinley this summer to Denali, the Alaska Republican said she was still frustrated with the Interior Department’s ‘heartless decision’ to deny a road in King Cove.” Murkowski also “criticized Interior for closing off oil production in Alaska and last week’s cancellation of offshore sales and lease extension.”

Meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (10/21, Barton, 375K) reports that Murkowski is “torn between leaving the Department of the Interior’s independent watchdog post vacant, or confirming President Barack Obama’s nominee crippled by recurring allegations of ‘playing games with Congress.’” She said, “I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent [inspector general], and I’m disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years.” Murkowski continued, “But I am also committed to ensuring that the individual we confirm is fully independent ... The tenure that you have been involved with thus far in this position has been marked by controversy.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/21, Henry, 471K), [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (10/20), and [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/20, 2K).

HISTORIC \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH CHOCTAW, CHICKASAW NATIONS LAUDED. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/20, 32K) reports that “tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior heralded the outcome of a \$186 million settlement signed earlier this month between the federal

government, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw nations to solve a longstanding land trust dispute as a new chapter in relations.” During the October 5 signing ceremony, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby “gave a nod to the impetus provided” by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He said, “We respect the vital role Secretary Jewell has taken in helping make this historic settlement a reality. We are confident she will play an essential role in our efforts to continue strengthening the relationship between our governments, because we believe she has a unique appreciation for the mutual benefits of a positive government-to-government relationship.” Jewell said, “Today’s agreement is the latest addition to a record number of longstanding settlements resolved under this Administration. This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country.”

U.S. TREASURY CONFIRMS \$20B BALANCE FOR LWCF. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/21, 705) reports that “the Land and Water Conservation Fund that expired earlier this month for the first time in its 50-year history currently contains nearly \$20 billion, according to the U.S. Treasury, which maintains the program’s balance sheets.” But “whether that is ‘real’ money available to be spent on federal land acquisitions, private land easements and state recreation projects depends on whom you ask.” The article notes that “the \$19.8 billion can only be reduced until Congress reauthorizes the program.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/20, 31K).

PROPOSED DESIGNATIONS OF THREE NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT “LAND GRAB.” [Fox News](#) (10/20, 8.91M) reports that “a group of off-roaders and others are attempting to fight a proposed designation of three national monuments in the California desert under the Antiquities Act.” The Obama Administration is “considering using the federal Antiquities Act to bypass the legislative process at the request of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, whose efforts to have the Mojave Trails and Castle Mountain, both in the Mojave Desert, and a section of the Sonoran Desert named federal sites were repeatedly blocked by Republicans.” According to the article, “a White House move could put the land under federal control, which critics say could cut funding for upkeep or even restrict access.”

UNMANNED HELICOPTER OFFERS NEW WAY TO FIGHT WILDFIRES. The [Voice of America](#) (10/21, Banse, 32K) reports that the K-MAX “unmanned, water-dropping” helicopter was tested by the US government. The helicopter can fly through limited visibility. Brad Koeckertiz, the unmanned aircraft program manager with the US Department of Interior, says that unmanned helicopters such as the K-MAX will be integrated into routine measures to fight wildfires over the next few of years. The article notes that the K-MAX helicopters have already been used by the US Marines in Afghanistan, to “resupply remote outposts at night” and replace “dangerous convoys on the ground.” The article notes that the growing uses for drones is also why the FAA is seeking to register all drones.

Additional coverage was provided by [Vertical Magazine \(CAN\)](#) (10/21).

JEB BUSH PROPOSES MOVING INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FROM D.C. To Western City. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/20, Lucas, 199K) reports that “Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will unveil his proposals for Western land and resource management in a campaign stop in Reno on Wednesday morning, in a speech likely to resonate with conservative voters opposed to what they see as federal overreach in the Western states.” Bush is “expected to speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park before appearing at a forum sponsored by the LIBRE Initiative at the College of Southern Nevada Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas at 6 p.m.” In the proposal, Bush will “call for moving the headquarters of the Department of Interior from Washington, D.C., to a city in the western United States like Denver, Salt Lake City or Reno and will say that as president he would direct federal agencies to give broad latitude to states to determine land-use issues.”

STUDY: ALASKAN WILDFIRES COULD EXACERBATE GLOBAL WARMING. The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Mooney, 6.76M) reports that some greenhouse gas sources outside the scope of forthcoming UN climate talks are beyond governments’ control, such as raging peat fires in Indonesia this year, emitting “as much as Japan produces in a year from fossil fuels.” Elsewhere, a new study in Nature Climate Change reaffirms concerns about the emissions of northern fires in Alaska. The Post reports that “climate researchers are still trying to figure out how all of these factors will interrelate,” but fire is a “powerful determinant of how much carbon resides in land, rather than in the air, across our globe.”

INTERIOR’S VINE ACCOUNT HIGHLIGHTED. [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K) highlights the Interior Department

has a great vine account. Providing a link, Politico says "this is internet gold."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA RULE ANNOUNCES RULE GIVING TRIBES MORE CONTROL OVER ELECTIONS. [Law360](#) (10/20, 21K) reports that the BIA "on Monday announced its final rule for Native American tribal elections conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying the new rule will encourage tribes to take control of their elections and help protect the voting rights of tribe members living in urban areas." Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said "in a statement Monday that the rule will allow tribes to opt out of having the interior secretary conduct their elections."

The [Native American Times](#) (10/20, 337) reports that Washburn said, "Though many federal responsibilities concern the lands we hold in trust for tribes and Indian people, more than 55 million acres nationwide, the United States has a moral obligation to preserve connections between Indian people and their tribes that it once sought to destroy. For the future of Native nations and the health of Indian Country, American Indians in urban areas must work harder to maintain connections with their tribes. One important aspect of that relationship is participation in the civic and political life of their tribal governments. For that reason, our Secretarial election amendments seek to prevent tribal members living in urban areas from being inadvertently disenfranchised in Secretarial elections."

HEARING FOCUSES ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, Kelleher) reports from Honolulu that a federal court hearing began on Tuesday "in a lawsuit by people who want to put a stop to an election process that is underway for Native Hawaiians." The lawsuit, filed in August, "says it's unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election." The state "argues in court documents that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it's not involved in next month's vote to elect delegates for a convention to determine self-governance for Native Hawaiians." Tuesday's hearing "is focused on the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction," and the plaintiffs "want the judge to limit voter registration activities or stop the election altogether."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/21, 66K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (10/21, Kelleher, 5.98M).

INTERIOR SIDES WITH ALASKA NATIVE GROUP IN INVESTIGATION OF MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE TRIBAL COLLECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, 2.28M) reports that "a Massachusetts college was found in violation of a federal law regulating the possession and sale of potentially sacred artifacts following a complaint from an organization of Alaska Natives." The Interior Department said "an investigation substantiated the complaint against Andover Newton Theological School filed in June by the Sealaska Heritage Institute." The institute's president, Rosita Worl, said "the school possesses at least two southeast Alaska artifacts, including a Tlingit halibut hook that is considered sacred."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, D'oro, 344K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 548K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/21, 5.59M), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (10/21, 651K), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/21, D'oro, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (10/21, 3.97M), and the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/20, 219K).

US ATTORNEY SAYS BIA OFFICER WAS JUSTIFIED IN DEADLY SPIRIT LAKE SHOOTING. The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that US Attorney Chris Myers "says" that an investigation by his office came to the conclusion that BIA Officer Terry Morgan was justified in shooting and killing "31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16." The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (10/21, 100K) reports that the US Attorney's Office "said" the shooting was justified because Charboneau posed a "real and immediate" threat to officers and another person at the scene after he refused to put down his gun, which was pointed at the officers. The Grand Forks Herald reports that, as a result of the investigation, Federal prosecutors "will not file charges against" Morgan.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (10/21, 1K), the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (10/21, 14K), [KXJB-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/21, 18K), [KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/20, 3K), [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (10/21, 1K), and [KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#) Bismarck, ND (10/21, 1K).

CRIME JUMPS AFTER TRIBES CUT FROM BIA FUNDING. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Romney,

4.0/M) reports on a "time of crisis for public safety on tribal lands." According to the article, "a federal law decades ago shifted the primary burden of criminal law enforcement on tribal lands in California and five other states to local authorities," but "many lack the resources to do the job and, in some cases, sufficient knowledge of tribal law and culture to win the trust of tribal members." After "tribes were cut off from steady funding for their own justice systems," crime has "flourished."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YAKAMA NATION'S PETITION TO SELF-GOVERN APPROVED. Additional coverage that the BIA on Monday granted the Yakama Nation's petition for "retrocession" was provided by the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 101K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (10/20, 86K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, 344K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/20, 183K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), the [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K), [KNDU-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#) Yakima, WA (10/21, 3K), and [KUOW-FM Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (10/21, 15K).

GILLETTE'S SERVICE IN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PRAISED. In an editorial, the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/21, 37K) lauds Jodi Gillette's service in the Obama Administration. According to the paper, Gillette's "positions gave her a voice in a White House that has seemed genuinely concerned about Native American issues."

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA PROPOSES MARSHALLS FUND CHANGES. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "a top US official has submitted a proposal to the Senate and House to allow the people of Bikini to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands." Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina says "it is an appropriate course of action to take regarding the welfare and livelihood of the Bikinian people." The Bikinians were "displaced by US nuclear weapons testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands." According to the article, "in addition to cramped living quarters and a lack of suitable sustainable resources, the islands have been experiencing more frequent storms and king tides resulting in salt water inundation and the destruction of crops."

[Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "a representative from Bikini Atoll says a proposal to allow people to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands is not wanted." Bikini liaison officer Jack Niedenthal says "the US should take full responsibility for any resettlement including providing extra financing." Niedenthal said, "We still got a ways to go, we still have to do some more lobbying and some more talking to people in Washington to make them understand that what's being proposed by the assistant secretary is what we view as 'Plan B'. It's not ultimately what we want in terms of helping our people."

CHINA STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIP WITH PACIFIC REGION. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that "China and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat further strengthened their relationship on Friday when the two met at a ceremony to hand over \$1.05 million to assist the Pacific region." Forum Secretariat Secretary General Meg Taylor and Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Zhang Ping "attended the ceremony and delivered speeches respectively." Zhang "reiterated his nation's ongoing interest in the region saying, 'China attaches great importance to the South Pacific region. The Chinese side stands ready to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation with Pacific Island Countries and contribute to the development and capacity building in the region.'"

COUNTRIES IN PACIFIC URGED TO BEGIN TALKS ON CLIMATE MIGRATION. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "all countries in the Pacific are being urged to start discussions on how to help people forced to move from low lying atoll nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu." According to the article, "184 million people worldwide were displaced by disaster between 2008 and 2014 and at special meetings in Geneva last week 110 countries gave the nod to a Protection Agenda for dealing with future migration challenges." The article notes that "the experiences of small island countries which face rising seas due to climate change helped form the global action plan under the Swiss Norwegian Nansen Initiative."

JOURNALIST SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY OF GUAM ON CLIMATE ISSUES, CORRUPTION IN PACIFIC ISLANDS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that "author and journalist Giff Johnson spoke to students at the University of Guam on Monday evening about climate change and development in the Pacific islands." Johnson's "lecture, entitled 'Idyllic No More: Pacific Island Climate, Corruption and Development

Uilemmas, is based on his latest book — a compilation of essays detailing the looming climate threat to the region, its booming fishing industry, and the U.S. nuclear test legacy in the Marshall Islands.” Johnson called attention to “climate-driven migration from remote pacific islands to Guam and mainland U.S.”

RISING SEA LEVELS THREATEN KIRIBATI. The [National Geographic](#) (10/21, 31.65M) provides a picture gallery of the threat of rising sea levels driven by climate change on Kiribati.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

WATER SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED FROM NEW MELONES. The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “more than 7 billion gallons of water is scheduled to be released from New Melones Reservoir beginning today to ensure flows in the Stanislaus River will keep temperatures cool enough for adult salmon migrating up the river to spawn this fall.” Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District said “it would benefit river conditions and fisheries, as well as the needs of agriculture and more than 200,000 residential customers downstream.” The article notes that “earlier this year, the irrigation districts sparred with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — which manages New Melones Reservoir — over spring pulse flows that they feared would leave as little as 147,000 acre-feet in the reservoir by the end of September.”

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTE TO OPPOSE DELTA TUNNELS PLAN.

The [Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (10/21, 14K) reports that “at a meeting on Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a resolution in formal opposition of California WaterFix, also known as the twin tunnels plan.” Supervisor Kathy Miller said, “The WaterFix is just a thinly veiled version of the former (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and continues to push the fatally flawed twin tunnels, which will simply sacrifice one region of California for the benefit of another.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, DOMINION BOTH SUPPORT OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT. On his [Bacon’s Rebellion \(VA\)](#) (10/21, Bacon) blog, James Bacon reports on an Environment Virginia-sponsored webinar held Tuesday morning in which representatives from Dominion, environmental groups, and the McAuliffe Administration all voiced support for the utility’s experimental offshore wind farm project. For environmentalists, Bacon writes, the project represents the beginning of an industry that would increase the use of green energy along the Atlantic and displace fossil fuels. For the Governor’s office, it represents increased green energy coupled with economic development that takes advantage of the Newport News area’s shipbuilding industry.

Onshore Energy Development:

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY FINED \$2.1 MILLION FOR UNDER-REPORTING NATURAL GAS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department on Monday “announced a \$2.1 million civil penalty against Chesapeake Energy Corp. for misreporting the amount of gas it produced and sold from American Indian lands in Oklahoma.” Chesapeake “failed to comply with a 2011 order that found ‘systemic errors’ in the company’s monthly production reports for more than 100 Indian leases, according to Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue.” The company “agreed to amend the monthly reports, but it continued to maintain inaccurate information on the agency’s data systems, ONRR said.” The firm was “assessed a penalty based on ‘knowing or willful maintenance’ of the inaccurate information, ONRR said.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), and [KOKC-AM Oklahoma City \(OK\)](#) Oklahoma City (10/20, 1K).

TEXAS ENERGY REGULATOR OPPOSES STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K) reports that “Texas’ top energy regulator on Tuesday said the agency will oppose a U.S. Department of the Interior proposed rule aimed at better protecting streams and other waterways from nearby mining activity, saying the regulation encroaches on ground better left to the state.” Texas Railroad Commission Chairman David

Porter on Tuesday said the state would sign on to the multistate Interstate Mining Compact Commission's comments opposing the proposed waterway regulation."

USGS REPORT STATES EARTHQUAKES COINCIDE WITH OKLAHOMA OIL BOOMS. [KOCO-TV](#)

Oklahoma City (10/21, 93K) reports that "a study by the United States Geological Survey states that the earthquakes from the past 100 years seem to coincide with the oil boom in Oklahoma."

OKLAHOMA REGULATORS SHUT DOWN THREE MORE DISPOSAL WELLS. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication) reports that "Oklahoma oil and gas regulators dealing with a dramatic increase in earthquakes near the pipeline hub of Cushing have shut down three more disposal wells." Also, "another well was shut down by the company that owns it after regulators said they were concerned it was drilled too deep." In addition, "the operators of seven other wells were told in a letter written Friday and released yesterday that they must reduce the volume of drilling waste that they inject deep underground."

OKLAHOMA LIMITS DISPOSAL WELLS AMID CUSHING QUAKES. [Reuters](#) (10/21, Hampton, Brandes) reports that Oklahoma's oil and gas regulator on Monday said it could impose new limits on all saltwater disposal wells within a 10-mile radius of Cushing. Reuters reports that Oklahoma now experiences as many as two magnitude 3.0 quakes per day, up from two per year. Thirteen wells have been ordered shut and approvals for new wells have been halted, Reuters reports. Scientists told Reuters that shutting wells could ease tectonic disruption in Oklahoma.

STUDY: FRACKING CAN CAUSE METHANE LEAKS IN NEARBY ABANDONED OIL WELLS. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Valdmanis) reported that according to a study published Tuesday in the Water Resources Research journal, fracking can cause methane leaks in nearby abandoned oil wells. The methane leaks could be a large source of unrecorded greenhouse gas emissions, according to the study. The study said that energy companies could reduce the probability of such methane leaks by trying to identify abandoned wells before they begin fracking, although the task could be difficult due to large numbers of unmarked abandoned wells.

BLM CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE PICTURES UNDER FOIA REQUEST. For the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (10/21), Darryl L. Flowers criticizes the BLM for failing to provide pictures in connection with "the proposed Solenex, LLC natural gas well on public lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest" that were requested under the Freedom of Information Act. The paper received "sixteen photos" and "two photos were missing." He notes that "curiously, the two omitted photos were the only ones that included a person in the photos."

Offshore Energy Development:

FEDS INVESTIGATE WORKER'S DEATH ON DRILLSHIP CONTRACTED BY CHEVRON. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/20, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that officials from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Coast Guard are investigating "the death of a worker on a drillship in the Gulf of Mexico that was preparing to bore a well for Chevron." Fuel Fix says that "the Pacific Santa Ana drillship was just beginning operations for Chevron in about 4,800 feet of water at the site and had not yet penetrated the sea floor when an employee of that drilling contractor was fatally injured." Fuel Fix adds that Chevron has a 36 percent working interest in the Keathley Canyon well-leasing block where the incident occurred, an area where "Chevron outlined ambitions to drill up to seven wells" earlier this year.

The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that Amy Roddy, spokeswoman for Pacific Drilling SA, the ship's owner, "said the company is not releasing any details about the man to respect his family's privacy. She also refused to disclose how the man died or details of the accident, citing an ongoing investigation."

[NASDAQ](#) (10/20, Sider) reports that Chevron has contracted the ship since 2012. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/21, Larino, 718K) adds that "operations have been shut down and personnel remain onboard, according to the drillship's operator."

[Offshore Engineer](#) (10/20, Leon) reports that "the ship was to use its dual gradient drilling functions for Chevron's Anchor-1 prospect last year in Green Canyon block 807, but the well was junked due to mechanical failures. However, in January of this year, Chevron hit high quality oil pay in multiple Lower Tertiary Wilcox Sands at a second Anchor well also drilled by the Pacific Santa Ana."

The [Dow Jones Newswires](#) (10/21, Sider) reports that this is the first death related to offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico this year.

[Reuters](#) (10/21), [gCaptain](#) (10/21, 2K), [Upstream Online](#) (10/21, Schmidt, Brenner, 20K), and [Maritime Executive](#) (10/20, 21) also cover the story.

BRIARCLIFFE ACRES VOTES AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (10/21, 36K) reports that “in a storm of debate over offshore drilling, Briarcliffe Acres surfaced as the latest coastal town to join a united front against seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas off of South Carolina’s beaches.” According to the article, “missing councilwoman Abby Stewart, who has been with family on the west coast, the town council unanimously passed a resolution Monday, joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns in a stance against offshore drilling.”

SHELL VESSEL RESCUES FRENCHMAN, CAT FROM SAILBOAT STRANDED IN SEAS NEAR ALASKA. The [AP](#) (10/21, Thiessen) reports that a Frenchman and the cat tucked inside his clothing were rescued on Tuesday after he leapt from his sailboat to a waiting rescue ship sent by Shell. The man activated a location beacon in the high seas south of Alaska and told the Coast Guard his sailboat had lost its rudder and rigging in the high winds and 20-foot waves. The Coast Guard contacted Shell’s oil drilling rig, the Polar Pioneer, which is on its way to Port Angeles, and the rig “sent a support ship, the Tor Viking, to rescue the sailor.” The AP reports that “it wasn’t immediately clear if the man would continue with the Shell ships to Washington state.”

CUNNINGHAM: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SHUTS THE DOOR ON ARCTIC DRILLING. In an analysis of the Interior Department’s recent decision on the future of Arctic drilling, [Oil Price](#) (10/21, 2K) reporter Nick Cunningham writes the Interior Department’s decision to cancel lease sales through 2017 “leaves almost no possible pathway for an oil company to drill in the Arctic for years to come, perhaps killing off drilling for a decade or so at a minimum.” Cunningham goes on to write that “it was likely that there wouldn’t have been new drilling in any event, given Shell’s decision and current market conditions, but Interior’s decision officially shuts the door on the Arctic in the medium-term.”

Casey: Interior’s Actions On Arctic Drilling Trends “Toward A Permanent Clampdown.” [CleanTechnica’s](#) (10/20, 15K) Tina Casey writes that “in the absence of local regulations, the Feds are the only game in town and it seems that the Arctic’s role in the US economy is too important to trust to compliance by oil companies.” Casey adds that, even though the Interior’s actions last week on Arctic drilling may be “only temporary, but the trend is toward a permanent clampdown.”

4-Traders: Federal Government To Blame For Low Arctic Drilling Interest. In an op-ed piece on the Interior’s Arctic drilling decision, [4-Traders](#) (10/21, 5K) writes the Federal government’s “difficult” regulatory obstacles is to blame for the lack of interest among oil companies to explore for oil and natural gas in the Arctic. 4-Traders writes that the “demand for oil and natural gas isn’t going away, so energy domestic exploration must continue in the Arctic and elsewhere. But as we’ve seen, by putting up unnecessary regulatory hurdles, regulators can cause job and economic growth opportunities to be missed.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TO REVIEW HAGERMAN-HAILEY TRANSMISSION LINE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (10/21) reports that the BLM will review the Hagerman to Hailey transmission line, paying “special attention to the greater sage grouse in the area.” Stacey Baczkowski, a biologist with Idaho Power, says “the company has been working with the BLM for the last few years to make sure the line is built with the bird in mind.” Baczkowski says “the power company plans to build the new transmission line as close to the current one as possible, and will follow BLM rules about construction during sage grouse mating times.”

UTAH WATER DISTRICT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT BLM REVISION TO LAND-USE PLAN. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/21, 407K) reports that “federal policies that either aim to instill more oversight of water or deny access altogether have some Utah leaders frothing over what they say is a repeated pattern of overreach that threatens local economies and livelihoods.” Ron Thompson, general manager of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, said “possible revisions to a land-use plan by the Bureau

or Land Management in Washington County have severe ramifications should one particular approach be adopted.” Thompson said “the BLM — under one option — is ignoring key considerations that went into the passage of the bill, including water supplies being left unhindered and right of way corridors left intact.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HELICOPTER CRASHES NEAR SEARCHLIGHT DURING CATTLE ROUNDUP. Additional coverage of the helicopter crash near Searchlight during a cattle roundup was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/21, 378K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CONSERVATION LEADERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONSERVATION SUMMIT. [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K) reports that “more than 40 leaders from the leading conservation groups in America are meeting in Springfield this week for a National Conservation Summit hosted by The Johnny Morris Foundation.” According to the article, “participants include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Geographic, Audubon Society, and Ducks Unlimited.” The article notes that “the purpose of the historic gathering is to collectively discuss opportunities to educate and engage the public in efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitats in preparation for the grand opening of America’s Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in 2016.”

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (10/20, 49K) reports that “three exhibits of America’s Wildlife Museum & Aquarium, formerly Wonders of Wildlife, were open to media for a tour on Oct. 20, 2015 at the museum located next to the Bass Pro Shops flagship store in Springfield, Mo.” More than 40 conservation leaders attending a National Conservation Summit “hope the new Bass Pro Shops wildlife museum and aquarium will convey to visitors when it opens in mid 2016.” FWS Director Dan Ashe, “one of the summit attendees,” called the museum “one of the foremost conservation attractions in the world.” He said, “Through conservation efforts, we can be successful in sustaining these populations of animals that are threatened or endangered. People hear about the industrial-scale poaching of elephants that’s happening in Africa. That’s not hunting. With this museum, here’s an opportunity to tell the story of how we can protect wildlife habitat, and that when hunting is done well, with appropriate regulations, it sustains wildlife populations.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K), [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K), and [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K).

CNMI QUESTIONS INCLUSION OF SOME SPECIES ON ENDANGERED LIST. The [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “the Northern Marianas government says the decision to list 23 species in Guam and the CNMI as threatened or endangered was rushed.” The government says “it supports the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s listing of seven of the 17 CNMI species, but it questions the inclusion of some of the other species.” The Department of Land and Natural Resources says “a number of the species do not meet the definitions of threatened or endangered and don’t require federal protection.”

FWS LOOKS TO RESTORE HABITAT ON ROOT RIVER. The [Rochester \(MN\) Post-Bulletin](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “federal wildlife officials are seeking public input on a plan to restore and enhance habitat on 825 acres of Minnesota land along the Root River in Houston County.” Managed by the FWS “as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the Root River Tract sits to the east of Hwy. 26 between La Crescent and Brownsville.” The article notes that “the site includes 664 acres of hunting and farmland purchased in 2009 with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

SHOOTING OF CALIFORNIA CONDOR IN ARIZONA UNDER INVESTIGATION. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that FWS special agents and Arizona Game and Fish Department “law enforcement personnel are investigating the lethal shooting of an endangered California condor that occurred on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona Oct. 8.”

MAN CLAIMS HE BLOCKED ARIZONA BIKE TRAIL TO PROTECT OWLS. The [AP](#) (10/21, 344K) reports that “the 81-year-old man who blocked a Flagstaff-area mountain bike race says he did it to protect an endangered owl species.” J.D. Protiva “appeared in federal court Monday on misdemeanor charges related to blocking the Elden Springs Trail before the August race.” Protiva says “the path goes through protected Mexican spotted owl habitat.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MONARCHS GET HELP AS CALIFORNIANS PLANT DROUGHT-TOLERANT MILKWEED. Additional coverage that monarch butterflies could benefit from the California

drought was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/21, 259K), [KABC-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/21, 413K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (10/21, 345K).

FWS INVESTING IN PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN ATLANTIC COASTAL DEFENSES AGAINST FUTURE STORMS. In an op-ed for the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (10/20, 172K), Wendi Weber is Northeast regional director for the FWS, writes that “federal money for Hurricane Sandy recovery has spurred an unprecedented effort to strengthen natural defenses along the Atlantic Coast to protect communities and wildlife against future storms.” She notes that the FWS and other Interior Department “agencies are investing \$787 million in hundreds of projects to clean up and repair damaged refuges and parks; restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline; connect and open waterways to improve flood control; and increase our scientific understanding of how these natural areas are changing.” According to Weber, “these investments support the goal of President Barack Obama’s Climate Action Plan to make communities more resilient to increasingly intense storms predicted with a changing climate.”

National Park Service:

MUSIC VIDEO CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF NPS. The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (10/20, 53K) reports on “a locally made music video that celebrates 100 years of the National Park Service.” According to the article, “published on Oct. 15, the Centennial video has more than 18,500 views on the NPS facebook page and more than 530 on the Youth Ambassador Program’s YouTube page, the group that made it.” NPS Director Jon Jarvis, “who met the traveling crew in Washington, D.C., makes a cameo appearance in the video to say, ‘It’s great to celebrate a hundred years with YAP!’”

Kentucky Lieutenant Gov. Luallen Touts National Parks. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/20, 414K) reports that Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen on Tuesday “touted the economic impact of Kentucky’s travel and tourism industry” in “an address to the Kentucky Travel Industry’s annual conference in Bowling Green.” Following her remarks, Luallen “recognized five national parks in Kentucky as part of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016.” She “presented proclamations to representatives of the parks.”

Couple Visiting 59 National Parks In 12 Months. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/21, 1.03M) reports that “Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, St. Louis natives, are two months into their grand adventure: 59 parks in 12 months – part celebration of the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary, part exercise in youthful spontaneity.” Their goal is to “see the best of the United States, and inspire others – particularly other millennials – to do the same.” The article notes that “their mission meshes well with a new campaign of the Park Service, which celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2016.”

WATCHDOG RELEASES REPORT ON NPS CONSTRUCTION FUNDS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “a federal watchdog yesterday released a disputed report alleging that the National Park Service is violating congressional intent by dipping into its construction account to cover security, air testing and other reimbursable expenses that should have been paid up front by other agencies.” The NPS construction account is “only for expenses that relate to ‘construction, improvements, repair or replacement of physical facilities,’” the Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General report said, “citing the language of the agency’s appropriation.” However, “the OIG found that 17 out of a sample of 21 interagency agreements that used Park Service construction funds to cover reimbursable costs did not appear to include ‘a valid construction purpose.’” The article notes that “these included \$4.9 million that NPS spent from its construction account on security at the Department of the Army’s Memorial Day and Independence Day concerts at the Capitol in 2014 and \$37.5 million over seven years on air quality monitoring at national parks that will be paid back to NPS by U.S. EPA.”

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES GRAND CANYON BISON MANAGEMENT ACT. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act “allowing the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to better manage and conserve the bison population within the park Oct. 8.” The legislation “requires the U.S. Department of Interior and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on a plan that allows sportsmen holding a valid state-issued hunting license to assist in management of the bison population within the park.”

THUNDERSTORMS CAUSE FLOODING, MUDSLIDES IN DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “mudslides and flooding after severe thunderstorms in Death Valley National Park on Sunday trapped three park rangers and about 20 visitors –

many out to see a clear night sky – in a volcanic crater overnight.” Park spokeswoman Abby Wines said “the stranded people spent the night in Ubehebe Crater, maintaining contact with park headquarters until they were able to reach safety yesterday morning.” The article notes that “no injuries were reported, but Wines said the unexpectedly severe storms knocked out power in the area, damaged and closed several roads, and filled a historic visitor’s center with several feet of mud and debris.”

NPS SET TO CONTINUE WITH TREE-CUTTING AT POTOMAC CAMPGROUND. The [Bethesda \(MD\) Magazine](#) (10/21) reports that “after complaints from two nearby residents and a call from County Council member Roger Berliner temporarily halted tree-cutting operations Friday at a Potomac campground, the National Park Service said it plans to resume the tree-cutting and will probably do so in the next few days.” John Noel, deputy superintendent for the C&O Canal National Historical Park, said that “he went to the Swain’s Lock Recreation Site to examine the 26 trees proposed to be removed and 32 others proposed to be pruned at the site’s campground.” Noel “agreed that the trees are rotting and in danger of falling on park users below.”

STUDENTS GO ON CANOE TRIP AROUND WOLF LAKE. The [Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (10/20, 105K) reports that “all classes in Grades 6 through 9 at George Rogers Clark Junior-Senior High School in Hammond recently experienced a unique field trip right in their own back yard — a canoe trip around Wolf Lake located only a few blocks from the school.” The trip was “made available through a partnership with the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center and Wilderness Inquiry.”

NEW COLONIAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT THANKS COMMUNITY FOR ADVOCACY. The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (10/20, Williams, Subscription Publication, 201K) reports that the Colonial National Historical Park’s new Superintendent, Kym Hall, thanked the community for its opposition to Dominion’s Skiffes Creek transmission project in her first appearance before the York County Board of Supervisors on September 1. “The view should be protected,” she said.

DEVILS TOWER TO HOST STAR VIEWING PARTIES. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/21, 115K) reports that the NPS “announced that Devils Tower will host a series of star viewing parties October through December.” The article notes that “the eight parties are free of charge, and will last approximately two hours.”

NPS URGED TO RECONSIDER RACIST NAME FOR A WASHINGTON LAKE. In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/21, 74K), Glenn Nelson writes that Washington state officially calls Howard Lake “by what is believed to be its oldest known name,” but the federal government “recognizes the lake by a name that causes the jaws of most people of color to drop: Coon Lake.” Nelson notes that “the federal government did not follow the usual course of supporting the state’s action, mostly because of opposition from the National Park Service, which manages the area that contains the lake.” The NPS, “acting on research from its North Cascades unit, originally defended its stance by claiming that there was ambiguity around the use of the term ‘coon.’” According to Nelson, “in the years leading up to its 2016 centennial, the Park Service has done a lot of talking and writing about the need for diversity and inclusiveness.” He concludes that “it’s past time for the Park Service to back away from its misguided opposition, encourage Secretary Jewell to come to its rescue, and allow another black life to matter.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS SEISMOLOGIST QUESTIONS PREDICTION OF 99.9 PERCENT CHANCE OF MAJOR LOS ANGELES EARTHQUAKE IN 3 YEARS. The [Southern California Public Radio](#) (10/20, 68K) reports that “a controversial new study from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory” claims “there is a 99.9 percent chance of an earthquake” in Los Angeles “between magnitude 5 and 6.3 in less than three years.” The study, published earlier this month by the American Geophysical Union’s Earth and Space Science journal, has “taken many in the seismic community by surprise.” Lucy Jones with the USGS said the “methodology doesn’t fully explain the prediction, and the study doesn’t adequately address this either.” Jones said that, according to the USGS’ “models, there is only an 85 percent chance of a magnitude 5 or 6 quake in the same region over a three-year period.”

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: TRUDEAU’S ELECTION LIKELY TO FOSTER IMPROVED US-CANADA TIES. On

the day after Justin Trudeau became Canada's Prime Minister-designate, media reporting universally characterized the election results as a likely boost for US-Canada relations. Coverage focuses on Trudeau's promise of a less combative foreign policy style and the perception that he will be more willing to accept a US rejection of the Keystone pipeline. Reporting – including a combined 2 minutes and 50 seconds on the three broadcast networks – also indicates that despite Trudeau's decision to withdraw his aircraft from the US-led coalition against ISIL, he is likely to be a more willing partner on climate change and other issues.

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, story 9, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported President Obama on Tuesday congratulated Trudeau, who “swept into power with a message of optimism saying Canada beat fear with hope.” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Korte, 5.23M) reports Obama made the phone call “in an attempt to lock down continued cooperation with the northern neighbor on trade, terrorism, and climate change.” The White House, according to USA Today, “signaled that not much would change in the relationship” between the neighbors following the Liberal party's victory. [CBC News](#) (10/20, Fitzpatrick, 225K) reported on its website that the White House indicated Obama and Trudeau “agreed on the importance of deepening the ‘already strong’ bilateral relationship” between the countries “and committed to strengthen joint efforts to promote trade and to combat terrorism and climate change.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports the White House and current Prime Minister Stephen Harper “clashed over climate policy” and the Keystone pipeline. While White House spokesman Josh Earnest on Tuesday said “it would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue,” Chuck Todd reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that “we now have a Canadian government that is politically more in line with the American government.” According to Todd, “Relations have been good but they have not been so great of late. Will they now get better? That is why Americans should care.”

In an article entitled “5 Reasons The US Should Care About Canada's New Prime Minister,” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hjelmgaard, 5.23M) lists ways in which Trudeau “is likely to affect policies in Canada and the United States.” According to USA Today, Trudeau “promised to improve strained relations” with Obama and said “he wants to find constructive ways of working with Washington on other issues.” Another [USA Today](#) (10/21, Kovac, 5.23M) article reports that Trudeau and Harper “differ in their approach to foreign policy,” with the incoming leader being less vocally pro-Israel and more focused on environmental issues.

In an analysis piece, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/21, 2.66M) says “a prompt rejection” of the Keystone pipeline by Obama “would make the job easier” for Trudeau “as he seeks to reset the country's relationship with the US, which he says was damaged” by Harper. According to Bloomberg, Trudeau “could use a quick US denial” of the pipeline “to focus discussions” with Obama “on issues such as trade and climate.” Bloomberg notes there has been “speculation” that Obama “would reject the pipeline shortly after the Canadian election.” However, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Cama, 471K) reported, Secretary of State Kerry said Tuesday that Canada's election results will not change the White House's approach to the Keystone issue. Kerry said the decision “is being based on the merits and countervailing balance of all the input that has come from a very exhaustive agency review.” Kerry reiterated that he seeks a decision “as fast as possible.”

[Reuters](#) (10/21, Mason, Rampton) reports the White House indicated it would like the new Canadian government to take increased actions to address climate change. Earnest said that while Canada has “made a substantial and important commitment” ahead of the Paris climate talks, “We believe that it's possible that there is more that Canada can do in this regard.”

However, writing for [Mother Jones](#) (10/20, 758K), Suzanne Goldenberg claimed “those hoping for a U-turn in Canada's climate change policy...are in for a reality check.” According to Goldenberg, while Trudeau does not align directly with many of Harper's views or policies, “it would be a mistake” to see the new Canadian leader or his party “as climate champions.” In [Slate](#) (10/20, 1.38M), Joshua Keating argued that at least with regard to the Keystone pipeline, Trudeau does present a change from Harper. Keating characterizes Trudeau as “a very different leader” from Harper and says he will make the Keystone pipeline less of a focal point of US-Canada relations. According to Keating, Trudeau “has described his support for the pipeline as ‘steadfast,’ but it's clearly not the make-or-break issue for him that it was for Harper.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Vieira, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports Trudeau said he will work to restore Canada's reputation of defending minorities and become more involved in multilateral policy making. At a rally in Ottawa, Trudeau said, “To this country's friends around the world, I want to say this:

many of you have worried Canada has lost its compassionate and constructive voice in the world over the past 10 years. I have simple message for you: We're back." The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports that Trudeau "is likely to present a very different face to the world" than Harper, "but the most noticeable difference will probably be in tone." Trudeau has vowed to "put an end to Mr. Harper's often belligerent style of politics and diplomacy." Trudeau said Tuesday that "a positive, optimistic, hopeful vision of public life isn't a naïve dream – it can be a powerful force for change." The Times says Trudeau has previously indicated a desire to end Harper's reliance on military solutions and tough rhetoric, and instead focus on working within international organizations, such as the United Nations.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 10, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, "Canada took a left turn" as "Trudeau and the Liberal Party rode in on a landslide." In a [USA Today](#) (10/21, 5.23M) op-ed, author David Andelman says "most of the reasons" Canadian voters chose Trudeau to lead the country "boiled down to one fundamental: The Liberal Party leader was simply nicer than his opponent. And most Canadians believe they are, too." Similarly, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that Canadians wanted a change from the Harper government, which had become isolated and sought to restrict debate. The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) agrees, editorializing that Trudeau's election "shows how ready Canadians were to emerge from a decade under the Conservative government of the secretive and combative Stephen Harper."

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau told Obama on Tuesday that Canadian fighter aircraft will withdraw from the US-led coalition against ISIL, but the new Canadian leader did not present a timeline for the move. In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, A1, Brown, 6.76M) reports Trudeau said, "I committed that we would continue to engage in a responsible way that understands how Canada has a role to play in the fight against ISIL," adding, that Obama "understands the commitments I've made around ending the combat mission." According to the Post, a "senior Administration official," said Obama and Trudeau discussed joint anti-terrorism efforts and, "We expect Canada will continue to be a valuable contributor to the 65-member global coalition" against ISIL.

Trudeau's Win Could "Lead To Full Marijuana Legalization" In Canada. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hughes, 5.23M) reports Trudeau's win "may lead to full marijuana legalization" for Canada. According to USA Today, Trudeau promised during his campaign that "Canada would create a system to tax, regulate and sell marijuana, along with stiff penalties for anyone giving pot to children or caught driving while stoned." USA Today says American "cannabis activists hailed Tuesday's election as a milestone, suggesting that a day may soon come when cross-border trade talks include...legal weed."

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau's "promise to legalize recreational cannabis" will likely "help the nation's nascent medical marijuana industry." Investors, according to AFP, "are betting" they could build on companies' current production of marijuana for medical use and "quickly scale up to serve recreational pot users too, once Trudeau makes good on his promise."

NYTimes Analysis: Trudeau Is "No Dynast" Despite Father Being Former Prime Minister. In a 1,350-world profile piece, the [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that despite there being "many easy parallels to draw between" Trudeau and his father, former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Canada's incoming leader "is no dynast who slipped effortlessly into a family political machine." The Times notes that Trudeau "did not even enter politics until 18 years after his father gave it up, and seven year after his father's death." According to the Times, Trudeau "built his own cadre of advisers, mostly from his own generation" and sometimes "chose more difficult roads – partly, it appears, to show he had not been handed a life in politics on a platter."

In the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, 6.76M) "Reliable Source" blog, Emily Heil says Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, "have a lot in common with the Obamas." According to Heil, "they'd have lots to talk about, apart from liberal politics, like fitness!"

IN APPARENT REVERSAL, BIDEN SAYS HE PRIVATELY URGED OBAMA TO AUTHORIZE UBL RAID. Vice President Biden did not reveal Tuesday whether or not he will enter the Democratic presidential race, but his remark that he privately advised President Obama to launch the 2011 raid that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden – which contradicted Biden's past public comments that he advised against the raid – is being interpreted as a possible line of attack against Hillary Clinton. All three broadcast networks reported on the statement, combining for nearly eight minutes of coverage, and ABC led with it. The tone of

the coverage is mixed, with most reports calling it a reversal, and some concluding that Biden may be undercutting his own reputation for candor.

There was also Twitter discussion of Biden's remarks. Anthony De Rosa, a digital producer for The Daily Show who has nearly 89,000 followers, [tweeted](#), "Biden sounds like Brian Williams with his evolving recollection of the Bin Laden raid." Jonathan Martin of the New York Times [tweeted](#), "@vp today signals: he'll run & it'll get negative FAST or: he's not happy about being sidelined." His Times colleague Maggie Haberman [tweeted](#), "Biden's subtle digs at Clinton indicate that if he runs it'll be ugly." In addition, the hashtag [#BidenWatch](#) emerged on Twitter, with Fox Business Network's Trish Regan [tweeting](#), "Sure sounds like he's running...", Mashable's Juana Summers [tweeting](#) Biden's Wednesday official schedule, and Al Jazeera America's David Shuster [tweeting](#) that "Hallie Biden, widow of the late Beau Biden, says her family supports a Presidential campaign '100%'".

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M) reported that "as the pressure mounts for Joe Biden to decide whether he'll run...many [are] now asking, did he change his story?" ABC (Karl) added, "Biden has described Obama's decision as especially courageous because in that key meeting when it came time to decide, most of the President's advisers, including Biden himself, were not in favor of the raid." On Tuesday, he "offered an entirely different account of what happened on that fateful day." Biden was shown saying, "So as we walked out of the room and we walked upstairs, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts. But it would have been a mistake, imagine if I had said in front of everyone, 'don't go, or go,' and his decision was a different decision." Karl: "But until today, Biden has said he told Obama and his team that night to hold off on the raid."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 6, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Biden "sounded more like a presidential candidate, talking up his foreign policy credentials, doing some rewriting of his own history and firing a shot over the bow of the Democratic frontrunner." CBS' Nancy Corden added that Biden "never mentioned" Clinton by name, "but it was all too clear the comparison he was making when he said this about his stature overseas." Biden: "I will get sent to go speak to Putin or go speak to whomever, and it's because the secretary of state, we've had two great secretaries of state, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the President." Cordes added that Biden left Clinton "out of his story" about the Bin Laden raid.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 3, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) also said of Biden, "If anything, he is beginning to sound more like a candidate, taking not-so-veiled swipes" at Clinton. NBC (Welker) added that Biden "said he and the President were in lock-step when it came to authorizing the raid against Bin Laden." The [AP](#) (10/21, Lederman) says Biden "backtracked on his previous claims to have advised Obama against the raid" in "an unusual reversal."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/21, Talev, 247K) reports that in his remarks at an event honoring his vice presidential predecessor Walter Mondale, Biden "portrayed himself as the central player" in the Administration "on everything from working with congressional Republicans to the killing" of Bin Laden. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Singer, 5.23M) says Biden "revised his account of his advice" to Obama after Mondale said he "would only disagree with President Jimmy Carter in private during his tenure as vice president."

The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Harris, Martin, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says with the remark, Biden "sought...to dispel" the notion that he had opposed the raid, which "might dog him on the campaign trail." Biden said he "never gave his own views on controversial issues until the rest of the cabinet had spoken, mindful that he did not want the rest of the team to see a difference between his opinion and that of the president." Biden said only then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates and then-CIA Director Leon Panetta "had expressed definitive views on the raid," and "pointedly did not mention" Clinton, who "has said that she was in favor of the raid."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Jaffe, 6.76M) says Biden "seemed to change his account" with a revision that "seems designed to buttress his qualifications to serve as commander-in-chief." But Biden "seems to have contradicted his earlier memories of the final meeting before the bin Laden raid." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Nelson, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says Biden cast himself as Obama's chief adviser on many issues, and sought to downplay Clinton's advisory role as secretary of state. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/21, Memoli, 4.07M) says Biden used the event "to highlight his close relationship with President Obama that would be at the heart of Biden's potential presidential campaign."

The [New York Daily News](#) (10/21, Joseph, 3.75M) says Biden's "new details make him out to be a

supporter of the high-stakes raid that killed Bin Laden – a big shift from the common narrative that he resisted it, one Clinton's allies have hinted could be a main attack line if Biden does jump into the race." The [Boston Globe](#) (10/21, Linskey, 1.1M) says Biden "has been on record recommending against the move."

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Oct 21 2015 09:14:11 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Hmmm...ok. Let me try to fix that. Are you getting the news clips in the morning?

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 11:12 AM, Welch, Chelsea <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

No I didn't. I must not be on the politicals listserv.

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 11:11 AM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Did you get this from Blake?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Androff, Blake** <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 8:22 AM
Subject: Fwd: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015
To: DOI_Politicals <doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov>

Please let me know if you do NOT receive the daily clips each morning from Bulletin News at 7:00 AM. Please do not reply all.

Best,

Blake

Blake Androff

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Date: Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 7:00 AM

Subject: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SEN. MURKOWSKI SEES TOUGH ROAD FOR INTERIOR NOMINEE. [Politico Pro](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Lisa Murkowski said that Interior Department pick Kristen Sarri would “have a lot of explaining to do at a hearing on six nominees today.” While Murkowski was “pleased that President Barack Obama had renamed Mount McKinley this summer to Denali, the Alaska Republican said she was still frustrated with the Interior Department’s ‘heartless decision’ to deny a road in King Cove.” Murkowski also “criticized Interior for closing off oil production in Alaska and last week’s cancellation of offshore sales and lease extension.”

Meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (10/21, Barton, 375K) reports that Murkowski is “torn between leaving the Department of the Interior’s independent watchdog post vacant, or confirming President Barack Obama’s nominee crippled by recurring allegations of ‘playing games with Congress.’” She said, “I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent [inspector general], and I’m disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years.” Murkowski continued, “But I am also committed to ensuring that the individual we confirm is fully independent ... The tenure that you have been involved with thus far in this position has been marked by controversy.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/21, Henry, 471K), [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (10/20), and [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/20, 2K).

HISTORIC \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH CHOCTAW, CHICKASAW NATIONS LAUDED. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/20, 32K) reports that “tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior heralded the outcome of a \$186 million settlement signed earlier this month between the federal government, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw nations to solve a longstanding land trust dispute as a new chapter in relations.” During the October 5 signing ceremony, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby “gave a nod to the impetus provided” by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He said, “We respect the vital role Secretary Jewell has taken in helping make this historic settlement a reality. We are confident she will play an essential role in our efforts to continue strengthening the relationship between our governments, because we believe she has a unique appreciation for the mutual benefits of a positive government-to-government relationship.” Jewell said, “Today’s agreement is the latest addition to a record number of longstanding settlements resolved under this Administration. This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country.”

U.S. TREASURY CONFIRMS \$20B BALANCE FOR LWCF. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/21, 705) reports that “the Land and Water Conservation Fund that expired earlier this month for the first time in its 50-year history currently contains nearly \$20 billion, according to the U.S. Treasury, which maintains the program’s balance sheets.” But “whether that is ‘real’ money available to be spent on federal land acquisitions, private land easements and state recreation projects depends on whom you ask.” The article notes that “the \$19.8 billion can only be reduced until Congress reauthorizes the program.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/20, 31K).

PROPOSED DESIGNATIONS OF THREE NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT “LAND GRAB.” [Fox News](#) (10/20, 8.91M) reports that “a group of off-roaders and others are attempting to fight a proposed designation of three national monuments in the California desert under the Antiquities Act.” The Obama Administration is “considering using the federal Antiquities Act to bypass the legislative process at the request of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, whose efforts to have the Mojave Trails and Castle Mountain, both in the Mojave Desert, and a section of the Sonoran Desert named federal sites were repeatedly blocked by Republicans.” According to the article, “a White House move could put the land under federal control, which critics say could cut funding for upkeep or even restrict access.”

UNMANNED HELICOPTER OFFERS NEW WAY TO FIGHT WILDFIRES. The [Voice of America](#) (10/21, Banse, 32K) reports that the K-MAX “unmanned, water-dropping” helicopter was tested by the US government. The helicopter can fly through limited visibility. Brad Koeckertiz, the unmanned aircraft program manager with the US Department of Interior, says that unmanned helicopters such as the K-MAX will be integrated into routine measures to fight wildfires over the next few of years. The article notes that the K-MAX helicopters have already been used by the US Marines in Afghanistan, to “resupply remote outposts at night” and replace “dangerous convoys on the ground.” The article notes that the growing uses for drones is also why the FAA is seeking to register all drones.

Additional coverage was provided by [Vertical Magazine \(CAN\)](#) (10/21).

JEB BUSH PROPOSES MOVING INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FROM D.C. To Western City. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/20, Lucas, 199K) reports that “Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will unveil his proposals for Western land and resource management in a campaign stop in Reno on Wednesday morning, in a speech likely to resonate with conservative voters opposed to what they see as federal overreach in the Western states.” Bush is “expected to speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park before appearing at a forum sponsored by the LIBRE Initiative at the College of Southern Nevada Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas at 6 p.m.” In the proposal, Bush will “call for moving the headquarters of the Department of Interior from Washington, D.C., to a city in the western United States like Denver, Salt Lake City or Reno and will say that as president he would direct federal agencies to give broad latitude to states to determine land-use issues.”

STUDY: ALASKAN WILDFIRES COULD EXACERBATE GLOBAL WARMING. The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Mooney, 6.76M) reports that some greenhouse gas sources outside the scope of forthcoming UN climate talks are beyond governments’ control, such as raging peat fires in Indonesia this year, emitting “as much as Japan produces in a year from fossil fuels.” Elsewhere, a new study in Nature Climate Change reaffirms concerns about the emissions of northern fires in Alaska. The Post reports that “climate researchers are still trying to figure out how all of these factors will interrelate,” but fire is a “powerful determinant of how much carbon resides in land, rather than in the air, across our globe.”

INTERIOR’S VINE ACCOUNT HIGHLIGHTED. [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K) highlights the Interior Department has a great Vine account. Providing a link, Politico says “this is Internet gold.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA RULE ANNOUNCES RULE GIVING TRIBES MORE CONTROL OVER ELECTIONS. [Law360](#) (10/20, 21K) reports that the BIA “on Monday announced its final rule for Native American tribal elections conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying the new rule will encourage tribes to take control of their elections and help protect the voting rights of tribe members living in urban areas.” Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said “in a statement Monday that the rule will allow tribes to opt out of having the interior secretary conduct their elections.”

The [Native American Times](#) (10/20, 337) reports that Washburn said, “Though many federal responsibilities concern the lands we hold in trust for tribes and Indian people, more than 55 million acres nationwide, the United States has a moral obligation to preserve connections between Indian people and their tribes that it once sought to destroy. For the future of Native nations and the health of Indian Country, American Indians in urban areas must work harder to maintain connections with their tribes. One important aspect of that relationship is participation in the civic and political life of their tribal governments. For that reason, our Secretarial election amendments seek to prevent tribal members living in urban areas from being inadvertently disenfranchised in Secretarial elections.”

HEARING FOCUSES ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, Kelleher) reports from Honolulu that a federal court hearing began on Tuesday “in a lawsuit by people who want to put a stop to an election process that is underway for Native Hawaiians.” The lawsuit, filed in August, “says it’s unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election.” The state “argues in court documents that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it’s not involved in next month’s vote to elect delegates for a convention to determine self-governance for Native Hawaiians.” Tuesday’s hearing “is focused on the plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction,” and the plaintiffs “want the judge to limit voter registration activities or stop the election altogether.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/21, 66K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (10/21, Kelleher, 5.98M).

INTERIOR SIDES WITH ALASKA NATIVE GROUP IN INVESTIGATION OF MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE TRIBAL COLLECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, 2.28M) reports that “a Massachusetts college was found in violation of a federal law regulating the possession and sale of potentially sacred artifacts following a complaint from an organization of Alaska Natives.” The Interior Department said “an investigation substantiated the complaint against Andover Newton Theological School filed in June by the Sealaska Heritage Institute.” The institute’s president, Rosita Worl, said “the school possesses at least two southeast Alaska artifacts, including a Tlingit halibut hook that is considered sacred.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, D'oro, 344K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 548K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/21, 5.59M), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (10/21, 651K), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/21, D'oro, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (10/21, 3.97M), and the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/20, 219K).

US ATTORNEY SAYS BIA OFFICER WAS JUSTIFIED IN DEADLY SPIRIT LAKE SHOOTING. The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that US Attorney Chris Myers “says” that an investigation by his office came to the conclusion that BIA Officer Terry Morgan was justified in shooting and killing “31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16.” The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (10/21, 100K) reports that the US Attorney’s Office “said” the shooting was justified because Charboneau posed a “real and immediate” threat to officers and another person at the scene after he refused to put down his gun, which was pointed at the officers. The Grand Forks Herald reports that, as a result of the investigation, Federal prosecutors “will not file charges against” Morgan.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (10/21, 1K), the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (10/21, 14K), [KXJB-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/21, 18K), [KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/20, 3K), [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (10/21, 1K), and [KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#) Bismarck, ND (10/21, 1K).

CRIME JUMPS AFTER TRIBES CUT FROM BIA FUNDING. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Romney, 4.07M) reports on a “time of crisis for public safety on tribal lands.” According to the article, “a federal law decades ago shifted the primary burden of criminal law enforcement on tribal lands in California and five other states to local authorities,” but “many lack the resources to do the job and, in some cases, sufficient knowledge of tribal law and culture to win the trust of tribal members.” After “tribes were cut off from steady funding for their own justice systems,” crime has “flourished.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YAKAMA NATION’S PETITION TO SELF-GOVERN APPROVED.

Additional coverage that the BIA on Monday granted the Yakama Nation’s petition for “retrocession” was provided by the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 101K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (10/20, 86K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, 344K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/20, 183K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), the [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K), [KNDU-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#) Yakima, WA (10/21, 3K), and [KUOW-FM Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (10/21, 15K).

GILLETTE’S SERVICE IN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PRAISED. In an editorial, the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/21, 37K) lauds Jodi Gillette’s service in the Obama Administration. According to the paper, Gillette’s “positions gave her a voice in a White House that has seemed genuinely concerned about Native American issues.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA’AINA PROPOSES MARSHALLS FUND CHANGES. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “a top US official has submitted a proposal to the Senate and House to allow the people of Bikini to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands.” Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina says “it is an appropriate course of action to take regarding the welfare and livelihood of the Bikinian people.” The Bikinians were “displaced by US nuclear weapons testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands.” According to the article, “in addition to cramped living quarters and a

lack of suitable sustainable resources, the islands have been experiencing more frequent storms and king tides resulting in salt water inundation and the destruction of crops.”

[Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “a representative from Bikini Atoll says a proposal to allow people to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands is not wanted.” Bikini liaison officer Jack Niedenthal says “the US should take full responsibility for any resettlement including providing extra financing.” Niedenthal said, “We still got a ways to go, we still have to do some more lobbying and some more talking to people in Washington to make them understand that what’s being proposed by the assistant secretary is what we view as ‘Plan B’. It’s not ultimately what we want in terms of helping our people.”

CHINA STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIP WITH PACIFIC REGION. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that “China and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat further strengthened their relationship on Friday when the two met at a ceremony to hand over \$1.05 million to assist the Pacific region.” Forum Secretariat Secretary General Meg Taylor and Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Zhang Ping “attended the ceremony and delivered speeches respectively.” Zhang “reiterated his nation’s ongoing interest in the region saying, ‘China attaches great importance to the South Pacific region. The Chinese side stands ready to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation with Pacific Island Countries and contribute to the development and capacity building in the region.’”

COUNTRIES IN PACIFIC URGED TO BEGIN TALKS ON CLIMATE MIGRATION. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “all countries in the Pacific are being urged to start discussions on how to help people forced to move from low lying atoll nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu.” According to the article, “184 million people worldwide were displaced by disaster between 2008 and 2014 and at special meetings in Geneva last week 110 countries gave the nod to a Protection Agenda for dealing with future migration challenges.” The article notes that “the experiences of small island countries which face rising seas due to climate change helped form the global action plan under the Swiss Norwegian Nansen Initiative.”

JOURNALIST SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY OF GUAM ON CLIMATE ISSUES, CORRUPTION IN PACIFIC ISLANDS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that “author and journalist Giff Johnson spoke to students at the University of Guam on Monday evening about climate change and development in the Pacific islands.” Johnson’s “lecture, entitled ‘Idyllic No More: Pacific Island Climate, Corruption and Development Dilemmas,’ is based on his latest book — a compilation of essays detailing the looming climate threat to the region, its booming fishing industry, and the U.S. nuclear test legacy in the Marshall Islands.” Johnson called attention to “climate-driven migration from remote pacific islands to Guam and mainland U.S.”

RISING SEA LEVELS THREATEN KIRIBATI. The [National Geographic](#) (10/21, 31.65M) provides a picture gallery of the threat of rising sea levels driven by climate change on Kiribati.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

WATER SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED FROM NEW MELONES. The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “more than 7 billion gallons of water is scheduled to be released from New Melones Reservoir beginning today to ensure flows in the Stanislaus River will keep temperatures cool enough for adult salmon migrating up the river to spawn this fall.” Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District said “it would benefit river conditions and fisheries, as well as the needs of agriculture and more than 200,000 residential customers downstream.” The article notes that “earlier this year, the irrigation districts sparred with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — which manages New Melones Reservoir — over spring pulse flows that they feared would leave as little as 147,000 acre-feet in the reservoir by the end of September.”

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTE TO OPPOSE DELTA TUNNELS PLAN. The [Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (10/21, 14K) reports that “at a meeting on Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a resolution in formal opposition of California WaterFix, also known as the twin tunnels plan.” Supervisor Kathy Miller said, “The WaterFix is just a thinly veiled version of the former (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and continues to push the fatally flawed twin tunnels, which will simply sacrifice one region of California for the benefit of another.”

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, DOMINION BOTH SUPPORT OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT. On his [Bacon's Rebellion \(VA\)](#) (10/21, Bacon) blog, James Bacon reports on an Environment Virginia-sponsored webinar held Tuesday morning in which representatives from Dominion, environmental groups, and the McAuliffe Administration all voiced support for the utility's experimental offshore wind farm project. For environmentalists, Bacon writes, the project represents the beginning of an industry that would increase the use of green energy along the Atlantic and displace fossil fuels. For the Governor's office, it represents increased green energy coupled with economic development that takes advantage of the Newport News area's shipbuilding industry.

Onshore Energy Development:

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY FINED \$2.1 MILLION FOR UNDER-REPORTING NATURAL GAS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department on Monday "announced a \$2.1 million civil penalty against Chesapeake Energy Corp. for misreporting the amount of gas it produced and sold from American Indian lands in Oklahoma." Chesapeake "failed to comply with a 2011 order that found 'systemic errors' in the company's monthly production reports for more than 100 Indian leases, according to Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue." The company "agreed to amend the monthly reports, but it continued to maintain inaccurate information on the agency's data systems, ONRR said." The firm was "assessed a penalty based on 'knowing or willful maintenance' of the inaccurate information, ONRR said."

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), and [KOKC-AM Oklahoma City \(OK\)](#) Oklahoma City (10/20, 1K).

TEXAS ENERGY REGULATOR OPPOSES STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K) reports that "Texas' top energy regulator on Tuesday said the agency will oppose a U.S. Department of the Interior proposed rule aimed at better protecting streams and other waterways from nearby mining activity, saying the regulation encroaches on ground better left to the state." Texas Railroad Commission Chairman David Porter on Tuesday said "the state would sign on to the multistate Interstate Mining Compact Commission's comments opposing the proposed waterway regulation."

USGS REPORT STATES EARTHQUAKES COINCIDE WITH OKLAHOMA OIL BOOMS. [KOCO-TV](#) Oklahoma City (10/21, 93K) reports that "a study by the United States Geological Survey states that the earthquakes from the past 100 years seem to coincide with the oil boom in Oklahoma."

OKLAHOMA REGULATORS SHUT DOWN THREE MORE DISPOSAL WELLS. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication) reports that "Oklahoma oil and gas regulators dealing with a dramatic increase in earthquakes near the pipeline hub of Cushing have shut down three more disposal wells." Also, "another well was shut down by the company that owns it after regulators said they were concerned it was drilled too deep." In addition, "the operators of seven other wells were told in a letter written Friday and released yesterday that they must reduce the volume of drilling waste that they inject deep underground."

OKLAHOMA LIMITS DISPOSAL WELLS AMID CUSHING QUAKES. [Reuters](#) (10/21, Hampton, Brandes) reports that Oklahoma's oil and gas regulator on Monday said it could impose new limits on all saltwater disposal wells within a 10-mile radius of Cushing. Reuters reports that Oklahoma now experiences as many as two magnitude 3.0 quakes per day, up from two per year. Thirteen wells have been ordered shut and approvals for new wells have been halted, Reuters reports. Scientists told Reuters that shutting wells could ease tectonic disruption in Oklahoma.

STUDY: FRACKING CAN CAUSE METHANE LEAKS IN NEARBY ABANDONED OIL WELLS. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Valdmanis) reported that according to a study published Tuesday in the Water Resources Research journal, fracking can cause methane leaks in nearby abandoned oil wells. The methane leaks could be a large source of unrecorded greenhouse gas emissions, according to the

study. The study said that energy companies could reduce the probability of such methane leaks by trying to identify abandoned wells before they begin fracking, although the task could be difficult due to large numbers of unmarked abandoned wells.

BLM CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE PICTURES UNDER FOIA REQUEST. For the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (10/21), Darryl L. Flowers criticizes the BLM for failing to provide pictures in connection with “the proposed Solenex, LLC natural gas well on public lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest” that were requested under the Freedom of Information Act. The paper received “sixteen photos” and “two photos were missing.” He notes that “curiously, the two omitted photos were the only ones that included a person in the photos.”

Offshore Energy Development:

FEDS INVESTIGATE WORKER’S DEATH ON DRILLSHIP CONTRACTED BY CHEVRON. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/20, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that officials from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Coast Guard are investigating “the death of a worker on a drillsip in the Gulf of Mexico that was preparing to bore a well for Chevron.” Fuel Fix says that “the Pacific Santa Ana drillsip was just beginning operations for Chevron in about 4,800 feet of water at the site and had not yet penetrated the sea floor when an employee of that drilling contractor was fatally injured.” Fuel Fix adds that Chevron has a 36 percent working interest in the Keathley Canyon well-leasing block where the incident occurred, an area where “Chevron outlined ambitions to drill up to seven wells” earlier this year.

The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that Amy Roddy, spokeswoman for Pacific Drilling SA, the ship’s owner, “said the company is not releasing any details about the man to respect his family’s privacy. She also refused to disclose how the man died or details of the accident, citing an ongoing investigation.”

[NASDAQ](#) (10/20, Sider) reports that Chevron has contracted the ship since 2012. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/21, Larino, 718K) adds that “operations have been shut down and personnel remain onboard, according to the drillsip’s operator.”

[Offshore Engineer](#) (10/20, Leon) reports that “the ship was to use its dual gradient drilling functions for Chevron’s Anchor-1 prospect last year in Green Canyon block 807, but the well was junked due to mechanical failures. However, in January of this year, Chevron hit high quality oil pay in multiple Lower Tertiary Wilcox Sands at a second Anchor well also drilled by the Pacific Santa Ana.”

The [Dow Jones Newswires](#) (10/21, Sider) reports that this is the first death related to offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico this year.

[Reuters](#) (10/21), [gCaptain](#) (10/21, 2K), [Upstream Online](#) (10/21, Schmidt, Brenner, 20K), and [Maritime Executive](#) (10/20, 21) also cover the story.

BRIARCLIFFE ACRES VOTES AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (10/21, 36K) reports that “in a storm of debate over offshore drilling, Briarcliffe Acres surfaced as the latest coastal town to join a united front against seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas off of South Carolina’s beaches.” According to the article, “missing councilwoman Abby Stewart, who has been with family on the west coast, the town council unanimously passed a resolution Monday, joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns in a stance against offshore drilling.”

SHELL VESSEL RESCUES FRENCHMAN, CAT FROM SAILBOAT STRANDED IN SEAS NEAR ALASKA. The [AP](#) (10/21, Thiessen) reports that a Frenchman and the cat tucked inside his clothing were rescued on Tuesday after he leapt from his sailboat to a waiting rescue ship sent by Shell. The man activated a location beacon in the high seas south of Alaska and told the Coast Guard his sailboat had lost its rudder and rigging in the high winds and 20-foot waves. The Coast Guard contacted Shell’s oil drilling rig, the Polar Pioneer, which is on its way to Port Angeles, and the rig “sent a support ship, the Tor Viking, to rescue the sailor.” The AP reports that “it wasn’t immediately clear if the man would continue with the Shell ships to Washington state.”

CUNNINGHAM: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SHUTS THE DOOR ON ARCTIC DRILLING. In an analysis of the Interior Department’s recent decision on the future of Arctic drilling, [Oil Price](#) (10/21, 2K) reporter Nick Cunningham writes the Interior Department’s decision to cancel lease sales through

2017 leaves almost no possible pathway for an oil company to drill in the Arctic for years to come, perhaps killing off drilling for a decade or so at a minimum.” Cunningham goes on to write that “it was likely that there wouldn’t have been new drilling in any event, given Shell’s decision and current market conditions, but Interior’s decision officially shuts the door on the Arctic in the medium-term.”

Casey: Interior’s Actions On Arctic Drilling Trends “Toward A Permanent Clampdown.”

[CleanTechnica’s](#) (10/20, 15K) Tina Casey writes that “in the absence of local regulations, the Feds are the only game in town and it seems that the Arctic’s role in the US economy is too important to trust to compliance by oil companies.” Casey adds that, even though the Interior’s actions last week on Arctic drilling may be “only temporary, but the trend is toward a permanent clampdown.”

4-Traders: Federal Government To Blame For Low Arctic Drilling Interest. In an op-ed piece on the Interior’s Arctic drilling decision, [4-Traders](#) (10/21, 5K) writes the Federal government’s “difficult” regulatory obstacles is to blame for the lack of interest among oil companies to explore for oil and natural gas in the Arctic. 4-Traders writes that the “demand for oil and natural gas isn’t going away, so energy domestic exploration must continue in the Arctic and elsewhere. But as we’ve seen, by putting up unnecessary regulatory hurdles, regulators can cause job and economic growth opportunities to be missed.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TO REVIEW HAGERMAN-HAILEY TRANSMISSION LINE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (10/21) reports that the BLM will review the Hagerman to Hailey transmission line, paying “special attention to the greater sage grouse in the area.” Stacey Baczkowski, a biologist with Idaho Power, says “the company has been working with the BLM for the last few years to make sure the line is built with the bird in mind.” Baczkowski says “the power company plans to build the new transmission line as close to the current one as possible, and will follow BLM rules about construction during sage grouse mating times.”

UTAH WATER DISTRICT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT BLM REVISION TO LAND-USE PLAN. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/21, 407K) reports that “federal policies that either aim to instill more oversight of water or deny access altogether have some Utah leaders frothing over what they say is a repeated pattern of overreach that threatens local economies and livelihoods.” Ron Thompson, general manager of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, said “possible revisions to a land-use plan by the Bureau of Land Management in Washington County have severe ramifications should one particular approach be adopted.” Thompson said “the BLM — under one option — is ignoring key considerations that went into the passage of the bill, including water supplies being left unhindered and right of way corridors left intact.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HELICOPTER CRASHES NEAR SEARCHLIGHT DURING CATTLE ROUNDUP. Additional coverage of the helicopter crash near Searchlight during a cattle roundup was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/21, 378K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CONSERVATION LEADERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONSERVATION SUMMIT. [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K) reports that “more than 40 leaders from the leading conservation groups in America are meeting in Springfield this week for a National Conservation Summit hosted by The Johnny Morris Foundation.” According to the article, “participants include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Geographic, Audubon Society, and Ducks Unlimited.” The article notes that “the purpose of the historic gathering is to collectively discuss opportunities to educate and engage the public in efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitats in preparation for the grand opening of America’s Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in 2016.”

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (10/20, 49K) reports that “three exhibits of America’s Wildlife Museum & Aquarium, formerly Wonders of Wildlife, were open to media for a tour on Oct. 20, 2015 at the museum located next to the Bass Pro Shops flagship store in Springfield, Mo.” More than 40 conservation leaders attending a National Conservation Summit “hope the new Bass Pro Shops wildlife

museum and aquarium will convey to visitors when it opens in mid 2016.” FWS Director Dan Ashe, “one of the summit attendees,” called the museum “one of the foremost conservation attractions in the world.” He said, “Through conservation efforts, we can be successful in sustaining these populations of animals that are threatened or endangered. People hear about the industrial-scale poaching of elephants that’s happening in Africa. That’s not hunting. With this museum, here’s an opportunity to tell the story of how we can protect wildlife habitat, and that when hunting is done well, with appropriate regulations, it sustains wildlife populations.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K), [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K), and [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K).

CNMI QUESTIONS INCLUSION OF SOME SPECIES ON ENDANGERED LIST. The [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “the Northern Marianas government says the decision to list 23 species in Guam and the CNMI as threatened or endangered was rushed.” The government says “it supports the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s listing of seven of the 17 CNMI species, but it questions the inclusion of some of the other species.” The Department of Land and Natural Resources says “a number of the species do not meet the definitions of threatened or endangered and don’t require federal protection.”

FWS LOOKS TO RESTORE HABITAT ON ROOT RIVER. The [Rochester \(MN\) Post-Bulletin](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “federal wildlife officials are seeking public input on a plan to restore and enhance habitat on 825 acres of Minnesota land along the Root River in Houston County.” Managed by the FWS “as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the Root River Tract sits to the east of Hwy. 26 between La Crescent and Brownsville.” The article notes that “the site includes 664 acres of hunting and farmland purchased in 2009 with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

SHOOTING OF CALIFORNIA CONDOR IN ARIZONA UNDER INVESTIGATION. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that FWS special agents and Arizona Game and Fish Department “law enforcement personnel are investigating the lethal shooting of an endangered California condor that occurred on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona Oct. 8.”

MAN CLAIMS HE BLOCKED ARIZONA BIKE TRAIL TO PROTECT OWLS. The [AP](#) (10/21, 344K) reports that “the 81-year-old man who blocked a Flagstaff-area mountain bike race says he did it to protect an endangered owl species.” J.D. Protiva “appeared in federal court Monday on misdemeanor charges related to blocking the Elden Springs Trail before the August race.” Protiva says “the path goes through protected Mexican spotted owl habitat.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MONARCHS GET HELP AS CALIFORNIANS PLANT DROUGHT-TOLERANT MILKWEED. Additional coverage that monarch butterflies could benefit from the California drought was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/21, 259K), [KABC-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/21, 413K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (10/21, 345K).

FWS INVESTING IN PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN ATLANTIC COASTAL DEFENSES AGAINST FUTURE STORMS. In an op-ed for the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (10/20, 172K), Wendi Weber is Northeast regional director for the FWS, writes that “federal money for Hurricane Sandy recovery has spurred an unprecedented effort to strengthen natural defenses along the Atlantic Coast to protect communities and wildlife against future storms.” She notes that the FWS and other Interior Department “agencies are investing \$787 million in hundreds of projects to clean up and repair damaged refuges and parks; restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline; connect and open waterways to improve flood control; and increase our scientific understanding of how these natural areas are changing.” According to Weber, “these investments support the goal of President Barack Obama’s Climate Action Plan to make communities more resilient to increasingly intense storms predicted with a changing climate.”

National Park Service:

MUSIC VIDEO CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF NPS. The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (10/20, 53K) reports on “a locally made music video that celebrates 100 years of the National Park Service.” According to the article, “published on Oct. 15, the Centennial video has more than 18,500 views on the NPS facebook page and more than 530 on the Youth Ambassador Program’s YouTube page, the group

that made it." NPS Director Jon Jarvis, who met the traveling crew in Washington, D.C., makes a cameo appearance in the video to say, "It's great to celebrate a hundred years with YAP!"

Kentucky Lieutenant Gov. Luallen Touts National Parks. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/20, 414K) reports that Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen on Tuesday "touted the economic impact of Kentucky's travel and tourism industry" in "an address to the Kentucky Travel Industry's annual conference in Bowling Green." Following her remarks, Luallen "recognized five national parks in Kentucky as part of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016." She "presented proclamations to representatives of the parks."

Couple Visiting 59 National Parks In 12 Months. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/21, 1.03M) reports that "Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, St. Louis natives, are two months into their grand adventure: 59 parks in 12 months – part celebration of the National Park Service's 100th anniversary, part exercise in youthful spontaneity." Their goal is to "see the best of the United States, and inspire others – particularly other millennials – to do the same." The article notes that "their mission meshes well with a new campaign of the Park Service, which celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2016."

WATCHDOG RELEASES REPORT ON NPS CONSTRUCTION FUNDS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "a federal watchdog yesterday released a disputed report alleging that the National Park Service is violating congressional intent by dipping into its construction account to cover security, air testing and other reimbursable expenses that should have been paid up front by other agencies." The NPS construction account is "only for expenses that relate to 'construction, improvements, repair or replacement of physical facilities,'" the Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General report said, "citing the language of the agency's appropriation." However, "the OIG found that 17 out of a sample of 21 interagency agreements that used Park Service construction funds to cover reimbursable costs did not appear to include 'a valid construction purpose.'" The article notes that "these included \$4.9 million that NPS spent from its construction account on security at the Department of the Army's Memorial Day and Independence Day concerts at the Capitol in 2014 and \$37.5 million over seven years on air quality monitoring at national parks that will be paid back to NPS by U.S. EPA."

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES GRAND CANYON BISON MANAGEMENT ACT. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act "allowing the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to better manage and conserve the bison population within the park Oct. 8." The legislation "requires the U.S. Department of Interior and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on a plan that allows sportsmen holding a valid state-issued hunting license to assist in management of the bison population within the park."

THUNDERSTORMS CAUSE FLOODING, MUDSLIDES IN DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "mudslides and flooding after severe thunderstorms in Death Valley National Park on Sunday trapped three park rangers and about 20 visitors – many out to see a clear night sky – in a volcanic crater overnight." Park spokeswoman Abby Wines said "the stranded people spent the night in Ubehebe Crater, maintaining contact with park headquarters until they were able to reach safety yesterday morning." The article notes that "no injuries were reported, but Wines said the unexpectedly severe storms knocked out power in the area, damaged and closed several roads, and filled a historic visitor's center with several feet of mud and debris."

NPS SET TO CONTINUE WITH TREE-CUTTING AT POTOMAC CAMPGROUND. The [Bethesda \(MD\) Magazine](#) (10/21) reports that "after complaints from two nearby residents and a call from County Council member Roger Berliner temporarily halted tree-cutting operations Friday at a Potomac campground, the National Park Service said it plans to resume the tree-cutting and will probably do so in the next few days." John Noel, deputy superintendent for the C&O Canal National Historical Park, said that "he went to the Swain's Lock Recreation Site to examine the 26 trees proposed to be removed and 32 others proposed to be pruned at the site's campground." Noel "agreed that the trees are rotting and in danger of falling on park users below."

STUDENTS GO ON CANOE TRIP AROUND WOLF LAKE. The [Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (10/20, 105K) reports that "all classes in Grades 6 through 9 at George Rogers Clark Junior-Senior High School in Hammond recently experienced a unique field trip right in their own back yard — a canoe trip around Wolf Lake located only a few blocks from the school." The trip was "made available through a

partnership with the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center and Wilderness Inquiry.”

NEW COLONIAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT THANKS COMMUNITY FOR ADVOCACY. The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (10/20, Williams, Subscription Publication, 201K) reports that the Colonial National Historical Park’s new Superintendent, Kym Hall, thanked the community for its opposition to Dominion’s Skiffes Creek transmission project in her first appearance before the York County Board of Supervisors on September 1. “The view should be protected,” she said.

DEVILS TOWER TO HOST STAR VIEWING PARTIES. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/21, 115K) reports that the NPS “announced that Devils Tower will host a series of star viewing parties October through December.” The article notes that “the eight parties are free of charge, and will last approximately two hours.”

NPS URGED TO RECONSIDER RACIST NAME FOR A WASHINGTON LAKE. In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/21, 74K), Glenn Nelson writes that Washington state officially calls Howard Lake “by what is believed to be its oldest known name,” but the federal government “recognizes the lake by a name that causes the jaws of most people of color to drop: Coon Lake.” Nelson notes that “the federal government did not follow the usual course of supporting the state’s action, mostly because of opposition from the National Park Service, which manages the area that contains the lake.” The NPS, “acting on research from its North Cascades unit, originally defended its stance by claiming that there was ambiguity around the use of the term ‘coon.’” According to Nelson, “in the years leading up to its 2016 centennial, the Park Service has done a lot of talking and writing about the need for diversity and inclusiveness.” He concludes that “it’s past time for the Park Service to back away from its misguided opposition, encourage Secretary Jewell to come to its rescue, and allow another black life to matter.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS SEISMOLOGIST QUESTIONS PREDICTION OF 99.9 PERCENT CHANCE OF MAJOR LOS ANGELES EARTHQUAKE IN 3 YEARS. The [Southern California Public Radio](#) (10/20, 68K) reports that “a controversial new study from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory” claims “there is a 99.9 percent chance of an earthquake” in Los Angeles “between magnitude 5 and 6.3 in less than three years.” The study, published earlier this month by the American Geophysical Union’s Earth and Space Science journal, has “taken many in the seismic community by surprise.” Lucy Jones with the USGS said the “methodology doesn’t fully explain the prediction, and the study doesn’t adequately address this either.” Jones said that, according to the USGS’ “models, there is only an 85 percent chance of a magnitude 5 or 6 quake in the same region over a three-year period.”

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: TRUDEAU’S ELECTION LIKELY TO FOSTER IMPROVED US-CANADA TIES.

On the day after Justin Trudeau became Canada’s Prime Minister-designate, media reporting universally characterized the election results as a likely boost for US-Canada relations. Coverage focuses on Trudeau’s promise of a less combative foreign policy style and the perception that he will be more willing to accept a US rejection of the Keystone pipeline. Reporting – including a combined 2 minutes and 50 seconds on the three broadcast networks – also indicates that despite Trudeau’s decision to withdraw his aircraft from the US-led coalition against ISIL, he is likely to be a more willing partner on climate change and other issues.

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, story 9, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported President Obama on Tuesday congratulated Trudeau, who “swept into power with a message of optimism saying Canada beat fear with hope.” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Korte, 5.23M) reports Obama made the phone call “in an attempt to lock down continued cooperation with the northern neighbor on trade, terrorism, and climate change.” The White House, according to USA Today, “signaled that not much would change in the relationship” between the neighbors following the Liberal party’s victory. [CBC News](#) (10/20, Fitzpatrick, 225K) reported on its website that the White House indicated Obama and Trudeau “agreed on the importance of deepening the ‘already strong’ bilateral relationship” between the countries “and committed to strengthen joint efforts to promote trade and to combat terrorism and climate change.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports the White House and current Prime Minister Stephen Harper “clashed over climate

policy and the keystone pipeline. White House spokesman Josh Earnest on Tuesday said "it would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue," Chuck Todd reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that "we now have a Canadian government that is politically more in line with the American government." According to Todd, "Relations have been good but they have not been so great of late. Will they now get better? That is why Americans should care."

In an article entitled "5 Reasons The US Should Care About Canada's New Prime Minister," [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hjelmgard, 5.23M) lists ways in which Trudeau "is likely to affect policies in Canada and the United States." According to USA Today, Trudeau "promised to improve strained relations" with Obama and said "he wants to find constructive ways of working with Washington on other issues." Another [USA Today](#) (10/21, Kovac, 5.23M) article reports that Trudeau and Harper "differ in their approach to foreign policy," with the incoming leader being less vocally pro-Israel and more focused on environmental issues.

In an analysis piece, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/21, 2.66M) says "a prompt rejection" of the Keystone pipeline by Obama "would make the job easier" for Trudeau "as he seeks to reset the country's relationship with the US, which he says was damaged" by Harper. According to Bloomberg, Trudeau "could use a quick US denial" of the pipeline "to focus discussions" with Obama "on issues such as trade and climate." Bloomberg notes there has been "speculation" that Obama "would reject the pipeline shortly after the Canadian election." However, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Cama, 471K) reported, Secretary of State Kerry said Tuesday that Canada's election results will not change the White House's approach to the Keystone issue. Kerry said the decision "is being based on the merits and countervailing balance of all the input that has come from a very exhaustive agency review." Kerry reiterated that he seeks a decision "as fast as possible."

[Reuters](#) (10/21, Mason, Rampton) reports the White House indicated it would like the new Canadian government to take increased actions to address climate change. Earnest said that while Canada has "made a substantial and important commitment" ahead of the Paris climate talks, "We believe that it's possible that there is more that Canada can do in this regard."

However, writing for [Mother Jones](#) (10/20, 758K), Suzanne Goldenberg claimed "those hoping for a U-turn in Canada's climate change policy...are in for a reality check." According to Goldenberg, while Trudeau does not align directly with many of Harper's views or policies, "it would be a mistake" to see the new Canadian leader or his party "as climate champions." In [Slate](#) (10/20, 1.38M), Joshua Keating argued that at least with regard to the Keystone pipeline, Trudeau does present a change from Harper. Keating characterizes Trudeau as "a very different leader" from Harper and says he will make the Keystone pipeline less of a focal point of US-Canada relations. According to Keating, Trudeau "has described his support for the pipeline as 'steadfast,' but it's clearly not the make-or-break issue for him that it was for Harper."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Vieira, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports Trudeau said he will work to restore Canada's reputation of defending minorities and become more involved in multilateral policy making. At a rally in Ottawa, Trudeau said, "To this country's friends around the world, I want to say this: Many of you have worried Canada has lost its compassionate and constructive voice in the world over the past 10 years. I have simple message for you: We're back." The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports that Trudeau "is likely to present a very different face to the world" than Harper, "but the most noticeable difference will probably be in tone." Trudeau has vowed to "put an end to Mr. Harper's often belligerent style of politics and diplomacy." Trudeau said Tuesday that "a positive, optimistic, hopeful vision of public life isn't a naïve dream – it can be a powerful force for change." The Times says Trudeau has previously indicated a desire to end Harper's reliance on military solutions and tough rhetoric, and instead focus on working within international organizations, such as the United Nations.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 10, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, "Canada took a left turn" as "Trudeau and the Liberal Party rode in on a landslide." In a [USA Today](#) (10/21, 5.23M) op-ed, author David Andelman says "most of the reasons" Canadian voters chose Trudeau to lead the country "boiled down to one fundamental: The Liberal Party leader was simply nicer than his opponent. And most Canadians believe they are, too." Similarly, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that Canadians wanted a change from the Harper government, which had become

isolated and sought to restrict debate. The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) agrees, editorializing that Trudeau's election "shows how ready Canadians were to emerge from a decade under the Conservative government of the secretive and combative Stephen Harper."

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau told Obama on Tuesday that Canadian fighter aircraft will withdraw from the US-led coalition against ISIL, but the new Canadian leader did not present a timeline for the move. In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, A1, Brown, 6.76M) reports Trudeau said, "I committed that we would continue to engage in a responsible way that understands how Canada has a role to play in the fight against ISIL," adding, that Obama "understands the commitments I've made around ending the combat mission." According to the Post, a "senior Administration official," said Obama and Trudeau discussed joint anti-terrorism efforts and, "We expect Canada will continue to be a valuable contributor to the 65-member global coalition" against ISIL.

Trudeau's Win Could "Lead To Full Marijuana Legalization" In Canada. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hughes, 5.23M) reports Trudeau's win "may lead to full marijuana legalization" for Canada. According to USA Today, Trudeau promised during his campaign that "Canada would create a system to tax, regulate and sell marijuana, along with stiff penalties for anyone giving pot to children or caught driving while stoned." USA Today says American "cannabis activists hailed Tuesday's election as a milestone, suggesting that a day may soon come when cross-border trade talks include...legal weed."

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau's "promise to legalize recreational cannabis" will likely "help the nation's nascent medical marijuana industry." Investors, according to AFP, "are betting" they could build on companies' current production of marijuana for medical use and "quickly scale up to serve recreational pot users too, once Trudeau makes good on his promise."

NYTimes Analysis: Trudeau Is "No Dynast" Despite Father Being Former Prime Minister. In a 1,350-world profile piece, the [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that despite there being "many easy parallels to draw between" Trudeau and his father, former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Canada's incoming leader "is no dynast who slipped effortlessly into a family political machine." The Times notes that Trudeau "did not even enter politics until 18 years after his father gave it up, and seven year after his father's death." According to the Times, Trudeau "built his own cadre of advisers, mostly from his own generation" and sometimes "chose more difficult roads – partly, it appears, to show he had not been handed a life in politics on a platter."

In the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, 6.76M) "Reliable Source" blog, Emily Heil says Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, "have a lot in common with the Obamas." According to Heil, "they'd have lots to talk about, apart from liberal politics, like fitness!"

IN APPARENT REVERSAL, BIDEN SAYS HE PRIVATELY URGED OBAMA TO AUTHORIZE UBL RAID. Vice President Biden did not reveal Tuesday whether or not he will enter the Democratic presidential race, but his remark that he privately advised President Obama to launch the 2011 raid that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden – which contradicted Biden's past public comments that he advised against the raid – is being interpreted as a possible line of attack against Hillary Clinton. All three broadcast networks reported on the statement, combining for nearly eight minutes of coverage, and ABC led with it. The tone of the coverage is mixed, with most reports calling it a reversal, and some concluding that Biden may be undercutting his own reputation for candor.

There was also Twitter discussion of Biden's remarks. Anthony De Rosa, a digital producer for The Daily Show who has nearly 89,000 followers, [tweeted](#), "Biden sounds like Brian Williams with his evolving recollection of the Bin Laden raid." Jonathan Martin of the New York Times [tweeted](#), "@vp today signals: he'll run & it'll get negative FAST or: he's not happy about being sidelined." His Times colleague Maggie Haberman [tweeted](#), "Biden's subtle digs at Clinton indicate that if he runs it'll be ugly." In addition, the hashtag [#BidenWatch](#) emerged on Twitter, with Fox Business Network's Trish Regan [tweeting](#), "Sure sounds like he's running...", Mashable's Juana Summers [tweeting](#) Biden's Wednesday official schedule, and Al Jazeera America's David Shuster [tweeting](#) that "Hallie Biden, widow of the late Beau Biden, says her family supports a Presidential campaign '100%'".

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M) reported that "as the pressure mounts for Joe Biden to decide whether he'll run...many [are] now asking, did he change his story?" ABC (Karl) added, "Biden has described Obama's decision as especially courageous because in that key meeting when it

came time to decide, most of the President's advisers, including Biden himself, were not in favor of the raid." On Tuesday, he "offered an entirely different account of what happened on that fateful day." Biden was shown saying, "So as we walked out of the room and we walked upstairs, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts. But it would have been a mistake, imagine if I had said in front of everyone, 'don't go, or go,' and his decision was a different decision." Karl: "But until today, Biden has said he told Obama and his team that night to hold off on the raid."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 6, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Biden "sounded more like a presidential candidate, talking up his foreign policy credentials, doing some rewriting of his own history and firing a shot over the bow of the Democratic frontrunner." CBS' Nancy Corden added that Biden "never mentioned" Clinton by name, "but it was all too clear the comparison he was making when he said this about his stature overseas." Biden: "I will get sent to go speak to Putin or go speak to whomever, and it's because the secretary of state, we've had two great secretaries of state, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the President." Cordes added that Biden left Clinton "out of his story" about the Bin Laden raid.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 3, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) also said of Biden, "If anything, he is beginning to sound more like a candidate, taking not-so-veiled swipes" at Clinton. NBC (Welker) added that Biden "said he and the President were in lock-step when it came to authorizing the raid against Bin Laden." The [AP](#) (10/21, Lederman) says Biden "backtracked on his previous claims to have advised Obama against the raid" in "an unusual reversal."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/21, Talev, 247K) reports that in his remarks at an event honoring his vice presidential predecessor Walter Mondale, Biden "portrayed himself as the central player" in the Administration "on everything from working with congressional Republicans to the killing" of Bin Laden. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Singer, 5.23M) says Biden "revised his account of his advice" to Obama after Mondale said he "would only disagree with Pr

"Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Oct 21 2015 09:14:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

No, I've gotten no regular morning emails.

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 11:14 AM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Hmmm...ok. Let me try to fix that. Are you getting the news clips in the morning?

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 11:12 AM, Welch, Chelsea <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

No I didn't. I must not be on the political listserv.

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 11:11 AM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Did you get this from Blake?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Androff, Blake** <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 8:22 AM

Subject: Fwd: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

To: DOI_Politicals <doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov>

Please let me know if you do NOT receive the daily clips each morning from Bulletin News at 7:00 AM. Please do not reply all.

Best,

Blake

Blake Androff

Director of Communications

U.S. Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bulletin Intelligence** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 7:00 AM

Subject: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SEN. MURKOWSKI SEES TOUGH ROAD FOR INTERIOR NOMINEE. [Politico Pro](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Lisa Murkowski said that Interior Department pick Kristen Sarri would “have a lot of explaining to do at a hearing on six nominees today.” While Murkowski was “pleased that President Barack Obama had renamed Mount McKinley this summer to Denali, the Alaska Republican said she was still frustrated with the Interior Department’s ‘heartless decision’ to deny a road in King Cove.” Murkowski also “criticized Interior for closing off oil production in Alaska and last week’s cancellation of offshore sales and lease extension.”

Meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (10/21, Barton, 375K) reports that Murkowski is “torn between leaving the Department of the Interior’s independent watchdog post vacant, or confirming President Barack Obama’s nominee crippled by recurring allegations of ‘playing games with Congress.’” She said, “I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent [inspector general], and I’m disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years.” Murkowski continued, “But I am also committed to ensuring that the individual we confirm is fully independent ... The tenure that you have been involved with thus far in this position has been marked by controversy.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/21, Henry, 471K), [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (10/20), and [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/20, 2K).

HISTORIC \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH CHOCTAW, CHICKASAW NATIONS LAUDED.

The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/20, 32K) reports that “tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior heralded the outcome of a \$186 million settlement signed earlier this month between the federal government, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw nations to solve a longstanding land trust dispute as a new chapter in relations.” During the October 5 signing ceremony, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby “gave a nod to the impetus provided” by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He

said, we respect the vital role Secretary Jewell has taken in helping make this historic settlement a reality. We are confident she will play an essential role in our efforts to continue strengthening the relationship between our governments, because we believe she has a unique appreciation for the mutual benefits of a positive government-to-government relationship.” Jewell said, “Today’s agreement is the latest addition to a record number of longstanding settlements resolved under this Administration. This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country.”

U.S. TREASURY CONFIRMS \$20B BALANCE FOR LWCF. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/21, 705) reports that “the Land and Water Conservation Fund that expired earlier this month for the first time in its 50-year history currently contains nearly \$20 billion, according to the U.S. Treasury, which maintains the program’s balance sheets.” But “whether that is ‘real’ money available to be spent on federal land acquisitions, private land easements and state recreation projects depends on whom you ask.” The article notes that “the \$19.8 billion can only be reduced until Congress reauthorizes the program.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/20, 31K).

PROPOSED DESIGNATIONS OF THREE NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT “LAND GRAB.” [Fox News](#) (10/20, 8.91M) reports that “a group of off-roaders and others are attempting to fight a proposed designation of three national monuments in the California desert under the Antiquities Act.” The Obama Administration is “considering using the federal Antiquities Act to bypass the legislative process at the request of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, whose efforts to have the Mojave Trails and Castle Mountain, both in the Mojave Desert, and a section of the Sonoran Desert named federal sites were repeatedly blocked by Republicans.” According to the article, “a White House move could put the land under federal control, which critics say could cut funding for upkeep or even restrict access.”

UNMANNED HELICOPTER OFFERS NEW WAY TO FIGHT WILDFIRES. The [Voice of America](#) (10/21, Banse, 32K) reports that the K-MAX “unmanned, water-dropping” helicopter was tested by the US government. The helicopter can fly through limited visibility. Brad Koeckertiz, the unmanned aircraft program manager with the US Department of Interior, says that unmanned helicopters such as the K-MAX will be integrated into routine measures to fight wildfires over the next few of years. The article notes that the K-MAX helicopters have already been used by the US Marines in Afghanistan, to “resupply remote outposts at night” and replace “dangerous convoys on the ground.” The article notes that the growing uses for drones is also why the FAA is seeking to register all drones.

Additional coverage was provided by [Vertical Magazine \(CAN\)](#) (10/21).

JEB BUSH PROPOSES MOVING INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FROM D.C. To Western City. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/20, Lucas, 199K) reports that “Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will unveil his proposals for Western land and resource management in a campaign stop in Reno on Wednesday morning, in a speech likely to resonate with conservative voters opposed to what they see as federal overreach in the Western states.” Bush is “expected to speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park before appearing at a forum sponsored by the LIBRE Initiative at the College of Southern Nevada Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas at 6 p.m.” In the proposal, Bush will “call for moving the headquarters of the Department of Interior from Washington, D.C., to a city in the western United States like Denver, Salt Lake City or Reno and will say that as president he would direct federal agencies to give broad latitude to states to determine land-use issues.”

STUDY: ALASKAN WILDFIRES COULD EXACERBATE GLOBAL WARMING. The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Mooney, 6.76M) reports that some greenhouse gas sources outside the scope of forthcoming UN climate talks are beyond governments’ control, such as raging peat fires in Indonesia this year, emitting “as much as Japan produces in a year from fossil fuels.” Elsewhere, a new study in Nature Climate Change reaffirms concerns about the emissions of northern fires in Alaska. The Post reports that “climate researchers are still trying to figure out how all of these factors will interrelate,” but fire is a “powerful determinant of how much carbon resides in land, rather than in the air, across our globe.”

INTERIOR'S VINE ACCOUNT HIGHLIGHTED. [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K) highlights the Interior Department has a great Vine account. Providing a link, Politico says "this is Internet gold."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA RULE ANNOUNCES RULE GIVING TRIBES MORE CONTROL OVER ELECTIONS. [Law360](#) (10/20, 21K) reports that the BIA "on Monday announced its final rule for Native American tribal elections conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying the new rule will encourage tribes to take control of their elections and help protect the voting rights of tribe members living in urban areas." Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said "in a statement Monday that the rule will allow tribes to opt out of having the interior secretary conduct their elections."

The [Native American Times](#) (10/20, 337) reports that Washburn said, "Though many federal responsibilities concern the lands we hold in trust for tribes and Indian people, more than 55 million acres nationwide, the United States has a moral obligation to preserve connections between Indian people and their tribes that it once sought to destroy. For the future of Native nations and the health of Indian Country, American Indians in urban areas must work harder to maintain connections with their tribes. One important aspect of that relationship is participation in the civic and political life of their tribal governments. For that reason, our Secretarial election amendments seek to prevent tribal members living in urban areas from being inadvertently disenfranchised in Secretarial elections."

HEARING FOCUSES ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, Kelleher) reports from Honolulu that a federal court hearing began on Tuesday "in a lawsuit by people who want to put a stop to an election process that is underway for Native Hawaiians." The lawsuit, filed in August, "says it's unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election." The state "argues in court documents that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it's not involved in next month's vote to elect delegates for a convention to determine self-governance for Native Hawaiians." Tuesday's hearing "is focused on the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction," and the plaintiffs "want the judge to limit voter registration activities or stop the election altogether."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/21, 66K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (10/21, Kelleher, 5.98M).

INTERIOR SIDES WITH ALASKA NATIVE GROUP IN INVESTIGATION OF MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE TRIBAL COLLECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, 2.28M) reports that "a Massachusetts college was found in violation of a federal law regulating the possession and sale of potentially sacred artifacts following a complaint from an organization of Alaska Natives." The Interior Department said "an investigation substantiated the complaint against Andover Newton Theological School filed in June by the Sealaska Heritage Institute." The institute's president, Rosita Worl, said "the school possesses at least two southeast Alaska artifacts, including a Tlingit halibut hook that is considered sacred."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, D'oro, 344K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 548K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/21, 5.59M), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (10/21, 651K), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/21, D'oro, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (10/21, 3.97M), and the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/20, 219K).

US ATTORNEY SAYS BIA OFFICER WAS JUSTIFIED IN DEADLY SPIRIT LAKE SHOOTING. The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that US Attorney Chris Myers "says" that an investigation by his office came to the conclusion that BIA Officer Terry Morgan was justified in shooting and killing "31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16." The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (10/21, 100K) reports that the US Attorney's Office "said" the shooting was justified because Charboneau posed a "real and immediate" threat to officers and another person at the scene after he refused to put down his gun, which was pointed at the officers. The Grand Forks Herald reports that, as a result of the investigation, Federal prosecutors "will not file charges against" Morgan.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (10/21, 1K), the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (10/21, 14K), [KXJB-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/21, 18K), [KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/20, 3K), [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (10/21, 1K), and [KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#)

BISMARCK, ND (10/21, 1K).

CRIME JUMPS AFTER TRIBES CUT FROM BIA FUNDING. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Romney, 4.07M) reports on a "time of crisis for public safety on tribal lands." According to the article, "a federal law decades ago shifted the primary burden of criminal law enforcement on tribal lands in California and five other states to local authorities," but "many lack the resources to do the job and, in some cases, sufficient knowledge of tribal law and culture to win the trust of tribal members." After "tribes were cut off from steady funding for their own justice systems," crime has "flourished."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YAKAMA NATION'S PETITION TO SELF-GOVERN APPROVED.

Additional coverage that the BIA on Monday granted the Yakama Nation's petition for "retrocession" was provided by the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 101K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (10/20, 86K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, 344K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/20, 183K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), the [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K), [KNDU-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#) Yakima, WA (10/21, 3K), and [KUOW-FM Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (10/21, 15K).

GILLETTE'S SERVICE IN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PRAISED. In an editorial, the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/21, 37K) lauds Jodi Gillette's service in the Obama Administration. According to the paper, Gillette's "positions gave her a voice in a White House that has seemed genuinely concerned about Native American issues."

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA PROPOSES MARSHALLS FUND CHANGES. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "a top US official has submitted a proposal to the Senate and House to allow the people of Bikini to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands." Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina says "it is an appropriate course of action to take regarding the welfare and livelihood of the Bikinian people." The Bikinians were "displaced by US nuclear weapons testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands." According to the article, "in addition to cramped living quarters and a lack of suitable sustainable resources, the islands have been experiencing more frequent storms and king tides resulting in salt water inundation and the destruction of crops."

[Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "a representative from Bikini Atoll says a proposal to allow people to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands is not wanted." Bikini liaison officer Jack Niedenthal says "the US should take full responsibility for any resettlement including providing extra financing." Niedenthal said, "We still got a ways to go, we still have to do some more lobbying and some more talking to people in Washington to make them understand that what's being proposed by the assistant secretary is what we view as 'Plan B'. It's not ultimately what we want in terms of helping our people."

CHINA STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIP WITH PACIFIC REGION. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that "China and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat further strengthened their relationship on Friday when the two met at a ceremony to hand over \$1.05 million to assist the Pacific region." Forum Secretariat Secretary General Meg Taylor and Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Zhang Ping "attended the ceremony and delivered speeches respectively." Zhang "reiterated his nation's ongoing interest in the region saying, 'China attaches great importance to the South Pacific region. The Chinese side stands ready to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation with Pacific Island Countries and contribute to the development and capacity building in the region.'"

COUNTRIES IN PACIFIC URGED TO BEGIN TALKS ON CLIMATE MIGRATION. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "all countries in the Pacific are being urged to start discussions on how to help people forced to move from low lying atoll nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu." According to the article, "184 million people worldwide were displaced by disaster between 2008 and 2014 and at special meetings in Geneva last week 110 countries gave the nod to a Protection Agenda for dealing with future migration challenges." The article notes that "the experiences of small island countries which face rising seas due to climate change helped form the global action plan under the Swiss Norwegian Nansen Initiative."

JOURNALIST SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY OF GUAM ON CLIMATE ISSUES, CORRUPTION IN PACIFIC ISLANDS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that “author and journalist Giff Johnson spoke to students at the University of Guam on Monday evening about climate change and development in the Pacific islands.” Johnson’s “lecture, entitled ‘Idyllic No More: Pacific Island Climate, Corruption and Development Dilemmas,’ is based on his latest book — a compilation of essays detailing the looming climate threat to the region, its booming fishing industry, and the U.S. nuclear test legacy in the Marshall Islands.” Johnson called attention to “climate-driven migration from remote Pacific islands to Guam and mainland U.S.”

RISING SEA LEVELS THREATEN KIRIBATI. The [National Geographic](#) (10/21, 31.65M) provides a picture gallery of the threat of rising sea levels driven by climate change on Kiribati.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

WATER SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED FROM NEW MELONES. The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “more than 7 billion gallons of water is scheduled to be released from New Melones Reservoir beginning today to ensure flows in the Stanislaus River will keep temperatures cool enough for adult salmon migrating up the river to spawn this fall.” Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District said “it would benefit river conditions and fisheries, as well as the needs of agriculture and more than 200,000 residential customers downstream.” The article notes that “earlier this year, the irrigation districts sparred with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — which manages New Melones Reservoir — over spring pulse flows that they feared would leave as little as 147,000 acre-feet in the reservoir by the end of September.”

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTE TO OPPOSE DELTA TUNNELS PLAN. The [Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (10/21, 14K) reports that “at a meeting on Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a resolution in formal opposition of California WaterFix, also known as the twin tunnels plan.” Supervisor Kathy Miller said, “The WaterFix is just a thinly veiled version of the former (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and continues to push the fatally flawed twin tunnels, which will simply sacrifice one region of California for the benefit of another.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, DOMINION BOTH SUPPORT OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT. On his [Bacon’s Rebellion \(VA\)](#) (10/21, Bacon) blog, James Bacon reports on an Environment Virginia-sponsored webinar held Tuesday morning in which representatives from Dominion, environmental groups, and the McAuliffe Administration all voiced support for the utility’s experimental offshore wind farm project. For environmentalists, Bacon writes, the project represents the beginning of an industry that would increase the use of green energy along the Atlantic and displace fossil fuels. For the Governor’s office, it represents increased green energy coupled with economic development that takes advantage of the Newport News area’s shipbuilding industry.

Onshore Energy Development:

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY FINED \$2.1 MILLION FOR UNDER-REPORTING NATURAL GAS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department on Monday “announced a \$2.1 million civil penalty against Chesapeake Energy Corp. for misreporting the amount of gas it produced and sold from American Indian lands in Oklahoma.” Chesapeake “failed to comply with a 2011 order that found ‘systemic errors’ in the company’s monthly production reports for more than 100 Indian leases, according to Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue.” The company “agreed to amend the monthly reports, but it continued to maintain inaccurate information on the agency’s data systems, ONRR said.” The firm was “assessed a penalty based on ‘knowing or willful maintenance’ of the inaccurate information, ONRR said.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), and [KOKC-AM Oklahoma City \(OK\)](#) Oklahoma City (10/20, 1K).

TEXAS ENERGY REGULATOR OPPOSES STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K) reports that “Texas’ top energy regulator on Tuesday said the agency will oppose a U.S. Department of the Interior proposed rule aimed at better protecting streams and other waterways from nearby mining activity, saying the regulation encroaches on ground better left to the state.” Texas Railroad Commission Chairman David Porter on Tuesday said “the state would sign on to the multistate Interstate Mining Compact Commission’s comments opposing the proposed waterway regulation.”

USGS REPORT STATES EARTHQUAKES COINCIDE WITH OKLAHOMA OIL BOOMS. [KOCO-TV](#) Oklahoma City (10/21, 93K) reports that “a study by the United States Geological Survey states that the earthquakes from the past 100 years seem to coincide with the oil boom in Oklahoma.”

OKLAHOMA REGULATORS SHUT DOWN THREE MORE DISPOSAL WELLS. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication) reports that “Oklahoma oil and gas regulators dealing with a dramatic increase in earthquakes near the pipeline hub of Cushing have shut down three more disposal wells.” Also, “another well was shut down by the company that owns it after regulators said they were concerned it was drilled too deep.” In addition, “the operators of seven other wells were told in a letter written Friday and released yesterday that they must reduce the volume of drilling waste that they inject deep underground.”

OKLAHOMA LIMITS DISPOSAL WELLS AMID CUSHING QUAKES. [Reuters](#) (10/21, Hampton, Brandes) reports that Oklahoma’s oil and gas regulator on Monday said it could impose new limits on all saltwater disposal wells within a 10-mile radius of Cushing. Reuters reports that Oklahoma now experiences as many as two magnitude 3.0 quakes per day, up from two per year. Thirteen wells have been ordered shut and approvals for new wells have been halted, Reuters reports. Scientists told Reuters that shutting wells could ease tectonic disruption in Oklahoma.

STUDY: FRACKING CAN CAUSE METHANE LEAKS IN NEARBY ABANDONED OIL WELLS. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Valdmanis) reported that according to a study published Tuesday in the Water Resources Research journal, fracking can cause methane leaks in nearby abandoned oil wells. The methane leaks could be a large source of unrecorded greenhouse gas emissions, according to the study. The study said that energy companies could reduce the probability of such methane leaks by trying to identify abandoned wells before they begin fracking, although the task could be difficult due to large numbers of unmarked abandoned wells.

BLM CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE PICTURES UNDER FOIA REQUEST. For the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (10/21), Darryl L. Flowers criticizes the BLM for failing to provide pictures in connection with “the proposed Solenex, LLC natural gas well on public lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest” that were requested under the Freedom of Information Act. The paper received “sixteen photos” and “two photos were missing.” He notes that “curiously, the two omitted photos were the only ones that included a person in the photos.”

Offshore Energy Development:

FEDS INVESTIGATE WORKER’S DEATH ON DRILLSHIP CONTRACTED BY CHEVRON. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/20, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that officials from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Coast Guard are investigating “the death of a worker on a drillsip in the Gulf of Mexico that was preparing to bore a well for Chevron.” Fuel Fix says that “the Pacific Santa Ana drillsip was just beginning operations for Chevron in about 4,800 feet of water at the site and had not yet penetrated the sea floor when an employee of that drilling contractor was fatally injured.” Fuel Fix adds that Chevron has a 36 percent working interest in the Keathley Canyon well-leasing block where the incident occurred, an area where “Chevron outlined ambitions to drill up to seven wells” earlier this year.

The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that Amy Roddy, spokeswoman for Pacific Drilling SA, the ship’s owner, “said the company is not releasing any details about the man to respect his family’s privacy. She also refused to disclose how the man died or details of the accident, citing an ongoing investigation.”

[NASDAQ](#) (10/20, Sider) reports that Chevron has contracted the ship since 2012. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/21, Larino, 718K) adds that “operations have been shut down and personnel

remain onboard, according to the driller's operator."

[Offshore Engineer](#) (10/20, Leon) reports that "the ship was to use its dual gradient drilling functions for Chevron's Anchor-1 prospect last year in Green Canyon block 807, but the well was junked due to mechanical failures. However, in January of this year, Chevron hit high quality oil pay in multiple Lower Tertiary Wilcox Sands at a second Anchor well also drilled by the Pacific Santa Ana."

The [Dow Jones Newswires](#) (10/21, Sider) reports that this is the first death related to offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico this year.

[Reuters](#) (10/21), [gCaptain](#) (10/21, 2K), [Upstream Online](#) (10/21, Schmidt, Brenner, 20K), and [Maritime Executive](#) (10/20, 21) also cover the story.

BRIARCLIFFE ACRES VOTES AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (10/21, 36K) reports that "in a storm of debate over offshore drilling, Briarcliffe Acres surfaced as the latest coastal town to join a united front against seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas off of South Carolina's beaches." According to the article, "missing councilwoman Abby Stewart, who has been with family on the west coast, the town council unanimously passed a resolution Monday, joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns in a stance against offshore drilling."

SHELL VESSEL RESCUES FRENCHMAN, CAT FROM SAILBOAT STRANDED IN SEAS NEAR ALASKA. The [AP](#) (10/21, Thiessen) reports that a Frenchman and the cat tucked inside his clothing were rescued on Tuesday after he leapt from his sailboat to a waiting rescue ship sent by Shell. The man activated a location beacon in the high seas south of Alaska and told the Coast Guard his sailboat had lost its rudder and rigging in the high winds and 20-foot waves. The Coast Guard contacted Shell's oil drilling rig, the Polar Pioneer, which is on its way to Port Angeles, and the rig "sent a support ship, the Tor Viking, to rescue the sailor." The AP reports that "it wasn't immediately clear if the man would continue with the Shell ships to Washington state."

CUNNINGHAM: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SHUTS THE DOOR ON ARCTIC DRILLING. In an analysis of the Interior Department's recent decision on the future of Arctic drilling, [Oil Price](#) (10/21, 2K) reporter Nick Cunningham writes the Interior Department's decision to cancel lease sales through 2017 "leaves almost no possible pathway for an oil company to drill in the Arctic for years to come, perhaps killing off drilling for a decade or so at a minimum." Cunningham goes on to write that "it was likely that there wouldn't have been new drilling in any event, given Shell's decision and current market conditions, but Interior's decision officially shuts the door on the Arctic in the medium-term."

Casey: Interior's Actions On Arctic Drilling Trends "Toward A Permanent Clampdown." [CleanTechnica's](#) (10/20, 15K) Tina Casey writes that "in the absence of local regulations, the Feds are the only game in town and it seems that the Arctic's role in the US economy is too important to trust to compliance by oil companies." Casey adds that, even though the Interior's actions last week on Arctic drilling may be "only temporary, but the trend is toward a permanent clampdown."

4-Traders: Federal Government To Blame For Low Arctic Drilling Interest. In an op-ed piece on the Interior's Arctic drilling decision, [4-Traders](#) (10/21, 5K) writes the Federal government's "difficult" regulatory obstacles is to blame for the lack of interest among oil companies to explore for oil and natural gas in the Arctic. 4-Traders writes that the "demand for oil and natural gas isn't going away, so energy domestic exploration must continue in the Arctic and elsewhere. But as we've seen, by putting up unnecessary regulatory hurdles, regulators can cause job and economic growth opportunities to be missed."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TO REVIEW HAGERMAN-HAILEY TRANSMISSION LINE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (10/21) reports that the BLM will review the Hagerman to Hailey transmission line, paying "special attention to the greater sage grouse in the area." Stacey Baczkowski, a biologist with Idaho Power,

says “the company has been working with the BLM for the last few years to make sure the line is built with the bird in mind.” Baczkowski says “the power company plans to build the new transmission line as close to the current one as possible, and will follow BLM rules about construction during sage grouse mating times.”

UTAH WATER DISTRICT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT BLM REVISION TO LAND-USE PLAN.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/21, 407K) reports that “federal policies that either aim to instill more oversight of water or deny access altogether have some Utah leaders frothing over what they say is a repeated pattern of overreach that threatens local economies and livelihoods.” Ron Thompson, general manager of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, said “possible revisions to a land-use plan by the Bureau of Land Management in Washington County have severe ramifications should one particular approach be adopted.” Thompson said “the BLM — under one option — is ignoring key considerations that went into the passage of the bill, including water supplies being left unhindered and right of way corridors left intact.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HELICOPTER CRASHES NEAR SEARCHLIGHT DURING CATTLE ROUNDUP. Additional coverage of the helicopter crash near Searchlight during a cattle roundup was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/21, 378K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CONSERVATION LEADERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONSERVATION SUMMIT. [KYTV-TV](#)

Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K) reports that “more than 40 leaders from the leading conservation groups in America are meeting in Springfield this week for a National Conservation Summit hosted by The Johnny Morris Foundation.” According to the article, “participants include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Geographic, Audubon Society, and Ducks Unlimited.” The article notes that “the purpose of the historic gathering is to collectively discuss opportunities to educate and engage the public in efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitats in preparation for the grand opening of America’s Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in 2016.”

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (10/20, 49K) reports that “three exhibits of America’s Wildlife Museum & Aquarium, formerly Wonders of Wildlife, were open to media for a tour on Oct. 20, 2015 at the museum located next to the Bass Pro Shops flagship store in Springfield, Mo.” More than 40 conservation leaders attending a National Conservation Summit “hope the new Bass Pro Shops wildlife museum and aquarium will convey to visitors when it opens in mid 2016.” FWS Director Dan Ashe, “one of the summit attendees,” called the museum “one of the foremost conservation attractions in the world.” He said, “Through conservation efforts, we can be successful in sustaining these populations of animals that are threatened or endangered. People hear about the industrial-scale poaching of elephants that’s happening in Africa. That’s not hunting. With this museum, here’s an opportunity to tell the story of how we can protect wildlife habitat, and that when hunting is done well, with appropriate regulations, it sustains wildlife populations.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K), [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K), and [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K).

CNMI QUESTIONS INCLUSION OF SOME SPECIES ON ENDANGERED LIST. The [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “the Northern Marianas government says the decision to list 23 species in Guam and the CNMI as threatened or endangered was rushed.” The government says “it supports the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s listing of seven of the 17 CNMI species, but it questions the inclusion of some of the other species.” The Department of Land and Natural Resources says “a number of the species do not meet the definitions of threatened or endangered and don’t require federal protection.”

FWS LOOKS TO RESTORE HABITAT ON ROOT RIVER. The [Rochester \(MN\) Post-Bulletin](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “federal wildlife officials are seeking public input on a plan to restore and enhance habitat on 825 acres of Minnesota land along the Root River in Houston County.” Managed by the FWS “as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the Root River Tract sits to the east of Hwy. 26 between La Crescent and Brownsville.” The article notes that “the site includes 664 acres of hunting and farmland purchased in 2009 with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

SHOOTING OF CALIFORNIA CONDOR IN ARIZONA UNDER INVESTIGATION. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that FWS special agents and Arizona Game and Fish Department “law enforcement personnel are investigating the lethal shooting of an endangered California condor that occurred on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona Oct. 8.”

MAN CLAIMS HE BLOCKED ARIZONA BIKE TRAIL TO PROTECT OWLS. The [AP](#) (10/21, 344K) reports that “the 81-year-old man who blocked a Flagstaff-area mountain bike race says he did it to protect an endangered owl species.” J.D. Protiva “appeared in federal court Monday on misdemeanor charges related to blocking the Elden Springs Trail before the August race.” Protiva says “the path goes through protected Mexican spotted owl habitat.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MONARCHS GET HELP AS CALIFORNIANS PLANT DROUGHT-TOLERANT MILKWEED. Additional coverage that monarch butterflies could benefit from the California drought was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/21, 259K), [KABC-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/21, 413K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (10/21, 345K).

FWS INVESTING IN PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN ATLANTIC COASTAL DEFENSES AGAINST FUTURE STORMS. In an op-ed for the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (10/20, 172K), Wendi Weber is Northeast regional director for the FWS, writes that “federal money for Hurricane Sandy recovery has spurred an unprecedented effort to strengthen natural defenses along the Atlantic Coast to protect communities and wildlife against future storms.” She notes that the FWS and other Interior Department “agencies are investing \$787 million in hundreds of projects to clean up and repair damaged refuges and parks; restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline; connect and open waterways to improve flood control; and increase our scientific understanding of how these natural areas are changing.” According to Weber, “these investments support the goal of President Barack Obama’s Climate Action Plan to make communities more resilient to increasingly intense storms predicted with a changing climate.”

National Park Service:

MUSIC VIDEO CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF NPS. The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (10/20, 53K) reports on “a locally made music video that celebrates 100 years of the National Park Service.” According to the article, “published on Oct. 15, the Centennial video has more than 18,500 views on the NPS facebook page and more than 530 on the Youth Ambassador Program’s YouTube page, the group that made it.” NPS Director Jon Jarvis, “who met the traveling crew in Washington, D.C., makes a cameo appearance in the video to say, ‘It’s great to celebrate a hundred years with YAP!’”

Kentucky Lieutenant Gov. Luallen Touts National Parks. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/20, 414K) reports that Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen on Tuesday “touted the economic impact of Kentucky’s travel and tourism industry” in “an address to the Kentucky Travel Industry’s annual conference in Bowling Green.” Following her remarks, Luallen “recognized five national parks in Kentucky as part of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016.” She “presented proclamations to representatives of the parks.”

Couple Visiting 59 National Parks In 12 Months. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/21, 1.03M) reports that “Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, St. Louis natives, are two months into their grand adventure: 59 parks in 12 months – part celebration of the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary, part exercise in youthful spontaneity.” Their goal is to “see the best of the United States, and inspire others – particularly other millennials – to do the same.” The article notes that “their mission meshes well with a new campaign of the Park Service, which celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2016.”

WATCHDOG RELEASES REPORT ON NPS CONSTRUCTION FUNDS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “a federal watchdog yesterday released a disputed report alleging that the National Park Service is violating congressional intent by dipping into its construction account to cover security, air testing and other reimbursable expenses that should have been paid up front by other agencies.” The NPS construction account is “only for expenses that relate to ‘construction, improvements, repair or replacement of physical facilities,’” the Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General report said, “citing the language of the agency’s appropriation.”

However, “the OIG found that 17 out of a sample of 21 interagency agreements that used Park Service construction funds to cover reimbursable costs did not appear to include ‘a valid construction purpose.’” The article notes that “these included \$4.9 million that NPS spent from its construction account on security at the Department of the Army’s Memorial Day and Independence Day concerts at the Capitol in 2014 and \$37.5 million over seven years on air quality monitoring at national parks that will be paid back to NPS by U.S. EPA.”

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES GRAND CANYON BISON MANAGEMENT ACT. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act “allowing the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to better manage and conserve the bison population within the park Oct. 8.” The legislation “requires the U.S. Department of Interior and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on a plan that allows sportsmen holding a valid state-issued hunting license to assist in management of the bison population within the park.”

THUNDERSTORMS CAUSE FLOODING, MUDSLIDES IN DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “mudslides and flooding after severe thunderstorms in Death Valley National Park on Sunday trapped three park rangers and about 20 visitors – many out to see a clear night sky – in a volcanic crater overnight.” Park spokeswoman Abby Wines said “the stranded people spent the night in Ubehebe Crater, maintaining contact with park headquarters until they were able to reach safety yesterday morning.” The article notes that “no injuries were reported, but Wines said the unexpectedly severe storms knocked out power in the area, damaged and closed several roads, and filled a historic visitor’s center with several feet of mud and debris.”

NPS SET TO CONTINUE WITH TREE-CUTTING AT POTOMAC CAMPGROUND. The [Bethesda \(MD\) Magazine](#) (10/21) reports that “after complaints from two nearby residents and a call from County Council member Roger Berliner temporarily halted tree-cutting operations Friday at a Potomac campground, the National Park Service said it plans to resume the tree-cutting and will probably do so in the next few days.” John Noel, deputy superintendent for the C&O Canal National Historical Park, said that “he went to the Swain’s Lock Recreation Site to examine the 26 trees proposed to be removed and 32 others proposed to be pruned at the site’s campground.” Noel “agreed that the trees are rotting and in danger of falling on park users below.”

STUDENTS GO ON CANOE TRIP AROUND WOLF LAKE. The [Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (10/20, 105K) reports that “all classes in Grades 6 through 9 at George Rogers Clark Junior-Senior High School in Hammond recently experienced a unique field trip right in their own back yard — a canoe trip around Wolf Lake located only a few blocks from the school.” The trip was “made available through a partnership with the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center and Wilderness Inquiry.”

NEW COLONIAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT THANKS COMMUNITY FOR ADVOCACY. The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (10/20, Williams, Subscription Publication, 201K) reports that the Colonial National Historical Park’s new Superintendent, Kym Hall, thanked the community for its opposition to Dominion’s Skiffes Creek transmission project in her first appearance before the York County Board of Supervisors on September 1. “The view should be protected,” she said.

DEVILS TOWER TO HOST STAR VIEWING PARTIES. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/21, 115K) reports that the NPS “announced that Devils Tower will host a series of star viewing parties October through December.” The article notes that “the eight parties are free of charge, and will last approximately two hours.”

NPS URGED TO RECONSIDER RACIST NAME FOR A WASHINGTON LAKE. In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/21, 74K), Glenn Nelson writes that Washington state officially calls Howard Lake “by what is believed to be its oldest known name,” but the federal government “recognizes the lake by a name that causes the jaws of most people of color to drop: Coon Lake.” Nelson notes that “the federal government did not follow the usual course of supporting the state’s action, mostly because of opposition from the National Park Service, which manages the area that contains the lake.” The NPS, “acting on research from its North Cascades unit, originally defended its stance by claiming that there was ambiguity around the use of the term ‘coon.’” According to Nelson,

in the years leading up to its 2016 centennial, the Park Service has done a lot of talking and writing about the need for diversity and inclusiveness.” He concludes that “it’s past time for the Park Service to back away from its misguided opposition, encourage Secretary Jewell to come to its rescue, and allow another black life to matter.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS SEISMOLOGIST QUESTIONS PREDICTION OF 99.9 PERCENT CHANCE OF MAJOR LOS ANGELES EARTHQUAKE IN 3 YEARS. The [Southern California Public Radio](#) (10/20, 68K) reports that “a controversial new study from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory” claims “there is a 99.9 percent chance of an earthquake” in Los Angeles “between magnitude 5 and 6.3 in less than three years.” The study, published earlier this month by the American Geophysical Union’s Earth and Space Science journal, has “taken many in the seismic community by surprise.” Lucy Jones with the USGS said the “methodology doesn’t fully explain the prediction, and the study doesn’t adequately address this either.” Jones said that, according to the USGS’ “models, there is only an 85 percent chance of a magnitude 5 or 6 quake in the same region over a three-year period.”

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: TRUDEAU’S ELECTION LIKELY TO FOSTER IMPROVED US-CANADA TIES. On the day after Justin Trudeau became Canada’s Prime Minister-designate, media reporting universally characterized the election results as a likely boost for US-Canada relations. Coverage focuses on Trudeau’s promise of a less combative foreign policy style and the perception that he will be more willing to accept a US rejection of the Keystone pipeline. Reporting – including a combined 2 minutes and 50 seconds on the three broadcast networks – also indicates that despite Trudeau’s decision to withdraw his aircraft from the US-led coalition against ISIL, he is likely to be a more willing partner on climate change and other issues.

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, story 9, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported President Obama on Tuesday congratulated Trudeau, who “swept into power with a message of optimism saying Canada beat fear with hope.” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Korte, 5.23M) reports Obama made the phone call “in an attempt to lock down continued cooperation with the northern neighbor on trade, terrorism, and climate change.” The White House, according to USA Today, “signaled that not much would change in the relationship” between the neighbors following the Liberal party’s victory. [CBC News](#) (10/20, Fitzpatrick, 225K) reported on its website that the White House indicated Obama and Trudeau “agreed on the importance of deepening the ‘already strong’ bilateral relationship” between the countries “and committed to strengthen joint efforts to promote trade and to combat terrorism and climate change.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports the White House and current Prime Minister Stephen Harper “clashed over climate policy” and the Keystone pipeline. While White House spokesman Josh Earnest on Tuesday said “it would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue,” Chuck Todd reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that “we now have a Canadian government that is politically more in line with the American government.” According to Todd, “Relations have been good but they have not been so great of late. Will they now get better? That is why Americans should care.”

In an article entitled “5 Reasons The US Should Care About Canada’s New Prime Minister,” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hjelmggaard, 5.23M) lists ways in which Trudeau “is likely to affect policies in Canada and the United States.” According to USA Today, Trudeau “promised to improve strained relations” with Obama and said “he wants to find constructive ways of working with Washington on other issues.” Another [USA Today](#) (10/21, Kovac, 5.23M) article reports that Trudeau and Harper “differ in their approach to foreign policy,” with the incoming leader being less vocally pro-Israel and more focused on environmental issues.

In an analysis piece, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/21, 2.66M) says “a prompt rejection” of the Keystone pipeline by Obama “would make the job easier” for Trudeau “as he seeks to reset the country’s relationship with the US, which he says was damaged” by Harper. According to Bloomberg, Trudeau “could use a quick US denial” of the pipeline “to focus discussions” with Obama “on issues such as trade and climate.” Bloomberg notes there has been “speculation” that Obama “would reject the

pipeline shortly after the Canadian election.” However, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Cama, 471K) reported, Secretary of State Kerry said Tuesday that Canada’s election results will not change the White House’s approach to the Keystone issue. Kerry said the decision “is being based on the merits and countervailing balance of all the input that has come from a very exhaustive agency review.” Kerry reiterated that he seeks a decision “as fast as possible.”

[Reuters](#) (10/21, Mason, Rampton) reports the White House indicated it would like the new Canadian government to take increased actions to address climate change. Earnest said that while Canada has “made a substantial and important commitment” ahead of the Paris climate talks, “We believe that it’s possible that there is more that Canada can do in this regard.”

However, writing for [Mother Jones](#) (10/20, 758K), Suzanne Goldenberg claimed “those hoping for a U-turn in Canada’s climate change policy...are in for a reality check.” According to Goldenberg, while Trudeau does not align directly with many of Harper’s views or policies, “it would be a mistake” to see the new Canadian leader or his party “as climate champions.” In [Slate](#) (10/20, 1.38M), Joshua Keating argued that at least with regard to the Keystone pipeline, Trudeau does present a change from Harper. Keating characterizes Trudeau as “a very different leader” from Harper and says he will make the Keystone pipeline less of a focal point of US-Canada relations. According to Keating, Trudeau “has described his support for the pipeline as ‘steadfast,’ but it’s clearly not the make-or-break issue for him that it was for Harper.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Vieira, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports Trudeau said he will work to restore Canada’s reputation of defending minorities and become more involved in multilateral policy making. At a rally in Ottawa, Trudeau said, “To this country’s friends around the world, I want to say this: Many of you have worried Canada has lost its compassionate and constructive voice in the world over the past 10 years. I have simple message for you: We’re back.” The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports that Trudeau “is likely to present a very different face to the world” than Harper, “but the most noticeable difference will probably be in tone.” Trudeau has vowed to “put an end to Mr. Harper’s often belligerent style of politics and diplomacy.” Trudeau said Tuesday that “a positive, optimistic, hopeful vision of public life isn’t a naïve dream – it can be a powerful force for change.” The Times says Trudeau has previously indicated a desire to end Harper’s reliance on military solutions and tough rhetoric, and instead focus on working within international organizations, such as the United Nations.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 10, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “Canada took a left turn” as “Trudeau and the Liberal Party rode in on a landslide.” In a [USA Today](#) (10/21, 5.23M) op-ed, author David Andelman says “most of the reasons” Canadian voters chose Trudeau to lead the country “boiled down to one fundamental: The Liberal Party leader was simply nicer than his opponent. And most Canadians believe they are, too.” Similarly, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that Canadians wanted a change from the Harper government, which had become isolated and sought to restrict debate. The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) agrees, editorializing that Trudeau’s election “shows how ready Canadians were to emerge from a decade under the Conservative government of the secretive and combative Stephen Harper.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau told Obama on Tuesday that Canadian fighter aircraft will withdraw from the US-led coalition against ISIL, but the new Canadian leader did not present a timeline for the move. In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, A1, Brown, 6.76M) reports Trudeau said, “I committed that we would continue to engage in a responsible way that understands how Canada has a role to play in the fight against ISIL,” adding, that Obama “understands the commitments I’ve made around ending the combat mission.” According to the Post, a “senior Administration official,” said Obama and Trudeau discussed joint anti-terrorism efforts and, “We expect Canada will continue to be a valuable contributor to the 65-member global coalition” against ISIL.

Trudeau’s Win Could “Lead To Full Marijuana Legalization” In Canada. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hughes, 5.23M) reports Trudeau’s win “may lead to full marijuana legalization” for Canada. According to USA Today, Trudeau promised during his campaign that “Canada would create a system to tax, regulate and sell marijuana, along with stiff penalties for anyone giving pot to children or caught driving while stoned.” USA Today says American “cannabis activists hailed Tuesday’s election as a milestone, suggesting that a day may soon come when cross-border trade talks include...legal weed.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau's "promise to legalize recreational cannabis" will likely "help the nation's nascent medical marijuana industry." Investors, according to AFP, "are betting" they could build on companies' current production of marijuana for medical use and "quickly scale up to serve recreational pot users too, once Trudeau makes good on his promise."

NYTimes Analysis: Trudeau Is "No Dynast" Despite Father Being Former Prime Minister. In a 1,350-word profile piece, the [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that despite there being "many easy parallels to draw between" Trudeau and his father, former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Canada's incoming leader "is no dynast who slipped effortlessly into a family political machine." The Times notes that Trudeau "did not even enter politics until 18 years after his father gave it up, and seven year after his father's death." According to the Times, Trudeau "built his own cadre of advisers, mostly from his own generation" and sometimes "chose more difficult roads – partly, it appears, to show he had not been handed a life in politics on a platter."

In the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, 6.76M) "Reliable Source" blog, Emily Heil says Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, "have a lot in common with the Obamas." According to Heil, "they'd have lots to talk about, apart from liberal politics, like fitness!"

IN APPARENT REVERSAL, BIDEN SAYS HE PRIVATELY URGED OBAMA TO AUTHORIZE UBL RAID. Vice President Biden did not reveal Tuesday whether or not he will enter the Democratic presidential race, but his remark that he privately advised President Obama to launch the 2011 raid that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden – which contradicted Biden's past public comments that he advised against the raid – is being interpreted as a possible line of attack against Hillary Clinton. All three broadcast networks reported on the statement, combining for nearly eight minutes of coverage, and ABC led with it. The tone of the coverage is mixed, with most reports calling it a reversal, and some concluding that Biden may be undercutting his own reputation for candor.

There was also Twitter discussion of Biden's remarks. Anthony De Rosa, a digital producer for The Daily Show who has nearly 89,000 followers, [tweeted](#), "Biden sounds like Brian Williams with his evolving recollection of the Bin Laden raid." Jonathan Martin of the New York Times [tweeted](#), "@vp today signals: he'll run & it'll get negative FAST or: he's not happy about being sidelined." His Times colleague Maggie Haberman [tweeted](#), "Biden's subtle digs at Clinton indicate that if he runs it'll be ugly." In addition, the hashtag [#BidenWatch](#) emerged on Twitter, with Fox Business Network's Trish Regan [tweeting](#), "Sure sounds like he's running...", Mashable's Juana Summers [tweeting](#) Biden's Wednesday official schedule, and Al Jazeera America's David Shuster [tweeting](#) that "Hallie Biden, widow of the late Beau Biden, says her family supports a Presidential campaign '100%'".

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M) reported that "as the pressure mounts for Joe Biden to decide whether he'll run...many [are] now asking, did he change his story?" ABC (Karl) added, "Biden has described Obama's decision as especially courageous because in that key meeting when it came time to decide, most of the President's advisers, including Biden himself, were not in favor of the raid." On Tuesday, he "offered an entirely different account of what happened on that fateful day." Biden was shown saying, "So as we walked out of the room and we walked upstairs, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts. But it would have been a mistake, imagine if I had said in front of everyone, 'don't go, or go,' and his decisi

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Oct 21 2015 09:28:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Blake, Chelsea - copied here - is not getting the press clips. Also, she's not on the DOI_politicals email...do you know who can add her to that? thanks.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
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202-208-7696 (desk)

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 8:22 AM, Androff, Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Please let me know if you do NOT receive the daily clips each morning from Bulletin News at 7:00 AM. Please do not reply all.

Best,

Blake

Blake Androff
Director of Communications
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bulletin Intelligence** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 7:00 AM
Subject: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SEN. MURKOWSKI SEES TOUGH ROAD FOR INTERIOR NOMINEE. [Politico Pro](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Lisa Murkowski said that Interior Department pick Kristen Sarri would “have a lot of explaining to do at a hearing on six nominees today.” While Murkowski was “pleased that President Barack Obama had renamed Mount McKinley this summer to Denali, the Alaska Republican said she was still frustrated with the Interior Department’s ‘heartless decision’ to deny a road in King Cove.” Murkowski also “criticized Interior for closing off oil production in Alaska and last week’s cancellation of offshore sales and lease extension.”

Meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (10/21, Barton, 375K) reports that Murkowski is “torn between leaving the Department of the Interior’s independent watchdog post vacant, or confirming President Barack Obama’s nominee crippled by recurring allegations of ‘playing games with Congress.’” She said, “I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent [inspector general], and I’m disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years.” Murkowski continued, “But I am also committed to ensuring that the individual we confirm is fully independent ... The tenure that you have been involved with thus far in this position has been marked by controversy.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/21, Henry, 471K), [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (10/20), and [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/20, 2K).

HISTORIC \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH CHOCTAW, CHICKASAW NATIONS LAUDED. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/20, 32K) reports that “tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior heralded the outcome of a \$186 million settlement signed earlier this month between the federal government, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw nations to solve a longstanding land trust dispute as a new chapter in relations.” During the October 5 signing ceremony, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby “gave a nod to the impetus provided” by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He said, “We respect the vital role Secretary Jewell has taken in helping make this historic settlement a reality. We are confident she will play an essential role in our efforts to continue strengthening the relationship between our governments, because we believe she has a unique appreciation for the mutual benefits of a positive government-to-government relationship.” Jewell said, “Today’s agreement is the latest addition to a record number of

longstanding settlements resolved under this Administration. This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country.”

U.S. TREASURY CONFIRMS \$20B BALANCE FOR LWCF. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/21, 705) reports that “the Land and Water Conservation Fund that expired earlier this month for the first time in its 50-year history currently contains nearly \$20 billion, according to the U.S. Treasury, which maintains the program’s balance sheets.” But “whether that is ‘real’ money available to be spent on federal land acquisitions, private land easements and state recreation projects depends on whom you ask.” The article notes that “the \$19.8 billion can only be reduced until Congress reauthorizes the program.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/20, 31K).

PROPOSED DESIGNATIONS OF THREE NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT “LAND GRAB.” [Fox News](#) (10/20, 8.91M) reports that “a group of off-roaders and others are attempting to fight a proposed designation of three national monuments in the California desert under the Antiquities Act.” The Obama Administration is “considering using the federal Antiquities Act to bypass the legislative process at the request of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, whose efforts to have the Mojave Trails and Castle Mountain, both in the Mojave Desert, and a section of the Sonoran Desert named federal sites were repeatedly blocked by Republicans.” According to the article, “a White House move could put the land under federal control, which critics say could cut funding for upkeep or even restrict access.”

UNMANNED HELICOPTER OFFERS NEW WAY TO FIGHT WILDFIRES. The [Voice of America](#) (10/21, Banse, 32K) reports that the K-MAX “unmanned, water-dropping” helicopter was tested by the US government. The helicopter can fly through limited visibility. Brad Koeckertiz, the unmanned aircraft program manager with the US Department of Interior, says that unmanned helicopters such as the K-MAX will be integrated into routine measures to fight wildfires over the next few of years. The article notes that the K-MAX helicopters have already been used by the US Marines in Afghanistan, to “resupply remote outposts at night” and replace “dangerous convoys on the ground.” The article notes that the growing uses for drones is also why the FAA is seeking to register all drones.

Additional coverage was provided by [Vertical Magazine \(CAN\)](#) (10/21).

JEB BUSH PROPOSES MOVING INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FROM D.C. To Western City. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/20, Lucas, 199K) reports that “Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will unveil his proposals for Western land and resource management in a campaign stop in Reno on Wednesday morning, in a speech likely to resonate with conservative voters opposed to what they see as federal overreach in the Western states.” Bush is “expected to speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park before appearing at a forum sponsored by the LIBRE Initiative at the College of Southern Nevada Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas at 6 p.m.” In the proposal, Bush will “call for moving the headquarters of the Department of Interior from Washington, D.C., to a city in the western United States like Denver, Salt Lake City or Reno and will say that as president he would direct federal agencies to give broad latitude to states to determine land-use issues.”

STUDY: ALASKAN WILDFIRES COULD EXACERBATE GLOBAL WARMING. The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Mooney, 6.76M) reports that some greenhouse gas sources outside the scope of forthcoming UN climate talks are beyond governments’ control, such as raging peat fires in Indonesia this year, emitting “as much as Japan produces in a year from fossil fuels.” Elsewhere, a new study in Nature Climate Change reaffirms concerns about the emissions of northern fires in Alaska. The Post reports that “climate researchers are still trying to figure out how all of these factors will interrelate,” but fire is a “powerful determinant of how much carbon resides in land, rather than in the air, across our globe.”

INTERIOR’S VINE ACCOUNT HIGHLIGHTED. [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K) highlights the Interior Department has a great Vine account. Providing a link, Politico says “this is Internet gold.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA RULE ANNOUNCES RULE GIVING TRIBES MORE CONTROL OVER ELECTIONS. [Law360](#) (10/20, 21K) reports that the BIA “on Monday announced its final rule for Native American tribal elections

conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying the new rule will encourage tribes to take control of their elections and help protect the voting rights of tribe members living in urban areas.” Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said “in a statement Monday that the rule will allow tribes to opt out of having the interior secretary conduct their elections.”

The [Native American Times](#) (10/20, 337) reports that Washburn said, “Though many federal responsibilities concern the lands we hold in trust for tribes and Indian people, more than 55 million acres nationwide, the United States has a moral obligation to preserve connections between Indian people and their tribes that it once sought to destroy. For the future of Native nations and the health of Indian Country, American Indians in urban areas must work harder to maintain connections with their tribes. One important aspect of that relationship is participation in the civic and political life of their tribal governments. For that reason, our Secretarial election amendments seek to prevent tribal members living in urban areas from being inadvertently disenfranchised in Secretarial elections.”

HEARING FOCUSES ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, Kelleher) reports from Honolulu that a federal court hearing began on Tuesday “in a lawsuit by people who want to put a stop to an election process that is underway for Native Hawaiians.” The lawsuit, filed in August, “says it’s unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election.” The state “argues in court documents that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it’s not involved in next month’s vote to elect delegates for a convention to determine self-governance for Native Hawaiians.” Tuesday’s hearing “is focused on the plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction,” and the plaintiffs “want the judge to limit voter registration activities or stop the election altogether.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/21, 66K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (10/21, Kelleher, 5.98M).

INTERIOR SIDES WITH ALASKA NATIVE GROUP IN INVESTIGATION OF MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE TRIBAL COLLECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, 2.28M) reports that “a Massachusetts college was found in violation of a federal law regulating the possession and sale of potentially sacred artifacts following a complaint from an organization of Alaska Natives.” The Interior Department said “an investigation substantiated the complaint against Andover Newton Theological School filed in June by the Sealaska Heritage Institute.” The institute’s president, Rosita Worl, said “the school possesses at least two southeast Alaska artifacts, including a Tlingit halibut hook that is considered sacred.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, D’oro, 344K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 548K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/21, 5.59M), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (10/21, 651K), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/21, D’oro, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (10/21, 3.97M), and the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/20, 219K).

US ATTORNEY SAYS BIA OFFICER WAS JUSTIFIED IN DEADLY SPIRIT LAKE SHOOTING. The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that US Attorney Chris Myers “says” that an investigation by his office came to the conclusion that BIA Officer Terry Morgan was justified in shooting and killing “31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16.” The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (10/21, 100K) reports that the US Attorney’s Office “said” the shooting was justified because Charboneau posed a “real and immediate” threat to officers and another person at the scene after he refused to put down his gun, which was pointed at the officers. The Grand Forks Herald reports that, as a result of the investigation, Federal prosecutors “will not file charges against” Morgan.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (10/21, 1K), the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (10/21, 14K), [KXJB-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/21, 18K), [KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/20, 3K), [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (10/21, 1K), and [KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#) Bismarck, ND (10/21, 1K).

CRIME JUMPS AFTER TRIBES CUT FROM BIA FUNDING. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Romney, 4.07M) reports on a “time of crisis for public safety on tribal lands.” According to the article, “a federal law decades ago shifted the primary burden of criminal law enforcement on tribal lands in California and five other states to local authorities,” but “many lack the resources to do the job and, in some cases, sufficient knowledge of tribal law and culture to win the trust of tribal members.” After “tribes were cut off from steady funding for their own justice systems,” crime has “flourished.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YAKAMA NATION’S PETITION TO SELF-GOVERN APPROVED. Additional

coverage that the BIA on Monday granted the Yakama Nation's petition for retrocession was provided by the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 101K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (10/20, 86K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, 344K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/20, 183K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), the [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K), [KNDU-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#) Yakima, WA (10/21, 3K), and [KUOW-FM Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (10/21, 15K).

GILLETTE'S SERVICE IN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PRAISED. In an editorial, the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/21, 37K) lauds Jodi Gillette's service in the Obama Administration. According to the paper, Gillette's "positions gave her a voice in a White House that has seemed genuinely concerned about Native American issues."

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA PROPOSES MARSHALLS FUND CHANGES. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "a top US official has submitted a proposal to the Senate and House to allow the people of Bikini to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands." Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina says "it is an appropriate course of action to take regarding the welfare and livelihood of the Bikinian people." The Bikinians were "displaced by US nuclear weapons testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands." According to the article, "in addition to cramped living quarters and a lack of suitable sustainable resources, the islands have been experiencing more frequent storms and king tides resulting in salt water inundation and the destruction of crops."

[Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "a representative from Bikini Atoll says a proposal to allow people to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands is not wanted." Bikini liaison officer Jack Niedenthal says "the US should take full responsibility for any resettlement including providing extra financing." Niedenthal said, "We still got a ways to go, we still have to do some more lobbying and some more talking to people in Washington to make them understand that what's being proposed by the assistant secretary is what we view as 'Plan B'. It's not ultimately what we want in terms of helping our people."

CHINA STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIP WITH PACIFIC REGION. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that "China and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat further strengthened their relationship on Friday when the two met at a ceremony to hand over \$1.05 million to assist the Pacific region." Forum Secretariat Secretary General Meg Taylor and Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Zhang Ping "attended the ceremony and delivered speeches respectively." Zhang "reiterated his nation's ongoing interest in the region saying, 'China attaches great importance to the South Pacific region. The Chinese side stands ready to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation with Pacific Island Countries and contribute to the development and capacity building in the region.'"

COUNTRIES IN PACIFIC URGED TO BEGIN TALKS ON CLIMATE MIGRATION. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "all countries in the Pacific are being urged to start discussions on how to help people forced to move from low lying atoll nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu." According to the article, "184 million people worldwide were displaced by disaster between 2008 and 2014 and at special meetings in Geneva last week 110 countries gave the nod to a Protection Agenda for dealing with future migration challenges." The article notes that "the experiences of small island countries which face rising seas due to climate change helped form the global action plan under the Swiss Norwegian Nansen Initiative."

JOURNALIST SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY OF GUAM ON CLIMATE ISSUES, CORRUPTION IN PACIFIC ISLANDS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that "author and journalist Giff Johnson spoke to students at the University of Guam on Monday evening about climate change and development in the Pacific islands." Johnson's "lecture, entitled 'Idyllic No More: Pacific Island Climate, Corruption and Development Dilemmas,' is based on his latest book — a compilation of essays detailing the looming climate threat to the region, its booming fishing industry, and the U.S. nuclear test legacy in the Marshall Islands." Johnson called attention to "climate-driven migration from remote Pacific islands to Guam and mainland U.S."

RISING SEA LEVELS THREATEN KIRIBATI. The [National Geographic](#) (10/21, 31.65M) provides a picture gallery of the threat of rising sea levels driven by climate change on Kiribati.

Lackling America's Water Challenges:

WATER SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED FROM NEW MELONES. The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “more than 7 billion gallons of water is scheduled to be released from New Melones Reservoir beginning today to ensure flows in the Stanislaus River will keep temperatures cool enough for adult salmon migrating up the river to spawn this fall.” Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District said “it would benefit river conditions and fisheries, as well as the needs of agriculture and more than 200,000 residential customers downstream.” The article notes that “earlier this year, the irrigation districts sparred with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — which manages New Melones Reservoir — over spring pulse flows that they feared would leave as little as 147,000 acre-feet in the reservoir by the end of September.”

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTE TO OPPOSE DELTA TUNNELS PLAN.

The [Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (10/21, 14K) reports that “at a meeting on Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a resolution in formal opposition of California WaterFix, also known as the twin tunnels plan.” Supervisor Kathy Miller said, “The WaterFix is just a thinly veiled version of the former (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and continues to push the fatally flawed twin tunnels, which will simply sacrifice one region of California for the benefit of another.”

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, DOMINION BOTH SUPPORT OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT. On his [Bacon's Rebellion \(VA\)](#) (10/21, Bacon) blog, James Bacon reports on an Environment Virginia-sponsored webinar held Tuesday morning in which representatives from Dominion, environmental groups, and the McAuliffe Administration all voiced support for the utility's experimental offshore wind farm project. For environmentalists, Bacon writes, the project represents the beginning of an industry that would increase the use of green energy along the Atlantic and displace fossil fuels. For the Governor's office, it represents increased green energy coupled with economic development that takes advantage of the Newport News area's shipbuilding industry.

Onshore Energy Development:

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY FINED \$2.1 MILLION FOR UNDER-REPORTING NATURAL GAS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department on Monday “announced a \$2.1 million civil penalty against Chesapeake Energy Corp. for misreporting the amount of gas it produced and sold from American Indian lands in Oklahoma.” Chesapeake “failed to comply with a 2011 order that found ‘systemic errors’ in the company's monthly production reports for more than 100 Indian leases, according to Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue.” The company “agreed to amend the monthly reports, but it continued to maintain inaccurate information on the agency's data systems, ONRR said.” The firm was “assessed a penalty based on ‘knowing or willful maintenance’ of the inaccurate information, ONRR said.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), and [KOKC-AM Oklahoma City \(OK\)](#) Oklahoma City (10/20, 1K).

TEXAS ENERGY REGULATOR OPPOSES STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K) reports that “Texas' top energy regulator on Tuesday said the agency will oppose a U.S. Department of the Interior proposed rule aimed at better protecting streams and other waterways from nearby mining activity, saying the regulation encroaches on ground better left to the state.” Texas Railroad Commission Chairman David Porter on Tuesday said “the state would sign on to the multistate Interstate Mining Compact Commission's comments opposing the proposed waterway regulation.”

USGS REPORT STATES EARTHQUAKES COINCIDE WITH OKLAHOMA OIL BOOMS. [KOCO-TV](#) Oklahoma City (10/21, 93K) reports that “a study by the United States Geological Survey states that the earthquakes from the past 100 years seem to coincide with the oil boom in Oklahoma.”

OKLAHOMA REGULATORS SHUT DOWN THREE MORE DISPOSAL WELLS. The [Energywire](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication) reports that “Oklahoma oil and gas regulators dealing with a dramatic increase in earthquakes near the pipeline hub of Cushing have shut down three more disposal wells.” Also, “another well was shut down by the company that owns it after regulators said they were concerned it was drilled too deep.” In addition, “the operators of seven other wells were told in a letter written Friday and released yesterday that they must reduce the volume of drilling waste that they inject deep underground.”

OKLAHOMA LIMITS DISPOSAL WELLS AMID CUSHING QUAKES. [Reuters](#) (10/21, Hampton, Brandes) reports that Oklahoma’s oil and gas regulator on Monday said it could impose new limits on all saltwater disposal wells within a 10-mile radius of Cushing. Reuters reports that Oklahoma now experiences as many as two magnitude 3.0 quakes per day, up from two per year. Thirteen wells have been ordered shut and approvals for new wells have been halted, Reuters reports. Scientists told Reuters that shutting wells could ease tectonic disruption in Oklahoma.

STUDY: FRACKING CAN CAUSE METHANE LEAKS IN NEARBY ABANDONED OIL WELLS. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Valdmanis) reported that according to a study published Tuesday in the Water Resources Research journal, fracking can cause methane leaks in nearby abandoned oil wells. The methane leaks could be a large source of unrecorded greenhouse gas emissions, according to the study. The study said that energy companies could reduce the probability of such methane leaks by trying to identify abandoned wells before they begin fracking, although the task could be difficult due to large numbers of unmarked abandoned wells.

BLM CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE PICTURES UNDER FOIA REQUEST. For the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (10/21), Darryl L. Flowers criticizes the BLM for failing to provide pictures in connection with “the proposed Solenex, LLC natural gas well on public lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest” that were requested under the Freedom of Information Act. The paper received “sixteen photos” and “two photos were missing.” He notes that “curiously, the two omitted photos were the only ones that included a person in the photos.”

Offshore Energy Development:

FEDS INVESTIGATE WORKER’S DEATH ON DRILLSHIP CONTRACTED BY CHEVRON. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/20, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that officials from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Coast Guard are investigating “the death of a worker on a drillship in the Gulf of Mexico that was preparing to bore a well for Chevron.” Fuel Fix says that “the Pacific Santa Ana drillship was just beginning operations for Chevron in about 4,800 feet of water at the site and had not yet penetrated the sea floor when an employee of that drilling contractor was fatally injured.” Fuel Fix adds that Chevron has a 36 percent working interest in the Keathley Canyon well-leasing block where the incident occurred, an area where “Chevron outlined ambitions to drill up to seven wells” earlier this year.

The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that Amy Roddy, spokeswoman for Pacific Drilling SA, the ship’s owner, “said the company is not releasing any details about the man to respect his family’s privacy. She also refused to disclose how the man died or details of the accident, citing an ongoing investigation.”

[NASDAQ](#) (10/20, Sider) reports that Chevron has contracted the ship since 2012. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/21, Larino, 718K) adds that “operations have been shut down and personnel remain onboard, according to the drillship’s operator.”

[Offshore Engineer](#) (10/20, Leon) reports that “the ship was to use its dual gradient drilling functions for Chevron’s Anchor-1 prospect last year in Green Canyon block 807, but the well was junked due to mechanical failures. However, in January of this year, Chevron hit high quality oil pay in multiple Lower Tertiary Wilcox Sands at a second Anchor well also drilled by the Pacific Santa Ana.”

The [Dow Jones Newswires](#) (10/21, Sider) reports that this is the first death related to offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico this year.

[Reuters](#) (10/21), [gCaptain](#) (10/21, 2K), [Upstream Online](#) (10/21, Schmidt, Brenner, 20K), and [Maritime Executive](#) (10/20, 21) also cover the story.

BRIARCLIFFE ACRES VOTES AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (10/21,

36K) reports that “in a storm of debate over offshore drilling, Briarcliff Acres surfaced as the latest coastal town to join a united front against seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas off of South Carolina’s beaches.” According to the article, “missing councilwoman Abby Stewart, who has been with family on the west coast, the town council unanimously passed a resolution Monday, joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns in a stance against offshore drilling.”

SHELL VESSEL RESCUES FRENCHMAN, CAT FROM SAILBOAT STRANDED IN SEAS NEAR

ALASKA. The [AP](#) (10/21, Thiessen) reports that a Frenchman and the cat tucked inside his clothing were rescued on Tuesday after he leapt from his sailboat to a waiting rescue ship sent by Shell. The man activated a location beacon in the high seas south of Alaska and told the Coast Guard his sailboat had lost its rudder and rigging in the high winds and 20-foot waves. The Coast Guard contacted Shell’s oil drilling rig, the Polar Pioneer, which is on its way to Port Angeles, and the rig “sent a support ship, the Tor Viking, to rescue the sailor.” The AP reports that “it wasn’t immediately clear if the man would continue with the Shell ships to Washington state.”

CUNNINGHAM: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SHUTS THE DOOR ON ARCTIC DRILLING. In an analysis of the Interior Department’s recent decision on the future of Arctic drilling, [Oil Price](#) (10/21, 2K) reporter Nick Cunningham writes the Interior Department’s decision to cancel lease sales through 2017 “leaves almost no possible pathway for an oil company to drill in the Arctic for years to come, perhaps killing off drilling for a decade or so at a minimum.” Cunningham goes on to write that “it was likely that there wouldn’t have been new drilling in any event, given Shell’s decision and current market conditions, but Interior’s decision officially shuts the door on the Arctic in the medium-term.”

Casey: Interior’s Actions On Arctic Drilling Trends “Toward A Permanent Clampdown.”

[CleanTechnica’s](#) (10/20, 15K) Tina Casey writes that “in the absence of local regulations, the Feds are the only game in town and it seems that the Arctic’s role in the US economy is too important to trust to compliance by oil companies.” Casey adds that, even though the Interior’s actions last week on Arctic drilling may be “only temporary, but the trend is toward a permanent clampdown.”

4-Traders: Federal Government To Blame For Low Arctic Drilling Interest. In an op-ed piece on the Interior’s Arctic drilling decision, [4-Traders](#) (10/21, 5K) writes the Federal government’s “difficult” regulatory obstacles is to blame for the lack of interest among oil companies to explore for oil and natural gas in the Arctic. 4-Traders writes that the “demand for oil and natural gas isn’t going away, so energy domestic exploration must continue in the Arctic and elsewhere. But as we’ve seen, by putting up unnecessary regulatory hurdles, regulators can cause job and economic growth opportunities to be missed.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TO REVIEW HAGERMAN-HAILEY TRANSMISSION LINE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (10/21) reports that the BLM will review the Hagerman to Hailey transmission line, paying “special attention to the greater sage grouse in the area.” Stacey Baczkowski, a biologist with Idaho Power, says “the company has been working with the BLM for the last few years to make sure the line is built with the bird in mind.” Baczkowski says “the power company plans to build the new transmission line as close to the current one as possible, and will follow BLM rules about construction during sage grouse mating times.”

UTAH WATER DISTRICT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT BLM REVISION TO LAND-USE PLAN. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/21, 407K) reports that “federal policies that either aim to instill more oversight of water or deny access altogether have some Utah leaders frothing over what they say is a repeated pattern of overreach that threatens local economies and livelihoods.” Ron Thompson, general manager of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, said “possible revisions to a land-use plan by the Bureau of Land Management in Washington County have severe ramifications should one particular approach be adopted.” Thompson said “the BLM — under one option — is ignoring key considerations that went into the passage of the bill, including water supplies being left unhindered and right of way corridors left intact.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HELICOPTER CRASHES NEAR SEARCHLIGHT DURING CATTLE

ROUNDUP. Additional coverage of the helicopter crash near Searchlight during a cattle roundup was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/21, 378K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CONSERVATION LEADERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONSERVATION SUMMIT. [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K) reports that “more than 40 leaders from the leading conservation groups in America are meeting in Springfield this week for a National Conservation Summit hosted by The Johnny Morris Foundation.” According to the article, “participants include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Geographic, Audubon Society, and Ducks Unlimited.” The article notes that “the purpose of the historic gathering is to collectively discuss opportunities to educate and engage the public in efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitats in preparation for the grand opening of America’s Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in 2016.”

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (10/20, 49K) reports that “three exhibits of America’s Wildlife Museum & Aquarium, formerly Wonders of Wildlife, were open to media for a tour on Oct. 20, 2015 at the museum located next to the Bass Pro Shops flagship store in Springfield, Mo.” More than 40 conservation leaders attending a National Conservation Summit “hope the new Bass Pro Shops wildlife museum and aquarium will convey to visitors when it opens in mid 2016.” FWS Director Dan Ashe, “one of the summit attendees,” called the museum “one of the foremost conservation attractions in the world.” He said, “Through conservation efforts, we can be successful in sustaining these populations of animals that are threatened or endangered. People hear about the industrial-scale poaching of elephants that’s happening in Africa. That’s not hunting. With this museum, here’s an opportunity to tell the story of how we can protect wildlife habitat, and that when hunting is done well, with appropriate regulations, it sustains wildlife populations.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K), [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K), and [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K).

CNMI QUESTIONS INCLUSION OF SOME SPECIES ON ENDANGERED LIST. The [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “the Northern Marianas government says the decision to list 23 species in Guam and the CNMI as threatened or endangered was rushed.” The government says “it supports the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s listing of seven of the 17 CNMI species, but it questions the inclusion of some of the other species.” The Department of Land and Natural Resources says “a number of the species do not meet the definitions of threatened or endangered and don’t require federal protection.”

FWS LOOKS TO RESTORE HABITAT ON ROOT RIVER. The [Rochester \(MN\) Post-Bulletin](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “federal wildlife officials are seeking public input on a plan to restore and enhance habitat on 825 acres of Minnesota land along the Root River in Houston County.” Managed by the FWS “as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the Root River Tract sits to the east of Hwy. 26 between La Crescent and Brownsville.” The article notes that “the site includes 664 acres of hunting and farmland purchased in 2009 with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

SHOOTING OF CALIFORNIA CONDOR IN ARIZONA UNDER INVESTIGATION. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that FWS special agents and Arizona Game and Fish Department “law enforcement personnel are investigating the lethal shooting of an endangered California condor that occurred on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona Oct. 8.”

MAN CLAIMS HE BLOCKED ARIZONA BIKE TRAIL TO PROTECT OWLS. The [AP](#) (10/21, 344K) reports that “the 81-year-old man who blocked a Flagstaff-area mountain bike race says he did it to protect an endangered owl species.” J.D. Protiva “appeared in federal court Monday on misdemeanor charges related to blocking the Elden Springs Trail before the August race.” Protiva says “the path goes through protected Mexican spotted owl habitat.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MONARCHS GET HELP AS CALIFORNIANS PLANT DROUGHT-TOLERANT MILKWEED. Additional coverage that monarch butterflies could benefit from the California drought was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/21, 259K), [KABC-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/21, 413K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (10/21, 345K).

FWS INVESTING IN PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN ATLANTIC COASTAL DEFENSES AGAINST FUTURE STORMS. In an op-ed for the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (10/20, 172K), Wendi Weber is Northeast regional director for the FWS, writes that “federal money for Hurricane Sandy recovery has

spurred an unprecedented effort to strengthen natural defenses along the Atlantic Coast to protect communities and wildlife against future storms.” She notes that the FWS and other Interior Department “agencies are investing \$787 million in hundreds of projects to clean up and repair damaged refuges and parks; restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline; connect and open waterways to improve flood control; and increase our scientific understanding of how these natural areas are changing.” According to Weber, “these investments support the goal of President Barack Obama’s Climate Action Plan to make communities more resilient to increasingly intense storms predicted with a changing climate.”

National Park Service:

MUSIC VIDEO CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF NPS. The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (10/20, 53K) reports on “a locally made music video that celebrates 100 years of the National Park Service.” According to the article, “published on Oct. 15, the Centennial video has more than 18,500 views on the NPS facebook page and more than 530 on the Youth Ambassador Program’s YouTube page, the group that made it.” NPS Director Jon Jarvis, “who met the traveling crew in Washington, D.C., makes a cameo appearance in the video to say, ‘It’s great to celebrate a hundred years with YAP!’”

Kentucky Lieutenant Gov. Luallen Touts National Parks. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/20, 414K) reports that Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen on Tuesday “touted the economic impact of Kentucky’s travel and tourism industry” in “an address to the Kentucky Travel Industry’s annual conference in Bowling Green.” Following her remarks, Luallen “recognized five national parks in Kentucky as part of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016.” She “presented proclamations to representatives of the parks.”

Couple Visiting 59 National Parks In 12 Months. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/21, 1.03M) reports that “Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, St. Louis natives, are two months into their grand adventure: 59 parks in 12 months – part celebration of the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary, part exercise in youthful spontaneity.” Their goal is to “see the best of the United States, and inspire others – particularly other millennials – to do the same.” The article notes that “their mission meshes well with a new campaign of the Park Service, which celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2016.”

WATCHDOG RELEASES REPORT ON NPS CONSTRUCTION FUNDS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “a federal watchdog yesterday released a disputed report alleging that the National Park Service is violating congressional intent by dipping into its construction account to cover security, air testing and other reimbursable expenses that should have been paid up front by other agencies.” The NPS construction account is “only for expenses that relate to ‘construction, improvements, repair or replacement of physical facilities,’” the Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General report said, “citing the language of the agency’s appropriation.” However, “the OIG found that 17 out of a sample of 21 interagency agreements that used Park Service construction funds to cover reimbursable costs did not appear to include ‘a valid construction purpose.’” The article notes that “these included \$4.9 million that NPS spent from its construction account on security at the Department of the Army’s Memorial Day and Independence Day concerts at the Capitol in 2014 and \$37.5 million over seven years on air quality monitoring at national parks that will be paid back to NPS by U.S. EPA.”

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES GRAND CANYON BISON MANAGEMENT ACT. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act “allowing the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to better manage and conserve the bison population within the park Oct. 8.” The legislation “requires the U.S. Department of Interior and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on a plan that allows sportsmen holding a valid state-issued hunting license to assist in management of the bison population within the park.”

THUNDERSTORMS CAUSE FLOODING, MUDSLIDES IN DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “mudslides and flooding after severe thunderstorms in Death Valley National Park on Sunday trapped three park rangers and about 20 visitors – many out to see a clear night sky – in a volcanic crater overnight.” Park spokeswoman Abby Wines said “the stranded people spent the night in Ubehebe Crater, maintaining contact with park headquarters until they were able to reach safety yesterday morning.” The article notes that “no injuries were reported, but Wines said the unexpectedly severe storms knocked out power in the area, damaged and closed several roads, and filled a historic visitor’s center with several feet of mud and debris.”

NPS SET TO CONTINUE WITH TREE-CUTTING AT POTOMAC CAMPGROUND. The [Bethesda \(MD\)](#)

[Magazine](#) (10/21) reports that after complaints from two nearby residents and a call from County Council member Roger Berliner temporarily halted tree-cutting operations Friday at a Potomac campground, the National Park Service said it plans to resume the tree-cutting and will probably do so in the next few days." John Noel, deputy superintendent for the C&O Canal National Historical Park, said that "he went to the Swain's Lock Recreation Site to examine the 26 trees proposed to be removed and 32 others proposed to be pruned at the site's campground." Noel "agreed that the trees are rotting and in danger of falling on park users below."

STUDENTS GO ON CANOE TRIP AROUND WOLF LAKE. The [Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (10/20, 105K) reports that "all classes in Grades 6 through 9 at George Rogers Clark Junior-Senior High School in Hammond recently experienced a unique field trip right in their own back yard — a canoe trip around Wolf Lake located only a few blocks from the school." The trip was "made available through a partnership with the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center and Wilderness Inquiry."

NEW COLONIAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT THANKS COMMUNITY FOR ADVOCACY. The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (10/20, Williams, Subscription Publication, 201K) reports that the Colonial National Historical Park's new Superintendent, Kym Hall, thanked the community for its opposition to Dominion's Skiffes Creek transmission project in her first appearance before the York County Board of Supervisors on September 1. "The view should be protected," she said.

DEVILS TOWER TO HOST STAR VIEWING PARTIES. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/21, 115K) reports that the NPS "announced that Devils Tower will host a series of star viewing parties October through December." The article notes that "the eight parties are free of charge, and will last approximately two hours."

NPS URGED TO RECONSIDER RACIST NAME FOR A WASHINGTON LAKE. In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/21, 74K), Glenn Nelson writes that Washington state officially calls Howard Lake "by what is believed to be its oldest known name," but the federal government "recognizes the lake by a name that causes the jaws of most people of color to drop: Coon Lake." Nelson notes that "the federal government did not follow the usual course of supporting the state's action, mostly because of opposition from the National Park Service, which manages the area that contains the lake." The NPS, "acting on research from its North Cascades unit, originally defended its stance by claiming that there was ambiguity around the use of the term 'coon.'" According to Nelson, "in the years leading up to its 2016 centennial, the Park Service has done a lot of talking and writing about the need for diversity and inclusiveness." He concludes that "it's past time for the Park Service to back away from its misguided opposition, encourage Secretary Jewell to come to its rescue, and allow another black life to matter."

US Geological Survey:

USGS SEISMOLOGIST QUESTIONS PREDICTION OF 99.9 PERCENT CHANCE OF MAJOR LOS ANGELES EARTHQUAKE IN 3 YEARS. The [Southern California Public Radio](#) (10/20, 68K) reports that "a controversial new study from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory" claims "there is a 99.9 percent chance of an earthquake" in Los Angeles "between magnitude 5 and 6.3 in less than three years." The study, published earlier this month by the American Geophysical Union's Earth and Space Science journal, has "taken many in the seismic community by surprise." Lucy Jones with the USGS said the "methodology doesn't fully explain the prediction, and the study doesn't adequately address this either." Jones said that, according to the USGS' "models, there is only an 85 percent chance of a magnitude 5 or 6 quake in the same region over a three-year period."

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: TRUDEAU'S ELECTION LIKELY TO FOSTER IMPROVED US-CANADA TIES. On the day after Justin Trudeau became Canada's Prime Minister-designate, media reporting universally characterized the election results as a likely boost for US-Canada relations. Coverage focuses on Trudeau's promise of a less combative foreign policy style and the perception that he will be more willing to accept a US rejection of the Keystone pipeline. Reporting – including a combined 2 minutes and 50 seconds on the three broadcast networks – also indicates that despite Trudeau's decision to withdraw his aircraft from the US-led coalition against ISIL, he is likely to be a more willing partner on climate change and other issues.

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, story 9, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported President Obama on Tuesday congratulated Trudeau, who “swept into power with a message of optimism saying Canada beat fear with hope.” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Korte, 5.23M) reports Obama made the phone call “in an attempt to lock down continued cooperation with the northern neighbor on trade, terrorism, and climate change.” The White House, according to USA Today, “signaled that not much would change in the relationship” between the neighbors following the Liberal party’s victory. [CBC News](#) (10/20, Fitzpatrick, 225K) reported on its website that the White House indicated Obama and Trudeau “agreed on the importance of deepening the ‘already strong’ bilateral relationship” between the countries “and committed to strengthen joint efforts to promote trade and to combat terrorism and climate change.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports the White House and current Prime Minister Stephen Harper “clashed over climate policy” and the Keystone pipeline. While White House spokesman Josh Earnest on Tuesday said “it would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue,” Chuck Todd reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that “we now have a Canadian government that is politically more in line with the American government.” According to Todd, “Relations have been good but they have not been so great of late. Will they now get better? That is why Americans should care.”

In an article entitled “5 Reasons The US Should Care About Canada’s New Prime Minister,” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hjelmgard, 5.23M) lists ways in which Trudeau “is likely to affect policies in Canada and the United States.” According to USA Today, Trudeau “promised to improve strained relations” with Obama and said “he wants to find constructive ways of working with Washington on other issues.” Another [USA Today](#) (10/21, Kovac, 5.23M) article reports that Trudeau and Harper “differ in their approach to foreign policy,” with the incoming leader being less vocally pro-Israel and more focused on environmental issues.

In an analysis piece, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/21, 2.66M) says “a prompt rejection” of the Keystone pipeline by Obama “would make the job easier” for Trudeau “as he seeks to reset the country’s relationship with the US, which he says was damaged” by Harper. According to Bloomberg, Trudeau “could use a quick US denial” of the pipeline “to focus discussions” with Obama “on issues such as trade and climate.” Bloomberg notes there has been “speculation” that Obama “would reject the pipeline shortly after the Canadian election.” However, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Cama, 471K) reported, Secretary of State Kerry said Tuesday that Canada’s election results will not change the White House’s approach to the Keystone issue. Kerry said the decision “is being based on the merits and countervailing balance of all the input that has come from a very exhaustive agency review.” Kerry reiterated that he seeks a decision “as fast as possible.”

[Reuters](#) (10/21, Mason, Rampton) reports the White House indicated it would like the new Canadian government to take increased actions to address climate change. Earnest said that while Canada has “made a substantial and important commitment” ahead of the Paris climate talks, “We believe that it’s possible that there is more that Canada can do in this regard.”

However, writing for [Mother Jones](#) (10/20, 758K), Suzanne Goldenberg claimed “those hoping for a U-turn in Canada’s climate change policy...are in for a reality check.” According to Goldenberg, while Trudeau does not align directly with many of Harper’s views or policies, “it would be a mistake” to see the new Canadian leader or his party “as climate champions.” In [Slate](#) (10/20, 1.38M), Joshua Keating argued that at least with regard to the Keystone pipeline, Trudeau does present a change from Harper. Keating characterizes Trudeau as “a very different leader” from Harper and says he will make the Keystone pipeline less of a focal point of US-Canada relations. According to Keating, Trudeau “has described his support for the pipeline as ‘steadfast,’ but it’s clearly not the make-or-break issue for him that it was for Harper.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Vieira, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports Trudeau said he will work to restore Canada’s reputation of defending minorities and become more involved in multilateral policy making. At a rally in Ottawa, Trudeau said, “To this country’s friends around the world, I want to say this: Many of you have worried Canada has lost its compassionate and constructive voice in the world over the past 10 years. I have simple message for you: We’re back.” The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports that Trudeau “is likely to present a very different face to the world” than Harper, “but the most noticeable difference will probably be in tone.” Trudeau has vowed to “put an end to Mr. Harper’s often belligerent style of politics and diplomacy.” Trudeau said Tuesday that “a positive, optimistic, hopeful vision of public life isn’t a naïve dream – it can be a powerful force for change.” The Times says Trudeau has previously indicated a desire to end Harper’s reliance on military solutions

and tough rhetoric, and instead focus on working within international organizations, such as the United Nations.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 10, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “Canada took a left turn” as “Trudeau and the Liberal Party rode in on a landslide.” In a [USA Today](#) (10/21, 5.23M) op-ed, author David Andelman says “most of the reasons” Canadian voters chose Trudeau to lead the country “boiled down to one fundamental: The Liberal Party leader was simply nicer than his opponent. And most Canadians believe they are, too.” Similarly, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that Canadians wanted a change from the Harper government, which had become isolated and sought to restrict debate. The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) agrees, editorializing that Trudeau’s election “shows how ready Canadians were to emerge from a decade under the Conservative government of the secretive and combative Stephen Harper.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau told Obama on Tuesday that Canadian fighter aircraft will withdraw from the US-led coalition against ISIL, but the new Canadian leader did not present a timeline for the move. In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, A1, Brown, 6.76M) reports Trudeau said, “I committed that we would continue to engage in a responsible way that understands how Canada has a role to play in the fight against ISIL,” adding, that Obama “understands the commitments I’ve made around ending the combat mission.” According to the Post, a “senior Administration official,” said Obama and Trudeau discussed joint anti-terrorism efforts and, “We expect Canada will continue to be a valuable contributor to the 65-member global coalition” against ISIL.

Trudeau’s Win Could “Lead To Full Marijuana Legalization” In Canada. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hughes, 5.23M) reports Trudeau’s win “may lead to full marijuana legalization” for Canada. According to USA Today, Trudeau promised during his campaign that “Canada would create a system to tax, regulate and sell marijuana, along with stiff penalties for anyone giving pot to children or caught driving while stoned.” USA Today says American “cannabis activists hailed Tuesday’s election as a milestone, suggesting that a day may soon come when cross-border trade talks include...legal weed.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau’s “promise to legalize recreational cannabis” will likely “help the nation’s nascent medical marijuana industry.” Investors, according to AFP, “are betting” they could build on companies’ current production of marijuana for medical use and “quickly scale up to serve recreational pot users too, once Trudeau makes good on his promise.”

NYTimes Analysis: Trudeau Is “No Dynast” Despite Father Being Former Prime Minister. In a 1,350-word profile piece, the [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that despite there being “many easy parallels to draw between” Trudeau and his father, former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Canada’s incoming leader “is no dynast who slipped effortlessly into a family political machine.” The Times notes that Trudeau “did not even enter politics until 18 years after his father gave it up, and seven year after his father’s death.” According to the Times, Trudeau “built his own cadre of advisers, mostly from his own generation” and sometimes “chose more difficult roads – partly, it appears, to show he had not been handed a life in politics on a platter.”

In the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, 6.76M) “Reliable Source” blog, Emily Heil says Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, “have a lot in common with the Obamas.” According to Heil, “they’d have lots to talk about, apart from liberal politics, like fitness!”

IN APPARENT REVERSAL, BIDEN SAYS HE PRIVATELY URGED OBAMA TO AUTHORIZE UBL RAID. Vice President Biden did not reveal Tuesday whether or not he will enter the Democratic presidential race, but his remark that he privately advised President Obama to launch the 2011 raid that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden – which contradicted Biden’s past public comments that he advised against the raid – is being interpreted as a possible line of attack against Hillary Clinton. All three broadcast networks reported on the statement, combining for nearly eight minutes of coverage, and ABC led with it. The tone of the coverage is mixed, with most reports calling it a reversal, and some concluding that Biden may be undercutting his own reputation for candor.

There was also Twitter discussion of Biden’s remarks. Anthony De Rosa, a digital producer for The Daily Show who has nearly 89,000 followers, [tweeted](#), “Biden sounds like Brian Williams with his evolving recollection of the Bin Laden raid.” Jonathan Martin of the New York Times [tweeted](#), “@vp today signals: he’ll run & it’ll get negative FAST or: he’s not happy about being sidelined.” His Times colleague Maggie

Haberaman [tweeted](#), Biden's subtle digs at Clinton indicate that if he runs it'll be ugly. In addition, the hashtag [#BidenWatch](#) emerged on Twitter, with Fox Business Network's Trish Regan [tweeting](#), "Sure sounds like he's running..." Mashable's Juana Summers [tweeting](#) Biden's Wednesday official schedule, and Al Jazeera America's David Shuster [tweeting](#) that "Hallie Biden, widow of the late Beau Biden, says her family supports a Presidential campaign '100%'".

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M) reported that "as the pressure mounts for Joe Biden to decide whether he'll run...many [are] now asking, did he change his story?" ABC (Karl) added, "Biden has described Obama's decision as especially courageous because in that key meeting when it came time to decide, most of the President's advisers, including Biden himself, were not in favor of the raid." On Tuesday, he "offered an entirely different account of what happened on that fateful day." Biden was shown saying, "So as we walked out of the room and we walked upstairs, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts. But it would have been a mistake, imagine if I had said in front of everyone, 'don't go, or go,' and his decision was a different decision." Karl: "But until today, Biden has said he told Obama and his team that night to hold off on the raid."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 6, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Biden "sounded more like a presidential candidate, talking up his foreign policy credentials, doing some rewriting of his own history and firing a shot over the bow of the Democratic frontrunner." CBS' Nancy Corden added that Biden "never mentioned" Clinton by name, "but it was all too clear the comparison he was making when he said this about his stature overseas." Biden: "I will get sent to go speak to Putin or go speak to whomever, and it's because the secretary of state, we've had two great secretaries of state, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the President." Cordes added that Biden left Clinton "out of his story" about the Bin Laden raid.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 3, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) also said of Biden, "If anything, he is beginning to sound more like a candidate, taking not-so-veiled swipes" at Clinton. NBC (Welker) added that Biden "said he and the President were in lock-step when it came to authorizing the raid against Bin Laden." The [AP](#) (10/21, Lederman) says Biden "backtracked on his previous claims to have advised Obama against the raid" in "an unusual reversal."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/21, Talev, 247K) reports that in his remarks at an event honoring his vice presidential predecessor Walter Mondale, Biden "portrayed himself as the central player" in the Administration "on everything from working with congressional Republicans to the killing" of Bin Laden. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Singer, 5.23M) says Biden "revised his account of his advice" to Obama after Mondale said he "would only disagree with President Jimmy Carter in private during his tenure as vice president."

The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Harris, Martin, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says with the remark, Biden "sought...to dispel" the notion that he had opposed the raid, which "might dog him on the campaign trail." Biden said he "never gave his own views on controversial issues until the rest of the cabinet had spoken, mindful that he did not want the rest of the team to see a difference between his opinion and that of the president." Biden said only then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates and then-CIA Director Leon Panetta "had expressed definitive views on the raid," and "pointedly did not mention" Clinton, who "has said that she was in favor of the raid."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Jaffe, 6.76M) says Biden "seemed to change his account" with a revision that "seems designed to buttress his qualifications to serve as commander-in-chief." But Biden "seems to have contradicted his earlier memories of the final meeting before the bin Laden raid." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Nelson, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says Biden cast himself as Obama's chief adviser on many issues, and sought to downplay Clinton's advisory role as secretary of state. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/21, Memoli, 4.07M) says Biden used the event "to highlight his close relationship with President Obama that would be at the heart of Biden's potential presidential campaign."

The [New York Daily News](#) (10/21, Joseph, 3.75M) says Biden's "new details make him out to be a supporter of the high-stakes raid that killed Bin Laden – a big shift from the common narrative that he resisted it, one Clinton's allies have hinted could be a main attack line if Biden does jump into the race." The [Boston Globe](#) (10/21, Linskey, 1.1M) says Biden "has been on record recommending against the move."

[Politico](#) (10/20, Dove, 942K) says Biden "contradicted" his own previous accounts as well as "what Obama himself said about the decision during his third 2012 debate with Mitt Romney." The President said

at the time, "Even some in my own party, including my current vice president, had the same critique as you did." [The Hill](#) (10/20, Fabian, 471K) reports White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest "dodged multiple questions" about Biden's remarks, "saying he would not comment on private conversations between the president and the vice president."

[Politico](#) (10/20, Wheaton, 942K) writes that "for a politician who projects authenticity," Biden "seemed to stumble around the truth" Tuesday, not just on the Bin Laden raid but also in claiming "to have veto power over nominations and to speak for the president with more authority than other top officials do." [TIME](#) (10/20, 19.55M) says on its website that Biden's "narrative runs in the face of the one Biden himself offered in 2012." The [Daily Caller](#) (10/20, Ross, 375K) says Biden "contradicted himself" with the remarks. Gregory Krieg of [Mic](#) (10/20, 1.5M) writes that Biden "really sounds like someone who is running for president." [The Blaze](#) (10/20, 1.66M), the [CNN](#) (10/20, Koran, 5.17M) website,

"Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Oct 21 2015 09:33:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

thanks Jeremy!

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 11:28 AM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Blake, Chelsea - copied here - is not getting the press clips. Also, she's not on the DOI_politicals email...do you know who can add her to that? thanks.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
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Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 8:22 AM, Androff, Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Please let me know if you do NOT receive the daily clips each morning from Bulletin News at 7:00 AM. Please do not reply all.

Best,

Blake

Blake Androff
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bulletin Intelligence** <interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 7:00 AM

Subject: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

To: interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SEN. MURKOWSKI SEES TOUGH ROAD FOR INTERIOR NOMINEE. [Politico Pro](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Lisa Murkowski said that Interior Department pick Kristen Sarri would “have a lot of explaining to do at a hearing on six nominees today.” While Murkowski was “pleased that President Barack Obama had renamed Mount McKinley this summer to Denali, the Alaska Republican said she was still frustrated with the Interior Department’s ‘heartless decision’ to deny a road in King Cove.” Murkowski also “criticized Interior for closing off oil production in Alaska and last week’s cancellation of offshore sales and lease extension.”

Meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (10/21, Barton, 375K) reports that Murkowski is “torn between leaving the Department of the Interior’s independent watchdog post vacant, or confirming President Barack Obama’s nominee crippled by recurring allegations of ‘playing games with Congress.’” She said, “I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent [inspector general], and I’m disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years.” Murkowski continued, “But I am also committed to ensuring that the individual we confirm is fully independent ... The tenure that you have been involved with thus far in this position has been marked by controversy.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/21, Henry, 471K), [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (10/20), and [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/20, 2K).

HISTORIC \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH CHOCTAW, CHICKASAW NATIONS LAUDED. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/20, 32K) reports that “tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior heralded the outcome of a \$186 million settlement signed earlier this month between the federal government, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw nations to solve a longstanding land trust dispute as a new chapter in relations.” During the October 5 signing ceremony, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby “gave a nod to the impetus provided” by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He said, “We respect the vital role Secretary Jewell has taken in helping make this historic settlement a reality. We are confident she will play an essential role in our efforts to continue strengthening the relationship between our governments, because we believe she has a unique appreciation for the mutual benefits of a positive government-to-government relationship.” Jewell said, “Today’s agreement is the latest addition to a record number of longstanding settlements resolved under this Administration. This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country.”

U.S. TREASURY CONFIRMS \$20B BALANCE FOR LWCF. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/21, 705) reports that “the Land and Water Conservation Fund that expired earlier this month for the first time in its 50-year history currently contains nearly \$20 billion, according to the U.S. Treasury, which maintains the program’s balance sheets.” But “whether that is ‘real’ money available to be spent on federal land acquisitions, private land easements and state recreation projects depends on whom you ask.” The article notes that “the \$19.8 billion can only be reduced until Congress reauthorizes the program.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/20, 31K).

PROPOSED DESIGNATIONS OF THREE NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT “LAND GRAB.” [Fox News](#) (10/20, 8.91M) reports that “a group of off-roaders and others are attempting to fight a proposed designation of three national monuments in the California desert under the Antiquities Act.” The Obama Administration is “considering using the federal Antiquities Act to bypass the legislative process at the request of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, whose efforts to have the Mojave Trails and Castle Mountain, both in the Mojave Desert, and a section of the Sonoran Desert named federal sites were repeatedly blocked by Republicans.” According to the article, “a White House move could put the land under federal control, which critics say could cut funding for upkeep or even restrict access.”

UNMANNED HELICOPTER OFFERS NEW WAY TO FIGHT WILDFIRES. The [Voice of America](#) (10/21, Banse, 32K) reports that the K-MAX “unmanned, water-dropping” helicopter was tested by the US government. The helicopter can fly through limited visibility. Brad Koeckertiz, the unmanned aircraft program manager with the US Department of Interior, says that unmanned helicopters such as the K-MAX will be integrated into routine measures to fight wildfires over the next few of years. The article notes that the K-MAX helicopters have already been used by the US Marines in Afghanistan, to

resupply remote outposts at night and replace dangerous convoys on the ground. The article notes that the growing uses for drones is also why the FAA is seeking to register all drones.

Additional coverage was provided by [Vertical Magazine \(CAN\)](#) (10/21).

JEB BUSH PROPOSES MOVING INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FROM D.C. To Western City. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/20, Lucas, 199K) reports that “Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will unveil his proposals for Western land and resource management in a campaign stop in Reno on Wednesday morning, in a speech likely to resonate with conservative voters opposed to what they see as federal overreach in the Western states.” Bush is “expected to speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park before appearing at a forum sponsored by the LIBRE Initiative at the College of Southern Nevada Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas at 6 p.m.” In the proposal, Bush will “call for moving the headquarters of the Department of Interior from Washington, D.C., to a city in the western United States like Denver, Salt Lake City or Reno and will say that as president he would direct federal agencies to give broad latitude to states to determine land-use issues.”

STUDY: ALASKAN WILDFIRES COULD EXACERBATE GLOBAL WARMING. The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Mooney, 6.76M) reports that some greenhouse gas sources outside the scope of forthcoming UN climate talks are beyond governments’ control, such as raging peat fires in Indonesia this year, emitting “as much as Japan produces in a year from fossil fuels.” Elsewhere, a new study in Nature Climate Change reaffirms concerns about the emissions of northern fires in Alaska. The Post reports that “climate researchers are still trying to figure out how all of these factors will interrelate,” but fire is a “powerful determinant of how much carbon resides in land, rather than in the air, across our globe.”

INTERIOR’S VINE ACCOUNT HIGHLIGHTED. [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K) highlights the Interior Department has a great Vine account. Providing a link, Politico says “this is Internet gold.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA RULE ANNOUNCES RULE GIVING TRIBES MORE CONTROL OVER ELECTIONS. [Law360](#) (10/20, 21K) reports that the BIA “on Monday announced its final rule for Native American tribal elections conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying the new rule will encourage tribes to take control of their elections and help protect the voting rights of tribe members living in urban areas.” Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said “in a statement Monday that the rule will allow tribes to opt out of having the interior secretary conduct their elections.”

The [Native American Times](#) (10/20, 337) reports that Washburn said, “Though many federal responsibilities concern the lands we hold in trust for tribes and Indian people, more than 55 million acres nationwide, the United States has a moral obligation to preserve connections between Indian people and their tribes that it once sought to destroy. For the future of Native nations and the health of Indian Country, American Indians in urban areas must work harder to maintain connections with their tribes. One important aspect of that relationship is participation in the civic and political life of their tribal governments. For that reason, our Secretarial election amendments seek to prevent tribal members living in urban areas from being inadvertently disenfranchised in Secretarial elections.”

HEARING FOCUSES ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, Kelleher) reports from Honolulu that a federal court hearing began on Tuesday “in a lawsuit by people who want to put a stop to an election process that is underway for Native Hawaiians.” The lawsuit, filed in August, “says it’s unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election.” The state “argues in court documents that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it’s not involved in next month’s vote to elect delegates for a convention to determine self-governance for Native Hawaiians.” Tuesday’s hearing “is focused on the plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction,” and the plaintiffs “want the judge to limit voter registration activities or stop the election altogether.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/21, 66K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (10/21, Kelleher, 5.98M).

INTERIOR SIDES WITH ALASKA NATIVE GROUP IN INVESTIGATION OF MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE TRIBAL COLLECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, 2.28M) reports that “a Massachusetts college was

round in violation of a federal law regulating the possession and sale of potentially sacred artifacts following a complaint from an organization of Alaska Natives.” The Interior Department said “an investigation substantiated the complaint against Andover Newton Theological School filed in June by the Sealaska Heritage Institute.” The institute’s president, Rosita Worl, said “the school possesses at least two southeast Alaska artifacts, including a Tlingit halibut hook that is considered sacred.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, D’oro, 344K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 548K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/21, 5.59M), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (10/21, 651K), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/21, D’oro, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (10/21, 3.97M), and the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/20, 219K).

US ATTORNEY SAYS BIA OFFICER WAS JUSTIFIED IN DEADLY SPIRIT LAKE SHOOTING. The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that US Attorney Chris Myers “says” that an investigation by his office came to the conclusion that BIA Officer Terry Morgan was justified in shooting and killing “31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16.” The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (10/21, 100K) reports that the US Attorney’s Office “said” the shooting was justified because Charboneau posed a “real and immediate” threat to officers and another person at the scene after he refused to put down his gun, which was pointed at the officers. The Grand Forks Herald reports that, as a result of the investigation, Federal prosecutors “will not file charges against” Morgan.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (10/21, 1K), the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (10/21, 14K), [KXJB-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/21, 18K), [KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/20, 3K), [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (10/21, 1K), and [KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#) Bismarck, ND (10/21, 1K).

CRIME JUMPS AFTER TRIBES CUT FROM BIA FUNDING. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Romney, 4.07M) reports on a “time of crisis for public safety on tribal lands.” According to the article, “a federal law decades ago shifted the primary burden of criminal law enforcement on tribal lands in California and five other states to local authorities,” but “many lack the resources to do the job and, in some cases, sufficient knowledge of tribal law and culture to win the trust of tribal members.” After “tribes were cut off from steady funding for their own justice systems,” crime has “flourished.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YAKAMA NATION’S PETITION TO SELF-GOVERN APPROVED.

Additional coverage that the BIA on Monday granted the Yakama Nation’s petition for “retrocession” was provided by the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 101K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (10/20, 86K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, 344K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/20, 183K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), the [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K), [KNDU-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#) Yakima, WA (10/21, 3K), and [KUOW-FM Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (10/21, 15K).

GILLETTE’S SERVICE IN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PRAISED. In an editorial, the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/21, 37K) lauds Jodi Gillette’s service in the Obama Administration. According to the paper, Gillette’s “positions gave her a voice in a White House that has seemed genuinely concerned about Native American issues.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA’AINA PROPOSES MARSHALLS FUND CHANGES. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “a top US official has submitted a proposal to the Senate and House to allow the people of Bikini to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands.” Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina says “it is an appropriate course of action to take regarding the welfare and livelihood of the Bikinian people.” The Bikinians were “displaced by US nuclear weapons testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands.” According to the article, “in addition to cramped living quarters and a lack of suitable sustainable resources, the islands have been experiencing more frequent storms and king tides resulting in salt water inundation and the destruction of crops.”

[Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “a representative from Bikini Atoll says a proposal to allow people to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands is not wanted.” Bikini liaison officer Jack Niedenthal says “the US should take full responsibility for any resettlement including

providing extra financing. Niedenthal said, we still got a ways to go, we still have to do some more lobbying and some more talking to people in Washington to make them understand that what's being proposed by the assistant secretary is what we view as 'Plan B'. It's not ultimately what we want in terms of helping our people."

CHINA STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIP WITH PACIFIC REGION. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that "China and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat further strengthened their relationship on Friday when the two met at a ceremony to hand over \$1.05 million to assist the Pacific region." Forum Secretariat Secretary General Meg Taylor and Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Zhang Ping "attended the ceremony and delivered speeches respectively." Zhang "reiterated his nation's ongoing interest in the region saying, 'China attaches great importance to the South Pacific region. The Chinese side stands ready to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation with Pacific Island Countries and contribute to the development and capacity building in the region.'"

COUNTRIES IN PACIFIC URGED TO BEGIN TALKS ON CLIMATE MIGRATION. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "all countries in the Pacific are being urged to start discussions on how to help people forced to move from low lying atoll nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu." According to the article, "184 million people worldwide were displaced by disaster between 2008 and 2014 and at special meetings in Geneva last week 110 countries gave the nod to a Protection Agenda for dealing with future migration challenges." The article notes that "the experiences of small island countries which face rising seas due to climate change helped form the global action plan under the Swiss Norwegian Nansen Initiative."

JOURNALIST SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY OF GUAM ON CLIMATE ISSUES, CORRUPTION IN PACIFIC ISLANDS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that "author and journalist Giff Johnson spoke to students at the University of Guam on Monday evening about climate change and development in the Pacific islands." Johnson's "lecture, entitled 'Idyllic No More: Pacific Island Climate, Corruption and Development Dilemmas,' is based on his latest book — a compilation of essays detailing the looming climate threat to the region, its booming fishing industry, and the U.S. nuclear test legacy in the Marshall Islands." Johnson called attention to "climate-driven migration from remote pacific islands to Guam and mainland U.S."

RISING SEA LEVELS THREATEN KIRIBATI. The [National Geographic](#) (10/21, 31.65M) provides a picture gallery of the threat of rising sea levels driven by climate change on Kiribati.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

WATER SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED FROM NEW MELONES. The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that "more than 7 billion gallons of water is scheduled to be released from New Melones Reservoir beginning today to ensure flows in the Stanislaus River will keep temperatures cool enough for adult salmon migrating up the river to spawn this fall." Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District said "it would benefit river conditions and fisheries, as well as the needs of agriculture and more than 200,000 residential customers downstream." The article notes that "earlier this year, the irrigation districts sparred with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — which manages New Melones Reservoir — over spring pulse flows that they feared would leave as little as 147,000 acre-feet in the reservoir by the end of September."

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTE TO OPPOSE DELTA TUNNELS PLAN. The [Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (10/21, 14K) reports that "at a meeting on Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a resolution in formal opposition of California WaterFix, also known as the twin tunnels plan." Supervisor Kathy Miller said, "The WaterFix is just a thinly veiled version of the former (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and continues to push the fatally flawed twin tunnels, which will simply sacrifice one region of California for the benefit of another."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, DOMINION BOTH SUPPORT OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT. On his [Bacon's Rebellion \(VA\)](#) (10/21, Bacon) blog, James Bacon reports on an Environment Virginia-

sponsored webinar held Tuesday morning in which representatives from Dominion, environmental groups, and the McAuliffe Administration all voiced support for the utility's experimental offshore wind farm project. For environmentalists, Bacon writes, the project represents the beginning of an industry that would increase the use of green energy along the Atlantic and displace fossil fuels. For the Governor's office, it represents increased green energy coupled with economic development that takes advantage of the Newport News area's shipbuilding industry.

Onshore Energy Development:

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY FINED \$2.1 MILLION FOR UNDER-REPORTING NATURAL GAS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department on Monday "announced a \$2.1 million civil penalty against Chesapeake Energy Corp. for misreporting the amount of gas it produced and sold from American Indian lands in Oklahoma." Chesapeake "failed to comply with a 2011 order that found 'systemic errors' in the company's monthly production reports for more than 100 Indian leases, according to Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue." The company "agreed to amend the monthly reports, but it continued to maintain inaccurate information on the agency's data systems, ONRR said." The firm was "assessed a penalty based on 'knowing or willful maintenance' of the inaccurate information, ONRR said."

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), and [KOKC-AM Oklahoma City \(OK\)](#) Oklahoma City (10/20, 1K).

TEXAS ENERGY REGULATOR OPPOSES STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K) reports that "Texas' top energy regulator on Tuesday said the agency will oppose a U.S. Department of the Interior proposed rule aimed at better protecting streams and other waterways from nearby mining activity, saying the regulation encroaches on ground better left to the state." Texas Railroad Commission Chairman David Porter on Tuesday said "the state would sign on to the multistate Interstate Mining Compact Commission's comments opposing the proposed waterway regulation."

USGS REPORT STATES EARTHQUAKES COINCIDE WITH OKLAHOMA OIL BOOMS. [KOCO-TV](#) Oklahoma City (10/21, 93K) reports that "a study by the United States Geological Survey states that the earthquakes from the past 100 years seem to coincide with the oil boom in Oklahoma."

OKLAHOMA REGULATORS SHUT DOWN THREE MORE DISPOSAL WELLS. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication) reports that "Oklahoma oil and gas regulators dealing with a dramatic increase in earthquakes near the pipeline hub of Cushing have shut down three more disposal wells." Also, "another well was shut down by the company that owns it after regulators said they were concerned it was drilled too deep." In addition, "the operators of seven other wells were told in a letter written Friday and released yesterday that they must reduce the volume of drilling waste that they inject deep underground."

OKLAHOMA LIMITS DISPOSAL WELLS AMID CUSHING QUAKES. [Reuters](#) (10/21, Hampton, Brandes) reports that Oklahoma's oil and gas regulator on Monday said it could impose new limits on all saltwater disposal wells within a 10-mile radius of Cushing. Reuters reports that Oklahoma now experiences as many as two magnitude 3.0 quakes per day, up from two per year. Thirteen wells have been ordered shut and approvals for new wells have been halted, Reuters reports. Scientists told Reuters that shutting wells could ease tectonic disruption in Oklahoma.

STUDY: FRACKING CAN CAUSE METHANE LEAKS IN NEARBY ABANDONED OIL WELLS. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Valdmanis) reported that according to a study published Tuesday in the Water Resources Research journal, fracking can cause methane leaks in nearby abandoned oil wells. The methane leaks could be a large source of unrecorded greenhouse gas emissions, according to the study. The study said that energy companies could reduce the probability of such methane leaks by trying to identify abandoned wells before they begin fracking, although the task could be difficult due to large numbers of unmarked abandoned wells.

BLM CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE PICTURES UNDER FOIA REQUEST. For the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (10/21), Darryl L. Flowers criticizes the BLM for failing to provide pictures in connection with "the proposed Solenex, LLC natural gas well on public lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest"

that were requested under the Freedom of Information Act. The paper received sixteen photos and “two photos were missing.” He notes that “curiously, the two omitted photos were the only ones that included a person in the photos.”

Offshore Energy Development:

FEDS INVESTIGATE WORKER’S DEATH ON DRILLSHIP CONTRACTED BY CHEVRON. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/20, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that officials from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Coast Guard are investigating “the death of a worker on a drillship in the Gulf of Mexico that was preparing to bore a well for Chevron.” Fuel Fix says that “the Pacific Santa Ana drillship was just beginning operations for Chevron in about 4,800 feet of water at the site and had not yet penetrated the sea floor when an employee of that drilling contractor was fatally injured.” Fuel Fix adds that Chevron has a 36 percent working interest in the Keathley Canyon well-leasing block where the incident occurred, an area where “Chevron outlined ambitions to drill up to seven wells” earlier this year.

The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that Amy Roddy, spokeswoman for Pacific Drilling SA, the ship’s owner, “said the company is not releasing any details about the man to respect his family’s privacy. She also refused to disclose how the man died or details of the accident, citing an ongoing investigation.”

[NASDAQ](#) (10/20, Sider) reports that Chevron has contracted the ship since 2012. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/21, Larino, 718K) adds that “operations have been shut down and personnel remain onboard, according to the drillship’s operator.”

[Offshore Engineer](#) (10/20, Leon) reports that “the ship was to use its dual gradient drilling functions for Chevron’s Anchor-1 prospect last year in Green Canyon block 807, but the well was junked due to mechanical failures. However, in January of this year, Chevron hit high quality oil pay in multiple Lower Tertiary Wilcox Sands at a second Anchor well also drilled by the Pacific Santa Ana.”

The [Dow Jones Newswires](#) (10/21, Sider) reports that this is the first death related to offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico this year.

[Reuters](#) (10/21), [gCaptain](#) (10/21, 2K), [Upstream Online](#) (10/21, Schmidt, Brenner, 20K), and [Maritime Executive](#) (10/20, 21) also cover the story.

BRIARCLIFFE ACRES VOTES AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (10/21, 36K) reports that “in a storm of debate over offshore drilling, Briarcliffe Acres surfaced as the latest coastal town to join a united front against seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas off of South Carolina’s beaches.” According to the article, “missing councilwoman Abby Stewart, who has been with family on the west coast, the town council unanimously passed a resolution Monday, joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns in a stance against offshore drilling.”

SHELL VESSEL RESCUES FRENCHMAN, CAT FROM SAILBOAT STRANDED IN SEAS NEAR ALASKA. The [AP](#) (10/21, Thiessen) reports that a Frenchman and the cat tucked inside his clothing were rescued on Tuesday after he leapt from his sailboat to a waiting rescue ship sent by Shell. The man activated a location beacon in the high seas south of Alaska and told the Coast Guard his sailboat had lost its rudder and rigging in the high winds and 20-foot waves. The Coast Guard contacted Shell’s oil drilling rig, the Polar Pioneer, which is on its way to Port Angeles, and the rig “sent a support ship, the Tor Viking, to rescue the sailor.” The AP reports that “it wasn’t immediately clear if the man would continue with the Shell ships to Washington state.”

CUNNINGHAM: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SHUTS THE DOOR ON ARCTIC DRILLING. In an analysis of the Interior Department’s recent decision on the future of Arctic drilling, [Oil Price](#) (10/21, 2K) reporter Nick Cunningham writes the Interior Department’s decision to cancel lease sales through 2017 “leaves almost no possible pathway for an oil company to drill in the Arctic for years to come, perhaps killing off drilling for a decade or so at a minimum.” Cunningham goes on to write that “it was likely that there wouldn’t have been new drilling in any event, given Shell’s decision and current market conditions, but Interior’s decision officially shuts the door on the Arctic in the medium-term.”

Casey: Interior’s Actions On Arctic Drilling Trends “Toward A Permanent Clampdown.” [CleanTechnica’s](#) (10/20, 15K) Tina Casey writes that “in the absence of local regulations, the Feds are

the only game in town and it seems that the Arctic's role in the US economy is too important to trust to compliance by oil companies." Casey adds that, even though the Interior's actions last week on Arctic drilling may be "only temporary, but the trend is toward a permanent clampdown."

4-Traders: Federal Government To Blame For Low Arctic Drilling Interest. In an op-ed piece on the Interior's Arctic drilling decision, [4-Traders](#) (10/21, 5K) writes the Federal government's "difficult" regulatory obstacles is to blame for the lack of interest among oil companies to explore for oil and natural gas in the Arctic. 4-Traders writes that the "demand for oil and natural gas isn't going away, so energy domestic exploration must continue in the Arctic and elsewhere. But as we've seen, by putting up unnecessary regulatory hurdles, regulators can cause job and economic growth opportunities to be missed."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TO REVIEW HAGERMAN-HAILEY TRANSMISSION LINE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (10/21) reports that the BLM will review the Hagerman to Hailey transmission line, paying "special attention to the greater sage grouse in the area." Stacey Baczkowski, a biologist with Idaho Power, says "the company has been working with the BLM for the last few years to make sure the line is built with the bird in mind." Baczkowski says "the power company plans to build the new transmission line as close to the current one as possible, and will follow BLM rules about construction during sage grouse mating times."

UTAH WATER DISTRICT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT BLM REVISION TO LAND-USE PLAN. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/21, 407K) reports that "federal policies that either aim to instill more oversight of water or deny access altogether have some Utah leaders frothing over what they say is a repeated pattern of overreach that threatens local economies and livelihoods." Ron Thompson, general manager of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, said "possible revisions to a land-use plan by the Bureau of Land Management in Washington County have severe ramifications should one particular approach be adopted." Thompson said "the BLM — under one option — is ignoring key considerations that went into the passage of the bill, including water supplies being left unhindered and right of way corridors left intact."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HELICOPTER CRASHES NEAR SEARCHLIGHT DURING CATTLE ROUNDUP. Additional coverage of the helicopter crash near Searchlight during a cattle roundup was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/21, 378K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CONSERVATION LEADERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONSERVATION SUMMIT. [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K) reports that "more than 40 leaders from the leading conservation groups in America are meeting in Springfield this week for a National Conservation Summit hosted by The Johnny Morris Foundation." According to the article, "participants include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Geographic, Audubon Society, and Ducks Unlimited." The article notes that "the purpose of the historic gathering is to collectively discuss opportunities to educate and engage the public in efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitats in preparation for the grand opening of America's Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in 2016."

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (10/20, 49K) reports that "three exhibits of America's Wildlife Museum & Aquarium, formerly Wonders of Wildlife, were open to media for a tour on Oct. 20, 2015 at the museum located next to the Bass Pro Shops flagship store in Springfield, Mo." More than 40 conservation leaders attending a National Conservation Summit "hope the new Bass Pro Shops wildlife museum and aquarium will convey to visitors when it opens in mid 2016." FWS Director Dan Ashe, "one of the summit attendees," called the museum "one of the foremost conservation attractions in the world." He said, "Through conservation efforts, we can be successful in sustaining these populations of animals that are threatened or endangered. People hear about the industrial-scale poaching of elephants that's happening in Africa. That's not hunting. With this museum, here's an opportunity to tell the story of how we can protect wildlife habitat, and that when hunting is done well, with appropriate regulations, it sustains wildlife populations."

Additional coverage was provided by [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K), [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K), and [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K).

CNMI QUESTIONS INCLUSION OF SOME SPECIES ON ENDANGERED LIST. The [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “the Northern Marianas government says the decision to list 23 species in Guam and the CNMI as threatened or endangered was rushed.” The government says “it supports the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s listing of seven of the 17 CNMI species, but it questions the inclusion of some of the other species.” The Department of Land and Natural Resources says “a number of the species do not meet the definitions of threatened or endangered and don’t require federal protection.”

FWS LOOKS TO RESTORE HABITAT ON ROOT RIVER. The [Rochester \(MN\) Post-Bulletin](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “federal wildlife officials are seeking public input on a plan to restore and enhance habitat on 825 acres of Minnesota land along the Root River in Houston County.” Managed by the FWS “as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the Root River Tract sits to the east of Hwy. 26 between La Crescent and Brownsville.” The article notes that “the site includes 664 acres of hunting and farmland purchased in 2009 with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

SHOOTING OF CALIFORNIA CONDOR IN ARIZONA UNDER INVESTIGATION. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that FWS special agents and Arizona Game and Fish Department “law enforcement personnel are investigating the lethal shooting of an endangered California condor that occurred on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona Oct. 8.”

MAN CLAIMS HE BLOCKED ARIZONA BIKE TRAIL TO PROTECT OWLS. The [AP](#) (10/21, 344K) reports that “the 81-year-old man who blocked a Flagstaff-area mountain bike race says he did it to protect an endangered owl species.” J.D. Protiva “appeared in federal court Monday on misdemeanor charges related to blocking the Elden Springs Trail before the August race.” Protiva says “the path goes through protected Mexican spotted owl habitat.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MONARCHS GET HELP AS CALIFORNIANS PLANT DROUGHT-TOLERANT MILKWEED. Additional coverage that monarch butterflies could benefit from the California drought was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/21, 259K), [KABC-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/21, 413K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (10/21, 345K).

FWS INVESTING IN PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN ATLANTIC COASTAL DEFENSES AGAINST FUTURE STORMS. In an op-ed for the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (10/20, 172K), Wendi Weber is Northeast regional director for the FWS, writes that “federal money for Hurricane Sandy recovery has spurred an unprecedented effort to strengthen natural defenses along the Atlantic Coast to protect communities and wildlife against future storms.” She notes that the FWS and other Interior Department “agencies are investing \$787 million in hundreds of projects to clean up and repair damaged refuges and parks; restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline; connect and open waterways to improve flood control; and increase our scientific understanding of how these natural areas are changing.” According to Weber, “these investments support the goal of President Barack Obama’s Climate Action Plan to make communities more resilient to increasingly intense storms predicted with a changing climate.”

National Park Service:

MUSIC VIDEO CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF NPS. The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (10/20, 53K) reports on “a locally made music video that celebrates 100 years of the National Park Service.” According to the article, “published on Oct. 15, the Centennial video has more than 18,500 views on the NPS facebook page and more than 530 on the Youth Ambassador Program’s YouTube page, the group that made it.” NPS Director Jon Jarvis, “who met the traveling crew in Washington, D.C., makes a cameo appearance in the video to say, ‘It’s great to celebrate a hundred years with YAP!’”

Kentucky Lieutenant Gov. Luallen Touts National Parks. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/20, 414K) reports that Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen on Tuesday “touted the economic impact of Kentucky’s travel and tourism industry” in “an address to the Kentucky Travel Industry’s annual conference in Bowling Green.” Following her remarks, Luallen “recognized five national parks in

Kentucky as part of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016. She presented proclamations to representatives of the parks.”

Couple Visiting 59 National Parks In 12 Months. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/21, 1.03M) reports that “Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, St. Louis natives, are two months into their grand adventure: 59 parks in 12 months – part celebration of the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary, part exercise in youthful spontaneity.” Their goal is to “see the best of the United States, and inspire others – particularly other millennials – to do the same.” The article notes that “their mission meshes well with a new campaign of the Park Service, which celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2016.”

WATCHDOG RELEASES REPORT ON NPS CONSTRUCTION FUNDS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “a federal watchdog yesterday released a disputed report alleging that the National Park Service is violating congressional intent by dipping into its construction account to cover security, air testing and other reimbursable expenses that should have been paid up front by other agencies.” The NPS construction account is “only for expenses that relate to ‘construction, improvements, repair or replacement of physical facilities,’” the Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General report said, “citing the language of the agency’s appropriation.” However, “the OIG found that 17 out of a sample of 21 interagency agreements that used Park Service construction funds to cover reimbursable costs did not appear to include ‘a valid construction purpose.’” The article notes that “these included \$4.9 million that NPS spent from its construction account on security at the Department of the Army’s Memorial Day and Independence Day concerts at the Capitol in 2014 and \$37.5 million over seven years on air quality monitoring at national parks that will be paid back to NPS by U.S. EPA.”

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES GRAND CANYON BISON MANAGEMENT ACT. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act “allowing the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to better manage and conserve the bison population within the park Oct. 8.” The legislation “requires the U.S. Department of Interior and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on a plan that allows sportsmen holding a valid state-issued hunting license to assist in management of the bison population within the park.”

THUNDERSTORMS CAUSE FLOODING, MUDSLIDES IN DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “mudslides and flooding after severe thunderstorms in Death Valley National Park on Sunday trapped three park rangers and about 20 visitors – many out to see a clear night sky – in a volcanic crater overnight.” Park spokeswoman Abby Wines said “the stranded people spent the night in Ubehebe Crater, maintaining contact with park headquarters until they were able to reach safety yesterday morning.” The article notes that “no injuries were reported, but Wines said the unexpectedly severe storms knocked out power in the area, damaged and closed several roads, and filled a historic visitor’s center with several feet of mud and debris.”

NPS SET TO CONTINUE WITH TREE-CUTTING AT POTOMAC CAMPGROUND. The [Bethesda \(MD\) Magazine](#) (10/21) reports that “after complaints from two nearby residents and a call from County Council member Roger Berliner temporarily halted tree-cutting operations Friday at a Potomac campground, the National Park Service said it plans to resume the tree-cutting and will probably do so in the next few days.” John Noel, deputy superintendent for the C&O Canal National Historical Park, said that “he went to the Swain’s Lock Recreation Site to examine the 26 trees proposed to be removed and 32 others proposed to be pruned at the site’s campground.” Noel “agreed that the trees are rotting and in danger of falling on park users below.”

STUDENTS GO ON CANOE TRIP AROUND WOLF LAKE. The [Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (10/20, 105K) reports that “all classes in Grades 6 through 9 at George Rogers Clark Junior-Senior High School in Hammond recently experienced a unique field trip right in their own back yard — a canoe trip around Wolf Lake located only a few blocks from the school.” The trip was “made available through a partnership with the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center and Wilderness Inquiry.”

NEW COLONIAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT THANKS COMMUNITY FOR ADVOCACY. The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (10/20, Williams, Subscription Publication, 201K) reports that the Colonial National Historical Park’s new Superintendent, Kym Hall, thanked the community for its opposition to Dominion’s Skiffes Creek transmission project in her first appearance before the York County Board of Supervisors on September 1. “The view should be protected,” she said.

DEVILS TOWER TO HOST STAR VIEWING PARTIES. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/21, 115K) reports that the NPS “announced that Devils Tower will host a series of star viewing parties October through December.” The article notes that “the eight parties are free of charge, and will last approximately two hours.”

NPS URGED TO RECONSIDER RACIST NAME FOR A WASHINGTON LAKE. In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/21, 74K), Glenn Nelson writes that Washington state officially calls Howard Lake “by what is believed to be its oldest known name,” but the federal government “recognizes the lake by a name that causes the jaws of most people of color to drop: Coon Lake.” Nelson notes that “the federal government did not follow the usual course of supporting the state’s action, mostly because of opposition from the National Park Service, which manages the area that contains the lake.” The NPS, “acting on research from its North Cascades unit, originally defended its stance by claiming that there was ambiguity around the use of the term ‘coon.’” According to Nelson, “in the years leading up to its 2016 centennial, the Park Service has done a lot of talking and writing about the need for diversity and inclusiveness.” He concludes that “it’s past time for the Park Service to back away from its misguided opposition, encourage Secretary Jewell to come to its rescue, and allow another black life to matter.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS SEISMOLOGIST QUESTIONS PREDICTION OF 99.9 PERCENT CHANCE OF MAJOR LOS ANGELES EARTHQUAKE IN 3 YEARS. The [Southern California Public Radio](#) (10/20, 68K) reports that “a controversial new study from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory” claims “there is a 99.9 percent chance of an earthquake” in Los Angeles “between magnitude 5 and 6.3 in less than three years.” The study, published earlier this month by the American Geophysical Union’s Earth and Space Science journal, has “taken many in the seismic community by surprise.” Lucy Jones with the USGS said the “methodology doesn’t fully explain the prediction, and the study doesn’t adequately address this either.” Jones said that, according to the USGS’ “models, there is only an 85 percent chance of a magnitude 5 or 6 quake in the same region over a three-year period.”

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: TRUDEAU’S ELECTION LIKELY TO FOSTER IMPROVED US-CANADA TIES.

On the day after Justin Trudeau became Canada’s Prime Minister-designate, media reporting universally characterized the election results as a likely boost for US-Canada relations. Coverage focuses on Trudeau’s promise of a less combative foreign policy style and the perception that he will be more willing to accept a US rejection of the Keystone pipeline. Reporting – including a combined 2 minutes and 50 seconds on the three broadcast networks – also indicates that despite Trudeau’s decision to withdraw his aircraft from the US-led coalition against ISIL, he is likely to be a more willing partner on climate change and other issues.

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, story 9, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported President Obama on Tuesday congratulated Trudeau, who “swept into power with a message of optimism saying Canada beat fear with hope.” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Korte, 5.23M) reports Obama made the phone call “in an attempt to lock down continued cooperation with the northern neighbor on trade, terrorism, and climate change.” The White House, according to USA Today, “signaled that not much would change in the relationship” between the neighbors following the Liberal party’s victory. [CBC News](#) (10/20, Fitzpatrick, 225K) reported on its website that the White House indicated Obama and Trudeau “agreed on the importance of deepening the ‘already strong’ bilateral relationship” between the countries “and committed to strengthen joint efforts to promote trade and to combat terrorism and climate change.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports the White House and current Prime Minister Stephen Harper “clashed over climate policy” and the Keystone pipeline. While White House spokesman Josh Earnest on Tuesday said “it would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue,” Chuck Todd reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that “we now have a Canadian government that is politically more in line with the American government.” According to Todd, “Relations have been good but they have not been so great of late. Will they now get better? That is why Americans should care.”

In an article entitled [5 Reasons The US Should Care About Canada's New Prime Minister](#), [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hjelmggaard, 5.23M) lists ways in which Trudeau "is likely to affect policies in Canada and the United States." According to USA Today, Trudeau "promised to improve strained relations" with Obama and said "he wants to find constructive ways of working with Washington on other issues." Another [USA Today](#) (10/21, Kovac, 5.23M) article reports that Trudeau and Harper "differ in their approach to foreign policy," with the incoming leader being less vocally pro-Israel and more focused on environmental issues.

In an analysis piece, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/21, 2.66M) says "a prompt rejection" of the Keystone pipeline by Obama "would make the job easier" for Trudeau "as he seeks to reset the country's relationship with the US, which he says was damaged" by Harper. According to Bloomberg, Trudeau "could use a quick US denial" of the pipeline "to focus discussions" with Obama "on issues such as trade and climate." Bloomberg notes there has been "speculation" that Obama "would reject the pipeline shortly after the Canadian election." However, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Cama, 471K) reported, Secretary of State Kerry said Tuesday that Canada's election results will not change the White House's approach to the Keystone issue. Kerry said the decision "is being based on the merits and countervailing balance of all the input that has come from a very exhaustive agency review." Kerry reiterated that he seeks a decision "as fast as possible."

[Reuters](#) (10/21, Mason, Rampton) reports the White House indicated it would like the new Canadian government to take increased actions to address climate change. Earnest said that while Canada has "made a substantial and important commitment" ahead of the Paris climate talks, "We believe that it's possible that there is more that Canada can do in this regard."

However, writing for [Mother Jones](#) (10/20, 758K), Suzanne Goldenberg claimed "those hoping for a U-turn in Canada's climate change policy...are in for a reality check." According to Goldenberg, while Trudeau does not align directly with many of Harper's views or policies, "it would be a mistake" to see the new Canadian leader or his party "as climate champions." In [Slate](#) (10/20, 1.38M), Joshua Keating argued that at least with regard to the Keystone pipeline, Trudeau does present a change from Harper. Keating characterizes Trudeau as "a very different leader" from Harper and says he will make the Keystone pipeline less of a focal point of US-Canada relations. According to Keating, Trudeau "has described his support for the pipeline as 'steadfast,' but it's clearly not the make-or-break issue for him that it was for Harper."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Vieira, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports Trudeau said he will work to restore Canada's reputation of defending minorities and become more involved in multilateral policy making. At a rally in Ottawa, Trudeau said, "To this country's friends around the world, I want to say this: Many of you have worried Canada has lost its compassionate and constructive voice in the world over the past 10 years. I have simple message for you: We're back." The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports that Trudeau "is likely to present a very different face to the world" than Harper, "but the most noticeable difference will probably be in tone." Trudeau has vowed to "put an end to Mr. Harper's often belligerent style of politics and diplomacy." Trudeau said Tuesday that "a positive, optimistic, hopeful vision of public life isn't a naïve dream – it can be a powerful force for change." The Times says Trudeau has previously indicated a desire to end Harper's reliance on military solutions and tough rhetoric, and instead focus on working within international organizations, such as the United Nations.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 10, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, "Canada took a left turn" as "Trudeau and the Liberal Party rode in on a landslide." In a [USA Today](#) (10/21, 5.23M) op-ed, author David Andelman says "most of the reasons" Canadian voters chose Trudeau to lead the country "boiled down to one fundamental: The Liberal Party leader was simply nicer than his opponent. And most Canadians believe they are, too." Similarly, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that Canadians wanted a change from the Harper government, which had become isolated and sought to restrict debate. The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) agrees, editorializing that Trudeau's election "shows how ready Canadians were to emerge from a decade under the Conservative government of the secretive and combative Stephen Harper."

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau told Obama on Tuesday that Canadian fighter aircraft will withdraw from the US-led coalition against ISIL, but the new Canadian leader did not present a timeline for the move. In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, A1, Brown, 6.76M) reports Trudeau said, "I committed

that we would continue to engage in a responsible way that understands how Canada has a role to play in the fight against ISIL,” adding, that Obama “understands the commitments I’ve made around ending the combat mission.” According to the Post, a “senior Administration official,” said Obama and Trudeau discussed joint anti-terrorism efforts and, “We expect Canada will continue to be a valuable contributor to the 65-member global coalition” against ISIL.

Trudeau’s Win Could “Lead To Full Marijuana Legalization” In Canada. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hughes, 5.23M) reports Trudeau’s win “may lead to full marijuana legalization” for Canada. According to USA Today, Trudeau promised during his campaign that “Canada would create a system to tax, regulate and sell marijuana, along with stiff penalties for anyone giving pot to children or caught driving while stoned.” USA Today says American “cannabis activists hailed Tuesday’s election as a milestone, suggesting that a day may soon come when cross-border trade talks include...legal weed.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau’s “promise to legalize recreational cannabis” will likely “help the nation’s nascent medical marijuana industry.” Investors, according to AFP, “are betting” they could build on companies’ current production of marijuana for medical use and “quickly scale up to serve recreational pot users too, once Trudeau makes good on his promise.”

NYTimes Analysis: Trudeau Is “No Dynast” Despite Father Being Former Prime Minister. In a 1,350-world profile piece, the [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that despite there being “many easy parallels to draw between” Trudeau and his father, former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Canada’s incoming leader “is no dynast who slipped effortlessly into a family political machine.” The Times notes that Trudeau “did not even enter politics until 18 years after his father gave it up, and seven year after his father’s death.” According to the Times, Trudeau “built his own cadre of advisers, mostly from his own generation” and sometimes “chose more difficult roads – partly, it appears, to show he had not been handed a life in politics on a platter.”

In the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, 6.76M) “Reliable Source” blog, Emily Heil says Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, “have a lot in common with the Obamas.” According to Heil, “they’d have lots to talk about, apart from liberal politics, like fitness!”

IN APPARENT REVERSAL, BIDEN SAYS HE PRIVATELY URGED OBAMA TO AUTHORIZE UBL RAID. Vice President Biden did not reveal Tuesday whether or not he will enter the Democratic presidential race, but his remark that he privately advised President Obama to launch the 2011 raid that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden – which contradicted Biden’s past public comments that he advised against the raid – is being interpreted as a possible line of attack against Hillary Clinton. All three broadcast networks reported on the statement, combining for nearly eight minutes of coverage, and ABC led with it. The tone of the coverage is mixed, with most reports calling it a reversal, and some concluding that Biden may be undercutting his own reputation for candor.

There was also Twitter discussion of Biden’s remarks. Anthony De Rosa, a digital producer for The Daily Show who has nearly 89,000 followers, [tweeted](#), “Biden sounds like Brian Williams with his evolving recollection of the Bin Laden raid.” Jonathan Martin of the New York Times [tweeted](#), “@vp today signals: he’ll run & it’ll get negative FAST or: he’s not happy about being sidelined.” His Times colleague Maggie Haberman [tweeted](#), “Biden’s subtle digs at Clinton indicate that if he runs it’ll be ugly.” In addition, the hashtag [#BidenWatch](#) emerged on Twitter, with Fox Business Network’s Trish Regan [tweeting](#), “Sure sounds like he’s running...”, Mashable’s Juana Summers [tweeting](#) Biden’s Wednesday official schedule, and Al Jazeera America’s David Shuster [tweeting](#) that “Hallie Biden, widow of the late Beau Biden, says her family supports a Presidential campaign ‘100%’”.

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M) reported that “as the pressure mounts for Joe Biden to decide whether he’ll run...many [are] now asking, did he change his story?” ABC (Karl) added, “Biden has described Obama’s decision as especially courageous because in that key meeting when it came time to decide, most of the President’s advisers, including Biden himself, were not in favor of the raid.” On Tuesday, he “offered an entirely different account of what happened on that fateful day.” Biden was shown saying, “So as we walked out of the room and we walked upstairs, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts. But it would have been a mistake, imagine if I had said in front of everyone, ‘don’t go, or go,’ and his decision was a different decision.” Karl: “But until today, Biden has said he told Obama and his team that night to hold off on the raid.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 6, 2:05, Peiley, 5.08M) reported that Biden sounded more like a presidential candidate, talking up his foreign policy credentials, doing some rewriting of his own history and firing a shot over the bow of the Democratic frontrunner." CBS' Nancy Cordes added that Biden "never mentioned" Clinton by name, "but it was all too clear the comparison he was making when he said this about his stature overseas." Biden: "I will get sent to go speak to Putin or go speak to whomever, and it's because the secretary of state, we've had two great secretaries of state, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the President." Cordes added that Biden left Clinton "out of his story" about the Bin Laden raid.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 3, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) also said of Biden, "If anything, he is beginning to sound more like a candidate, taking not-so-veiled swipes" at Clinton. NBC (Welker) added that Biden "said he and the President were in lock-step when it came to authorizing the raid against Bin Laden." The [AP](#) (10/21, Lederman) says Biden "backtracked on his previous claims to have advised Obama against the raid" in "an unusual reversal."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/21, Talev, 247K) reports that in his remarks at an event honoring his vice presidential predecessor Walter Mondale, Biden "portrayed himself as the central player" in the Administration "on everything from working with congressional Republicans to the killing" of Bin Laden. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Singer, 5.23M) says Biden "revised his account of his advice" to Obama after Mondale said he "would only disagree with President Jimmy Carter in private during his tenure as vice president."

The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Harris, Martin, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says with the remark, Biden "sought...to dispel" the notion that he had opposed the raid, which "might dog him on the campaign trail." Biden said he "never gave his own views on controversial issues until the rest of the cabinet had spoken, mindful that he did not want the rest of the team to see a difference between his opinion and that of the president." Biden said only then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates and then-CIA Director Leon Panetta "had expressed definitive views on the raid," and "pointedly did not mention" Clinton, who "has said that she was in favor of the raid."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Jaffe, 6.76M) says Biden "seemed to change his account" with a revision that "seems designed to buttress his qualifications to serve as commander-in-chief." But Biden "seems to have contradicted his earlier memories of the final meeting before the bin Laden raid." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Nelson, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says Biden cast himself as Obama's chief adviser on many issues, and sought to downplay Clinton's advisory role as secretary of state. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/21, Memoli, 4.07M) says Biden used the event "to highlight his close relationship with President Obama that would be at the heart of Biden's potential presidential campaign."

The [New York Daily News](#) (10/21, Joseph, 3.75M) says Biden's "new details make him out to be a supporter of the high-stakes raid that killed Bin Laden – a big shift from the common narrative that he resisted it, one Clinton's allies have hinted could be a main attack line if Biden does jump into the race." The [Boston Globe](#)

"Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Oct 21 2015 09:47:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

I'll add her to the clips.

To add to the politicals, send a note to CSC_IT_Services_HelpDesk

<USC_Helpdesk@ios.doi.gov> and ask that she be added to DOI_POLITICALS@ios.doi.gov and they will do it.

Blake Androff

Director of Communications
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On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 11:28 AM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Blake, Chelsea - copied here - is not getting the press clips. Also, she's not on the DOI_politicals email...do you know who can add her to that? thanks.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
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On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 8:22 AM, Androff, Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Please let me know if you do NOT receive the daily clips each morning from Bulletin News at 7:00 AM. Please do not reply all.

Best,

Blake

Blake Androff

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bulletin Intelligence** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 7:00 AM
Subject: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SEN. MURKOWSKI SEES TOUGH ROAD FOR INTERIOR NOMINEE. [Politico Pro](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Lisa Murkowski said that Interior Department pick Kristen Sarri would “have a lot of explaining to do at a hearing on six nominees today.” While Murkowski was “pleased that President Barack Obama had renamed Mount McKinley this summer to Denali, the Alaska Republican said she was still frustrated with the Interior Department’s ‘heartless decision’ to deny a road in King Cove.” Murkowski also “criticized Interior for closing off oil production in Alaska and last week’s cancellation of offshore sales and lease extension.”

Meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (10/21, Barton, 375K) reports that Murkowski is “torn between leaving the Department of the Interior’s independent watchdog post vacant, or confirming President Barack Obama’s nominee crippled by recurring allegations of ‘playing games with Congress.’” She said, “I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent [inspector general], and I’m disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years.” Murkowski continued, “But I am also committed to ensuring that the individual we confirm is fully independent ... The tenure that you have been involved with thus far in this position has been marked by controversy.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/21, Henry, 471K), [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (10/20), and

[Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/20, 2K).

HISTORIC \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH CHOCTAW, CHICKASAW NATIONS LAUDED. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/20, 32K) reports that “tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior heralded the outcome of a \$186 million settlement signed earlier this month between the federal government, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw nations to solve a longstanding land trust dispute as a new chapter in relations.” During the October 5 signing ceremony, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby “gave a nod to the impetus provided” by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He said, “We respect the vital role Secretary Jewell has taken in helping make this historic settlement a reality. We are confident she will play an essential role in our efforts to continue strengthening the relationship between our governments, because we believe she has a unique appreciation for the mutual benefits of a positive government-to-government relationship.” Jewell said, “Today’s agreement is the latest addition to a record number of longstanding settlements resolved under this Administration. This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country.”

U.S. TREASURY CONFIRMS \$20B BALANCE FOR LWCF. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/21, 705) reports that “the Land and Water Conservation Fund that expired earlier this month for the first time in its 50-year history currently contains nearly \$20 billion, according to the U.S. Treasury, which maintains the program’s balance sheets.” But “whether that is ‘real’ money available to be spent on federal land acquisitions, private land easements and state recreation projects depends on whom you ask.” The article notes that “the \$19.8 billion can only be reduced until Congress reauthorizes the program.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/20, 31K).

PROPOSED DESIGNATIONS OF THREE NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT “LAND GRAB.” [Fox News](#) (10/20, 8.91M) reports that “a group of off-roaders and others are attempting to fight a proposed designation of three national monuments in the California desert under the Antiquities Act.” The Obama Administration is “considering using the federal Antiquities Act to bypass the legislative process at the request of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, whose efforts to have the Mojave Trails and Castle Mountain, both in the Mojave Desert, and a section of the Sonoran Desert named federal sites were repeatedly blocked by Republicans.” According to the article, “a White House move could put the land under federal control, which critics say could cut funding for upkeep or even restrict access.”

UNMANNED HELICOPTER OFFERS NEW WAY TO FIGHT WILDFIRES. The [Voice of America](#) (10/21, Banse, 32K) reports that the K-MAX “unmanned, water-dropping” helicopter was tested by the US government. The helicopter can fly through limited visibility. Brad Koeckertiz, the unmanned aircraft program manager with the US Department of Interior, says that unmanned helicopters such as the K-MAX will be integrated into routine measures to fight wildfires over the next few of years. The article notes that the K-MAX helicopters have already been used by the US Marines in Afghanistan, to “resupply remote outposts at night” and replace “dangerous convoys on the ground.” The article notes that the growing uses for drones is also why the FAA is seeking to register all drones.

Additional coverage was provided by [Vertical Magazine \(CAN\)](#) (10/21).

JEB BUSH PROPOSES MOVING INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FROM D.C. To Western City. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/20, Lucas, 199K) reports that “Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will unveil his proposals for Western land and resource management in a campaign stop in Reno on Wednesday morning, in a speech likely to resonate with conservative voters opposed to what they see as federal overreach in the Western states.” Bush is “expected to speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park before appearing at a forum sponsored by the LIBRE Initiative at the College of Southern Nevada Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas at 6 p.m.” In the proposal, Bush will “call for moving the headquarters of the Department of Interior from Washington, D.C., to a city in the western United States like Denver, Salt Lake City or Reno and will say that as president he would direct federal agencies to give broad latitude to states to determine land-use issues.”

STUDY: ALASKAN WILDFIRES COULD EXACERBATE GLOBAL WARMING. The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Mooney, 6.76M) reports that some greenhouse gas sources outside the scope of forthcoming

UN climate talks are beyond governments' control, such as raging peat fires in Indonesia this year, emitting "as much as Japan produces in a year from fossil fuels." Elsewhere, a new study in Nature Climate Change reaffirms concerns about the emissions of northern fires in Alaska. The Post reports that "climate researchers are still trying to figure out how all of these factors will interrelate," but fire is a "powerful determinant of how much carbon resides in land, rather than in the air, across our globe."

INTERIOR'S VINE ACCOUNT HIGHLIGHTED. [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K) highlights the Interior Department has a great Vine account. Providing a link, Politico says "this is Internet gold."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA RULE ANNOUNCES RULE GIVING TRIBES MORE CONTROL OVER ELECTIONS. [Law360](#) (10/20, 21K) reports that the BIA "on Monday announced its final rule for Native American tribal elections conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying the new rule will encourage tribes to take control of their elections and help protect the voting rights of tribe members living in urban areas." Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said "in a statement Monday that the rule will allow tribes to opt out of having the interior secretary conduct their elections."

The [Native American Times](#) (10/20, 337) reports that Washburn said, "Though many federal responsibilities concern the lands we hold in trust for tribes and Indian people, more than 55 million acres nationwide, the United States has a moral obligation to preserve connections between Indian people and their tribes that it once sought to destroy. For the future of Native nations and the health of Indian Country, American Indians in urban areas must work harder to maintain connections with their tribes. One important aspect of that relationship is participation in the civic and political life of their tribal governments. For that reason, our Secretarial election amendments seek to prevent tribal members living in urban areas from being inadvertently disenfranchised in Secretarial elections."

HEARING FOCUSES ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, Kelleher) reports from Honolulu that a federal court hearing began on Tuesday "in a lawsuit by people who want to put a stop to an election process that is underway for Native Hawaiians." The lawsuit, filed in August, "says it's unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election." The state "argues in court documents that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it's not involved in next month's vote to elect delegates for a convention to determine self-governance for Native Hawaiians." Tuesday's hearing "is focused on the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction," and the plaintiffs "want the judge to limit voter registration activities or stop the election altogether."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/21, 66K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (10/21, Kelleher, 5.98M).

INTERIOR SIDES WITH ALASKA NATIVE GROUP IN INVESTIGATION OF MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE TRIBAL COLLECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, 2.28M) reports that "a Massachusetts college was found in violation of a federal law regulating the possession and sale of potentially sacred artifacts following a complaint from an organization of Alaska Natives." The Interior Department said "an investigation substantiated the complaint against Andover Newton Theological School filed in June by the Sealaska Heritage Institute." The institute's president, Rosita Worl, said "the school possesses at least two southeast Alaska artifacts, including a Tlingit halibut hook that is considered sacred."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, D'oro, 344K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 548K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/21, 5.59M), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (10/21, 651K), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/21, D'oro, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (10/21, 3.97M), and the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/20, 219K).

US ATTORNEY SAYS BIA OFFICER WAS JUSTIFIED IN DEADLY SPIRIT LAKE SHOOTING. The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that US Attorney Chris Myers "says" that an investigation by his office came to the conclusion that BIA Officer Terry Morgan was justified in shooting and killing "31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16." The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (10/21, 100K) reports that the US Attorney's Office "said" the shooting was justified because Charboneau posed a "real and immediate" threat to officers and another person at the scene after he refused to put down his gun, which was pointed at the officers. The Grand Forks Herald reports that, as a result of the investigation,

Federal prosecutors will not file charges against Morgan.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (10/21, 1K), the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (10/21, 14K), [KXJB-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/21, 18K), [KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/20, 3K), [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (10/21, 1K), and [KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#) Bismarck, ND (10/21, 1K).

CRIME JUMPS AFTER TRIBES CUT FROM BIA FUNDING. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Romney, 4.07M) reports on a "time of crisis for public safety on tribal lands." According to the article, "a federal law decades ago shifted the primary burden of criminal law enforcement on tribal lands in California and five other states to local authorities," but "many lack the resources to do the job and, in some cases, sufficient knowledge of tribal law and culture to win the trust of tribal members." After "tribes were cut off from steady funding for their own justice systems," crime has "flourished."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YAKAMA NATION'S PETITION TO SELF-GOVERN APPROVED.

Additional coverage that the BIA on Monday granted the Yakama Nation's petition for "retrocession" was provided by the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 101K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (10/20, 86K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, 344K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/20, 183K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), the [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K), [KNDU-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#) Yakima, WA (10/21, 3K), and [KUOW-FM Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (10/21, 15K).

GILLETTE'S SERVICE IN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PRAISED. In an editorial, the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/21, 37K) lauds Jodi Gillette's service in the Obama Administration. According to the paper, Gillette's "positions gave her a voice in a White House that has seemed genuinely concerned about Native American issues."

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA PROPOSES MARSHALLS FUND CHANGES. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "a top US official has submitted a proposal to the Senate and House to allow the people of Bikini to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands." Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina says "it is an appropriate course of action to take regarding the welfare and livelihood of the Bikinian people." The Bikinians were "displaced by US nuclear weapons testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands." According to the article, "in addition to cramped living quarters and a lack of suitable sustainable resources, the islands have been experiencing more frequent storms and king tides resulting in salt water inundation and the destruction of crops."

[Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "a representative from Bikini Atoll says a proposal to allow people to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands is not wanted." Bikini liaison officer Jack Niedenthal says "the US should take full responsibility for any resettlement including providing extra financing." Niedenthal said, "We still got a ways to go, we still have to do some more lobbying and some more talking to people in Washington to make them understand that what's being proposed by the assistant secretary is what we view as 'Plan B'. It's not ultimately what we want in terms of helping our people."

CHINA STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIP WITH PACIFIC REGION. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that "China and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat further strengthened their relationship on Friday when the two met at a ceremony to hand over \$1.05 million to assist the Pacific region." Forum Secretariat Secretary General Meg Taylor and Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Zhang Ping "attended the ceremony and delivered speeches respectively." Zhang "reiterated his nation's ongoing interest in the region saying, 'China attaches great importance to the South Pacific region. The Chinese side stands ready to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation with Pacific Island Countries and contribute to the development and capacity building in the region.'"

COUNTRIES IN PACIFIC URGED TO BEGIN TALKS ON CLIMATE MIGRATION. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "all countries in the Pacific are being urged to start discussions on how to help people forced to move from low lying atoll nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu." According to the article, "184 million people worldwide were displaced by disaster between 2008 and 2014 and at special meetings in

Geneva last week 110 countries gave the nod to a Protection Agenda for dealing with future migration challenges.” The article notes that “the experiences of small island countries which face rising seas due to climate change helped form the global action plan under the Swiss Norwegian Nansen Initiative.”

JOURNALIST SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY OF GUAM ON CLIMATE ISSUES, CORRUPTION IN PACIFIC ISLANDS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that “author and journalist Giff Johnson spoke to students at the University of Guam on Monday evening about climate change and development in the Pacific islands.” Johnson’s “lecture, entitled ‘Idyllic No More: Pacific Island Climate, Corruption and Development Dilemmas,’ is based on his latest book — a compilation of essays detailing the looming climate threat to the region, its booming fishing industry, and the U.S. nuclear test legacy in the Marshal Islands.” Johnson called attention to “climate-driven migration from remote Pacific islands to Guam and mainland U.S.”

RISING SEA LEVELS THREATEN KIRIBATI. The [National Geographic](#) (10/21, 31.65M) provides a picture gallery of the threat of rising sea levels driven by climate change on Kiribati.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

WATER SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED FROM NEW MELONES. The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “more than 7 billion gallons of water is scheduled to be released from New Melones Reservoir beginning today to ensure flows in the Stanislaus River will keep temperatures cool enough for adult salmon migrating up the river to spawn this fall.” Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District said “it would benefit river conditions and fisheries, as well as the needs of agriculture and more than 200,000 residential customers downstream.” The article notes that “earlier this year, the irrigation districts sparred with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — which manages New Melones Reservoir — over spring pulse flows that they feared would leave as little as 147,000 acre-feet in the reservoir by the end of September.”

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTE TO OPPOSE DELTA TUNNELS PLAN. The [Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (10/21, 14K) reports that “at a meeting on Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a resolution in formal opposition of California WaterFix, also known as the twin tunnels plan.” Supervisor Kathy Miller said, “The WaterFix is just a thinly veiled version of the former (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and continues to push the fatally flawed twin tunnels, which will simply sacrifice one region of California for the benefit of another.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, DOMINION BOTH SUPPORT OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT. On his [Bacon’s Rebellion \(VA\)](#) (10/21, Bacon) blog, James Bacon reports on an Environment Virginia-sponsored webinar held Tuesday morning in which representatives from Dominion, environmental groups, and the McAuliffe Administration all voiced support for the utility’s experimental offshore wind farm project. For environmentalists, Bacon writes, the project represents the beginning of an industry that would increase the use of green energy along the Atlantic and displace fossil fuels. For the Governor’s office, it represents increased green energy coupled with economic development that takes advantage of the Newport News area’s shipbuilding industry.

Onshore Energy Development:

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY FINED \$2.1 MILLION FOR UNDER-REPORTING NATURAL GAS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department on Monday “announced a \$2.1 million civil penalty against Chesapeake Energy Corp. for misreporting the amount of gas it produced and sold from American Indian lands in Oklahoma.” Chesapeake “failed to comply with a 2011 order that found ‘systemic errors’ in the company’s monthly production reports for more than 100 Indian leases, according to Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue.” The company “agreed to amend the monthly reports, but it continued to maintain inaccurate information on the agency’s data systems, ONRR said.” The firm was “assessed a penalty based on ‘knowing or willful maintenance’ of the inaccurate information, ONRR said.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), and [KOKC-AM Oklahoma City \(OK\)](#) Oklahoma City (10/20, 1K).

TEXAS ENERGY REGULATOR OPPOSES STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K) reports that “Texas’ top energy regulator on Tuesday said the agency will oppose a U.S. Department of the Interior proposed rule aimed at better protecting streams and other waterways from nearby mining activity, saying the regulation encroaches on ground better left to the state.” Texas Railroad Commission Chairman David Porter on Tuesday said “the state would sign on to the multistate Interstate Mining Compact Commission’s comments opposing the proposed waterway regulation.”

USGS REPORT STATES EARTHQUAKES COINCIDE WITH OKLAHOMA OIL BOOMS. [KOCO-TV](#) Oklahoma City (10/21, 93K) reports that “a study by the United States Geological Survey states that the earthquakes from the past 100 years seem to coincide with the oil boom in Oklahoma.”

OKLAHOMA REGULATORS SHUT DOWN THREE MORE DISPOSAL WELLS. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication) reports that “Oklahoma oil and gas regulators dealing with a dramatic increase in earthquakes near the pipeline hub of Cushing have shut down three more disposal wells.” Also, “another well was shut down by the company that owns it after regulators said they were concerned it was drilled too deep.” In addition, “the operators of seven other wells were told in a letter written Friday and released yesterday that they must reduce the volume of drilling waste that they inject deep underground.”

OKLAHOMA LIMITS DISPOSAL WELLS AMID CUSHING QUAKES. [Reuters](#) (10/21, Hampton, Brandes) reports that Oklahoma’s oil and gas regulator on Monday said it could impose new limits on all saltwater disposal wells within a 10-mile radius of Cushing. Reuters reports that Oklahoma now experiences as many as two magnitude 3.0 quakes per day, up from two per year. Thirteen wells have been ordered shut and approvals for new wells have been halted, Reuters reports. Scientists told Reuters that shutting wells could ease tectonic disruption in Oklahoma.

STUDY: FRACKING CAN CAUSE METHANE LEAKS IN NEARBY ABANDONED OIL WELLS. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Valdmanis) reported that according to a study published Tuesday in the Water Resources Research journal, fracking can cause methane leaks in nearby abandoned oil wells. The methane leaks could be a large source of unrecorded greenhouse gas emissions, according to the study. The study said that energy companies could reduce the probability of such methane leaks by trying to identify abandoned wells before they begin fracking, although the task could be difficult due to large numbers of unmarked abandoned wells.

BLM CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE PICTURES UNDER FOIA REQUEST. For the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (10/21), Darryl L. Flowers criticizes the BLM for failing to provide pictures in connection with “the proposed Solenex, LLC natural gas well on public lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest” that were requested under the Freedom of Information Act. The paper received “sixteen photos” and “two photos were missing.” He notes that “curiously, the two omitted photos were the only ones that included a person in the photos.”

Offshore Energy Development:

FEDS INVESTIGATE WORKER’S DEATH ON DRILLSHIP CONTRACTED BY CHEVRON. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/20, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that officials from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Coast Guard are investigating “the death of a worker on a drillship in the Gulf of Mexico that was preparing to bore a well for Chevron.” Fuel Fix says that “the Pacific Santa Ana drillship was just beginning operations for Chevron in about 4,800 feet of water at the site and had not yet penetrated the sea floor when an employee of that drilling contractor was fatally injured.” Fuel Fix adds that Chevron has a 36 percent working interest in the Keathley Canyon well-leasing block where the incident occurred, an area where “Chevron outlined ambitions to drill up to seven wells” earlier this year.

The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that Amy Roddy, spokeswoman for Pacific Drilling SA, the ship’s owner, “said the company is not releasing any details about the man to respect his family’s privacy. She also refused to disclose how the man died or details of the accident, citing an ongoing investigation.”

[NASDAQ](#) (10/20, Sider) reports that Chevron has contracted the ship since 2012. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/21, Larino, 718K) adds that “operations have been shut down and personnel remain onboard, according to the drillship’s operator.”

[Offshore Engineer](#) (10/20, Leon) reports that “the ship was to use its dual gradient drilling functions for Chevron’s Anchor-1 prospect last year in Green Canyon block 807, but the well was junked due to mechanical failures. However, in January of this year, Chevron hit high quality oil pay in multiple Lower Tertiary Wilcox Sands at a second Anchor well also drilled by the Pacific Santa Ana.”

The [Dow Jones Newswires](#) (10/21, Sider) reports that this is the first death related to offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico this year.

[Reuters](#) (10/21), [gCaptain](#) (10/21, 2K), [Upstream Online](#) (10/21, Schmidt, Brenner, 20K), and [Maritime Executive](#) (10/20, 21) also cover the story.

BRIARCLIFFE ACRES VOTES AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (10/21, 36K) reports that “in a storm of debate over offshore drilling, Briarcliffe Acres surfaced as the latest coastal town to join a united front against seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas off of South Carolina’s beaches.” According to the article, “missing councilwoman Abby Stewart, who has been with family on the west coast, the town council unanimously passed a resolution Monday, joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns in a stance against offshore drilling.”

SHELL VESSEL RESCUES FRENCHMAN, CAT FROM SAILBOAT STRANDED IN SEAS NEAR ALASKA. The [AP](#) (10/21, Thiessen) reports that a Frenchman and the cat tucked inside his clothing were rescued on Tuesday after he leapt from his sailboat to a waiting rescue ship sent by Shell. The man activated a location beacon in the high seas south of Alaska and told the Coast Guard his sailboat had lost its rudder and rigging in the high winds and 20-foot waves. The Coast Guard contacted Shell’s oil drilling rig, the Polar Pioneer, which is on its way to Port Angeles, and the rig “sent a support ship, the Tor Viking, to rescue the sailor.” The AP reports that “it wasn’t immediately clear if the man would continue with the Shell ships to Washington state.”

CUNNINGHAM: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SHUTS THE DOOR ON ARCTIC DRILLING. In an analysis of the Interior Department’s recent decision on the future of Arctic drilling, [Oil Price](#) (10/21, 2K) reporter Nick Cunningham writes the Interior Department’s decision to cancel lease sales through 2017 “leaves almost no possible pathway for an oil company to drill in the Arctic for years to come, perhaps killing off drilling for a decade or so at a minimum.” Cunningham goes on to write that “it was likely that there wouldn’t have been new drilling in any event, given Shell’s decision and current market conditions, but Interior’s decision officially shuts the door on the Arctic in the medium-term.”

Casey: Interior’s Actions On Arctic Drilling Trends “Toward A Permanent Clampdown.” [CleanTechnica’s](#) (10/20, 15K) Tina Casey writes that “in the absence of local regulations, the Feds are the only game in town and it seems that the Arctic’s role in the US economy is too important to trust to compliance by oil companies.” Casey adds that, even though the Interior’s actions last week on Arctic drilling may be “only temporary, but the trend is toward a permanent clampdown.”

4-Traders: Federal Government To Blame For Low Arctic Drilling Interest. In an op-ed piece on the Interior’s Arctic drilling decision, [4-Traders](#) (10/21, 5K) writes the Federal government’s “difficult” regulatory obstacles is to blame for the lack of interest among oil companies to explore for oil and natural gas in the Arctic. 4-Traders writes that the “demand for oil and natural gas isn’t going away, so energy domestic exploration must continue in the Arctic and elsewhere. But as we’ve seen, by putting up unnecessary regulatory hurdles, regulators can cause job and economic growth opportunities to be missed.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TO REVIEW HAGERMAN-HAILEY TRANSMISSION LINE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (10/21)

reports that the BLM will review the Hagerman to Hailey transmission line, paying special attention to the greater sage grouse in the area.” Stacey Baczkowski, a biologist with Idaho Power, says “the company has been working with the BLM for the last few years to make sure the line is built with the bird in mind.” Baczkowski says “the power company plans to build the new transmission line as close to the current one as possible, and will follow BLM rules about construction during sage grouse mating times.”

UTAH WATER DISTRICT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT BLM REVISION TO LAND-USE PLAN. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/21, 407K) reports that “federal policies that either aim to instill more oversight of water or deny access altogether have some Utah leaders frothing over what they say is a repeated pattern of overreach that threatens local economies and livelihoods.” Ron Thompson, general manager of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, said “possible revisions to a land-use plan by the Bureau of Land Management in Washington County have severe ramifications should one particular approach be adopted.” Thompson said “the BLM — under one option — is ignoring key considerations that went into the passage of the bill, including water supplies being left unhindered and right of way corridors left intact.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HELICOPTER CRASHES NEAR SEARCHLIGHT DURING CATTLE ROUNDUP. Additional coverage of the helicopter crash near Searchlight during a cattle roundup was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/21, 378K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CONSERVATION LEADERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONSERVATION SUMMIT. [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K) reports that “more than 40 leaders from the leading conservation groups in America are meeting in Springfield this week for a National Conservation Summit hosted by The Johnny Morris Foundation.” According to the article, “participants include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Geographic, Audubon Society, and Ducks Unlimited.” The article notes that “the purpose of the historic gathering is to collectively discuss opportunities to educate and engage the public in efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitats in preparation for the grand opening of America’s Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in 2016.”

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (10/20, 49K) reports that “three exhibits of America’s Wildlife Museum & Aquarium, formerly Wonders of Wildlife, were open to media for a tour on Oct. 20, 2015 at the museum located next to the Bass Pro Shops flagship store in Springfield, Mo.” More than 40 conservation leaders attending a National Conservation Summit “hope the new Bass Pro Shops wildlife museum and aquarium will convey to visitors when it opens in mid 2016.” FWS Director Dan Ashe, “one of the summit attendees,” called the museum “one of the foremost conservation attractions in the world.” He said, “Through conservation efforts, we can be successful in sustaining these populations of animals that are threatened or endangered. People hear about the industrial-scale poaching of elephants that’s happening in Africa. That’s not hunting. With this museum, here’s an opportunity to tell the story of how we can protect wildlife habitat, and that when hunting is done well, with appropriate regulations, it sustains wildlife populations.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K), [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K), and [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K).

CNMI QUESTIONS INCLUSION OF SOME SPECIES ON ENDANGERED LIST. The [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “the Northern Marianas government says the decision to list 23 species in Guam and the CNMI as threatened or endangered was rushed.” The government says “it supports the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s listing of seven of the 17 CNMI species, but it questions the inclusion of some of the other species.” The Department of Land and Natural Resources says “a number of the species do not meet the definitions of threatened or endangered and don’t require federal protection.”

FWS LOOKS TO RESTORE HABITAT ON ROOT RIVER. The [Rochester \(MN\) Post-Bulletin](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “federal wildlife officials are seeking public input on a plan to restore and enhance habitat on 825 acres of Minnesota land along the Root River in Houston County.” Managed by the FWS “as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the Root River Tract sits to the east of Hwy. 26 between La Crescent and Brownsville.” The article notes that “the site includes 664 acres of hunting and farmland purchased in 2009 with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

SHOOTING OF CALIFORNIA CONDOR IN ARIZONA UNDER INVESTIGATION. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that FWS special agents and Arizona Game and Fish Department “law enforcement personnel are investigating the lethal shooting of an endangered California condor that occurred on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona Oct. 8.”

MAN CLAIMS HE BLOCKED ARIZONA BIKE TRAIL TO PROTECT OWLS. The [AP](#) (10/21, 344K) reports that “the 81-year-old man who blocked a Flagstaff-area mountain bike race says he did it to protect an endangered owl species.” J.D. Protiva “appeared in federal court Monday on misdemeanor charges related to blocking the Elden Springs Trail before the August race.” Protiva says “the path goes through protected Mexican spotted owl habitat.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MONARCHS GET HELP AS CALIFORNIANS PLANT DROUGHT-TOLERANT MILKWEED. Additional coverage that monarch butterflies could benefit from the California drought was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/21, 259K), [KABC-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/21, 413K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (10/21, 345K).

FWS INVESTING IN PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN ATLANTIC COASTAL DEFENSES AGAINST FUTURE STORMS. In an op-ed for the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (10/20, 172K), Wendi Weber is Northeast regional director for the FWS, writes that “federal money for Hurricane Sandy recovery has spurred an unprecedented effort to strengthen natural defenses along the Atlantic Coast to protect communities and wildlife against future storms.” She notes that the FWS and other Interior Department “agencies are investing \$787 million in hundreds of projects to clean up and repair damaged refuges and parks; restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline; connect and open waterways to improve flood control; and increase our scientific understanding of how these natural areas are changing.” According to Weber, “these investments support the goal of President Barack Obama’s Climate Action Plan to make communities more resilient to increasingly intense storms predicted with a changing climate.”

National Park Service:

MUSIC VIDEO CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF NPS. The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (10/20, 53K) reports on “a locally made music video that celebrates 100 years of the National Park Service.” According to the article, “published on Oct. 15, the Centennial video has more than 18,500 views on the NPS facebook page and more than 530 on the Youth Ambassador Program’s YouTube page, the group that made it.” NPS Director Jon Jarvis, “who met the traveling crew in Washington, D.C., makes a cameo appearance in the video to say, ‘It’s great to celebrate a hundred years with YAP!’”

Kentucky Lieutenant Gov. Luallen Touts National Parks. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/20, 414K) reports that Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen on Tuesday “touted the economic impact of Kentucky’s travel and tourism industry” in “an address to the Kentucky Travel Industry’s annual conference in Bowling Green.” Following her remarks, Luallen “recognized five national parks in Kentucky as part of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016.” She “presented proclamations to representatives of the parks.”

Couple Visiting 59 National Parks In 12 Months. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/21, 1.03M) reports that “Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, St. Louis natives, are two months into their grand adventure: 59 parks in 12 months – part celebration of the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary, part exercise in youthful spontaneity.” Their goal is to “see the best of the United States, and inspire others – particularly other millennials – to do the same.” The article notes that “their mission meshes well with a new campaign of the Park Service, which celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2016.”

WATCHDOG RELEASES REPORT ON NPS CONSTRUCTION FUNDS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “a federal watchdog yesterday released a disputed report alleging that the National Park Service is violating congressional intent by dipping into its construction account to cover security, air testing and other reimbursable expenses that should have been paid up front by other agencies.” The NPS construction account is “only for expenses that relate to ‘construction, improvements, repair or replacement of physical facilities,’” the Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General report said, “citing the language of the agency’s appropriation.” However, “the OIG found that 17 out of a sample of 21 interagency agreements that used Park Service construction funds to

cover reimbursable costs did not appear to include a valid construction purpose. The article notes that “these included \$4.9 million that NPS spent from its construction account on security at the Department of the Army’s Memorial Day and Independence Day concerts at the Capitol in 2014 and \$37.5 million over seven years on air quality monitoring at national parks that will be paid back to NPS by U.S. EPA.”

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES GRAND CANYON BISON MANAGEMENT ACT. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act “allowing the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to better manage and conserve the bison population within the park Oct. 8.” The legislation “requires the U.S. Department of Interior and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on a plan that allows sportsmen holding a valid state-issued hunting license to assist in management of the bison population within the park.”

THUNDERSTORMS CAUSE FLOODING, MUDSLIDES IN DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “mudslides and flooding after severe thunderstorms in Death Valley National Park on Sunday trapped three park rangers and about 20 visitors – many out to see a clear night sky – in a volcanic crater overnight.” Park spokeswoman Abby Wines said “the stranded people spent the night in Ubehebe Crater, maintaining contact with park headquarters until they were able to reach safety yesterday morning.” The article notes that “no injuries were reported, but Wines said the unexpectedly severe storms knocked out power in the area, damaged and closed several roads, and filled a historic visitor’s center with several feet of mud and debris.”

NPS SET TO CONTINUE WITH TREE-CUTTING AT POTOMAC CAMPGROUND. The [Bethesda \(MD\) Magazine](#) (10/21) reports that “after complaints from two nearby residents and a call from County Council member Roger Berliner temporarily halted tree-cutting operations Friday at a Potomac campground, the National Park Service said it plans to resume the tree-cutting and will probably do so in the next few days.” John Noel, deputy superintendent for the C&O Canal National Historical Park, said that “he went to the Swain’s Lock Recreation Site to examine the 26 trees proposed to be removed and 32 others proposed to be pruned at the site’s campground.” Noel “agreed that the trees are rotting and in danger of falling on park users below.”

STUDENTS GO ON CANOE TRIP AROUND WOLF LAKE. The [Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (10/20, 105K) reports that “all classes in Grades 6 through 9 at George Rogers Clark Junior-Senior High School in Hammond recently experienced a unique field trip right in their own back yard — a canoe trip around Wolf Lake located only a few blocks from the school.” The trip was “made available through a partnership with the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center and Wilderness Inquiry.”

NEW COLONIAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT THANKS COMMUNITY FOR ADVOCACY. The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (10/20, Williams, Subscription Publication, 201K) reports that the Colonial National Historical Park’s new Superintendent, Kym Hall, thanked the community for its opposition to Dominion’s Skiffes Creek transmission project in her first appearance before the York County Board of Supervisors on September 1. “The view should be protected,” she said.

DEVILS TOWER TO HOST STAR VIEWING PARTIES. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/21, 115K) reports that the NPS “announced that Devils Tower will host a series of star viewing parties October through December.” The article notes that “the eight parties are free of charge, and will last approximately two hours.”

NPS URGED TO RECONSIDER RACIST NAME FOR A WASHINGTON LAKE. In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/21, 74K), Glenn Nelson writes that Washington state officially calls Howard Lake “by what is believed to be its oldest known name,” but the federal government “recognizes the lake by a name that causes the jaws of most people of color to drop: Coon Lake.” Nelson notes that “the federal government did not follow the usual course of supporting the state’s action, mostly because of opposition from the National Park Service, which manages the area that contains the lake.” The NPS, “acting on research from its North Cascades unit, originally defended its stance by claiming that there was ambiguity around the use of the term ‘coon.’” According to Nelson, “in the years leading up to its 2016 centennial, the Park Service has done a lot of talking and writing about the need for diversity and inclusiveness.” He concludes that “it’s past time for the Park Service to back away from its misguided opposition, encourage Secretary Jewell to come to its rescue, and allow another black life to matter.”

USGS SEISMOLOGIST QUESTIONS PREDICTION OF 99.9 PERCENT CHANCE OF MAJOR LOS ANGELES EARTHQUAKE IN 3 YEARS. The [Southern California Public Radio](#) (10/20, 68K) reports that “a controversial new study from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory” claims “there is a 99.9 percent chance of an earthquake” in Los Angeles “between magnitude 5 and 6.3 in less than three years.” The study, published earlier this month by the American Geophysical Union’s Earth and Space Science journal, has “taken many in the seismic community by surprise.” Lucy Jones with the USGS said the “methodology doesn’t fully explain the prediction, and the study doesn’t adequately address this either.” Jones said that, according to the USGS’ “models, there is only an 85 percent chance of a magnitude 5 or 6 quake in the same region over a three-year period.”

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: TRUDEAU’S ELECTION LIKELY TO FOSTER IMPROVED US-CANADA TIES.

On the day after Justin Trudeau became Canada’s Prime Minister-designate, media reporting universally characterized the election results as a likely boost for US-Canada relations. Coverage focuses on Trudeau’s promise of a less combative foreign policy style and the perception that he will be more willing to accept a US rejection of the Keystone pipeline. Reporting – including a combined 2 minutes and 50 seconds on the three broadcast networks – also indicates that despite Trudeau’s decision to withdraw his aircraft from the US-led coalition against ISIL, he is likely to be a more willing partner on climate change and other issues.

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, story 9, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported President Obama on Tuesday congratulated Trudeau, who “swept into power with a message of optimism saying Canada beat fear with hope.” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Korte, 5.23M) reports Obama made the phone call “in an attempt to lock down continued cooperation with the northern neighbor on trade, terrorism, and climate change.” The White House, according to USA Today, “signaled that not much would change in the relationship” between the neighbors following the Liberal party’s victory. [CBC News](#) (10/20, Fitzpatrick, 225K) reported on its website that the White House indicated Obama and Trudeau “agreed on the importance of deepening the ‘already strong’ bilateral relationship” between the countries “and committed to strengthen joint efforts to promote trade and to combat terrorism and climate change.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports the White House and current Prime Minister Stephen Harper “clashed over climate policy” and the Keystone pipeline. While White House spokesman Josh Earnest on Tuesday said “it would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue,” Chuck Todd reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that “we now have a Canadian government that is politically more in line with the American government.” According to Todd, “Relations have been good but they have not been so great of late. Will they now get better? That is why Americans should care.”

In an article entitled “5 Reasons The US Should Care About Canada’s New Prime Minister,” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hjelmgard, 5.23M) lists ways in which Trudeau “is likely to affect policies in Canada and the United States.” According to USA Today, Trudeau “promised to improve strained relations” with Obama and said “he wants to find constructive ways of working with Washington on other issues.” Another [USA Today](#) (10/21, Kovac, 5.23M) article reports that Trudeau and Harper “differ in their approach to foreign policy,” with the incoming leader being less vocally pro-Israel and more focused on environmental issues.

In an analysis piece, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/21, 2.66M) says “a prompt rejection” of the Keystone pipeline by Obama “would make the job easier” for Trudeau “as he seeks to reset the country’s relationship with the US, which he says was damaged” by Harper. According to Bloomberg, Trudeau “could use a quick US denial” of the pipeline “to focus discussions” with Obama “on issues such as trade and climate.” Bloomberg notes there has been “speculation” that Obama “would reject the pipeline shortly after the Canadian election.” However, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Cama, 471K) reported, Secretary of State Kerry said Tuesday that Canada’s election results will not change the White House’s approach to the Keystone issue. Kerry said the decision “is being based on the merits and countervailing balance of all the input that has come from a very exhaustive agency review.” Kerry reiterated that he seeks a decision “as fast as possible.”

[Reuters](#) (10/21, Mason, Rampton) reports the White House indicated it would like the new Canadian government to take increased actions to address climate change. Earnest said that while Canada has “made a substantial and important commitment” ahead of the Paris climate talks, “We believe that it’s possible that there is more that Canada can do in this regard.”

However, writing for [Mother Jones](#) (10/20, 758K), Suzanne Goldenberg claimed “those hoping for a U-turn in Canada’s climate change policy...are in for a reality check.” According to Goldenberg, while Trudeau does not align directly with many of Harper’s views or policies, “it would be a mistake” to see the new Canadian leader or his party “as climate champions.” In [Slate](#) (10/20, 1.38M), Joshua Keating argued that at least with regard to the Keystone pipeline, Trudeau does present a change from Harper. Keating characterizes Trudeau as “a very different leader” from Harper and says he will make the Keystone pipeline less of a focal point of US-Canada relations. According to Keating, Trudeau “has described his support for the pipeline as ‘steadfast,’ but it’s clearly not the make-or-break issue for him that it was for Harper.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Vieira, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports Trudeau said he will work to restore Canada’s reputation of defending minorities and become more involved in multilateral policy making. At a rally in Ottawa, Trudeau said, “To this country’s friends around the world, I want to say this: Many of you have worried Canada has lost its compassionate and constructive voice in the world over the past 10 years. I have simple message for you: We’re back.” The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports that Trudeau “is likely to present a very different face to the world” than Harper, “but the most noticeable difference will probably be in tone.” Trudeau has vowed to “put an end to Mr. Harper’s often belligerent style of politics and diplomacy.” Trudeau said Tuesday that “a positive, optimistic, hopeful vision of public life isn’t a naïve dream – it can be a powerful force for change.” The Times says Trudeau has previously indicated a desire to end Harper’s reliance on military solutions and tough rhetoric, and instead focus on working within international organizations, such as the United Nations.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 10, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “Canada took a left turn” as “Trudeau and the Liberal Party rode in on a landslide.” In a [USA Today](#) (10/21, 5.23M) op-ed, author David Andelman says “most of the reasons” Canadian voters chose Trudeau to lead the country “boiled down to one fundamental: The Liberal Party leader was simply nicer than his opponent. And most Canadians believe they are, too.” Similarly, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that Canadians wanted a change from the Harper government, which had become isolated and sought to restrict debate. The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) agrees, editorializing that Trudeau’s election “shows how ready Canadians were to emerge from a decade under the Conservative government of the secretive and combative Stephen Harper.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau told Obama on Tuesday that Canadian fighter aircraft will withdraw from the US-led coalition against ISIL, but the new Canadian leader did not present a timeline for the move. In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, A1, Brown, 6.76M) reports Trudeau said, “I committed that we would continue to engage in a responsible way that understands how Canada has a role to play in the fight against ISIL,” adding, that Obama “understands the commitments I’ve made around ending the combat mission.” According to the Post, a “senior Administration official,” said Obama and Trudeau discussed joint anti-terrorism efforts and, “We expect Canada will continue to be a valuable contributor to the 65-member global coalition” against ISIL.

Trudeau’s Win Could “Lead To Full Marijuana Legalization” In Canada. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hughes, 5.23M) reports Trudeau’s win “may lead to full marijuana legalization” for Canada. According to USA Today, Trudeau promised during his campaign that “Canada would create a system to tax, regulate and sell marijuana, along with stiff penalties for anyone giving pot to children or caught driving while stoned.” USA Today says American “cannabis activists hailed Tuesday’s election as a milestone, suggesting that a day may soon come when cross-border trade talks include...legal weed.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau’s “promise to legalize recreational cannabis” will likely “help the nation’s nascent medical marijuana industry.” Investors, according to AFP, “are betting” they could build on companies’ current production of marijuana for medical use and “quickly scale up to serve recreational pot users too, once Trudeau makes good on his promise.”

NY Times Analysis: Trudeau is NO Dynast Despite Father Being Former Prime Minister. In a 1,350-world profile piece, the [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that despite there being “many easy parallels to draw between” Trudeau and his father, former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Canada’s incoming leader “is no dynast who slipped effortlessly into a family political machine.” The Times notes that Trudeau “did not even enter politics until 18 years after his father gave it up, and seven year after his father’s death.” According to the Times, Trudeau “built his own cadre of advisers, mostly from his own generation” and sometimes “chose more difficult roads – partly, it appears, to show he had not been handed a life in politics on a platter.”

In the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, 6.76M) “Reliable Source” blog, Emily Heil says Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, “have a lot in common with the Obamas.” According to Heil, “they’d have lots to talk about, apart from liberal politics, like fitness!”

IN APPARENT REVERSAL, BIDEN SAYS HE PRIVATELY URGED OBAMA TO AUTHORIZE UBL RAID. Vice President Biden did not reveal Tuesday whether or not he will enter the Democratic presidential race, but his remark that he privately advised President Obama to launch the 2011 raid that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden – which contradicted Biden’s past public comments that he advised against the raid – is being interpreted as a possible line of attack against Hillary Clinton. All three broadcast networks reported on the statement, combining for nearly eight minutes of coverage, and ABC led with it. The tone of the coverage is mixed, with most reports calling it a reversal, and some concluding that Biden may be undercutting his own reputation for candor.

There was also Twitter discussion of Biden’s remarks. Anthony De Rosa, a digital producer for The Daily Show who has nearly 89,000 followers, [tweeted](#), “Biden sounds like Brian Williams with his evolving recollection of the Bin Laden raid.” Jonathan Martin of the New York Times [tweeted](#), “@vp today signals: he’ll run & it’ll get negative FAST or: he’s not happy about being sidelined.” His Times colleague Maggie Haberman [tweeted](#), “Biden’s subtle digs at Clinton indicate that if he runs it’ll be ugly.” In addition, the hashtag [#BidenWatch](#) emerged on Twitter, with Fox Business Network’s Trish Regan [tweeting](#), “Sure sounds like he’s running...”, Mashable’s Juana Summers [tweeting](#) Biden’s Wednesday official schedule, and Al Jazeera America’s David Shuster [tweeting](#) that “Hallie Biden, widow of the late Beau Biden, says her family supports a Presidential campaign ‘100%’”.

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M) reported that “as the pressure mounts for Joe Biden to decide whether he’ll run...many [are] now asking, did he change his story?” ABC (Karl) added, “Biden has described Obama’s decision as especially courageous because in that key meeting when it came time to decide, most of the President’s advisers, including Biden himself, were not in favor of the raid.” On Tuesday, he “offered an entirely different account of what happened on that fateful day.” Biden was shown saying, “So as we walked out of the room and we walked upstairs, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts. But it would have been a mistake, imagine if I had said in front of everyone, ‘don’t go, or go,’ and his decision was a different decision.” Karl: “But until today, Biden has said he told Obama and his team that night to hold off on the raid.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 6, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Biden “sounded more like a presidential candidate, talking up his foreign policy credentials, doing some rewriting of his own history and firing a shot over the bow of the Democratic frontrunner.” CBS’ Nancy Corden added that Biden “never mentioned” Clinton by name, “but it was all too clear the comparison he was making when he said this about his stature overseas.” Biden: “I will get sent to go speak to Putin or go speak to whomever, and it’s because the secretary of state, we’ve had two great secretaries of state, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the President.” Cordes added that Biden left Clinton “out of his story” about the Bin Laden raid.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 3, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) also said of Biden, “If anything, he is beginning to sound more like a candidate, taking not-so-veiled swipes” at Clinton. NBC (Welker) added that Biden “said he and the President were in lock-step when it came to authorizing the raid against Bin Laden.” The [AP](#) (10/21, Lederman) says Biden “backtracked on his previous claims to have advised Obama against the raid” in “an unusual reversal.”

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/21, Talev, 247K) reports that in his remarks at an event honoring his vice presidential predecessor Walter Mondale, Biden “portrayed himself as the central player” in the Administration “on everything from working with congressional Republicans to the killing” of Bin Laden.

[USA Today](#) (10/21, Singer, 5.25M) says Biden "revised his account of his advice to Obama after Mondale said he "would only disagree with President Jimmy Carter in private during his tenure as vice president."

The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Harris, Martin, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says with the remark, Biden "sought...to dispel" the notion that he had opposed the raid, which "might dog him on the campaign trail." Biden said he "never gave his own views on controversial issues until the rest of the cabinet had spoken, mindful that he did not want the rest of the team to see a difference between his opinion and that of the president." Biden said only then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates and then-CIA Director Leon Panetta "had expressed definitive views on the raid," and "pointedly did not mention" Clinton, who "has said that she was in favor of the raid."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Jaffe, 6.76M) says Biden "seemed to change his account" with a revision that "seems designed to buttress his qualifications to serve as commander-in-chief." But Biden "seems to have contradicted his earlier memories of the final meeting before the bin Laden raid." The [Wall Street J](#)

"Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Oct 21 2015 09:48:59 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Thanks, Blake.

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 11:47 AM, Androff, Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
I'll add her to the clips.

To add to the politicals, send a note to CSC_IT_Services_HelpDesk <CSC_IT_Services_Helpdesk@ios.doi.gov> and ask that she be added to DOI_POLITICALS@ios.doi.gov and they will do it.

Blake Androff
Director of Communications
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Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 11:28 AM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Blake, Chelsea - copied here - is not getting the press clips. Also, she's not on the DOI_politicals email...do you know who can add her to that? thanks.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 8:22 AM, Androff, Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Please let me know if you do NOT receive the daily clips each morning from Bulletin News at 7:00 AM. Please do not reply all.

Best,

Blake

Blake Androff

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bulletin Intelligence** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 7:00 AM

Subject: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SEN. MURKOWSKI SEES TOUGH ROAD FOR INTERIOR NOMINEE. [Politico Pro](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Lisa Murkowski said that Interior Department pick Kristen Sarri would “have a lot of explaining to do at a hearing on six nominees today.” While Murkowski was “pleased that President Barack Obama had renamed Mount McKinley this summer to Denali, the Alaska Republican said she was still frustrated with the Interior Department’s ‘heartless decision’ to deny a road in King Cove.” Murkowski also “criticized Interior for closing off oil production in Alaska and last week’s cancellation of offshore sales and lease extension.”

Meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (10/21, Barton, 375K) reports that Murkowski is “torn between leaving the Department of the Interior’s independent watchdog post vacant, or confirming President Barack Obama’s nominee crippled by recurring allegations of ‘playing games with Congress.’” She said, “I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent [inspector general], and I’m disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years.” Murkowski continued, “But I am also committed to ensuring that the individual we confirm is fully independent ... The tenure that you have been involved with thus far in this position has been marked by controversy.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/21, Henry, 471K), [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (10/20), and [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/20, 2K).

HISTORIC \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH CHOCTAW, CHICKASAW NATIONS LAUDED.

The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/20, 32K) reports that “tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior heralded the outcome of a \$186 million settlement signed earlier this month between the federal government, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw nations to solve a longstanding land trust dispute as a new chapter in relations.” During the October 5 signing ceremony, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby “gave a nod to the impetus provided” by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He said, “We respect the vital role Secretary Jewell has taken in helping make this historic settlement a reality. We are confident she will play an essential role in our efforts to continue strengthening the relationship between our governments, because we believe she has a unique appreciation for the mutual benefits of a positive government-to-government relationship.” Jewell said, “Today’s agreement is the latest addition to a record number of longstanding settlements resolved under this Administration. This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country.”

U.S. TREASURY CONFIRMS \$20B BALANCE FOR LWCF. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/21, 705) reports that “the Land and Water Conservation Fund that expired earlier this month for the first time in its 50-year history currently contains nearly \$20 billion, according to the U.S. Treasury, which maintains the

program's balance sheets. But whether that is real money available to be spent on federal land acquisitions, private land easements and state recreation projects depends on whom you ask." The article notes that "the \$19.8 billion can only be reduced until Congress reauthorizes the program."

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/20, 31K).

PROPOSED DESIGNATIONS OF THREE NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT "LAND GRAB." [Fox News](#) (10/20, 8.91M) reports that "a group of off-roaders and others are attempting to fight a proposed designation of three national monuments in the California desert under the Antiquities Act." The Obama Administration is "considering using the federal Antiquities Act to bypass the legislative process at the request of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, whose efforts to have the Mojave Trails and Castle Mountain, both in the Mojave Desert, and a section of the Sonoran Desert named federal sites were repeatedly blocked by Republicans." According to the article, "a White House move could put the land under federal control, which critics say could cut funding for upkeep or even restrict access."

UNMANNED HELICOPTER OFFERS NEW WAY TO FIGHT WILDFIRES. The [Voice of America](#) (10/21, Banse, 32K) reports that the K-MAX "unmanned, water-dropping" helicopter was tested by the US government. The helicopter can fly through limited visibility. Brad Koeckertiz, the unmanned aircraft program manager with the US Department of Interior, says that unmanned helicopters such as the K-MAX will be integrated into routine measures to fight wildfires over the next few of years. The article notes that the K-MAX helicopters have already been used by the US Marines in Afghanistan, to "resupply remote outposts at night" and replace "dangerous convoys on the ground." The article notes that the growing uses for drones is also why the FAA is seeking to register all drones.

Additional coverage was provided by [Vertical Magazine \(CAN\)](#) (10/21).

JEB BUSH PROPOSES MOVING INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FROM D.C. To Western City. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/20, Lucas, 199K) reports that "Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will unveil his proposals for Western land and resource management in a campaign stop in Reno on Wednesday morning, in a speech likely to resonate with conservative voters opposed to what they see as federal overreach in the Western states." Bush is "expected to speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park before appearing at a forum sponsored by the LIBRE Initiative at the College of Southern Nevada Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas at 6 p.m." In the proposal, Bush will "call for moving the headquarters of the Department of Interior from Washington, D.C., to a city in the western United States like Denver, Salt Lake City or Reno and will say that as president he would direct federal agencies to give broad latitude to states to determine land-use issues."

STUDY: ALASKAN WILDFIRES COULD EXACERBATE GLOBAL WARMING. The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Mooney, 6.76M) reports that some greenhouse gas sources outside the scope of forthcoming UN climate talks are beyond governments' control, such as raging peat fires in Indonesia this year, emitting "as much as Japan produces in a year from fossil fuels." Elsewhere, a new study in Nature Climate Change reaffirms concerns about the emissions of northern fires in Alaska. The Post reports that "climate researchers are still trying to figure out how all of these factors will interrelate," but fire is a "powerful determinant of how much carbon resides in land, rather than in the air, across our globe."

INTERIOR'S VINE ACCOUNT HIGHLIGHTED. [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K) highlights the Interior Department has a great Vine account. Providing a link, Politico says "this is Internet gold."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA RULE ANNOUNCES RULE GIVING TRIBES MORE CONTROL OVER ELECTIONS. [Law360](#) (10/20, 21K) reports that the BIA "on Monday announced its final rule for Native American tribal elections conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying the new rule will encourage tribes to take control of their elections and help protect the voting rights of tribe members living in urban areas." Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said "in a statement Monday that the rule will allow tribes to opt out of having the interior secretary conduct their elections."

The [Native American Times](#) (10/20, 337) reports that Washburn said, “Though many federal responsibilities concern the lands we hold in trust for tribes and Indian people, more than 55 million acres nationwide, the United States has a moral obligation to preserve connections between Indian people and their tribes that it once sought to destroy. For the future of Native nations and the health of Indian Country, American Indians in urban areas must work harder to maintain connections with their tribes. One important aspect of that relationship is participation in the civic and political life of their tribal governments. For that reason, our Secretarial election amendments seek to prevent tribal members living in urban areas from being inadvertently disenfranchised in Secretarial elections.”

HEARING FOCUSES ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, Kelleher) reports from Honolulu that a federal court hearing began on Tuesday “in a lawsuit by people who want to put a stop to an election process that is underway for Native Hawaiians.” The lawsuit, filed in August, “says it’s unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election.” The state “argues in court documents that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it’s not involved in next month’s vote to elect delegates for a convention to determine self-governance for Native Hawaiians.” Tuesday’s hearing “is focused on the plaintiffs’ motion for a preliminary injunction,” and the plaintiffs “want the judge to limit voter registration activities or stop the election altogether.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/21, 66K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (10/21, Kelleher, 5.98M).

INTERIOR SIDES WITH ALASKA NATIVE GROUP IN INVESTIGATION OF MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE TRIBAL COLLECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, 2.28M) reports that “a Massachusetts college was found in violation of a federal law regulating the possession and sale of potentially sacred artifacts following a complaint from an organization of Alaska Natives.” The Interior Department said “an investigation substantiated the complaint against Andover Newton Theological School filed in June by the Sealaska Heritage Institute.” The institute’s president, Rosita Worl, said “the school possesses at least two southeast Alaska artifacts, including a Tlingit halibut hook that is considered sacred.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, D’oro, 344K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 548K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/21, 5.59M), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (10/21, 651K), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/21, D’oro, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (10/21, 3.97M), and the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/20, 219K).

US ATTORNEY SAYS BIA OFFICER WAS JUSTIFIED IN DEADLY SPIRIT LAKE SHOOTING. The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that US Attorney Chris Myers “says” that an investigation by his office came to the conclusion that BIA Officer Terry Morgan was justified in shooting and killing “31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16.” The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (10/21, 100K) reports that the US Attorney’s Office “said” the shooting was justified because Charboneau posed a “real and immediate” threat to officers and another person at the scene after he refused to put down his gun, which was pointed at the officers. The Grand Forks Herald reports that, as a result of the investigation, Federal prosecutors “will not file charges against” Morgan.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (10/21, 1K), the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (10/21, 14K), [KXJB-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/21, 18K), [KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/20, 3K), [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (10/21, 1K), and [KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#) Bismarck, ND (10/21, 1K).

CRIME JUMPS AFTER TRIBES CUT FROM BIA FUNDING. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Romney, 4.07M) reports on a “time of crisis for public safety on tribal lands.” According to the article, “a federal law decades ago shifted the primary burden of criminal law enforcement on tribal lands in California and five other states to local authorities,” but “many lack the resources to do the job and, in some cases, sufficient knowledge of tribal law and culture to win the trust of tribal members.” After “tribes were cut off from steady funding for their own justice systems,” crime has “flourished.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YAKAMA NATION’S PETITION TO SELF-GOVERN APPROVED. Additional coverage that the BIA on Monday granted the Yakama Nation’s petition for “retrocession” was provided by the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 101K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#)

(10/20, 86K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, 344K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/20, 183K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), the [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K), [KNDU-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#) Yakima, WA (10/21, 3K), and [KUOW-FM Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (10/21, 15K).

GILLETTE'S SERVICE IN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PRAISED. In an editorial, the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/21, 37K) lauds Jodi Gillette's service in the Obama Administration. According to the paper, Gillette's "positions gave her a voice in a White House that has seemed genuinely concerned about Native American issues."

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA PROPOSES MARSHALLS FUND CHANGES. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "a top US official has submitted a proposal to the Senate and House to allow the people of Bikini to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands." Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina says "it is an appropriate course of action to take regarding the welfare and livelihood of the Bikinian people." The Bikinians were "displaced by US nuclear weapons testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands." According to the article, "in addition to cramped living quarters and a lack of suitable sustainable resources, the islands have been experiencing more frequent storms and king tides resulting in salt water inundation and the destruction of crops."

[Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "a representative from Bikini Atoll says a proposal to allow people to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands is not wanted." Bikini liaison officer Jack Niedenthal says "the US should take full responsibility for any resettlement including providing extra financing." Niedenthal said, "We still got a ways to go, we still have to do some more lobbying and some more talking to people in Washington to make them understand that what's being proposed by the assistant secretary is what we view as 'Plan B'. It's not ultimately what we want in terms of helping our people."

CHINA STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIP WITH PACIFIC REGION. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that "China and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat further strengthened their relationship on Friday when the two met at a ceremony to hand over \$1.05 million to assist the Pacific region." Forum Secretariat Secretary General Meg Taylor and Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Zhang Ping "attended the ceremony and delivered speeches respectively." Zhang "reiterated his nation's ongoing interest in the region saying, 'China attaches great importance to the South Pacific region. The Chinese side stands ready to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation with Pacific Island Countries and contribute to the development and capacity building in the region.'"

COUNTRIES IN PACIFIC URGED TO BEGIN TALKS ON CLIMATE MIGRATION. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "all countries in the Pacific are being urged to start discussions on how to help people forced to move from low lying atoll nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu." According to the article, "184 million people worldwide were displaced by disaster between 2008 and 2014 and at special meetings in Geneva last week 110 countries gave the nod to a Protection Agenda for dealing with future migration challenges." The article notes that "the experiences of small island countries which face rising seas due to climate change helped form the global action plan under the Swiss Norwegian Nansen Initiative."

JOURNALIST SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY OF GUAM ON CLIMATE ISSUES, CORRUPTION IN PACIFIC ISLANDS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that "author and journalist Giff Johnson spoke to students at the University of Guam on Monday evening about climate change and development in the Pacific islands." Johnson's "lecture, entitled 'Idyllic No More: Pacific Island Climate, Corruption and Development Dilemmas,' is based on his latest book — a compilation of essays detailing the looming climate threat to the region, its booming fishing industry, and the U.S. nuclear test legacy in the Marshall Islands." Johnson called attention to "climate-driven migration from remote Pacific islands to Guam and mainland U.S."

RISING SEA LEVELS THREATEN KIRIBATI. The [National Geographic](#) (10/21, 31.65M) provides a picture gallery of the threat of rising sea levels driven by climate change on Kiribati.

Lacking America's Water Challenges:

WATER SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED FROM NEW MELONES. The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “more than 7 billion gallons of water is scheduled to be released from New Melones Reservoir beginning today to ensure flows in the Stanislaus River will keep temperatures cool enough for adult salmon migrating up the river to spawn this fall.” Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District said “it would benefit river conditions and fisheries, as well as the needs of agriculture and more than 200,000 residential customers downstream.” The article notes that “earlier this year, the irrigation districts sparred with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — which manages New Melones Reservoir — over spring pulse flows that they feared would leave as little as 147,000 acre-feet in the reservoir by the end of September.”

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTE TO OPPOSE DELTA TUNNELS PLAN. The [Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (10/21, 14K) reports that “at a meeting on Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a resolution in formal opposition of California WaterFix, also known as the twin tunnels plan.” Supervisor Kathy Miller said, “The WaterFix is just a thinly veiled version of the former (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and continues to push the fatally flawed twin tunnels, which will simply sacrifice one region of California for the benefit of another.”

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, DOMINION BOTH SUPPORT OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT. On his [Bacon's Rebellion \(VA\)](#) (10/21, Bacon) blog, James Bacon reports on an Environment Virginia-sponsored webinar held Tuesday morning in which representatives from Dominion, environmental groups, and the McAuliffe Administration all voiced support for the utility's experimental offshore wind farm project. For environmentalists, Bacon writes, the project represents the beginning of an industry that would increase the use of green energy along the Atlantic and displace fossil fuels. For the Governor's office, it represents increased green energy coupled with economic development that takes advantage of the Newport News area's shipbuilding industry.

Onshore Energy Development:

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY FINED \$2.1 MILLION FOR UNDER-REPORTING NATURAL GAS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department on Monday “announced a \$2.1 million civil penalty against Chesapeake Energy Corp. for misreporting the amount of gas it produced and sold from American Indian lands in Oklahoma.” Chesapeake “failed to comply with a 2011 order that found ‘systemic errors’ in the company's monthly production reports for more than 100 Indian leases, according to Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue.” The company “agreed to amend the monthly reports, but it continued to maintain inaccurate information on the agency's data systems, ONRR said.” The firm was “assessed a penalty based on ‘knowing or willful maintenance’ of the inaccurate information, ONRR said.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), and [KOKC-AM Oklahoma City \(OK\)](#) Oklahoma City (10/20, 1K).

TEXAS ENERGY REGULATOR OPPOSES STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K) reports that “Texas' top energy regulator on Tuesday said the agency will oppose a U.S. Department of the Interior proposed rule aimed at better protecting streams and other waterways from nearby mining activity, saying the regulation encroaches on ground better left to the state.” Texas Railroad Commission Chairman David Porter on Tuesday said “the state would sign on to the multistate Interstate Mining Compact Commission's comments opposing the proposed waterway regulation.”

USGS REPORT STATES EARTHQUAKES COINCIDE WITH OKLAHOMA OIL BOOMS. [KOCO-TV](#) Oklahoma City (10/21, 93K) reports that “a study by the United States Geological Survey states that the earthquakes from the past 100 years seem to coincide with the oil boom in Oklahoma.”

OKLAHOMA REGULATORS SHUT DOWN THREE MORE DISPOSAL WELLS. The [Energywire](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication) reports that “Oklahoma oil and gas regulators dealing with a dramatic increase in earthquakes near the pipeline hub of Cushing have shut down three more disposal wells.” Also, “another well was shut down by the company that owns it after regulators said they were concerned it was drilled too deep.” In addition, “the operators of seven other wells were told in a letter written Friday and released yesterday that they must reduce the volume of drilling waste that they inject deep underground.”

OKLAHOMA LIMITS DISPOSAL WELLS AMID CUSHING QUAKES. [Reuters](#) (10/21, Hampton, Brandes) reports that Oklahoma’s oil and gas regulator on Monday said it could impose new limits on all saltwater disposal wells within a 10-mile radius of Cushing. Reuters reports that Oklahoma now experiences as many as two magnitude 3.0 quakes per day, up from two per year. Thirteen wells have been ordered shut and approvals for new wells have been halted, Reuters reports. Scientists told Reuters that shutting wells could ease tectonic disruption in Oklahoma.

STUDY: FRACKING CAN CAUSE METHANE LEAKS IN NEARBY ABANDONED OIL WELLS. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Valdmanis) reported that according to a study published Tuesday in the Water Resources Research journal, fracking can cause methane leaks in nearby abandoned oil wells. The methane leaks could be a large source of unrecorded greenhouse gas emissions, according to the study. The study said that energy companies could reduce the probability of such methane leaks by trying to identify abandoned wells before they begin fracking, although the task could be difficult due to large numbers of unmarked abandoned wells.

BLM CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE PICTURES UNDER FOIA REQUEST. For the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (10/21), Darryl L. Flowers criticizes the BLM for failing to provide pictures in connection with “the proposed Solenex, LLC natural gas well on public lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest” that were requested under the Freedom of Information Act. The paper received “sixteen photos” and “two photos were missing.” He notes that “curiously, the two omitted photos were the only ones that included a person in the photos.”

Offshore Energy Development:

FEDS INVESTIGATE WORKER’S DEATH ON DRILLSHIP CONTRACTED BY CHEVRON. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/20, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that officials from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Coast Guard are investigating “the death of a worker on a drillsip in the Gulf of Mexico that was preparing to bore a well for Chevron.” Fuel Fix says that “the Pacific Santa Ana drillsip was just beginning operations for Chevron in about 4,800 feet of water at the site and had not yet penetrated the sea floor when an employee of that drilling contractor was fatally injured.” Fuel Fix adds that Chevron has a 36 percent working interest in the Keathley Canyon well-leasing block where the incident occurred, an area where “Chevron outlined ambitions to drill up to seven wells” earlier this year.

The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that Amy Roddy, spokeswoman for Pacific Drilling SA, the ship’s owner, “said the company is not releasing any details about the man to respect his family’s privacy. She also refused to disclose how the man died or details of the accident, citing an ongoing investigation.”

[NASDAQ](#) (10/20, Sider) reports that Chevron has contracted the ship since 2012. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/21, Larino, 718K) adds that “operations have been shut down and personnel remain onboard, according to the drillsip’s operator.”

[Offshore Engineer](#) (10/20, Leon) reports that “the ship was to use its dual gradient drilling functions for Chevron’s Anchor-1 prospect last year in Green Canyon block 807, but the well was junked due to mechanical failures. However, in January of this year, Chevron hit high quality oil pay in multiple Lower Tertiary Wilcox Sands at a second Anchor well also drilled by the Pacific Santa Ana.”

The [Dow Jones Newswires](#) (10/21, Sider) reports that this is the first death related to offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico this year.

[Reuters](#) (10/21), [gCaptain](#) (10/21, 2K), [Upstream Online](#) (10/21, Schmidt, Brenner, 20K), and [Maritime Executive](#) (10/20, 21) also cover the story.

BRIARCLIFFE ACRES VOTES AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (10/21, 36K) reports that “in a storm of debate over offshore drilling, Briarcliffe Acres surfaced as the latest coastal town to join a united front against seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas off of South Carolina’s beaches.” According to the article, “missing councilwoman Abby Stewart, who has been with family on the west coast, the town council unanimously passed a resolution Monday, joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns in a stance against offshore drilling.”

SHELL VESSEL RESCUES FRENCHMAN, CAT FROM SAILBOAT STRANDED IN SEAS NEAR ALASKA. The [AP](#) (10/21, Thiessen) reports that a Frenchman and the cat tucked inside his clothing were rescued on Tuesday after he leapt from his sailboat to a waiting rescue ship sent by Shell. The man activated a location beacon in the high seas south of Alaska and told the Coast Guard his sailboat had lost its rudder and rigging in the high winds and 20-foot waves. The Coast Guard contacted Shell’s oil drilling rig, the Polar Pioneer, which is on its way to Port Angeles, and the rig “sent a support ship, the Tor Viking, to rescue the sailor.” The AP reports that “it wasn’t immediately clear if the man would continue with the Shell ships to Washington state.”

CUNNINGHAM: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SHUTS THE DOOR ON ARCTIC DRILLING. In an analysis of the Interior Department’s recent decision on the future of Arctic drilling, [Oil Price](#) (10/21, 2K) reporter Nick Cunningham writes the Interior Department’s decision to cancel lease sales through 2017 “leaves almost no possible pathway for an oil company to drill in the Arctic for years to come, perhaps killing off drilling for a decade or so at a minimum.” Cunningham goes on to write that “it was likely that there wouldn’t have been new drilling in any event, given Shell’s decision and current market conditions, but Interior’s decision officially shuts the door on the Arctic in the medium-term.”

Casey: Interior’s Actions On Arctic Drilling Trends “Toward A Permanent Clampdown.” [CleanTechnica’s](#) (10/20, 15K) Tina Casey writes that “in the absence of local regulations, the Feds are the only game in town and it seems that the Arctic’s role in the US economy is too important to trust to compliance by oil companies.” Casey adds that, even though the Interior’s actions last week on Arctic drilling may be “only temporary, but the trend is toward a permanent clampdown.”

4-Traders: Federal Government To Blame For Low Arctic Drilling Interest. In an op-ed piece on the Interior’s Arctic drilling decision, [4-Traders](#) (10/21, 5K) writes the Federal government’s “difficult” regulatory obstacles is to blame for the lack of interest among oil companies to explore for oil and natural gas in the Arctic. 4-Traders writes that the “demand for oil and natural gas isn’t going away, so energy domestic exploration must continue in the Arctic and elsewhere. But as we’ve seen, by putting up unnecessary regulatory hurdles, regulators can cause job and economic growth opportunities to be missed.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TO REVIEW HAGERMAN-HAILEY TRANSMISSION LINE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (10/21) reports that the BLM will review the Hagerman to Hailey transmission line, paying “special attention to the greater sage grouse in the area.” Stacey Baczkowski, a biologist with Idaho Power, says “the company has been working with the BLM for the last few years to make sure the line is built with the bird in mind.” Baczkowski says “the power company plans to build the new transmission line as close to the current one as possible, and will follow BLM rules about construction during sage grouse mating times.”

UTAH WATER DISTRICT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT BLM REVISION TO LAND-USE PLAN.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/21, 407K) reports that “federal policies that either aim to instill more oversight of water or deny access altogether have some Utah leaders frothing over what they say is a repeated pattern of overreach that threatens local economies and livelihoods.” Ron Thompson, general manager of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, said “possible revisions to a land-use plan by the Bureau of Land Management in Washington County have severe ramifications should one particular approach be adopted.” Thompson said “the BLM — under one option — is

ignoring key considerations that went into the passage of the bill, including water supplies being left unhindered and right of way corridors left intact.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HELICOPTER CRASHES NEAR SEARCHLIGHT DURING CATTLE ROUNDUP. Additional coverage of the helicopter crash near Searchlight during a cattle roundup was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/21, 378K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CONSERVATION LEADERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONSERVATION SUMMIT. [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K) reports that “more than 40 leaders from the leading conservation groups in America are meeting in Springfield this week for a National Conservation Summit hosted by The Johnny Morris Foundation.” According to the article, “participants include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Geographic, Audubon Society, and Ducks Unlimited.” The article notes that “the purpose of the historic gathering is to collectively discuss opportunities to educate and engage the public in efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitats in preparation for the grand opening of America’s Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in 2016.”

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (10/20, 49K) reports that “three exhibits of America’s Wildlife Museum & Aquarium, formerly Wonders of Wildlife, were open to media for a tour on Oct. 20, 2015 at the museum located next to the Bass Pro Shops flagship store in Springfield, Mo.” More than 40 conservation leaders attending a National Conservation Summit “hope the new Bass Pro Shops wildlife museum and aquarium will convey to visitors when it opens in mid 2016.” FWS Director Dan Ashe, “one of the summit attendees,” called the museum “one of the foremost conservation attractions in the world.” He said, “Through conservation efforts, we can be successful in sustaining these populations of animals that are threatened or endangered. People hear about the industrial-scale poaching of elephants that’s happening in Africa. That’s not hunting. With this museum, here’s an opportunity to tell the story of how we can protect wildlife habitat, and that when hunting is done well, with appropriate regulations, it sustains wildlife populations.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K), [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K), and [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K).

CNMI QUESTIONS INCLUSION OF SOME SPECIES ON ENDANGERED LIST. The [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “the Northern Marianas government says the decision to list 23 species in Guam and the CNMI as threatened or endangered was rushed.” The government says “it supports the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s listing of seven of the 17 CNMI species, but it questions the inclusion of some of the other species.” The Department of Land and Natural Resources says “a number of the species do not meet the definitions of threatened or endangered and don’t require federal protection.”

FWS LOOKS TO RESTORE HABITAT ON ROOT RIVER. The [Rochester \(MN\) Post-Bulletin](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “federal wildlife officials are seeking public input on a plan to restore and enhance habitat on 825 acres of Minnesota land along the Root River in Houston County.” Managed by the FWS “as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the Root River Tract sits to the east of Hwy. 26 between La Crescent and Brownsville.” The article notes that “the site includes 664 acres of hunting and farmland purchased in 2009 with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

SHOOTING OF CALIFORNIA CONDOR IN ARIZONA UNDER INVESTIGATION. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that FWS special agents and Arizona Game and Fish Department “law enforcement personnel are investigating the lethal shooting of an endangered California condor that occurred on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona Oct. 8.”

MAN CLAIMS HE BLOCKED ARIZONA BIKE TRAIL TO PROTECT OWLS. The [AP](#) (10/21, 344K) reports that “the 81-year-old man who blocked a Flagstaff-area mountain bike race says he did it to protect an endangered owl species.” J.D. Protiva “appeared in federal court Monday on misdemeanor charges related to blocking the Elden Springs Trail before the August race.” Protiva says “the path goes through protected Mexican spotted owl habitat.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MONARCHS GET HELP AS CALIFORNIANS PLANT DROUGHT-TOLERANT MILKWEED. Additional coverage that monarch butterflies could benefit from the California drought was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/21, 259K), [KABC-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/21, 413K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (10/21, 345K).

FWS INVESTING IN PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN ATLANTIC COASTAL DEFENSES AGAINST FUTURE STORMS. In an op-ed for the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (10/20, 172K), Wendi Weber is Northeast regional director for the FWS, writes that “federal money for Hurricane Sandy recovery has spurred an unprecedented effort to strengthen natural defenses along the Atlantic Coast to protect communities and wildlife against future storms.” She notes that the FWS and other Interior Department “agencies are investing \$787 million in hundreds of projects to clean up and repair damaged refuges and parks; restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline; connect and open waterways to improve flood control; and increase our scientific understanding of how these natural areas are changing.” According to Weber, “these investments support the goal of President Barack Obama’s Climate Action Plan to make communities more resilient to increasingly intense storms predicted with a changing climate.”

National Park Service:

MUSIC VIDEO CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF NPS. The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (10/20, 53K) reports on “a locally made music video that celebrates 100 years of the National Park Service.” According to the article, “published on Oct. 15, the Centennial video has more than 18,500 views on the NPS facebook page and more than 530 on the Youth Ambassador Program’s YouTube page, the group that made it.” NPS Director Jon Jarvis, “who met the traveling crew in Washington, D.C., makes a cameo appearance in the video to say, ‘It’s great to celebrate a hundred years with YAP!’”

Kentucky Lieutenant Gov. Luallen Touts National Parks. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/20, 414K) reports that Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen on Tuesday “touted the economic impact of Kentucky’s travel and tourism industry” in “an address to the Kentucky Travel Industry’s annual conference in Bowling Green.” Following her remarks, Luallen “recognized five national parks in Kentucky as part of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016.” She “presented proclamations to representatives of the parks.”

Couple Visiting 59 National Parks In 12 Months. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/21, 1.03M) reports that “Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, St. Louis natives, are two months into their grand adventure: 59 parks in 12 months – part celebration of the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary, part exercise in youthful spontaneity.” Their goal is to “see the best of the United States, and inspire others – particularly other millennials – to do the same.” The article notes that “their mission meshes well with a new campaign of the Park Service, which celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2016.”

WATCHDOG RELEASES REPORT ON NPS CONSTRUCTION FUNDS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “a federal watchdog yesterday released a disputed report alleging that the National Park Service is violating congressional intent by dipping into its construction account to cover security, air testing and other reimbursable expenses that should have been paid up front by other agencies.” The NPS construction account is “only for expenses that relate to ‘construction, improvements, repair or replacement of physical facilities,’” the Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General report said, “citing the language of the agency’s appropriation.” However, “the OIG found that 17 out of a sample of 21 interagency agreements that used Park Service construction funds to cover reimbursable costs did not appear to include ‘a valid construction purpose.’” The article notes that “these included \$4.9 million that NPS spent from its construction account on security at the Department of the Army’s Memorial Day and Independence Day concerts at the Capitol in 2014 and \$37.5 million over seven years on air quality monitoring at national parks that will be paid back to NPS by U.S. EPA.”

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES GRAND CANYON BISON MANAGEMENT ACT. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act “allowing the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to better manage and conserve the bison population within the park Oct. 8.” The legislation “requires the U.S. Department of Interior and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on a plan that

allows sportsmen holding a valid state-issued hunting license to assist in management of the bison population within the park.”

THUNDERSTORMS CAUSE FLOODING, MUDSLIDES IN DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK.

The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “mudslides and flooding after severe thunderstorms in Death Valley National Park on Sunday trapped three park rangers and about 20 visitors – many out to see a clear night sky – in a volcanic crater overnight.” Park spokeswoman Abby Wines said “the stranded people spent the night in Ubehebe Crater, maintaining contact with park headquarters until they were able to reach safety yesterday morning.” The article notes that “no injuries were reported, but Wines said the unexpectedly severe storms knocked out power in the area, damaged and closed several roads, and filled a historic visitor’s center with several feet of mud and debris.”

NPS SET TO CONTINUE WITH TREE-CUTTING AT POTOMAC CAMPGROUND. The [Bethesda \(MD\) Magazine](#) (10/21) reports that “after complaints from two nearby residents and a call from County Council member Roger Berliner temporarily halted tree-cutting operations Friday at a Potomac campground, the National Park Service said it plans to resume the tree-cutting and will probably do so in the next few days.” John Noel, deputy superintendent for the C&O Canal National Historical Park, said that “he went to the Swain’s Lock Recreation Site to examine the 26 trees proposed to be removed and 32 others proposed to be pruned at the site’s campground.” Noel “agreed that the trees are rotting and in danger of falling on park users below.”

STUDENTS GO ON CANOE TRIP AROUND WOLF LAKE. The [Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (10/20, 105K) reports that “all classes in Grades 6 through 9 at George Rogers Clark Junior-Senior High School in Hammond recently experienced a unique field trip right in their own back yard — a canoe trip around Wolf Lake located only a few blocks from the school.” The trip was “made available through a partnership with the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center and Wilderness Inquiry.”

NEW COLONIAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT THANKS COMMUNITY FOR ADVOCACY. The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (10/20, Williams, Subscription Publication, 201K) reports that the Colonial National Historical Park’s new Superintendent, Kym Hall, thanked the community for its opposition to Dominion’s Skiffes Creek transmission project in her first appearance before the York County Board of Supervisors on September 1. “The view should be protected,” she said.

DEVILS TOWER TO HOST STAR VIEWING PARTIES. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/21, 115K) reports that the NPS “announced that Devils Tower will host a series of star viewing parties October through December.” The article notes that “the eight parties are free of charge, and will last approximately two hours.”

NPS URGED TO RECONSIDER RACIST NAME FOR A WASHINGTON LAKE. In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/21, 74K), Glenn Nelson writes that Washington state officially calls Howard Lake “by what is believed to be its oldest known name,” but he federal government “recognizes the lake by a name that causes the jaws of most people of color to drop: Coon Lake.” Nelson notes that “the federal government did not follow the usual course of supporting the state’s action, mostly because of opposition from the National Park Service, which manages the area that contains the lake.” The NPS, “acting on research from its North Cascades unit, originally defended its stance by claiming that there was ambiguity around the use of the term ‘coon.’” According to Nelson, “in the years leading up to its 2016 centennial, the Park Service has done a lot of talking and writing about the need for diversity and inclusiveness.” He concludes that “it’s past time for the Park Service to back away from its misguided opposition, encourage Secretary Jewell to come to its rescue, and allow another black life to matter.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS SEISMOLOGIST QUESTIONS PREDICTION OF 99.9 PERCENT CHANCE OF MAJOR LOS ANGELES EARTHQUAKE IN 3 YEARS. The [Southern California Public Radio](#) (10/20, 68K) reports that “a controversial new study from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory” claims “there is a 99.9 percent chance of an earthquake” in Los Angeles “between magnitude 5 and 6.3 in less than three years.” The study, published earlier this month by the American Geophysical Union’s Earth and

Space Science journal, has taken many in the seismic community by surprise. Lucy Jones with the USGS said the “methodology doesn’t fully explain the prediction, and the study doesn’t adequately address this either.” Jones said that, according to the USGS’ “models, there is only an 85 percent chance of a magnitude 5 or 6 quake in the same region over a three-year period.”

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: TRUDEAU’S ELECTION LIKELY TO FOSTER IMPROVED US-CANADA

TIES. On the day after Justin Trudeau became Canada’s Prime Minister-designate, media reporting universally characterized the election results as a likely boost for US-Canada relations. Coverage focuses on Trudeau’s promise of a less combative foreign policy style and the perception that he will be more willing to accept a US rejection of the Keystone pipeline. Reporting – including a combined 2 minutes and 50 seconds on the three broadcast networks – also indicates that despite Trudeau’s decision to withdraw his aircraft from the US-led coalition against ISIL, he is likely to be a more willing partner on climate change and other issues.

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, story 9, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported President Obama on Tuesday congratulated Trudeau, who “swept into power with a message of optimism saying Canada beat fear with hope.” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Korte, 5.23M) reports Obama made the phone call “in an attempt to lock down continued cooperation with the northern neighbor on trade, terrorism, and climate change.” The White House, according to USA Today, “signaled that not much would change in the relationship” between the neighbors following the Liberal party’s victory. [CBC News](#) (10/20, Fitzpatrick, 225K) reported on its website that the White House indicated Obama and Trudeau “agreed on the importance of deepening the ‘already strong’ bilateral relationship” between the countries “and committed to strengthen joint efforts to promote trade and to combat terrorism and climate change.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports the White House and current Prime Minister Stephen Harper “clashed over climate policy” and the Keystone pipeline. While White House spokesman Josh Earnest on Tuesday said “it would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue,” Chuck Todd reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that “we now have a Canadian government that is politically more in line with the American government.” According to Todd, “Relations have been good but they have not been so great of late. Will they now get better? That is why Americans should care.”

In an article entitled “5 Reasons The US Should Care About Canada’s New Prime Minister,” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hjelmggaard, 5.23M) lists ways in which Trudeau “is likely to affect policies in Canada and the United States.” According to USA Today, Trudeau “promised to improve strained relations” with Obama and said “he wants to find constructive ways of working with Washington on other issues.” Another [USA Today](#) (10/21, Kovac, 5.23M) article reports that Trudeau and Harper “differ in their approach to foreign policy,” with the incoming leader being less vocally pro-Israel and more focused on environmental issues.

In an analysis piece, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/21, 2.66M) says “a prompt rejection” of the Keystone pipeline by Obama “would make the job easier” for Trudeau “as he seeks to reset the country’s relationship with the US, which he says was damaged” by Harper. According to Bloomberg, Trudeau “could use a quick US denial” of the pipeline “to focus discussions” with Obama “on issues such as trade and climate.” Bloomberg notes there has been “speculation” that Obama “would reject the pipeline shortly after the Canadian election.” However, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Cama, 471K) reported, Secretary of State Kerry said Tuesday that Canada’s election results will not change the White House’s approach to the Keystone issue. Kerry said the decision “is being based on the merits and countervailing balance of all the input that has come from a very exhaustive agency review.” Kerry reiterated that he seeks a decision “as fast as possible.”

[Reuters](#) (10/21, Mason, Rampton) reports the White House indicated it would like the new Canadian government to take increased actions to address climate change. Earnest said that while Canada has “made a substantial and important commitment” ahead of the Paris climate talks, “We believe that it’s possible that there is more that Canada can do in this regard.”

However, writing for [Mother Jones](#) (10/20, 758K), Suzanne Goldenberg claimed “those hoping for a

U-turn in Canada's climate change policy...are in for a reality check. According to Goldenberg, while Trudeau does not align directly with many of Harper's views or policies, "it would be a mistake" to see the new Canadian leader or his party "as climate champions." In [Slate](#) (10/20, 1.38M), Joshua Keating argued that at least with regard to the Keystone pipeline, Trudeau does present a change from Harper. Keating characterizes Trudeau as "a very different leader" from Harper and says he will make the Keystone pipeline less of a focal point of US-Canada relations. According to Keating, Trudeau "has described his support for the pipeline as 'steadfast,' but it's clearly not the make-or-break issue for him that it was for Harper."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Vieira, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports Trudeau said he will work to restore Canada's reputation of defending minorities and become more involved in multilateral policy making. At a rally in Ottawa, Trudeau said, "To this country's friends around the world, I want to say this: Many of you have worried Canada has lost its compassionate and constructive voice in the world over the past 10 years. I have simple message for you: We're back." The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports that Trudeau "is likely to present a very different face to the world" than Harper, "but the most noticeable difference will probably be in tone." Trudeau has vowed to "put an end to Mr. Harper's often belligerent style of politics and diplomacy." Trudeau said Tuesday that "a positive, optimistic, hopeful vision of public life isn't a naïve dream – it can be a powerful force for change." The Times says Trudeau has previously indicated a desire to end Harper's reliance on military solutions and tough rhetoric, and instead focus on working within international organizations, such as the United Nations.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 10, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, "Canada took a left turn" as "Trudeau and the Liberal Party rode in on a landslide." In a [USA Today](#) (10/21, 5.23M) op-ed, author David Andelman says "most of the reasons" Canadian voters chose Trudeau to lead the country "boiled down to one fundamental: The Liberal Party leader was simply nicer than his opponent. And most Canadians believe they are, too." Similarly, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that Canadians wanted a change from the Harper government, which had become isolated and sought to restrict debate. The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) agrees, editorializing that Trudeau's election "shows how ready Canadians were to emerge from a decade under the Conservative government of the secretive and combative Stephen Harper."

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau told Obama on Tuesday that Canadian fighter aircraft will withdraw from the US-led coalition against ISIL, but the new Canadian leader did not present a timeline for the move. In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, A1, Brown, 6.76M) reports Trudeau said, "I committed that we would continue to engage in a responsible way that understands how Canada has a role to play in the fight against ISIL," adding, that Obama "understands the commitments I've made around ending the combat mission." According to the Post, a "senior Administration official," said Obama and Trudeau discussed joint anti-terrorism efforts and, "We expect Canada will continue to be a valuable contributor to the 65-member global coalition" against ISIL.

Trudeau's Win Could "Lead To Full Marijuana Legalization" In Canada. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hughes, 5.23M) reports Trudeau's win "may lead to full marijuana legalization" for Canada. According to USA Today, Trudeau promised during his campaign that "Canada would create a system to tax, regulate and sell marijuana, along with stiff penalties for anyone giving pot to children or caught driving while stoned." USA Today says American "cannabis activists hailed Tuesday's election as a milestone, suggesting that a day may soon come when cross-border trade talks include...legal weed."

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau's "promise to legalize recreational cannabis" will likely "help the nation's nascent medical marijuana industry." Investors, according to AFP, "are betting" they could build on companies' current production of marijuana for medical use and "quickly scale up to serve recreational pot users too, once Trudeau makes good on his promise."

NYTimes Analysis: Trudeau Is "No Dynast" Despite Father Being Former Prime Minister. In a 1,350-world profile piece, the [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that despite there being "many easy parallels to draw between" Trudeau and his father, former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Canada's incoming leader "is no dynast who slipped effortlessly into a family political machine." The Times notes that Trudeau "did not even enter politics until 18 years after his father gave it up, and seven year after his father's death." According to the

times, Trudeau built his own cadre of advisers, mostly from his own generation – and sometimes “chose more difficult roads – partly, it appears, to show he had not been handed a life in politics on a platter.”

In the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, 6.76M) “Reliable Source” blog, Emily Heil says Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, “have a lot in common with the Obamas.” According to Heil, “they’d have lots to talk about, apart from liberal politics, like fitness!”

IN APPARENT REVERSAL, BIDEN SAYS HE PRIVATELY URGED OBAMA TO AUTHORIZE UBL RAID. Vice President Biden did not reveal Tuesday whether or not he will enter the Democratic presidential race, but his remark that he privately advised President Obama to launch the 2011 raid that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden – which contradicted Biden’s past public comments that he advised against the raid – is being interpreted as a possible line of attack against Hillary Clinton. All three broadcast networks reported on the statement, combining for nearly eight minutes of coverage, and ABC led with it. The tone of the coverage is mixed, with most reports calling it a reversal, and some concluding that Biden may be undercutting his own reputation for candor.

There was also Twitter discussion of Biden’s remarks. Anthony De Rosa, a digital producer for The Daily Show who has nearly 89,000 followers, [tweeted](#), “Biden sounds like Brian Williams with his evolving recollection of the Bin Laden raid.” Jonathan Martin of the New York Times [tweeted](#), “@vp today signals: he’ll run & it’ll get negative FAST or: he’s not happy about being sidelined.” His Times colleague Maggie Haberman [tweeted](#), “Biden’s subtle digs at Clinton indicate that if he runs it’ll be ugly.” In addition, the hashtag [#BidenWatch](#) emerged on Twitter, with Fox Business Network’s Trish Regan [tweeting](#), “Sure sounds like he’s running...”, Mashable’s Juana Summers [tweeting](#) Biden’s Wednesday official schedule, and Al Jazeera America’s David Shuster [tweeting](#) that “Hallie Biden, widow of the late Beau Biden, says her family supports a Presidential campaign ‘100%’”.

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M) reported that “as the pressure mounts for Joe Biden to decide whether he’ll run...many [are] now asking, did he change his story?” ABC (Karl) added, “Biden has described Obama’s decision as especially courageous because in that key meeting when it came time to decide, most of the President’s advisers, including Biden himself, were not in favor of the raid.” On Tuesday, he “offered an entirely different account of what happened on that fateful day.” Biden was shown saying, “So as we walked out of the room and we walked upstairs, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts. But it would have been a mistake, imagine if I had said in front of everyone, ‘don’t go, or go,’ and his decision was a different decision.” Karl: “But until today, Biden has said he told Obama and his team that night to hold off on the raid.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 6, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Biden “sounded more like a presidential candidate, talking up his foreign policy credentials, doing some rewriting of his own history and firing a shot over the bow of the Democratic frontrunner.” CBS’ Nancy Corden added that Biden “never mentioned” Clinton by name, “but it was all too clear the comparison he was making when he said this about his stature overseas.” Biden: “I will get sent to go speak to Putin or go speak to whomever, and it’s because the secretary of state, we’ve had two great secretaries of state, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the President.” Cordes added that Biden left Clinton “out of his story” about the Bin Laden raid.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 3, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) also said of Biden, “If anything, he is beginning to sound more like a candidate, taking not-so-veiled swipes” at Clinton. NBC (Welker) added that Biden “said he and the President were in lock-step when it came to authorizing the raid against Bin La

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Wed Oct 21 2015 09:53:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)

TO:

ANDROFF, BLAKE <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

Subject:

Re: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Thank you, sir.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 11:47 AM, Androff, Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

I'll add her to the clips.

To add to the politicals, send a note to CSC_IT_Services_HelpDesk <CSC_IT_Services_Helpdesk@ios.doi.gov> and ask that she be added to DOI_POLITICALS@ios.doi.gov and they will do it.

Blake Androff

Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 11:28 AM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Blake, Chelsea - copied here - is not getting the press clips. Also, she's not on the DOI_politicals email...do you know who can add her to that? thanks.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 8:22 AM, Androff, Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Please let me know if you do NOT receive the daily clips each morning from Bulletin News at 7:00 AM. Please do not reply all.

Best,

Blake

Blake Androff

Director of Communications
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bulletin Intelligence** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 7:00 AM

Subject: Department of the Interior News Briefing (with Clips Attachment) for Wednesday, October 21, 2015

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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SEN. MURKOWSKI SEES TOUGH ROAD FOR INTERIOR NOMINEE. [Politico Pro](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Lisa Murkowski said that Interior Department pick Kristen Sarri would “have a lot of explaining to do at a hearing on six nominees today.” While Murkowski was “pleased that President Barack Obama had renamed Mount McKinley this summer to Denali, the Alaska Republican said she was still frustrated with the Interior Department’s ‘heartless decision’ to deny a road in King Cove.” Murkowski also “criticized Interior for closing off oil production in Alaska and last week’s cancellation of offshore sales and lease extension.”

Meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (10/21, Barton, 375K) reports that Murkowski is “torn between leaving the Department of the Interior’s independent watchdog post vacant, or confirming President Barack Obama’s nominee crippled by recurring allegations of ‘playing games with Congress.’” She said, “I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent [inspector general], and I’m disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years.” Murkowski continued, “But I am also committed to ensuring that the individual we confirm is fully independent ... The tenure that you have been involved with thus far in this position has been marked by controversy.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/21, Henry, 471K), [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (10/20), and [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/20, 2K).

HISTORIC \$186 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH CHOCTAW, CHICKASAW NATIONS LAUDED.

The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/20, 32K) reports that “tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior heralded the outcome of a \$186 million settlement signed earlier this month between the federal government, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw nations to solve a longstanding land trust dispute as a new chapter in relations.” During the October 5 signing ceremony, Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby “gave a nod to the impetus provided” by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He said, “We respect the vital role Secretary Jewell has taken in helping make this historic settlement a reality. We are confident she will play an essential role in our efforts to continue strengthening the relationship between our governments, because we believe she has a unique appreciation for the mutual benefits of a positive government-to-government relationship.” Jewell said, “Today’s agreement is the latest addition to a record number of longstanding settlements resolved under this Administration. This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country.”

U.S. TREASURY CONFIRMS \$20B BALANCE FOR LWCF. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/21, 705) reports that “the Land and Water Conservation Fund that expired earlier this month for the first time in its 50-year history currently contains nearly \$20 billion, according to the U.S. Treasury, which maintains the program’s balance sheets.” But “whether that is ‘real’ money available to be spent on federal land acquisitions, private land easements and state recreation projects depends on whom you ask.” The article notes that “the \$19.8 billion can only be reduced until Congress reauthorizes the program.”

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/20, 31K).

PROPOSED DESIGNATIONS OF THREE NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT “LAND GRAB.” [Fox News](#) (10/20, 8.91M) reports that “a group of off-roaders and others are attempting to fight a proposed designation of three national monuments in the California desert under the Antiquities Act.”

The Obama Administration is “considering using the federal Antiquities Act to bypass the legislative process at the request of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, whose efforts to have the Mojave Trails and Castle Mountain, both in the Mojave Desert, and a section of the Sonoran Desert named federal sites were repeatedly blocked by Republicans.” According to the article, “a White House move could put the land under federal control, which critics

say could cut funding for upkeep or even restrict access.

UNMANNED HELICOPTER OFFERS NEW WAY TO FIGHT WILDFIRES. The [Voice of America](#) (10/21, Banse, 32K) reports that the K-MAX “unmanned, water-dropping” helicopter was tested by the US government. The helicopter can fly through limited visibility. Brad Koeckertiz, the unmanned aircraft program manager with the US Department of Interior, says that unmanned helicopters such as the K-MAX will be integrated into routine measures to fight wildfires over the next few of years. The article notes that the K-MAX helicopters have already been used by the US Marines in Afghanistan, to “resupply remote outposts at night” and replace “dangerous convoys on the ground.” The article notes that the growing uses for drones is also why the FAA is seeking to register all drones.

Additional coverage was provided by [Vertical Magazine \(CAN\)](#) (10/21).

JEB BUSH PROPOSES MOVING INTERIOR DEPARTMENT FROM D.C. To Western City. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/20, Lucas, 199K) reports that “Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will unveil his proposals for Western land and resource management in a campaign stop in Reno on Wednesday morning, in a speech likely to resonate with conservative voters opposed to what they see as federal overreach in the Western states.” Bush is “expected to speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park before appearing at a forum sponsored by the LIBRE Initiative at the College of Southern Nevada Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas at 6 p.m.” In the proposal, Bush will “call for moving the headquarters of the Department of Interior from Washington, D.C., to a city in the western United States like Denver, Salt Lake City or Reno and will say that as president he would direct federal agencies to give broad latitude to states to determine land-use issues.”

STUDY: ALASKAN WILDFIRES COULD EXACERBATE GLOBAL WARMING. The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Mooney, 6.76M) reports that some greenhouse gas sources outside the scope of forthcoming UN climate talks are beyond governments’ control, such as raging peat fires in Indonesia this year, emitting “as much as Japan produces in a year from fossil fuels.” Elsewhere, a new study in Nature Climate Change reaffirms concerns about the emissions of northern fires in Alaska. The Post reports that “climate researchers are still trying to figure out how all of these factors will interrelate,” but fire is a “powerful determinant of how much carbon resides in land, rather than in the air, across our globe.”

INTERIOR’S VINE ACCOUNT HIGHLIGHTED. [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K) highlights the Interior Department has a great Vine account. Providing a link, Politico says “this is Internet gold.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA RULE ANNOUNCES RULE GIVING TRIBES MORE CONTROL OVER ELECTIONS. [Law360](#) (10/20, 21K) reports that the BIA “on Monday announced its final rule for Native American tribal elections conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying the new rule will encourage tribes to take control of their elections and help protect the voting rights of tribe members living in urban areas.” Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said “in a statement Monday that the rule will allow tribes to opt out of having the interior secretary conduct their elections.”

The [Native American Times](#) (10/20, 337) reports that Washburn said, “Though many federal responsibilities concern the lands we hold in trust for tribes and Indian people, more than 55 million acres nationwide, the United States has a moral obligation to preserve connections between Indian people and their tribes that it once sought to destroy. For the future of Native nations and the health of Indian Country, American Indians in urban areas must work harder to maintain connections with their tribes. One important aspect of that relationship is participation in the civic and political life of their tribal governments. For that reason, our Secretarial election amendments seek to prevent tribal members living in urban areas from being inadvertently disenfranchised in Secretarial elections.”

HEARING FOCUSES ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, Kelleher) reports from Honolulu that a federal court hearing began on Tuesday “in a lawsuit by people who want to put a stop to an election process that is underway for Native Hawaiians.” The lawsuit, filed in August, “says it’s unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election.” The state “argues in court

documents that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it is not involved in next month's vote to elect delegates for a convention to determine self-governance for Native Hawaiians." Tuesday's hearing "is focused on the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction," and the plaintiffs "want the judge to limit voter registration activities or stop the election altogether."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (10/21, 66K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (10/21, Kelleher, 5.98M).

INTERIOR SIDES WITH ALASKA NATIVE GROUP IN INVESTIGATION OF MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE TRIBAL COLLECTION. The [AP](#) (10/21, 2.28M) reports that "a Massachusetts college was found in violation of a federal law regulating the possession and sale of potentially sacred artifacts following a complaint from an organization of Alaska Natives." The Interior Department said "an investigation substantiated the complaint against Andover Newton Theological School filed in June by the Sealaska Heritage Institute." The institute's president, Rosita Worl, said "the school possesses at least two southeast Alaska artifacts, including a Tlingit halibut hook that is considered sacred."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, D'oro, 344K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 548K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/21, 5.59M), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (10/21, 651K), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/21, D'oro, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (10/21, 3.97M), and the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/20, 219K).

US ATTORNEY SAYS BIA OFFICER WAS JUSTIFIED IN DEADLY SPIRIT LAKE SHOOTING. The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that US Attorney Chris Myers "says" that an investigation by his office came to the conclusion that BIA Officer Terry Morgan was justified in shooting and killing "31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16." The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (10/21, 100K) reports that the US Attorney's Office "said" the shooting was justified because Charboneau posed a "real and immediate" threat to officers and another person at the scene after he refused to put down his gun, which was pointed at the officers. The Grand Forks Herald reports that, as a result of the investigation, Federal prosecutors "will not file charges against" Morgan.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (10/21, 1K), the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (10/21, 14K), [KXJB-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/21, 18K), [KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (10/20, 3K), [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (10/21, 1K), and [KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#) Bismarck, ND (10/21, 1K).

CRIME JUMPS AFTER TRIBES CUT FROM BIA FUNDING. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Romney, 4.07M) reports on a "time of crisis for public safety on tribal lands." According to the article, "a federal law decades ago shifted the primary burden of criminal law enforcement on tribal lands in California and five other states to local authorities," but "many lack the resources to do the job and, in some cases, sufficient knowledge of tribal law and culture to win the trust of tribal members." After "tribes were cut off from steady funding for their own justice systems," crime has "flourished."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: YAKAMA NATION'S PETITION TO SELF-GOVERN APPROVED.

Additional coverage that the BIA on Monday granted the Yakama Nation's petition for "retrocession" was provided by the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/21, 101K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (10/20, 86K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/21, 344K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/20, 183K), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), the [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K), [KNDU-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#) Yakima, WA (10/21, 3K), and [KUOW-FM Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (10/21, 15K).

GILLETTE'S SERVICE IN OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PRAISED. In an editorial, the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/21, 37K) lauds Jodi Gillette's service in the Obama Administration. According to the paper, Gillette's "positions gave her a voice in a White House that has seemed genuinely concerned about Native American issues."

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA PROPOSES MARSHALLS FUND CHANGES. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "a top US official has submitted a proposal to the Senate and House

to allow the people of Bikini to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands. Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina says "it is an appropriate course of action to take regarding the welfare and livelihood of the Bikinian people." The Bikinians were "displaced by US nuclear weapons testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands." According to the article, "in addition to cramped living quarters and a lack of suitable sustainable resources, the islands have been experiencing more frequent storms and king tides resulting in salt water inundation and the destruction of crops."

[Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "a representative from Bikini Atoll says a proposal to allow people to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands is not wanted." Bikini liaison officer Jack Niedenthal says "the US should take full responsibility for any resettlement including providing extra financing." Niedenthal said, "We still got a ways to go, we still have to do some more lobbying and some more talking to people in Washington to make them understand that what's being proposed by the assistant secretary is what we view as 'Plan B'. It's not ultimately what we want in terms of helping our people."

CHINA STRENGTHENS RELATIONSHIP WITH PACIFIC REGION. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that "China and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat further strengthened their relationship on Friday when the two met at a ceremony to hand over \$1.05 million to assist the Pacific region." Forum Secretariat Secretary General Meg Taylor and Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Zhang Ping "attended the ceremony and delivered speeches respectively." Zhang "reiterated his nation's ongoing interest in the region saying, 'China attaches great importance to the South Pacific region. The Chinese side stands ready to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation with Pacific Island Countries and contribute to the development and capacity building in the region.'"

COUNTRIES IN PACIFIC URGED TO BEGIN TALKS ON CLIMATE MIGRATION. [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that "all countries in the Pacific are being urged to start discussions on how to help people forced to move from low lying atoll nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu." According to the article, "184 million people worldwide were displaced by disaster between 2008 and 2014 and at special meetings in Geneva last week 110 countries gave the nod to a Protection Agenda for dealing with future migration challenges." The article notes that "the experiences of small island countries which face rising seas due to climate change helped form the global action plan under the Swiss Norwegian Nansen Initiative."

JOURNALIST SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITY OF GUAM ON CLIMATE ISSUES, CORRUPTION IN PACIFIC ISLANDS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/21) reports that "author and journalist Giff Johnson spoke to students at the University of Guam on Monday evening about climate change and development in the Pacific islands." Johnson's "lecture, entitled 'Idyllic No More: Pacific Island Climate, Corruption and Development Dilemmas,' is based on his latest book — a compilation of essays detailing the looming climate threat to the region, its booming fishing industry, and the U.S. nuclear test legacy in the Marshall Islands." Johnson called attention to "climate-driven migration from remote Pacific islands to Guam and mainland U.S."

RISING SEA LEVELS THREATEN KIRIBATI. The [National Geographic](#) (10/21, 31.65M) provides a picture gallery of the threat of rising sea levels driven by climate change on Kiribati.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

WATER SCHEDULED TO BE RELEASED FROM NEW MELONES. The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that "more than 7 billion gallons of water is scheduled to be released from New Melones Reservoir beginning today to ensure flows in the Stanislaus River will keep temperatures cool enough for adult salmon migrating up the river to spawn this fall." Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District said "it would benefit river conditions and fisheries, as well as the needs of agriculture and more than 200,000 residential customers downstream." The article notes that "earlier this year, the irrigation districts sparred with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — which manages New Melones Reservoir — over spring pulse flows that they feared would leave as little as 147,000 acre-feet in the reservoir by the end of September."

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS VOTE TO OPPOSE DELTA TUNNELS

PLAN. The [LOUI \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (10/21, 14K) reports that at a meeting on Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a resolution in formal opposition of California WaterFix, also known as the twin tunnels plan." Supervisor Kathy Miller said, "The WaterFix is just a thinly veiled version of the former (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and continues to push the fatally flawed twin tunnels, which will simply sacrifice one region of California for the benefit of another."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, DOMINION BOTH SUPPORT OFFSHORE WIND DEVELOPMENT. On his [Bacon's Rebellion \(VA\)](#) (10/21, Bacon) blog, James Bacon reports on an Environment Virginia-sponsored webinar held Tuesday morning in which representatives from Dominion, environmental groups, and the McAuliffe Administration all voiced support for the utility's experimental offshore wind farm project. For environmentalists, Bacon writes, the project represents the beginning of an industry that would increase the use of green energy along the Atlantic and displace fossil fuels. For the Governor's office, it represents increased green energy coupled with economic development that takes advantage of the Newport News area's shipbuilding industry.

Onshore Energy Development:

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY FINED \$2.1 MILLION FOR UNDER-REPORTING NATURAL GAS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department on Monday "announced a \$2.1 million civil penalty against Chesapeake Energy Corp. for misreporting the amount of gas it produced and sold from American Indian lands in Oklahoma." Chesapeake "failed to comply with a 2011 order that found 'systemic errors' in the company's monthly production reports for more than 100 Indian leases, according to Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue." The company "agreed to amend the monthly reports, but it continued to maintain inaccurate information on the agency's data systems, ONRR said." The firm was "assessed a penalty based on 'knowing or willful maintenance' of the inaccurate information, ONRR said."

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (10/21, 942K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication), the [Native American Times](#) (10/21, 337), and [KOKC-AM Oklahoma City \(OK\)](#) Oklahoma City (10/20, 1K).

TEXAS ENERGY REGULATOR OPPOSES STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [Law360](#) (10/21, 21K) reports that "Texas' top energy regulator on Tuesday said the agency will oppose a U.S. Department of the Interior proposed rule aimed at better protecting streams and other waterways from nearby mining activity, saying the regulation encroaches on ground better left to the state." Texas Railroad Commission Chairman David Porter on Tuesday said "the state would sign on to the multistate Interstate Mining Compact Commission's comments opposing the proposed waterway regulation."

USGS REPORT STATES EARTHQUAKES COINCIDE WITH OKLAHOMA OIL BOOMS. [KOCO-TV](#) Oklahoma City (10/21, 93K) reports that "a study by the United States Geological Survey states that the earthquakes from the past 100 years seem to coincide with the oil boom in Oklahoma."

OKLAHOMA REGULATORS SHUT DOWN THREE MORE DISPOSAL WELLS. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication) reports that "Oklahoma oil and gas regulators dealing with a dramatic increase in earthquakes near the pipeline hub of Cushing have shut down three more disposal wells." Also, "another well was shut down by the company that owns it after regulators said they were concerned it was drilled too deep." In addition, "the operators of seven other wells were told in a letter written Friday and released yesterday that they must reduce the volume of drilling waste that they inject deep underground."

OKLAHOMA LIMITS DISPOSAL WELLS AMID CUSHING QUAKES. [Reuters](#) (10/21, Hampton, Brandes) reports that Oklahoma's oil and gas regulator on Monday said it could impose new limits on all saltwater disposal wells within a 10-mile radius of Cushing. Reuters reports that Oklahoma now experiences as many as two magnitude 3.0 quakes per day, up from two per year. Thirteen wells have been ordered shut and approvals for new wells have been halted, Reuters reports. Scientists

told Reuters that shutting wells could ease tectonic disruption in Oklahoma.

STUDY: FRACKING CAN CAUSE METHANE LEAKS IN NEARBY ABANDONED OIL WELLS.

[Reuters](#) (10/20, Valdmanis) reported that according to a study published Tuesday in the Water Resources Research journal, fracking can cause methane leaks in nearby abandoned oil wells. The methane leaks could be a large source of unrecorded greenhouse gas emissions, according to the study. The study said that energy companies could reduce the probability of such methane leaks by trying to identify abandoned wells before they begin fracking, although the task could be difficult due to large numbers of unmarked abandoned wells.

BLM CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO PRODUCE PICTURES UNDER FOIA REQUEST. For the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (10/21), Darryl L. Flowers criticizes the BLM for failing to provide pictures in connection with “the proposed Solenex, LLC natural gas well on public lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest” that were requested under the Freedom of Information Act. The paper received “sixteen photos” and “two photos were missing.” He notes that “curiously, the two omitted photos were the only ones that included a person in the photos.”

Offshore Energy Development:

FEDS INVESTIGATE WORKER’S DEATH ON DRILLSHIP CONTRACTED BY CHEVRON. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (10/20, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that officials from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Coast Guard are investigating “the death of a worker on a drillship in the Gulf of Mexico that was preparing to bore a well for Chevron.” Fuel Fix says that “the Pacific Santa Ana drillship was just beginning operations for Chevron in about 4,800 feet of water at the site and had not yet penetrated the sea floor when an employee of that drilling contractor was fatally injured.” Fuel Fix adds that Chevron has a 36 percent working interest in the Keathley Canyon well-leasing block where the incident occurred, an area where “Chevron outlined ambitions to drill up to seven wells” earlier this year.

The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that Amy Roddy, spokeswoman for Pacific Drilling SA, the ship’s owner, “said the company is not releasing any details about the man to respect his family’s privacy. She also refused to disclose how the man died or details of the accident, citing an ongoing investigation.”

[NASDAQ](#) (10/20, Sider) reports that Chevron has contracted the ship since 2012. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/21, Larino, 718K) adds that “operations have been shut down and personnel remain onboard, according to the drillship’s operator.”

[Offshore Engineer](#) (10/20, Leon) reports that “the ship was to use its dual gradient drilling functions for Chevron’s Anchor-1 prospect last year in Green Canyon block 807, but the well was junked due to mechanical failures. However, in January of this year, Chevron hit high quality oil pay in multiple Lower Tertiary Wilcox Sands at a second Anchor well also drilled by the Pacific Santa Ana.”

The [Dow Jones Newswires](#) (10/21, Sider) reports that this is the first death related to offshore drilling operations in the Gulf of Mexico this year.

[Reuters](#) (10/21), [gCaptain](#) (10/21, 2K), [Upstream Online](#) (10/21, Schmidt, Brenner, 20K), and [Maritime Executive](#) (10/20, 21) also cover the story.

BRIARCLIFFE ACRES VOTES AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (10/21, 36K) reports that “in a storm of debate over offshore drilling, Briarcliffe Acres surfaced as the latest coastal town to join a united front against seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas off of South Carolina’s beaches.” According to the article, “missing councilwoman Abby Stewart, who has been with family on the west coast, the town council unanimously passed a resolution Monday, joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns in a stance against offshore drilling.”

SHELL VESSEL RESCUES FRENCHMAN, CAT FROM SAILBOAT STRANDED IN SEAS NEAR ALASKA. The [AP](#) (10/21, Thiessen) reports that a Frenchman and the cat tucked inside his clothing were rescued on Tuesday after he leapt from his sailboat to a waiting rescue ship sent by Shell. The man activated a location beacon in the high seas south of Alaska and told the Coast Guard his sailboat had lost its rudder and rigging in the high winds and 20-foot waves. The Coast Guard

contacted Shell's oil drilling rig, the Polar Pioneer, which is on its way to Port Angeles, and the rig "sent a support ship, the Tor Viking, to rescue the sailor." The AP reports that "it wasn't immediately clear if the man would continue with the Shell ships to Washington state."

CUNNINGHAM: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SHUTS THE DOOR ON ARCTIC DRILLING.

In an analysis of the Interior Department's recent decision on the future of Arctic drilling, [Oil Price](#) (10/21, 2K) reporter Nick Cunningham writes the Interior Department's decision to cancel lease sales through 2017 "leaves almost no possible pathway for an oil company to drill in the Arctic for years to come, perhaps killing off drilling for a decade or so at a minimum." Cunningham goes on to write that "it was likely that there wouldn't have been new drilling in any event, given Shell's decision and current market conditions, but Interior's decision officially shuts the door on the Arctic in the medium-term."

Casey: Interior's Actions On Arctic Drilling Trends "Toward A Permanent Clampdown."

[CleanTechnica's](#) (10/20, 15K) Tina Casey writes that "in the absence of local regulations, the Feds are the only game in town and it seems that the Arctic's role in the US economy is too important to trust to compliance by oil companies." Casey adds that, even though the Interior's actions last week on Arctic drilling may be "only temporary, but the trend is toward a permanent clampdown."

4-Traders: Federal Government To Blame For Low Arctic Drilling Interest. In an op-ed piece on the Interior's Arctic drilling decision, [4-Traders](#) (10/21, 5K) writes the Federal government's "difficult" regulatory obstacles is to blame for the lack of interest among oil companies to explore for oil and natural gas in the Arctic. 4-Traders writes that the "demand for oil and natural gas isn't going away, so energy domestic exploration must continue in the Arctic and elsewhere. But as we've seen, by putting up unnecessary regulatory hurdles, regulators can cause job and economic growth opportunities to be missed."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TO REVIEW HAGERMAN-HAILEY TRANSMISSION LINE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (10/21) reports that the BLM will review the Hagerman to Hailey transmission line, paying "special attention to the greater sage grouse in the area." Stacey Baczkowski, a biologist with Idaho Power, says "the company has been working with the BLM for the last few years to make sure the line is built with the bird in mind." Baczkowski says "the power company plans to build the new transmission line as close to the current one as possible, and will follow BLM rules about construction during sage grouse mating times."

UTAH WATER DISTRICT RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT BLM REVISION TO LAND-USE PLAN.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/21, 407K) reports that "federal policies that either aim to instill more oversight of water or deny access altogether have some Utah leaders frothing over what they say is a repeated pattern of overreach that threatens local economies and livelihoods." Ron Thompson, general manager of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, said "possible revisions to a land-use plan by the Bureau of Land Management in Washington County have severe ramifications should one particular approach be adopted." Thompson said "the BLM — under one option — is ignoring key considerations that went into the passage of the bill, including water supplies being left unhindered and right of way corridors left intact."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HELICOPTER CRASHES NEAR SEARCHLIGHT DURING CATTLE ROUNDUP. Additional coverage of the helicopter crash near Searchlight during a cattle roundup was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/21, 378K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CONSERVATION LEADERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONSERVATION SUMMIT. [KYTV-TV](#)

Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K) reports that "more than 40 leaders from the leading conservation groups in America are meeting in Springfield this week for a National Conservation Summit hosted by The Johnny Morris Foundation." According to the article, "participants include the U.S. Fish and

wildlife Service, National Geographic, Audubon Society, and Ducks Unlimited. The article notes that “the purpose of the historic gathering is to collectively discuss opportunities to educate and engage the public in efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitats in preparation for the grand opening of America’s Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in 2016.”

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (10/20, 49K) reports that “three exhibits of America’s Wildlife Museum & Aquarium, formerly Wonders of Wildlife, were open to media for a tour on Oct. 20, 2015 at the museum located next to the Bass Pro Shops flagship store in Springfield, Mo.” More than 40 conservation leaders attending a National Conservation Summit “hope the new Bass Pro Shops wildlife museum and aquarium will convey to visitors when it opens in mid 2016.” FWS Director Dan Ashe, “one of the summit attendees,” called the museum “one of the foremost conservation attractions in the world.” He said, “Through conservation efforts, we can be successful in sustaining these populations of animals that are threatened or endangered. People hear about the industrial-scale poaching of elephants that’s happening in Africa. That’s not hunting. With this museum, here’s an opportunity to tell the story of how we can protect wildlife habitat, and that when hunting is done well, with appropriate regulations, it sustains wildlife populations.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K), [KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 135K), and [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (10/21, 6K).

CNMI QUESTIONS INCLUSION OF SOME SPECIES ON ENDANGERED LIST. The [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/21, 1K) reports that “the Northern Marianas government says the decision to list 23 species in Guam and the CNMI as threatened or endangered was rushed.” The government says “it supports the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s listing of seven of the 17 CNMI species, but it questions the inclusion of some of the other species.” The Department of Land and Natural Resources says “a number of the species do not meet the definitions of threatened or endangered and don’t require federal protection.”

FWS LOOKS TO RESTORE HABITAT ON ROOT RIVER. The [Rochester \(MN\) Post-Bulletin](#) (10/21, 28K) reports that “federal wildlife officials are seeking public input on a plan to restore and enhance habitat on 825 acres of Minnesota land along the Root River in Houston County.” Managed by the FWS “as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the Root River Tract sits to the east of Hwy. 26 between La Crescent and Brownsville.” The article notes that “the site includes 664 acres of hunting and farmland purchased in 2009 with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

SHOOTING OF CALIFORNIA CONDOR IN ARIZONA UNDER INVESTIGATION. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that FWS special agents and Arizona Game and Fish Department “law enforcement personnel are investigating the lethal shooting of an endangered California condor that occurred on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona Oct. 8.”

MAN CLAIMS HE BLOCKED ARIZONA BIKE TRAIL TO PROTECT OWLS. The [AP](#) (10/21, 344K) reports that “the 81-year-old man who blocked a Flagstaff-area mountain bike race says he did it to protect an endangered owl species.” J.D. Protiva “appeared in federal court Monday on misdemeanor charges related to blocking the Elden Springs Trail before the August race.” Protiva says “the path goes through protected Mexican spotted owl habitat.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MONARCHS GET HELP AS CALIFORNIANS PLANT DROUGHT-TOLERANT MILKWEED. Additional coverage that monarch butterflies could benefit from the California drought was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/20, 455K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/21, 259K), [KABC-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/21, 413K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (10/21, 345K).

FWS INVESTING IN PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN ATLANTIC COASTAL DEFENSES AGAINST FUTURE STORMS. In an op-ed for the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (10/20, 172K), Wendi Weber is Northeast regional director for the FWS, writes that “federal money for Hurricane Sandy recovery has spurred an unprecedented effort to strengthen natural defenses along the Atlantic Coast to protect communities and wildlife against future storms.” She notes that the FWS and other Interior Department “agencies are investing \$787 million in hundreds of projects to clean up and repair damaged refuges and parks; restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline; connect and open

waterways to improve flood control, and increase our scientific understanding of how these natural areas are changing.” According to Weber, “these investments support the goal of President Barack Obama’s Climate Action Plan to make communities more resilient to increasingly intense storms predicted with a changing climate.”

National Park Service:

MUSIC VIDEO CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF NPS. The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (10/20, 53K) reports on “a locally made music video that celebrates 100 years of the National Park Service.” According to the article, “published on Oct. 15, the Centennial video has more than 18,500 views on the NPS facebook page and more than 530 on the Youth Ambassador Program’s YouTube page, the group that made it.” NPS Director Jon Jarvis, “who met the traveling crew in Washington, D.C., makes a cameo appearance in the video to say, ‘It’s great to celebrate a hundred years with YAP!’”

Kentucky Lieutenant Gov. Lualien Touts National Parks. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/20, 414K) reports that Kentucky Lieutenant Governor Crit Luallen on Tuesday “touted the economic impact of Kentucky’s travel and tourism industry” in “an address to the Kentucky Travel Industry’s annual conference in Bowling Green.” Following her remarks, Luallen “recognized five national parks in Kentucky as part of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016.” She “presented proclamations to representatives of the parks.”

Couple Visiting 59 National Parks In 12 Months. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/21, 1.03M) reports that “Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, St. Louis natives, are two months into their grand adventure: 59 parks in 12 months – part celebration of the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary, part exercise in youthful spontaneity.” Their goal is to “see the best of the United States, and inspire others – particularly other millennials – to do the same.” The article notes that “their mission meshes well with a new campaign of the Park Service, which celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2016.”

WATCHDOG RELEASES REPORT ON NPS CONSTRUCTION FUNDS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “a federal watchdog yesterday released a disputed report alleging that the National Park Service is violating congressional intent by dipping into its construction account to cover security, air testing and other reimbursable expenses that should have been paid up front by other agencies.” The NPS construction account is “only for expenses that relate to ‘construction, improvements, repair or replacement of physical facilities,’” the Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General report said, “citing the language of the agency’s appropriation.” However, “the OIG found that 17 out of a sample of 21 interagency agreements that used Park Service construction funds to cover reimbursable costs did not appear to include ‘a valid construction purpose.’” The article notes that “these included \$4.9 million that NPS spent from its construction account on security at the Department of the Army’s Memorial Day and Independence Day concerts at the Capitol in 2014 and \$37.5 million over seven years on air quality monitoring at national parks that will be paid back to NPS by U.S. EPA.”

HOUSE COMMITTEE PASSES GRAND CANYON BISON MANAGEMENT ACT. [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/21) reports that the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act “allowing the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to better manage and conserve the bison population within the park Oct. 8.” The legislation “requires the U.S. Department of Interior and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on a plan that allows sportsmen holding a valid state-issued hunting license to assist in management of the bison population within the park.”

THUNDERSTORMS CAUSE FLOODING, MUDSLIDES IN DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. The [Greenwire](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication) reports that “mudslides and flooding after severe thunderstorms in Death Valley National Park on Sunday trapped three park rangers and about 20 visitors – many out to see a clear night sky – in a volcanic crater overnight.” Park spokeswoman Abby Wines said “the stranded people spent the night in Ubehebe Crater, maintaining contact with park headquarters until they were able to reach safety yesterday morning.” The article notes that “no injuries were reported, but Wines said the unexpectedly severe storms knocked out power in the area, damaged and closed several roads, and filled a historic visitor’s center with several feet of mud and debris.”

NPS SET TO CONTINUE WITH TREE-CUTTING AT POTOMAC CAMPGROUND. The [Bethesda \(MD\) Magazine](#) (10/21) reports that “after complaints from two nearby residents and a call from County Council member Roger Berliner temporarily halted tree-cutting operations Friday at a Potomac campground, the National Park Service said it plans to resume the tree-cutting and will probably do so in the next few days.” John Noel, deputy superintendent for the C&O Canal National Historical Park, said that “he went to the Swain’s Lock Recreation Site to examine the 26 trees proposed to be removed and 32 others proposed to be pruned at the site’s campground.” Noel “agreed that the trees are rotting and in danger of falling on park users below.”

STUDENTS GO ON CANOE TRIP AROUND WOLF LAKE. The [Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (10/20, 105K) reports that “all classes in Grades 6 through 9 at George Rogers Clark Junior-Senior High School in Hammond recently experienced a unique field trip right in their own back yard — a canoe trip around Wolf Lake located only a few blocks from the school.” The trip was “made available through a partnership with the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center and Wilderness Inquiry.”

NEW COLONIAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT THANKS COMMUNITY FOR ADVOCACY. The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (10/20, Williams, Subscription Publication, 201K) reports that the Colonial National Historical Park’s new Superintendent, Kym Hall, thanked the community for its opposition to Dominion’s Skiffes Creek transmission project in her first appearance before the York County Board of Supervisors on September 1. “The view should be protected,” she said.

DEVILS TOWER TO HOST STAR VIEWING PARTIES. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/21, 115K) reports that the NPS “announced that Devils Tower will host a series of star viewing parties October through December.” The article notes that “the eight parties are free of charge, and will last approximately two hours.”

NPS URGED TO RECONSIDER RACIST NAME FOR A WASHINGTON LAKE. In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/21, 74K), Glenn Nelson writes that Washington state officially calls Howard Lake “by what is believed to be its oldest known name,” but he federal government “recognizes the lake by a name that causes the jaws of most people of color to drop: Coon Lake.” Nelson notes that “the federal government did not follow the usual course of supporting the state’s action, mostly because of opposition from the National Park Service, which manages the area that contains the lake.” The NPS, “acting on research from its North Cascades unit, originally defended its stance by claiming that there was ambiguity around the use of the term ‘coon.’” According to Nelson, “in the years leading up to its 2016 centennial, the Park Service has done a lot of talking and writing about the need for diversity and inclusiveness.” He concludes that “it’s past time for the Park Service to back away from its misguided opposition, encourage Secretary Jewell to come to its rescue, and allow another black life to matter.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS SEISMOLOGIST QUESTIONS PREDICTION OF 99.9 PERCENT CHANCE OF MAJOR LOS ANGELES EARTHQUAKE IN 3 YEARS. The [Southern California Public Radio](#) (10/20, 68K) reports that “a controversial new study from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory” claims “there is a 99.9 percent chance of an earthquake” in Los Angeles “between magnitude 5 and 6.3 in less than three years.” The study, published earlier this month by the American Geophysical Union’s Earth and Space Science journal, has “taken many in the seismic community by surprise.” Lucy Jones with the USGS said the “methodology doesn’t fully explain the prediction, and the study doesn’t adequately address this either.” Jones said that, according to the USGS’ “models, there is only an 85 percent chance of a magnitude 5 or 6 quake in the same region over a three-year period.”

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: TRUDEAU’S ELECTION LIKELY TO FOSTER IMPROVED US-CANADA TIES. On the day after Justin Trudeau became Canada’s Prime Minister-designate, media reporting universally characterized the election results as a likely boost for US-Canada relations. Coverage focuses on Trudeau’s promise of a less combative foreign policy style and the perception that he will be more willing to accept a US rejection of the Keystone pipeline. Reporting – including a combined 2

minutes and 30 seconds on the three broadcast networks – also indicates that despite Trudeau's decision to withdraw his aircraft from the US-led coalition against ISIL, he is likely to be a more willing partner on climate change and other issues.

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, story 9, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) reported President Obama on Tuesday congratulated Trudeau, who “swept into power with a message of optimism saying Canada beat fear with hope.” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Korte, 5.23M) reports Obama made the phone call “in an attempt to lock down continued cooperation with the northern neighbor on trade, terrorism, and climate change.” The White House, according to USA Today, “signaled that not much would change in the relationship” between the neighbors following the Liberal party's victory. [CBC News](#) (10/20, Fitzpatrick, 225K) reported on its website that the White House indicated Obama and Trudeau “agreed on the importance of deepening the ‘already strong’ bilateral relationship” between the countries “and committed to strengthen joint efforts to promote trade and to combat terrorism and climate change.”

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports the White House and current Prime Minister Stephen Harper “clashed over climate policy” and the Keystone pipeline. While White House spokesman Josh Earnest on Tuesday said “it would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue,” Chuck Todd reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that “we now have a Canadian government that is politically more in line with the American government.” According to Todd, “Relations have been good but they have not been so great of late. Will they now get better? That is why Americans should care.”

In an article entitled “5 Reasons The US Should Care About Canada's New Prime Minister,” [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hjelmggaard, 5.23M) lists ways in which Trudeau “is likely to affect policies in Canada and the United States.” According to USA Today, Trudeau “promised to improve strained relations” with Obama and said “he wants to find constructive ways of working with Washington on other issues.” Another [USA Today](#) (10/21, Kovac, 5.23M) article reports that Trudeau and Harper “differ in their approach to foreign policy,” with the incoming leader being less vocally pro-Israel and more focused on environmental issues.

In an analysis piece, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/21, 2.66M) says “a prompt rejection” of the Keystone pipeline by Obama “would make the job easier” for Trudeau “as he seeks to reset the country's relationship with the US, which he says was damaged” by Harper. According to Bloomberg, Trudeau “could use a quick US denial” of the pipeline “to focus discussions” with Obama “on issues such as trade and climate.” Bloomberg notes there has been “speculation” that Obama “would reject the pipeline shortly after the Canadian election.” However, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Cama, 471K) reported, Secretary of State Kerry said Tuesday that Canada's election results will not change the White House's approach to the Keystone issue. Kerry said the decision “is being based on the merits and countervailing balance of all the input that has come from a very exhaustive agency review.” Kerry reiterated that he seeks a decision “as fast as possible.”

[Reuters](#) (10/21, Mason, Rampton) reports the White House indicated it would like the new Canadian government to take increased actions to address climate change. Earnest said that while Canada has “made a substantial and important commitment” ahead of the Paris climate talks, “We believe that it's possible that there is more that Canada can do in this regard.”

However, writing for [Mother Jones](#) (10/20, 758K), Suzanne Goldenberg claimed “those hoping for a U-turn in Canada's climate change policy...are in for a reality check.” According to Goldenberg, while Trudeau does not align directly with many of Harper's views or policies, “it would be a mistake” to see the new Canadian leader or his party “as climate champions.” In [Slate](#) (10/20, 1.38M), Joshua Keating argued that at least with regard to the Keystone pipeline, Trudeau does present a change from Harper. Keating characterizes Trudeau as “a very different leader” from Harper and says he will make the Keystone pipeline less of a focal point of US-Canada relations. According to Keating, Trudeau “has described his support for the pipeline as ‘steadfast,’ but it's clearly not the make-or-break issue for him that it was for Harper.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Vieira, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports Trudeau said he will work to restore Canada's reputation of defending minorities and become more involved in multilateral policy making. At a rally in Ottawa, Trudeau said, “To this country's friends around the world, I want to say this: Many of you have worried Canada has lost its compassionate and constructive voice in the

world over the past 10 years. I have simple message for you. we're back. The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) similarly reports that Trudeau "is likely to present a very different face to the world" than Harper, "but the most noticeable difference will probably be in tone." Trudeau has vowed to "put an end to Mr. Harper's often belligerent style of politics and diplomacy." Trudeau said Tuesday that "a positive, optimistic, hopeful vision of public life isn't a naïve dream – it can be a powerful force for change." The Times says Trudeau has previously indicated a desire to end Harper's reliance on military solutions and tough rhetoric, and instead focus on working within international organizations, such as the United Nations.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 10, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, "Canada took a left turn" as "Trudeau and the Liberal Party rode in on a landslide." In a [USA Today](#) (10/21, 5.23M) op-ed, author David Andelman says "most of the reasons" Canadian voters chose Trudeau to lead the country "boiled down to one fundamental: The Liberal Party leader was simply nicer than his opponent. And most Canadians believe they are, too." Similarly, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorializes that Canadians wanted a change from the Harper government, which had become isolated and sought to restrict debate. The [New York Times](#) (10/21, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) agrees, editorializing that Trudeau's election "shows how ready Canadians were to emerge from a decade under the Conservative government of the secretive and combative Stephen Harper."

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau told Obama on Tuesday that Canadian fighter aircraft will withdraw from the US-led coalition against ISIL, but the new Canadian leader did not present a timeline for the move. In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, A1, Brown, 6.76M) reports Trudeau said, "I committed that we would continue to engage in a responsible way that understands how Canada has a role to play in the fight against ISIL," adding, that Obama "understands the commitments I've made around ending the combat mission." According to the Post, a "senior Administration official," said Obama and Trudeau discussed joint anti-terrorism efforts and, "We expect Canada will continue to be a valuable contributor to the 65-member global coalition" against ISIL.

Trudeau's Win Could "Lead To Full Marijuana Legalization" In Canada. [USA Today](#) (10/21, Hughes, 5.23M) reports Trudeau's win "may lead to full marijuana legalization" for Canada. According to USA Today, Trudeau promised during his campaign that "Canada would create a system to tax, regulate and sell marijuana, along with stiff penalties for anyone giving pot to children or caught driving while stoned." USA Today says American "cannabis activists hailed Tuesday's election as a milestone, suggesting that a day may soon come when cross-border trade talks include...legal weed."

[AFP](#) (10/21) reports Trudeau's "promise to legalize recreational cannabis" will likely "help the nation's nascent medical marijuana industry." Investors, according to AFP, "are betting" they could build on companies' current production of marijuana for medical use and "quickly scale up to serve recreational pot users too, once Trudeau makes good on his promise."

NYTimes Analysis: Trudeau Is "No Dynast" Despite Father Being Former Prime Minister. In a 1,350-world profile piece, the [New York Times](#) (10/21, Austen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that despite there being "many easy parallels to draw between" Trudeau and his father, former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Canada's incoming leader "is no dynast who slipped effortlessly into a family political machine." The Times notes that Trudeau "did not even enter politics until 18 years after his father gave it up, and seven year after his father's death." According to the Times, Trudeau "built his own cadre of advisers, mostly from his own generation" and sometimes "chose more difficult roads – partly, it appears, to show he had not been handed a life in politics on a platter."

In the [Washington Post](#) (10/21, 6.76M) "Reliable Source" blog, Emily Heil says Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, "have a lot in common with the Obamas." According to Heil, "they'd have lots to talk about, apart from liberal politics, like fitness!"

IN APPARENT REVERSAL, BIDEN SAYS HE PRIVATELY URGED OBAMA TO AUTHORIZE UBL RAID. Vice President Biden did not reveal Tuesday whether or not he will enter the Democratic presidential race, but his remark that he privately advised President Obama to launch the 2011 raid that led to the death of Osama Bin Laden – which contradicted Biden's past public comments that he advised against the raid – is being interpreted as a possible line of attack against Hillary Clinton. All

three broadcast networks reported on the statement, combining for nearly eight minutes of coverage, and ABC led with it. The tone of the coverage is mixed, with most reports calling it a reversal, and some concluding that Biden may be undercutting his own reputation for candor.

There was also Twitter discussion of Biden's remarks. Anthony De Rosa, a digital producer for The Daily Show who has nearly 89,000 followers, [tweeted](#), "Biden sounds like Brian Williams with his evolving recollection of the Bin Laden raid." Jonathan Martin of the New York Times [tweeted](#), "@vp today signals: he'll run & it'll get negative FAST or: he's not happy about being sidelined." His Times colleague Maggie Haberman [tweeted](#), "Biden's subtle digs at Clinton indicate that if he runs it'll be ugly." In addition, the hashtag [#BidenWatch](#) emerged on Twitter, with Fox Business Network's Trish Regan [tweeting](#), "Sure sounds like he's running...", Mashable's Juana Summers [tweeting](#) Biden's Wednesday official schedule, and Al Jazeera America's David Shuster [tweeting](#) that "Hallie Biden, widow of the late Beau Biden, says her family supports a Presidential campaign '100%'".

[ABC World News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:50, Muir, 5.84M) reported that "as the pressure mounts for Joe Biden to decide whether he'll run...many [are] now asking, did he change his story?" ABC (Karl) added, "Biden has described Obama's decision as especially courageous because in that key meeting when it came time to decide, most of the President's advisers, including Biden himself, were not in favor of the raid." On Tuesday, he "offered an entirely different account of what happened on that fateful day." Biden was shown saying, "So as we walked out of the room and we walked upstairs, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts. But it would have been a mistake, imagine if I had said in front of everyone, 'don't go, or go,' and his decision was a different decision." Karl: "But until today, Biden has said he told Obama and his team that night to hold off on the raid."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 6, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that Biden "sounded more like a presidential candidate, talking up his foreign policy credentials, doing some rewriting of his own history and firing a shot over the bow of the Democratic frontrunner." CBS' Nancy Corden added that Biden "never mentioned" Clinton by name, "but it was all too clear the comparison he was making when he said this about his stature overseas." Biden: "I will get sent to go speak to Putin or go speak to whomever, and it's because the secretary of state, we've had two great secretaries of state, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the President." Cordes added that Biden left Clinton "out of his story" about the Bin Laden raid.



U.S. Department of the Interior News Clips

Bulletin
INTELLIGENCE

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DOI IN THE NEWS

Murkowski Spells Out Uphill Climb For Interior Nominee

[Politico Pro](#), October 20, 2015

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chairwoman said that Interior Department pick Kristen Sarri would have a lot of explaining to do at a hearing on six nominees today. "We've seen decisions out of the Interior that are really destroying our hope to be independent as a state," Sen. Lisa Murkowski said at the nomination hearing, which included candidates for the USGS, and the departments of Energy and Interior. Sarri has been nominated to be the Interior assistant secretary for policy, management and budget. While she was pleased that President Barack Obama had renamed Mount McKinley this summer to Denali, the Alaska Republican said she was still frustrated with the Interior Department's "heartless decision" to deny a road in King Cove. She also criticized Interior for closing off oil production in Alaska and last week's cancellation of offshore sales and lease extension.

'Playing Games': Obama Backs 'Politicized ... Trivial' Nominee For Essential Spot He Left Empty For 6 Years

By Ethan Barton

[Daily Caller](#), October 21, 2015

A Senate committee chairwoman is torn between leaving the Department of the Interior's independent watchdog post vacant, or confirming President Barack Obama's nominee crippled by recurring allegations of "playing games with Congress."

"I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent [inspector general], and I'm disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski. The Alaska Republican is chairwoman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

"But I am also committed to ensuring that the individual we confirm is fully independent ... The tenure that you have been involved with thus far in this position has been marked by controversy."

Obama nominated Mary Kendall for the Interior Department's Inspector General on June 4. She has been both the acting and deputy IG since 2009.

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility – a non-profit activist group – said Kendall "politicized" investigations, "focused on trivial matters," "kept IG operations secret," and should not be confirmed as a permanent head, The Daily Caller News Foundation reported last week.

Wyoming Republican Sen. John Barrasso said an IG report critical of the Office of Surface Mining wasn't publicly released until Dec. 20, 2013 – 10 months after it was completed, and three days after Congress confirmed an Interior appointee to oversee that agency.

"It looks as though you're playing games with Congress," Barrasso said.

But Kendall said she didn't "recall the details. It sounds wrong. I would hope that there's a meaningful explanation."

Louisiana Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy

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"It looks as though you're playing games with Congress," Barrasso said.

But Kendall said she didn't "recall the details. It sounds wrong. I would hope that there's a meaningful explanation."

Louisiana Republican Sen. [crscore]Bill Cassidy[Lisa"> also said the IG was doing favors for the Interior Department, rather than holding it accountable, in instances where it refused to hand reports over to Congress.

"I have been true to myself, my principles, my best judgment, and the law," Kendall said. "My personal style, to engage in civil discourse even when addressing difficult issues, has been criticized by some as being too accommodating of the Department of the Interior. Civility, in my experience, however, is not an accommodation, but rather, a strong and effective tool in communicating with and holding DOI accountable."

Murkowski said "while we expect that the IG always to approach her work with civility, she must never compromise her independence."

"If you are ... breaking bread ... It seems that you have set yourself up for a conflict of interest," said Cassidy.

"Having the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, I may have made some of those decisions differently," Kendall said.

Kendall also claimed multiple accomplishments, including "195 convictions, \$4.5 billion in criminal fines, penalties and restitution, over \$119 million in questioned costs and \$55 million in funds put to better use. On average over the past five years, the [IG] for DOI ranked fifth for Return-on-Investment among the 72 Federal OIGs."

House Committee on Natural Resources Republicans also reported Kendall's politicization in 2013.

"Acting Inspector General Kendall and Chief of Staff Stephen Hardgrove have blurred the line between being an independent watchdog and serving as an informal advisor and collaborator on Department policy initiatives," the report said.

"The president should not delay any further in acting to nominate someone who can serve as the independent watchdog the department deserves and who does not have the questionable history and judgment Ms. Kendall has brought to the position."

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Top Republican Skeptical Of Obama Interior Nominees

By Devin Henry

[The Hill](#), October 21, 2015

A leading Republican on Tuesday raised concerns over two of President Obama's nominees for the Department of the Interior.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said President Obama's pick to serve as an assistant secretary of the Interior, Kristen Joan Sarri, faces a high bar to winning her support, given what she considers the department's detrimental work in Alaska.

"If you're an Alaskan and you're reading the headlines, you have to wonder: What's going on within Interior? Why do they have it out for us?" Murkowski said during an Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on Tuesday.

"You're going to need to convince me that you are part of the solution and not part of the problem for Alaska at the Interior Department," she said to Sarri.

Murkowski, the chair of the committee, asked Sarri what role she played in last week's Interior Department decision to cancel oil drilling lease sales in the Arctic Ocean during the next two years, something she said was "an incredible blow and a hit to the state of Alaska."

Sarri said she wasn't involved in those decisions and that she wouldn't have a role in future leasing decisions in the position for which she is nominated.

"Alaska is incredibly important to energy development in this country and the safe and responsible development in the Arctic is part of that," she said.

Murkowski also hinted Mary Kendall, the Interior Department inspector general nominee, will face a tough confirmation fight in the Senate given concerns over her work as the acting inspector general (IG).

"I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent IG, and I'm disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years," she said.

"I'm also committed to ensuring that the individual that we confirm is fully independent, with good judgement in difficult situations and a firm grasp of the responsibilities of the Inspector General."

Kendall has had several dust-ups with House Republicans, who have accused her of not investigating political appointees and failing to file investigative reports on issues within the department.

She defended herself on Tuesday, noting that the Interior Department's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is ranked among the top five federal OIGs in return-on-investment during her tenure. She said that she has met with committee members to go over House Republicans' concerns.

"Whether I have done so to your individual satisfaction, I do not know," she said. "What I do know is that throughout, I have been true to myself, my principles, my best judgment and the law."

The Energy and Natural Resources Committee heard from six Obama nominees on Tuesday. Other Republicans pushed Kendall, Sarri and others on their qualifications and their positions, but Democrats were widely receptive of the slate of nominees.

"We are very fortunate, I believe, to have six highly qualified and experienced nominees in front of us," said Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), the ranking member of the committee.

Murkowski's Irate, Interior Nominee Heard All About It

[KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#), October 20, 2015

Sen. Lisa Murkowski has a pretty big gavel to pummel the Department of the Interior with as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which oversees the department. Nominees for high office at DOI and other departments have to clear her committee before Senate confirmation.

With three nominees from DOI and three from the Department of Energy before her, Murkowski wasn't shy Tuesday morning in tying the nominees to their bosses and declaring favorites. The senator says she likes Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz.

"He works with us. He listens to us. I think he deserves to have a team in place to support him," Murkowski said. "Unfortunately, I'm not able to say the same when it comes to the secretary of the Interior."

Murkowski homed in on Kristen Sarri, the nominee to be assistant secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget. Murkowski went through a list of her complaints about the department, such as: Not opening enough of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska to exploration, being slow with permits, the "heartless" denial of an emergency road for King Cove, and, most recently, the decisions on offshore Arctic leases. Murkowski says the department created a "deteriorating regulatory environment" that thwarts development and was a factor in Shell's decision to give up on Arctic drilling.

"So if you're an Alaskan and you're reading the headlines, you have to wonder, what's going on within Interior? Why do they have it out for us?" the senator said.

Sarri, who is already working in the policy office at Interior, says the department isn't against Arctic development.

"Let me just first start by saying, really quickly that Alaska is incredibly important obviously to energy production in this country and the safe and responsible development in the Arctic is an important part of the picture," Sarri said.

Murkowski told her that's not evident from the administration's actions.

"I was not involved in either of the decisions announced on Friday," Sarri said, referring to the cancellation of Arctic lease sales and the refusal to extend existing leases held by Shell and other companies.

Sarri says the offshore leasing decisions came from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which are in Interior but lower down the organizational chart. Murkowski pressed on, and Sarri continued to say she wasn't responsible for the actions Murkowski objects to.

Dozens of nominations are pending in Congress. Senators sometimes hold them hostage by the fistful to extract concessions from a president. Murkowski didn't say whether she'd block anyone.

Even if she did put a hold on Interior nominations, Sarah Binder, a senior fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution, says it's unlikely to cause the Obama administration to reverse course. But, Binder says, by voicing her opposition, Murkowski does plant a flag on the issue.

"She's taking a position, right?" Binder says. "And senators get rewarded for being on the right side of issues, even if they can't get the outcome that they want."

A Murkowski spokesman says the senator will wait for more information before deciding how to vote on Sarri's confirmation.

Recent headlines

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The question now is what to do with all the animals and how to care for them while they are waiting to be placed in homes.

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The museum's board of directors voted Oct. 12 to close the museum and place executive director Zoya Johnson on paid administrative leave. Comments
comments

Murkowski's Irate; Interior Nominee Heard All About It

[Alaska Public Radio Network](#), October 20, 2015

Murkowski, as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has a pretty big gavel to pummel the Interior Department with. Her committee oversees that department. Nominees for high office at Interior and other departments have to clear her committee en route to Senate confirmation. This morning, with three nominees from Interior and three from Energy before her, Murkowski wasn't shy about tying the nominees to their bosses and declaring favorites. The senator says she likes Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz.

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'New Chapter In Trust': Historic \$186 Million Settlement Reaffirms Sovereignty, Tribes Say

[Indian Country Today Media Network](#), October 20, 2015

Tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior heralded the outcome of a \$186 million settlement signed earlier this month between the federal government, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw nations to solve a longstanding land trust dispute as a new chapter in relations.

"This settlement represents a significant milestone in helping solidify and improve our relationship with the United States," said Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby in a statement during the October 5 signing ceremony that also gave a nod to the impetus provided by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. "We respect the vital role Secretary Jewell has taken in helping make this historic settlement a reality. We are confident she will play an essential role in our efforts to continue strengthening the relationship between our governments, because we believe she has a unique appreciation for the mutual benefits of a positive government-to-government relationship."

Jewell indicated as much by greeting the crowd, many of them wearing traditional attire, with the Choctaw "Halito!" which "spoke to her empathy and support of American Indian issues and people," the Choctaw Nation said in a release describing the signing ceremony.

Anoatubby and Choctaw Chief Gary Batton were both on hand on Tuesday October 6 to sign a historic \$186 million settlement between the two tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior. The agreement resolved a lawsuit that took issue with the way the federal government had managed the tribes' trust resources, according to a statement from the Chickasaw Nation. The Chickasaw Nation will receive \$46.5 million of the \$186 million settlement, with the balance going to the Choctaw. In their case the tribes alleged that the U.S. mismanaged 1.3 million acres of timberlands belonging to the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations. The agreement ends all litigation and was inked at the Choctaw Event Center in a ceremony that capped a two-day visit Jewell to both nations on October 5 and 6.

RELATED: Choctaw and Chickasaw Receive \$186 Million in Historic Land-Trust-Management Settlement

"Today's agreement is the latest addition to a record number of longstanding settlements resolved under this Administration," Jewell said in a DOI statement after the signing. "This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country."

Batton, too, spoke about the improvement in relations stemming from visits by Jewell and President Barack Obama.

"This visit marks the start of a revitalized relationship with the United States," said Batton in the tribes' statement. "Secretary Jewell's presence here, coming soon after President Obama's recent visit, also serves to reaffirm that the foundation of this relationship is government-to-government."

Batton emphasized the nature of the relationship as well.

"I am appreciative of having a sovereign-to-sovereign relationship between the Choctaw Nation and the U.S. Government," he said. "It is also historic that these three sovereigns have agreed to a settlement of the timber trust account case."

The case was first filed in 2005 but reached back more than 100 years to just before Oklahoma became a state. That's when the U.S. government took control of more than a million acres of Chickasaw and Choctaw tribal lands, the Choctaw Nation explained in its media release describing the events of the day.

"The U.S., as federal trustee, held those lands in trust for the benefit of the Nations," said the Choctaw in its statement. "In December 2005 the Nations filed suit in U.S. District Court seeking a long overdue accounting of the federal trustee's management of those resources and an equitable restoration of the value of that trust."

The \$186 million will be divided between the two tribes based on treaty agreements, with the Choctaw receiving 75 percent, or \$139.5 million, and the Chickasaw the other 25 percent, or \$46.5 million.

Both Batton and Anoatubby said the proceeds would be invested in education and other endeavors.

"We plan for the proceeds to be invested in our people—expanding education, creating jobs and promoting economic development and culture, as well as a portion to be invested in a sustainability fund for the future of our Citizens," Batton said.

Anoatubby had announced the settlement to members in his State of the Nation Address on October 3.

"Our portion of the funds will be carefully invested and the returns used for activities that improve the overall quality of life of all Chickasaws," said Anoatubby in the address.

He, too, added that the settlement was about more than money.

"Perhaps more important than the actual dollars, this settlement turns the page," said Anoatubby. "It represents the United States' acknowledgement of its mistreatment of the Chickasaw Nation and American Indians of Indian Territory during those early decades of the twentieth century. We continue to actively protect and defend our sovereignty, but we will continue to strive to improve our working relationship with the government and its agencies and agents."

U.S. Treasury Confirms \$20B Balance For LWCF, But Is It Real?

[E&E Publishing](#), October 21, 2015

The Land and Water Conservation Fund that expired earlier this month for the first time in its 50-year history currently contains nearly \$20 billion, according to the U.S. Treasury, which maintains the program's balance sheets.

Whether that is "real" money available to be spent on federal land acquisitions, private land easements and state recreation projects depends on whom you ask.

But the money – collected mostly from offshore oil and gas lease rentals and royalty receipts – does exist, according to the Treasury.

The \$19.8 billion balance also includes a relatively small amount of revenues from the sales of surplus federal property and the motor boat fuels tax, Treasury said.

There's been significant debate over how LWCF's expiration on Sept. 30 will affect the program's funding.

Advertisement

This much is undisputed: Money from offshore drilling is now going directly into the general Treasury rather than LWCF. That means the \$19.8 billion can only be reduced until Congress reauthorizes the program.

What is less clear is how the program's expiration will affect appropriators' willingness to fund it.

Despite LWCF's expiration, it is still being funded at approximately \$300 million a year under the continuing resolution. While it is authorized at \$900 million, the program has rarely been appropriated at that level.

Democrats, certain pro-LWCF Republicans and conservationists say reauthorization is urgent, warning that the program has been disconnected from its main funding source – oil and gas. The premise in enacting the fund in 1965 was to use revenue from the depletion of one natural resource to permanently protect other scenic and ecologically rich resources.

But those who favor reforming LWCF – arguing a greater portion of money should go to states or that some portion should be used to maintain existing federal lands – say there's no rush to reauthorize it.

They cite the \$20 billion. LWCF has collected roughly \$37 billion since 1965 but less than half has been appropriated, according to a Congressional Research Service report.

"When we wake up tomorrow, after allowing LWCF's authorization to expire, nothing will have substantively changed," Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) said in a floor speech in late September before blocking a motion to extend LWCF by unanimous consent.

House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), who has been the chief opponent of a clean LWCF extension in the House, has pledged to introduce a bill to reauthorize the fund this year, though with notable reforms.

The status quo, at least from appropriators' perspective, has not changed, said Chris Gallegos, a spokesman for Senate Appropriations Chairman Thad Cochran (R-Miss.).

"Land and Water Conservation Fund projects can move forward despite the ongoing effort to reauthorize the program," he said.

House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Ken Calvert (R-Calif.) has noted that there are other expired federal programs – he cited the FBI – that are unauthorized and yet continue to receive congressional funding.

Yet he also signaled it would be more difficult to fund LWCF in the absence of new revenues from offshore drilling. The \$20 billion in remaining LWCF funds, he said, are "as real as the money in the Social Security trust fund."

"There's been money paid into that account, on paper," he said. "But that money's been spent."

Yet appropriators "still possess the same power to appropriate funding under LWCF," said Interior Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw.

"The process has not changed for appropriation post-expiration," she said. But "without reauthorization, the highly successful program needlessly faces an uncertain future."

The longer it is expired, the more vulnerable it will be to spending cuts, said Alan Rowsome, director of government relations at the Wilderness Society.

And regardless of whether appropriators continue funding it, the fact remains that \$2.5 million per day in oil and gas revenues are now going to the general Treasury rather than LWCF, he noted.

"The reality is all this leads to a very urgent situation where LWCF does need permanent authorization and a permanent funding solution," he said. "Rather than discussing whether [the \$20 billion] exists or not, we should be talking about alleviating the problem."

Colorado Delegation Divided Over Public Lands Fund

[Durango \(CO\) Herald](#), October 20, 2015

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the country's most successful land-conservation program, was allowed to expire at the end of September after congressional leaders failed to reauthorize the program. Now, as politicians take stock of the program's influence across the country, many are pushing for permanent reauthorization of it.

The LWCF, established in 1964, was created to secure outdoor recreation lands for future generations. Over the course of its existence, the program has provided almost \$17 billion in funding for the expansion of parks and protected forests across the country and has protected more than 500 million acres of land across the country.

Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., said it's important to renew the fund to ensure future generations continue to have access to public areas.

"Rural and urban communities throughout Colorado benefit from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, including the Animas River Trail," Bennet said. "It's a crucial tool we've used to conserve dozens of landscapes across Colorado. It's also critical to our outdoor recreation industry, which is a major driver of the state's economy. There is strong bipartisan support for the LWCF, and we're extremely disappointed that it has not yet been reauthorized."

Earlier this year, Bennet introduced legislation along with Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., and Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., to permanently reauthorize the fund. That legislation fell one vote short of passage.

One of the benefits of the LWCF is that it is entirely funded by royalties from offshore drilling, defraying taxpayers' cost. But while the LWCF's reauthorization has enough support in the Senate, House Republicans are weary about putting forward a simple reauthorization bill.

Rep. Scott Tipton, R-Cortez, believes the fund is an effective tool for conservation efforts, but he feels that it's in need of some reforms "to ensure it is still achieving its original mission" after more than 50 years of existence.

"Managing nearly 640 million acres in the United States, the federal government is by far the largest landowner in most Western states," Tipton said. "Rather than increasing LWCF funding in order to obtain more federal property, land-management agencies should focus on managing the lands they already have. LWCF reauthorization provides an opportunity for reforms that support addressing the growing maintenance backlogs for national parks, roads, trails and facilities."

Instead, Tipton believes LWCF funding could also be used for land exchanges "involving strategic landholdings" with private owners.

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop, R-Utah, has indicated that he will put forward a bill that changes the fund in the coming months, including efforts to redirect money to more state and local projects.

A recent U.S. Treasury report shows the fund contains a \$19.8 billion balance, although whether this money can be used to continue acquiring federal lands and support protection efforts is up for debate. Because of the fund's expiration, royalties from offshore drilling will now go directly into the Treasury's coffers.

According to Sen. Bennet's office, parks throughout Colorado have received LWCF funding, including Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, the Ophir Valley in the Uncompahgre National Forest, Dinosaur National Monument and the Colorado National Monument. Since the fund was established, Colorado has received almost \$239 million in funding to conserve lands across the state.

Data from the Outdoor Industry Association show that outdoor recreation in Colorado generates more than \$13.2 billion in consumer spending, supports 125,000 jobs across the state and provides close to \$1 billion in annual tax revenue.

U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., also announced his support for the program's renewal. Along with Sen. Bennet and 52 other senators, Gardner previously signed on to a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., pushing for the fund's permanent authorization.

"I remain a strong proponent of permanently reauthorizing the LWCF, and that is why I will continue to work toward a solution that paves the way for the common sense, permanent reauthorization of a program that has been a great friend to Colorado and is supported by sportsmen, hunters, recreationists and Americans around the country," Gardner said.

Edward Graham, a student at American University in Washington, D.C., and an intern with The Durango Herald.

Weekend Warriors Fear Washington Land Grab Could Take Off-roading Off The Board

[Fox News](#), October 20, 2015

A group of off-roaders and others are attempting to fight a proposed designation of three national monuments in the California desert under the Antiquities Act. (Corva.org)

California outdoors enthusiasts fear Washington is poised to put up roadblocks on some of the Golden State's most treasured trails by designating three desert destinations totaling more than 1 million acres national landmarks.

The Obama administration is considering using the federal Antiquities Act to bypass the legislative process at the request of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, whose efforts to have the Mojave Trails and Castle Mountain, both in the Mojave Desert, and a section of the Sonoran Desert named federal sites were repeatedly blocked by Republicans. A White House move could put the land under federal control, which critics say could cut funding for upkeep or even restrict access.

"Bypassing the legislative process using the Antiquities Act would be as disastrous as it is undemocratic, creating winners and losers with the stroke of a pen," said Rep. Paul Cook, R-Calif., who has sponsored a bill that bears some similarities to Feinstein's, but would ensure off-roading and mining could continue on the land. Cook's bill would also allow the state to create water projects for wildlife conservation.

"Any time you take away the consensus of the local community they are left with something they did not ask for."

– Amy Granat, California Off-Road Vehicle Association

The Mojave Trails lie in the desert of the same name in eastern California and are part of a 140-mile road that stretches from the Colorado River to Mojave River. The Sand to Snow Monument would cover 135,000 acres from the Sonoran Desert floor in Coachella Valley to the peak of Mount San Gorgonio, in the San Bernardino Mountain range. The Castle Mountains lie on the Border of Nevada and California near the famed Joshua Tree region and reach an elevation of 5,543 feet.

While the Obama administration has not said publicly if the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountain national monuments will be designated, Feinstein asked the president in August to take the action. The Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906 by Theodore Roosevelt, and gives the president authority to create national monuments from public lands to protect

significant natural, cultural or scientific features. It has been used more than 100 times, including for such landmarks as the Grand Canyon, Mount St. Helen's and a stretch of the Underground Railroad in Maryland. Given that President Obama has invoked the Antiquities Act to name 19 sites national monuments since 2009 and as recently as July, Cook and other critics have reason to believe the White House could do so again, especially at the invitation of a powerful Democratic ally.

"We don't know what's going to happen," said Amy Granat, managing director of the California Off-Road Vehicle Association, which has been fighting the legislative proposals for two years. "More and more of the desert is being taken away from the people. If you look at the entirety of the desert, there has always been a no-win when the Antiquities Act has been put in place."

Cook supports the designation, but through legislation and on terms that allow current uses to continue. He said a White House decree based on the Antiquities Act "sets in motion a Washington-based management plan" that will ultimately leave the recreational area unfunded – and unkempt.

"... the roads and facilities will be left to degrade to a point where public use is unsafe or impossible," he said. "Anyone who's read the recent reporting on the newly-created San Gabriel National Monument's dire situation can attest to this. Use of the Antiquities Act will create more "orphan" monuments like San Gabriel, this time in the heart of the California desert."

One example of the Antiquities Act not helping to improve an area can be seen at the San Gabriel Mountains, range of mountains located across Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties and separates the City of Angels and the Mojave. It has been just over a year since the White House designated the mountainous region as a National monument but the area has still not received any federal funding. The 970-square-mile region badly needed the funding to combat growing blight in the area, but is still plagued by garbage and vandalism. And with no federal funding in sight, the National Park Service does not have the means for proper upkeep.

Feinstein is not without support in her home state. An Antiquities Act designation for the three landmarks could actually bolster recreational activities, according to the Campaign for the California Desert.

"The point that Rep. Cook and other opponents of the monument designation are missing is that when our shared public lands are protected, it's for the continued use and benefit of all Americans," the group said in a statement. "It is only when our public lands are sold off or leased by a developer does the public's access to our public lands become restricted."

Perry Chiaramonte is a reporter for FoxNews.com. Follow him on Twitter at @perryrch

Drones Power Up To Fight Wildfires In US West

[Voice of America](#), October 21, 2015

BOISE, IDAHO—Consumer drones look like children's toys compared with the unmanned, water-dropping helicopter that was demonstrated for U.S. government officials this month. The K-MAX chopper is the largest of several remotely piloted firefighting aircraft to get a tryout this year for firefighting duty.

The dual-rotor helicopter looks as if it's been squished from the sides. It demonstrated water drops and ferried supplies up and down a mountain. All of the missions were flown by remote control from a ground station set up next to the helipad. A pilot sat in the one-seat cockpit ready to take the controls — just in case.

WATCH: Drones Power Up to Fight Wildfires

Helicopter maker Kaman Aerospace produced the K-MAX. Vice President Bob Manaskie said it can fly through thick smoke or darkness, situations that force current firefighting aircraft to stay on the ground. It can lift up to 27-hundred kilos, the equivalent of its own weight.

"We can fight fires 24/7, unmanned or optionally manned. That's the advantage," he said. "You can get water on the fires 14 or 15 extra hours per day where a manned system can't."

Art Hinaman, assistant director for aviation at the U.S. Forest Service, said he saw "a lot of potential" at the initial pitch.

"It's fascinating that it can be done, that the technology is there," he said. "For us, the ability to do that without having to risk a pilot in low light level conditions, poor visibility and weather [in which] you just can't fly — and the guys on the ground need the help — that's pretty monumental."

Brad Koeckertiz, the unmanned aircraft program manager with the U.S. Department of Interior, figures it will take a few more years to integrate drones into all the other routines found in fighting wildfires, but said he was confident that optionally piloted aircraft would become a tool that firefighters regularly use.

Not just for fires

The U.S. Marine Corps operated two K-MAX helicopters in the unmanned configuration in Afghanistan to resupply remote outposts at night. K-MAX shuttles replaced dangerous convoys on the ground.

"We've tweaked it to where it is very safe," Manaskie said. "When we put it in Afghanistan initially, the Marines wouldn't put people underneath the aircraft as it was hovering because they were afraid, unmanned, it would fall down. By the end, there were tons of people under there hooking up stuff. They got very confident with it."

Two controllers on the ground put the K-MAX unmanned chopper through its paces. (Credit: Tom Banse)

The K-MAX helicopter is the third remotely piloted aircraft to get a federal tryout this fire season. The first two tests used smaller, winged aircraft to identify and map hot spots. Boeing subsidiary Insitu showed off a repurposed military reconnaissance drone called the ScanEagle over a forest fire in Olympic National Park. Then Textron Corp. demonstrated its Aerosonde Mark 4.7 surveillance drone over a different forest fire north of McCall, Idaho.

There is an element of good drone/bad drone to this. More than a dozen times this year, unauthorized hobby drones flew too close to active wildfires in the American West, which forced temporary halts to aerial firefighting operations.

That is one of the reasons behind the Federal Aviation Administration's plans to require many drone aircraft to be registered. FAA chief Michael Huerta said registration would increase pressure on drone operators to fly responsibly.

Unmanned K-MAX Completes Firefighting Demo

[Vertical Magazine \(CAN\)](#), October 21, 2015

More than 40 representatives from federal wildland fire agencies and media gathered at Lucky Peak Helibase just outside Boise, Idaho, on a smoky morning earlier this month to witness an unmanned Kaman K-MAX firefighting demonstration.

The aircraft, outfitted with redundant onboard equipment allowing it to operate both in line of sight and remotely via satellite, used a Bambi bucket to demonstrate spot drops and trailing drops, then demonstrated a cargo delivery and return from ridges and confined areas surrounding the base during the 2.5 hour demonstration. Throughout the event, both remote control and autonomous piloting were demonstrated, as well as electro-optic (EO) high definition, infrared and thermal imaging camera views to demonstrate the aircraft's ability to identify hot spots and the effectiveness of drops.

An onboard safety pilot had the ability to switch the aircraft to manual should an issue arise. Without a temporary flight restriction (TFR) or Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the aircraft couldn't fly completely unmanned for the demonstration.

"This technology will allow us to better support our firefighters on the ground, both with suppression and direct logistical support," said Mark Bathrick, director of aviation services for the Department of the Interior. "We see it as a great example of prior tax payer investment that will pay dividends."

Created through a partnership between Kaman and Lockheed Martin, the unmanned K-MAX operated in Afghanistan for the U.S. Marine Corps between 2011 and 2014. The aircraft, originally contracted for six months, stayed on to serve more than 2.5 years, delivering 4.5 million pounds of cargo and equipment to troops. Flying pre-subscribed GPS routes, the aircraft mainly operated in the dark with no external lighting along traditionally hazardous ground routes, taking no fire in its entire tour, said Lockheed Martin.

Upon completion of the mission, Lockheed Martin was approached by the Department of the Interior: Would this technology work to help fight fires?

Lockheed and Kaman provided an initial demonstration in November 2014 at the FAA's testing grounds in New York for firefighting agencies. Critical firefighting feedback led to several modifications and tactical changes, the results of which were demonstrated at the Lucky Peak Helibase.

"As a career firefighter, I've seen time and again the calls for aerial support when visibility is down or the wind is too high to safely operate," said Brad Koeckertiz, UAS program manager for the Office of Aviation Services at the Department of the Interior. "Putting this technology in place will increase safety for people on the ground and in the air."

The demonstration was slow and methodical, often with water dropping higher than it would in a real scenario due to safety, said Lockheed officials. Monitors on the ground showed views from the helicopter, including crystal clear views through the smoke and haze, as well as what the remote control operator was seeing on his screen.

The operator flew the helicopter using two Toughbook laptop computers and a PlayStation controller. "The choice of controller was actually strategic," said Christopher Zonio, flight test engineer at Lockheed Martin and the aircraft's original operator with more than 1,000 hours of flying K-MAX remotely. "When I trained Marines, most had instant familiarity because they played PlayStation. They'd say, 'I know this. Just tell me what the buttons do.' The learning curve was fast for most of them."

Zonio's computers and controller worked through two satellite uplinks and a remote control antenna for line of sight. Additionally, he sent directions to the helicopter, such as a GPS location that could be called in by a firefighter on the ground, and the aircraft then flies autonomously to the point.

"This aircraft can operate as manned when it is safe, and as unmanned when visibility drops or night falls, allowing the fire suppression and supply delivery to continue," said Art Hinaman, assistant director of aviation, fire and aviation management for

the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). "We'd not need special permission to fly it to a fire as long as a pilot is onboard, then once in the TFR, we can go unmanned, saving time and money."

The Department of Interior hopes to fast-track FAA approvals to allow the aircraft to operate in fire TFRs as soon as next summer. However, the issue of price and who would make the investment wasn't discussed directly in the presentation.

A new K-MAX off the line, in a manned-only configuration, is around US\$7 million, said Bob Manaskie, vice president and general manager of air vehicles and MRO for Kaman. However, a retrofit for an existing K-MAX is possible, with the aircraft needing to go back to the factory for tail boom strengthening, then on to Lockheed Martin for technology additions. The price, he said, depended on the sensors the operator ordered. Lockheed Martin quoted between \$11 to \$15 million for a new aircraft.

Both Hinaman of the USFS and Bathrick of the DoI said the agencies had no plans to purchase the aircraft; they'd be contracting with private companies much like they do today. However, both were unable to discuss what that would look like as terms and conditions of contracts for a yet-to-be FAA-approved aircraft were unavailable. It remains unclear what would motivate current firefighting aircraft contractors to make such an investment, or if they'd be able to receive adequate insurance coverage for the operation.

Firefighters assigned to the helibase and helitak were not allowed to talk to press at the demonstration to share their thoughts after seeing the aircraft in action. Hinaman said he recognized the importance of working with firefighters during the process. "It's important to get them involved in seeing this aircraft in action and hearing their input," he said.

When asked about the potential of working with skilled firefighting pilots to transition them to ground operators of the unmanned K-MAX in order to use their inherent knowledge of firefighting, Bathrick responded: "We don't see the need for skilled (firefighting) pilots as it is pure math with a UAV. It flies to a precise point along a prescribed route. It can operate more precisely than any pilot, and I can say that — I am a pilot," he said. "We are getting critical feedback from firefighters and pilots. We're here to support them."

The Department of Interior plans to work with Lockheed Martin to test the aircraft on a very controlled prescribed burn before moving on to testing it on a real forest fire, Bathrick said.

The Unmanned K-MAX has a 2.75-hour endurance with an option to add an auxiliary fuel tank to extend the range another 45 minutes. The aircraft weighs in at 5,145 pounds empty and can lift up to 6,000 lbs. on the hook for a maximum gross weight of 12,000 lbs., with external load, at sea level. At 5,000 feet, and 15 degrees C, lift performance decreases to 5,663 lbs.

The demonstration was funded by Lockheed Martin and hosted by the Boise National Forest.

Jeb Bush Calls For Moving Interior Department From D.C. To Western City

[Las Vegas Sun](#), October 20, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will unveil his proposals for Western land and resource management in a campaign stop in Reno on Wednesday morning, in a speech likely to resonate with conservative voters opposed to what they see as federal overreach in the Western states.

Bush is expected to criticize the Obama administration for failing to work with states, local governments, Native tribes and private owners as "equal partners," arguing that overregulation has weakened the trust of local communities in the federal government.

Bush is expected to speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park before appearing at a forum sponsored by the LIBRE Initiative at the College of Southern Nevada Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas at 6 p.m.

In the proposal, Bush will call for moving the headquarters of the Department of Interior from Washington, D.C., to a city in the western United States like Denver, Salt Lake City or Reno and will say that as president he would direct federal agencies to give broad latitude to states to determine land-use issues.

He's also expected to call for a revised framework on granting national monument status, convening a panel of Western leaders to propose changes. Republicans have criticized President Barack Obama, who, with the backing of Nevada Sen. Harry Reid, designated the Basin and Range National Monument over the objections of local stakeholders.

Bush will propose redirecting some funds from acquisition of new national park land to park maintenance. He will also reaffirm his opposition to the administration's Waters of the United States rule, which defines which waterways are subject to EPA regulation and will argue for federal deference to state plans for protecting species like the sage grouse.

Scientists Confirm That Alaskan Wildfires Could Make Global Warming Worse

By Chris Mooney

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

In not much more than a month, leaders from around the world will assemble in Paris in order to — hopefully — find a way to cap the world's greenhouse gas emissions and bring them down to safe levels.

But there's a problem. There are some greenhouse gas sources that these leaders can't fully control — and in some cases, reasons to think that these sources may grow in the future. The point is being driven home this year by raging peat fires in Indonesia, which have already contributed over a billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions to the atmosphere — as much as Japan produces in a year from fossil fuels. And the blazes still appear to be on the rise, meaning that the net contribution this year could ultimately be considerably higher than that.

Indonesia isn't the only part of the world where fires — which in many areas are expected to be worsened by climate change — could provide a new net source of emissions to the atmosphere. Another region of major worry is the world's so-called "boreal" or northern forests, which store a gigantic amount of carbon in trees as well as soils and frozen permafrost layers beneath the surface. Permafrost in this region is in many ways analogous to peatlands in Indonesia — it's a repository of carbon that has accumulated over many thousands of years, but could now be released back to the atmosphere on a much shorter time scale.

Alaska's dramatic wildfire season this year — where over 5 million acres of largely black spruce forests burned — raised great concerns about how events like this could make global warming worse. The fear here is of a sort of triple whammy — forests release the carbon stored in trees back to the atmosphere when they burn; the forests contain a deep upper soil layer that also burns off, releasing more carbon; and finally, beneath all of that is the carbon rich permafrost, which becomes exposed after fires and can then thaw and start to emit.

And now, a new study in *Nature Climate Change* reaffirms these concerns about the emissions of northern fires. The study, led by Ryan Kelly of the University of Illinois at Urbana, looked at a particular Alaskan region that has seen intensive burning of late — the remote Yukon Flats. The researchers used an ecosystem model to examine changes in the amount of carbon stored in the Yukon Flats going all the way back to the year 850, and carrying forward through 2006 — a more than thousand year period. The data used in the model came from "paleo-climate" reconstructions of what burn conditions were like in this area over large periods of time, based on charcoal layers found in cores of sediments extracted from the region.

This approach allowed the researchers to confirm that the recent burning in this area is dramatic when compared with its past history — and thus, that recent fires have been releasing much of the carbon that has been stored up over hundreds of years. For the Yukon Flats, "this rapid increase in fire activity has led to pretty major losses of carbon from the ecosystem, on the order of 10 to 12 percent of total carbon stocks in a matter of 5 decades or so," said Kelly.

In addition, the researchers also determined that over time, change in fires patterns were by far the largest factor in how much carbon the ecosystem stored. In fact, the study noted, "long-term C dynamics of the past millennium were almost entirely dictated by patterns of fire-regime variability." In other words, in more fire-intense periods, the forests lost a great deal of carbon to the atmosphere, whereas in less fire friendly periods, they stored it instead.

This, in turn, leads to the inference that with more global warming, more forest burning could worsen a process that's already underway. "Our study reveals that increased burning of boreal forests will probably cause massive losses of stored C, with the potential to amplify climate warming," the researchers concluded.

"I would definitely guess, and we speculate this in the paper, that the direct role of warming and rising co2 will be more important in the future than they were over the 1,000 year time period we studied," said Kelly.

Granted, there is one limitation — the research only concerns the Yukon Flats, and this area has seen quite dramatic burning, at levels that are not consistent with all burning across the forests of the global north. So it's an outlier in some ways, but also suggestive of how things could be heading for northern forests.

To be sure, there is one possible mitigating factor — global warming could also even cause more plant growth in northern and Arctic regions, leading to an increase in how much carbon they're pulling out of the atmosphere. More northern trees, bushes, and even shrubs as tundras warm up could mean more carbon storage, even as fires may also rage at more powerful and extreme rates.

Climate researchers are still trying to figure out how all of these factors will interrelate. But the new research — along with developments in Indonesia — reaffirms that fire is a powerful determinant of how much carbon resides in land, rather than in the air, across our globe. Thus, even as we keep burning fossil fuels, fires may continually combust additional planetary carbon reserves — pushing the globe that much closer to busting its carbon budget.

Pingree To Prepare Food Waste Bill

[Politico](#), October 21, 2015

With help from Bill Tomson, Jenny Hopkinson and Helena Bottemiller Evich

PINGREE TO PREPARE FOOD WASTE BILL: Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-Maine) is preparing a bill aimed at reducing food waste as administration officials look to address the issue through voluntary efforts. A spokesman for Pingree tells MA the lawmaker plans to announce she is working on a bill during a speech to the New York Times Food for Tomorrow Conference

today in Pocantico Hills, N.Y. The bill will seek to put into place incentives, programs and other measures to curb food wasted at the farm level, by food makers, restaurants and by consumers. While the spokesman said details of the bill are still in the works, one of the things the congresswoman is looking to change are sell-by dates, to tell consumers that food is still safe even if it has passed its prime. Details on the conference can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1n8smWG>

Story Continued Below

The bill follows on the heels of an Obama administration announcement last month that the government is committing to reduce food waste by 50 percent during the next 15 years, the first time the United States has ever put into place a goal on the issue. While food and environmental groups lauded the efforts, several warned that the government may need to take further action to incentivize reductions if it wants to see real change. Brush up on the issue here: <http://politico.pro/1NdfBQR>

HAPPY TUESDAY, OCT. 20! Welcome to Morning Ag, where your host got the heads-up that the Interior Department has a great Vine account. Fishing bears and a dancing sage grouse? This is Internet gold: <http://bit.ly/1M1i086>. The USDA needs to up its game. You know the deal: News, tips? Send them to cpurdy@politico.com and [@chasepurdy](https://twitter.com/chasepurdy). Follow the whole team [@Morning_Ag](https://twitter.com/Morning_Ag).

USITC RULES TODAY ON MEXICO DUMPING CHARGES: The International Trade Commission will make its much anticipated final ruling at 11 a.m. today on charges that Mexico was dumping subsidized sugar into the U.S. at below market prices. If the ITC commissioners agree with the findings of a Commerce Department investigation that Mexico was indeed dumping, a negotiated suspension agreement that caps Mexican imports will stay in place. It's the result that farmers here are hoping for in order to keep Mexican shipments reined in and prevent price-lowering influxes of imported sugar.

But some U.S. sugar refineries and users are hoping for the opposite and would like to see all restrictions removed from Mexican supplies that help keep prices down and supplies plentiful.

"Refinery operations in cities such as Savannah, Detroit, Baltimore, New York and San Francisco will be forced to run at 65 percent of capacity, resulting in job losses and possible closures, while these cities' much needed jobs are shipped to Mexico by these agreements," said Imperial Sugar President Michael Gorrell in a presentation on the suspension agreement at a conference in June. Pros can see the full story here: <http://politico.pro/1RkQb8F>

FOOD COMPANIES JOIN WHITE HOUSE IN CLIMATE DEAL PUSH: There are some pretty weighty food companies amid the 81 companies that have agreed to a White House initiative to push for a strong climate deal out of the United Nations. Negotiations at the U.N. are set to take place late next month in Paris. Coca-Cola, General Mills, Hershey's, Kellogg's, Mars, Nestlé, PepsiCo, Cargill, Campos Brothers Farms and Unilever all signed the pledge, as did restaurant chains McDonald's, Starbucks and Wal-Mart. Monsanto is also part of the group, as is Syngenta. View the commitments here: <http://1.usa.gov/1W0BokL>

** A message from the Coalition for Safe Affordable Food: Virtually every leading health and safety organization on earth – from the World Health Organization to the American Medical Association – have affirmed the safety of agricultural biotechnology. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/1LprXGN> **

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS MEET ON ORGANIC AQUACULTURE: Administration officials have met with two groups following the USDA's organic aquaculture standards as they continue a review of a proposal to create standards for organic production and certification of farmed aquatic animals and their products. George Lockwood, who chaired the working group that made a recommendation on what the standard should look like, met with USDA and Office of Management and Budget officials Oct. 13. Another meeting, with the National Organic Coalition, the Center for Food Safety, and Food & Water Watch took place earlier this year, on Aug. 28. Those groups have raised concerns about the proposal, arguing it would be very difficult to produce fish in a truly organic way. Details of the meetings here: <http://1.usa.gov/1PCuMJA> and here: <http://1.usa.gov/1OOXKp5>

DEADLINE TO COMMENT ON 'MIDGET' DESIGNATION FOR RAISINS APPROACHES: Today is the last day to comment on the Agricultural Marketing Service's plan to change the name of a grade of raisin from "midget" to "small." The proposal came about after Little People of America filed a petition arguing "midget" should be eliminated from the agency's vocabulary. The agency says the change shouldn't have any impact on handlers' or growers' benefits or costs. Both "midget" and "small" have been used interchangeably by the industry, so the proposal would make the designation uniform.

One comment in support said: "I am going to keep it simple. If The Little People of America are offended by fruit and vegetables being called 'midget,' it should be removed from the Agricultural Marketing Service's vocabulary."

DeLAURO PRAISED DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OVER POULTRY PLANT PROGRAM: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) has praised the U.S. Department of Labor after it announced the establishment of a Regional Emphasis Program to crack down on abusive labor practices in the poultry industry. The program is for states in which the poultry industry is heavily operating, including Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and certain worksites in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and New Mexico.

According to an announcement by the Labor Department, poultry plants often have working environments that pose a high risk for injury and illness to workers. Because of that, the department has established a program that will start by providing outreach activities to plants that will include letters to employers, training sessions with stakeholders and public service announcements, among other things. Enforcement activities may also be used, and will include the inspection and review of production operations, according to the announcement. You can read it in full here: <http://bit.ly/1LHiT3m>

DAIRY GROUPS TO SENATORS: LACK OF ACTION NOT COOL: U.S. dairy groups sent a clear message to senators Monday: Listen to Canada and Mexico on country-of-origin labeling before they hurt us. A World Trade Organization arbitration panel is currently deliberating how much the two North American countries are allowed to raise tariffs against targeted U.S. sectors — including on dairy — to recoup damages for discriminatory COOL rules. The leaders of the International Dairy Foods Association, National Milk Producers Federation and U.S. Dairy Export Council in a letter urged the Senate to come up with a solution on COOL for meat that heads off that possibility.

The House has already passed legislation repealing COOL provisions for beef, pork and chicken. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts supports that approach, but Sen. John Hoeven and ranking member Debbie Stabenow, along with a majority of the committee, have put forward a bill that would replace current mandatory COOL requirements with voluntary ones. Although the dairy industry's letter does not explicitly endorse the repeal-only approach, Canada and Mexico have indicated they would not be satisfied with any other outcome. Click here to read the letter: <http://bit.ly/1W1gm5w>.

GOT (NATURAL AMERICAN REDUCED FAT CHEDDAR) CHEESE?: The Department of Agriculture is researching the commercial availability of Natural American Reduced Fat Cheddar Cheese in bulk form for domestic food distribution programs. So if you're a cheese producer and you've got the ability to supply the product, the USDA has some questions for you: <http://1.usa.gov/1xjVVm>

GROUPS PUSH FOR CALIFORNIA WARNING ON GLYPHOSATE: More than a dozen environmental and consumer groups are urging regulators in California to list the pesticide glyphosate as a carcinogen under the state's chemical laws, which would require labeling as such. In a letter sent Monday to the state's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the groups, led by the Center for Food Safety, argue there is sufficient scientific evidence to justify the listing. OEHHA first proposed the move Sept. 4. The letter is here: <http://bit.ly/1hOoJUz>.

JBF ANNOUNCED ITS 2015 AWARD WINNERS: The 2015 James Beard Foundation Leadership Award honorees include: Sam Kass, former White House chef and senior policy adviser on nutrition; Don Bustos, co-director of the American Friends Service Committee; Eliot Coleman, an agricultural researcher, author and educator; Saru Jayaraman, director of the Food Labor Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley; and Bryant Terry, a chef and food justice activist.

Accepting his award at the awards dinner at the Hearst Tower on Tuesday night, Kass argued that the growing food movement needs to be more strategic and learn how to compromise as it pushes for policy and market change.

"We are in every single board room of every single food company," Kass said. "We are on the inside now ... we don't need to throw stones ... we have to be much more strategic."

MA'S INSTANT OATS:

– The Wilson Center's Susan Chan Shifflett took a deep dive into how China's growing appetite is transforming the Port of Oakland: <http://bit.ly/1GeONEb>

– Does the political power of Canadian dairy farmers outweigh the actual demands of Canadian consumers? The Fraser Institute took a look: <http://bit.ly/1GPJYMv>

– In case you missed it: The New York Times editorial board hops aboard the soda tax bandwagon: <http://nyti.ms/1Gn239L>

THAT'S ALL FOR MA! See you again soon! In the meantime, drop your host and the rest of the team a line: btomson@politico.com and [@billtomson4](https://twitter.com/billtomson4); jhopkinson@politico.com and [@jennyhops](https://twitter.com/jennyhops); cpurdy@politico.com and [@chasepurdy](https://twitter.com/chasepurdy); hbottemiller@politico.com and [@hbottemiller](https://twitter.com/hbottemiller); mkorade@politico.com and [@mjkorade](https://twitter.com/mjkorade); and jhuffman@politico.com and [@jsonhuffman](https://twitter.com/jsonhuffman). You can also follow [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro) and [@Morning_Ag](https://twitter.com/Morning_Ag) on Twitter.

** A message from the Coalition for Safe Affordable Food: With Vermont set to become the first state to implement its own GMO food labeling standard next July, it's time for Congress to pass reasonable, common-sense legislation that creates a uniform, national food labeling standard to protect consumer-choice and bring consistency to the marketplace. A failure to act this fall is tantamount to ceding control of food labeling policy in a nation of over 300 million to a state of only 600,000. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/1LprXGN> **

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

BIA Rule Gives Tribes More Control Over Elections

[Law360](#), October 20, 2015

Law360, New York (October 19, 2015, 9:39 PM ET) – The Bureau of Indian Affairs on Monday announced its final rule for Native American tribal elections conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying the new rule will encourage tribes to take control of their elections and help protect the voting rights of tribe members living in urban areas.

Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said in a statement Monday that the rule will allow tribes to opt out of having the interior secretary conduct their elections, and will allow tribal elections to...

To view the full article, register now.

DOI Announces Final Rule On Secretarial Elections For Tribes

[Native American Times](#), October 20, 2015

WASHINGTON – Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn today announced that the Department of the Interior has finalized updates to Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regulations on Secretarial elections for tribal governments that will, among other things, protect the rights of tribal members living away from their communities to vote in these elections. A Secretarial election is a federal election conducted by the Secretary of the Interior for federally recognized tribes under a federal statute or tribal governing document (25 C.F.R. Part 81).

“Though many federal responsibilities concern the lands we hold in trust for tribes and Indian people, more than 55 million acres nationwide, the United States has a moral obligation to preserve connections between Indian people and their tribes that it once sought to destroy,” Washburn said. “For the future of Native nations and the health of Indian Country, American Indians in urban areas must work harder to maintain connections with their tribes. One important aspect of that relationship is participation in the civic and political life of their tribal governments. For that reason, our Secretarial election amendments seek to prevent tribal members living in urban areas from being inadvertently disenfranchised in Secretarial elections.”

Through the mid-20th century the BIA operated a program to relocate American Indians from their reservations to large urban centers in an attempt to assimilate them and terminate the federal relationship with the tribes. As a result of this program, and broader demographic trends in the United States, roughly three-quarters of American Indians now live in urban areas away from their home reservations.

The BIA conducts Secretarial elections for tribes required to have them if one of the following applies:

- A federal law requires a Secretarial election to take an action;
- The tribe’s governing document requires a Secretarial election to take an action;
- A federal corporate charter requires a Secretarial approval; or
- The tribe is adopting or amending a federal charter of incorporation, and certain circumstances apply.

Updates to the rule better account for the fact that many tribal members may live far from their reservations or tribal communities by providing that Secretarial elections generally be conducted by mail-out ballots.

The rule addresses the BIA’s Part 81 regulations, which govern how the Bureau conducts Secretarial elections, as well as 25 C.F.R. Part 82, which govern how tribal members can petition for a Secretarial election. The rule combines the provisions into one at 25 C.F.R. Part 81, and makes other updates to reflect changes in statutory law. The updates also incorporate deadlines, triggered by a tribe’s request for a Secretarial election, within which the BIA must call and hold an election.

The updated rule also clarifies how tribes may remove the requirement to hold a Secretarial election, and encourages tribes to do so in support of tribal self-determination and self-governance.

The rule has been in development for many years. The Department held three consultation sessions with tribal leaders on this proposed rule and provided an extended public comment period which ended on January 16, 2015.

The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs oversees the BIA, which is headed by a director who is responsible for managing day-to-day operations through four offices – Indian Services, Justice Services, Trust Services and Field Operations. These offices directly administer or fund tribally based infrastructure, law enforcement, social services, tribal governance, natural and energy resources, and trust management programs for the nation’s federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages through 12 regional offices and 81 agencies.

The Office of Indian Services Division of Tribal Government Services administers the 25 CFR Part 81 regulations. For more information about the BIA Division of Tribal Government Services, visit online or view a copy of the final rule.

Federal Court Hearing Focuses On Native Hawaiian Election

By Jennifer Sinco Kelleher

[Associated Press](#), October 21, 2015

HONOLULU — A federal court hearing started Tuesday in a lawsuit by people who want to put a stop to an election process that is underway for Native Hawaiians.

The lawsuit, filed in August, says it's unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election. The state argues in court documents that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it's not involved in next month's vote to elect delegates for a convention to determine self-governance for Native Hawaiians.

Tuesday's hearing is focused on the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction. The plaintiffs want the judge to limit voter registration activities or stop the election altogether.

The plaintiffs include two non-Hawaiians who aren't eligible for the roll, two Native Hawaiians who say their names appear on the roll without their consent and two Native Hawaiians who don't agree with a declaration to "affirm the un-relinquished sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people, and my intent to participate in the process of self-determination."

Native Hawaiians are the last remaining indigenous group in the U.S. that hasn't been allowed to establish its own government. Former U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka spent about a dozen years trying to get a bill passed that would give Native Hawaiians the same rights already extended to many Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

In 2011, the state passed a law recognizing Hawaiians as the first people of Hawaii and laid the foundation for Native Hawaiians to establish their own government.

The governor appointed a commission to produce the roll.

The Native Hawaiian Roll Commission "does not conduct elections, nor set election ability criteria," attorneys for the defendants, including the state, wrote in response to the lawsuit. An independent organization, Nai Aupuni, determined election criteria, the defendants said.

The lawsuit points to nearly \$2.6 million from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a public agency tasked with improving the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians, as evidence of the state's involvement.

According to the defendants, the money was provided with the understanding that Nai Aupuni would have autonomy.

The election is to select delegates for a convention, not for an election of public officials, Nai Aupuni said in court documents.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, which recently outlined a proposal for a possible government-to-government relationship if Native Hawaiians want one, took the judge up on his invitation to weigh in on the lawsuit. The department urged the judge not to grant an injunction and pointed out that American Indian tribes hold elections that exclude non-natives.

U.S. District Judge J. Michael Seabright allowed the plaintiff attorneys to call witnesses: Native Hawaiian Roll Commission Executive Director Clyde Namuo, Office of Hawaiian Affairs CEO Kamanaopono Crabbe and Nai Aupuni President J. Kuhio Asam. It's not clear when Seabright will issue a ruling.

Nai Aupuni leaders say it's crucial that the election moves forward because it presents a unique opportunity that has evaded Native Hawaiians for more than 100 years.

"If this process is stalled in the courts, the (roll commission) list will become stale, (Nai Aupuni's) funding may not be available and if history is a useful compass — it may be decades before funding, a similarly substantial roll, state and federal sensitivity and self-determination zeal among Native Hawaiians converge to bring about another such opportunity," attorneys for Nai Aupuni wrote in court documents.

Follow Jennifer Sinco Kelleher at <http://www.twitter.com/JenHapa>.

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Why Do Hawaiians Want Race-based Elections?

[Christian Science Monitor](#), October 20, 2015

A group of Hawaiians are suing their state in federal court for preparing to hold elections that would serve only one race – the islands' native population.

The justification for the race-based election? Everyone else is doing it.

Every other indigenous group in the United States has already has its own government. This is why, for example, US state and federal police need special certification to operate on Native American reservation land, and the tribes can opt out of daylight savings or state casino prohibitions if they choose.

The former US Sen. Daniel Akaka (D) of Hawaii, who retired in 2013, worked for more than a decade to give native Hawaiians the same self-government rights that Native Americans in the contiguous 48 states and Alaska already have.

The first step toward this goal came in 2011, when the state formally recognized the native Hawaiians. The state then created a Native Hawaiian Roll Commission to start making a list of eligible native Hawaiians who could elect delegates to a convention that would form a government with help from Nai Aupuni, a non-government organization.

The US Department of the Interior made a tentative plan for a formal relationship with whatever government the native Hawaiians set up.

In August, however, six state residents filed a lawsuit to stop the election. Two are non-native Hawaiians who cannot vote in the election, and two are natives who do not want their names on the voting list.

The other two simply disagree with the statement required for voter registration to "affirm the un-relinquished sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people, and my intent to participate in the process of self-determination."

The state of Hawaii says it has no official involvement in the election, so the racial basis of the election is not unconstitutional. The lawsuit, however, points to a \$2.6 million state contribution to the election process. The funding comes from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a state office that works to improve the lives of native Hawaiians.

The hearing Tuesday focuses on the desire of the plaintiffs – the anti-election Hawaiians of the case – for the judge to make a preliminary injunction and stop the election, or at least stop people from registering to vote.

Nai Aupuni said stopping the process now would be the worst thing. In its own submission to the court, Nai Aupuni said Hawaiians have been waiting and working for this for more than 100 years, and the chance may not come again for another century.

This report includes material from the Associated Press.

Lawsuit, Divisiveness Hamper Native Hawaiian Election Effort

[Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#), October 21, 2015

HONOLULU (AP) _ A group of Native Hawaiians are organizing an election to create a national government for the first time since American businessmen, backed by U.S. Marines, overthrew the Hawaiian kingdom more than 100 years ago.

They are trying to elect delegates for a convention next year to hash out a governing document that will go back to the Native Hawaiian community for ratification, but their plan is already facing resistance _ from Native Hawaiians themselves.

A federal judge on Tuesday will consider an injunction motion in a lawsuit that argues that it's unconstitutional to restrict voting to those with Native Hawaiian ancestry and that the state is improperly involved in the process.

Native Hawaiians are the last remaining indigenous group in the U.S. that hasn't been allowed to establish its own government.

Former U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka spent about a dozen years trying to get a bill passed that would give Native Hawaiians the same rights already extended to many Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

When it became clear that wouldn't happen, the state passed a law recognizing Hawaiians as the first people of Hawaii and laid the foundation for Native Hawaiians to establish their own government.

The governor appointed a commission to produce a roll of qualified Native Hawaiians interested in participating in their government.

Some of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit argue that their names appear on the roll without their consent.

The process has been rushed and confusing, critics say. "It's a shotgun wedding of self-determination," said Native Hawaiian community advocate Trisha Kehaulani Watson-Sproat.

Molokai activist Walter Ritte planned to run as a delegate, deciding it's better to participate even though he disagrees with the process. But when he saw that the list of candidates includes politicians and those who support federal recognition instead of forming an independent nation, he changed his mind.

"I don't want people to say, 'Well you were part of it,'" he said. "I have no faith in the system so I'm taking my name out."

There are some 200 candidates for 40 positions representing Hawaiians across the state and those living outside of Hawaii.

Supporters of the election agree that the process hasn't been perfect.

"But it's an opportunity that rarely comes around," said Bill Meheula, an attorney who will argue in court Tuesday on behalf of Nai Aupuni, a nonprofit organization made up of five directors guiding the election, convention and ratification process.

Watson-Sproat is skeptical of the people behind Nai Aupuni: "Who picked these people?"

"We are individuals who decided we want to commit ourselves to the process," Meheula said. "Someone had to stand up and it couldn't be a state agency. We were individuals that were able to come together and get a grant."

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a public agency tasked with improving Native Hawaiians' wellbeing, provided a nearly \$2.6 million grant for the election, with the understanding that the office wouldn't have any control over Nai Aupuni.

Some liken the election to selecting the founding fathers and mothers of a modern Hawaiian nation.

"Founding parents, if you will," said Clyde Namuo, executive director of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission and a delegate candidate, noting that the founding fathers of the U.S. organized the 13 colonies to escape British oppression.

Self-determination is a way for Native Hawaiians to address longstanding concerns in the community, he said: They fare poorly when it comes to income, education and health.

“The western way of life has not necessarily been good to us,” he said. “We will be able to control our destiny in a better way if we form our government.”

Until the 1893 overthrow, the U.S. recognized the Hawaiian nation's independence, extended full diplomatic recognition to the Hawaiian government and entered into several treaties with the Hawaiian monarch.

The U.S. annexed Hawaii five years later, and it became a state in 1959.

Native Hawaiians have long clamored for self-determination, but the options and opinions on what that looks like vary _ from federal recognition, to restoring the kingdom to dual citizenship.

Last month, the U.S. Department of the Interior outlined a proposal for a possible government-to-government relationship with Native Hawaiians _ if they want one.

The department has also weighed in on the lawsuit, urging the judge not to grant an injunction by pointing out that Native American tribes hold elections that exclude non-natives.

Ritte doesn't want Hawaiians to be another tribe.

“We don't have the same history as Indians,” he said. “The choice is to go down and be closer to the United States of America, who overthrew our queen, or avenge our queen and correct an injustice.” By The Associated Press, Copyright 2015

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Judge To Rule Friday On Fate Of Native Hawaiian Election

By Jennifer Sinco Kelleher

[Yahoo! News](#), October 21, 2015

HONOLULU (AP) — A federal judge said he will rule on Friday whether an election process underway for Native Hawaiians can proceed.

U.S. District Judge J. Michael Seabright heard arguments on Tuesday in a lawsuit filed in August that says it's unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election. The state argues that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it's not involved in next month's vote to elect delegates for a convention to come up with a self-governance document for Native Hawaiians to ratify.

The plaintiffs include two non-Hawaiians who aren't eligible for the roll, two Native Hawaiians who say their names appear on the roll without their consent and two Native Hawaiians who don't agree with a declaration to “affirm the un-relinquished sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people, and my intent to participate in the process of self-determination.”

One of the plaintiffs' attorneys, Bob Popper from Washington, D.C.-based conservative group Judicial Watch, told Seabright the election will have a big impact on the state of Hawaii and some of his clients won't be allowed to participate.

Seabright countered that the elections aren't for any public office and are “more akin to a private election than to a public election.”

Native Hawaiians are the last remaining indigenous group in the U.S. that hasn't been allowed to establish its own government. Former U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka spent about a dozen years trying to get a bill passed that would give Native Hawaiians the same rights already extended to many Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

In 2011, the state passed a law recognizing Hawaiians as the first people of Hawaii and laid the foundation for Native Hawaiians to establish their own government. The governor appointed a commission to produce the roll.

The Native Hawaiian Roll Commission “does not conduct elections, nor set election ability criteria,” attorneys for the defendants, including the state, wrote in response to the lawsuit. An independent organization, Nai Aupuni, determined election criteria, the defendants said.

The lawsuit points to nearly \$2.6 million from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a public agency tasked with improving the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians, as evidence of the state's involvement.

Nai Aupuni is a private, nonprofit corporation whose grant agreement specifies the Office of Hawaiian Affairs won't have any control, Nai Aupuni attorney Bill Meheula said. “What we've got here is indigenous people trying to pursue self-determination, which is their inherent right under federal law,” he said.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, which recently outlined a proposal for a possible government-to-government relationship if Native Hawaiians want one, took the judge up on his invitation to weigh in on the lawsuit. The department urged the judge not to grant an injunction and pointed out that American Indian tribes hold elections that exclude non-natives.

Nai Aupuni leaders say it's crucial that the election moves forward because it presents a unique opportunity that has evaded Native Hawaiians for more than 100 years.

"If this process is stalled in the courts, the (roll commission) list will become stale, (Nai Aupuni's) funding may not be available and if history is a useful compass — it may be decades before funding, a similarly substantial roll, state and federal sensitivity and self-determination zeal among Native Hawaiians converge to bring about another such opportunity," attorneys for Nai Aupuni wrote in court documents.

Seabright said he will give his ruling from the bench on Friday, with an explanation of his reasoning. He will issue a detailed written order later, but he doesn't know if it will be ready before the election begins.

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Feds Side With Alaska Native Group In Artifacts Probe

[Houston Chronicle](#), October 21, 2015

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A Massachusetts college was found in violation of a federal law regulating the possession and sale of potentially sacred artifacts following a complaint from an organization of Alaska Natives.

The U.S. Interior Department said an investigation substantiated the complaint against Andover Newton Theological School filed in June by the Sealaska Heritage Institute. The institute's president, Rosita Worl, said the school possesses at least two southeast Alaska artifacts, including a Tlingit halibut hook that is considered sacred.

The Juneau-based institute complained after learning the school planned to sell Native objects displayed at the Salem, Massachusetts-based Peabody Essex Museum. Sales plans have since been abandoned.

Institute officials tried to contact the school before the complaint was filed, Worl said.

"We've never had a return call," she said. "It's been disheartening."

The school's collection contains 1,100 objects, including 125 Native American works from 52 U.S. and Canadian tribes, she said.

According to the Sept. 29 notice of noncompliance, the school failed to complete a summary of its collection, in violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The agency said the school was subject to the law because it receives federal funding and has control over at least one protected cultural item, identified in the notice as the Tlingit halibut hook.

Melanie O'Brien, the program manager for the federal repatriation program, said the school appears to be working toward compliance, based on written correspondence. The college has 45 days to respond to the noncompliance notice or request a hearing to contest the finding since receiving it a week after it was issued, O'Brien said.

A representative of Andover Newton did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday. Peabody Essex spokeswoman Whitney Van Dyke referred questions about the case to museum director Dan Monroe, who was traveling in China and could not immediately be reached. Van Dyke said the artifacts in question have been housed at the museum since the 1940s.

In a Sept. 8 letter to Munroe, Andover Newton President Martin Copenhaver said it no longer had plans to sell items from its Native artifacts collection because it was no longer clear which items are subject to the repatriation law.

"We will proceed to repatriate artifacts, however, if feasible and appropriate ways can be found to do so," Copenhaver wrote. "We have already engaged a consultant to help us in that process."

Worl said the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska, the regional federally recognized tribe, plans to file a repatriation claim for the two southeast Alaska artifacts in the collection.

Worl, a former member of the national Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act review board, said there is no mechanism in the repatriation law that ensures entities subject to its provisions are following it. At the annual conference of the Alaska Federation of Natives last week, delegates adopted a resolution to create a group to look at the issue and propose changes at the national level, Worl said.

"The burden is put on the tribes" to seek investigations, she said of the current procedures.

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By Rachel D'oro

[Washington Times](#), October 21, 2015

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The U.S. Interior Department says an investigation substantiated the complaint against Andover Newton Theological School filed in June by the Sealaska Heritage Institute. Institute president Rosita Worl says the school possesses at least two southeast Alaska artifacts.

The Juneau-based institute complained after learning the school planned to sell Native objects displayed at the Salem, Massachusetts-based Peabody Essex Museum. Sales plans have since been abandoned.

Representatives of Andover Newton and Peabody Essex did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday.

The program manager for the federal repatriation program, Melanie O'Brien, says the school appears to be working toward compliance, based on written correspondence.

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[Boston Herald](#), October 21, 2015

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A representative of Andover Newton did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday. Peabody Essex spokeswoman Whitney Van Dyke referred questions about the case to museum director Dan Monroe, who was traveling in China and could not immediately be reached. Van Dyke said the artifacts in question have been housed at the museum since the 1940s.

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Worl, a former member of the national Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act review board, said there is no mechanism in the repatriation law that ensures entities subject to its provisions are following it. At the annual conference of the Alaska Federation of Natives last week, delegates adopted a resolution to create a group to look at the issue and propose changes at the national level, Worl said.

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[Daily Mail \(UK\)](#), October 21, 2015

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[Miami Herald](#), October 21, 2015

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Feds Side With Alaska Native Group In Investigation Of Massachusetts College Tribal Collection

By Rachel D'oro, Associated Press

[Minneapolis Star Tribune](#), October 21, 2015

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[ABC News](#), October 21, 2015

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The Department Of Interior Says East Coast School Must Comply With Terms Of The Native American Graves Protection And Repatriation Act

[Alaska Dispatch News](#), October 20, 2015

The U.S. Department of the Interior has issued a letter stating that Alaska Native items in the possession of Andover Newton Theological School of Massachusetts are subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

The Sealaska Heritage Institute of Juneau alleged in June that a halibut hook in the school's collection on loan to the Peabody Essex Museum of Massachusetts was a sacred object used in fishing rituals.

In the letter, Michael Bean, an assistant secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, said that insofar as Andover Newton participated in federal student aid programs, it was governed by the law. He said the school hadn't completed a summary of Native American objects in its collection by April 2010, which "constitutes a failure to comply with the requirements" of the act.

Bean gave the school 45 days to respond to the notice.

The letter is dated Sept. 28, 2015. In a press release sent out Tuesday, Sealaska said it had only recently obtained a copy. Two weeks ago, officials with the NAGPRA office told Alaska Dispatch News that an investigation was underway but did not give a timeframe for when it might be completed.

At the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in Anchorage last week, a resolution was passed to form a group to study the issue of repatriation of items considered to be objects of "cultural patrimony" under the law. The group is to propose changes in how the law is implemented and enforced.

US Attorney Says BIA Officer Justified In Deadly Shooting

[Washington Times](#), October 21, 2015

FARGO, N.D. (AP) – U.S. Attorney Chris Myers says a federal officer was justified in shooting and killing a man on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation last summer.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Officer Terry Morgan shot and killed 31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16. Myers says an investigation by his office concluded Morgan was justified in using deadly force.

The FBI has said the incident began when officers went to a residence to arrest another person, and an altercation ensued with Charboneau. Myers says Charboneau had a loaded gun and also grabbed a blow torch, and that he refused to comply with officers' orders to drop the gun.

Myers says Charboneau threatened not only the officers but also another person in the home.

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UPDATE: No Charges For Officer Who Shot, Killed Spirit Lake Man With Gun And Blowtorch In Hand, FBI Says

[Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#), October 21, 2015

FORT TOTTEN, N.D. – Federal prosecutors will not file charges against a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer who shot and killed a man in June on the Spirit Lake Reservation, finding the officer was "legally justified" in opening fire on the man.

Officer Terry Morgan shot and killed Joseph Charboneau of rural Fort Totten while carrying out a warrant June 16 at a Fort Totten residence. Officers stated Charboneau pointed a loaded firearm at them and did not follow officers' orders to drop the weapon during a seconds- to minutes-long standoff with officers, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Keith Reisenauer.

The FBI investigated the incident and sent reports, taped and transcribed interviews, the autopsy report and photos related to the shooting to the U.S. Attorney's Office in North Dakota to decide whether charges should be brought against Morgan. There was no video evidence – Morgan was wearing a body camera the night of the shooting, but it was not functioning at the time, Reisenauer said.

See also: Family of alleged police shooting victim speaks out

The U.S. Attorney's Office said Tuesday it found Morgan acted within the limitations of the law in firing his service weapon at Charboneau because the 31-year-old posed a "real and immediate" threat to officers and another person at the scene.

Under federal and state laws, law enforcement officers are generally allowed to use deadly force to prevent what reasonably poses a threat of serious physical injury or death to the officer or others.

Officers are not required to run away as civilians generally are required to do before resorting to deadly force.

Four officers were searching 7141 Crow Hill Road in Fort Totten for a person for whom they had a warrant to arrest when they found Charboneau under a blanket in the living room with a .40-caliber Glock in his hand, Reisenauer said.

Charboneau pointed the gun at the officers during the altercation, which "happened very quickly," Reisenauer said.

Citing documents from the investigation, Reisenauer said officers asked Charboneau to drop the gun multiple times, but Charboneau did not comply. He also picked up a "propane blowtorch," which was on a nearby shelf, during the standoff and threatened to use it, though not necessarily on the officers, Reisenauer said.

The other person in the residence, for whom the officers had the arrest warrant, told detectives she heard officers telling Charboneau to drop a gun, Reisenauer said.

He said Charboneau did not make any verbal threats.

"He didn't say, 'I'm going to shoot you' or 'I'm going to kill you,'" Reisenauer said.

Reisenauer declined to say what was said between officers and Charboneau.

Charboneau did point the gun at officers, threatened to use the blowtorch and did not obey officers' orders, Reisenauer said.

After Charboneau did not drop the gun, Morgan shot Charboneau four times, once in the chest, twice in the left shoulder and once in his left abdomen, Reisenauer said, citing the autopsy report. Charboneau accidentally shot himself in the right knee in reaction to being fired upon, Reisenauer said.

Reisenauer could not say where the gun was pointed at the time of the shooting.

"Officer Morgan, confronted with an individual holding a firearm at close range, and refusing to comply with orders to drop the weapon, was reasonable in his use of deadly force because Mr. Charboneau posed an immediate and continuing threat to the officers and others," a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office in North Dakota says.

Reisenauer did not know to whom the gun was registered.

Charboneau's autopsy report did not show any alcohol or drugs in his system, Reisenauer said.

Questions about Morgan's history as an officer were referred to a Washington, D.C.-based spokesperson, who did not return calls to the Herald by press time.

Spirit Lake Officer Justified In Shooting Death

[Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#), October 21, 2015

Officer Terry Morgan shot and killed Joseph Charboneau June 16 after officers searched 7141 Crow Hill Road in Fort Totten to serve a warrant for another person in the residence, according to a press release. Charboneau was found in the living room of the home under a blanket and was holding a loaded firearm.

Charboneau also grabbed a blow torch during a brief standoff with officers, and after refusing to "comply with several orders to drop the weapon," he was shot by Morgan.

"Charboneau posed a real and immediate threat to not only Officer Morgan, but also to a number of other officers at the scene as well as to another individual within the residence," according to the statement. It said Morgan "was reasonable in his use of deadly force because Mr. Charboneau posed an immediate and continuing threat to the officers and others."

Tuesday's announcement came from U.S. Attorney Christopher C. Myers and said the office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota had reviewed "all of the investigative reports, interviews, the final autopsy report and photos relating to the shooting." The case was investigated by the FBI.

Shooting Of Man By Spirit Lake BIA Officer Ruled Justified

[Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#), October 21, 2015

FARGO — The shooting death of a man by a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer in Fort Totten on the Spirit Lake reservation in June was justified, according to a ruling released Tuesday by U.S. Attorney Christopher Myers.

Myers said Officer Terry Morgan was justified in shooting Joseph Charboneau on June 16.

While officers were searching 7141 Crow Hill Road in Fort Totten to serve a warrant for another individual at the residence, Charboneau was found in the living room under a blanket and holding a loaded firearm, according to investigative reports.

Charboneau also grabbed a blow torch during a brief standoff with officers.

After refusing to comply with several orders to drop his weapon, Charboneau was shot by Morgan.

Myers ruled that Charboneau posed a real and immediate threat to the officers at the scene and another person in the residence. Myers said that given the circumstances, the use of deadly force by Morgan was justified.

Helmut Schmidt

Helmut Schmidt was born in Germany, but grew up in the Twin Cities area, graduating from Park High School of Cottage Grove. After serving a tour in the U.S. Army, he attended the University of St. Thomas in St Paul, Minn., graduating in 1984 with a degree in journalism. He then worked at the Albert Lea (Minn.) Tribune and served as managing editor there for three years. He joined The Forum in October 1989, working as a copy editor until 2000. Since then, he has worked as a reporter on several beats, including education, Fargo city government, business and military affairs. He is currently The Forum's K-12 education reporter.

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Investigation Finds Deadly Shooting By BIA Officer Was Justified

[KXJB-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#), October 21, 2015

Investigation finds a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officer was legally justified when he shot and killed Joseph Charboneau in Fort Totten, North Dakota in June.

The United States Attorney's office for the District of North Dakota has reviewed all of the investigative reports, interviews, the final autopsy report and photos related to the officer-involved shooting. The office concluded that the officer's use of deadly force was appropriate in the situation.

The shooting happened on June 16, 2015. According to the investigative reports, while officers were searching a home to serve a warrant for someone else in the residence, Charboneau was found in the living room under a blanket and was holding a loaded firearm. According to officers, Charboneau also grabbed a blow torch during a brief standoff.

After refusing to comply with several orders to drop the weapon, Charboneau was shot by BIA Officer Terry Morgan. U.S. Attorney's Office investigation finds that Charboneau posed a real and immediate threat to not only Officer Morgan, but also to a number of other officers, and to another individual in the home.

Investigators say because Officer Morgan was confronted by someone holding a firearm, at close range, and refusing to drop the weapon, his use of deadly force was legally justified.

US Attorney Says BIA Officer Justified In Deadly Shooting

[KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#), October 20, 2015

FARGO (AP) – U.S. Attorney Chris Myers says a federal officer was justified in shooting and killing a man on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation last summer.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Officer Terry Morgan shot and killed 31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16. Myers says an investigation by his office concluded Morgan was justified in using deadly force.

The FBI has said the incident began when officers went to a residence to arrest another person, and an altercation ensued with Charboneau. Myers says Charboneau had a loaded gun and also grabbed a blow torch, and that he refused to comply with officers' orders to drop the gun.

Myers says Charboneau threatened not only the officers but also another person in the home.

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US Attorney Says BIA Officer Justified In Deadly Shooting

[KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#), October 21, 2015

FARGO, N.D. (AP) – U.S. Attorney Chris Myers says a federal officer was justified in shooting and killing a man on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation last summer.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Officer Terry Morgan shot and killed 31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16. Myers says an investigation by his office concluded Morgan was justified in using deadly force.

The FBI has said the incident began when officers went to a residence to arrest another person, and an altercation ensued with Charboneau. Myers says Charboneau had a loaded gun and also grabbed a blow torch, and that he refused to comply with officers' orders to drop the gun.

Myers says Charboneau threatened not only the officers but also another person in the home.

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Spirit Lake Officer Legally Justified In Shooting Death

[KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#), October 21, 2015

North Dakota's U.S. Attorney says the officer involved shooting in Fort Totten was legally justified.

In June Bureau of Indian Affairs officer Terry Morgan shot and killed 31-year-old Joseph Charboneau.

The investigation finds that while officers were looking for someone else on a search warrant, Charboneau was found under a blanket with a loaded gun. Charboneau also grabbed a blow torch during a brief standoff with officers.

Morgan shot Charboneau after he refused to drop his weapon.

The final investigation reports the use of deadly force was reasonable because Charboneau posed a threat to officers and another person in the home.

In Humboldt County, Tribe Pushes For Bigger Law Enforcement Role On Its Lands

By Lee Romney, Contact Reporter

[Los Angeles Times](#), October 20, 2015

In calls to tribal police and Humboldt County sheriff's dispatch last March, Judy Surber cried, begged and threatened.

Her 29-year-old son had been shot in the chest and head in a small trailer on the remote Hoopa Valley reservation where he, his girlfriend and their 7-month-old son had stopped to give a friend a ride.

Roger Surber lay bleeding next to a 73-year-old man with an even graver head wound. Surber's girlfriend ran, clutching the baby, to find a phone.

When Judy Surber got the news, she placed her first emergency calls.

The tribal force, down to just one active officer, had no one to send. As Surber and her family raced to the scene, she was stunned to see a California Highway Patrol officer and sheriff's deputy in their idled cars on the highway — on orders, they told her, to await more sheriff's backup before going in or letting other emergency personnel through.

In a county that exceeds 4,000 square miles, that backup took time to arrive.

For an hour and 40 minutes, Judy Surber estimates, her family was alone in the bloody trailer. A daughter-in-law who was once a medic worked to keep Roger alive. (He survived; the older man died.) A son repeatedly ran to the staging area to tell the deputy that the suspects were gone. Surber kept calling the dispatch centers, screaming that the scene was safe.

"The minutes felt like hours," the 53-year-old executive secretary for the tribal council said. "Without our tribal police, we're pretty much at the mercy of whoever is available — and sometimes that's nobody."

Surber's panic played out at a time of crisis for public safety on tribal lands.

A federal law decades ago shifted the primary burden of criminal law enforcement on tribal lands in California and five other states to local authorities. Many lack the resources to do the job and, in some cases, sufficient knowledge of tribal law and culture to win the trust of tribal members. Tribes were cut off from steady funding for their own justice systems. Crime has flourished.

Last month, Humboldt County Sheriff Mike Downey dissolved a 20-year-old agreement authorizing Hoopa Valley tribal police to help enforce state criminal law, saying the tribal force's reduced manpower made it "untenable."

The word "police" has been stripped from tribal vehicles, replaced with "security" after Downey warned that taking the cars off the 144-square-mile reservation otherwise could lead to charges of impersonating a peace officer.

Tribal leaders said the move offends their sovereignty and will curtail their ability to rebuild their own force.

"We're miles apart," tribal Chairman Ryan Jackson said of negotiations with Downey at a community meeting this month.

The situation arises from Public Law 280, a measure approved 62 years ago that is among a series of policies aimed at forcing Native Americans to assimilate. It compelled states where tribal lands were deemed "lawless" to take responsibility for enforcing state law. The federal government continued to fill that role in the other states.

The six states couldn't tax tribal lands held in trust to cover their costs. The tribes were cut off from Bureau of Indian Affairs funding that flows to tribal police and tribal courts in the rest of the country.

Tribes could still enforce their own civil and criminal laws on tribal members. But the constant scramble to "cobble together various pots of funding" to maintain those justice systems has made it tough, Jackson said, particularly for remote tribes without access to ample casino revenue.

The federal Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 — and the independent Indian Law and Order Commission it empowered — laid out fixes to give tribes greater say in tailoring their own justice programs.

In its 2013 report to President Obama and Congress, the commission called the approach to criminal jurisdiction nationwide — but particularly under Public Law 280 — "an indefensible maze of complex, conflicting, and illogical commands, layered over decades via congressional policies and court decisions, and without the consent of tribal nations."

It recommended that tribes in so-called P.L. 280 states be allowed to opt out of state jurisdiction altogether — with or without state consent.

The Hoopa Valley tribe had worked out a solution held up as a model. But Downey told the crowded meeting in Hoopa that it was simply no longer working.

Thanks to a county ballot measure that reversed four years of "heavy duty budget decline," Downey this month assigned three full-time deputies to the region in hopes of "getting back to the business of law enforcement — high visibility and responding to calls for service."

The presence had already led to arrests, among them robbery suspects found with drugs and outstanding warrants at the Hoopa shopping center, he said Friday.

Downey has said he remains open to a renewed agreement with the tribe if at least four tribal officers pass his background checks and field training, share a dispatch and reporting system, and — most controversially — answer to his command staff.

But trust is lacking.

"I think the sheriff is acting in very poor faith ... and even crippling the safety of this community further," said Richard C. Blake, the tribe's chief judge. "Tribal police and tribal court issues are not going to go away, and instead of trying to jockey for authority, true agreements need to be reached."

Blake is concerned that deputies won't make arrests when domestic violence protective orders issued by his court are violated. Downey said his department will continue to honor those orders.

Jackson, the recently elected chairman, has moved to beef up the force. Last week, the tribal council approved a \$1.7-million law enforcement budget for 2016 — a nearly \$500,000 increase over this year — which is expected to boost salaries and pay for a chief, lieutenant, three sergeants and nine officers. Five officers are expected to graduate soon from a state-certified training academy.

The tribe is also pursuing other avenues to gain greater law enforcement authority on their lands, even if Downey declines to re-up the agreement.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has agreed to train and deputize Hoopa Valley officers to enforce certain federal laws. And Hoopa Valley is among three California tribes that have applied under the 2010 law for the federal government to share responsibilities for such enforcement. That would pass more tribal cases off to federal prosecutors.

Feelings are mixed. Mary Jane Aubrey, who manages the tribe's Tsewenaldin Inn, said running a business here is "really hard" because of loitering, drug use, panhandling and theft. She wants improvements but said that as outsiders, sheriff's deputies "don't care about our people."

"Our tribal police are ours," she said. "They know who's on drugs, who's lying to them, which families are good, which families are bad."

At the recent community meeting, tribal members spoke of calling tribal dispatch, only to be told to call the sheriff, and then be told by sheriff's dispatch to call the tribal police. They recounted uninvestigated crimes, and stressed the need for quick response to family violence.

Pamela Risling, who directs the tribe's domestic violence and sexual assault program, voiced support for the training and discipline that Downey has called for. She said the tribe and the sheriff need to work together, considering he has the legal mandate to call the shots.

"We deserve the same service as people in Eureka," she said. "Whether or not we like it, we are a P.L. 280 state."

Surber is conflicted. The night she brought her son home from the hospital, someone fired shots at the house, she said, and it took a deputy more than two hours to arrive.

"As a tribal member, I don't like to see the county pull the agreement, because of our sovereignty," she said. "As a community member, I just want someone to respond."

Yakama Tribe To Get Authority For Some Court Cases

[Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#), October 21, 2015

Some civil and criminal cases involving members of the Yakama Nation will be returned to the tribe's jurisdiction, after being handled for decades by the state.

The federal Bureau of Indian Affairs on Monday granted the tribe's petition for what is called "retrocession."

Retrocession removes state jurisdiction over tribal members in certain cases but does not give the tribe any new jurisdiction over nonmembers. It will affect cases such as car crashes, domestic violence calls and truancy complaints.

Major crimes by tribal members will continue to be handled by the FBI or other federal authorities.

"It is truly a great day for the Yakama People," Tribal Council Chairman JoDe Goudy said in a statement. "For decades, our nation has been denied basic rights of self-governance within our own lands."

The Yakima Herald-Republic reported (<http://bit.ly/1LITn2o>) officials for Yakima County were concerned that details still needed to be worked out.

County Prosecutor Joe Brusic said it's unclear how tribal and county law enforcement officers are going to make sure each case gets into the right jurisdiction.

"I want to do everything possible in my role as prosecutor to see that retrocession works, but I believe we've got a lot of work to do," Brusic said.

Brusic is most concerned about traffic crimes, such as DUIs.

Under retrocession, if a sheriff's deputy pulls over a tribal member suspected of driving under the influence, the deputy would have to call tribal police to make the arrest, Brusic said. But if the suspect decides the deputy can't arrest him, he could drive away, Brusic said.

The head of the BIA praised the county's support for retrocession and acknowledged the concerns in his Monday letter to the Yakama Nation. Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn said the agency could facilitate meetings but is not requiring agreement before the retrocession takes full effect in April.

"It would constitute extreme hubris for a federal official more than 2,500 miles away in Washington, D.C., to attempt to resolve disputes between neighbors in the Yakima Valley," Washburn wrote.

Retrocession also will change which courts try some cases. For example, Yakima County Superior Court hears most vehicular homicide cases, even those involving only tribal members. Now it's unclear whether the tribal court or the federal court would handle those cases, Brusic said.

Retrocession was approved at the state level in January 2014 when Gov. Jay Inslee signed a proclamation that returned to the Yakama Nation authority over school attendance, domestic relations, mental illness, juvenile delinquency, adoption, public assistance, and motor vehicle operation for tribal members on tribal lands.

Yakama Tribe To Get Authority For Some Court Cases

[Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#), October 20, 2015

YAKIMA — In a move long sought by the Yakama Nation, federal officials have approved returning authority to the tribe for certain civil and criminal cases involving tribal members that have been handled by the state for decades.

Monday's move was praised as a victory for tribal sovereignty by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which granted the tribe's petition for retrocession.

The Yakima Herald-Republic reported that officials for Yakima County were concerned that the petition was approved before law enforcement protocols had been worked out for the reservation that both tribal members and nonmembers call home.

The decision removes state jurisdiction over tribal members only in certain cases and does not give the tribe any new jurisdiction over nonmembers. It will affect cases such as car crashes, domestic violence and truancy complaints.

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[Washington Times](#), October 21, 2015

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Information from: Yakima Herald-Republic, <http://www.yakimaherald.com>

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Yakama Tribe To Get Authority For Some Court Cases

[Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#), October 20, 2015

YAKIMA, Wash. – In a move long sought by the Yakama Nation, federal officials have approved returning authority to the tribe for certain civil and criminal cases involving tribal members that have been handled by the state for decades.

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Washburn Accepts State's Retrocession Of Authority Over Yakama Nation

[Native American Times](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON – Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn today announced that the Department of the Interior has accepted from the State of Washington the partial civil and criminal jurisdiction it held over the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The state has held this authority over the Yakama Nation, a federally recognized tribe located in the southwestern portion of Washington, for more than half a century.

"While tribal self-governance has long been the Federal Government's guiding principle for Federal Indian policy, it has been slow in coming in the area of criminal justice," Washburn said in a letter conveying the decision to the Yakama Nation. "We believe that this step will advance tribal self-governance and tribal sovereignty for the Nation. More importantly, we believe that it will produce improved public safety for the Nation and its people."

The Yakama Nation resides on a reservation comprised of over 1.1 million acres, which was established in 1855 by a treaty signed by Washington Territory Governor Isaac Stevens and tribal representatives. The Yakama Reservation is located on the east side of the Cascade Mountains in Yakima and Klickitat counties.

In 2012, the Washington State legislature enacted legislation providing a path for the state and tribal nations to follow in addressing retrocession. In July 2012, the Yakama Nation filed a petition for retrocession with the governor that was followed by government-to-government consultations with the state. In 2013, the Nation entered into a memorandum of understanding with Yakima County regarding the procedures to serve state court arrest warrants on tribal members on trust land within the reservation.

After following the procedures set forth in the state's bill, which included a six-month extension by the state, the governor in January 2014 submitted her proclamation on retrocession to the Secretary of the Interior for approval. Since that time, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Justice Services (OJS) has been engaged with the Yakama Nation Tribal Police Department and Corrections to determine the capacity of the Nation's law enforcement services. In preparation for retrocession, the Nation committed additional resources to its law enforcement services, nearly doubling the size of its police department by funding 10 new officer positions.

In September 2014, OJS finalized an assessment of the police department which found that it would be prepared to handle increased responsibilities as a result of retrocession.

In addition, OJS began an assessment of the Yakama Nation Tribal Court in December 2014, which provided recommendations for improving tribal court operational activities and assisted in developing a strategic three- to five-year plan for it. In May 2015, OJS issued the assessment and strategic plan, which included findings and recommendations, resulting in one-time federal funding to improve the court that will help the Nation further the pursuit of justice and ensure that the rights of individuals are protected.

Washington is one of 16 states authorized by Congress under Public Law 280 (67 Stat. 588), enacted in 1953 during the period in federal Indian policy known as the Termination Era, to assume criminal jurisdiction over American Indians on federal

Indian reservations and to allow civil litigation that had come under tribal or federal court jurisdiction to be handled by state courts.

Among other purposes, Public Law 280 altered criminal jurisdiction on federal Indian lands by transferring it from the federal government to certain states. The law has been widely criticized by tribes and states as creating more harm than good, such as gaps in jurisdiction. Today's decision attempts to remedy some of the jurisdictional problems Public Law 280 created on the Yakama Reservation.

The states required by Public Law 280 to assume civil and criminal jurisdiction over federal Indian lands were Alaska (except the Metlakatla Indian Community of the Annette Island Reserve, which maintains criminal jurisdiction), California, Minnesota (except the Red Lake Reservation), Nebraska, Oregon (except the Warm Springs Reservation), and Wisconsin. In addition, the federal government gave up all special criminal jurisdiction in these states over Indian offenders and victims. The states that elected to assume full or partial jurisdiction include Arizona (1967), Florida (1961), Idaho (1963, subject to tribal consent), Iowa (1967), Montana (1963), Nevada (1955), North Dakota (1963, subject to tribal consent), South Dakota (1957-1961), Utah (1971) and Washington (1957-1963).

In 1968, a legislative shift occurred when Congress authorized certain of these states to retrocede their civil and criminal jurisdiction back to the United States via the Secretary of the Interior.

The Secretary is authorized to accept retroceded authority from a state after consultation with the U.S. Attorney General, and the federal government has done so for 31 tribes since 1968. The most recent retrocession prior to today's announcement occurred when the State of Nebraska retroceded its civil and criminal authority over the Santee Sioux Nation in 2006.

While there are misconceptions about what "retrocession" actually entails, it does not change the boundaries of a tribe's reservation nor expand or contract a tribe's formal legal authority or jurisdiction. The tribe's jurisdiction will simply no longer be concurrent with the state's – instead, tribal jurisdiction will be exclusive for certain purposes. Retrocession is accepted by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with terms set forth in a proclamation by the governor of the state retroceding its jurisdiction.

As required by Executive Order, the Interior Department consulted on the retrocession request with the U.S. Department of Justice, which recommended a six-month waiting period between the date of acceptance and the actual transfer of jurisdiction in order to allow for an orderly transfer of authority from the State of Washington to the federal government and to ensure no jurisdictional gaps develop as a result. Accordingly, Interior's decision is that retrocession will be fully implemented as of 12:01 a.m. PST on April 19, 2016.

The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs oversees the BIA, which is headed by a director who is responsible for managing day-to-day operations through four offices – Indian Services, Justice Services, Trust Services, and Field Operations. These offices directly administer or fund tribally based infrastructure, economic development, law enforcement and justice, social services (including child welfare), tribal governance, and trust land and natural and energy resources management programs for the nation's federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes through 12 regional offices and 81 agencies.

The BIA Office of Justice Services' mission is to enhance public safety and protect property in Indian Country by funding or providing law enforcement, corrections and tribal court services to the nation's federally recognized tribes. It also coordinates emergency preparedness support on federal Indian lands by working cooperatively with other federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies throughout Indian Country. It also operates the Indian Police Academy in Artesia, N.M., which provides training and professional development to BIA and tribal law enforcement personnel. Visit <http://www.indianaffairs.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OJS/index.htm> for more information about OJS and its work.

DOI Lets Wash. Give Up Jurisdiction On Yakama Reservation

[Law360](#), October 21, 2015

Law360, New York (October 20, 2015, 6:39 PM ET) – The U.S. Department of the Interior said Monday it has accepted from Washington an agreement ending the civil and criminal jurisdiction the state had held over certain offenses within the Yakama Nation, ending part of a highly criticized, decades-old policy that had given the state and the tribe concurrent jurisdiction over certain cases.

Under the agreement, the state will no longer be a principal authority on the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation's reservation once the deal goes into effect in April 2016. The...

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Yakama Tribe To Get Authority For Some Court Cases

[KNDU-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#), October 21, 2015

YAKIMA, WA.- It was a record summer for heat with temperatures in the hundreds, not to mention the state wide drought that took a toll on many crops and growers. However as we head into fall, apple orchards are closing up shop already, thanks to an early harvest. The apple harvest is now over about three weeks earlier than normal and while the apple commission says they saw the third largest crop this year in the state, coming in at 118 million boxes of apples, the sweltering heat ...

Yakama Nation Granted Jurisdiction Over Some Crimes On Reservation

[KUOW-FM Seattle](#), October 21, 2015

The Yakama Nation will have more control with its tribal police and courts over crimes committed on the nation's reservation. That's according to the federal Interior Department this week.

The Yakama Nation will have control over some crimes involving Native Americans, but other police agencies will still patrol portions of the reservation. Tribal leaders say it's a win to gain some control of their own land back.

But neighboring city and county agencies say they're worried about the logistics of sharing jurisdiction.

Yakima County prosecutor Joseph Brusich said his office and the tribal government haven't been communicating well for a couple years. He worries that under the new system for example, a native driver with a DUI could leave the scene of an accident if there wasn't a tribal officer there.

The federal government has given the tribes and overlapping agencies until April to work out the details.

The Yakama Nation did not respond to phone or email messages Tuesday.

Gillette Served Obama, Nation Well

[Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#), October 21, 2015

Jodi Gillette probably has been more involved in the Obama administration than any other North Dakotan.

Her association with Barack Obama began during his 2008 presidential campaign when she was in charge of statewide operations of the First American voting efforts. After Obama's election she joined the administration. First, Gillette served as an associate director of intergovernmental affairs at the White House in 2009-2010. In 2011, she joined the U.S. Department of the Interior as deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs and was appointed Special Assistant to the President for Native American Affairs in 2012.

Those positions gave her a voice in a White House that has seemed genuinely concerned about Native American issues. Last year the president and first lady visited Cannon Ball on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. They visited privately with students, talked with leaders and attended a pow wow. They followed that visit with an invitation to some students to visit Washington, D.C. There also was a conference for students and others in Bismarck.

While Gillette couldn't be involved in issues related to the Standing Rock reservation since she's a member of the tribe, it wasn't a surprise when the reservation was selected for the presidential visit.

Gillette is proud of the administration's accomplishments. She was convinced during Obama's first campaign that he was sincere about his promises to help Native Americans. She points to several things that demonstrate Obama's support. The White House Tribal Nations Conference was started in 2009 with the goal of improving the dialogue between the administration and the reservations; the Violence Against Women Act was reauthorized in 2013 and included language allowing tribal jurisdiction in cases of women who are assaulted by non-tribal men on tribal lands; and two lawsuits were settled between the federal government and tribes with a combined value of more than \$3 billion expected to be sent to Native Americans.

The Tribal Nations Conference has won praise for providing a continuing conversation between the administration and tribal governments.

Gillette played an important role in this White House-tribal relationship and her voice has been heard.

Gillette recently left the administration and now splits her time between Bismarck and Washington. She's a member of the Washington-based law firm of Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson and Perry LLP, serving as its policy adviser. The firm represents tribes for litigation, lobbying and economic development.

North Dakota should be proud of Gillette and her service in the administration. She's had a positive impact on national policy.

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS

US Official Proposes Marshalls Fund Changes

[Radio New Zealand](#), October 21, 2015

A top US official has submitted a proposal to the Senate and House to allow the people of Bikini to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands.

Current law restricts resettlement funds for use within the Marshall Islands.

Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina says it is an appropriate course of action to take regarding the welfare and livelihood of the Bikinian people.

The Bikinians were displaced by US nuclear weapons testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands.

In addition to cramped living quarters and a lack of suitable sustainable resources, the islands have been experiencing more frequent storms and king tides resulting in salt water inundation and the destruction of crops.

Bikini Relocation Fund Changes Seen As 'Plan B' For Locals

[Radio New Zealand](#), October 21, 2015

A representative from Bikini Atoll says a proposal to allow people to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands is not wanted.

Currently, resettlement funds are restricted for use within the Marshalls but the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina says it is appropriate to open up the fund because of plight of the Bikinian people.

The Bikinians were displaced by United States nuclear testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of increased flooding and deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands.

Bikini liaison officer Jack Niedenthal says the US should take full responsibility for any resettlement including providing extra financing.

"We still got a ways to go, we still have to do some more lobbying and some more talking to people in Washington to make them understand that what's being proposed by the assistant secretary is what we view as 'Plan B'. It's not ultimately what we want in terms of helping our people."

Mr Niedenthal says current resettlement funding is already the Marshall Islands' right. Related

Chinese Support For The Pacific Region Continues

[Marianas Variety](#), October 21, 2015

SUVA, Fiji (Press Release) — China and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat further strengthened their relationship on Friday when the two met at a ceremony to hand over \$1.05 million to assist the Pacific region.

Forum Secretariat Secretary General Meg Taylor and Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Zhang Ping attended the ceremony and delivered speeches respectively.

Zhang reiterated his nation's ongoing interest in the region saying, "China attaches great importance to the South Pacific region. The Chinese side stands ready to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation with Pacific Island Countries and contribute to the development and capacity building in the region."

Accepting the contribution, Taylor said: "I warmly welcome this support that assists the Forum in advancing regional integration as well as helping member countries achieve sustainable development."

The handover ceremony provided opportunity to raise key Pacific region priorities identified through the Framework for Pacific Regionalism such as climate change and ICT.

"We seek your support for the Forum's position going into the COP21 negotiations in Paris, as articulated in the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Declaration on Climate Change Action issued in Port Moresby last month," Taylor told Zhang.

She added, "China's commitment to support Pacific island countries to achieve greater ICT connectivity is to be commended and the special loans you have made available for ICT infrastructure connectivity, improving broadband networks, encouraging on-line education services, and ICT enterprises, are a generous initiative."

China became a Forum dialogue partner in 1990. Since then it has developed an important economic relationship with the region, particularly through its dedication to trade development.

"China has made an impressive commitment to advance trade and investment with the Pacific island countries. China's continuing support for the Pacific Trade and Invest Beijing is very much appreciated," said Taylor.

The financial support will be used to support activity by the China-PIF Development Cooperation Fund and the PT&I Beijing office and its activities.

Pacific-wide Talks Urged On Climate Migration

[Radio New Zealand](#), October 21, 2015

All countries in the Pacific are being urged to start discussions on how to help people forced to move from low lying atoll nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu.

184 million people worldwide were displaced by disaster between 2008 and 2014 and at special meetings in Geneva last week 110 countries gave the nod to a Protection Agenda for dealing with future migration challenges.

The experiences of small island countries which face rising seas due to climate change helped form the global action plan under the Swiss Norwegian Nansen Initiative

The Protection Agenda aims at collecting more information, improving humanitarian protection measures and better dealing with the risk of disaster back in home countries so people are not forced to move in the first place.

The Nansen Initiative's Walter Kaelin told Sally Round there's now a toolbox that can be adapted to each region's distinct challenges and needs.

WALTER KAEELIN: It is a document that brings together a lot of good, effective practices states have used, states have developed in addressing situations where they were faced with people coming from countries affected by disaster when they had to decide whether or not to admit them. But we were also looking at how to prevent displacement, for instance through integrating issues of human mobility into disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation. We're also looking at how one can help people to get out of harm's way before the disaster strikes for instance by looking at planned relocations as you have in your region. For instance Fiji is already in the process of relocating 45 villages away from eroding coastlines but then also looking at migration as a way of helping people to move out of areas that are particularly affected by the effects of climate change and disasters.

SALLY ROUND: Does it also provide a kind of legal framework or is it more about providing experiences and practices and examples for countries to learn from?

WK: This was not an exercise that aimed at setting new standards, at developing new law but rather trying to provide a toolbox to governments but also to regional organisations, so in the current situation, in future situations one could go back to the experiences made by other countries in other parts of the world and try to use that. Beyond that we feel there are huge differences from one region to the other. You in the Pacific region are not faced with a lot of cross-border displacement which does occur for instance in Africa, the Horn of Africa and western Africa or in Central America. Your case is much more about the future prospects of some of these island states, low lying island states becoming uninhabitable and with this toolbox we hope we are able to trigger discussion at regional, sub regional, but also domestic levels.

SR: Did you have any ideas, solutions from those consultations that you've been having for the last three years around the world about how Pacific island countries can get through these major issues that they're grappling with?

WK: If you're looking at the Pacific island countries and their people, and their populations, these are people that really do not want to move. Most of them want to stay in their countries. They're attached to the land, but due to environmental factors but also other factors linked to their development or lack of development make it increasingly difficult for people. What the communities told us is 'we really don't want to become refugees' and what they meant was they don't want to have to wait til disaster strikes. They rather would prefer to have the option of being able to emigrate, be it temporarily, be it permanently at the time when they decide to do that and if you're looking at the situation in the South Pacific then for some of the islands and their people it's quite easy because of special ties. For instance in New Zealand if you're talking about Niue or the Cook Islands people can easily emigrate to your country (New Zealand). Marshall Islanders, they can go to the United States but Kiribati and Tuvalu which are the most affected, they don't have those opportunities. I think their programmes like the Pacific access quota in New Zealand or seasonal worker programmes targeting vulnerable Pacific islands that do exist in Australia are good practices, good approaches. I think it's important it's not just New Zealand and Australia, it's also countries such as Fiji and others who even might be interested to receive people from countries like Tuvalu and Kiribati because of cultural ties, because they are interested to get a workforce or increase their populations. What I think is important in the South Pacific context is a dialogue between countries on how to facilitate migration because if this is not taking place then we might end up with irregular migration or we might end up with people hit by disaster ending up in humanitarian crisis situations so it's better to start a discussion now and one framework for such discussions that is quite adequate in my perspective would be the Pacific Islands Forum.

Marshalls Journalist Speaks On Climate Issues, Corruption In Pacific Islands

[Marianas Variety](#), October 21, 2015

HAGĀTŊA (The Guam Daily Post) — Author and journalist Giff Johnson spoke to students at the University of Guam on Monday evening about climate change and development in the Pacific islands.

His lecture, entitled "Idyllic No More: Pacific Island Climate, Corruption and Development Dilemmas," is based on his latest book — a compilation of essays detailing the looming climate threat to the region, its booming fishing industry, and the U.S. nuclear test legacy in the Marshal Islands.

In an interview with the Post, Johnson said people the world over should be concerned with climate change. The issue, he said, is how to handle rising sea levels and erratic weather patterns that seem to be escalating with changing temperatures. These factors have contributed to what Johnson calls climate-driven migration from remote Pacific islands to Guam and mainland U.S. Improving the lives of residents on these islands would help mitigate out migration.

The United States has a Compact of Free Association or COFA Freely Associated States that allows these residents to freely travel within the U.S. and its territories. The FAS are the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. Guam and the CNMI receive Compact Impact funds to mitigate some of the cost associated with taking in these residents but the funds have historically been much lower than actual costs.

Johnson believes that in order to improve the life of remote island residents and minimize migration, investment must be made not only to solar and wind power to combat climate change but to technology that will lessen the burden of living on more remote islands.

"For example this El Niño that we're in right now is predicted to cause a very long and serious drought," Johnson said. While Guam has various water resources available to it, remote islands are more or less completely dependent on rain water.

There have been investments made into solar or wind powered reverse osmosis machines that were placed in several remote islands in the Marshals. These machines produce drinking water out of sea water and remove the threat of a drought, Johnson said. "We need to get this kind of (technology) out to many of these remote islands."

To mitigate the cost of FAS citizens already on Guam, the CNMI and Hawaii, Johnson said something that would have significant impact is the reinstatement of Medicaid benefits for COFA migrants. "In 1996 the U.S. Congress cut off Medicaid access for people from the FAS...that lack of Medicaid coverage means (people seek health care later which) requires higher costs to hospitals in Guam and Hawaii," Johnson said.

Currently, initiatives by both the Guam and Hawaii delegations are pushing to reinstate Medicaid coverage for COFA migrants.

But the responsibility of improving life for FAS citizens doesn't rest solely with the U.S or other outside entities. Johnson said a fair amount of donor aid does reach the FAS but issue lie with mismanagement on the part of local governments. "Both the Marshals and FSM have tens of millions of dollars sitting there because of management issues with construction projects," Johnson said. Proper management of funds would create hundreds of jobs and provide incentive for residents to stay in their respective islands, he added.

A particular source of growth for the FAS could come from the fishing industry. Because FSM, the Marshals and Palau are part of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, they are among 8 countries that control pricing on tuna fishing. In 2010, PNA brought in \$60 million. That amount has since jumped to about \$350 million. According to Johnson this presents an opportunity for institution like the University of Guam to provide education on managing and developing the fisheries business.

Corruption also plays a role in the mismanagement of funds. Johnson said that island governments in the past saw government employment as a means of spreading donor aid. Workers were hired with little focus on qualifications. But in recent years, donors have become more intent on results. This poses a challenge to government agencies that may have offices filled with workers, but not necessarily the best set of workers for the job. What results is a public that sees very little improvement despite outside support. "That's why I say the issue in the FAS has more to do with management and less about (needing) more money," Johnson said.

The problem is compounded in smaller islands by reluctance to voice open criticism of government or leaders. "In places like the Marshall Islands (reluctance is) pretty extreme given the cultural norms of not criticizing leaders," Johnson said. He said a significant difference between Guam and islands in the FAS was more public engagement stemming from an American style of dealing with government issues. "Unfortunately, (less engagement) ties in to people not reacting to these problems and not getting things changed," he added.

Rising Seas Are Already Damaging These Pacific Islands

[National Geographic](#), October 21, 2015

"Garlands of the gods" is how Kiribati poet Teweiariki Teaero describes the atolls of his homeland. And from the air, that is how they look, with a smoke ring of clouds above lush green slivers of land. How fragile they seem!

Built by the sea, they are increasingly being reclaimed by the sea. In February 2015, high spring tides coincided with storm-generated swells to flood homes and damage roads and seawalls in Kiribati's capital, Tarawa. (Read more about the threats to the island nation.)

When I arrived in April, repair work was still continuing, but I knew it was only a matter of time before the ocean challenged the islands' defenses once more. (Read our special issue on climate change.)

Despite the threat from the sea—which will only increase as climate change drives sea levels higher—the people possess depths of resilience and self-confidence. “I see adaptation as not just about seawalls but about revisiting our traditional knowledge systems,” Teaero told me. “We need the collaboration of our international partners, but an active collaboration as people who are empowered to tackle our own problems.”

A combination of science and traditional wisdom gives hope that, as Teaero writes in one of his poems, these islands will “rise over troubled seas.”

TACKLING AMERICA’S WATER CHALLENGES

New Melones Pulse Flows Begin Today

[Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#), October 21, 2015

More than 7 billion gallons of water is scheduled to be released from New Melones Reservoir beginning today to ensure flows in the Stanislaus River will keep temperatures cool enough for adult salmon migrating up the river to spawn this fall.

Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District, which together hold senior water rights to the first 600,000 acre-feet stored in the 2.4 million acre-foot reservoir each year, announced the plan in a press release last week. The districts said it would benefit river conditions and fisheries, as well as the needs of agriculture and more than 200,000 residential customers downstream.

“This agreement shows that, with cooperation and some give and take, the needs of fish and ag can be met,” OID General Manager Steve Knell stated in the press release. “If the drought continues, we’ll need more of this type of cooperation — not less.”

New Melones contained 276,692 acre-feet of water as of Monday morning, according to the state Department of Water Resources, about 12 percent of its total capacity and 21 percent of its average historical capacity for this time of year.

The total “pulse flow” set to begin today — 23,000 acre-feet — is enough to fill about 23,000 football fields one-foot deep in water. It’s also about 6,000 acre-feet more than Tuolumne Utilities District, the county’s largest water purveyor, uses on average each year to serve roughly 44,000 residents.

Earlier this year, the irrigation districts sparred with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — which manages New Melones Reservoir — over spring pulse flows that they feared would leave as little as 147,000 acre-feet in the reservoir by the end of September.

However, “aggressive conservation efforts” by OID and SSJID as well as “better-than-expected spring and summer runoff” helped to create the surplus, the press release stated.

The districts agreed to use the unanticipated savings to help the Bureau of Reclamation send the required pulse flow down the river to attract adult salmon returning from the ocean to spawn.

According to the press release, “west side” water users will divert the released water farther downstream after it passes through the Stanislaus and lower San Joaquin rivers and have agreed to compensate the districts.

Federal policies requiring such pulse flows have drawn the ire of local residents and elected leaders, who have argued that releasing so much water during a drought doesn’t make sense.

Congressman Tom McClintock, R-Roseville, introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year called the Save Our Water Act that would suspend pulse flows in areas affected by drought.

Though no action has been taken since the bill was introduced in March, McClintock says he’s hopeful the House will vote on it sometime before the end of the year.

Supes Vote To Oppose Delta Tunnels Plan

[Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#), October 21, 2015

STOCKTON — At a meeting on Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a resolution in formal opposition of California WaterFix, also known as the twin tunnels plan.

“The WaterFix is just a thinly veiled version of the former (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and continues to push the fatally flawed twin tunnels, which will simply sacrifice one region of California for the benefit of another,” said Supervisor Kathy Miller.

Supervisor Bob Elliott added that the plan will add no new water to the state’s supply, calling it a “multibillion-dollar smoke-and-mirrors scheme.”

Comments were offered by both board members and members of the public. The collected comments will be submitted on behalf of the County of San Joaquin along with the Central and South Delta water agencies.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Environmental Update On Offshore Wind

By James A. Bacon

[Bacon's Rebellion \(VA\)](#), October 21, 2015

Alstom wind turbine like that contemplated for installation off Virginia Beach.

by James A. Bacon

Judging from comments made in a Environment Virginia-sponsored webinar held this morning, environmentalists, the McAuliffe administration and Dominion Virginia Power are operating on the same wave length when it comes to developing offshore wind power in Virginia. If environmental groups have big differences with Dominion on how to proceed, no sign of criticism surfaced in the webinar presentations.

The main focus of environmentalists, as it is for Dominion, is bringing down the cost of offshore wind power. The top priority nationally is building a big enough pipeline of wind power projects off the Atlantic Coast to persuade manufacturers, specialty vessels and others in Europe's established wind-power supply chain to create a presence on the U.S. East Coast. The existence of a supply chain, along with continued technological development, could make offshore wind power far more cost competitive in the U.S. than it is today.

Here in Virginia, the top priority is ensuring that Dominion builds two experimental turbines off Virginia Beach that will provide the data needed to optimize the development of hundreds of wind turbines in a subsequent project potentially large enough to power 700,000 homes. The big hurdle is persuading the State Corporation Commission that such a massive investment would constitute an acceptable trade-off between cost, reliability and environmental goals.

David Carr, general counsel for the Southern Environmental Law Center, provided an overview of Dominion's offshore wind initiatives. Dominion solicited bids to build a two experimental turbines off the Virginia coast. (The turbines would test an unproven hurricane-resilient design and a new turbine foundation.) The original plan was to seek SCC approval in 2015, said Carr, but the low bid of \$375 million to build the two turbines far exceeded the original estimate of \$230 million. Dominion has restructured the contract by breaking it into four components in the hope of stimulating more competitive bidding and reducing the risk premiums bidders build into their offers. The new goal is to file with the SCC by June 2016.

Hayes Framme, advisor for infrastructure and development with the Secretariat of Commerce and Trade, said the McAuliffe administration played a key role in moving the Dominion's experimental-turbines project forward by negotiating a complex lease with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and other federal agencies to lease the ocean bottom where the turbines would be located. "Without this lease," he said, "we would not be able to get these turbines in."

An offshore wind farm would advance two McAuliffe administration goals: increasing the state's commitment to renewable energy and also promoting economic development. A study completed this summer found that Virginia is "uniquely positioned" to house "at least a portion, if not most, of the supply chain" supporting an East Coast offshore wind industry, Framme said. Virginia ports are located in the Mid-Atlantic, providing convenient access to projects to the north and south, and it has a large existing ship-repair infrastructure.

"Having a commercial deployment off Virginia's coast sends a signal that we are serious," Framme said. "If we don't lay the foundation now, it will be more difficult for us to take advantage of that opportunity when it does come."

Virginia's projects are not sufficiently large by themselves to coax the offshore wind supply chain to bolster its U.S. presence. That will take commitments from multiple states. Fortunately, that commitment seems to be forthcoming, said Stephanie McClellan, director of a special initiative on offshore wind housed at the University of Delaware. The states of New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine and Maryland all are actively exploring offshore wind opportunities. The state of New York has set a goal of 50% renewables by 2030, while New York City has established a goal of 100% renewables for electricity consumed by municipal operations.

To build a supporting infrastructure for offshore wind, said McClellan, eastern U.S. states need to provide market visibility and revenue certainty for a volume of projects over time, as well as more data on site-specific conditions such as wind speeds and wave size. The cost of wind power dropped "precipitously" in Europe as the industry gained scale; it will do so in the U.S. as well, she said.

Bacon's bottom line: I posed one question to the presenters: Given the intermittent nature of wind production, has anyone studied the impact of a massive wind farm on the reliability of offshore electricity production in Virginia? The short answer: No. However, presenters noted that European countries have integrated large off-shore wind projects into their power grids, and PJM Interconnection, the group that ensures grid reliability in the Mid-Atlantic and parts of the Midwest, including Virginia, has looked into the issue. There are currently no comments highlighted.

ONSHORE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Interior Dings Chesapeake \$2.1M For Shoddy Reporting

[Greenwire](#), October 20, 2015

The Interior Department yesterday announced a \$2.1 million civil penalty against Chesapeake Energy Corp. for misreporting the amount of gas it produced and sold from American Indian lands in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma City-based company failed to comply with a 2011 order that found “systemic errors” in the company’s monthly production reports for more than 100 Indian leases, according to Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue. Chesapeake agreed to amend the monthly reports, but it continued to maintain inaccurate information on the agency’s data systems, ONRR said. The company was assessed a penalty based on “knowing or willful maintenance” of the inaccurate information, ONRR said.

Libs Win In Canada

[Politico](#), October 21, 2015

With help from Andrew Restuccia and Darius Dixon

CANADIANS ELECT GREENER GOVERNING PARTY: Canadians yesterday ushered into power the Liberal Party and its young leader, Justin Trudeau, in an election where energy and environmental issues played a larger role than they have on the campaign trail here. Trudeau’s government would be friendlier to climate policies meant to limit greenhouse gas emissions than its predecessor, as Pro’s Elana Schor reports. The Liberals “would unseat Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s Conservatives, whose nine-year reign has been marked by notable friction with the U.S. over Obama’s slowness to decide on” the Keystone XL pipeline. The CBC projected soon after the polls closed last night that Trudeau’s party won enough seats to form a majority government.

Story Continued Below

Does this mean the end of the Keystone Saga? HAHAHAHAHhahahahah, oh dear reader, you are a wit. Of course not. As Elana writes, “While Trudeau is also pro-Keystone, a fast rejection of the pipeline by Obama could give a new Liberals government time to pivot away from the controversial project to open a new chapter in continental relations.” But whatever the president decides — whether it’s this week, to let Trudeau start with a clean slate, or next year — the pipeline likely will find itself facing another lengthy battle in court.

And the ramifications for climate talks could be just as significant, per Elana: “the Canadian Liberals have vowed to be stronger on the environment than Harper has been,” but “they also promise to give individual provinces greater power to decide on their own carbon-cutting strategies.”

BIDEN, OBAMA AND KERRY TO CHAT TODAY: Whatever could the President, the Vice President, and the Cabinet official with the power to approve border-crossing infrastructure permits have to discuss in the Oval Office the day after the Canadian Elections? The Stanley Cup prospects of the Bruins, Blackhawks, and Flyers, perhaps? The literary merits of Margaret Atwood’s MaddAddam Trilogy? Perhaps ... perhaps a certain pipeline controversy? Maaaaybe? Nah. The White House wouldn’t say what the trio would discuss, only that the meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. and reporters aren’t invited. Has to be the hockey, right? The Blackhawks are favored to win it all.

WELCOME TO TUESDAY! I’m your host Eric Wolff, and if Morning Energy was late to your inbox this morning, blame the creators of the Energy Policy Simulator (see below). It’s like the Legend of Zelda, but for energy policy nerds. I may be bleary-eyed and my fingers may be covered in Dorito dust, but you can still send your energy tips, quips, and comments to ewolff@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @ericwolff, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

TOP CLIMATE DIPLOMAT TO HAVE STARE DOWN WITH SENATE: Todd Stern, the State Department’s top global warming negotiator, will face Republican critics of the Obama administration’s push for a new international climate change agreement during a Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing today. Sen. John Barrasso, the top Republican on the subcommittee, is one of the most vocal opponents of Obama’s climate agenda. He and other GOP lawmakers are sure to ask Stern pointed questions about whether the deal will actually make strides in cutting emissions, whether China is serious about its climate pledges and how the United States can promise money to developing countries when Congress controls the purse strings. But Stern has been working on international climate issues for years, and he’s not likely to be easily rattled by the questions. Stern will also likely have back-up from climate advocates like Sens. Tom Udall, Barbara Boxer and Ed Markey, who all sit on the subcommittee. The hearing comes as international diplomats, including Stern’s deputies at State, are fighting over a draft negotiating text at a five-day session in Bonn, Germany, this week.

NOM NOM NOM NOM NOM: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is scheduled to hear from a crowded table of nominees this morning, including those for the USGS and the departments of Energy and Interior. There may not be too

many fireworks over the six candidates but some of the positions have had some longstanding issues. For one, Victoria Wassmer, an FAA official, was tapped last year to be CFO for the EPA but she never got floor time. This time around, she's been asked to be DOE undersecretary of energy for management and performance, a position Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz created as part of a leadership reorganization plan but that has never been filled. A name many people are familiar with on today's agenda is Mary Kendall, the longtime acting Interior inspector general who tangled a bit with House Republicans. She's been nominated to officially take the top IG position. Cherry Murray will also be at the witness table in her bid to be the Science Office director at DOE, a position that's been vacant since April 2013 and whose previous contender languished for more than a year. Also testifying today are Suzette Kimball for USGS director, Kristen Sarri for assistant secretary of Interior, and John Kotek for DOE's top nuclear energy official. The hearing starts at 10 a.m. in Dirksen 366.

SHALL WE PLAY A GAME? HOW ABOUT A NICE GAME OF CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY? Think of it like a low-fi SimCity, except instead of municipal policy, you get to tweak nationwide approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Ever wondered just how a \$30 carbon tax would do? How about \$52? What if you focus on making cars use less gasoline? Or investing more in solar and wind technology? You can see all of that in the immensely detailed Energy Policy Simulator, a tool being unveiled today at an event in D.C. by Energy Innovation, a climate change policy think tank based in San Francisco. The group dedicated \$1 million and a team of five programmers plus a rotating array of outside help to develop a digital tool that shows the impact of an astonishing variety of climate change policies. "I think people fall in love with specific policies, but they don't have objective ways to measure the results of policies," Hal Harvey, CEO of Energy Innovation, told ME. The tool provides immediate feedback on the effect of different policies at different scales. It's probably NSFW, if your intent is to do some work that day.

No "foot on the scale." The goal was to do an objective assessment of any number of different policies, Harvey said. To make sure they weren't skewing the model, they made it open source, so anyone can look at the programming and the model's math. Though the webtool is locked into U.S. data, anyone can download a desktop version and replace the U.S. data with other national data. The desktop version allows even more policy option. Considering that the web tool allows users to devote research money to reducing livestock flatulence, ME's mind boggles at what would be more detailed.

If you go to the unveiling: 10:30 a.m., Rayburn 2226

** Presented by Chevron: Girls everywhere can benefit from hands-on learning and role models in STEM fields. At Chevron, we've partnered with TechBridge to help inspire over 14,000 young women to discover their passion for science, technology, engineering and math. Learn how Chevron supports America's future innovators: <http://tinyurl.com/p3f5jgm> **

BUSINESS LEADERS 'AFFIRMED' BY WHITE HOUSE EVENT: ME spoke to some of the business leaders who pledged to reduce their carbon footprint as part of an event at the White House yesterday. It was "certainly a reaffirmation that we're on the right track," Hugh Welsh, president of DSM North America, told ME. While 81 companies pledged to take action, Welsh said he was irate at other executives who work to block climate change policies. "If they can't embrace some of the initiatives, at least get out of the way, and don't lobby against some of the changes we'd like to see." Ikea U.S. president Lars Petersson said the "very strong commitment from the US government" and private sector is an important starting point, but he said he was surprised the event didn't address a few issues, like waste management and squeezing carbon out of the supply chain.

GAS UTILITIES VOLUNTEERS TO BE SAFER: American Gas Association" is announcing an update to its "Commitment to Enhancing Safety" today, including new physical and cybersecurity efforts, implementation of leading practices related to pipe installation and an initiative to continue the development of a diverse and inclusive workforce capable of operating and maintaining the 21st century technology and infrastructure that delivers clean natural gas. It has also set up a peer review program in which natural gas utilities review each other's safety programs. The announcement follows the release of new inspection rules from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration earlier this month.

GAS TERMINAL APPROVED: The Department of Energy authorized Emera CNG, LLC to export up to 8 million cubic feet per day of domestically produced compressed natural gas for 20 years from Emera's proposed terminal in Palm Beach, Fla.

THERE THEY GO AGAIN: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY FINED BY ONNR: The Office of Natural Resources Revenue hit Chesapeake Energy with a \$2.1 million civil penalty for underreporting its natural gas production and sales for leases on Indian land. It's not the first time Chesapeake has heard from the tiny agency. In 2013, ONNR fined the company \$765,000 for exactly the same sin. Of course, none of those are much compared to the \$10 million fine levied by EPA in 2013.

HYDRO WANTS SOME RESPECT, LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN: The National Hydropower Association is announcing an ad campaign today intended to persuade Congress to go ease permitting requirements. "As a nation, if we are serious about decreasing carbon emissions and expanding clean energy solutions, we simply can't allow hydropower to be hindered by process that can take up to ten years," Linda Church Ciocci, NHA Executive Director, said in a statement. The campaign, which runs into five figures, includes a website, a video, and paid context ads.

QUICK HITS

- As Conservation Cuts Electricity Use, Utilities Turn to Fees, WSJ: <http://on.wsj.com/1jR3XoG>
- Leaders call for carbon pricing worldwide, AP, via Global Post: <http://bit.ly/1W1pgjv>
- Solar energy blotting out nature, farms in California, San Diego Union-Tribune: <http://bit.ly/1Klp8Vh>
- Study: Climate change adding billions to U.S. hurricane costs, USA Today: <http://usat.ly/1PD6LIN>

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

** Presented by Chevron: Girls everywhere can benefit from hands-on learning and role models in STEM fields. At Chevron, we've partnered with TechBridge to help inspire over 14,000 young women to discover their passion for science, technology, engineering and math. Learn how Chevron supports America's future innovators: <http://tinyurl.com/p59o9p8> **

CORRECTION: An earlier version of this tipsheet misidentified the American Gas Association.

Chesapeake Fined \$2.1M For Repeatedly Underreporting NatGas Volumes In Oklahoma

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#), October 21, 2015

Chesapeake Energy Corp. has been fined more than \$2.1 million by the U.S. Department of Interior for repeatedly underreporting natural gas production volumes in Oklahoma.

Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) said Monday that Chesapeake had failed to comply with an October 2011 order that found "repeated, systemic errors" in monthly reporting of gas produced and sold from more than 100 leases on land owned by tribes and individual Native Americans. ONRR had ordered Chesapeake to restructure its monthly reporting system as part of a review to correct any unreported/misreported volumes.

"While the company assured ONRR it had corrected the reports, follow-up checks still found additional errors," said Interior's Paul A. Mussenden, deputy assistant secretary for natural resources revenue management. "Correct royalty reports, especially on American Indian leases, are essential for ONRR to ensure all royalties are paid, to provide reliable data used by ONRR's audit and compliance teams, and to provide accurate data to the American public."

Interior eventually obtained Chesapeake's compliance to amend monthly reports but it "continued to maintain inaccurate information on ONRR data systems for an extended period," officials said. The fine, which covers misreported amounts produced on the individual leases only, is for "knowing or willful maintenance of this inaccurate information."

After Interior issued its initial request in October 2011, Chesapeake informed ONRR in May 2012 that all of the corrections required had been submitted. However, follow-up testing found more underreported volumes. The company then said it corrected those additional errors, but further reviews found still more incorrect data.

Following the settlement announcement on Monday, a Chesapeake spokesman said the company looked forward "to further strengthening our relationship with the Department of the Interior."

Two years ago Chesapeake was fined \$765,000 for "knowing or willful submission of inaccurate information" of royalties on another Indian lease also in Oklahoma (see *Shale Daily*, April 3, 2013). In early 2014 the company also was ordered to pay \$428,400 for underreporting royalties on a tribal lease in Oklahoma dating back to 2005. In that case, ONRR said auditors found inaccurate reports and notified the company, but Chesapeake did not make the proper corrections.

Earlier this year Chesapeake agreed to pay \$119 million to settle a lawsuit with a private landowner in Oklahoma for allegedly underpaying gas royalties on nearly 12,000 wells over a 10-year period (see *Shale Daily*, Jan. 23). According to filings, Chesapeake Operating LLC agreed to pay for improperly deducting expenses for marketing, processing, compression and other midstream services for 11,800 gas wells. The lawsuit covered production from 2004 through 2014.

Company Fined \$2.1M For Under Reporting Gas From Indian Leases

[Native American Times](#), October 21, 2015

DENVER (AP) — Chesapeake Energy Corp. has been fined \$2.1 million for under reporting natural gas produced on Indian leases in Oklahoma.

The Department of Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue Office in Denver said Monday it issued the civil penalty against the Oklahoma City-based company for failing to comply with an October 2011 order requiring it to review the amounts reported for more than 100 leases. In a statement, the office said that Chesapeake said it complied with the order in 2012 but follow up testing found additional under reported volumes which were then corrected in 2013.

The 2011 order covered land owned by tribes and individual Native Americans. The fine covers misreported amounts produced on the individual leases only.

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Chesapeake Energy Gets Fined

[KOKC-AM Oklahoma City](#), October 20, 2015

Chesapeake Energy Corp. has been fined \$2.1 million for under reporting natural gas produced on Indian leases in Oklahoma. On Monday The Department of Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue in Denver said it issued the civil penalty against the Oklahoma City-based company for failing to comply with an October 2011 order requiring it to review the amounts reported for more than 100 leases.

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Texas Energy Regulator Opposes Interior's Stream Rule

[Law360](#), October 21, 2015

Law360, Dallas (October 20, 2015, 9:18 PM ET) – Texas' top energy regulator on Tuesday said the agency will oppose a U.S. Department of the Interior proposed rule aimed at better protecting streams and other waterways from nearby mining activity, saying the regulation encroaches on ground better left to the state.

Texas Railroad Commission Chairman David Porter on Tuesday said the state would sign on to the multistate Interstate Mining Compact Commission's comments opposing the proposed waterway regulation. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's proposed Stream Protection Rule is a lengthy rewrite governing...

To view the full article, register now.

USGS Report States Earthquakes Coincide With Oklahoma Oil Booms

[KOCO-TV Oklahoma City](#), October 21, 2015

A study by the United States Geological Survey states that the earthquakes from the past 100 years seem to coincide with the oil boom in Oklahoma.

Okla. Regulators Shutter 3 More Wells Near Rumbling Pipeline Hub

[EnergyWire](#), October 21, 2015

Oklahoma oil and gas regulators dealing with a dramatic increase in earthquakes near the pipeline hub of Cushing have shut down three more disposal wells. Another well was shut down by the company that owns it after regulators said they were concerned it was drilled too deep. And the operators of seven other wells were told in a letter written Friday and released yesterday that they must reduce the volume of drilling waste that they inject deep underground. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) says it has also told the operators of 13 other wells in the Cushing area that they may need to change operations in the future. The commission is directing wells within 3 miles of the recent earthquakes to shut in. Wells 3 to 6 miles from the shaking have to reduce volumes by 25 percent. Wells 6 to 10 miles away are on notice...The Department of Homeland Security has taken an interest in the earthquakes in the area because its facilities are considered critical national infrastructure, according to a paper by scientists from USGS and elsewhere published online last month.

Oklahoma Cracks Down More On Disposal Wells After Cushing Quakes

By Liz Hampton And Heide Brandes

[Reuters](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

Fracking Can Cause Nearby Abandoned Wells To Leak Methane – Study

By Richard Valdmanis

[Reuters](#), October 20, 2015

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

FOIA FAIL: BLM Fails To Produce All Photos In Response To Sun Times' FOIA Request

[Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#), October 21, 2015

It's an important law, one that allows citizens and their representative – the media – to seek the hidden details of the machinery of government. The rules and process are well defined under federal law, the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA.

When the request is made of a federal agency, that agency has a limited amount of time to respond. The agency must produce the data requested or explain why, under the Freedom of Information Act, it does not have to produce the information.

If any part of the request is denied, the agency must specify what part of the FOIA request is being denied and must explain the reason for the denial.

A couple of years ago the Sun Times received, from an anonymous source, documents related to the proposed Solenex, LLC natural gas well on public lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Some of the documents originated with the U.S. Forest Service; others from the Bureau of Land Management.

Also included were 18 photographs, in color, approximately 8 ½ x 11 inches in size and of medium quality.

Since we had in our possession 18 photographs related to the Solenex lease, we decided to contact the BLM and see if they had additional photos in the Solenex file. We also hoped that, in the process, this newspaper would be able to get final confirmation that the photos we already had were authentic (since then, we have confirmed through another source that the documents and photos are authentic).

We contacted the BLM office in Great Falls and were told that yes, they had photos in the Solenex case file. The Sun Times asked for the photos, but was advised that we should go through the FOIA process.

The Sun Times, after researching the Freedom of Information Act, filed the FOIA request with the FOIA Officer at the BLM Montana state office in Billings. Immediately we received confirmation that our request had been received. We were also advised that we would be receiving a confirmation letter with a case number shortly.

When the Sun Times had not received the photos or the promised confirmation letter, we asked what the holdup was. The answers we got were unsatisfactory, but since the clock was ticking on the BLM window to respond, we waited.

When the time was up for the BLM to produce the photos, we received a package from their office in Billings. In the package were a cover letter and 16 poor quality photocopies of photos.

Sixteen photos. Not eighteen. Two photos were missing.

In the cover letter, the BLM advised the Sun Times that the agency could not confirm the date or location of the photographs. Curiously, the two omitted photos were the only ones that included a person in the photos. The Sun Times believes that the person in the photographs, who is still employed by the BLM, was the petroleum engineer who worked on the Solenex Application for Drilling Permit, or APD.

The Sun Times was able to pinpoint the location of one of the two withheld photos, and we believe that the photos, at least some of them, paint a far different – pardon the pun – “picture” of the drillsite than what has been presented so far. To do this, the Sun Times has relied on information from a surveyor, publicly available satellite data and a recent flyover of the area, photographing the drillsite.

But the point is, why did the BLM hold back the photos?

This newspaper has always enjoyed a good relationship with the Bureau of Land Management. The agency has always been cordial and responsive to our requests for information. Of course, the Sun Times does not engage in “fishing expeditions” when we seek information. Our research and understanding as it relates to the Solenex case in particular and oil and gas exploration in general exceeds that of many media outlets. It has become a specialty of this newspaper.

For the Sun Times, though, we are faced with the question, “If you have no idea of the details of the information you seek in a FOIA request, how do you know the agency has complied fully?”

In our case the BLM, in their cover letter and in a follow-up email, said that all of the requested photos had been produced. When we sent an email with the two non-disclosed photos to the BLM FOIA officer asking why the two pictures were not included, we waited two weeks for an answer. The answer was that the person doing the FOIA search thought those two photos were excluded from the FOIA. The BLM apologized and explained that we should have requested better quality copies of the photos.

As the Sun Times considers its options in this matter, we hope that the BLM as well as the other agencies involved realize that this community newspaper does its homework. Our readers expect and deserve no less.

OFFSHORE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Feds Probing Death Of Worker On Gulf Drillship

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

[Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#), October 20, 2015

WASHINGTON — Federal investigators are probing the death of a worker on a drillship in the Gulf of Mexico that was preparing to bore a well for Chevron.

The accident happened at about 10:15 a.m. Tuesday morning about 200 miles south of Lake Charles, La., in a deep-water leasing area known Keathley Canyon block 96. The Pacific Santa Ana drillship was just beginning operations for Chevron in

about 4,800 feet of water at the site and had not yet penetrated the sea floor when an employee of that drilling contractor was fatally injured.

There were no other injuries at the site, and operations on the drillship have been shut down.

Scant details were known about the accident Tuesday afternoon, as officials with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Coast Guard flew to the site and began investigating.

Chevron is the operator on the lease, with a 36 percent working interest. BP and ConocoPhillips have minority interests in the site, with 34 percent and 30 percent respectively.

Houston-based Pacific Drilling said in a statement it was "actively addressing the needs of (the worker's) family and the affected employees."

"Our prayers and thoughts are with the family of our colleague and our Pacific Drilling family closely associated with him," the company said.

Chevron said in a statement that its "thoughts and prayers are with the contractor's family, friends and colleagues."

The lease — located next to a number of discoveries in the Gulf and part of the Lower Tertiary trend — was a top target during a 2009 government auction, when BP made a winning \$28.1 million bid for the block, beating out Chevron USA, which had offered \$14 million, and ConocoPhillips, which bid \$7.3 million.

In an exploration plan filed with federal regulators earlier this year, Chevron outlined ambitions to drill up to seven wells at the site.

The Santa Ana is one of eight high-specification drillships in Pacific's fleet, built to Chevron's requirements and delivered to the company in 2012. According to Chevron, at the time it was the first drillship capable of performing dual-gradient drilling, which uses two different drilling fluids — each with different weights — to more closely match formation pressures. The technology facilitates drilling high-depth wells.

Feds: 1 Dead In Accident On Drillship In Gulf Of Mexico

[Associated Press](#), October 21, 2015

NEW ORLEANS (AP) – Two federal agencies are investigating an accident that killed a man on a ship drilling for oil in the Gulf of Mexico, according to the agency that oversees offshore drilling.

Nobody else was hurt in the 10:15 a.m. accident Tuesday on the drillship Pacific Santa Ana, said Amy Roddy, spokeswoman for the owner, Pacific Drilling SA of Houston.

She said the company is not releasing any details about the man to respect his family's privacy. She also refused to disclose how the man died or details of the accident, citing an ongoing investigation.

The ship is working for Chevron, and drilling has been shut down because of the investigation, she said.

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said in a statement Tuesday that the crew was starting to drill in 4,800 feet of water, about 200 miles south of Lake Charles, when the accident occurred. The statement did not reveal the nature of the accident, but said the bureau and U.S. Coast Guard were investigating. The statement said there were no reports of pollution.

According to Pacific Drilling's website, the Pacific Santa Ana can carry up to 200 people, can operate in up to 12,000 feet of water, and is equipped to drill as deep as 35,000 feet. It is among eight drillships owned by the company.

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Worker Dies On Offshore Drilling Rig

By Alison Sider

[NASDAQ](#), October 20, 2015

A worker died on an offshore drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, federal regulators said Tuesday.

The worker was employed by Pacific Drilling SA, which owns the Pacific Santa Ana drillship. The company is investigating the cause of the incident, spokeswoman Amy Roddy said.

The vessel was doing work for Chevron Corp. about 200 miles south of Lake Charles, La., according to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which said the death is the first this year related to offshore drilling operations in the gulf.

A spokeswoman for the agency said inspectors are on board the vessel, where operations have been shut down. Chevron said the incident didn't cause pollution or other injuries.

The Pacific Santa Ana has been contracted to Chevron since 2012. It is capable of drilling in waters up to 12,000 feet deep, but Tuesday's incident occurred in shallower water, at a depth of 4,800 feet.

1 Reported Dead On Gulf Of Mexico Drillship Working For Chevron

[New Orleans Times-Picayune](#), October 21, 2015

Federal investigators are responding to a report of a person dead on a drillship in the Gulf of Mexico about 200 miles south of Lake Charles, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said Tuesday afternoon (Oct. 20). No other injuries were reported and there was no sign of pollution, the agency said.

According to a BSEE statement, the Pacific Santa Ana drillship was starting drilling operations for Chevron when the death occurred. Operations have been shut down and personnel remain onboard, according to the drillship's operator.

The bureau and the U.S. Coast Guard will investigate the incident. Investigators traveled to the site Tuesday afternoon and have begun collecting evidence and taking statements.

No additional information was immediately available.

1 Dead In GoM Accident

By Audrey Leon

[Offshore Engineer](#), October 20, 2015

An accident onboard the drillship Pacific Santa Ana has left one worker dead. The news was confirmed by the US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), operator Chevron, and the drillship's owner, Pacific Drilling.

The Pacific Santa Ana drillship has been under a five-year contract with Chevron in the Gulf of Mexico since 2012.

Chevron confirmed that a contractor, an employee of Pacific Drilling, was fatally injured onboard the drillship around 10 am (CST) on 20 October. The drillship was some 200mi south of Lake Charles, Louisiana, operating in 4800ft of water, on the Chevron-operated Keathley Canyon Block 96.

Chevron said that drilling operations have since been shut down, and that no other injuries were reported. BSEE said that personnel remain on the drillship and that no pollution has been reported.

"Our prayers and thoughts are with the family of our colleague and our Pacific Drilling family closely associated with him," Pacific Drilling said in an emailed statement about the incident.

Inspectors from both BSEE and the US Coast Guard will travel to the Pacific Santa Ana, owned by Pacific Drilling, to begin collecting evidence and take statements.

Chevron holds 36% working interest in the block, with co-owners BP (34%), and ConocoPhillips (30%).

The Pacific Santa Ana began its contract with Chevron in 2012. The ship was purpose-built for dual gradient drilling operations and has three separate fluid systems, one for handling drilling mud, another for the seawater-like fluid in the marine riser, and another for the seawater powering the pump. The moon pool was redesigned for handling the 450,000lb MaxLift pump in addition to the usual subsea equipment.

The ship was to use its dual gradient drilling functions for Chevron's Anchor-1 prospect last year in Green Canyon block 807, but the well was junked due to mechanical failures. However, in January of this year, Chevron hit high quality oil pay in multiple Lower Tertiary Wilcox Sands at a second Anchor well also drilled by the Pacific Santa Ana.

Image: Pacific Santa Ana/Pacific Drilling

Worker Dies On Offshore Drilling Rig

Pacific Santa Ana was doing work for Chevron Corp. in Gulf of Mexico

By Alison Sider

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

UPDATE 1-Gulf Of Mexico Oil Rig Worker Dies In Accident

[Reuters](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

Fatal Accident Reported On Pacific Santa Ana Drillship In Gulf Of Mexico

[gCaptain](#), October 21, 2015

The U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said Tuesday it was responding to a report of a death on the Pacific Santa Ana in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana.

Pacific Santa Ana was beginning drilling operations for Chevron approximately 200 miles south of Lake Charles, LA, in 4,800 feet of water when the incident occurred. According to the operator, the rig has been shut down, the BSEE said.

There were no other injuries reported and personnel remain on the drill ship, BSEE said. There was also no reported pollution.

The incident is being investigated by both the BSEE and U.S. Coast Guard. BSEE and U. S. Coast Guard inspectors traveled to the drillship Tuesday afternoon and have begun collecting evidence and taking statements.

The Pacific Santa Ana is on a five-year contract with Chevron ending in May 2017.

The fifth generation drillship was built in 2011 by Samsung Heavy Industries and is capable of operating in 12,000 feet water depth. When delivered to the Gulf of Mexico in 2012, the drillship was the first designed with the capacity to perform dual gradient drilling, a technology that uses two weights of drilling fluid to match the natural pressure when drilling ultra-deepwater reservoirs.

The Pacific Santa Ana is owned by Houston-based Pacific Drilling. It can accommodate up to 200 crew.

One Killed In Chevron Gulf Accident

By Kathrine Schmidt & Noah Brenner

[Upstream Online](#), October 21, 2015

Membership includes a subscription to our weekly newspaper providing in-depth news from the energy industry, plus full access to this site and its archives. Still not convinced? Try our free trial.

Death Reported On Gulf Of Mexico Drillship

[Reuters](#), October 20, 2015

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

Briarcliffe Acres Votes Against Offshore Drilling

[Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#), October 21, 2015

In a storm of debate over offshore drilling, Briarcliffe Acres surfaced as the latest coastal town to join a united front against seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas off of South Carolina's beaches.

Missing councilwoman Abby Stewart, who has been with family on the west coast, the town council unanimously passed a resolution Monday, joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns in a stance against offshore drilling.

We don't even know what's out there. We don't know if there's gas, if there's natural gas or if there's crude oil.

Congressman Tom Rice

"We understand what damage can ensue from any spill that could happen out there," said Councilman Huston Huffman. "We don't want to take the risk of a spill out there polluting the beaches."

For many the rallying cry against offshore drilling echoes the loss of tourism dollars that could cripple coastal economies. But for Briarcliffe Acres, a "bedroom community" of about 500, any damage would not just hit a tourist destination, it would hit home.

The resolution had been in the works for a couple of months, Huffman said, but other issues pushed the matter to Monday's agenda.

A news release from the Stop Oil Drilling in the Atlantic Leadership Team on Monday called the vote an "incredible show of unity, and a strong message" appealing to legislators to "stop Washington from forcing this on South Carolina."

Legislators say the region's resolutions may do little to stop offshore drilling if the project is ultimately approved.

The Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management announced a draft proposed program in January that opened up two planning areas for testing along the coast from the Maryland-Virginia state line to the Georgia-Florida line.

The coast of Virginia was proposed for a potential offshore drilling site five years ago, but plans fizzled in the wake of the disastrous Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Buzz of where the potential rigs will actually go abound among opponents, with doom scenarios marring the coastlines from Georgetown to Wilmington, N.C. Advocates banded together – bridging the gap between party lines – to send a clear message to legislators that residents don't want the rigs off of the \$18 billion tourism-rich South Carolina coast.

Dr. Jim Watkins, a retired Presbyterian minister who lives in Pawley's Island, helped form the Stop Oil Drilling in the Atlantic alliance, which he describes as a "grassroots citizen's organization which works on 'just this one issue of drilling.'"

The group praised Briarcliffe Acres for joining other municipalities like Myrtle Beach, Atlantic Beach, North Myrtle Beach and Surfside Beach that have all passed similar resolutions in recent months.

Briarcliffe Acres' action brought all of Horry County's coastal towns on board against offshore drilling, said Jean Marie Neal, a SODA representative.

"The vote today means every coastal municipality in South Carolina has said no to offshore drilling off our beaches," Watkins said in the release.

Myrtle Beach City Council passed a resolution Aug. 11 saying it wanted to protect the beaches from potential oil spills, joining at least 18 other municipalities opposing offshore drilling at the time. The decision was greeted with applause from 100 spectators in the audience.

Opponents say offshore drilling would hurt marine life, pumping into the Atlantic the potential of spills and sound waves that would send sea creatures scurrying. And the risk to the state's high dollar tourism industry makes the idea demand a price too high to pay.

Advocates say the drilling can be done safely and tapping into an oil or natural gas reserve could help the country move away from its dependence on foreign oil, helping in turn with national security. The underwater goldmine would mean more jobs and tax dollars.

"The possible jobs and revenue gained from drilling is miniscule compared to the dollars tourists spend in Horry County and the rest of coastal South Carolina," Watkins said in the release. "Giving our coast to the oil and gas industry simply does not make economic sense." A closer look

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has the power to open the Atlantic up for oil leasing with or without any state input, said Congressman Tom Rice.

And the idea that South Carolina would profit from any offshore drilling is not a possibility in federal legislation – yet. Rice said his office is working on a bill that would change that.

The bureau is reviewing if and where oil and gas leases might be issued on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf, but the draft plans call for only one lease to be issued. Plans also include a 50-mile buffer from the coastline. The buffer would keep the operation out of immediate sight from a shoreline, but would also keep any potential revenue gain out of the state's coffers.

The state would only reap revenue if the operation falls within South Carolina's coastal territory, which is about three miles from the shoreline.

"There's a special law that allows the Gulf states to get a revenue share of 37.5 percent," Rice said, but no law exists for the mid- to south-Atlantic coastal states, which have never been opened to federal oil leases before.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) submitted a bill that provides for revenue sharing for the states, but the bill also does away with the buffer zone, Rice said.

The congressman added that they are working on a bill now that would keep the 50-mile buffer zone in play, while giving South Carolina a 37.5 percent revenue share.

"We don't even know what's out there. We don't know if there's gas, if there's natural gas or if there's crude oil," Rice said.

The last time the ocean floor was scanned for potential reserves, the probe was conducted with technology from the 1980s. Technology has changed since then. "There appears to be formations that would likely have some type of reserves," Rice said, but we "don't know what or how much."

Rice has said the issue of offshore drilling needs more review.

"My position has been let's do the seismic testing," he said. "Let's find out what's out there and then we can make rational decisions."

Rice said that he also wants to know what can be done to "safeguard our tourism revenue" and that a study could find the reserves aren't worth the trouble and expense of drilling.

500 Rough population of Briarcliffe Acres

Rice had planned to call a public forum last Wednesday with a professor from Coastal Carolina University, a professor from the University of South Carolina, a representative from the Coastal Conservation League, a public official from Mobile, Ala., and the director of BOEM to address the issue, talk about the process, the timelines of any project and when and where along that timeline the public will have input. The forum was postponed in the wake of the state's recent historic flooding. Rice said that his office is working on rescheduling the forum.

In the last six weeks, Rice said he has visited oil fields in two states and the offshore drilling rigs in Louisiana to get a closer look at the operations.

"They opened up oil fields off of Alaska like a month or two months ago," he said. "And the oil companies have pulled out saying it's not economically feasible."

The same could happen here, he said.

"It may be that this never becomes feasible to drill off the Atlantic," he said.

The potential section of Atlantic coastal exploration fell in an area where state governments have been known to support expanded energy development offshore.

Gov. Nikki Haley supports offshore drilling and is a member of the Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition. The coalition operates on a mission to, among other things, "influence a sensible path forward for the development of America's offshore energy resources."

Frenchman Makes Daring Leap From Sailboat To Ship Off Alaska

By Mark Thiessen

[Associated Press](#), October 21, 2015

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A Frenchman with his cat tucked inside his clothing made a daring leap of faith Tuesday when he jumped to a waiting rescue ship from his sailboat, which was being battered by high seas south of Alaska.

The Coast Guard captured the dramatic video from a C-130 Hercules airplane monitoring the rescue. The man's identity hasn't been released, but Petty Officer Lauren Steenson in Kodiak said the sailboat was named La Chimere.

The man activated a location beacon Tuesday about 400 miles south of Cold Bay, Alaska. The C-130 was dispatched to assess the situation.

The airplane crew made radio contact with the mariner, who reported his 30-foot sailboat lost its rudder and rigging in heavy seas and 46-mph winds.

"With the 20-foot seas, his boat is getting pretty well thrown around," she said.

He had no control, and the boat was "pretty much dead in the water," adrift in high seas.

The Coast Guard made contact with the Polar Pioneer, which is an oil drilling vessel used by Royal Dutch Shell off Alaska's northwest coast this summer. The ship and support vessels were nearby as they make their way back to Port Angeles, Washington.

The Polar Pioneer sent a support ship, the Tor Viking, to rescue the sailor.

Video shot by the Coast Guard shows the Frenchman on the rigging pole near the bow of his sailboat, riding wave after wave until making a dramatic leap over the railing of the Tor Viking.

The video shows the man disappearing behind the railing head first with his legs last to disappear behind the Tor Viking's railing. After a few seconds, a crew member of the Tor Viking is seen walking toward the man, who then stands up.

Steenson said the pilot of the C-130 told her the sailor placed his cat inside either his sweater or coat before making the leap.

Once the man was safely aboard the Tor Viking, the Coast Guard marked the position of the sailboat for future reference.

It wasn't immediately clear if the man would continue with the Shell ships to Washington state.

The sailboat left Dutch Harbor, Alaska, on Oct. 13, headed to Vancouver. Steenson said reports didn't indicate if his final destination was Vancouver in Washington or British Columbia.

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Obama Ends Arctic Drilling – Business Insider

[Business Insider](#), October 21, 2015

A ringed seal pup peeks out from its protective snow cave near Kotzebue, Alaska. The Obama administration officially shut the door on Arctic drilling, a move that could prevent any new drilling for years to come.

The U.S. Department of Interior announced on October 16 that it would cancel two lease sales for offshore acreage, which had been scheduled to take place in 2016 and 2017. Environmental groups have been doggedly criticizing the Obama administration for allowing Royal Dutch Shell to drill in the Arctic to begin with, citing the potential catastrophe if an oil spill occurred. They had called upon the President to deny any permits to Shell.

But it wasn't environmental protest that killed off Shell's drilling campaign. What really forced the Anglo-Dutch company to retreat was low oil prices and disappointing drilling results.

Similarly, the Obama administration is now shutting the door on future lease sales not because of concerns over the environment, but "In light of current market conditions and low industry interest," as Interior put it in a statement.

On its face, the move is a logical one. Few other companies were interested in drilling in the Chukchi or Beaufort Seas, despite several having purchased leases years ago. Statoil and ConocoPhillips, two other large oil companies interested in the Arctic, had previously put their Arctic ambitions on ice because of the difficulty and high costs associated with drilling in the region. With Shell announcing that it would suspend U.S. Arctic exploration for the "foreseeable future" there are now zero companies that are viably interested in drilling anytime soon.

Remarkably, however, the interest in new leases had dried up even before the downturn in oil prices. Interior said that it put a "Call for Information and Nominations" in September 2013, which is essentially a way for the government to solicit interest from

the industry on which areas to auction off based on their interest. While it would be understandable that few companies would express interest in the current market downturn, Interior issued the Call for Information in September 2013, a time when Brent crude was trading around \$110 per barrel.

Despite high oil prices, no companies submitted nominations for areas to be auctioned. As a result, Interior canceled the 2016 auction. The same was true for the 2017 auction. In the July 2014 Call – when oil prices were trading at around \$105 per barrel – there was only one submission from a company interested in the Arctic. In its October 16 announcement, Interior said that it was concerned there wouldn't be sufficient competition to move forward with the lease sale. Such an outcome could mean that the government would lose more money than it took in by selling off the assets, due to the lengthy work involved in conducting regulatory scrutiny, environmental assessment, and studying and issuing permits.

REUTERS/Larry Downing

U.S. President Barack Obama speaks about the FY2016 budget at the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, February 2, 2015.

Thus, the lease sales will be cancelled. As such, no new companies will acquire acreage in the Arctic for several years at least. But even if Interior hadn't cancelled the sales, it is far from clear that there would have even been a company that would be willing to risk scarce resources in bidding on risky Arctic oil.

Moreover, Interior also dismissed requests from Shell and Statoil to extend their current leases, which would have allowed them more time to return to the Arctic if they had wanted to do so at some point in the future. Their ten-year leases will expire in 2017 for the Beaufort Sea and 2020 for the Chukchi Sea. Justifying the dismissal, Interior said that the "companies did not demonstrate a reasonable schedule of work for exploration and development under the leases."

With no plans by either company to drill within that timeframe, it appears that they are heading for expiration. That leaves almost no possible pathway for an oil company to drill in the Arctic for years to come, perhaps killing off drilling for a decade or so at a minimum. Again, it was likely that there wouldn't have been new drilling in any event, given Shell's decision and current market conditions, but Interior's decision officially shuts the door on the Arctic in the medium-term.

Recognizing the significance of the move, Alaskan Senator and Arctic oil proponent, Lisa Murkowski (R), issued a blistering statement denouncing the Interior Department. "This is a stunning, short-sighted move that betrays the Interior Department's commitments to Alaska," she said.

She went on to argue for more lease sales. "Instead of seeking to shut down Alaska, Interior should remember that the North Slope was nearly abandoned after 14 dry holes were drilled. The opportunity to keep going led to not only the discovery of Prudhoe Bay, but also the production of more than 17 billion barrels of oil and a generation of opportunity for Alaska. I will certainly remember that fact as I continue to push legislation that will force Interior to hold regular lease sales in the offshore Arctic."

It is possible that under a new Republican administration in 2017, the Interior Department could relaunch the leasing process. However, that could take several years given the lengthy environmental assessments the agency needs to conduct before offering up acreage. Even then, there is a huge question mark that hangs over the process – there is very little interest on behalf of the industry, regardless of what the government may do. In this era of low prices, Arctic oil may simply be unprofitable.

Read the original article on OilPrice.com. Copyright 2015.

Clues To Arctic Drilling Ban In California

[CleanTechnica](#), October 20, 2015

The Intertubes have been buzzing with news of the ban on Arctic drilling announced last week by President Obama. Though the news may have taken some political and industry observers by surprise, you can check out a recent development in California for hints at the direction in which federal agencies are steering the US oil and gas industry in the past couple of years. It sure looks like evolve is the word of the day for the energy policy formerly known as "all of the above."

The Arctic Drilling Ban

Just last summer, our friends over at Fuel Fix noted that Royal Dutch Shell had nailed down a couple of important federal permits for Arctic drilling. However, the company abandoned its Arctic drilling plans in September, just a few weeks before the announcement of the Arctic drilling ban.

We're giving props to Shell for its "you can't fire me, I quit" strategy. Slumping oil prices were cited as the reason for the pullout, but we're guessing that Shell also saw the writing on the White House wall.

Also not helping: just a couple of years ago the company was cited by the US Environmental Protection agency for "numerous" violations of the Clean Air Act related to its Arctic drilling operations, and high profile protests in Seattle over the docking of a Shell drilling rig monkeywrenched the company's efforts to highlight its commitment to climate action.

The slump in oil prices was also cited by the Interior Department last week when it announced the new Arctic drilling ban:

In light of current market conditions and low industry interest, the U.S. Department of the Interior today announced that it will cancel the two potential Arctic offshore lease sales scheduled under the current five-year offshore oil and gas leasing program for 2012-2017. The decision follows Shell's announcement of its exploration results at the Burger prospect in the Chukchi Sea and that the company will cease further exploration activity in offshore Alaska for the foreseeable future.

Interior also denied extensions to two companies with existing leases:

Today, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) also denied requests from Shell and Statoil for lease suspensions, which would have allowed the companies to retain the leases beyond their primary terms of ten years. The leases will expire in 2017 (Beaufort) and 2020 (Chukchi). Among other things, the companies did not demonstrate a reasonable schedule of work for exploration and development under the leases, a regulatory requirement necessary for BSEE to grant a suspension.

In defending the Arctic drilling ban (basically, a withdrawal of the lease program for this cycle), Interior cited the low interest in Arctic oil leases. The agency was wary of a non-competitive process leading to the award of a lease at rock-bottom prices.
California Drops A Clue On Arctic Drilling Ban

Environmental organizations have long pointed out that federal fossil fuel leases have been giveaways, and it looks like the Arctic drilling ban is a step toward the end of free lunch days.

We're also thinking that the cost of effective federal oversight for fossil fuel operations was another motivator, particularly where sensitive environments are involved, and that's where California comes in.

In the midst of an ongoing drought last year, California regulators were called to task for permitting oil and gas drillers to dump wastewater into aquifers that could have been used for domestic and agricultural use, following an EPA investigation dating back to 2012.

That resulted in an EPA drilling wastewater enforcement plan last spring:

As the state implements the plan, EPA will continue our heightened oversight to ensure that the state's oil and gas UIC program meets federal requirements. This effort includes ensuring that wells which inject into non-exempt aquifers, including several hundred disposal wells (with approximately 70 disposal wells in the 11 aquifers historically treated as exempt), nearly two thousand enhanced oil recovery wells, and any cyclic steam wells requiring aquifer exemptions, are addressed as expeditiously as possible, with an immediate emphasis on the wells in aquifers with the highest water quality.

Boy howdy, right? Our friends over at Fuel Fix have been keeping tabs on the state's response and at the last count California had shut down 33 oilfield injection wells, mainly in Kern County, that were injecting wastewater into federally protected water supplies under improperly issued state permits. That's on top of another 23 wells shut down earlier this year.

It's also worth noting that when local communities have attempted to adopt stricter regulation of the fossil fuel industry due to environmental concerns, they are often overridden by state legislation.

In terms of federal energy policy, it's pretty obvious that the Obama Administration decided that California's key role in the national economy — in agriculture as well as other sectors — was not being stewarded properly by local officials.

That's where we see a parallel with the Arctic drilling situation. In the absence of local regulations, the feds are the only game in town and it seems that the Arctic's role in the US economy is too important to trust to compliance by oil companies.

Interior's actions last week on Arctic drilling are only temporary, but the trend is toward a permanent clampdown.

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Photo credit: via US Department of the Interior.

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Tags: Arctic drilling ban, California, Shell arctic drilling

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Federal Regulators Are A Big Barrier To Arctic Drilling

[4-Traders](#), October 21, 2015

In the wake of Shell choosing to stop exploring for oil and natural gas off Alaska's Arctic coast, the Interior Department cancelled lease auctions through 2017.

'In light of Shell's announcement, the amount of acreage already under lease and current market conditions, it does not make sense to prepare for lease sales in the Arctic in the next year and a half,' Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said.

What Secretary Jewell doesn't want to acknowledge is a big reason no one wants to drill in the Arctic right now is because the federal government has made it too difficult.

Here are some of the federal government's regulatory obstacles Shell had to navigate around to drill just one well:

Restrictions on Drilling Activities. Multiple layers of environmental laws and regulations limit the type and amount of activity that can take place in the Arctic. For example, Shell sought permits to drill two exploratory wells during the 2015 season. While the Administration gave conditional approval to Shell's exploration plan (which included the two wells) it was later determined that the plan violated a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulation from 2013 regarding marine mammal disturbance. The regulation requires a 15 mile buffer zone around active drilling rigs due to assumed impacts of noise; an assumption not corroborated by science. Since Shell's wells are nine miles apart, the wells could not be drilled simultaneously – creating additional restrictions and adding delay to their operations.

Requirements for Additional Equipment. Regulations also require that an additional redundant rig be on site. This adds additional costs and resources, and also fails to take into account other containment strategies. Capping stacks, blowout preventers and relief domes could be better suited to address potential spill response in the shallow-waters of the Arctic.

Litigation. At seemingly every turn, energy exploration in the Arctic has faced an onslaught of lawsuits from activist groups. In one instance in 2008, there was a legal challenge to the original lease sale and the federal court ruled that there needed to be a revised EIS. The Department submitted a supplemental EIS and the 2008 lease sale was officially reaffirmed in March 2015.

Shell said clearly it faces a 'challenging and unpredictable federal regulatory environment in offshore Alaska.' It's no surprise no other companies want to jump into these chilly regulatory waters.

But the company also pointed out, 'The area is likely to ultimately be of strategic importance to Alaska and the US.' One estimate puts 34 billion barrels of oil off Alaska's Arctic coast.

Other nations aren't stopping Arctic exploration; neither should the U.S.

Demand for oil and natural gas isn't going away, so energy domestic exploration must continue in the Arctic and elsewhere. But as we've seen, by putting up unnecessary regulatory hurdles, regulators can cause job and economic growth opportunities to be missed.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Updated Idaho Power Line Would Go Through Sage Grouse Habitat

[Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#), October 21, 2015

Idaho Power is one step closer to replacing an aging transmission line that runs from Hagerman to Hailey. Blaine County approved a permit for the project last week. Now, the Bureau of Land Management will review it – and will pay special attention to the greater sage grouse in the area.

Click play to hear the on-air version of this story.

It's been nearly a month since the Obama Administration decided not to list the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act. Although the bird itself hasn't gained federal protection, the Interior Department signed on to new land-use plans to keep the bird's habitat safe. These protections restrict development in sage grouse areas across the 11-state range, and the Hailey-Hagerman transmission line is part of that.

Stacey Baczkowski is a biologist with Idaho Power. She says the company has been working with the BLM for the last few years to make sure the line is built with the bird in mind. Baczkowski says even though the federal agency has new land use restrictions, the rules aren't burdensome for Idaho Power.

"Knowing what the restrictions are, we're able to accommodate them and build them into our project," she says.

The biologist says the power company plans to build the new transmission line as close to the current one as possible, and will follow BLM rules about construction during sage grouse mating times. Baczkowski says the added restrictions will likely make the project more expensive.

Find reporter Frankie Barnhill on Twitter @FABarnhill

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Federal Policies Vex Utah Water Commission

[Deseret \(UT\) News](#), October 21, 2015

SALT LAKE CITY — Federal policies that either aim to instill more oversight of water or deny access altogether have some Utah leaders frothing over what they say is a repeated pattern of overreach that threatens local economies and livelihoods.

A prime tempest of controversy discussed Tuesday by the State Water Development Commission is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Waters of the United States rule, which prompted multiple lawsuits by a dozen-plus states and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Hailed by environmentalists and sportsmen groups as a rule that extends protections to key ephemeral waterways and the prairie potholes of water that form in the Midwest states, farmers and ranchers railed against the new regulation because they say it encroached on private property rights.

Utah joined with 17 other states asking federal courts to issue a stay and a constitutional review. Another lawsuit was launched by the American Farm Bureau Federation in Texas courts.

Randy Parker, executive director of the Utah Farm Bureau, briefed the commission on an Oct. 9 ruling in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals that issued a nationwide stay of the rule, noting there was a likelihood the EPA exceeded its authority.

"We were very excited about the 6th Circuit decision," Parker said, adding that the hope is the cases out of varying federal courts are consolidated before the U.S. Supreme Court for a decision.

"We think we would prevail," he said afterward. "The U.S. Supreme Court is starting to tell the Obama administration it can't do whatever it wants."

Critics that include Utah and Colorado also put enough pressure on the U.S. Forest Service to withdraw — at least for now — consideration of a new groundwater rule that would require the issuance of any permit to consider nearby groundwater resources in the area.

Oponents said that such a rule potentially interfered with states' "sovereign" domain over groundwater resources within its borders, leading to the congressional legislation to ward off the directive.

"We have a tremendous amount of concern this is a federalizing of the sovereign water rights of Utah," Parker said.

Ron Thompson, general manager of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, said possible revisions to a land-use plan by the Bureau of Land Management in Washington County have severe ramifications should one particular approach be adopted.

The changes are part of management strategies for two new national conservation areas created with the Washington County Lands Bill of 2009.

But Thompson said the BLM — under one option — is ignoring key considerations that went into the passage of the bill, including water supplies being left unhindered and right of way corridors left intact.

"This (alternative by the BLM) would take two of our pristine aquifers that supply more than a quarter of our water to our residents and lock them up," he said.

The revisions could also potentially interfere with right of way corridors or development of the Lake Powell Pipeline, Thompson added.

"It's very troubling. For the first time in my 40-year career, people are talking about not just responding but preparing to litigate," he said. "I still believe that these agencies have a fundamental responsibility to consult with states and local communities and protect local economies and the traditions that have developed around this. And they seem to be ignoring this today."

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Helicopter Crash Marks Troublesome Cattle Roundup Near Searchlight

[Las Vegas Review-Journal](#), October 21, 2015

The wild remnants of one of southern Clark County's last cattle herds are now being cleared from the mountains between Henderson and Searchlight, but the work so far has not gone smoothly.

A crew of cowboys from Utah is gathering stray and feral cows from the McCullough Mountains under a contract with the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

Flint Wright, animal industry administrator for the department, said the operation started Friday and has no scheduled completion date. As of Monday, just 17 cows had been collected.

"They're essentially wild cattle, and it's going to take some time," Wright said.

The roundup hit a major snag Sunday, when a helicopter being used to find and chase cows crashed just off state Route 164 west of Searchlight.

On Tuesday, the wrecked helicopter and its pilot could still be found at a motel in the town 60 miles south of Las Vegas.

Richard Dick of Hutchinson, Kan., said he was hovering about 12 feet off the ground, trying to move a pair of stubborn bulls, when a gust of wind pushed his helicopter into a Joshua tree. The 1962-vintage Bell model 47G ended up on its side in pieces, but he walked away with bumps and bruises.

The pilot said it was his first domestic accident in 17,000 hours of flying, though he crashed three times in Vietnam.

When he climbed out the wreckage Sunday, Dick said, the bulls were just staring at him.

The cattle now being rounded up have roamed the range untended since 2006, when rancher Cal Baird relinquished his federal grazing permit and sold his water rights to the county to preserve habitat for the desert tortoise and other federally protected species.

According to the Bureau of Land Management, Baird moved most of his livestock from the 111,000-acre federal grazing allotment to Arizona, but a few stragglers were left behind.

For the past several years, officials say, those survivors and their unbranded descendants have been damaging springs and menacing people in the mountains and desert between Interstate 15 and U.S. Highway 95 south of the Las Vegas Valley.

BLM spokeswoman Kirsten Cannon said the animals are aggressive and “present a danger to the public recreating in the area.”

Wright said: “We’ve had some complaints from people who were hunting deer and were run off by the cattle.”

Baird could not be reached for comment.

Under Nevada law, unbranded stray or feral livestock are considered state property. The BLM has been asking the state to remove the unclaimed cattle from the McCullough Range for several years.

In 2013, the state rounded up and sold off approximately 30 animals, but an unknown number remain. Last year, the BLM counted about 40 unbranded cows spread across two wilderness areas west of Searchlight. Wright guessed there could 100 to 200 feral cows still out there.

He figures it would cost the state as much as \$200,000 to try to collect that many animals. The Department of Agriculture has been “trying to get this deal cleaned up for a number of years,” but it never seems to have the money or the resources, he said.

The animals are now being rounded up by Sun J Livestock, a ranching operation from Vernal, Utah. Wright said the ranchers aren’t being paid directly, but they have plenty of incentive to do a thorough job.

“They get to keep the livestock,” he said. “They’ll get every cow they can.”

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Springfield Hosts National Conservation Summit

[KYTV-TV Springfield \(MO\)](#), October 21, 2015

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – More than 40 leaders from the leading conservation groups in America are meeting in Springfield this week for a National Conservation Summit hosted by The Johnny Morris Foundation.

Participants include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Geographic, Audubon Society, and Ducks Unlimited. The purpose of the historic gathering is to collectively discuss opportunities to educate and engage the public in efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitats in preparation for the grand opening of America’s Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in 2016.

The remodeled educational attraction consists of an all-new 1.3 million-gallon aquarium showcasing 35,000 live fish, mammals, reptiles and birds in an immersive tour.

The attraction once known as the Wonders of Wildlife has been closed for remodeling since 2007.

New Glimpse Inside Bass Pro’s Wildlife Museum/aquarium

[Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#), October 20, 2015

Fees and taxes from hunters, anglers and people buying outdoor products have helped pay for wildlife conservation efforts across the country.

That’s a key message a group of more than 40 conservation leaders hope the new Bass Pro Shops wildlife museum and aquarium will convey to visitors when it opens in mid 2016.

On Tuesday, Bass Pro Shops revealed two more exhibits — a collection of taxidermied wild sheep and two arctic wildlife rooms featuring wolves, musk ox and a stuffed polar bear that at one time was the largest bear of any kind taken by a hunter. Bass Pro Shops previously offered a brief tour of a portion of the massive aquarium, featuring hundreds of saltwater fish in large tanks.

The Sheep Mountain exhibit shows more than 30 animals from around the world perched on rocks, with hand-painted mountain scenery in the background. All the exhibits are still being finished, with interpretive stations that will identify the animals and explain their role in the natural environment.

Dan Ashe, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, called the museum "one of the foremost conservation attractions in the world."

"Through conservation efforts, we can be successful in sustaining these populations of animals that are threatened or endangered," said Ashe, one of the summit attendees. "People hear about the industrial-scale poaching of elephants that's happening in Africa. That's not hunting. With this museum, here's an opportunity to tell the story of how we can protect wildlife habitat, and that when hunting is done well, with appropriate regulations, it sustains wildlife populations."

Rob Keck, Bass Pro's director of conservation, said the museum will evolve even after it reopens, with new exhibits and animals rotating through the facility.

"It will continue to evolve and grow and bring people back because of the newness," Keck said. "We look at this place as the trail head of conservation where conservation groups will be able to tell their story."

Formerly known as Wonders of Wildlife, the facility has been closed since 2007 as Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris conducted a massive expansion of the museum. Its reopening date has been pushed back several times as more exhibits were added and interior designs changed.

It is now slated to reopen in mid 2016, with more than 35,000 live fresh-and saltwater fish, reptiles, birds and mammals, in addition to taxidermy dioramas from North America, Africa, the Arctic and the Ozarks.

Conservation efforts have some major success stories, said Glenn Olson, policy director with the National Audubon Society and a summit attendee. He said bald eagles, peregrine falcons and brown pelicans have been removed from the endangered species list through public education efforts and science-based research.

Fred Matt, executive director of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, said it's a common theme among many Native American people to still fish and hunt for food. Conserving those resources is an important message to share.

"The forest is our medicine cabinet," he said. "In this world represented here (the conservation museum) we want to convey that those things are still healthy and being taught in our communities."

The 40 conservation leaders included several from local organizations like Ozarks Water Watch, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and James River Basin Partnership.

Seeing the museum and aquarium just might inspire visitors to spend less time in front of a TV or electronic game and more time experiencing the outdoors.

"If we expect people to want to protect the environment, we've got to get them out in it — go fly fishing in a river, go paddle a canoe or get in a boat," said David Casaletto, executive director of Ozarks Water Watch.

ONLINE POLL

Will you visit Bass Pro's new wildlife museum when it opens mid-2016?

Vote here: <http://poll.fm/5fu5x>

Read or Share this story: <http://sgfnw.co/1LJpcDR>

Wildlife Experts Meet To Discuss The Best Way To Educate On Conservation

[KOLR-TV Springfield \(MO\)](#), October 21, 2015

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – A National Conservation Summit in the middle of Springfield is being called one of the largest gatherings, of such experts, since last century.

"Some compared it to Teddy Roosevelt convening the Conservation Congress."

Fred Matt from the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society was a part of it.

"Our people, to this day, still, hunt, fish, you know, their backyard, their medicine cabinet is the forest," says Matt.

Rob Keck says their goal is to learn more about the right way to educate people about wildlife and fish conservation.

"We shared ideas on how to message what hunting and fishing, what hunters and anglers have done for conservation," says Keck.

Keck says folks from organizations like Matt's spoke about what is most important to get across to museum goers.

"We see geese flying overhead, you see a herd of deer, a flock of turkeys out along an open field. Many people don't realize that their success story didn't begin in a petting zoo."

Dan Ashe from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says the education inside the museum can lead to changes outside in our communities.

"Hopefully, this will be a gateway to the outdoors. People will then go from here to a state park or a national park or a national refuge," says Ashe.

Keck says Bass Pro will use this summit to prepare for the grand opening next year.

"People enjoy seeing wildlife. Whether they hunt or fish or not and it doesn't happen by accident."

Even though it sits in the middle of Springfield, Matt hopes people will learn the challenges natural habitats and their wildlife residents face each year.

"From our history, we still utilize and respect the natural resource in the natural world."

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National Conservation Leaders Give Input On America's Wildlife Museum And Aquarium

[KYTV-TV Springfield \(MO\)](#), October 21, 2015

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – The big wildlife museum outside Bass Pro Shops' Outdoor World store is still not open to the public but conservation experts from across the country got a sneak peak at it on Tuesday. The visitors included people from local conservation groups and the head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They were invited to give their input on America's Museum and Aquarium, which is still under construction.

Visitors will face a polar bear in an arctic setting and probably want to see if the ice and snow are real.

"When I walk in this room, even though it's somewhat warm in here, I almost feel the breeze and smell the sea," said Fred Matt, executive director of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society.

It's just a small part of America's Wildlife Museum and Aquarium, and the creators want feedback on their works in progress. They hope to make the experience as educational and engaging as possible.

"It's about storytelling, telling the story of conservation in a way that's never been told before," said Rob Keck, Bass Pro's director of conservation and chairman of the museum's board of directors.

"Johnny Morris (owner of Bass Pro Shops) and the folks at Bass Pro have invited us here to help them form the messages that people who visit this facility are going to see and hear," said Dan Ashe, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

More than 40 conservation leaders are sharing their input and perspectives, all a little different, like Fred, representing Native Americans.

"Today, our people still hunt and fish to put food on the table. And they do it in a respectful and a very good manner I think others would enjoy hearing," said Matt.

They want to maximize the opportunity for visitors here in Missouri to gain a better understanding of conservation not only here, but all over the world.

"They're going to understand a little bit better about maybe how their individual actions affect something like a polar bear. So it's an opportunity to learn, an opportunity to feel that they're a part of the outdoors and then hopefully be a gateway to the outdoors," said Ashe.

The museum and aquarium will have 35,000 live fish and other animals, as well as the mounted mammal specimens. They anticipate opening sometime next year. When the name change from its former Wonders of Wildlife was announced last March, Keck said it could open by March, but hasn't said whether that's still possible.

Wonders of Wildlife first opened on Nov. 2, 2001, after two years of construction. It was a nonprofit museum then and cost about \$52 million, which included state funds, Springfield hotel-motel tax funds, Bass Pro Shops donations and tax credits.

The museum closed in 2007 for renovations that were originally set to cost \$14 million. Eight years later, the cost has jumped to about \$25 million, including at least \$12 million from Bass Pro Shops. When it opens, its size will cover more than 230,000 square feet of exhibits, compared to 126,000 square feet originally.

The museum is now a private venture and no longer takes hotel-motel tax payments. Four years ago, Morris donated \$4 million to the Community Foundation of the Ozarks; that's how much hotel-motel tax funds the museum received up to 2011.

American Wildlife Museum To Open At Bass Pro

[KOLR-TV Springfield \(MO\)](#), October 21, 2015

SPRINGFIELD, Mo.-- We are getting a sneak preview of a new museum opening up at Bass Pro.

The former Wonders of Wildlife Museum has been closed for several years and this is what visitors will soon see inside.

Some of the attractions will include a fishing heritage hall with a 300,000-gallon open ocean habitat – a new aquarium adventure and an international fishing hall of fame.

The sneak peek coincides with a national conservation summit being hosted by Bass Pro this week. It brought in more than 40 conservation leaders to offer input on the new museum.

Dan Ashe, the Director of US Fish and Wildlife service said, "so we have the chance as managers to help them shape that message. so when people come here not only are they going to see a great exhibit, but they will have the opportunity to learn something about how wildlife is being managed in the united states and throughout the world."

Bass Pro leaders say the new museum is scheduled to open in 2016.

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CNMI Disagrees With Endangered List

[Radio New Zealand](#), October 21, 2015

The Northern Marianas government says the decision to list 23 species in Guam and the CNMI as threatened or endangered was rushed.

The government says it supports the US Fish and Wildlife Service's listing of seven of the 17 CNMI species, but it questions the inclusion of some of the other species.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources says a number of the species do not meet the definitions of threatened or endangered and don't require federal protection.

Among the plants and animals in the CNMI and Guam listed as endangered are the Mariana wandering butterfly, Langford's tree snail, and the Mariana sub-species of the Pacific sheath-tailed bat.

USFW Looks To Restore Habitat On Root River

[Rochester \(MN\) Post-Bulletin](#), October 21, 2015

Federal wildlife officials are seeking public input on a plan to restore and enhance habitat on 825 acres of Minnesota land along the Root River in Houston County.

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the Root River Tract sits to the east of Hwy. 26 between La Crescent and Brownsville.

The site includes 664 acres of hunting and farmland purchased in 2009 with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Under the previous owner, National Decorative Products, the land was managed for private hunting of pheasant and waterfowl as well as some agricultural uses, said Tim Miller, La Crosse District manager for the refuge.

A network of dikes, ditches and drainage pipes are now failing or deteriorating, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, which is proposing to remove some of the dikes and restore the natural topography and drainage patterns.

Fish and Wildlife estimates the habitat restoration will cost \$400,000 to \$500,000, which would be paid for with a grant from Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund.

FWS also considered active and passive drainage systems as well as taking no action.

The tract would remain open to public use under each alternative, although an existing slow-no wake area would more than double in size to encompass 1,634 acres, including most of the Root River Tract.

Fish and Wildlife will host a public meeting on the project at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Hokah Fire Station.

California Condor Shot In Arizona

[Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#), October 21, 2015

PHOENIX – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) special agents and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) law enforcement personnel are investigating the lethal shooting of an endangered California condor that occurred on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona Oct. 8.

The shooting was immediately self-reported to AZGFD, which did the preliminary investigation. The case has now been turned over to FWS law enforcement for further investigation.

California condors were listed as endangered in 1967. The species was reintroduced to northern Arizona in 1996. The population has now expanded into southern Utah and numbers approximately 70 birds.

The condor reintroduction in Arizona is a joint project of many partners, including the Arizona Game and Fish Department, The Peregrine Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Kaibab National Forest and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Man, 81, Says He Blocked Arizona Bike Trail To Protect Owls

[Washington Times](#), October 21, 2015

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – The 81-year-old man who blocked a Flagstaff-area mountain bike race says he did it to protect an endangered owl species.

The Arizona Daily Sun reports (<http://bit.ly/1Ggko8v>) that J.D. Protiva appeared in federal court Monday on misdemeanor charges related to blocking the Elden Springs Trail before the August race.

Protiva says the path goes through protected Mexican spotted owl habitat. He is also charged with cutting trees and causing them to obstruct the trail.

A 2003 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion says at least a portion of the trail cuts across protected habitat, but the agency gave the OK for construction in the area.

Protiva cited similar concern for the owls' welfare when he pleaded guilty to stringing metal cables and moving forest debris across trails in 2007.

Information from: Arizona Daily Sun, <http://www.azdailysun.com/>

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Why Monarch Butterflies Benefit From The California Drought (+video)

[Christian Science Monitor](#), October 20, 2015

It is one of the worst droughts on record, and the monarch butterflies are lapping it up. Milkweed, that is.

California homeowners are replacing water-greedy grass lawns with the perennial native to California's desert, a happy swap for one species in particular: the monarch, a butterfly that only lays eggs on milkweed.

In recent years, as milkweed has declined, likely due to pesticides use and rapid development, the monarch population has fallen with it. Two decades ago the iconic orange and black insect population was 1 billion strong; Today it hovers below 60 million.

In response to the quick decline, the US Fish and Wildlife Service put forth \$1.2 million to bring back the monarchs' habitat, following similar projects nationwide that send milkweed seeds by mail and track breeding grounds in a database. California gardeners are an unexpected but welcome addition to the grassroots effort, and ecologists are hopeful that Californians, who are problem-solving their way through the drought, might help a struggling species in the process.

Nurseries are stockpiling numerous varieties of native milkweed and drawing customers who are adapting to the drought conditions but may also want to bring butterflies to their yards.

At Tom Merriman's native plants nursery in Vista, Calif., business is up 50 percent this season. Until five years ago, Mr. Merriman didn't sell milkweed at all; this summer, he sold more than 14,000 plants and is shipping truckloads of seedlings all over California and other drought-stricken Western states like Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

"If you plant it, they will come," Merriman, who has a greenhouse filled with 8,000 milkweed of a dozen varieties, told the Associated Press. "We had chrysalises on shovels, we had them on wheelbarrows. They were up in the nursery on palm trees. They were everywhere, under tables. We were releasing 500 caterpillars a week on native milkweed."

But environmentalists are piping up to say this is not all good news for the monarch.

For one, gardeners may unintentionally opt for the tropical variety, sometimes called "exotic" milkweed, for its colorful pink and yellow flowers.

While the plants may have more curb appeal than the desert types, they bloom all year round which poses a threat to the monarch butterfly's infamous migration patterns.

Native milkweeds go dormant in the winter, and with no place to lay eggs this forces butterflies onward in their migration. The tropical varieties stay in bloom year-round, not giving female butterflies any reason to leave.

North American monarchs travel in the millions every winter from the eastern and central United States and Canada all the way to Mexico, while a smaller number travel through the western US to spend winter along California's Central Coast. The Western monarchs evolved alongside native milkweeds and eating plants from another region might make them more vulnerable, said Hei-ock Kim, of the California Native Plants Society in an interview with the AP.

"When you take plants and animals from where they originated, you're going to change chemistry, climate, biology," she said. "You're changing all their habits, and so things work best when they are where they're supposed to be."

The Minneapolis-based, SaveOurMonarchs, offers free milkweed seeds. In 2015, more than 1 million Milkweed Seed Packets were sent out, according Ward Johnson. He says: "Milkweed Seed Packets will be provided to anyone requesting them."

This report contains material from the Associated Press.

Monarchs Get Help From Unlikely Source: California's Drought

[Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#), October 21, 2015

VISTA, Calif. — In California's drought, the struggling monarch butterfly may have found a sprinkling of hope.

Suburban homeowners ripping out thirsty lawns are dotting their new drought-tolerant landscapes with milkweed native to California's deserts and chaparral — plants that have the potential to help save water and monarchs at the same time, because the female monarch will only lay her eggs on milkweed.

Overall numbers of the majestic black-and-orange butterflies have dropped from 1 billion to fewer than 60 million over the past two decades as milkweed nationwide has fallen prey to development and pesticides.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced \$1.2 million starter investment to restore habitat; other national projects aim to distribute milkweed seeds by mail and build databases of breeding habitats as alarm grows. Whether by choice or by chance, ecologists hope California gardeners looking to save water can provide a boost to the butterflies on the West Coast.

"This is a really important way to provide really important habitat for a really important butterfly," said Greg Rubin, president of California's Own Native Landscape Design, Inc.

Anya Shortridge sits behind a monarch butterfly, newly emerged from a chrysalis, on a fruit basket in her living room in San Diego in August. Shortridge is part of a growing number of gardeners in Southern California who have been delighted to find that planting just a few milkweeds can attract dozens of the majestic black-and-orange monarchs while cutting down on water. (Gregory Bull/The Associated Press)

Nurseries are increasingly stocking multiple varieties of native milkweed and catering to customers who want to be drought savvy but also want to attract butterflies.

Business was up 50 percent this season at Tom Merriman's native plants nursery in Vista, California. Five years ago, Merriman didn't sell milkweed at all; this summer, he sold more than 14,000 plants and is shipping truckloads of seedlings all over California and other bone-dry Western states like Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

Dozens of monarchs flit through a butterfly atrium he built next to his greenhouses and sometimes sneak inside his greenhouses to lay eggs on plants awaiting sale.

"If you plant it, they will come," said Merriman, who has a greenhouse stuffed with 8,000 milkweed of a dozen types. "We had chrysalises on shovels, we had them on wheelbarrows. They were up in the nursery on palm trees. They were everywhere, under tables. We were releasing 500 caterpillars a week on native milkweed."

Anya Shortridge releases a newly emerged monarch butterfly onto milkweed in her garden in San Diego. (Gregory Bull/The Associated Press)

Anya Shortridge bought a few milkweed plants last year for her drought garden.

Now, she grows more than 100 milkweeds and carefully scans them for microscopic monarch eggs. When the eggs hatch, she feeds the tiny black-, gold- and white-striped caterpillars until they disappear into a shimmering, light green chrysalis where the mysterious transformation into a butterfly occurs.

This season, she and her husband have released more than 100 butterflies into the wild.

A sign in front of her house on a San Diego hilltop designates her garden as a "monarch waystation."

"We're finding eggs – monarch eggs – on the underside of our milkweed leaves all the time, so if I wanted to I could probably raise thousands," said Shortridge, who coos and cajoles the butterflies as if they were her children.

Some experts, however, are worried that California homeowners who plant milkweed might actually do harm by trying to do good.

That's because many gardeners unwittingly choose tropical — or so-called "exotic" — milkweed because of its colorful pink and yellow flowers.

The plants are more attractive than the desert varieties but could interfere with the monarch's famed migration.

Native milkweeds go dormant in the winter, leaving the butterflies no choice but to complete their migratory journey. But the tropical varieties bloom — and provide a place to lay eggs — all year, distracting the females and interrupting migration patterns.

Millions of North American monarchs travel from the eastern and central United States and Canada to Mexico each winter, while a smaller number travel through the western U.S. to winter along California's Central Coast. These Western monarchs co-evolved with native milkweeds and eating plants from another region might make them more vulnerable, said Hei-ock Kim, of the California Native Plants Society.

"When you take plants and animals from where they originated, you're going to change chemistry, climate, biology," she said. "You're changing all their habits, and so things work best when they are where they're supposed to be."

Monarch Butterflies May Be Saved By California Drought

[KABC-TV Los Angeles](#), October 21, 2015

VISTA, Calif. – In California's drought, the struggling monarch butterfly may have found a sprinkling of hope.

Suburban homeowners ripping out thirsty lawns are dotting their new drought-tolerant landscapes with milkweed native to California's deserts and chaparral – plants that have the potential to help save water and monarchs at the same time, because the female monarch will only lay her eggs on milkweed.

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"When you take plants and animals from where they originated, you're going to change chemistry, climate, biology," she said. "You're changing all their habits, and so things work best when they are where they're supposed to be."

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'If You Plant It, They Will Come': Monarch Butterflies Find Sprinkle Of Hope In California Drought

[WRC-TV Washington](#), October 21, 2015

The struggling monarch butterfly may have found a sprinkling of hope during California's historic dry spell.

Suburban homeowners ripping out thirsty lawns are dotting their new drought-tolerant landscapes with milkweed native to California's deserts and chaparral – plants that have the potential to help save water and monarchs at the same time, because the female monarch will only lay her eggs on milkweed. Overall numbers of the majestic black-and-orange butterflies have dropped from 1 billion to fewer than 60 million over the past two decades as milkweed nationwide has fallen prey to development and pesticides.

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Three Years After Sandy, Building A Stronger Atlantic Coast In Connecticut

[New Haven \(CT\) Register](#), October 20, 2015

Three years ago this week, Hurricane Sandy devastated communities in New Jersey and along the Atlantic Coast with record storm surge, fierce winds and torrential rain. Earlier this month, Hurricane Joaquin reminded us of nature's power, inundating much of the Atlantic Seaboard with heavy rains and chest-deep floodwaters and setting historic records in the Carolinas.

In this age of uncertainty, we have come to expect the unexpected. The science tells us that climate change will cause hurricanes and tropical storms to become more intense — lasting longer, unleashing stronger winds and causing more damage to coastal ecosystems and communities. As we know too well, these storms threaten lives and result in millions of dollars in property damage. They also expose the vulnerability of beaches, sand dunes and coastal marshes that not only provide habitat for fish and wildlife but also protect local communities from flooding.

The question is, what can we do to help these coastal areas stand strong-er against the storm?

Federal money for Hurricane Sandy recovery has spurred an unprecedented effort to strengthen natural defenses along the Atlantic Coast to protect communities and wildlife against future storms. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other Department of the Interior agencies are investing \$787 million in hundreds of projects to clean up and repair damaged refuges

and parks; restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline; connect and open waterways to improve flood control; and increase our scientific understanding of how these natural areas are changing.

These investments support the goal of President Barack Obama's Climate Action Plan to make communities more resilient to increasingly intense storms predicted with a changing climate. They also create jobs and provide opportunities for fishing, hiking, wildlife watching and other recreational opportunities.

In Connecticut, the Fish and Wildlife Service is investing more than \$4.6 million in eight projects to clear more than 70 miles of coastline debris; open more than 100 miles of waterways for fish passage; and restore more than 2,000 acres of aquatic habitat. This includes the recently completed \$794,000 White Rock dam-removal project with The Nature Conservancy to restore natural river flow in Stonington and Westerly, Rhode Island. The project will reduce flood risk to local communities, restore habitat for fish and wildlife and open up several dozen miles of fish passage in the Pawcatuck River for the first time in nearly 250 years.

More than a half-century ago, Rachel Carson, one of our greatest conservation heroes, characterized conservation as "dynamic, changing as conditions change, seeking always to become more effective." Looking toward the future and the uncertainties of a changing climate, communities, government and nonprofit organizations are working together like never before to better understand and adapt to changing conditions.

Clearly it will take time and careful planning before we see a return on many of these investments. But I am confident the long-term benefits of building a stronger coast will far outweigh initial costs when it comes to protecting communities, sustaining wildlife and lessening the financial impact of damages resulting from future intense storms. To that end, we are establishing systems to carefully monitor and evaluate our progress to ensure this work is effective and lasting. The nature we care about and the public we serve deserve no less.

You can track the status of our projects and investments by visiting the Fish and Wildlife Service's Hurricane Sandy website at www.fws.gov/hurricane/sandy.

Wendi Weber is Northeast regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YAP! Music Video Celebrates 100 Years Of National Park Service

[New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#), October 20, 2015

NEW BEDFORD — "Love what you do, do what you love, it's a celebration, yeah!" So goes a locally made music video that celebrates 100 years of the National Park Service. Published on Oct. 15, the Centennial video has more than 18,500 views on the NPS facebook page and more than 530 on the Youth Ambassador Program's YouTube page, the group that made it. The video's New Bedford producer/director Ben Gilbarg hopes it will go viral and give the local artists featured in it a chance to shine nationally.

"It's great it's got to this point so quickly," he said. "I feel like it's a model for youth engagement with a national institution that will hopefully continue to grow."

Along with NPS ranger Frank Barrows, Gilbarg co-founded YAP! in 2010 as a partnership between the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and 3rd Eye Youth Empowerment Inc., a local youth group where teens discussed history and the national parks through hip-hop.

YAP! has made eight educational videos and a documentary. This one involved more than 300 people, including crews at each of the NPS sites and local artists like Tem Blessed, Cita Light and Jay Beats (Jair Santos).

The song was completed in May and the video effort began in June and ended earlier this month, Gilbarg said.

Participants said they are happy to see national acknowledgement of their efforts.

"It's really exciting," said Dakota Lopes, 22, who stars in the video and traveled with the crew to seven national parks in four states to film it — New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

NPS Director Jon Jarvis, who met the traveling crew in Washington, D.C., makes a cameo appearance in the video to say, "It's great to celebrate a hundred years with YAP!"

The result is an upbeat, catchy tune with creative graphics and a History Machine bus modeled after the Mystery Machine from Scooby Doo.

The song was produced as a birthday wish for the National Park Service through G.O.A.L. Academy funding and was instantly thought to be a hit, said Gilbarg, who spearheaded the project. It was written by YAP! members Lopes and Skylyr Bento, 21, who are featured in the video.

It was a wonderful experience, Bento said. "It really has the potential to be something great for the National Park Service and I am glad I could be a part of it," he said.

YAP! is currently working on creating a supplemental behind-the-scenes video from their summer trip and “trying to get more people to see it,” said Gilbarg who is also working on a video project to get more young people to consider STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) careers.

‘Kentucky Is On The Move’

[Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#), October 20, 2015

Kentucky’s burgeoning travel and tourism industry received a ringing endorsement Tuesday from Lt. Gov. Crit Luallen in an address to the Kentucky Travel Industry’s annual conference in Bowling Green.

She noted that the industry has increased in economic impact by more than \$2.2 billion over the past five years to an estimated \$13 billion.

She said the industry now supports 180,000 jobs statewide, making it the state’s third-largest job creator during the two-term administration of Gov. Steve Beshear.

“Kentucky is on the move, and tourism is a big part of this success,” Luallen said. “Working with our travel and tourism partners, we’ve showcased to the world Kentucky’s remarkable beauty and resources, from our magnificent mountains, unique cave system and recreation lakes, to our one-of-a-kind Kentucky Bourbon Trail destinations and world-famous thoroughbred industry.”

Luallen told the group that tourism is being widely recognized as an economic force. She noted the recent formation of the Shaping our Appalachian Region, or SOAR, initiative and the naming of a working group to try to capitalize on the region’s rich natural amenities and potential for economic development and job creation.

Luallen added that as our lives become increasingly technology-based, it’s essential that people have the opportunity for “an authentic experience.”

“Tourism gives us that,” she said. “That’s why your industry is so important, not just to the economic well-being of our state, but to the fundamental well-being of our people.”

Following her remarks, the Lieutenant Governor recognized five national parks in Kentucky as part of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016.

Luallen presented proclamations to representatives of the parks. The parks were Abraham Lincoln Birthplace; Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area; Cumberland Gap National Historic Park; Fort Donelson National Battlefield; and Mammoth Cave National Park.

Reporter Sheldon S. Shafer can be reached at (502) 582-7089, or via email at sshafer@courier-journal.com.

Read or Share this story: <http://cjky.it/1RUy4au>

59 National Parks In 12 Months: Couple Includes Northeast Ohio On Tour Of America’s Prettiest Public Spaces (photos)

[Cleveland Plain Dealer](#), October 21, 2015

PENINSULA, Ohio – It started as a simple thought, casually expressed.

“I’ve always wanted to go to all the national parks,” he said.

“That would be cool,” she said.

Eighteen months later, the idea has become reality. Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, St. Louis natives, are two months into their grand adventure: 59 parks in 12 months – part celebration of the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary, part exercise in youthful spontaneity.

The two, both 26 and married for two years, brought their parks tour to Northeast Ohio over the weekend, where they camped, biked, hiked and road the rails through 33,000 acres of Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

They arrived in Ohio after two months exploring some of the nation’s most spectacular parks and iconic public spaces: the Grand Canyon, Arches, Bryce and Zion.

Even after that spectacular build-up, Cuyahoga Valley impressed.

“This park really embraces the seasons,” said Elizabeth, taking a break from nature Monday morning at a Starbucks in Brecksville, where she was Skyping with a classroom back in her home state.

Despite cold, blustery weather over the weekend, park activities drew large crowds, including a guided Ghost Walk around Kendall Lake and a fossil-hunting expedition at Everett Covered Bridge.

“The engagement with the community has been something we haven’t seen anywhere else,” said Cole.

The couple spent four nights here, with a scheduled departure early Tuesday, headed east toward Acadia National Park in Maine.

Among their Northeast Ohio highlights: Ledges Trail, Bridal Veil Falls, the farmers' market and getting lost in a corn maze at Szalay's on Riverview Road.

One other unexpected bonus: a family from Middleburg Heights, whom the Donelsons met while hiking, invited the couple to dinner and to spend the night in a real bed, after weeks of sleeping on the ground in a tent.

"It was sleeting at that moment," said Elizabeth.

She and her husband graciously accepted.

The two quit their jobs this summer – she was working as a sixth-grade teacher, he at a health-care IT company. Though a few skeptics voiced concern, most of their friends and family were supportive of the idea.

"Gradually, the idea became something we were going to do, not something we wanted to do," said Cole. "We decided we would regret it if we didn't do it now."

In the months leading up to their departure, they saved their pennies, came up with a budget of about \$20,000 for the trip, mapped their route, moved out of their townhouse in Kansas City, divested and stored most of their possessions. Finally, they loaded their Ford Escape with camping equipment and outdoor gear.

Their goal: See the best of the United States, and inspire others – particularly other millennials – to do the same.

Their mission meshes well with a new campaign of the Park Service, which celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2016. The park service this year kicked off a long-term marketing effort, dubbed "Find Your Park," designed in part to attract more young visitors to the nation's premier public spaces.

Though the national parks this year are on pace to attract a record-setting number of visitors, officials have lamented that too few of those visitors are under the age of 40.

Indeed, Elizabeth and Cole said many of their fellow travelers, particularly out West, have been from the older, RV-toting generation.

"I think a lot of people our age just don't think of the parks as much," said Elizabeth, speculating that younger travelers are more tempted by backpacking adventures through Europe or hitting beaches in exotic places.

"We have ambitions to travel internationally as well," said Elizabeth.

But right now, their immediate ambitions are taking them to Maine, then Virginia, then North Carolina.

"Our parks cover deserts, mountains, swamps, beaches, hard-wood forests," said Cole. "We want to see all of it."

And they plan to.

In the first two months of their adventure, the couple hit 11 parks in the Southwest. Among the highlights: hiking rim to rim to rim in the Grand Canyon, marveling at the dark sky at Great Basin and learning how to fly fish at Black Canyon of the Gunnison.

They're sharing it all via social media and on their blog, Switchbackkids.com, where they've picked up a few sponsors for the trip, including L.L. Bean, which donated sleeping bags and other equipment.

(Speaking of blogging and communication: That's another thing they liked about Cuyahoga Valley – excellent cell phone reception, unlike in some of the more remote parks they've visited.)

After Acadia, they're headed to Shenandoah, Great Smoky Mountains and points south. They've planned well for the end of the year: Virgin Islands, Dry Tortugas, Everglades and Biscayne.

After a detour home to St. Louis for Christmas, they're headed to Hawaii and American Samoa.

Their only misstep so far: They planned a visit to Isle Royale in northern Michigan before coming to Ohio, unaware that the island park in Lake Superior largely shuts down at the end of September. So they've added it to next year's itinerary.

One other worry, for Elizabeth at least, is their first bear sighting.

The couple will end their tour next summer in the place that most intimidates them: Alaska, home to eight national parks, including several accessible only by boat or airplane.

By the time they reach Alaska, however, they'll be experienced park explorers, with more than 50 parks behind them.

Cole said the trip is about more than miles logged, trails hiked, scenic views photographed.

"It's about not being afraid to go out and follow a dream, as cliché as that sounds," he said. "Whatever it is, it's doable. You just need preparation, a little good luck and support."

And, just in case, a couple of cans of bear spray.

Watchdog Raises Questions About \$69M In NPS Construction Funds

[Greenwire](#), October 20, 2015

A federal watchdog yesterday released a disputed report alleging that the National Park Service is violating congressional intent by dipping into its construction account to cover security, air testing and other reimbursable expenses that should have been paid up front by other agencies. The NPS construction account is "only for expenses that relate to 'construction,

improvements, repair or replacement of physical facilities,” the Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General report said, citing the language of the agency’s appropriation. But the OIG found that 17 out of a sample of 21 interagency agreements that used Park Service construction funds to cover reimbursable costs did not appear to include “a valid construction purpose.” These included \$4.9 million that NPS spent from its construction account on security at the Department of the Army’s Memorial Day and Independence Day concerts at the Capitol in 2014 and \$37.5 million over seven years on air quality monitoring at national parks that will be paid back to NPS by U.S. EPA.

U.S. Rep. Gosar Leads U.S. House Committee Passage Of Bi-partisan Grand Canyon Bison Management Act

[Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#), October 21, 2015

PHOENIX – A solution to a rapidly growing bison herd on Grand Canyon’s North Rim was reached after a bill was approved that could allow hunters to obtain state hunting licenses to hunt the bison within park boundaries.

The U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved the bill allowing the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to better manage and conserve the bison population within the park Oct. 8.

The Committee passed the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act, attaching it as an amendment to the larger Sportsman’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act. The Grand

Canyon Bison Management Act requires the U.S. Department of Interior and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on a plan that allows sportsmen holding a valid state-issued hunting license to assist in management of the bison population within the park.

“Yesterday the House Natural Resources Committee threw their support behind protecting the Grand Canyon National Park, wildlife conservation and supporting our dedicated sportsmen and women,” said Kurt Davis, chairman of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. “The Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department thank U.S. Rep. Paul Gosar for leading this commonsense legislation in the U.S. House, with the support of our Arizona Congressional delegation. We also look forward to continuing to work closely with U.S. Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake in the Senate.”

The bi-partisan bill is a step closer to being considered by the full U.S. House of Representatives. McCain and Flake have introduced identical legislation in the Senate.

“The bison population is exploding and this issue needs to be resolved now,” Gosar said. “The bi-partisan, bicameral effort passed with unanimous consent by the committee will protect Arizona’s greatest treasure, the Grand Canyon, from this species in a responsible manner. This legislative solution is a victory for sportsmen, conservationists and taxpayers who will provide a timely resolution to the bison problem plaguing the Grand Canyon National Park.”

The Grand Canyon Bison Management Act aims to address an over-abundance of bison whose movement in and near the canyon’s North Rim have impacted natural and cultural resources within the park.

Wildlife surveys estimate around 600 bison have migrated into the park, where hunting is prohibited. The park has since become a safe haven for the bison population, which has led to overgrazing and damage to the Grand Canyon’s natural resources.

The House bill was co-sponsored by U.S. Reps. Ann Kirkpatrick, Kyrsten Sinema, Matt Salmon, David Schweikert and Trent Franks.

Floods Trap Stargazers, Rangers In Death Valley

[Greenwire](#), October 20, 2015

Mudslides and flooding after severe thunderstorms in Death Valley National Park on Sunday trapped three park rangers and about 20 visitors – many out to see a clear night sky – in a volcanic crater overnight. Park spokeswoman Abby Wines said the stranded people spent the night in Ubehebe Crater, maintaining contact with park headquarters until they were able to reach safety yesterday morning. No injuries were reported, but Wines said the unexpectedly severe storms knocked out power in the area, damaged and closed several roads, and filled a historic visitor’s center with several feet of mud and debris.

National Park Service Set To Continue With Tree-Cutting At Potomac Campground

[Bethesda \(MD\) Magazine](#), October 21, 2015

Updated at 12:45 p.m. – After complaints from two nearby residents and a call from County Council member Roger Berliner temporarily halted tree-cutting operations Friday at a Potomac campground, the National Park Service said it plans to resume the tree-cutting and will probably do so in the next few days.

John Noel, deputy superintendent for the C&O Canal National Historical Park, told Bethesda Beat Monday that he went to the Swain's Lock Recreation Site to examine the 26 trees proposed to be removed and 32 others proposed to be pruned at the site's campground. He agreed that the trees are rotting and in danger of falling on park users below.

Rather than call in another arborist to judge the trees, Noel said the tree-cutting would resume after he is able to explain the situation to Barbara Brown and Sylvia Diss, the two Potomac residents who first raised concerns about removing trees at Swain's Lock.

Noel said two National Park Service arborists and three arborists with the tree-cutting contractor have already reviewed which trees are rotting and are in agreement. He said C&O Canal Park officials regularly review the health of trees in recreation areas throughout the park's 184.5 miles of land.

"Having a sixth person come out and look at it would be ridiculous," Noel said. "We don't think it's worth taxpayers' money to do that."

The complaints from Brown and Diss led to Berliner calling park Superintendent Kevin Brandt, who agreed to halt the work until another review could be done.

Brown, who more than 10 years ago led the charge against Washington Redskins owner Dan Snyder's clear-cutting of trees between his Potomac property and the C&O Canal Park, said Tuesday that the tree-cutting operation began last week.

"There aren't any hazardous trees down there. It's a beautiful campground," Brown said. "They are basically clear cutting it and there's no explanation except that they don't like the type of trees there."

Noel says there are hazardous trees around the campground.

"There are a lot of qualified people looking at this and the last thing we want to do is cut a tree down that's a healthy tree," Noel said. "But in our campgrounds, our visitors have a certain expectation of safety. People are laying in a tent. They are picnicking at a table. There are dead branches on these trees that have the potential to fall."

Most of the 58 trees to be removed or pruned are maple and boxelder trees, Noel said. He said the tree-cutting would leave plenty of healthy trees on the Swain's Lock campground and that "you're not going to notice any difference in the tree canopy."

"In many cases, the trees are rotten from the center of the tree and you can't tell as an unskilled arborist whether this tree that looks fairly decent isn't completely rotten in the center," Noel said. "We're constantly evaluating our trees, especially in these high-use areas."

Stump of a tree cut down at Swain's Lock, via Barbara Brown

Some of the trees marked for removal or pruning at the Swain's Lock campground in Potomac, via Barbara Brown

Canoe Trip Around Wolf Lake An Eye-opener For Clark Students

[Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#), October 20, 2015

All classes in Grades 6 through 9 at George Rogers Clark Junior-Senior High School in Hammond recently experienced a unique field trip right in their own back yard — a canoe trip around Wolf Lake located only a few blocks from the school.

The venture was made available through a partnership with the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center and Wilderness Inquiry.

"Part of our outreach program at Dunes Learning Center is the Mighty Acorns program, which we deliver with Shirley Heinze Land Trust and the Field Museum," executive director Geof Benson said. "This year, we leveraged the Mighty Acorns connections and others to experience the Canoemobile as part of their fall field trip for watershed education."

After walking with her classmates the few blocks from school to the Wolf Lake Pavilion, Clark ninth-grader Jazlyn Robles of Hammond talked about her first experience with a canoe last year while on vacation with her family.

"That was very exciting and I'm looking forward to my second time," she said "It wasn't too hard."

Classmate Riley Bishop of Hammond wasn't apprehensive about her first try with the canoe paddles.

"I've never been canoeing, so this is a new experience for me," she said, as her group was instructed on the finer points of paddling. "I've been to concerts and fishing here at Wolf Lake, but not on a boat. It's very exciting to see things from a different view."

The Canoemobile is a traveling fleet of 24-foot canoes going across the nation to teach environmental literacy to urban youth. Students from 24 cities in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties participated in the program, which also includes home schools and a Boy Scout group.

Clark teachers attended an introductory class at Dunes Learning Center before bringing the program to their classrooms.

"This (program) is really beneficial to the students," said Clark American literature teacher Aquinas Lewis, as her class took part in nature activities before heading to their canoe. "They can take what they've learned in class and bring it to life."

Before stepping into the 12-seat Voyager canoes, the students were given safety tips, instruction on how to handle a paddle, and other pertinent information.

Once everyone was settled in their seats, Wilderness Inquiry educators gave lessons to the students as they skimmed across the lake.

The water-based adventure makes a big impression on both students and educators, according to Benson, the Dunes Learning Center executive director.

"You can see how proud and excited they are as they get out of the boat," he said. "Students leave the experience more confident and ready to learn. That's why we do it."

In addition to the three-day student event, Dunes Learning Center also hosted a Community Day for the public at Wolf Lake. Canoe lessons and a trip around the lake were on the agenda.

Kassie White and her son Adam, 14, were among the dozens going out in the water.

"It was very interesting to learn exactly what's in this area," she said of the discussion on the canoe. "Seeing the natural habitat from this view was an eye-opener."

Sue Ellen Ross is a freelance reporter for the Post-Tribune.

New Superintendent At Colonial National Historical Park Reaching Out To Community

[Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#), October 20, 2015

Kym Hall visited Jamestown Island on a family vacation 12 years ago, thinking she wanted her National Park Service career to bring her there.

In July she took over as superintendent of the Colonial National Historical Park.

"I saw the resources and saw the stories, and said this is phenomenal," Hall said, sitting in her glass-fronted office with the green park spilling out behind her. "This is the birth of our country and I want to work here someday — I want to be the superintendent here someday. This is great."

She didn't think it likely, but when her friend Dan Smith got ready to retire from the job last year, he encouraged her to apply. She still can't quite believe it has all come together, and is quickly working to build relationships with local officials and organizations.

"Since that time, I think they've done a lot of the work on the Yorktown end of things," Hall said. "They've redone the Riverwalk and I've gotten to see Main Street, and kind of think about what could happen there in terms of bringing that back to life in a more vibrant way.

"So to me it was just like there's all kinds of possibilities of things that we can do here."

Hall, 48 and the mother of three sons, is a 28-year veteran of the National Park Service who grew up on the West Coast. She comes to Colonial after short stints as acting superintendent for the Outer Banks Group parks in North Carolina and Glacier National Park in Montana.

Hall had worked as deputy superintendent at Glacier since 2011. She began her career at Olympic National Bank in Washington state before working on various regulations at the NPS headquarters in Washington, D.C., as well as serving as superintendent of the Southeast Arizona Group parks and acting superintendent of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Arizona.

The York County Board of Supervisors warmly welcomed her at its Sept. 1 meeting. Hall hit a few key points, then addressed several issues raised by board members in a 45-minute portion of the meeting.

Hall told the board members she wants to get businesses into vacant buildings in Yorktown Village, and asked for their patience while she looks at a parking plan for the Fourth of July and other big events. When asked, she also briefly addressed the controversial replica tobacco press that was installed in the village and a road safety issue on the Colonial Parkway near Queens Lake

"They are issues that need to be dealt with," Hall said, stressing that her approach is to always try to be a "good neighbor" and to work collaboratively with other groups to find solutions.

Those issues have been prioritized, and Hall said this past week that she is addressing attracting businesses and parking first. The tobacco press, for right now, is being left in place until more research on its historical authenticity can be done.

Officials from the NPS regional office will visit next week to start assessing buildings and working on details about putting out bids and making leases with potential businesses.

Parking for big events will stay the same right now, but Hall is seeking money from the park service to do an archaeological study on the Yorktown Battlefield and village areas. In the past, parking around the village and setting off fireworks have been points of contention for the Fourth of July because of possible damage to the historical grounds and the risk for lightning strikes.

"I don't know that there's a perfect answer," Hall said. "But I think we've got a plan of at least how we're going to try to get some answers on that issue."

The park service will celebrate its centennial in 2016 and special events will run throughout the year to try to draw people into the parks. In line with that, Colonial will step up its outreach to the community.

"We're going to try to have a more significant presence," she said. "Not just asking people to come to us, but trying to step outside the boundaries and come to them. Whether that's schools, tourism meetings, collaborate discussions on challenges within our counties and communities.

"We want to be seen as part of the community in a variety of ways."

Hall said that she appreciates those who have advocated for preserving views at Jamestown Island with regard to Dominion Virginia Power's proposal to install overhead power lines across the James River there.

"The view should be protected," she said.

Her biggest request for the general public is to drive more carefully on the parkway and battlefield roads, watching speed limits and being mindful of bicyclists and people stopping to enjoy the views. All, of course, while not littering.

"Obey speed limits, be cautious, use it as a time to slow down and really take in the beauty of where we live," Hall said. "We do get sort of numb to it. Every day I get on that parkway and think, man this is beautiful. Feel free to slow down and enjoy that."

Williams can be reached by phone at 757-247-4644.

Devils Tower To Host Star Viewing Parties October Through December

[Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#), October 21, 2015

Have you ever seen Devils Tower illuminated by the night sky? Now's your chance.

The National Park Service announced that Devils Tower will host a series of star viewing parties October through December. The eight parties are free of charge, and will last approximately two hours.

Telescopes will be provided at the events, but those with telescopes are encouraged to bring theirs along.

The first star party will take place on Thursday, and will feature an Orionids meteor shower. The next event will take place on Oct. 27 and will feature a guided walk with a ranger on the evening of a super moon. A full list of the events can be found at www.nps.gov/deto.

Why Are The Feds Sticking With A Racist Name For A Washington Lake?

[High Country \(CO\) News](#), October 21, 2015

In central Washington, one of Jonathan Rosenblum's favorite fishing holes is a lake near the foot of 8,122-foot Mount McGregor, where the Pacific Crest Trail snakes past the North Cascades. A union organizer from Seattle, Rosenblum loves to hike to the lake with his young daughters and ply them with the history of the region. One of his favorite stories is about Wilson Howard, a black gold miner, who braved the elements and unknown landscape to file a late-1800s mining claim in the area and named the lake after himself.

Because of Rosenblum's 2007 petition, Washington state now officially calls the lake by what is believed to be its oldest known name, Howard Lake. The federal government, however, recognizes the lake by a name that causes the jaws of most people of color to drop: Coon Lake. Rosenblum's research shows that some white locals began calling the lake "Coon Lake" in the early 1900s, after Howard's departure; further sleuthing uncovered no raccoons in the area.

The federal government did not follow the usual course of supporting the state's action, mostly because of opposition from the National Park Service, which manages the area that contains the lake.

Rosenblum is quick to recognize the irony of the situation. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who is white, calls the place Howard Lake, after the black miner who named it. President Barack Obama, who of course is black, is supposed to call it by a term often used as a racial slur and tantamount to fighting words.

The Park Service, acting on research from its North Cascades unit, originally defended its stance by claiming that there was ambiguity around the use of the term "coon."

"At the time, no evidence was found that the name was intended as a pejorative term or racial slur; if we had found such evidence, we would have recommended changing the name immediately," said Craig Dalby, a spokesman for the Pacific West Region of the Park Service. "The National Park Service is re-examining its position because of ongoing community concerns and will provide feedback to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names in the near future."

In the years leading up to its 2016 centennial, the Park Service has done a lot of talking and writing about the need for diversity and inclusiveness. But it has done little to address the issue: Its own ranks remain 82 percent white, as does the

estimated percentage of park visitors, according to the agency's 2011 survey. The controversy over Howard Lake gives the agency the opportunity to correct a historic wrong and send a much-needed signal about diversity.

Seattle Democratic Sen. Pramila Jayapal has written a letter urging the state's congressional delegation, as well as Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, to press a federal name change to Howard Lake. Fifty of her fellow state legislators, including six Republicans, have signed it. Another local activist, Eddie Rye Jr., whose daughter Angela is the former executive director of the Congressional Black Caucus, says he has been enlisting caucus members to "help in getting rid of this racist name."

By following the Park Service's lead on "coon," the federal board on geographic names butted up against its own policies, which say that the board "will not adopt a name for federal usage that is determined by the board to be derogatory to a particular racial or ethnic group, gender, or religious group."

The National Park Service seems irrationally resistant to the idea of honoring Howard. It filed a competing request in 2007 for the lake and a nearby creek to be named after William McComb, a member of the first road-clearing crew in Stehekin Valley. The proposal was rejected. Rosenblum strongly believes that changing the name to McComb would not have been an acceptable compromise. Removing the homage to Howard, the African American miner, was a form of what Rosenblum calls "eracism."

Times change. The issue of Coon Lake's name gained new steam following the Obama administration's recent decision to change the name of North America's tallest mountain from Mount McKinley to Denali. The state of Alaska had been petitioning for such a change for 40 years, and the dispute was resolved by the stroke of Secretary Sally Jewell's pen. A similar secretarial order could avoid a repeat of what already has been years of filings hearings, and also prevent a dispute over a 15-acre lake that, in this country's current racial climate, could get ugly.

Such an order also might save the National Park Service from itself. A projected nonwhite U.S. majority that is hostile to our national parks spells doom for the already resource-strapped agency. It's past time for the Park Service to back away from its misguided opposition, encourage Secretary Jewell to come to its rescue, and allow another black life to matter.

Glenn Nelson is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the column service of High Country News. He is an Asian-American journalist in Seattle who founded The Trail Posse, trailposse.com, to encourage diversity and inclusion in the outdoors. More from Writers on the Range

US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Controversial Study Claims 99.9 Percent Chance Of Major Los Angeles Earthquake In 3 Years

[Southern California Public Radio](#), October 20, 2015

Angelenos live under constant threat of a major earthquake, but a controversial new study from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory puts a number on that threat. The scientific paper claims there is a 99.9 percent chance of an earthquake between magnitude 5 and 6.3 in less than three years.

The study was published earlier this month by the American Geophysical Union's Earth and Space Science journal. The bold claim has taken many in the seismic community by surprise.

JPL geophysicist Andrea Donnellan said this study used GPS and airborne radar data to look at land deformation caused by last year's 5.1 La Habra earthquake. Her team determined that, based on the surface changes, there is still a fair amount of pent-up seismic energy in the region that needs to be released.

"It's almost like using the surface of the Earth as an instrument to understand what is going on deeper," she explained.

That energy could spawn shaking associated with a magnitude 5 or 6 temblor, she added, but that energy could crop up on any number of faults within a 100-kilometer range of last year's quake.

This sort of prediction is quite common. What isn't common is claiming a 99.9 percent chance of such a quake in a window of time as small as three years.

Donnellan said her team arrived at the conclusion by looking at the number of magnitude 5 earthquakes in the region over the last 81 years. There were 32 such events.

"So if you just look at that on average, it's about an earthquake every three years," Donnellan said.

Lucy Jones with the U.S. Geological Survey said that methodology doesn't fully explain the prediction, and the study doesn't adequately address this either.

The USGS conducts its own look at quake risk in California — the most recent version is called Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast, Version 3.

Jones said that, according to those models, there is only an 85 percent chance of a magnitude 5 or 6 quake in the same region over a three-year period.

"It's nowhere near a 99.9 percent number," Jones said.

While the AGU journal the JPL paper appeared in usually conducts peer review of studies, Jones said it's custom that most quake prediction studies are also sent to the National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council or its California counterpart.

However, she said this paper was not submitted to those organization for review. She added that there is no scientific consensus on this issue.

"This is the opinion of a small group of scientists — it has not been reviewed for action as a prediction, and I wouldn't be changing any behavior on the basis of this study," Jones said.

Several earthquake researchers approached by KPCC said they were surprised by this study and its conclusions. However, JPL's Donnellan defended the research, saying that it's now up to the larger scientific community to evaluate the claims and see if different ones are called for.

"In science, individual methods are always controversial to somebody, but that's how we make forward progress," she said.

The study, titled "Potential for a large earthquake near Los Angeles inferred from the 2014 La Habra earthquake," was first published by AGU online on Oct. 1.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS

White House: Canadian Relationship Remains Strong After Trudeau Election

By Gregory Korte

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON — The White House congratulated Canada's prime minister-designate Tuesday, signalling that a change in power north of the border wouldn't diminish the close relationship between the two countries.

President Obama will call Justin Trudeau Tuesday — and will likely call conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper as well, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said, saying Obama was "deeply appreciative of Prime Minister Harper's acts to build a strong U.S.-Canada relationship."

The election has the potential to change the relationship on a number of key issues. Trudeau had accused incumbent prime minister, Conservative Stephen Harper, of reducing the entire U.S.-Canada relationship to a dispute over the Keystone XL pipeline and hurting relations by "haranguing" Obama over the issue. Obama has vetoed a bill to approve the 1,179-mile oil pipeline from Hardisty, Alta., to Steele City, Neb., although his State Department says it's still considering an application that would grant a permit.

Trudeau also supports the pipeline, but has done so within an environmental platform that also proposes a new North American carbon tax regime to reduce greenhouse gasses.

But while the Liberal Party victory could bring a closer alignment on environmental issues, it may also create new tensions on others. Trudeau has also said he wants to end Canada's involvement in operations in Iraq and Libya to counter the Islamic State, instead following a train-and-equip strategy that the United States has found ineffective.

"It would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue," White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Tuesday. "The fact is, there are a whole range of issues where the United States and Canada worked effectively together to advance the interests of both countries. Obviously, Canada made a substantial and important contribution to our counter-ISIL coalition."

Earnest also cited Canada's work toward an international climate agreement in Paris next month, and on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations. Those issues are even more important than the differences over the Keystone pipeline, he said.

Obama Offers Congratulations To Trudeau, Appreciation To Harper

By Meagan Fitzpatrick

[CBC News \(CAN\)](#), October 20, 2015

U.S. President Barack Obama has congratulated Justin Trudeau on leading the Liberals to victory and offered his appreciation to outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his efforts to build a strong bilateral relationship, the White House said Tuesday.

The Canadian election results were the first topic of conversation at the daily White House briefing. Press Secretary Josh Earnest was asked whether he expects the Canada-U.S. relationship to get easier under Trudeau because Harper seemed "annoyed" over the long delay on a Keystone XL pipeline decision.

"Well, I think it would be short-sighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue," Earnest responded. The proposed cross-border pipeline recommendation is still pending at the State Department and has yet to get a final decision from Obama.

Earnest said there are a number of issues that Canada and the U.S. work effectively on, including Canada's participation in the international coalition to fight ISIS terrorists in Iraq and Syria and the recently concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. Earnest said Canada's negotiators were instrumental in helping close that deal and that both countries will benefit from it if it's implemented.

But pressed further on when a Keystone decision might come, Earnest said Secretary of State John Kerry spoke about it earlier Tuesday and indicated the Canadian election result would have no bearing on the timing of a Keystone decision or on whether the answer will be "yes" or "no." Canada can do more on climate change

Earnest said the White House does not have an expectation on when the State Department will complete its review and send its recommendation to Obama. The president does expect to make a decision, however, before he leaves office after the 2016 election, he said.

"Hopefully we'll get it done well before then, if for no other reason than we can stop talking about it," Earnest said.

Obama is under pressure from environmentalists to reject the TransCanada Corp.'s pipeline project that would connect Alberta's oil patch with refineries in the Gulf Coast. Trudeau, like Harper, is in favour of the pipeline's construction but also says he wants to co-operate with the U.S. on environmental issues.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau visited Washington, D.C., in the fall of 2013. He's pledged to make the U.S.-Canada relationship a more constructive one and blames outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper for weakened ties between the two countries. (Susan Walsh/Associated Press)

Harper's government has lobbied for years in Washington for approval of Keystone. The outgoing prime minister has called the approval a "no-brainer" and Harper once said he wouldn't take "no" for an answer.

Earnest noted on Tuesday that Canada has made some "important commitments" in advance of the United Nations global climate change conference in December in Paris but added: "We believe it's possible that there's more that Canada could do in this regard."

It's too early to judge whether Trudeau will follow through on environment policy promises made during the campaign, said Earnest, while also admitting he did not follow the campaign closely. Obama to press Trudeau on environment

Obama has been pressing world leaders to make serious commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Paris, and that will be no different with Trudeau, he said.

Trudeau has pledged to repair what he described as a frayed Canada-U.S. relationship under Harper but that could get off to a rocky start if he follows through on a promise to withdraw Canada's fighter jets from the U.S.-led fight against ISIS. The Liberals want to provide more humanitarian aid in Iraq and Syria and have Canada's military involved in training missions not bombing missions.

The White House said it appreciates Canada lending its skill and expertise to the mission so far and hopes it can continue to count on its northern neighbour to participate in the coalition.

The White House spokesman said in addition to phoning Trudeau, he expects Obama will make a phone call to Harper in the near future as well.

"Our bilateral relationship has enhanced the security and prosperity of the American people and we certainly are appreciative of Prime Minister Harper's efforts to strengthen that relationship and we look forward to building on that kind of progress when Mr. Trudeau takes over the Prime Minister's Office."

White House Congratulates Canada's Trudeau, Obama To Call Soon

[AFP](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The White House on Tuesday welcomed the election victory of Canada's Liberal leader Justin Trudeau and expressed hope his government would step up actions to fight climate change.

Spokesman Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama would speak to the prime minister-elect as soon as Tuesday, and indicated the White House hopes his government will help reach a major global climate deal in December.

"Canada has also made a substantial and important commitment in advance of the Paris climate talks," Earnest said, praising the government of outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

He added, however, "We believe that it's possible that there is more that Canada can do in this regard."

"The United States, and certainly President Obama congratulates prime minister designate Justin Trudeau on the Liberal Party's victory in yesterday's elections," Earnest said.

"I would expect the president will have the opportunity today to call Mr Trudeau to congratulate him on that election victory."

Earnest said the White House was “deeply appreciative” of his work “to build a strong US-Canada relationship.” Obama and Harper’s government had clashed over climate policy and the approval of the transborder Keystone pipeline. Earnest said “it would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue.”

5 Reasons The U.S. Should Care About Canada’s New Prime Minister

By Kim Hjelmgaard

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

Canada just elected its first new leader after nearly a decade of Conservative Party rule. Here are five ways Liberal Party leader and soon-to-be prime minister Justin Trudeau is likely to affect policies in Canada and the United States.

THE ECONOMY

Trudeau, 43, has pledged to increase deficit spending on major infrastructure projects to kickstart Canada’s sagging economy. He says Canada’s fortunes won’t improve unless it chooses economic stimulus over a balanced budget, which he has vowed to achieve by 2020. A stronger Canada helps the USA because they are huge trading partners.

TAXES

Trudeau has pledged to hike taxes for Canada’s top 1% of earners and cut taxes for the middle class, although he has been vague on how he defines middle class. According to Canada’s Globe and Mail newspaper, those who earn over \$200,000 will see their taxes go up by about 4% under his plan.

MARIJUANA

Trudeau says he wants to legalize the drug “right away,” a position that provoked ridicule from political opponents during the election campaign. However, he has been vague on the details of his legalization program, including how it would be taxed and possible transport across the U.S.-Canadian border.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Trudeau supports the proposed oil pipeline system that would run about 1,200 miles from Canada to Nebraska, but he is less of a cheerleader for the idea than outgoing leader Stephen Harper. He is worried about the environmental impact and has called for better safety standards. He opposes a separate project for energy products to be piped from Alberta to British Columbia.

U.S. RELATIONS

Trudeau promised to improve strained relations with President Obama, who has not embraced the Keystone pipeline project. Trudeau also said he wants to find constructive ways of working with Washington on other issues. That should be easier since the Liberal leader and Obama are closer in political philosophy than were Obama and Harper.

Under New Leader Trudeau, President Obama May Start Hailing ‘O Canada’

By Adam Kovac

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

MONTREAL — Canada’s surprising election of the Liberal Party’s Justin Trudeau as prime minister means both the United States and its northern neighbor can expect increased cooperation during President Obama’s last year in office.

“I think Justin Trudeau is certainly going to reach out to Obama,” said Donald Abelson, political science professor at Western University in London, Ontario. “They share a lot of similar interests in terms of protecting the environment and advancing certain progressive policies on the world stage.”

Abelson pointed to a speech Trudeau gave over the summer about forming an intra-governmental committee to oversee the relationship between the two countries. “I think he does understand the power discrepancy between the two countries,” he said.

Trudeau, 43, and outgoing Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper, 56, differ in their approach to foreign policy. Harper, who was seeking a rare fourth term before losing Monday’s parliamentary elections, was an outspoken supporter of the Israeli government, gave a lukewarm reaction to the Iranian nuclear agreement and took strong stances against Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Because of Canada’s small military, any changes by Trudeau will be more of a change in tone than actual involvement of Canadian forces in the Middle East or elsewhere, said Bruce Hicks, a visiting fellow at the Glendon School of Public and International Affairs of York University in Toronto.

“The Liberals will be less supportive of the (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu approach to Israeli politics,” Hicks said. “They will be pro-Israel, but they will be centrist pro-Israel. I think you will also see them less prone to wanting to be involved in military approaches to the Middle East when it comes to things like (the Islamic State). They’ll be more about wanting to spend money on aid and development.”

That change in philosophy will affect more than just Canada's relationship with the United States.

Canada is "back" on the world stage, Trudeau told a rally Tuesday after his landslide victory ended nearly a decade of Conservative Party rule.

"I want to say to this country's friends all around the world, many of you have worried that Canada has lost its compassionate and constructive voice in the world over the past 10 years," Trudeau said. "On behalf of 35 million Canadians, we're back."

Under Harper, Canada had a more adversarial relationship with the United Nations than with previous leaders, said John McArthur, a senior fellow in the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

"In general, I would predict the Liberal government will want to work a lot more with multilateral institutions, on the premise that that's the way for a mid-sized, advanced economy like Canada's to have it's greatest influence," he said. "The Trudeau government will probably want to invest more time and political capital in the United Nations. It was seen as a bad moment when Canada wasn't elected to the Security Council a couple of years ago."

Trudeau has expressed support for the XL Keystone pipeline, which would carry crude oil from western Canada to refineries in the American Gulf Coast, but he also vowed to focus more on environmental affairs than Harper did. The future of his energy policy is clouded by the revelation just days before the election that a senior campaign adviser had been advising a Canadian energy company on how to lobby the government.

"There's a view among some, and it's just a hypothesis, that the Obama administration might have had an easier time supporting Keystone if the Canadian government was seen as more progressive and proactive on reducing emissions," McArthur said. "If that is the case, it might be that if Canada shows more proactivity, that opens up a new possibility of conversations on the energy sector, which is so strategically center to the Canadian economy."

Trudeau's iconic father Pierre, who was Canada's prime minister from 1968 to 1979 and again from 1980 to 1984, famously had an antagonistic relationship with Republican Presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan. While the younger Trudeau does share policy goals with Obama, the relationship between both countries can change drastically depending on who is elected president in 2016.

"I think given Trudeau's ideological orientation, he's more inclined to have a warmer relationship with a Democratic president than a Republican one," Abelson said. Pierre Trudeau "thought with his mind, he acted intellectually. The son, I think, is going to act more with his heart. I think he's going to try and smooth over tensions between the two countries without sacrificing sovereignty — not always easy to do."

Kerry: Canadian Vote Won't Change Keystone Review

By Timothy Cama

[The Hill](#), October 20, 2015

A new government coming to power in Canada does not change how the Obama administration is handling the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, Secretary of State John Kerry said Tuesday.

Kerry made the declaration the morning after Justin Trudeau was tapped to become Canada's next prime minister, since the Liberal Party he leads won a majority of Parliament seats in the election.

Trudeau, like outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper, supports the Canada-to-Texas oil pipeline, but he is unlikely to put as much of the government's support and resources into lobbying the Obama administration for it.

Kerry told MSNBC host Andrea Mitchell that the new regime will have no impact on how the State Department reviews TransCanada Corp.'s application to build Keystone XL.

"The decision on Keystone is being based on the merits and countervailing balance of all the input that has come from a very exhaustive agency review," Kerry told Mitchell at a forum hosted by the State Department, after she asked about possible changes to the equation surrounding Keystone.

"I have said again and again, I want to get that done as fast as possible and that is very true."

Trudeau, son of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, has criticized Harper for the degree to which his support for Keystone and for Canada's oil sands industry has strained relationships with other countries, including the United States.

"Unfortunately, Mr. Harper has narrowed the entire relationship with the United States to a single point around the Keystone XL pipeline, and he went to New York and criticized and harangued the president," Trudeau said during a recent debate.

Trudeau could also take some steps toward improving Canada's climate policies, after castigating Harper for making a mockery of Canada on the world stage for weakness on climate, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. said.

White House: Canadian Election Unlikely To Affect Keystone Timing

By Jeff Mason And Roberta Rampton

[Reuters](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

Canada's New Prime Minister May Be A Liberal—But He Still Loves The Keystone Pipeline

By Suzanne Goldenberg

[Mother Jones](#), October 20, 2015

Well before his stunning victory in Canada's elections, Justin Trudeau, the Liberal party leader, telephoned David Suzuki, the country's best-known science broadcaster, environmentalist—and a national treasure—to ask for his endorsement.

The conversation did not go well. Suzuki admitted to journalists he called Trudeau a twerp, and the Liberal leader dismissed his critique of the party's climate policy as "sanctimonious crap."

Those hoping for a U-turn in Canada's climate change policy after Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper's crushing defeat are in for a reality check.

Trudeau has repudiated Harper's vision of Canada as an "energy superpower," promised to reverse devastating cuts to government science budgets, and fix the country's reputation as a carbon bully in international climate negotiations.

But it would be a mistake to see Trudeau or the Liberals as climate champions. In his victory speech on Monday, there was no mention of climate change, and he was criticized for being vague on the issue during campaigning.

Those hoping for a U-turn in Canada's climate change policy after Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper's crushing defeat are in for a reality check.

Trudeau committed to take part in the Paris climate conference at the end of the year, and to convene a meeting of provincial leaders within 90 days to come up with a plan to fight climate change.

His party's campaign platform called for the setting up of a \$2 billion fund to help projects that promote clean energy.

However, Trudeau supports the Keystone XL pipeline—Canada's bid to find new markets for its vast carbon reserves in the Alberta tar sands—a position that puts the Liberal leader at odds with campaigners and with Barack Obama.

Trudeau has close ties to Keystone. David Gagnier, his campaign co-chair, was forced to step down last week after it emerged he had written a memo to TransCanada, the company building the pipeline, offering lobbying advice.

Moments after his victory, Trudeau came under pressure to do more to fight climate change. Elizabeth May, the Green party leader, told the broadcaster CBC she had asked him to think about the topic during a short election night conversation.

"When can we sit down and talk about the climate conference?" May said she asked Trudeau. "We only have 40 days for Canada to get our act together. I'm very concerned that we have to rebuild the damage that Stephen Harper has done to our laws, to some of our policies, to our reputation in the world."

Indeed, Canada has a lot of catching up to do. But two key Liberal positions, on the Keystone XL and on emissions reductions targets, put Trudeau out of step with Obama, who has made climate change the signature issue of his second term in the White House.

Those contradictions could have been the result of tough political realities of the election. Trudeau started out a distant third to the conservatives. Suzuki told CBC he chided Trudeau for playing politics.

"I said, 'Justin, stop it,'" Suzuki told CBC. "You're just being political. I know that you want to make headway in Alberta so you're for the continued development of the tar sands, you're for the Keystone pipeline, but you're against the Northern Gateway [pipeline]. You're all over the damn map!"

In Suzuki's version of the conversation, Trudeau did not appreciate the critique or hearing that keeping warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), the internationally agreed goal of the climate talks, would mean that 80 percent of the crude in the tar sands would have to stay in the ground.

But now that Trudeau has won such a decisive majority, his position could change, said Katharine Hayhoe, the climate scientist and commentator, who is from Canada. "It is certainly true that in the past liberal governments have not lived up to their promises on climate, but today we are in a very different situation, in terms of seeing the impacts and in terms of other nations like China taking action," she said.

"It's a different political climate internationally for climate change now than what it was nine years ago, the last time there was a liberal government. I feel a lot more momentum, a lot more impetus, a lot more motivation for Liberals to take a stronger stand on this issue.

"I think that will give him a mandate to make more bolder choices, and I hope that this is one of the bolder choices he will make."

What The Rest Of The World Should Expect From Justin Trudeau.

By Joshua Keating

[Slate](#), October 20, 2015

Canada's election Monday night turned out not to be the nail-biter everyone had expected. Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party ultimately won handily with 40 percent of the popular vote, taking 184 of 338 seats in parliament to form a majority government. Canadians have now elected a very different leader from outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper in both substance and style, but what can the rest of the world expect from Canada's new PM?

Joshua Keating is a staff writer at Slate focusing on international affairs.

The main source of U.S.-Canada tension in the later Harper years has been the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, which Barack Obama vetoed in February. Trudeau has described his support for the pipeline as "steadfast," but it's clearly not the make-or-break issue for him that it was for Harper. If Republicans take back the White House in 2016, he'd probably be open to talking about it. But if the Democrats win, we may not hear much more about Keystone.

More significantly, Trudeau opposes the "Northern Gateway" project that has been building pipelines through British Columbia to load Alberta oil onto tankers bound for Asia. He's also vowed to end subsidies for the fossil fuel industry and invest in green energy. So, it will be a very different Canadian government that shows up at climate talks in Paris in December, one that will be much closer to the Obama administration's priorities.

Other changes might be more significant, though it could take a while to notice them. The Liberals opposed Canadian airstrikes against ISIS, which Harper's government expanded into Syria in March. But Canada has conducted only a handful of airstrikes against ISIS in Syria, and while they have flown more than 200 in Iraq, it's a small number compared with the thousands of missions flown by the United States, or for that matter Russia. Even if Trudeau ends Canada's contribution to the air war, he may end up increasing his country's involvement in Iraq if he follows through on a pledge to send more Canadian personnel to train Iraqi forces.

In the broader Middle East, Trudeau has promised, in the wake of the recent nuclear agreement, to restore diplomatic relations with Iran, which Harper suspended in 2012. Harper was also known as one of the most enthusiastically pro-Israel world leaders. While Trudeau isn't expected to be quite as buddy-buddy with Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, overall policies shouldn't change that much.

Trudeau has also said he would withdraw the country's plans to buy Lockheed's troubled F-35 fighter jet. Instead, the government will plan to buy more affordable aircraft to replace Canada's aging fighter fleet and buy more icebreakers and combat ships amid growing tension with Russia in the Arctic.

The biggest shift may come on refugee policy. Trudeau has pledged to take in 25,000 asylum seekers by Jan. 1 and has said he'd consider airlifting Syria refugees directly from the Middle East. Harper's government had been criticized for the slow pace of refugee resettlement, particularly after the death of toddler Aylan Kurdi, whose family was trying to reach Canada, captivated the world's attention last month. As of August, Canada had only taken in a little more than 1,074 of the 10,000 Syrians it had promised to resettle over three years. Harper had also tried, unsuccessfully as it turned out, to make Muslim face veils a major issue in the campaign.

Trudeau seemed to be referring to the issue in his victory speech Monday night, saying, "We know in our bones that Canada was built by people from all corners of the world, who worship every faith, who belong to every culture, who speak every language." While it was undoubtedly the economy more than any other factor that sealed Harper's downfall, it's notable, given the recent populist backlash to the refugee crisis in Europe, that in the first major election where Syrian refugees were an issue, the side advocating a more open and generous approach prevailed.

Justin Trudeau Seeks To Set New Tone In Canada

Newly elected prime minister vows to restore country's reputation for international cooperation on climate change and other issues

By Paul Vieira

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

For Canada, Most Noticeable Change Under Justin Trudeau Could Be Tone

By Ian Austen

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

OTTAWA — Justin Trudeau's Canada is likely to present a very different face to the world from the one it showed under Stephen Harper, the Conservative prime minister he and his Liberals decisively routed on Monday.

Mr. Trudeau has promised some major policy changes, among them legalizing marijuana, dropping out of the American-led bombing campaign against the Islamic State and deficit spending to pump up the economy and rebuild infrastructure.

But the most noticeable difference will probably be in tone. Mr. Trudeau has been promising since he took over his floundering party in 2013 that he would put an end to Mr. Harper's often belligerent style of politics and diplomacy.

"Sunny ways" are Mr. Trudeau's ways, he said in his victory speech early on Tuesday, borrowing the phrase from Wilfrid Laurier, a Liberal prime minister of about a century ago.

"A positive, optimistic, hopeful vision of public life isn't a naive dream — it can be a powerful force for change," Mr. Trudeau said, his voice faltering after 78 days of campaigning. And he said the sweeping victory his party won on Monday as it surged from third place in opinion polls to a clear majority in Parliament meant that "Canadians from all across this great country sent a clear message tonight: It's time for change in this country, my friends, real change."

Mr. Trudeau has spoken of scrapping Mr. Harper's emphasis on military solutions and Cold War talk abroad, and returning Canada to active participation in international bodies like the United Nations. Gone, he has said, will be the combative, lecturing approach Mr. Harper adopted toward the Obama administration over the Keystone XL oil pipeline project.

And gone, too, will be the Conservative habit of pushing policies at home that were popular with Mr. Harper's right wing but divisive to the larger electorate, like the sweeping antiterrorism laws that were passed after a gunman attacked Parliament last October. Mr. Trudeau has promised to amend those laws.

The Liberals won only 39.5 percent of the popular vote on Monday. But with three major parties and several minor ones jockeying for support, it was enough for a sweeping victory in Parliament, as the Conservatives demonstrated in 2011 when they won about the same share.

On Tuesday, during his first news conference since the vote result, Mr. Trudeau said he had told President Obama by telephone that he would honor a campaign pledge to remove Canada's military jets from the American-led military campaign against the Islamic State group.

But Mr. Trudeau declined to say when the aircraft would leave. The two men also discussed Mr. Trudeau's plans for improving Canada's record on greenhouse gas emissions, he said. The president, Mr. Trudeau added, teased him about his lack of gray hair and suggested that his new position might soon change that.

An Obama administration official, insisting on anonymity because of the delicacy of communications between the leaders, said the White House still hoped to find a way for Canada to play a role in the mission.

Mr. Trudeau's showing was the Liberals' best in 40 years and re-established the party as a national force, rather than one that relied heavily on one province, Ontario, for support. They drew votes away not only from the Conservatives, but also from the New Democrats, the other major opposition party of the center-left. The New Democrats, who led in the polls early in the campaign, wound up losing more than half their seats in Parliament, as well as any hope that the Liberals would be dependent on their backing to govern.

The Liberals swept the Atlantic provinces and more than doubled their seat count in Quebec, where voters had spurned the party in recent elections. They even won two seats and came close to taking a third in Calgary, Alberta, Mr. Harper's adopted hometown and the center of Canadian conservatism. The last time the Liberals won a seat there was in 1968, when the country was swept up in enthusiasm for Mr. Trudeau's father, Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Justin Trudeau shares his father's good looks but not his demeanor. He does not flash the scalpel-sharp intelligence his father was known for, but neither does he display the sometimes acerbic nature that went with it. As a result, he has often been underestimated.

Before Mr. Trudeau took over the party leadership, Mr. Harper and the Conservatives won three straight national elections against weak Liberal opponents who proved vulnerable to the Conservatives' heavy reliance on attack advertisements.

In 2006, Paul Martin, then the prime minister, was saddled with the legacy of a fund-raising scandal left by his predecessor, Jean Chrétien. Next up was Stéphane Dion, a highly respected intellectual from Quebec who came across as somewhat pedantic and failed to counter Conservative ads claiming that a Liberal plan for a carbon tax would be economically disastrous.

In 2011, the party was led by Michael Ignatieff, who had spent most of his adult life as an intellectual and a journalist in the United States and Britain before returning home. The Conservatives successfully painted him as an opportunist.

Mr. Harper's party relentlessly attacked Mr. Trudeau during this campaign as well, portraying him as something of a dimwit who had "nice hair" but was "just not ready" to lead the country. But this time, the strategy flopped.

Though Mr. Trudeau said repeatedly that he did not want to trade on his family's name, growing up in the public gaze did mean that when he entered politics in 2007, he was already a celebrity with a reservoir of public good will to tap. The Conservative attack ads did not just fail to shake that good will; some analysts say they backfired by creating sympathy for Mr. Trudeau.

After his party's defeat on Monday, Mr. Harper resigned as Conservative party leader, but not in the orthodox manner. He made no mention of his intention during his concession speech, leaving his party to announce the news in a brief statement.

Mr. Harper's legacy includes reuniting the Conservative movement under a single party banner by merging his Canadian Alliance with the Progressive Conservatives. Under Mr. Harper, the party also developed an effective fund-raising machine.

Canadian law bans corporations and unions from making political donations, and imposes fairly low limits on personal donations. So the Conservatives used sophisticated software to develop and promote political issues that would draw large numbers of small donations from supporters, even if they found little support in the rest of the population.

The targeted approach was successful financially, but it may also explain why the Conservatives never significantly widened their support during a decade in power. The kinds of issues it led Mr. Harper to promote, like banning the wearing of face coverings by Muslim women at citizenship ceremonies, drew angry reactions that may have contributed to the government's defeat in the election.

The front-runner to succeed Mr. Harper as Conservative leader is Jason Kenney, the departing defense minister and one of the few party figures who had some free rein in Mr. Harper's highly centralized administration. Mr. Kenney acknowledged late Monday that issues he championed for the government, including the face-veil ban and the antiterrorism measures, might have created the opening that Mr. Trudeau seized to win.

"We need a conservatism that is sunnier and more optimistic than what we have sometimes conveyed," Mr. Kenney said. "We have to take collective responsibility for that."

Peter Baker contributed reporting from Washington.

Nicer Justin Trudeau Wins Over Canadians: Column

By David A. Andelman

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

What might have been the final straw for Canadian voters was the shocking photograph of the body of a Syrian child washed up in September on a Turkish beach. His family's asylum request had been turned down by Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative Party government. Without hope, the family took to the seas in a flimsy boat that foundered in the Mediterranean before reaching the promised land of Europe — or Canada.

Of course, there were many other reasons why Canadian voters ended Harper's nearly 10-year rule Monday, all cautionary tales for American voters just embarking on the process of choosing a new president next year. Part of it is a reflexive turn-the-bums out attitude, which Republicans in the U.S. are counting heavily on. But most of the reasons Canadians opted to install the little-tested Justin Trudeau, 43, boiled down to one fundamental: The Liberal Party leader was simply nicer than his opponent. And most Canadians believe they are, too.

Harper was too tough on terrorism, on migrants, even on Muslim women who want to wear the veil. He did little to prop up a sagging economy or shelter his oil-rich nation from the impact of sagging oil prices. He put the Keystone pipeline among his top priorities and was a firm supporter of a host of U.S. military initiatives. Few were overwhelmingly popular in a Canada that hardly considers itself in terrorists' crosshairs, and wants to keep it that way.

So begins a political dynasty north of the border — Justin Trudeau following in the footsteps of his father, the politically canonized Pierre Trudeau, who served as prime minister twice for a total of more than 15 years in the 1960s, '70s and '80s.

Young Trudeau's win reflects something extraordinary that is finding resonance far beyond Canada's borders. First, there's the shift to the left. Canada has been a political counterweight in the past to American trends — after all, Trudeau's right-wing predecessor served throughout most of President Obama's administration, with considerable friction.

POLICING THE USA: A look at race, justice, media

But what's especially interesting is that Canada has now definitely gone back to the future. A study by two American researchers found that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, ratified during the reign of Trudeau's father in 1982, is the most emulated model of government chosen by newly minted democracies. In part, it's the document's respect for human rights, but it's also just how nice Canadians are. While the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights might have set the standard in the past, Americans are no longer seen as people to be emulated, nor is our system of government, which has become in many respects all but dysfunctional.

While we Americans might not think about Canada a lot, we could probably learn quite a lot from them. The previous Conservative regime began going off the rails some time ago. Now it's up to Canada's Liberal Party to set it straight again.

David A. Andelman, a member of USA TODAY's Board of Contributors, is editor and publisher of World Policy Journal and author of *A Shattered Peace: Versailles 1919 and the Price We Pay Today*.

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Canada Turns Left

The Liberals get a chance to show they can run an economy.

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

A New Trudeau Era In Canada

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

The sweeping victory of Justin Trudeau in Canada's elections yesterday shows how ready Canadians were to emerge from a decade under the Conservative government of the secretive and combative Stephen Harper. Mr. Trudeau clearly benefited from voters' memories of his father, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who came to power 47 years ago on a platform of liberal reforms and a wave of personal popularity that came to be dubbed "Trudeaumania." To those memories, Justin Trudeau, 43, added his own charisma and the promise that as prime minister he will return Canadians to the tradition of liberal and humanitarian values that his father championed.

In his 10 years in office, Mr. Harper pursued a conservative agenda of lowering taxes, cutting government programs and taking a tough line on security, including the passage of broad antiterrorism laws. His government also banned women from wearing face coverings at citizenship ceremonies.

Mr. Trudeau, by contrast, has pledged, among other things, to legalize marijuana, revise the antiterrorism laws, stop the purchase of F-35 fighter jets from the United States and end Canada's combat role in the American-led fight against the Islamic State. While both men backed the Keystone XL oil pipeline, Mr. Trudeau is open to addressing environmental concerns. To many voters, that was the major appeal of Mr. Trudeau — that he would return the Liberal Party, and Canada, to the country's core values, like a generous safety net, active participation in international organizations like the United Nations, a humanitarian foreign policy and an inclusive concept of nationhood. Mr. Harper's conservatism was at odds with that identity.

For the Liberals, the election was a stunning reversal of years of sagging fortunes. In the Harper years, the party had lacked a dynamic leader and was eclipsed on the left by the New Democratic Party, which relegated the Liberals to No. 3 in Parliament after the 2011 elections. This time the Liberals soared from 34 seats to 184 in the 338-seat Parliament, while the Conservatives shed 60 seats and the New Democrats lost 59. The difference was Mr. Trudeau.

As Americans know well, legacy can be a boon and a bane. For Mr. Trudeau, his heritage was clearly a blessing, especially as almost half a century had elapsed between his father's election and his own. But in all those years, Canadians never fully lost their infatuation with the Trudeau era.

As for experience, the son is not the father. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who died in 2000, was a star lawyer, intellectual and minister of justice before becoming prime minister. Justin Trudeau, is not the intellectual dynamo his father was, and before he entered politics in 2007, he had been a snowboard instructor, high school teacher and nightclub bouncer (he remains a keen amateur boxer).

But after the Liberals' drubbing in 2011, the party found in Mr. Trudeau a fresh leader capable of inspiring much of the same excitement and loyalty as his father, especially among youthful voters. In politics, that counts for a lot, but it also creates a lot of expectations.

Canada Withdrawing Fighter Jets From Iraq, Syria, Trudeau Tells Obama

[AFP](#), October 21, 2015

Ottawa (AFP) – Canada's prime minister-elect Justin Trudeau said Tuesday he told US President Barack Obama that Canadian fighter jets would withdraw from fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

But he gave no timeline.

"About an hour ago I spoke with President Obama," Trudeau told a press conference.

While Canada remains "a strong member of the coalition against ISIL," Trudeau said he made clear to the US leader "the commitments I have made around ending the combat mission."

Canada last year deployed CF-18 fighter jets to the region until March 2016, as well as about 70 special forces troops to train Kurds in northern Iraq.

During the campaign, Trudeau pledged to bring home the fighter jets and end its combat mission. But he vowed to keep military trainers in place.

His new Liberal government will be "moving forward with our campaign commitments in a responsible fashion," Trudeau said.

“We want to ensure that the transition is done in an orderly fashion.”

Meet Canada’s New Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau

By Deneen L. Brown

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

Justin Trudeau, the dashing eldest son of political legend Pierre Trudeau, has ushered in Canada’s first political dynasty with a stunning come-from-behind victory. But the new prime minister’s win may owe as much to voters’ fatigue with the outgoing government as to the legacy of his father.

The younger Trudeau defeated Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Monday’s elections, ending a nine-year reign that had shifted Canada politically to the right.

The victory comes just weeks after Trudeau’s Liberal Party was running third in the polls, behind Harper’s Conservatives and Thomas Mulcair’s center-left New Democratic Party.

Both Mulcair and Harper had taunted the athletic Trudeau, 43, in campaign ads that referred to him as “Justin” and made fun of his “nice hair.” Critics said he was too young and inexperienced to become prime minister.

But Trudeau ran a tireless 78-day campaign based on change and optimism at a time when many frustrated voters wanted “anyone but Harper.” Trudeau, a former schoolteacher, ran on a centrist platform, to the left of the Conservatives but to the right of the NDP. He also benefited from many Canadians’ fond memories of his father, a public intellectual who was prime minister from 1968 to 1979 and from 1980 to 1984.

“The reason he got the job of leadership is the same reason Hillary [Clinton] and Jeb Bush can run — name recognition,” said Nelson Wiseman, director of the Canadian Studies Program at the University of Toronto. “He is personable. He is a family man. He has three kids. That is appealing. But he doesn’t have much gravitas. He is an intellectual lightweight compared with his father.”

Canadians wanted Harper out. He was accused of being stiff, autocratic and out of touch with Canadian values on environmental issues, race and immigration.

Harper, 56, who was seeking a fourth term, had made a controversial push to prohibit use of the niqab, a face veil worn by some Muslim women, at Canadian citizenship ceremonies. Many Canadians were also upset at Harper’s reluctance to accept refugees from Syria. The government said at the start of this year that it would accept 10,000 Syrian refugees over three years. But only a fraction of that number have been admitted.

Former prime minister Jean Chrétien wrote in a column published in the *Globe and Mail* and other Canadian newspapers that Harper’s stance on the refugee crisis created an international impression of Canada as a “cold-hearted” nation. “What has happened to the country that was a model for peace and stability in a tumultuous world?” Chrétien wrote that he is frequently asked.

Trudeau had called for the government to accept 25,000 refugees.

The Conservatives also were hurt by recent political scandals, including one involving a senator on trial over fraud suspicions.

“Two-thirds of Canadian voters said the Conservatives lost the moral authority to govern,” Wiseman said. “The election revolved around one issue: Do you want to keep the government of Harper or not.”

Harper had called in August for the election, thinking a longer campaign and a bigger Conservative Party budget would wear down the Liberals and the NDP. Very few predicted a Liberal victory. But days before the election, polls showed a Liberal surge. The party wound up capturing 184 seats, enough to form a majority government.

Trudeau becomes Canada’s second-youngest prime minister. The youngest was Joe Clark, of the Progressive Party, who took office in 1979, a day before his 40th birthday.

During his victory speech, delivered in French and English, Trudeau told a cheering crowd in Montreal: “Lots of people will have lots of opinions about why we were successful.”

Against the backdrop of a Canadian flag, Trudeau said his campaign had simply used an old-fashioned political strategy.

“We met with and talked with as many Canadians as we could,” he said. “We won this election because we listened. We met with hundreds of people in the dead of winter in the Arctic and people in the middle of Brampton. You built this platform; you built this movement. . . .

“You told us it is getting harder and harder to make ends meet and to get ahead. You told us you were concerned about your retirement. . . . I am not the one who made history tonight. You are.”

Not once during the nearly 30-minute speech did he mention his father by name. Under Pierre Trudeau, Canada officially became a bilingual country. The elder Trudeau had pushed for multiculturalism, a constitutional bill of rights known as the

Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the end of provisions that gave the British Parliament a say in Canada's laws and constitution.

Justin Trudeau's only reference to having grown up as the son of the legendary prime minister came when he thanked his own three little children, who he said were fast asleep by the time of the victory speech, after midnight Monday.

"There will be difficult moments as children of a prime minister," he said, "but Dad will be there for you."

Justin Trudeau, born in Ottawa on Dec. 25, 1971, grew up in the public eye, traveling the world with his father. He was the eldest of three sons born to Pierre Trudeau and the former Margaret Sinclair, who was three decades younger than her husband.

When Justin was 6, his parents divorced. Pierre Trudeau became a single father.

The elder Trudeau had charisma as prime minister, bringing what many voters believed to be glamour and excitement to Canadian politics. He dated celebrities, including Barbra Streisand; was photographed sliding down banisters; and pirouetted when Queen Elizabeth II's back was turned.

"Pierre Trudeau was a bit of an iconoclast, which endeared him to many people, but also got him into a lot of trouble," said Elise Chenier, a history professor at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

Justin Trudeau's critics said he could never compare to his father.

"Almost everybody looks like an intellectual lightweight compared to Pierre Trudeau," Chenier said.

Justin Trudeau graduated with a bachelor of arts in literature from McGill University in 1994, and later earned a degree in education at the University of British Columbia. He taught school from 1999 to 2002, giving classes in drama, French, English and social studies. He also worked as a nightclub bouncer and a snowboarding instructor.

Some say he was not interested in politics in his younger years.

But in 1998, his brother Michel died in an avalanche. And in 2000, his father died from prostate cancer.

Justin Trudeau's televised eulogy at his father's funeral propelled him before the public, and some Canadians began quietly speculating that perhaps one day he, too, would be a political leader.

During the eulogy, the younger Trudeau recalled a visit to his father's office in Parliament. Justin was 8. He and Trudeau went to the cafeteria where Justin recognized one of his father's political rivals. The boy made a joke about the man.

"My father looked at me sternly . . . and said, 'You never attack the person. You may be in total disagreement with the person, however, you shouldn't denigrate him.' He took me by the hand and led me to meet this man," Justin Trudeau recalled. "He was a very nice man. . . . It was at that moment I understood that having different opinions from those of another person should in no way stop you from holding them in the greatest respect possible as people."

Justin Trudeau told the crowd that his father taught his three sons to believe in themselves, to stand up for themselves and to have passion for life.

"We knew we were the luckiest kids in the world. And we had done nothing to actually deserve it. It was instead something we would have to spend the rest of our lives to work hard to live up to."

In 2008, Justin Trudeau defeated a Bloc Quebecois incumbent to win in the "riding," or electoral district, of Papineau, one of the poorest in Canada. In April 2013, he was elected leader of Canada's Liberal Party.

Days later, Harper released an attack ad saying that Trudeau was "way over his head."

On Monday night, Trudeau told the crowd that the Liberals had overcome those attacks by offering a positive vision.

"Most of all we defeated the idea that Canadians should be satisfied with less, that good enough is good enough, and that better just isn't possible. Well, my friends, this is Canada, and in Canada better is always possible."

Read more:

Canada's election has taken less than three months. Canadians can't wait for it to end.

How a Muslim veil is dominating Canada's election race

Today's coverage from Post correspondents around the world

Canada's New Governing Party Promises To Legalize, Regulate Marijuana Sales

By Trevor Hughes

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

DENVER — Canada's leap to the left in Monday's elections could have the country singing a new anthem: "Oh, Cannabis."

The United States' largest trade partner overwhelmingly selected Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party to run Canada, a sweeping change that may lead to full marijuana legalization for our northern neighbor, which already allows medical pot use.

Trudeau promised that under his leadership Canada would create a system to tax, regulate and sell marijuana, along with stiff penalties for anyone giving pot to children or caught driving while stoned. The Liberal Party's cannabis legalization statement echoes the language used by many U.S. legalization advocates.

"Canada's current system of marijuana prohibition does not work. It does not prevent young people from using marijuana and too many Canadians end up with criminal records for possessing small amounts of the drug," the party's position statement says. "To ensure that we keep marijuana out of the hands of children, and the profits out of the hands of criminals, we will legalize, regulate, and restrict access to marijuana."

U.S.-based cannabis activists hailed Trudeau's election as a milestone, suggesting that a day may soon come when cross-border trade talks include not just the Keystone XL pipeline, maple syrup or prescription drugs, but also legal weed. Border states Alaska and Washington have already legalized recreational marijuana use, as have Colorado, Oregon and the District of Columbia.

"It's no longer a pipe dream to imagine a day when consumers and growers in Washington state and British Columbia, for example, could be ordering each other's wares on the Internet for cross-border shipment," said Tom Angell, chairman of the pro-legalization Marijuana Majority.

Trudeau earlier this month said he'd begin work to legalize marijuana in Canada "right away" if elected, but declined to specify a timeline for implementation. His campaign told CBC News that it was looking to Colorado as a potential model.

Colorado permits residents to buy and possess up to an ounce of marijuana at a time, and taxes each sale. Last month the state collected nearly \$12 million in marijuana taxes, with the money used to fund school construction and anti-abuse campaigns.

In 2003 and 2004, Canada's Liberal Party offered a proposal to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana, but the plan died and a Conservative government took power in 2006. At the time, U.S. officials invoked the specter of prolonged border crossings if Canada changed its laws to permit broader marijuana use.

Since 2001, Canada has permitted medical marijuana use, as do 23 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

Canada's potential move toward recreational legalization could add to a growing international discussion about drug possession and penalties, which has become a major cause for billionaire entrepreneur Richard Branson, who on Monday renewed his push for the United Nations to back decriminalization of drug use.

"Together with countless other tireless advocates, I've for years argued that we should treat drug use as a health issue, not as a crime," Branson wrote on his blog, responding to a draft U.N. proposal. "While the vast majority of recreational drug users never experience any problems, people who struggle with drug addiction deserve access to treatment, not a prison cell."

Liberal Win Gives Boost To Canada Marijuana Industry

[AFP](#), October 21, 2015

Ottawa (AFP) – Justin Trudeau's election win gave Canadian pot stocks a boost Tuesday with his promise to legalize recreational cannabis expected to help the nation's nascent medical marijuana industry.

Share prices for cannabis producers jumped an average of five to 10 percent in relatively high volume trading early in the day.

The companies already produce marijuana for medical use in Canada, and investors are betting they could quickly scale up to serve recreational pot users too, once Trudeau makes good on his promise.

Canopy Growth rose 11 percent to Can\$2.43, while Aphria Inc. rose 5.3 per cent to Can\$1 and Mettrum Health Corp. gained 6.0 percent to Can\$1.95.

"Trudeau's vow to legalize and regulate marijuana... has set in motion the single most important catalyst for the marijuana space," Dundee Capital Markets analyst Aaron Salz said in a Tuesday note to clients.

At least one company is also looking beyond Canada's borders hoping that G20 nations will adopt Canada's regulatory framework for pot, creating new markets for their wares.

Bruce Linton, who co-founded the firm Tweed, said he was betting on "significant growth" in the sector, as legitimate firms move into a space now dominated by black market growers and sellers, and offer buyers a large variety of pesticide-free strains.

Linton's company opened in a former chocolate factory an hour's drive from Ottawa last year under a new government scheme that banned home cultivation in favor of large commercial greenhouses.

It merged with Canopy and Bedrocan in the spring to form the largest commercial pot grower in Canada. The parent company changed its name to Canopy in September.

Tweed was one of only six firms initially licensed by Health Canada to grow and sell fresh medical marijuana and cannabis oil to eligible persons. The number of licenses issued has since grown to 26.

An estimated one million out of Canada's 35 million people regularly smoke marijuana, according to 2014 surveys.

Trudeau has admitted he smoked the drug at a dinner party with friends after being elected to parliament in 2008.

He said his late brother Michel was facing marijuana possession charges for a "tiny amount" of pot before his death in an avalanche in 1998. This influenced his decision to call for legalizing and regulating cannabis, Trudeau has said.

Justin Trudeau, Son Of A Canadian Leader, Follows His Own Path To Power

By Ian Austen

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

OTTAWA — When Justin Trudeau moves into the prime minister's official residence, it will be a homecoming. His parents lived there, in the gray stone house at 24 Sussex Drive in Ottawa, when he was born on Christmas Day in 1971.

In a country where political dynasties are rare, Mr. Trudeau will be the first Canadian to follow a parent into the country's highest political office, thanks to his Liberal Party's surprisingly sweeping victory in the election on Monday, ending nine years of Conservative government.

And there are many easy parallels to draw between him and his father, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who led the country for 15 years beginning in 1968.

Start with the superficial: good looks, rugged athleticism, glamorous wife, rapturous fans. More substantially: unusual outspokenness, reputations as agents of change, a sharp upward trajectory in the Liberals' fortunes on each man's watch.

Without doubt, the good luck to be born with Pierre's surname was a big help.

But Justin Trudeau is no dynast who slipped effortlessly into a family political machine. He did not even enter politics until 18 years after his father gave it up, and seven years after his father's death. He built his own cadre of advisers, mostly from his own generation. And at key points in his career, he chose more difficult roads — partly, it appears, to show he had not been handed a life in politics on a platter.

"I do this not out of a sense of historical ambition or drive: 'My father did it, so I have to,' " Mr. Trudeau said during a lengthy interview in 2013, shortly before he became the Liberal Party leader. "No, I do this because I think I have something to offer. If it turns out that I don't, that's just fine, too. But I'm fairly confident that I have something to offer that this country needs more of right now, which is an antidote to the kind of cynicism which is dominating too much of politics around the world."

The novelty of a sitting prime minister with young children made Justin Trudeau and his two brothers celebrities from birth, but Pierre Trudeau and his wife, Margaret, who came from a prominent political family herself, tried to give the boys some semblances of normalcy. The children rode the regular bus to public school (albeit with an unmarked car full of bodyguards right behind), and they mixed in class with children from a poor area of Ottawa as well as their own affluent neighbors.

When he was 7 or 8, Mr. Trudeau recalled, he overheard his parents giving away the secret of Santa Claus, and the next morning, he told a group of his friends in the schoolyard.

"Most of the kids ran off crying," he said. "But one turned to me and said: 'I know. I've always known. My mom told me when I was old enough to understand, because she couldn't afford presents for me.' "

Mr. Trudeau said he had immediately thought of the "mountain of presents under the tree at 24 Sussex," many of them sent by ambassadors to Canada. "That was one of those moments when I realized, 'Man, I'm very, very lucky, and it has nothing to do with the quality of the person I am or what kind of material stuff we have,' " he said. "Because this kid, Mark, was one of my best friends."

The media spotlight that fell on his childhood also obsessively documented the breakdown of his parents' marriage, a product of Margaret Trudeau's struggles with mental illness. When his father quit public life, the family moved to Montreal, and the retired prime minister led the life of a single parent, though an affluent one.

Both father and son came to elective politics relatively late in life, but Pierre Trudeau had already been active on the public stage at several important moments in Quebec's history. Notably, he supported a 1949 strike by asbestos miners, a turning point in the "quiet revolution" against the province's entrenched elite of Catholic clerics and Anglophone businessmen.

Justin Trudeau studied French and English literature at McGill University in Montreal, but after that, as he acknowledged, his path was a slightly aimless one. He went with friends on a backpacking trip around the world. He thought about law school, then returned to McGill to study education, only to drop out and move to British Columbia, his mother's home province, where he taught snowboarding and worked as a nightclub bouncer — an unlikely job, perhaps, for someone with his slender build.

"I was the one they'd send in to defuse a situation and escort someone out, because I was diplomatic," Mr. Trudeau said. "I've never felt physically threatened by anyone. I don't have a fear gene, I guess — I don't know."

He returned to education and taught in both a public high school and a private prep school in Vancouver, an experience that he said confirmed his belief in the public system.

At the prep school, "there were parents who spent a lot of time intimidating the teachers, because they make so much more money than them, and the kids were catching on to that and not respecting the teachers," he said. "There's something, I think, unhealthy about that level of privilege."

Two tragedies returned him to the public gaze. His brother Michel was killed in an avalanche in 1998, prompting a public outpouring of sympathy for the family. Then, when his devastated father died two years later, Mr. Trudeau delivered a eulogy that was broadcast live.

Rather than a safe Liberal seat, Mr. Trudeau ran in 2007 for one in downtown Montreal that was known for favoring Quebec-separatist candidates. He won, and has widened his margin of victory in each election since then.

Mr. Trudeau showed a penchant for unscripted remarks that could be refreshing or embarrassing. When Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that Canadian fighter jets would join the American-led campaign against the Islamic State militant group, Mr. Trudeau responded with a vulgar metaphor that many called juvenile. And he raised eyebrows in 2013 when he said, "There's a level of admiration I actually have for China: Their basic dictatorship is actually allowing them to turn their economy around on a dime."

Opponents have pounced on his miscues and tried to paint him as naïve and ill-prepared. But Bob Rae, the interim leader of the Liberals whom Mr. Trudeau succeeded, said the occasional verbal blunders did not reflect Mr. Trudeau's true nature. He "doesn't necessarily come to his conclusions immediately or grammatically," Mr. Rae said, but he is "a thoughtful, intelligent guy."

Mr. Rae said many people mistook Mr. Trudeau's consensual approach to politics for weakness or indiscipline. "You don't become the leader of a major party by just being a nice guy," he said.

Mr. Trudeau will become of a prime minister of many firsts, some of them trivial: the first who regularly boxes (at least one a week), the first to have acted in a television mini-series (playing a war hero in a World War I drama) and, as far as anyone knows, the first with tattoos (a globe from his 20s; a raven in a Haida Indian pattern added when he turned 40).

The circle of aides around him began as his friends. He met Gerald Butts, now his principal adviser, when they both studied at McGill. He grew up with Dominic LeBlanc, the son of one of Pierre Trudeau's cabinet ministers and now his closest ally in Parliament. Anna Gainey, the party president, is another old friend.

For all that his family connections have done for his political career, though, Mr. Trudeau said it had worked the other way, too.

"There have been people out there who love me because of my father; there are people out there who hate me because of my father," he said. "I've had to learn to not entirely disregard that, but understand that either side of those is not based in a reality that I can use as an anchor for who or what I am."

Why The Obamas Should Have A State Dinner For Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

By Emily Heil

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

Is it too soon to start a campaign to urge the White House to host newly elected Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau?

Not that we would, of course, but it seems that we neighbors to the south would like to get an up-close-and-personal look at Canada's young first couple. Make that reeal close. (Sample headline since Trudeau's election last night: Canada's hot new prime minister has the Internet sweating maple syrup.)

The Trudeaus have a lot in common with the Obamas, so it's not like the evening would be one of those stuffy, grit-your-teeth-till-it's-over affairs for POTUS and FLOTUS: At 54 and 51, they're not that much older than their Canadian counterparts: He's 43; she's 40. And they'd have lots to talk about, apart from liberal politics, like fitness! (Trudeau is an amateur boxer, and his wife is a yoga instructor, in addition to being a former TV journo).

The White House hasn't held a dinner for our friends just across the border since 1997. Compare that to France, which has had three since 1996, or the UK, which has had four since then. And previous presidents hosted Trudeau's dad, Pierre, who was his country's long-serving PM. President Jimmy Carter hosted him in 1977 and President Gerald Ford in 1974.

Picture it: Toronto-born Drake is the evening's entertainment. White House chef Cristeta Comerford whips up an artisanal version of poutine. There are subtle maple leaves in the centerpieces, and Ontario native Justin Bieber is chatting up SecState John Kerry about bilateral relations.

What's not to like, eh?

Cozying Up To Obama, Biden Says He Backed Bin Laden Raid :: WRAL.com

By Josh Lederman

[Associated Press](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON — Still silent about his presidential ambitions, Vice President Joe Biden cast himself as President Barack Obama's kindred spirit Tuesday and backtracked on his previous claims to have advised Obama against the raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

Without mentioning Hillary Rodham Clinton by name, Biden sought to portray his own leadership as more critical to the Obama administration's successes than that of the Democratic front-runner and former secretary of state. At a forum honoring former Vice President Walter Mondale, Biden offered clear hints at how, if he runs for president, he would contest Clinton's claim to the president's legacy and appeal to Democratic voters whose loyalty to Obama remains firm.

"President Obama and I have ideologically had no disagreement," Biden said. "I mean none. Zero."

In an unusual reversal, Biden revised his claim to have warned Obama against the bin Laden raid in 2011 — a notion Obama himself corroborated in a 2012 presidential debate. As Obama campaigned for re-election, that factoid had the effect of making Obama appear more bullish and prescient than his advisers, but could be used as an argument against Biden's foreign policy bona fides if he challenges Clinton for the nomination.

Clinton has said she supported the raid from the start, using it as an example on the campaign trail to bolster her credibility as a valued and hardened adviser to Obama on matters of national security. But Biden implicitly contradicted Clinton's account, insisting that only the defense secretary and CIA chief were fully in favor of the raid.

According to Biden's account, Obama asked his advisers in the Situation Room whether to proceed with the risky raid on a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Biden said he suggested holding off while the military flew another drone over the compound to gain certainty about bin Laden's whereabouts, but stopped short of saying "go" or "don't go" in front of other advisers to avoid undercutting Obama's ultimate decision.

Instead, Biden said, he waited until he and Obama had left the room and offered his opinion in private: "I told him my opinion. I thought he should go, but follow his own instincts," Biden said.

Adding another wrinkle to the historical account, Biden said he knew about the Abbottabad compound where bin Laden was hiding in August 2010 — long before the "major players" in Obama's Cabinet learned about it in January or February.

The vice president's new take on a years-old event put the White House in a difficult spot, the latest example of how a Biden candidacy would imbue the rest of Obama's presidency with heavy political overtones. White House spokesman Josh Earnest declined to say whether Biden's recollection was accurate.

"I'm going to leave the dissection and the oral history, if you will, of those days to those who were actually there," Earnest said.

The Democratic political world has been on edge for weeks awaiting a decision from Biden, who has blown past his own deadlines for deciding even as advisers insist he understands the importance of getting in or out soon. Rampant speculation took a chaotic turn Monday with a flood of assertions that Biden was running or would announce a run imminently.

With his 2016 deliberations extending deep into overtime, Biden offered no explicit clues about his decision. Yet he took a number of veiled shots at Clinton, who said in last week's Democratic debate that the enemy she was most proud to have made was "probably the Republicans."

"I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party," Biden said, adding that he still has many friends in the GOP.

In another observation that seemed directed at Clinton, Biden said he was the one Obama would dispatch to speak to key world leaders like Russian President Vladimir Putin or Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"We've had two great secretaries of state, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the president," Biden said.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

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Joe Biden Draws Distinctions Between Himself And Hillary Clinton

By Margaret Talev

[Bloomberg Politics](#), October 20, 2015

If Vice President Joe Biden decides to challenge Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination, the contours of his stump speech are in place.

At an event honoring former Vice President Walter Mondale on Tuesday, Biden portrayed himself as the central player in President Barack Obama's administration on everything from working with congressional Republicans to the killing of Osama bin Laden.

Biden sought to recast perceptions of his advice to Obama regarding the 2011 raid that killed bin Laden and suggested he was more intimately involved in decision-making than any other Cabinet official, including former secretary of state Clinton.

"I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party."

Vice President Joe Biden

His account on Tuesday differed somewhat from his previous public recollections of the deliberations. In an account given to Democratic lawmakers in 2012 Biden said that only then-CIA Director Leon Panetta was in favor of going forward with the raid. Biden told the lawmakers that he told Obama to seek more verification. "My suggestion is, don't go," he said at the time. "We have to do two more things to see if he's there."

On Tuesday, Biden said he made a case for a third option that was neither for nor against going forward and was meant to give Obama space to decide. He said he didn't want to undermine the president by staking out a position that might contradict Obama's final position. Biden said he suggested using a drone to make another attempt to verify the target. "I think we should make one more pass" to see if it really is bin Laden, Biden said on Tuesday that he told Obama.

"I didn't want to take a position to 'go' if that was not where he was going to go," he said. Biden said that minutes later when he and Obama were alone he told Obama that he would say to "go" but that ultimately Obama should "follow his own instincts."

"I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval with him alone," Biden said.

In describing his own stance, Biden also indirectly questioned Clinton's suggestion in a 2014 memoir that she had always favored the raid while Biden needed convincing. Biden said Tuesday that only two top Obama advisers took firm positions, with Panetta in favor of the raid and then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates advising against it.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said he wasn't in the room when the decision was made and that he wouldn't comment on private conversations between Obama and Biden.

William Daley, who was White House chief of staff at the time and was at Tuesday's event, told the New York Times that Biden's account of the Situation Room discussion was correct.

For the second time this week, Biden also sought to portray himself as a pragmatist who's capable of working with Republicans, drawing a subtle contrast with party front-runner Clinton.

"I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party," Biden said during the moderated discussion, in which he and Mondale shared their experiences as vice president. By contrast, Clinton named "the Republicans" as one of her greatest enemies when asked at the Oct. 13 Democratic candidate debate.

Like Mondale, Biden spent years before becoming vice president as a member of the Senate, where the rules make it nearly impossible to move legislation without compromise. He has served as Obama's chief emissary to Congress, particularly in negotiations with the Republican leadership there.

During the moderated discussion with Mondale, Biden also said that "we've had two great secretaries of state," under President Obama, Clinton and John Kerry, but that when the vice president speaks with a foreign leader, they know that "I am speaking for the president."

Biden is expected to signal whether he intends to make a third try for the Democratic nomination by the end of the week, according to people close to him. He has stepped-up contacts with union officials and other prospective backers in recent days.

Clinton, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, and the other Democratic candidates are scheduled to speak at Saturday's Jefferson-Jackson dinner for the Iowa Democratic Party, which attracts thousands of Democratic activists in the first-caucus state. Biden's staff has neither signaled nor ruled out an appearance at the dinner in Des Moines.

Biden Revises Account Of His Advice On Bin Laden Raid

By Paul Singer

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

Vice President Biden has revised his account of his advice to President Obama on the raid that led to the death of Osama bin Laden in 2011.

While Biden reiterated that he suggested in front of Cabinet officials that Obama wait, on Tuesday Biden added another element to the story: Privately, he told Obama to move forward.

"As we walked out of the room and walked upstairs, I told him my opinion, that I thought he should go but follow his own instincts," Biden said during remarks at the "Walter Mondale: Living Legacy" forum.

The comment followed an account by Mondale of how he would only disagree with President Jimmy Carter in private during his tenure as vice president. Biden agreed and said that advice from Mondale came in "extremely handy" during the decision process leading to the May 2011 raid by U.S. Navy SEALs on bin Laden's compound.

Biden said he was part of a small group that knew as early as August 2010 that bin Laden may be hiding out in Abbottabad, Pakistan. When Obama asked Cabinet officials for their advice, only two were definitive. Then-CIA Director Leon Panetta said to go ahead with the raid, while then-Defense Secretary Bob Gates advised against it, Biden said.

"Others were 59-41," he said. "Some ended up saying 'go,' but it was such a close call."

Biden repeated his previous statement that he advised during that meeting against immediate action and added that he said, "I think we should make one more pass" with a drone to ensure bin Laden was there.

But this time, Biden said he actually didn't want to take a public position that ran afoul of the president's wishes.

"It would have been a mistake," Biden said. "Imagine if I had said in front of everyone, 'don't go, or go' and his decision was a different decision. It undercuts that relationship. I never on a difficult issue, never say what I think, finally, until I go up in the Oval with him alone."

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said he was not in the Situation Room at the time and couldn't shed any additional light on what advice Biden gave.

"There have already been books that have been written about this. I'm confident there will be more," Earnest said. "I will leave the dissection and the oral history of those days to those who were actually there."

After the forum, former White House chief of staff Bill Daley backed up Biden's account, telling reporters in the audience, "I was in the room and I saw him walk out with the president," according to a tweet from Paul Kane of The Washington Post.

"His explanation of that is absolutely on point," Daley said, according to another tweet from Kane.

In January 2012, Biden told Democratic members of Congress during a retreat that his advice was "don't go" and "We have to do two more things to see if he's there." He then ended the story there, citing the situation as an example of Obama's strength as a leader.

Later, Biden referenced his private conversation with Obama during a May 2012 interview on Meet the Press, saying "I knew he was going to go."

"He looked at me again, and I said 'Follow your instincts, Mr. President,'" Biden said.

Biden's account of the Cabinet meeting, in which Panetta was the only official to definitively green-light the raid, may conflict with the account by Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, who was then serving as secretary of State.

In her book *Hard Choices*, Clinton wrote that she respected Biden's and Gates' concerns about the risks of a raid. She said she laid out the risks for Obama, but she concluded the raid was worth it.

"I thought we should go for it," she wrote.

Biden, who is considering a presidential run, made other statements during the Tuesday forum that could be perceived as digs at Clinton, including his reference to his relationship with Republicans. During the first Democratic debate on Oct. 13, Clinton listed Republicans among the enemies she's most proud of making.

"Whenever there's a problem, I get sent to the Hill, which, by the way, is a useful use of my time because I really respect the members up there, and I still have a lot of Republican friends," said Biden, who represented Delaware in the Senate for 36 years before becoming vice president.

"I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican party," he said. "This is a matter of making things work."

Biden also said the administration has had two "great" secretaries of state.

"But when I go, they know I am speaking for the president," he said.

Biden Says He Didn't Oppose Raid That Killed Bin Laden

By Gardiner Harris And Jonathan Martin

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON — If Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. decides to run for the presidency again, his best chance may well be to present himself as President Obama's third-term successor. On Tuesday, Mr. Biden took the first step, describing himself as Mr. Obama's most essential partner while taking subtle swipes at his would-be rival for the Democratic nomination, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Along the way, Mr. Biden sought to recast his role in the raid to kill Osama bin Laden, arguably the most picked-over moment of Mr. Obama's presidency and one that might hurt Mr. Biden's presidential chances.

Mr. Biden had previously said that he had advised the president against launching the special forces raid on the Abbottabad compound where Bin Laden was suspected of hiding. At a Democratic congressional retreat in January 2012, Mr. Biden said that almost every other official in the Situation Room had hedged on a response when asked by the president whether he should order the raid.

"I said, 'We owe the man a direct answer. Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there,'" Mr. Biden said then.

It was a potential weakness that Mrs. Clinton has signaled she might exploit. At a debate last week in Las Vegas, Mrs. Clinton boasted she was one of the few advisers to support "the tough decision that President Obama had to make about Osama bin Laden."

But by January 2013, Mr. Biden had begun hedging on whether he had opposed the raid.

"I remember walking up to his office and saying: 'Look, follow your instincts. Follow your instincts,'" he said in a January 2013 interview.

When asked specifically whether he had advised against the raid, Mr. Biden said: "Let me put it this way: My advice was, follow your instincts, knowing what his instinct was."

On Tuesday, Mr. Biden's evolution continued. Before an audience at George Washington University, Mr. Biden said he never gave Mr. Obama definitive advice on controversial issues in front of other officials, mindful that he did not want the rest of the team to see a difference between his opinion and that of the president. With others around them, Mr. Biden said he suggested one more pass over the Abbottabad compound with an unmanned aerial vehicle, or drone.

After the meeting in the Situation Room, though, Mr. Biden said he privately gave the president his real view. "As we walked out of the room and went upstairs, I told him my opinion, that I said that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts," Mr. Biden said Tuesday.

William M. Daley, who was Mr. Obama's chief of staff at the time and was present in the Situation Room when the Abbottabad raid was discussed, said shortly after Tuesday's forum that the meeting occurred as Mr. Biden described it.

The description of the meeting about the Abbottabad raid was one of several moments when Mr. Biden seemed to take swipes, at least indirectly, at Mrs. Clinton. He did not mention Mrs. Clinton as among those who had definitively supported the Abbottabad raid, although she and Mr. Daley said she had been. In a wide-ranging conversation with former Vice President Walter F. Mondale about his vice presidency, Mr. Biden mentioned that he had flown more than one million miles to speak to world leaders.

"We've had two great secretaries of state," he said, "but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the president. There is nothing missed between the lip and the cup. Whatever I say, the president is saying."

At another point in the discussion, Mr. Biden mentioned that he was the administration's primary interlocutor with Capitol Hill.

"And I still have a lot of Republican friends," Mr. Biden said, adding for the second time in two days, "I don't think my chief enemy there is the Republican Party. This is a matter of making things work." Later, at another event honoring the 87-year-old Mr. Mondale on Tuesday night, Mr. Biden went even further, calling it "naïve" to think that the country can be governed without bipartisan cooperation.

In last week's Democratic debate, Mrs. Clinton was asked which enemies she is most proud of making.

"Well, in addition to the N.R.A., the health insurance companies, the drug companies, the Iranians," she responded to laughter, "probably the Republicans."

Mr. Biden's subtle digs could presage the kind of negative primary campaign that has so far largely been confined to the Republican side. Even if he does not enter the race, the vice president's comments suggested that he is unhappy with Mrs. Clinton and unlikely to get behind his former Senate and administration colleague any time soon. Either possibility — testy rival or sideline critic — is not pretty for Democrats and particularly Obama loyalists.

Political analysts have pointed out that Mr. Biden's best and perhaps only chance to secure his party's nomination would be to persuade center-left Democrats, particularly blacks and Hispanics, that he and not Mrs. Clinton is Mr. Obama's true heir. Mr. Obama remains wildly popular among those groups. A Washington Post/ABC News poll this week put the president's approval rating at 78 percent among nonwhite voters.

Mr. Biden was not the only one seeming to eye Mr. Obama's voters on Tuesday. A few hours before the event here, Mrs. Clinton's campaign released a list of more than 50 black mayors supporting her campaign, more than half of them from South Carolina, an early nominating state where Mr. Biden is expected to compete aggressively should he run.

So far, Mr. Obama has done nothing to signal that he would bestow such a blessing on either his vice president or his former secretary of state. But Mr. Biden did his best to suggest that he and the president are all but joined at the hip.

He said the two of them spent four to seven hours every day together, that the president had given him veto authority over every cabinet pick, that he never disagreed with the president ideologically, only tactically, and that even their families were close.

Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, said that while four to seven hours together "is not a daily occurrence" the claim was "generally accurate."

Biden's Evolving Position On The Osama Bin Laden Raid

By Greg Jaffe

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

Vice President Biden seemed to change his account on Tuesday of the role he played in the White House debate surrounding the 2011 raid that killed Osama bin Laden. This time he recalled telling President Obama that he strongly supported sending in a team of Navy SEALs into Pakistan to kill or capture the al-Qaeda leader.

"As we walked out of the room, walked upstairs, I told him my opinion: I thought he should go, but follow his own instincts," Biden said Tuesday at a George Washington University forum.

With Biden mulling a run for the presidency, his latest account seems designed to buttress his qualifications to serve as commander-in-chief. But the vice president, who has a reputation as a voice of caution when it comes to committing American forces, seems to have contradicted his earlier memories of the final meeting before the bin Laden raid.

Biden's revised account puts him in the same camp as Hillary Rodham Clinton, Obama's former secretary of state and Biden's chief rival if he runs, who has long said that she supported sending in special operations forces to raid bin Laden's Abbottabad compound in Pakistan.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest declined to answer questions about whether Biden had changed his story. "I'm going to leave the dissection and the oral history, if you will, of those days to those who were actually there," Earnest said.

Former White House chief of staff Bill Daley backed up a key element of Biden's account. "I think the way he articulated it was absolutely the truth. I was in the room and I saw him walk out with the president," said Daley, who wasn't part of their private, post-meeting conversation.

In 2012 remarks at a Democratic congressional retreat, Biden suggested that he had been against launching the raid until there was better intelligence about bin Laden's whereabouts. "Every single person in that room hedged their bet except Leon Panetta," Biden said, according to 2012 ABC News report. "He got to me. He said, 'Joe, what do you think?' And I said, 'You know, I didn't know we had so many economists around the table.' I said, 'We owe the man a direct answer. Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there.'"

Biden gave a slightly fuzzier accounting to NBC News's "Meet the Press" a few months later. The vice president recalled Obama taking a "roll call" of his top national security advisers: "The only guy who had a full-throated 'go, Mr. President,' was Leon Panetta," Biden told NBC. He said held back his advice until he and the president were alone and then counseled: "Follow your instincts, Mr. President. Your instincts have been close to unerring; follow your instincts."

Biden's memory is directly at odds with at least one other account of the lead up to the historic raid. Then-Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates recalled the same meeting in his book, "Duty," and described Biden as being staunchly opposed to launching the commandos. "Biden was against the operation," Gates writes. "[Gen. James] Cartwright and I supported the drone option. Panetta was in favor of the raid. Everyone else acknowledged it was a close call but also supported the raid."

A few pages prior, Gates said that he and Biden were the "two primary skeptics" of the raid.

In the past Obama has suggested that Biden opposed the raid. During his third presidential debate, Obama referred to Romney's previously voiced skepticism about the raid. "Those decisions generally—generally are not poll-tested," Obama said. "And even some in my own party, including my current vice president, had the same critique as you did."

Joe Biden Draws Contrasts With Hillary Clinton, Touts His Experience

Vice president details central role he has played in the Obama administration

By Colleen McCain Nelson And Peter Nicholas

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Joe Biden Offers A New Account Of His Role In The Bin Laden Raid

By Michael A. Memoli, Contact Reporter

[Los Angeles Times](#), October 21, 2015

Joe Biden used a Washington forum on the vice presidency Tuesday to highlight his close relationship with President Obama that would be at the heart of Biden's potential presidential campaign, even offering a fresh account of his counsel to Obama about targeting Osama bin Laden.

Through that anecdote and other remarks, Biden drew an implicit contrast with would-be rivals, primarily Hillary Rodham Clinton, in underscoring his singular closeness to Obama. But Biden's comments, while easily interpreted as politically infused given the ongoing speculation over whether he'll run, were in keeping with the spirit of the event – a tribute to how Walter Mondale, Jimmy Carter's vice president, modernized the office.

Still, by pointing to his own record, Biden seemed be countering assertions made by the declared candidates during the first Democratic debate a week ago.

Clinton had said during the debate that, as secretary of State, she was frequently in Situation Room meetings with Obama, "going over some very difficult issues." Among them was the decision to launch a special forces raid on a compound in Pakistan where Bin Laden was believed to be.

Clinton said last week that she was among Obama's "few advisors" advocating that he go through with the raid. Biden has previously said he urged the president to wait for more intelligence that might confirm Bin Laden's presence.

But on Tuesday, Biden offered a new account. The only Cabinet members who advised the president one way or another with absolute certainty were then-CIA Director Leon E. Panetta, who was in favor of a raid, and then-Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, who was against one, Biden said.

"Leon Panetta said, 'Go.' And Bob Gates, who has already publicly said this, said, 'Don't go.'" Others were torn, Biden said.

In the Situation Room, with others present, Biden said he advocated the president take "one more pass," sending a drone to see whether Bin Laden was at the compound. But in private, he said, he offered Obama different counsel.

"As we walked out of the room and walked upstairs, I said – I told him my opinion, that I thought he should go, but follow his own instincts," Biden said. "I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval with him alone."

That account differed from what has previously been reported and, to an extent, from what Biden himself has said. But William Daley, Obama's chief of staff at the time of the raid, confirmed Biden's account.

"That's exactly what happened," Daley said in a brief interview at Tuesday's event. "I've not heard him articulate it in that complete form. But he was absolutely accurate."

The Bin Laden raid was not the only example Biden offered of his unmatched relationship with Obama. "Depending on the season," Biden noted, the two spend four to seven hours a day together. And when they were first elected, Obama offered Biden veto power over the choice of Cabinet members and agreed to Biden's condition that Biden be "the last person in the room" for every major decision.

They argued at times, to be sure, but in the way that friends do, he said, and ultimately always agreed on a final decision.

The vice president said that although Obama has had "two great secretaries of State," when Biden traveled abroad to meet with foreign leaders, "they know that I am speaking for the president."

For the second straight day, Biden also seemed to draw another contrast with Clinton, who in the debate listed Republicans as among the enemies she was proudest to have.

"I still have a lot of Republican friends," Biden said Tuesday as he discussed how often he'd been sent to Capitol Hill on administration priorities. "I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party. This is a matter of making things work."

Biden noted he had initially refused Obama's offer to join the ticket but was ultimately persuaded to sign on by his family.

"The best decision of my political career was to join the president," he said.

For now.

Biden Sets Himself Apart From Clinton In Speech

By Cameron Joseph

[New York Daily News](#), October 20, 2015

WASHINGTON — Joe Biden isn't yet in the White House race — but that isn't stopping him from drawing some implicit contrasts with Hillary Clinton, and contradicting her version of the raid that killed Osama Bin Laden.

Biden used his time on a panel with former Vice President Walter to rebuke Clinton's version of the Bin Laden raid, disputing claims he opposed it and suggesting she wasn't as adamantly in favor as she claims.

The vice president, who's expected to make a final decision on running for the White House in the coming days, never mentioned Clinton by name. But time and again he suggested how he'd contrast himself with the Democratic front-runner if he does run for President.

He said he knew about Bin Laden's compound months before most of the cabinet, and claimed Clinton wasn't 100% firm on going after the terrorist leader. That contradicts Clinton's version — and changes his own version of the story by adding that he'd intentionally avoided taking a stand while meeting with the cabinet before privately backing it so as to not create a possible split with Obama.

Biden said Defense Secretary Leon Panetta was the only person in the room who was unequivocal in supporting the raid, and claimed that he personally supported a "third option" of more surveillance in the meeting before privately telling Obama he thought he should go through with the raid.

"I didn't want to take a position to go if that was not where he was going to go. So as we walked out of the room and walked upstairs I said, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go, but to follow his own instincts," Biden said.

Biden's new details make him out to be a supporter of the high-stakes raid that killed Bin Laden — a big shift from the common narrative that he resisted it, one Clinton's allies have hinted could be a main attack line if Biden does jump into the race. Clinton regularly mentions her support of the raid on the campaign trail.

"I said, 'We owe the man a direct answer. Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there,'" Biden told House Democrats in January 2012.

Bill Daley, Obama's chief of staff at the time of the Bin Laden raid who was in the meeting, told the Daily News after the panel that Biden's new version of events was "totally accurate."

"Some have spun that he was against it. The way that he articulated it was the absolute truth," he said. "Walking up the stairs, he absolutely did that, he walked out with the president that day."

Biden took some other veiled shots at Clinton throughout the event, repeatedly emphasizing his close relationship with President Obama and arguing he's the man who can reach across the aisle to end D.C.'s partisan gridlock.

"I still have a lot of Republican friends," he said for the second time in as many days, alluding to Clinton's comments during last week's debate that Republicans were one of the enemies she's most proud of. "I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party. This is a matter of making things work."

He said he agreed to join Obama's presidential ticket because "I was simpatico with the president-elect" and because "we had a genuine relationship," before claiming Obama gave him a veto over any potential cabinet members, implying he had to approve Clinton as secretary of state. Tags: joe biden , hillary clinton , 2016 election

As He Ponders Run, Biden Touts Accomplishments At Forum

By Annie Linskey

[Boston Globe](#), October 20, 2015

WASHINGTON – Vice President Joe Biden stressed his close ties to President Obama, touted his bipartisan relationships on Capitol Hill, and bragged about his foreign policy chops during a forum at George Washington University Tuesday morning.

It sounded an awful lot like the outline of a stump speech.

Biden's deliberations about whether to jump into the 2016 presidential race have put Washington on edge. The clearest sign of that angst came on Monday night when The Washington Post accidentally published a story online declaring that Biden had entered the race. The piece was quickly taken down.

On Tuesday morning, Biden sat on stage with former Vice President Walter Mondale for a moderated conversation about the vice presidency.

Biden reminded the audience of his tendency to speak his mind — a trait that's hurt him in the past but is prized in the current electoral environment where authenticity is being rewarded over polish.

Clinton takes lead over Sanders in poll

Hillary Clinton regained much of the ground she lost during a summer of controversy, a new Washington Post-ABC News poll found.

E-mail rekindles speculation on Biden run

"No one doubts I mean what I say," Biden said. "Sometimes I say all that I mean."

Perhaps the most telling segment of the talk occurred when Biden revealed more about the back story of the 2011 decision to send special forces into Pakistan to kill Osama bin Laden, a risky move that is one of Obama's most significant foreign policy wins.

Biden has been on record recommending against the move, while Democratic front runner Hillary Clinton has said she supported sending in forces.

Biden, on Tuesday, said he was aware of Bin Laden's suspected hideout for a year prior to the raid and explained that he didn't want to unduly pressure the president by stating his views on the raid in front of other cabinet secretaries.

He said his private counsel to Obama was that the U.S. conduct one additional intelligence pass before giving the "go" order.

The vice president also cast doubt on Clinton's account that she fully supported the raid, saying that only two members of the cabinet offered Obama clear cut advice: Former Central Intelligence Director Leon Panetta, who recommended "yes;" and U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who was a "no" (he preferred bombing the compound).

The rest of the top officials — a group that included Clinton — all hedged, Biden said.

Biden also stressed some of his domestic policy wins. He talked about his role implementing the economic stimulus program, one of the early projects that Obama gave him.

"To this day, we are simpatico on all the major issues," Biden said of his relationship with Obama.

Biden drew another contrast with Clinton, saying "I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party."

During the Democratic debate last week, Clinton named "Republicans" as one group that she views as her enemy.

The one area that might raise a concern among some Democratic primary voters was his defense of former Vice President Dick Cheney, who is reviled by the party base.

"I actually like Dick Cheney for real," Biden said, adding that he was "very gracious" during the transition.

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Biden Says He Backed Bin Laden Raid All Along

By Jake Sherman

[Politico](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden on Tuesday contradicted Hillary Clinton's and his own previous accounts of the debate over the raid that killed Osama bin Laden — but he and the White House chief of staff at the time say this one is the accurate one.

Biden's revised account puts him further out in favor of going into Abbottabad than any member of President Barack Obama's cabinet at the time other than Leon Panetta, then the director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

That would include Clinton, Biden's potential opponent in the Democratic primary, should he decide to run.

It also seems to conflict with what Obama himself said about the decision, during his third 2012 debate with Mitt Romney, while reflecting on the Republican nominee's suggestion that he should have sought permission for the raid from the Pakistani government.

"Even some in my own party, including my current vice president, had the same critique as you did," Obama said then.

Tuesday, White House press secretary Josh Earnest deflected questions about Biden's new account of the debate, saying that comments about what happened should be left to the people who were in the room, which he was not.

"The decision that mattered was the decision that was made by the president of the United States," Earnest said.

On Tuesday morning, speaking at a forum at George Washington University, Biden said that he remembered being in favor of the raid all along, but worried about saying so in front of the other people in the room if Obama ultimately decided against it, to avoid causing a problem for the president on such a major decision.

"It would have been a mistake. Imagine if I had said in front of everybody, 'Don't go,' or 'Go,' and his decision was a different decision," Biden said. "It undercuts that relationship. I never — on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval [Office] with him alone."

Biden said that when he and Obama spoke privately after that meeting, he pressed the case to send in the Navy SEALs.

"As we walked out of the room, walked upstairs, I told him my opinion: I thought he should go, but follow his own instincts," Biden said.

Clinton, then the secretary of state, has discussed her position in the debate over the raid, saying that she was always for it, unlike others — Biden included — who had reservations. Biden has often been frustrated with that portrayal, even though Biden's previous statements appear to contradict his new account.

At a retreat for House Democrats in January 2012, Biden reportedly said he had told Obama not to do the raid during a meeting in the White House Situation Room.

"Every single person in that room hedged their bet except Leon Panetta," the New York Times reported Biden saying. "Leon said go. Everyone else said, 49, 51."

Asked by Obama what he thought, Biden relayed at the time, "We owe the man a direct answer. Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there."

In May 2012, Biden spoke about it differently in an appearance on "Meet the Press."

"I walked out of that meeting, as I usually do — I get to be the last guy to be with the president — we walked up toward the residence, toward his office," Biden said. "And I knew he was going to go. And what I always tell him when he — he looked at me again, and I said, follow your instincts, Mr. President. Your instincts have been close to unerring; follow your instincts."

Speaking on Tuesday morning at the forum co-hosted by the University of Minnesota celebrating the legacy of former Vice President Walter Mondale, Biden again recalled the moment as he discussed his central and unmatched role within the Obama White House.

To start, Biden said, he knew about the Abbottabad compound as early as August 2010, though "major players in the Cabinet didn't know about it until January or February."

The raid was on May 2, 2011.

Describing the scene in what he says was the Cabinet Room in the White House, Biden said there were only two people with firm opinions about what to do: Panetta and Gates, who has already said publicly that he was a no.

"Others," Biden said, were "49, 51."

Some ultimately said go, Biden said, but it was such a close call, he recalled saying to the Cabinet members that they "sounded like 17 Larry Summers" — economists saying, "on the one hand, on the other hand."

Biden's account Tuesday touched on an explanation for what he said at the meeting, which was seen as being against the raid.

"There was a third option that I didn't really think we should do. I said, 'Well, I think that we should make one more pass with another UAV to see if it is him,'" Biden said, referring to drone aircraft. "The reason I did that is I didn't want to take a position to go if that was not where he was going to go."

The vice president's office declined further comment, but Bill Daley, the White House chief of staff at the time, backed up Biden's new account in an interview after the vice president's remarks — though he acknowledged he was not privy to Biden's conversation with the president.

"The motivation's kind of fudgy, as is obvious — the Situation Room's not as private as you'd think it should be," Daley said, agreeing that this moment reflected Biden's practice of not disagreeing with Obama in front of others. "In the decision, that was pretty much his sort of fudging, and then he went out with the president as he said and walked up the stairs with him."

"That was about the most complete and accurate explanation I've heard from the vice president, which is reflected in what I remember," Daley said, adding that it's the previous version Biden has given that doesn't match his memory. "I don't remember him being that emphatic saying, 'Don't go, don't do this.'"

Panetta, in his book "Worthy Fights," gave a different account of both Clinton and Biden.

"Clinton acknowledged that more time might give us better intelligence, a sentiment others advanced as well, but she concluded that this was a rare opportunity and believed we should seize it," Panetta wrote. "Biden argued that we still did not have enough confidence that bin Laden was in the compound, and he came out firmly in favor of waiting for more information."

Mike Morell, then the deputy director of the CIA under Panetta, also recounted Biden's role in his own book, "The Great War of Our Time."

"The vice president was unconvinced about the intelligence and concerned about what a failed mission would do to our relations with Pakistan," Morell wrote.

Some other reported accounts say that Biden was concerned that if the raid had gone wrong, it might have cost Obama re-election.

Gates, whose book "Duty," is critical of Biden throughout to a degree that the vice president and other senior officials felt was unfair, wrote that "Biden's primary concern was the political consequences of failure."

Biden Contradicts Clinton's Account Of Bin Laden Raid Decision

By Jordan Fabian

[The Hill](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Biden on Tuesday offered a different account of his advice to President Obama on the Osama bin Laden raid, an issue that could haunt him if he decides to challenge Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Biden said that only two advisers — then-CIA Director Leon Panetta and Defense Secretary Robert Gates — gave definitive answers on whether Obama should carry out the raid, contradicting Clinton's claim she fully backed the mission.

"Panetta said go, Bob Gates said don't go," Biden said during a panel discussion with former Vice President Walter Mondale at George Washington University.

The vice president disputed claims he opposed the mission. He said he privately supported the raid, but while in a room with other advisers, recommended that Obama wait to verify whether bin Laden was actually in the Abbottabad, Pakistan, compound before launching the strike.

Biden said he only advised Obama to go when the two were alone to avoid boxing the president in on a decision.

"I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts," Biden said. "I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval [Office] with him alone."

Biden's account, however, differs from the one he gave in 2012. At that time, he told House Democrats he warned against the operation, one of the most consequential decisions of Obama's presidency.

"Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go," Biden told lawmakers, according to The New York Times. "We have to do two more things to see if he's there."

And the new account is different from Clinton's claim that she advised Obama to carry out the raid. During last week's Democratic debate, Clinton said she was "one of his few advisers" on the discussions surrounding the mission.

"He valued my judgment, and I spent a lot of time with him in the Situation Room, going over some very difficult issues," Clinton said of the president.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest on Tuesday dodged multiple questions about Biden's latest account of the raid, saying he would not comment on private conversations between the president and the vice president.

"I am going to leave the dissection and the oral history of those days to those who were actually there," Earnest said. "I don't have any new insight to share with you about the president's recollection of those events."

Earnest, who said he was following Biden's remarks on Twitter, said he was "not particularly" surprised by the vice president's new account but declined to elaborate further.

Biden used the hour-long appearance on Tuesday to draw sharp distinctions with Clinton while touting his close relationship with Obama.

He argued he would be best suited to work across the aisle with Republicans and carry on the legacy of Obama, who remains extremely popular with Democratic voters.

The vice president, who is expected to announce a 2016 decision in the coming days, did not mention Clinton by name, but he took a subtle jab at the former secretary of State, who said during the debate she sees Republicans as her "enemy."

"I still have a lot of Republican friends," Biden said. "I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party. This is a matter of making things work."

Biden said he's fond of former Vice President Dick Cheney, a deeply unpopular figure with Democrats, even though he disagrees with how he used his office.

"I actually like Dick Cheney, for real," Biden said. "I get on with him. I think he's a decent man."

Biden said he agreed to become Obama's vice president because of their close personal relationship and their nearly identical views on policy.

"It started off that I knew I was simpatico with the president-elect," Biden said. "We had a genuine relationship."

Biden said Obama granted him the ability to sign off on all Cabinet picks, implying that he agreed to allow Clinton to become secretary of State.

And he suggested he had the upper hand on Clinton and her successor, John Kerry, when speaking with foreign leaders.

"We've had two great secretaries of State, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the president," Biden said.

— This story was updated at 1:38 p.m.

Biden's Boasts Wreck Earnest's Day

It's not the first time the president's spokesman has had to field awkward questions about top aides with political ambitions.

By Sarah Wheaton

[Politico](#), October 20, 2015

For a politician who projects authenticity, Vice President Joe Biden seemed to stumble around the truth on Tuesday.

It wasn't just that he contradicted his initial accounts of the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden, claiming for the first time that he did, indeed, recommend that President Barack Obama go forward with the operation. It was also that he claimed to have veto power over nominations and to speak for the president with more authority than other top officials do.

Since Biden hasn't decided whether to run for president, but is facing campaign-level scrutiny, it was up to Obama's press secretary, Josh Earnest, to handle fact-checking questions about some of Biden's other claims.

"I am not aware of the kinds of conversations that then-Sen. Obama had with then-Sen. Biden about him coming on board as the running mate. I don't have any information about that," Earnest said.

Does Biden, as he also claimed at an event to honor Walter Mondale on Tuesday, really have veto power over Obama's Cabinet nominations?

"You'll have to take it up with one of the two of them if they're willing to talk about it publicly."

There was also Biden's boast about speaking for the president on foreign trips.

"We've had two great secretaries of state, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the president," Biden said.

It's true that Biden is often called on to speak to foreign leaders in the president's stead, both at home and abroad. But reporters pressed Earnest on whether Biden's voice was somehow more powerful than other top Cabinet officials.

"They're receiving him because the president has asked him to go," Earnest said. "I think the same thing could be said about the secretary of state or any other senior U.S. official that represents the U.S. government." Earnest did note that the significance of a vice presidential visit was Biden's "close, personal relationship" with Obama.

Earnest has had to field such questions before, and he's made clear he doesn't enjoy it. For instance, when Hillary Clinton was slow to formally start her campaign, Earnest was stuck defending her private email server from the podium.

While Biden has his own press operation, his staff are reluctant to speak on the record, and they also are not in a position to verify the details of a private conversation with the president.

CBS correspondent Major Garrett captured the challenge for both the press corps and the press secretary when it comes to Biden's claims.

"There's no other person that we can ask directly, other than the president and you, about what he did and didn't do," Garrett said.

Earnest noted that Obama has heaped praise on the vice president's contributions. But if Biden runs, both he and Clinton will be "responsible for making their own case."

Earnest added, "If there is an instance in which the president's interests are at stake, then it's my responsibility to make sure that his interests are properly and well represented."

Earnest also said it's a "luxury for me, not a burden" to be reviewing the record of someone who wants to continue the mission of the current administration. It was unclear whether he was making that case to the press corps, or to himself.

Sarah Wheaton is a White House reporter for Politico.

Biden Contradicts Earlier Account Of Bin Laden Raid

[TIME](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden offered a contradictory account of his long-running assertion that he opposed the raid that ultimately killed Osama bin Laden in 2011, saying Tuesday, as he is weighing a run for the Oval Office, that he encouraged President Obama to launch the operation at the time.

Speaking at the Walter Mondale: Living Legacy forum in Washington, Biden said he withheld his view on the dangerous operation in Pakistan until he saw Obama one-on-one, so as not to jeopardize the perception of their relationship.

"We walked out of the room and walked up stairs," Biden said. "I told him my opinion: I thought he should go, but to follow his own instincts."

Biden maintained that only two Cabinet officers weighed in firmly on the strike, Defense Secretary Robert Gates in opposition and CIA Director Leon Panetta in favor. "We sat in the Cabinet room, and at the end of the day, making the decision, he said I want everyone's opinion. And everyone went around the room, and there were only two people who were definitive, and were absolutely certain: Panetta said go, Bob Gates said don't go," he said.

But the narrative runs in the face of the one Biden himself offered in 2012, as well as that offered by Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, who was the Secretary of State at the time and has said she was supportive of the operation.

In a meeting with House Democrats in 2012, Biden recounted "Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there," the New York Times reported, in an account later verified by the White House.

By Obama's own account, Biden was skeptical of the raid. "Those decisions generally—generally are not poll-tested," Obama told CBS's Bob Schieffer in the third presidential debate in 2012. "And even some in my own party, including my current vice president, had the same critique as you did."

In her book, *Hard Choices*, Clinton wrote that she supported the operation at the time. "I came to the conclusion that the intelligence was convincing and the risks were outweighed by the benefits of success," she wrote. "We just had to make sure it worked." Earlier this year, Clinton told the South Carolina Democratic Party chair, "I was one who recommended to the president that he go ahead. And his advisers were split."

Read More: [Joe Biden's Weird Relationship with His Boss](#)

The divide over the bin Laden raid is one of the key foreign policy differences between Biden and Clinton, and Biden's attempt to rewrite the established narrative sent Washington speculation into his possible run into overdrive. As a candidate for president in 2008, Clinton was deeply critical of Obama's then-hypothetical support for launching a strike in Pakistan to kill or capture the man responsible for the 9/11 attack.

"Last summer, he basically threatened to bomb Pakistan, which I don't think was a particularly wise position to take," she said in a February 2008 debate.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest declined to clarify the discrepancy Tuesday. "The people in the room at the times are the ones that should be consulted," he said.

"Historians will probably tell you this is not the first time a significant political event has prompted different recollections to different people," he added.

Biden Contradicts Clinton, Himself On Bin Laden Raid Decision

By Chuck Ross

[Daily Caller](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden appeared to contradict Hillary Clinton's claim that she adamantly backed the decision to carry out the May 2, 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan.

But Biden, who many believe is set to challenge Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination, also appeared to contradict his own past admission that he opposed the mission.

Speaking at a panel discussion with former Vice President Walter Mondale at George Washington University on Tuesday, Biden detailed the discussion among Obama's cabinet and other top officials over whether to dispatch SEAL Team 6 to carry out the raid, in which bin Laden was killed.

Biden said that only two advisers — then-CIA director Leon Panetta and then-Sec. of Defense Robert Gates — had “definitive” positions.

“Panetta said go, Bob Gates...said don't go,” Biden said.

“Others were 59-41 [sic], some ended up saying ‘go,’ but it was such a close call,” he added.

That claim of nuanced deliberation contrasts with Clinton's assertions that she was unwavering in her support for the mission.

“I was one who recommended to the president that he go ahead,” Clinton said during an interview in July.

The former secretary of state has touted her support of the mission as evidence that she is capable of making tough decisions during trying times.

But Biden also contradicted himself on Tuesday.

“Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there,” Biden said during the fateful meeting, he told a group of Democrats in Jan. 2012.

But during Tuesday's event, Biden portrayed a more nuanced decision-making process.

“I think we should make one more pass with another UAV to see if it is him,” he says he told Obama during the cabinet meeting. He said that he “didn't want to take a position to go if that was not where [Obama] was going to go.”

Biden said that he had a private conversation with Obama after the meeting in which he said that he should approve the raid.

“I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts,” Biden said. “I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval [Office] with him alone.”

Joe Biden Really Sounds Like Someone Who Is Running For President

[Mic](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden has been agonizing over a run for the Democratic presidential nomination for months now, but with one debate already gone and the other candidates steadily building support and reinforcing campaign apparatuses, the time for a final decision is near.

On the other hand, maybe he has already decided.

Over the past 24 hours, at least two people who might know — Fox News chief White House correspondent Ed Henry and Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.) — have said they were told the vice president was preparing to join the race. Biden himself has been talking plenty, but has remained largely silent on his future plans.

So we're left to continue on reading the tea leaves. During a panel discussion with former Vice President Walter Mondale on Tuesday, Biden dropped several hints about what a potential candidacy might look like.

Though he did not hint about his choice or when he might announce it, Biden didn't simply “sound like a candidate” — he sounded like a candidate very clearly attempting to edge out a rival, Hillary Clinton. He nimbly poked at his former colleague with a handful of ostensibly offhand comments that just so happened to answer potential criticism while drawing himself closer to President Barack Obama, who remains popular with Democratic primary voters.

Here's what Biden said: Surprise! Biden was totally in favor of the bin Laden raid. Source: Mic/C-SPAN

This one is grabbing headlines. The question of whether to launch a special forces raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan in 2011 was thought to have caused a sharp division in the Obama administration. The intelligence community was not 100% sure the target was in fact the terror leader's compound, and there were doubts about the wisdom of sending troops deep into Pakistan to find out if it was.

For the past four years, Biden has been cast as one of the doubters who cautioned against military action, and publicly recounted his skepticism. Clinton has happily touted herself as one of the mission's strongest backers, claiming in an interview in July that “I was one who recommended to the president that he go ahead.”

On Tuesday, however, Biden added a wrinkle to that narrative, changing his story to claim that he had told Obama in private that he should approve the raid while casting a skeptical eye in front of the rest of the national security team.

“I said I think we should make one more pass with another UAV (unarmed aerial vehicle or drone) to see if it is [Bin Laden],” Biden said, claiming that this was not his real opinion. “The reason I did that,” he continued, “is I didn't want to take a position to go if that was not where [Obama] was going to go.” Biden, in case you thought otherwise, was Obama's real voice abroad. Source: Mic/C-SPAN

Biden called Clinton a “great” secretary of state. But not, by pretty clear implication here, the real voice of the Obama administration overseas. Just in case that wasn’t clear... Source: Mic/C-SPAN

Clinton traveled to a record 112 countries, but Biden, as he noted, knew many of their diplomats before, when they ascended to leadership roles, back when many were just low-level ministers or parliamentarians dreaming of higher office. If you like Obama, Biden wants you to know this. Source: Mic/C-SPAN

Any differences, Biden said, came down to questions over tactics. That included when he got out ahead of the White House during the 2012 re-election campaign to declare his support for same-sex marriage. (Incidentally, that was about a year before Clinton did the same.) Again, to be clear, Biden is really happy he chose to work for Obama. Source: Mic/C-SPAN

If Biden does decide to go ahead and launch a bid, he should probably get started soon. Despite having polled well for a non-candidate, his numbers are beginning to stall in the latest round of post-debate surveys. Still, he would enter the contest with a solid base of support and, as made pretty clear on Tuesday morning, an impressively refined game plan for mitigating Clinton’s ready-made attacks.

Joe Biden Alters Bin Laden Account

[The Blaze](#), October 20, 2015

It’s been held up as one of the starkest differences between Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden: She decisively supported the raid to take out Osama bin Laden, and he opposed it.

But on Tuesday, Biden altered his account of what happened in the lead-up to the 2011 operation, telling an audience that he gave his direct support to President Barack Obama after a cabinet meeting, and notably omitting Clinton’s name from the list of people who were definitively in favor of it — amid sky-high speculation that he is poised to challenge her for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

White House photo

“It was something that was a difficult call for the president. So, we sat in the cabinet room at the end of the day making the decision. He said, ‘I want everybody’s opinion.’ Everybody went around the room,” Biden said at George Washington University.

“There were only two people who were definitive and absolutely certain: Leon Panetta said go and Bob Gates said don’t go, and others were 51-49, some ended up saying go, but it was such a close call,” he continued. “I joked and I said, ‘You all sound like 17 Larry Summers,’ the economist, on one hand then on the other. They said, ‘Joe, what would you do?’ There was a third option I didn’t really think we should do. I said, I think we should make one more pass with a UAV to see if it is him.”

“The reason I did that is because I didn’t want to take a position to go if that was not where [Obama] was going to go. So as we walked out of the room and walked upstairs, I said, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go, but follow his own instincts,” Biden added. “But it would have been a mistake – imagine if I had said in front of everyone, don’t go or go, and his decision was different. It undercuts that relationship. I never say what I think finally until I go up into the Oval with him alone.”

Biden’s remarks Tuesday differ from what he said in January 2012

, when he recalled directly advising the president against the raid and did not mention a private conversation with Obama.

“Every single person in that room hedged their bet except Leon Panetta. Leon said go. Everyone else said, 49, 51,” Biden said in 2012. “He got to me. He said, ‘Joe, what do you think?’ And I said, ‘You know, I didn’t know we had so many economists around the table.’ I said, ‘We owe the man a direct answer. Mr. President, my suggestion is, don’t go. We have to do two more things to see if he’s there.’”

Clinton has repeatedly drawn a distinction between hers and Biden’s positions on the raid, including in her 2014 memoir, “Hard Choices: “I respected [Biden’s] concerns about the risk of a raid,” she wrote, “but I came to the conclusion that the intelligence was convincing and that the risks were outweighed by the benefits of success.”

After Biden’s remarks Tuesday, then-Obama chief of staff Bill Daley supported Biden’s account in a conversation with reporters:

White House press secretary Josh Earnest was careful not to weigh into the shifting account, asserting he wasn’t in the room several times during the daily press briefing.

“I was not in the room when these decisions were being made or when the president was consulting his advisers about this very difficult foreign policy call that he made,” Earnest said. “There have already been books written about this. I am confident there will be more, or at least more books in which we will be able to read about this momentous time in American history. So I’m going to leave the dissection and the oral history to those who were actually there. To the extent there is greater clarity you would like to seek, maybe you would ask those in the room.”

He later added, “I don’t have any new insight to share with you about the president’s recollection about those events.”

This post was updated to include comment from White House press secretary Josh Earnest.

Correction: TheBlaze initially stated that Biden expressed his support for the raid during the cabinet meeting; Biden said he told the president privately afterward.

Joe Biden Changes Story On Osama Bin Laden Raid

By Laura Koran

[CNN](#), October 21, 2015

Washington (CNN) Vice President Joe Biden offered an account Tuesday of the decision to launch the raid that killed Osama bin Laden that differed from some of his previous retellings – and from Hillary Clinton's.

His remarks come as he considers facing off against the former secretary of state in the 2016 presidential race, and they seem to signal that he sees his earlier stance on the raid as a potential liability.

At an event honoring former Vice President Walter Mondale, Biden said he had privately advised the President to pursue the raid on bin Laden's compound after initially advising a more cautious approach at a Cabinet meeting.

"We walked out of the room and walked upstairs," Biden said. "I told him my opinion: I thought he should go, but to follow his own instincts."

The new account is a significant departure from what he said at a Democratic retreat in January 2012.

"Mr. President, my suggestion is, 'Don't go,'" Biden said, according to an ABC News report from that time.

"We have to do two more things to see if he's there," Biden recalled, though the story did not include what those two things were.

The Cabinet meeting Biden referred to has been described by several people in the administration, including President Barack Obama himself.

The President asked his closest advisers for input on how he should respond to intelligence that bin Laden was holed up in a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan – intelligence that was anything but certain.

The proposed raid by Navy SEALs was risky, particularly without notifying Pakistan of the plan.

"Those decisions are not always popular. Those decisions generally are not poll-tested," Obama told moderator Bob Schieffer in a 2012 presidential debate. "And even some in my own party, including my current vice president, had the same critique" about the risk of the operation as did some outsiders.

Clinton has also characterized Biden as having been openly skeptical in the meeting.

Tuesday's account is also a change from an account Biden gave on NBC's "Meet the Press" in May 2012, in which he described advising the President to follow his instincts but didn't explicitly advise him to "go" for it.

"We walked up toward the residence, toward his office," said Biden of his conversation with Obama, "and I knew he was going to go (for the raid). And what I always tell him when he – he looked at me again, and I said, 'Follow your instincts, Mr. President. Your instincts have been close to unerring; follow your instincts.'"

Biden also offered a reason for the difference between what he said in the Cabinet meeting and his new account of the private conversation with Obama in which he advocated following his instincts.

The vice president now says that he suggested the administration undertake additional drone surveillance on the compound while in that Cabinet meeting, but that he made that recommendation because he didn't want to undermine the President if he ended up choosing a more cautious approach.

"Imagine if I had said, in front of everyone, don't go or go and his decision was a different decision," said Biden. "It undercuts that relationship. So I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up to the Oval with him alone."

Biden also said Tuesday that only two people in the meeting were definitive in their advice to the President, contradicting Clinton's account of how she supported the mission.

There were "only two people who were definitive and were absolutely certain," he said, referring to the men who were, respectively, the director of the CIA and the secretary of defense at the time. "Leon Panetta said, 'Go,' and Bob Gates – who has already publicly said this – said, 'Don't go.' And others were at 59/41."

In her 2014 book "Hard Choices," Clinton writes that she was an immediate supporter while Biden "remained skeptical."

"I respected Bob [Gates] and Joe [Biden]'s concerns about the risks of a raid, but I came to the conclusion that the intelligence was convincing and the risks were outweighed by the benefits of success," she wrote. "We just had to make sure it worked."

Biden also drew attention in his remarks Tuesday to the fact that he knew about the intelligence on bin Laden's location before Clinton did.

"The President and I, and only two others in the administration, knew about Abbottabad as early as August 2010, Biden said Tuesday. "We did not go for almost a year to get him. And major players in the Cabinet did not know about it till January or February (2011)."

In Clinton's account, she learned about the intelligence in March 2011.

Biden's Retelling Of OBL Raid Differs From Earlier Accounts

By John T. Bennett

[Roll Call](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. offered an account Tuesday of his advice to President Barack Obama before the raid that killed Osama bin Laden that differed from his previous remarks.

Biden's recollection spilled over to the White House's daily briefing, and offered a clear example of how Biden's off-the-cuff style could stir up the 2016 race — and potentially undercut his potential candidacy.

"We walked out of the [Situation] Room and walked upstairs," Biden said at a forum at George Washington University. "I told him my opinion: I thought he should go, but to follow his own instincts."

Biden's Tuesday account did have a bit of nuance: He also said prior to that conversation, he told Obama he favored getting one more birds eye view of the Pakistan compound where U.S. officials believed the al-Qaida leader was holed up.

"Joe, what would you do?" he said others in the secure room asked in the days before the special forces raid. "And there was a third option that I didn't really think we should do, and I said, 'I think we should make one more pass with a UAV to see if it's, if it is him,'" Biden said, using military shorthand for an unmanned drone aircraft.

Biden told an audience packed into a GWU auditorium that he "didn't want to take a position to go if that was not where [Obama] was going to go."

That's why he later allegedly advised Obama to greenlight the risky mission.

The Tuesday comments do not completely align with ones he made in 2012 at a House Democratic retreat, as reported by The New York Times: "Every single person in that room hedged their bet except [then-Defense Secretary] Leon Panetta. Leon said go. Everyone else said, 49, 51."

"This account stands at odds with numerous previous accounts of the meeting and the vice president's position then and subsequently," William A. Galston, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution wrote in a blog post. "It is likely that the vice president will be called upon to reconcile these apparently competing accounts."

Biden reportedly told House Democrats that he told his colleagues, "We owe the man a direct answer," then said, "Mr. President, my suggestion is don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there."

The last part of that 2012 remark aligns with Biden's comments on Tuesday morning. What's new is his account of the follow-up conversation — in private — with Obama.

On Monday, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest sidestepped reporters' questions about Biden's revised account.

Earnest would not comment on the vice president's assertion that he advised Obama to launch the strike.

"For an accurate accounting of what happened, you're going to have to talk to the people who were in the room," Earnest said.

Other then-Cabinet members have said Biden advised Obama to hold off.

In his 2014 memoir "Duty," former Defense Secretary Robert Gates wrote this: "Joe Biden and I were the two primary skeptics."

Gates, who was critical of the vice president in his book, also wrote, "Biden's primary concern was the political consequences of failure."

"Biden was against the operation," Gates wrote in his characteristic bluntness about what he called the final meeting on April 28, 2011, to discuss the raid. Gates' account essentially paints Biden as the lone individual in the Situation Room who argued against an offensive strike of some kind.

Biden is mulling a bid for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination. Should he jump in, he would clash with Hillary Rodham Clinton, who was secretary of State at the time of the bin Laden mission. She frequently says she advised Obama to carry out the raid that ultimately killed bin Laden.

Biden's new version clearly would become an immediate campaign-trail issue should the vice president opt for a third presidential bid.

Roll Call Race Ratings Map: Ratings for Every House and Senate Race in 2016

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Biden's New Account Of Bin Laden Raid Puts Him In The Right

By Olivier Knox

[Yahoo! Politics](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden said Tuesday for the first time that he had privately urged President Obama to order the raid that killed Osama bin Laden — a new account contradicting his prior public claim to have opposed the audacious May 2011 operation.

Biden, speaking at a George Washington University forum on the vice presidency, also seemed to undercut Hillary Clinton's contention in her memoirs that she had unequivocally backed the raid.

The vice president's remarks came amid fevered speculation that he could soon announce whether he will jump into the 2016 White House race. Having opposed the bin Laden raid could be a political liability if he seeks the top job.

On Tuesday, Biden described a tense White House meeting in which Obama asked his top advisers for their opinions on whether or not to order the operation, weighing uncertain intelligence and the risks associated with entering Pakistani airspace uninvited.

"Everybody went around the room, and there were only two people who were definitive," Biden said. Leon Panetta, the CIA director at the time, "said, 'Go,'" while then-Defense Secretary Bob Gates "said, 'Don't go.'" Clinton, in this account, would have been among those on the fence.

In this image released by the White House and digitally altered by the source to diffuse the paper in front of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, along with members of the national security team, receive an update on the mission against Osama bin Laden in the Situation Room of the White House, May 1, 2011, in Washington. (Photo: The White House, Pete Souza)

Biden said he raised a third option. "I said, 'Well,' I said, 'I think we should make one more pass'" with an unmanned aerial vehicle to be sure the al-Qaida leader was at the target site. But that wasn't his real preference, he told the forum. Moments after the meeting wrapped up, and he and Obama were alone, "I told him my opinion, that I thought he should go, but to follow his own instincts," the vice president said. "I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval with him alone."

That's not how Biden had previously recalled the advice he gave. In January 2012, at a Democratic retreat, he explicitly described how he opposed the raid in that same meeting.

"Every single person in that room hedged their bet except Leon Panetta. Leon said, 'Go,'" Biden said.

"[Obama] got to me. He said, 'Joe, what do you think?' And I said, 'You know, I didn't know we had so many economists around the table.' I said, 'We owe the man a direct answer. Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there,'" Biden said at the time.

The vice president's new account seems to put him at odds with Clinton's version of the internal debate over the raid. In her 2014 memoir, "Hard Choices," she wrote that Biden and Gates opposed the operation but she supported it.

"I respected Bob's and Joe's concerns about the risk of a raid," she wrote, "but I came to the conclusion that the intelligence was convincing and that the risks were outweighed by the benefits of success."

Clinton has also reportedly knocked Biden in private for opposing the raid.

Shortly after Biden's remarks at the 2012 Democratic retreat, White House spokesman Jay Carney — who had previously served in that capacity for the vice president — said Biden was "speaking accurately" when he described himself as opposing the operation.

In a May 2012 appearance on "Meet the Press," Biden described his private conversation with Obama differently.

"I said, 'Follow your instincts, Mr. President. Your instincts have been close to unerring. Follow your instincts.' I wanted him to take one more day to do one more test to see if he was there," Biden said in that interview.

And no less an authority than Obama himself has cast Biden as more of a critic of the raid than a supporter. In his third debate with Mitt Romney, the president noted his rival's public opposition to a unilateral raid to get bin Laden without Pakistan's acquiescence.

"Even some in my own party, including my current vice president, had the same critique as you did," Obama said.

Former Official: Biden Was Against Raid

By Amie Parnes

[The Hill](#), October 20, 2015

A former senior administration official involved in deliberations on the raid that killed Osama bin Laden said Tuesday that Vice President Biden did not back the operation.

The official, who took part in deliberations on whether to approve the operation in Pakistan, said Hillary Clinton, then secretary of State, and then-CIA Director Leon Panetta both backed the raid — but that Biden did not.

"I can tell you this, both then-CIA Director Leon Panetta and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton favored the raid and they did so in presentations made in the Situation Room," the former official told The Hill. "Secretary Clinton made her views known. Leon made his position known. And I don't recall the vice president sharing the same view.

"When the president conducted the final meeting on April 28th, he faced a divided set of advisers," the official added.

Biden, who is considering a run for the White House against Clinton in 2016, offered a different view earlier on Tuesday.

In an appearance honoring former Vice President Walter Mondale, Biden said he privately supported the raid and held back his advice for President Obama until the two were behind closed doors.

Biden also contradicted the Democratic presidential front-runner's claim that she fully supported the raid.

"I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts," Biden said during a panel discussion with former Mondale at The George Washington University. "I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval [Office] with him alone."

The former senior administration official conceded that no one knows what Biden may have told Obama behind closed doors. But the official said the vice president was clear about where he stood on the special forces raid to take action against bin Laden.

In his own book on his years in the Obama administration, Panetta also wrote of Biden being against the operation and Clinton supporting it.

"Biden argued that we still did not have enough confidence that bin Laden was in the compound, and he came out firmly in favor of waiting for more information," Panetta wrote in "Worthy Fights."

Panetta wrote that Clinton acknowledged more time might provide better intelligence, but concluded "this was a rare opportunity and believed we should seize it."

Biden's account on Tuesday also differs from the one he gave in 2012. At that time, he told House Democrats he warned against the operation, one of the most consequential decisions of Obama's presidency.

"Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go," Biden told lawmakers, according to The New York Times.

Walter Mondale, Joe Biden Compare Notes On The Veep Job

By Don Davis

[St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#), October 21, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden used Walter Mondale as an example when he became vice president, he told a crowd gathered Tuesday to honor Minnesota's senior statesman.

"The first person I called was Fritz," after then-presidential candidate Barack Obama asked him to be his running mate, Biden said, using Mondale's nickname.

Mondale and Biden talked for an hour to open a daylong celebration of the 87-year-old Mondale's career, focused on his four years as vice president under President Jimmy Carter. Mondale and Carter are widely praised for giving the vice presidency more importance after it was the subject of jokes and mockery during much of the country's history.

Biden gave no clues about whether he soon would begin a run for the presidency, although pundits watched carefully amid increased rumors in recent days that he would announce this week.

University of Minnesota Professor Larry Jacobs, master of ceremonies at the Washington event, tweeted that one line may have been a swipe at Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton: "I don't think my enemy is the Republican Party."

There was no sign of tension between the vice presidents, who Mondale said have been friends since Biden took office in the Senate. Mondale supports Clinton for president.

"Joe, I love you, and we are so glad you are with us today," Mondale told the current vice president.

He also praised what Biden has done with the job. "You have taken the vice presidency a big step forward, aided enormously by your extraordinary experience in the Senate."

The vice presidents sat in a George Washington University meeting room in front of guests who long ago snapped up all the tickets. The event was sponsored by the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Top Minnesota Democratic politicians attended the day symposium and night dinner, including Gov. Mark Dayton and U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken.

Included on the dinner guest list was Carter, who Mondale said, "is going out of his way under adverse circumstances to be with us tonight." Carter announced this summer that he has cancer.

Mondale and Biden said keys to being a good vice president are to understand that the president is in charge, don't disagree with the chief executive in public and make sure that it is the right job for the person who accepts it.

"I did not want to be involved in the details of government," Mondale said. "I didn't want to do anything that anyone else was doing. I wanted to be a general advisor to the president."

But to be an advisor, he added, he had to know information before going in to advise Carter. "I could not go into the president and say, 'What's cookin'?"

Like Mondale, Biden did not want to be vice president. When Biden initially rejected Obama's request to be running mate, Obama asked Biden to return to his family and discuss the issue. Family members changed Biden's mind.

Mondale and Biden both were plucked from the Senate to be vice presidential candidates, and both originally thought they would be more important to the president there than as vice president.

Biden said he talked to Mondale various times before taking office.

He also talked to Dick Cheney, his immediate predecessor and vice president to Republican George W. Bush.

Talking about Cheney drew the only disagreement between Biden and Mondale.

"I actually like Dick Cheney, for real. ... I think he is a decent man," Biden said.

But Biden based his vice presidency on Mondale, not Cheney. To Biden, Cheney appeared to control a powerful office, with his own sizeable national security staff.

"Cheney had a very different view of the vice presidency," Biden said.

Mondale immediately disagreed.

"He said early on that he was going to take things to the dark side," Mondale said. "I believe he really did."

The Minnesotan added: "I have a harsh view of the man."

Also on Tuesday's agenda were discussions about how Mondale influenced policy dealing with schools, social services, national security, civil rights and foreign policy.

Biden Jokes About Faking Prostate Cancer To Get Out Of Obama Administration

By Ben Wolfgang

[Washington Times](#), October 21, 2015

Vice President Joseph R. Biden said Tuesday that he would "develop prostate cancer or something" if he had a fundamental disagreement with President Obama and was forced to resign from his post.

At an event honoring former Vice President Walter Mondale, Mr. Biden recounted the conditions he placed on joining Mr. Obama's ticket in 2008 and also made clear he would leave the administration if he encountered deep, substantive policy differences with the president.

"Two things: to be able to completely be level with you and argue with you if we disagree, privately," Mr. Biden said of his 2008 conversations with Mr. Obama, in which the two men discussed the vice president's role.

"And secondly, I want to be the last person in the room on every major decision, and I didn't mean that figuratively, I meant that literally — the last person in the room," he continued. "He's president. He gets to make the decision, and unless there's an overwhelming disagreement in principle, in which case I'd develop prostate cancer or something and leave, and he knew I meant that ... I get to be the last person in the room. And that's where I think I can serve best."

Mr. Biden reportedly will decide this week whether to seek the White House in 2016.

Biden Gaffes Create More Awkward Moments For White House Before Presidential Decision

By Ben Wolfgang

[Washington Times](#), October 21, 2015

He's not even in the presidential race, but Vice President Joseph R. Biden already has a mouth that is getting him into trouble and putting the White House in an uncomfortable spot.

Mr. Biden's list of gaffes got longer Tuesday when he made an awkward joke about faking prostate cancer in order to leave the administration, and, more seriously, offered the bizarre claim that he did, in fact, support the 2011 raid that killed al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. The vice president previously said he opposed the mission, and other top officials — including President Obama — suggested that Mr. Biden was skeptical of the raid.

Mr. Biden, who is expected to decide this week whether he will run for president, also claimed Tuesday that the president gave him veto power over any Cabinet nominee. The White House steered clear of that assertion and also refused to address the confusion around the bin Laden mission — a potential preview of the difficulties the administration will face if Mr. Biden launches a presidential bid.

Analysts say the White House is likely to be forced to play referee in any potential disputes between Mr. Biden and Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton, who served as Mr. Obama's secretary of state for four years. Mrs. Clinton, too, has said that Mr. Biden was opposed to the bin Laden mission.

"You could see this anytime a moment from the first term where Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton interacted and a moment like that has to be litigated, the White House could be dragged into these stories, and that's not what it wants," said Matthew Dallek, assistant professor of political management at George Washington University. "It certainly creates an unusual dynamic."

On the bin Laden raid, Tuesday's comments represent the first time Mr. Biden has said he fully backed the mission. He claimed that he offered his true position during a private conversation with the president and avoided taking a firm stance during meetings in the situation room.

"As we walked out of the room and we walked upstairs, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts," Mr. Biden said during a speech honoring former Vice President Walter F. Mondale.

The White House would not weigh in on the conflicting reports. White House press secretary Josh Earnest said he couldn't confirm Mr. Biden's account and told reporters that they would need to ask Mr. Obama, the vice president, Mrs. Clinton or someone else who was in the room when the decision was made to raid bin Laden's compound in Pakistan.

"I was not in the room when these decisions were being made. I'm going to leave the dissection and the oral history, if you will, of those days to those who were actually there," Mr. Earnest said at Tuesday's White House press briefing. "I don't have any insights to share with you about the private conversations between the president and the vice president."

Aside from the important foreign policy question of whether he backed the bin Laden mission, Mr. Biden added to his history of amusing yet awkward statements.

That record includes telling a wheelchair-bound Missouri state senator to stand up at a campaign rally, calling Mr. Obama "the first mainstream African-American who is articulate and bright and clean" to run for the presidency, joking that in Delaware "you cannot go to a 7-Eleven or a Dunkin' Donuts unless you have a slight Indian accent," and caressing the shoulders of Stephanie Carter, wife of Defense Secretary Ashton Carter.

Prostate cancer jokes now can be added to the list after Mr. Biden recounted a conversation with the president in which he laid out his conditions for joining the administration.

"Two things: to be able to completely be level with you and argue with you if we disagree, privately," Mr. Biden said of his 2008 discussions with Mr. Obama. "And secondly, I want to be the last person in the room on every major decision, and I didn't mean that figuratively, I meant that literally — the last person in the room. He's president. He gets to make the decision, and unless there's an overwhelming disagreement in principle, in which case I'd develop prostate cancer or something and leave, and he knew I meant that I get to be the last person in the room. And that's where I think I can serve best."

No Grounds For Biden In New Hampshire

By Jennifer Epstein

[Bloomberg Politics](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden trails the two leading candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination by more than 25 points each in New Hampshire and would enter the race without an edge over them on overall favorability or specific personality traits.

Biden would draw the support of 10 percent of likely Democratic primary voters if the primary were held today, according to the Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm New Hampshire Poll released Tuesday. That puts him well behind Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who's led most recent polls in the state that neighbors his own, who gets the support of 41 percent of those surveyed, and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who's at 36 percent. When Democrats first and second choices for the party's nominee are combined, Clinton edges Sanders: 64 percent of Democrats rank Clinton as either their No. 1 or No. 2 choice for the nomination. For Sanders, the number is 63 percent; for Biden, 29 percent.

Former Virginia Senator Jim Webb, who dropped out of the Democratic race on Tuesday, was the first choice of 1 percent of those surveyed and the second choice of 1 percent. Harvard Professor Lawrence Lessig was the first choice of 1 percent, while former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and former Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee got no support as a first choice candidate but drew the backing of 6 percent and 1 percent, respectively, as a second choice candidate.

Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm last polled New Hampshire Democrats in June—before Sanders' surge—and Clinton led him 56 percent to 24 percent then. Biden was not named in that survey.

The anemic showing for the vice president comes as people close to him say he's nearing a decision on whether to get into the race, though there have been several false alarms in recent weeks. Advisers have said that Biden's choice won't be driven by polling and will instead be swayed by whether he believes that he and his family would be able to withstand the stress of the campaign after losing his older son Beau Biden earlier this year.

Thirty-six percent of Democratic primary voters surveyed say that Biden's drawn out decision-making process made them less supportive of him, while 62 percent say it doesn't matter to them.

Biden has signaled that his bid would ride on the successes and popularity of President Barack Obama, who got favorable ratings from 83 percent of the New Hampshire Democrats surveyed. Biden's 75 percent favorability rating put him behind both former President Bill Clinton (78 percent) and Hillary Clinton (77 percent). The differences are more pronounced among those voters who feel most strongly: Obama got "very favorable" ratings from 50 percent of New Hampshire Democrats. For Hillary Clinton, that number is 40 percent. For Biden, 29 percent. The highest favorability rankings went to Sanders, from neighboring Vermont: 86 percent rated him favorably and 55 percent "very favorable."

On questions of personality and ability to govern, the vice president generally trails Clinton and Sanders.

Clinton leads the field on leadership questions, with 49 percent of those surveyed saying she's most ready to be president. Biden, despite being a heartbeat away from the presidency for nearly seven years and having served in the Senate for nearly four decades, is seen as most ready by 21 percent of respondents, barely ahead of Sanders, who's at 20 percent. Clinton also has an advantage in being seen as knowing best how to get things done in Washington and in handling Russian President Vladimir Putin. And Democrats see her as their party's strongest potential standardbearer: 50 percent of respondents say that Clinton would be best capable of beating the Republican nominee in the general election. Sanders is next at 19 percent.

Sanders does better than Clinton and Biden on traits of authenticity and likability, which the vice president's allies have suggested would be his advantage. Sanders is seen as most authentic by 57 percent of those surveyed, while 19 percent call Biden the most authentic, barely ahead of Clinton at 16 percent. The Vermont senator also gets the highest marks among voters asked which candidate cares most about them – 51 percent say that of Sanders, while 23 percent say it of Clinton and 10 percent say it of Biden. Sanders also has an edge on being trusted to tell the truth, 53 percent to Biden's 17 percent and Clinton's 13 percent.

As Clinton's testimony before the House Select Committee on Benghazi approaches, Democratic primary voters are divided on whether the panel is inflicting damage and if that is swaying their support of her. Twenty-eight percent of those surveyed said it makes them less supportive of her while 67 percent said it doesn't bother them. Nearly identical numbers say the same about her not being forthcoming about the private email server she used while at the State Department.

New Hampshire Democrats are evenly divided at 47 percent each on whether Sanders' 2005 vote to give gun manufacturers immunity from lawsuits makes them less supportive or does not bother them. Sanders' description of himself as a "democratic socialist" is even less of a drawback, with only 16 percent of voters saying that makes them less supportive of him.

The poll was conducted by Purple Strategies from Oct. 15-18 and surveyed 400 likely Democratic primary voters by landline and cell phone. The margin of error is +/- 4.9 percentage points.

Poll: Biden A Distant Third In New Hampshire

By Eliza Collins

[Politico](#), October 20, 2015

Democratic primary voters in New Hampshire aren't too eager to choose Joe Biden, a new Bloomberg/Saint Anselm poll shows — even as the media frenzy over whether the vice president will enter the 2016 race reaches fever pitch in Washington.

Biden received the support of just 10 percent of those polled, putting him in a distant third place.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders leads the poll with 41 percent while former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton comes in second with 36 percent.

But Sanders and Clinton are neck and neck if voters' first and second choices are combined: Clinton at 64 percent vs. Sanders' 63. Biden's combined score is just 29 percent.

In June's Bloomberg/Saint Anselm poll, Clinton led the field with 56 percent, with Sanders at 24 percent. Biden was not included.

Former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb — who dropped out of the race Tuesday — garnered 1 percent, tying him with Harvard law professor Lawrence Lessig. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee did not register.

The prolonged uncertainty surrounding Biden's candidacy didn't bother most voters — 62 percent said it didn't matter. But 36 percent said that Biden's slow decision-making process made them less supportive of his candidacy.

The poll of 400 likely Democratic primary voters was conducted Oct. 15-18 by landline and cell phone, with a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.

Should Joe Biden Enter The Democratic Primary?

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Freedom Caucus Wary Of Ryan's Demands

By Lauren French

[Politico](#), October 21, 2015

Paul Ryan wants a full embrace from the House Freedom Caucus before he runs for House speaker. Early signs from the conservatives are they might never get there.

After Ryan addressed Republicans late Tuesday, saying he would need conservative backing to run, lawmakers in the 40-member group of hard-line conservatives came away wary of the Ways and Means chief's demand for unconditional support. They were dismissive of his Ryan's request that they relinquish a procedural tactic they used to threaten to strip outgoing Speaker John Boehner of his title – one of the most potent weapons in the group's arsenal.

And it is clear the conservative lawmakers will insist on more specifics from Ryan before they would consider an endorsement. Sources within the caucus said he'll have to discuss policy and procedural changes the Freedom Caucus wants and offer up tangible promises to decentralize power from leadership to rank-and-file members if he wants their backing.

Without specific pledges, those sources said, Ryan will have a hard time clinching the backing of 80 percent of the group's members — its threshold for an endorsement.

"I got the sense that Paul Ryan was not willing to look at rule changes before October 29, and without that I don't see him getting 80 percent," one Freedom Caucus member said, referring to the expected date of the election for speaker.

The Freedom Caucus has until Friday to decide if it will back Ryan. Several of the Freedom Caucus' most influential members huddled in the office of Rep. Jim Jordan (Ohio), the group's chairman, late Tuesday night. And board members of the conservative organization will meet Wednesday to discuss Ryan's conditions.

The Wisconsin Republican told his colleagues on Tuesday that he would serve as speaker if — and only if — the three largest coalitions in the GOP House support his candidacy. An endorsement is nearly assured from the Republican Study Committee and the moderate Tuesday Group.

"I have left this decision in their hands," Ryan said at a press conference.

The Freedom Caucus has already endorsed Florida Republican Rep. Daniel Webster for speaker but that support is only for the internal vote of House Republicans. The conservative members could still back Ryan on the House floor. Webster told reporters Tuesday he is still committed to running for speaker.

Rep. Matt Salmon (R-Ariz.), a founding member of the Freedom Caucus, said Ryan made "some very reasonable observations about how anybody would need the support of the entire conference if they are going to be a successful speaker."

The caucus is not ready to support Ryan, Salmon added, though he didn't rule it out.

"All things are possible," Salmon said. "I think the issue of process reforms are going to have to be addressed one way or another before the Freedom Caucus wholesale jumps in bed with him."

But already Ryan has ruffled feathers within the group. Rep. Raúl Labrador (R-Idaho) said that getting rid of the "motion to vacate" procedure — which Boehner was confronted with over the summer, one of the factors in his decision to resign — is a "non-starter."

"I think we need to invite him in and have him expand on what he meant. You know he just gave a short speech," Labrador, a Freedom Caucus member, said.

Ryan's conditions essentially put the group in a no-win spot of endorsing a candidate for speaker many figures on the far right say is too moderate and accommodating — or blocking a highly respected figure in the GOP, the one candidate widely seen as capable of getting 218 votes on the House Floor.

One Freedom Caucus member who requested anonymity in order to speak freely was asked whether Ryan is setting up the group to be blamed if he ends up not running.

"You can certainly read it that way," the lawmaker said.

House Republicans Look To Ryan To Save Them From Themselves

By Erica Werner

[Associated Press](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON (AP) – House Republicans, searching for a speaker to lead them out of crisis, waited to learn Tuesday whether Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan would shoulder the thankless task.

Ryan and his aides were saying little ahead of a closed-door late-evening meeting, the first such gathering following a weeklong recess many spent in a state of suspended animation, waiting to hear from Ryan.

But in a sign that he is exploring the possibility, Ryan was meeting with the House Freedom Caucus at their request, his spokesman said. This group of three dozen or so hardline conservatives pushed current Speaker John Boehner to announce his

resignation and scared off Boehner's No. 2, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, who abruptly withdrew from the speaker's race just before the recess.

Ryan, 45, the GOP's 2012 vice presidential nominee, has consistently said he does not want to be speaker and would prefer to stay on as chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, which he's described as his dream job.

But he's been under heavy pressure to reconsider from party leaders who argue he is the only House Republican with the stature and broad popularity to unite a caucus divided against itself, at a moment of deep turmoil. Congress is hurtling toward an early November deadline to raise the federal borrowing limit or invite a first-ever default, and a deadline to pass spending legislation or risk a government shutdown will follow in early December.

House GOP leaders also planned to use Tuesday night's meeting to float a debt limit plan that would link any increase in borrowing authority with deep spending cuts and a vote on a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget. Such legislation would be certain to draw a White House veto threat and die in the Senate. But it could satisfy demands from conservatives who are loudly protesting the Obama administration's calls for increasing the debt limit with no strings attached.

As for Ryan, "I think he has the potential to unite, if anybody can, unite the various elements of the Republican conference in the House," Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, the No. 3 Senate Republican and a former member of the House, said Tuesday. Thune called being speaker "probably the toughest job in the world right now."

Indeed some of the same conservative elements outside of Congress who made problems for Boehner and McCarthy are on the attack against Ryan, highlighting his support for government bailouts and comprehensive immigration legislation allowing legal status to people in the country illegally.

"We think Paul Ryan is another example of what's wrong with Washington, D.C.," said Jenny Beth Martin, national coordinator of the Tea Party Patriots. "He's a nice man, but it's time for someone who is going to be speaker of the House who will disrupt business as usual."

Ryan did pick up one endorsement Tuesday, but it was probably unwanted. Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada declared himself a fan of Ryan's and said he hoped he would become speaker.

"He appears to me to be one of the people over there that would be reasonable; look at some of the other people," Reid remarked to reporters. When someone noted that an endorsement from Reid, a villain to many Republicans, could hardly help Ryan, Reid shrugged and said: "I just speak the truth."

Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

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Paul Ryan Inches Closer To Speaker Bid Decision

[ABC News](#), October 21, 2015

With lawmakers back in Washington after a 10-day recess, all eyes are on Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, as he weighs a House speaker bid.

Sources close to Ryan said the Wisconsin Republican is now open to a run for speaker, but does not plan to make a final decision until he talks to more of his Republican colleagues. For weeks, Ryan and his spokesman have said he is not running for speaker.

Members could question Ryan about his plans at a conference meeting this evening. Ryan is not expected to make a final decision on a speaker run tonight, his spokesperson said.

The well-regarded chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee is seen as the consensus candidate to succeed John Boehner and the Republican best positioned to bring the fractured conference together.

Ryan has repeatedly refused to go after the top job in Congress, but began considering a run after House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said he would drop his bid to replace Boehner.

"He feels the pull of the country – people encouraging him and saying he'd be a great choice," said Rep. K. Michael

Ribble, R-Wisconsin, who shared a flight home with Ryan last week. "But he also feels the pull of his family, and his passions," he added.

Ryan, who spent the recess at home with his family, has young children at home in Janesville. As speaker, he'd be expected to fundraise for the party, though colleagues have offered to help him shoulder that burden. The promotion could also make it more difficult for him to pursue entitlement and tax reform.

Should he decide to jump in, Ryan would need the support of the 40-odd members of the House Freedom Caucus, who helped force Boehner's retirement and derail McCarthy's speaker bid.

The group has endorsed little-known Rep. Daniel Webster, R-Florida, in the speaker's race – to win Boehner's gavel in a vote on the House floor.

Members of the caucus, who have expressed interest in Ryan running for speaker, want the House and conference run differently.

“Paul has to convince people he's not John Boehner 2.0,”

- ~~South Rep. Mick Mulvaney~~

Freedom Caucus leader. They'd like to see greater representation in leadership – including subcommittee chairmanships and on the steering committee – and more bills on the House floor via committees, among other proposals.

Ryan met with leaders of the group late Tuesday afternoon.

If he decides against a run for speaker, more than a dozen Republicans are ready to launch bids in what would be a free-for-all race.

Congress has to raise the debt ceiling by Nov. 3 or risk a federal government default. Lawmakers also have to pass additional government funding by Dec. 11.

For now, those deadlines remain John Boehner's. The Ohio Republican, who had planned on leaving Congress on Oct. 30, has agreed to stay on until his replacement is selected.

Paul Ryan Open To House Speaker Run, Lawmakers Say

Wisconsin Republican sets conditions for run, says he wants three major caucuses to back him

By Kristina Peterson And Siobhan Hughes

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

G.O.P. To Meet With Paul Ryan On House Speaker Post

By Emmarie Huetteman

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON — Representative Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin agreed Tuesday to meet with some members of the House Freedom Caucus, the hard-line group that helped force the resignation of Speaker John A. Boehner, in advance of a larger meeting of Republicans, potentially ending the suspense about whether he will answer his party's pleas and run for speaker.

Less than two weeks after Representative Kevin McCarthy of California, the majority leader, withdrew his name from consideration, House Republicans returned from a weeklong recess to the reality that they had not found a willing candidate capable of uniting their ranks.

Compounding the pressure to settle on a new speaker is the fact that the country's borrowing authority is set to expire in about two weeks, and a short-term budget measure to avert a government shutdown will run out in less than two months.

While Mr. Boehner, who plans to resign at the end of the month, said he would stay until his successor was named, some members have indicated that they may move to force him out. Without a speaker, House operations would be at a virtual standstill, raising the possibility of an economically and politically perilous default on the nation's debt.

The question of whether Mr. Ryan will run has been the subject of intense speculation in Washington for the past week as lawmakers repaired to their districts. He has insisted that he has no interest in the post, but the surprise decision by Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Boehner's expected successor, put the focus back on Mr. Ryan, the party's 2012 vice-presidential nominee.

Representatives Jason Chaffetz of Utah and Daniel Webster of Florida are also running for the post. Mr. Webster has the endorsement of the most conservative members of the House, who have demanded that the next speaker adjust the chamber's rules to reduce the power of party leaders.

But conservative members like Representatives Raúl R. Labrador of Idaho and Justin Amash of Michigan have said they are willing to meet with Mr. Ryan, who has earned respect across his party as the chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee.

Ryan Nears Decision On Speaker's Race As Congress Returns

[Washington Post](#), October 20, 2015

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) is more open than ever to becoming the next House speaker, following a contemplative week at home with his family. But before he makes a final decision, friends say, he will seek assurance from Republican hard-liners that he will have their full support should he win the gavel.

Those discussions will begin Tuesday evening at the Capitol when House Republicans gather for a closed meeting. It is unclear when Ryan, the 45-year-old chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and 2012 vice-presidential nominee, will openly discuss his intentions.

At the top of Ryan's list, his associates said, is a desire to lead the House GOP as its spokesman and agenda-setter without the threat of revolt from the right, halting a dynamic that has dominated the tumultuous speakership of John A. Boehner (R-Ohio), who announced last month that he would leave Congress at the end of October. Another aim would be to delegate some of the job's travel and fundraising demands so that Ryan could spend enough time with his wife and school-aged children.

"My only caution is that he should go very slow and make sure that the whole conference is coming to him," said former House speaker Newt Gingrich (R). "Don't underestimate the degree of getting chewed up. We are not like the Democrats right now. They are relatively cohesive.

... We are a movement in enormous ferment, with enormous anger and enormous impatience."

Looming over Ryan's deliberations is a churning frustration among Republicans nationally about the party's ability to oppose President Obama and a presidential primary field led by anti-establishment outsiders who have made common cause with the House GOP's right flank.

Fix managing editor Aaron Blake runs down the top five contenders for House Speaker John Boehner's job now and says why they might—or might not – be the one to win. (Sarah Parnass/The Washington Post)

Those conservative House members have pushed for a suite of rules changes, ranging from an overhaul of the party's internal steering committee to a more open process for considering legislation. Ryan, they say, would not be exempt from those demands, which, if adopted, could give the new speaker less control.

Ryan's allies say his conditions for becoming speaker are likely to include an understanding that he would have a free hand to lead without a constant fear of intraparty reprisals.

"He is more confident that he can put forward conditions that will soothe his convictions and put his mind at ease," said William J. Bennett, a longtime mentor to Ryan who has spoken with him in recent days.

Peter Wehner, a former adviser to President George W. Bush, said Ryan wants House conservatives to make clear that they would not seek to "cripple him" from the start.

"He doesn't have a moral obligation to get Republicans out of the rubble they've created for themselves," Wehner said. "Asking for their goodwill is completely reasonable."

Wehner added that Ryan envisions his possible speakership as one that would be buoyed by his own political capital and shaped by an aggressive Republican policy agenda, rather than one consumed with catering to the whims of tea party backbenchers: "He's got a vision for the party that he can articulate. He knows policy, philosophy, and where the party should go intellectually."

But Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-S.C.), a member of the hard-line House Freedom Caucus who has expressed measured support for Ryan as speaker, said Ryan could not expect to unify Republicans without making some procedural concessions.

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) is being tapped to become the next speaker of the House, even though he doesn't seem to want the job. Who is this guy? (Gillian Brockell/The Washington Post)

"The displeasure with the way the House has been managed since 2011 is pervasive and crosses all sorts of philosophical boundaries within the party," Mulvaney said. "The appetite for a new way of doing business is real, and whoever wants to be the speaker is going to have to speak to that."

Leaving Washington before last week's recess, most lawmakers hailed Ryan as the only candidate who could unite a House Republican majority deeply divided over how to best wield its power. That has been complicated by a week of activist politicking — on talk radio, on conservative web sites, and in town hall meetings — that has sought to cast doubt on Ryan's conservative bona fides.

His purported apostasies include supporting the Troubled Asset Relief Program during the 2008 economic crisis, brokering a spending deal with Democrats in 2013 and — most crucially — being a leading Republican proponent of immigration reform packages that would give illegal immigrants a path to legal status.

"There are people who have sort of bought the narrative that the speaker's race is about trying to get someone who is more conservative, and for those folks Paul is not acceptable," Mulvaney said. "But there are other folks who believe, and this is what I've been telling them, that it's not about people, it's about process."

A new poll released Monday by NBC News and The Wall Street Journal showed strong support for Ryan among Republican primary voters, with 63 percent "comfortable and positive" about Ryan taking over the post. Twenty-eight percent said they would feel "skeptical and uncertain" if he became speaker.

Should Ryan decide not to heed the calls to run, it would set off a free-for-all that has already attracted roughly a dozen potential candidates who have expressed interest in running if Ryan does not.

They range from powerful committee chairmen such as Homeland Security's Michael McCaul and Agriculture's K. Michael Conaway, both of Texas, to Darrell Issa (Calif.), the high-profile former Oversight chairman to up-and-comers such as Marsha Blackburn (Tenn.), who has played a lead role in the GOP's recent fight against Planned Parenthood.

But many Republicans believe — or at least hope — that melee will be avoided as Ryan has shifted from being averse to inclined to succeed Boehner, due to a wave of encouragement from officials and influential conservatives, as well as a sense of duty to his embattled party.

Brendan Buck, Ryan's spokesman, said Monday that Ryan did not yet have anything to announce. "Congressman Ryan spent the weekend at home with his family. There is no update, and he looks forward to listening to and speaking with his colleagues this week," Buck said in a statement.

House Republicans will convene Tuesday in the Capitol basement for a conference meeting focused on the "October agenda." According to a GOP memo, dinner will be served and staffers will not be allowed in the room. They will meet again Wednesday morning.

Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa), a conservative who is backing longshot speaker candidate Rep. Daniel Webster (R-Fla.), sighed Monday when he heard about the previously unscheduled session, and said it signaled that the leadership was ready to get behind one of their own.

"This indicates they are at least close to presenting a successor to the conference, in an attempt to get momentum for that person," King said. "There is an effort out there to talk Ryan out of stepping up, but he may be ready to present himself."

Gingrich said that if Ryan does decide to seek the speaker's gavel, he will learn quickly — and encounter early problems.

"It'll take him about six weeks to go from being a policy guy to a process guy and he'll be very good at it. But it's a different world with a different set of rules. That's what he has to think through: Is that really a world he wants to be in the middle of? Is he willing to endure the scarring?"

Correction: An earlier version of this story said Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) is a member of the Freedom Caucus, which he is not.

Rep. Ryan Lays Out Conditions For Seeking Speaker's Job

By Richard Cowan

[Reuters](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

Ryan Tells GOP He'll Run For Speaker — With Conditions

By Scott Wong

[The Hill](#), October 20, 2015

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) told the House GOP conference that he will run for Speaker if every caucus endorses him, according to lawmakers in the room.

Ryan made the pledge during a presentation behind closed-doors in which he outlined how he could be convinced to run for the chamber's top job.

He also gave the House GOP until Friday to rally around him.

Ryan told his GOP colleagues: "I know this sounds conditional, because it is," according to a source in the room.

A spokesman for Ryan immediately after the meeting said Ryan will only run if his colleagues accept his as a "unity candidate" who is backed by centrists and conservatives in the House.

"Unless the speaker is a unifying figure across the conference, he or she will face the same challenges that have beset our current leadership," spokesman Brendan Buck said.

He said Ryan "encouraged the members to discuss and consider his requests, and he asked that they make clear whether they support them by this Friday."

"If the members agree with his requests and share his vision, and if he is a unity candidate—with the endorsement of all the conference's major caucuses—then he will serve as speaker. He will be all in," Buck said. "But if he is not a unifying figure for the conference, then he will not run and will be happy to continue serving as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee."

The spokesman insisted Ryan's comments did not announce a final decision on a run for the Speakership, but Ryan's views on what it would take for the next Speaker to be successful.

The Ways and Means Committee chairman has been under pressure to run for Speaker for more than a week after the surprise decision by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) to bow out of the race to succeed Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio).

After Ryan spoke with his conference, there were some signs of members rallying around him.

House Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), who had launched a bid for the Speakership against McCarthy, said he would end his pursuit given Ryan's willingness to serve.

"I'm out, and all in for Paul Ryan," Chaffetz said.

Rep. Charlie Dent (R-Pa.), who chairs the centrist Tuesday Group, indicated he and other centrists could endorse Ryan following a discussion amongst themselves this week.

"I could very easily support Paul Ryan," Dent said.

But Rep. Matt Salmon (R-Ariz.), a founding member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, said he wasn't sure if he could back Ryan.

Rep. Paul Ryan Will Run For House Speaker If GOP Factions Endorse Him

By Paul Singer

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

House Ways and Means Chairman Paul Ryan indicated Tuesday that he would "be all in" to run for speaker of the House – provided that he gets endorsement of all GOP factions.

The conditional decision still leaves some doubt as to whether Ryan, who is widely respected among House Republicans, will succeed Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, when he steps down at the end of the month.

"If the members agree with (Ryan's) requests and share his vision, and if he is a unity candidate — with the endorsement of all the conference's major caucuses — then he will serve as speaker. He will be all in," said Brendan Buck, the communications director for the House Ways and Means Committee, which Ryan chairs.

Buck said that Ryan expects to hear back by Friday from GOP members on whether they support his candidacy as a "unifying figure."

Ryan "believes that for the next speaker to be successful, we need to unify now. Unless the speaker is a unifying figure across the conference, he or she will face the same challenges that have beset our current leadership," Buck said.

Boehner is stepping down in part because a group of about 40 House conservatives threatened to call a no-confidence vote on his speakership. While Boehner said he was certain he would win the vote, he instead announced he would retire at the end of October, to spare his members having to cast that difficult vote.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., was heavily favored to succeed Boehner, but he withdrew Oct. 8 when it became clear that the conservative wing — represented by the House Freedom Caucus — would not support him.

The full House votes for the speaker, so the Republican nominee would need the votes of 218 members to be elected. There are 247 House Republicans, but 30 dissenters could have been enough to deny McCarthy the gavel.

The Freedom Caucus has said that before they will support anyone for speaker, they want reforms to House rules that will give them the opportunity to offer more amendments, get more conservative bills on the floor and restore the independence of committee chairmen — changes that would significantly weaken the authority of the new speaker.

Ryan, the 2012 Republican vice presidential nominee, had repeatedly said he didn't want the job when Boehner announced his resignation and when McCarthy decided not to seek the position.

More coverage of House leadership news:

Paul Ryan Says He Will Run For House Speaker If Party Unites Behind Him By Friday

By Lisa Mascaró

[Los Angeles Times](#), October 21, 2015

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) told his anxious colleagues Tuesday night that he would agree to run for speaker of the House, but only if the party united behind him by Friday, according to lawmakers and Ryan's aides.

The statement could bring a possible resolution to the GOP leadership struggle that has threatened to further divide the party, but it remains unclear whether conservatives will support him.

House Republicans have been in a stalemate after Speaker John A. Boehner announced he would step down and a conservative faction led by the House Freedom Caucus blocked the rise of Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California.

Ryan, a former vice presidential nominee, is considered the Republican Party's best hope for uniting its divided House majority. But he had expressed reluctance at taking the difficult job without unanimous support.

House Republicans returned to Washington late Tuesday evening and almost immediately gathered behind closed doors in the Capitol basement to assess the situation after a recess week away.

At that meeting, Ryan said he would be "willing to serve" if the three main GOP caucuses unite around him. He also had other conditions, including that he not be required to travel as much as Boehner had so Ryan could spend time with his family

"Chairman Ryan encouraged the members to discuss and consider his requests, and he asked that they make clear whether they support them by this Friday," according to a statement by Brendan Buck, a Ryan spokesman. "If the members agree with his requests and share his vision, and if he is a unity candidate — with the endorsement of all the conference's major caucuses — then he will serve as speaker. He will be all in."

"We have white smoke," said Rep. Steve Womack (R-Ark.) as he left the closed meeting.

"He really laid out a vision... selling conservatism," said Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-Ind.) a member of the House Freedom Caucus. Stutzman had previously backed another candidate for speaker but said he was impressed by Ryan's approach. "Paul Ryan was very clear it's going to be all or nothing."

For more than a week, Ryan had been in a political standoff with the House Freedom Caucus, a core block of conservatives who wanted changes to House rules in exchange for their support.

The caucus has enough votes to block Ryan from reaching the speaker's gavel. But he has refused to yield to its demands to loosen control over legislative proceedings.

The leadership drama has taken a toll on Americans' views of the GOP majority in Congress, according to new polling.

Six in 10 Americans see the leadership battle as a "sign of dysfunction" among House Republicans, and 29% see it as a "healthy debate," according to an ABC News/Washington Post poll. Among Republicans, more than 40% view it as a sign of dysfunction.

The leadership struggle has stymied the fall agenda and is complicating the next must-pass item: legislation to raise the federal debt limit to continue paying the nation's bills and avoid a credit default. The Treasury Department has set a Nov. 3 deadline.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) sought to shield his chamber from the disarray across the Capitol, suggesting that Senate Republicans remain focused on a "right-of-center agenda" even with the partisan divide posed by a Democratic president in the White House.

"You have to deal with the government you have," McConnell said. "We're here in the Senate to do serious things for the American people."

Ryan, the Wisconsin Republican, received a partial endorsement Tuesday from one unlikely source, Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), the minority leader, but such a nod might hurt more than it helps.

"He appears to be one of the few people over there who would be reasonable," Reid said. "I mean look at some of the other people."

Reid added that he's no fan of Ryan's ideology or his proposals for cutting Medicare and other safety net programs, and shrugged when asked if his backing could doom Ryan's candidacy.

"I speak the truth," Reid said. "If it helps him, fine. If it doesn't, too bad."

Boehner, who had hoped to retire Oct. 30 from representing his Ohio district, has said he would remain in office until a new speaker is chosen.

Ryan Willing To Run For U.S. House Speaker As 'Unity' Candidate

By Terrence Dopp

[Bloomberg Politics](#), October 20, 2015

Representative Paul Ryan said he'd be willing to run for speaker of the U.S. House if Republicans unify behind him now, end leadership crises and let him continue spending time with his family.

"If you can agree to these requests and if I can truly be a unifying figure, then I will gladly serve," Ryan, 45, of Wisconsin said Tuesday he told fellow House Republicans in a closed-door meeting. "This is not a job I've ever wanted," he told reporters, but added that he "came to the conclusion that this is a very dire moment."

Ryan said he wants an answer from fellow Republicans by the end of the week. "It's in their hands," he said.

Representative Greg Walden, an Oregon Republican, said Ryan told fellow Republicans he wanted to change the process for dissatisfied lawmakers to remove the speaker. "The question is whether the conference is willing to unify behind him," said Walden.

"He said he's willing to take arrows in the chest," said Representative Peter King of New York, "but not in the back."

House Speaker John Boehner plans to announce a date Wednesday for Republicans' vote to nominate a speaker candidate, said Representative Tom Cole of Oklahoma.

Representative Charlie Dent of Pennsylvania said Ryan wants backing from three groups of House Republicans – the centrist Tuesday Group, the conservative Republican Study Committee and the more hard-line Freedom Caucus.

Ryan's stance, after a week of pondering fellow Republicans' pleas to run, leaves the House leadership unresolved just two weeks before the Nov. 3 deadline to raise the U.S. debt limit. The House Freedom Caucus drove Boehner to resign and his top

lieutenant to quit the race to succeed him. At least two members of that group said Tuesday they wouldn't commit to supporting Ryan.

House Republicans have been in chaos over the speaker's position – second in line to the presidency – as Congress nears the Nov. 3 deadline to raise the U.S. debt limit or risk default. Lawmakers also need to replenish the federal highway fund by Oct. 29. Then they must resolve disputes over federal spending by Dec. 11 or risk a government shutdown, something Boehner couldn't head off in 2013.

Ryan is viewed by many as a unifying force after negotiating a two-year budget deal with Democrats in 2013. Boehner implored him to run for speaker, as did Mitt Romney, who chose Ryan as his vice presidential nominee in 2012. Still, some members of the Freedom Caucus have said he is too willing to compromise.

A number of Republicans began pressuring Ryan to seek the job after Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy's stunning Oct. 8 withdrawal from the race to succeed Boehner. Ryan, 45, of Wisconsin is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and the party's 2012 vice presidential nominee.

Ryan had been deeply resistant to the idea of seeking the speaker's job, people who have spoken to him said, and his staff repeatedly said he didn't want the post. He said he didn't want to spend weekends away from his family for the extensive travel and fundraising that have been a major part of the House speaker's job.

The Boehner for Speaker political action committee raised \$35.38 million during the 2014 campaign in a grueling night-and-weekend pace that took him from Florida to Alaska. Almost all of the money was passed on to other House candidates. Boehner has already traveled to more than 100 events this year, according to his fundraising operation.

Tax Overhaul
Ryan also has longed to pursue a comprehensive tax-overhaul bill as Ways and Means chairman.

Known to be interested in running for president, Ryan has spurned past attempts to lure him to the speakership because it's viewed as a political dead end. James K. Polk is the only House speaker ever to ascend to the presidency, and that was 170 years ago.

According to House procedure, Republicans would choose their speaker nominee at a closed-door meeting. Then the full House would schedule a vote, with almost all Democrats expected to support Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California. The winner must be backed by a majority of those who vote; lawmakers who designate themselves as "present" wouldn't count.

Members of the Freedom Caucus – a group of almost 40 conservatives whose resistance to Boehner and McCarthy helped push them out – have said that Ryan would have to work for their votes.

A group of Freedom Caucus members met with Ryan Tuesday, and afterward caucus leader Justin Amash of Michigan said afterward the group still supports its candidate for speaker, Representative Daniel Webster of Florida.

Another caucus member, Mo Brooks of Alabama, said he wouldn't commit to support Ryan and wanted to hear from constituents. He said he was concerned about Ryan's stance on immigration.

Harry Reid
While House Democrats have said they would stay out of the Republican leadership battle, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat, said he hoped Ryan would become speaker.

"He appears to me to be one of the people over there that would be reasonable," Reid told reporters. "Of all those people I hope he gets it."

Even as Ryan has pursued many Republican goals – including cutting business tax rates, repealing the estate tax and replacing Obamacare – he also has supported allowing 11 million undocumented immigrants to eventually become U.S. citizens, a stance strongly opposed by most House Republicans.

Freedom Caucus members chose Webster as their candidate for speaker on Oct. 7, and the following day McCarthy dropped out of the race saying he wasn't the right person to unite the Republican members.

Boehner of Ohio announced Sept. 25 that he would leave Congress by the end of October, following years of clashes with conservatives who most recently threatened to shut down the government in an effort to defund Planned Parenthood. After McCarthy dropped out of the race, Boehner said he would stay on until a new speaker is chosen.

Paul Ryan Says He Would Serve As House Speaker

By Craig Gilbert

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), October 21, 2015

Washington — Emerging from days of silence, Wisconsin Republican Paul Ryan said Tuesday he would serve as House speaker if his GOP colleagues unite behind him.

To colleagues pleading with him to run and spare the party an ongoing leadership crisis, Ryan offered a "conditional" yes, saying he would accept the job on his own terms.

At a news conference Tuesday night, Ryan said once more that he has never wanted to be speaker and would serve with reluctance.

He also said he felt an obligation to step up.

"This is not a job I've ever wanted or ever sought. I'm in the job I've always wanted here in the Congress," he said, referring to his chairmanship of the powerful Ways and Means committee. "I came to the conclusion that this is a very dire moment, not just for Congress, not just for the Republican Party, but for our country."

Ryan said he laid out to his colleagues the conditions under which he would serve. Among them, that the party take steps to avoid "constant leadership challenges and crises," that the conference "unify now and not after a divisive speaker's election" and that "I cannot and will not give up my family time."

Speaking to GOP colleagues behind closed doors earlier Tuesday evening, Ryan said he would need the backing of all the major factions within the Republican caucus, including the conservative Freedom Caucus that set the party's leadership crisis into motion.

With Ryan demanding a clear mandate from his party, the big question remaining is whether the 40-member Freedom Caucus agrees to support him without making demands of their own.

Ryan said he would make a final decision by Friday.

"What I told members is if you can agree to these requests and if I can truly be a unifying figure, than I will gladly serve. And if I'm not unifying, that will be fine as well. I will be happy to stay where I am at the Ways and Means committee," Ryan told reporters. "I have left this decision in their hands."

Wisconsin colleague Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.) described Ryan's remarks to GOP colleagues Tuesday as a "plea for unity."

Said Sensenbrenner: "He called on everybody to give something from where they've been in the past."

At his news conference, Ryan combined an appeal to conservative principles with a call for less political feuding and finger pointing.

"Now more than ever we must work together. All of us are representatives of the people — all people. And yet the people we serve, they do not feel we are delivering on the job that they hired us to do. We have become the problem. ... I want us to become the solution," he said. "Nothing is ever solved by blaming people. We can blame the president, we can blame the media ... we can point figures across the aisle, we can blame each other and we can dismiss our critics and criticism as unfair. People don't care about blame. People don't care about effort. People care about results."

The Ways and Means chairmanship is a career-long ambition of Ryan's that he realized less than a year ago, and a platform for his policy dreams of overhauling the tax code and federal entitlements.

"It's why I've passed on Senate races and other things (like) leadership. I always believed the chairmanship of Ways and Means was the right place for me," Ryan told the Journal Sentinel in January when he announced his decision not to run for president in 2016. "Now that I have it, I'm very happy with where I am."

Besides his own reluctance, another major hurdle for Ryan's speakership is an organized minority of conservatives in the House — known as the Freedom Caucus. That group wants concessions from the next speaker over rules and procedures that would give it more say.

An analysis by the Pew Research Center of 36 members of the Freedom Caucus found they are not only more conservative but less experienced than House Republicans as a whole; more than 70% entered office since the 2010 elections.

Leaders of the Freedom Caucus have said they're open to a Ryan speakership but won't renounce a list of demands that may be unacceptable to Ryan.

House Republicans, meanwhile, face a series of potentially divisive battles this fall over raising the debt ceiling, funding the government and the future of the Export-Import Bank.

In a national poll of GOP primary voters released Monday by NBC News and The Wall Street Journal, 63% said they'd be "comfortable and positive" about a Ryan speakership, while 28% said they would be "skeptical and uncertain."

Ryan Will Serve As Speaker If GOP Unites Behind Him

By Jake Sherman , John Bresnahan And Lauren French

[Politico](#), October 20, 2015

Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, who for years has resisted a move into House Republican leadership, said Tuesday night he would serve as House speaker if he is the party's "unity candidate."

And Ryan, the Ways and Means chairman, wants to know by Friday if the 247 members of the House Republican Conference support him. If not, he is "happy" to continue as chairman of the powerful tax-writing panel, his spokesman said.

During a meeting of House Republicans Tuesday evening, Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), who counted Ryan as a volunteer on his 1990 congressional campaign, ceded the floor to Ryan. The 16-year veteran of Congress explained that his openness to serving as House speaker comes with serious caveats.

Ryan explained during the closed-door gathering that he wants support from all the major Republican caucuses. The House Freedom Caucus, the Republican Study Committee and the moderate Tuesday Group will be especially important.

Ryan also wants Republicans to alter the procedure for “vacating the chair,” which is essentially a referendum to remove the speaker from office. Conservatives threatened to force such a vote against Boehner earlier this summer, and Ryan believes it’s destructive.

The Wisconsin Republican is calling on the next speaker to be more visionary. He agreed with House Freedom Caucus members and a large bloc of the GOP in supporting changes to rules and procedures to empower rank-and-file members. But he said those decisions must be made together. Ryan also told his colleagues that he needs to be at home in Janesville, Wisconsin, with his family, so fundraising cannot be all consuming.

“I don’t know of anyone better to do it,” said Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah, who dropped his long-shot bid for the speakership when Ryan announced. “I think he wants to get as unified a group as possible, so that’s obviously a big question. He wanted to talk to all the various caucuses and groups. ...and I’m excited. He would be wonderful, fantastic as a speaker. I think the smart path for us is to unify behind Paul Ryan.”

The move could put major pressure on the Freedom Caucus, which endorsed Rep. Daniel Webster (R-Fla.) before House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) dropped his bid. Members of the Republican Study Committee and Tuesday Group have already showered praise on Ryan, but members of the Freedom Caucus aren’t quite ready yet to endorse him.

Ryan met with four of the group’s leaders today: Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, South Carolina Rep. Mick Mulvaney, Idaho Rep. Raul Labrador and North Carolina Rep. Mark Meadows.

Rep. Matt Salmon (R-Ariz.), a Freedom Caucus member, said Ryan made “some very reasonable observations about how anybody would need the support of the entire conference if they are going to be a successful speaker.” Salmon said he wasn’t supporting him yet, but is “certainly open.”

“All things are possible,” Salmon said. “I think the issue of process reforms are going to have to be addressed one way or another before the Freedom Caucus wholesale jumps in bed with him.”

Boehner resigned late last month and is set to leave Congress on Oct. 30, though he’s agreed to stay on until a new speaker is chosen.

Ryan Willing To Serve As Speaker, But With Conditions

By Manu Raju, Deirdre Walsh, Ted Barrett And Tal Kopan

[CNN](#), October 21, 2015

Washington (CNN)Rep. Paul Ryan told House Republicans he is willing to serve as speaker and will make a decision within the week.

But he’ll run only if he’s supported by three groups inside the House Republican conference: the House Freedom Caucus, the Republican Study Committee and the moderate Tuesday Group, his spokesman, Brendan Buck, confirmed.

Ryan also had a few more demands: He wants changes to House rules made as a team; he wants to make it harder to overthrow a sitting speaker; and he wants a better work-life balance than Boehner had as a prolific fundraiser.

“If the members agree with his requests and share his vision, and if he is a unity candidate – with the endorsement of all the conference’s major caucuses – then he will serve as speaker. He will be all in,” Buck said.

Ryan spent the day engaging in a flurry of back-channel conversations with GOP lawmakers as an anxious Republican Party eagerly awaits his decision. He discussed the possibility of seeking the speakership on the phone with fellow lawmakers and met with members of the House Freedom Caucus and the Southern Caucus. Ryan addressed his deliberations with the full GOP conference during a closed-door dinner.

Ryan was expected to address reporters Tuesday night from the House Gallery. Earlier Tuesday, he played coy with reporters, telling them he has “nothing to add.”

“Anybody who wants to meet with me, I’m going to do that,” Ryan said.

It was all part of a strategic effort to show that he was not running for speaker – but was open to being drafted, his allies said.

Outgoing House Speaker John Boehner expressed confidence on Fox News’ “Special Report” that Ryan would announce his decision later Tuesday night and will set a new date for leadership elections in the next few days.

“I hope he does decide to run, and if he does, I think he’ll be elected,” Boehner said.

Asked about Boehner’s comments, Buck said the GOP’s 2012 vice presidential nominee was unlikely to make a decision Tuesday evening. If Ryan passes on the job, Republicans are growing nervous that there is no one else who could unite a fractured party.

"It worries me a lot," Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, told CNN. "Because a leaderless House of Representatives is not something that is conducive to legislative successes – and it diminishes us even more in the esteem of the American people."

Returning to his office from the airport, Ryan was mum on what he would do.

"Good to see you," he told reporters waiting outside his office. But on both sides of the Capitol, the prospects of a Ryan speakership began to dominate the conversation – particularly as congressional leaders struggle to reach a fiscal deal by a critical November 3 deadline.

'Let the House work its will'

Conservatives in the House Freedom Caucus are signaling that Ryan will need to work to get its support, something the Wisconsin Republican has shown little interest in doing.

The caucus tweeted Tuesday night that "The next speaker must follow House rules and commit to an open process for debating and amending legislation. Let the House work its will."

"I have concerns with anybody who is not going to give us a reform agenda," said Rep. Raul Labrador, R-Idaho. "If anybody thinks we are just going to get behind somebody just because they have a national name, they are sadly mistaken."

Ryan met in his committee's offices with conservative members for about 45 minutes. Rep. Justin Amash, a leader of the conservative group, said it was an "informal" gathering and not an extensive discussion. And Rep. Mark Meadows of North Carolina said they discussed "party unity" and how the caucus could get behind him. Meadows said he'd "bet (Ryan) throws his hat in the ring."

But Kansas Rep. Tim Huelskamp said the caucus was still supporting Rep. Daniel Webster, who reiterated on Tuesday he would run for the speakership regardless of what Ryan decides.

"We can't have just another John Boehner 2.0," Huelskamp said.

Ryan did, however, pick up an unlikely supporter Tuesday in Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, who said a Ryan speakership would improve prospects over raising the debt ceiling.

"Well he appears to me to be one of the people over there that would be reasonable," Reid said. "I mean, look at some of the other people. I'm a Paul Ryan fan."

Asked about Reid's endorsement by reporters later, Ryan simply laughed.

Senate GOP leaders said that Ryan's deliberations had put their decisions on how to move forward on debt limit talks on hold – and that the House GOP needed to figure out its leadership dilemma within the next 24 hours in order to help come to some kind of consensus on debt talks.

"It will probably become more clear when the House determines who the leader is going to be over there," said Sen. John Thune, R-South Dakota, when asked about the next steps on the fiscal matters.

If Ryan passes on a bid, upwards of a dozen potential candidates could run for the speakership, something that could take weeks to sort out and presumably leave Boehner in the speaker's chair past his plans to resign on October 30.

To right their ship after a rocky few weeks following Boehner's resignation announcement, Republicans have scheduled three meetings in two days where they will talk about the way forward – including one to discuss imposing new party rules to give more power to junior lawmakers.

The Ryan Stakes

He can lead, but will enough Republicans follow?

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Ryan To Meet With House Hard-Liners As He Weighs Run For Speaker

[Bloomberg Politics](#), October 20, 2015

Representative Paul Ryan is set to meet with a group of House conservatives Tuesday as he weighs a potential run to replace Speaker John Boehner under pressure from fellow Republicans.

The Wisconsin Republican will get together with the House Freedom Caucus, a group of almost 40 hard-liners whose opposition to Boehner drove him to announce that he would give up the speakership and leave Congress. Ryan, Boehner and all House Republicans will then meet behind closed doors later Tuesday evening to discuss plans for the coming weeks.

Ryan spokesman Brendan Buck said the lawmaker plans to meet with members of the Freedom Caucus at their request. Ryan is "always willing to talk with his colleagues," the spokesman said.

The turmoil over leadership has left the Republican majority without a fiscal strategy two weeks before a Nov. 3 deadline to raise the federal debt limit. Lawmakers also need to replenish the federal highway fund by Oct. 29. Then they must resolve

disputes over federal spending by Dec. 11 or risk a government shutdown, something Boehner couldn't head off in 2013. Ryan Reluctance

There was no immediate comment from Freedom Caucus leaders. The group also played a big role in the decision by Boehner's top lieutenant, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California, to drop out of consideration for speaker. Freedom Caucus members chose Representative Daniel Webster of Florida as their candidate on Oct. 7. The following day, McCarthy dropped out of the race saying the conference needed to find a candidate who could unify the party.

Buck said in an e-mailed statement that he didn't expect Ryan to announce on Tuesday whether he will seek the speaker's job. Ryan, the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, initially said he didn't want to run for speaker but has been urged by many fellow Republicans to reconsider.

Buck said that if Ryan is asked to speak during the Republican conference meeting, "I imagine he'd share his thoughts."

Harry Reid Hopes Paul Ryan Becomes House Speaker

[Huffington Post](#), October 20, 2015

WASHINGTON – Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) says if he had his way, he'd pick Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) to be the next speaker of the House.

"I'm a Paul Ryan fan," Reid told reporters.

"He appears to be one of the people over there that could be reasonable. I mean, look at some of the other people," the minority leader continued. "I don't agree with him on much of what he does. I think what he's done with Medicare and Medicaid, what he wants to do with it, I disagree with. But generally speaking, I think we've been able to work with him."

House Republicans have been scrambling to find someone to be their next speaker after Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) abruptly quit the race earlier this month. A few Republicans have thrown their names into the mix, but they've been drowned out by a groundswell of support for Ryan, who is widely respected in his conference and seen as someone willing to work with Democrats. So far, he's said he's not interested, but given the pressure from GOP leadership and others desperate for someone who can unify the party, people are watching to see whether he changes his mind this week.

Current Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) is leaving Congress as soon as Republicans find his replacement.

Reid praised Ryan's past work with Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) to hash out a budget deal in 2013. He said Ryan, who chairs the Ways and Means Committee, could also be key to ensuring that Congress raises the debt limit before Nov. 3, at which point the nation will default on its debt if lawmakers don't act.

Reid's endorsement wouldn't exactly help Ryan if he decides to run and needs support among GOP conservatives. Asked whether he realized his comments could work against Ryan, the Nevada Democrat shrugged.

"I speak the truth," he said.

"If it helps him, fine. If it doesn't, too bad."

What's In Store For Federal Pay And Benefits If Ryan Becomes Speaker? A Likely Hit.

By Joe Davidson

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

As the "will he, won't he" game swirls around Rep. Paul Ryan's decision to be or not to be speaker of the House, one question looms for the federal worker — what does it mean for me?

The answer – a potential hit on your pocketbook.

Unlike so much of what passes for news in Washington, this isn't just speculation. Ryan, a Wisconsin Republican, left an unambiguous record during his four years as chairman of the House Budget Committee.

During that tenure, which ended in January, Ryan led the House in approving legislation that would effectively cut federal employees' pay by forcing them to contribute more toward pensions with no increase in benefits, kill a retirement program for certain government staffers and eliminate student loan reimbursements. In his budget plans for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, Ryan pushed for even longer federal pay freezes than the three-year basic pay freeze initiated by President Obama. Additionally, Ryan repeatedly sought to reduce the number of federal employees through attrition. Feds were saved when many of his proposals were not adopted by the Senate, then controlled by Democrats.

Ryan's votes have earned him failing grades on voting scorecards tabulated by federal employee organizations. In recent tallies, the American Federation of Government Employees scored him zero for failing to agree with the organization's legislative positions a single time. He did a little better with the National Treasury Employees Union, 10 percent, and the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) with 15 percent.

"Ryan demonstrated a belief that government is the cause of all the woes in this country," said William R. Dougan, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees.

Ryan's fiscal year 2015 budget resolution, nicknamed "The Path to Prosperity" like his other plans, says, "Washington owes the American people a responsible, balanced budget." But prosperity is not what feds would get. To the contrary, Ryan's path would lead to much thinner wallets for these employees.

Federal pay still would be frozen if a provision in Ryan's FY 2012 budget had been enacted. It proposed freezing pay for five years, saying that would "boost private-sector employment by slowing the explosive growth of the public sector."

His FY 2015 plan proposed to "increase the share of federal retirement benefits funded by the employee. This policy has the effect of reducing the personnel costs for the employing agency." But it would have increased costs to the personnel by an estimated 5.5 percentage points of their salaries. Employees would pay more, but get no more. That would amount to an effective pay cut.

[House approves budget that would save money by taking from federal workers]

Rep. Chris Van Hollen (Md.), who sat next to Ryan as the top Democrat on the Budget Committee, at the time called this "a straight-out 5 percent pay cut."

While couched in the language of "reform," House Republicans under Ryan would have ended a supplemental benefit for workers in the Federal Employee Retirement System who retired before age 62, when their Social Security eligibility begins. Ryan favors placing new feds in a "defined-contribution" retirement system, which puts greater onus on employees than a "define benefit" system. These moves would save the government \$125 billion over 10 years, says his fiscal year 2015 plan. Left unsaid, that money would be a cost, not a savings, to federal workers.

Budget committee Democrats pushed back with an analysis that placed the cuts in a broader context. "After successive pay-freezes, pay reductions and benefit cuts amounting to almost \$140 billion, no one group has been asked to contribute more to deficit reduction than federal employees," the report said.

Looking for another way to save Uncle Sam money, Ryan also proposed ditching the student loan reimbursement federal agencies offer their staffers.

[More federal employees getting help from Uncle Sam to pay off college debt]

Almost 8,500 federal employees surely must be glad that proposal had not taken effect in calendar 2014 when they received \$58.7 million in student loan repayments. That's an average of \$6,905 per worker. Despite Ryan's wishes, the repayment program is growing. Compared to 2013, the number of employees getting this benefit increased by 15 percent in 2014 and the amount reimbursed rose by 11 percent, according to a recent Office of Personnel Management report.

"Several Federal agencies utilized student loan repayments to recruit and retain employees in Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) positions..." Beth Cobert, the acting OPM director, wrote in the report. "Notably, the Department of Defense provided student loan repayments to over 550 engineers...Employees in STEM career fields are vital to the Federal Government's mission, and OPM is committed to continue working with agencies to help them attract and retain talented professionals using student loan repayments and other human resources management flexibilities."

There might have been fewer talented employees across the federal service if Ryan's plan to reduce the workforce through attrition and proposals to cut pay and benefits had become law. Ryan, working with a Senate now controlled by Republicans, would have an even greater pulpit to proselytize his Path to Prosperity as speaker.

Jessica Klement, NARFE's legislative director, is not certain what a Speaker Ryan would mean for the federal workforce. But "based on his voting record," she said, "I'm not optimistic."

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP

Paying for egg donations

By The Editorial Board

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

Should a woman who donates eggs to help people with fertility problems conceive a child be able to charge as much as she can get in a free-market transaction? Or are there ethical reasons to limit her reimbursement?

That is the issue raised in a federal lawsuit that accuses two professional societies and the fertility clinics associated with them of illegal price-fixing that limits donor compensation. A federal judge in northern California has ruled that the claim can move forward and certified it as a class action, which could go to trial next year.

Guidelines issued by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology suggest that paying a woman more than \$10,000 for her eggs is "beyond what is appropriate" and even paying \$5,000 or more requires "justification."

A vast majority of the nation's fertility clinics follow these the guidelines. The stated rationale behind them is to avoid offering so much money that donors, especially those who are often young and poor, will rush to contribute their eggs without considering the risks.

This payment system is unfair. However well-intentioned, it favors the fertility clinics, which can keep more for themselves if they pay donors less, as well as the women who pay for fertility treatments. Meanwhile, it shortchanges the egg donors, whose wishes are ignored in the equation. And if there are indeed risks, they can be addressed and mitigated by the clinics and the doctors, who can strengthen their screening and counseling procedures and provide more information.

The money that donors get is meant to compensate them for physical and psychological tests; weeks of hormone injections to stimulate egg production; frequent tests and ultrasound examinations to track the developing eggs; repeated visits to the doctor, and minor surgery to remove the eggs when they are ready for retrieval.

First-time donors in California, New York and Chicago are paid \$4,000 to \$7,000, according to lawyers, donors and agencies. In medically expensive New York City, major hospitals and clinics pay \$8,000. The amount can rise significantly for repeat donors whose first set of eggs led to a birth. All bets are off at some high-end clinics that pay particularly attractive donors, such as actresses, models, or high-scoring Ivy League students, tens of thousands of dollars or, in rare cases, even in the six-figure range.

The very existence of these high-end payments suggests that the guidelines are something of a sham. The women who brought the suit say they were underpaid for their donations; they seek triple damages, to be determined later. The question of damages aside, there is merit to their argument that they have been denied a rightful say in the transaction.

A Middle-Class Oasis In New York Is Spared

By The Editorial Board

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

The extinction of middle-class New York, which has long been predicted but never quite arrived, has just been put off a little longer. Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration has struck an impressive deal to save Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village, the 80-acre complex that has long been a bastion of affordable housing on the East Side of Manhattan.

About half of it, anyway. The administration announced Tuesday that Stuyvesant Town, owned by CW Capital, was being sold to a Wall Street investment firm, the Blackstone Group, for \$5.3 billion, and that the buyer had agreed to keep 5,000 of the complex's 11,232 rental apartments affordable to middle-class families for 20 years.

Stuyvesant Town is a colossal property, a city-within-a-city that was built for World War II veterans, and it has been an oasis of stability and affordability for 65 years. But the oasis has been drying up. The complex, Manhattan's largest, has been losing 300 to 350 rent-regulated apartments every year, as tenants have died or moved away and management has raised rents for newcomers. Mr. de Blasio, who has staked his mayoralty on building or saving 200,000 units of affordable housing in a decade, could hardly achieve victory in that campaign while losing Stuyvesant Town.

The Blackstone deal represents Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen's effort to stop the affordability erosion. For a relatively modest price — the city is waiving \$77 million in mortgage recording taxes and giving Blackstone a \$144 million low-interest loan — all 5,000 apartments that have not yet been lost to ballooning market rates will remain in reach for middle-class families.

The praise for this deal rests on some assumptions. Mainly, a somewhat generous definition of "affordable." As Charles Bagli explained in *The Times*, a family of three making up to \$128,210 a year would pay \$3,205 a month for a two-bedroom apartment. For 500 of the apartments, rents would be lower: about \$1,553 for a two-bedroom for a family of three earning up to \$62,150 a year. This is not low-income housing, for sure. But these rents would allow a two-income couple — a teacher and a city worker, say — to afford an apartment in Manhattan bigger than a tanning bed.

Mr. de Blasio has always said that "affordable housing" should cover a wide range of incomes. He has been criticized by those who say he should focus most intently on helping the poor and working class. But it takes many strata to make a mountain, and New York's affordability crisis weighs heavily on pretty much everybody who is not in the top 1 percent.

Another, more pressing concern is the time frame — 20 years can be like the blink of an eye in the life of a family. Permanency is the greatest challenge and pitfall of affordable-housing schemes: tax breaks lapse; people move out and in; the rent always pushes upward. The Blackstone plan kicks the can down the road and around the corner a ways; it's hard to know how or whether it might go sour, but for now it looks like as good a deal as the administration could have struck, given the city's vexingly insatiable housing demand.

Stuyvesant Town was on the brink of becoming a high-end dormitory for young, upwardly mobile professionals on their way to bigger incomes and fancier digs. Now, for a couple of decades anyway, life will be more secure for about 13,000 people who are more interested in putting down and keeping roots in the city they call home.

Iran Steps Up Its Aggressions In The Region

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

AS THEY concluded the nuclear deal with Iran in July, President Obama and Secretary of State John F. Kerry repeatedly suggested that it could open the way to cooperation with Tehran in resolving regional conflicts, beginning with the civil war in Syria. They also promised the United States would push back if Iran instead stepped up its aggression. Just three months later, Iran's most notorious general is overseeing a new offensive by thousands of Iranian, Iraqi and Lebanese fighters aimed at recapturing the Syrian city of Aleppo from rebel forces, including some backed by the United States. Mr. Obama shows no sign of responding.

The Iranian-led offensive, which is supported by Russian air power, appears to be the most aggressive intervention yet by Iran in the Syrian war. The Post reported that hundreds of troops from the elite Quds Force had been joined by thousands of Iraqi Shiite militiamen and forces from Lebanon's Hezbollah, all under the command of Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani, who previously directed attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq. Far from accepting appeals from Mr. Obama and Mr. Kerry to help broker a diplomatic settlement, Iran has joined with Russia to entrench the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and help it to recapture Aleppo and other parts of the country.

The attack is one of several provocative steps Tehran has taken as the nuclear deal has begun to come into effect. The same day the accord was debated by its parliament this month, the regime test-fired a nuclear-capable missile, violating a U.N. Security Council resolution. The White House acknowledged the infraction but pointed out that it was outside the bounds of the nuclear agreement.

Also that day, Iranian television reported that The Post's Jason Rezaian had been convicted on espionage charges after a closed trial. The administration condemned the verdict.

On Sunday, the United States and its European partners began taking steps to implement the nuclear accord. Much is now required of Iran: It must place 12,000 centrifuges into storage, ship 12 tons of enriched uranium out of the country and demolish the core of a plutonium reactor before it can receive the more than \$100 billion in assets frozen under sanctions. It could be that the missile test and unjust conviction of Mr. Rezaian are the regime's demonstration that its nuclear concessions will not change its hostile stance toward the West or its military ambitions. If so, it is a cruel tactic that uses Mr. Rezaian, a professional journalist and American citizen, as a human pawn.

But the Syrian offensive is certainly more than message-sending. If successful, it could eliminate the chance to construct a moderate, secular alternative to the Assad regime, and send hundreds of thousands more refugees across Syria's borders. It was just such aggression that Mr. Obama acknowledged might be a byproduct of the nuclear deal — and that he vowed to resist. If he remains passive as Maj. Gen. Soleimani's forces press forward, both Iranian and U.S. allies across the Middle East will conclude that there will be no U.S. check on an Iranian push for regional hegemony.

The CDC's Promising Plan To Curb America's Opioid Dependence

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

HORRIFIC AS it is for the victims, drug addiction's impact reverberates beyond them, to include families, friends, whole communities. Thanks to a new Washington Post-University of Maryland poll, we can begin to quantify those wider consequences in our area. Nearly 3 in 10 Marylanders say they have a close friend or family member who was or is addicted to opiates such as prescription pain pills or heroin. The figures range from 4 in 10 in Baltimore to 1 in 6 in Montgomery County; but whether in the city or the suburbs, these numbers are far too high and fully warrant Gov. Larry Hogan's (R) promise to focus on the problem.

More treatment is necessary, as is prevention; yet preventing opioid addiction has been devilishly difficult due to the fact that people's first contact with the drugs often comes not through illicit channels but in a doctor's office, where they are prescribed opioids by a licensed physician who, in turn, had been told that medications such as OxyContin or Vicodin convey powerful relief with little or no addiction risk. In 2012, providers wrote 259 million prescriptions for opioids, enough for every American adult to have a bottle of pills. Opioid sales increased 300 percent since 1999. Almost 2 million people abused these drugs in 2013, and more than 16,000 died from overdoses.

Now the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the source of these data) has a plan that could make a major dent in the overprescription of opioids. The CDC is preparing opioid prescribing guidelines for primary-care physicians — the first of their kind from a federal agency. The guidelines are not finished, but early indications are that they will urge physicians to discuss risks with patients, pursue non-opioid alternatives as "preferred" options and limit initial prescriptions to a three-day supply at "the lowest effective dose." If finalized by the CDC and embraced by doctors, the guidelines promise to turn medical practice in an appropriately more cautious direction.

As is often the case with suggestions to curb pain prescriptions, the CDC's proposals are being met with opposition: some from people concerned about the impact on patients, some from a pharmaceutical industry concerned about the impact on profits. The American Cancer Society's lobbying arm has urged the CDC to suspend work on its guidelines, arguing in an Oct. 1 letter to the agency that cancer patients could be denied pain relief. Though understandable, these concerns are overstated; the CDC has said publicly its focus is not oncology but primary care, "outside end-of-life care."

It's true, as the cancer society letter notes, that the CDC guidelines are more than mere suggestions and will influence "state health departments, professional licensing bodies or insurers." That is precisely why they can be so beneficial; until now, government, medicine and the private sector have too often underestimated the risks, individual and societal, of widespread opioid prescription. The CDC has the prestige and authority to correct the balance. After incorporating valid comments from the cancer society and other interested parties, the CDC plans to publish in early 2016, and we see no reason to delay.

A Misguided Attack On D.C.'s Needy Students

By Editorial Board

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

IS THE federally funded scholarship program for poor D.C. families being forced on an unwilling city? It is safe to say that thousands of D.C. parents whose children are on the waiting list for a scholarship do not think so. Nor, we would venture, do the 6,100 children, predominantly minorities, who have used the scholarships to attend private schools. For that matter, students in the city's public schools who have benefited from the infusion of federal dollars that has accompanied the voucher program probably would not embrace the argument either.

So whom do members of the D.C. Council think they are helping as they urge Congress to kill this program?

Fortunately, it does not appear that the council members will succeed in inflicting this wound on their city. Congress appears poised to reauthorize the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which provides needy students with up to \$12,572 to pay for tuition, fees and transportation to a school of their choice. The average family income for participating families is less than \$22,000. A bill extending the program for five years and championed by outgoing House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) is set for a floor vote Wednesday, while a bipartisan group of senators has filed a companion bill that would continue the program through 2025.

Seeking to derail those efforts, a misguided majority of the D.C. Council, undoubtedly egged on by Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) and other voucher critics, wrote a letter to Congress objecting to what they portrayed as an intrusion into local affairs. These eight council members seemed unaware that the program was established in 2004 at the initiation of Anthony Williams (D), then D.C.'s mayor, and with the strong support of Kevin Chavous (D), then chair of the council's Education Committee. Likewise, they were unmoved by polling that has shown 74 percent of D.C. residents support the voucher program, which, despite the specious claims of critics, has improved outcomes for its students without taking a dime from regular public schools.

Indeed, the three-sector federal approach has brought more than \$600 million to D.C. schools, with traditional public schools receiving \$239 million, charter public schools \$195 million and the voucher program \$183 million. At stake for fiscal 2016 is an additional \$45 million. It is fantasy to think there would be additional monies absent vouchers.

School reform has brought improvement throughout the system. Yet, many parents still lack the choices and the access to high-quality education that city politicians take for granted for their own families. We credit D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson (D) and council members Vincent B. Orange (D-At Large), Mary M. Cheh (D-Ward 3), Brandon T. Todd (D-Ward 4) and Kenyan R. McDuffie (D-Ward 5) for not seeking to deprive those parents of choice, and we hope their eight colleagues will rethink their position and put constituents' welfare over misguided ideology.

Elizabeth Warren's Latest Appointment

The Massachusetts liberal nominates a new SEC commissioner.

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.



U.S. Department of the Interior News Clips

Bulletin
INTELLIGENCE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI IN THE NEWS

Murkowski Spells Out Uphill Climb For Interior Nominee

[Politico Pro](#), October 20, 2015

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chairwoman said that Interior Department pick Kristen Sarri would have a lot of explaining to do at a hearing on six nominees today. "We've seen decisions out of the Interior that are really destroying our hope to be independent as a state," Sen. Lisa Murkowski said at the nomination hearing, which included candidates for the USGS, and the departments of Energy and Interior. Sarri has been nominated to be the Interior assistant secretary for policy, management and budget. While she was pleased that President Barack Obama had renamed Mount McKinley this summer to Denali, the Alaska Republican said she was still frustrated with the Interior Department's "heartless decision" to deny a road in King Cove. She also criticized Interior for closing off oil production in Alaska and last week's cancellation of offshore sales and lease extension.

'Playing Games': Obama Backs 'Politicized ... Trivial' Nominee For Essential Spot He Left Empty For 6 Years

By Ethan Barton

[Daily Caller](#), October 21, 2015

A Senate committee chairwoman is torn between leaving the Department of the Interior's independent watchdog post vacant, or confirming President Barack Obama's nominee crippled by recurring allegations of "playing games with Congress."

"I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent [inspector general], and I'm disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski. The Alaska Republican is chairwoman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

"But I am also committed to ensuring that the individual we confirm is fully independent ... The tenure that you have been involved with thus far in this position has been marked by controversy."

Obama nominated Mary Kendall for the Interior Department's Inspector General on June 4. She has been both the acting and deputy IG since 2009.

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility – a non-profit activist group – said Kendall "politicized" investigations, "focused on trivial matters," "kept IG operations secret," and should not be confirmed as a permanent head, The Daily Caller News Foundation reported last week.

Wyoming Republican Sen. John Barrasso said an IG report critical of the Office of Surface Mining wasn't publicly released until Dec. 20, 2013 – 10 months after it was completed, and three days after Congress confirmed an Interior appointee to oversee that agency.

"It looks as though you're playing games with Congress," Barrasso said.

But Kendall said she didn't "recall the details. It sounds wrong. I would hope that there's a meaningful explanation."

Louisiana Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy

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"It looks as though you're playing games with Congress," Barrasso said.

But Kendall said she didn't "recall the details. It sounds wrong. I would hope that there's a meaningful explanation."

Louisiana Republican Sen. [crscore]Bill Cassidy[Lisa"> also said the IG was doing favors for the Interior Department, rather than holding it accountable, in instances where it refused to hand reports over to Congress.

"I have been true to myself, my principles, my best judgment, and the law," Kendall said. "My personal style, to engage in civil discourse even when addressing difficult issues, has been criticized by some as being too accommodating of the Department of the Interior. Civility, in my experience, however, is not an accommodation, but rather, a strong and effective tool in communicating with and holding DOI accountable."

Murkowski said "while we expect that the IG always to approach her work with civility, she must never compromise her independence."

"If you are ... breaking bread ... It seems that you have set yourself up for a conflict of interest," said Cassidy.

"Having the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, I may have made some of those decisions differently," Kendall said.

Kendall also claimed multiple accomplishments, including "195 convictions, \$4.5 billion in criminal fines, penalties and restitution, over \$119 million in questioned costs and \$55 million in funds put to better use. On average over the past five years, the [IG] for DOI ranked fifth for Return-on-Investment among the 72 Federal OIGs."

House Committee on Natural Resources Republicans also reported Kendall's politicization in 2013.

"Acting Inspector General Kendall and Chief of Staff Stephen Hardgrove have blurred the line between being an independent watchdog and serving as an informal advisor and collaborator on Department policy initiatives," the report said.

"The president should not delay any further in acting to nominate someone who can serve as the independent watchdog the department deserves and who does not have the questionable history and judgment Ms. Kendall has brought to the position."

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Top Republican Skeptical Of Obama Interior Nominees

By Devin Henry

[The Hill](#), October 21, 2015

A leading Republican on Tuesday raised concerns over two of President Obama's nominees for the Department of the Interior.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said President Obama's pick to serve as an assistant secretary of the Interior, Kristen Joan Sarri, faces a high bar to winning her support, given what she considers the department's detrimental work in Alaska.

"If you're an Alaskan and you're reading the headlines, you have to wonder: What's going on within Interior? Why do they have it out for us?" Murkowski said during an Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on Tuesday.

"You're going to need to convince me that you are part of the solution and not part of the problem for Alaska at the Interior Department," she said to Sarri.

Murkowski, the chair of the committee, asked Sarri what role she played in last week's Interior Department decision to cancel oil drilling lease sales in the Arctic Ocean during the next two years, something she said was "an incredible blow and a hit to the state of Alaska."

Sarri said she wasn't involved in those decisions and that she wouldn't have a role in future leasing decisions in the position for which she is nominated.

"Alaska is incredibly important to energy development in this country and the safe and responsible development in the Arctic is part of that," she said.

Murkowski also hinted Mary Kendall, the Interior Department inspector general nominee, will face a tough confirmation fight in the Senate given concerns over her work as the acting inspector general (IG).

"I strongly believe that Interior needs a permanent IG, and I'm disappointed the administration has let the position go unfilled for six and a half years," she said.

"I'm also committed to ensuring that the individual that we confirm is fully independent, with good judgement in difficult situations and a firm grasp of the responsibilities of the Inspector General."

Kendall has had several dust-ups with House Republicans, who have accused her of not investigating political appointees and failing to file investigative reports on issues within the department.

She defended herself on Tuesday, noting that the Interior Department's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is ranked among the top five federal OIGs in return-on-investment during her tenure. She said that she has met with committee members to go over House Republicans' concerns.

"Whether I have done so to your individual satisfaction, I do not know," she said. "What I do know is that throughout, I have been true to myself, my principles, my best judgment and the law."

The Energy and Natural Resources Committee heard from six Obama nominees on Tuesday. Other Republicans pushed Kendall, Sarri and others on their qualifications and their positions, but Democrats were widely receptive of the slate of nominees.

"We are very fortunate, I believe, to have six highly qualified and experienced nominees in front of us," said Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), the ranking member of the committee.

Murkowski's Irate, Interior Nominee Heard All About It

[KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#), October 20, 2015

Sen. Lisa Murkowski has a pretty big gavel to pummel the Department of the Interior with as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which oversees the department. Nominees for high office at DOI and other departments have to clear her committee before Senate confirmation.

With three nominees from DOI and three from the Department of Energy before her, Murkowski wasn't shy Tuesday morning in tying the nominees to their bosses and declaring favorites. The senator says she likes Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz.

"He works with us. He listens to us. I think he deserves to have a team in place to support him," Murkowski said. "Unfortunately, I'm not able to say the same when it comes to the secretary of the Interior."

Murkowski homed in on Kristen Sarri, the nominee to be assistant secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget. Murkowski went through a list of her complaints about the department, such as: Not opening enough of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska to exploration, being slow with permits, the "heartless" denial of an emergency road for King Cove, and, most recently, the decisions on offshore Arctic leases. Murkowski says the department created a "deteriorating regulatory environment" that thwarts development and was a factor in Shell's decision to give up on Arctic drilling.

"So if you're an Alaskan and you're reading the headlines, you have to wonder, what's going on within Interior? Why do they have it out for us?" the senator said.

Sarri, who is already working in the policy office at Interior, says the department isn't against Arctic development.

"Let me just first start by saying, really quickly that Alaska is incredibly important obviously to energy production in this country and the safe and responsible development in the Arctic is an important part of the picture," Sarri said.

Murkowski told her that's not evident from the administration's actions.

"I was not involved in either of the decisions announced on Friday," Sarri said, referring to the cancellation of Arctic lease sales and the refusal to extend existing leases held by Shell and other companies.

Sarri says the offshore leasing decisions came from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which are in Interior but lower down the organizational chart. Murkowski pressed on, and Sarri continued to say she wasn't responsible for the actions Murkowski objects to.

Dozens of nominations are pending in Congress. Senators sometimes hold them hostage by the fistful to extract concessions from a president. Murkowski didn't say whether she'd block anyone.

Even if she did put a hold on Interior nominations, Sarah Binder, a senior fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution, says it's unlikely to cause the Obama administration to reverse course. But, Binder says, by voicing her opposition, Murkowski does plant a flag on the issue.

"She's taking a position, right?" Binder says. "And senators get rewarded for being on the right side of issues, even if they can't get the outcome that they want."

A Murkowski spokesman says the senator will wait for more information before deciding how to vote on Sarri's confirmation.

Recent headlines

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The question now is what to do with all the animals and how to care for them while they are waiting to be placed in homes.

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The next step for the scientists is testing the samples retrieved from the carcass to search for what killed this animal.

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Attu is scheduled for what may be the first of many stages of cleanup — but it's unlikely the military will ever be able to turn back the clock to a time before conflict.

-

The museum's board of directors voted Oct. 12 to close the museum and place executive director Zoya Johnson on paid administrative leave. Comments
comments

Murkowski's Irate; Interior Nominee Heard All About It

[Alaska Public Radio Network](#), October 20, 2015

Murkowski, as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has a pretty big gavel to pummel the Interior Department with. Her committee oversees that department. Nominees for high office at Interior and other departments have to clear her committee en route to Senate confirmation. This morning, with three nominees from Interior and three from Energy before her, Murkowski wasn't shy about tying the nominees to their bosses and declaring favorites. The senator says she likes Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz.

"He works with us. He listens to us. I think he deserves to have a team in place to support him," Murkowski said. "Unfortunately, I'm not able to say the same when it comes to the secretary of the Interior."

Murkowski homed in on Kristen Sarri, the nominee to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget. Murkowski went through a list of her complaints about the department, such as: Not opening enough of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska to exploration, being slow with permits, the "heartless" denial of an emergency road for King Cove, and, most recently, the decisions on offshore Arctic leases. Murkowski says the department created a "deteriorating regulatory environment" that thwarts development and was a factor in Shell's decision to give up on Arctic drilling.

"So if you're an Alaskan and you're reading the headlines, you have to wonder, what's going on within Interior? Why do they have it out for us?" the senator said.

Sarri, who is already working in the policy office at Interior, says the department isn't against Arctic development.

"Let me just first start by saying, really quickly, that Alaska is incredibly important obviously to energy production in this country and the safe and responsible development in the Arctic is an important part of the picture," Sarri said.

Murkowski told her that's not evident from the administration's actions.

"I was not involved in either of the decisions announced on Friday," Sarri said, referring to the cancellation of Arctic lease sales and the refusal to extend existing leases held by Shell and other companies.

Sarri says the offshore leasing decisions came from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which are in Interior but lower down the organizational chart. Murkowski pressed on, and Sarri continued to say she wasn't responsible for the actions Murkowski objects to.

Dozens of nominations are pending in Congress. Senators sometimes hold them hostage by the fistful to extract concessions from a president. Murkowski didn't say whether she'd block anyone.

Even if she did put a hold on Interior nominations, Sarah Binder, a senior fellow in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution, says it's unlikely to cause the Obama Administration to reverse course. But, Binder says, by voicing her opposition, Murkowski does plant a flag on the issue.

"She's taking a position, right?" Binder says. "And senators get rewarded for being on the right side of issues, even if they can't get the outcome that they want."

A Murkowski spokesman says the senator will wait for more information before deciding how to vote on Sarri's confirmation.

'New Chapter In Trust': Historic \$186 Million Settlement Reaffirms Sovereignty, Tribes Say

[Indian Country Today Media Network](#), October 20, 2015

Tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior heralded the outcome of a \$186 million settlement signed earlier this month between the federal government, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw nations to solve a longstanding land trust dispute as a new chapter in relations.

"This settlement represents a significant milestone in helping solidify and improve our relationship with the United States," said Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby in a statement during the October 5 signing ceremony that also gave a nod to the impetus provided by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. "We respect the vital role Secretary Jewell has taken in helping make this historic settlement a reality. We are confident she will play an essential role in our efforts to continue strengthening the relationship between our governments, because we believe she has a unique appreciation for the mutual benefits of a positive government-to-government relationship."

Jewell indicated as much by greeting the crowd, many of them wearing traditional attire, with the Choctaw "Halito!" which "spoke to her empathy and support of American Indian issues and people," the Choctaw Nation said in a release describing the signing ceremony.

Anoatubby and Choctaw Chief Gary Batton were both on hand on Tuesday October 6 to sign a historic \$186 million settlement between the two tribes and the U.S. Department of the Interior. The agreement resolved a lawsuit that took issue with the way the federal government had managed the tribes' trust resources, according to a statement from the Chickasaw Nation. The Chickasaw Nation will receive \$46.5 million of the \$186 million settlement, with the balance going to the Choctaw. In their case the tribes alleged that the U.S. mismanaged 1.3 million acres of timberlands belonging to the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations. The agreement ends all litigation and was inked at the Choctaw Event Center in a ceremony that capped a two-day visit Jewell to both nations on October 5 and 6.

RELATED: Choctaw and Chickasaw Receive \$186 Million in Historic Land-Trust-Management Settlement

"Today's agreement is the latest addition to a record number of longstanding settlements resolved under this Administration," Jewell said in a DOI statement after the signing. "This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country."

Batton, too, spoke about the improvement in relations stemming from visits by Jewell and President Barack Obama.

"This visit marks the start of a revitalized relationship with the United States," said Batton in the tribes' statement. "Secretary Jewell's presence here, coming soon after President Obama's recent visit, also serves to reaffirm that the foundation of this relationship is government-to-government."

Batton emphasized the nature of the relationship as well.

"I am appreciative of having a sovereign-to-sovereign relationship between the Choctaw Nation and the U.S. Government," he said. "It is also historic that these three sovereigns have agreed to a settlement of the timber trust account case."

The case was first filed in 2005 but reached back more than 100 years to just before Oklahoma became a state. That's when the U.S. government took control of more than a million acres of Chickasaw and Choctaw tribal lands, the Choctaw Nation explained in its media release describing the events of the day.

"The U.S., as federal trustee, held those lands in trust for the benefit of the Nations," said the Choctaw in its statement. "In December 2005 the Nations filed suit in U.S. District Court seeking a long overdue accounting of the federal trustee's management of those resources and an equitable restoration of the value of that trust."

The \$186 million will be divided between the two tribes based on treaty agreements, with the Choctaw receiving 75 percent, or \$139.5 million, and the Chickasaw the other 25 percent, or \$46.5 million.

Both Batton and Anoatubby said the proceeds would be invested in education and other endeavors.

"We plan for the proceeds to be invested in our people—expanding education, creating jobs and promoting economic development and culture, as well as a portion to be invested in a sustainability fund for the future of our Citizens," Batton said.

Anoatubby had announced the settlement to members in his State of the Nation Address on October 3.

"Our portion of the funds will be carefully invested and the returns used for activities that improve the overall quality of life of all Chickasaws," said Anoatubby in the address.

He, too, added that the settlement was about more than money.

"Perhaps more important than the actual dollars, this settlement turns the page," said Anoatubby. "It represents the United States' acknowledgement of its mistreatment of the Chickasaw Nation and American Indians of Indian Territory during those early decades of the twentieth century. We continue to actively protect and defend our sovereignty, but we will continue to strive to improve our working relationship with the government and its agencies and agents."

U.S. Treasury Confirms \$20B Balance For LWCF, But Is It Real?

[E&E Publishing](#), October 21, 2015

The Land and Water Conservation Fund that expired earlier this month for the first time in its 50-year history currently contains nearly \$20 billion, according to the U.S. Treasury, which maintains the program's balance sheets.

Whether that is "real" money available to be spent on federal land acquisitions, private land easements and state recreation projects depends on whom you ask.

But the money – collected mostly from offshore oil and gas lease rentals and royalty receipts – does exist, according to the Treasury.

The \$19.8 billion balance also includes a relatively small amount of revenues from the sales of surplus federal property and the motor boat fuels tax, Treasury said.

There's been significant debate over how LWCF's expiration on Sept. 30 will affect the program's funding.

Advertisement

This much is undisputed: Money from offshore drilling is now going directly into the general Treasury rather than LWCF. That means the \$19.8 billion can only be reduced until Congress reauthorizes the program.

What is less clear is how the program's expiration will affect appropriators' willingness to fund it.

Despite LWCF's expiration, it is still being funded at approximately \$300 million a year under the continuing resolution. While it is authorized at \$900 million, the program has rarely been appropriated at that level.

Democrats, certain pro-LWCF Republicans and conservationists say reauthorization is urgent, warning that the program has been disconnected from its main funding source – oil and gas. The premise in enacting the fund in 1965 was to use revenue from the depletion of one natural resource to permanently protect other scenic and ecologically rich resources.

But those who favor reforming LWCF – arguing a greater portion of money should go to states or that some portion should be used to maintain existing federal lands – say there's no rush to reauthorize it.

They cite the \$20 billion. LWCF has collected roughly \$37 billion since 1965 but less than half has been appropriated, according to a Congressional Research Service report.

"When we wake up tomorrow, after allowing LWCF's authorization to expire, nothing will have substantively changed," Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) said in a floor speech in late September before blocking a motion to extend LWCF by unanimous consent.

House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), who has been the chief opponent of a clean LWCF extension in the House, has pledged to introduce a bill to reauthorize the fund this year, though with notable reforms.

The status quo, at least from appropriators' perspective, has not changed, said Chris Gallegos, a spokesman for Senate Appropriations Chairman Thad Cochran (R-Miss.).

"Land and Water Conservation Fund projects can move forward despite the ongoing effort to reauthorize the program," he said.

House Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Ken Calvert (R-Calif.) has noted that there are other expired federal programs – he cited the FBI – that are unauthorized and yet continue to receive congressional funding.

Yet he also signaled it would be more difficult to fund LWCF in the absence of new revenues from offshore drilling. The \$20 billion in remaining LWCF funds, he said, are "as real as the money in the Social Security trust fund."

"There's been money paid into that account, on paper," he said. "But that money's been spent."

Yet appropriators "still possess the same power to appropriate funding under LWCF," said Interior Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw.

"The process has not changed for appropriation post-expiration," she said. But "without reauthorization, the highly successful program needlessly faces an uncertain future."

The longer it is expired, the more vulnerable it will be to spending cuts, said Alan Rowsome, director of government relations at the Wilderness Society.

And regardless of whether appropriators continue funding it, the fact remains that \$2.5 million per day in oil and gas revenues are now going to the general Treasury rather than LWCF, he noted.

"The reality is all this leads to a very urgent situation where LWCF does need permanent authorization and a permanent funding solution," he said. "Rather than discussing whether [the \$20 billion] exists or not, we should be talking about alleviating the problem."

Colorado Delegation Divided Over Public Lands Fund

[Durango \(CO\) Herald](#), October 20, 2015

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the country's most successful land-conservation program, was allowed to expire at the end of September after congressional leaders failed to reauthorize the program. Now, as politicians take stock of the program's influence across the country, many are pushing for permanent reauthorization of it.

The LWCF, established in 1964, was created to secure outdoor recreation lands for future generations. Over the course of its existence, the program has provided almost \$17 billion in funding for the expansion of parks and protected forests across the country and has protected more than 500 million acres of land across the country.

Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., said it's important to renew the fund to ensure future generations continue to have access to public areas.

"Rural and urban communities throughout Colorado benefit from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, including the Animas River Trail," Bennet said. "It's a crucial tool we've used to conserve dozens of landscapes across Colorado. It's also critical to our outdoor recreation industry, which is a major driver of the state's economy. There is strong bipartisan support for the LWCF, and we're extremely disappointed that it has not yet been reauthorized."

Earlier this year, Bennet introduced legislation along with Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., and Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., to permanently reauthorize the fund. That legislation fell one vote short of passage.

One of the benefits of the LWCF is that it is entirely funded by royalties from offshore drilling, defraying taxpayers' cost. But while the LWCF's reauthorization has enough support in the Senate, House Republicans are weary about putting forward a simple reauthorization bill.

Rep. Scott Tipton, R-Cortez, believes the fund is an effective tool for conservation efforts, but he feels that it's in need of some reforms "to ensure it is still achieving its original mission" after more than 50 years of existence.

"Managing nearly 640 million acres in the United States, the federal government is by far the largest landowner in most Western states," Tipton said. "Rather than increasing LWCF funding in order to obtain more federal property, land-management agencies should focus on managing the lands they already have. LWCF reauthorization provides an opportunity for reforms that support addressing the growing maintenance backlogs for national parks, roads, trails and facilities."

Instead, Tipton believes LWCF funding could also be used for land exchanges "involving strategic landholdings" with private owners.

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop, R-Utah, has indicated that he will put forward a bill that changes the fund in the coming months, including efforts to redirect money to more state and local projects.

A recent U.S. Treasury report shows the fund contains a \$19.8 billion balance, although whether this money can be used to continue acquiring federal lands and support protection efforts is up for debate. Because of the fund's expiration, royalties from offshore drilling will now go directly into the Treasury's coffers.

According to Sen. Bennet's office, parks throughout Colorado have received LWCF funding, including Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, the Ophir Valley in the Uncompahgre National Forest, Dinosaur National Monument and the Colorado National Monument. Since the fund was established, Colorado has received almost \$239 million in funding to conserve lands across the state.

Data from the Outdoor Industry Association show that outdoor recreation in Colorado generates more than \$13.2 billion in consumer spending, supports 125,000 jobs across the state and provides close to \$1 billion in annual tax revenue.

U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., also announced his support for the program's renewal. Along with Sen. Bennet and 52 other senators, Gardner previously signed on to a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., pushing for the fund's permanent authorization.

"I remain a strong proponent of permanently reauthorizing the LWCF, and that is why I will continue to work toward a solution that paves the way for the common sense, permanent reauthorization of a program that has been a great friend to Colorado and is supported by sportsmen, hunters, recreationists and Americans around the country," Gardner said.

Edward Graham, a student at American University in Washington, D.C., and an intern with The Durango Herald.

Weekend Warriors Fear Washington Land Grab Could Take Off-roading Off The Board

[Fox News](#), October 20, 2015

A group of off-roaders and others are attempting to fight a proposed designation of three national monuments in the California desert under the Antiquities Act. (Corva.org)

California outdoors enthusiasts fear Washington is poised to put up roadblocks on some of the Golden State's most treasured trails by designating three desert destinations totaling more than 1 million acres national landmarks.

The Obama administration is considering using the federal Antiquities Act to bypass the legislative process at the request of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, whose efforts to have the Mojave Trails and Castle Mountain, both in the Mojave Desert, and a section of the Sonoran Desert named federal sites were repeatedly blocked by Republicans. A White House move could put the land under federal control, which critics say could cut funding for upkeep or even restrict access.

"Bypassing the legislative process using the Antiquities Act would be as disastrous as it is undemocratic, creating winners and losers with the stroke of a pen," said Rep. Paul Cook, R-Calif., who has sponsored a bill that bears some similarities to Feinstein's, but would ensure off-roading and mining could continue on the land. Cook's bill would also allow the state to create water projects for wildlife conservation.

"Any time you take away the consensus of the local community they are left with something they did not ask for."

– Amy Granat, California Off-Road Vehicle Association

The Mojave Trails lie in the desert of the same name in eastern California and are part of a 140-mile road that stretches from the Colorado River to Mojave River. The Sand to Snow Monument would cover 135,000 acres from the Sonoran Desert floor in Coachella Valley to the peak of Mount San Gorgonio, in the San Bernardino Mountain range. The Castle Mountains lie on the Border of Nevada and California near the famed Joshua Tree region and reach an elevation of 5,543 feet.

While the Obama administration has not said publicly if the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountain national monuments will be designated, Feinstein asked the president in August to take the action. The Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906 by Theodore Roosevelt, and gives the president authority to create national monuments from public lands to protect

significant natural, cultural or scientific features. It has been used more than 100 times, including for such landmarks as the Grand Canyon, Mount St. Helen's and a stretch of the Underground Railroad in Maryland. Given that President Obama has invoked the Antiquities Act to name 19 sites national monuments since 2009 and as recently as July, Cook and other critics have reason to believe the White House could do so again, especially at the invitation of a powerful Democratic ally.

"We don't know what's going to happen," said Amy Granat, managing director of the California Off-Road Vehicle Association, which has been fighting the legislative proposals for two years. "More and more of the desert is being taken away from the people. If you look at the entirety of the desert, there has always been a no-win when the Antiquities Act has been put in place."

Cook supports the designation, but through legislation and on terms that allow current uses to continue. He said a White House decree based on the Antiquities Act "sets in motion a Washington-based management plan" that will ultimately leave the recreational area unfunded – and unkempt.

"... the roads and facilities will be left to degrade to a point where public use is unsafe or impossible," he said. "Anyone who's read the recent reporting on the newly-created San Gabriel National Monument's dire situation can attest to this. Use of the Antiquities Act will create more "orphan" monuments like San Gabriel, this time in the heart of the California desert."

One example of the Antiquities Act not helping to improve an area can be seen at the San Gabriel Mountains, range of mountains located across Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties and separates the City of Angels and the Mojave. It has been just over a year since the White House designated the mountainous region as a National monument but the area has still not received any federal funding. The 970-square-mile region badly needed the funding to combat growing blight in the area, but is still plagued by garbage and vandalism. And with no federal funding in sight, the National Park Service does not have the means for proper upkeep.

Feinstein is not without support in her home state. An Antiquities Act designation for the three landmarks could actually bolster recreational activities, according to the Campaign for the California Desert.

"The point that Rep. Cook and other opponents of the monument designation are missing is that when our shared public lands are protected, it's for the continued use and benefit of all Americans," the group said in a statement. "It is only when our public lands are sold off or leased by a developer does the public's access to our public lands become restricted."

Perry Chiamonte is a reporter for FoxNews.com. Follow him on Twitter at @perryrch

Drones Power Up To Fight Wildfires In US West

[Voice of America](#), October 21, 2015

BOISE, IDAHO—Consumer drones look like children's toys compared with the unmanned, water-dropping helicopter that was demonstrated for U.S. government officials this month. The K-MAX chopper is the largest of several remotely piloted firefighting aircraft to get a tryout this year for firefighting duty.

The dual-rotor helicopter looks as if it's been squished from the sides. It demonstrated water drops and ferried supplies up and down a mountain. All of the missions were flown by remote control from a ground station set up next to the helipad. A pilot sat in the one-seat cockpit ready to take the controls — just in case.

WATCH: Drones Power Up to Fight Wildfires

Helicopter maker Kaman Aerospace produced the K-MAX. Vice President Bob Manaskie said it can fly through thick smoke or darkness, situations that force current firefighting aircraft to stay on the ground. It can lift up to 27-hundred kilos, the equivalent of its own weight.

"We can fight fires 24/7, unmanned or optionally manned. That's the advantage," he said. "You can get water on the fires 14 or 15 extra hours per day where a manned system can't."

Art Hinaman, assistant director for aviation at the U.S. Forest Service, said he saw "a lot of potential" at the initial pitch.

"It's fascinating that it can be done, that the technology is there," he said. "For us, the ability to do that without having to risk a pilot in low light level conditions, poor visibility and weather [in which] you just can't fly — and the guys on the ground need the help — that's pretty monumental."

Brad Koeckertiz, the unmanned aircraft program manager with the U.S. Department of Interior, figures it will take a few more years to integrate drones into all the other routines found in fighting wildfires, but said he was confident that optionally piloted aircraft would become a tool that firefighters regularly use.

Not just for fires

The U.S. Marine Corps operated two K-MAX helicopters in the unmanned configuration in Afghanistan to resupply remote outposts at night. K-MAX shuttles replaced dangerous convoys on the ground.

"We've tweaked it to where it is very safe," Manaskie said. "When we put it in Afghanistan initially, the Marines wouldn't put people underneath the aircraft as it was hovering because they were afraid, unmanned, it would fall down. By the end, there were tons of people under there hooking up stuff. They got very confident with it."

Two controllers on the ground put the K-MAX unmanned chopper through its paces. (Credit: Tom Banse)

The K-MAX helicopter is the third remotely piloted aircraft to get a federal tryout this fire season. The first two tests used smaller, winged aircraft to identify and map hot spots. Boeing subsidiary Insitu showed off a repurposed military reconnaissance drone called the ScanEagle over a forest fire in Olympic National Park. Then Textron Corp. demonstrated its Aerosonde Mark 4.7 surveillance drone over a different forest fire north of McCall, Idaho.

There is an element of good drone/bad drone to this. More than a dozen times this year, unauthorized hobby drones flew too close to active wildfires in the American West, which forced temporary halts to aerial firefighting operations.

That is one of the reasons behind the Federal Aviation Administration's plans to require many drone aircraft to be registered. FAA chief Michael Huerta said registration would increase pressure on drone operators to fly responsibly.

Unmanned K-MAX Completes Firefighting Demo

[Vertical Magazine \(CAN\)](#), October 21, 2015

More than 40 representatives from federal wildland fire agencies and media gathered at Lucky Peak Helibase just outside Boise, Idaho, on a smoky morning earlier this month to witness an unmanned Kaman K-MAX firefighting demonstration.

The aircraft, outfitted with redundant onboard equipment allowing it to operate both in line of sight and remotely via satellite, used a Bambi bucket to demonstrate spot drops and trailing drops, then demonstrated a cargo delivery and return from ridges and confined areas surrounding the base during the 2.5 hour demonstration. Throughout the event, both remote control and autonomous piloting were demonstrated, as well as electro-optic (EO) high definition, infrared and thermal imaging camera views to demonstrate the aircraft's ability to identify hot spots and the effectiveness of drops.

An onboard safety pilot had the ability to switch the aircraft to manual should an issue arise. Without a temporary flight restriction (TFR) or Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the aircraft couldn't fly completely unmanned for the demonstration.

"This technology will allow us to better support our firefighters on the ground, both with suppression and direct logistical support," said Mark Bathrick, director of aviation services for the Department of the Interior. "We see it as a great example of prior tax payer investment that will pay dividends."

Created through a partnership between Kaman and Lockheed Martin, the unmanned K-MAX operated in Afghanistan for the U.S. Marine Corps between 2011 and 2014. The aircraft, originally contracted for six months, stayed on to serve more than 2.5 years, delivering 4.5 million pounds of cargo and equipment to troops. Flying pre-subscribed GPS routes, the aircraft mainly operated in the dark with no external lighting along traditionally hazardous ground routes, taking no fire in its entire tour, said Lockheed Martin.

Upon completion of the mission, Lockheed Martin was approached by the Department of the Interior: Would this technology work to help fight fires?

Lockheed and Kaman provided an initial demonstration in November 2014 at the FAA's testing grounds in New York for firefighting agencies. Critical firefighting feedback led to several modifications and tactical changes, the results of which were demonstrated at the Lucky Peak Helibase.

"As a career firefighter, I've seen time and again the calls for aerial support when visibility is down or the wind is too high to safely operate," said Brad Koeckertiz, UAS program manager for the Office of Aviation Services at the Department of the Interior. "Putting this technology in place will increase safety for people on the ground and in the air."

The demonstration was slow and methodical, often with water dropping higher than it would in a real scenario due to safety, said Lockheed officials. Monitors on the ground showed views from the helicopter, including crystal clear views through the smoke and haze, as well as what the remote control operator was seeing on his screen.

The operator flew the helicopter using two Toughbook laptop computers and a PlayStation controller. "The choice of controller was actually strategic," said Christopher Zonio, flight test engineer at Lockheed Martin and the aircraft's original operator with more than 1,000 hours of flying K-MAX remotely. "When I trained Marines, most had instant familiarity because they played PlayStation. They'd say, 'I know this. Just tell me what the buttons do.' The learning curve was fast for most of them."

Zonio's computers and controller worked through two satellite uplinks and a remote control antenna for line of sight. Additionally, he sent directions to the helicopter, such as a GPS location that could be called in by a firefighter on the ground, and the aircraft then flies autonomously to the point.

"This aircraft can operate as manned when it is safe, and as unmanned when visibility drops or night falls, allowing the fire suppression and supply delivery to continue," said Art Hinaman, assistant director of aviation, fire and aviation management for

the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). "We'd not need special permission to fly it to a fire as long as a pilot is onboard, then once in the TFR, we can go unmanned, saving time and money."

The Department of Interior hopes to fast-track FAA approvals to allow the aircraft to operate in fire TFRs as soon as next summer. However, the issue of price and who would make the investment wasn't discussed directly in the presentation.

A new K-MAX off the line, in a manned-only configuration, is around US\$7 million, said Bob Manaskie, vice president and general manager of air vehicles and MRO for Kaman. However, a retrofit for an existing K-MAX is possible, with the aircraft needing to go back to the factory for tail boom strengthening, then on to Lockheed Martin for technology additions. The price, he said, depended on the sensors the operator ordered. Lockheed Martin quoted between \$11 to \$15 million for a new aircraft.

Both Hinaman of the USFS and Bathrick of the DoI said the agencies had no plans to purchase the aircraft; they'd be contracting with private companies much like they do today. However, both were unable to discuss what that would look like as terms and conditions of contracts for a yet-to-be FAA-approved aircraft were unavailable. It remains unclear what would motivate current firefighting aircraft contractors to make such an investment, or if they'd be able to receive adequate insurance coverage for the operation.

Firefighters assigned to the helibase and helitak were not allowed to talk to press at the demonstration to share their thoughts after seeing the aircraft in action. Hinaman said he recognized the importance of working with firefighters during the process. "It's important to get them involved in seeing this aircraft in action and hearing their input," he said.

When asked about the potential of working with skilled firefighting pilots to transition them to ground operators of the unmanned K-MAX in order to use their inherent knowledge of firefighting, Bathrick responded: "We don't see the need for skilled (firefighting) pilots as it is pure math with a UAV. It flies to a precise point along a prescribed route. It can operate more precisely than any pilot, and I can say that — I am a pilot," he said. "We are getting critical feedback from firefighters and pilots. We're here to support them."

The Department of Interior plans to work with Lockheed Martin to test the aircraft on a very controlled prescribed burn before moving on to testing it on a real forest fire, Bathrick said.

The Unmanned K-MAX has a 2.75-hour endurance with an option to add an auxiliary fuel tank to extend the range another 45 minutes. The aircraft weighs in at 5,145 pounds empty and can lift up to 6,000 lbs. on the hook for a maximum gross weight of 12,000 lbs., with external load, at sea level. At 5,000 feet, and 15 degrees C, lift performance decreases to 5,663 lbs.

The demonstration was funded by Lockheed Martin and hosted by the Boise National Forest.

Jeb Bush Calls For Moving Interior Department From D.C. To Western City

[Las Vegas Sun](#), October 20, 2015

Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush will unveil his proposals for Western land and resource management in a campaign stop in Reno on Wednesday morning, in a speech likely to resonate with conservative voters opposed to what they see as federal overreach in the Western states.

Bush is expected to criticize the Obama administration for failing to work with states, local governments, Native tribes and private owners as "equal partners," arguing that overregulation has weakened the trust of local communities in the federal government.

Bush is expected to speak at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park before appearing at a forum sponsored by the LIBRE Initiative at the College of Southern Nevada Cheyenne Campus in North Las Vegas at 6 p.m.

In the proposal, Bush will call for moving the headquarters of the Department of Interior from Washington, D.C., to a city in the western United States like Denver, Salt Lake City or Reno and will say that as president he would direct federal agencies to give broad latitude to states to determine land-use issues.

He's also expected to call for a revised framework on granting national monument status, convening a panel of Western leaders to propose changes. Republicans have criticized President Barack Obama, who, with the backing of Nevada Sen. Harry Reid, designated the Basin and Range National Monument over the objections of local stakeholders.

Bush will propose redirecting some funds from acquisition of new national park land to park maintenance. He will also reaffirm his opposition to the administration's Waters of the United States rule, which defines which waterways are subject to EPA regulation and will argue for federal deference to state plans for protecting species like the sage grouse.

Scientists Confirm That Alaskan Wildfires Could Make Global Warming Worse

By Chris Mooney

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

In not much more than a month, leaders from around the world will assemble in Paris in order to — hopefully — find a way to cap the world's greenhouse gas emissions and bring them down to safe levels.

But there's a problem. There are some greenhouse gas sources that these leaders can't fully control — and in some cases, reasons to think that these sources may grow in the future. The point is being driven home this year by raging peat fires in Indonesia, which have already contributed over a billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions to the atmosphere — as much as Japan produces in a year from fossil fuels. And the blazes still appear to be on the rise, meaning that the net contribution this year could ultimately be considerably higher than that.

Indonesia isn't the only part of the world where fires — which in many areas are expected to be worsened by climate change — could provide a new net source of emissions to the atmosphere. Another region of major worry is the world's so-called "boreal" or northern forests, which store a gigantic amount of carbon in trees as well as soils and frozen permafrost layers beneath the surface. Permafrost in this region is in many ways analogous to peatlands in Indonesia — it's a repository of carbon that has accumulated over many thousands of years, but could now be released back to the atmosphere on a much shorter time scale.

Alaska's dramatic wildfire season this year — where over 5 million acres of largely black spruce forests burned — raised great concerns about how events like this could make global warming worse. The fear here is of a sort of triple whammy — forests release the carbon stored in trees back to the atmosphere when they burn; the forests contain a deep upper soil layer that also burns off, releasing more carbon; and finally, beneath all of that is the carbon rich permafrost, which becomes exposed after fires and can then thaw and start to emit.

And now, a new study in *Nature Climate Change* reaffirms these concerns about the emissions of northern fires. The study, led by Ryan Kelly of the University of Illinois at Urbana, looked at a particular Alaskan region that has seen intensive burning of late — the remote Yukon Flats. The researchers used an ecosystem model to examine changes in the amount of carbon stored in the Yukon Flats going all the way back to the year 850, and carrying forward through 2006 — a more than thousand year period. The data used in the model came from "paleo-climate" reconstructions of what burn conditions were like in this area over large periods of time, based on charcoal layers found in cores of sediments extracted from the region.

This approach allowed the researchers to confirm that the recent burning in this area is dramatic when compared with its past history — and thus, that recent fires have been releasing much of the carbon that has been stored up over hundreds of years. For the Yukon Flats, "this rapid increase in fire activity has led to pretty major losses of carbon from the ecosystem, on the order of 10 to 12 percent of total carbon stocks in a matter of 5 decades or so," said Kelly.

In addition, the researchers also determined that over time, change in fires patterns were by far the largest factor in how much carbon the ecosystem stored. In fact, the study noted, "long-term C dynamics of the past millennium were almost entirely dictated by patterns of fire-regime variability." In other words, in more fire-intense periods, the forests lost a great deal of carbon to the atmosphere, whereas in less fire friendly periods, they stored it instead.

This, in turn, leads to the inference that with more global warming, more forest burning could worsen a process that's already underway. "Our study reveals that increased burning of boreal forests will probably cause massive losses of stored C, with the potential to amplify climate warming," the researchers concluded.

"I would definitely guess, and we speculate this in the paper, that the direct role of warming and rising co2 will be more important in the future than they were over the 1,000 year time period we studied," said Kelly.

Granted, there is one limitation — the research only concerns the Yukon Flats, and this area has seen quite dramatic burning, at levels that are not consistent with all burning across the forests of the global north. So it's an outlier in some ways, but also suggestive of how things could be heading for northern forests.

To be sure, there is one possible mitigating factor — global warming could also even cause more plant growth in northern and Arctic regions, leading to an increase in how much carbon they're pulling out of the atmosphere. More northern trees, bushes, and even shrubs as tundras warm up could mean more carbon storage, even as fires may also rage at more powerful and extreme rates.

Climate researchers are still trying to figure out how all of these factors will interrelate. But the new research — along with developments in Indonesia — reaffirms that fire is a powerful determinant of how much carbon resides in land, rather than in the air, across our globe. Thus, even as we keep burning fossil fuels, fires may continually combust additional planetary carbon reserves — pushing the globe that much closer to busting its carbon budget.

Pingree To Prepare Food Waste Bill

[Politico](#), October 21, 2015

With help from Bill Tomson, Jenny Hopkinson and Helena Bottemiller Evich

PINGREE TO PREPARE FOOD WASTE BILL: Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-Maine) is preparing a bill aimed at reducing food waste as administration officials look to address the issue through voluntary efforts. A spokesman for Pingree tells MA the lawmaker plans to announce she is working on a bill during a speech to the New York Times Food for Tomorrow Conference

today in Pocantico Hills, N.Y. The bill will seek to put into place incentives, programs and other measures to curb food wasted at the farm level, by food makers, restaurants and by consumers. While the spokesman said details of the bill are still in the works, one of the things the congresswoman is looking to change are sell-by dates, to tell consumers that food is still safe even if it has passed its prime. Details on the conference can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1n8smWG>

Story Continued Below

The bill follows on the heels of an Obama administration announcement last month that the government is committing to reduce food waste by 50 percent during the next 15 years, the first time the United States has ever put into place a goal on the issue. While food and environmental groups lauded the efforts, several warned that the government may need to take further action to incentivize reductions if it wants to see real change. Brush up on the issue here: <http://politico.pro/1NdfBQR>

HAPPY TUESDAY, OCT. 20! Welcome to Morning Ag, where your host got the heads-up that the Interior Department has a great Vine account. Fishing bears and a dancing sage grouse? This is Internet gold: <http://bit.ly/1M1i086>. The USDA needs to up its game. You know the deal: News, tips? Send them to cpurdy@politico.com and [@chasepurdy](https://twitter.com/chasepurdy). Follow the whole team [@Morning_Ag](https://twitter.com/Morning_Ag).

USITC RULES TODAY ON MEXICO DUMPING CHARGES: The International Trade Commission will make its much anticipated final ruling at 11 a.m. today on charges that Mexico was dumping subsidized sugar into the U.S. at below market prices. If the ITC commissioners agree with the findings of a Commerce Department investigation that Mexico was indeed dumping, a negotiated suspension agreement that caps Mexican imports will stay in place. It's the result that farmers here are hoping for in order to keep Mexican shipments reined in and prevent price-lowering influxes of imported sugar.

But some U.S. sugar refineries and users are hoping for the opposite and would like to see all restrictions removed from Mexican supplies that help keep prices down and supplies plentiful.

"Refinery operations in cities such as Savannah, Detroit, Baltimore, New York and San Francisco will be forced to run at 65 percent of capacity, resulting in job losses and possible closures, while these cities' much needed jobs are shipped to Mexico by these agreements," said Imperial Sugar President Michael Gorrell in a presentation on the suspension agreement at a conference in June. Pros can see the full story here: <http://politico.pro/1RkQb8F>

FOOD COMPANIES JOIN WHITE HOUSE IN CLIMATE DEAL PUSH: There are some pretty weighty food companies amid the 81 companies that have agreed to a White House initiative to push for a strong climate deal out of the United Nations. Negotiations at the U.N. are set to take place late next month in Paris. Coca-Cola, General Mills, Hershey's, Kellogg's, Mars, Nestlé, PepsiCo, Cargill, Campos Brothers Farms and Unilever all signed the pledge, as did restaurant chains McDonald's, Starbucks and Wal-Mart. Monsanto is also part of the group, as is Syngenta. View the commitments here: <http://1.usa.gov/1W0BokL>

** A message from the Coalition for Safe Affordable Food: Virtually every leading health and safety organization on earth – from the World Health Organization to the American Medical Association – have affirmed the safety of agricultural biotechnology. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/1LprXGN> **

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS MEET ON ORGANIC AQUACULTURE: Administration officials have met with two groups following the USDA's organic aquaculture standards as they continue a review of a proposal to create standards for organic production and certification of farmed aquatic animals and their products. George Lockwood, who chaired the working group that made a recommendation on what the standard should look like, met with USDA and Office of Management and Budget officials Oct. 13. Another meeting, with the National Organic Coalition, the Center for Food Safety, and Food & Water Watch took place earlier this year, on Aug. 28. Those groups have raised concerns about the proposal, arguing it would be very difficult to produce fish in a truly organic way. Details of the meetings here: <http://1.usa.gov/1PCuMJA> and here: <http://1.usa.gov/1OOXKp5>

DEADLINE TO COMMENT ON 'MIDGET' DESIGNATION FOR RAISINS APPROACHES: Today is the last day to comment on the Agricultural Marketing Service's plan to change the name of a grade of raisin from "midget" to "small." The proposal came about after Little People of America filed a petition arguing "midget" should be eliminated from the agency's vocabulary. The agency says the change shouldn't have any impact on handlers' or growers' benefits or costs. Both "midget" and "small" have been used interchangeably by the industry, so the proposal would make the designation uniform.

One comment in support said: "I am going to keep it simple. If The Little People of America are offended by fruit and vegetables being called 'midget,' it should be removed from the Agricultural Marketing Service's vocabulary."

DeLAURO PRAISED DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OVER POULTRY PLANT PROGRAM: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) has praised the U.S. Department of Labor after it announced the establishment of a Regional Emphasis Program to crack down on abusive labor practices in the poultry industry. The program is for states in which the poultry industry is heavily operating, including Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and certain worksites in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and New Mexico.

According to an announcement by the Labor Department, poultry plants often have working environments that pose a high risk for injury and illness to workers. Because of that, the department has established a program that will start by providing outreach activities to plants that will include letters to employers, training sessions with stakeholders and public service announcements, among other things. Enforcement activities may also be used, and will include the inspection and review of production operations, according to the announcement. You can read it in full here: <http://bit.ly/1LHiT3m>

DAIRY GROUPS TO SENATORS: LACK OF ACTION NOT COOL: U.S. dairy groups sent a clear message to senators Monday: Listen to Canada and Mexico on country-of-origin labeling before they hurt us. A World Trade Organization arbitration panel is currently deliberating how much the two North American countries are allowed to raise tariffs against targeted U.S. sectors — including on dairy — to recoup damages for discriminatory COOL rules. The leaders of the International Dairy Foods Association, National Milk Producers Federation and U.S. Dairy Export Council in a letter urged the Senate to come up with a solution on COOL for meat that heads off that possibility.

The House has already passed legislation repealing COOL provisions for beef, pork and chicken. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts supports that approach, but Sen. John Hoeven and ranking member Debbie Stabenow, along with a majority of the committee, have put forward a bill that would replace current mandatory COOL requirements with voluntary ones. Although the dairy industry's letter does not explicitly endorse the repeal-only approach, Canada and Mexico have indicated they would not be satisfied with any other outcome. Click here to read the letter: <http://bit.ly/1W1gm5w>.

GOT (NATURAL AMERICAN REDUCED FAT CHEDDAR) CHEESE?: The Department of Agriculture is researching the commercial availability of Natural American Reduced Fat Cheddar Cheese in bulk form for domestic food distribution programs. So if you're a cheese producer and you've got the ability to supply the product, the USDA has some questions for you: <http://1.usa.gov/1xjVVm>

GROUPS PUSH FOR CALIFORNIA WARNING ON GLYPHOSATE: More than a dozen environmental and consumer groups are urging regulators in California to list the pesticide glyphosate as a carcinogen under the state's chemical laws, which would require labeling as such. In a letter sent Monday to the state's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the groups, led by the Center for Food Safety, argue there is sufficient scientific evidence to justify the listing. OEHHA first proposed the move Sept. 4. The letter is here: <http://bit.ly/1hOoJUz>.

JBF ANNOUNCED ITS 2015 AWARD WINNERS: The 2015 James Beard Foundation Leadership Award honorees include: Sam Kass, former White House chef and senior policy adviser on nutrition; Don Bustos, co-director of the American Friends Service Committee; Eliot Coleman, an agricultural researcher, author and educator; Saru Jayaraman, director of the Food Labor Research Center at the University of California, Berkeley; and Bryant Terry, a chef and food justice activist.

Accepting his award at the awards dinner at the Hearst Tower on Tuesday night, Kass argued that the growing food movement needs to be more strategic and learn how to compromise as it pushes for policy and market change.

"We are in every single board room of every single food company," Kass said. "We are on the inside now ... we don't need to throw stones ... we have to be much more strategic."

MA'S INSTANT OATS:

– The Wilson Center's Susan Chan Shifflett took a deep dive into how China's growing appetite is transforming the Port of Oakland: <http://bit.ly/1GeONEb>

– Does the political power of Canadian dairy farmers outweigh the actual demands of Canadian consumers? The Fraser Institute took a look: <http://bit.ly/1GPJYMv>

– In case you missed it: The New York Times editorial board hops aboard the soda tax bandwagon: <http://nyti.ms/1Gn239L>

THAT'S ALL FOR MA! See you again soon! In the meantime, drop your host and the rest of the team a line: btomson@politico.com and [@billtomson4](https://twitter.com/billtomson4); jhopkinson@politico.com and [@jennyhops](https://twitter.com/jennyhops); cpurdy@politico.com and [@chasepurdy](https://twitter.com/chasepurdy); hbottemiller@politico.com and [@hbottemiller](https://twitter.com/hbottemiller); mkorade@politico.com and [@mjkorade](https://twitter.com/mjkorade); and jhuffman@politico.com and [@jsonhuffman](https://twitter.com/jsonhuffman). You can also follow [@POLITICOPro](https://twitter.com/POLITICOPro) and [@Morning_Ag](https://twitter.com/Morning_Ag) on Twitter.

** A message from the Coalition for Safe Affordable Food: With Vermont set to become the first state to implement its own GMO food labeling standard next July, it's time for Congress to pass reasonable, common-sense legislation that creates a uniform, national food labeling standard to protect consumer-choice and bring consistency to the marketplace. A failure to act this fall is tantamount to ceding control of food labeling policy in a nation of over 300 million to a state of only 600,000. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/1LprXGN> **

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

BIA Rule Gives Tribes More Control Over Elections

[Law360](#), October 20, 2015

Law360, New York (October 19, 2015, 9:39 PM ET) – The Bureau of Indian Affairs on Monday announced its final rule for Native American tribal elections conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying the new rule will encourage tribes to take control of their elections and help protect the voting rights of tribe members living in urban areas.

Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said in a statement Monday that the rule will allow tribes to opt out of having the interior secretary conduct their elections, and will allow tribal elections to...

To view the full article, register now.

DOI Announces Final Rule On Secretarial Elections For Tribes

[Native American Times](#), October 20, 2015

WASHINGTON – Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn today announced that the Department of the Interior has finalized updates to Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) regulations on Secretarial elections for tribal governments that will, among other things, protect the rights of tribal members living away from their communities to vote in these elections. A Secretarial election is a federal election conducted by the Secretary of the Interior for federally recognized tribes under a federal statute or tribal governing document (25 C.F.R. Part 81).

“Though many federal responsibilities concern the lands we hold in trust for tribes and Indian people, more than 55 million acres nationwide, the United States has a moral obligation to preserve connections between Indian people and their tribes that it once sought to destroy,” Washburn said. “For the future of Native nations and the health of Indian Country, American Indians in urban areas must work harder to maintain connections with their tribes. One important aspect of that relationship is participation in the civic and political life of their tribal governments. For that reason, our Secretarial election amendments seek to prevent tribal members living in urban areas from being inadvertently disenfranchised in Secretarial elections.”

Through the mid-20th century the BIA operated a program to relocate American Indians from their reservations to large urban centers in an attempt to assimilate them and terminate the federal relationship with the tribes. As a result of this program, and broader demographic trends in the United States, roughly three-quarters of American Indians now live in urban areas away from their home reservations.

The BIA conducts Secretarial elections for tribes required to have them if one of the following applies:

- A federal law requires a Secretarial election to take an action;
- The tribe’s governing document requires a Secretarial election to take an action;
- A federal corporate charter requires a Secretarial approval; or
- The tribe is adopting or amending a federal charter of incorporation, and certain circumstances apply.

Updates to the rule better account for the fact that many tribal members may live far from their reservations or tribal communities by providing that Secretarial elections generally be conducted by mail-out ballots.

The rule addresses the BIA’s Part 81 regulations, which govern how the Bureau conducts Secretarial elections, as well as 25 C.F.R. Part 82, which govern how tribal members can petition for a Secretarial election. The rule combines the provisions into one at 25 C.F.R. Part 81, and makes other updates to reflect changes in statutory law. The updates also incorporate deadlines, triggered by a tribe’s request for a Secretarial election, within which the BIA must call and hold an election.

The updated rule also clarifies how tribes may remove the requirement to hold a Secretarial election, and encourages tribes to do so in support of tribal self-determination and self-governance.

The rule has been in development for many years. The Department held three consultation sessions with tribal leaders on this proposed rule and provided an extended public comment period which ended on January 16, 2015.

The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs oversees the BIA, which is headed by a director who is responsible for managing day-to-day operations through four offices – Indian Services, Justice Services, Trust Services and Field Operations. These offices directly administer or fund tribally based infrastructure, law enforcement, social services, tribal governance, natural and energy resources, and trust management programs for the nation’s federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages through 12 regional offices and 81 agencies.

The Office of Indian Services Division of Tribal Government Services administers the 25 CFR Part 81 regulations. For more information about the BIA Division of Tribal Government Services, visit online or view a copy of the final rule.

Federal Court Hearing Focuses On Native Hawaiian Election

By Jennifer Sinco Kelleher

[Associated Press](#), October 21, 2015

HONOLULU — A federal court hearing started Tuesday in a lawsuit by people who want to put a stop to an election process that is underway for Native Hawaiians.

The lawsuit, filed in August, says it's unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election. The state argues in court documents that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it's not involved in next month's vote to elect delegates for a convention to determine self-governance for Native Hawaiians.

Tuesday's hearing is focused on the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction. The plaintiffs want the judge to limit voter registration activities or stop the election altogether.

The plaintiffs include two non-Hawaiians who aren't eligible for the roll, two Native Hawaiians who say their names appear on the roll without their consent and two Native Hawaiians who don't agree with a declaration to "affirm the un-relinquished sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people, and my intent to participate in the process of self-determination."

Native Hawaiians are the last remaining indigenous group in the U.S. that hasn't been allowed to establish its own government. Former U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka spent about a dozen years trying to get a bill passed that would give Native Hawaiians the same rights already extended to many Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

In 2011, the state passed a law recognizing Hawaiians as the first people of Hawaii and laid the foundation for Native Hawaiians to establish their own government.

The governor appointed a commission to produce the roll.

The Native Hawaiian Roll Commission "does not conduct elections, nor set election ability criteria," attorneys for the defendants, including the state, wrote in response to the lawsuit. An independent organization, Nai Aupuni, determined election criteria, the defendants said.

The lawsuit points to nearly \$2.6 million from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a public agency tasked with improving the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians, as evidence of the state's involvement.

According to the defendants, the money was provided with the understanding that Nai Aupuni would have autonomy.

The election is to select delegates for a convention, not for an election of public officials, Nai Aupuni said in court documents.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, which recently outlined a proposal for a possible government-to-government relationship if Native Hawaiians want one, took the judge up on his invitation to weigh in on the lawsuit. The department urged the judge not to grant an injunction and pointed out that American Indian tribes hold elections that exclude non-natives.

U.S. District Judge J. Michael Seabright allowed the plaintiff attorneys to call witnesses: Native Hawaiian Roll Commission Executive Director Clyde Namuo, Office of Hawaiian Affairs CEO Kamanaopono Crabbe and Nai Aupuni President J. Kuhio Asam. It's not clear when Seabright will issue a ruling.

Nai Aupuni leaders say it's crucial that the election moves forward because it presents a unique opportunity that has evaded Native Hawaiians for more than 100 years.

"If this process is stalled in the courts, the (roll commission) list will become stale, (Nai Aupuni's) funding may not be available and if history is a useful compass — it may be decades before funding, a similarly substantial roll, state and federal sensitivity and self-determination zeal among Native Hawaiians converge to bring about another such opportunity," attorneys for Nai Aupuni wrote in court documents.

Follow Jennifer Sinco Kelleher at <http://www.twitter.com/JenHapa>.

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Why Do Hawaiians Want Race-based Elections?

[Christian Science Monitor](#), October 20, 2015

A group of Hawaiians are suing their state in federal court for preparing to hold elections that would serve only one race – the islands' native population.

The justification for the race-based election? Everyone else is doing it.

Every other indigenous group in the United States has already has its own government. This is why, for example, US state and federal police need special certification to operate on Native American reservation land, and the tribes can opt out of daylight savings or state casino prohibitions if they choose.

The former US Sen. Daniel Akaka (D) of Hawaii, who retired in 2013, worked for more than a decade to give native Hawaiians the same self-government rights that Native Americans in the contiguous 48 states and Alaska already have.

The first step toward this goal came in 2011, when the state formally recognized the native Hawaiians. The state then created a Native Hawaiian Roll Commission to start making a list of eligible native Hawaiians who could elect delegates to a convention that would form a government with help from Nai Aupuni, a non-government organization.

The US Department of the Interior made a tentative plan for a formal relationship with whatever government the native Hawaiians set up.

In August, however, six state residents filed a lawsuit to stop the election. Two are non-native Hawaiians who cannot vote in the election, and two are natives who do not want their names on the voting list.

The other two simply disagree with the statement required for voter registration to "affirm the un-relinquished sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people, and my intent to participate in the process of self-determination."

The state of Hawaii says it has no official involvement in the election, so the racial basis of the election is not unconstitutional. The lawsuit, however, points to a \$2.6 million state contribution to the election process. The funding comes from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a state office that works to improve the lives of native Hawaiians.

The hearing Tuesday focuses on the desire of the plaintiffs – the anti-election Hawaiians of the case – for the judge to make a preliminary injunction and stop the election, or at least stop people from registering to vote.

Nai Aupuni said stopping the process now would be the worst thing. In its own submission to the court, Nai Aupuni said Hawaiians have been waiting and working for this for more than 100 years, and the chance may not come again for another century.

This report includes material from the Associated Press.

Lawsuit, Divisiveness Hamper Native Hawaiian Election Effort

[Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#), October 21, 2015

HONOLULU (AP) _ A group of Native Hawaiians are organizing an election to create a national government for the first time since American businessmen, backed by U.S. Marines, overthrew the Hawaiian kingdom more than 100 years ago.

They are trying to elect delegates for a convention next year to hash out a governing document that will go back to the Native Hawaiian community for ratification, but their plan is already facing resistance _ from Native Hawaiians themselves.

A federal judge on Tuesday will consider an injunction motion in a lawsuit that argues that it's unconstitutional to restrict voting to those with Native Hawaiian ancestry and that the state is improperly involved in the process.

Native Hawaiians are the last remaining indigenous group in the U.S. that hasn't been allowed to establish its own government.

Former U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka spent about a dozen years trying to get a bill passed that would give Native Hawaiians the same rights already extended to many Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

When it became clear that wouldn't happen, the state passed a law recognizing Hawaiians as the first people of Hawaii and laid the foundation for Native Hawaiians to establish their own government.

The governor appointed a commission to produce a roll of qualified Native Hawaiians interested in participating in their government.

Some of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit argue that their names appear on the roll without their consent.

The process has been rushed and confusing, critics say. "It's a shotgun wedding of self-determination," said Native Hawaiian community advocate Trisha Kehaulani Watson-Sproat.

Molokai activist Walter Ritte planned to run as a delegate, deciding it's better to participate even though he disagrees with the process. But when he saw that the list of candidates includes politicians and those who support federal recognition instead of forming an independent nation, he changed his mind.

"I don't want people to say, 'Well you were part of it,'" he said. "I have no faith in the system so I'm taking my name out."

There are some 200 candidates for 40 positions representing Hawaiians across the state and those living outside of Hawaii.

Supporters of the election agree that the process hasn't been perfect.

"But it's an opportunity that rarely comes around," said Bill Meheula, an attorney who will argue in court Tuesday on behalf of Nai Aupuni, a nonprofit organization made up of five directors guiding the election, convention and ratification process.

Watson-Sproat is skeptical of the people behind Nai Aupuni: "Who picked these people?"

"We are individuals who decided we want to commit ourselves to the process," Meheula said. "Someone had to stand up and it couldn't be a state agency. We were individuals that were able to come together and get a grant."

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a public agency tasked with improving Native Hawaiians' wellbeing, provided a nearly \$2.6 million grant for the election, with the understanding that the office wouldn't have any control over Nai Aupuni.

Some liken the election to selecting the founding fathers and mothers of a modern Hawaiian nation.

"Founding parents, if you will," said Clyde Namuo, executive director of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission and a delegate candidate, noting that the founding fathers of the U.S. organized the 13 colonies to escape British oppression.

Self-determination is a way for Native Hawaiians to address longstanding concerns in the community, he said: They fare poorly when it comes to income, education and health.

“The western way of life has not necessarily been good to us,” he said. “We will be able to control our destiny in a better way if we form our government.”

Until the 1893 overthrow, the U.S. recognized the Hawaiian nation's independence, extended full diplomatic recognition to the Hawaiian government and entered into several treaties with the Hawaiian monarch.

The U.S. annexed Hawaii five years later, and it became a state in 1959.

Native Hawaiians have long clamored for self-determination, but the options and opinions on what that looks like vary _ from federal recognition, to restoring the kingdom to dual citizenship.

Last month, the U.S. Department of the Interior outlined a proposal for a possible government-to-government relationship with Native Hawaiians _ if they want one.

The department has also weighed in on the lawsuit, urging the judge not to grant an injunction by pointing out that Native American tribes hold elections that exclude non-natives.

Ritte doesn't want Hawaiians to be another tribe.

“We don't have the same history as Indians,” he said. “The choice is to go down and be closer to the United States of America, who overthrew our queen, or avenge our queen and correct an injustice.” By The Associated Press, Copyright 2015

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Judge To Rule Friday On Fate Of Native Hawaiian Election

By Jennifer Sinco Kelleher

[Yahoo! News](#), October 21, 2015

HONOLULU (AP) — A federal judge said he will rule on Friday whether an election process underway for Native Hawaiians can proceed.

U.S. District Judge J. Michael Seabright heard arguments on Tuesday in a lawsuit filed in August that says it's unconstitutional for the state to be involved in a race-based election. The state argues that while it played a part in compiling a roll of Native Hawaiians eligible to participate, it's not involved in next month's vote to elect delegates for a convention to come up with a self-governance document for Native Hawaiians to ratify.

The plaintiffs include two non-Hawaiians who aren't eligible for the roll, two Native Hawaiians who say their names appear on the roll without their consent and two Native Hawaiians who don't agree with a declaration to “affirm the un-relinquished sovereignty of the Native Hawaiian people, and my intent to participate in the process of self-determination.”

One of the plaintiffs' attorneys, Bob Popper from Washington, D.C.-based conservative group Judicial Watch, told Seabright the election will have a big impact on the state of Hawaii and some of his clients won't be allowed to participate.

Seabright countered that the elections aren't for any public office and are “more akin to a private election than to a public election.”

Native Hawaiians are the last remaining indigenous group in the U.S. that hasn't been allowed to establish its own government. Former U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka spent about a dozen years trying to get a bill passed that would give Native Hawaiians the same rights already extended to many Native Americans and Alaska Natives.

In 2011, the state passed a law recognizing Hawaiians as the first people of Hawaii and laid the foundation for Native Hawaiians to establish their own government. The governor appointed a commission to produce the roll.

The Native Hawaiian Roll Commission “does not conduct elections, nor set election ability criteria,” attorneys for the defendants, including the state, wrote in response to the lawsuit. An independent organization, Nai Aupuni, determined election criteria, the defendants said.

The lawsuit points to nearly \$2.6 million from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, a public agency tasked with improving the wellbeing of Native Hawaiians, as evidence of the state's involvement.

Nai Aupuni is a private, nonprofit corporation whose grant agreement specifies the Office of Hawaiian Affairs won't have any control, Nai Aupuni attorney Bill Meheula said. “What we've got here is indigenous people trying to pursue self-determination, which is their inherent right under federal law,” he said.

The U.S. Department of the Interior, which recently outlined a proposal for a possible government-to-government relationship if Native Hawaiians want one, took the judge up on his invitation to weigh in on the lawsuit. The department urged the judge not to grant an injunction and pointed out that American Indian tribes hold elections that exclude non-natives.

Nai Aupuni leaders say it's crucial that the election moves forward because it presents a unique opportunity that has evaded Native Hawaiians for more than 100 years.

"If this process is stalled in the courts, the (roll commission) list will become stale, (Nai Aupuni's) funding may not be available and if history is a useful compass — it may be decades before funding, a similarly substantial roll, state and federal sensitivity and self-determination zeal among Native Hawaiians converge to bring about another such opportunity," attorneys for Nai Aupuni wrote in court documents.

Seabright said he will give his ruling from the bench on Friday, with an explanation of his reasoning. He will issue a detailed written order later, but he doesn't know if it will be ready before the election begins.

Follow Jennifer Sinco Kelleher at <http://www.twitter.com/JenHapa>.

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Feds Side With Alaska Native Group In Artifacts Probe

[Houston Chronicle](#), October 21, 2015

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A Massachusetts college was found in violation of a federal law regulating the possession and sale of potentially sacred artifacts following a complaint from an organization of Alaska Natives.

The U.S. Interior Department said an investigation substantiated the complaint against Andover Newton Theological School filed in June by the Sealaska Heritage Institute. The institute's president, Rosita Worl, said the school possesses at least two southeast Alaska artifacts, including a Tlingit halibut hook that is considered sacred.

The Juneau-based institute complained after learning the school planned to sell Native objects displayed at the Salem, Massachusetts-based Peabody Essex Museum. Sales plans have since been abandoned.

Institute officials tried to contact the school before the complaint was filed, Worl said.

"We've never had a return call," she said. "It's been disheartening."

The school's collection contains 1,100 objects, including 125 Native American works from 52 U.S. and Canadian tribes, she said.

According to the Sept. 29 notice of noncompliance, the school failed to complete a summary of its collection, in violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The agency said the school was subject to the law because it receives federal funding and has control over at least one protected cultural item, identified in the notice as the Tlingit halibut hook.

Melanie O'Brien, the program manager for the federal repatriation program, said the school appears to be working toward compliance, based on written correspondence. The college has 45 days to respond to the noncompliance notice or request a hearing to contest the finding since receiving it a week after it was issued, O'Brien said.

A representative of Andover Newton did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday. Peabody Essex spokeswoman Whitney Van Dyke referred questions about the case to museum director Dan Monroe, who was traveling in China and could not immediately be reached. Van Dyke said the artifacts in question have been housed at the museum since the 1940s.

In a Sept. 8 letter to Munroe, Andover Newton President Martin Copenhaver said it no longer had plans to sell items from its Native artifacts collection because it was no longer clear which items are subject to the repatriation law.

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Follow Rachel D'Oro at <https://twitter.com/rdoro>

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By Rachel D'oro

[Washington Times](#), October 21, 2015

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Representatives of Andover Newton and Peabody Essex did not immediately respond to requests for comment Tuesday.

The program manager for the federal repatriation program, Melanie O'Brien, says the school appears to be working toward compliance, based on written correspondence.

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[Boston Herald](#), October 21, 2015

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[Daily Mail \(UK\)](#), October 21, 2015

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[Miami Herald](#), October 21, 2015

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Feds Side With Alaska Native Group In Investigation Of Massachusetts College Tribal Collection

By Rachel D'oro, Associated Press

[Minneapolis Star Tribune](#), October 21, 2015

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[ABC News](#), October 21, 2015

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The Department Of Interior Says East Coast School Must Comply With Terms Of The Native American Graves Protection And Repatriation Act

[Alaska Dispatch News](#), October 20, 2015

The U.S. Department of the Interior has issued a letter stating that Alaska Native items in the possession of Andover Newton Theological School of Massachusetts are subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

The Sealaska Heritage Institute of Juneau alleged in June that a halibut hook in the school's collection on loan to the Peabody Essex Museum of Massachusetts was a sacred object used in fishing rituals.

In the letter, Michael Bean, an assistant secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, said that insofar as Andover Newton participated in federal student aid programs, it was governed by the law. He said the school hadn't completed a summary of Native American objects in its collection by April 2010, which "constitutes a failure to comply with the requirements" of the act.

Bean gave the school 45 days to respond to the notice.

The letter is dated Sept. 28, 2015. In a press release sent out Tuesday, Sealaska said it had only recently obtained a copy. Two weeks ago, officials with the NAGPRA office told Alaska Dispatch News that an investigation was underway but did not give a timeframe for when it might be completed.

At the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in Anchorage last week, a resolution was passed to form a group to study the issue of repatriation of items considered to be objects of "cultural patrimony" under the law. The group is to propose changes in how the law is implemented and enforced.

US Attorney Says BIA Officer Justified In Deadly Shooting

[Washington Times](#), October 21, 2015

FARGO, N.D. (AP) – U.S. Attorney Chris Myers says a federal officer was justified in shooting and killing a man on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation last summer.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Officer Terry Morgan shot and killed 31-year-old Joseph Charboneau during a standoff with officers on June 16. Myers says an investigation by his office concluded Morgan was justified in using deadly force.

The FBI has said the incident began when officers went to a residence to arrest another person, and an altercation ensued with Charboneau. Myers says Charboneau had a loaded gun and also grabbed a blow torch, and that he refused to comply with officers' orders to drop the gun.

Myers says Charboneau threatened not only the officers but also another person in the home.

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UPDATE: No Charges For Officer Who Shot, Killed Spirit Lake Man With Gun And Blowtorch In Hand, FBI Says

[Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#), October 21, 2015

FORT TOTTEN, N.D. – Federal prosecutors will not file charges against a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer who shot and killed a man in June on the Spirit Lake Reservation, finding the officer was "legally justified" in opening fire on the man.

Officer Terry Morgan shot and killed Joseph Charboneau of rural Fort Totten while carrying out a warrant June 16 at a Fort Totten residence. Officers stated Charboneau pointed a loaded firearm at them and did not follow officers' orders to drop the weapon during a seconds- to minutes-long standoff with officers, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Keith Reisenauer.

The FBI investigated the incident and sent reports, taped and transcribed interviews, the autopsy report and photos related to the shooting to the U.S. Attorney's Office in North Dakota to decide whether charges should be brought against Morgan. There was no video evidence – Morgan was wearing a body camera the night of the shooting, but it was not functioning at the time, Reisenauer said.

See also: Family of alleged police shooting victim speaks out

The U.S. Attorney's Office said Tuesday it found Morgan acted within the limitations of the law in firing his service weapon at Charboneau because the 31-year-old posed a "real and immediate" threat to officers and another person at the scene.

Under federal and state laws, law enforcement officers are generally allowed to use deadly force to prevent what reasonably poses a threat of serious physical injury or death to the officer or others.

Officers are not required to run away as civilians generally are required to do before resorting to deadly force.

Four officers were searching 7141 Crow Hill Road in Fort Totten for a person for whom they had a warrant to arrest when they found Charboneau under a blanket in the living room with a .40-caliber Glock in his hand, Reisenauer said.

Charboneau pointed the gun at the officers during the altercation, which "happened very quickly," Reisenauer said.

Citing documents from the investigation, Reisenauer said officers asked Charboneau to drop the gun multiple times, but Charboneau did not comply. He also picked up a "propane blowtorch," which was on a nearby shelf, during the standoff and threatened to use it, though not necessarily on the officers, Reisenauer said.

The other person in the residence, for whom the officers had the arrest warrant, told detectives she heard officers telling Charboneau to drop a gun, Reisenauer said.

He said Charboneau did not make any verbal threats.

"He didn't say, 'I'm going to shoot you' or 'I'm going to kill you,'" Reisenauer said.

Reisenauer declined to say what was said between officers and Charboneau.

Charboneau did point the gun at officers, threatened to use the blowtorch and did not obey officers' orders, Reisenauer said.

After Charboneau did not drop the gun, Morgan shot Charboneau four times, once in the chest, twice in the left shoulder and once in his left abdomen, Reisenauer said, citing the autopsy report. Charboneau accidentally shot himself in the right knee in reaction to being fired upon, Reisenauer said.

Reisenauer could not say where the gun was pointed at the time of the shooting.

"Officer Morgan, confronted with an individual holding a firearm at close range, and refusing to comply with orders to drop the weapon, was reasonable in his use of deadly force because Mr. Charboneau posed an immediate and continuing threat to the officers and others," a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office in North Dakota says.

Reisenauer did not know to whom the gun was registered.

Charboneau's autopsy report did not show any alcohol or drugs in his system, Reisenauer said.

Questions about Morgan's history as an officer were referred to a Washington, D.C.-based spokesperson, who did not return calls to the Herald by press time.

Spirit Lake Officer Justified In Shooting Death

[Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#), October 21, 2015

Officer Terry Morgan shot and killed Joseph Charboneau June 16 after officers searched 7141 Crow Hill Road in Fort Totten to serve a warrant for another person in the residence, according to a press release. Charboneau was found in the living room of the home under a blanket and was holding a loaded firearm.

Charboneau also grabbed a blow torch during a brief standoff with officers, and after refusing to "comply with several orders to drop the weapon," he was shot by Morgan.

"Charboneau posed a real and immediate threat to not only Officer Morgan, but also to a number of other officers at the scene as well as to another individual within the residence," according to the statement. It said Morgan "was reasonable in his use of deadly force because Mr. Charboneau posed an immediate and continuing threat to the officers and others."

Tuesday's announcement came from U.S. Attorney Christopher C. Myers and said the office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of North Dakota had reviewed "all of the investigative reports, interviews, the final autopsy report and photos relating to the shooting." The case was investigated by the FBI.

Shooting Of Man By Spirit Lake BIA Officer Ruled Justified

[Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#), October 21, 2015

FARGO — The shooting death of a man by a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer in Fort Totten on the Spirit Lake reservation in June was justified, according to a ruling released Tuesday by U.S. Attorney Christopher Myers.

Myers said Officer Terry Morgan was justified in shooting Joseph Charboneau on June 16.

While officers were searching 7141 Crow Hill Road in Fort Totten to serve a warrant for another individual at the residence, Charboneau was found in the living room under a blanket and holding a loaded firearm, according to investigative reports.

Charboneau also grabbed a blow torch during a brief standoff with officers.

After refusing to comply with several orders to drop his weapon, Charboneau was shot by Morgan.

Myers ruled that Charboneau posed a real and immediate threat to the officers at the scene and another person in the residence. Myers said that given the circumstances, the use of deadly force by Morgan was justified.

Helmut Schmidt

Helmut Schmidt was born in Germany, but grew up in the Twin Cities area, graduating from Park High School of Cottage Grove. After serving a tour in the U.S. Army, he attended the University of St. Thomas in St Paul, Minn., graduating in 1984 with a degree in journalism. He then worked at the Albert Lea (Minn.) Tribune and served as managing editor there for three years. He joined The Forum in October 1989, working as a copy editor until 2000. Since then, he has worked as a reporter on several beats, including education, Fargo city government, business and military affairs. He is currently The Forum's K-12 education reporter.

(701) 241-5583

Investigation Finds Deadly Shooting By BIA Officer Was Justified

[KXJB-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#), October 21, 2015

Investigation finds a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officer was legally justified when he shot and killed Joseph Charboneau in Fort Totten, North Dakota in June.

The United States Attorney's office for the District of North Dakota has reviewed all of the investigative reports, interviews, the final autopsy report and photos related to the officer-involved shooting. The office concluded that the officer's use of deadly force was appropriate in the situation.

The shooting happened on June 16, 2015. According to the investigative reports, while officers were searching a home to serve a warrant for someone else in the residence, Charboneau was found in the living room under a blanket and was holding a loaded firearm. According to officers, Charboneau also grabbed a blow torch during a brief standoff.

After refusing to comply with several orders to drop the weapon, Charboneau was shot by BIA Officer Terry Morgan. U.S. Attorney's Office investigation finds that Charboneau posed a real and immediate threat to not only Officer Morgan, but also to a number of other officers, and to another individual in the home.

Investigators say because Officer Morgan was confronted by someone holding a firearm, at close range, and refusing to drop the weapon, his use of deadly force was legally justified.

US Attorney Says BIA Officer Justified In Deadly Shooting

[KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#), October 20, 2015

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Myers says Charboneau threatened not only the officers but also another person in the home.

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[KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#), October 21, 2015

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Spirit Lake Officer Legally Justified In Shooting Death

[KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#), October 21, 2015

North Dakota's U.S. Attorney says the officer involved shooting in Fort Totten was legally justified.

In June Bureau of Indian Affairs officer Terry Morgan shot and killed 31-year-old Joseph Charboneau.

The investigation finds that while officers were looking for someone else on a search warrant, Charboneau was found under a blanket with a loaded gun. Charboneau also grabbed a blow torch during a brief standoff with officers.

Morgan shot Charboneau after he refused to drop his weapon.

The final investigation reports the use of deadly force was reasonable because Charboneau posed a threat to officers and another person in the home.

In Humboldt County, Tribe Pushes For Bigger Law Enforcement Role On Its Lands

By Lee Romney, Contact Reporter

[Los Angeles Times](#), October 20, 2015

In calls to tribal police and Humboldt County sheriff's dispatch last March, Judy Surber cried, begged and threatened.

Her 29-year-old son had been shot in the chest and head in a small trailer on the remote Hoopa Valley reservation where he, his girlfriend and their 7-month-old son had stopped to give a friend a ride.

Roger Surber lay bleeding next to a 73-year-old man with an even graver head wound. Surber's girlfriend ran, clutching the baby, to find a phone.

When Judy Surber got the news, she placed her first emergency calls.

The tribal force, down to just one active officer, had no one to send. As Surber and her family raced to the scene, she was stunned to see a California Highway Patrol officer and sheriff's deputy in their idled cars on the highway — on orders, they told her, to await more sheriff's backup before going in or letting other emergency personnel through.

In a county that exceeds 4,000 square miles, that backup took time to arrive.

For an hour and 40 minutes, Judy Surber estimates, her family was alone in the bloody trailer. A daughter-in-law who was once a medic worked to keep Roger alive. (He survived; the older man died.) A son repeatedly ran to the staging area to tell the deputy that the suspects were gone. Surber kept calling the dispatch centers, screaming that the scene was safe.

"The minutes felt like hours," the 53-year-old executive secretary for the tribal council said. "Without our tribal police, we're pretty much at the mercy of whoever is available — and sometimes that's nobody."

Surber's panic played out at a time of crisis for public safety on tribal lands.

A federal law decades ago shifted the primary burden of criminal law enforcement on tribal lands in California and five other states to local authorities. Many lack the resources to do the job and, in some cases, sufficient knowledge of tribal law and culture to win the trust of tribal members. Tribes were cut off from steady funding for their own justice systems. Crime has flourished.

Last month, Humboldt County Sheriff Mike Downey dissolved a 20-year-old agreement authorizing Hoopa Valley tribal police to help enforce state criminal law, saying the tribal force's reduced manpower made it "untenable."

The word "police" has been stripped from tribal vehicles, replaced with "security" after Downey warned that taking the cars off the 144-square-mile reservation otherwise could lead to charges of impersonating a peace officer.

Tribal leaders said the move offends their sovereignty and will curtail their ability to rebuild their own force.

"We're miles apart," tribal Chairman Ryan Jackson said of negotiations with Downey at a community meeting this month.

The situation arises from Public Law 280, a measure approved 62 years ago that is among a series of policies aimed at forcing Native Americans to assimilate. It compelled states where tribal lands were deemed "lawless" to take responsibility for enforcing state law. The federal government continued to fill that role in the other states.

The six states couldn't tax tribal lands held in trust to cover their costs. The tribes were cut off from Bureau of Indian Affairs funding that flows to tribal police and tribal courts in the rest of the country.

Tribes could still enforce their own civil and criminal laws on tribal members. But the constant scramble to "cobble together various pots of funding" to maintain those justice systems has made it tough, Jackson said, particularly for remote tribes without access to ample casino revenue.

The federal Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 — and the independent Indian Law and Order Commission it empowered — laid out fixes to give tribes greater say in tailoring their own justice programs.

In its 2013 report to President Obama and Congress, the commission called the approach to criminal jurisdiction nationwide — but particularly under Public Law 280 — "an indefensible maze of complex, conflicting, and illogical commands, layered over decades via congressional policies and court decisions, and without the consent of tribal nations."

It recommended that tribes in so-called P.L. 280 states be allowed to opt out of state jurisdiction altogether — with or without state consent.

The Hoopa Valley tribe had worked out a solution held up as a model. But Downey told the crowded meeting in Hoopa that it was simply no longer working.

Thanks to a county ballot measure that reversed four years of "heavy duty budget decline," Downey this month assigned three full-time deputies to the region in hopes of "getting back to the business of law enforcement — high visibility and responding to calls for service."

The presence had already led to arrests, among them robbery suspects found with drugs and outstanding warrants at the Hoopa shopping center, he said Friday.

Downey has said he remains open to a renewed agreement with the tribe if at least four tribal officers pass his background checks and field training, share a dispatch and reporting system, and — most controversially — answer to his command staff.

But trust is lacking.

"I think the sheriff is acting in very poor faith ... and even crippling the safety of this community further," said Richard C. Blake, the tribe's chief judge. "Tribal police and tribal court issues are not going to go away, and instead of trying to jockey for authority, true agreements need to be reached."

Blake is concerned that deputies won't make arrests when domestic violence protective orders issued by his court are violated. Downey said his department will continue to honor those orders.

Jackson, the recently elected chairman, has moved to beef up the force. Last week, the tribal council approved a \$1.7-million law enforcement budget for 2016 — a nearly \$500,000 increase over this year — which is expected to boost salaries and pay for a chief, lieutenant, three sergeants and nine officers. Five officers are expected to graduate soon from a state-certified training academy.

The tribe is also pursuing other avenues to gain greater law enforcement authority on their lands, even if Downey declines to re-up the agreement.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs has agreed to train and deputize Hoopa Valley officers to enforce certain federal laws. And Hoopa Valley is among three California tribes that have applied under the 2010 law for the federal government to share responsibilities for such enforcement. That would pass more tribal cases off to federal prosecutors.

Feelings are mixed. Mary Jane Aubrey, who manages the tribe's Tsewenaldin Inn, said running a business here is "really hard" because of loitering, drug use, panhandling and theft. She wants improvements but said that as outsiders, sheriff's deputies "don't care about our people."

"Our tribal police are ours," she said. "They know who's on drugs, who's lying to them, which families are good, which families are bad."

At the recent community meeting, tribal members spoke of calling tribal dispatch, only to be told to call the sheriff, and then be told by sheriff's dispatch to call the tribal police. They recounted uninvestigated crimes, and stressed the need for quick response to family violence.

Pamela Risling, who directs the tribe's domestic violence and sexual assault program, voiced support for the training and discipline that Downey has called for. She said the tribe and the sheriff need to work together, considering he has the legal mandate to call the shots.

"We deserve the same service as people in Eureka," she said. "Whether or not we like it, we are a P.L. 280 state."

Surber is conflicted. The night she brought her son home from the hospital, someone fired shots at the house, she said, and it took a deputy more than two hours to arrive.

"As a tribal member, I don't like to see the county pull the agreement, because of our sovereignty," she said. "As a community member, I just want someone to respond."

Yakama Tribe To Get Authority For Some Court Cases

[Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#), October 21, 2015

Some civil and criminal cases involving members of the Yakama Nation will be returned to the tribe's jurisdiction, after being handled for decades by the state.

The federal Bureau of Indian Affairs on Monday granted the tribe's petition for what is called "retrocession."

Retrocession removes state jurisdiction over tribal members in certain cases but does not give the tribe any new jurisdiction over nonmembers. It will affect cases such as car crashes, domestic violence calls and truancy complaints.

Major crimes by tribal members will continue to be handled by the FBI or other federal authorities.

"It is truly a great day for the Yakama People," Tribal Council Chairman JoDe Goudy said in a statement. "For decades, our nation has been denied basic rights of self-governance within our own lands."

The Yakima Herald-Republic reported (<http://bit.ly/1LITn2o>) officials for Yakima County were concerned that details still needed to be worked out.

County Prosecutor Joe Brusic said it's unclear how tribal and county law enforcement officers are going to make sure each case gets into the right jurisdiction.

"I want to do everything possible in my role as prosecutor to see that retrocession works, but I believe we've got a lot of work to do," Brusic said.

Brusic is most concerned about traffic crimes, such as DUIs.

Under retrocession, if a sheriff's deputy pulls over a tribal member suspected of driving under the influence, the deputy would have to call tribal police to make the arrest, Brusic said. But if the suspect decides the deputy can't arrest him, he could drive away, Brusic said.

The head of the BIA praised the county's support for retrocession and acknowledged the concerns in his Monday letter to the Yakama Nation. Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn said the agency could facilitate meetings but is not requiring agreement before the retrocession takes full effect in April.

"It would constitute extreme hubris for a federal official more than 2,500 miles away in Washington, D.C., to attempt to resolve disputes between neighbors in the Yakima Valley," Washburn wrote.

Retrocession also will change which courts try some cases. For example, Yakima County Superior Court hears most vehicular homicide cases, even those involving only tribal members. Now it's unclear whether the tribal court or the federal court would handle those cases, Brusic said.

Retrocession was approved at the state level in January 2014 when Gov. Jay Inslee signed a proclamation that returned to the Yakama Nation authority over school attendance, domestic relations, mental illness, juvenile delinquency, adoption, public assistance, and motor vehicle operation for tribal members on tribal lands.

Yakama Tribe To Get Authority For Some Court Cases

[Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#), October 20, 2015

YAKIMA — In a move long sought by the Yakama Nation, federal officials have approved returning authority to the tribe for certain civil and criminal cases involving tribal members that have been handled by the state for decades.

Monday's move was praised as a victory for tribal sovereignty by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which granted the tribe's petition for retrocession.

The Yakima Herald-Republic reported that officials for Yakima County were concerned that the petition was approved before law enforcement protocols had been worked out for the reservation that both tribal members and nonmembers call home.

The decision removes state jurisdiction over tribal members only in certain cases and does not give the tribe any new jurisdiction over nonmembers. It will affect cases such as car crashes, domestic violence and truancy complaints.

Yakama Tribe To Get Authority For Some Court Cases

[Washington Times](#), October 21, 2015

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Information from: Yakima Herald-Republic, <http://www.yakimaherald.com>

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[Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#), October 20, 2015

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Washburn Accepts State's Retrocession Of Authority Over Yakama Nation

[Native American Times](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON – Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn today announced that the Department of the Interior has accepted from the State of Washington the partial civil and criminal jurisdiction it held over the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The state has held this authority over the Yakama Nation, a federally recognized tribe located in the southwestern portion of Washington, for more than half a century.

"While tribal self-governance has long been the Federal Government's guiding principle for Federal Indian policy, it has been slow in coming in the area of criminal justice," Washburn said in a letter conveying the decision to the Yakama Nation. "We believe that this step will advance tribal self-governance and tribal sovereignty for the Nation. More importantly, we believe that it will produce improved public safety for the Nation and its people."

The Yakama Nation resides on a reservation comprised of over 1.1 million acres, which was established in 1855 by a treaty signed by Washington Territory Governor Isaac Stevens and tribal representatives. The Yakama Reservation is located on the east side of the Cascade Mountains in Yakima and Klickitat counties.

In 2012, the Washington State legislature enacted legislation providing a path for the state and tribal nations to follow in addressing retrocession. In July 2012, the Yakama Nation filed a petition for retrocession with the governor that was followed by government-to-government consultations with the state. In 2013, the Nation entered into a memorandum of understanding with Yakima County regarding the procedures to serve state court arrest warrants on tribal members on trust land within the reservation.

After following the procedures set forth in the state's bill, which included a six-month extension by the state, the governor in January 2014 submitted her proclamation on retrocession to the Secretary of the Interior for approval. Since that time, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Justice Services (OJS) has been engaged with the Yakama Nation Tribal Police Department and Corrections to determine the capacity of the Nation's law enforcement services. In preparation for retrocession, the Nation committed additional resources to its law enforcement services, nearly doubling the size of its police department by funding 10 new officer positions.

In September 2014, OJS finalized an assessment of the police department which found that it would be prepared to handle increased responsibilities as a result of retrocession.

In addition, OJS began an assessment of the Yakama Nation Tribal Court in December 2014, which provided recommendations for improving tribal court operational activities and assisted in developing a strategic three- to five-year plan for it. In May 2015, OJS issued the assessment and strategic plan, which included findings and recommendations, resulting in one-time federal funding to improve the court that will help the Nation further the pursuit of justice and ensure that the rights of individuals are protected.

Washington is one of 16 states authorized by Congress under Public Law 280 (67 Stat. 588), enacted in 1953 during the period in federal Indian policy known as the Termination Era, to assume criminal jurisdiction over American Indians on federal

Indian reservations and to allow civil litigation that had come under tribal or federal court jurisdiction to be handled by state courts.

Among other purposes, Public Law 280 altered criminal jurisdiction on federal Indian lands by transferring it from the federal government to certain states. The law has been widely criticized by tribes and states as creating more harm than good, such as gaps in jurisdiction. Today's decision attempts to remedy some of the jurisdictional problems Public Law 280 created on the Yakama Reservation.

The states required by Public Law 280 to assume civil and criminal jurisdiction over federal Indian lands were Alaska (except the Metlakatla Indian Community of the Annette Island Reserve, which maintains criminal jurisdiction), California, Minnesota (except the Red Lake Reservation), Nebraska, Oregon (except the Warm Springs Reservation), and Wisconsin. In addition, the federal government gave up all special criminal jurisdiction in these states over Indian offenders and victims. The states that elected to assume full or partial jurisdiction include Arizona (1967), Florida (1961), Idaho (1963, subject to tribal consent), Iowa (1967), Montana (1963), Nevada (1955), North Dakota (1963, subject to tribal consent), South Dakota (1957-1961), Utah (1971) and Washington (1957-1963).

In 1968, a legislative shift occurred when Congress authorized certain of these states to retrocede their civil and criminal jurisdiction back to the United States via the Secretary of the Interior.

The Secretary is authorized to accept retroceded authority from a state after consultation with the U.S. Attorney General, and the federal government has done so for 31 tribes since 1968. The most recent retrocession prior to today's announcement occurred when the State of Nebraska retroceded its civil and criminal authority over the Santee Sioux Nation in 2006.

While there are misconceptions about what "retrocession" actually entails, it does not change the boundaries of a tribe's reservation nor expand or contract a tribe's formal legal authority or jurisdiction. The tribe's jurisdiction will simply no longer be concurrent with the state's – instead, tribal jurisdiction will be exclusive for certain purposes. Retrocession is accepted by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with terms set forth in a proclamation by the governor of the state retroceding its jurisdiction.

As required by Executive Order, the Interior Department consulted on the retrocession request with the U.S. Department of Justice, which recommended a six-month waiting period between the date of acceptance and the actual transfer of jurisdiction in order to allow for an orderly transfer of authority from the State of Washington to the federal government and to ensure no jurisdictional gaps develop as a result. Accordingly, Interior's decision is that retrocession will be fully implemented as of 12:01 a.m. PST on April 19, 2016.

The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs oversees the BIA, which is headed by a director who is responsible for managing day-to-day operations through four offices – Indian Services, Justice Services, Trust Services, and Field Operations. These offices directly administer or fund tribally based infrastructure, economic development, law enforcement and justice, social services (including child welfare), tribal governance, and trust land and natural and energy resources management programs for the nation's federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes through 12 regional offices and 81 agencies.

The BIA Office of Justice Services' mission is to enhance public safety and protect property in Indian Country by funding or providing law enforcement, corrections and tribal court services to the nation's federally recognized tribes. It also coordinates emergency preparedness support on federal Indian lands by working cooperatively with other federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies throughout Indian Country. It also operates the Indian Police Academy in Artesia, N.M., which provides training and professional development to BIA and tribal law enforcement personnel. Visit <http://www.indianaffairs.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OJS/index.htm> for more information about OJS and its work.

DOI Lets Wash. Give Up Jurisdiction On Yakama Reservation

[Law360](#), October 21, 2015

Law360, New York (October 20, 2015, 6:39 PM ET) – The U.S. Department of the Interior said Monday it has accepted from Washington an agreement ending the civil and criminal jurisdiction the state had held over certain offenses within the Yakama Nation, ending part of a highly criticized, decades-old policy that had given the state and the tribe concurrent jurisdiction over certain cases.

Under the agreement, the state will no longer be a principal authority on the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation's reservation once the deal goes into effect in April 2016. The...

To view the full article, register now.

Yakama Tribe To Get Authority For Some Court Cases

[KNDU-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#), October 21, 2015

YAKIMA, WA.- It was a record summer for heat with temperatures in the hundreds, not to mention the state wide drought that took a toll on many crops and growers. However as we head into fall, apple orchards are closing up shop already, thanks to an early harvest. The apple harvest is now over about three weeks earlier than normal and while the apple commission says they saw the third largest crop this year in the state, coming in at 118 million boxes of apples, the sweltering heat ...

Yakama Nation Granted Jurisdiction Over Some Crimes On Reservation

[KUOW-FM Seattle](#), October 21, 2015

The Yakama Nation will have more control with its tribal police and courts over crimes committed on the nation's reservation. That's according to the federal Interior Department this week.

The Yakama Nation will have control over some crimes involving Native Americans, but other police agencies will still patrol portions of the reservation. Tribal leaders say it's a win to gain some control of their own land back.

But neighboring city and county agencies say they're worried about the logistics of sharing jurisdiction.

Yakima County prosecutor Joseph Brusich said his office and the tribal government haven't been communicating well for a couple years. He worries that under the new system for example, a native driver with a DUI could leave the scene of an accident if there wasn't a tribal officer there.

The federal government has given the tribes and overlapping agencies until April to work out the details.

The Yakama Nation did not respond to phone or email messages Tuesday.

Gillette Served Obama, Nation Well

[Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#), October 21, 2015

Jodi Gillette probably has been more involved in the Obama administration than any other North Dakotan.

Her association with Barack Obama began during his 2008 presidential campaign when she was in charge of statewide operations of the First American voting efforts. After Obama's election she joined the administration. First, Gillette served as an associate director of intergovernmental affairs at the White House in 2009-2010. In 2011, she joined the U.S. Department of the Interior as deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs and was appointed Special Assistant to the President for Native American Affairs in 2012.

Those positions gave her a voice in a White House that has seemed genuinely concerned about Native American issues. Last year the president and first lady visited Cannon Ball on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. They visited privately with students, talked with leaders and attended a pow wow. They followed that visit with an invitation to some students to visit Washington, D.C. There also was a conference for students and others in Bismarck.

While Gillette couldn't be involved in issues related to the Standing Rock reservation since she's a member of the tribe, it wasn't a surprise when the reservation was selected for the presidential visit.

Gillette is proud of the administration's accomplishments. She was convinced during Obama's first campaign that he was sincere about his promises to help Native Americans. She points to several things that demonstrate Obama's support. The White House Tribal Nations Conference was started in 2009 with the goal of improving the dialogue between the administration and the reservations; the Violence Against Women Act was reauthorized in 2013 and included language allowing tribal jurisdiction in cases of women who are assaulted by non-tribal men on tribal lands; and two lawsuits were settled between the federal government and tribes with a combined value of more than \$3 billion expected to be sent to Native Americans.

The Tribal Nations Conference has won praise for providing a continuing conversation between the administration and tribal governments.

Gillette played an important role in this White House-tribal relationship and her voice has been heard.

Gillette recently left the administration and now splits her time between Bismarck and Washington. She's a member of the Washington-based law firm of Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson and Perry LLP, serving as its policy adviser. The firm represents tribes for litigation, lobbying and economic development.

North Dakota should be proud of Gillette and her service in the administration. She's had a positive impact on national policy.

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS

US Official Proposes Marshalls Fund Changes

[Radio New Zealand](#), October 21, 2015

A top US official has submitted a proposal to the Senate and House to allow the people of Bikini to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands.

Current law restricts resettlement funds for use within the Marshall Islands.

Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina says it is an appropriate course of action to take regarding the welfare and livelihood of the Bikinian people.

The Bikinians were displaced by US nuclear weapons testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands.

In addition to cramped living quarters and a lack of suitable sustainable resources, the islands have been experiencing more frequent storms and king tides resulting in salt water inundation and the destruction of crops.

Bikini Relocation Fund Changes Seen As 'Plan B' For Locals

[Radio New Zealand](#), October 21, 2015

A representative from Bikini Atoll says a proposal to allow people to use resettlement and relocation funds outside of the Marshall Islands is not wanted.

Currently, resettlement funds are restricted for use within the Marshalls but the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina says it is appropriate to open up the fund because of plight of the Bikinian people.

The Bikinians were displaced by United States nuclear testing 70 years ago but are now looking at relocating again because of increased flooding and deteriorating conditions on Kili and Ejit Islands.

Bikini liaison officer Jack Niedenthal says the US should take full responsibility for any resettlement including providing extra financing.

"We still got a ways to go, we still have to do some more lobbying and some more talking to people in Washington to make them understand that what's being proposed by the assistant secretary is what we view as 'Plan B'. It's not ultimately what we want in terms of helping our people."

Mr Niedenthal says current resettlement funding is already the Marshall Islands' right. Related

Chinese Support For The Pacific Region Continues

[Marianas Variety](#), October 21, 2015

SUVA, Fiji (Press Release) — China and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat further strengthened their relationship on Friday when the two met at a ceremony to hand over \$1.05 million to assist the Pacific region.

Forum Secretariat Secretary General Meg Taylor and Chinese Ambassador to Fiji Zhang Ping attended the ceremony and delivered speeches respectively.

Zhang reiterated his nation's ongoing interest in the region saying, "China attaches great importance to the South Pacific region. The Chinese side stands ready to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation with Pacific Island Countries and contribute to the development and capacity building in the region."

Accepting the contribution, Taylor said: "I warmly welcome this support that assists the Forum in advancing regional integration as well as helping member countries achieve sustainable development."

The handover ceremony provided opportunity to raise key Pacific region priorities identified through the Framework for Pacific Regionalism such as climate change and ICT.

"We seek your support for the Forum's position going into the COP21 negotiations in Paris, as articulated in the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Declaration on Climate Change Action issued in Port Moresby last month," Taylor told Zhang.

She added, "China's commitment to support Pacific island countries to achieve greater ICT connectivity is to be commended and the special loans you have made available for ICT infrastructure connectivity, improving broadband networks, encouraging on-line education services, and ICT enterprises, are a generous initiative."

China became a Forum dialogue partner in 1990. Since then it has developed an important economic relationship with the region, particularly through its dedication to trade development.

"China has made an impressive commitment to advance trade and investment with the Pacific island countries. China's continuing support for the Pacific Trade and Invest Beijing is very much appreciated," said Taylor.

The financial support will be used to support activity by the China-PIF Development Cooperation Fund and the PT&I Beijing office and its activities.

Pacific-wide Talks Urged On Climate Migration

[Radio New Zealand](#), October 21, 2015

All countries in the Pacific are being urged to start discussions on how to help people forced to move from low lying atoll nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu.

184 million people worldwide were displaced by disaster between 2008 and 2014 and at special meetings in Geneva last week 110 countries gave the nod to a Protection Agenda for dealing with future migration challenges.

The experiences of small island countries which face rising seas due to climate change helped form the global action plan under the Swiss Norwegian Nansen Initiative

The Protection Agenda aims at collecting more information, improving humanitarian protection measures and better dealing with the risk of disaster back in home countries so people are not forced to move in the first place.

The Nansen Initiative's Walter Kaelin told Sally Round there's now a toolbox that can be adapted to each region's distinct challenges and needs.

WALTER KAELIN: It is a document that brings together a lot of good, effective practices states have used, states have developed in addressing situations where they were faced with people coming from countries affected by disaster when they had to decide whether or not to admit them. But we were also looking at how to prevent displacement, for instance through integrating issues of human mobility into disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation. We're also looking at how one can help people to get out of harm's way before the disaster strikes for instance by looking at planned relocations as you have in your region. For instance Fiji is already in the process of relocating 45 villages away from eroding coastlines but then also looking at migration as a way of helping people to move out of areas that are particularly affected by the effects of climate change and disasters.

SALLY ROUND: Does it also provide a kind of legal framework or is it more about providing experiences and practices and examples for countries to learn from?

WK: This was not an exercise that aimed at setting new standards, at developing new law but rather trying to provide a toolbox to governments but also to regional organisations, so in the current situation, in future situations one could go back to the experiences made by other countries in other parts of the world and try to use that. Beyond that we feel there are huge differences from one region to the other. You in the Pacific region are not faced with a lot of cross-border displacement which does occur for instance in Africa, the Horn of Africa and western Africa or in Central America. Your case is much more about the future prospects of some of these island states, low lying island states becoming uninhabitable and with this toolbox we hope we are able to trigger discussion at regional, sub regional, but also domestic levels.

SR: Did you have any ideas, solutions from those consultations that you've been having for the last three years around the world about how Pacific island countries can get through these major issues that they're grappling with?

WK: If you're looking at the Pacific island countries and their people, and their populations, these are people that really do not want to move. Most of them want to stay in their countries. They're attached to the land, but due to environmental factors but also other factors linked to their development or lack of development make it increasingly difficult for people. What the communities told us is 'we really don't want to become refugees' and what they meant was they don't want to have to wait til disaster strikes. They rather would prefer to have the option of being able to emigrate, be it temporarily, be it permanently at the time when they decide to do that and if you're looking at the situation in the South Pacific then for some of the islands and their people it's quite easy because of special ties. For instance in New Zealand if you're talking about Niue or the Cook Islands people can easily emigrate to your country (New Zealand). Marshall Islanders, they can go to the United States but Kiribati and Tuvalu which are the most affected, they don't have those opportunities. I think their programmes like the Pacific access quota in New Zealand or seasonal worker programmes targeting vulnerable Pacific islands that do exist in Australia are good practices, good approaches. I think it's important it's not just New Zealand and Australia, it's also countries such as Fiji and others who even might be interested to receive people from countries like Tuvalu and Kiribati because of cultural ties, because they are interested to get a workforce or increase their populations. What I think is important in the South Pacific context is a dialogue between countries on how to facilitate migration because if this is not taking place then we might end up with irregular migration or we might end up with people hit by disaster ending up in humanitarian crisis situations so it's better to start a discussion now and one framework for such discussions that is quite adequate in my perspective would be the Pacific Islands Forum.

Marshalls Journalist Speaks On Climate Issues, Corruption In Pacific Islands

[Marianas Variety](#), October 21, 2015

HAGĀTŊA (The Guam Daily Post) — Author and journalist Giff Johnson spoke to students at the University of Guam on Monday evening about climate change and development in the Pacific islands.

His lecture, entitled "Idyllic No More: Pacific Island Climate, Corruption and Development Dilemmas," is based on his latest book — a compilation of essays detailing the looming climate threat to the region, its booming fishing industry, and the U.S. nuclear test legacy in the Marshal Islands.

In an interview with the Post, Johnson said people the world over should be concerned with climate change. The issue, he said, is how to handle rising sea levels and erratic weather patterns that seem to be escalating with changing temperatures. These factors have contributed to what Johnson calls climate-driven migration from remote Pacific islands to Guam and mainland U.S. Improving the lives of residents on these islands would help mitigate out migration.

The United States has a Compact of Free Association or COFA Freely Associated States that allows these residents to freely travel within the U.S. and its territories. The FAS are the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau. Guam and the CNMI receive Compact Impact funds to mitigate some of the cost associated with taking in these residents but the funds have historically been much lower than actual costs.

Johnson believes that in order to improve the life of remote island residents and minimize migration, investment must be made not only to solar and wind power to combat climate change but to technology that will lessen the burden of living on more remote islands.

"For example this El Niño that we're in right now is predicted to cause a very long and serious drought," Johnson said. While Guam has various water resources available to it, remote islands are more or less completely dependent on rain water.

There have been investments made into solar or wind powered reverse osmosis machines that were placed in several remote islands in the Marshals. These machines produce drinking water out of sea water and remove the threat of a drought, Johnson said. "We need to get this kind of (technology) out to many of these remote islands."

To mitigate the cost of FAS citizens already on Guam, the CNMI and Hawaii, Johnson said something that would have significant impact is the reinstatement of Medicaid benefits for COFA migrants. "In 1996 the U.S. Congress cut off Medicaid access for people from the FAS...that lack of Medicaid coverage means (people seek health care later which) requires higher costs to hospitals in Guam and Hawaii," Johnson said.

Currently, initiatives by both the Guam and Hawaii delegations are pushing to reinstate Medicaid coverage for COFA migrants.

But the responsibility of improving life for FAS citizens doesn't rest solely with the U.S or other outside entities. Johnson said a fair amount of donor aid does reach the FAS but issue lie with mismanagement on the part of local governments. "Both the Marshals and FSM have tens of millions of dollars sitting there because of management issues with construction projects," Johnson said. Proper management of funds would create hundreds of jobs and provide incentive for residents to stay in their respective islands, he added.

A particular source of growth for the FAS could come from the fishing industry. Because FSM, the Marshals and Palau are part of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement, they are among 8 countries that control pricing on tuna fishing. In 2010, PNA brought in \$60 million. That amount has since jumped to about \$350 million. According to Johnson this presents an opportunity for institution like the University of Guam to provide education on managing and developing the fisheries business.

Corruption also plays a role in the mismanagement of funds. Johnson said that island governments in the past saw government employment as a means of spreading donor aid. Workers were hired with little focus on qualifications. But in recent years, donors have become more intent on results. This poses a challenge to government agencies that may have offices filled with workers, but not necessarily the best set of workers for the job. What results is a public that sees very little improvement despite outside support. "That's why I say the issue in the FAS has more to do with management and less about (needing) more money," Johnson said.

The problem is compounded in smaller islands by reluctance to voice open criticism of government or leaders. "In places like the Marshall Islands (reluctance is) pretty extreme given the cultural norms of not criticizing leaders," Johnson said. He said a significant difference between Guam and islands in the FAS was more public engagement stemming from an American style of dealing with government issues. "Unfortunately, (less engagement) ties in to people not reacting to these problems and not getting things changed," he added.

Rising Seas Are Already Damaging These Pacific Islands

[National Geographic](#), October 21, 2015

"Garlands of the gods" is how Kiribati poet Teweiariki Teaero describes the atolls of his homeland. And from the air, that is how they look, with a smoke ring of clouds above lush green slivers of land. How fragile they seem!

Built by the sea, they are increasingly being reclaimed by the sea. In February 2015, high spring tides coincided with storm-generated swells to flood homes and damage roads and seawalls in Kiribati's capital, Tarawa. (Read more about the threats to the island nation.)

When I arrived in April, repair work was still continuing, but I knew it was only a matter of time before the ocean challenged the islands' defenses once more. (Read our special issue on climate change.)

Despite the threat from the sea—which will only increase as climate change drives sea levels higher—the people possess depths of resilience and self-confidence. “I see adaptation as not just about seawalls but about revisiting our traditional knowledge systems,” Teaero told me. “We need the collaboration of our international partners, but an active collaboration as people who are empowered to tackle our own problems.”

A combination of science and traditional wisdom gives hope that, as Teaero writes in one of his poems, these islands will “rise over troubled seas.”

TACKLING AMERICA’S WATER CHALLENGES

New Melones Pulse Flows Begin Today

[Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#), October 21, 2015

More than 7 billion gallons of water is scheduled to be released from New Melones Reservoir beginning today to ensure flows in the Stanislaus River will keep temperatures cool enough for adult salmon migrating up the river to spawn this fall.

Oakdale Irrigation District and South San Joaquin Irrigation District, which together hold senior water rights to the first 600,000 acre-feet stored in the 2.4 million acre-foot reservoir each year, announced the plan in a press release last week. The districts said it would benefit river conditions and fisheries, as well as the needs of agriculture and more than 200,000 residential customers downstream.

“This agreement shows that, with cooperation and some give and take, the needs of fish and ag can be met,” OID General Manager Steve Knell stated in the press release. “If the drought continues, we’ll need more of this type of cooperation — not less.”

New Melones contained 276,692 acre-feet of water as of Monday morning, according to the state Department of Water Resources, about 12 percent of its total capacity and 21 percent of its average historical capacity for this time of year.

The total “pulse flow” set to begin today — 23,000 acre-feet — is enough to fill about 23,000 football fields one-foot deep in water. It’s also about 6,000 acre-feet more than Tuolumne Utilities District, the county’s largest water purveyor, uses on average each year to serve roughly 44,000 residents.

Earlier this year, the irrigation districts sparred with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation — which manages New Melones Reservoir — over spring pulse flows that they feared would leave as little as 147,000 acre-feet in the reservoir by the end of September.

However, “aggressive conservation efforts” by OID and SSJID as well as “better-than-expected spring and summer runoff” helped to create the surplus, the press release stated.

The districts agreed to use the unanticipated savings to help the Bureau of Reclamation send the required pulse flow down the river to attract adult salmon returning from the ocean to spawn.

According to the press release, “west side” water users will divert the released water farther downstream after it passes through the Stanislaus and lower San Joaquin rivers and have agreed to compensate the districts.

Federal policies requiring such pulse flows have drawn the ire of local residents and elected leaders, who have argued that releasing so much water during a drought doesn’t make sense.

Congressman Tom McClintock, R-Roseville, introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this year called the Save Our Water Act that would suspend pulse flows in areas affected by drought.

Though no action has been taken since the bill was introduced in March, McClintock says he’s hopeful the House will vote on it sometime before the end of the year.

Supes Vote To Oppose Delta Tunnels Plan

[Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#), October 21, 2015

STOCKTON — At a meeting on Tuesday, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a resolution in formal opposition of California WaterFix, also known as the twin tunnels plan.

“The WaterFix is just a thinly veiled version of the former (Bay Delta Conservation Plan) and continues to push the fatally flawed twin tunnels, which will simply sacrifice one region of California for the benefit of another,” said Supervisor Kathy Miller.

Supervisor Bob Elliott added that the plan will add no new water to the state’s supply, calling it a “multibillion-dollar smoke-and-mirrors scheme.”

Comments were offered by both board members and members of the public. The collected comments will be submitted on behalf of the County of San Joaquin along with the Central and South Delta water agencies.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Environmental Update On Offshore Wind

By James A. Bacon

[Bacon's Rebellion \(VA\)](#), October 21, 2015

Alstom wind turbine like that contemplated for installation off Virginia Beach.

by James A. Bacon

Judging from comments made in a Environment Virginia-sponsored webinar held this morning, environmentalists, the McAuliffe administration and Dominion Virginia Power are operating on the same wave length when it comes to developing offshore wind power in Virginia. If environmental groups have big differences with Dominion on how to proceed, no sign of criticism surfaced in the webinar presentations.

The main focus of environmentalists, as it is for Dominion, is bringing down the cost of offshore wind power. The top priority nationally is building a big enough pipeline of wind power projects off the Atlantic Coast to persuade manufacturers, specialty vessels and others in Europe's established wind-power supply chain to create a presence on the U.S. East Coast. The existence of a supply chain, along with continued technological development, could make offshore wind power far more cost competitive in the U.S. than it is today.

Here in Virginia, the top priority is ensuring that Dominion builds two experimental turbines off Virginia Beach that will provide the data needed to optimize the development of hundreds of wind turbines in a subsequent project potentially large enough to power 700,000 homes. The big hurdle is persuading the State Corporation Commission that such a massive investment would constitute an acceptable trade-off between cost, reliability and environmental goals.

David Carr, general counsel for the Southern Environmental Law Center, provided an overview of Dominion's offshore wind initiatives. Dominion solicited bids to build a two experimental turbines off the Virginia coast. (The turbines would test an unproven hurricane-resilient design and a new turbine foundation.) The original plan was to seek SCC approval in 2015, said Carr, but the low bid of \$375 million to build the two turbines far exceeded the original estimate of \$230 million. Dominion has restructured the contract by breaking it into four components in the hope of stimulating more competitive bidding and reducing the risk premiums bidders build into their offers. The new goal is to file with the SCC by June 2016.

Hayes Framme, advisor for infrastructure and development with the Secretariat of Commerce and Trade, said the McAuliffe administration played a key role in moving the Dominion's experimental-turbines project forward by negotiating a complex lease with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and other federal agencies to lease the ocean bottom where the turbines would be located. "Without this lease," he said, "we would not be able to get these turbines in."

An offshore wind farm would advance two McAuliffe administration goals: increasing the state's commitment to renewable energy and also promoting economic development. A study completed this summer found that Virginia is "uniquely positioned" to house "at least a portion, if not most, of the supply chain" supporting an East Coast offshore wind industry, Framme said. Virginia ports are located in the Mid-Atlantic, providing convenient access to projects to the north and south, and it has a large existing ship-repair infrastructure.

"Having a commercial deployment off Virginia's coast sends a signal that we are serious," Framme said. "If we don't lay the foundation now, it will be more difficult for us to take advantage of that opportunity when it does come."

Virginia's projects are not sufficiently large by themselves to coax the offshore wind supply chain to bolster its U.S. presence. That will take commitments from multiple states. Fortunately, that commitment seems to be forthcoming, said Stephanie McClellan, director of a special initiative on offshore wind housed at the University of Delaware. The states of New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine and Maryland all are actively exploring offshore wind opportunities. The state of New York has set a goal of 50% renewables by 2030, while New York City has established a goal of 100% renewables for electricity consumed by municipal operations.

To build a supporting infrastructure for offshore wind, said McClellan, eastern U.S. states need to provide market visibility and revenue certainty for a volume of projects over time, as well as more data on site-specific conditions such as wind speeds and wave size. The cost of wind power dropped "precipitously" in Europe as the industry gained scale; it will do so in the U.S. as well, she said.

Bacon's bottom line: I posed one question to the presenters: Given the intermittent nature of wind production, has anyone studied the impact of a massive wind farm on the reliability of offshore electricity production in Virginia? The short answer: No. However, presenters noted that European countries have integrated large off-shore wind projects into their power grids, and PJM Interconnection, the group that ensures grid reliability in the Mid-Atlantic and parts of the Midwest, including Virginia, has looked into the issue. There are currently no comments highlighted.

ONSHORE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Interior Dings Chesapeake \$2.1M For Shoddy Reporting

[Greenwire](#), October 20, 2015

The Interior Department yesterday announced a \$2.1 million civil penalty against Chesapeake Energy Corp. for misreporting the amount of gas it produced and sold from American Indian lands in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma City-based company failed to comply with a 2011 order that found “systemic errors” in the company’s monthly production reports for more than 100 Indian leases, according to Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue. Chesapeake agreed to amend the monthly reports, but it continued to maintain inaccurate information on the agency’s data systems, ONRR said. The company was assessed a penalty based on “knowing or willful maintenance” of the inaccurate information, ONRR said.

Libs Win In Canada

[Politico](#), October 21, 2015

With help from Andrew Restuccia and Darius Dixon

CANADIANS ELECT GREENER GOVERNING PARTY: Canadians yesterday ushered into power the Liberal Party and its young leader, Justin Trudeau, in an election where energy and environmental issues played a larger role than they have on the campaign trail here. Trudeau’s government would be friendlier to climate policies meant to limit greenhouse gas emissions than its predecessor, as Pro’s Elana Schor reports. The Liberals “would unseat Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s Conservatives, whose nine-year reign has been marked by notable friction with the U.S. over Obama’s slowness to decide on” the Keystone XL pipeline. The CBC projected soon after the polls closed last night that Trudeau’s party won enough seats to form a majority government.

Story Continued Below

Does this mean the end of the Keystone Saga? HAHAHAHAHhahahahah, oh dear reader, you are a wit. Of course not. As Elana writes, “While Trudeau is also pro-Keystone, a fast rejection of the pipeline by Obama could give a new Liberals government time to pivot away from the controversial project to open a new chapter in continental relations.” But whatever the president decides — whether it’s this week, to let Trudeau start with a clean slate, or next year — the pipeline likely will find itself facing another lengthy battle in court.

And the ramifications for climate talks could be just as significant, per Elana: “the Canadian Liberals have vowed to be stronger on the environment than Harper has been,” but “they also promise to give individual provinces greater power to decide on their own carbon-cutting strategies.”

BIDEN, OBAMA AND KERRY TO CHAT TODAY: Whatever could the President, the Vice President, and the Cabinet official with the power to approve border-crossing infrastructure permits have to discuss in the Oval Office the day after the Canadian Elections? The Stanley Cup prospects of the Bruins, Blackhawks, and Flyers, perhaps? The literary merits of Margaret Atwood’s MaddAddam Trilogy? Perhaps ... perhaps a certain pipeline controversy? Maaaaybe? Nah. The White House wouldn’t say what the trio would discuss, only that the meeting is scheduled for 3 p.m. and reporters aren’t invited. Has to be the hockey, right? The Blackhawks are favored to win it all.

WELCOME TO TUESDAY! I’m your host Eric Wolff, and if Morning Energy was late to your inbox this morning, blame the creators of the Energy Policy Simulator (see below). It’s like the Legend of Zelda, but for energy policy nerds. I may be bleary-eyed and my fingers may be covered in Dorito dust, but you can still send your energy tips, quips, and comments to ewolff@politico.com, or follow us on Twitter @ericwolff, @Morning_Energy, and @POLITICOPro.

TOP CLIMATE DIPLOMAT TO HAVE STARE DOWN WITH SENATE: Todd Stern, the State Department’s top global warming negotiator, will face Republican critics of the Obama administration’s push for a new international climate change agreement during a Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing today. Sen. John Barrasso, the top Republican on the subcommittee, is one of the most vocal opponents of Obama’s climate agenda. He and other GOP lawmakers are sure to ask Stern pointed questions about whether the deal will actually make strides in cutting emissions, whether China is serious about its climate pledges and how the United States can promise money to developing countries when Congress controls the purse strings. But Stern has been working on international climate issues for years, and he’s not likely to be easily rattled by the questions. Stern will also likely have back-up from climate advocates like Sens. Tom Udall, Barbara Boxer and Ed Markey, who all sit on the subcommittee. The hearing comes as international diplomats, including Stern’s deputies at State, are fighting over a draft negotiating text at a five-day session in Bonn, Germany, this week.

NOM NOM NOM NOM NOM: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is scheduled to hear from a crowded table of nominees this morning, including those for the USGS and the departments of Energy and Interior. There may not be too

many fireworks over the six candidates but some of the positions have had some longstanding issues. For one, Victoria Wassmer, an FAA official, was tapped last year to be CFO for the EPA but she never got floor time. This time around, she's been asked to be DOE undersecretary of energy for management and performance, a position Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz created as part of a leadership reorganization plan but that has never been filled. A name many people are familiar with on today's agenda is Mary Kendall, the longtime acting Interior inspector general who tangled a bit with House Republicans. She's been nominated to officially take the top IG position. Cherry Murray will also be at the witness table in her bid to be the Science Office director at DOE, a position that's been vacant since April 2013 and whose previous contender languished for more than a year. Also testifying today are Suzette Kimball for USGS director, Kristen Sarri for assistant secretary of Interior, and John Kotek for DOE's top nuclear energy official. The hearing starts at 10 a.m. in Dirksen 366.

SHALL WE PLAY A GAME? HOW ABOUT A NICE GAME OF CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY? Think of it like a low-fi SimCity, except instead of municipal policy, you get to tweak nationwide approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Ever wondered just how a \$30 carbon tax would do? How about \$52? What if you focus on making cars use less gasoline? Or investing more in solar and wind technology? You can see all of that in the immensely detailed Energy Policy Simulator, a tool being unveiled today at an event in D.C. by Energy Innovation, a climate change policy think tank based in San Francisco. The group dedicated \$1 million and a team of five programmers plus a rotating array of outside help to develop a digital tool that shows the impact of an astonishing variety of climate change policies. "I think people fall in love with specific policies, but they don't have objective ways to measure the results of policies," Hal Harvey, CEO of Energy Innovation, told ME. The tool provides immediate feedback on the effect of different policies at different scales. It's probably NSFW, if your intent is to do some work that day.

No "foot on the scale." The goal was to do an objective assessment of any number of different policies, Harvey said. To make sure they weren't skewing the model, they made it open source, so anyone can look at the programming and the model's math. Though the webtool is locked into U.S. data, anyone can download a desktop version and replace the U.S. data with other national data. The desktop version allows even more policy option. Considering that the web tool allows users to devote research money to reducing livestock flatulence, ME's mind boggles at what would be more detailed.

If you go to the unveiling: 10:30 a.m., Rayburn 2226

** Presented by Chevron: Girls everywhere can benefit from hands-on learning and role models in STEM fields. At Chevron, we've partnered with TechBridge to help inspire over 14,000 young women to discover their passion for science, technology, engineering and math. Learn how Chevron supports America's future innovators: <http://tinyurl.com/p3f5jgm> **

BUSINESS LEADERS 'AFFIRMED' BY WHITE HOUSE EVENT: ME spoke to some of the business leaders who pledged to reduce their carbon footprint as part of an event at the White House yesterday. It was "certainly a reaffirmation that we're on the right track," Hugh Welsh, president of DSM North America, told ME. While 81 companies pledged to take action, Welsh said he was irate at other executives who work to block climate change policies. "If they can't embrace some of the initiatives, at least get out of the way, and don't lobby against some of the changes we'd like to see." Ikea U.S. president Lars Petersson said the "very strong commitment from the US government" and private sector is an important starting point, but he said he was surprised the event didn't address a few issues, like waste management and squeezing carbon out of the supply chain.

GAS UTILITIES VOLUNTEERS TO BE SAFER: American Gas Association" is announcing an update to its "Commitment to Enhancing Safety" today, including new physical and cybersecurity efforts, implementation of leading practices related to pipe installation and an initiative to continue the development of a diverse and inclusive workforce capable of operating and maintaining the 21st century technology and infrastructure that delivers clean natural gas. It has also set up a peer review program in which natural gas utilities review each other's safety programs. The announcement follows the release of new inspection rules from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration earlier this month.

GAS TERMINAL APPROVED: The Department of Energy authorized Emera CNG, LLC to export up to 8 million cubic feet per day of domestically produced compressed natural gas for 20 years from Emera's proposed terminal in Palm Beach, Fla.

THERE THEY GO AGAIN: CHESAPEAKE ENERGY FINED BY ONNR: The Office of Natural Resources Revenue hit Chesapeake Energy with a \$2.1 million civil penalty for underreporting its natural gas production and sales for leases on Indian land. It's not the first time Chesapeake has heard from the tiny agency. In 2013, ONNR fined the company \$765,000 for exactly the same sin. Of course, none of those are much compared to the \$10 million fine levied by EPA in 2013.

HYDRO WANTS SOME RESPECT, LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN: The National Hydropower Association is announcing an ad campaign today intended to persuade Congress to go ease permitting requirements. "As a nation, if we are serious about decreasing carbon emissions and expanding clean energy solutions, we simply can't allow hydropower to be hindered by process that can take up to ten years," Linda Church Ciocci, NHA Executive Director, said in a statement. The campaign, which runs into five figures, includes a website, a video, and paid context ads.

QUICK HITS

- As Conservation Cuts Electricity Use, Utilities Turn to Fees, WSJ: <http://on.wsj.com/1jR3XoG>
- Leaders call for carbon pricing worldwide, AP, via Global Post: <http://bit.ly/1W1pgjv>
- Solar energy blotting out nature, farms in California, San Diego Union-Tribune: <http://bit.ly/1Klp8Vh>
- Study: Climate change adding billions to U.S. hurricane costs, USA Today: <http://usat.ly/1PD6LIN>

THAT'S ALL FOR ME!

** Presented by Chevron: Girls everywhere can benefit from hands-on learning and role models in STEM fields. At Chevron, we've partnered with TechBridge to help inspire over 14,000 young women to discover their passion for science, technology, engineering and math. Learn how Chevron supports America's future innovators: <http://tinyurl.com/p59o9p8> **

CORRECTION: An earlier version of this tipsheet misidentified the American Gas Association.

Chesapeake Fined \$2.1M For Repeatedly Underreporting NatGas Volumes In Oklahoma

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#), October 21, 2015

Chesapeake Energy Corp. has been fined more than \$2.1 million by the U.S. Department of Interior for repeatedly underreporting natural gas production volumes in Oklahoma.

Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) said Monday that Chesapeake had failed to comply with an October 2011 order that found "repeated, systemic errors" in monthly reporting of gas produced and sold from more than 100 leases on land owned by tribes and individual Native Americans. ONRR had ordered Chesapeake to restructure its monthly reporting system as part of a review to correct any unreported/misreported volumes.

"While the company assured ONRR it had corrected the reports, follow-up checks still found additional errors," said Interior's Paul A. Mussenden, deputy assistant secretary for natural resources revenue management. "Correct royalty reports, especially on American Indian leases, are essential for ONRR to ensure all royalties are paid, to provide reliable data used by ONRR's audit and compliance teams, and to provide accurate data to the American public."

Interior eventually obtained Chesapeake's compliance to amend monthly reports but it "continued to maintain inaccurate information on ONRR data systems for an extended period," officials said. The fine, which covers misreported amounts produced on the individual leases only, is for "knowing or willful maintenance of this inaccurate information."

After Interior issued its initial request in October 2011, Chesapeake informed ONRR in May 2012 that all of the corrections required had been submitted. However, follow-up testing found more underreported volumes. The company then said it corrected those additional errors, but further reviews found still more incorrect data.

Following the settlement announcement on Monday, a Chesapeake spokesman said the company looked forward "to further strengthening our relationship with the Department of the Interior."

Two years ago Chesapeake was fined \$765,000 for "knowing or willful submission of inaccurate information" of royalties on another Indian lease also in Oklahoma (see *Shale Daily*, April 3, 2013). In early 2014 the company also was ordered to pay \$428,400 for underreporting royalties on a tribal lease in Oklahoma dating back to 2005. In that case, ONRR said auditors found inaccurate reports and notified the company, but Chesapeake did not make the proper corrections.

Earlier this year Chesapeake agreed to pay \$119 million to settle a lawsuit with a private landowner in Oklahoma for allegedly underpaying gas royalties on nearly 12,000 wells over a 10-year period (see *Shale Daily*, Jan. 23). According to filings, Chesapeake Operating LLC agreed to pay for improperly deducting expenses for marketing, processing, compression and other midstream services for 11,800 gas wells. The lawsuit covered production from 2004 through 2014.

Company Fined \$2.1M For Under Reporting Gas From Indian Leases

[Native American Times](#), October 21, 2015

DENVER (AP) — Chesapeake Energy Corp. has been fined \$2.1 million for under reporting natural gas produced on Indian leases in Oklahoma.

The Department of Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue Office in Denver said Monday it issued the civil penalty against the Oklahoma City-based company for failing to comply with an October 2011 order requiring it to review the amounts reported for more than 100 leases. In a statement, the office said that Chesapeake said it complied with the order in 2012 but follow up testing found additional under reported volumes which were then corrected in 2013.

The 2011 order covered land owned by tribes and individual Native Americans. The fine covers misreported amounts produced on the individual leases only.

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Chesapeake Energy Gets Fined

[KOKC-AM Oklahoma City](#), October 20, 2015

Chesapeake Energy Corp. has been fined \$2.1 million for under reporting natural gas produced on Indian leases in Oklahoma. On Monday The Department of Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue in Denver said it issued the civil penalty against the Oklahoma City-based company for failing to comply with an October 2011 order requiring it to review the amounts reported for more than 100 leases.

In a statement, the office said that Chesapeake said it complied with the order in 2012 but follow up testing found additional under reported volumes which were then corrected in 2013. The 2011 order covered land owned by tribes and individual Native Americans. The fine covers misreported amounts produced on the individual leases only.

Texas Energy Regulator Opposes Interior's Stream Rule

[Law360](#), October 21, 2015

Law360, Dallas (October 20, 2015, 9:18 PM ET) – Texas' top energy regulator on Tuesday said the agency will oppose a U.S. Department of the Interior proposed rule aimed at better protecting streams and other waterways from nearby mining activity, saying the regulation encroaches on ground better left to the state.

Texas Railroad Commission Chairman David Porter on Tuesday said the state would sign on to the multistate Interstate Mining Compact Commission's comments opposing the proposed waterway regulation. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's proposed Stream Protection Rule is a lengthy rewrite governing...

To view the full article, register now.

USGS Report States Earthquakes Coincide With Oklahoma Oil Booms

[KOCO-TV Oklahoma City](#), October 21, 2015

A study by the United States Geological Survey states that the earthquakes from the past 100 years seem to coincide with the oil boom in Oklahoma.

Okla. Regulators Shutter 3 More Wells Near Rumbling Pipeline Hub

[EnergyWire](#), October 21, 2015

Oklahoma oil and gas regulators dealing with a dramatic increase in earthquakes near the pipeline hub of Cushing have shut down three more disposal wells. Another well was shut down by the company that owns it after regulators said they were concerned it was drilled too deep. And the operators of seven other wells were told in a letter written Friday and released yesterday that they must reduce the volume of drilling waste that they inject deep underground. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) says it has also told the operators of 13 other wells in the Cushing area that they may need to change operations in the future. The commission is directing wells within 3 miles of the recent earthquakes to shut in. Wells 3 to 6 miles from the shaking have to reduce volumes by 25 percent. Wells 6 to 10 miles away are on notice...The Department of Homeland Security has taken an interest in the earthquakes in the area because its facilities are considered critical national infrastructure, according to a paper by scientists from USGS and elsewhere published online last month.

Oklahoma Cracks Down More On Disposal Wells After Cushing Quakes

By Liz Hampton And Heide Brandes

[Reuters](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

Fracking Can Cause Nearby Abandoned Wells To Leak Methane – Study

By Richard Valdmanis

[Reuters](#), October 20, 2015

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

FOIA FAIL: BLM Fails To Produce All Photos In Response To Sun Times' FOIA Request

[Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#), October 21, 2015

It's an important law, one that allows citizens and their representative – the media – to seek the hidden details of the machinery of government. The rules and process are well defined under federal law, the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA.

When the request is made of a federal agency, that agency has a limited amount of time to respond. The agency must produce the data requested or explain why, under the Freedom of Information Act, it does not have to produce the information.

If any part of the request is denied, the agency must specify what part of the FOIA request is being denied and must explain the reason for the denial.

A couple of years ago the Sun Times received, from an anonymous source, documents related to the proposed Solenex, LLC natural gas well on public lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest. Some of the documents originated with the U.S. Forest Service; others from the Bureau of Land Management.

Also included were 18 photographs, in color, approximately 8 ½ x 11 inches in size and of medium quality.

Since we had in our possession 18 photographs related to the Solenex lease, we decided to contact the BLM and see if they had additional photos in the Solenex file. We also hoped that, in the process, this newspaper would be able to get final confirmation that the photos we already had were authentic (since then, we have confirmed through another source that the documents and photos are authentic).

We contacted the BLM office in Great Falls and were told that yes, they had photos in the Solenex case file. The Sun Times asked for the photos, but was advised that we should go through the FOIA process.

The Sun Times, after researching the Freedom of Information Act, filed the FOIA request with the FOIA Officer at the BLM Montana state office in Billings. Immediately we received confirmation that our request had been received. We were also advised that we would be receiving a confirmation letter with a case number shortly.

When the Sun Times had not received the photos or the promised confirmation letter, we asked what the holdup was. The answers we got were unsatisfactory, but since the clock was ticking on the BLM window to respond, we waited.

When the time was up for the BLM to produce the photos, we received a package from their office in Billings. In the package were a cover letter and 16 poor quality photocopies of photos.

Sixteen photos. Not eighteen. Two photos were missing.

In the cover letter, the BLM advised the Sun Times that the agency could not confirm the date or location of the photographs. Curiously, the two omitted photos were the only ones that included a person in the photos. The Sun Times believes that the person in the photographs, who is still employed by the BLM, was the petroleum engineer who worked on the Solenex Application for Drilling Permit, or APD.

The Sun Times was able to pinpoint the location of one of the two withheld photos, and we believe that the photos, at least some of them, paint a far different – pardon the pun – “picture” of the drillsite than what has been presented so far. To do this, the Sun Times has relied on information from a surveyor, publicly available satellite data and a recent flyover of the area, photographing the drillsite.

But the point is, why did the BLM hold back the photos?

This newspaper has always enjoyed a good relationship with the Bureau of Land Management. The agency has always been cordial and responsive to our requests for information. Of course, the Sun Times does not engage in “fishing expeditions” when we seek information. Our research and understanding as it relates to the Solenex case in particular and oil and gas exploration in general exceeds that of many media outlets. It has become a specialty of this newspaper.

For the Sun Times, though, we are faced with the question, “If you have no idea of the details of the information you seek in a FOIA request, how do you know the agency has complied fully?”

In our case the BLM, in their cover letter and in a follow-up email, said that all of the requested photos had been produced. When we sent an email with the two non-disclosed photos to the BLM FOIA officer asking why the two pictures were not included, we waited two weeks for an answer. The answer was that the person doing the FOIA search thought those two photos were excluded from the FOIA. The BLM apologized and explained that we should have requested better quality copies of the photos.

As the Sun Times considers its options in this matter, we hope that the BLM as well as the other agencies involved realize that this community newspaper does its homework. Our readers expect and deserve no less.

OFFSHORE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Feds Probing Death Of Worker On Gulf Drillship

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy

[Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#), October 20, 2015

WASHINGTON — Federal investigators are probing the death of a worker on a drillship in the Gulf of Mexico that was preparing to bore a well for Chevron.

The accident happened at about 10:15 a.m. Tuesday morning about 200 miles south of Lake Charles, La., in a deep-water leasing area known Keathley Canyon block 96. The Pacific Santa Ana drillship was just beginning operations for Chevron in

about 4,800 feet of water at the site and had not yet penetrated the sea floor when an employee of that drilling contractor was fatally injured.

There were no other injuries at the site, and operations on the drillship have been shut down.

Scant details were known about the accident Tuesday afternoon, as officials with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Coast Guard flew to the site and began investigating.

Chevron is the operator on the lease, with a 36 percent working interest. BP and ConocoPhillips have minority interests in the site, with 34 percent and 30 percent respectively.

Houston-based Pacific Drilling said in a statement it was "actively addressing the needs of (the worker's) family and the affected employees."

"Our prayers and thoughts are with the family of our colleague and our Pacific Drilling family closely associated with him," the company said.

Chevron said in a statement that its "thoughts and prayers are with the contractor's family, friends and colleagues."

The lease — located next to a number of discoveries in the Gulf and part of the Lower Tertiary trend — was a top target during a 2009 government auction, when BP made a winning \$28.1 million bid for the block, beating out Chevron USA, which had offered \$14 million, and ConocoPhillips, which bid \$7.3 million.

In an exploration plan filed with federal regulators earlier this year, Chevron outlined ambitions to drill up to seven wells at the site.

The Santa Ana is one of eight high-specification drillships in Pacific's fleet, built to Chevron's requirements and delivered to the company in 2012. According to Chevron, at the time it was the first drillship capable of performing dual-gradient drilling, which uses two different drilling fluids — each with different weights — to more closely match formation pressures. The technology facilitates drilling high-depth wells.

Feds: 1 Dead In Accident On Drillship In Gulf Of Mexico

[Associated Press](#), October 21, 2015

NEW ORLEANS (AP) – Two federal agencies are investigating an accident that killed a man on a ship drilling for oil in the Gulf of Mexico, according to the agency that oversees offshore drilling.

Nobody else was hurt in the 10:15 a.m. accident Tuesday on the drillship Pacific Santa Ana, said Amy Roddy, spokeswoman for the owner, Pacific Drilling SA of Houston.

She said the company is not releasing any details about the man to respect his family's privacy. She also refused to disclose how the man died or details of the accident, citing an ongoing investigation.

The ship is working for Chevron, and drilling has been shut down because of the investigation, she said.

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said in a statement Tuesday that the crew was starting to drill in 4,800 feet of water, about 200 miles south of Lake Charles, when the accident occurred. The statement did not reveal the nature of the accident, but said the bureau and U.S. Coast Guard were investigating. The statement said there were no reports of pollution.

According to Pacific Drilling's website, the Pacific Santa Ana can carry up to 200 people, can operate in up to 12,000 feet of water, and is equipped to drill as deep as 35,000 feet. It is among eight drillships owned by the company.

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Worker Dies On Offshore Drilling Rig

By Alison Sider

[NASDAQ](#), October 20, 2015

A worker died on an offshore drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, federal regulators said Tuesday.

The worker was employed by Pacific Drilling SA, which owns the Pacific Santa Ana drillship. The company is investigating the cause of the incident, spokeswoman Amy Roddy said.

The vessel was doing work for Chevron Corp. about 200 miles south of Lake Charles, La., according to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, which said the death is the first this year related to offshore drilling operations in the gulf.

A spokeswoman for the agency said inspectors are on board the vessel, where operations have been shut down. Chevron said the incident didn't cause pollution or other injuries.

The Pacific Santa Ana has been contracted to Chevron since 2012. It is capable of drilling in waters up to 12,000 feet deep, but Tuesday's incident occurred in shallower water, at a depth of 4,800 feet.

1 Reported Dead On Gulf Of Mexico Drillship Working For Chevron

[New Orleans Times-Picayune](#), October 21, 2015

Federal investigators are responding to a report of a person dead on a drillship in the Gulf of Mexico about 200 miles south of Lake Charles, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said Tuesday afternoon (Oct. 20). No other injuries were reported and there was no sign of pollution, the agency said.

According to a BSEE statement, the Pacific Santa Ana drillship was starting drilling operations for Chevron when the death occurred. Operations have been shut down and personnel remain onboard, according to the drillship's operator.

The bureau and the U.S. Coast Guard will investigate the incident. Investigators traveled to the site Tuesday afternoon and have begun collecting evidence and taking statements.

No additional information was immediately available.

1 Dead In GoM Accident

By Audrey Leon

[Offshore Engineer](#), October 20, 2015

An accident onboard the drillship Pacific Santa Ana has left one worker dead. The news was confirmed by the US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), operator Chevron, and the drillship's owner, Pacific Drilling.

The Pacific Santa Ana drillship has been under a five-year contract with Chevron in the Gulf of Mexico since 2012.

Chevron confirmed that a contractor, an employee of Pacific Drilling, was fatally injured onboard the drillship around 10 am (CST) on 20 October. The drillship was some 200mi south of Lake Charles, Louisiana, operating in 4800ft of water, on the Chevron-operated Keathley Canyon Block 96.

Chevron said that drilling operations have since been shut down, and that no other injuries were reported. BSEE said that personnel remain on the drillship and that no pollution has been reported.

"Our prayers and thoughts are with the family of our colleague and our Pacific Drilling family closely associated with him," Pacific Drilling said in an emailed statement about the incident.

Inspectors from both BSEE and the US Coast Guard will travel to the Pacific Santa Ana, owned by Pacific Drilling, to begin collecting evidence and take statements.

Chevron holds 36% working interest in the block, with co-owners BP (34%), and ConocoPhillips (30%).

The Pacific Santa Ana began its contract with Chevron in 2012. The ship was purpose-built for dual gradient drilling operations and has three separate fluid systems, one for handling drilling mud, another for the seawater-like fluid in the marine riser, and another for the seawater powering the pump. The moon pool was redesigned for handling the 450,000lb MaxLift pump in addition to the usual subsea equipment.

The ship was to use its dual gradient drilling functions for Chevron's Anchor-1 prospect last year in Green Canyon block 807, but the well was junked due to mechanical failures. However, in January of this year, Chevron hit high quality oil pay in multiple Lower Tertiary Wilcox Sands at a second Anchor well also drilled by the Pacific Santa Ana.

Image: Pacific Santa Ana/Pacific Drilling

Worker Dies On Offshore Drilling Rig

Pacific Santa Ana was doing work for Chevron Corp. in Gulf of Mexico

By Alison Sider

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

UPDATE 1-Gulf Of Mexico Oil Rig Worker Dies In Accident

[Reuters](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

Fatal Accident Reported On Pacific Santa Ana Drillship In Gulf Of Mexico

[gCaptain](#), October 21, 2015

The U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said Tuesday it was responding to a report of a death on the Pacific Santa Ana in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana.

Pacific Santa Ana was beginning drilling operations for Chevron approximately 200 miles south of Lake Charles, LA, in 4,800 feet of water when the incident occurred. According to the operator, the rig has been shut down, the BSEE said.

There were no other injuries reported and personnel remain on the drill ship, BSEE said. There was also no reported pollution.

The incident is being investigated by both the BSEE and U.S. Coast Guard. BSEE and U. S. Coast Guard inspectors traveled to the drillship Tuesday afternoon and have begun collecting evidence and taking statements.

The Pacific Santa Ana is on a five-year contract with Chevron ending in May 2017.

The fifth generation drillship was built in 2011 by Samsung Heavy Industries and is capable of operating in 12,000 feet water depth. When delivered to the Gulf of Mexico in 2012, the drillship was the first designed with the capacity to perform dual gradient drilling, a technology that uses two weights of drilling fluid to match the natural pressure when drilling ultra-deepwater reservoirs.

The Pacific Santa Ana is owned by Houston-based Pacific Drilling. It can accommodate up to 200 crew.

One Killed In Chevron Gulf Accident

By Kathrine Schmidt & Noah Brenner

[Upstream Online](#), October 21, 2015

Membership includes a subscription to our weekly newspaper providing in-depth news from the energy industry, plus full access to this site and its archives. Still not convinced? Try our free trial.

Death Reported On Gulf Of Mexico Drillship

[Reuters](#), October 20, 2015

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

Briarcliffe Acres Votes Against Offshore Drilling

[Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#), October 21, 2015

In a storm of debate over offshore drilling, Briarcliffe Acres surfaced as the latest coastal town to join a united front against seismic testing and drilling for oil and natural gas off of South Carolina's beaches.

Missing councilwoman Abby Stewart, who has been with family on the west coast, the town council unanimously passed a resolution Monday, joining 23 other S.C. coastal towns in a stance against offshore drilling.

We don't even know what's out there. We don't know if there's gas, if there's natural gas or if there's crude oil.

Congressman Tom Rice

"We understand what damage can ensue from any spill that could happen out there," said Councilman Huston Huffman. "We don't want to take the risk of a spill out there polluting the beaches."

For many the rallying cry against offshore drilling echoes the loss of tourism dollars that could cripple coastal economies. But for Briarcliffe Acres, a "bedroom community" of about 500, any damage would not just hit a tourist destination, it would hit home.

The resolution had been in the works for a couple of months, Huffman said, but other issues pushed the matter to Monday's agenda.

A news release from the Stop Oil Drilling in the Atlantic Leadership Team on Monday called the vote an "incredible show of unity, and a strong message" appealing to legislators to "stop Washington from forcing this on South Carolina."

Legislators say the region's resolutions may do little to stop offshore drilling if the project is ultimately approved.

The Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management announced a draft proposed program in January that opened up two planning areas for testing along the coast from the Maryland-Virginia state line to the Georgia-Florida line.

The coast of Virginia was proposed for a potential offshore drilling site five years ago, but plans fizzled in the wake of the disastrous Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Buzz of where the potential rigs will actually go abound among opponents, with doom scenarios marring the coastlines from Georgetown to Wilmington, N.C. Advocates banded together – bridging the gap between party lines – to send a clear message to legislators that residents don't want the rigs off of the \$18 billion tourism-rich South Carolina coast.

Dr. Jim Watkins, a retired Presbyterian minister who lives in Pawley's Island, helped form the Stop Oil Drilling in the Atlantic alliance, which he describes as a "grassroots citizen's organization which works on 'just this one issue of drilling.'"

The group praised Briarcliffe Acres for joining other municipalities like Myrtle Beach, Atlantic Beach, North Myrtle Beach and Surfside Beach that have all passed similar resolutions in recent months.

Briarcliffe Acres' action brought all of Horry County's coastal towns on board against offshore drilling, said Jean Marie Neal, a SODA representative.

"The vote today means every coastal municipality in South Carolina has said no to offshore drilling off our beaches," Watkins said in the release.

Myrtle Beach City Council passed a resolution Aug. 11 saying it wanted to protect the beaches from potential oil spills, joining at least 18 other municipalities opposing offshore drilling at the time. The decision was greeted with applause from 100 spectators in the audience.

Opponents say offshore drilling would hurt marine life, pumping into the Atlantic the potential of spills and sound waves that would send sea creatures scurrying. And the risk to the state's high dollar tourism industry makes the idea demand a price too high to pay.

Advocates say the drilling can be done safely and tapping into an oil or natural gas reserve could help the country move away from its dependence on foreign oil, helping in turn with national security. The underwater goldmine would mean more jobs and tax dollars.

"The possible jobs and revenue gained from drilling is miniscule compared to the dollars tourists spend in Horry County and the rest of coastal South Carolina," Watkins said in the release. "Giving our coast to the oil and gas industry simply does not make economic sense." A closer look

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has the power to open the Atlantic up for oil leasing with or without any state input, said Congressman Tom Rice.

And the idea that South Carolina would profit from any offshore drilling is not a possibility in federal legislation – yet. Rice said his office is working on a bill that would change that.

The bureau is reviewing if and where oil and gas leases might be issued on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf, but the draft plans call for only one lease to be issued. Plans also include a 50-mile buffer from the coastline. The buffer would keep the operation out of immediate sight from a shoreline, but would also keep any potential revenue gain out of the state's coffers.

The state would only reap revenue if the operation falls within South Carolina's coastal territory, which is about three miles from the shoreline.

"There's a special law that allows the Gulf states to get a revenue share of 37.5 percent," Rice said, but no law exists for the mid- to south-Atlantic coastal states, which have never been opened to federal oil leases before.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) submitted a bill that provides for revenue sharing for the states, but the bill also does away with the buffer zone, Rice said.

The congressman added that they are working on a bill now that would keep the 50-mile buffer zone in play, while giving South Carolina a 37.5 percent revenue share.

"We don't even know what's out there. We don't know if there's gas, if there's natural gas or if there's crude oil," Rice said.

The last time the ocean floor was scanned for potential reserves, the probe was conducted with technology from the 1980s. Technology has changed since then. "There appears to be formations that would likely have some type of reserves," Rice said, but we "don't know what or how much."

Rice has said the issue of offshore drilling needs more review.

"My position has been let's do the seismic testing," he said. "Let's find out what's out there and then we can make rational decisions."

Rice said that he also wants to know what can be done to "safeguard our tourism revenue" and that a study could find the reserves aren't worth the trouble and expense of drilling.

500 Rough population of Briarcliffe Acres

Rice had planned to call a public forum last Wednesday with a professor from Coastal Carolina University, a professor from the University of South Carolina, a representative from the Coastal Conservation League, a public official from Mobile, Ala., and the director of BOEM to address the issue, talk about the process, the timelines of any project and when and where along that timeline the public will have input. The forum was postponed in the wake of the state's recent historic flooding. Rice said that his office is working on rescheduling the forum.

In the last six weeks, Rice said he has visited oil fields in two states and the offshore drilling rigs in Louisiana to get a closer look at the operations.

"They opened up oil fields off of Alaska like a month or two months ago," he said. "And the oil companies have pulled out saying it's not economically feasible."

The same could happen here, he said.

"It may be that this never becomes feasible to drill off the Atlantic," he said.

The potential section of Atlantic coastal exploration fell in an area where state governments have been known to support expanded energy development offshore.

Gov. Nikki Haley supports offshore drilling and is a member of the Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition. The coalition operates on a mission to, among other things, "influence a sensible path forward for the development of America's offshore energy resources."

Frenchman Makes Daring Leap From Sailboat To Ship Off Alaska

By Mark Thiessen

[Associated Press](#), October 21, 2015

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A Frenchman with his cat tucked inside his clothing made a daring leap of faith Tuesday when he jumped to a waiting rescue ship from his sailboat, which was being battered by high seas south of Alaska.

The Coast Guard captured the dramatic video from a C-130 Hercules airplane monitoring the rescue. The man's identity hasn't been released, but Petty Officer Lauren Steenson in Kodiak said the sailboat was named La Chimere.

The man activated a location beacon Tuesday about 400 miles south of Cold Bay, Alaska. The C-130 was dispatched to assess the situation.

The airplane crew made radio contact with the mariner, who reported his 30-foot sailboat lost its rudder and rigging in heavy seas and 46-mph winds.

"With the 20-foot seas, his boat is getting pretty well thrown around," she said.

He had no control, and the boat was "pretty much dead in the water," adrift in high seas.

The Coast Guard made contact with the Polar Pioneer, which is an oil drilling vessel used by Royal Dutch Shell off Alaska's northwest coast this summer. The ship and support vessels were nearby as they make their way back to Port Angeles, Washington.

The Polar Pioneer sent a support ship, the Tor Viking, to rescue the sailor.

Video shot by the Coast Guard shows the Frenchman on the rigging pole near the bow of his sailboat, riding wave after wave until making a dramatic leap over the railing of the Tor Viking.

The video shows the man disappearing behind the railing head first with his legs last to disappear behind the Tor Viking's railing. After a few seconds, a crew member of the Tor Viking is seen walking toward the man, who then stands up.

Steenson said the pilot of the C-130 told her the sailor placed his cat inside either his sweater or coat before making the leap.

Once the man was safely aboard the Tor Viking, the Coast Guard marked the position of the sailboat for future reference.

It wasn't immediately clear if the man would continue with the Shell ships to Washington state.

The sailboat left Dutch Harbor, Alaska, on Oct. 13, headed to Vancouver. Steenson said reports didn't indicate if his final destination was Vancouver in Washington or British Columbia.

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Obama Ends Arctic Drilling – Business Insider

[Business Insider](#), October 21, 2015

A ringed seal pup peeks out from its protective snow cave near Kotzebue, Alaska. The Obama administration officially shut the door on Arctic drilling, a move that could prevent any new drilling for years to come.

The U.S. Department of Interior announced on October 16 that it would cancel two lease sales for offshore acreage, which had been scheduled to take place in 2016 and 2017. Environmental groups have been doggedly criticizing the Obama administration for allowing Royal Dutch Shell to drill in the Arctic to begin with, citing the potential catastrophe if an oil spill occurred. They had called upon the President to deny any permits to Shell.

But it wasn't environmental protest that killed off Shell's drilling campaign. What really forced the Anglo-Dutch company to retreat was low oil prices and disappointing drilling results.

Similarly, the Obama administration is now shutting the door on future lease sales not because of concerns over the environment, but "In light of current market conditions and low industry interest," as Interior put it in a statement.

On its face, the move is a logical one. Few other companies were interested in drilling in the Chukchi or Beaufort Seas, despite several having purchased leases years ago. Statoil and ConocoPhillips, two other large oil companies interested in the Arctic, had previously put their Arctic ambitions on ice because of the difficulty and high costs associated with drilling in the region. With Shell announcing that it would suspend U.S. Arctic exploration for the "foreseeable future" there are now zero companies that are viably interested in drilling anytime soon.

Remarkably, however, the interest in new leases had dried up even before the downturn in oil prices. Interior said that it put a "Call for Information and Nominations" in September 2013, which is essentially a way for the government to solicit interest from

the industry on which areas to auction off based on their interest. While it would be understandable that few companies would express interest in the current market downturn, Interior issued the Call for Information in September 2013, a time when Brent crude was trading around \$110 per barrel.

Despite high oil prices, no companies submitted nominations for areas to be auctioned. As a result, Interior canceled the 2016 auction. The same was true for the 2017 auction. In the July 2014 Call – when oil prices were trading at around \$105 per barrel – there was only one submission from a company interested in the Arctic. In its October 16 announcement, Interior said that it was concerned there wouldn't be sufficient competition to move forward with the lease sale. Such an outcome could mean that the government would lose more money than it took in by selling off the assets, due to the lengthy work involved in conducting regulatory scrutiny, environmental assessment, and studying and issuing permits.

REUTERS/Larry Downing

U.S. President Barack Obama speaks about the FY2016 budget at the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, February 2, 2015.

Thus, the lease sales will be cancelled. As such, no new companies will acquire acreage in the Arctic for several years at least. But even if Interior hadn't cancelled the sales, it is far from clear that there would have even been a company that would be willing to risk scarce resources in bidding on risky Arctic oil.

Moreover, Interior also dismissed requests from Shell and Statoil to extend their current leases, which would have allowed them more time to return to the Arctic if they had wanted to do so at some point in the future. Their ten-year leases will expire in 2017 for the Beaufort Sea and 2020 for the Chukchi Sea. Justifying the dismissal, Interior said that the "companies did not demonstrate a reasonable schedule of work for exploration and development under the leases."

With no plans by either company to drill within that timeframe, it appears that they are heading for expiration. That leaves almost no possible pathway for an oil company to drill in the Arctic for years to come, perhaps killing off drilling for a decade or so at a minimum. Again, it was likely that there wouldn't have been new drilling in any event, given Shell's decision and current market conditions, but Interior's decision officially shuts the door on the Arctic in the medium-term.

Recognizing the significance of the move, Alaskan Senator and Arctic oil proponent, Lisa Murkowski (R), issued a blistering statement denouncing the Interior Department. "This is a stunning, short-sighted move that betrays the Interior Department's commitments to Alaska," she said.

She went on to argue for more lease sales. "Instead of seeking to shut down Alaska, Interior should remember that the North Slope was nearly abandoned after 14 dry holes were drilled. The opportunity to keep going led to not only the discovery of Prudhoe Bay, but also the production of more than 17 billion barrels of oil and a generation of opportunity for Alaska. I will certainly remember that fact as I continue to push legislation that will force Interior to hold regular lease sales in the offshore Arctic."

It is possible that under a new Republican administration in 2017, the Interior Department could relaunch the leasing process. However, that could take several years given the lengthy environmental assessments the agency needs to conduct before offering up acreage. Even then, there is a huge question mark that hangs over the process – there is very little interest on behalf of the industry, regardless of what the government may do. In this era of low prices, Arctic oil may simply be unprofitable.

Read the original article on OilPrice.com. Copyright 2015.

Clues To Arctic Drilling Ban In California

[CleanTechnica](#), October 20, 2015

The Intertubes have been buzzing with news of the ban on Arctic drilling announced last week by President Obama. Though the news may have taken some political and industry observers by surprise, you can check out a recent development in California for hints at the direction in which federal agencies are steering the US oil and gas industry in the past couple of years. It sure looks like evolve is the word of the day for the energy policy formerly known as "all of the above."

The Arctic Drilling Ban

Just last summer, our friends over at Fuel Fix noted that Royal Dutch Shell had nailed down a couple of important federal permits for Arctic drilling. However, the company abandoned its Arctic drilling plans in September, just a few weeks before the announcement of the Arctic drilling ban.

We're giving props to Shell for its "you can't fire me, I quit" strategy. Slumping oil prices were cited as the reason for the pullout, but we're guessing that Shell also saw the writing on the White House wall.

Also not helping: just a couple of years ago the company was cited by the US Environmental Protection agency for "numerous" violations of the Clean Air Act related to its Arctic drilling operations, and high profile protests in Seattle over the docking of a Shell drilling rig monkeywrenched the company's efforts to highlight its commitment to climate action.

The slump in oil prices was also cited by the Interior Department last week when it announced the new Arctic drilling ban:

In light of current market conditions and low industry interest, the U.S. Department of the Interior today announced that it will cancel the two potential Arctic offshore lease sales scheduled under the current five-year offshore oil and gas leasing program for 2012-2017. The decision follows Shell's announcement of its exploration results at the Burger prospect in the Chukchi Sea and that the company will cease further exploration activity in offshore Alaska for the foreseeable future.

Interior also denied extensions to two companies with existing leases:

Today, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) also denied requests from Shell and Statoil for lease suspensions, which would have allowed the companies to retain the leases beyond their primary terms of ten years. The leases will expire in 2017 (Beaufort) and 2020 (Chukchi). Among other things, the companies did not demonstrate a reasonable schedule of work for exploration and development under the leases, a regulatory requirement necessary for BSEE to grant a suspension.

In defending the Arctic drilling ban (basically, a withdrawal of the lease program for this cycle), Interior cited the low interest in Arctic oil leases. The agency was wary of a non-competitive process leading to the award of a lease at rock-bottom prices.

California Drops A Clue On Arctic Drilling Ban

Environmental organizations have long pointed out that federal fossil fuel leases have been giveaways, and it looks like the Arctic drilling ban is a step toward the end of free lunch days.

We're also thinking that the cost of effective federal oversight for fossil fuel operations was another motivator, particularly where sensitive environments are involved, and that's where California comes in.

In the midst of an ongoing drought last year, California regulators were called to task for permitting oil and gas drillers to dump wastewater into aquifers that could have been used for domestic and agricultural use, following an EPA investigation dating back to 2012.

That resulted in an EPA drilling wastewater enforcement plan last spring:

As the state implements the plan, EPA will continue our heightened oversight to ensure that the state's oil and gas UIC program meets federal requirements. This effort includes ensuring that wells which inject into non-exempt aquifers, including several hundred disposal wells (with approximately 70 disposal wells in the 11 aquifers historically treated as exempt), nearly two thousand enhanced oil recovery wells, and any cyclic steam wells requiring aquifer exemptions, are addressed as expeditiously as possible, with an immediate emphasis on the wells in aquifers with the highest water quality.

Boy howdy, right? Our friends over at Fuel Fix have been keeping tabs on the state's response and at the last count California had shut down 33 oilfield injection wells, mainly in Kern County, that were injecting wastewater into federally protected water supplies under improperly issued state permits. That's on top of another 23 wells shut down earlier this year.

It's also worth noting that when local communities have attempted to adopt stricter regulation of the fossil fuel industry due to environmental concerns, they are often overridden by state legislation.

In terms of federal energy policy, it's pretty obvious that the Obama Administration decided that California's key role in the national economy — in agriculture as well as other sectors — was not being stewarded properly by local officials.

That's where we see a parallel with the Arctic drilling situation. In the absence of local regulations, the feds are the only game in town and it seems that the Arctic's role in the US economy is too important to trust to compliance by oil companies.

Interior's actions last week on Arctic drilling are only temporary, but the trend is toward a permanent clampdown.

Follow me on Twitter and Google+.

Photo credit: via US Department of the Interior.

Keep up to date with all the hottest cleantech news by subscribing to our (free) cleantech newsletter, or keep an eye on sector-specific news by getting our (also free) solar energy newsletter, electric vehicle newsletter, or wind energy newsletter.

Tags: Arctic drilling ban, California, Shell arctic drilling

About the Author

Tina Casey specializes in military and corporate sustainability, advanced technology, emerging materials, biofuels, and water and wastewater issues. Tina's articles are reposted frequently on Reuters, Scientific American, and many other sites. Views expressed are her own. Follow her on Twitter @TinaMCasey and Google+.

Federal Regulators Are A Big Barrier To Arctic Drilling

[4-Traders](#), October 21, 2015

In the wake of Shell choosing to stop exploring for oil and natural gas off Alaska's Arctic coast, the Interior Department cancelled lease auctions through 2017.

'In light of Shell's announcement, the amount of acreage already under lease and current market conditions, it does not make sense to prepare for lease sales in the Arctic in the next year and a half,' Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said.

What Secretary Jewell doesn't want to acknowledge is a big reason no one wants to drill in the Arctic right now is because the federal government has made it too difficult.

Here are some of the federal government's regulatory obstacles Shell had to navigate around to drill just one well:

Restrictions on Drilling Activities. Multiple layers of environmental laws and regulations limit the type and amount of activity that can take place in the Arctic. For example, Shell sought permits to drill two exploratory wells during the 2015 season. While the Administration gave conditional approval to Shell's exploration plan (which included the two wells) it was later determined that the plan violated a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulation from 2013 regarding marine mammal disturbance. The regulation requires a 15 mile buffer zone around active drilling rigs due to assumed impacts of noise; an assumption not corroborated by science. Since Shell's wells are nine miles apart, the wells could not be drilled simultaneously – creating additional restrictions and adding delay to their operations.

Requirements for Additional Equipment. Regulations also require that an additional redundant rig be on site. This adds additional costs and resources, and also fails to take into account other containment strategies. Capping stacks, blowout preventers and relief domes could be better suited to address potential spill response in the shallow-waters of the Arctic.

Litigation. At seemingly every turn, energy exploration in the Arctic has faced an onslaught of lawsuits from activist groups. In one instance in 2008, there was a legal challenge to the original lease sale and the federal court ruled that there needed to be a revised EIS. The Department submitted a supplemental EIS and the 2008 lease sale was officially reaffirmed in March 2015.

Shell said clearly it faces a 'challenging and unpredictable federal regulatory environment in offshore Alaska.' It's no surprise no other companies want to jump into these chilly regulatory waters.

But the company also pointed out, 'The area is likely to ultimately be of strategic importance to Alaska and the US.' One estimate puts 34 billion barrels of oil off Alaska's Arctic coast.

Other nations aren't stopping Arctic exploration; neither should the U.S.

Demand for oil and natural gas isn't going away, so energy domestic exploration must continue in the Arctic and elsewhere. But as we've seen, by putting up unnecessary regulatory hurdles, regulators can cause job and economic growth opportunities to be missed.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Updated Idaho Power Line Would Go Through Sage Grouse Habitat

[Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#), October 21, 2015

Idaho Power is one step closer to replacing an aging transmission line that runs from Hagerman to Hailey. Blaine County approved a permit for the project last week. Now, the Bureau of Land Management will review it – and will pay special attention to the greater sage grouse in the area.

Click play to hear the on-air version of this story.

It's been nearly a month since the Obama Administration decided not to list the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act. Although the bird itself hasn't gained federal protection, the Interior Department signed on to new land-use plans to keep the bird's habitat safe. These protections restrict development in sage grouse areas across the 11-state range, and the Hailey-Hagerman transmission line is part of that.

Stacey Baczkowski is a biologist with Idaho Power. She says the company has been working with the BLM for the last few years to make sure the line is built with the bird in mind. Baczkowski says even though the federal agency has new land use restrictions, the rules aren't burdensome for Idaho Power.

"Knowing what the restrictions are, we're able to accommodate them and build them into our project," she says.

The biologist says the power company plans to build the new transmission line as close to the current one as possible, and will follow BLM rules about construction during sage grouse mating times. Baczkowski says the added restrictions will likely make the project more expensive.

Find reporter Frankie Barnhill on Twitter @FABarnhill

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Federal Policies Vex Utah Water Commission

[Deseret \(UT\) News](#), October 21, 2015

SALT LAKE CITY — Federal policies that either aim to instill more oversight of water or deny access altogether have some Utah leaders frothing over what they say is a repeated pattern of overreach that threatens local economies and livelihoods.

A prime tempest of controversy discussed Tuesday by the State Water Development Commission is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Waters of the United States rule, which prompted multiple lawsuits by a dozen-plus states and the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Hailed by environmentalists and sportsmen groups as a rule that extends protections to key ephemeral waterways and the prairie potholes of water that form in the Midwest states, farmers and ranchers railed against the new regulation because they say it encroached on private property rights.

Utah joined with 17 other states asking federal courts to issue a stay and a constitutional review. Another lawsuit was launched by the American Farm Bureau Federation in Texas courts.

Randy Parker, executive director of the Utah Farm Bureau, briefed the commission on an Oct. 9 ruling in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals that issued a nationwide stay of the rule, noting there was a likelihood the EPA exceeded its authority.

"We were very excited about the 6th Circuit decision," Parker said, adding that the hope is the cases out of varying federal courts are consolidated before the U.S. Supreme Court for a decision.

"We think we would prevail," he said afterward. "The U.S. Supreme Court is starting to tell the Obama administration it can't do whatever it wants."

Critics that include Utah and Colorado also put enough pressure on the U.S. Forest Service to withdraw — at least for now — consideration of a new groundwater rule that would require the issuance of any permit to consider nearby groundwater resources in the area.

Oponents said that such a rule potentially interfered with states' "sovereign" domain over groundwater resources within its borders, leading to the congressional legislation to ward off the directive.

"We have a tremendous amount of concern this is a federalizing of the sovereign water rights of Utah," Parker said.

Ron Thompson, general manager of the Washington County Water Conservancy District, said possible revisions to a land-use plan by the Bureau of Land Management in Washington County have severe ramifications should one particular approach be adopted.

The changes are part of management strategies for two new national conservation areas created with the Washington County Lands Bill of 2009.

But Thompson said the BLM — under one option — is ignoring key considerations that went into the passage of the bill, including water supplies being left unhindered and right of way corridors left intact.

"This (alternative by the BLM) would take two of our pristine aquifers that supply more than a quarter of our water to our residents and lock them up," he said.

The revisions could also potentially interfere with right of way corridors or development of the Lake Powell Pipeline, Thompson added.

"It's very troubling. For the first time in my 40-year career, people are talking about not just responding but preparing to litigate," he said. "I still believe that these agencies have a fundamental responsibility to consult with states and local communities and protect local economies and the traditions that have developed around this. And they seem to be ignoring this today."

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Helicopter Crash Marks Troublesome Cattle Roundup Near Searchlight

[Las Vegas Review-Journal](#), October 21, 2015

The wild remnants of one of southern Clark County's last cattle herds are now being cleared from the mountains between Henderson and Searchlight, but the work so far has not gone smoothly.

A crew of cowboys from Utah is gathering stray and feral cows from the McCullough Mountains under a contract with the Nevada Department of Agriculture.

Flint Wright, animal industry administrator for the department, said the operation started Friday and has no scheduled completion date. As of Monday, just 17 cows had been collected.

"They're essentially wild cattle, and it's going to take some time," Wright said.

The roundup hit a major snag Sunday, when a helicopter being used to find and chase cows crashed just off state Route 164 west of Searchlight.

On Tuesday, the wrecked helicopter and its pilot could still be found at a motel in the town 60 miles south of Las Vegas.

Richard Dick of Hutchinson, Kan., said he was hovering about 12 feet off the ground, trying to move a pair of stubborn bulls, when a gust of wind pushed his helicopter into a Joshua tree. The 1962-vintage Bell model 47G ended up on its side in pieces, but he walked away with bumps and bruises.

The pilot said it was his first domestic accident in 17,000 hours of flying, though he crashed three times in Vietnam.

When he climbed out the wreckage Sunday, Dick said, the bulls were just staring at him.

The cattle now being rounded up have roamed the range untended since 2006, when rancher Cal Baird relinquished his federal grazing permit and sold his water rights to the county to preserve habitat for the desert tortoise and other federally protected species.

According to the Bureau of Land Management, Baird moved most of his livestock from the 111,000-acre federal grazing allotment to Arizona, but a few stragglers were left behind.

For the past several years, officials say, those survivors and their unbranded descendants have been damaging springs and menacing people in the mountains and desert between Interstate 15 and U.S. Highway 95 south of the Las Vegas Valley.

BLM spokeswoman Kirsten Cannon said the animals are aggressive and “present a danger to the public recreating in the area.”

Wright said: “We’ve had some complaints from people who were hunting deer and were run off by the cattle.”

Baird could not be reached for comment.

Under Nevada law, unbranded stray or feral livestock are considered state property. The BLM has been asking the state to remove the unclaimed cattle from the McCullough Range for several years.

In 2013, the state rounded up and sold off approximately 30 animals, but an unknown number remain. Last year, the BLM counted about 40 unbranded cows spread across two wilderness areas west of Searchlight. Wright guessed there could 100 to 200 feral cows still out there.

He figures it would cost the state as much as \$200,000 to try to collect that many animals. The Department of Agriculture has been “trying to get this deal cleaned up for a number of years,” but it never seems to have the money or the resources, he said.

The animals are now being rounded up by Sun J Livestock, a ranching operation from Vernal, Utah. Wright said the ranchers aren’t being paid directly, but they have plenty of incentive to do a thorough job.

“They get to keep the livestock,” he said. “They’ll get every cow they can.”

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Springfield Hosts National Conservation Summit

[KYTV-TV Springfield \(MO\)](#), October 21, 2015

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – More than 40 leaders from the leading conservation groups in America are meeting in Springfield this week for a National Conservation Summit hosted by The Johnny Morris Foundation.

Participants include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Geographic, Audubon Society, and Ducks Unlimited. The purpose of the historic gathering is to collectively discuss opportunities to educate and engage the public in efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitats in preparation for the grand opening of America’s Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in 2016.

The remodeled educational attraction consists of an all-new 1.3 million-gallon aquarium showcasing 35,000 live fish, mammals, reptiles and birds in an immersive tour.

The attraction once known as the Wonders of Wildlife has been closed for remodeling since 2007.

New Glimpse Inside Bass Pro’s Wildlife Museum/aquarium

[Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#), October 20, 2015

Fees and taxes from hunters, anglers and people buying outdoor products have helped pay for wildlife conservation efforts across the country.

That’s a key message a group of more than 40 conservation leaders hope the new Bass Pro Shops wildlife museum and aquarium will convey to visitors when it opens in mid 2016.

On Tuesday, Bass Pro Shops revealed two more exhibits — a collection of taxidermied wild sheep and two arctic wildlife rooms featuring wolves, musk ox and a stuffed polar bear that at one time was the largest bear of any kind taken by a hunter. Bass Pro Shops previously offered a brief tour of a portion of the massive aquarium, featuring hundreds of saltwater fish in large tanks.

The Sheep Mountain exhibit shows more than 30 animals from around the world perched on rocks, with hand-painted mountain scenery in the background. All the exhibits are still being finished, with interpretive stations that will identify the animals and explain their role in the natural environment.

Dan Ashe, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, called the museum "one of the foremost conservation attractions in the world."

"Through conservation efforts, we can be successful in sustaining these populations of animals that are threatened or endangered," said Ashe, one of the summit attendees. "People hear about the industrial-scale poaching of elephants that's happening in Africa. That's not hunting. With this museum, here's an opportunity to tell the story of how we can protect wildlife habitat, and that when hunting is done well, with appropriate regulations, it sustains wildlife populations."

Rob Keck, Bass Pro's director of conservation, said the museum will evolve even after it reopens, with new exhibits and animals rotating through the facility.

"It will continue to evolve and grow and bring people back because of the newness," Keck said. "We look at this place as the trail head of conservation where conservation groups will be able to tell their story."

Formerly known as Wonders of Wildlife, the facility has been closed since 2007 as Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris conducted a massive expansion of the museum. Its reopening date has been pushed back several times as more exhibits were added and interior designs changed.

It is now slated to reopen in mid 2016, with more than 35,000 live fresh-and saltwater fish, reptiles, birds and mammals, in addition to taxidermy dioramas from North America, Africa, the Arctic and the Ozarks.

Conservation efforts have some major success stories, said Glenn Olson, policy director with the National Audubon Society and a summit attendee. He said bald eagles, peregrine falcons and brown pelicans have been removed from the endangered species list through public education efforts and science-based research.

Fred Matt, executive director of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, said it's a common theme among many Native American people to still fish and hunt for food. Conserving those resources is an important message to share.

"The forest is our medicine cabinet," he said. "In this world represented here (the conservation museum) we want to convey that those things are still healthy and being taught in our communities."

The 40 conservation leaders included several from local organizations like Ozarks Water Watch, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks and James River Basin Partnership.

Seeing the museum and aquarium just might inspire visitors to spend less time in front of a TV or electronic game and more time experiencing the outdoors.

"If we expect people to want to protect the environment, we've got to get them out in it — go fly fishing in a river, go paddle a canoe or get in a boat," said David Casaletto, executive director of Ozarks Water Watch.

ONLINE POLL

Will you visit Bass Pro's new wildlife museum when it opens mid-2016?

Vote here: <http://poll.fm/5fu5x>

Read or Share this story: <http://sgfnw.co/1LJpcDR>

Wildlife Experts Meet To Discuss The Best Way To Educate On Conservation

[KOLR-TV Springfield \(MO\)](#), October 21, 2015

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – A National Conservation Summit in the middle of Springfield is being called one of the largest gatherings, of such experts, since last century.

"Some compared it to Teddy Roosevelt convening the Conservation Congress."

Fred Matt from the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society was a part of it.

"Our people, to this day, still, hunt, fish, you know, their backyard, their medicine cabinet is the forest," says Matt.

Rob Keck says their goal is to learn more about the right way to educate people about wildlife and fish conservation.

"We shared ideas on how to message what hunting and fishing, what hunters and anglers have done for conservation," says Keck.

Keck says folks from organizations like Matt's spoke about what is most important to get across to museum goers.

"We see geese flying overhead, you see a herd of deer, a flock of turkeys out along an open field. Many people don't realize that their success story didn't begin in a petting zoo."

Dan Ashe from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says the education inside the museum can lead to changes outside in our communities.

"Hopefully, this will be a gateway to the outdoors. People will then go from here to a state park or a national park or a national refuge," says Ashe.

Keck says Bass Pro will use this summit to prepare for the grand opening next year.

"People enjoy seeing wildlife. Whether they hunt or fish or not and it doesn't happen by accident."

Even though it sits in the middle of Springfield, Matt hopes people will learn the challenges natural habitats and their wildlife residents face each year.

"From our history, we still utilize and respect the natural resource in the natural world."

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National Conservation Leaders Give Input On America's Wildlife Museum And Aquarium

[KYTV-TV Springfield \(MO\)](#), October 21, 2015

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – The big wildlife museum outside Bass Pro Shops' Outdoor World store is still not open to the public but conservation experts from across the country got a sneak peak at it on Tuesday. The visitors included people from local conservation groups and the head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They were invited to give their input on America's Museum and Aquarium, which is still under construction.

Visitors will face a polar bear in an arctic setting and probably want to see if the ice and snow are real.

"When I walk in this room, even though it's somewhat warm in here, I almost feel the breeze and smell the sea," said Fred Matt, executive director of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society.

It's just a small part of America's Wildlife Museum and Aquarium, and the creators want feedback on their works in progress. They hope to make the experience as educational and engaging as possible.

"It's about storytelling, telling the story of conservation in a way that's never been told before," said Rob Keck, Bass Pro's director of conservation and chairman of the museum's board of directors.

"Johnny Morris (owner of Bass Pro Shops) and the folks at Bass Pro have invited us here to help them form the messages that people who visit this facility are going to see and hear," said Dan Ashe, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

More than 40 conservation leaders are sharing their input and perspectives, all a little different, like Fred, representing Native Americans.

"Today, our people still hunt and fish to put food on the table. And they do it in a respectful and a very good manner I think others would enjoy hearing," said Matt.

They want to maximize the opportunity for visitors here in Missouri to gain a better understanding of conservation not only here, but all over the world.

"They're going to understand a little bit better about maybe how their individual actions affect something like a polar bear. So it's an opportunity to learn, an opportunity to feel that they're a part of the outdoors and then hopefully be a gateway to the outdoors," said Ashe.

The museum and aquarium will have 35,000 live fish and other animals, as well as the mounted mammal specimens. They anticipate opening sometime next year. When the name change from its former Wonders of Wildlife was announced last March, Keck said it could open by March, but hasn't said whether that's still possible.

Wonders of Wildlife first opened on Nov. 2, 2001, after two years of construction. It was a nonprofit museum then and cost about \$52 million, which included state funds, Springfield hotel-motel tax funds, Bass Pro Shops donations and tax credits.

The museum closed in 2007 for renovations that were originally set to cost \$14 million. Eight years later, the cost has jumped to about \$25 million, including at least \$12 million from Bass Pro Shops. When it opens, its size will cover more than 230,000 square feet of exhibits, compared to 126,000 square feet originally.

The museum is now a private venture and no longer takes hotel-motel tax payments. Four years ago, Morris donated \$4 million to the Community Foundation of the Ozarks; that's how much hotel-motel tax funds the museum received up to 2011.

American Wildlife Museum To Open At Bass Pro

[KOLR-TV Springfield \(MO\)](#), October 21, 2015

SPRINGFIELD, Mo.-- We are getting a sneak preview of a new museum opening up at Bass Pro.

The former Wonders of Wildlife Museum has been closed for several years and this is what visitors will soon see inside.

Some of the attractions will include a fishing heritage hall with a 300,000-gallon open ocean habitat – a new aquarium adventure and an international fishing hall of fame.

The sneak peek coincides with a national conservation summit being hosted by Bass Pro this week. It brought in more than 40 conservation leaders to offer input on the new museum.

Dan Ashe, the Director of US Fish and Wildlife service said, "so we have the chance as managers to help them shape that message. so when people come here not only are they going to see a great exhibit, but they will have the opportunity to learn something about how wildlife is being managed in the united states and throughout the world."

Bass Pro leaders say the new museum is scheduled to open in 2016.

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CNMI Disagrees With Endangered List

[Radio New Zealand](#), October 21, 2015

The Northern Marianas government says the decision to list 23 species in Guam and the CNMI as threatened or endangered was rushed.

The government says it supports the US Fish and Wildlife Service's listing of seven of the 17 CNMI species, but it questions the inclusion of some of the other species.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources says a number of the species do not meet the definitions of threatened or endangered and don't require federal protection.

Among the plants and animals in the CNMI and Guam listed as endangered are the Mariana wandering butterfly, Langford's tree snail, and the Mariana sub-species of the Pacific sheath-tailed bat.

USFW Looks To Restore Habitat On Root River

[Rochester \(MN\) Post-Bulletin](#), October 21, 2015

Federal wildlife officials are seeking public input on a plan to restore and enhance habitat on 825 acres of Minnesota land along the Root River in Houston County.

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the Root River Tract sits to the east of Hwy. 26 between La Crescent and Brownsville.

The site includes 664 acres of hunting and farmland purchased in 2009 with money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Under the previous owner, National Decorative Products, the land was managed for private hunting of pheasant and waterfowl as well as some agricultural uses, said Tim Miller, La Crosse District manager for the refuge.

A network of dikes, ditches and drainage pipes are now failing or deteriorating, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service, which is proposing to remove some of the dikes and restore the natural topography and drainage patterns.

Fish and Wildlife estimates the habitat restoration will cost \$400,000 to \$500,000, which would be paid for with a grant from Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund.

FWS also considered active and passive drainage systems as well as taking no action.

The tract would remain open to public use under each alternative, although an existing slow-no wake area would more than double in size to encompass 1,634 acres, including most of the Root River Tract.

Fish and Wildlife will host a public meeting on the project at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Hokah Fire Station.

California Condor Shot In Arizona

[Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#), October 21, 2015

PHOENIX – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) special agents and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) law enforcement personnel are investigating the lethal shooting of an endangered California condor that occurred on the Kaibab Plateau in northern Arizona Oct. 8.

The shooting was immediately self-reported to AZGFD, which did the preliminary investigation. The case has now been turned over to FWS law enforcement for further investigation.

California condors were listed as endangered in 1967. The species was reintroduced to northern Arizona in 1996. The population has now expanded into southern Utah and numbers approximately 70 birds.

The condor reintroduction in Arizona is a joint project of many partners, including the Arizona Game and Fish Department, The Peregrine Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Kaibab National Forest and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

Man, 81, Says He Blocked Arizona Bike Trail To Protect Owls

[Washington Times](#), October 21, 2015

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) – The 81-year-old man who blocked a Flagstaff-area mountain bike race says he did it to protect an endangered owl species.

The Arizona Daily Sun reports (<http://bit.ly/1Ggko8v>) that J.D. Protiva appeared in federal court Monday on misdemeanor charges related to blocking the Elden Springs Trail before the August race.

Protiva says the path goes through protected Mexican spotted owl habitat. He is also charged with cutting trees and causing them to obstruct the trail.

A 2003 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion says at least a portion of the trail cuts across protected habitat, but the agency gave the OK for construction in the area.

Protiva cited similar concern for the owls' welfare when he pleaded guilty to stringing metal cables and moving forest debris across trails in 2007.

Information from: Arizona Daily Sun, <http://www.azdailysun.com/>

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Why Monarch Butterflies Benefit From The California Drought (+video)

[Christian Science Monitor](#), October 20, 2015

It is one of the worst droughts on record, and the monarch butterflies are lapping it up. Milkweed, that is.

California homeowners are replacing water-greedy grass lawns with the perennial native to California's desert, a happy swap for one species in particular: the monarch, a butterfly that only lays eggs on milkweed.

In recent years, as milkweed has declined, likely due to pesticides use and rapid development, the monarch population has fallen with it. Two decades ago the iconic orange and black insect population was 1 billion strong; Today it hovers below 60 million.

In response to the quick decline, the US Fish and Wildlife Service put forth \$1.2 million to bring back the monarchs' habitat, following similar projects nationwide that send milkweed seeds by mail and track breeding grounds in a database. California gardeners are an unexpected but welcome addition to the grassroots effort, and ecologists are hopeful that Californians, who are problem-solving their way through the drought, might help a struggling species in the process.

Nurseries are stockpiling numerous varieties of native milkweed and drawing customers who are adapting to the drought conditions but may also want to bring butterflies to their yards.

At Tom Merriman's native plants nursery in Vista, Calif., business is up 50 percent this season. Until five years ago, Mr. Merriman didn't sell milkweed at all; this summer, he sold more than 14,000 plants and is shipping truckloads of seedlings all over California and other drought-stricken Western states like Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

"If you plant it, they will come," Merriman, who has a greenhouse filled with 8,000 milkweed of a dozen varieties, told the Associated Press. "We had chrysalises on shovels, we had them on wheelbarrows. They were up in the nursery on palm trees. They were everywhere, under tables. We were releasing 500 caterpillars a week on native milkweed."

But environmentalists are piping up to say this is not all good news for the monarch.

For one, gardeners may unintentionally opt for the tropical variety, sometimes called "exotic" milkweed, for its colorful pink and yellow flowers.

While the plants may have more curb appeal than the desert types, they bloom all year round which poses a threat to the monarch butterfly's infamous migration patterns.

Native milkweeds go dormant in the winter, and with no place to lay eggs this forces butterflies onward in their migration. The tropical varieties stay in bloom year-round, not giving female butterflies any reason to leave.

North American monarchs travel in the millions every winter from the eastern and central United States and Canada all the way to Mexico, while a smaller number travel through the western US to spend winter along California's Central Coast. The Western monarchs evolved alongside native milkweeds and eating plants from another region might make them more vulnerable, said Hei-ock Kim, of the California Native Plants Society in an interview with the AP.

"When you take plants and animals from where they originated, you're going to change chemistry, climate, biology," she said. "You're changing all their habits, and so things work best when they are where they're supposed to be."

The Minneapolis-based, SaveOurMonarchs, offers free milkweed seeds. In 2015, more than 1 million Milkweed Seed Packets were sent out, according Ward Johnson. He says: "Milkweed Seed Packets will be provided to anyone requesting them."

This report contains material from the Associated Press.

Monarchs Get Help From Unlikely Source: California's Drought

[Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#), October 21, 2015

VISTA, Calif. — In California's drought, the struggling monarch butterfly may have found a sprinkling of hope.

Suburban homeowners ripping out thirsty lawns are dotting their new drought-tolerant landscapes with milkweed native to California's deserts and chaparral — plants that have the potential to help save water and monarchs at the same time, because the female monarch will only lay her eggs on milkweed.

Overall numbers of the majestic black-and-orange butterflies have dropped from 1 billion to fewer than 60 million over the past two decades as milkweed nationwide has fallen prey to development and pesticides.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced \$1.2 million starter investment to restore habitat; other national projects aim to distribute milkweed seeds by mail and build databases of breeding habitats as alarm grows. Whether by choice or by chance, ecologists hope California gardeners looking to save water can provide a boost to the butterflies on the West Coast.

"This is a really important way to provide really important habitat for a really important butterfly," said Greg Rubin, president of California's Own Native Landscape Design, Inc.

Anya Shortridge sits behind a monarch butterfly, newly emerged from a chrysalis, on a fruit basket in her living room in San Diego in August. Shortridge is part of a growing number of gardeners in Southern California who have been delighted to find that planting just a few milkweeds can attract dozens of the majestic black-and-orange monarchs while cutting down on water. (Gregory Bull/The Associated Press)

Nurseries are increasingly stocking multiple varieties of native milkweed and catering to customers who want to be drought savvy but also want to attract butterflies.

Business was up 50 percent this season at Tom Merriman's native plants nursery in Vista, California. Five years ago, Merriman didn't sell milkweed at all; this summer, he sold more than 14,000 plants and is shipping truckloads of seedlings all over California and other bone-dry Western states like Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

Dozens of monarchs flit through a butterfly atrium he built next to his greenhouses and sometimes sneak inside his greenhouses to lay eggs on plants awaiting sale.

"If you plant it, they will come," said Merriman, who has a greenhouse stuffed with 8,000 milkweed of a dozen types. "We had chrysalises on shovels, we had them on wheelbarrows. They were up in the nursery on palm trees. They were everywhere, under tables. We were releasing 500 caterpillars a week on native milkweed."

Anya Shortridge releases a newly emerged monarch butterfly onto milkweed in her garden in San Diego. (Gregory Bull/The Associated Press)

Anya Shortridge bought a few milkweed plants last year for her drought garden.

Now, she grows more than 100 milkweeds and carefully scans them for microscopic monarch eggs. When the eggs hatch, she feeds the tiny black-, gold- and white-striped caterpillars until they disappear into a shimmering, light green chrysalis where the mysterious transformation into a butterfly occurs.

This season, she and her husband have released more than 100 butterflies into the wild.

A sign in front of her house on a San Diego hilltop designates her garden as a "monarch waystation."

"We're finding eggs – monarch eggs – on the underside of our milkweed leaves all the time, so if I wanted to I could probably raise thousands," said Shortridge, who coos and cajoles the butterflies as if they were her children.

Some experts, however, are worried that California homeowners who plant milkweed might actually do harm by trying to do good.

That's because many gardeners unwittingly choose tropical — or so-called "exotic" — milkweed because of its colorful pink and yellow flowers.

The plants are more attractive than the desert varieties but could interfere with the monarch's famed migration.

Native milkweeds go dormant in the winter, leaving the butterflies no choice but to complete their migratory journey. But the tropical varieties bloom — and provide a place to lay eggs — all year, distracting the females and interrupting migration patterns.

Millions of North American monarchs travel from the eastern and central United States and Canada to Mexico each winter, while a smaller number travel through the western U.S. to winter along California's Central Coast. These Western monarchs co-evolved with native milkweeds and eating plants from another region might make them more vulnerable, said Hei-ock Kim, of the California Native Plants Society.

"When you take plants and animals from where they originated, you're going to change chemistry, climate, biology," she said. "You're changing all their habits, and so things work best when they are where they're supposed to be."

Monarch Butterflies May Be Saved By California Drought

[KABC-TV Los Angeles](#), October 21, 2015

VISTA, Calif. – In California's drought, the struggling monarch butterfly may have found a sprinkling of hope.

Suburban homeowners ripping out thirsty lawns are dotting their new drought-tolerant landscapes with milkweed native to California's deserts and chaparral – plants that have the potential to help save water and monarchs at the same time, because the female monarch will only lay her eggs on milkweed.

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Millions of North American monarchs travel from the eastern and central United States and Canada to Mexico each winter, while a smaller number travel through the western U.S. to winter along California's Central Coast. These Western monarchs co-evolved with native milkweeds and eating plants from another region might make them more vulnerable, said Hei-ock Kim, of the California Native Plants Society.

"When you take plants and animals from where they originated, you're going to change chemistry, climate, biology," she said. "You're changing all their habits, and so things work best when they are where they're supposed to be."

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'If You Plant It, They Will Come': Monarch Butterflies Find Sprinkle Of Hope In California Drought

[WRC-TV Washington](#), October 21, 2015

The struggling monarch butterfly may have found a sprinkling of hope during California's historic dry spell.

Suburban homeowners ripping out thirsty lawns are dotting their new drought-tolerant landscapes with milkweed native to California's deserts and chaparral – plants that have the potential to help save water and monarchs at the same time, because the female monarch will only lay her eggs on milkweed. Overall numbers of the majestic black-and-orange butterflies have dropped from 1 billion to fewer than 60 million over the past two decades as milkweed nationwide has fallen prey to development and pesticides.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a \$1.2 million starter investment to restore habitat; other national projects aim to distribute milkweed seeds by mail and build databases of breeding habitats as alarm grows. Whether by choice or by chance, ecologists hope California gardeners looking to save water can provide a boost to the butterflies on the West Coast.

"This is a really important way to provide really important habitat for a really important butterfly," said Greg Rubin, president of California's Own Native Landscape Design, Inc.

Nurseries are increasingly stocking multiple varieties of native milkweed and catering to customers who want to be drought savvy but also want to attract butterflies. Business was up 50 percent this season at Tom Merriman's native plants nursery in Vista, California. Five years ago, Merriman didn't sell milkweed at all; this summer, he sold more than 14,000 plants and is shipping truckloads of seedlings all over California and other bone-dry Western states like Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

Dozens of monarchs flit through a butterfly atrium he built next to his greenhouses and sometimes sneak inside his greenhouses to lay eggs on plants awaiting sale.

"If you plant it, they will come," said Merriman, who has a greenhouse stuffed with 8,000 milkweed of a dozen types. "We had chrysalises on shovels, we had them on wheelbarrows. They were up in the nursery on palm trees. They were everywhere, under tables. We were releasing 500 caterpillars a week on native milkweed."

Anya Shortridge bought a few milkweed plants last year for her drought garden.

Now, she grows more than 100 milkweeds and carefully scans them for microscopic monarch eggs. When the eggs hatch, she feeds the tiny black-, gold- and white-striped caterpillars until they disappear into a shimmering, light green chrysalis where the mysterious transformation into a butterfly occurs.

This season, she and her husband have released more than 100 butterflies into the wild.

A sign in front of her house on a San Diego hilltop designates her garden as a "monarch waystation."

"We're finding eggs – monarch eggs – on the underside of our milkweed leaves all the time, so if I wanted to I could probably raise thousands," said Shortridge, who coos and cajoles the butterflies as if they were her children.

Some experts, however, are worried that California homeowners who plant milkweed might actually do harm by trying to do good. That's because many gardeners unwittingly choose tropical – or so-called "exotic" – milkweed because of its colorful pink and yellow flowers.

The plants are more attractive than the desert varieties but could interfere with the monarch's famed migration.

Native milkweeds go dormant in the winter, leaving the butterflies no choice but to complete their migratory journey. But the tropical varieties bloom – and provide a place to lay eggs – all year, distracting the females and interrupting migration patterns.

Millions of North American monarchs travel from the eastern and central United States and Canada to Mexico each winter, while a smaller number travel through the western U.S. to winter along California's Central Coast. These Western monarchs co-evolved with native milkweeds and eating plants from another region might make them more vulnerable, said Hei-ock Kim, of the California Native Plants Society.

"When you take plants and animals from where they originated, you're going to change chemistry, climate, biology," she said. "You're changing all their habits, and so things work best when they are where they're supposed to be."

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Three Years After Sandy, Building A Stronger Atlantic Coast In Connecticut

[New Haven \(CT\) Register](#), October 20, 2015

Three years ago this week, Hurricane Sandy devastated communities in New Jersey and along the Atlantic Coast with record storm surge, fierce winds and torrential rain. Earlier this month, Hurricane Joaquin reminded us of nature's power, inundating much of the Atlantic Seaboard with heavy rains and chest-deep floodwaters and setting historic records in the Carolinas.

In this age of uncertainty, we have come to expect the unexpected. The science tells us that climate change will cause hurricanes and tropical storms to become more intense — lasting longer, unleashing stronger winds and causing more damage to coastal ecosystems and communities. As we know too well, these storms threaten lives and result in millions of dollars in property damage. They also expose the vulnerability of beaches, sand dunes and coastal marshes that not only provide habitat for fish and wildlife but also protect local communities from flooding.

The question is, what can we do to help these coastal areas stand strong-er against the storm?

Federal money for Hurricane Sandy recovery has spurred an unprecedented effort to strengthen natural defenses along the Atlantic Coast to protect communities and wildlife against future storms. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other Department of the Interior agencies are investing \$787 million in hundreds of projects to clean up and repair damaged refuges

and parks; restore coastal marshes, wetlands and shoreline; connect and open waterways to improve flood control; and increase our scientific understanding of how these natural areas are changing.

These investments support the goal of President Barack Obama's Climate Action Plan to make communities more resilient to increasingly intense storms predicted with a changing climate. They also create jobs and provide opportunities for fishing, hiking, wildlife watching and other recreational opportunities.

In Connecticut, the Fish and Wildlife Service is investing more than \$4.6 million in eight projects to clear more than 70 miles of coastline debris; open more than 100 miles of waterways for fish passage; and restore more than 2,000 acres of aquatic habitat. This includes the recently completed \$794,000 White Rock dam-removal project with The Nature Conservancy to restore natural river flow in Stonington and Westerly, Rhode Island. The project will reduce flood risk to local communities, restore habitat for fish and wildlife and open up several dozen miles of fish passage in the Pawcatuck River for the first time in nearly 250 years.

More than a half-century ago, Rachel Carson, one of our greatest conservation heroes, characterized conservation as "dynamic, changing as conditions change, seeking always to become more effective." Looking toward the future and the uncertainties of a changing climate, communities, government and nonprofit organizations are working together like never before to better understand and adapt to changing conditions.

Clearly it will take time and careful planning before we see a return on many of these investments. But I am confident the long-term benefits of building a stronger coast will far outweigh initial costs when it comes to protecting communities, sustaining wildlife and lessening the financial impact of damages resulting from future intense storms. To that end, we are establishing systems to carefully monitor and evaluate our progress to ensure this work is effective and lasting. The nature we care about and the public we serve deserve no less.

You can track the status of our projects and investments by visiting the Fish and Wildlife Service's Hurricane Sandy website at www.fws.gov/hurricane/sandy.

Wendi Weber is Northeast regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

YAP! Music Video Celebrates 100 Years Of National Park Service

[New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#), October 20, 2015

NEW BEDFORD — "Love what you do, do what you love, it's a celebration, yeah!" So goes a locally made music video that celebrates 100 years of the National Park Service. Published on Oct. 15, the Centennial video has more than 18,500 views on the NPS facebook page and more than 530 on the Youth Ambassador Program's YouTube page, the group that made it. The video's New Bedford producer/director Ben Gilbarg hopes it will go viral and give the local artists featured in it a chance to shine nationally.

"It's great it's got to this point so quickly," he said. "I feel like it's a model for youth engagement with a national institution that will hopefully continue to grow."

Along with NPS ranger Frank Barrows, Gilbarg co-founded YAP! in 2010 as a partnership between the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and 3rd Eye Youth Empowerment Inc., a local youth group where teens discussed history and the national parks through hip-hop.

YAP! has made eight educational videos and a documentary. This one involved more than 300 people, including crews at each of the NPS sites and local artists like Tem Blessed, Cita Light and Jay Beats (Jair Santos).

The song was completed in May and the video effort began in June and ended earlier this month, Gilbarg said.

Participants said they are happy to see national acknowledgement of their efforts.

"It's really exciting," said Dakota Lopes, 22, who stars in the video and traveled with the crew to seven national parks in four states to film it — New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

NPS Director Jon Jarvis, who met the traveling crew in Washington, D.C., makes a cameo appearance in the video to say, "It's great to celebrate a hundred years with YAP!"

The result is an upbeat, catchy tune with creative graphics and a History Machine bus modeled after the Mystery Machine from Scooby Doo.

The song was produced as a birthday wish for the National Park Service through G.O.A.L. Academy funding and was instantly thought to be a hit, said Gilbarg, who spearheaded the project. It was written by YAP! members Lopes and Skylyr Bento, 21, who are featured in the video.

It was a wonderful experience, Bento said. "It really has the potential to be something great for the National Park Service and I am glad I could be a part of it," he said.

YAP! is currently working on creating a supplemental behind-the-scenes video from their summer trip and “trying to get more people to see it,” said Gilbarg who is also working on a video project to get more young people to consider STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) careers.

‘Kentucky Is On The Move’

[Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#), October 20, 2015

Kentucky’s burgeoning travel and tourism industry received a ringing endorsement Tuesday from Lt. Gov. Crit Luallen in an address to the Kentucky Travel Industry’s annual conference in Bowling Green.

She noted that the industry has increased in economic impact by more than \$2.2 billion over the past five years to an estimated \$13 billion.

She said the industry now supports 180,000 jobs statewide, making it the state’s third-largest job creator during the two-term administration of Gov. Steve Beshear.

“Kentucky is on the move, and tourism is a big part of this success,” Luallen said. “Working with our travel and tourism partners, we’ve showcased to the world Kentucky’s remarkable beauty and resources, from our magnificent mountains, unique cave system and recreation lakes, to our one-of-a-kind Kentucky Bourbon Trail destinations and world-famous thoroughbred industry.”

Luallen told the group that tourism is being widely recognized as an economic force. She noted the recent formation of the Shaping our Appalachian Region, or SOAR, initiative and the naming of a working group to try to capitalize on the region’s rich natural amenities and potential for economic development and job creation.

Luallen added that as our lives become increasingly technology-based, it’s essential that people have the opportunity for “an authentic experience.”

“Tourism gives us that,” she said. “That’s why your industry is so important, not just to the economic well-being of our state, but to the fundamental well-being of our people.”

Following her remarks, the Lieutenant Governor recognized five national parks in Kentucky as part of the National Park Service Centennial in 2016.

Luallen presented proclamations to representatives of the parks. The parks were Abraham Lincoln Birthplace; Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area; Cumberland Gap National Historic Park; Fort Donelson National Battlefield; and Mammoth Cave National Park.

Reporter Sheldon S. Shafer can be reached at (502) 582-7089, or via email at sshafer@courier-journal.com.

Read or Share this story: <http://cjky.it/1RUy4au>

59 National Parks In 12 Months: Couple Includes Northeast Ohio On Tour Of America’s Prettiest Public Spaces (photos)

[Cleveland Plain Dealer](#), October 21, 2015

PENINSULA, Ohio – It started as a simple thought, casually expressed.

“I’ve always wanted to go to all the national parks,” he said.

“That would be cool,” she said.

Eighteen months later, the idea has become reality. Cole and Elizabeth Donelson, St. Louis natives, are two months into their grand adventure: 59 parks in 12 months – part celebration of the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary, part exercise in youthful spontaneity.

The two, both 26 and married for two years, brought their parks tour to Northeast Ohio over the weekend, where they camped, biked, hiked and road the rails through 33,000 acres of Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

They arrived in Ohio after two months exploring some of the nation’s most spectacular parks and iconic public spaces: the Grand Canyon, Arches, Bryce and Zion.

Even after that spectacular build-up, Cuyahoga Valley impressed.

“This park really embraces the seasons,” said Elizabeth, taking a break from nature Monday morning at a Starbucks in Brecksville, where she was Skyping with a classroom back in her home state.

Despite cold, blustery weather over the weekend, park activities drew large crowds, including a guided Ghost Walk around Kendall Lake and a fossil-hunting expedition at Everett Covered Bridge.

“The engagement with the community has been something we haven’t seen anywhere else,” said Cole.

The couple spent four nights here, with a scheduled departure early Tuesday, headed east toward Acadia National Park in Maine.

Among their Northeast Ohio highlights: Ledges Trail, Bridal Veil Falls, the farmers' market and getting lost in a corn maze at Szalay's on Riverview Road.

One other unexpected bonus: a family from Middleburg Heights, whom the Donelsons met while hiking, invited the couple to dinner and to spend the night in a real bed, after weeks of sleeping on the ground in a tent.

"It was sleeting at that moment," said Elizabeth.

She and her husband graciously accepted.

The two quit their jobs this summer – she was working as a sixth-grade teacher, he at a health-care IT company. Though a few skeptics voiced concern, most of their friends and family were supportive of the idea.

"Gradually, the idea became something we were going to do, not something we wanted to do," said Cole. "We decided we would regret it if we didn't do it now."

In the months leading up to their departure, they saved their pennies, came up with a budget of about \$20,000 for the trip, mapped their route, moved out of their townhouse in Kansas City, divested and stored most of their possessions. Finally, they loaded their Ford Escape with camping equipment and outdoor gear.

Their goal: See the best of the United States, and inspire others – particularly other millennials – to do the same.

Their mission meshes well with a new campaign of the Park Service, which celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2016. The park service this year kicked off a long-term marketing effort, dubbed "Find Your Park," designed in part to attract more young visitors to the nation's premier public spaces.

Though the national parks this year are on pace to attract a record-setting number of visitors, officials have lamented that too few of those visitors are under the age of 40.

Indeed, Elizabeth and Cole said many of their fellow travelers, particularly out West, have been from the older, RV-toting generation.

"I think a lot of people our age just don't think of the parks as much," said Elizabeth, speculating that younger travelers are more tempted by backpacking adventures through Europe or hitting beaches in exotic places.

"We have ambitions to travel internationally as well," said Elizabeth.

But right now, their immediate ambitions are taking them to Maine, then Virginia, then North Carolina.

"Our parks cover deserts, mountains, swamps, beaches, hard-wood forests," said Cole. "We want to see all of it."

And they plan to.

In the first two months of their adventure, the couple hit 11 parks in the Southwest. Among the highlights: hiking rim to rim to rim in the Grand Canyon, marveling at the dark sky at Great Basin and learning how to fly fish at Black Canyon of the Gunnison.

They're sharing it all via social media and on their blog, Switchbackkids.com, where they've picked up a few sponsors for the trip, including L.L. Bean, which donated sleeping bags and other equipment.

(Speaking of blogging and communication: That's another thing they liked about Cuyahoga Valley – excellent cell phone reception, unlike in some of the more remote parks they've visited.)

After Acadia, they're headed to Shenandoah, Great Smoky Mountains and points south. They've planned well for the end of the year: Virgin Islands, Dry Tortugas, Everglades and Biscayne.

After a detour home to St. Louis for Christmas, they're headed to Hawaii and American Samoa.

Their only misstep so far: They planned a visit to Isle Royale in northern Michigan before coming to Ohio, unaware that the island park in Lake Superior largely shuts down at the end of September. So they've added it to next year's itinerary.

One other worry, for Elizabeth at least, is their first bear sighting.

The couple will end their tour next summer in the place that most intimidates them: Alaska, home to eight national parks, including several accessible only by boat or airplane.

By the time they reach Alaska, however, they'll be experienced park explorers, with more than 50 parks behind them.

Cole said the trip is about more than miles logged, trails hiked, scenic views photographed.

"It's about not being afraid to go out and follow a dream, as cliché as that sounds," he said. "Whatever it is, it's doable. You just need preparation, a little good luck and support."

And, just in case, a couple of cans of bear spray.

Watchdog Raises Questions About \$69M In NPS Construction Funds

[Greenwire](#), October 20, 2015

A federal watchdog yesterday released a disputed report alleging that the National Park Service is violating congressional intent by dipping into its construction account to cover security, air testing and other reimbursable expenses that should have been paid up front by other agencies. The NPS construction account is "only for expenses that relate to 'construction,

improvements, repair or replacement of physical facilities,” the Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General report said, citing the language of the agency’s appropriation. But the OIG found that 17 out of a sample of 21 interagency agreements that used Park Service construction funds to cover reimbursable costs did not appear to include “a valid construction purpose.” These included \$4.9 million that NPS spent from its construction account on security at the Department of the Army’s Memorial Day and Independence Day concerts at the Capitol in 2014 and \$37.5 million over seven years on air quality monitoring at national parks that will be paid back to NPS by U.S. EPA.

U.S. Rep. Gosar Leads U.S. House Committee Passage Of Bi-partisan Grand Canyon Bison Management Act

[Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#), October 21, 2015

PHOENIX – A solution to a rapidly growing bison herd on Grand Canyon’s North Rim was reached after a bill was approved that could allow hunters to obtain state hunting licenses to hunt the bison within park boundaries.

The U.S. House Natural Resources Committee approved the bill allowing the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to better manage and conserve the bison population within the park Oct. 8.

The Committee passed the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act, attaching it as an amendment to the larger Sportsman’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act. The Grand

Canyon Bison Management Act requires the U.S. Department of Interior and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to coordinate on a plan that allows sportsmen holding a valid state-issued hunting license to assist in management of the bison population within the park.

“Yesterday the House Natural Resources Committee threw their support behind protecting the Grand Canyon National Park, wildlife conservation and supporting our dedicated sportsmen and women,” said Kurt Davis, chairman of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission. “The Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department thank U.S. Rep. Paul Gosar for leading this commonsense legislation in the U.S. House, with the support of our Arizona Congressional delegation. We also look forward to continuing to work closely with U.S. Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake in the Senate.”

The bi-partisan bill is a step closer to being considered by the full U.S. House of Representatives. McCain and Flake have introduced identical legislation in the Senate.

“The bison population is exploding and this issue needs to be resolved now,” Gosar said. “The bi-partisan, bicameral effort passed with unanimous consent by the committee will protect Arizona’s greatest treasure, the Grand Canyon, from this species in a responsible manner. This legislative solution is a victory for sportsmen, conservationists and taxpayers who will provide a timely resolution to the bison problem plaguing the Grand Canyon National Park.”

The Grand Canyon Bison Management Act aims to address an over-abundance of bison whose movement in and near the canyon’s North Rim have impacted natural and cultural resources within the park.

Wildlife surveys estimate around 600 bison have migrated into the park, where hunting is prohibited. The park has since become a safe haven for the bison population, which has led to overgrazing and damage to the Grand Canyon’s natural resources.

The House bill was co-sponsored by U.S. Reps. Ann Kirkpatrick, Kyrsten Sinema, Matt Salmon, David Schweikert and Trent Franks.

Floods Trap Stargazers, Rangers In Death Valley

[Greenwire](#), October 20, 2015

Mudslides and flooding after severe thunderstorms in Death Valley National Park on Sunday trapped three park rangers and about 20 visitors – many out to see a clear night sky – in a volcanic crater overnight. Park spokeswoman Abby Wines said the stranded people spent the night in Ubehebe Crater, maintaining contact with park headquarters until they were able to reach safety yesterday morning. No injuries were reported, but Wines said the unexpectedly severe storms knocked out power in the area, damaged and closed several roads, and filled a historic visitor’s center with several feet of mud and debris.

National Park Service Set To Continue With Tree-Cutting At Potomac Campground

[Bethesda \(MD\) Magazine](#), October 21, 2015

Updated at 12:45 p.m. – After complaints from two nearby residents and a call from County Council member Roger Berliner temporarily halted tree-cutting operations Friday at a Potomac campground, the National Park Service said it plans to resume the tree-cutting and will probably do so in the next few days.

John Noel, deputy superintendent for the C&O Canal National Historical Park, told Bethesda Beat Monday that he went to the Swain's Lock Recreation Site to examine the 26 trees proposed to be removed and 32 others proposed to be pruned at the site's campground. He agreed that the trees are rotting and in danger of falling on park users below.

Rather than call in another arborist to judge the trees, Noel said the tree-cutting would resume after he is able to explain the situation to Barbara Brown and Sylvia Diss, the two Potomac residents who first raised concerns about removing trees at Swain's Lock.

Noel said two National Park Service arborists and three arborists with the tree-cutting contractor have already reviewed which trees are rotting and are in agreement. He said C&O Canal Park officials regularly review the health of trees in recreation areas throughout the park's 184.5 miles of land.

"Having a sixth person come out and look at it would be ridiculous," Noel said. "We don't think it's worth taxpayers' money to do that."

The complaints from Brown and Diss led to Berliner calling park Superintendent Kevin Brandt, who agreed to halt the work until another review could be done.

Brown, who more than 10 years ago led the charge against Washington Redskins owner Dan Snyder's clear-cutting of trees between his Potomac property and the C&O Canal Park, said Tuesday that the tree-cutting operation began last week.

"There aren't any hazardous trees down there. It's a beautiful campground," Brown said. "They are basically clear cutting it and there's no explanation except that they don't like the type of trees there."

Noel says there are hazardous trees around the campground.

"There are a lot of qualified people looking at this and the last thing we want to do is cut a tree down that's a healthy tree," Noel said. "But in our campgrounds, our visitors have a certain expectation of safety. People are laying in a tent. They are picnicking at a table. There are dead branches on these trees that have the potential to fall."

Most of the 58 trees to be removed or pruned are maple and boxelder trees, Noel said. He said the tree-cutting would leave plenty of healthy trees on the Swain's Lock campground and that "you're not going to notice any difference in the tree canopy."

"In many cases, the trees are rotten from the center of the tree and you can't tell as an unskilled arborist whether this tree that looks fairly decent isn't completely rotten in the center," Noel said. "We're constantly evaluating our trees, especially in these high-use areas."

Stump of a tree cut down at Swain's Lock, via Barbara Brown

Some of the trees marked for removal or pruning at the Swain's Lock campground in Potomac, via Barbara Brown

Canoe Trip Around Wolf Lake An Eye-opener For Clark Students

[Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#), October 20, 2015

All classes in Grades 6 through 9 at George Rogers Clark Junior-Senior High School in Hammond recently experienced a unique field trip right in their own back yard — a canoe trip around Wolf Lake located only a few blocks from the school.

The venture was made available through a partnership with the National Park Service, Dunes Learning Center and Wilderness Inquiry.

"Part of our outreach program at Dunes Learning Center is the Mighty Acorns program, which we deliver with Shirley Heinze Land Trust and the Field Museum," executive director Geof Benson said. "This year, we leveraged the Mighty Acorns connections and others to experience the Canoemobile as part of their fall field trip for watershed education."

After walking with her classmates the few blocks from school to the Wolf Lake Pavilion, Clark ninth-grader Jazlyn Robles of Hammond talked about her first experience with a canoe last year while on vacation with her family.

"That was very exciting and I'm looking forward to my second time," she said "It wasn't too hard."

Classmate Riley Bishop of Hammond wasn't apprehensive about her first try with the canoe paddles.

"I've never been canoeing, so this is a new experience for me," she said, as her group was instructed on the finer points of paddling. "I've been to concerts and fishing here at Wolf Lake, but not on a boat. It's very exciting to see things from a different view."

The Canoemobile is a traveling fleet of 24-foot canoes going across the nation to teach environmental literacy to urban youth. Students from 24 cities in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties participated in the program, which also includes home schools and a Boy Scout group.

Clark teachers attended an introductory class at Dunes Learning Center before bringing the program to their classrooms.

"This (program) is really beneficial to the students," said Clark American literature teacher Aquinas Lewis, as her class took part in nature activities before heading to their canoe. "They can take what they've learned in class and bring it to life."

Before stepping into the 12-seat Voyager canoes, the students were given safety tips, instruction on how to handle a paddle, and other pertinent information.

Once everyone was settled in their seats, Wilderness Inquiry educators gave lessons to the students as they skimmed across the lake.

The water-based adventure makes a big impression on both students and educators, according to Benson, the Dunes Learning Center executive director.

"You can see how proud and excited they are as they get out of the boat," he said. "Students leave the experience more confident and ready to learn. That's why we do it."

In addition to the three-day student event, Dunes Learning Center also hosted a Community Day for the public at Wolf Lake. Canoe lessons and a trip around the lake were on the agenda.

Kassie White and her son Adam, 14, were among the dozens going out in the water.

"It was very interesting to learn exactly what's in this area," she said of the discussion on the canoe. "Seeing the natural habitat from this view was an eye-opener."

Sue Ellen Ross is a freelance reporter for the Post-Tribune.

New Superintendent At Colonial National Historical Park Reaching Out To Community

[Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#), October 20, 2015

Kym Hall visited Jamestown Island on a family vacation 12 years ago, thinking she wanted her National Park Service career to bring her there.

In July she took over as superintendent of the Colonial National Historical Park.

"I saw the resources and saw the stories, and said this is phenomenal," Hall said, sitting in her glass-fronted office with the green park spilling out behind her. "This is the birth of our country and I want to work here someday — I want to be the superintendent here someday. This is great."

She didn't think it likely, but when her friend Dan Smith got ready to retire from the job last year, he encouraged her to apply. She still can't quite believe it has all come together, and is quickly working to build relationships with local officials and organizations.

"Since that time, I think they've done a lot of the work on the Yorktown end of things," Hall said. "They've redone the Riverwalk and I've gotten to see Main Street, and kind of think about what could happen there in terms of bringing that back to life in a more vibrant way.

"So to me it was just like there's all kinds of possibilities of things that we can do here."

Hall, 48 and the mother of three sons, is a 28-year veteran of the National Park Service who grew up on the West Coast. She comes to Colonial after short stints as acting superintendent for the Outer Banks Group parks in North Carolina and Glacier National Park in Montana.

Hall had worked as deputy superintendent at Glacier since 2011. She began her career at Olympic National Bank in Washington state before working on various regulations at the NPS headquarters in Washington, D.C., as well as serving as superintendent of the Southeast Arizona Group parks and acting superintendent of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Arizona.

The York County Board of Supervisors warmly welcomed her at its Sept. 1 meeting. Hall hit a few key points, then addressed several issues raised by board members in a 45-minute portion of the meeting.

Hall told the board members she wants to get businesses into vacant buildings in Yorktown Village, and asked for their patience while she looks at a parking plan for the Fourth of July and other big events. When asked, she also briefly addressed the controversial replica tobacco press that was installed in the village and a road safety issue on the Colonial Parkway near Queens Lake

"They are issues that need to be dealt with," Hall said, stressing that her approach is to always try to be a "good neighbor" and to work collaboratively with other groups to find solutions.

Those issues have been prioritized, and Hall said this past week that she is addressing attracting businesses and parking first. The tobacco press, for right now, is being left in place until more research on its historical authenticity can be done.

Officials from the NPS regional office will visit next week to start assessing buildings and working on details about putting out bids and making leases with potential businesses.

Parking for big events will stay the same right now, but Hall is seeking money from the park service to do an archaeological study on the Yorktown Battlefield and village areas. In the past, parking around the village and setting off fireworks have been points of contention for the Fourth of July because of possible damage to the historical grounds and the risk for lightning strikes.

"I don't know that there's a perfect answer," Hall said. "But I think we've got a plan of at least how we're going to try to get some answers on that issue."

The park service will celebrate its centennial in 2016 and special events will run throughout the year to try to draw people into the parks. In line with that, Colonial will step up its outreach to the community.

"We're going to try to have a more significant presence," she said. "Not just asking people to come to us, but trying to step outside the boundaries and come to them. Whether that's schools, tourism meetings, collaborate discussions on challenges within our counties and communities.

"We want to be seen as part of the community in a variety of ways."

Hall said that she appreciates those who have advocated for preserving views at Jamestown Island with regard to Dominion Virginia Power's proposal to install overhead power lines across the James River there.

"The view should be protected," she said.

Her biggest request for the general public is to drive more carefully on the parkway and battlefield roads, watching speed limits and being mindful of bicyclists and people stopping to enjoy the views. All, of course, while not littering.

"Obey speed limits, be cautious, use it as a time to slow down and really take in the beauty of where we live," Hall said. "We do get sort of numb to it. Every day I get on that parkway and think, man this is beautiful. Feel free to slow down and enjoy that."

Williams can be reached by phone at 757-247-4644.

Devils Tower To Host Star Viewing Parties October Through December

[Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#), October 21, 2015

Have you ever seen Devils Tower illuminated by the night sky? Now's your chance.

The National Park Service announced that Devils Tower will host a series of star viewing parties October through December. The eight parties are free of charge, and will last approximately two hours.

Telescopes will be provided at the events, but those with telescopes are encouraged to bring theirs along.

The first star party will take place on Thursday, and will feature an Orionids meteor shower. The next event will take place on Oct. 27 and will feature a guided walk with a ranger on the evening of a super moon. A full list of the events can be found at www.nps.gov/deto.

Why Are The Feds Sticking With A Racist Name For A Washington Lake?

[High Country \(CO\) News](#), October 21, 2015

In central Washington, one of Jonathan Rosenblum's favorite fishing holes is a lake near the foot of 8,122-foot Mount McGregor, where the Pacific Crest Trail snakes past the North Cascades. A union organizer from Seattle, Rosenblum loves to hike to the lake with his young daughters and ply them with the history of the region. One of his favorite stories is about Wilson Howard, a black gold miner, who braved the elements and unknown landscape to file a late-1800s mining claim in the area and named the lake after himself.

Because of Rosenblum's 2007 petition, Washington state now officially calls the lake by what is believed to be its oldest known name, Howard Lake. The federal government, however, recognizes the lake by a name that causes the jaws of most people of color to drop: Coon Lake. Rosenblum's research shows that some white locals began calling the lake "Coon Lake" in the early 1900s, after Howard's departure; further sleuthing uncovered no raccoons in the area.

The federal government did not follow the usual course of supporting the state's action, mostly because of opposition from the National Park Service, which manages the area that contains the lake.

Rosenblum is quick to recognize the irony of the situation. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who is white, calls the place Howard Lake, after the black miner who named it. President Barack Obama, who of course is black, is supposed to call it by a term often used as a racial slur and tantamount to fighting words.

The Park Service, acting on research from its North Cascades unit, originally defended its stance by claiming that there was ambiguity around the use of the term "coon."

"At the time, no evidence was found that the name was intended as a pejorative term or racial slur; if we had found such evidence, we would have recommended changing the name immediately," said Craig Dalby, a spokesman for the Pacific West Region of the Park Service. "The National Park Service is re-examining its position because of ongoing community concerns and will provide feedback to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names in the near future."

In the years leading up to its 2016 centennial, the Park Service has done a lot of talking and writing about the need for diversity and inclusiveness. But it has done little to address the issue: Its own ranks remain 82 percent white, as does the

estimated percentage of park visitors, according to the agency's 2011 survey. The controversy over Howard Lake gives the agency the opportunity to correct a historic wrong and send a much-needed signal about diversity.

Seattle Democratic Sen. Pramila Jayapal has written a letter urging the state's congressional delegation, as well as Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, to press a federal name change to Howard Lake. Fifty of her fellow state legislators, including six Republicans, have signed it. Another local activist, Eddie Rye Jr., whose daughter Angela is the former executive director of the Congressional Black Caucus, says he has been enlisting caucus members to "help in getting rid of this racist name."

By following the Park Service's lead on "coon," the federal board on geographic names butted up against its own policies, which say that the board "will not adopt a name for federal usage that is determined by the board to be derogatory to a particular racial or ethnic group, gender, or religious group."

The National Park Service seems irrationally resistant to the idea of honoring Howard. It filed a competing request in 2007 for the lake and a nearby creek to be named after William McComb, a member of the first road-clearing crew in Stehekin Valley. The proposal was rejected. Rosenblum strongly believes that changing the name to McComb would not have been an acceptable compromise. Removing the homage to Howard, the African American miner, was a form of what Rosenblum calls "eracism."

Times change. The issue of Coon Lake's name gained new steam following the Obama administration's recent decision to change the name of North America's tallest mountain from Mount McKinley to Denali. The state of Alaska had been petitioning for such a change for 40 years, and the dispute was resolved by the stroke of Secretary Sally Jewell's pen. A similar secretarial order could avoid a repeat of what already has been years of filings hearings, and also prevent a dispute over a 15-acre lake that, in this country's current racial climate, could get ugly.

Such an order also might save the National Park Service from itself. A projected nonwhite U.S. majority that is hostile to our national parks spells doom for the already resource-strapped agency. It's past time for the Park Service to back away from its misguided opposition, encourage Secretary Jewell to come to its rescue, and allow another black life to matter.

Glenn Nelson is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the column service of High Country News. He is an Asian-American journalist in Seattle who founded The Trail Posse, trailposse.com, to encourage diversity and inclusion in the outdoors. More from Writers on the Range

US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Controversial Study Claims 99.9 Percent Chance Of Major Los Angeles Earthquake In 3 Years

[Southern California Public Radio](#), October 20, 2015

Angelenos live under constant threat of a major earthquake, but a controversial new study from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory puts a number on that threat. The scientific paper claims there is a 99.9 percent chance of an earthquake between magnitude 5 and 6.3 in less than three years.

The study was published earlier this month by the American Geophysical Union's Earth and Space Science journal. The bold claim has taken many in the seismic community by surprise.

JPL geophysicist Andrea Donnellan said this study used GPS and airborne radar data to look at land deformation caused by last year's 5.1 La Habra earthquake. Her team determined that, based on the surface changes, there is still a fair amount of pent-up seismic energy in the region that needs to be released.

"It's almost like using the surface of the Earth as an instrument to understand what is going on deeper," she explained.

That energy could spawn shaking associated with a magnitude 5 or 6 temblor, she added, but that energy could crop up on any number of faults within a 100-kilometer range of last year's quake.

This sort of prediction is quite common. What isn't common is claiming a 99.9 percent chance of such a quake in a window of time as small as three years.

Donnellan said her team arrived at the conclusion by looking at the number of magnitude 5 earthquakes in the region over the last 81 years. There were 32 such events.

"So if you just look at that on average, it's about an earthquake every three years," Donnellan said.

Lucy Jones with the U.S. Geological Survey said that methodology doesn't fully explain the prediction, and the study doesn't adequately address this either.

The USGS conducts its own look at quake risk in California — the most recent version is called Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast, Version 3.

Jones said that, according to those models, there is only an 85 percent chance of a magnitude 5 or 6 quake in the same region over a three-year period.

"It's nowhere near a 99.9 percent number," Jones said.

While the AGU journal the JPL paper appeared in usually conducts peer review of studies, Jones said it's custom that most quake prediction studies are also sent to the National Earthquake Prediction Evaluation Council or its California counterpart.

However, she said this paper was not submitted to those organization for review. She added that there is no scientific consensus on this issue.

"This is the opinion of a small group of scientists — it has not been reviewed for action as a prediction, and I wouldn't be changing any behavior on the basis of this study," Jones said.

Several earthquake researchers approached by KPCC said they were surprised by this study and its conclusions. However, JPL's Donnellan defended the research, saying that it's now up to the larger scientific community to evaluate the claims and see if different ones are called for.

"In science, individual methods are always controversial to somebody, but that's how we make forward progress," she said.

The study, titled "Potential for a large earthquake near Los Angeles inferred from the 2014 La Habra earthquake," was first published by AGU online on Oct. 1.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS

White House: Canadian Relationship Remains Strong After Trudeau Election

By Gregory Korte

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON — The White House congratulated Canada's prime minister-designate Tuesday, signalling that a change in power north of the border wouldn't diminish the close relationship between the two countries.

President Obama will call Justin Trudeau Tuesday — and will likely call conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper as well, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said, saying Obama was "deeply appreciative of Prime Minister Harper's acts to build a strong U.S.-Canada relationship."

The election has the potential to change the relationship on a number of key issues. Trudeau had accused incumbent prime minister, Conservative Stephen Harper, of reducing the entire U.S.-Canada relationship to a dispute over the Keystone XL pipeline and hurting relations by "haranguing" Obama over the issue. Obama has vetoed a bill to approve the 1,179-mile oil pipeline from Hardisty, Alta., to Steele City, Neb., although his State Department says it's still considering an application that would grant a permit.

Trudeau also supports the pipeline, but has done so within an environmental platform that also proposes a new North American carbon tax regime to reduce greenhouse gasses.

But while the Liberal Party victory could bring a closer alignment on environmental issues, it may also create new tensions on others. Trudeau has also said he wants to end Canada's involvement in operations in Iraq and Libya to counter the Islamic State, instead following a train-and-equip strategy that the United States has found ineffective.

"It would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue," White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Tuesday. "The fact is, there are a whole range of issues where the United States and Canada worked effectively together to advance the interests of both countries. Obviously, Canada made a substantial and important contribution to our counter-ISIL coalition."

Earnest also cited Canada's work toward an international climate agreement in Paris next month, and on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations. Those issues are even more important than the differences over the Keystone pipeline, he said.

Obama Offers Congratulations To Trudeau, Appreciation To Harper

By Meagan Fitzpatrick

[CBC News \(CAN\)](#), October 20, 2015

U.S. President Barack Obama has congratulated Justin Trudeau on leading the Liberals to victory and offered his appreciation to outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper for his efforts to build a strong bilateral relationship, the White House said Tuesday.

The Canadian election results were the first topic of conversation at the daily White House briefing. Press Secretary Josh Earnest was asked whether he expects the Canada-U.S. relationship to get easier under Trudeau because Harper seemed "annoyed" over the long delay on a Keystone XL pipeline decision.

"Well, I think it would be short-sighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue," Earnest responded. The proposed cross-border pipeline recommendation is still pending at the State Department and has yet to get a final decision from Obama.

Earnest said there are a number of issues that Canada and the U.S. work effectively on, including Canada's participation in the international coalition to fight ISIS terrorists in Iraq and Syria and the recently concluded Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. Earnest said Canada's negotiators were instrumental in helping close that deal and that both countries will benefit from it if it's implemented.

But pressed further on when a Keystone decision might come, Earnest said Secretary of State John Kerry spoke about it earlier Tuesday and indicated the Canadian election result would have no bearing on the timing of a Keystone decision or on whether the answer will be "yes" or "no." Canada can do more on climate change

Earnest said the White House does not have an expectation on when the State Department will complete its review and send its recommendation to Obama. The president does expect to make a decision, however, before he leaves office after the 2016 election, he said.

"Hopefully we'll get it done well before then, if for no other reason than we can stop talking about it," Earnest said.

Obama is under pressure from environmentalists to reject the TransCanada Corp.'s pipeline project that would connect Alberta's oil patch with refineries in the Gulf Coast. Trudeau, like Harper, is in favour of the pipeline's construction but also says he wants to co-operate with the U.S. on environmental issues.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau visited Washington, D.C., in the fall of 2013. He's pledged to make the U.S.-Canada relationship a more constructive one and blames outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper for weakened ties between the two countries. (Susan Walsh/Associated Press)

Harper's government has lobbied for years in Washington for approval of Keystone. The outgoing prime minister has called the approval a "no-brainer" and Harper once said he wouldn't take "no" for an answer.

Earnest noted on Tuesday that Canada has made some "important commitments" in advance of the United Nations global climate change conference in December in Paris but added: "We believe it's possible that there's more that Canada could do in this regard."

It's too early to judge whether Trudeau will follow through on environment policy promises made during the campaign, said Earnest, while also admitting he did not follow the campaign closely. Obama to press Trudeau on environment

Obama has been pressing world leaders to make serious commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Paris, and that will be no different with Trudeau, he said.

Trudeau has pledged to repair what he described as a frayed Canada-U.S. relationship under Harper but that could get off to a rocky start if he follows through on a promise to withdraw Canada's fighter jets from the U.S.-led fight against ISIS. The Liberals want to provide more humanitarian aid in Iraq and Syria and have Canada's military involved in training missions not bombing missions.

The White House said it appreciates Canada lending its skill and expertise to the mission so far and hopes it can continue to count on its northern neighbour to participate in the coalition.

The White House spokesman said in addition to phoning Trudeau, he expects Obama will make a phone call to Harper in the near future as well.

"Our bilateral relationship has enhanced the security and prosperity of the American people and we certainly are appreciative of Prime Minister Harper's efforts to strengthen that relationship and we look forward to building on that kind of progress when Mr. Trudeau takes over the Prime Minister's Office."

White House Congratulates Canada's Trudeau, Obama To Call Soon

[AFP](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The White House on Tuesday welcomed the election victory of Canada's Liberal leader Justin Trudeau and expressed hope his government would step up actions to fight climate change.

Spokesman Josh Earnest said President Barack Obama would speak to the prime minister-elect as soon as Tuesday, and indicated the White House hopes his government will help reach a major global climate deal in December.

"Canada has also made a substantial and important commitment in advance of the Paris climate talks," Earnest said, praising the government of outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

He added, however, "We believe that it's possible that there is more that Canada can do in this regard."

"The United States, and certainly President Obama congratulates prime minister designate Justin Trudeau on the Liberal Party's victory in yesterday's elections," Earnest said.

"I would expect the president will have the opportunity today to call Mr Trudeau to congratulate him on that election victory."

Earnest said the White House was “deeply appreciative” of his work “to build a strong US-Canada relationship.” Obama and Harper’s government had clashed over climate policy and the approval of the transborder Keystone pipeline. Earnest said “it would be shortsighted to reduce the relationship between our two countries to just one issue.”

5 Reasons The U.S. Should Care About Canada’s New Prime Minister

By Kim Hjelmgaard

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

Canada just elected its first new leader after nearly a decade of Conservative Party rule. Here are five ways Liberal Party leader and soon-to-be prime minister Justin Trudeau is likely to affect policies in Canada and the United States.

THE ECONOMY

Trudeau, 43, has pledged to increase deficit spending on major infrastructure projects to kickstart Canada’s sagging economy. He says Canada’s fortunes won’t improve unless it chooses economic stimulus over a balanced budget, which he has vowed to achieve by 2020. A stronger Canada helps the USA because they are huge trading partners.

TAXES

Trudeau has pledged to hike taxes for Canada’s top 1% of earners and cut taxes for the middle class, although he has been vague on how he defines middle class. According to Canada’s Globe and Mail newspaper, those who earn over \$200,000 will see their taxes go up by about 4% under his plan.

MARIJUANA

Trudeau says he wants to legalize the drug “right away,” a position that provoked ridicule from political opponents during the election campaign. However, he has been vague on the details of his legalization program, including how it would be taxed and possible transport across the U.S.-Canadian border.

KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Trudeau supports the proposed oil pipeline system that would run about 1,200 miles from Canada to Nebraska, but he is less of a cheerleader for the idea than outgoing leader Stephen Harper. He is worried about the environmental impact and has called for better safety standards. He opposes a separate project for energy products to be piped from Alberta to British Columbia.

U.S. RELATIONS

Trudeau promised to improve strained relations with President Obama, who has not embraced the Keystone pipeline project. Trudeau also said he wants to find constructive ways of working with Washington on other issues. That should be easier since the Liberal leader and Obama are closer in political philosophy than were Obama and Harper.

Under New Leader Trudeau, President Obama May Start Hailing ‘O Canada’

By Adam Kovac

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

MONTREAL — Canada’s surprising election of the Liberal Party’s Justin Trudeau as prime minister means both the United States and its northern neighbor can expect increased cooperation during President Obama’s last year in office.

“I think Justin Trudeau is certainly going to reach out to Obama,” said Donald Abelson, political science professor at Western University in London, Ontario. “They share a lot of similar interests in terms of protecting the environment and advancing certain progressive policies on the world stage.”

Abelson pointed to a speech Trudeau gave over the summer about forming an intra-governmental committee to oversee the relationship between the two countries. “I think he does understand the power discrepancy between the two countries,” he said.

Trudeau, 43, and outgoing Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper, 56, differ in their approach to foreign policy. Harper, who was seeking a rare fourth term before losing Monday’s parliamentary elections, was an outspoken supporter of the Israeli government, gave a lukewarm reaction to the Iranian nuclear agreement and took strong stances against Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Because of Canada’s small military, any changes by Trudeau will be more of a change in tone than actual involvement of Canadian forces in the Middle East or elsewhere, said Bruce Hicks, a visiting fellow at the Glendon School of Public and International Affairs of York University in Toronto.

“The Liberals will be less supportive of the (Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu approach to Israeli politics,” Hicks said. “They will be pro-Israel, but they will be centrist pro-Israel. I think you will also see them less prone to wanting to be involved in military approaches to the Middle East when it comes to things like (the Islamic State). They’ll be more about wanting to spend money on aid and development.”

That change in philosophy will affect more than just Canada's relationship with the United States.

Canada is "back" on the world stage, Trudeau told a rally Tuesday after his landslide victory ended nearly a decade of Conservative Party rule.

"I want to say to this country's friends all around the world, many of you have worried that Canada has lost its compassionate and constructive voice in the world over the past 10 years," Trudeau said. "On behalf of 35 million Canadians, we're back."

Under Harper, Canada had a more adversarial relationship with the United Nations than with previous leaders, said John McArthur, a senior fellow in the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

"In general, I would predict the Liberal government will want to work a lot more with multilateral institutions, on the premise that that's the way for a mid-sized, advanced economy like Canada's to have it's greatest influence," he said. "The Trudeau government will probably want to invest more time and political capital in the United Nations. It was seen as a bad moment when Canada wasn't elected to the Security Council a couple of years ago."

Trudeau has expressed support for the XL Keystone pipeline, which would carry crude oil from western Canada to refineries in the American Gulf Coast, but he also vowed to focus more on environmental affairs than Harper did. The future of his energy policy is clouded by the revelation just days before the election that a senior campaign adviser had been advising a Canadian energy company on how to lobby the government.

"There's a view among some, and it's just a hypothesis, that the Obama administration might have had an easier time supporting Keystone if the Canadian government was seen as more progressive and proactive on reducing emissions," McArthur said. "If that is the case, it might be that if Canada shows more proactivity, that opens up a new possibility of conversations on the energy sector, which is so strategically center to the Canadian economy."

Trudeau's iconic father Pierre, who was Canada's prime minister from 1968 to 1979 and again from 1980 to 1984, famously had an antagonistic relationship with Republican Presidents Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan. While the younger Trudeau does share policy goals with Obama, the relationship between both countries can change drastically depending on who is elected president in 2016.

"I think given Trudeau's ideological orientation, he's more inclined to have a warmer relationship with a Democratic president than a Republican one," Abelson said. Pierre Trudeau "thought with his mind, he acted intellectually. The son, I think, is going to act more with his heart. I think he's going to try and smooth over tensions between the two countries without sacrificing sovereignty — not always easy to do."

Kerry: Canadian Vote Won't Change Keystone Review

By Timothy Cama

[The Hill](#), October 20, 2015

A new government coming to power in Canada does not change how the Obama administration is handling the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, Secretary of State John Kerry said Tuesday.

Kerry made the declaration the morning after Justin Trudeau was tapped to become Canada's next prime minister, since the Liberal Party he leads won a majority of Parliament seats in the election.

Trudeau, like outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper, supports the Canada-to-Texas oil pipeline, but he is unlikely to put as much of the government's support and resources into lobbying the Obama administration for it.

Kerry told MSNBC host Andrea Mitchell that the new regime will have no impact on how the State Department reviews TransCanada Corp.'s application to build Keystone XL.

"The decision on Keystone is being based on the merits and countervailing balance of all the input that has come from a very exhaustive agency review," Kerry told Mitchell at a forum hosted by the State Department, after she asked about possible changes to the equation surrounding Keystone.

"I have said again and again, I want to get that done as fast as possible and that is very true."

Trudeau, son of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, has criticized Harper for the degree to which his support for Keystone and for Canada's oil sands industry has strained relationships with other countries, including the United States.

"Unfortunately, Mr. Harper has narrowed the entire relationship with the United States to a single point around the Keystone XL pipeline, and he went to New York and criticized and harangued the president," Trudeau said during a recent debate.

Trudeau could also take some steps toward improving Canada's climate policies, after castigating Harper for making a mockery of Canada on the world stage for weakness on climate, the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. said.

White House: Canadian Election Unlikely To Affect Keystone Timing

By Jeff Mason And Roberta Rampton

[Reuters](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

Canada's New Prime Minister May Be A Liberal—But He Still Loves The Keystone Pipeline

By Suzanne Goldenberg

[Mother Jones](#), October 20, 2015

Well before his stunning victory in Canada's elections, Justin Trudeau, the Liberal party leader, telephoned David Suzuki, the country's best-known science broadcaster, environmentalist—and a national treasure—to ask for his endorsement.

The conversation did not go well. Suzuki admitted to journalists he called Trudeau a twerp, and the Liberal leader dismissed his critique of the party's climate policy as "sanctimonious crap."

Those hoping for a U-turn in Canada's climate change policy after Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper's crushing defeat are in for a reality check.

Trudeau has repudiated Harper's vision of Canada as an "energy superpower," promised to reverse devastating cuts to government science budgets, and fix the country's reputation as a carbon bully in international climate negotiations.

But it would be a mistake to see Trudeau or the Liberals as climate champions. In his victory speech on Monday, there was no mention of climate change, and he was criticized for being vague on the issue during campaigning.

Those hoping for a U-turn in Canada's climate change policy after Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper's crushing defeat are in for a reality check.

Trudeau committed to take part in the Paris climate conference at the end of the year, and to convene a meeting of provincial leaders within 90 days to come up with a plan to fight climate change.

His party's campaign platform called for the setting up of a \$2 billion fund to help projects that promote clean energy.

However, Trudeau supports the Keystone XL pipeline—Canada's bid to find new markets for its vast carbon reserves in the Alberta tar sands—a position that puts the Liberal leader at odds with campaigners and with Barack Obama.

Trudeau has close ties to Keystone. David Gagnier, his campaign co-chair, was forced to step down last week after it emerged he had written a memo to TransCanada, the company building the pipeline, offering lobbying advice.

Moments after his victory, Trudeau came under pressure to do more to fight climate change. Elizabeth May, the Green party leader, told the broadcaster CBC she had asked him to think about the topic during a short election night conversation.

"When can we sit down and talk about the climate conference?" May said she asked Trudeau. "We only have 40 days for Canada to get our act together. I'm very concerned that we have to rebuild the damage that Stephen Harper has done to our laws, to some of our policies, to our reputation in the world."

Indeed, Canada has a lot of catching up to do. But two key Liberal positions, on the Keystone XL and on emissions reductions targets, put Trudeau out of step with Obama, who has made climate change the signature issue of his second term in the White House.

Those contradictions could have been the result of tough political realities of the election. Trudeau started out a distant third to the conservatives. Suzuki told CBC he chided Trudeau for playing politics.

"I said, 'Justin, stop it,'" Suzuki told CBC. "You're just being political. I know that you want to make headway in Alberta so you're for the continued development of the tar sands, you're for the Keystone pipeline, but you're against the Northern Gateway [pipeline]. You're all over the damn map!"

In Suzuki's version of the conversation, Trudeau did not appreciate the critique or hearing that keeping warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), the internationally agreed goal of the climate talks, would mean that 80 percent of the crude in the tar sands would have to stay in the ground.

But now that Trudeau has won such a decisive majority, his position could change, said Katharine Hayhoe, the climate scientist and commentator, who is from Canada. "It is certainly true that in the past liberal governments have not lived up to their promises on climate, but today we are in a very different situation, in terms of seeing the impacts and in terms of other nations like China taking action," she said.

"It's a different political climate internationally for climate change now than what it was nine years ago, the last time there was a liberal government. I feel a lot more momentum, a lot more impetus, a lot more motivation for Liberals to take a stronger stand on this issue.

"I think that will give him a mandate to make more bolder choices, and I hope that this is one of the bolder choices he will make."

What The Rest Of The World Should Expect From Justin Trudeau.

By Joshua Keating

[Slate](#), October 20, 2015

Canada's election Monday night turned out not to be the nail-biter everyone had expected. Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party ultimately won handily with 40 percent of the popular vote, taking 184 of 338 seats in parliament to form a majority government. Canadians have now elected a very different leader from outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper in both substance and style, but what can the rest of the world expect from Canada's new PM?

Joshua Keating is a staff writer at Slate focusing on international affairs.

The main source of U.S.-Canada tension in the later Harper years has been the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, which Barack Obama vetoed in February. Trudeau has described his support for the pipeline as "steadfast," but it's clearly not the make-or-break issue for him that it was for Harper. If Republicans take back the White House in 2016, he'd probably be open to talking about it. But if the Democrats win, we may not hear much more about Keystone.

More significantly, Trudeau opposes the "Northern Gateway" project that has been building pipelines through British Columbia to load Alberta oil onto tankers bound for Asia. He's also vowed to end subsidies for the fossil fuel industry and invest in green energy. So, it will be a very different Canadian government that shows up at climate talks in Paris in December, one that will be much closer to the Obama administration's priorities.

Other changes might be more significant, though it could take a while to notice them. The Liberals opposed Canadian airstrikes against ISIS, which Harper's government expanded into Syria in March. But Canada has conducted only a handful of airstrikes against ISIS in Syria, and while they have flown more than 200 in Iraq, it's a small number compared with the thousands of missions flown by the United States, or for that matter Russia. Even if Trudeau ends Canada's contribution to the air war, he may end up increasing his country's involvement in Iraq if he follows through on a pledge to send more Canadian personnel to train Iraqi forces.

In the broader Middle East, Trudea has promised, in the wake of the recent nuclear agreement, to restore diplomatic relations with Iran, which Harper suspended in 2012. Harper was also known as one of the most enthusiastically pro-Israel world leaders. While Trudeau isn't expected to be quite as buddy-buddy with Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu, overall policies shouldn't change that much.

Trudeau has also said he would withdraw the country's plans to buy Lockheed's troubled F-35 fighter jet. Instead, the government will plan to buy more affordable aircraft to replace Canada's aging fighter fleet and buy more icebreakers and combat ships amid growing tension with Russia in the Arctic.

The biggest shift may come on refugee policy. Trudeau has pledged to take in 25,000 asylum seekers by Jan. 1 and has said he'd consider airlifting Syria refugees directly from the Middle East. Harper's government had been criticized for the slow pace of refugee resettlement, particularly after the death of toddler Aylan Kurdi, whose family was trying to reach Canada, captivated the world's attention last month. As of August, Canada had only taken in a little more than 1,074 of the 10,000 Syrians it had promised to resettle over three years. Harper had also tried, unsuccessfully as it turned out, to make Muslim face veils a major issue in the campaign.

Trudeau seemed to be referring to the issue in his victory speech Monday night, saying, "We know in our bones that Canada was built by people from all corners of the world, who worship every faith, who belong to every culture, who speak every language." While it was undoubtedly the economy more than any other factor that sealed Harper's downfall, it's notable, given the recent populist backlash to the refugee crisis in Europe, that in the first major election where Syrian refugees were an issue, the side advocating a more open and generous approach prevailed.

Justin Trudeau Seeks To Set New Tone In Canada

Newly elected prime minister vows to restore country's reputation for international cooperation on climate change and other issues

By Paul Vieira

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

For Canada, Most Noticeable Change Under Justin Trudeau Could Be Tone

By Ian Austen

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

OTTAWA — Justin Trudeau's Canada is likely to present a very different face to the world from the one it showed under Stephen Harper, the Conservative prime minister he and his Liberals decisively routed on Monday.

Mr. Trudeau has promised some major policy changes, among them legalizing marijuana, dropping out of the American-led bombing campaign against the Islamic State and deficit spending to pump up the economy and rebuild infrastructure.

But the most noticeable difference will probably be in tone. Mr. Trudeau has been promising since he took over his floundering party in 2013 that he would put an end to Mr. Harper's often belligerent style of politics and diplomacy.

"Sunny ways" are Mr. Trudeau's ways, he said in his victory speech early on Tuesday, borrowing the phrase from Wilfrid Laurier, a Liberal prime minister of about a century ago.

"A positive, optimistic, hopeful vision of public life isn't a naive dream — it can be a powerful force for change," Mr. Trudeau said, his voice faltering after 78 days of campaigning. And he said the sweeping victory his party won on Monday as it surged from third place in opinion polls to a clear majority in Parliament meant that "Canadians from all across this great country sent a clear message tonight: It's time for change in this country, my friends, real change."

Mr. Trudeau has spoken of scrapping Mr. Harper's emphasis on military solutions and Cold War talk abroad, and returning Canada to active participation in international bodies like the United Nations. Gone, he has said, will be the combative, lecturing approach Mr. Harper adopted toward the Obama administration over the Keystone XL oil pipeline project.

And gone, too, will be the Conservative habit of pushing policies at home that were popular with Mr. Harper's right wing but divisive to the larger electorate, like the sweeping antiterrorism laws that were passed after a gunman attacked Parliament last October. Mr. Trudeau has promised to amend those laws.

The Liberals won only 39.5 percent of the popular vote on Monday. But with three major parties and several minor ones jockeying for support, it was enough for a sweeping victory in Parliament, as the Conservatives demonstrated in 2011 when they won about the same share.

On Tuesday, during his first news conference since the vote result, Mr. Trudeau said he had told President Obama by telephone that he would honor a campaign pledge to remove Canada's military jets from the American-led military campaign against the Islamic State group.

But Mr. Trudeau declined to say when the aircraft would leave. The two men also discussed Mr. Trudeau's plans for improving Canada's record on greenhouse gas emissions, he said. The president, Mr. Trudeau added, teased him about his lack of gray hair and suggested that his new position might soon change that.

An Obama administration official, insisting on anonymity because of the delicacy of communications between the leaders, said the White House still hoped to find a way for Canada to play a role in the mission.

Mr. Trudeau's showing was the Liberals' best in 40 years and re-established the party as a national force, rather than one that relied heavily on one province, Ontario, for support. They drew votes away not only from the Conservatives, but also from the New Democrats, the other major opposition party of the center-left. The New Democrats, who led in the polls early in the campaign, wound up losing more than half their seats in Parliament, as well as any hope that the Liberals would be dependent on their backing to govern.

The Liberals swept the Atlantic provinces and more than doubled their seat count in Quebec, where voters had spurned the party in recent elections. They even won two seats and came close to taking a third in Calgary, Alberta, Mr. Harper's adopted hometown and the center of Canadian conservatism. The last time the Liberals won a seat there was in 1968, when the country was swept up in enthusiasm for Mr. Trudeau's father, Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

Justin Trudeau shares his father's good looks but not his demeanor. He does not flash the scalpel-sharp intelligence his father was known for, but neither does he display the sometimes acerbic nature that went with it. As a result, he has often been underestimated.

Before Mr. Trudeau took over the party leadership, Mr. Harper and the Conservatives won three straight national elections against weak Liberal opponents who proved vulnerable to the Conservatives' heavy reliance on attack advertisements.

In 2006, Paul Martin, then the prime minister, was saddled with the legacy of a fund-raising scandal left by his predecessor, Jean Chrétien. Next up was Stéphane Dion, a highly respected intellectual from Quebec who came across as somewhat pedantic and failed to counter Conservative ads claiming that a Liberal plan for a carbon tax would be economically disastrous.

In 2011, the party was led by Michael Ignatieff, who had spent most of his adult life as an intellectual and a journalist in the United States and Britain before returning home. The Conservatives successfully painted him as an opportunist.

Mr. Harper's party relentlessly attacked Mr. Trudeau during this campaign as well, portraying him as something of a dimwit who had "nice hair" but was "just not ready" to lead the country. But this time, the strategy flopped.

Though Mr. Trudeau said repeatedly that he did not want to trade on his family's name, growing up in the public gaze did mean that when he entered politics in 2007, he was already a celebrity with a reservoir of public good will to tap. The Conservative attack ads did not just fail to shake that good will; some analysts say they backfired by creating sympathy for Mr. Trudeau.

After his party's defeat on Monday, Mr. Harper resigned as Conservative party leader, but not in the orthodox manner. He made no mention of his intention during his concession speech, leaving his party to announce the news in a brief statement.

Mr. Harper's legacy includes reuniting the Conservative movement under a single party banner by merging his Canadian Alliance with the Progressive Conservatives. Under Mr. Harper, the party also developed an effective fund-raising machine.

Canadian law bans corporations and unions from making political donations, and imposes fairly low limits on personal donations. So the Conservatives used sophisticated software to develop and promote political issues that would draw large numbers of small donations from supporters, even if they found little support in the rest of the population.

The targeted approach was successful financially, but it may also explain why the Conservatives never significantly widened their support during a decade in power. The kinds of issues it led Mr. Harper to promote, like banning the wearing of face coverings by Muslim women at citizenship ceremonies, drew angry reactions that may have contributed to the government's defeat in the election.

The front-runner to succeed Mr. Harper as Conservative leader is Jason Kenney, the departing defense minister and one of the few party figures who had some free rein in Mr. Harper's highly centralized administration. Mr. Kenney acknowledged late Monday that issues he championed for the government, including the face-veil ban and the antiterrorism measures, might have created the opening that Mr. Trudeau seized to win.

"We need a conservatism that is sunnier and more optimistic than what we have sometimes conveyed," Mr. Kenney said. "We have to take collective responsibility for that."

Peter Baker contributed reporting from Washington.

Nicer Justin Trudeau Wins Over Canadians: Column

By David A. Andelman

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

What might have been the final straw for Canadian voters was the shocking photograph of the body of a Syrian child washed up in September on a Turkish beach. His family's asylum request had been turned down by Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative Party government. Without hope, the family took to the seas in a flimsy boat that foundered in the Mediterranean before reaching the promised land of Europe — or Canada.

Of course, there were many other reasons why Canadian voters ended Harper's nearly 10-year rule Monday, all cautionary tales for American voters just embarking on the process of choosing a new president next year. Part of it is a reflexive turn-the-bums out attitude, which Republicans in the U.S. are counting heavily on. But most of the reasons Canadians opted to install the little-tested Justin Trudeau, 43, boiled down to one fundamental: The Liberal Party leader was simply nicer than his opponent. And most Canadians believe they are, too.

Harper was too tough on terrorism, on migrants, even on Muslim women who want to wear the veil. He did little to prop up a sagging economy or shelter his oil-rich nation from the impact of sagging oil prices. He put the Keystone pipeline among his top priorities and was a firm supporter of a host of U.S. military initiatives. Few were overwhelmingly popular in a Canada that hardly considers itself in terrorists' crosshairs, and wants to keep it that way.

So begins a political dynasty north of the border — Justin Trudeau following in the footsteps of his father, the politically canonized Pierre Trudeau, who served as prime minister twice for a total of more than 15 years in the 1960s, '70s and '80s.

Young Trudeau's win reflects something extraordinary that is finding resonance far beyond Canada's borders. First, there's the shift to the left. Canada has been a political counterweight in the past to American trends — after all, Trudeau's right-wing predecessor served throughout most of President Obama's administration, with considerable friction.

POLICING THE USA: A look at race, justice, media

But what's especially interesting is that Canada has now definitely gone back to the future. A study by two American researchers found that the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, ratified during the reign of Trudeau's father in 1982, is the most emulated model of government chosen by newly minted democracies. In part, it's the document's respect for human rights, but it's also just how nice Canadians are. While the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights might have set the standard in the past, Americans are no longer seen as people to be emulated, nor is our system of government, which has become in many respects all but dysfunctional.

While we Americans might not think about Canada a lot, we could probably learn quite a lot from them. The previous Conservative regime began going off the rails some time ago. Now it's up to Canada's Liberal Party to set it straight again.

David A. Andelman, a member of USA TODAY's Board of Contributors, is editor and publisher of World Policy Journal and author of *A Shattered Peace: Versailles 1919 and the Price We Pay Today*.

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Canada Turns Left

The Liberals get a chance to show they can run an economy.

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

A New Trudeau Era In Canada

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

The sweeping victory of Justin Trudeau in Canada's elections yesterday shows how ready Canadians were to emerge from a decade under the Conservative government of the secretive and combative Stephen Harper. Mr. Trudeau clearly benefited from voters' memories of his father, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who came to power 47 years ago on a platform of liberal reforms and a wave of personal popularity that came to be dubbed "Trudeaumania." To those memories, Justin Trudeau, 43, added his own charisma and the promise that as prime minister he will return Canadians to the tradition of liberal and humanitarian values that his father championed.

In his 10 years in office, Mr. Harper pursued a conservative agenda of lowering taxes, cutting government programs and taking a tough line on security, including the passage of broad antiterrorism laws. His government also banned women from wearing face coverings at citizenship ceremonies.

Mr. Trudeau, by contrast, has pledged, among other things, to legalize marijuana, revise the antiterrorism laws, stop the purchase of F-35 fighter jets from the United States and end Canada's combat role in the American-led fight against the Islamic State. While both men backed the Keystone XL oil pipeline, Mr. Trudeau is open to addressing environmental concerns. To many voters, that was the major appeal of Mr. Trudeau — that he would return the Liberal Party, and Canada, to the country's core values, like a generous safety net, active participation in international organizations like the United Nations, a humanitarian foreign policy and an inclusive concept of nationhood. Mr. Harper's conservatism was at odds with that identity.

For the Liberals, the election was a stunning reversal of years of sagging fortunes. In the Harper years, the party had lacked a dynamic leader and was eclipsed on the left by the New Democratic Party, which relegated the Liberals to No. 3 in Parliament after the 2011 elections. This time the Liberals soared from 34 seats to 184 in the 338-seat Parliament, while the Conservatives shed 60 seats and the New Democrats lost 59. The difference was Mr. Trudeau.

As Americans know well, legacy can be a boon and a bane. For Mr. Trudeau, his heritage was clearly a blessing, especially as almost half a century had elapsed between his father's election and his own. But in all those years, Canadians never fully lost their infatuation with the Trudeau era.

As for experience, the son is not the father. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who died in 2000, was a star lawyer, intellectual and minister of justice before becoming prime minister. Justin Trudeau, is not the intellectual dynamo his father was, and before he entered politics in 2007, he had been a snowboard instructor, high school teacher and nightclub bouncer (he remains a keen amateur boxer).

But after the Liberals' drubbing in 2011, the party found in Mr. Trudeau a fresh leader capable of inspiring much of the same excitement and loyalty as his father, especially among youthful voters. In politics, that counts for a lot, but it also creates a lot of expectations.

Canada Withdrawing Fighter Jets From Iraq, Syria, Trudeau Tells Obama

[AFP](#), October 21, 2015

Ottawa (AFP) – Canada's prime minister-elect Justin Trudeau said Tuesday he told US President Barack Obama that Canadian fighter jets would withdraw from fighting the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria.

But he gave no timeline.

"About an hour ago I spoke with President Obama," Trudeau told a press conference.

While Canada remains "a strong member of the coalition against ISIL," Trudeau said he made clear to the US leader "the commitments I have made around ending the combat mission."

Canada last year deployed CF-18 fighter jets to the region until March 2016, as well as about 70 special forces troops to train Kurds in northern Iraq.

During the campaign, Trudeau pledged to bring home the fighter jets and end its combat mission. But he vowed to keep military trainers in place.

His new Liberal government will be "moving forward with our campaign commitments in a responsible fashion," Trudeau said.

“We want to ensure that the transition is done in an orderly fashion.”

Meet Canada’s New Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau

By Deneen L. Brown

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

Justin Trudeau, the dashing eldest son of political legend Pierre Trudeau, has ushered in Canada’s first political dynasty with a stunning come-from-behind victory. But the new prime minister’s win may owe as much to voters’ fatigue with the outgoing government as to the legacy of his father.

The younger Trudeau defeated Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Monday’s elections, ending a nine-year reign that had shifted Canada politically to the right.

The victory comes just weeks after Trudeau’s Liberal Party was running third in the polls, behind Harper’s Conservatives and Thomas Mulcair’s center-left New Democratic Party.

Both Mulcair and Harper had taunted the athletic Trudeau, 43, in campaign ads that referred to him as “Justin” and made fun of his “nice hair.” Critics said he was too young and inexperienced to become prime minister.

But Trudeau ran a tireless 78-day campaign based on change and optimism at a time when many frustrated voters wanted “anyone but Harper.” Trudeau, a former schoolteacher, ran on a centrist platform, to the left of the Conservatives but to the right of the NDP. He also benefited from many Canadians’ fond memories of his father, a public intellectual who was prime minister from 1968 to 1979 and from 1980 to 1984.

“The reason he got the job of leadership is the same reason Hillary [Clinton] and Jeb Bush can run — name recognition,” said Nelson Wiseman, director of the Canadian Studies Program at the University of Toronto. “He is personable. He is a family man. He has three kids. That is appealing. But he doesn’t have much gravitas. He is an intellectual lightweight compared with his father.”

Canadians wanted Harper out. He was accused of being stiff, autocratic and out of touch with Canadian values on environmental issues, race and immigration.

Harper, 56, who was seeking a fourth term, had made a controversial push to prohibit use of the niqab, a face veil worn by some Muslim women, at Canadian citizenship ceremonies. Many Canadians were also upset at Harper’s reluctance to accept refugees from Syria. The government said at the start of this year that it would accept 10,000 Syrian refugees over three years. But only a fraction of that number have been admitted.

Former prime minister Jean Chrétien wrote in a column published in the *Globe and Mail* and other Canadian newspapers that Harper’s stance on the refugee crisis created an international impression of Canada as a “cold-hearted” nation. “What has happened to the country that was a model for peace and stability in a tumultuous world?” Chrétien wrote that he is frequently asked.

Trudeau had called for the government to accept 25,000 refugees.

The Conservatives also were hurt by recent political scandals, including one involving a senator on trial over fraud suspicions.

“Two-thirds of Canadian voters said the Conservatives lost the moral authority to govern,” Wiseman said. “The election revolved around one issue: Do you want to keep the government of Harper or not.”

Harper had called in August for the election, thinking a longer campaign and a bigger Conservative Party budget would wear down the Liberals and the NDP. Very few predicted a Liberal victory. But days before the election, polls showed a Liberal surge. The party wound up capturing 184 seats, enough to form a majority government.

Trudeau becomes Canada’s second-youngest prime minister. The youngest was Joe Clark, of the Progressive Party, who took office in 1979, a day before his 40th birthday.

During his victory speech, delivered in French and English, Trudeau told a cheering crowd in Montreal: “Lots of people will have lots of opinions about why we were successful.”

Against the backdrop of a Canadian flag, Trudeau said his campaign had simply used an old-fashioned political strategy.

“We met with and talked with as many Canadians as we could,” he said. “We won this election because we listened. We met with hundreds of people in the dead of winter in the Arctic and people in the middle of Brampton. You built this platform; you built this movement. . . .

“You told us it is getting harder and harder to make ends meet and to get ahead. You told us you were concerned about your retirement. . . . I am not the one who made history tonight. You are.”

Not once during the nearly 30-minute speech did he mention his father by name. Under Pierre Trudeau, Canada officially became a bilingual country. The elder Trudeau had pushed for multiculturalism, a constitutional bill of rights known as the

Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the end of provisions that gave the British Parliament a say in Canada's laws and constitution.

Justin Trudeau's only reference to having grown up as the son of the legendary prime minister came when he thanked his own three little children, who he said were fast asleep by the time of the victory speech, after midnight Monday.

"There will be difficult moments as children of a prime minister," he said, "but Dad will be there for you."

Justin Trudeau, born in Ottawa on Dec. 25, 1971, grew up in the public eye, traveling the world with his father. He was the eldest of three sons born to Pierre Trudeau and the former Margaret Sinclair, who was three decades younger than her husband.

When Justin was 6, his parents divorced. Pierre Trudeau became a single father.

The elder Trudeau had charisma as prime minister, bringing what many voters believed to be glamour and excitement to Canadian politics. He dated celebrities, including Barbra Streisand; was photographed sliding down banisters; and pirouetted when Queen Elizabeth II's back was turned.

"Pierre Trudeau was a bit of an iconoclast, which endeared him to many people, but also got him into a lot of trouble," said Elise Chenier, a history professor at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia.

Justin Trudeau's critics said he could never compare to his father.

"Almost everybody looks like an intellectual lightweight compared to Pierre Trudeau," Chenier said.

Justin Trudeau graduated with a bachelor of arts in literature from McGill University in 1994, and later earned a degree in education at the University of British Columbia. He taught school from 1999 to 2002, giving classes in drama, French, English and social studies. He also worked as a nightclub bouncer and a snowboarding instructor.

Some say he was not interested in politics in his younger years.

But in 1998, his brother Michel died in an avalanche. And in 2000, his father died from prostate cancer.

Justin Trudeau's televised eulogy at his father's funeral propelled him before the public, and some Canadians began quietly speculating that perhaps one day he, too, would be a political leader.

During the eulogy, the younger Trudeau recalled a visit to his father's office in Parliament. Justin was 8. He and Trudeau went to the cafeteria where Justin recognized one of his father's political rivals. The boy made a joke about the man.

"My father looked at me sternly . . . and said, 'You never attack the person. You may be in total disagreement with the person, however, you shouldn't denigrate him.' He took me by the hand and led me to meet this man," Justin Trudeau recalled. "He was a very nice man. . . . It was at that moment I understood that having different opinions from those of another person should in no way stop you from holding them in the greatest respect possible as people."

Justin Trudeau told the crowd that his father taught his three sons to believe in themselves, to stand up for themselves and to have passion for life.

"We knew we were the luckiest kids in the world. And we had done nothing to actually deserve it. It was instead something we would have to spend the rest of our lives to work hard to live up to."

In 2008, Justin Trudeau defeated a Bloc Quebecois incumbent to win in the "riding," or electoral district, of Papineau, one of the poorest in Canada. In April 2013, he was elected leader of Canada's Liberal Party.

Days later, Harper released an attack ad saying that Trudeau was "way over his head."

On Monday night, Trudeau told the crowd that the Liberals had overcome those attacks by offering a positive vision.

"Most of all we defeated the idea that Canadians should be satisfied with less, that good enough is good enough, and that better just isn't possible. Well, my friends, this is Canada, and in Canada better is always possible."

Read more:

Canada's election has taken less than three months. Canadians can't wait for it to end.

How a Muslim veil is dominating Canada's election race

Today's coverage from Post correspondents around the world

Canada's New Governing Party Promises To Legalize, Regulate Marijuana Sales

By Trevor Hughes

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

DENVER — Canada's leap to the left in Monday's elections could have the country singing a new anthem: "Oh, Cannabis."

The United States' largest trade partner overwhelmingly selected Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party to run Canada, a sweeping change that may lead to full marijuana legalization for our northern neighbor, which already allows medical pot use.

Trudeau promised that under his leadership Canada would create a system to tax, regulate and sell marijuana, along with stiff penalties for anyone giving pot to children or caught driving while stoned. The Liberal Party's cannabis legalization statement echoes the language used by many U.S. legalization advocates.

"Canada's current system of marijuana prohibition does not work. It does not prevent young people from using marijuana and too many Canadians end up with criminal records for possessing small amounts of the drug," the party's position statement says. "To ensure that we keep marijuana out of the hands of children, and the profits out of the hands of criminals, we will legalize, regulate, and restrict access to marijuana."

U.S.-based cannabis activists hailed Trudeau's election as a milestone, suggesting that a day may soon come when cross-border trade talks include not just the Keystone XL pipeline, maple syrup or prescription drugs, but also legal weed. Border states Alaska and Washington have already legalized recreational marijuana use, as have Colorado, Oregon and the District of Columbia.

"It's no longer a pipe dream to imagine a day when consumers and growers in Washington state and British Columbia, for example, could be ordering each other's wares on the Internet for cross-border shipment," said Tom Angell, chairman of the pro-legalization Marijuana Majority.

Trudeau earlier this month said he'd begin work to legalize marijuana in Canada "right away" if elected, but declined to specify a timeline for implementation. His campaign told CBC News that it was looking to Colorado as a potential model.

Colorado permits residents to buy and possess up to an ounce of marijuana at a time, and taxes each sale. Last month the state collected nearly \$12 million in marijuana taxes, with the money used to fund school construction and anti-abuse campaigns.

In 2003 and 2004, Canada's Liberal Party offered a proposal to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana, but the plan died and a Conservative government took power in 2006. At the time, U.S. officials invoked the specter of prolonged border crossings if Canada changed its laws to permit broader marijuana use.

Since 2001, Canada has permitted medical marijuana use, as do 23 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

Canada's potential move toward recreational legalization could add to a growing international discussion about drug possession and penalties, which has become a major cause for billionaire entrepreneur Richard Branson, who on Monday renewed his push for the United Nations to back decriminalization of drug use.

"Together with countless other tireless advocates, I've for years argued that we should treat drug use as a health issue, not as a crime," Branson wrote on his blog, responding to a draft U.N. proposal. "While the vast majority of recreational drug users never experience any problems, people who struggle with drug addiction deserve access to treatment, not a prison cell."

Liberal Win Gives Boost To Canada Marijuana Industry

[AFP](#), October 21, 2015

Ottawa (AFP) – Justin Trudeau's election win gave Canadian pot stocks a boost Tuesday with his promise to legalize recreational cannabis expected to help the nation's nascent medical marijuana industry.

Share prices for cannabis producers jumped an average of five to 10 percent in relatively high volume trading early in the day.

The companies already produce marijuana for medical use in Canada, and investors are betting they could quickly scale up to serve recreational pot users too, once Trudeau makes good on his promise.

Canopy Growth rose 11 percent to Can\$2.43, while Aphria Inc. rose 5.3 per cent to Can\$1 and Mettrum Health Corp. gained 6.0 percent to Can\$1.95.

"Trudeau's vow to legalize and regulate marijuana... has set in motion the single most important catalyst for the marijuana space," Dundee Capital Markets analyst Aaron Salz said in a Tuesday note to clients.

At least one company is also looking beyond Canada's borders hoping that G20 nations will adopt Canada's regulatory framework for pot, creating new markets for their wares.

Bruce Linton, who co-founded the firm Tweed, said he was betting on "significant growth" in the sector, as legitimate firms move into a space now dominated by black market growers and sellers, and offer buyers a large variety of pesticide-free strains.

Linton's company opened in a former chocolate factory an hour's drive from Ottawa last year under a new government scheme that banned home cultivation in favor of large commercial greenhouses.

It merged with Canopy and Bedrocan in the spring to form the largest commercial pot grower in Canada. The parent company changed its name to Canopy in September.

Tweed was one of only six firms initially licensed by Health Canada to grow and sell fresh medical marijuana and cannabis oil to eligible persons. The number of licenses issued has since grown to 26.

An estimated one million out of Canada's 35 million people regularly smoke marijuana, according to 2014 surveys.

Trudeau has admitted he smoked the drug at a dinner party with friends after being elected to parliament in 2008.

He said his late brother Michel was facing marijuana possession charges for a "tiny amount" of pot before his death in an avalanche in 1998. This influenced his decision to call for legalizing and regulating cannabis, Trudeau has said.

Justin Trudeau, Son Of A Canadian Leader, Follows His Own Path To Power

By Ian Austen

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

OTTAWA — When Justin Trudeau moves into the prime minister's official residence, it will be a homecoming. His parents lived there, in the gray stone house at 24 Sussex Drive in Ottawa, when he was born on Christmas Day in 1971.

In a country where political dynasties are rare, Mr. Trudeau will be the first Canadian to follow a parent into the country's highest political office, thanks to his Liberal Party's surprisingly sweeping victory in the election on Monday, ending nine years of Conservative government.

And there are many easy parallels to draw between him and his father, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who led the country for 15 years beginning in 1968.

Start with the superficial: good looks, rugged athleticism, glamorous wife, rapturous fans. More substantially: unusual outspokenness, reputations as agents of change, a sharp upward trajectory in the Liberals' fortunes on each man's watch.

Without doubt, the good luck to be born with Pierre's surname was a big help.

But Justin Trudeau is no dynast who slipped effortlessly into a family political machine. He did not even enter politics until 18 years after his father gave it up, and seven years after his father's death. He built his own cadre of advisers, mostly from his own generation. And at key points in his career, he chose more difficult roads — partly, it appears, to show he had not been handed a life in politics on a platter.

"I do this not out of a sense of historical ambition or drive: 'My father did it, so I have to,' " Mr. Trudeau said during a lengthy interview in 2013, shortly before he became the Liberal Party leader. "No, I do this because I think I have something to offer. If it turns out that I don't, that's just fine, too. But I'm fairly confident that I have something to offer that this country needs more of right now, which is an antidote to the kind of cynicism which is dominating too much of politics around the world."

The novelty of a sitting prime minister with young children made Justin Trudeau and his two brothers celebrities from birth, but Pierre Trudeau and his wife, Margaret, who came from a prominent political family herself, tried to give the boys some semblances of normalcy. The children rode the regular bus to public school (albeit with an unmarked car full of bodyguards right behind), and they mixed in class with children from a poor area of Ottawa as well as their own affluent neighbors.

When he was 7 or 8, Mr. Trudeau recalled, he overheard his parents giving away the secret of Santa Claus, and the next morning, he told a group of his friends in the schoolyard.

"Most of the kids ran off crying," he said. "But one turned to me and said: 'I know. I've always known. My mom told me when I was old enough to understand, because she couldn't afford presents for me.' "

Mr. Trudeau said he had immediately thought of the "mountain of presents under the tree at 24 Sussex," many of them sent by ambassadors to Canada. "That was one of those moments when I realized, 'Man, I'm very, very lucky, and it has nothing to do with the quality of the person I am or what kind of material stuff we have,' " he said. "Because this kid, Mark, was one of my best friends."

The media spotlight that fell on his childhood also obsessively documented the breakdown of his parents' marriage, a product of Margaret Trudeau's struggles with mental illness. When his father quit public life, the family moved to Montreal, and the retired prime minister led the life of a single parent, though an affluent one.

Both father and son came to elective politics relatively late in life, but Pierre Trudeau had already been active on the public stage at several important moments in Quebec's history. Notably, he supported a 1949 strike by asbestos miners, a turning point in the "quiet revolution" against the province's entrenched elite of Catholic clerics and Anglophone businessmen.

Justin Trudeau studied French and English literature at McGill University in Montreal, but after that, as he acknowledged, his path was a slightly aimless one. He went with friends on a backpacking trip around the world. He thought about law school, then returned to McGill to study education, only to drop out and move to British Columbia, his mother's home province, where he taught snowboarding and worked as a nightclub bouncer — an unlikely job, perhaps, for someone with his slender build.

"I was the one they'd send in to defuse a situation and escort someone out, because I was diplomatic," Mr. Trudeau said. "I've never felt physically threatened by anyone. I don't have a fear gene, I guess — I don't know."

He returned to education and taught in both a public high school and a private prep school in Vancouver, an experience that he said confirmed his belief in the public system.

At the prep school, "there were parents who spent a lot of time intimidating the teachers, because they make so much more money than them, and the kids were catching on to that and not respecting the teachers," he said. "There's something, I think, unhealthy about that level of privilege."

Two tragedies returned him to the public gaze. His brother Michel was killed in an avalanche in 1998, prompting a public outpouring of sympathy for the family. Then, when his devastated father died two years later, Mr. Trudeau delivered a eulogy that was broadcast live.

Rather than a safe Liberal seat, Mr. Trudeau ran in 2007 for one in downtown Montreal that was known for favoring Quebec-separatist candidates. He won, and has widened his margin of victory in each election since then.

Mr. Trudeau showed a penchant for unscripted remarks that could be refreshing or embarrassing. When Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that Canadian fighter jets would join the American-led campaign against the Islamic State militant group, Mr. Trudeau responded with a vulgar metaphor that many called juvenile. And he raised eyebrows in 2013 when he said, "There's a level of admiration I actually have for China: Their basic dictatorship is actually allowing them to turn their economy around on a dime."

Opponents have pounced on his miscues and tried to paint him as naïve and ill-prepared. But Bob Rae, the interim leader of the Liberals whom Mr. Trudeau succeeded, said the occasional verbal blunders did not reflect Mr. Trudeau's true nature. He "doesn't necessarily come to his conclusions immediately or grammatically," Mr. Rae said, but he is "a thoughtful, intelligent guy."

Mr. Rae said many people mistook Mr. Trudeau's consensual approach to politics for weakness or indiscipline. "You don't become the leader of a major party by just being a nice guy," he said.

Mr. Trudeau will become of a prime minister of many firsts, some of them trivial: the first who regularly boxes (at least one a week), the first to have acted in a television mini-series (playing a war hero in a World War I drama) and, as far as anyone knows, the first with tattoos (a globe from his 20s; a raven in a Haida Indian pattern added when he turned 40).

The circle of aides around him began as his friends. He met Gerald Butts, now his principal adviser, when they both studied at McGill. He grew up with Dominic LeBlanc, the son of one of Pierre Trudeau's cabinet ministers and now his closest ally in Parliament. Anna Gainey, the party president, is another old friend.

For all that his family connections have done for his political career, though, Mr. Trudeau said it had worked the other way, too.

"There have been people out there who love me because of my father; there are people out there who hate me because of my father," he said. "I've had to learn to not entirely disregard that, but understand that either side of those is not based in a reality that I can use as an anchor for who or what I am."

Why The Obamas Should Have A State Dinner For Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

By Emily Heil

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

Is it too soon to start a campaign to urge the White House to host newly elected Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau?

Not that we would, of course, but it seems that we neighbors to the south would like to get an up-close-and-personal look at Canada's young first couple. Make that reeal close. (Sample headline since Trudeau's election last night: Canada's hot new prime minister has the Internet sweating maple syrup.)

The Trudeaus have a lot in common with the Obamas, so it's not like the evening would be one of those stuffy, grit-your-teeth-till-it's-over affairs for POTUS and FLOTUS: At 54 and 51, they're not that much older than their Canadian counterparts: He's 43; she's 40. And they'd have lots to talk about, apart from liberal politics, like fitness! (Trudeau is an amateur boxer, and his wife is a yoga instructor, in addition to being a former TV journo).

The White House hasn't held a dinner for our friends just across the border since 1997. Compare that to France, which has had three since 1996, or the UK, which has had four since then. And previous presidents hosted Trudeau's dad, Pierre, who was his country's long-serving PM. President Jimmy Carter hosted him in 1977 and President Gerald Ford in 1974.

Picture it: Toronto-born Drake is the evening's entertainment. White House chef Cristeta Comerford whips up an artisanal version of poutine. There are subtle maple leaves in the centerpieces, and Ontario native Justin Bieber is chatting up SecState John Kerry about bilateral relations.

What's not to like, eh?

Cozying Up To Obama, Biden Says He Backed Bin Laden Raid :: WRAL.com

By Josh Lederman

[Associated Press](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON — Still silent about his presidential ambitions, Vice President Joe Biden cast himself as President Barack Obama's kindred spirit Tuesday and backtracked on his previous claims to have advised Obama against the raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

Without mentioning Hillary Rodham Clinton by name, Biden sought to portray his own leadership as more critical to the Obama administration's successes than that of the Democratic front-runner and former secretary of state. At a forum honoring former Vice President Walter Mondale, Biden offered clear hints at how, if he runs for president, he would contest Clinton's claim to the president's legacy and appeal to Democratic voters whose loyalty to Obama remains firm.

"President Obama and I have ideologically had no disagreement," Biden said. "I mean none. Zero."

In an unusual reversal, Biden revised his claim to have warned Obama against the bin Laden raid in 2011 — a notion Obama himself corroborated in a 2012 presidential debate. As Obama campaigned for re-election, that factoid had the effect of making Obama appear more bullish and prescient than his advisers, but could be used as an argument against Biden's foreign policy bona fides if he challenges Clinton for the nomination.

Clinton has said she supported the raid from the start, using it as an example on the campaign trail to bolster her credibility as a valued and hardened adviser to Obama on matters of national security. But Biden implicitly contradicted Clinton's account, insisting that only the defense secretary and CIA chief were fully in favor of the raid.

According to Biden's account, Obama asked his advisers in the Situation Room whether to proceed with the risky raid on a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Biden said he suggested holding off while the military flew another drone over the compound to gain certainty about bin Laden's whereabouts, but stopped short of saying "go" or "don't go" in front of other advisers to avoid undercutting Obama's ultimate decision.

Instead, Biden said, he waited until he and Obama had left the room and offered his opinion in private: "I told him my opinion. I thought he should go, but follow his own instincts," Biden said.

Adding another wrinkle to the historical account, Biden said he knew about the Abbottabad compound where bin Laden was hiding in August 2010 — long before the "major players" in Obama's Cabinet learned about it in January or February.

The vice president's new take on a years-old event put the White House in a difficult spot, the latest example of how a Biden candidacy would imbue the rest of Obama's presidency with heavy political overtones. White House spokesman Josh Earnest declined to say whether Biden's recollection was accurate.

"I'm going to leave the dissection and the oral history, if you will, of those days to those who were actually there," Earnest said.

The Democratic political world has been on edge for weeks awaiting a decision from Biden, who has blown past his own deadlines for deciding even as advisers insist he understands the importance of getting in or out soon. Rampant speculation took a chaotic turn Monday with a flood of assertions that Biden was running or would announce a run imminently.

With his 2016 deliberations extending deep into overtime, Biden offered no explicit clues about his decision. Yet he took a number of veiled shots at Clinton, who said in last week's Democratic debate that the enemy she was most proud to have made was "probably the Republicans."

"I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party," Biden said, adding that he still has many friends in the GOP.

In another observation that seemed directed at Clinton, Biden said he was the one Obama would dispatch to speak to key world leaders like Russian President Vladimir Putin or Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"We've had two great secretaries of state, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the president," Biden said.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

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Joe Biden Draws Distinctions Between Himself And Hillary Clinton

By Margaret Talev

[Bloomberg Politics](#), October 20, 2015

If Vice President Joe Biden decides to challenge Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination, the contours of his stump speech are in place.

At an event honoring former Vice President Walter Mondale on Tuesday, Biden portrayed himself as the central player in President Barack Obama's administration on everything from working with congressional Republicans to the killing of Osama bin Laden.

Biden sought to recast perceptions of his advice to Obama regarding the 2011 raid that killed bin Laden and suggested he was more intimately involved in decision-making than any other Cabinet official, including former secretary of state Clinton.

"I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party."

Vice President Joe Biden

His account on Tuesday differed somewhat from his previous public recollections of the deliberations. In an account given to Democratic lawmakers in 2012 Biden said that only then-CIA Director Leon Panetta was in favor of going forward with the raid. Biden told the lawmakers that he told Obama to seek more verification. "My suggestion is, don't go," he said at the time. "We have to do two more things to see if he's there."

On Tuesday, Biden said he made a case for a third option that was neither for nor against going forward and was meant to give Obama space to decide. He said he didn't want to undermine the president by staking out a position that might contradict Obama's final position. Biden said he suggested using a drone to make another attempt to verify the target. "I think we should make one more pass" to see if it really is bin Laden, Biden said on Tuesday that he told Obama.

"I didn't want to take a position to 'go' if that was not where he was going to go," he said. Biden said that minutes later when he and Obama were alone he told Obama that he would say to "go" but that ultimately Obama should "follow his own instincts."

"I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval with him alone," Biden said.

In describing his own stance, Biden also indirectly questioned Clinton's suggestion in a 2014 memoir that she had always favored the raid while Biden needed convincing. Biden said Tuesday that only two top Obama advisers took firm positions, with Panetta in favor of the raid and then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates advising against it.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said he wasn't in the room when the decision was made and that he wouldn't comment on private conversations between Obama and Biden.

William Daley, who was White House chief of staff at the time and was at Tuesday's event, told the New York Times that Biden's account of the Situation Room discussion was correct.

For the second time this week, Biden also sought to portray himself as a pragmatist who's capable of working with Republicans, drawing a subtle contrast with party front-runner Clinton.

"I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party," Biden said during the moderated discussion, in which he and Mondale shared their experiences as vice president. By contrast, Clinton named "the Republicans" as one of her greatest enemies when asked at the Oct. 13 Democratic candidate debate.

Like Mondale, Biden spent years before becoming vice president as a member of the Senate, where the rules make it nearly impossible to move legislation without compromise. He has served as Obama's chief emissary to Congress, particularly in negotiations with the Republican leadership there.

During the moderated discussion with Mondale, Biden also said that "we've had two great secretaries of state," under President Obama, Clinton and John Kerry, but that when the vice president speaks with a foreign leader, they know that "I am speaking for the president."

Biden is expected to signal whether he intends to make a third try for the Democratic nomination by the end of the week, according to people close to him. He has stepped-up contacts with union officials and other prospective backers in recent days.

Clinton, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, and the other Democratic candidates are scheduled to speak at Saturday's Jefferson-Jackson dinner for the Iowa Democratic Party, which attracts thousands of Democratic activists in the first-caucus state. Biden's staff has neither signaled nor ruled out an appearance at the dinner in Des Moines.

Biden Revises Account Of His Advice On Bin Laden Raid

By Paul Singer

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

Vice President Biden has revised his account of his advice to President Obama on the raid that led to the death of Osama bin Laden in 2011.

While Biden reiterated that he suggested in front of Cabinet officials that Obama wait, on Tuesday Biden added another element to the story: Privately, he told Obama to move forward.

"As we walked out of the room and walked upstairs, I told him my opinion, that I thought he should go but follow his own instincts," Biden said during remarks at the "Walter Mondale: Living Legacy" forum.

The comment followed an account by Mondale of how he would only disagree with President Jimmy Carter in private during his tenure as vice president. Biden agreed and said that advice from Mondale came in "extremely handy" during the decision process leading to the May 2011 raid by U.S. Navy SEALs on bin Laden's compound.

Biden said he was part of a small group that knew as early as August 2010 that bin Laden may be hiding out in Abbottabad, Pakistan. When Obama asked Cabinet officials for their advice, only two were definitive. Then-CIA Director Leon Panetta said to go ahead with the raid, while then-Defense Secretary Bob Gates advised against it, Biden said.

"Others were 59-41," he said. "Some ended up saying 'go,' but it was such a close call."

Biden repeated his previous statement that he advised during that meeting against immediate action and added that he said, "I think we should make one more pass" with a drone to ensure bin Laden was there.

But this time, Biden said he actually didn't want to take a public position that ran afoul of the president's wishes.

"It would have been a mistake," Biden said. "Imagine if I had said in front of everyone, 'don't go, or go' and his decision was a different decision. It undercuts that relationship. I never on a difficult issue, never say what I think, finally, until I go up in the Oval with him alone."

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said he was not in the Situation Room at the time and couldn't shed any additional light on what advice Biden gave.

"There have already been books that have been written about this. I'm confident there will be more," Earnest said. "I will leave the dissection and the oral history of those days to those who were actually there."

After the forum, former White House chief of staff Bill Daley backed up Biden's account, telling reporters in the audience, "I was in the room and I saw him walk out with the president," according to a tweet from Paul Kane of The Washington Post.

"His explanation of that is absolutely on point," Daley said, according to another tweet from Kane.

In January 2012, Biden told Democratic members of Congress during a retreat that his advice was "don't go" and "We have to do two more things to see if he's there." He then ended the story there, citing the situation as an example of Obama's strength as a leader.

Later, Biden referenced his private conversation with Obama during a May 2012 interview on Meet the Press, saying "I knew he was going to go."

"He looked at me again, and I said 'Follow your instincts, Mr. President,'" Biden said.

Biden's account of the Cabinet meeting, in which Panetta was the only official to definitively green-light the raid, may conflict with the account by Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, who was then serving as secretary of State.

In her book *Hard Choices*, Clinton wrote that she respected Biden's and Gates' concerns about the risks of a raid. She said she laid out the risks for Obama, but she concluded the raid was worth it.

"I thought we should go for it," she wrote.

Biden, who is considering a presidential run, made other statements during the Tuesday forum that could be perceived as digs at Clinton, including his reference to his relationship with Republicans. During the first Democratic debate on Oct. 13, Clinton listed Republicans among the enemies she's most proud of making.

"Whenever there's a problem, I get sent to the Hill, which, by the way, is a useful use of my time because I really respect the members up there, and I still have a lot of Republican friends," said Biden, who represented Delaware in the Senate for 36 years before becoming vice president.

"I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican party," he said. "This is a matter of making things work."

Biden also said the administration has had two "great" secretaries of state.

"But when I go, they know I am speaking for the president," he said.

Biden Says He Didn't Oppose Raid That Killed Bin Laden

By Gardiner Harris And Jonathan Martin

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON — If Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. decides to run for the presidency again, his best chance may well be to present himself as President Obama's third-term successor. On Tuesday, Mr. Biden took the first step, describing himself as Mr. Obama's most essential partner while taking subtle swipes at his would-be rival for the Democratic nomination, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Along the way, Mr. Biden sought to recast his role in the raid to kill Osama bin Laden, arguably the most picked-over moment of Mr. Obama's presidency and one that might hurt Mr. Biden's presidential chances.

Mr. Biden had previously said that he had advised the president against launching the special forces raid on the Abbottabad compound where Bin Laden was suspected of hiding. At a Democratic congressional retreat in January 2012, Mr. Biden said that almost every other official in the Situation Room had hedged on a response when asked by the president whether he should order the raid.

"I said, 'We owe the man a direct answer. Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there,'" Mr. Biden said then.

It was a potential weakness that Mrs. Clinton has signaled she might exploit. At a debate last week in Las Vegas, Mrs. Clinton boasted she was one of the few advisers to support "the tough decision that President Obama had to make about Osama bin Laden."

But by January 2013, Mr. Biden had begun hedging on whether he had opposed the raid.

"I remember walking up to his office and saying: 'Look, follow your instincts. Follow your instincts,'" he said in a January 2013 interview.

When asked specifically whether he had advised against the raid, Mr. Biden said: "Let me put it this way: My advice was, follow your instincts, knowing what his instinct was."

On Tuesday, Mr. Biden's evolution continued. Before an audience at George Washington University, Mr. Biden said he never gave Mr. Obama definitive advice on controversial issues in front of other officials, mindful that he did not want the rest of the team to see a difference between his opinion and that of the president. With others around them, Mr. Biden said he suggested one more pass over the Abbottabad compound with an unmanned aerial vehicle, or drone.

After the meeting in the Situation Room, though, Mr. Biden said he privately gave the president his real view. "As we walked out of the room and went upstairs, I told him my opinion, that I said that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts," Mr. Biden said Tuesday.

William M. Daley, who was Mr. Obama's chief of staff at the time and was present in the Situation Room when the Abbottabad raid was discussed, said shortly after Tuesday's forum that the meeting occurred as Mr. Biden described it.

The description of the meeting about the Abbottabad raid was one of several moments when Mr. Biden seemed to take swipes, at least indirectly, at Mrs. Clinton. He did not mention Mrs. Clinton as among those who had definitively supported the Abbottabad raid, although she and Mr. Daley said she had been. In a wide-ranging conversation with former Vice President Walter F. Mondale about his vice presidency, Mr. Biden mentioned that he had flown more than one million miles to speak to world leaders.

"We've had two great secretaries of state," he said, "but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the president. There is nothing missed between the lip and the cup. Whatever I say, the president is saying."

At another point in the discussion, Mr. Biden mentioned that he was the administration's primary interlocutor with Capitol Hill.

"And I still have a lot of Republican friends," Mr. Biden said, adding for the second time in two days, "I don't think my chief enemy there is the Republican Party. This is a matter of making things work." Later, at another event honoring the 87-year-old Mr. Mondale on Tuesday night, Mr. Biden went even further, calling it "naïve" to think that the country can be governed without bipartisan cooperation.

In last week's Democratic debate, Mrs. Clinton was asked which enemies she is most proud of making.

"Well, in addition to the N.R.A., the health insurance companies, the drug companies, the Iranians," she responded to laughter, "probably the Republicans."

Mr. Biden's subtle digs could presage the kind of negative primary campaign that has so far largely been confined to the Republican side. Even if he does not enter the race, the vice president's comments suggested that he is unhappy with Mrs. Clinton and unlikely to get behind his former Senate and administration colleague any time soon. Either possibility — testy rival or sideline critic — is not pretty for Democrats and particularly Obama loyalists.

Political analysts have pointed out that Mr. Biden's best and perhaps only chance to secure his party's nomination would be to persuade center-left Democrats, particularly blacks and Hispanics, that he and not Mrs. Clinton is Mr. Obama's true heir. Mr. Obama remains wildly popular among those groups. A Washington Post/ABC News poll this week put the president's approval rating at 78 percent among nonwhite voters.

Mr. Biden was not the only one seeming to eye Mr. Obama's voters on Tuesday. A few hours before the event here, Mrs. Clinton's campaign released a list of more than 50 black mayors supporting her campaign, more than half of them from South Carolina, an early nominating state where Mr. Biden is expected to compete aggressively should he run.

So far, Mr. Obama has done nothing to signal that he would bestow such a blessing on either his vice president or his former secretary of state. But Mr. Biden did his best to suggest that he and the president are all but joined at the hip.

He said the two of them spent four to seven hours every day together, that the president had given him veto authority over every cabinet pick, that he never disagreed with the president ideologically, only tactically, and that even their families were close.

Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, said that while four to seven hours together "is not a daily occurrence" the claim was "generally accurate."

Biden's Evolving Position On The Osama Bin Laden Raid

By Greg Jaffe

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

Vice President Biden seemed to change his account on Tuesday of the role he played in the White House debate surrounding the 2011 raid that killed Osama bin Laden. This time he recalled telling President Obama that he strongly supported sending in a team of Navy SEALs into Pakistan to kill or capture the al-Qaeda leader.

"As we walked out of the room, walked upstairs, I told him my opinion: I thought he should go, but follow his own instincts," Biden said Tuesday at a George Washington University forum.

With Biden mulling a run for the presidency, his latest account seems designed to buttress his qualifications to serve as commander-in-chief. But the vice president, who has a reputation as a voice of caution when it comes to committing American forces, seems to have contradicted his earlier memories of the final meeting before the bin Laden raid.

Biden's revised account puts him in the same camp as Hillary Rodham Clinton, Obama's former secretary of state and Biden's chief rival if he runs, who has long said that she supported sending in special operations forces to raid bin Laden's Abbottabad compound in Pakistan.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest declined to answer questions about whether Biden had changed his story. "I'm going to leave the dissection and the oral history, if you will, of those days to those who were actually there," Earnest said.

Former White House chief of staff Bill Daley backed up a key element of Biden's account. "I think the way he articulated it was absolutely the truth. I was in the room and I saw him walk out with the president," said Daley, who wasn't part of their private, post-meeting conversation.

In 2012 remarks at a Democratic congressional retreat, Biden suggested that he had been against launching the raid until there was better intelligence about bin Laden's whereabouts. "Every single person in that room hedged their bet except Leon Panetta," Biden said, according to 2012 ABC News report. "He got to me. He said, 'Joe, what do you think?' And I said, 'You know, I didn't know we had so many economists around the table.' I said, 'We owe the man a direct answer. Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there.'"

Biden gave a slightly fuzzier accounting to NBC News's "Meet the Press" a few months later. The vice president recalled Obama taking a "roll call" of his top national security advisers: "The only guy who had a full-throated 'go, Mr. President,' was Leon Panetta," Biden told NBC. He said held back his advice until he and the president were alone and then counseled: "Follow your instincts, Mr. President. Your instincts have been close to unerring; follow your instincts."

Biden's memory is directly at odds with at least one other account of the lead up to the historic raid. Then-Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates recalled the same meeting in his book, "Duty," and described Biden as being staunchly opposed to launching the commandos. "Biden was against the operation," Gates writes. "[Gen. James] Cartwright and I supported the drone option. Panetta was in favor of the raid. Everyone else acknowledged it was a close call but also supported the raid."

A few pages prior, Gates said that he and Biden were the "two primary skeptics" of the raid.

In the past Obama has suggested that Biden opposed the raid. During his third presidential debate, Obama referred to Romney's previously voiced skepticism about the raid. "Those decisions generally—generally are not poll-tested," Obama said. "And even some in my own party, including my current vice president, had the same critique as you did."

Joe Biden Draws Contrasts With Hillary Clinton, Touts His Experience

Vice president details central role he has played in the Obama administration

By Colleen McCain Nelson And Peter Nicholas

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Joe Biden Offers A New Account Of His Role In The Bin Laden Raid

By Michael A. Memoli, Contact Reporter

[Los Angeles Times](#), October 21, 2015

Joe Biden used a Washington forum on the vice presidency Tuesday to highlight his close relationship with President Obama that would be at the heart of Biden's potential presidential campaign, even offering a fresh account of his counsel to Obama about targeting Osama bin Laden.

Through that anecdote and other remarks, Biden drew an implicit contrast with would-be rivals, primarily Hillary Rodham Clinton, in underscoring his singular closeness to Obama. But Biden's comments, while easily interpreted as politically infused given the ongoing speculation over whether he'll run, were in keeping with the spirit of the event – a tribute to how Walter Mondale, Jimmy Carter's vice president, modernized the office.

Still, by pointing to his own record, Biden seemed be countering assertions made by the declared candidates during the first Democratic debate a week ago.

Clinton had said during the debate that, as secretary of State, she was frequently in Situation Room meetings with Obama, "going over some very difficult issues." Among them was the decision to launch a special forces raid on a compound in Pakistan where Bin Laden was believed to be.

Clinton said last week that she was among Obama's "few advisors" advocating that he go through with the raid. Biden has previously said he urged the president to wait for more intelligence that might confirm Bin Laden's presence.

But on Tuesday, Biden offered a new account. The only Cabinet members who advised the president one way or another with absolute certainty were then-CIA Director Leon E. Panetta, who was in favor of a raid, and then-Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, who was against one, Biden said.

"Leon Panetta said, 'Go.' And Bob Gates, who has already publicly said this, said, 'Don't go.'" Others were torn, Biden said.

In the Situation Room, with others present, Biden said he advocated the president take "one more pass," sending a drone to see whether Bin Laden was at the compound. But in private, he said, he offered Obama different counsel.

"As we walked out of the room and walked upstairs, I said – I told him my opinion, that I thought he should go, but follow his own instincts," Biden said. "I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval with him alone."

That account differed from what has previously been reported and, to an extent, from what Biden himself has said. But William Daley, Obama's chief of staff at the time of the raid, confirmed Biden's account.

"That's exactly what happened," Daley said in a brief interview at Tuesday's event. "I've not heard him articulate it in that complete form. But he was absolutely accurate."

The Bin Laden raid was not the only example Biden offered of his unmatched relationship with Obama. "Depending on the season," Biden noted, the two spend four to seven hours a day together. And when they were first elected, Obama offered Biden veto power over the choice of Cabinet members and agreed to Biden's condition that Biden be "the last person in the room" for every major decision.

They argued at times, to be sure, but in the way that friends do, he said, and ultimately always agreed on a final decision.

The vice president said that although Obama has had "two great secretaries of State," when Biden traveled abroad to meet with foreign leaders, "they know that I am speaking for the president."

For the second straight day, Biden also seemed to draw another contrast with Clinton, who in the debate listed Republicans as among the enemies she was proudest to have.

"I still have a lot of Republican friends," Biden said Tuesday as he discussed how often he'd been sent to Capitol Hill on administration priorities. "I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party. This is a matter of making things work."

Biden noted he had initially refused Obama's offer to join the ticket but was ultimately persuaded to sign on by his family.

"The best decision of my political career was to join the president," he said.

For now.

Biden Sets Himself Apart From Clinton In Speech

By Cameron Joseph

[New York Daily News](#), October 20, 2015

WASHINGTON — Joe Biden isn't yet in the White House race — but that isn't stopping him from drawing some implicit contrasts with Hillary Clinton, and contradicting her version of the raid that killed Osama Bin Laden.

Biden used his time on a panel with former Vice President Walter to rebuke Clinton's version of the Bin Laden raid, disputing claims he opposed it and suggesting she wasn't as adamantly in favor as she claims.

The vice president, who's expected to make a final decision on running for the White House in the coming days, never mentioned Clinton by name. But time and again he suggested how he'd contrast himself with the Democratic front-runner if he does run for President.

He said he knew about Bin Laden's compound months before most of the cabinet, and claimed Clinton wasn't 100% firm on going after the terrorist leader. That contradicts Clinton's version — and changes his own version of the story by adding that he'd intentionally avoided taking a stand while meeting with the cabinet before privately backing it so as to not create a possible split with Obama.

Biden said Defense Secretary Leon Panetta was the only person in the room who was unequivocal in supporting the raid, and claimed that he personally supported a "third option" of more surveillance in the meeting before privately telling Obama he thought he should go through with the raid.

"I didn't want to take a position to go if that was not where he was going to go. So as we walked out of the room and walked upstairs I said, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go, but to follow his own instincts," Biden said.

Biden's new details make him out to be a supporter of the high-stakes raid that killed Bin Laden — a big shift from the common narrative that he resisted it, one Clinton's allies have hinted could be a main attack line if Biden does jump into the race. Clinton regularly mentions her support of the raid on the campaign trail.

"I said, 'We owe the man a direct answer. Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there,'" Biden told House Democrats in January 2012.

Bill Daley, Obama's chief of staff at the time of the Bin Laden raid who was in the meeting, told the Daily News after the panel that Biden's new version of events was "totally accurate."

"Some have spun that he was against it. The way that he articulated it was the absolute truth," he said. "Walking up the stairs, he absolutely did that, he walked out with the president that day."

Biden took some other veiled shots at Clinton throughout the event, repeatedly emphasizing his close relationship with President Obama and arguing he's the man who can reach across the aisle to end D.C.'s partisan gridlock.

"I still have a lot of Republican friends," he said for the second time in as many days, alluding to Clinton's comments during last week's debate that Republicans were one of the enemies she's most proud of. "I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party. This is a matter of making things work."

He said he agreed to join Obama's presidential ticket because "I was simpatico with the president-elect" and because "we had a genuine relationship," before claiming Obama gave him a veto over any potential cabinet members, implying he had to approve Clinton as secretary of state. Tags: joe biden , hillary clinton , 2016 election

As He Ponders Run, Biden Touts Accomplishments At Forum

By Annie Linskey

[Boston Globe](#), October 20, 2015

WASHINGTON – Vice President Joe Biden stressed his close ties to President Obama, touted his bipartisan relationships on Capitol Hill, and bragged about his foreign policy chops during a forum at George Washington University Tuesday morning.

It sounded an awful lot like the outline of a stump speech.

Biden's deliberations about whether to jump into the 2016 presidential race have put Washington on edge. The clearest sign of that angst came on Monday night when The Washington Post accidentally published a story online declaring that Biden had entered the race. The piece was quickly taken down.

On Tuesday morning, Biden sat on stage with former Vice President Walter Mondale for a moderated conversation about the vice presidency.

Biden reminded the audience of his tendency to speak his mind — a trait that's hurt him in the past but is prized in the current electoral environment where authenticity is being rewarded over polish.

Clinton takes lead over Sanders in poll

Hillary Clinton regained much of the ground she lost during a summer of controversy, a new Washington Post-ABC News poll found.

E-mail rekindles speculation on Biden run

"No one doubts I mean what I say," Biden said. "Sometimes I say all that I mean."

Perhaps the most telling segment of the talk occurred when Biden revealed more about the back story of the 2011 decision to send special forces into Pakistan to kill Osama bin Laden, a risky move that is one of Obama's most significant foreign policy wins.

Biden has been on record recommending against the move, while Democratic front runner Hillary Clinton has said she supported sending in forces.

Biden, on Tuesday, said he was aware of Bin Laden's suspected hideout for a year prior to the raid and explained that he didn't want to unduly pressure the president by stating his views on the raid in front of other cabinet secretaries.

He said his private counsel to Obama was that the U.S. conduct one additional intelligence pass before giving the "go" order.

The vice president also cast doubt on Clinton's account that she fully supported the raid, saying that only two members of the cabinet offered Obama clear cut advice: Former Central Intelligence Director Leon Panetta, who recommended "yes;" and U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who was a "no" (he preferred bombing the compound).

The rest of the top officials — a group that included Clinton — all hedged, Biden said.

Biden also stressed some of his domestic policy wins. He talked about his role implementing the economic stimulus program, one of the early projects that Obama gave him.

"To this day, we are simpatico on all the major issues," Biden said of his relationship with Obama.

Biden drew another contrast with Clinton, saying "I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party."

During the Democratic debate last week, Clinton named "Republicans" as one group that she views as her enemy.

The one area that might raise a concern among some Democratic primary voters was his defense of former Vice President Dick Cheney, who is reviled by the party base.

"I actually like Dick Cheney for real," Biden said, adding that he was "very gracious" during the transition.

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Biden Says He Backed Bin Laden Raid All Along

By Jake Sherman

[Politico](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden on Tuesday contradicted Hillary Clinton's and his own previous accounts of the debate over the raid that killed Osama bin Laden — but he and the White House chief of staff at the time say this one is the accurate one.

Biden's revised account puts him further out in favor of going into Abbottabad than any member of President Barack Obama's cabinet at the time other than Leon Panetta, then the director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

That would include Clinton, Biden's potential opponent in the Democratic primary, should he decide to run.

It also seems to conflict with what Obama himself said about the decision, during his third 2012 debate with Mitt Romney, while reflecting on the Republican nominee's suggestion that he should have sought permission for the raid from the Pakistani government.

"Even some in my own party, including my current vice president, had the same critique as you did," Obama said then.

Tuesday, White House press secretary Josh Earnest deflected questions about Biden's new account of the debate, saying that comments about what happened should be left to the people who were in the room, which he was not.

"The decision that mattered was the decision that was made by the president of the United States," Earnest said.

On Tuesday morning, speaking at a forum at George Washington University, Biden said that he remembered being in favor of the raid all along, but worried about saying so in front of the other people in the room if Obama ultimately decided against it, to avoid causing a problem for the president on such a major decision.

"It would have been a mistake. Imagine if I had said in front of everybody, 'Don't go,' or 'Go,' and his decision was a different decision," Biden said. "It undercuts that relationship. I never — on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval [Office] with him alone."

Biden said that when he and Obama spoke privately after that meeting, he pressed the case to send in the Navy SEALs.

"As we walked out of the room, walked upstairs, I told him my opinion: I thought he should go, but follow his own instincts," Biden said.

Clinton, then the secretary of state, has discussed her position in the debate over the raid, saying that she was always for it, unlike others — Biden included — who had reservations. Biden has often been frustrated with that portrayal, even though Biden's previous statements appear to contradict his new account.

At a retreat for House Democrats in January 2012, Biden reportedly said he had told Obama not to do the raid during a meeting in the White House Situation Room.

"Every single person in that room hedged their bet except Leon Panetta," the New York Times reported Biden saying. "Leon said go. Everyone else said, 49, 51."

Asked by Obama what he thought, Biden relayed at the time, "We owe the man a direct answer. Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there."

In May 2012, Biden spoke about it differently in an appearance on "Meet the Press."

"I walked out of that meeting, as I usually do — I get to be the last guy to be with the president — we walked up toward the residence, toward his office," Biden said. "And I knew he was going to go. And what I always tell him when he — he looked at me again, and I said, follow your instincts, Mr. President. Your instincts have been close to unerring; follow your instincts."

Speaking on Tuesday morning at the forum co-hosted by the University of Minnesota celebrating the legacy of former Vice President Walter Mondale, Biden again recalled the moment as he discussed his central and unmatched role within the Obama White House.

To start, Biden said, he knew about the Abbottabad compound as early as August 2010, though "major players in the Cabinet didn't know about it until January or February."

The raid was on May 2, 2011.

Describing the scene in what he says was the Cabinet Room in the White House, Biden said there were only two people with firm opinions about what to do: Panetta and Gates, who has already said publicly that he was a no.

"Others," Biden said, were "49, 51."

Some ultimately said go, Biden said, but it was such a close call, he recalled saying to the Cabinet members that they "sounded like 17 Larry Summers" — economists saying, "on the one hand, on the other hand."

Biden's account Tuesday touched on an explanation for what he said at the meeting, which was seen as being against the raid.

"There was a third option that I didn't really think we should do. I said, 'Well, I think that we should make one more pass with another UAV to see if it is him,'" Biden said, referring to drone aircraft. "The reason I did that is I didn't want to take a position to go if that was not where he was going to go."

The vice president's office declined further comment, but Bill Daley, the White House chief of staff at the time, backed up Biden's new account in an interview after the vice president's remarks — though he acknowledged he was not privy to Biden's conversation with the president.

"The motivation's kind of fudgy, as is obvious — the Situation Room's not as private as you'd think it should be," Daley said, agreeing that this moment reflected Biden's practice of not disagreeing with Obama in front of others. "In the decision, that was pretty much his sort of fudging, and then he went out with the president as he said and walked up the stairs with him."

"That was about the most complete and accurate explanation I've heard from the vice president, which is reflected in what I remember," Daley said, adding that it's the previous version Biden has given that doesn't match his memory. "I don't remember him being that emphatic saying, 'Don't go, don't do this.'"

Panetta, in his book "Worthy Fights," gave a different account of both Clinton and Biden.

"Clinton acknowledged that more time might give us better intelligence, a sentiment others advanced as well, but she concluded that this was a rare opportunity and believed we should seize it," Panetta wrote. "Biden argued that we still did not have enough confidence that bin Laden was in the compound, and he came out firmly in favor of waiting for more information."

Mike Morell, then the deputy director of the CIA under Panetta, also recounted Biden's role in his own book, "The Great War of Our Time."

"The vice president was unconvinced about the intelligence and concerned about what a failed mission would do to our relations with Pakistan," Morell wrote.

Some other reported accounts say that Biden was concerned that if the raid had gone wrong, it might have cost Obama re-election.

Gates, whose book "Duty," is critical of Biden throughout to a degree that the vice president and other senior officials felt was unfair, wrote that "Biden's primary concern was the political consequences of failure."

Biden Contradicts Clinton's Account Of Bin Laden Raid Decision

By Jordan Fabian

[The Hill](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Biden on Tuesday offered a different account of his advice to President Obama on the Osama bin Laden raid, an issue that could haunt him if he decides to challenge Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Biden said that only two advisers — then-CIA Director Leon Panetta and Defense Secretary Robert Gates — gave definitive answers on whether Obama should carry out the raid, contradicting Clinton's claim she fully backed the mission.

"Panetta said go, Bob Gates said don't go," Biden said during a panel discussion with former Vice President Walter Mondale at George Washington University.

The vice president disputed claims he opposed the mission. He said he privately supported the raid, but while in a room with other advisers, recommended that Obama wait to verify whether bin Laden was actually in the Abbottabad, Pakistan, compound before launching the strike.

Biden said he only advised Obama to go when the two were alone to avoid boxing the president in on a decision.

"I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts," Biden said. "I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval [Office] with him alone."

Biden's account, however, differs from the one he gave in 2012. At that time, he told House Democrats he warned against the operation, one of the most consequential decisions of Obama's presidency.

"Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go," Biden told lawmakers, according to The New York Times. "We have to do two more things to see if he's there."

And the new account is different from Clinton's claim that she advised Obama to carry out the raid. During last week's Democratic debate, Clinton said she was "one of his few advisers" on the discussions surrounding the mission.

"He valued my judgment, and I spent a lot of time with him in the Situation Room, going over some very difficult issues," Clinton said of the president.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest on Tuesday dodged multiple questions about Biden's latest account of the raid, saying he would not comment on private conversations between the president and the vice president.

"I am going to leave the dissection and the oral history of those days to those who were actually there," Earnest said. "I don't have any new insight to share with you about the president's recollection of those events."

Earnest, who said he was following Biden's remarks on Twitter, said he was "not particularly" surprised by the vice president's new account but declined to elaborate further.

Biden used the hour-long appearance on Tuesday to draw sharp distinctions with Clinton while touting his close relationship with Obama.

He argued he would be best suited to work across the aisle with Republicans and carry on the legacy of Obama, who remains extremely popular with Democratic voters.

The vice president, who is expected to announce a 2016 decision in the coming days, did not mention Clinton by name, but he took a subtle jab at the former secretary of State, who said during the debate she sees Republicans as her "enemy."

"I still have a lot of Republican friends," Biden said. "I don't think my chief enemy is the Republican Party. This is a matter of making things work."

Biden said he's fond of former Vice President Dick Cheney, a deeply unpopular figure with Democrats, even though he disagrees with how he used his office.

"I actually like Dick Cheney, for real," Biden said. "I get on with him. I think he's a decent man."

Biden said he agreed to become Obama's vice president because of their close personal relationship and their nearly identical views on policy.

"It started off that I knew I was simpatico with the president-elect," Biden said. "We had a genuine relationship."

Biden said Obama granted him the ability to sign off on all Cabinet picks, implying that he agreed to allow Clinton to become secretary of State.

And he suggested he had the upper hand on Clinton and her successor, John Kerry, when speaking with foreign leaders.

"We've had two great secretaries of State, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the president," Biden said.

— This story was updated at 1:38 p.m.

Biden's Boasts Wreck Earnest's Day

It's not the first time the president's spokesman has had to field awkward questions about top aides with political ambitions.

By Sarah Wheaton

[Politico](#), October 20, 2015

For a politician who projects authenticity, Vice President Joe Biden seemed to stumble around the truth on Tuesday.

It wasn't just that he contradicted his initial accounts of the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden, claiming for the first time that he did, indeed, recommend that President Barack Obama go forward with the operation. It was also that he claimed to have veto power over nominations and to speak for the president with more authority than other top officials do.

Since Biden hasn't decided whether to run for president, but is facing campaign-level scrutiny, it was up to Obama's press secretary, Josh Earnest, to handle fact-checking questions about some of Biden's other claims.

"I am not aware of the kinds of conversations that then-Sen. Obama had with then-Sen. Biden about him coming on board as the running mate. I don't have any information about that," Earnest said.

Does Biden, as he also claimed at an event to honor Walter Mondale on Tuesday, really have veto power over Obama's Cabinet nominations?

"You'll have to take it up with one of the two of them if they're willing to talk about it publicly."

There was also Biden's boast about speaking for the president on foreign trips.

"We've had two great secretaries of state, but when I go, they know that I am speaking for the president," Biden said.

It's true that Biden is often called on to speak to foreign leaders in the president's stead, both at home and abroad. But reporters pressed Earnest on whether Biden's voice was somehow more powerful than other top Cabinet officials.

"They're receiving him because the president has asked him to go," Earnest said. "I think the same thing could be said about the secretary of state or any other senior U.S. official that represents the U.S. government." Earnest did note that the significance of a vice presidential visit was Biden's "close, personal relationship" with Obama.

Earnest has had to field such questions before, and he's made clear he doesn't enjoy it. For instance, when Hillary Clinton was slow to formally start her campaign, Earnest was stuck defending her private email server from the podium.

While Biden has his own press operation, his staff are reluctant to speak on the record, and they also are not in a position to verify the details of a private conversation with the president.

CBS correspondent Major Garrett captured the challenge for both the press corps and the press secretary when it comes to Biden's claims.

"There's no other person that we can ask directly, other than the president and you, about what he did and didn't do," Garrett said.

Earnest noted that Obama has heaped praise on the vice president's contributions. But if Biden runs, both he and Clinton will be "responsible for making their own case."

Earnest added, "If there is an instance in which the president's interests are at stake, then it's my responsibility to make sure that his interests are properly and well represented."

Earnest also said it's a "luxury for me, not a burden" to be reviewing the record of someone who wants to continue the mission of the current administration. It was unclear whether he was making that case to the press corps, or to himself.

Sarah Wheaton is a White House reporter for Politico.

Biden Contradicts Earlier Account Of Bin Laden Raid

[TIME](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden offered a contradictory account of his long-running assertion that he opposed the raid that ultimately killed Osama bin Laden in 2011, saying Tuesday, as he is weighing a run for the Oval Office, that he encouraged President Obama to launch the operation at the time.

Speaking at the Walter Mondale: Living Legacy forum in Washington, Biden said he withheld his view on the dangerous operation in Pakistan until he saw Obama one-on-one, so as not to jeopardize the perception of their relationship.

"We walked out of the room and walked up stairs," Biden said. "I told him my opinion: I thought he should go, but to follow his own instincts."

Biden maintained that only two Cabinet officers weighed in firmly on the strike, Defense Secretary Robert Gates in opposition and CIA Director Leon Panetta in favor. "We sat in the Cabinet room, and at the end of the day, making the decision, he said I want everyone's opinion. And everyone went around the room, and there were only two people who were definitive, and were absolutely certain: Panetta said go, Bob Gates said don't go," he said.

But the narrative runs in the face of the one Biden himself offered in 2012, as well as that offered by Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, who was the Secretary of State at the time and has said she was supportive of the operation.

In a meeting with House Democrats in 2012, Biden recounted "Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there," the New York Times reported, in an account later verified by the White House.

By Obama's own account, Biden was skeptical of the raid. "Those decisions generally—generally are not poll-tested," Obama told CBS's Bob Schieffer in the third presidential debate in 2012. "And even some in my own party, including my current vice president, had the same critique as you did."

In her book, *Hard Choices*, Clinton wrote that she supported the operation at the time. "I came to the conclusion that the intelligence was convincing and the risks were outweighed by the benefits of success," she wrote. "We just had to make sure it worked." Earlier this year, Clinton told the South Carolina Democratic Party chair, "I was one who recommended to the president that he go ahead. And his advisers were split."

Read More: [Joe Biden's Weird Relationship with His Boss](#)

The divide over the bin Laden raid is one of the key foreign policy differences between Biden and Clinton, and Biden's attempt to rewrite the established narrative sent Washington speculation into his possible run into overdrive. As a candidate for president in 2008, Clinton was deeply critical of Obama's then-hypothetical support for launching a strike in Pakistan to kill or capture the man responsible for the 9/11 attack.

"Last summer, he basically threatened to bomb Pakistan, which I don't think was a particularly wise position to take," she said in a February 2008 debate.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest declined to clarify the discrepancy Tuesday. "The people in the room at the times are the ones that should be consulted," he said.

"Historians will probably tell you this is not the first time a significant political event has prompted different recollections to different people," he added.

Biden Contradicts Clinton, Himself On Bin Laden Raid Decision

By Chuck Ross

[Daily Caller](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden appeared to contradict Hillary Clinton's claim that she adamantly backed the decision to carry out the May 2, 2011 raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan.

But Biden, who many believe is set to challenge Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination, also appeared to contradict his own past admission that he opposed the mission.

Speaking at a panel discussion with former Vice President Walter Mondale at George Washington University on Tuesday, Biden detailed the discussion among Obama's cabinet and other top officials over whether to dispatch SEAL Team 6 to carry out the raid, in which bin Laden was killed.

Biden said that only two advisers — then-CIA director Leon Panetta and then-Sec. of Defense Robert Gates — had “definitive” positions.

“Panetta said go, Bob Gates...said don't go,” Biden said.

“Others were 59-41 [sic], some ended up saying ‘go,’ but it was such a close call,” he added.

That claim of nuanced deliberation contrasts with Clinton's assertions that she was unwavering in her support for the mission.

“I was one who recommended to the president that he go ahead,” Clinton said during an interview in July.

The former secretary of state has touted her support of the mission as evidence that she is capable of making tough decisions during trying times.

But Biden also contradicted himself on Tuesday.

“Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there,” Biden said during the fateful meeting, he told a group of Democrats in Jan. 2012.

But during Tuesday's event, Biden portrayed a more nuanced decision-making process.

“I think we should make one more pass with another UAV to see if it is him,” he says he told Obama during the cabinet meeting. He said that he “didn't want to take a position to go if that was not where [Obama] was going to go.”

Biden said that he had a private conversation with Obama after the meeting in which he said that he should approve the raid.

“I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts,” Biden said. “I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval [Office] with him alone.”

Joe Biden Really Sounds Like Someone Who Is Running For President

[Mic](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden has been agonizing over a run for the Democratic presidential nomination for months now, but with one debate already gone and the other candidates steadily building support and reinforcing campaign apparatuses, the time for a final decision is near.

On the other hand, maybe he has already decided.

Over the past 24 hours, at least two people who might know — Fox News chief White House correspondent Ed Henry and Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-Pa.) — have said they were told the vice president was preparing to join the race. Biden himself has been talking plenty, but has remained largely silent on his future plans.

So we're left to continue on reading the tea leaves. During a panel discussion with former Vice President Walter Mondale on Tuesday, Biden dropped several hints about what a potential candidacy might look like.

Though he did not hint about his choice or when he might announce it, Biden didn't simply “sound like a candidate” — he sounded like a candidate very clearly attempting to edge out a rival, Hillary Clinton. He nimbly poked at his former colleague with a handful of ostensibly offhand comments that just so happened to answer potential criticism while drawing himself closer to President Barack Obama, who remains popular with Democratic primary voters.

Here's what Biden said: Surprise! Biden was totally in favor of the bin Laden raid. Source: Mic/C-SPAN

This one is grabbing headlines. The question of whether to launch a special forces raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan in 2011 was thought to have caused a sharp division in the Obama administration. The intelligence community was not 100% sure the target was in fact the terror leader's compound, and there were doubts about the wisdom of sending troops deep into Pakistan to find out if it was.

For the past four years, Biden has been cast as one of the doubters who cautioned against military action, and publicly recounted his skepticism. Clinton has happily touted herself as one of the mission's strongest backers, claiming in an interview in July that “I was one who recommended to the president that he go ahead.”

On Tuesday, however, Biden added a wrinkle to that narrative, changing his story to claim that he had told Obama in private that he should approve the raid while casting a skeptical eye in front of the rest of the national security team.

“I said I think we should make one more pass with another UAV (unarmed aerial vehicle or drone) to see if it is [Bin Laden],” Biden said, claiming that this was not his real opinion. “The reason I did that,” he continued, “is I didn't want to take a position to go if that was not where [Obama] was going to go.” Biden, in case you thought otherwise, was Obama's real voice abroad. Source: Mic/C-SPAN

Biden called Clinton a “great” secretary of state. But not, by pretty clear implication here, the real voice of the Obama administration overseas. Just in case that wasn’t clear... Source: Mic/C-SPAN

Clinton traveled to a record 112 countries, but Biden, as he noted, knew many of their diplomats before, when they ascended to leadership roles, back when many were just low-level ministers or parliamentarians dreaming of higher office. If you like Obama, Biden wants you to know this. Source: Mic/C-SPAN

Any differences, Biden said, came down to questions over tactics. That included when he got out ahead of the White House during the 2012 re-election campaign to declare his support for same-sex marriage. (Incidentally, that was about a year before Clinton did the same.) Again, to be clear, Biden is really happy he chose to work for Obama. Source: Mic/C-SPAN

If Biden does decide to go ahead and launch a bid, he should probably get started soon. Despite having polled well for a non-candidate, his numbers are beginning to stall in the latest round of post-debate surveys. Still, he would enter the contest with a solid base of support and, as made pretty clear on Tuesday morning, an impressively refined game plan for mitigating Clinton’s ready-made attacks.

Joe Biden Alters Bin Laden Account

[The Blaze](#), October 20, 2015

It’s been held up as one of the starkest differences between Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden: She decisively supported the raid to take out Osama bin Laden, and he opposed it.

But on Tuesday, Biden altered his account of what happened in the lead-up to the 2011 operation, telling an audience that he gave his direct support to President Barack Obama after a cabinet meeting, and notably omitting Clinton’s name from the list of people who were definitively in favor of it — amid sky-high speculation that he is poised to challenge her for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination.

White House photo

“It was something that was a difficult call for the president. So, we sat in the cabinet room at the end of the day making the decision. He said, ‘I want everybody’s opinion.’ Everybody went around the room,” Biden said at George Washington University.

“There were only two people who were definitive and absolutely certain: Leon Panetta said go and Bob Gates said don’t go, and others were 51-49, some ended up saying go, but it was such a close call,” he continued. “I joked and I said, ‘You all sound like 17 Larry Summers,’ the economist, on one hand then on the other. They said, ‘Joe, what would you do?’ There was a third option I didn’t really think we should do. I said, I think we should make one more pass with a UAV to see if it is him.”

“The reason I did that is because I didn’t want to take a position to go if that was not where [Obama] was going to go. So as we walked out of the room and walked upstairs, I said, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go, but follow his own instincts,” Biden added. “But it would have been a mistake – imagine if I had said in front of everyone, don’t go or go, and his decision was different. It undercuts that relationship. I never say what I think finally until I go up into the Oval with him alone.”

Biden’s remarks Tuesday differ from what he said in January 2012

, when he recalled directly advising the president against the raid and did not mention a private conversation with Obama.

“Every single person in that room hedged their bet except Leon Panetta. Leon said go. Everyone else said, 49, 51,” Biden said in 2012. “He got to me. He said, ‘Joe, what do you think?’ And I said, ‘You know, I didn’t know we had so many economists around the table.’ I said, ‘We owe the man a direct answer. Mr. President, my suggestion is, don’t go. We have to do two more things to see if he’s there.’”

Clinton has repeatedly drawn a distinction between hers and Biden’s positions on the raid, including in her 2014 memoir, “Hard Choices: “I respected [Biden’s] concerns about the risk of a raid,” she wrote, “but I came to the conclusion that the intelligence was convincing and that the risks were outweighed by the benefits of success.”

After Biden’s remarks Tuesday, then-Obama chief of staff Bill Daley supported Biden’s account in a conversation with reporters:

White House press secretary Josh Earnest was careful not to weigh into the shifting account, asserting he wasn’t in the room several times during the daily press briefing.

“I was not in the room when these decisions were being made or when the president was consulting his advisers about this very difficult foreign policy call that he made,” Earnest said. “There have already been books written about this. I am confident there will be more, or at least more books in which we will be able to read about this momentous time in American history. So I’m going to leave the dissection and the oral history to those who were actually there. To the extent there is greater clarity you would like to seek, maybe you would ask those in the room.”

He later added, “I don’t have any new insight to share with you about the president’s recollection about those events.”

This post was updated to include comment from White House press secretary Josh Earnest.

Correction: TheBlaze initially stated that Biden expressed his support for the raid during the cabinet meeting; Biden said he told the president privately afterward.

Joe Biden Changes Story On Osama Bin Laden Raid

By Laura Koran

[CNN](#), October 21, 2015

Washington (CNN) Vice President Joe Biden offered an account Tuesday of the decision to launch the raid that killed Osama bin Laden that differed from some of his previous retellings – and from Hillary Clinton's.

His remarks come as he considers facing off against the former secretary of state in the 2016 presidential race, and they seem to signal that he sees his earlier stance on the raid as a potential liability.

At an event honoring former Vice President Walter Mondale, Biden said he had privately advised the President to pursue the raid on bin Laden's compound after initially advising a more cautious approach at a Cabinet meeting.

"We walked out of the room and walked upstairs," Biden said. "I told him my opinion: I thought he should go, but to follow his own instincts."

The new account is a significant departure from what he said at a Democratic retreat in January 2012.

"Mr. President, my suggestion is, 'Don't go,'" Biden said, according to an ABC News report from that time.

"We have to do two more things to see if he's there," Biden recalled, though the story did not include what those two things were.

The Cabinet meeting Biden referred to has been described by several people in the administration, including President Barack Obama himself.

The President asked his closest advisers for input on how he should respond to intelligence that bin Laden was holed up in a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan – intelligence that was anything but certain.

The proposed raid by Navy SEALs was risky, particularly without notifying Pakistan of the plan.

"Those decisions are not always popular. Those decisions generally are not poll-tested," Obama told moderator Bob Schieffer in a 2012 presidential debate. "And even some in my own party, including my current vice president, had the same critique" about the risk of the operation as did some outsiders.

Clinton has also characterized Biden as having been openly skeptical in the meeting.

Tuesday's account is also a change from an account Biden gave on NBC's "Meet the Press" in May 2012, in which he described advising the President to follow his instincts but didn't explicitly advise him to "go" for it.

"We walked up toward the residence, toward his office," said Biden of his conversation with Obama, "and I knew he was going to go (for the raid). And what I always tell him when he – he looked at me again, and I said, 'Follow your instincts, Mr. President. Your instincts have been close to unerring; follow your instincts.'"

Biden also offered a reason for the difference between what he said in the Cabinet meeting and his new account of the private conversation with Obama in which he advocated following his instincts.

The vice president now says that he suggested the administration undertake additional drone surveillance on the compound while in that Cabinet meeting, but that he made that recommendation because he didn't want to undermine the President if he ended up choosing a more cautious approach.

"Imagine if I had said, in front of everyone, don't go or go and his decision was a different decision," said Biden. "It undercuts that relationship. So I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up to the Oval with him alone."

Biden also said Tuesday that only two people in the meeting were definitive in their advice to the President, contradicting Clinton's account of how she supported the mission.

There were "only two people who were definitive and were absolutely certain," he said, referring to the men who were, respectively, the director of the CIA and the secretary of defense at the time. "Leon Panetta said, 'Go,' and Bob Gates – who has already publicly said this – said, 'Don't go.' And others were at 59/41."

In her 2014 book "Hard Choices," Clinton writes that she was an immediate supporter while Biden "remained skeptical."

"I respected Bob [Gates] and Joe [Biden]'s concerns about the risks of a raid, but I came to the conclusion that the intelligence was convincing and the risks were outweighed by the benefits of success," she wrote. "We just had to make sure it worked."

Biden also drew attention in his remarks Tuesday to the fact that he knew about the intelligence on bin Laden's location before Clinton did.

"The President and I, and only two others in the administration, knew about Abbottabad as early as August 2010, Biden said Tuesday. "We did not go for almost a year to get him. And major players in the Cabinet did not know about it till January or February (2011)."

In Clinton's account, she learned about the intelligence in March 2011.

Biden's Retelling Of OBL Raid Differs From Earlier Accounts

By John T. Bennett

[Roll Call](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. offered an account Tuesday of his advice to President Barack Obama before the raid that killed Osama bin Laden that differed from his previous remarks.

Biden's recollection spilled over to the White House's daily briefing, and offered a clear example of how Biden's off-the-cuff style could stir up the 2016 race — and potentially undercut his potential candidacy.

"We walked out of the [Situation] Room and walked upstairs," Biden said at a forum at George Washington University. "I told him my opinion: I thought he should go, but to follow his own instincts."

Biden's Tuesday account did have a bit of nuance: He also said prior to that conversation, he told Obama he favored getting one more birds eye view of the Pakistan compound where U.S. officials believed the al-Qaida leader was holed up.

"Joe, what would you do?" he said others in the secure room asked in the days before the special forces raid. "And there was a third option that I didn't really think we should do, and I said, 'I think we should make one more pass with a UAV to see if it's, if it is him,'" Biden said, using military shorthand for an unmanned drone aircraft.

Biden told an audience packed into a GWU auditorium that he "didn't want to take a position to go if that was not where [Obama] was going to go."

That's why he later allegedly advised Obama to greenlight the risky mission.

The Tuesday comments do not completely align with ones he made in 2012 at a House Democratic retreat, as reported by The New York Times: "Every single person in that room hedged their bet except [then-Defense Secretary] Leon Panetta. Leon said go. Everyone else said, 49, 51."

"This account stands at odds with numerous previous accounts of the meeting and the vice president's position then and subsequently," William A. Galston, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution wrote in a blog post. "It is likely that the vice president will be called upon to reconcile these apparently competing accounts."

Biden reportedly told House Democrats that he told his colleagues, "We owe the man a direct answer," then said, "Mr. President, my suggestion is don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there."

The last part of that 2012 remark aligns with Biden's comments on Tuesday morning. What's new is his account of the follow-up conversation — in private — with Obama.

On Monday, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest sidestepped reporters' questions about Biden's revised account.

Earnest would not comment on the vice president's assertion that he advised Obama to launch the strike.

"For an accurate accounting of what happened, you're going to have to talk to the people who were in the room," Earnest said.

Other then-Cabinet members have said Biden advised Obama to hold off.

In his 2014 memoir "Duty," former Defense Secretary Robert Gates wrote this: "Joe Biden and I were the two primary skeptics."

Gates, who was critical of the vice president in his book, also wrote, "Biden's primary concern was the political consequences of failure."

"Biden was against the operation," Gates wrote in his characteristic bluntness about what he called the final meeting on April 28, 2011, to discuss the raid. Gates' account essentially paints Biden as the lone individual in the Situation Room who argued against an offensive strike of some kind.

Biden is mulling a bid for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination. Should he jump in, he would clash with Hillary Rodham Clinton, who was secretary of State at the time of the bin Laden mission. She frequently says she advised Obama to carry out the raid that ultimately killed bin Laden.

Biden's new version clearly would become an immediate campaign-trail issue should the vice president opt for a third presidential bid.

Roll Call Race Ratings Map: Ratings for Every House and Senate Race in 2016

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Biden's New Account Of Bin Laden Raid Puts Him In The Right

By Olivier Knox

[Yahoo! Politics](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden said Tuesday for the first time that he had privately urged President Obama to order the raid that killed Osama bin Laden — a new account contradicting his prior public claim to have opposed the audacious May 2011 operation.

Biden, speaking at a George Washington University forum on the vice presidency, also seemed to undercut Hillary Clinton's contention in her memoirs that she had unequivocally backed the raid.

The vice president's remarks came amid fevered speculation that he could soon announce whether he will jump into the 2016 White House race. Having opposed the bin Laden raid could be a political liability if he seeks the top job.

On Tuesday, Biden described a tense White House meeting in which Obama asked his top advisers for their opinions on whether or not to order the operation, weighing uncertain intelligence and the risks associated with entering Pakistani airspace uninvited.

"Everybody went around the room, and there were only two people who were definitive," Biden said. Leon Panetta, the CIA director at the time, "said, 'Go,'" while then-Defense Secretary Bob Gates "said, 'Don't go.'" Clinton, in this account, would have been among those on the fence.

In this image released by the White House and digitally altered by the source to diffuse the paper in front of Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, along with members of the national security team, receive an update on the mission against Osama bin Laden in the Situation Room of the White House, May 1, 2011, in Washington. (Photo: The White House, Pete Souza)

Biden said he raised a third option. "I said, 'Well,' I said, 'I think we should make one more pass'" with an unmanned aerial vehicle to be sure the al-Qaida leader was at the target site. But that wasn't his real preference, he told the forum. Moments after the meeting wrapped up, and he and Obama were alone, "I told him my opinion, that I thought he should go, but to follow his own instincts," the vice president said. "I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval with him alone."

That's not how Biden had previously recalled the advice he gave. In January 2012, at a Democratic retreat, he explicitly described how he opposed the raid in that same meeting.

"Every single person in that room hedged their bet except Leon Panetta. Leon said, 'Go,'" Biden said.

"[Obama] got to me. He said, 'Joe, what do you think?' And I said, 'You know, I didn't know we had so many economists around the table.' I said, 'We owe the man a direct answer. Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go. We have to do two more things to see if he's there,'" Biden said at the time.

The vice president's new account seems to put him at odds with Clinton's version of the internal debate over the raid. In her 2014 memoir, "Hard Choices," she wrote that Biden and Gates opposed the operation but she supported it.

"I respected Bob's and Joe's concerns about the risk of a raid," she wrote, "but I came to the conclusion that the intelligence was convincing and that the risks were outweighed by the benefits of success."

Clinton has also reportedly knocked Biden in private for opposing the raid.

Shortly after Biden's remarks at the 2012 Democratic retreat, White House spokesman Jay Carney — who had previously served in that capacity for the vice president — said Biden was "speaking accurately" when he described himself as opposing the operation.

In a May 2012 appearance on "Meet the Press," Biden described his private conversation with Obama differently.

"I said, 'Follow your instincts, Mr. President. Your instincts have been close to unerring. Follow your instincts.' I wanted him to take one more day to do one more test to see if he was there," Biden said in that interview.

And no less an authority than Obama himself has cast Biden as more of a critic of the raid than a supporter. In his third debate with Mitt Romney, the president noted his rival's public opposition to a unilateral raid to get bin Laden without Pakistan's acquiescence.

"Even some in my own party, including my current vice president, had the same critique as you did," Obama said.

Former Official: Biden Was Against Raid

By Amie Parnes

[The Hill](#), October 20, 2015

A former senior administration official involved in deliberations on the raid that killed Osama bin Laden said Tuesday that Vice President Biden did not back the operation.

The official, who took part in deliberations on whether to approve the operation in Pakistan, said Hillary Clinton, then secretary of State, and then-CIA Director Leon Panetta both backed the raid — but that Biden did not.

"I can tell you this, both then-CIA Director Leon Panetta and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton favored the raid and they did so in presentations made in the Situation Room," the former official told The Hill. "Secretary Clinton made her views known. Leon made his position known. And I don't recall the vice president sharing the same view.

"When the president conducted the final meeting on April 28th, he faced a divided set of advisers," the official added.

Biden, who is considering a run for the White House against Clinton in 2016, offered a different view earlier on Tuesday.

In an appearance honoring former Vice President Walter Mondale, Biden said he privately supported the raid and held back his advice for President Obama until the two were behind closed doors.

Biden also contradicted the Democratic presidential front-runner's claim that she fully supported the raid.

"I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts," Biden said during a panel discussion with former Mondale at The George Washington University. "I never, on a difficult issue, never say what I think finally until I go up in the Oval [Office] with him alone."

The former senior administration official conceded that no one knows what Biden may have told Obama behind closed doors. But the official said the vice president was clear about where he stood on the special forces raid to take action against bin Laden.

In his own book on his years in the Obama administration, Panetta also wrote of Biden being against the operation and Clinton supporting it.

"Biden argued that we still did not have enough confidence that bin Laden was in the compound, and he came out firmly in favor of waiting for more information," Panetta wrote in "Worthy Fights."

Panetta wrote that Clinton acknowledged more time might provide better intelligence, but concluded "this was a rare opportunity and believed we should seize it."

Biden's account on Tuesday also differs from the one he gave in 2012. At that time, he told House Democrats he warned against the operation, one of the most consequential decisions of Obama's presidency.

"Mr. President, my suggestion is, don't go," Biden told lawmakers, according to The New York Times.

Walter Mondale, Joe Biden Compare Notes On The Veep Job

By Don Davis

[St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#), October 21, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden used Walter Mondale as an example when he became vice president, he told a crowd gathered Tuesday to honor Minnesota's senior statesman.

"The first person I called was Fritz," after then-presidential candidate Barack Obama asked him to be his running mate, Biden said, using Mondale's nickname.

Mondale and Biden talked for an hour to open a daylong celebration of the 87-year-old Mondale's career, focused on his four years as vice president under President Jimmy Carter. Mondale and Carter are widely praised for giving the vice presidency more importance after it was the subject of jokes and mockery during much of the country's history.

Biden gave no clues about whether he soon would begin a run for the presidency, although pundits watched carefully amid increased rumors in recent days that he would announce this week.

University of Minnesota Professor Larry Jacobs, master of ceremonies at the Washington event, tweeted that one line may have been a swipe at Democratic frontrunner Hillary Clinton: "I don't think my enemy is the Republican Party."

There was no sign of tension between the vice presidents, who Mondale said have been friends since Biden took office in the Senate. Mondale supports Clinton for president.

"Joe, I love you, and we are so glad you are with us today," Mondale told the current vice president.

He also praised what Biden has done with the job. "You have taken the vice presidency a big step forward, aided enormously by your extraordinary experience in the Senate."

The vice presidents sat in a George Washington University meeting room in front of guests who long ago snapped up all the tickets. The event was sponsored by the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Top Minnesota Democratic politicians attended the day symposium and night dinner, including Gov. Mark Dayton and U.S. Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken.

Included on the dinner guest list was Carter, who Mondale said, "is going out of his way under adverse circumstances to be with us tonight." Carter announced this summer that he has cancer.

Mondale and Biden said keys to being a good vice president are to understand that the president is in charge, don't disagree with the chief executive in public and make sure that it is the right job for the person who accepts it.

"I did not want to be involved in the details of government," Mondale said. "I didn't want to do anything that anyone else was doing. I wanted to be a general advisor to the president."

But to be an advisor, he added, he had to know information before going in to advise Carter. "I could not go into the president and say, 'What's cookin'?"

Like Mondale, Biden did not want to be vice president. When Biden initially rejected Obama's request to be running mate, Obama asked Biden to return to his family and discuss the issue. Family members changed Biden's mind.

Mondale and Biden both were plucked from the Senate to be vice presidential candidates, and both originally thought they would be more important to the president there than as vice president.

Biden said he talked to Mondale various times before taking office.

He also talked to Dick Cheney, his immediate predecessor and vice president to Republican George W. Bush.

Talking about Cheney drew the only disagreement between Biden and Mondale.

"I actually like Dick Cheney, for real. ... I think he is a decent man," Biden said.

But Biden based his vice presidency on Mondale, not Cheney. To Biden, Cheney appeared to control a powerful office, with his own sizeable national security staff.

"Cheney had a very different view of the vice presidency," Biden said.

Mondale immediately disagreed.

"He said early on that he was going to take things to the dark side," Mondale said. "I believe he really did."

The Minnesotan added: "I have a harsh view of the man."

Also on Tuesday's agenda were discussions about how Mondale influenced policy dealing with schools, social services, national security, civil rights and foreign policy.

Biden Jokes About Faking Prostate Cancer To Get Out Of Obama Administration

By Ben Wolfgang

[Washington Times](#), October 21, 2015

Vice President Joseph R. Biden said Tuesday that he would "develop prostate cancer or something" if he had a fundamental disagreement with President Obama and was forced to resign from his post.

At an event honoring former Vice President Walter Mondale, Mr. Biden recounted the conditions he placed on joining Mr. Obama's ticket in 2008 and also made clear he would leave the administration if he encountered deep, substantive policy differences with the president.

"Two things: to be able to completely be level with you and argue with you if we disagree, privately," Mr. Biden said of his 2008 conversations with Mr. Obama, in which the two men discussed the vice president's role.

"And secondly, I want to be the last person in the room on every major decision, and I didn't mean that figuratively, I meant that literally — the last person in the room," he continued. "He's president. He gets to make the decision, and unless there's an overwhelming disagreement in principle, in which case I'd develop prostate cancer or something and leave, and he knew I meant that ... I get to be the last person in the room. And that's where I think I can serve best."

Mr. Biden reportedly will decide this week whether to seek the White House in 2016.

Biden Gaffes Create More Awkward Moments For White House Before Presidential Decision

By Ben Wolfgang

[Washington Times](#), October 21, 2015

He's not even in the presidential race, but Vice President Joseph R. Biden already has a mouth that is getting him into trouble and putting the White House in an uncomfortable spot.

Mr. Biden's list of gaffes got longer Tuesday when he made an awkward joke about faking prostate cancer in order to leave the administration, and, more seriously, offered the bizarre claim that he did, in fact, support the 2011 raid that killed al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. The vice president previously said he opposed the mission, and other top officials — including President Obama — suggested that Mr. Biden was skeptical of the raid.

Mr. Biden, who is expected to decide this week whether he will run for president, also claimed Tuesday that the president gave him veto power over any Cabinet nominee. The White House steered clear of that assertion and also refused to address the confusion around the bin Laden mission — a potential preview of the difficulties the administration will face if Mr. Biden launches a presidential bid.

Analysts say the White House is likely to be forced to play referee in any potential disputes between Mr. Biden and Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton, who served as Mr. Obama's secretary of state for four years. Mrs. Clinton, too, has said that Mr. Biden was opposed to the bin Laden mission.

"You could see this anytime a moment from the first term where Joe Biden and Hillary Clinton interacted and a moment like that has to be litigated, the White House could be dragged into these stories, and that's not what it wants," said Matthew Dallek, assistant professor of political management at George Washington University. "It certainly creates an unusual dynamic."

On the bin Laden raid, Tuesday's comments represent the first time Mr. Biden has said he fully backed the mission. He claimed that he offered his true position during a private conversation with the president and avoided taking a firm stance during meetings in the situation room.

"As we walked out of the room and we walked upstairs, I told him my opinion that I thought he should go but to follow his own instincts," Mr. Biden said during a speech honoring former Vice President Walter F. Mondale.

The White House would not weigh in on the conflicting reports. White House press secretary Josh Earnest said he couldn't confirm Mr. Biden's account and told reporters that they would need to ask Mr. Obama, the vice president, Mrs. Clinton or someone else who was in the room when the decision was made to raid bin Laden's compound in Pakistan.

"I was not in the room when these decisions were being made. I'm going to leave the dissection and the oral history, if you will, of those days to those who were actually there," Mr. Earnest said at Tuesday's White House press briefing. "I don't have any insights to share with you about the private conversations between the president and the vice president."

Aside from the important foreign policy question of whether he backed the bin Laden mission, Mr. Biden added to his history of amusing yet awkward statements.

That record includes telling a wheelchair-bound Missouri state senator to stand up at a campaign rally, calling Mr. Obama "the first mainstream African-American who is articulate and bright and clean" to run for the presidency, joking that in Delaware "you cannot go to a 7-Eleven or a Dunkin' Donuts unless you have a slight Indian accent," and caressing the shoulders of Stephanie Carter, wife of Defense Secretary Ashton Carter.

Prostate cancer jokes now can be added to the list after Mr. Biden recounted a conversation with the president in which he laid out his conditions for joining the administration.

"Two things: to be able to completely be level with you and argue with you if we disagree, privately," Mr. Biden said of his 2008 discussions with Mr. Obama. "And secondly, I want to be the last person in the room on every major decision, and I didn't mean that figuratively, I meant that literally — the last person in the room. He's president. He gets to make the decision, and unless there's an overwhelming disagreement in principle, in which case I'd develop prostate cancer or something and leave, and he knew I meant that I get to be the last person in the room. And that's where I think I can serve best."

No Grounds For Biden In New Hampshire

By Jennifer Epstein

[Bloomberg Politics](#), October 20, 2015

Vice President Joe Biden trails the two leading candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination by more than 25 points each in New Hampshire and would enter the race without an edge over them on overall favorability or specific personality traits.

Biden would draw the support of 10 percent of likely Democratic primary voters if the primary were held today, according to the Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm New Hampshire Poll released Tuesday. That puts him well behind Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who's led most recent polls in the state that neighbors his own, who gets the support of 41 percent of those surveyed, and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who's at 36 percent. When Democrats first and second choices for the party's nominee are combined, Clinton edges Sanders: 64 percent of Democrats rank Clinton as either their No. 1 or No. 2 choice for the nomination. For Sanders, the number is 63 percent; for Biden, 29 percent.

Former Virginia Senator Jim Webb, who dropped out of the Democratic race on Tuesday, was the first choice of 1 percent of those surveyed and the second choice of 1 percent. Harvard Professor Lawrence Lessig was the first choice of 1 percent, while former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and former Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee got no support as a first choice candidate but drew the backing of 6 percent and 1 percent, respectively, as a second choice candidate.

Bloomberg Politics/Saint Anselm last polled New Hampshire Democrats in June—before Sanders' surge—and Clinton led him 56 percent to 24 percent then. Biden was not named in that survey.

The anemic showing for the vice president comes as people close to him say he's nearing a decision on whether to get into the race, though there have been several false alarms in recent weeks. Advisers have said that Biden's choice won't be driven by polling and will instead be swayed by whether he believes that he and his family would be able to withstand the stress of the campaign after losing his older son Beau Biden earlier this year.

Thirty-six percent of Democratic primary voters surveyed say that Biden's drawn out decision-making process made them less supportive of him, while 62 percent say it doesn't matter to them.

Biden has signaled that his bid would ride on the successes and popularity of President Barack Obama, who got favorable ratings from 83 percent of the New Hampshire Democrats surveyed. Biden's 75 percent favorability rating put him behind both former President Bill Clinton (78 percent) and Hillary Clinton (77 percent). The differences are more pronounced among those voters who feel most strongly: Obama got "very favorable" ratings from 50 percent of New Hampshire Democrats. For Hillary Clinton, that number is 40 percent. For Biden, 29 percent. The highest favorability rankings went to Sanders, from neighboring Vermont: 86 percent rated him favorably and 55 percent "very favorable."

On questions of personality and ability to govern, the vice president generally trails Clinton and Sanders.

Clinton leads the field on leadership questions, with 49 percent of those surveyed saying she's most ready to be president. Biden, despite being a heartbeat away from the presidency for nearly seven years and having served in the Senate for nearly four decades, is seen as most ready by 21 percent of respondents, barely ahead of Sanders, who's at 20 percent. Clinton also has an advantage in being seen as knowing best how to get things done in Washington and in handling Russian President Vladimir Putin. And Democrats see her as their party's strongest potential standardbearer: 50 percent of respondents say that Clinton would be best capable of beating the Republican nominee in the general election. Sanders is next at 19 percent.

Sanders does better than Clinton and Biden on traits of authenticity and likability, which the vice president's allies have suggested would be his advantage. Sanders is seen as most authentic by 57 percent of those surveyed, while 19 percent call Biden the most authentic, barely ahead of Clinton at 16 percent. The Vermont senator also gets the highest marks among voters asked which candidate cares most about them – 51 percent say that of Sanders, while 23 percent say it of Clinton and 10 percent say it of Biden. Sanders also has an edge on being trusted to tell the truth, 53 percent to Biden's 17 percent and Clinton's 13 percent.

As Clinton's testimony before the House Select Committee on Benghazi approaches, Democratic primary voters are divided on whether the panel is inflicting damage and if that is swaying their support of her. Twenty-eight percent of those surveyed said it makes them less supportive of her while 67 percent said it doesn't bother them. Nearly identical numbers say the same about her not being forthcoming about the private email server she used while at the State Department.

New Hampshire Democrats are evenly divided at 47 percent each on whether Sanders' 2005 vote to give gun manufacturers immunity from lawsuits makes them less supportive or does not bother them. Sanders' description of himself as a "democratic socialist" is even less of a drawback, with only 16 percent of voters saying that makes them less supportive of him.

The poll was conducted by Purple Strategies from Oct. 15-18 and surveyed 400 likely Democratic primary voters by landline and cell phone. The margin of error is +/- 4.9 percentage points.

Poll: Biden A Distant Third In New Hampshire

By Eliza Collins

[Politico](#), October 20, 2015

Democratic primary voters in New Hampshire aren't too eager to choose Joe Biden, a new Bloomberg/Saint Anselm poll shows — even as the media frenzy over whether the vice president will enter the 2016 race reaches fever pitch in Washington.

Biden received the support of just 10 percent of those polled, putting him in a distant third place.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders leads the poll with 41 percent while former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton comes in second with 36 percent.

But Sanders and Clinton are neck and neck if voters' first and second choices are combined: Clinton at 64 percent vs. Sanders' 63. Biden's combined score is just 29 percent.

In June's Bloomberg/Saint Anselm poll, Clinton led the field with 56 percent, with Sanders at 24 percent. Biden was not included.

Former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb — who dropped out of the race Tuesday — garnered 1 percent, tying him with Harvard law professor Lawrence Lessig. Former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley and former Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee did not register.

The prolonged uncertainty surrounding Biden's candidacy didn't bother most voters — 62 percent said it didn't matter. But 36 percent said that Biden's slow decision-making process made them less supportive of his candidacy.

The poll of 400 likely Democratic primary voters was conducted Oct. 15-18 by landline and cell phone, with a margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percentage points.

Should Joe Biden Enter The Democratic Primary?

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Freedom Caucus Wary Of Ryan's Demands

By Lauren French

[Politico](#), October 21, 2015

Paul Ryan wants a full embrace from the House Freedom Caucus before he runs for House speaker. Early signs from the conservatives are they might never get there.

After Ryan addressed Republicans late Tuesday, saying he would need conservative backing to run, lawmakers in the 40-member group of hard-line conservatives came away wary of the Ways and Means chief's demand for unconditional support. They were dismissive of his Ryan's request that they relinquish a procedural tactic they used to threaten to strip outgoing Speaker John Boehner of his title – one of the most potent weapons in the group's arsenal.

And it is clear the conservative lawmakers will insist on more specifics from Ryan before they would consider an endorsement. Sources within the caucus said he'll have to discuss policy and procedural changes the Freedom Caucus wants and offer up tangible promises to decentralize power from leadership to rank-and-file members if he wants their backing.

Without specific pledges, those sources said, Ryan will have a hard time clinching the backing of 80 percent of the group's members — its threshold for an endorsement.

"I got the sense that Paul Ryan was not willing to look at rule changes before October 29, and without that I don't see him getting 80 percent," one Freedom Caucus member said, referring to the expected date of the election for speaker.

The Freedom Caucus has until Friday to decide if it will back Ryan. Several of the Freedom Caucus' most influential members huddled in the office of Rep. Jim Jordan (Ohio), the group's chairman, late Tuesday night. And board members of the conservative organization will meet Wednesday to discuss Ryan's conditions.

The Wisconsin Republican told his colleagues on Tuesday that he would serve as speaker if — and only if — the three largest coalitions in the GOP House support his candidacy. An endorsement is nearly assured from the Republican Study Committee and the moderate Tuesday Group.

"I have left this decision in their hands," Ryan said at a press conference.

The Freedom Caucus has already endorsed Florida Republican Rep. Daniel Webster for speaker but that support is only for the internal vote of House Republicans. The conservative members could still back Ryan on the House floor. Webster told reporters Tuesday he is still committed to running for speaker.

Rep. Matt Salmon (R-Ariz.), a founding member of the Freedom Caucus, said Ryan made "some very reasonable observations about how anybody would need the support of the entire conference if they are going to be a successful speaker."

The caucus is not ready to support Ryan, Salmon added, though he didn't rule it out.

"All things are possible," Salmon said. "I think the issue of process reforms are going to have to be addressed one way or another before the Freedom Caucus wholesale jumps in bed with him."

But already Ryan has ruffled feathers within the group. Rep. Raúl Labrador (R-Idaho) said that getting rid of the "motion to vacate" procedure — which Boehner was confronted with over the summer, one of the factors in his decision to resign — is a "non-starter."

"I think we need to invite him in and have him expand on what he meant. You know he just gave a short speech," Labrador, a Freedom Caucus member, said.

Ryan's conditions essentially put the group in a no-win spot of endorsing a candidate for speaker many figures on the far right say is too moderate and accommodating — or blocking a highly respected figure in the GOP, the one candidate widely seen as capable of getting 218 votes on the House Floor.

One Freedom Caucus member who requested anonymity in order to speak freely was asked whether Ryan is setting up the group to be blamed if he ends up not running.

"You can certainly read it that way," the lawmaker said.

House Republicans Look To Ryan To Save Them From Themselves

By Erica Werner

[Associated Press](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON (AP) – House Republicans, searching for a speaker to lead them out of crisis, waited to learn Tuesday whether Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan would shoulder the thankless task.

Ryan and his aides were saying little ahead of a closed-door late-evening meeting, the first such gathering following a weeklong recess many spent in a state of suspended animation, waiting to hear from Ryan.

But in a sign that he is exploring the possibility, Ryan was meeting with the House Freedom Caucus at their request, his spokesman said. This group of three dozen or so hardline conservatives pushed current Speaker John Boehner to announce his

resignation and scared off Boehner's No. 2, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, who abruptly withdrew from the speaker's race just before the recess.

Ryan, 45, the GOP's 2012 vice presidential nominee, has consistently said he does not want to be speaker and would prefer to stay on as chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, which he's described as his dream job.

But he's been under heavy pressure to reconsider from party leaders who argue he is the only House Republican with the stature and broad popularity to unite a caucus divided against itself, at a moment of deep turmoil. Congress is hurtling toward an early November deadline to raise the federal borrowing limit or invite a first-ever default, and a deadline to pass spending legislation or risk a government shutdown will follow in early December.

House GOP leaders also planned to use Tuesday night's meeting to float a debt limit plan that would link any increase in borrowing authority with deep spending cuts and a vote on a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget. Such legislation would be certain to draw a White House veto threat and die in the Senate. But it could satisfy demands from conservatives who are loudly protesting the Obama administration's calls for increasing the debt limit with no strings attached.

As for Ryan, "I think he has the potential to unite, if anybody can, unite the various elements of the Republican conference in the House," Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, the No. 3 Senate Republican and a former member of the House, said Tuesday. Thune called being speaker "probably the toughest job in the world right now."

Indeed some of the same conservative elements outside of Congress who made problems for Boehner and McCarthy are on the attack against Ryan, highlighting his support for government bailouts and comprehensive immigration legislation allowing legal status to people in the country illegally.

"We think Paul Ryan is another example of what's wrong with Washington, D.C.," said Jenny Beth Martin, national coordinator of the Tea Party Patriots. "He's a nice man, but it's time for someone who is going to be speaker of the House who will disrupt business as usual."

Ryan did pick up one endorsement Tuesday, but it was probably unwanted. Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid of Nevada declared himself a fan of Ryan's and said he hoped he would become speaker.

"He appears to me to be one of the people over there that would be reasonable; look at some of the other people," Reid remarked to reporters. When someone noted that an endorsement from Reid, a villain to many Republicans, could hardly help Ryan, Reid shrugged and said: "I just speak the truth."

Associated Press writers Andrew Taylor and Alan Fram contributed to this report.

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Paul Ryan Inches Closer To Speaker Bid Decision

[ABC News](#), October 21, 2015

With lawmakers back in Washington after a 10-day recess, all eyes are on Paul Ryan, R-Wisconsin, as he weighs a House speaker bid.

Sources close to Ryan said the Wisconsin Republican is now open to a run for speaker, but does not plan to make a final decision until he talks to more of his Republican colleagues. For weeks, Ryan and his spokesman have said he is not running for speaker.

Members could question Ryan about his plans at a conference meeting this evening. Ryan is not expected to make a final decision on a speaker run tonight, his spokesperson said.

The well-regarded chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee is seen as the consensus candidate to succeed John Boehner and the Republican best positioned to bring the fractured conference together.

Ryan has repeatedly refused to go after the top job in Congress, but began considering a run after House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said he would drop his bid to replace Boehner.

"He feels the pull of the country – people encouraging him and saying he'd be a great choice," said Rep. K. Michael

Ribble, R-Wisconsin, who shared a flight home with Ryan last week. "But he also feels the pull of his family, and his passions," he added.

Ryan, who spent the recess at home with his family, has young children at home in Janesville. As speaker, he'd be expected to fundraise for the party, though colleagues have offered to help him shoulder that burden. The promotion could also make it more difficult for him to pursue entitlement and tax reform.

Should he decide to jump in, Ryan would need the support of the 40-odd members of the House Freedom Caucus, who helped force Boehner's retirement and derail McCarthy's speaker bid.

The group has endorsed little-known Rep. Daniel Webster, R-Florida, in the speaker's race – to win Boehner's gavel in a vote on the House floor.

Members of the caucus, who have expressed interest in Ryan running for speaker, want the House and conference run differently.

“Paul has to convince people he's not John Boehner 2.0,”

- ~~South Rep. Mick Mulvaney~~

Freedom Caucus leader. They'd like to see greater representation in leadership – including subcommittee chairmanships and on the steering committee – and more bills on the House floor via committees, among other proposals.

Ryan met with leaders of the group late Tuesday afternoon.

If he decides against a run for speaker, more than a dozen Republicans are ready to launch bids in what would be a free-for-all race.

Congress has to raise the debt ceiling by Nov. 3 or risk a federal government default. Lawmakers also have to pass additional government funding by Dec. 11.

For now, those deadlines remain John Boehner's. The Ohio Republican, who had planned on leaving Congress on Oct. 30, has agreed to stay on until his replacement is selected.

Paul Ryan Open To House Speaker Run, Lawmakers Say

Wisconsin Republican sets conditions for run, says he wants three major caucuses to back him

By Kristina Peterson And Siobhan Hughes

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

G.O.P. To Meet With Paul Ryan On House Speaker Post

By Emmarie Huetteman

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

WASHINGTON — Representative Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin agreed Tuesday to meet with some members of the House Freedom Caucus, the hard-line group that helped force the resignation of Speaker John A. Boehner, in advance of a larger meeting of Republicans, potentially ending the suspense about whether he will answer his party's pleas and run for speaker.

Less than two weeks after Representative Kevin McCarthy of California, the majority leader, withdrew his name from consideration, House Republicans returned from a weeklong recess to the reality that they had not found a willing candidate capable of uniting their ranks.

Compounding the pressure to settle on a new speaker is the fact that the country's borrowing authority is set to expire in about two weeks, and a short-term budget measure to avert a government shutdown will run out in less than two months.

While Mr. Boehner, who plans to resign at the end of the month, said he would stay until his successor was named, some members have indicated that they may move to force him out. Without a speaker, House operations would be at a virtual standstill, raising the possibility of an economically and politically perilous default on the nation's debt.

The question of whether Mr. Ryan will run has been the subject of intense speculation in Washington for the past week as lawmakers repaired to their districts. He has insisted that he has no interest in the post, but the surprise decision by Mr. McCarthy, Mr. Boehner's expected successor, put the focus back on Mr. Ryan, the party's 2012 vice-presidential nominee.

Representatives Jason Chaffetz of Utah and Daniel Webster of Florida are also running for the post. Mr. Webster has the endorsement of the most conservative members of the House, who have demanded that the next speaker adjust the chamber's rules to reduce the power of party leaders.

But conservative members like Representatives Raúl R. Labrador of Idaho and Justin Amash of Michigan have said they are willing to meet with Mr. Ryan, who has earned respect across his party as the chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee.

Ryan Nears Decision On Speaker's Race As Congress Returns

[Washington Post](#), October 20, 2015

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) is more open than ever to becoming the next House speaker, following a contemplative week at home with his family. But before he makes a final decision, friends say, he will seek assurance from Republican hard-liners that he will have their full support should he win the gavel.

Those discussions will begin Tuesday evening at the Capitol when House Republicans gather for a closed meeting. It is unclear when Ryan, the 45-year-old chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and 2012 vice-presidential nominee, will openly discuss his intentions.

At the top of Ryan's list, his associates said, is a desire to lead the House GOP as its spokesman and agenda-setter without the threat of revolt from the right, halting a dynamic that has dominated the tumultuous speakership of John A. Boehner (R-Ohio), who announced last month that he would leave Congress at the end of October. Another aim would be to delegate some of the job's travel and fundraising demands so that Ryan could spend enough time with his wife and school-aged children.

"My only caution is that he should go very slow and make sure that the whole conference is coming to him," said former House speaker Newt Gingrich (R). "Don't underestimate the degree of getting chewed up. We are not like the Democrats right now. They are relatively cohesive.

... We are a movement in enormous ferment, with enormous anger and enormous impatience."

Looming over Ryan's deliberations is a churning frustration among Republicans nationally about the party's ability to oppose President Obama and a presidential primary field led by anti-establishment outsiders who have made common cause with the House GOP's right flank.

Fix managing editor Aaron Blake runs down the top five contenders for House Speaker John Boehner's job now and says why they might—or might not – be the one to win. (Sarah Parnass/The Washington Post)

Those conservative House members have pushed for a suite of rules changes, ranging from an overhaul of the party's internal steering committee to a more open process for considering legislation. Ryan, they say, would not be exempt from those demands, which, if adopted, could give the new speaker less control.

Ryan's allies say his conditions for becoming speaker are likely to include an understanding that he would have a free hand to lead without a constant fear of intraparty reprisals.

"He is more confident that he can put forward conditions that will soothe his convictions and put his mind at ease," said William J. Bennett, a longtime mentor to Ryan who has spoken with him in recent days.

Peter Wehner, a former adviser to President George W. Bush, said Ryan wants House conservatives to make clear that they would not seek to "cripple him" from the start.

"He doesn't have a moral obligation to get Republicans out of the rubble they've created for themselves," Wehner said. "Asking for their goodwill is completely reasonable."

Wehner added that Ryan envisions his possible speakership as one that would be buoyed by his own political capital and shaped by an aggressive Republican policy agenda, rather than one consumed with catering to the whims of tea party backbenchers: "He's got a vision for the party that he can articulate. He knows policy, philosophy, and where the party should go intellectually."

But Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-S.C.), a member of the hard-line House Freedom Caucus who has expressed measured support for Ryan as speaker, said Ryan could not expect to unify Republicans without making some procedural concessions.

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) is being tapped to become the next speaker of the House, even though he doesn't seem to want the job. Who is this guy? (Gillian Brockell/The Washington Post)

"The displeasure with the way the House has been managed since 2011 is pervasive and crosses all sorts of philosophical boundaries within the party," Mulvaney said. "The appetite for a new way of doing business is real, and whoever wants to be the speaker is going to have to speak to that."

Leaving Washington before last week's recess, most lawmakers hailed Ryan as the only candidate who could unite a House Republican majority deeply divided over how to best wield its power. That has been complicated by a week of activist politicking — on talk radio, on conservative web sites, and in town hall meetings — that has sought to cast doubt on Ryan's conservative bona fides.

His purported apostasies include supporting the Troubled Asset Relief Program during the 2008 economic crisis, brokering a spending deal with Democrats in 2013 and — most crucially — being a leading Republican proponent of immigration reform packages that would give illegal immigrants a path to legal status.

"There are people who have sort of bought the narrative that the speaker's race is about trying to get someone who is more conservative, and for those folks Paul is not acceptable," Mulvaney said. "But there are other folks who believe, and this is what I've been telling them, that it's not about people, it's about process."

A new poll released Monday by NBC News and The Wall Street Journal showed strong support for Ryan among Republican primary voters, with 63 percent "comfortable and positive" about Ryan taking over the post. Twenty-eight percent said they would feel "skeptical and uncertain" if he became speaker.

Should Ryan decide not to heed the calls to run, it would set off a free-for-all that has already attracted roughly a dozen potential candidates who have expressed interest in running if Ryan does not.

They range from powerful committee chairmen such as Homeland Security's Michael McCaul and Agriculture's K. Michael Conaway, both of Texas, to Darrell Issa (Calif.), the high-profile former Oversight chairman to up-and-comers such as Marsha Blackburn (Tenn.), who has played a lead role in the GOP's recent fight against Planned Parenthood.

But many Republicans believe — or at least hope — that melee will be avoided as Ryan has shifted from being averse to inclined to succeed Boehner, due to a wave of encouragement from officials and influential conservatives, as well as a sense of duty to his embattled party.

Brendan Buck, Ryan's spokesman, said Monday that Ryan did not yet have anything to announce. "Congressman Ryan spent the weekend at home with his family. There is no update, and he looks forward to listening to and speaking with his colleagues this week," Buck said in a statement.

House Republicans will convene Tuesday in the Capitol basement for a conference meeting focused on the "October agenda." According to a GOP memo, dinner will be served and staffers will not be allowed in the room. They will meet again Wednesday morning.

Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa), a conservative who is backing longshot speaker candidate Rep. Daniel Webster (R-Fla.), sighed Monday when he heard about the previously unscheduled session, and said it signaled that the leadership was ready to get behind one of their own.

"This indicates they are at least close to presenting a successor to the conference, in an attempt to get momentum for that person," King said. "There is an effort out there to talk Ryan out of stepping up, but he may be ready to present himself."

Gingrich said that if Ryan does decide to seek the speaker's gavel, he will learn quickly — and encounter early problems.

"It'll take him about six weeks to go from being a policy guy to a process guy and he'll be very good at it. But it's a different world with a different set of rules. That's what he has to think through: Is that really a world he wants to be in the middle of? Is he willing to endure the scarring?"

Correction: An earlier version of this story said Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) is a member of the Freedom Caucus, which he is not.

Rep. Ryan Lays Out Conditions For Seeking Speaker's Job

By Richard Cowan

[Reuters](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from Reuters currently cannot be included in this document. You may, however, click the link above to access the story.

Ryan Tells GOP He'll Run For Speaker — With Conditions

By Scott Wong

[The Hill](#), October 20, 2015

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) told the House GOP conference that he will run for Speaker if every caucus endorses him, according to lawmakers in the room.

Ryan made the pledge during a presentation behind closed-doors in which he outlined how he could be convinced to run for the chamber's top job.

He also gave the House GOP until Friday to rally around him.

Ryan told his GOP colleagues: "I know this sounds conditional, because it is," according to a source in the room.

A spokesman for Ryan immediately after the meeting said Ryan will only run if his colleagues accept his as a "unity candidate" who is backed by centrists and conservatives in the House.

"Unless the speaker is a unifying figure across the conference, he or she will face the same challenges that have beset our current leadership," spokesman Brendan Buck said.

He said Ryan "encouraged the members to discuss and consider his requests, and he asked that they make clear whether they support them by this Friday."

"If the members agree with his requests and share his vision, and if he is a unity candidate—with the endorsement of all the conference's major caucuses—then he will serve as speaker. He will be all in," Buck said. "But if he is not a unifying figure for the conference, then he will not run and will be happy to continue serving as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee."

The spokesman insisted Ryan's comments did not announce a final decision on a run for the Speakership, but Ryan's views on what it would take for the next Speaker to be successful.

The Ways and Means Committee chairman has been under pressure to run for Speaker for more than a week after the surprise decision by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) to bow out of the race to succeed Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio).

After Ryan spoke with his conference, there were some signs of members rallying around him.

House Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), who had launched a bid for the Speakership against McCarthy, said he would end his pursuit given Ryan's willingness to serve.

"I'm out, and all in for Paul Ryan," Chaffetz said.

Rep. Charlie Dent (R-Pa.), who chairs the centrist Tuesday Group, indicated he and other centrists could endorse Ryan following a discussion amongst themselves this week.

"I could very easily support Paul Ryan," Dent said.

But Rep. Matt Salmon (R-Ariz.), a founding member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, said he wasn't sure if he could back Ryan.

Rep. Paul Ryan Will Run For House Speaker If GOP Factions Endorse Him

By Paul Singer

[USA Today](#), October 21, 2015

House Ways and Means Chairman Paul Ryan indicated Tuesday that he would "be all in" to run for speaker of the House – provided that he gets endorsement of all GOP factions.

The conditional decision still leaves some doubt as to whether Ryan, who is widely respected among House Republicans, will succeed Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, when he steps down at the end of the month.

"If the members agree with (Ryan's) requests and share his vision, and if he is a unity candidate — with the endorsement of all the conference's major caucuses — then he will serve as speaker. He will be all in," said Brendan Buck, the communications director for the House Ways and Means Committee, which Ryan chairs.

Buck said that Ryan expects to hear back by Friday from GOP members on whether they support his candidacy as a "unifying figure."

Ryan "believes that for the next speaker to be successful, we need to unify now. Unless the speaker is a unifying figure across the conference, he or she will face the same challenges that have beset our current leadership," Buck said.

Boehner is stepping down in part because a group of about 40 House conservatives threatened to call a no-confidence vote on his speakership. While Boehner said he was certain he would win the vote, he instead announced he would retire at the end of October, to spare his members having to cast that difficult vote.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., was heavily favored to succeed Boehner, but he withdrew Oct. 8 when it became clear that the conservative wing — represented by the House Freedom Caucus — would not support him.

The full House votes for the speaker, so the Republican nominee would need the votes of 218 members to be elected. There are 247 House Republicans, but 30 dissenters could have been enough to deny McCarthy the gavel.

The Freedom Caucus has said that before they will support anyone for speaker, they want reforms to House rules that will give them the opportunity to offer more amendments, get more conservative bills on the floor and restore the independence of committee chairmen — changes that would significantly weaken the authority of the new speaker.

Ryan, the 2012 Republican vice presidential nominee, had repeatedly said he didn't want the job when Boehner announced his resignation and when McCarthy decided not to seek the position.

More coverage of House leadership news:

Paul Ryan Says He Will Run For House Speaker If Party Unites Behind Him By Friday

By Lisa Mascaró

[Los Angeles Times](#), October 21, 2015

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) told his anxious colleagues Tuesday night that he would agree to run for speaker of the House, but only if the party united behind him by Friday, according to lawmakers and Ryan's aides.

The statement could bring a possible resolution to the GOP leadership struggle that has threatened to further divide the party, but it remains unclear whether conservatives will support him.

House Republicans have been in a stalemate after Speaker John A. Boehner announced he would step down and a conservative faction led by the House Freedom Caucus blocked the rise of Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California.

Ryan, a former vice presidential nominee, is considered the Republican Party's best hope for uniting its divided House majority. But he had expressed reluctance at taking the difficult job without unanimous support.

House Republicans returned to Washington late Tuesday evening and almost immediately gathered behind closed doors in the Capitol basement to assess the situation after a recess week away.

At that meeting, Ryan said he would be "willing to serve" if the three main GOP caucuses unite around him. He also had other conditions, including that he not be required to travel as much as Boehner had so Ryan could spend time with his family

"Chairman Ryan encouraged the members to discuss and consider his requests, and he asked that they make clear whether they support them by this Friday," according to a statement by Brendan Buck, a Ryan spokesman. "If the members agree with his requests and share his vision, and if he is a unity candidate — with the endorsement of all the conference's major caucuses — then he will serve as speaker. He will be all in."

"We have white smoke," said Rep. Steve Womack (R-Ark.) as he left the closed meeting.

"He really laid out a vision... selling conservatism," said Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-Ind.) a member of the House Freedom Caucus. Stutzman had previously backed another candidate for speaker but said he was impressed by Ryan's approach. "Paul Ryan was very clear it's going to be all or nothing."

For more than a week, Ryan had been in a political standoff with the House Freedom Caucus, a core block of conservatives who wanted changes to House rules in exchange for their support.

The caucus has enough votes to block Ryan from reaching the speaker's gavel. But he has refused to yield to its demands to loosen control over legislative proceedings.

The leadership drama has taken a toll on Americans' views of the GOP majority in Congress, according to new polling.

Six in 10 Americans see the leadership battle as a "sign of dysfunction" among House Republicans, and 29% see it as a "healthy debate," according to an ABC News/Washington Post poll. Among Republicans, more than 40% view it as a sign of dysfunction.

The leadership struggle has stymied the fall agenda and is complicating the next must-pass item: legislation to raise the federal debt limit to continue paying the nation's bills and avoid a credit default. The Treasury Department has set a Nov. 3 deadline.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) sought to shield his chamber from the disarray across the Capitol, suggesting that Senate Republicans remain focused on a "right-of-center agenda" even with the partisan divide posed by a Democratic president in the White House.

"You have to deal with the government you have," McConnell said. "We're here in the Senate to do serious things for the American people."

Ryan, the Wisconsin Republican, received a partial endorsement Tuesday from one unlikely source, Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), the minority leader, but such a nod might hurt more than it helps.

"He appears to be one of the few people over there who would be reasonable," Reid said. "I mean look at some of the other people."

Reid added that he's no fan of Ryan's ideology or his proposals for cutting Medicare and other safety net programs, and shrugged when asked if his backing could doom Ryan's candidacy.

"I speak the truth," Reid said. "If it helps him, fine. If it doesn't, too bad."

Boehner, who had hoped to retire Oct. 30 from representing his Ohio district, has said he would remain in office until a new speaker is chosen.

Ryan Willing To Run For U.S. House Speaker As 'Unity' Candidate

By Terrence Dopp

[Bloomberg Politics](#), October 20, 2015

Representative Paul Ryan said he'd be willing to run for speaker of the U.S. House if Republicans unify behind him now, end leadership crises and let him continue spending time with his family.

"If you can agree to these requests and if I can truly be a unifying figure, then I will gladly serve," Ryan, 45, of Wisconsin said Tuesday he told fellow House Republicans in a closed-door meeting. "This is not a job I've ever wanted," he told reporters, but added that he "came to the conclusion that this is a very dire moment."

Ryan said he wants an answer from fellow Republicans by the end of the week. "It's in their hands," he said.

Representative Greg Walden, an Oregon Republican, said Ryan told fellow Republicans he wanted to change the process for dissatisfied lawmakers to remove the speaker. "The question is whether the conference is willing to unify behind him," said Walden.

"He said he's willing to take arrows in the chest," said Representative Peter King of New York, "but not in the back."

House Speaker John Boehner plans to announce a date Wednesday for Republicans' vote to nominate a speaker candidate, said Representative Tom Cole of Oklahoma.

Representative Charlie Dent of Pennsylvania said Ryan wants backing from three groups of House Republicans – the centrist Tuesday Group, the conservative Republican Study Committee and the more hard-line Freedom Caucus.

Ryan's stance, after a week of pondering fellow Republicans' pleas to run, leaves the House leadership unresolved just two weeks before the Nov. 3 deadline to raise the U.S. debt limit. The House Freedom Caucus drove Boehner to resign and his top

lieutenant to quit the race to succeed him. At least two members of that group said Tuesday they wouldn't commit to supporting Ryan.

House Republicans have been in chaos over the speaker's position – second in line to the presidency – as Congress nears the Nov. 3 deadline to raise the U.S. debt limit or risk default. Lawmakers also need to replenish the federal highway fund by Oct. 29. Then they must resolve disputes over federal spending by Dec. 11 or risk a government shutdown, something Boehner couldn't head off in 2013.

Ryan is viewed by many as a unifying force after negotiating a two-year budget deal with Democrats in 2013. Boehner implored him to run for speaker, as did Mitt Romney, who chose Ryan as his vice presidential nominee in 2012. Still, some members of the Freedom Caucus have said he is too willing to compromise.

A number of Republicans began pressuring Ryan to seek the job after Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy's stunning Oct. 8 withdrawal from the race to succeed Boehner. Ryan, 45, of Wisconsin is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and the party's 2012 vice presidential nominee.

Ryan had been deeply resistant to the idea of seeking the speaker's job, people who have spoken to him said, and his staff repeatedly said he didn't want the post. He said he didn't want to spend weekends away from his family for the extensive travel and fundraising that have been a major part of the House speaker's job.

The Boehner for Speaker political action committee raised \$35.38 million during the 2014 campaign in a grueling night-and-weekend pace that took him from Florida to Alaska. Almost all of the money was passed on to other House candidates. Boehner has already traveled to more than 100 events this year, according to his fundraising operation.

Tax Overhaul
Ryan also has longed to pursue a comprehensive tax-overhaul bill as Ways and Means chairman.

Known to be interested in running for president, Ryan has spurned past attempts to lure him to the speakership because it's viewed as a political dead end. James K. Polk is the only House speaker ever to ascend to the presidency, and that was 170 years ago.

According to House procedure, Republicans would choose their speaker nominee at a closed-door meeting. Then the full House would schedule a vote, with almost all Democrats expected to support Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California. The winner must be backed by a majority of those who vote; lawmakers who designate themselves as "present" wouldn't count.

Members of the Freedom Caucus – a group of almost 40 conservatives whose resistance to Boehner and McCarthy helped push them out – have said that Ryan would have to work for their votes.

A group of Freedom Caucus members met with Ryan Tuesday, and afterward caucus leader Justin Amash of Michigan said afterward the group still supports its candidate for speaker, Representative Daniel Webster of Florida.

Another caucus member, Mo Brooks of Alabama, said he wouldn't commit to support Ryan and wanted to hear from constituents. He said he was concerned about Ryan's stance on immigration.

Harry Reid
While House Democrats have said they would stay out of the Republican leadership battle, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat, said he hoped Ryan would become speaker.

"He appears to me to be one of the people over there that would be reasonable," Reid told reporters. "Of all those people I hope he gets it."

Even as Ryan has pursued many Republican goals – including cutting business tax rates, repealing the estate tax and replacing Obamacare – he also has supported allowing 11 million undocumented immigrants to eventually become U.S. citizens, a stance strongly opposed by most House Republicans.

Freedom Caucus members chose Webster as their candidate for speaker on Oct. 7, and the following day McCarthy dropped out of the race saying he wasn't the right person to unite the Republican members.

Boehner of Ohio announced Sept. 25 that he would leave Congress by the end of October, following years of clashes with conservatives who most recently threatened to shut down the government in an effort to defund Planned Parenthood. After McCarthy dropped out of the race, Boehner said he would stay on until a new speaker is chosen.

Paul Ryan Says He Would Serve As House Speaker

By Craig Gilbert

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), October 21, 2015

Washington — Emerging from days of silence, Wisconsin Republican Paul Ryan said Tuesday he would serve as House speaker if his GOP colleagues unite behind him.

To colleagues pleading with him to run and spare the party an ongoing leadership crisis, Ryan offered a "conditional" yes, saying he would accept the job on his own terms.

At a news conference Tuesday night, Ryan said once more that he has never wanted to be speaker and would serve with reluctance.

He also said he felt an obligation to step up.

"This is not a job I've ever wanted or ever sought. I'm in the job I've always wanted here in the Congress," he said, referring to his chairmanship of the powerful Ways and Means committee. "I came to the conclusion that this is a very dire moment, not just for Congress, not just for the Republican Party, but for our country."

Ryan said he laid out to his colleagues the conditions under which he would serve. Among them, that the party take steps to avoid "constant leadership challenges and crises," that the conference "unify now and not after a divisive speaker's election" and that "I cannot and will not give up my family time."

Speaking to GOP colleagues behind closed doors earlier Tuesday evening, Ryan said he would need the backing of all the major factions within the Republican caucus, including the conservative Freedom Caucus that set the party's leadership crisis into motion.

With Ryan demanding a clear mandate from his party, the big question remaining is whether the 40-member Freedom Caucus agrees to support him without making demands of their own.

Ryan said he would make a final decision by Friday.

"What I told members is if you can agree to these requests and if I can truly be a unifying figure, than I will gladly serve. And if I'm not unifying, that will be fine as well. I will be happy to stay where I am at the Ways and Means committee," Ryan told reporters. "I have left this decision in their hands."

Wisconsin colleague Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.) described Ryan's remarks to GOP colleagues Tuesday as a "plea for unity."

Said Sensenbrenner: "He called on everybody to give something from where they've been in the past."

At his news conference, Ryan combined an appeal to conservative principles with a call for less political feuding and finger pointing.

"Now more than ever we must work together. All of us are representatives of the people — all people. And yet the people we serve, they do not feel we are delivering on the job that they hired us to do. We have become the problem. ... I want us to become the solution," he said. "Nothing is ever solved by blaming people. We can blame the president, we can blame the media ... we can point figures across the aisle, we can blame each other and we can dismiss our critics and criticism as unfair. People don't care about blame. People don't care about effort. People care about results."

The Ways and Means chairmanship is a career-long ambition of Ryan's that he realized less than a year ago, and a platform for his policy dreams of overhauling the tax code and federal entitlements.

"It's why I've passed on Senate races and other things (like) leadership. I always believed the chairmanship of Ways and Means was the right place for me," Ryan told the Journal Sentinel in January when he announced his decision not to run for president in 2016. "Now that I have it, I'm very happy with where I am."

Besides his own reluctance, another major hurdle for Ryan's speakership is an organized minority of conservatives in the House — known as the Freedom Caucus. That group wants concessions from the next speaker over rules and procedures that would give it more say.

An analysis by the Pew Research Center of 36 members of the Freedom Caucus found they are not only more conservative but less experienced than House Republicans as a whole; more than 70% entered office since the 2010 elections.

Leaders of the Freedom Caucus have said they're open to a Ryan speakership but won't renounce a list of demands that may be unacceptable to Ryan.

House Republicans, meanwhile, face a series of potentially divisive battles this fall over raising the debt ceiling, funding the government and the future of the Export-Import Bank.

In a national poll of GOP primary voters released Monday by NBC News and The Wall Street Journal, 63% said they'd be "comfortable and positive" about a Ryan speakership, while 28% said they would be "skeptical and uncertain."

Ryan Will Serve As Speaker If GOP Unites Behind Him

By Jake Sherman , John Bresnahan And Lauren French

[Politico](#), October 20, 2015

Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan, who for years has resisted a move into House Republican leadership, said Tuesday night he would serve as House speaker if he is the party's "unity candidate."

And Ryan, the Ways and Means chairman, wants to know by Friday if the 247 members of the House Republican Conference support him. If not, he is "happy" to continue as chairman of the powerful tax-writing panel, his spokesman said.

During a meeting of House Republicans Tuesday evening, Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), who counted Ryan as a volunteer on his 1990 congressional campaign, ceded the floor to Ryan. The 16-year veteran of Congress explained that his openness to serving as House speaker comes with serious caveats.

Ryan explained during the closed-door gathering that he wants support from all the major Republican caucuses. The House Freedom Caucus, the Republican Study Committee and the moderate Tuesday Group will be especially important.

Ryan also wants Republicans to alter the procedure for “vacating the chair,” which is essentially a referendum to remove the speaker from office. Conservatives threatened to force such a vote against Boehner earlier this summer, and Ryan believes it’s destructive.

The Wisconsin Republican is calling on the next speaker to be more visionary. He agreed with House Freedom Caucus members and a large bloc of the GOP in supporting changes to rules and procedures to empower rank-and-file members. But he said those decisions must be made together. Ryan also told his colleagues that he needs to be at home in Janesville, Wisconsin, with his family, so fundraising cannot be all consuming.

“I don’t know of anyone better to do it,” said Rep. Jason Chaffetz of Utah, who dropped his long-shot bid for the speakership when Ryan announced. “I think he wants to get as unified a group as possible, so that’s obviously a big question. He wanted to talk to all the various caucuses and groups. ...and I’m excited. He would be wonderful, fantastic as a speaker. I think the smart path for us is to unify behind Paul Ryan.”

The move could put major pressure on the Freedom Caucus, which endorsed Rep. Daniel Webster (R-Fla.) before House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) dropped his bid. Members of the Republican Study Committee and Tuesday Group have already showered praise on Ryan, but members of the Freedom Caucus aren’t quite ready yet to endorse him.

Ryan met with four of the group’s leaders today: Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, South Carolina Rep. Mick Mulvaney, Idaho Rep. Raul Labrador and North Carolina Rep. Mark Meadows.

Rep. Matt Salmon (R-Ariz.), a Freedom Caucus member, said Ryan made “some very reasonable observations about how anybody would need the support of the entire conference if they are going to be a successful speaker.” Salmon said he wasn’t supporting him yet, but is “certainly open.”

“All things are possible,” Salmon said. “I think the issue of process reforms are going to have to be addressed one way or another before the Freedom Caucus wholesale jumps in bed with him.”

Boehner resigned late last month and is set to leave Congress on Oct. 30, though he’s agreed to stay on until a new speaker is chosen.

Ryan Willing To Serve As Speaker, But With Conditions

By Manu Raju, Deirdre Walsh, Ted Barrett And Tal Kopan

[CNN](#), October 21, 2015

Washington (CNN)Rep. Paul Ryan told House Republicans he is willing to serve as speaker and will make a decision within the week.

But he’ll run only if he’s supported by three groups inside the House Republican conference: the House Freedom Caucus, the Republican Study Committee and the moderate Tuesday Group, his spokesman, Brendan Buck, confirmed.

Ryan also had a few more demands: He wants changes to House rules made as a team; he wants to make it harder to overthrow a sitting speaker; and he wants a better work-life balance than Boehner had as a prolific fundraiser.

“If the members agree with his requests and share his vision, and if he is a unity candidate – with the endorsement of all the conference’s major caucuses – then he will serve as speaker. He will be all in,” Buck said.

Ryan spent the day engaging in a flurry of back-channel conversations with GOP lawmakers as an anxious Republican Party eagerly awaits his decision. He discussed the possibility of seeking the speakership on the phone with fellow lawmakers and met with members of the House Freedom Caucus and the Southern Caucus. Ryan addressed his deliberations with the full GOP conference during a closed-door dinner.

Ryan was expected to address reporters Tuesday night from the House Gallery. Earlier Tuesday, he played coy with reporters, telling them he has “nothing to add.”

“Anybody who wants to meet with me, I’m going to do that,” Ryan said.

It was all part of a strategic effort to show that he was not running for speaker – but was open to being drafted, his allies said.

Outgoing House Speaker John Boehner expressed confidence on Fox News’ “Special Report” that Ryan would announce his decision later Tuesday night and will set a new date for leadership elections in the next few days.

“I hope he does decide to run, and if he does, I think he’ll be elected,” Boehner said.

Asked about Boehner’s comments, Buck said the GOP’s 2012 vice presidential nominee was unlikely to make a decision Tuesday evening. If Ryan passes on the job, Republicans are growing nervous that there is no one else who could unite a fractured party.

"It worries me a lot," Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, told CNN. "Because a leaderless House of Representatives is not something that is conducive to legislative successes – and it diminishes us even more in the esteem of the American people."

Returning to his office from the airport, Ryan was mum on what he would do.

"Good to see you," he told reporters waiting outside his office. But on both sides of the Capitol, the prospects of a Ryan speakership began to dominate the conversation – particularly as congressional leaders struggle to reach a fiscal deal by a critical November 3 deadline.

'Let the House work its will'

Conservatives in the House Freedom Caucus are signaling that Ryan will need to work to get its support, something the Wisconsin Republican has shown little interest in doing.

The caucus tweeted Tuesday night that "The next speaker must follow House rules and commit to an open process for debating and amending legislation. Let the House work its will."

"I have concerns with anybody who is not going to give us a reform agenda," said Rep. Raul Labrador, R-Idaho. "If anybody thinks we are just going to get behind somebody just because they have a national name, they are sadly mistaken."

Ryan met in his committee's offices with conservative members for about 45 minutes. Rep. Justin Amash, a leader of the conservative group, said it was an "informal" gathering and not an extensive discussion. And Rep. Mark Meadows of North Carolina said they discussed "party unity" and how the caucus could get behind him. Meadows said he'd "bet (Ryan) throws his hat in the ring."

But Kansas Rep. Tim Huelskamp said the caucus was still supporting Rep. Daniel Webster, who reiterated on Tuesday he would run for the speakership regardless of what Ryan decides.

"We can't have just another John Boehner 2.0," Huelskamp said.

Ryan did, however, pick up an unlikely supporter Tuesday in Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, who said a Ryan speakership would improve prospects over raising the debt ceiling.

"Well he appears to me to be one of the people over there that would be reasonable," Reid said. "I mean, look at some of the other people. I'm a Paul Ryan fan."

Asked about Reid's endorsement by reporters later, Ryan simply laughed.

Senate GOP leaders said that Ryan's deliberations had put their decisions on how to move forward on debt limit talks on hold – and that the House GOP needed to figure out its leadership dilemma within the next 24 hours in order to help come to some kind of consensus on debt talks.

"It will probably become more clear when the House determines who the leader is going to be over there," said Sen. John Thune, R-South Dakota, when asked about the next steps on the fiscal matters.

If Ryan passes on a bid, upwards of a dozen potential candidates could run for the speakership, something that could take weeks to sort out and presumably leave Boehner in the speaker's chair past his plans to resign on October 30.

To right their ship after a rocky few weeks following Boehner's resignation announcement, Republicans have scheduled three meetings in two days where they will talk about the way forward – including one to discuss imposing new party rules to give more power to junior lawmakers.

The Ryan Stakes

He can lead, but will enough Republicans follow?

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

Ryan To Meet With House Hard-Liners As He Weighs Run For Speaker

[Bloomberg Politics](#), October 20, 2015

Representative Paul Ryan is set to meet with a group of House conservatives Tuesday as he weighs a potential run to replace Speaker John Boehner under pressure from fellow Republicans.

The Wisconsin Republican will get together with the House Freedom Caucus, a group of almost 40 hard-liners whose opposition to Boehner drove him to announce that he would give up the speakership and leave Congress. Ryan, Boehner and all House Republicans will then meet behind closed doors later Tuesday evening to discuss plans for the coming weeks.

Ryan spokesman Brendan Buck said the lawmaker plans to meet with members of the Freedom Caucus at their request. Ryan is "always willing to talk with his colleagues," the spokesman said.

The turmoil over leadership has left the Republican majority without a fiscal strategy two weeks before a Nov. 3 deadline to raise the federal debt limit. Lawmakers also need to replenish the federal highway fund by Oct. 29. Then they must resolve

disputes over federal spending by Dec. 11 or risk a government shutdown, something Boehner couldn't head off in 2013. Ryan Reluctance

There was no immediate comment from Freedom Caucus leaders. The group also played a big role in the decision by Boehner's top lieutenant, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California, to drop out of consideration for speaker. Freedom Caucus members chose Representative Daniel Webster of Florida as their candidate on Oct. 7. The following day, McCarthy dropped out of the race saying the conference needed to find a candidate who could unify the party.

Buck said in an e-mailed statement that he didn't expect Ryan to announce on Tuesday whether he will seek the speaker's job. Ryan, the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, initially said he didn't want to run for speaker but has been urged by many fellow Republicans to reconsider.

Buck said that if Ryan is asked to speak during the Republican conference meeting, "I imagine he'd share his thoughts."

Harry Reid Hopes Paul Ryan Becomes House Speaker

[Huffington Post](#), October 20, 2015

WASHINGTON – Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) says if he had his way, he'd pick Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) to be the next speaker of the House.

"I'm a Paul Ryan fan," Reid told reporters.

"He appears to be one of the people over there that could be reasonable. I mean, look at some of the other people," the minority leader continued. "I don't agree with him on much of what he does. I think what he's done with Medicare and Medicaid, what he wants to do with it, I disagree with. But generally speaking, I think we've been able to work with him."

House Republicans have been scrambling to find someone to be their next speaker after Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) abruptly quit the race earlier this month. A few Republicans have thrown their names into the mix, but they've been drowned out by a groundswell of support for Ryan, who is widely respected in his conference and seen as someone willing to work with Democrats. So far, he's said he's not interested, but given the pressure from GOP leadership and others desperate for someone who can unify the party, people are watching to see whether he changes his mind this week.

Current Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) is leaving Congress as soon as Republicans find his replacement.

Reid praised Ryan's past work with Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) to hash out a budget deal in 2013. He said Ryan, who chairs the Ways and Means Committee, could also be key to ensuring that Congress raises the debt limit before Nov. 3, at which point the nation will default on its debt if lawmakers don't act.

Reid's endorsement wouldn't exactly help Ryan if he decides to run and needs support among GOP conservatives. Asked whether he realized his comments could work against Ryan, the Nevada Democrat shrugged.

"I speak the truth," he said.

"If it helps him, fine. If it doesn't, too bad."

What's In Store For Federal Pay And Benefits If Ryan Becomes Speaker? A Likely Hit.

By Joe Davidson

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

As the "will he, won't he" game swirls around Rep. Paul Ryan's decision to be or not to be speaker of the House, one question looms for the federal worker — what does it mean for me?

The answer – a potential hit on your pocketbook.

Unlike so much of what passes for news in Washington, this isn't just speculation. Ryan, a Wisconsin Republican, left an unambiguous record during his four years as chairman of the House Budget Committee.

During that tenure, which ended in January, Ryan led the House in approving legislation that would effectively cut federal employees' pay by forcing them to contribute more toward pensions with no increase in benefits, kill a retirement program for certain government staffers and eliminate student loan reimbursements. In his budget plans for fiscal years 2012 and 2013, Ryan pushed for even longer federal pay freezes than the three-year basic pay freeze initiated by President Obama. Additionally, Ryan repeatedly sought to reduce the number of federal employees through attrition. Feds were saved when many of his proposals were not adopted by the Senate, then controlled by Democrats.

Ryan's votes have earned him failing grades on voting scorecards tabulated by federal employee organizations. In recent tallies, the American Federation of Government Employees scored him zero for failing to agree with the organization's legislative positions a single time. He did a little better with the National Treasury Employees Union, 10 percent, and the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) with 15 percent.

"Ryan demonstrated a belief that government is the cause of all the woes in this country," said William R. Dougan, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees.

Ryan's fiscal year 2015 budget resolution, nicknamed "The Path to Prosperity" like his other plans, says, "Washington owes the American people a responsible, balanced budget." But prosperity is not what feds would get. To the contrary, Ryan's path would lead to much thinner wallets for these employees.

Federal pay still would be frozen if a provision in Ryan's FY 2012 budget had been enacted. It proposed freezing pay for five years, saying that would "boost private-sector employment by slowing the explosive growth of the public sector."

His FY 2015 plan proposed to "increase the share of federal retirement benefits funded by the employee. This policy has the effect of reducing the personnel costs for the employing agency." But it would have increased costs to the personnel by an estimated 5.5 percentage points of their salaries. Employees would pay more, but get no more. That would amount to an effective pay cut.

[House approves budget that would save money by taking from federal workers]

Rep. Chris Van Hollen (Md.), who sat next to Ryan as the top Democrat on the Budget Committee, at the time called this "a straight-out 5 percent pay cut."

While couched in the language of "reform," House Republicans under Ryan would have ended a supplemental benefit for workers in the Federal Employee Retirement System who retired before age 62, when their Social Security eligibility begins. Ryan favors placing new feds in a "defined-contribution" retirement system, which puts greater onus on employees than a "define benefit" system. These moves would save the government \$125 billion over 10 years, says his fiscal year 2015 plan. Left unsaid, that money would be a cost, not a savings, to federal workers.

Budget committee Democrats pushed back with an analysis that placed the cuts in a broader context. "After successive pay-freezes, pay reductions and benefit cuts amounting to almost \$140 billion, no one group has been asked to contribute more to deficit reduction than federal employees," the report said.

Looking for another way to save Uncle Sam money, Ryan also proposed ditching the student loan reimbursement federal agencies offer their staffers.

[More federal employees getting help from Uncle Sam to pay off college debt]

Almost 8,500 federal employees surely must be glad that proposal had not taken effect in calendar 2014 when they received \$58.7 million in student loan repayments. That's an average of \$6,905 per worker. Despite Ryan's wishes, the repayment program is growing. Compared to 2013, the number of employees getting this benefit increased by 15 percent in 2014 and the amount reimbursed rose by 11 percent, according to a recent Office of Personnel Management report.

"Several Federal agencies utilized student loan repayments to recruit and retain employees in Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) positions..." Beth Cobert, the acting OPM director, wrote in the report. "Notably, the Department of Defense provided student loan repayments to over 550 engineers...Employees in STEM career fields are vital to the Federal Government's mission, and OPM is committed to continue working with agencies to help them attract and retain talented professionals using student loan repayments and other human resources management flexibilities."

There might have been fewer talented employees across the federal service if Ryan's plan to reduce the workforce through attrition and proposals to cut pay and benefits had become law. Ryan, working with a Senate now controlled by Republicans, would have an even greater pulpit to proselytize his Path to Prosperity as speaker.

Jessica Klement, NARFE's legislative director, is not certain what a Speaker Ryan would mean for the federal workforce. But "based on his voting record," she said, "I'm not optimistic."

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP

Paying for egg donations

By The Editorial Board

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

Should a woman who donates eggs to help people with fertility problems conceive a child be able to charge as much as she can get in a free-market transaction? Or are there ethical reasons to limit her reimbursement?

That is the issue raised in a federal lawsuit that accuses two professional societies and the fertility clinics associated with them of illegal price-fixing that limits donor compensation. A federal judge in northern California has ruled that the claim can move forward and certified it as a class action, which could go to trial next year.

Guidelines issued by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology suggest that paying a woman more than \$10,000 for her eggs is "beyond what is appropriate" and even paying \$5,000 or more requires "justification."

A vast majority of the nation's fertility clinics follow these the guidelines. The stated rationale behind them is to avoid offering so much money that donors, especially those who are often young and poor, will rush to contribute their eggs without considering the risks.

This payment system is unfair. However well-intentioned, it favors the fertility clinics, which can keep more for themselves if they pay donors less, as well as the women who pay for fertility treatments. Meanwhile, it shortchanges the egg donors, whose wishes are ignored in the equation. And if there are indeed risks, they can be addressed and mitigated by the clinics and the doctors, who can strengthen their screening and counseling procedures and provide more information.

The money that donors get is meant to compensate them for physical and psychological tests; weeks of hormone injections to stimulate egg production; frequent tests and ultrasound examinations to track the developing eggs; repeated visits to the doctor, and minor surgery to remove the eggs when they are ready for retrieval.

First-time donors in California, New York and Chicago are paid \$4,000 to \$7,000, according to lawyers, donors and agencies. In medically expensive New York City, major hospitals and clinics pay \$8,000. The amount can rise significantly for repeat donors whose first set of eggs led to a birth. All bets are off at some high-end clinics that pay particularly attractive donors, such as actresses, models, or high-scoring Ivy League students, tens of thousands of dollars or, in rare cases, even in the six-figure range.

The very existence of these high-end payments suggests that the guidelines are something of a sham. The women who brought the suit say they were underpaid for their donations; they seek triple damages, to be determined later. The question of damages aside, there is merit to their argument that they have been denied a rightful say in the transaction.

A Middle-Class Oasis In New York Is Spared

By The Editorial Board

[New York Times](#), October 21, 2015

The extinction of middle-class New York, which has long been predicted but never quite arrived, has just been put off a little longer. Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration has struck an impressive deal to save Stuyvesant Town-Peter Cooper Village, the 80-acre complex that has long been a bastion of affordable housing on the East Side of Manhattan.

About half of it, anyway. The administration announced Tuesday that Stuyvesant Town, owned by CW Capital, was being sold to a Wall Street investment firm, the Blackstone Group, for \$5.3 billion, and that the buyer had agreed to keep 5,000 of the complex's 11,232 rental apartments affordable to middle-class families for 20 years.

Stuyvesant Town is a colossal property, a city-within-a-city that was built for World War II veterans, and it has been an oasis of stability and affordability for 65 years. But the oasis has been drying up. The complex, Manhattan's largest, has been losing 300 to 350 rent-regulated apartments every year, as tenants have died or moved away and management has raised rents for newcomers. Mr. de Blasio, who has staked his mayoralty on building or saving 200,000 units of affordable housing in a decade, could hardly achieve victory in that campaign while losing Stuyvesant Town.

The Blackstone deal represents Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen's effort to stop the affordability erosion. For a relatively modest price — the city is waiving \$77 million in mortgage recording taxes and giving Blackstone a \$144 million low-interest loan — all 5,000 apartments that have not yet been lost to ballooning market rates will remain in reach for middle-class families.

The praise for this deal rests on some assumptions. Mainly, a somewhat generous definition of "affordable." As Charles Bagli explained in *The Times*, a family of three making up to \$128,210 a year would pay \$3,205 a month for a two-bedroom apartment. For 500 of the apartments, rents would be lower: about \$1,553 for a two-bedroom for a family of three earning up to \$62,150 a year. This is not low-income housing, for sure. But these rents would allow a two-income couple — a teacher and a city worker, say — to afford an apartment in Manhattan bigger than a tanning bed.

Mr. de Blasio has always said that "affordable housing" should cover a wide range of incomes. He has been criticized by those who say he should focus most intently on helping the poor and working class. But it takes many strata to make a mountain, and New York's affordability crisis weighs heavily on pretty much everybody who is not in the top 1 percent.

Another, more pressing concern is the time frame — 20 years can be like the blink of an eye in the life of a family. Permanency is the greatest challenge and pitfall of affordable-housing schemes: tax breaks lapse; people move out and in; the rent always pushes upward. The Blackstone plan kicks the can down the road and around the corner a ways; it's hard to know how or whether it might go sour, but for now it looks like as good a deal as the administration could have struck, given the city's vexingly insatiable housing demand.

Stuyvesant Town was on the brink of becoming a high-end dormitory for young, upwardly mobile professionals on their way to bigger incomes and fancier digs. Now, for a couple of decades anyway, life will be more secure for about 13,000 people who are more interested in putting down and keeping roots in the city they call home.

Iran Steps Up Its Aggressions In The Region

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

AS THEY concluded the nuclear deal with Iran in July, President Obama and Secretary of State John F. Kerry repeatedly suggested that it could open the way to cooperation with Tehran in resolving regional conflicts, beginning with the civil war in Syria. They also promised the United States would push back if Iran instead stepped up its aggression. Just three months later, Iran's most notorious general is overseeing a new offensive by thousands of Iranian, Iraqi and Lebanese fighters aimed at recapturing the Syrian city of Aleppo from rebel forces, including some backed by the United States. Mr. Obama shows no sign of responding.

The Iranian-led offensive, which is supported by Russian air power, appears to be the most aggressive intervention yet by Iran in the Syrian war. The Post reported that hundreds of troops from the elite Quds Force had been joined by thousands of Iraqi Shiite militiamen and forces from Lebanon's Hezbollah, all under the command of Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani, who previously directed attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq. Far from accepting appeals from Mr. Obama and Mr. Kerry to help broker a diplomatic settlement, Iran has joined with Russia to entrench the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and help it to recapture Aleppo and other parts of the country.

The attack is one of several provocative steps Tehran has taken as the nuclear deal has begun to come into effect. The same day the accord was debated by its parliament this month, the regime test-fired a nuclear-capable missile, violating a U.N. Security Council resolution. The White House acknowledged the infraction but pointed out that it was outside the bounds of the nuclear agreement.

Also that day, Iranian television reported that The Post's Jason Rezaian had been convicted on espionage charges after a closed trial. The administration condemned the verdict.

On Sunday, the United States and its European partners began taking steps to implement the nuclear accord. Much is now required of Iran: It must place 12,000 centrifuges into storage, ship 12 tons of enriched uranium out of the country and demolish the core of a plutonium reactor before it can receive the more than \$100 billion in assets frozen under sanctions. It could be that the missile test and unjust conviction of Mr. Rezaian are the regime's demonstration that its nuclear concessions will not change its hostile stance toward the West or its military ambitions. If so, it is a cruel tactic that uses Mr. Rezaian, a professional journalist and American citizen, as a human pawn.

But the Syrian offensive is certainly more than message-sending. If successful, it could eliminate the chance to construct a moderate, secular alternative to the Assad regime, and send hundreds of thousands more refugees across Syria's borders. It was just such aggression that Mr. Obama acknowledged might be a byproduct of the nuclear deal — and that he vowed to resist. If he remains passive as Maj. Gen. Soleimani's forces press forward, both Iranian and U.S. allies across the Middle East will conclude that there will be no U.S. check on an Iranian push for regional hegemony.

The CDC's Promising Plan To Curb America's Opioid Dependence

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

HORRIFIC AS it is for the victims, drug addiction's impact reverberates beyond them, to include families, friends, whole communities. Thanks to a new Washington Post-University of Maryland poll, we can begin to quantify those wider consequences in our area. Nearly 3 in 10 Marylanders say they have a close friend or family member who was or is addicted to opiates such as prescription pain pills or heroin. The figures range from 4 in 10 in Baltimore to 1 in 6 in Montgomery County; but whether in the city or the suburbs, these numbers are far too high and fully warrant Gov. Larry Hogan's (R) promise to focus on the problem.

More treatment is necessary, as is prevention; yet preventing opioid addiction has been devilishly difficult due to the fact that people's first contact with the drugs often comes not through illicit channels but in a doctor's office, where they are prescribed opioids by a licensed physician who, in turn, had been told that medications such as OxyContin or Vicodin convey powerful relief with little or no addiction risk. In 2012, providers wrote 259 million prescriptions for opioids, enough for every American adult to have a bottle of pills. Opioid sales increased 300 percent since 1999. Almost 2 million people abused these drugs in 2013, and more than 16,000 died from overdoses.

Now the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the source of these data) has a plan that could make a major dent in the overprescription of opioids. The CDC is preparing opioid prescribing guidelines for primary-care physicians — the first of their kind from a federal agency. The guidelines are not finished, but early indications are that they will urge physicians to discuss risks with patients, pursue non-opioid alternatives as "preferred" options and limit initial prescriptions to a three-day supply at "the lowest effective dose." If finalized by the CDC and embraced by doctors, the guidelines promise to turn medical practice in an appropriately more cautious direction.

As is often the case with suggestions to curb pain prescriptions, the CDC's proposals are being met with opposition: some from people concerned about the impact on patients, some from a pharmaceutical industry concerned about the impact on profits. The American Cancer Society's lobbying arm has urged the CDC to suspend work on its guidelines, arguing in an Oct. 1 letter to the agency that cancer patients could be denied pain relief. Though understandable, these concerns are overstated; the CDC has said publicly its focus is not oncology but primary care, "outside end-of-life care."

It's true, as the cancer society letter notes, that the CDC guidelines are more than mere suggestions and will influence "state health departments, professional licensing bodies or insurers." That is precisely why they can be so beneficial; until now, government, medicine and the private sector have too often underestimated the risks, individual and societal, of widespread opioid prescription. The CDC has the prestige and authority to correct the balance. After incorporating valid comments from the cancer society and other interested parties, the CDC plans to publish in early 2016, and we see no reason to delay.

A Misguided Attack On D.C.'s Needy Students

By Editorial Board

[Washington Post](#), October 21, 2015

IS THE federally funded scholarship program for poor D.C. families being forced on an unwilling city? It is safe to say that thousands of D.C. parents whose children are on the waiting list for a scholarship do not think so. Nor, we would venture, do the 6,100 children, predominantly minorities, who have used the scholarships to attend private schools. For that matter, students in the city's public schools who have benefited from the infusion of federal dollars that has accompanied the voucher program probably would not embrace the argument either.

So whom do members of the D.C. Council think they are helping as they urge Congress to kill this program?

Fortunately, it does not appear that the council members will succeed in inflicting this wound on their city. Congress appears poised to reauthorize the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program, which provides needy students with up to \$12,572 to pay for tuition, fees and transportation to a school of their choice. The average family income for participating families is less than \$22,000. A bill extending the program for five years and championed by outgoing House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) is set for a floor vote Wednesday, while a bipartisan group of senators has filed a companion bill that would continue the program through 2025.

Seeking to derail those efforts, a misguided majority of the D.C. Council, undoubtedly egged on by Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) and other voucher critics, wrote a letter to Congress objecting to what they portrayed as an intrusion into local affairs. These eight council members seemed unaware that the program was established in 2004 at the initiation of Anthony Williams (D), then D.C.'s mayor, and with the strong support of Kevin Chavous (D), then chair of the council's Education Committee. Likewise, they were unmoved by polling that has shown 74 percent of D.C. residents support the voucher program, which, despite the specious claims of critics, has improved outcomes for its students without taking a dime from regular public schools.

Indeed, the three-sector federal approach has brought more than \$600 million to D.C. schools, with traditional public schools receiving \$239 million, charter public schools \$195 million and the voucher program \$183 million. At stake for fiscal 2016 is an additional \$45 million. It is fantasy to think there would be additional monies absent vouchers.

School reform has brought improvement throughout the system. Yet, many parents still lack the choices and the access to high-quality education that city politicians take for granted for their own families. We credit D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson (D) and council members Vincent B. Orange (D-At Large), Mary M. Cheh (D-Ward 3), Brandon T. Todd (D-Ward 4) and Kenyan R. McDuffie (D-Ward 5) for not seeking to deprive those parents of choice, and we hope their eight colleagues will rethink their position and put constituents' welfare over misguided ideology.

Elizabeth Warren's Latest Appointment

The Massachusetts liberal nominates a new SEC commissioner.

[Wall Street Journal](#), October 21, 2015

Full-text stories from the Wall Street Journal are available to Journal subscribers by clicking the link.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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INTERIOR FREEZES OFFSHORE ARCTIC LEASING PROGRAM. The [E&E](#) (10/19) reports that the Interior Department “dealt a blow to prospects for long-term oil and gas development in the Arctic region Friday, canceling two offshore lease sales and denying two other lease extensions.” In September, Royal Dutch Shell PLC announced “it was scrapping its Chukchi Sea drilling program and ending exploration offshore in Alaska ‘for the foreseeable future.’” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement Friday, “In light of Shell’s announcement, the amount of acreage already under lease and current market conditions, it does not make sense to prepare for lease sales in the Arctic in the next year and a half.”

The [E&E](#) (10/19) reports that “the Obama administration’s decision last week to impose new barriers on oil and gas exploration in the American Arctic is intensifying the heated dispute over federal management of Alaska’s energy-rich lands and waters.” Jewell “angered Alaska officials and oil industry groups when she scrapped the department’s plans to sell oil and gas leases in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas over the next two years.” But “environmental activists applauded the Interior Department’s actions and called on President Obama to ban future oil and gas drilling off Alaska’s northern shores.”

Environmentalists Turn Attention To Atlantic. [Politico](#) (10/19, Stokols, 942K) reports that environmentalists are now turning “their eyes to a new target: A plan to auction oil and gas leases in the Atlantic.” Alex Taurel, Deputy Legislative Director for the League of Conservation voters said, “We are thrilled that the conversation on offshore drilling has begun to shift, and we are hopeful that the administration will next take off the table any potential future lease sales in the Atlantic and the Arctic.”

SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS’ INCLUSION AS WORLD HERITAGE SITE CELEBRATED. The [E&E](#) (10/19) reports that “the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park’s entry to the list of World Heritage sites was celebrated here Saturday with the posting of an inscription marking its designation.” According to the article, “approved by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the new World Heritage site includes five historic churches built by Spanish Catholics beginning in the 1600s and 1700s and the Alamo.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell noted that “it took nearly a decade of effort by Interior to win the designation for the San Antonio Missions.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Antonio \(TX\) Business Journal](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication, 19K) and [WOAI-AM San Antonio \(TX\)](#) San Antonio (10/20, 8K).

SENATORS TO CONSIDER INTERIOR NOMINATIONS. The [E&E](#) (10/19) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is “set to consider a slate of nominations for senior posts at the departments of Energy and the Interior.” On Tuesday, “senators on the panel will hold a hearing to consider a half-dozen nominees, including many who have held the positions they have been nominated for on an acting basis.” The article notes that “Mary Kendall – an Interior deputy inspector general who has essentially been the acting IG for the department since 2009 – is bound to attract some attention from lawmakers.” Her “nomination has already attracted opposition on Capitol Hill and elsewhere.” Sen. David Vitter has “asked the White House to pick someone new for the job, while Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility wrote to senators last week saying she is not qualified for the position.”

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (10/20, 3K) reports that the nominations of Suzette Kimball to be director of the U.S. Geological Survey and Kristen Sarri to be an assistant Interior secretary for policy, management and budget will also be considered.

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/19, Cama, 471K).

SAN JUAN NAVAJO OPPOSE BEARS EARS PROPOSAL. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/20, 407K) reports that “proponents of a new national monument in southeastern Utah say the proposal involves a unique management approach that will put Native American tribes on an equal playing field with the federal government when it comes to how the land is used.” However, “it’s a plan that does not have the support of tribal members in Utah, who want to keep locals involved with how land sacred to them is managed.” According to the article, “several members of the Navajo tribe who live in San Juan County...don’t believe a monument designation is in their best interest, or the best interest of the county.”

REP. SMITH RAISES CONCERNS WITH MISSOURI GOV. NIXON'S LAND TRANSFER PROPOSAL.

[SEMO Times \(MO\)](#) (10/20) reports that “calling it a ‘clear misuse of funds,’ U.S. Rep. Jason Smith has taken Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon to task over a state proposal to transfer private land to state control in Oregon County.” At issue is a “plan that would allow the state Department of Natural Resources to buy land in Oregon County.” Smith “sent a letter earlier Monday outlining his concerns to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Dan Ashe, U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, and Missouri Department of Natural Resources Director Sara Parker Pauley.”

RENEWAL OF LWCF URGED. In an editorial, the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/20, 115K) calls for the renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The paper argues that “it’s a worthwhile cause” and notes that “the fund has handed out about \$17 billion in five decades to support the creation of more than 41,000 outdoor recreation projects across the nation, and that impact has been felt right here in Wyoming.” It concludes that “this is too important for our state and our nation. Wyoming’s delegation must make renewing the Land and Water Conservation Fund a priority.”

In an op-ed for the [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (10/20, 503K), Sen. Richard Burr calls on Congress to “bring the LWCF, and all the conservation projects currently in limbo, back to life.”

In an op-ed for the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (10/20, 161K), Brad Nicol, a member and habitat watchman for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, writes that “despite its popularity, bipartisan support and proven effectiveness, Congress has failed to uphold this pillar of America’s sporting heritage and did not include LWCF renewal in the recent budget negotiations.” Nicol warns that “the \$646 billion outdoor recreation industry — along with local economies that depend on the public being able to access and enjoy parks and national public lands — will feel the negative economic impact.” Also, “those sportsmen like myself that depend on quality public hunting and fishing grounds have lost one of the best funding sources for public access and conservation out there.”

BERMAN: FEDERAL MONUMENT DESIGNATIONS ARE AN ANTI-FOSSIL FUEL LAND GRAB. Richard Berman, president of Washington public affairs firm Berman and Co., writes for the [Washington Times](#) (10/19, 344K) that the Administration has “put more than 1,000 square miles off-limits from energy exploration” using an “arcane provision in the 1906 Antiquities Act [which] allows presidents to bypass Congress and unilaterally designate areas of land as national monuments.” Berman writes that Obama has used this authority 19 times and that the moves reflect a “keep it in the ground” position the Administration holds toward fossil fuels. Berman writes that environmentalists have been forming sportsmen, hunting, and angling groups which “give the appearance of moderate or conservative-leaning support for locking away uses of land that may benefit local communities.” Berman warns that as Obama’s term comes to a close, “it’s likely more land will be locked up.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA RULE ANNOUNCES RULE GIVING TRIBES MORE CONTROL OVER ELECTIONS. [Law360](#) (10/20, 21K) reports that the BIA “on Monday announced its final rule for Native American tribal elections conducted by the U.S. Department of the Interior, saying the new rule will encourage tribes to take control of their elections and help protect the voting rights of tribe members living in urban areas.” Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn said “in a statement Monday that the rule will allow tribes to opt out of having the interior secretary conduct their elections.”

The [Native American Times](#) (10/20, 337) reports that Washburn said, “Though many federal responsibilities concern the lands we hold in trust for tribes and Indian people, more than 55 million acres nationwide, the United States has a moral obligation to preserve connections between Indian people and their tribes that it once sought to destroy. For the future of Native nations and the health of Indian Country, American Indians in urban areas must work harder to maintain connections with their tribes. One important aspect of that relationship is participation in the civic and political life of their tribal governments. For that reason, our Secretarial election amendments seek to prevent tribal members living in urban areas from being inadvertently disenfranchised in Secretarial elections.”

COURT TO HEAR CHALLENGE TO NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION EFFORT. The [AP](#) (10/20, 2.28M) reports that “a group of Native Hawaiians are organizing an election to create a national government for the

first time since American businessmen, backed by U.S. Marines, overthrew the Hawaiian kingdom more than 100 years ago.” They are seeking “to elect delegates for a convention next year to hash out a governing document that will go back to the Native Hawaiian community for ratification, but their plan is already facing resistance — from Native Hawaiians themselves.” A federal judge on Tuesday will “consider an injunction motion in a lawsuit that argues that it’s unconstitutional to restrict voting to those with Native Hawaiian ancestry and that the state is improperly involved in the process.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (10/20, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/20, Jennifer Sinco Kelleher |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Vallejo \(CA\) Times Herald](#) (10/19, 46K), and [ABC News](#) (10/20, 3.97M).

Also providing coverage are the [AP](#) (10/20, Kelleher), [ABC News](#) (10/20, 3.97M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (10/20, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/20, Kelleher, 1.19M), and the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/20, 5.59M).

YAKAMA NATION’S PETITION TO SELF-GOVERN APPROVED. [KIMA-TV](#) Yakima, WA (10/20, 1K) reports that “federal officials have accepted a petition that will give Yakama Nation authorities exclusive jurisdiction for certain cases on tribal land, and will have the State of Washington withdraw from any authority.” The Interior Department said “in a news release Monday that ‘retrocession’ has been granted, and tribal police and courts will have full authority over civil and criminal cases involving members of the nation.” The article notes that “the federal government will retain their authority over the Nation, and Yakama Nation authority will remain the same,” and “the removal of state authority over tribal persons is the only change to come from this decision.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KVEW-TV](#) Kennewick, WA (10/19, 283).

JUDGE ASKED TO DROP SUIT CHALLENGING PLACEMENT OF NATIVE KIDS. The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (10/20, 257K) reports that “state and federal agencies are asking a judge to throw out legal claims by several Arizonans that a 37-year old federal law harms and illegally discriminates against Native American children.” In court filings Friday, attorneys for the BIA and the state Department of Child Safety “acknowledged the Indian Child Welfare Act does require state courts when placing Indian children for adoption to give preference to a member of the child’s extended family.” However, “they told U.S. District Court Judge Neil Wake that Congress had a valid reason for approving the law.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Capitol Times](#) (10/19, 599) and the [Sun City \(AZ\) Daily Sun](#) (10/20, 17K).

MEMBERS OF BLACKFEET TRIBE SUE OVER RESOURCES. The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (10/20, 51K) reports that “five members of the Blackfeet Tribe filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court recently, seeking compensation for what they allege is the federal government’s illegal use of tribally owned natural resources.” In the complaint, “the plaintiffs state they are also seeking affirmation of the tribe’s legal ownership of all natural resources, all water delivery infrastructure and all waterways originating on or passing through the reservation.” The suit “names the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Department of the Interior among the defendants in the case.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

INTERIOR PROPOSES LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE AIR SERVICE IN AMERICAN SAMOA. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/20) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina has “sent a letter to U.S. Senate and House congressional leadership proposing draft legislation to improve transportation within the U.S. territory of American Samoa.” The legislation would “provide reliable and sustainable air service between Tutuila and the Manu’a Islands.” Kia’aina said, “The lack of reliable transportation between these islands inhibits tourism, impedes access to education and health care services and generally limits opportunities for full economic potential within the territory. The transportation needs between Tutuila and Manu’a were evident to me on my trip to American Samoa last November. While we have provided almost \$9 million to procure a ferry for passenger/cargo transportation, air transportation continues to play a vital role in the daily activities of the people.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Talane \(ASM\)](#) (10/20) and [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/20, 1K).

MICRONESIAN RESOURCE CENTER ONE-STOP SHOP FOR GUAM TO OPEN SOON. The [Pacific \(Guam\) Daily News](#) (10/19, 61K) reports that “a new one-stop center where regional migrants can receive help in adjusting to life in Guam is expected to open next month.” Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam was “awarded a \$249,892 grant from the Department of Interior to open the Micronesian Resource Center One-Stop Shop for Guam.” The nonprofit’s Executive Director Vanessa Estella said “the shop, which will be located in Yona next to the St. Francis Catholic Church, should be open by early November.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

THREE SISTERS CUTS RIBBON AT WATSON HYDROPOWER PROJECT. The [WaterWorld](#) (10/20, 96) reports that “on Friday, Oct. 16, the Three Sisters Irrigation District and Energy Trust of Oregon held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Watson Hydroelectric Facility, capping a decade of its investments in efficient irrigation.” Three Sisters Irrigation District “increased the efficiency of its water delivery systems with help and support from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Deschutes River Conservancy, Energy Trust, and many other stakeholders.” According to the article, “by enclosing and installing more than 50 miles of pipe in more than 75 percent of its open canals, the District has been able to continue delivering irrigation water to farmers during historic drought conditions, even while improving stream flows for basin fish populations.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Hydroworld](#) (10/20, 151).

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

STUDY FINDS MOST CALIFORNIA SOLAR PROJECTS SITED NEAR PROTECTED AREAS. The [E&E](#) (10/19) reports that “most commercial-scale solar energy projects in California are located within 6 miles of protected lands such as inventoried roadless areas or critical habitat for federally protected species, according to a study released today by scientists at California universities.” The study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences “examined 161 projects that have been planned, are under construction or are operating.” It found that “their proximity to protected areas “may exacerbate habitat fragmentation” with direct and indirect ecological consequences.”

DEADLINE NEARS FOR NEW JERSEY WIND POWER AUCTION. The [Press of Atlantic City \(NJ\)](#) (10/20, 245K) reports that “Tuesday is the deadline for companies wanting to build windfarms seven miles off South Jersey’s coast to submit deposits of \$450,000 to secure a space for a Nov. 9 federal auction.” The article notes that “thirteen companies are considered qualified bidders for two leases of a combined 344,000 acres that can potentially be developed for wind power.” However, the BOEM “does not yet know how many of those companies actually want to take part.”

NORTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL CHIEF SUPPORTS WIND POWER. In an op-ed for the [Wilmington \(NC\) Star News](#) (10/19, 111K), Jenny Kelvington, senior policy adviser for the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality, writes that Donald van der Vaart, Secretary of the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality, or DEQ, supports offshore wind energy. She notes that “just last week in Wilmington, Secretary van der Vaart spoke to coastal residents and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, or BOEM, officials about the potential North Carolina’s abundant offshore wind resources present.” According to Kelvington, van der Vaart “emphasized the importance of balancing energy development with environmental safeguards, and in the case of wind energy, protecting the tourism industry that is so vital to our beach communities.”

HYDROPOWER GROUP PUSHES FOR FASTER PERMITTING. [The Hill](#) (10/20, Henry, 471K) reports that the National Hydropower Association “is encouraging Congress to move forward with bills to speed up the permitting process for new projects.” The industry group launched a website and public education campaign Monday to plug the industry’s role in reducing carbon emissions and legislative measures “designed to ease hydropower permitting in the future.”

Onshore Energy Development:

HOUSE PANEL SEEKS RECORDS IN COURT CHALLENGE TO BLM’S FRACKING RULE. The [E&E](#) (10/19) reports that “a House panel Friday asked the Bureau of Land Management to turn over tens of thousands of documents that the agency provided to a federal district court in Wyoming in a case challenging

its hydraulic fracturing rule. The Oversight and Government Reform Committee asked the bureau for a copy of the administrative record – consisting of 40,000 documents and nearly 1 million images – which the agency filed in late August to the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming.” The court is “reviewing challenges to BLM’s rule brought by oil and gas trade groups and Western states.”

SENATORS TO PROBE BIA’S ROLE IN STALLED TRIBAL ENERGY PROJECTS. The [E&E](#) (10/19) reports that “energy development on Native American lands continues to languish, and the federal government is partly to blame, according to the Government Accountability Office.” The GAO report highlighting the BIA’s “complicity in the energy woes of Indian Country will be the subject of an oversight hearing Wednesday in the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.”

FORMER BLM DIRECTORS SUPPORT STRINGENT VENTING, FLARING RULE. The [E&E](#) (10/19) reports that the BLM “should require ‘significant cuts’ to the amount of natural gas being flared on public and tribal lands and should require companies to detect and fix gas leaks, according to two former agency directors who served during the Clinton and Obama administrations.” The former directors, Mike Dombeck and Bob Abbey, sent a letter “to Office of Management and Budget Director Shaun Donovan asking that ‘prompt and timely consideration’ be given to BLM’s draft rule to reduce venting and flaring.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/20, Henry, 471K).

NPS TO PROPOSE UPDATE TO OIL, GAS REGULATIONS. The [E&E](#) (10/19) reports that the NPS “announced late last week that it is moving to increase oversight of oil and gas operations in national parks.” While the agency’s “oil and gas regulations don’t allow production in most of the national park system, operations currently occur in a dozen of the agency’s 408 parks where it doesn’t own the subsurface mineral rights.” The proposed regulation would “end an exemption in the current regulations that has allowed 60 percent of those operations to avoid NPS oversight and apply to all future oil and gas activities in the system, according to a Park Service press release.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [National Parks Traveler](#) (10/20, 989) and the [Akron \(OH\) Beacon Journal](#) (10/20, 313K).

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY FINED \$2.1 MILLION FOR UNDER-REPORTING NATURAL GAS. The [AP](#) (10/20, 787K) reports that the Department of Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue Office in Denver issued a \$2.1 million civil penalty against Chesapeake Energy Corp. for failing to comply with an October 2011 order requiring it to review the amounts reported for more than 100 leases on lands owned by Native America tribes and individuals in Oklahoma. In a statement, the office “said that Chesapeake said it complied with the order in 2012 but follow up testing found additional under reported volumes which were then corrected in 2013.”

ABANDONED WELLS IN WYOMING LEAVE GOVERNMENT WITH CLEANUP BILL. On its website, [NPR](#) (10/19, 1.85M) reported on the clean up of wells in Wyoming after the methane industry collapsed, reporting that the cost of dealing with the abandoned wells falls in large part to the state and federal governments. There are nearly 4,000 such wells in Wyoming. Although companies do put up bonds to pay for clean up costs if they go bankrupt, “companies only have to pay \$75,000 for all of their wells on private land in Wyoming.” Mark Watson, the state’s oil and gas supervisor, “recently proposed rules that would double the required upfront amount to \$150,000.”

PENNSYLVANIA DEP EMPLOYEE RECEIVES AWARD. The [Somerset County \(PA\) Daily American](#) (10/20, 40K) reports that “Richard Beam, of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, was honored by the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement with the 2015 Dave Bucknam Outstanding Instructor Award.” Beam received “the award for his performance as an instructor for the office’s National Technical Training Program.”

Offshore Energy Development:

CONTINUING COVERAGE: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT DECISIONS TO RESTRICT ARCTIC DRILLING.

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/19, Bastasch, 375K) reported that the Interior Department announced Friday that it would cancel two upcoming 2016 and 2017 Arctic lease sales due to “current market conditions and low industry interest.” The announcement comes “just weeks after Royal Dutch Shell abandoned its oil exploration efforts in the polar seas.” The Interior Department “also denied a request by Shell and Statoil...to extend the terms of their leases for another ten years,” saying that “the companies did not demonstrate a reasonable schedule of

work for exploration and development under the leases.

[KATU-TV](#) Portland, OR (10/19, 5:16 p.m. ET, 69K) also broadcast coverage of the story, reporting that “activists believe their protests earlier this year sent a strong message.”

Oil Industry Observers: Arctic Drilling Could Return If Economic Conditions Change. The [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Mooney, 6.76M) reported that to “those who aren’t oil industry insiders,” Shell’s decision to halt its drilling and the Interior Department’s Friday announcements “seem like the most sudden of turnabouts.” However, oil industry observers “suggest that the principal difficulty for Arctic offshore drilling right now is economic — this is a pricey endeavor at a time when oil prices are so low — and that companies may be back for another try at Arctic offshore drilling, in U.S. waters or elsewhere, if economic conditions change.”

In a piece carried by [Oil Price](#) (10/20, 2K), Nick Cunningham wrote that “it wasn’t environmental protest that killed off Shell’s drilling campaign” but rather “low oil prices and disappointing drilling results.” Likewise, the Obama administration “is now shutting the door on future lease sales not because of concerns over the environment, but ‘in light of current market conditions and low industry interest.’” However, “the interest in new leases had dried up even before the downturn in oil prices,” and “even if Interior hadn’t canceled the sales, it is far from clear that there would have even been a company that would be willing to risk scarce resources in bidding on risky Arctic oil.” Cunningham concludes that while it’s possible the leasing process could be relaunched, “a huge question mark that hangs over the process – there is very little interest on behalf of the industry, regardless of what the government may do. In this era of low prices, Arctic oil may simply be unprofitable.”

JONES ACT’S IMPACT ON OFFSHORE OIL PRODUCTION ANALYZED. [Platts](#) (10/20, 1K) reports that “the US’ Jones Act and its impact on offshore oil production in the Gulf of Mexico is causing federal agencies to go public with their concerns.” The article analyzes how the BSEE and Coast Guard are “publicly pushing Customs and Border Protection for some relief from the popular, century-old law.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

TEXAS GOV. ABBOT BLASTS BLM’S RED RIVER “LAND GRAB”. The [E&E](#) (10/19) reports that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott sent a letter to BLM Director Neil Kornze last Friday “demanding for a third time that the agency ‘cease and desist’ its ‘unconscionable’ land grab of roughly 90,000 acres along the Red River.” Texas landowners claim “they have raised crops and cattle and paid taxes on the sliver of land along the Texas-Oklahoma border for centuries, but BLM argues it belongs to the federal government.” Abbott wrote, “As you well know, the BLM’s actions prevent landowners from borrowing against the land to finance business operations or selling the land to new owners looking to cultivate their own economic freedom. But the implications of your actions are not merely financial. In many cases, your actions threaten to take the very homes above these Texans’ heads.”

BLM TO HOST SAGE GROUSE MEETINGS IN UTAH. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/19, 407K) reports that “four informational open houses detailing new federal plans designed to help the imperiled greater sage grouse are planned over the next couple of weeks in Utah.” In addition, the BLM announced “its proposal to close off 233,300 acres in the extreme northern corners of the state from any new hard rock mining activity with an eye to better protection of the species.” The article notes that “both developments are the result of a Sept. 22 decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to not add the bird to the Endangered Species List, but instead move forward with implementation of new land-use plans across 10 Western states to help the chicken-sized bird survive.”

Additional coverage of the BLM plan was provided by the [Sublette \(WY\) Examiner](#) (10/20, 6K).

MORE INSURERS SUE BLM, CHRYSLER OVER 2013 CALIFORNIA FIRE. [Law360](#) (10/20, 21K) reports that “Allstate Insurance Co. and two other insurers piled on Monday to the list of insurer suits against FCA US, Chrysler Group LLC and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management over a 2013 brush fire in Southern California that destroyed more than 7,000 acres and 120 residential buildings.” According to the article, “in a complaint in California federal court, Allstate, Federal Insurance Co. and Safeco Insurance Co. claimed that the BLM in July denied an administrative tort claim over the fire.”

VIABLE SOLUTION TO WILDFIRES URGED. In an editorial, the [La Grande \(OR\) Observer](#) (10/20, 2K) raises concerns that “the fire dangers remains high in the forests that surround our great piece of Oregon.” It asks the BLM and the Forest Service “what, exactly, is being done to lessen the danger of these terrible wildfires? No what to do afterward, but what, exactly, can be or will be done to clean up overgrown forests that prove to be as lethal as lakes of gasoline every summer?” The paper concludes that “we can keep doing what we have done for years — and, in turn, cost taxpayers more money — or perhaps residents, environmentalists and federal and state officials can work together to find a viable solution.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS AWARDS \$2.5 MILLION IN FIGHT AGAINST DEADLY BAT DISEASE. The [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (10/20, 351K) reports that “in the international battle against the bat-destroying white-nose syndrome the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has awarded another \$2.5 million in grants for research, management and communications projects.” The agency “hopes the new investments will further the effort to stop the spread of the deadly fungal disease that has killed millions of North American bats since it was first documented in New York in 2007.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “Previous research funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has led to major breakthroughs in our understanding of white-nose syndrome, providing a measure of hope that we can defeat this devastating disease.” He added, “Bats are a critical part of our ecology and provide essential pest control for our farmers, foresters and city residents, limiting the need to spray harmful pesticides. As the disease continues its spread into new areas, it is more critical than ever that we continue our strong support for solid science to inform wise decisions about our natural resources.”

FWS PROPOSES TO DOWNLIST COLUMBIAN WHITE-TAILED-DEER. The [Seattle Times](#) (10/20, 962K) reports that “after decades of protection under the Endangered Species Act, the Columbian white-tailed deer could be reclassified from ‘endangered’ to ‘threatened’ in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington.” The FWS “characterized the move as a success story, saying conservation efforts have helped bring the animal back from the brink.” According to FWS spokeswoman Elizabeth Materna, “the proposed downlisting of the deer won’t happen until next spring at the earliest.” The FWS is “in the midst of a 60-day public-comment period that ends Dec. 7, she said.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (10/19, 86K).

FWS EXPECTED TO ISSUE DECISION ON ALEXANDER ARCHIPELAGO WOLF BY END OF YEAR. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/19, Yardley, 4.07M) reports that “this spring, with the approval of the U.S. Forest Service, loggers began cutting thousands of acres of old-growth trees on Prince of Wales Island in one of the largest and most controversial timber sales in the Tongass in two decades.” State and federal officials say “the project is essential to the livelihoods of people on the island, where the last remaining large sawmill employs about 50 people.” But the Alexander Archipelago wolf population has “been in steady decline, and cutting down more trees is expected to pressure them further.” By the end of this year, the FWS is “expected to make a final decision on whether the wolf should be listed as an endangered species.” And “while that decision is pending, logging continues, as does hunting — of both wolves and the deer that are their food supply.”

WORKPLACE VIOLATIONS FOUND AT BRIMLEY HATCHERY... The [AP](#) (10/20, 344K) reports that “a federal agency is blowing the whistle on another, saying it found serious workplace violations at a fish hatchery in the Upper Peninsula.” The U.S. Labor Department on Monday said the FWS “failed to follow guidelines for workers in confined spaces at the Brimley hatchery, near Sault Ste. Marie.” Inspectors say “managers failed to evaluate tanks for confined space hazards, post warning signs and prevent unauthorized entry.” Todd Turner, “who oversees the hatchery, says many of the issues are ‘easy fixes’” and he says “employees don’t feel unsafe.”

MONARCHS GET HELP AS CALIFORNIANS PLANT DROUGHT-TOLERANT MILKWEED. The [AP](#) (10/20, Flaccus) reports that “in California’s drought, the struggling monarch butterfly may have found a sprinkling of hope.” According to the article, “suburban homeowners ripping out thirsty lawns are dotting their new drought-tolerant landscapes with milkweed native to California’s deserts and chaparral – plants that have the potential to help save water and monarchs at the same time, because the female monarch will only lay her eggs on milkweed.” The article notes that “earlier this year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced \$1.2 million starter investment to restore habitat; other national projects aim to distribute milkweed seeds by mail and build databases of breeding habitats as alarm grows.”

ATTU ISLAND SCHEDULED FOR CLEANUP. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/19, 2K) reports that “there are now more than 20 former defense sites located within the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.” Attu Island is “the most remote — nearly 1,500 air miles from Anchorage — and one of the most deeply affected.” Now, Attu is “scheduled for what may be the first of many stages of cleanup — but it’s unlikely the military will ever be able to turn back the clock to a time before conflict.”

WASHINGTON STATE TO VOTE ON ANTI-POACHING INITIATIVE. The [Seattle Times](#) (10/20, 962K) reports on Washington state’s Initiative 1401, “a sweeping measure to fight poaching by outlawing sales of elephant ivory, leopard skins, shark fins and parts from dozens of other imperiled species.” Proponents say the measure would “provide another tool to fight illegal wildlife trafficking that imperils species.” However, opponents say “the law would not stop poaching but would penalize antique owners.”

FWS PLANS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH WOLF RELEASES IN NEW MEXICO. For the “UpFront” column of the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/20, 259K), Lauren Villagran writes that “in the debate over Mexican gray wolves,” both “wolf advocates and those who oppose reintroduction of the endangered lobo want the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to adopt a recovery plan that would serve as a road map for the wolf’s survival and eventual removal from the endangered species list.” She notes that “a coalition of environmental groups and the Arizona Game and Fish Department have both asked the courts to force the service to write a new plan.” New Mexico Game and Fish recently sent the FWSS “a 60-day notice of intent to sue Sept. 1,” and “last week, the New Mexico agency said it was ‘evaluating its options’ after the federal agency said it would go ahead with wolf releases in New Mexico even after the Game Commission denied the agency permits to do so – stating that it was doing so because of the lack of a recovery plan.”

National Park Service:

FOURTH GRADERS VISIT HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK. The [Hot Springs \(AR\) Sentinel-Record](#) (10/19, 34K) reports that “the fourth-grade class from Fountain Lake Elementary School visited Hot Springs National Park on Oct. 8 as part of the ‘Every Kid in a Park’ program.” According to the article, “students toured all four floors of the Fordyce Bathhouse, which is also the Hot Springs National Park Visitor Center.” Also, “the students completed the Junior Ranger activity books and were sworn in as Junior Rangers by Hot Springs National Park Superintendent Josie Fernandez.”

Smart Toys Supports “Every Kid In A Park” Initiative. On its website, [Smart Toys](#) (10/20) says it supports the “Every Kid in a Park” initiative. It emphasizes “the importance of active and outdoor play for children.” It says that the “initiative encourages valuable opportunities to explore, learn, and play in the spectacular places that belong to us all and aims to inspire stewardship of these places for future generations.”

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO REQUIRE UAV REGISTRATION. The [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Whitlock, 6.76M) reports that “federal regulators said Monday that they plan to require recreational drone users to register their aircraft with the government for the first time in an attempt to restore order to U.S. skies, which have been invaded by rogue flying robots.” Officials said “they still need to sort out the basic details of the registration system but concluded that they had to take swift action to cope with a surge in sales of inexpensive, simple-to-fly drones that are increasingly interfering with regular air traffic.” Regulators “hope that forcing owners — many of whom are aviation novices — to register their drones with the government will at least make them think twice about their responsibility to fly safely and the possibility that they could be held accountable for an accident.”

FLASH FLOODS HIT DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/19, Rocha, 4.07M) reports that “severe thunderstorms over Death Valley National Park knocked down power lines late Sunday, sent mud barreling into a historic building and forced visitors and rangers to hunker down overnight in a volcanic crater.” According to park spokeswoman Abby Wines, “the flooding left about 20 visitors and three park rangers stranded in Ubehebe Crater, in the north end of the park, so they had to spend the night in the desert.” The article notes that “the group maintained contact with the park’s headquarters through the night until they safely exited Monday morning.”

VANDALISMS PLAGUES BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY. [WLOS-TV](#) Asheville, NC (10/20, 28K) reports that NPS officials say “some of the recent vandalism to the Blue Ridge Parkway may leave permanent damage.” Over the weekend, a vandal “spray painted the wooden marker at the Hendersonville Road entrance.” There was also “recent trouble with tagging on a Parkway bridge.”

NPS PROPOSES FEE INCREASE AT PERRY'S MEMORIAL. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/20, 1.03M) reports that the NPS is "proposing a fee increase that would more than double the cost to scale 352-foot-tall Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial." The article notes that "entrance fees would increase to \$7 in 2016, up from \$3, in a recently announced park proposal." The park is "hosting two open houses this week to discuss the proposal."

PRESCRIBED BURNS PLANNED AT GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK . The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (10/20, Staff, 235K) reports that "fire management officials for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are planning prescribed burns in two areas of the park that could begin as early as Oct. 26." The NPS "on Monday announced intermittent burn operations — weather permitting — are planned in Cades Cove from Oct. 26 through mid-November. Multiple fields totaling about 300 acres have been identified for fire treatment."

Additional coverage was provided by [WATE-TV](#) Knoxville, TN (10/19, 59K).

WISCONSIN SHIPWRECK JOINS NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Great Lakes \(MI\) Echo](#) (10/20, 441) reports that "nearly 86 years after the steam screw ferry Milwaukee sank in Lake Michigan, the National Register of Historic Places has recognized the ship for its distinctive role in the Great lakes railcar ferry system."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROJECT TO REVITALIZE ST. Louis Arch. Additional coverage of the project to revitalize the St. Louis Arch was provided by the [Chicago Tribune](#) (10/2, 2.46M).

Top National News:

OBAMA TOUTS CLIMATE PLEDGES FROM 81 US COMPANIES. The President's roundtable meeting with business leaders to discuss climate change, and the White House's announcement that 68 additional companies have signed on to the Administration's American Business Act on Climate Pledge, were ignored by the network news broadcasts Monday evening. Print and online coverage, however, are heavy, with reports casting the new corporate commitments – which bring the total to 81 – as a win for the President as he seeks to build support for an international climate change agreement. The [Washington Times](#) (10/20, Wolfgang, 344K) notes that in [remarks](#) following the meeting, the President said the growing number of business leaders who are "taking action on climate change" is proof "that it isn't just 'tree-huggers' who care about the issue."

[Foreign Policy](#) (10/19, Francis, 364K) said the President "scored a big win on his plan to combat climate change" as he tries "to win support from the private sector for his plan ahead of a UN climate conference in France that gets underway November 30." The President is "hoping backing from a broad array of companies will pressure delegates from almost 200 countries to come to some kind of an agreement to combat climate change."

In a story highlighting pledges from Minnesota-based companies Best Buy, General Mills, and Target, meanwhile, the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (10/19, Spencer, 1.19M) reports that the President "praised commitments that have sometimes been a tough choice," and [The Guardian](#) (10/19, 3.3M) quotes the President as saying, "Considerations of climate change, energy efficiency, renewable energies are not only not contradictory to their bottom lines, but for these companies they are discovering that they can enhance their bottom lines."

[The Hill](#) (10/19, Cama, 471K) noted that by highlighting "corporate support for the talks, the White House hopes to contrast big businesses' opinions with those of congressional Republicans." [USA Today](#) (10/19, Korte, 5.23M) reports that the President met Monday with "the CEOs of Johnson & Johnson, Intel, Berkshire Hathaway Energy, Hershey's and Pacific Gas & Electric – and with some of the smaller companies that supply them, and with" 68 new commitments announced Monday "to support the Paris talks – and the countries that are involved in them – and to take specific steps to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions," a total of "81 companies have now signed on to the 'Act on Climate' pledge, a part of a White House effort to bring a strong negotiating hand to the international climate talks in Paris next month." USA Today adds that "just as important" as the commitments from the companies is the fact they are "putting a business-friendly face on his clean energy initiatives."

The [AP](#) (10/20) says the companies "promise to advocate for a strong climate deal ahead of final negotiations

in Paris next month, and agree to take steps to reduce their own carbon emissions. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Lambert) also reports briefly on the White House's announcement of the new commitments.

[AFP](#) (10/20) says the "81 companies that have committed to concrete mitigation measures" represent "a potent tool against skeptics." A [Newsweek](#) (10/19, 198K) analysis said that "the recent pledge by companies shows that some corporations – the supposed allies of climate change deniers – are ahead of Congress on accepting the reality of climate change."

[TIME](#) (10/19, Frizell, 19.55M) said the 81 companies that have agreed to the White House plan include Walmart, Alcoa, Coca-Cola, American Express, Dell, GE, General Mills, McDonald's, Nike and "other household names." The [North Jersey Media Group](#) (10/20, Jackson, 112K) highlights New Jersey-based Johnson & Johnson's pledge to "cut carbon emissions by 20 percent worldwide by 2020 and by 80 percent by 2050," noting that chief executive Alex Gorsky said the effort is "good business" because "consumers want products from environmentally sound companies, younger 'millennial' employees want to work for firms that make such issues a priority, and communities businesses with clean footprints."

The [Chicago Business Journal](#) (10/19, Lazare) focuses on McDonald's commitment, which the company said "will be manifest on several fronts, including deforestation." The company "also supports sustainable production of beef, and by 2020, the company's goal is for 100 percent of the palm oil used in restaurants worldwide to be verified as having come from a system that supports sustainable palm oil production." Moreover, by 2020, McDonald's "aims to source 100 percent of fiber-based packaging from recycled or certified sources" and to "have 100 percent of its coffee verified as supporting sustainable production." On its website, [KWMU-FM](#) St. Louis (10/20, Howard, 8K) also reported on Monsanto's pledge, noting that the company "is pursuing a 25 percent increase in water use efficiency at its seed testing facilities by 2020," and is "addressing deforestation with 'advanced seeds and precise management tools' to help farmers make more efficient use of nutrients."

On its website, [Voice of America](#) (10/19, Pande, 32K) quoted the President's senior climate adviser, Brian Deese, as saying, "These commitments show that international action on climate is not only good for our planet, it's good for the bottom line. ... It also shows that when United States leads on climate issues, not only do other countries step up and make more progress, but you see businesses as well as other key actors stepping up to rally the world to address this issue."

[Fortune](#) (10/19, 4.14M) said that the new commitments "show how corporate America is increasingly interested in reducing emissions and fighting climate change," but noted that companies that "have built businesses off of the fossil fuel industry, like oil and coal companies," are "notably absent." A [Newsweek](#) (10/19, 198K) analysis likewise noted that although "the list included utilities and some energy companies, major fossil fuel producers were absent."

Biden Touts His Climate Change Record During Roundtable. [The Hill](#) (10/19, Cama, 471K) reported that the Vice President used his remarks to the roundtable "to outline his accomplishments on fighting climate change, going back nearly three decades," and "detailed extensively his work both in the Senate and in the Obama administration on climate."

Inhofe Blasts EPA, White House For Skipping Hearing. [Fox News](#) (10/19, Shaw, 8.91M) reported on its website that Senate Environment and Public Works Committee chairman James Inhofe is "crying foul after the Environmental Protection Agency and a key White House office declined to take part in an upcoming hearing on the administration's role in international climate negotiations." While Tuesday's hearing "was initially pitched as a joint hearing between the Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC)," it is now "expected to be held only by the SFRC and to feature one witness – the Obama administration's special envoy for climate change, Todd Stern." According to GOP sources "Democrats in the SFRC objected to a joint hearing, while invitations to the EPA and White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) were both declined." Inhofe, "voiced frustration at the response," saying in a statement, "The Obama administration and Senate Democrats have made it extremely difficult to provide necessary and appropriate Congressional oversight to the president's international climate negotiations."

Groves: Obama Will Not Submit Paris Agreement For Senate Approval. In a piece for the [Washington Times](#) (10/20, 344K), Steven Groves, the Lomas Senior Research Fellow in the Heritage Foundation's Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, writes that in Paris next month, the President plans to "commit the US to cut its carbon emissions by more than a fourth (26-28 percent below 2005 levels) by 2025," adding that

while the executive branch would usually submit such a significant agreement to the Senate as a treaty for its advice and consent under Article II of the Constitution,” the President “intends no such thing,” because he apparently “does not deem the Senate worthy of reviewing or questioning his environmental policies.” Groves questions “whether the Senate will take a stand, protect its prerogatives, and preserve its role in the treaty-making process.”

TRUMP, BUSH IN “UGLY WAR OF WORDS” OVER 9/11 ATTACKS. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/19, story 3, 2:30, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported on what he described as “the increasingly ugly war of words between Donald Trump and Jeb Bush over blame for 9/11.” NBC’s Katy Tur added that the pair are “squabbling over whether George W. Bush should be held accountable for 9/11,” with Trump “tweeting this morning, ‘Jeb is fighting to defend a catastrophic event. I’m fighting to make sure it doesn’t happen again.’” Trump was also shown saying on Monday during an appearance on Fox News, “If my immigration policies were in effect, I don’t know that [the 9/11 attacks] would have happened, because I have very, very strong immigration” policies. Tur added, “The spat spilling into the week after escalating on Sunday.”

On [ABC World News](#) (10/19, story 2, 2:15, Muir, 5.84M), David Muir reported on what he described as “a fiery back and forth” between the two candidates over “what Trump said about September 11 and President George W. Bush. Would it have happened if Trump was president?” ABC’s Tom Llamas added that Trump implied “a President Trump could have prevented 9/11. Believing his immigration policies would have stopped the terrorists from entering the US.” The segment draws from various interviews conducted with the two GOP hopefuls over the weekend. For example, Trump was shown saying, “I believe if I was running things, that I doubt those people would have been into the country.” Trump was also shown saying, “When you talk about George Bush, say what you will, the World Trade Center happened during his time.” And Jeb Bush was shown saying, “Does anybody actually blame my brother for the attacks on 9/11? If they do, they have totally marginalized our society.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/19, story 4, 1:35, Pelley, 5.08M) similarly reported on the “war of tweets and sound bites” between Trump and Bush, drawing from various weekend interviews with the two candidates. For example, Trump was shown saying, “Jeb said we were safe with my brother. We were safe. Well, the World Trade Center just fell down. We lost 3,000 people. It was one of the greatest – probably the greatest catastrophe ever in this country.” And Jeb Bush was shown saying, “Across the spectrum of foreign policy, Mr. Trump talks about things as though he’s still on ‘The Apprentice.’ Next week, Mr. Trump is probably going to say FDR was around when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.”

WSJournal, Thiessen Blast Trump Over 9/11 Remarks. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) criticizes Trump over his remarks, saying that faulting former President George W. Bush for the 9/11 attacks is like saying President Obama is responsible for the recession that came in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. In his [Washington Post](#) (10/20, 6.76M) column, Marc Thiessen similarly blasts Trump over his remarks, saying that faulting “Bush for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks is an absurd, left-wing talking point. The fact is, when Bush took office on Jan. 20, 2001, planning for 9/11 was well underway.” Thiessen adds of the former President, “Thanks to the actions he took, the institutions he built, the doctrines he established, the United States went 2,688 days on his watch without another attack on our soil. That is an achievement few thought possible when the rubble of the World Trade Center was still burning.”

Robinson Fault Terrorists, Not Leaders, For Attacks. In his [Washington Post](#) (10/20, 6.76M) column, Eugene Robinson says that with his comments, “Trump has created a problem not just for Jeb Bush but for the Republican establishment,” as the GOP “is desperately trying to blame Hillary Clinton for the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya.” Robinson adds, “Bad things happen on every president’s watch — also, every secretary of state’s — and the proper place to lay blame is on the perpetrators.”

BIDEN PRESIDENTIAL SPECULATION CONTINUES. Speculation about a potential presidential run by Vice President Biden continues to get coverage despite a lack of any word from Biden on Monday. Two broadcast networks ran stories Monday evening, with ABC parsing Biden’s comments at a White House event Monday and NBC saying Biden could decide within two days. But other reports offer different timelines. Meanwhile, a freshman Democratic congressman said he has learned Biden will run.

[ABC World News](#) (10/19, story 3, 1:45, Muir, 5.84M) reported that Biden “appeared to take subtle jabs at the two Democratic frontrunners” Monday. ABC (Karl) added, “Biden had nothing to say today on 2016, although at a White House event he did say this.” Biden: “I don’t consider Republicans enemies or friends.” Karl: “Could that have been a swipe at Hillary? This is what she said when asked which enemy she is most proud of.”

Hillary Clinton. Well, in addition to the NRA, the health insurance companies, the drug companies, the Iranians, probably the Republicans.” Karl: “And was this a shot a Bernie Sanders?” Biden: “I’m not one of these guys, you know, let’s go after the rich and powerful and they’re the problem.” Karl also said that while a source said Biden “has not made a decision,” the Vice President “has been calling potential supporters.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/19, story 4, 1:20, Holt, 7.86M) reported, “The speculation swirling around the Vice President has reached a fever pitch.” NBC (Welker) added, “Sources who are familiar with the Vice President’s thinking have told me he could decide within the next 48 hours. But another source emphasizes only Biden can really know when he is going to decide.”

[Politico](#) (10/19, Gass, 942K) reports under the headline “Biden Watch Kicks Into High Gear” that “rumors and reports...intensified on Monday, as official Washington – and the press corps – found itself grasping for answers as to when the veep will make up his mind, or at the very least make his decision known.” And [The Hill](#) (10/19, Byrnes, 471K) reports freshman Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA) [said via Twitter](#) that “he has been told by an unidentified source” that Biden is running. But [Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/19, Talev, 247K) says no announcement is expected “until the end of the week.” The [AP](#) (10/20, Lederman) summarizes the speculation: “He’s running! He’s about to decide! He’ll announce within two days! He’s maybe, possibly, surely, definitely going to figure it out really, really soon!”

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/19, Feldmann, 455K) writes that Biden remains a distant third in national Democratic polls, which means he “either he’s doing well for someone who hasn’t announced or, obviously, campaigned. Or he’s doing not so well – third place, for the sitting vice president.” However, “in head-to-head matchups against Republican front-runners, Biden does the best of any Democratic candidate.”

Clyburn Says Biden Should Not Run, But Should Remain “Available.” Howard Fineman of the [Huffington Post](#) (10/19, 164K) writes that Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC) said in an interview that Biden should not enter the race, but “should instead say he is ‘available’ to head the 2016 ticket if circumstances warrant it – that is, if Hillary Clinton implodes.”

WPost Inadvertently Publishes Biden Announcement Story Online. [Politico](#) (10/19, 942K) reports in its “On Media” blog that the Washington Post inadvertently “published an item Monday evening to its website with the headline ‘Biden to launch a presidential campaign.’” The Post said it “wasn’t news published before it was ready – just a ‘shell’ story prepared so that the Post could push the button faster in case Biden did announce.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “A New Attack On Health Care Reform.” Noting the recent failures of several health insurance co-ops, a [New York Times](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial criticizes Republicans and other ACA critics who it says “are cynically pointing to their problems as evidence that the whole reform effort is a waste of money that ought to be repealed.” The Times argues that the co-ops were created “as a weak, underfunded alternative to a much stronger” public option that consumers could choose as an alternative to private insurance, but the public plan was blocked by Republicans. Additionally, the co-ops have been hit hard by “severe reductions in the amount of money available...from federal loans and for risk adjustment payments,” the result of “Republican opposition to supporting the plans.”

“Justice Gone Wrong In New Orleans.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) writes that in “dozens of cases over the years,” the New Orleans district attorney’s office has “failed to turn over material to defense lawyers that would have helped their clients,” but the Supreme Court “refused to find any pattern of misconduct when it was confronted in 2011 with one of the most egregious examples in memory: the case of John Thompson, who spent 14 years on death row before a private investigator discovered that several prosecutors...had lied for years about a crime-lab report that ultimately led to Mr. Thompson’s exoneration.” The Times says that “as long as the justices look the other way, unethical prosecutors around the country will have little incentive to change their ways.”

“Time To Retire The Term ‘Alien.’” A [New York Times](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial argues that the term “alien” is a “loaded, disparaging word, used by those who regard immigrants as less-than-human burdens rather than as assets” and urges the federal government to “scrub it from official documents where possible.”

WASHINGTON POST. Keeping Guns Out Of Children's Hands. The [Washington Post](#) (10/20, 6.76M) editorializes that “of all the sad statistics associated with US gun violence, none is more pitiful than the single digits that represent the ages of little children who unintentionally shoot themselves or others after getting hold of a gun.” A recent “searing analysis of news accounts” by the Post “found 43 cases of children 3 or younger shooting themselves or someone else this year,” and average of a shooting a week. The Post argues that states and localities “could require gun owners to lock their guns away or use trigger locks,” and notes that consumers “have become accustomed to passcodes or thumbprints to safeguard their phones; the same technology could be used to keep guns from being fired by anyone but their owners.” The Post blames the gun lobby for the fact that “these lifesaving efforts are not a routine matter of law or practice.”

“Western Nations Shouldn’t Pander To Turkey’s President.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/20, 6.76M) editorial criticizes what it calls the “predictable inclination of many Western governments, especially those in Europe seeking to stem the flow of refugees...by striking deals with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.” The Post argues that “unless Turkey can overcome its growing domestic polarization, it won’t be able to tackle its multiple crises — or be a reliable partner for the West.”

“For Virginia’s State Senate.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/20, 6.76M) says that it is “difficult...to find Republicans to endorse in the handful of” northern Virginia state Senate races that “look plausibly competitive,” because of their “obstinacy” on Medicaid and “a variety of social issues.” Therefore, the Post endorses Democrat Jill McCabe over District 13 Republican incumbent Dick Black. For District 29, the Post endorses Democrat Jeremy McPike, who is “focused on the nuts and bolts of effective governance,” over Republican Harry Parish, who holds “rigid positions” against Medicaid expansion and “common-sense gun safety measures.” In addition, Democratic Sen. Jennifer Wexton, who is “off to an auspicious start” after winning a special election last year, is the Post’s endorsement for District 33.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Obama Takes The Military Hostage.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says that with his threat to veto the National Defense Authorization Act, the President is holding the US military hostage to his goal of forcing congressional Republicans to lift the caps on non-military domestic spending.

“Acting Up Against The Minimum Wage.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) praises a group of Los Angeles actors who filed a lawsuit against the Actors’ Equity Association on Saturday to prohibit the union from requiring theaters with under 100 seats to pay at least \$9 an hour to union members. The lawsuit warns that raising wages could force many theaters to close. Actors’ Equity responded by saying the suit will inevitably hurt its ability to bargain for the rest of its members, but the Journal says the actors appear to understand economics better than the union.

“Trump’s 9/11 Truthing.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/20, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) criticizes Donald Trump over his remarks, saying that faulting former President George W. Bush for the 9/11 attacks is like saying President Obama is responsible for the recession that came in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Horror Follows Attack In Israel](#)

[Drone Users To Face New Rules](#)

A Landscape In Peril

Tribe Pushes For A Bigger Role In Policing Its Lands

Dreamer Takes Action

Wall Street Journal:

[For Hedge Funds, A Can’t-Miss Trade Goes Bust](#)

[Trudeau Win Projected In Canadian Election](#)

[Tech Startups Feel An IPO Chill](#)

[Trump And Carson Gain Strength In Poll Of GOP](#)

NEW YORK TIMES:

[Stunning Rout In Canada By Justin Trudeau And His Party](#)
[Migrant Deaths, Reveal Tactics For Smugglers](#)
[New Approach Found To Ease Schizophrenia](#)
[A Pint Of Blood Or Jail For Offenders Who Can't Pay](#)
[In Hamlet, Home Buyers' Rule Is A Relic Of Its Nazi Past](#)
[Republican Freedom Caucus's Revolt In House Is Stoked Back Home](#)

Washington Post:

[Behind Sweden's Open Doors, A Backlash Brews](#)
[Tehran's Proxies Ordered To Syria](#)
[They Won The Right To Die In California, But Their Pain Continues](#)
[In Shift, FAA Will Require Drones To Be Registered](#)
[A Lesson That Gets Their Interest](#)

Financial Times:

[Starbucks And Fiat Face Unpaid Tax Bill](#)
[Deutsche Bank In \\$6Bn "Fat Finger" Slip-Up](#)

Washington Times:

[Memos From Benghazi Detail Staff's Security Worries](#)
[Buzz About Biden Bid Growing Even Louder](#)
[Price Tag For All Of Sanders' Plans May Be In The Trillions](#)
[Senate Has Little Data For Vote On Sanctuary Communities](#)
[Icelandic Gathering Seeks Cool Heads As Arctic Warms Up](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Southwest Jet-Passenger Assault; 2016 Politics-Poll; 2016 Politics-Joe Biden; CIA Chief-Email Hacked; Drone Regulations; Cold Weather; Oscar Pistorius-Released; Pregnancy-Alcohol Study; Amazon- False Reviews.

CBS: CIA Chief-Email Hacked; Hillary Clinton-Benghazi Committee; House Speaker Vote; 2016 Politics-Terror Attack Comments; Cold Weather; California Landslides; Drone Regulations; Israeli-Palestinian Conflict; US Shootings; US Gun Violence; Pregnancy-Alcohol Study; Amazon- False Reviews; Big Ben Maintenance.

NBC: CIA Chief-Email Hacked; Drone Regulations; 2016 Politics-Terror Attack Comments; 2016 Politics-Joe Biden; Oscar Pistorius-Released; Israeli-Palestinian Conflict; Cold Weather; Mob Trial; Amazon-False Reviews; Mexico Church Ruins.

Network TV At A Glance:

2016 Politics – 9 minutes, 25 seconds
CIA Director Email Hacked – 5 minutes, 20 seconds
Drone Regulations – 4 minutes, 30 seconds
Amazon False Reviews – 4 minutes, 05 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Drone Regulation Task Force; CIA Director-Email Hacked; 2016 Politics-Candidate Media Appearances; Canada National Elections.

CBS: CIA Director-Email Hacked; Drone Regulation Task Force; Jim Webb-Independent Candidacy; House Speaker Vote; Airbag Recalls-NHTSA.

NPR: Drone Regulation Task Force; Bakken Oil Field-Leaking Well; House Benghazi Committee; Joe Biden Campaign Decision; Republican Presidential Candidates-Secret Service Protection; Asian Markets; Canada Elections-Liberal Party Parliament; Oprah-Weight Watchers Investment.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — No public events published.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — NO PUBLIC EVENTS PUBLISHED.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Cherry Ann Murray to be Department of Energy Office of Science Director; Victoria Marie Baecher Wassmer to be Under Secretary of Energy; Mary Kendall to be Department of the Interior Inspector General; Suzette Kimball to be U.S. Geological Survey Director; Kristen Joan Sarri to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget; and John Frances Kotek to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Energy Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM POSTPONED: Hearing on 'Understanding Social Security's Long-Term Fiscal Picture' Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on North Korea – Hearing on 'The Persistent North Korea Denuclearization and Human Rights Challenge', with testimony from U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy / Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Korea and Japan Sung Kim; and U.S. Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues Robert King Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Off

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, October 19, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Mon Oct 19 2015 05:00:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, October 19, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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- + Officials Dedicate Basin and Range National Monument.
- + Officials Attend Official Ceremony For San Antonio Missions.
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- + Experts Say Brown Incorrect In Linking Wildfires And Climate Change.
- + Justice Department IG Says Independence Of IGs Must Be Restored.
- + Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Highlights Risk Of Natural Disasters During Trip To Washington.
- + Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Lauds Solar Program On Shinnecock Reservation.
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- + Judge Orders Release Of Information In FOIA Case.
- + Comment Deadline On Delta Tunnel Plan Nears.
- + Congress Urged To Implement Comprehensive Water Plan.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

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- + Ivanpah Solar Plant's Burning Of Natural Gas Contributes To Pollution Problem.

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- + New Mexico Raises Concerns Over Stream Rule.
- + BIA Holds Oil, Gas Lease Sale.
- + Public Comment To Begin Soon For Trapper Coal Mine.
- + Murray Energy Leading Charge Against Federal Regulations.

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- + Wyoming Stock Growers Challenges Sage Grouse Plans.
- + Helicopter Crashes Near Searchlight During Cattle Roundup.
- + Volunteers Build Trail In Colorado Where Dinosaurs Roamed.

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- + Cooperation Is Key To Wetlands Planning, Protection And Restoration Act.
- + Partnership Formed In Asian Carp Battle.
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- + Venomous Yellow-bellied Sea Snake Hits California Shore.
- + Cameron Prairie Refuge Cuts Staff, Office Hours.
- + FWS Puts Rare Macaws On Endangered Species List.
- + FWS Says Protection For Two Minnow Species Won't Affect Havasu.
- + Sage Grouse Decision Welcomed.

National Park Service:

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- + NPS Study On Reconstruction Sites To Include Florence County Locations.
- + Project To Revitalize St. Louis Arch.
- + Tourism Campaign To Promote Southern West Virginia's Three National Parks.
- + Groundbreaking Ceremony Held For C&O Canal Project.
- + About 70 Wind Cave Bison To Be Transferred To Preserves.
- + Civil War Soldier's Remains To Be Reburied In Springfield National Cemetery.
- + Holes In Mount Baldy Likely Caused By Buried "Ghost Forest".
- + Grand Canyon To Shutdown Water Pipeline For Repairs.
- + Everglades National Park Seeks Volunteers To Preserve Cold War History.
- + Supreme Court To Hear Case On NPS Authority.
- + Restoration Of Water Flows To Everglades National Park Urged.
- + Proposed National Park In Maine Supported.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Obama Hails "Important Milestone" As Iran Nuclear Deal Is Formally Adopted.
- + Ryan Announcement On Speaker's Race Expected Soon.
- + Bush, Trump Continue To Spar Over 9/11 Attacks.

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- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE:

- + Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:

LAST LAUGHS:

+ [Late Night Political Humor](#).

DOI in the News:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TAKES STEPS TO RESTRICT ARCTIC DRILLING. The Obama Administration on Friday took steps to restrict future offshore Arctic drilling, including canceling two upcoming 2016 and 2017 Arctic lease sales and denying requests from Royal Dutch Shell and Statoil to extend their current Arctic drilling leases. The [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (10/16, 213K) reported that the Department of the Interior said, "In light of current market conditions and low industry interest, the U.S. Department of the Interior today announced that it will cancel the two potential Arctic offshore lease sales scheduled under the current five-year offshore oil and gas leasing program for 2012-17." The announcement comes following a decision by Shell to halt its exploratory oil drilling in the Alaskan Arctic.

[The Hill](#) (10/16, Cama, 471K) reported that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement, "In light of Shell's announcement, the amount of acreage already under lease and current market conditions, it does not make sense to prepare for lease sales in the Arctic in the next year and a half." In the statement, Jewell "compliment[ed] her staff's work overseeing the safety and environmental standards of Shell's drilling in the Chukchi Sea." The [AP](#) (10/17, Joling) reported that Jewell "said the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's northwest coast and the Beaufort Sea off the state's north coast will not be included in the agency's current five-year lease sale plan."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/17, Mooney, 6.76M) reported that the lease cancellations represent the "second major setback to Arctic oil drilling plans that as recently as two months ago seemed to be moving forward smoothly." [Bloomberg News](#) (10/16, 2.66M) reported that "the cancellations highlight the changing environment for the oil industry after international prices fell more than 50 percent from their 2014 peak as supply overwhelms demand." Bloomberg added that "drilling in treacherous Arctic waters is also expensive, and Shell cited the high costs in shuttering its \$7 billion search for oil and gas in the region."

[Politico](#) (10/16, Schor, 942K) reported that the Interior's "move to cancel the sales marked an acknowledgment of the dismal economic reality facing aspiring Arctic drillers, who had shown little interest in the potential lease sales amid a global downturn in oil prices." However, the move "also gave greens the chance to take a fresh victory lap for their successful campaign to press Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton to publicly oppose all oil and gas development in the Arctic."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/17, Yardley, 4.07M) reported that the department "still plans to hold lease sales in the Arctic in its next leasing window, 2017 to 2022, when a new administration will be in office."

Interior Department Denies Lease Extensions For Shell, Statoil. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/16, Harder, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reported that the Interior Department on Friday also denied requests from Royal Dutch Shell and Statoil to retain drilling rights with upcoming expiration deadlines. The [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/16, 560K) reported that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "cit[ed] 'current market conditions and low industry interest'" in refusing to renew the existing leases. The BOEM said that Shell and Statoil "did not demonstrate a reasonable schedule of work for exploration and development under the leases."

The [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (10/16, 884K) reported that Shell and Statoil "had asked Interior regulators to issue 'suspensions' of their Arctic leases," as "without extensions, Beaufort Sea leases expire in 2017 and Chukchi Sea leases are invalid in 2020." Shell and Statoil could appeal, and "if they do, it could be a move to preserve the optional value of the leases, which effectively give the companies a chance to explore in U.S. Arctic waters for a few more years — and possibly wait for a new administration that could take a different view on the issue." Shell "reiterated Friday that more time is needed to explore the Arctic." Said Shell spokesman Curtis Smith, "When it comes to frontier exploration in Alaska, one size does not fit all. ... We continue to believe the 10-year primary lease term needs to be extended."

Decisions Both Criticized And Applauded. [McClatchy](#) (10/16, 28K) reported that Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, "criticized the president for blocking 'any hope

for future energy development in the Arctic, and blamed environmental regulations for Shell's failure. Said Bishop, "Obama has once again played directly into Russia's hands as he destroys our nation's energy potential." Environmental groups, however, "hailed Obama's decision to cancel the lease sales scheduled over the next two years." Said a Greenpeace spokesman, "For years, people around the world have been demanding President Obama protect the Alaskan Arctic from catastrophic oil drilling, and today he's taken a major step."

The [National Journal](#) (10/16, Subscription Publication, 144K) reported that the American Petroleum Institute "attacked the Obama administration for what the group calls a history of putting up bureaucratic hurdles." The twin decisions "could make it tougher for the industry to reignite Arctic development in the future," which the Journal said "is why a suite of environmental groups applauded Interior's action Friday."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/19, 213K) reports in a second article that environmentalists "say oil companies need to realize projects in the Arctic 'aren't making much sense any more.'" Green groups "cheered Interior's decision to stop new leases for offshore drilling in 2016 and 2017 and now they want the Arctic removed from the government's next five-year oil and gas leasing program." However, "experts say other companies will see the company's decision to leave the Arctic as a minor setback in a decades-long, potentially lucrative exploration." John Hofmeister, former president of Shell and founder of Citizens for Affordable Energy, "speculated that Shell's decision to stop drilling is a 'pause' and not a final decision."

Move Seen As Blow To Alaska's Economy. The [New York Times](#) (10/17, Krauss, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reported that the announcement, while not surprising, is "symbolically important as the Administration steps back from its cautious support of drilling in the Arctic." Moreover, "taken together, the decisions are a sharp blow to the Alaskan economy, which has been declining because of the fall in oil prices and the state's slumping oil production."

[USA Today](#) (10/16, Korte, 5.23M) reported that Alaska senator Lisa Murkowski, who chairs the Senate Energy Committee, called the decision "absurd." The Interior Department "is throwing up regulatory roadblocks to prevent drilling, she said — and then using the lack of drilling to justify canceling the lease sales." Said Murkowski, "This is a stunning, short-sighted move that betrays the Interior Department's commitments to Alaska and the best interests of our nation's long-term energy security. ... Today's decision is the latest in a destructive pattern of hostility toward energy production in our state that began the first day this administration took office, and continued ever since."

[Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/16, Martinson, 219K) reported that "in a hastily organized news conference at the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in Anchorage, Gov. Bill Walker and the three members of the state's all-Republican congressional delegation took turns criticizing the cancellation and the Obama administration." Rep. Don Young "told reporters that he wanted to respond to the cancellation by renting a rig and drilling horizontally into the off-limits Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from state land nearby." Young "decried the decision to reject lease extensions," writing in a statement, "Instead of throwing a lifeline to the state, they throw us a cinder block."

On its website, [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/16, 2K) reported that Walker "says Shell officials told him they wanted the lease extensions, and now, he says, it's like that door has been slammed in Alaska's face." Walker "says it's time for bold action, though he said he doesn't yet know what that is."

The [AP](#) (10/19) reported that Alaska's junior US senator Dan Sullivan "says the Obama administration is being very hypocritical in its treatment of Alaskans and Alaska Natives by shutting down offshore drilling." Sullivan said the administration is taking away oil jobs that pose real and significant "opportunities that could benefit thousands if not tens of thousands of Alaskans." Sullivan "says taking these potential jobs off the table isn't going to help the social problems facing Alaskans, and will actually make them worse."

Additional Coverage. The story was also covered by [Reuters](#) (10/16), the [Financial Times](#) (10/16, Crooks, Subscription Publication, 1.37M), the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (10/16, 14K), the [International Business Times \(UK\)](#) (10/19, 159K), [AFP](#) (10/17), [Agencia EFE \(ESP\)](#) (10/17), and on the websites of [NPR](#) (10/16, 1.85M) and the [BBC News](#) (10/19, 1.68M).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (10/17, Yardley, 4.07M), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (10/16, 86K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/19, 259K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/19, 2.28M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/16, Joling, 1.19M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-](#)

[Constitution](#) (10/19, 1.05M), [US News & World Report](#) (10/16, 811K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (10/19, 99K), the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/19, 37K), the [Madison \(WI\) Capital Times](#) (10/19, 181K), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Post-Gazette](#) (10/19, Press, 493K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (10/19, 962K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/19, 2.28M), the [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (10/16, 718K), the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (10/18, 15K), the [Marietta \(OH\) Times](#) (10/19, 27K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/16, Press, 1.19M), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (10/19, 99K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/16, Press, 1.19M), the [Oregonian](#) (10/19, 756K), the [International Business Times \(UK\)](#) (10/19, 159K), the [Huffington Post](#) (10/19, 164K), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (10/19, 1.05M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/19, 5.59M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/19), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/17, 455K), the [Alaska Native News](#) (10/16, 245), the [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (10/19, 986K), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (10/19, 1.05M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/19, 2.28M), [US News & World Report](#) (10/16, 811K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (10/19, 99K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (10/19, 962K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/16, 560K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/19, 115K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/16, 183K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (10/19, 99K), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Tribune-Review](#) (10/16, 296K), the [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (10/16, 447K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/16, Joling, 1.19M), [UPI](#) (10/17), [FOX News Latino](#) (10/17), the [Japan Times](#) (10/17, 4K), the [Business Insider](#) (10/19, 2.93M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/19, 5.59M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/16, 3.3M), the [Examiner](#) (10/19, 1.34M), [Newsweek](#) (10/19, 198K), [ABC News](#) (10/19, 3.97M), [ABC News](#) (10/19, 3.97M), [CNBC](#) (10/16, 1.79M), [ENews Park Forest](#) (10/19, 2K), the [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (10/19, 1K), [PJ Media](#) (10/18, 40K), [HotAir](#) (10/18, 30K), the [Inquisitr](#) (10/18, 527K), [Think Progress](#) (10/18, 453K), [Mashable](#) (10/16, 2.12M), [Popular Science](#) (10/16, 6.51M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/16, 5.98M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/16, 5.98M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/16, 5.98M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/17, 5.98M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/17), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/17, Joling), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/17, Joling, Press, 5.98M), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (10/19, 5.57M), [WAMU-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (10/19, 30K), [WTVG-TV Toledo \(OH\)](#) Toledo, OH (10/19, 59K), [WSOC-TV Charlotte \(NC\)](#) Charlotte, NC (10/19, 249K), [KCRA-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (10/19, 137K), [KWCH-TV Wichita \(KS\)](#) Wichita, KS (10/16, 109K), [WDIV-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (10/16, 348K), [WGAL-TV Lancaster \(PA\)](#) Lancaster, PA (10/16, 105K), [WYFF-TV Greenville \(SC\)](#) Greenville, SC (10/16, 147K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (10/19, 345K), [WJXT-TV Jacksonville \(FL\)](#) Jacksonville, FL (10/16, 234K), and [KSJR-FM Collegeville \(MN\)](#) Collegeville, MN (10/17, 60K).

Rubio's Energy Policy Would Reverse President Obama's Rules. In contrast to President Obama's position on drilling, the [New York Times](#) (10/17, Peters, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that Sen. Marco Rubio's energy policy would call for "drilling and hydraulic fracturing," which would "roll back many of the most aggressive components of President Obama's environmental agenda." Rubio unveiled his energy plans at a Friday talk in Ohio, arguing that he would allow for immediate "construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline" and would "permit more offshore oil and gas drilling," both of which the President has pulled back from. Moreover, the Times notes that Rubio would "effectively nullify an international climate change accord the administration is pursuing" and would reverse the EPA's recent ground ozone regulation changes.

[The Hill](#) (10/16, Cama, 471K) quoted Rubio's campaign as saying, "Nowhere is the disconnect between the potential of our people and the priorities of politicians as large as in energy." Khalid Pitts, Sierra Club political director noted that "Sen. Rubio's plan appears to have been written by executives in the fossil fuel industry."

OFFICIALS DEDICATE BASIN AND RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [AP](#) (10/17, 199K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and BLM Director Neil Kornze were "scheduled to join Democratic U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, Congresswoman Dina Titus and local officials for an evening ceremony" Saturday "at the Springs Preserve in Las Vegas." President Barack Obama "in July designated some 1,100 square miles of rangeland and mountains in Nye and Lincoln counties as Basin and Range National Monument."

The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/17, 199K) reports that "about 100 people gathered Saturday in cozy quarters at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve to celebrate a vast expanse of newly protected Nevada land." Kornze "discussed BLM's evolving role in managing protected lands." He said, "Conservation is something that has come to us just in the past few decades."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/19, 344K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/19, 22K), [KTVN-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (10/19, 3K), [KOLO-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (10/19, 3K), and [KRNV-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (10/19, 2K).

OFFICIALS ATTEND OFFICIAL CEREMONY FOR SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS. The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (10/19, 884K) reports that "a host of dignitaries gathered at Mission San Jose Saturday afternoon for the formal inscription the five San Antonio missions as a UNESCO World Heritage Site." Interior Secretary Sally

Jewell, Mayor Ivy Taylor, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wirth, Alamo Director Becky Dittman, Mexican Consul General Jose Antonio Larios, U.S. Rep Lloyd Doggett and San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller were among those who addressed the crowd.” Jewell “unveiled the official plaque which was draped in a zarape with the help of Mardi Arce, superintendent of the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KJAC-TV](#) Port Arthur, TX (10/19, 66K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO SPEAK AT SACNAS CONFERENCE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/16, 32K) reports that “White House advisors, business leaders and top public officials are set to address more than 3,000 people who will gather from October 29–31” for this year’s Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) annual STEM conference “at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention center just outside Washington, D.C.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will be among the speakers. Also, the Interior Department will “sponsor a reception with speakers who will talk about the twin influences of science and tradition on their careers.”

EXPERTS SAY BROWN INCORRECT IN LINKING WILDFIRES AND CLIMATE CHANGE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/19, A1, John, 4.07M) reports that “scientists who study climate change and fire behavior” say Gov. Jerry Brown is mistaken in linking global warming with California’s wildfires. University of Colorado climate change specialist Roger Pielke “said Brown is engaging in ‘noble-cause corruption.’”

Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell Tours Areas Of San Diego County Damaged By Wildfires.

Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s visit to San Diego was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/19, Stewart, 4.07M) and the [San Diego \(CA\) Union-Tribune](#) (10/18, 542K).

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IG SAYS INDEPENDENCE OF IGS MUST BE RESTORED. Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz, who chairs the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, writes in a [Washington Post](#) (10/19, 6.76M) op-ed that “unrestricted access to agency records ensures” that the functions of IGs “cannot be thwarted,” but since 2010, the FBI and other agencies have “challenged their IGs’ independent oversight authority.” Pending Senate legislation “would restore IG independence and empower IGs to conduct the kind of rigorous, independent and thorough oversight that taxpayers expect.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL HIGHLIGHTS RISK OF NATURAL DISASTERS DURING TRIP TO WASHINGTON. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s visit to Washington state was provided by the [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/16, 140K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL LAUDS SOLAR PROGRAM ON SHINNECOCK RESERVATION. Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was on Long Island last month “to highlight an American Indian solar installation program on the Shinnecock reservation” was provided by the [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (10/17, 1.3M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PUSH FOR MONUMENT DESIGNATION FOR BEARS EARS. Additional coverage of the push to protect the Bears Ears region was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (10/19, 164K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

COUPLES SUE OVER TRIBAL ADOPTION BUREAUCRACY. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/17, A3, Jones, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that several couples are suing over the difficulties faced in adopting American Indian children due to bureaucratic hurdles and other legal obstacles imposed under the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978.

TRIBAL OFFICIAL’S WHITE HOUSE WORK LAUDED. The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/19, 37K) reports that “months after her departure from the White House, state and federal leaders called the work of a North Dakota Native American official who helped guide policy with tribes nationwide a rare opportunity to improve tribal life.” Jodi Gillette “served in Washington, D.C., in multiple positions from 2009 until May of this year, helping coordinate between the Barack Obama administration and tribal leaders.” Gillette, “a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, has since joined Washington, D.C.-based law firm Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson and Perry LLP as its policy adviser.”

WARMING ARCTIC COULD UNCOVER ALASKA NATIVE ARTIFACTS. The [AC](#) (10/17, 344K) reports that “a researcher at the University of Alaska Fairbanks is attempting to predict where higher Arctic temperatures will melt snow to uncover ancient Native Alaskan artifacts.” According to the article, “perennial, stationary snow patches on the Brooks Range that accumulated over thousands of years are expected to deteriorate as the Arctic warms at double the global average.” Snow hydrology graduate researcher Molly Tedesche is “trying to predict where these fragile items will be before they decay from exposure to the elements.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF HEARING ON PROPOSED TRIBAL CASINO FOR MUSKEGON COUNTY. Additional coverage of the hearing held last week on the proposed tribal casino for Muskegon County was provided by [MLive \(MI\)](#) (10/19, 739K) and the [Grand Haven \(MI\) Tribune](#) (10/19, 26K).

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

GILA DIVERSION AGREEMENT SENT TO INTERIOR. The [Silver City \(NM\) Daily Press](#) (10/17) reports that “the Interstate Stream Commission approved the Central Arizona Project’s New Mexico Unit Agreement for a Gila River diversion at their meeting Friday, tucked away in the Ruidoso Downs racetrack Hall of Fame.” The vote “finalized the process here in New Mexico and sent the agreement on to the U.S. secretary of Interior for final federal approval next month.”

JUDGE ORDERS RELEASE OF INFORMATION IN FOIA CASE. The [Courthouse News](#) (10/16, 7K) reports that the BOR “improperly withheld information on water transfers in drought-ridden California by refusing to answer an environmental group’s Freedom of Information Act request, a federal judge ruled Thursday.” AquAlliance “successfully argued that the bureau improperly claimed an FOIA exemption by withholding names and addresses of certain well owners participating in water transfers in the Sacramento River watershed.” U.S. District Judge Ketanji Jackson “found there is no privacy issue at stake and that the bureau cannot keep the names of well owners secret.”

COMMENT DEADLINE ON DELTA TUNNEL PLAN NEARS. The [Vacaville \(CA\) Reporter](#) (10/17, 50K) reports that “there are only a few days left for the public to comment on the controversial tunnel plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.” The comment deadline is Oct. 30.

CONGRESS URGED TO IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE WATER PLAN. In an op-ed for the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (10/19, 626K), John Laird, secretary for natural resources of the state of California, writes that “as Congress considers an appropriate response to the Western drought, our experience in California gives us a keen sense of how Congress can best help.” He advises Congress to “avoid pitting water users against one another and support instead a comprehensive approach to improve water management for everyone’s benefit.” Laird notes that “two years ago, the administration of Gov. Jerry Brown developed a Water Action Plan – an ‘all of the above’ comprehensive strategy that spells out what we need to do in the coming years to bring reliability, restoration and resilience to California’s water system.” Laird hopes “federal decision-makers will build on the positive steps the leaders and voters of California already have taken and choose to reinforce our broadly supported ‘all of the above’ approach.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CRITICS OF EAGLE MOUNTAIN PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT COULD FILE APPEAL. The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (10/19, 303K) reports that “critics of a proposed Mojave Desert hydroelectric generating plant said Friday, Oct. 16, that they may appeal a decision by federal regulators who refused to reconsider licensing for the project.” The \$1.4 billion Eagle Mountain Pumped Storage Project near Desert Center would “draw water from an underground basin and store it in vacant pits at a shuttered iron-ore mine to use for generating electricity.” The NPS, “nearby residents and environmentalists have long questioned the project’s environmental analysis, which they say was inadequate.”

IVANPAH SOLAR PLANT’S BURNING OF NATURAL GAS CONTRIBUTES TO POLLUTION PROBLEM. The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (10/19, 303K) reports that “a solar power plant at the center of the Obama administration’s push to reduce America’s carbon footprint by using millions of taxpayer dollars to promote green energy has its own carbon pollution problem.” The Ivanpah plant in the Mojave Desert “uses natural gas as a supplementary fuel” and “data from the California Energy Commission show that the plant

burned enough natural gas in 2014 — its first year of operation — to emit more than 40,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide.” The article notes that “that’s nearly twice the pollution threshold for power plants or factories in California to be required to participate in the state’s cap-and-trade program to reduce carbon emissions.”

Onshore Energy Development:

NPS TO UPDATE OIL, GAS DRILLING RULES. The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (10/17, 506) reports that the NPS is proposing it update its drilling regulations. The proposal would “revise current rules that are 36 years old, predating the modern fracking area.” NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, “We have a fundamental responsibility to conserve park resources for the enjoyment of future generations and the changes we’ve proposed will clarify the process for oil and gas development in the small group of parks where current operations exist, and for parks who may manage operations in the future.”

NEW MEXICO RAISES CONCERNS OVER STREAM RULE. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (10/17, 44K) reports that “as the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is in the final stages of updating a more than three-decades-old rule aimed at protecting waterways from coal mine pollution, state officials have complained about the input process over the proposed rule changes.” According to the article, “Secretary F. David Martin — head of New Mexico’s Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department — voiced his complaints to OSMRE in a Feb. 20 letter, withdrawing the state of New Mexico as a cooperating agency from official participation in the rule update process.” Martin said that “over the course of the multiyear draft process that informs the rule changes, OSMRE did not provide agencies with a reasonable amount of time to provide input on the rule’s draft environmental impact statement.” He also “expressed concerns over the ‘quality, completeness and accuracy’ of the EIS, as well as additional opportunities to provide comments on the statement.”

BIA HOLDS OIL, GAS LEASE SALE. The [Enid \(OK\) News & Eagle](#) (10/19, 40K) reports that “an oil and gas leases sale by Bureau of Indian Affairs Concho involved more than 1,000 acres in Blaine County.” The article notes that “the sale totaled more than 400 tracts of land involving 31,000 mineral acres” and “total sales from the auction were \$50 million in oil and gas lease bonuses.”

PUBLIC COMMENT TO BEGIN SOON FOR TRAPPER COAL MINE. [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (10/16, 30K) reports that “the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement will begin the 30-day public comment period on Trapper Mine’s environmental assessment with a community outreach meeting on Oct. 29.” Representatives from OSMRE and Trapper Mining, Inc., will be “present to explain the National Environmental Policy Act and answer questions on the process.”

MURRAY ENERGY LEADING CHARGE AGAINST FEDERAL REGULATIONS. The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (10/19, 87K) reports that Murray Energy, “the nation’s largest privately held underground mining company, is leading the charge in eight lawsuits against various federal agencies.” One of its lawsuits is “against the Department of Interior for not satisfying Murray’s request for records about the agency’s proposed Stream Protection Rule that Murray has called ‘the single greatest threat to the jobs and family livelihoods of our employees.’”

Offshore Energy Development:

BP SPILL WORSE THAN EXPECTED FOR GULF WILDLIFE. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/17, Baddour, 2.28M) reported that a new report recently released by the Justice Department highlights how the BP Deepwater spill was worse than understood on Gulf of Mexico wildlife. According to the 700 page report, “hundreds of billions of Gulf creatures perished.” The spill has also resulted in one of the largest settlements for an oil spill, with BP paying the U.S. government \$20 billion to cover repairs to the Gulf’s environment, including wildlife.

DOLPHIN DIE-OFF FOLLOWING BP OIL SPILL APPEARS TO BE LEVELING-OFF. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/18, 455K) reports “scientists say the 5-year dolphin die-off” that resulted from “BP’s 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf might be coming to an end.” National Marine Fisheries Service research biologist Jenny Litz “said Friday that dolphin mortalities in the Gulf coast region have declined ‘since the peak years of 2010 to 2014.’” BP doesn’t “take responsibility for the die-off, citing frequent die-offs in the past and other, unrelated bacterial diseases in the Gulf.” But experts with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration disagree, saying “never have the dolphins experienced a die-off that has lasted as long, involved as many animals, or affected as many calves.”

The [AP](#) (10/19) also provides coverage of this story.

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

TEXAS GOV. ABBOTT ACCUSES BLM OF ILLEGAL LAND GRAB. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (10/16, 1.15M) reports that “in a strongly-worded letter released Friday, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott asked the Bureau of Land Management to end an ‘unconscionable land grab’ along the Texas-Oklahoma border.” In the letter, Abbott accuses the BLM “of attempting to take control of land ‘privately owned and managed for decades’ by Texans.” Abbot “complained that the Bureau of Land Management has lacked transparency throughout the process.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Gilmer \(TX\) Mirror](#) (10/19, 12K), the [Wichita Falls \(TX\) Times Record News](#) (10/19, 65K), the [Longview \(TX\) News-Journal](#) (10/16, 64K), the [Texas Tribune](#) (10/16, 10K), and the [Examiner](#) (10/19, 1.34M).

WYOMING STOCK GROWERS CHALLENGES SAGE GROUSE PLANS. The [AP](#) (10/19, 2.28M) reports that “the Wyoming Stock Growers Association has filed a legal challenge to a series of federal sage grouse plans, saying they overstep the government’s authority.” The association “filed a petition for review Wednesday in federal court.” The BLM and U.S. Forest Service “amended nine land management plans in the state to include new grouse conservation measures.” The stock growers claim “the new rules hamper ranchers’ ability to effectively run their operations.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/16, Press, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/16, 344K), and the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/19, 5.59M).

HELICOPTER CRASHES NEAR SEARCHLIGHT DURING CATTLE ROUNDUP. The [AP](#) (10/19, 75K) reports that “authorities say a helicopter that was helping the Bureau of Land Management round up cattle crashed near Searchlight.” According to the article, the “pilot was located and declined medical treatment, saying he only had a sore back”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/19, 344K), [KVVU-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (10/19, 118K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (10/19, 494K).

VOLUNTEERS BUILD TRAIL IN COLORADO WHERE DINOSAURS ROAMED. [KRDO-TV](#) Colorado Springs, CO (10/19, 45K) reports that “volunteers from all over Colorado are building a trail where dinosaur fossils were found.” Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and the BLM “teamed up on the project at the Garden Park Fossil Area north of Canon City.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

THREATENED SEA DUCK MAY BE REINTRODUCED IN SOUTHWEST ALASKA. The [AP](#) (10/19, 2.28M) reports that “a colorful, threatened sea duck whose numbers plummeted in Alaska may be reintroduced to the southwest corner of the state.” FWS officials are “taking public testimony on possible environmental effects of a plan to move breeding pairs of Steller’s eiders to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, where the birds once thrived.” The agency’s “proposal calls for the release of Steller’s eiders raised in captivity at the Alaska SeaLife Center in Seward.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [US News & World Report](#) (10/16, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/16, Dan Joling |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/16, Joling, 344K), and the [Business Insider](#) (10/19, 2.93M).

PRESCRIBED BURN ON ARAPAHO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE GETS OUT OF CONTROL AND DAMAGES STRUCTURES. The [AP](#) (10/19) reports that “a prescribed burn that jumped containment lines destroyed three structures and charred about 600 acres of grass.” According to the article, “no injuries were reported, but the fire burned a mobile home that was used for storage, a pump house and a barn.” The FWS says “crews started a prescribed burn on the Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge and it got out of control.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/19, 787K) and [KMGH-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/19, 121K).

COOPERATION IS KEY TO WETLANDS PLANNING, PROTECTION AND RESTORATION ACT. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that “for those involved with coastal Louisiana restoration and protection, a law that funnels federal money to local projects has been a model for cooperation between federal, state and local entities.” Funds “from the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, which has grown from about \$30 million to nearly \$80 million annually, helps pay for projects benefiting wetlands.” The article notes that “the task force that manages the program includes representatives from the state, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service, NOAA-National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.”

PARTNERSHIP FORMED IN ASIAN CARP BATTLE. The [Ottawa \(IL\) Daily Times](#) (10/19, 50K) reports that “keeping Asian carp out of the Great Lakes is being taken on by a partnership of the U.S. Forest Service’s Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.” Recently, “Wade Spang, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie supervisor, signed a formal agreement using Service First partnership authority.” The partnership enables the FWS “to locate staff and resources closer to the Chicago Area Waterways/Electric Dispersal Barrier, where the Asian carp battle is occurring.”

6,300 LAKE STURGEON RELEASED INTO MICHIGAN WATERS. The [AP](#) (10/16, 910K) reports that “state officials say more than 6,300 juvenile lake sturgeon were released into Michigan waterways this summer and fall in a continuing effort to restore the ancient species.” The Department of Natural Resources “teamed with Native American tribes and other partners on the projects, including Michigan State University and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

VENOMOUS YELLOW-BELLIED SEA SNAKE HITS CALIFORNIA SHORE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/16, Gordon, 4.07M) reports that “for the first time in 30 years or so, a poisonous sea snake has been spotted on a Southern California beach, drawn far north of its usual habitat by what naturalists think are the warming ocean waters because of El Niño.” According to officials at the Heal the Bay organization and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, “a yellow-bellied sea snake, *Pelamis platurus*, was found Friday at the high tide line at Silverstrand Beach in Ventura County by a surfer.” The reptile “found Friday died shortly after being transported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s office in Ventura.”

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (10/17, Thadani, 5.23M), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/17, Sahagun, 4.07M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (10/19, 1.05M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/17, Dailymail.com, 5.59M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/19, 5.98M), [WDIV-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (10/19, 348K), and [KLTV-TV Tyler \(TX\)](#) Tyler, TX (10/19, 79K).

CAMERON PRAIRIE REFUGE CUTS STAFF, OFFICE HOURS. The [Washington Times](#) (10/16, 344K) reports that the FWS says “the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge’s office and visitor center is cutting back its hours because of staff cuts and other recent changes.”

FWS PUTS RARE MACAWS ON ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST. The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (10/19, 506) reports that “two rare bird species in Central and South America will get protection under the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced last week.” Under the listing, “military and great green macaws can’t be imported into, or exported out of, the U.S.”

FWS SAYS PROTECTION FOR TWO MINNOW SPECIES WON’T AFFECT HAVASU. The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (10/19, 27K) reports that “federal protections for two small fish found in the Colorado River system won’t affect Lake Havasu, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife official said last week.” The FWS is “petitioning for two species of minnow to be added to a list of threatened species.” According to the article, “the headwater chub and the roundtail chub would join the bonytail chub and the razorback sucker among the region’s protected species.”

SAGE GROUSE DECISION WELCOMED. In an op-ed for the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/19, 115K), Holly Copeland, a scientist with The Nature Conservancy in Wyoming, writes that the recent decision to not list the greater sage grouse was correct, but come with “caveats and subtleties.” She lauds “the largest landscape-scale conservation effort in U.S. history, spurred by the threat of an endangered species listing for sage grouse,” and says that the decision should not be read “to mean the sagebrush system doesn’t need our help.”

rather, she warns, quite the opposite – truly, in the next few decades we could lose these lands to invasive cheatgrass, fire, and development.”

Additional coverage of the sage grouse decision was provided by the [Montana Kaimin](#) (10/19, 11K).

National Park Service:

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS HONORED. The [Lexington \(VA\) News-Gazette](#) (10/19, 120) reports that NPS Director Jon Jarvis was secluded to be “honored with a public event in Glasgow” on Saturday.

[WDBJ-TV](#) Roanoke, VA (10/19, 159K) reports that “the homecoming celebrated his dedication to the environment and conservation.” Funds “raised will go towards the ‘Jon Jarvis Legacy Fund’ which supports environmental outreach programs.” Jarvis says “he wants to inspire others to respect our environment and reach for the stars.” He said, “I hope that they see opportunity. My family didn’t have any money. When I went to college, I worked three jobs. You can do it, I think that’s the key, you can do it, anybody can do it. If I can do it and come from Rockbridge County and be the director of the National Park Service, anybody can do it.”

NPS CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH LESSON PLAN. The [Mountain View Telegraph](#) (10/19) reports that the NPS ‘s “Teaching with Historic Places and HISTORY have partnered to celebrate the upcoming 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) with a lesson plan about the act signed into law on Oct. 15, 1966.” The NHPA “provides individuals and communities the tools to nominate significant places to the National Register of Historic Places; a national program that encourages and supports preservation of sites that are important to local, state, or national history.” According to the article, “in the lesson, designed for middle and high school curriculums, students will learn about historic preservation by identifying and investigating historic properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places in their own community.”

NPS STUDY ON RECONSTRUCTION SITES TO INCLUDE FLORENCE COUNTY LOCATIONS. The [Florence \(SC\) Morning News](#) (10/19, 86K) reports that “Jamestown, Mt. Zion United Methodist Church of Florence, Wilson High School and the Lake City Post Office are eligible to participate in a Reconstruction-themed study conducted by The National Park Service.” Michael Allen, community partnership specialist for the NPS in Charleston, said, “The National Park Service uses this as a tool to gain a deeper awareness and understanding, and sometimes clarity, for a specific basis of our American experience.”

PROJECT TO REVITALIZE ST. LOUIS ARCH. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/19, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that a coalition of public and private groups has raised some \$380 million to give the Gateway Arch in St. Louis a facelift. Next week, crews will complete an extension over Interstate 44 of a downtown park that will create a connection between the city and the monument. The article notes that the new parkland over the highway arrives in time for celebrations culminating with the 50th anniversary on Oct. 28.

TOURISM CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA’S THREE NATIONAL PARKS. The [AP](#) (10/19, 344K) reports that “a new marketing campaign will build on underappreciated national parks in southern West Virginia that already attract more than 1 million visitors annually to the region.” Visit Southern West Virginia said “the campaign will harness the power of the National Park Service to lure more visitors to the New River Gorge National River, Gauley River National Recreation Area and the Bluestone National Scenic River.” Christy Bailey of Visit Southern West Virginia said, “This campaign will increase visibility of our parks, celebrate their unique qualities and bring new visitors to the region to appreciate and experience them.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (10/19, 75K) and [Skift](#) (10/18).

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY HELD FOR C&O CANAL PROJECT. The [AP](#) (10/16, 344K) reports that the NPS is “starting work on a project to raise a steel ‘lift bridge’ on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal at Williamsport.” The article notes that “the ceremonial groundbreaking on Friday marks progress toward the agency’s goal of making the western Maryland town a showpiece near the mid-point of the nearly 185-mile historical park.”

ABOUT 70 WIND CAVE BISON TO BE TRANSFERRED TO PRESERVES. The [AP](#) (10/19, 344K) reports that “bison from Wind Cave National Park are scheduled to be transferred to preserves in South Dakota and other states to help form new or boost existing herds.” The NPS says “about 70 bison are part of this year’s

relocation effort. The article notes that the bison transferred out of state are going to Missouri, Iowa, Kansas and Illinois.”

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER’S REMAINS TO BE REBURIED IN SPRINGFIELD NATIONAL CEMETERY. The [AP](#) (10/16, Hollingsworth, 344K) reports that “the remains of a Civil War soldier will be reburied in a southwest Missouri cemetery four years after they were illegally removed from a national battlefield site.” According to the article, “the soldier’s bones, which will be interred Saturday at the Springfield National Cemetery, were collected in 2011 as Coy Matthew Hamilton was canoeing through the Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield Site near Springfield.” Prosecutors said “Hamilton, who was looking for artifacts after a storm, saw a bone sticking out of an embankment and started digging,” and “about 10 days later, he turned the bones into the National Park Service.”

HOLES IN MOUNT BALDY LIKELY CAUSED BY BURIED “GHOST FOREST”. The [AP](#) (10/17, 344K) reports that “trees slowly buried by windblown sand are likely the root cause of dangerous holes that have appeared in a towering sand dune on the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.” Geologist Erin Argyilan “believes pockets were formed around tree branches and trunks enveloped by Mount Baldy.” Argyilan says that “created a ‘ghost forest’ beneath the sand.”

GRAND CANYON TO SHUTDOWN WATER PIPELINE FOR REPAIRS. The [AP](#) (10/16, 344K) reports that “Grand Canyon visitors and residents are being urged to conserve water while a section of a pipeline serving the national park is replaced.” Crews were scheduled to “shut off the Transcanyon Pipeline at Phantom Ranch on Sunday.” The shutdown is expected to last a few days.

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO PRESERVE COLD WAR HISTORY. The [Miami Herald](#) (10/19, 651K) reports that “the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the Nike Hercules Missile Base HM-69 at Everglades National Park immediately following the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962.” Currently, “the site serves no official use, but is a relic of the height of the Cold War in South Florida.” Now, “to continue to preserve the oral history of the site, Everglades National Park is seeking volunteers to lead tours and collaborate with veterans.”

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR CASE ON NPS AUTHORITY. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (10/16, Flattau, 164K), Edward Flattau, and environmental newspaper columnist, hopes “that the U.S. Supreme Court resists undermining the natural integrity of our national parks and federally designated wilderness areas” in “a case, which if reversed, could conceivably wreak havoc on protected wilderness.” Flattau hopes that the Ninth Circuit Court’s ruling that the NPS “had the authority to bar a plaintiff hunter from using his hover craft to mow down moose on a state-owned section of the Nation River” is upheld. Flattau argues that “when preservation of the nation’s unique wilderness heritage is at stake, disruptive commercial activities in the midst of the protected area are out of bounds, even on state and/or privately owned inholdings.”

RESTORATION OF WATER FLOWS TO EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK URGED. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (10/16, Farago, 164K), Alan Farago, an environmental activist, writes that “the flow of Everglades waters have been blocked by Tamiami Trail and large scale farming at the edge of the Everglades, creating flood protection conflicts with land owners, spurred by idiotic developments like the 8.5 Square Mile Area in western Miami-Dade County sticking like a sore thumb into the middle of Everglades wetlands.” He says that “to move water south, water managers have built a multi-hundred million work-around.” Farago says that is “great if you are a property owner in a place where government should never have allowed development in the first place, lousy if you are a nesting roseate spoonbill.”

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE SUPPORTED. For “Stirring The Pot” at the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (10/18, 223K), Mark W. Anderson writes “about the proposed Katahdin Woods and Waters national park and national recreation area.” He says that “two issues are important to deciding whether a new national park is a good idea. What would a new park add to Maine’s opportunities in our vast forest resources? Who should get to decide whether this is the right thing to do?” In the end, Anderson is “in favor of a National Park in Maine’s North Woods.”

Top National News:

OBAMA HAILS “IMPORTANT MILESTONE” AS IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL IS FORMALLY ADOPTED. Ninety days after the UN Security Council endorsed the Iran nuclear deal, the President on Sunday marked “adoption

day by signing an executive order directing the Administration to begin issuing waivers to Iran nuclear sanctions once Tehran meets its obligations under the agreement. While the network news broadcasts did not mention the development, print and online coverage is extensive, with reports casting it as a key milestone and a major win for the President. Reports also note that that Administration officials are stressing that full implementation could take months.

[Reuters](#) (10/19) quotes the President as saying, "Today marks an important milestone toward preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and ensuring its nuclear program is exclusively peaceful going forward." [The Hill](#) (10/18, Laing, 471K) called implementation of the agreement "a big win for Obama, who staked much of his remaining political capital on getting the pact through a divided Congress," but [Roll Call](#) (10/18, Dennis, 113K) reported that House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce said in a statement that the Administration "'is looking more naive by the day' given what has transpired in the 90 days since the UN Security Council endorsed the deal." Citing "a host of factors, including the Iran-Russia alliance backing Syria President Bashar Assad; Iran's testing of a long-range ballistic missile in violation of UN sanctions; the conviction of Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian on espionage charges while other Americans are also held by Iran; and a lack of cooperation by Iran in disclosing its previous bomb work," Royce said, "If this is what the last 90 days look like, the next few years look like a disaster."

[USA Today](#) (10/19, Korte, 5.23M) cites "four administration officials" who said the order "is a mere formality, driven more by the calendar than by any action by Iran." State Department spokesman John Kirby said that "adoption day is a calendar-driven event and it's the day at which all the parties begin to take the steps they need to make sure they take to get to implementation day. ... And we're not at implementation day; that's a whole different purpose."

[AFP](#) (10/19, Clark) notes that "implementation day" will come when the IAEA "confirms Iran has dramatically scaled back its nuclear program," a "lengthy process" Iran said will "probably start this week." [Bloomberg News](#) (10/19, Tirone, 2.66M) says that according to "diplomats," sanctions "probably will be lifted within the first three months of 2016, after the International Atomic Energy Agency has confirmed the nation has curtailed its nuclear work." On its website, [Fox News](#) (10/18, 8.91M) noted that Iran's atomic energy chief, Ali Akbar Salehi, said on Iranian state TV that "Tehran was ready to begin taking steps to comply, and awaited an order from President Hassan Rouhani." Salehi said, "We are hopeful to begin in the current or next week."

[Al Arabiya](#) (10/18, 22K) notes on its website that Tehran has expressed hope that "'implementation day' will come quickly, in less than two months." The [Washington Post](#) (10/19, Morello, 6.76M) also says Iran "is impatient to jump-start its faltering economy before parliamentary elections in late February, and President Hassan Rouhani has said the complicated work needed to lift sanctions is expected to be completed in just six to eight weeks."

However, the [AP](#) (10/19, Freking) reports that "senior administration officials" said that "Iran's work will almost certainly take more than the two months Iran has projected." The officials, who "spoke in a conference call with reporters" under the condition that they remain anonymous, said that while they "understand it's in Iran's best interest to work quickly," they are "only concerned that the work is done correctly." The [New York Daily News](#) (10/19, Edelman, 3.75M) similarly notes that "US officials admitted it could take the rogue regime months to live up to its end of the accord."

On its website, [Voice of America](#) (10/18, Schwartz, 32K) reported that Secretary of State Kerry "said a finalized deal could have ramifications for years to come." Kerry said in a statement, "Iran will now begin taking all of the necessary steps outlined in the JCPOA to restrain its nuclear program and ensure that it is exclusively peaceful going forward." [Kuwait News Agency](#) (10/19) quotes Kerry's statement as saying, "Ambassador Tom Shannon and Ambassador Steve Mull will represent the US at the first meetings of the Joint commission created by the (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) JCPOA this week, which will focus on ensuring that all participants remain on track for Implementation Day, and we will continue to stay in close touch with Congress going forward."

[Voice of America](#) (10/18, Schwartz, 32K) also noted on its website that while the EU "also passed legislation Sunday allowing its members to start looking at ending sanctions," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier "predicted the sanctions will remain until Iran proves it is living up to its side of the bargain," saying, "That definitely won't be the case before the end of January. Now the question is whether Iran shows that it can fulfill its commitments."

The [AP](#) (10/19) reports the IAEA said Sunday that Iran has agreed to allow greater monitoring of Tehran's commitment" to the deal. The agency said Iran will "provisionally apply" the agreement once the nuclear deal is implemented. [Al Jazeera America](#) (10/18, 109K) noted on its website that Iran told the IAEA in Vienna that it "would fulfill a commitment under the deal to implement the Additional Protocol to its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, allowing UN nuclear inspectors more intrusive access to Iranian facilities." The IAEA said in a statement that Iran "will take that step on 'implementation day,'" which "when the agency is due to have verified that Tehran has implemented restrictions on its nuclear activities and sanctions should be lifted." [AFP](#) (10/19) calls the agreement "a further step in the implementation" of the nuclear deal reached last summer.

The [Tehran Times](#) (10/19, 3K) reports that Ali Akbar Velayati, a top adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, told Iranian state TV, "On implementation, all should be watchful that Westerners, particularly Americans, to keep their promises," adding that "Iran expects that the United States and other Western countries that negotiated the deal will show their 'good will' through lifting sanctions."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/19, Schwartz, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says Administration officials sought to downplay the significance of an IAEA probe into whether Iran has tried to develop technology needed to build nuclear weapons in secret, saying the IAEA report would not impact efforts by the international community to lift sanctions. According to the Journal, a senior official said implementation day was not contingent on the IAEA report.

LA Times Feature: "Ordinary Iranians" Skeptical Things Will Get Better Under Deal. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/19, McDonnell, 4.07M) says that on the streets of Tehran, "there is little sense...that momentous change is imminent." This, as efforts by the Iranian government "to tamp down expectations and obscure details of the accord appear to have left many ordinary Iranians mystified – and worried as ever about diminished purchasing power and scarce job opportunities in the sanctions-battered economy." Many "ordinary Iranians," the Times adds, "are openly skeptical that things will get much better – or just not sure what all the fuss is about."

Iran Preparing For "Tsunami" Of Foreign Tourists. The [AP](#) (10/19, Dareini) reports that Iranian Vice President Masoud Soltanifar, who also serves as Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization chief, said Iran "is preparing for a 'tsunami' of foreign tourists" as the world begins implementing the deal. Soltanifar said Rouhani's "moderate policies and the easing of visa rules are opening the door for the return of foreign tourists to Iran," adding that "officials are trying to remove obstacles for tourists and issue visas on arrival at the airport in Tehran for nationals of 190 countries."

Professor: Obama's Legacy Could Hinge On How Agreement Plays Out. In an analysis for the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/18, 455K), Andrew J. Bacevich, a professor emeritus of history and international relations at Boston University, wrote that if the deal is successful, "it may mark a first step toward restoring some semblance of stability to the Greater Middle East, thereby allowing the US to lower its profile there," but if it fails, "the current disorder may in retrospect seem tame." The President, he adds, "may yet leave a foreign-policy legacy of real consequence," but whether "that legacy is positive or negative may take years to determine." The President's "reputation as a statesman is likely to hinge on how the Iran nuclear pact plays out."

Dissidents: Western "Appeasement" Is Emboldening Iranian Regime. The [Washington Times](#) (10/19, Taylor, 344K) cites two Iranian dissidents who say "the West's wider policy of appeasement toward Tehran is emboldening Iranian leaders." Farzad Madadzadeh and Parisa Kohandel say "the crackdown on political opposition has grown more intense just as Iran's leaders have sought to appear moderate on reaching the nuclear deal and getting the US and its allies to lift sanctions." According to Madadzadeh, the President and Western leaders "have been duped into believing Mr. Rouhani is moderate when reality shows the Iranian president is 'no different' from supreme religious leader Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei and other mullahs who wield the real power in Iran."

RYAN ANNOUNCEMENT ON SPEAKER'S RACE EXPECTED SOON. [USA Today](#) (10/19, Kelly, Singer, 5.23M) reports that as Congress returns from its week-long break, it faces "a simmering pot of palace intrigue as House Republicans continue to struggle to identify the next speaker." USA Today notes several legislative issues "to keep both chambers busy this week" but says the "most pressing business" for the House "continues to be choosing a new speaker." House Ways and Means Chairman Paul Ryan, who is being encouraged to run, "is expected to announce" his decision soon, while some of the conservatives who

prompted Majority Leader McCarthy to drop out of the race are also rallying against Ryan. Meanwhile, there are a half dozen other House Republicans who have hinted they may run if Ryan does not.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/19, Hughes, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) notes that the absence of a clear successor for Boehner is exacerbating tensions within the House GOP as various factions within the caucus maneuver for power, while the [AP](#)

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Fwd: DOI Press Release: Secretary Jewell Joins Nevadans to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

Patrick Wilkinson <p2wilkin@blm.gov>

From: Patrick Wilkinson <p2wilkin@blm.gov>
Sent: Sat Oct 17 2015 18:53:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Stephenne Harding (doi)" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: DOI Press Release: Secretary Jewell Joins Nevadans to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

Safe to assume ocl sent this nv delegation and Cmte staff?

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Krauss, Jeff" <jkrauss@blm.gov>
Date: October 17, 2015 at 8:13:17 PM EDT
To: undisclosed-recipients;;
Subject: DOI Press Release: Secretary Jewell Joins Nevadans to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

doi header

Date: October 17, 2015

Secretary Jewell Joins Nevadans to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

Designation preserves stunning landscapes, ancient rock art; protects existing ranching, military and recreation uses

SOUTHERN NEVADA – As part of President Obama’s commitment to protect the nation’s significant outdoor spaces for the benefit of future generations, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Director of the Bureau of Land Management Neil Kornze joined U.S. Senator Harry Reid and U.S. Rep. Dina Titus (NV-1) to celebrate the recent designation of Basin and Range National Monument in southeastern Nevada. The site, an unbroken expanse of 704,000 acres of rugged mountains and sweeping valleys, highlights the proud history of the West, from its earliest native peoples to more recent settlers and mining communities.

“This spectacular expanse of rugged public lands helps tell the story of Nevada, its people, its rich history and the stunning, open landscapes for which the state is known,” said Secretary Jewell. “By protecting this area, the President has ensured that one of the most treasured landscapes of the American West will be available for all future generations to discover and explore.”

“The Basin and Range National Monument is the perfect example of the West’s rugged, stark beauty. It is the same land where ancient people took shelter and carved their history into incredible rock panels that can still be seen today. It is still the land of desert bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk and pronghorn antelope. This area is truly a time capsule of our western history, from Native Americans and early explorers, to the mining and ranching that still exists today. And with President Obama’s designation of this area as a national monument, the land will remain that way,” Senator Reid said. “Thanks to President Obama, future generations will be able to enjoy the beauty of this Nevada landscape for many years to come. I cannot express how grateful I am to President Obama and Secretary Jewell for their incredible efforts in making this monument a reality. I look forward to continuing our work together and helping to preserve even more of our country’s beautiful landscapes.”

On July 10, President Obama designated the Basin and Range area as a national monument. This followed efforts by Sen. Reid and Rep. Dina Titus to pass legislation through Congress that would have protected the area. It is now one of the three newest national monuments, including Berryessa Snow Mountain in California and Waco Mammoth in Texas. The President’s designation protects outstanding recreational opportunities like hiking, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing and rock climbing.

“Reflecting the best in public space and public art, the Basin and Range National Monument will preserve and protect the unique natural, cultural, and historical resources of central Nevada for generations to come,” Rep. Titus said.

NEVADA BUSINESSES, INCLUDING MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL, the state's largest employer; Wynn Resorts, Barrick Gold Corporation, and Rockwood Lithium North America, as well as the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, have also supported protection of the area. Additional support also came from a broad array of community groups, including private landowners, elected officials, art institutions, conservation and recreation organizations, and representatives from businesses in the state.

From the earliest human inhabitants 13,000 years ago to the miners and ranchers of the past century, the monument's cultural sites offer exemplary opportunities to further study and understand this unique landscape and its history.

The area's location, on the transition between the Mojave Desert and the sage brush steppe of the Great Basin region, makes it home to a wide diversity of plants and wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and a host of bat, lizard, and snake species.

The Basin and Range National Monument is located in Lincoln and Nye counties about two hours from downtown Las Vegas. It preserves current uses of the land, including traditional ranching practices and ongoing military training operations, while ensuring that the land remains unspoiled for future generations. It also contains a wealth of scientifically significant geological, ecological, cultural, and historical resources – including Native American rock art dating back 4,000 years – and is an important area for studies of paleoecology, seismology, archaeology, and paleoclimatology.

In addition, the landscape sculpture *City* by artist Michael Heizer is situated on private land within the monument. Comparable in size to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the work explores contemporary and ancient American influences in the context of the stark and open landscape. Protection of the work and its surroundings has been supported by major American art institutions such as the Nevada Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Comprised of existing federal lands, the monument will continue to be managed by Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Basin and Range is the newest addition to the [National Conservation Lands](#), a special system of protected areas managed by the BLM that contains some of the West's most spectacular and unique landscapes, including Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area outside Las Vegas.

“Important uses like ranching, hiking and riding will all continue to be welcome in the Basin and Range National Monument,” said BLM Director Neil Kornze. “We are committed to working with the people of Lincoln, Nye and White Pine counties to ensure that this protected area continues to serve the needs of those communities.”

The BLM will prepare a management plan for the monument in formal cooperation with the State of Nevada, local governments, and tribes. The plan will be developed in an open process with maximum public involvement.

Also participating in the event were Jenna Morion, a member of the board of the Las Vegas Springs Preserve; Erin Wright, director of artist initiatives, Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and Brian O'Donnell, executive director of the Conservation Lands Foundation.

For more information on the Basin and Range National Monument, including maps and unique visitor experiences, go to www.blm.gov/conservationlands.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, October 16, 2015

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL HIGHLIGHTS RISK OF NATURAL DISASTERS DURING TRIP TO

WASHINGTON. The [Seattle Times](#) (10/16, 962K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “traveled to Washington Thursday to discuss heightened risk of natural disasters because of climate change.” According to the article, “in Oso, Snohomish County, slammed by a mudslide that claimed 43 lives last year, Jewell and U.S. Rep. Suzan DelBene, D-Medina, watched an earthquake- preparedness drill and walked the disaster site.” Then, “later in Seattle, Jewell met with a panel of scientists, environmental and tribal leaders on the topics of fire, floods, earthquakes, landslides, sea-level rise and more. Preparedness was the watchword.”

[KPLU-FM](#) Tacoma, WA (10/16, 14K) reports that Jewell saw the site of “the tragic mudslide in Oso that killed 43 people.” Jewell was “home in the Northwest highlighting the need for more disaster preparedness.” She “went to the landslide site before taking part in an earthquake drill with students from Darrington.”

[KIRO-TV](#) Seattle (10/16, 142K) reports that Jewell said, “We know a lot more now than we did when the slide occurred.” According to the article, “that’s thanks to work being done behind the scenes by the USGS, including LIDAR work – or light detection and ranging – a type of work being done to map the topography in and around Oso.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/16, 140K), [KCPQ-TV](#) Seattle (10/15, 161K) and [KING-TV](#) Seattle (10/15, 316K).

Great ShakeOut Earthquake Safety Drills Held Thursday. The [AP](#) (10/16) reports on FEMA’s Great ShakeOut earthquake safety drills that took place Thursday, where the “drop, cover, and hold” response was practiced by more than 22 million people nationwide, nearly half of whom were in California. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti warned, “Things that are falling will kill you.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell participated Thursday in a ShakeOut drill in Oso, Washington. More than dropping and covering, “the Shakeout is designed to simulate more coordinated and widespread action,” the AP notes. The US Geological Survey (USGS) and others assisted FEMA in coordinating the drills.

The [Boston Globe](#) (10/16, Roberts, 1.1M) reports that the exercises “garnered nearly 500,000 participants from the Northeast,” despite the relatively low risk of seismic activity in the region, according to USGS hazard maps.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/16, 2.28M), [ABC News](#) (10/16, 3.97M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/16, 5.59M), the [Lufkin \(TX\) Daily News](#) (10/16, 1K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (10/16, 962K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (10/16, 99K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/16, Press, 1.19M), the [Visalia \(CA\) Times-Delta](#) (10/15, 27K), the [Oklahoman](#) (10/16, 408K), the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (10/14, 114K), the [Monterey County \(CA\) Herald](#) (10/15, 86K), the [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (10/16, Staff, Reports, 253K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (10/15, 86K), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/16, 5.98M), [KNTV-TV San Jose \(CA\)](#) San Jose, CA (10/16, 150K), and [WAPT-TV Jackson \(MS\)](#) Jackson, MS (10/16, 52K).

CALFIRE ASKS SECRETARY JEWELL TO HELP WITH AIR TANKERS. The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (10/15, 542K) reports that on Wednesday, Cal Fire San Diego and San Diego County Fire Chief Tony Mecham asked Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to help bring the U.S. Forest Service’s “most advanced air tankers” to Ramona Air Attack Base Mecham said “it’s not only a safety issue, but also warned that it will be a political liability if a wildfire damages homes while tankers are flying sorties out of far-away San Bernardino International Airport instead of nearby Ramona.” Jewell “made no promises, but indicated she understands the situation.”

TRIBES PUSH FOR BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [AP](#) (10/16, 2.28M) reports that “tribal leaders in the Southwest outlined a proposal Thursday to designate a section of southeastern Utah as a national monument, seeking to become partners with the federal government in managing their ancestral homeland.” The proposed Bears Ears National Monument would “be bordered to the south by the Navajo Nation and to the west by Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Canyonlands National Park.” According to the article, “American Indian and conservation groups say the area is under constant threat by looting of cultural objects, off-road vehicle use and destruction of gravesites — affronts to tribes’ ancestors, they say, and impediments to communities’ ability to heal.” The coalition of tribes “submitted a proposal to President Barack Obama’s administration asking that he use his power under the Antiquities Act to proclaim the area a national monument and honor the tribes’ inherent connection with the land.”

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/16, 407K) reports that “representatives said they are asking for a monument designation because the Public Lands Initiative planning process — being pushed by Utah GOP Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz — has ignored their desires.” In a statement, members of Utah’s congressional delegation, said, “While many Native Americans who live in Utah oppose the coalition’s proposal, we welcome the input and recommendations nonetheless. Our offices have now received over 65 detailed proposals from various stakeholder groups regarding land management in eastern Utah. We remain committed to reviewing each proposal and producing a final (Public Lands Initiative) bill that is balanced and broadly supported.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/16, Felicia Fonseca |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/16, Fonseca, 1.19M), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/16, 492K), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/16, Fonseca, 5.98M), and [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (10/15, 180K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (10/16, 494K).

LWCF DIVIDES REPUBLICANS. [Politico](#) (10/15, 942K) reports that “the Land and Water Conservation Fund’s authorization expired on Sept. 30, but there is an internecine battle among Republicans over its reauthorization.” The article states: “The showdown now threatens a number of other priorities. Two Republican senators facing tough re-election fights next year are holding up a bipartisan deal to overhaul the Toxic Substances Control Act in a bid for leverage to reauthorize the fund, but they are running into resistance from states-rights’ diehards who refuse to provide new authority without changing how the program operates to boost states’ sway over the money and reduce federal land purchases.”

GROUP CLAIMS INTERIOR WATCHDOG “POLITICIZED” INVESTIGATIONS. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/15, Barton, 375K) reports that “Department of Interior Acting Inspector General Mary Kendall has ‘politicized’ investigations, ‘focused on trivial matters,’ ‘kept IG operations secret,’ and should not be confirmed as a permanent head, an environmental nonprofit said Thursday.” Kendall “lacks vision, integrity and leadership skills to be an effective IG,” Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility wrote in a letter to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell. Kendall has “been both the Acting IG and Interior’s Deputy IG since 2009 when the top job came open” and “her nomination by President Obama as the permanent IG is now before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which has scheduled an Oct. 20 confirmation hearing.”

FOLLOWING OPM DATA BREACH, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TIGHTENS SECURITY MEASURES. [Federal Computer Week](#) (10/15, 263K) reports that “in the wake of the OPM data breach, the government tightened agencies’ ability to monitor the contractors that host their data.” The article notes that “the OPM breach, which involved a data center operated by the Interior Department, has also served as a wakeup call to users of shared-services providers and improved collaboration between data owners and system owners.”

SEN. COCHRAN PUSHES AGAINST NEW FEDERAL FLOOD RISK STANDARDS. The [Hattiesburg \(MS\) American](#) (10/15, 34K) reports that Sen. Thad Cochran, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has “again called on the Obama administration to provide additional details on their efforts to establish a new federal flood risk standard despite resistance from Congress.” The article notes that “that push from Cochran came soon after the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the “wind versus water” debate – legal, moral and practical – that developed in the wake of that historic storm.” Cochran communicated to Interior Secretary Sally Jewel “his concern over establishing the new guidelines without adequate congressional and public input.”

COMPANY LOSES PROTEST OF \$170M IT BID. [Law360](#) (10/16, 21K) reports that “the U.S. Government Accountability Office has scrapped a Virginia company’s effort to upend a \$170 million information technology contract issued to its rival by the U.S. Department of the Interior on behalf of the U.S. Army, finding the company failed to prove a conflict of interest and other flaws in the award.” In an opinion released Thursday, “the GAO rejected a host of arguments from DV United LLC why it should nix the award.”

INTERIOR MUSEUM’S “DOI POP! ON AIR. ON SCREEN. IN PRINT.” EXHIBITING. The [Huffington Post](#) (10/16, Preservation, 164K) reports that the Interior Museum’s “DOI Pop! On Air. On Screen. In Print.” exhibit opened on June 29. According to the article, “the exhibit, spearheaded by museum curator Tracy Baetz, shows visitors the extensive role DOI lands have played in hundreds of famous movies, books, magazines, radio shows and music videos.” Also, “in addition to these exciting examples, ‘DOI Pop!’ also details the permitting process as well as environmental restrictions of certain locations.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR WEIGHS IN ON NATIVE HAWAIIAN ELECTION LAWSUIT. The [AP](#) (10/16, 75K) reports that the Interior Department says “a judge shouldn’t grant an injunction against an election process that’s underway for those with Native Hawaiian ancestry.” The department filed “a friend-of-the-court brief in a lawsuit challenging the election.” The article notes that “the judge in the case invited the department to weigh in after the department outlined a proposal to establish a possible government-to-government relationship if a Native Hawaiian government is formed and wants such a relationship.”

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON PROPOSED MUSKEGON COUNTY TRIBAL CASINO. The [MLive \(MI\)](#) (10/16, 739K) reports that “more than 600 people packed the performing arts center at Fruitport Middle School Thursday night, Oct. 15 to give comments and listen during a hearing for a proposed tribal casino.” The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has “proposed to take into trust 60 acres on the former Great Lakes Downs racetrack in Fruitport Township to build a \$180 million casino development.” The BIA is “gathering comments for part of the application process, the Environmental Impact Statement.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

MICRONESIANS RELOCATING IN GREATER NUMBERS. In a special report, the [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (10/16, 41) looks into the exodus of Micronesians from “their home islands by the tens of thousands...to the U.S.” The report “follows that journey and examines the effect it’s having on the communities in which they are settling.”

Congress Urged To Fix Medicaid Flaw That Excludes Legal Immigrants. The [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (10/15, 41) editorializes that that “the welfare reform bill that President Bill Clinton signed into law in 1996 is often heralded as an overwhelming success, but it’s about time Congress finally acted to correct one of its glaring and costly mistakes:” the elimination of “many federal benefits for legal immigrants.” According to the paper, “over the years, bills incrementally restored some benefits; but the exclusion of Medicaid — which provides health care to low-income individuals — still stands, affecting Hawaii and its 15,000 Micronesian immigrants profoundly.” It argues that “expanding Medicaid coverage to COFA immigrants” would be a start.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

EPA HAS SPENT \$14M SPENT ON RESPONSE TO GOLD KING SPILL SO FAR. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/15, 31K) reports that “the Environmental Protection Agency has so far spent more than \$14 million in its response to the Aug. 5 Gold King Mine blowout, according to an internal document.” Also, “an Oct. 6 weekly Situation Report ‘for internal use only’ says the agency costs are now adding up to more than \$100,000 per day.” The report “listed six federal agencies involved in the response, including the Coast Guard, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in addition to the EPA.”

REPORT OUTLINES ISSUES WITH GILA RIVER DIVERSION PROJECT. [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (10/16, 1K) reports that “the state’s current plan to spend up to \$1 billion to divert water from the Gila River through a pipeline is ill conceived, particularly since the state has significant problems that would be more effectively addressed with such a significant level of funding,” according to a report released on October 15 by New Mexico Voices for Children. The report, “The Gila River Diversion: A drain on limited state resources that are better spent elsewhere,” outlines the issues “with the proposed Gila River Diversion project and the need for the proposed funds to be invested in programs that help kids and families.” The report was “released in advance of Friday’s Interstate Stream Commission meeting at which the diversion project will be discussed.”

AGREEMENT WILL CONTINUE MELONES FISH FLOWS THIS FALL. The [Calaveras \(CA\) Enterprise](#) (10/16, 18K) reports that “drought-ravaged New Melones Reservoir will continue releasing water to benefit fish this fall under an agreement announced this week by the South San Joaquin and Oakdale irrigation districts.” According to the article, “about 23,000 acre-feet of water will be released beginning Oct. 20 to keep river temperatures cool enough to allow fall run salmon to return for spawning.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

EAGLE MOUNTAIN HYDROPOWER CLEARS ANOTHER HURDLE. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/15, 99K) reports that “federal officials rejected two appeals to a planned hydropower plant near Joshua Tree National Park on Thursday, bringing the much-maligned project one step closer to reality.” The article notes that “the 1,300-megawatt power plant would draw about nine billion gallons of groundwater from an aquifer beneath the Chuckwalla Valley, which critics say would harm threatened species, disrupt fragile ecosystems and damage a critical water supply.” But “the project’s proponents counter that it would help California build more clean energy by banking excess electricity generated by solar and wind farms when supply exceeds demand, and then releasing that electricity when demand exceeds supply.”

DELAYS TO TRANSWEST EXPRESS CRITICIZED. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (10/16, Stephenson, 471K), Lonnie R. Stephenson, the international president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, writes that “while the White House calls for more investments in green energy sources, federal agencies are blocking one of the biggest wind-supporting projects in the nation.” He notes that “for nearly eight years the TransWest Express, a multistate power line that would bring thousands of megawatts of wind power to consumers on the West Coast, has been held up by numerous delays in the federal permitting process.” Stephenson argues that “America has the resources and we have the manpower to take the lead in wind and solar production” and “what we need is the will from Washington to clear the TransWest paperwork pathways so real project construction can begin as soon as possible.”

Onshore Energy Development:

MULTI-AGENCY POWER INITIATIVE AWARDS \$15 MILLION FOR COAL STATE ECONOMIC TRANSITION. [Reuters](#) (10/15, Volcovici) reports that the Administration on Thursday awarded nearly \$15 million in grants to projects across 12 coal-reliant states and territories to help them diversify their economies as the US coal industry wanes. The grants are part of the multi-agency Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) initiative.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/16, Wolfgang, 344K) reports that “Thursday’s announcement notwithstanding, critics say the Administration’s climate agenda ultimately will do serious harm to coal-reliant regions and elsewhere across the country.”

[The Hill](#) (10/16, Cama, 471K) reports that Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker told reporters Thursday that the POWER program, with the Economic Development Administration at the helm, “will work to turn challenges into economic opportunity and prosperity.” The Hill adds that White House adviser Jason Walsh “said the Obama administration wants any major action on POWER Plus to be bipartisan, something he noted takes significant time.”

PRAIRIE CHICKEN RULING PUTS VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION TO THE TEST. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/16, 705) reports that a decision by a federal district judge in West Texas last month “to strip Endangered Species Act protections from the lesser prairie chicken in five southern Great Plains states” raises questions about whether energy companies will “continue to protect habitat for a prairie grouse in the absence of government regulations.” According to the article, “if oil and gas, pipeline, wind, and transmission companies continue shelling out millions of dollars to offset harm to the chicken – though they are under no legal obligation to do so – it would prove, to many stakeholders, the merits of voluntary conservation plans that have been a key plank in the Obama administration’s wildlife policy.” However, “renegeing on commitments made while the chicken was listed or on the road to a listing would embolden environmentalists who say locally led, voluntary conservation plans only work when the regulatory hammer of ESA remains on the table.”

STUDY FINDS OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT DISPLACING BIRDS IN BAKKEN. The [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (10/16, 1K) reports that “oil and gas development is displacing grassland birds from their habitat in North Dakota’s prolific Bakken shale region, including one candidate for listing as an endangered species, federal researchers say in a new report.” Scientists with the USGS and FWS “studied areas around gravel-surface oil well pads in 2012-2014.” They discovered that “some grassland birds avoided areas within 492 feet of gravel roads and multi-well pads and 876 feet of single-bore well pads, suggesting that the detrimental effects of oil extraction on bird habitat extend beyond the immediate well sites.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (10/16, 14K), the [Akron \(OH\) Beacon Journal](#) (10/16, 313K), and [WCCO-AM Minneapolis \(MN\)](#), Minneapolis (10/15, 70K).

CONCERNS RAISED OVER BLM'S PROPOSED DRILLING REGULATION. The [Arkansas News](#) (10/16, 520) reports that "Attorney General Leslie Rutledge said Thursday she has sent a letter to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management raising concerns about a proposed rule that would impose regulations on oil and gas drilling on public and tribal lands." Rutledge said "she opposes the rule in its current form, saying she believes it would expand the bureau's authority over non-federal lands in violation of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920." Rutledge also said the BLM "failed to engage any state entities and that she believes the rule would lead to severe economic harm in Arkansas."

CRITICS SEE HYPOCRISY IN US SHIPMENT OF POWDER RIVER BASIN COAL ABROAD. The [Washington Post](#) (10/16, A1, Warrick, 6.76M) reports on its front page the Administration "is seeking to curb" US use of coal from Wyoming's Powder River Basin, "which scientists say must remain mostly in the ground to prevent a disastrous warming of the planet." But every year, "nearly half a billion tons of this US-owned fuel are hauled from the region's vast strip mines and millions of tons are shipped overseas." These shipments highlight "what critics describe as a hypocrisy underlying US climate policy: While boasting of pollution cuts at home, the United States is facilitating the sale of large quantities of government-owned coal abroad."

Offshore Energy Development:

OFFICIALS URGE COOPERATION BETWEEN GULF STATES IN SPENDING BP SPILL MONEY. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/16, Schleifstein, 718K) reports that as \$16.5 billion in BP oil spill money is directed toward "dozens of environmental restoration projects in Louisiana and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast," there are risks that the money will be lost, projects will be delayed, and that "the roll-out of multiple projects in all five Gulf Coast states at once will both drive up construction prices." Officials involved in Gulf coastal restoration efforts are calling for more cooperation between the Gulf states implementing new projects.

St. Petersburg City Council, Mayor Clash Over BP Settlement Money. The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (10/16, Frago, 857K) reports that St. Petersburg City Council members are objecting with Mayor Rick Kriseman over his spending plan for the city's \$6.5 million portion of the BP settlement.

POLAR PIONEER ON ITS WAY TO PORT ANGELES. The [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (10/15, 41K) reported that the drilling rig the Polar Pioneer "left the Port of Dutch Harbor, Alaska, at noon Tuesday, spokeswoman Megan Baldino said Thursday in an email." The rig "was being pulled Thursday by two tugboats toward its new temporary home in Port Angeles Harbor, [Baldino] said." It is not yet known how long the rig will stay. The Polar Pioneer "anchored in Port Angeles Harbor for 26 days last spring, pouring an estimated \$1 million in hotel stays, retail sales and rig-related services into the city's economy, according to a report prepared for Shell and the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce." Port of Port Angeles Executive Director Ken O'Hollaren said Thursday, "We definitely look forward to it being back."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/15, 2K).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

TEXAS RANCHERS CONCERNED ABOUT RED RIVER PROPERTY. The [Inquisitr](#) (10/16, 527K) reports that "a group of Texas ranchers are furious after representatives from the federal Bureau of Land Management made claims that their land doesn't actually belong to the ranchers, but rather it belonged to the federal government." According to the article, "the federal officials claim that despite each rancher having a deed for their property and having paid property taxes on the land each year, the land should never have been sold, as it is actually federal land." The article notes that "ranchers in Texas and Oklahoma fear that the federal government may confiscate land used to raise cattle due to re-defined federal land boundaries along the Red River."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Blaze](#) (10/15, 1.66M) and the [Personal Liberty Digest](#) (10/16, 13K).

WILD HORSE ACTIVISTS APPEAL TO HALT BLM FROM MOVING WEST DOUGLAS HERD. The [Denver Post](#) (10/16, Mcghee, 787K) reports that the nonprofit group Front Range Equine Rescue has filed an appeal to prevent the BLM from removing mustangs from the West Douglas Herd area in northwest Colorado. The

bureau plans to move the herd to the Florence-East Douglas herd management area. The appeal, announced Thursday, says the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, protects the horses from unwarranted elimination from the rangeland on which they live.

Also providing coverage is the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (10/16, 73K).

BLM ASKED TO HELP RETRIEVE WILD MUSTANGS IN MONTANA. The [Montana Standard](#) (10/16, 36K) reports that “running across rugged terrain in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in Southwest Montana, 14 wild mustangs are free and unfettered — but their freedom isn’t expected to last much longer.” According to the article, “the untamed horses escaped from a private ranch near Ennis last spring.” And “after at least three attempts to bring them in failed, rancher Greg Rice asked the Bureau of Land Management for help in retrieving the horses, said Cornelia Hudson, field manager for BLM.”

BLM DESIGNATES FINS AND THINGS JEEP ROUTE AS ONE-WAY. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/16, 407K) reports that the BLM has “issued a decision designating the entire Fins and Things Jeep Route as one-way, as well as designating a portion of the route as available for daytime use only.” BLM officials said “they made the decision to improve public safety, reduce resource damage and enhance the visitor experience.”

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON BUENA VISTA TRAIL SYSTEMS. The [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (10/16, 9K) reports that “a public scoping period to add 31 miles worth of new trails and reroutes to the Buena Vista Trail Systems will run through Nov. 13.” The BLM Royal Gorge Field Office is “conducting the scoping period, which began Oct. 6.”

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON PROPOSED ROAD PROJECT IN CANYON RIMS RECREATION AREA. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/16, 407K) reports that the BLM is “seeking public comments on a proposed road project in the Canyon Rims Special Recreation Management Area.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE ATTENDS EIGHT ANNUAL PRIVATE LANDS PARTNERS DAY. The [Tri-State Livestock News \(SD\)](#) (10/16) reports that “the eighth Annual Private Lands Partners Day was held Sept. 22 – 24 in the Nebraska Sandhills.” FWS Director Dan Ashe, “along with several of their Regional Directors and Headquarters staff attended the event.”

CONCERNS RAISED AGAIN ABOUT BARRIERS ABILITY TO STOP ASIAN CARP. [USA Today](#) (10/15, Spangler, 5.23M) reports that the FWS “again confirmed Thursday that small fish may be pulled along by barges going past electrical barriers, reigniting concerns that young Asian carp could be transported into the Great Lakes despite the barriers intended to keep them from migrating north out of Chicago waterways.” The Army Corps of Engineers “maintains three electrical barriers along waterways south of Chicago intended to keep voracious Asian carp from reaching Lake Michigan.” The FWS “study bolsters earlier indications that smaller fish may be swept past the barriers as barges and other craft pass by.”

Also providing coverage re the [Detroit Free Press](#) (10/15, 910K) and the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (10/16, Bergquist, 564K).

FWS DECLINES TO LIST SIERRA NEVADA RED FOX. The [Coos Bay \(OR\) World](#) (10/16, 32K) reports that the FWS has “declined to list the Sierra Nevada red fox under the Endangered Species Act due in part to research conducted in Oregon showing a significant extension of its range.” The article notes that “an ongoing study of the Sierra Nevada red fox has confirmed their presence in the Oregon Cascades, specifically in the Mt. Jefferson, Mt. Washington, and Three Sisters Wilderness areas.” More “samples from this ongoing study are being collected in the original study area and also throughout the Oregon Cascades including Mt. Hood National Forest and Crater Lake National Park.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS MOVES AHEAD WITH MEXICAN WOLF RELEASES. Additional coverage that the FWS says “it may release Mexican gray wolves in New Mexico in an effort to recover the fragile species, despite the state having refused the federal government a permit to do so” was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/16, 259K), the [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (10/16, 31K), the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (10/16, 67K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/16, 259K), the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (10/16, 69K), the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (10/15, 4K), the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (10/16, 69K), [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (10/16, 92K), and [KRQE-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (10/15, 36K).

National Park Service:

TRAILER RELEASED FOR “NATIONAL PARKS ADVENTURE”. [USA Today](#) (10/15, Alexander, 5.23M) presented “the trailer release for National Parks Adventure, the upcoming 3-D IMAX film celebrating our nation’s parks.” The movie “hits IMAX and large-screen theaters February 12, 2016, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service.”

“ARRL National Parks On The Air” Event To Mark NPS Centennial. The [American Radio Relay League](#) (10/16, 6K) says that “in 2016, the National Park Service (NPS) will celebrate its 100th anniversary, and radio amateurs will be able to help mark the occasion with the ARRL National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event.”

SCIENTISTS SAY CLIMATE CHANGE PROMPTING RETHINKING OF NATIONAL PARKS’ MANAGEMENT. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/15, Hinckley, 455K) reports that “a group of scientists are suggesting that a conservation method from the past be abandoned” after having conducted research of the “dieback” of yellow cedars in Alaska. The traditional conservation approach of “simply setting land aside to protect biodiversity...is no longer enough,” CSM explains, citing researcher Lauren Oakes. CSM reports that “the researchers suggest the first step may be place-based education for the local public and park managers” to promote adoption of new management strategies.

LOTTERY FOR NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING TICKETS OPENING FRIDAY. The [Washington Times](#) (10/16, Harper, 344K) reports that the NPS and the National Park Foundation are “staging their annual lottery for those seeking tickets to attend the 93rd National Christmas Tree Lighting, a wildly popular and media-friendly event within close proximity of White House.” The lottery “opens at 10 a.m. Friday and closes at 10 a.m. Monday.”

NPS LAUNCHES VIRTUAL TOUR OF OFF-LIMITS ELLIS ISLAND SITE. The [AP](#) (10/16, 2.28M) reports that “areas of Ellis Island not included on regular tours can now be visited in a virtual tour.” The NPS “launched the virtual tour of the south side of Ellis Island on Thursday.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/16, Press, 6.76M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/16, 5.59M), and [Curbed](#) (10/15, 227K).

GOOGLE MAPS PROVIDES “STREET VIEW” OF YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (10/16, 170K) reports that “Yosemite National Park and Google Maps have teamed up to allow people to explore the park’s features and learn about its history and geology.” Google Maps on Thursday is “launching street view imagery of the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias, Mirror Lake, Bridalveil Fall, and many other popular destinations.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Merced \(CA\) Sun-Star](#) (10/16, 35K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/16, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), and [ABC News](#) (10/15, 3.97M).

CIVIL WAR TRUST ACQUIRES SECTION OF SHEPHERDSTOWN BATTLEFIELD. The [AP](#) (10/16, Press, 6.76M) reports that “the Civil War Trust has acquired another section of a Civil War battlefield in Shepherdstown.” According to Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association president Edward Dunleavy, “the 2.72-acre tract is contiguous to a core area of the battlefield.” The NPS has said “it wants to expand Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland to include about 500 acres of the Shepherdstown battlefield, which is about 5 miles from Antietam.”

NPS AWARDS CONTRACT FOR PENSACOLA BAY FERRY SERVICE. The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (10/15, 125K) reports that Gulf Islands National Seashore Superintendent Dan Brown announced Thursday that the NPS “awarded the contract for the design, construction and delivery of two 150 passenger catamaran ferry boats to All American Marine, which is based in Bellingham, Wash.” According to the article, “the double-decker boats will be used for the Pensacola Bay passenger ferry service, which is scheduled to open in March 2017.” The article notes that “Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) will fund the \$5-plus million project” and “money from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill and funds from the Federal Lands Transportation Program will cover the expense.”

FOREST FIRE EXPERTS EVALUATE RISK OF DOWNED TREES FROM SLEEPING BEAR DUNES STORM DAMAGE. The [MLive \(MI\)](#) (10/16, 739K) reports that “the slew of trees that toppled near Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in an August windstorm pose no fire danger yet, but could in the future.” NPS

supervisors ordered the assessment Thursday, Oct. 15, following a recent visit by the professionals. The forest fire experts said “the trees are still too ‘green’ to pose any immediate risk, but they suggested homeowners should take precautions for when the trees dry.”

NPS REPRESENTATIVE TO ASSESS MANCHESTER PARK. The [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (10/15, 606K) reports that “a National Park Service representative will visit Center Springs Park Monday to assess the park’s condition and advise the town on possible improvements.” According to Steve Gates, leader of the Friends of Center Springs Park, “based on his experience with other urban parks, park service representative John Monroe will talk about ‘some of the kinds of things other communities have done, what might work in the 55 acres here and point out positives and negatives.’” said Steve Gates, leader of the Friends of Center Springs Park. The service is free to the town, Gates said.

YELLOWSTONE FUNDRAISING, EDUCATION GROUPS TO MERGE INTO NEW NONPROFIT. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/16, 179K) reports that “the board of directors of the Yellowstone Association and the Yellowstone Park Foundation announced Thursday that they intend to merge into a new nonprofit organization to benefit Yellowstone National Park.” The article notes that “the new organization expects to begin operating jointly by March 2016 and will be fully in effect by February 2017.”

BODY OF MISSING NURSE FOUND ALONG DELAWARE WATER GAP PARK TRAIL. The [Lehigh Valley \(PA\) Express Times](#) (10/16, 238K) reports that “the body of a Northampton County woman reported missing since Tuesday was found late Thursday afternoon off a trail in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, a park official said.” Joe Hinkes, National Park Service law enforcement and emergency services operations supervisor, said that “Vanessa Fehnel, 51, of Plainfield Township, had suffered a gunshot wound in what appears to have been a suicide.”

Top National News:

IN REVERSAL, OBAMA TO LEAVE 5,500 US TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN INTO 2017. President Obama on Thursday announced that 5,500 American troops will remain in Afghanistan into 2017. While reporting – including almost a combined six minutes on the three broadcast networks – is generally sympathetic towards the decision and its merits, coverage universally characterizes the move as a reversal of the President’s previous commitment to bring most US troops home.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/15, lead story, 3:20, Holt, 7.86M) reported Obama “did an about-face on his previous pledge to bring home” most American troops from Afghanistan by the end of next year. The [Washington Post](#) (10/16, A1, Ryan, 6.76M) reports Obama said 5,500 US troops will remain in Afghanistan into 2017, “ending his ambitions to bring home most American forces” from the country before he leaves office. [McClatchy](#) (10/16, Kumar, Clark, 28K) reports the US “will maintain 9,800 troops in Afghanistan through most of 2016,” and the 5,500 troops after 2016 at a small number of bases, including Bagram, Jalalabad, and Kandahar.

On [ABC World News](#) (10/15, story 2, 1:55, Muir, 5.84M), Martha Raddatz said “Obama has been promising for years that America’s involvement in Afghanistan would end.” However, Raddatz said Obama “made the same promise in Iraq and did withdraw,” before ISIL “then swept through large swaths of the country and US forces are back.” [Reuters](#) (10/16, Rampton, Mason) reports Obama said he was not disappointed that he was forced to alter his plans, saying, “This isn’t the first time those adjustments have been made. This probably won’t be the last.” Obama added, “I suspect that we will continue to evaluate this going forward, as will the next president.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/15, story 3, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M) showed Obama explaining his decision by saying, “Afghan forces are still not as strong as they need to be, and meanwhile the Taliban has made gains, particularly in rural areas and can still launch deadly attacks in cities, including Kabul.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/16, Parsons, 4.07M) quotes Obama as saying Afghans “are standing up for their country,” adding, “If they were to fail, they would endanger the security of us all.”

In his [New York Times](#) (10/16, Cohen, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) column, Roger Cohen argues that the President “has sold America short,” as the “foreign-policy pendulum that swings between expansiveness and retrenchment has swung too far.” Cohen argues that the President’s “shift from indispensable power to indispensable partner has backfired when partner after partner — the Afghan Army, the Iraqi Army — has proved ineffective.”

The [AP](#) (10/16, Baldor, Pace) reports that when Obama “leaves office in 15 months, he’ll hand his successor military conflicts in the two countries where he promised to end prolonged war: Afghanistan and Iraq.” The AP characterizes the decision as a “frustrating end to a quest that was central to his political rise.” In an analysis piece, the [New York Times](#) (10/16, Baker, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says Obama “did not mention” Iraq on Thursday, but “tried to draw an implicit distinction by emphasizing that the new Afghan government of President Ashraf Ghani, unlike the Baghdad government in 2011, still supports” the US presence “and has taken legal steps to make it possible.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/16, A1, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports Obama was facing pressure domestically and abroad to reevaluate his plans. Meanwhile, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/16, LaFranchi, 455K) says Obama “has essentially decided between two unpalatable options.” According to the Monitor, the President decided it was “better to be tagged with a policy reversal” than “go down in the history books as having lost the war that candidate Obama also said was the essential war – as opposed to the one in Iraq – that America was fighting in its national security interests.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/16, 6.76M) editorializes that while ending US military operations in Afghanistan “has been one of President Obama’s prized political goals,” he “deserves credit for bowing to Afghanistan’s realities and reversing himself.” The Post says keeping 5,500 troops in the country “will give Afghanistan another chance to succeed — and perhaps spare the next president an early crisis.”

According to [Politico](#) (10/15, Gass, 942K), Obama said the US mission will not change. US forces will still be responsible for training the Afghan military and conducting counterterrorism activities to combat al Qaeda. Obama said, according to the [New York Times](#) (10/16, A1, Rosenberg, Shear, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), “While America’s combat mission in Afghanistan may be over, our commitment to Afghanistan and its people endures.” The President added, “I will not allow Afghanistan to be used as safe haven for terrorists to attack our nation again.”

The [Washington Times](#) (10/16, Boyer, 344K) reports House Majority Leader McCarthy said Obama is “right” to keep US forces in Afghanistan, but a larger presence is needed. McCarthy said, “The president should not continue his arbitrary troop drawdown from 9,800 troops to 5,500 in 2016 until conditions on the ground and US national security interests allow for further reduction.” According to McCarthy, it is not appropriate to schedule a drawdown after the Taliban “overran the northern city of Kunduz and is threatening more districts...than at any time since 2001.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/16, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) shares McCarthy’s view, praising Obama in an editorial for showing a willingness to change his mind and listening to his military commanders. However, the Journal admonishes Obama for reducing the number of troops to 5,500 in 2017, saying that more will likely be needed to prevent the Taliban, al Qaeda, and ISIL from capturing significant territory.

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/16, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) takes a more negative view of the decision, saying “It would be foolish to expect the drawdown delay to turn the war around, nor should this decision become an open-ended commitment that costs American taxpayers billions of dollars and takes American lives each year.” The Times calls on the White House to “redouble efforts...to ensure that help is rendered as a part of a coherent, realistic strategy that ultimately cannot depend on American troops scrambling to hold the country together.”

[McClatchy](#) (10/16, Kumar, Clark, 28K) reports Obama “noted Thursday that the decision will mean that some troops will rotate back into the country.” McClatchy says that “in remarks aimed at US service members,” the President said, “I do not send you into harm’s way lightly. But as your commander in chief I believe this mission is vital to our national security interests.” [The Hill](#) (10/15, Fabian, 471K) reported Obama said, “Given what’s at stake in Afghanistan...I am firmly convinced that we should make this extra effort.” [Reuters](#) (10/16, Ax) reports military families reacted to Obama’s announcement with frustration and acceptance.

CLINTON WINS BACKING OF JULIÁN CASTRO, RALLIES LATINO SUPPORTERS. [McClatchy](#) (10/16, Recio, 28K) reports that HUD Secretary Castro on Thursday “endorsed” Hillary Clinton’s 2016 bid for president, saying during an appearance on MSNBC, “My support of Secretary Clinton is based on a long relationship that Joaquin and I have had with her as well as with former President Clinton.” McClatchy noted that Rep. Joaquin Castro, Julián Castro’s twin brother, “endorsed Clinton last year.” McClatchy added that there have been “suggestions that” Julián Castro is “on a ‘short-list’ of vice presidential possibilities.”

[Reuters](#) (10/16, Whitesides) reports that during a meeting of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce yesterday in San Antonio, Clinton was asked if she might choose Julian Castro as her running mate. Clinton responded, "I am going to look really hard at him for anything, because that's how good he is." Reuters adds that Julián Castro, a former mayor of San Antonio, later appeared with Clinton at a "Latinos for Hillary" rally in that city.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/16, Halper, 4.07M) reports that in securing Castro's endorsement, and with her appearances at the rally and before the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Clinton "demonstrated Thursday one of the biggest reasons she will be exceedingly difficult for any of her Democratic rivals to overtake: Latino voters." The Times adds that in San Antonio, Clinton "put on full display how deep and durable are her ties with one of the most important voting blocs in the nominating contest."

The [New York Times](#) (10/16, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that at yesterday's "Latinos for Hillary" rally, Clinton "reiterated her position to go beyond President Obama's efforts to overhaul the immigration system, saying such changes would 'boost wages, create jobs and save the taxpayers money.'" Clinton also reminded "the crowd of some of the Republican candidates' comments about Latinos," saying, "They are using offensive terms like 'anchor baby.' As if any baby is anything other than precious or perfect."

Clinton Dings Sanders On Gun Control. Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (10/15, Karni, 942K) reported that during yesterday's rally in San Antonio, Clinton took aim at her leading rival for the Democratic nomination, Sen. Bernie Sanders, "on the one issue where she can attack him from the left, gun control." Responding "forcefully to a debate comment he made that 'all the shouting in the world' will not keep guns out of the hands of killers," Clinton said at the rally, "No matter what anyone says, this isn't just an urban problem, no way. It's a problem in small towns, suburbs, out in the country, across America." Clinton went on to say, "I've been told by some, to quit talking about this, quit shouting about this," adding, "I will tell you right now I will not be silenced."

The [AP](#) (10/16, Weissert, Thomas) reports that gun control "is one of the rare cases in which Sanders is at odds with some liberals in the party." The AP adds that Sanders "voted for a 2005 measure to give gun manufacturers immunity from lawsuits. Clinton opposed that bill in the Senate and said in the debate that Sanders wasn't tough enough 'at all' on gun violence." Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (10/16, Tumulty, 6.76M) reports that in the aftermath of last month's deadly shooting spree at an Oregon community college, Clinton "has elevated the gun issue in her presidential campaign," vowing to "go around Congress if necessary and take executive action to put tighter controls on sales at gun shows and expand background checks of those who buy firearms."

Small Donations Helping Sanders Stay Close To Clinton In Money Race. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/16, Epstein, 247K) reports that the Clinton campaign "raised \$29.9 million during the third quarter" and entered October "with nearly \$33 million cash on hand." However, Clinton's "campaign spent close to \$25.8 million over the course of the quarter." Sanders' campaign "raised \$26.2 million during the quarter," spent "only \$11.3 million," and ended September with over "\$27 million in cash on hand." Bloomberg Politics adds that during Q3, "Sanders' strength came in small-dollar donations, with an average of \$30 per contribution from a total of 650,000 donors."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/16, Wagner, 6.76M) reported that on Wednesday, Sanders appeared at a couple of fundraising events in the Los Angeles area. The Post adds, "At a low-dollar event held at the hipster Avalon nightclub in Hollywood, comedian Seth McFarlane offered a self-deprecating defense of democratic socialism, the guiding philosophy of Sanders. Later, Sanders "was whisked to a posh home in Beverly Hills where entertainment was provided poolside by America, the band best known for 1970s hits like 'Ventura Highway' and 'Sister Golden Hair.'"

Strassel: By Not Hitting Clinton On Controversies, Sanders Shows He's Not Trying To Win. In her [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/16, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) column, Kimberley Strassel argues that by not going after Clinton over her email controversy and potential conflicts of interest relating to the Clinton Foundation, Sanders has shown that he's not truly trying to win the Democratic presidential nomination. Consequently, Strassel says that those who've made small donations to the Sanders campaign should ask for their money back.

TRUMP THREATENS TO SKIP NEXT GOP DEBATE OVER RULES. [Politico](#) (10/15, Isenstadt, 942K) reported that Donald Trump on Thursday "threatened" to skip the next Republican "debate if his demands for the format are not met. At issue is whether CNBC, which is hosting the" event, "will allow candidates to give

opening and closing statements. According to Politico, during an RNC-converted conference call yesterday to discuss details of the debate, Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski “said that if the debate does not include opening or closing statements and is longer than two hours total, including commercial breaks, the” billionaire “would have to drop out of the” event. And later Thursday, Trump tweeted, “@CNBC is pushing the @GOP around by asking for extra time (and no criteria) in order to sell more commercials.”

On its website, the [New York Times](#) (10/16, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reported that during a Thursday interview, Lewandowski told the newspaper, “The criteria that was outlined by CNBC was never discussed with any of the candidates or the campaigns. So what CNBC did was send out a memo and said, ‘Here’s the criteria as you have approved them and that went out to all the campaigns.’ We said we never agreed to this criteria.”

Drawing from the New York Times report, [The Hill](#) (10/15, Richardson, 471K) said that Trump “expressed unhappiness with the three-hour length of the second GOP debate hosted by CNN, and wants to ensure that the next debate isn’t allowed to drag on.” Lewandowski is quoted as telling the Times, “For us it was imperative that the time be changed to 120 minutes.”

On its website, the [Washington Post](#) (10/16, Johnson, 6.76M) quoted CNBC spokesman Brian Steel as saying in a written statement, “Our practice in the past has been to forego opening statements to allow more time to address the critical issues that matter most to the American people. We started a dialogue yesterday with all of the campaigns involved and we will certainly take the candidates’ views on the format into consideration as we finalize the debate structure.”

Politico: Trump’s Q3 Financial Disclosure Form To Be Closely Scrutinized. [Politico](#) (10/15, O’Donnell, 942K) reported that “Trump’s unorthodox campaign is setting a new ethical bar for intersections between politician and high-flying businessman.” For example, Politico said that with third-quarter financial disclosure forms due to be filed by Oct. 15, political observers “are eager to see whether the document reflects free helicopter rides Trump gave kids at the Iowa State Fair. The largest campaign disbursement in Trump’s first disclosure — \$506,486 of the \$1.4 million the campaign spent before June 30 — went to Trump-owned Tag Air, Inc.”

BGlobe Analysis: Trump Campaign Propelled By “Saturation Media Coverage.” The [Boston Globe](#) (10/16, Viser, 1.1M) reports that Trump “has found his running mate: the media.” The Globe adds, “Saturation media coverage has given Trump an unrivaled platform to” tout his candidacy, which “helps explain how he continues to defy predictions of his imminent demise. He’s everywhere, all the time — with little expense from his campaign.”

Role Of Trump’s Daughter Examined. In a piece for [Politico Magazine](#) (10/15), writer Michael D’Antonio, author of “Never Enough: Donald Trump and the Pursuit of Success,” profiled Trump’s daughter, Ivanka Trump, writing, “On the campaign,” she’s her father’s “most influential adviser, his de facto first lady in waiting and his character foil: the cautious, measured power behind the striving, showy candidate.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “A Grim Decision On Afghanistan.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/16, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) takes a negative view of the President’s decision to keep 9,800 troops in Afghanistan next year, saying “It would be foolish to expect the drawdown delay to turn the war around, nor should this decision become an open-ended commitment that costs American taxpayers billions of dollars and takes American lives each year.” The Times calls on the White House to “redouble efforts...to ensure that help is rendered as a part of a coherent, realistic strategy that ultimately cannot depend on American troops scrambling to hold the country together.”

“The Cycle Of Violence In Israel.” A [New York Times](#) (10/16, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) editorial says the latest wave of violence in Jerusalem “is both new and terribly familiar,” and the “cost of violence is known to both sides; so is the template for peace: There’s no shortage of road maps on how to do it. And after all this time, it should be clear that a peace agreement is the only chance Israelis and Palestinians have to stop the cycles of stabbings, shootings, bombings and fear.”

“Mayor De Blasio’s First Town Hall Meeting.” A [New York Times](#) (10/16, Board, Subscription Publication,

WASHINGTON POST. “Obama Bows To Reality In Afghanistan.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/16, 6.76M) editorializes that while ending US military operations in Afghanistan “has been one of President Obama’s prized political goals,” he “deserves credit for bowing to Afghanistan’s realities and reversing himself.” The Post says keeping 5,500 troops in the country “will give Afghanistan another chance to succeed — and perhaps spare the next president an early crisis.”

“Holding Gun Dealers To Account.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/16, 6.76M) editorializes that there are “two ways to look at the verdict by a Milwaukee jury finding a gun store liable in the wounding of two police officers.” The “hopeful” view “is that it will come to be seen as a landmark case that will prompt more litigation against negligent gun dealers and gunmakers,” but more likely, the Post adds, “the case will remain an outlier.” The Post argues that since 2005, “when Congress bestowed unique protections on the gun industry, it has been nearly impossible to discipline even the most negligent actors in court.” The Post adds that “frivolous lawsuits should not be encouraged,” but argues that “the gun industry’s sweeping immunity, enjoyed by no other industry in the United States, has stood in the way of legitimate lawsuits, preventing victims from getting — or even having their day in court to argue for — deserved compensation.”

“Sharon Bulova For Chairman In Fairfax.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/16, 6.76M) editorial.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “The Knives Of Jerusalem.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/16, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorial says Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ claim that Israelis “execute our children in cold blood,” citing Ahmed Mansara, who was wounded after stabbing an Israeli child, but is alive and being treated in a hospital, is a sign that Abbas is not a serious partner in peace, and calls on the Administration to speak out against such incitements. Instead, the Journal says, Secretary of State Kerry said he is “not going to point fingers [at the culprits] from afar.”

“Government Food Flight.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) assails the White House’s effort to make the school lunch program more nutritious, citing a GAO audit as evidence that the exercise has been a waste of taxpayer money.

“Obama’s Afghan Reversal.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/16, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorial praises President Obama for showing a willingness to change his mind and listening to his military commanders. However, the Journal admonishes Obama for reducing the number of troops in Afghanistan to 5,500 in 2017, saying that more will likely be needed to prevent the Taliban, al Qaeda, and ISIL from capturing significant territory.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Obama Drops Afghan Exit Plan](#)

[Theranos Dials Back Lab Tests At FDA’s Behest](#)

[Companies To Employees: Start Saving More—Or We’ll Do It For You](#)

[Malaysia’s Leader At Center Of A Storm](#)

New York Times:

[In Reversal, Obama Says US Soldiers Will Stay In Afghanistan To 2017](#)

[The Dark Reality Of Online Sports Betting](#)

[Voter ID Battle Shifts To Kansas](#)

[One Nation, Under Debate. Or Are There 2?](#)

[Ex-NBA Star’s Downfall, Played Out On TV](#)

Washington Post:

[US Exports Emissions — As Coal](#)

[Obama Extends Afghan Mission](#)

[Slow Growth Forecast For Obamacare Rolls](#)

[CIA Insider Or Impostor? TV Analyst Is Arrested.](#)

Financial Times:

[Goldman Profits Hit By 40% Fall](#)

[Obama U-Turn Will Leave 5,500 Troops In Afghanistan When His Term Ends](#)

Washington Times:

[Obama Ignores Generals' Advice On Troop Levels For Unprecedented Sixth Time](#)

[Carson Tops GOP Field In Fundraising As Trump Rakes In Unsolicited Cash](#)

[South Korea Pushes Three-Way Alliance With US, China To Address North Korea Threat](#)

["Ammo Control" Picks Up Steam Among Democrats Aiming To Limit Gun Access](#)

[Social Security Beneficiaries, Federal Retirees Won't Get Cost-Of-Living Increase](#)

[IRS Spends Millions To Upgrade To Outdated Version Of Windows](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hastert Plea Deal; Obama-Afghanistan Drawdown Delayed; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing Investigation; Malaysia-Suspected ISIS Hacker Arrested; 2016 Politics-Customs Computer Glitch; Texas Wildfires; Weather Forecast; El Nino Forecast; Mt. Pleasant Cancels Football Season; Social Security Benefits; Walmart Stocks Decline; Former NBA Athlete Hospitalized; Last US Airways Flight; Kepler Telescope Discovery.

CBS: Medicare Premium Increases; Customs Computer Glitch; Obama-Afghanistan Drawdown Delayed; Hastert Plea Deal; New York-Church Beating; Israeli-Palestinian Conflict; Ken Taylor Obit; Zimbabwe-Lion Killing Trial; Postpartum Depression; JFK Photos; Kosovo Parliament Violence; White House-Cuban Musicians Perform.

NBC: Obama-Afghanistan Drawdown Delayed; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing Investigation; Hastert Plea Deal; 2016 Politics; Social Security Benefits; El Nino Forecast; Former NBA Athlete Hospitalized; South Africa-Oscar Pistorius Case; Chip Credit Cards; Customs Computer Glitch; Illinois-Budget Crisis; Dallas-Bees Delay Plane.

Network TV At A Glance:

Obama-Afghanistan Drawdown Delayed – 5 minutes, 55 seconds

Hastert Plea Deal – 5 minutes, 50 seconds

Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing Investigation – 4 minutes, 15 seconds

2016 Politics – 4 minutes, 5 seconds

Customs Computer Glitch – 3 minutes, 35 seconds

Former NBA Athlete Hospitalized – 3 minutes, 25 seconds

El Nino Forecast – 2 minutes, 5 seconds

Social Security Benefits – 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Walmart Stock Declines; Severe Weather-California; Hastert Plea Deal; MLB Playoffs.

CBS: Medicare Premium Increases; Severe Weather-California; Hastert Plea Deal; California-Gun Control Law Debate; Obama-Afghanistan Drawdown Delayed; Wall Street.

FOX: Obama-Afghanistan Drawdown Delayed; Severe Weather-California; Hastert Plea Deal; MLB Playoffs; Randy Quaid Arrest; Wall Street; Afghanistan-Hospital Bombing Investigation.

NPR: Treasury-Borrowing Authority Forecast; Kerry-Europe Tour; Kerry-Syria Comments; Texas Wildfires; Asian Stock Market; Hastert Plea Deal; German Transport Ministry-VW Scandal; MLB Playoffs.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — President Obama meets South Korean President Park Geun-hye at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Unavailable.

US Senate: Oct. 09 – Oct. 19 Congress breaks for Columbus Day recess.

US House: 12:00 PM Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee briefing on an Internet privacy law – Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee briefing on 'An EU Court Just Sank The US. Digital

Privacy Safe Harbor. Must Congress Pass An Internet Privacy Law Now? , on the implications of the recent decision to invalidate the US/EU Safe Harbor agreement, whether Congress will have to pass a digital privacy law immediately before international data flows dry up, and other options for US. companies in lieu of Congressional legislation. Speakers include European Union Delegation to the US. Trade Section Head Damien Levie, Access US. Policy Manager Amie Stepanovich, The Internet Association Legal and Regulatory Policy Vice President Abigail Slater, US. Chamber of Commerce Center for Global Regulatory Cooperation International Director Adam Schlosser. Location: Rm 2237, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.netcaucus.org/> [#EUSafeHarbor](https://twitter.com/NetCaucusAC). Contacts: Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee ICAC@netcaucus.org.

Other: 8:00 AM CIS / SANS Institute 'Critical Security Controls' briefing – Center for Internet Security and the SANS Institute release new and updated version of the 'Critical Security Controls' for effective cyber defense, at briefing on the current threat landscape and how the updated controls can be used to promote the concepts of cyber security defense and hygiene. Speakers include CIS Senior Vice President and Chief Evangelist Tony Sager and CEO Jane Holl Lute, US-CERT Director Ann Barron-DiCamillo, and SANS Institute's John Pescatore and James Tarala. Location: Capitol Hilton, 1001 16th St, Washington, DC www.cisecurity.org <https://twitter.com/CISecurity>. Contacts: Barbara Ware CIS Director of Communications babara.ware@cisecurity.org 1 518 526 4525.

8:30 AM Meridian Global Leadership Summit – 'Meridian Global Leadership Summit: Why Foreign Policy Matters', on the current and future state of global leadership. Speakers include Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken, bipartisan Reps. Ed Royce and Eliot Engel, and Coca Cola President and COO James Quincey. Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.meridian.org <https://twitter.com/MeridianIntl>. Contacts: Monique McSween Meridian International Center press@meridian.org 1 202 939 5882. 8:00 am Registration | 8:30 – 11:00 am Program.

9:00 AM CSIS releases new report on sustainment – 'How to Tackle the Cost of Sustainment? Effective Use of Performance-Based Logistics': Center for Strategic and International Studies Defense-Industrial Initiatives Group releases new study 'Performance-Based Logistics: A Process Analysis for the Defense Logistics Agency' – which says that there are addressable markets within the Department of Defense's sustainment contracting portfolio that are well suited to PBL contract structure – via discussion with Lockheed Martin Corporation Vice President and Managing Director of Logistics and Sustainment Lou Kratz and Australian Govt Department of Defence Procurement and Contracting Support Branch Chief Contracting Officer Racheal Kuczma. Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> [#CSISLive](https://twitter.com/CSIS_ISP). Contacts: Gabriel Coll CSIS gcoll@csis.org 1 202 775 3183.

9:30 AM Carbon capture and storage discussed at Brookings – Brookings Institution Energy Security and Climate Initiative (ESCI) hosts 'Policies to commercialize carbon capture and storage in the United States' discussion, on the status and future of CCS technology, with a particular focus on the US., including ESCI Acting Director and Fellow Tim Boersma and Nonresident Senior Fellow John Banks presenting the findings of their recent issue brief 'Fostering low carbon energy: Next generation policy to c

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Oct 16 2015 05:05:23 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: Re: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, October 16, 2015

Hello,

I will be out of the office for much of the day on Friday, 10/16 and checking email sporadically. If you need immediate assistance please contact sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov

--

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)



Conversation Contents

Secretary Jewell travel to Nevada

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Oct 15 2015 15:43:54 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Secretary Jewell travel to Nevada

Hello,

I wanted to let you know that on Saturday, Secretary Jewell will be traveling to Nevada to participate in an event celebrating the recent designation of Basin and Range National Monument in southeastern Nevada. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Jeremy Bratt

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

Conversation Contents

For review by Friday 9:00am: Secretary Jewell Joins Nevada Community to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

/94. For review by Friday 9:00am: Secretary Jewell Joins Nevada Community to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument/1.1 10-17-15
Basin and Range PR release v4 jk rj.docx

"Johnson, Rachael" <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Johnson, Rachael" <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Oct 15 2015 12:47:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>,
To: Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>, chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov
Subject: For review by Friday 9:00am: Secretary Jewell Joins Nevada Community to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument
Attachments: 10-17-15 Basin and Range PR release v4 jk rj.docx

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Thank you!

Date: October 17, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (DOI), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Stephen Clutter (BLM), 916-978-4616

Secretary Jewell Joins Nevada Community to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

*Designation preserves stunning landscapes, ancient rock art;
protects existing ranching, military and recreation uses*

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“This spectacular landscape of rugged public lands is a celebration of Nevada, its people, history and the vast open spaces with stunning views for which the state is known,” said Secretary Jewell. “Preserving this iconic American landscape supports our partnerships with local communities that worked for decades to protect this rich cultural and ecological treasure, while continuing to allow for traditional uses and opportunity for future scientific study.”

Sen Reid Quote

On July 10, President Obama designated Basin and Range a national monument, after Sen. Reid and Rep. Dina Titus introduced legislation to protect the landscape. It is now one of the three newest national monuments, including Berryessa Snow Mountain in California and Waco Mammoth in Texas. The President’s designation protects outstanding recreational opportunities like hiking, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing and rock climbing.

Rep. Titus quote

Nevada businesses, including MGM Resorts International, the state’s largest employer;

wythin RESULTS, BARRICK GOLD CORPORATION, and ROCKWOOD LITHIUM NORTH AMERICA, as well as the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority have also supported protection of the area. Additional support also came from a broad array of community groups, including private landowners, elected officials, art institutions, conservation and recreation organizations, and representatives from businesses in the state.

From the earliest human inhabitants 13,000 years ago, to the miners and ranchers of the past century, the monument's cultural sites offer exemplary opportunities to further study and understand this unique landscape and its history.

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The BLM will prepare a management plan for the monument in formal cooperation with the State of Nevada, local governments, and tribes. The plan will be developed in an open process with maximum public involvement.

Also participating in the event were Jenna Morton, a member of the board of the Las Vegas Springs Preserve; Erin Wright, director of artist initiatives, Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and Brian O'Donnell, executive director of the Conservation Lands Foundation.

For more information on Basin and Range National Monument, including maps and unique visitor experiences, go to BLM.gov.

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Rachael Johnson
Senior Writer
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-2570
Cell: (202) 836-2593

"Thompson, Kevin" <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Thompson, Kevin" <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Oct 15 2015 13:59:27 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Johnson, Rachael" <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: For review by Friday 9:00am: Secretary Jewell Joins Nevada Community to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

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On Thu, Oct 15, 2015 at 2:47 PM, Johnson, Rachael <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Rachael Johnson
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Cell: (202) 836-2593

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Kevin F. Thompson
Deputy Director of Communications
Office of the Secretary/U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1381 - Office
202-695-0707 -Cell

kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov

www.doi.gov

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Oct 15 2015 14:29:35 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: For review by Friday 9:00am: Secretary Jewell Joins Nevada Community to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

REPLY ALLL!LLLLLLLLLLLL!!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Thompson, Kevin <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Oct 15, 2015 at 3:59 PM
Subject: Re: For review by Friday 9:00am: Secretary Jewell Joins Nevada Community to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument
To: "Johnson, Rachael" <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>, Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>, chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov

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Rachael Johnson
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U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-2570
Cell: (202) 836-2593

--

Kevin F. Thompson
Deputy Director of Communications
Office of the Secretary/U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1381 - Office
202-695-0707 -Cell
kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov
www.doi.gov

"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Oct 15 2015 15:36:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: For review by Friday 9:00am: Secretary Jewell Joins Nevada Community to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

it's truly the bane of my existence.

On Thu, Oct 15, 2015 at 4:29 PM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
REPLY ALLL!LLLLLLLLLLLL!!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Thompson, Kevin <kevin_thompson@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, Oct 15, 2015 at 3:59 PM
Subject: Re: For review by Friday 9:00am: Secretary Jewell Joins Nevada Community to Celebrate Designation of Basin and Range National Monument
To: "Johnson, Rachael" <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>, Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>, chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov

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Cell: (202) 836-2593

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202-208-1381 - Office
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Emily Beyer
Deputy Press Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5205 | Cell: (202) 568-0168



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: October 17, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (DOI), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
[Stephen Clutter \(BLM\)](mailto:Stephen.Clutter@blm.gov), 916-978-4616

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On July 10, President Obama designated Basin and Range a national monument, after Sen. Reid and Rep. Dina Titus introduced legislation to protect the landscape. It is now one of the three newest national monuments, including Berryessa Snow Mountain in California and Waco Mammoth in Texas. The President’s designation protects outstanding recreational opportunities like hiking, hunting, horseback riding, mountain biking, fishing and rock climbing.

Rep. Titus quote

Nevada businesses, including MGM Resorts International, the state's largest employer; Wynn Resorts, Barrick Gold Corporation, and Rockwood Lithium North America, as well as the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority have also supported protection of the area. Additional support also came from a broad array of community groups, including private landowners, elected officials, art institutions, conservation and recreation organizations, and representatives from businesses in the state.

From the earliest human inhabitants 13,000 years ago, to the miners and ranchers of the past century, the monument's cultural sites offer exemplary opportunities to further study and understand this unique landscape and its history.

The area's location, on the transition between the Mojave Desert and the sage brush steppe of the Great Basin region, makes it home to a wide diversity of plants and wildlife, including desert bighorn sheep, golden eagles, and a host of bat, lizard, and snake species.

The Basin and Range is located in Lincoln and Nye counties about two hours from downtown Las Vegas. The monument preserves current uses of the land, including traditional ranching practices and ongoing military training operations, while ensuring that the land remains unspoiled for future generations. It also contains a wealth of scientifically significant geological, ecological, cultural, and historical resources, including Native American rock art dating back 4,000 years, and is an important area for studies of paleoecology, seismology, archaeology, and paleoclimatology.

In addition, the landscape sculpture *City* by artist Michael Heizer is situated on private land within the monument. Comparable in size to the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the work explores contemporary and ancient American influences in the context of the stark and open landscape. Protection of the work and its surroundings has been supported by major American art institutions such as the Nevada Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Comprised of existing federal lands the monument will continue to be managed by Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM). It is the newest addition to the [National Conservation Lands](#), a system managed by the BLM that contains some of the West's most spectacular and unique landscapes, including Red Rock Canyon outside Las Vegas.

Neil Kornze Quote

The BLM will prepare a management plan for the monument in formal cooperation with the State of Nevada, local governments, and tribes. The plan will be developed in an open process with maximum public involvement.

Also participating in the event were Jenna Morton, a member of the board of the Las Vegas Springs Preserve; Erin Wright, director of artist initiatives, Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and Brian O'Donnell, executive director of the Conservation Lands Foundation.

For more information on Basin and Range National Monument, including maps and unique visitor experiences, go to [BLM.gov](https://www.blm.gov).

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Conversation Contents

For Review: Basin & Range Media Advisory

Attachments:

/96. For Review: Basin & Range Media Advisory/1.1 10-17-15 Basin and Range National Monument Advisory Draft v5.docx

"Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Oct 15 2015 11:11:42 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>, Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>, chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov
Subject: For Review: Basin & Range Media Advisory
Attachments: 10-17-15 Basin and Range National Monument Advisory Draft v5.docx

Good afternoon all,

Attached please find a media advisory announcing Secretary Jewell's travel to Nevada this weekend. Please have edits to me by **10 AM tomorrow, Oct. 16**, and please reply only to me instead of replying to all. This will go out tomorrow morning.

Thanks,
~Leah

Date: October 16, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Stephen Clutter (BLM), 916-978-4616

Secretary Jewell to Join Nevada Celebration Commemorating Designation of Basin and Range National Monument

LINCOLN COUNTY, Nev. – On Saturday, October 17, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally and Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze will join a Nevada celebration to

commemorate the recent designation of Basin and Range National Monument.

In July, President Obama [designated Basin and Range as one of three new national monuments](#), including Berryessa Snow Mountain in California and Waco Mammoth in Texas. The Basin and Range National Monument – located in one of the most remote and undeveloped areas of the state – exemplifies the rich cultural history, varied wildlife and vast open spaces with stunning views for which the state is known.

The monument tells the story of the area’s native peoples as well as the history of more recent settlers and mining communities. The designation also preserves current uses of the land, including traditional ranching practices and ongoing military training operations, while ensuring that the land remains unspoiled for future generations.

The Basin and Range National Monument, comprised of existing federal lands, is the newest addition to the National Conservation Lands, managed by the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management.

Who: **Sally Jewell**, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
Harry Reid, U.S. Senator, Nevada
Dina Titus, U.S. Congresswoman (NV-1)
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Jenna Morton, Board Member, Las Vegas Springs Preserve
Erin Wright, Director of Artist Initiatives, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director, Conservation Lands Foundation
Bianca Donis, 6th Grader, After School All Stars

What: Basin and Range National Monument celebration

When: Saturday, October 17, 2015
4:45 p.m. CDT – Media check-in
5:00 p.m. CDT – Dedication ceremony

Where: Las Vegas Springs Preserve/TBD
333 S Valley View Blvd
Las Vegas, NV 89107

Media: Credentialed members of the media are encouraged to [RSVP here](#).

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, October 15, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Thu Oct 15 2015 04:59:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, October 15, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TOURS AREAS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAMAGED BY WILDFIRES. [KPBS-TV](#)

San Diego (10/14, 5K) reports that “federal officials on Wednesday toured the Cal Fire Incident Command Center in El Cajon in an effort to highlight the threat of wildfires.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell joined Rep. Scott Peters, “who is calling on Congress to create a funding plan that would treat wildfires similar to natural disasters.” According to the article, “Peters’ plan, which the Obama administration supports, would provide greater certainty in addressing growing fire suppression needs while preserving funds meant for prevention and other non-suppression programs.”

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (10/14, 542K) reports that Jewell said that “the problem is rooted in how the government pays to both prevent and fight wildfires.” She said that “a change to the complex federal budget could cut the risk of homes going up in flames when a backcountry fire spreads.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KGTV-TV](#) San Diego (10/15, 102K), [KNSD-TV](#) San Diego (10/15, 160K), and [KFMB-TV](#) San Diego (10/15, 53K).

Pilotless Helicopter For Firefighting Tested In Idaho. The [AP](#) (10/15, 2.28M) reports that “the future of wildland firefighting launched Wednesday morning in Idaho.” According to the article, “a Lockheed Martin helicopter capable of flying autonomously with no human control did so as it scooped up water, dropped it on targets and delivered supplies to a distant ridge in a demonstration in front of top federal decision makers 20 miles east of Boise.” Mark Bathrick, director of the Interior Department’s Office of Aviation Services, said, “Wildland fires are a huge problem, particularly here in the West. I’m a believer in the technology that could be put on other helicopters, that eventually could be put on fixed-wing aircraft — scoopers and air tankers.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (10/15, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/15, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (10/15, 962K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/15, Keith Ridler |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/15, Ridler, 344K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/15, Ridler, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (10/15, 3.97M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/15, 5.59M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/15, Ridler, 5.98M), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/14, 183K), and the [Idaho Statesman](#) (10/14, 190K).

Ranchers, Environmentalists Dispute Grazing’s Impact On Soda Fire. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/14, 113K) reports that “Idaho ranchers claim that better grazing management would have reduced the size and severity of the Soda fire that scorched 279,000 acres of land in Owyhee County and part of Eastern Oregon in August.” But Idaho-based Western Watersheds Project “claims that livestock grazing contributed to the severity of the Soda fire and other wildfires that burned millions of acres of land across the West this year.” Jessica Gardetto, a spokeswoman for Idaho BLM, said “‘the jury is still out’ on grazing’s overall impact on

wildfire behavior but some studies have shown that grazing can diminish fire danger where certain fuels, such as invasive cheatgrass, dominate.”

SECRETARY JEWELL ATTENDS DEDICATION CEREMONY OF VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE. The [Outside](#) (10/15, 258K) reports Interior Secretary Sally Jewell attended the dedication ceremony of Valles Caldera National Preserve last weekend. Jewell said, “This is land that has the potential to educate Americans and people around the world about how to live in harmony with nature and how to learn from nature.” She also expressed frustration about the expiration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. She said, “We want that reauthorized, and frankly, it needs to be funded at the level it was originally intended.”

SEN. FEINSTEIN PUSHES FOR MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT. The [Greenwire](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein “told a sweaty and often hostile crowd of about 800 here yesterday that President Obama should designate three new national monuments spanning more than 1 million acres of Mojave Desert as national monuments if her legislative efforts run dry.” Feinstein has “fought for more than six years to establish the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountains monuments.” The article notes that “the designation would cover 1.1 million acres and be Obama’s largest under the 1906 Antiquities Act.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/14, Cart, 4.07M), the [Inland Empire \(CA\) Community Newspapers](#) (10/15), and [KABC-TV Los Angeles](#) (10/15, 413K).

BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION TO PUSH FOR CONSERVATION PROPOSAL IN DC. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/14, 705) reports that “officials from a handful of Southwest American Indian tribes will be in Washington, D.C., tomorrow to urge protections for 1.9 million acres of federal lands in southeast Utah that they consider sacred.” The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, “which includes Navajo, Hopi, Ute Mountain Ute, Ute Tribe of the Uinta Ouray Reservation, Zuni Pueblo and Cochiti Pueblo, expects to meet with Obama administration officials and congressional offices about its ‘Bears Ears’ conservation proposal.” The coalition “wants 1.9 million acres surrounding Bears Ears protected as a national conservation area (NCA) with a full mineral withdrawal, or, if necessary, as a national monument designated by the president.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/14, 32K).

FAMILY WANTS BUILDING PLANNED BY BOR NAMED AFTER FALLEN FIREFIGHTER. The [Star of Grand Coulee \(WA\)](#) (10/14, 41) reports that “the family of a woman killed while fighting a local wildfire 25 years ago is hoping a new fire station planned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation could be named after her.” According to the article, “Toni Godsil died Aug. 6, 1990, while fighting a wildland fire in Douglas County with the Grand Coulee Volunteer Fire Department when wind shifted and the flames caught up to her.” Since the recognition would require an act of Congress, “Townsend said family members and supporters are getting ready to send letters to the state’s congressional delegation to seek support, ‘trying to see if anyone can help us get this done.’” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, “who visited local wildland fires in August, said then that she hadn’t heard of the family’s wishes but that her office would be willing to look into the matter.”

SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS TO CELEBRATE WORLD HERITAGE WEEKEND. The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (10/15, 884K) reports that “a full weekend of tours, exhibits and activities are planned around Saturday’s inscription of the five San Antonio missions as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.”

CALIFORNIA BANS SCHOOLS FROM USING “REDSKINS”. The [Digital Journal](#) (10/15, 28K) reports that “California became the first state to ban schools from using ‘Redskins’ as a team name or mascot as Gov. Jerry Brown signed the California Racial Mascots Act into law Sunday morning.” The article notes that “earlier this year, the Obama administration told executives of the Washington NFL franchise that they would have to change their name before the team would be allowed to move to a new stadium in Washington, DC.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said last September, “Personally, I think we would never consider naming a team the ‘Blackskins’ or the ‘Brownskins’ or the ‘Whiteskins.’ So, personally, I find it surprising that in this day and age, the name is not different.”

CRS: AGENCY SPENDING ON ADVERTISING FALLS INTO “BUREAUCRATIC BLACK HOLE.” In its “Federal Eye” blog, the [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Rein, 6.76M) reported on “a murky and little-scrutinized area of the federal budget: Advertising,” citing a CRS study which found that executive branch agencies “spent about \$4.4 billion on contracts for ‘advertising services’ from fiscal 2009 to fiscal 2013, \$892.5 million of that in the last year.” According to the study, “this kind of federal spending falls into a bureaucratic black hole,” and

agencies don't really have to be transparent about what they're doing and why. There is no government-wide definition of what constitutes advertising' and no central place where agencies are required to report advertising-related expenditures," which means "agencies can pretty much spend what they want."

STUDY: RESTORING NATURE COULD FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE. [TIME](#) (10/15, Worland, 19.55M) reports that a growing body of research supports the need for climate change solutions rooted in nature: "ensuring biodiversity, revitalizing forests and supporting other natural environments." A new study published in the journal *Nature* offers strong evidence that "biodiversity strengthens ecosystems, increasing their resistance to extreme climate events and improving their capacity to stem climate change," *TIME* reports. "In addition to enacting regulations to alter human behavior, policymakers can work to restore nature as a method of addressing global warming," *TIME* explains.

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR PROPOSAL WOULD HELP FORMATION OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY. The [University of Hawaii – Ka Leo O Voice](#) (10/15) reports that "if the Native Hawaiian community forms a unified government and want a government-to-government relationship with the United States, a U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI) proposal would create the administrative criteria and procedure that would be enacted." According to the article, "two highlights of the proposal are that the Native Hawaiian government would decide whether to reorganize itself, and what form that government would take." The article notes that "the proposal does not change anything regarding Hawaiian homelands, offer compensation for past wrongs or offer a relationship with more than one Native Hawaiian government" and "it also does not offer the same services and programs that are available to Native American's governments."

SETTLEMENT DISCUSSED IN CASINO LAND DISPUTE. [Law360](#) (10/15, 21K) reports that "a D.C. federal judge agreed on Wednesday to give more time to an Oklahoma tribe and the federal government to try to resolve claims over a National Indian Gaming Commission decision reaffirming that the tribe was illegally conducting gaming on trust land in New Mexico." According to the article, "the Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, the NIGC, the U.S. Department of the Interior and department officials jointly sought the stay on Tuesday to allow them to exhaust discussions to potentially settle the tribe's suit."

ALASKA GOV. WALKER CREATES TRIBAL ADVISORY COUNCIL.. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/14, 219K) reports that "following up on a pledge to improve relations between the state government and Native tribes, Gov. Bill Walker on Wednesday issued an administrative order creating a tribal advisory council." Walker "signed the order at the end of his address to a one-day Anchorage conference on tribal issues held by the Alaska Federation of Natives and the National Congress of American Indians."

BIE APPOINTS NEW ASSOCIATE DEPUTY DIRECTOR. [Politico](#) (10/15, 942K) reports that "Tony Dearman has been appointed associate deputy director for bureau operated schools at the Bureau of Indian Education."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ADDITIONAL \$10 MILLION TRANSFERRED TO COBELL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND. Additional coverage that the Interior Department "announced that an additional \$10 million has been transferred to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund" was provided by the [Char-Koosta News](#) (10/15, 12K).

Office of Insular Affairs:

MICRONESIANS RELOCATING IN GREATER NUMBERS. The [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (10/15, 41) reports on "the exodus" of Micronesians. According to the article, "Micronesians are leaving their island homes in large numbers and coming to the U.S. in search of medical care, education, jobs and economic prosperity — things they can't find back at home."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

FOLSOM LAKE FALLS TO LOWEST LEVEL IN 20-PLUS YEARS. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/15, 535K) reports that "even as Sacramento waits for the soaking El Niño forecast to hit this fall, Folsom Lake continues to lose water and will almost certainly fall Thursday to its lowest level in more than 20 years, government data show." The article notes that "on Wednesday afternoon, Folsom Lake had about 162,000 acre-feet of water –

just 17 percent of its capacity – and operators were still releasing about 600 acre feet a day, according to the California Department of Water Resources.” The BOR, “which operates the reservoir, initially warned that the lake could fall to 120,000 acre-feet by the end of September.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FIRST OFFSHORE WIND FARM IS US STIRS EXCITEMENT. The [Melbourne \(AUS\) Herald Sun](#) (10/15, 74K) reports that “construction is underway off Rhode Island’s coast on the US’ first offshore wind farm, a milestone that federal and state officials say will help the fledgling industry surge ahead.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said that “lenders, regulators and stakeholders could now see a path forward.” She said, “It’s great to witness a pioneering moment in US history. I think it will help the country understand the potential that exists here.”

Onshore Energy Development:

OSMRE BEGINS TRAPPER MINE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (10/15, 73K) reports that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is “beginning a new environmental review involving coal mining at the Trapper Mine near Craig in response to a judge’s ruling earlier this year.” The agency said “in a public notice issued Wednesday that it will prepare an environmental assessment to analyze impacts of a mining plan approval for current and future mining involving two federal coal leases at the surface mine.” The article notes that “as part of the agency’s review, it will hold a public meeting in Craig Oct. 29.”

NORTH DAKOTA OIL INDUSTRY CONCERNED ABOUT FEDERAL FLARING RULES. The [AP](#) (10/15, Macpherson) reports that North Dakota Petroleum Council Vice President Kari Cutting told a North Dakota committee on energy development that “jurisdictional overreach appears to be the norm in the federal agency rulemaking process.” The AP adds that Cutting, whose group represents more than 550 companies, “said the industry has increased efficiencies...but the industry will have a tougher time adapting to what she calls a ‘jurisdictional grab’ by the federal government.” North Dakota’s oil industry is most concerned about gas flaring regulations, the AP reports, adding that producers in the state flare 20 percent due to insufficient infrastructure, much more than the 1 percent national average and 3 percent global average.

TRIBE IN TALKS ABOUT SETTLEMENT OF FRACKING LAWSUIT. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication) reports that “an American Indian tribe is in talks with the Obama administration to settle a legal battle over the Interior Department’s much-contested hydraulic fracturing rule.” According to the article, “the Department of Justice, Interior and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe last week asked a federal court to pause their case while the sides continue settlement talks.” The Southern Utes “filed their lawsuit in June, three months after the Bureau of Land Management finalized the rule, which regulates well construction, wastewater management and chemical disclosure for fracking on public and tribal lands.”

CORDERO ROJO MINE TO RECEIVE RECLAMATION AWARD. The [World Coal](#) (10/15) reports that “Cloud Peak Energy’s Cordero Rojo coal mine has been awarded the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s 2015 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Award for its restoration work on the Belle Fourche River.” According to the article, “the mine relocated a portion of the river and reclaimed the stream channel to return it to approximately the same conditions as existed before mining.” The award will be presented at the National Mining Association’s awards ceremony in Washington DC on 9 November.

CONCERNS GROWING ABOUT EARTHQUAKES IN OKLAHOMA NEAR A HUB OF US OIL. The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Wines, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports an earthquake in Oklahoma over “last weekend has raised fresh concern about the security of a vast crude oil storage complex, close to the quake’s center, that sits at the crossroads of the nation’s oil pipeline network.” The quake occurred near Cushing, “home to the so-called Cushing Hub, a sprawling tank farm that is among the largest oil storage facilities in the world.” Last month, scientists said that an intense earthquake near the site “could seriously damage storage tanks and pipelines.” The hub has been designated by the Federal government as “a critical national infrastructure.” The 4.5 magnitude quake “is among the largest of thousands of temblors that have rocked central and northern Oklahoma in the past five years, largely set off by the injection of oil and gas industry wastes deep into the earth.”

STUDIES TIE FRACKING CHEMICAL EXPOSURE TO PREMATURE BIRTHS, LONG-TERM REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES. The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Bakalar, 11.82M) “Well” blog reported that “living near hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, operations” may be tied to “premature births,” according to research published Sept. 30 in the journal *Epidemiology*. The study of “10,496 singleton births by 9,384 mothers from 2009 to 2013 in Pennsylvania” revealed that “the 25 percent of mothers most exposed to fracking were 40 percent more likely to give birth preterm...than the quarter least exposed.”

Meanwhile, the [Huffington Post](#) (10/15, Peeples, 164K) reports that “prenatal exposure to a cocktail of chemicals commonly used in the various phases of oil and natural gas production, including fracking, could carry long-term reproductive health consequences,” a study published online Oct. 14 in the journal *Endocrinology* suggests.

Offshore Energy Development:

IGNORING ST. JOHNS BRIDGE PROTEST COULD HAVE COST OREGON THOUSANDS IN FINES. The [Oregonian](#) (10/15, Theriault, 756K) reported that if Oregon officials had held back during Greenpeace’s summer protest of Shell’s Arctic drilling, it “could have cost the state thousands of dollars in federal fines, according to internal documents reviewed by The Oregonian/OregonLive.” Oregon officials responded after 13 Greenpeace protestors dangled from the St. Johns Bridge and briefly blocked the passage of a ship belonging to Shell. The Oregon Department of Transportation “requires a permit from the U.S. Coast Guard to operate the St. Johns Bridge” and “must ensure that ships up to 174 feet tall can pass below.” The protestors and their flags put the DOT in violation of the permit, and had the state balked in its response to the protestors, it could have set up “a contentious back-and-forth of written warnings, legal reviews and fines that could have hit \$25,000 every time operators of a ship thought about traveling under the bridge but decided not to risk it.”

[Inside Climate News](#) (10/14, Bagley) reported that “activists across the U.S. will push for quick and aggressive climate action Wednesday by staging protests, collecting signatures, organizing panels and even floating 30 miles down the Missouri River.” Events are scheduled for nearly 200 locations and “will be known collectively as the People’s Climate Movement, a follow-up to last year’s People’s Climate March.” Events “aim to draw attention to the local impacts of global warming...and the hundreds of grassroots groups fighting for action.” The article briefly reported that “there was also a significant upturn this year in civil disobedience campaigns,” including Greenpeace’s July protest on Portland’s St. Johns Bridge.

Shell Drilling Rigs Leave Arctic. On its website, [KUCB-FM](#) Unalaska, AK (10/15, Ryan) reported that Shell Oil’s Polar Pioneer rig “left Alaska’s Dutch Harbor for Port Angeles, Washington, on Wednesday” while Shell’s “other Arctic rig, the Noble Discoverer, left Dutch Harbor for Everett, Washington, on Monday.” Other ships in Shell’s Arctic fleet “will leave Alaska over the next couple of weeks, and the company has not disclosed the fate of the 400 employees who have worked on the project in Anchorage.”

The [AP](#) (10/14, Joling, 2.28M) reported that two of Royal Dutch Shell’s drill vessels, the Noble Discoverer and the Polar Pioneer, “have safely departed Arctic waters for the Pacific Northwest.” Following a Coast Guard inspection, the Noble Discoverer departed Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands on Monday “for the Port of Everett in Washington state, Shell spokesman Curtis Smith said.” The Polar Pioneer “reached Dutch Harbor on Monday afternoon” along with two tug boats, and will be towed to Port Angeles. The AP reported that “the next destinations for both vessels have not been determined, Smith said.”

The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/13, Connelly, 560K) reported that the Polar Pioneer “will not be returning to Seattle, where it was greeted last April by a seaborne protest of ‘kayactivists’ including local politicians.” Shell “has not requested any exclusion zone around the vessels, as it did last spring.” Shell “is promising a less dramatic return journey than in December of 2012,” when it “tried to tow the conical drilling vessel Kulluk across the Gulf of Alaska in the teeth of an early winter storm.” The Kulluk “broke loose from its tow lines and went aground New Year’s Eve on an island near Kodiak.”

The [Puget Sound \(WA\) Business Journal](#) (10/13, Zak, Subscription Publication, 59K) reported that Shell spokeswoman Megan Baldino said, “Decisions about the final destination are still being worked out.” The Journal added that “it’s likely that the rigs will remain in Port Angeles and Everett for a while until their next destinations are determined.”

[KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (10/14, 5:08 p.m. PDT, 92K) broadcast, “Two Shell oil rigs are returning to ports in our

state but they won't be docked in Seattle. The Puget Sound Business Journal reports that one of them will be moored in Everett and the other in Port Angeles. The Polar Pioneer triggered intense protests while it was docked in Seattle's Terminal 5 before the expedition. Last month, Shell announced it's abandoning plans to drill for oil in the Arctic but they do say some supply ships could still be docked in Seattle."

[KPLC-TV](#) Lake Charles, LA (10/14, 6:51 a.m. CDT, 33K), [KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (10/13, 6:10 p.m. AKDT, 31K), [KONG-TV](#) Seattle (10/13, 10:14 p.m. PDT, 53K), [KGW-TV](#) Portland, OR (10/13, 6:08 p.m. PDT, 39K) and [KOIN-TV](#) Portland, OR (10/13, 4:34 p.m. PDT, 27K) also broadcast coverage of the story.

Alaska Gov. Calls For Expanded Oil Drilling To Fund State's Climate Change Adaptions. [TIME](#) (10/14, Worland, 19.55M) reported that Alaska Governor Bill Walker "called for expanded oil drilling to help him address the challenge of climate change in his state." Walker "told the BBC that increased revenue from oil...would allow his state to fund measures to adapt to a changing environment" and "said he wants to drill as soon as possible in the Arctic National Wilderness Refuge." Said Walker, "We are in a significant fiscal challenge. ... We have villages that are washing away because of changes in the climate."

[Slate](#) (10/13, 1.38M) reported that "the situation has grown still worse in Alaska in recent weeks: In late September, Royal Dutch Shell suddenly announced it was abandoning plans to drill offshore of Alaska's northwest coast after it failed to locate oil in any meaningful quantities during its controversial exploration this summer. ... Without oil as a reliable income source, Alaska's politicians have begun a tough look inward to re-envision their state's future." Added Slate, "Apparently, that reality check hasn't yet reached the governor's office."

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/13, Follett, 375K) and the [CBC News \(CAN\)](#) (10/15, 225K) also covered the story.

Reasons Shell Halted Arctic Oil Drilling Examined. On its website, the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) examined reasons for Shell halting its exploratory drilling for oil in the Alaskan Arctic. While Kara Moriarty of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association "blamed the slow pace of federal permitting and a thicket of regulations," the article also looked at the reasons listed in Shell's statement, including the results at the Burger J well, the "challenging and unpredictable" regulatory environment, and the cost of the project.

OFFICIALS TOUT CAMINADA RESTORATION TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF COASTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/14, 718K) reports that "thousands of pounds of sand from the Gulf of Mexico spewed from a pipe Wednesday (Oct. 14) onto the re-growing beach and dunes that makes up the Caminada Headlands, the southernmost edge of Jefferson and Lafourche parishes that protects both rich wetlands just to its north and the nationally important Port Fourchon, jumping off point for deepwater drilling." Observing "the rebuilding by a team of 80 employees of Weeks Marine, a dredging firm based in Covington, were representatives of five federal agencies and the state Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority who were on the Elmer's Island segment of the Caminada beachfront to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act." The article notes that "the project under way Thursday is actually funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, with the money coming from the \$1 billion 2013 settlement of civil and criminal charges facing Transocean, the company that owned the Deepwater Horizon drillship that was at the center of the BP Macondo well blowout and oil spill in 2010."

LOUISIANA TO RECEIVE BP SETTLEMENT. The [AP](#) (10/15, Burdeau, 344K) reports that "the next governor will play a crucial role in Louisiana's coastal crisis – either by aggressively working to save the coast or missing a prime opportunity to stop the state from slipping further into the Gulf of Mexico." Louisiana is "poised to receive about \$8.7 billion in settlement money over damages caused by BP's catastrophic 2010 Gulf oil spill – money mandated by law for environmental restoration." The article notes that "all four major candidates – the three Republicans, U.S. Sen. David Vitter, Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, Public Service Commissioner Scott Angelle and Democratic state Rep. John Bel Edwards – say they unequivocally support ongoing coastal restoration plans," but each has "offered some new ideas."

MISSISSIPPI TO SPEND MILLIONS ON RESTORATION PROJECTS. The [Jackson \(MS\) Clarion Ledger](#) (10/14, 263K) reports that "Mississippi officials will turn to the public and other stakeholders to help decide how to spend \$582 million the state will get to restore areas damaged by the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill." The funds will "begin flowing to Mississippi in 2017 under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourism Opportunities and Revived Economies Act, also known as the RESTORE Act." According to the article, "state officials haven't decided yet on final projects but plan to focus on improving water quality, protecting and

restoring marine resources and buying land to protect habitats.

GRETNA CITY COUNCIL APPROVES PLAN FOR BP SETTLEMENT MONEY. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/15, Samuels, 718K) reports that the Gretna City Council on Wednesday “approved a plan for the \$3.29 million in settlement money the city is receiving as a result of the 2010 BP oil spill.” Nearly a third of the money will go toward legal costs, \$500,000 will be entered into next year’s public works budget, and the remaining \$1.96 million will be set aside for future use.

ALASKA, FEDERAL OFFICIALS NOT TO PURSUE ADDITIONAL \$92 MILLION IN EXXON VALDEZ DAMAGES. The [AP](#) (10/15) reports that state and federal governments have decided not to pursue \$92 million in additional damages from ExxonMobil for the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, “citing the recovery of ducks and sea otters in Alaska’s Prince William Sound.” Wildlife monitoring showed that wildlife populations have returned to pre-spill levels and officials concluded the legal requirements for pursuing a claim were no longer met.

[Reuters](#) (10/15) also reports.

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION SUES OVER LAND USE PLANS. [KTWO-AM](#) Casper, WY (10/15, 576) reports that “the Wyoming Stock Growers Association has sued federal agencies that allegedly ignored its comments for land use plans in areas with sage grouse habitat, its executive vice president said Wednesday.” Jim Magagna said, “Our view is the grazing regulations and requirements that we already have with the BLM (U.S. Bureau of Land Management) of meeting range land health standards are adequate and beneficial to the range land and therefore to sage grouse habitat. We’ve not been convinced that we need additional requirements on top of those.”

BLM REVIEWING ARMY PROPOSAL FOR LONG-TERM TRAINING. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that “the Army plans to have Fort Carson helicopters practice high-altitude operations on public land west of Canon City this fall.” The BLM said Wednesday “the Army expects to use five landing zones in Fremont County from mid-October through December.” The BLM says “the operations are expected to have little or no ground impact on the landing sites or neighboring property owners.” The BLM is also “reviewing an Army proposal for longer-term training.”

BLM SEEKS MORE COMMENTS ON PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF RED CLIFFS, BEAVER DAM WASH NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/15, 407K) reports that “what sort of land management approach should be embraced involving nearly 110,000 acres in Washington County is drawing sharp disagreement among county leaders and an environmental organization, prompting a prolonged public comment period on draft plans.” The BLM “released a draft environmental impact statement this summer on proposed management of the Red Cliffs and the Beaver Dam Wash national conservation areas, which were established through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.” According to the article, “a 90-day public comment period on an array of alternatives to managing these sections of lands was proposed, in addition to informational open houses, but BLM officials say the level of interest is driving a second round of outreach.”

BLM UNVEILS LEMHI VALLEY TRAVEL PLAN. The [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (10/15, 1K) reports that the BLM will “hold a public meeting in Salmon next week about a travel management plan for nearly 500 square miles in the Lemhi Valley.” According to the article, “representatives at the open house will provide information and take comments on three alternatives included in an environmental assessment that would permit varying amounts of motorized recreation on roads and trails on BLM land southeast of Salmon.”

GROUP ACCUSES BLM OF EXPERIMENTING ON HORSES. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/15, 22K) reports that the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign on Wednesday issued a statement claiming that the BLM is “ignoring scientific advice and environmental complaints in its decision to proceed with the use of an experimental fertility control vaccine on wild horses in the Antelope Herd Management Area in eastern Nevada.” Deniz Bolbol, AWHPC director of field operations, said, “We are disappointed that the White House office that is supposed to ensure agency compliance with environmental laws is allowing the BLM to

experiment on America's wild horses without any scientific oversight, review, or, for that matter, any scientific method for determining the impacts of the experiments on the horses themselves. Further, the use of GonaCon in this unscientific, unregimented proposal will place in jeopardy the individual horses' long-term well-being and their natural, social behaviors, which are attributes that make wild horses celebrated American icons, treasured by Americans and others around the world."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS MOVES AHEAD WITH MEXICAN WOLF RELEASES. The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (10/15, 67K) reports that "in a direct snub to state officials, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Wednesday that it will release about 10 Mexican gray wolves into the wilds of southwestern New Mexico, even though state game officials have refused to issue a permit for the action." The FWS "issued a statement Wednesday that said it will release the wolves as part of its recovery program for a species that is at risk of extinction."

SCIENTISTS ASK FOR PUBLIC HELP WITH SICK OTTERS IN ALASKA. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that "scientists are turning to the public for help dealing with sick and dead otters in Alaska." FWS officials say "they have recently received about 200 reports of sick or dead sea otters in the Kachemak Bay region." The FWS is "working with Alaska Sea Life Center in Seward and running tests to find out what's hurting the animals."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP WANTS FOIA SUIT DISMISSED. The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (10/15, 87K) reports that "an environmental organization with an office in Salida is asking a judge to dismiss a lawsuit it filed against a federal agency for allegedly violating the Freedom of Information Act." The Center for Biological Diversity sued the FWS "for allegedly failing to provide documents the center requested about the agency's decision not to list a fish as an endangered species." The center said last week the FWS "provided the requested documents in August, but also withheld and redacted several documents based on the legal concept of attorney-client privilege." But "despite some documents being withheld and redacted, the environmental organization stated in the court filing last week that the lawsuit should be dismissed."

CLEANUP OF DEAD FISH ON VIRGINIA EASTERN SHORE COMPLICATED BY ENDANGERED BEETLE. The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Hedgpeth, 6.76M) reports that "clean-up of the tens of thousands of dead fish that washed up on Virginia's Eastern Shore is proving to be harder after authorities learned that an endangered tiger beetle also inhabits the beach area." According to the article, "the incident began Oct. 7 when a net owned by Omega Protein, a large commercial fishing operation out of Houston that specializes in harvesting menhaden, tore open," and "on Tuesday, officials with Omega Protein said they estimated that some 75,000 fish had washed ashore." The company said it has "received details from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on how to deal with the cleanup of the dead fish and not harm the tiger beetles in the area."

FWS HOLDS OPEN HOUSE ON ACCESS TO RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN. The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (10/15, 100K) reports that "about 50 people who attended an afternoon open house held in Richland by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to hear ideas about access to Rattlesnake Mountain and surrounding land." An evening meeting also was held. Former Rep. Doc Hastings "got legislation passed shortly before he retired in December requiring the public be given access to the top of the mountain." The FWS is "starting planning with a list of restrictions from other laws and regulations."

MISSOURI RESIDENTS WANT LEAD MINE SETTLEMENT SPENT IN COMMUNITIES. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that "some residents in southeast Missouri want money from a lead mining settlement spent in communities affected by contamination, not on a new state park." According to the article, "residents panned a plan to buy 2,500 acres for the Oregon County park during a special meeting Tuesday." The Missouri Department of Natural Resources and two federal agencies, the FWS and the U.S. Forest Service, "would decide how to spend the settlement after getting public input."

LOG CABIN DAY FESTIVAL KICKS OFF AT MUSCATATUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (10/15, Rutherford, 344K) reports that "deep within the leafy recesses of Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge near Seymour sits an old log cabin and barn." Myers Cabin has "no running water, no electricity, but plenty of rustic charm." On Saturday, "crowds of people gathered at the cabin for the annual Log Cabin Day Festival." The article notes that "the event served as the kickoff for National Wildlife Refuge Week, which runs through Sunday."

"DING" DARLING DAYS KICKS OFF SUNDAY. The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (10/14, 171K) reports that

the U.S. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge will hold a ruckus on Sunday of the week-long celebration of the man behind the name.” According to the article, “the refuge is named for Jay Norwood ‘Ding’ Darling, an editorial cartoonist who espoused environmental issues.”

CONGRESS URGED TO PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES. In an op-ed for the [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (10/14, 336K), Michael Bean, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Department of the Interior, writes that “last month, farmers, conservationists and landowners came together at a small field in Dover, New Hampshire to celebrate the recovery of the New England cottontail.” Bean says that “that type of conservation success story can and should be common.” However, he warns that “there are threats to unravel a key ingredient: the Endangered Species Act.” Bean hopes that “the Pope’s visit last month can remind us of the importance of protecting our fellow creatures.”

HABITAT EXCHANGES URGED TO PROTECT SPECIES. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Krupp, Subscription Publication, 5.95M), Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, lauds the Interior Department’s recent decision not to list the greater sage grouse. Krupp argues that the Endangered Species Act is necessary, but it is also a last resort. He asserts that to protect wildlife populations and the economy, we must initiate care much sooner and the prescription must be collaborative. He suggests that habitat exchanges can be part of the prescription.

National Park Service:

REPORT URGES NPS TO ADD CHARGING STATIONS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES. The [Greenwire](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication) reports that the NPS “should double the small fraction of parks with electric vehicle charging stations, along with other steps to reduce car-related emissions, a think tank urged in a report released today.” The article notes that “at present, 21 of 470 national parks, or about 4 percent, have installed charging stations, the Center for American Progress said in the report, which recommends increasing that number to 42, with the inclusion of such iconic destinations as Yosemite National Park, Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Glacier National Park.” The report said that “besides installing more charging stations,” the NPS “should also reduce admission fees for visitors driving electric vehicles.”

REPORT DETAILS BRINKERHOFF LODGE ABUSE AT GRAND TETON. The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (10/15, 1K) reports that “over a recent four-year period Grand Teton National Park would have collected nearly \$29,000 in additional revenue were guests to the Brinkerhoff Lodge properly billed, federal investigators say.” according to a U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Inspector General report released last month, “between 2011 and 2014 guests of the historic cabin near Jackson Lake Dam were billed just 15 percent of the time.” The report found that the NNPS “could put the government asset to better use, that there are safety problems requiring immediate attention and that — counter to their rules — Grand Teton officials were allowing high-ranking government officials to use the lodge as a low- or no-cost vacation getaway.”

PROPOSAL WOULD HELP MAKE EVERS HOME PART OF NPS. The [AP](#) (10/15, 89K) reports that “the home where Mississippi civil rights leader Medgar Evers was assassinated in 1963 gets thousands of visitors each year, operates as a college-owned museum and relies on state grants and private donations for maintenance funds.” Now, “the state’s U.S. senators are hoping the National Park Service can lend a hand.” Sens. Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker said “last week they’ve filed a bill that would authorize a study on the national significance of the Evers home, as a step toward making it part of the Park Service.”

VETERAN SUES AFTER BEING INJURED BY 16-POUND PINE CONE IN SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. The [Greenwire](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication) reports that “a U.S. Navy veteran is suing the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service after a 16-pound pine cone fell on his head while he sat beneath a tree in San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.” According to the article, “celebrating Fleet Week ashore in San Francisco in 2014, Sean Mace said he was reading and napping under a bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) when a cone larger than a pineapple struck his head.” The article says that “with no signs warning about the danger from falling pine cones, Mace is suing the park for nearly \$5 million.”

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES 125 YEARS. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/15, 259K) reports that “the 125th anniversary of Yosemite National Park has been marked by a ceremony in Yosemite Valley.” The NPS says “about 1,500 people attended the recent event, which included a Native American blessing and a portrayal of John Muir, the naturalist who worked to preserve Yosemite and other parts of the Sierra Nevada.”

NPS CLARIFIES RENAMING OF BUILDING HOUSING OF SELMA INTERPRETIVE CENTER. The [Selma \(AL\) Times Journal](#) (10/14, 22K) reports that “the building that houses the Selma Interpretive Center is being renamed, but the National Park Service wants to clarify that the name of the center itself is not changing.” The Selma City Council “passed a resolution Tuesday night to rename the building the James Perkins Jr. Voting Rights Interpretive Center.” Sandy Perkins, the superintendent for the Selma to Montgomery Historic Trail, “wants to make sure the public understands the interpretive center, which is run by the National Park Service, is not changing names.”

NPS APPROVES REHABILITATION AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. The [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (10/15, 20K) reports that “visitors to Yellowstone National Park will find many of the overlooks and trails along the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River under construction” after the NPS “issued a Finding of No Significant Impact.” The article notes that “the action addresses aging and deteriorating infrastructure, provide improved accessibility to visitors, improve pedestrian flow, address safety issues, and improve the visitor experience in the Park.”

RINGTAIL AT CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK HAD RABIES. The [AP](#) (10/15, 259K) reports that “a ringtail whose unusual behavior prompted a temporary closure of one entrance to the cave at Carlsbad Caverns National Park had rabies.” According to park officials, “that determination was made by the New Mexico Department of Health and Science in Albuquerque.”

CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK REOPENS AFTER FLOODING. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that “the Congaree National Park south of Columbia has reopened after the historic flooding earlier this month.” The park has “been closed since Oct. 4 because of the flooding.” Officials say “the flood waters are receding at the park.”

UTAH PARKS SEES RECORD NUMBERS OF VISITORS. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that “southern Utah’s parks have been attracting a record number of visitors in 2015.” The article notes that “Bryce Canyon National Park broke its record number of visitors in a calendar year by hitting 1.5 million in September.” Also, “Zion National Park is expected to reach more than 3.2 million visitors this month, setting a new record.” Meanwhile, “other parks like Canyonlands, Cedar Breaks and Pipe Spring are also poised to set records.”

COMPLETION OF BIRDSALL MURAL NEARS. The [Seward \(AK\) City News](#) (10/15) reports that “except for one panel that is being completed in Dot Bardarson’s garage, the mural for the National Park Service building is finished and awaiting the clear coat process at Seward Body and Paint.” The mural, titled “Kenai Fjords, where Mountains, Ice, and Water Meet,” will “be mounted next Spring for the celebration of 100 years by the National Park Service.”

HISTORIC LUMBER SCHOONER C.A. Thayer Begins Final Stage Of Restoration. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (10/14, 626K) reports that “Jeff Morris, historic ships manager with the National Park Service, and a crew of NPS workers are busy preparing the historic 1895 lumber schooner, the C.A. Thayer, for a trip across the bay to the Bay Ship & Yacht Co. in Alameda for the stepping of three new masts.” According to the article, “the historic schooner is entering the last stage of a long restoration that started with its first trip to Alameda in 2003.”

NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY CELEBRATED. [Popular Science](#) (10/15, 6.51M) reports on “the fifth annual National Fossil Day, a day trademarked by the National Park Service and celebrated in schools and parks across the country.” The NPS “hopes that if people are educated about fossils, they will be more likely to treat fossils they find with respect, whether they’re found in a backyard or a national park.” In honor of the day, the article highlights “some of our favorite discoveries from this year.”

BODY OF MAN RECOVERED IN LAKE POWELL. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that “authorities say the body of a Wyoming man missing after he jumped from a 90-foot cliff into Lake Powell last week has been recovered.” The NPS and the Coconino County Sheriff’s Office say “the body of 29-year-old William ‘Billy’ Burke was spotted Wednesday at a depth of 153 feet by a remote operated vehicle.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (10/14, Schwartz).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS RENTING QUARTERS 17. Additional coverage that the NPS is “offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rent a three-bedroom, two-bathroom house near the Point Bonita Lighthouse

in the main headlines was provided by the [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (10/15, 170K).

US Geological Survey:

FEMA PLANS GREAT SHAKEOUT EARTHQUAKE DRILLS FOR THURSDAY. [Reuters](#) (10/14, Gillam) reports that on Thursday FEMA is organizing Great ShakeOut earthquake drill events nationwide, bolstering emergency preparation at schools and elsewhere as earthquake activity in the US increases. Reuters highlights the event's slogan of "drop, cover and hold on." The article notes that Cushing, Oklahoma experienced a magnitude 4.5 earthquake on Saturday. The [San Diego \(CA\) Union-Tribune](#) (10/14, Robbins, 542K) predicts a "big turnout" for the San Diego County earthquake drill, where more than 943,000 people have signed up to participate, most of whom are "students and government employees."

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/15, Perlman, Subscription Publication, 3.35M) reports that on Wednesday the Calaveras Fault caused "a swarm of small earthquakes" near San Ramon. "By midafternoon, the total had reached 30," according to the US Geological Survey (USGS). The article outlines the history of earthquakes along the fault. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/14, 99K) reports that on Wednesday morning Coachella Valley experienced a magnitude 3.6 earthquake, which did not cause any reported damage. The article notes other recent earthquakes in the Coachella Valley. USGS Seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones is paraphrased as saying "a magnitude 4.0 temblor is considered 'normal' earthquake activity for Southern California."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: TWITTER PROJECT HELPS USGS TRACK EARTHQUAKES. Additional coverage that the USGS is "using Twitter to help detect earthquakes in real time as they are felt across the globe" was provided by the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (10/14, 288K) and the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (10/14, 142K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CALIFORNIA'S SEQUOIAS SHOW SIGNS OF STRESS. Additional coverage that California's "giant sequoias, which can live thousands of years, are starting to show signs that they're not getting enough water" was provided by [PBS NewsHour](#) (10/15, 127K).

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: CLINTON'S STRONG DEBATE PERFORMANCE MAKES BIDEN RUN LESS LIKELY.

Continuing coverage of Tuesday evening's first Democratic presidential debate focuses on the consensus that Hillary Clinton won the face-off and regained momentum, and also on the man who was not there: Vice President Biden. Speculation in broadcast, print, and online media is that Biden is less likely to enter the race since Clinton is getting back on track. Immediately following the debate, [CNN](#) (10/14, 5.17M) said on its website that in the Pivotal Political Prediction Market, the odds of a Biden nomination fell from 15% to 11%. By early Thursday, the odds were down to five percent – with just a 35% chance that Biden will run, a huge fall from 78% before the debate.

On [ABC World News](#) (10/14, story 2, 1:50, Muir, 5.84M), Jonathan Karl reported, "At a meeting today, Vice President Biden struck a note of optimism about America." Biden: "We're just going to roll, man. I really mean it. America's ready." Karl: "But tonight, there's much less optimism about Biden's presidential prospects. Even some of Biden's strongest supporters are saying privately he may have simply waited too long." The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/14, story 4, 2:20, Pelley, 5.08M) reported Biden "said he is proud of last night's Democratic presidential debate, but if he was looking for a reason to jump into the race, he likely didn't find it. Hillary Clinton dominated." [ABC World News](#) (10/14, lead story, 3:25, Muir, 5.84M) said that Clinton's campaign chairman said Wednesday, "'At this point, Joe Biden needs to make up his mind.' Other top Democrats [are] thinking the same, as Clinton gets high marks for her center stage performance."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/14, lead story, 3:15, Holt, 7.86M) said in its lead story that "for months her campaign has been in response mode," but "at least for this moment," Clinton "is appearing to have retaken control of the conversation." Her debate performance may "give nervous supporters a reason to breathe easier and rivals a reason for pause." Chuck Todd then said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/14, story 2, 1:05, Holt, 7.86M), "There is no doubt that Team Biden was watching last night to see what kind of new openings that they could find. ... If the Biden campaign were about to get off the ground, we'd start hearing about it. We would see leaks about it. ... Almost radio silence from the West Wing there."

The [NY](#) (10/15) reports Biden says he's proud of the Democratic candidates who took part in the debate, but said little more. [Reuters](#) (10/15, Oliphant) says the dynamics of the Democratic race have changed after Clinton's strong debate performance, which is dampening calls for a late Biden entry. [USA Today](#) (10/15, Jackson, 5.23M) says "the specter of a Joe Biden candidacy still hovers over the Democratic presidential race, but it may be growing faint." John Hudak of the Brookings Institution said, "There is no path for Biden. There's no reason for it."

The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Martin, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) writes that Clinton's "sure-footed performance...did not just lift the spirits of her supporters and reassure nervous party officials about her candidacy, it also swiftly cooled talk about the need" for a Biden candidacy. Clinton offered "crisp answers to nearly every question, an aggressiveness her rivals did not seem ready for and a level of confidence that has often been obscured over months of questions about her use of a private email as secretary of state," and on Wednesday, "Democrats were describing the closing, if not the slamming shut, of a door" for Biden.

Dan Balz writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/15, 6.76M) that "the path for Biden has always looked daunting," and though "after the debate, Clinton aides were not saying explicitly whether Biden has a path, but after weeks of neutral comments, the language turned." Clinton campaign chair John Podesta said Biden "will need to make a decision soon." [Politico](#) (10/14, Gass, 942K) reported Podesta "has a message" for Biden: "The time has come to decide on your White House bid."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Rucker, 6.76M) says in another report that "the official line from the Clinton campaign was that they were thrilled with the candidate's performance and that Biden had to make his own decision," but the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Nelson, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says the Democratic establishment is growing impatient. The [Huffington Post](#) (10/14, Stein, 164K) said the Clinton campaign "has begun aggressively pushing" Biden "to make a decision one way or another."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/15, Lauter, 4.07M) writes that Clinton "had three big tasks to accomplish in Tuesday night's debate: Reassure the Democratic establishment, draw contrasts with Sen. Bernie Sanders and deter Vice President Joe Biden. ... It was clear that she had succeeded with the first two. Whether she achieved the third goal should be known within days." [The Hill](#) (10/14, Fabian, 471K) reported, however, that Biden "gave no indication Wednesday that he has a set a deadline to make a decision."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, 6.76M) says Clinton was the only candidate in the debate who "performed like a potential president" with her "impressive performance. Yet the debate also surfaced one of Ms. Clinton's vulnerabilities: the possibility that Mr. Sanders and the leftward drift of the Democratic Party will drag her away from pragmatism – and from general-election voters."

The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says in an editorial that Clinton "reminded us why she's the front-runner, with her experience, command of the issues and strength in communicating ideas. She seemed both at ease and fearless." The Times also says the Democrats argued responsibly and with civility, while "the Republican candidates...haven't a prayer of knowing what to do if they ever enter the White House."

E.J. Dionne writes in his [Washington Post](#) (10/15, 6.76M) column, "At some point during Tuesday night's Democratic debate, many people in living rooms across the country undoubtedly turned to each other with the same basic thought about Hillary Clinton: Oh, so that's why she's the front-runner." Daniel Henninger writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) column that the debate essentially ended the Democratic race by marginalizing Sanders and removing the rationale for a Biden candidacy.

However, Evan Horowitz writes in the [Boston Globe](#) (10/15, 1.1M) that it is "too early to say" if Clinton really won the debate, since "the point isn't to win over expert judges, it's to gain support from non-experts – people who haven't been following the ins and outs of the campaign but who are planning to hit the voting booths come primary season."

AP Analysis: Clinton Displayed "Likely Strength" In General Election Campaign. The [AP](#) (10/15) says in an analysis that Clinton's "polished performance...did more than send a message to her primary rivals. It was a warning to the chaotic Republican field about her likely strength in a general election." She "solidified her shift toward more liberal positions on trade, gun control and immigration, but still stayed largely in step with the battleground state voters she'll need" in a fall campaign, and "also positioned herself as heir to the coalition of women, Hispanics and black voters that propelled Barack Obama to the White House."

But Anne Gearan of the [Washington Post](#) (10/15, 6.76M) writes that if Clinton is the nominee, “her Republican opponents will not let her off so easy” as her Democratic foes did Tuesday. Karl Rove similarly writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) column that Clinton’s debate victory was due to the weakness of her opponents. However, the [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Johnson, 6.76M) says for many Democrats, the debate “provided a renewed sense of optimism and confidence in their field’s leaders.”

Bill Clinton: “Hillary Knocked It Out Of The Park.” [The Hill](#) (10/14, Hensch, 471K) reported that in a fundraising email, former President Bill Clinton wrote, “Last night, Hillary knocked it out of the park. She didn’t just talk about big ideas – she laid out plans to get them done. That’s what Hillary does when she sees a problem to fix: She gets people together, takes on the tough fights and finds her way to the solution.”

Trump Says Clinton Won Debate. [The Hill](#) (10/14, Byrnes, 471K) reported Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said Wednesday that he thought Clinton won the debate “and suggested other candidates lacked credibility.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/14, story 3, 3:05, Holt, 7.86M) showed clips of MSNBC’s Katy Tur interviewing Trump, who said, “Bernie [Sanders] made a mistake. He got a great couple of seconds. But he took a situation that’s a very serious situation, where Hillary is being investigated by the FBI, and he gave it away. He just gave it away. He can never bring it up again and it’s not like he’s winning, he’s losing.”

Rubio: Democratic Debate Was About “Free Stuff.” [The Hill](#) (10/14, Byrnes, 471K) reported GOP candidate Sen. Marco Rubio said on Fox News Wednesday morning that the Democratic debate “was all about giving away ‘free stuff.’” He said, “Free college education, free college education for people illegally in this country, free healthcare, free everything. Their answer to every problem in America is a government program and a tax increase.”

“Obama Campaign Alums” Among Critics Of Clinton’s Performance. [Politico](#) (10/14, Cheney, 942K) said some of the biggest Democratic criticism of Clinton came from “Obama campaign alums. ... David Axelrod, Obama’s top political strategist, noted that ‘Clinton made a few mistakes,’” and “even among those Obama allies who praised Clinton’s performance, there were overt shots at Clinton’s longer-term strategy.”

Sanders Raised More Than \$1.3 Million In Hours After Debate. The [AP](#) (10/15) reports Sanders “said his campaign raised more than \$1.3 million in the hours after the first Democratic debate of the 2016 race, and social media metrics showed he was the most-searched candidate on Google and most-discussed on Facebook and Twitter.” [Politico](#) (10/14, Strauss, 942K) reports the Sanders campaign said it received more than 37,600 individual contributions averaging \$31.54 each. And [The Hill](#) (10/14, Byrnes, 471K) says Sanders “slightly edged out Clinton for most Twitter mentions during the debate, with 41 percent of the tweets to Clinton’s 39 percent.”

Sanders gained about 24,000 new Twitter followers after the debate, while Clinton gained about 10,000. But while most of the tweets by [@HillaryClinton](#) Wednesday were clips of her debate performance, [@BernieSanders](#) had little about the debate except for a few retweeted articles like [one from Vox](#) reading, “DC insiders think Bernie Sanders lost the debate. Here’s why they might be wrong.”

However, the [New York Times](#) (10/15, Gabriel, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports under the headline “Debate Cools Momentum Of Bernie Sanders In Iowa” that Clinton’s “self-assurance, command of issues and ease in parrying” Sanders in the debate “drew praise from Iowa Democrats.” [USA Today](#) (10/15, Gaudiano, 5.23M) says Sanders faces a question over whether he can “expand his following beyond the Democratic Party’s liberal base.”

WPost Analysis: O’Malley Had No “Make-Or-Break Moment.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Wagner, 6.76M) writes that while O’Malley came to the debate “facing what many had described as a make-or-break moment,” it “turned out to be neither.” While “the prevailing view among observers was that O’Malley had benefited from the broader exposure to a national audience,” it “seemed unlikely that anything that happened in Vegas would fundamentally change the dynamics” of the race.

Racial Justice, Gender Equality Addressed In Debate. The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Williams, 6.76M) reports that “racial justice and gender equality...finally made it to the presidential debate stage” in the Democratic debate after being all but ignored in the first Republican face-offs.

Wasserman Schultz Defends Party’s Diversity. [The Hill](#) (10/14, Richardson, 471K) reported Democratic

National Committee Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz defended the party's diversity in an interview with Fusion's Jorge Ramos, who said "he did not 'see a Latino or an African-American or an Asian' on the Democratic debate stage." Wasserman Schultz replied, "First of all, our president of the United States, who is a Democrat, is African-American. ... Our party nominated the first African-American, and then Americans elected him not once, but twice. ... There is overwhelmingly more diversity up and down the ballot when it comes to Democrats."

Debate Draws Record-High Viewership For Democratic Face-Off. [Politico](#) (10/14, Gold, 942K) reported the debate "drew 15.3 million viewers, making it the most watched Democratic primary debate in history," though it did not draw as many viewers as the first two Republican debates. The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Steel, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says the previous record for a Democratic debate "was set by the 2008 debate in Philadelphia, which averaged 10.7 million viewers."

FED: CONSUMER SPENDING, HOUSING MARKET PROPELLED MODEST GROWTH. The Fed's latest Beige Book cites "steady consumer spending and an improving housing market" for "spurr[ing] modest US economic growth in the late summer," the [AP](#) (10/15) reports, noting that the report "echoes other recent data that suggests the economy, while still expanding, has run into headwinds from overseas and lost momentum."

Retail Sales Rose 0.1% In September. Another [AP](#) (10/15, Boak) story describes cautious retail spending by consumers in September, noting that the Commerce Department said Wednesday that retail sales "rose just 0.1 percent last month after being unchanged in August." While auto purchases rose 1.8 percent in September, and spending rose 0.7 percent at restaurants and 0.9 percent at clothiers, they were "tempered by sales declines for gasoline, building materials and online outlets."

[Reuters](#) (10/15, Mutikani) cites the reports as the latest indication that the economy is slowing and notes that they raise more doubts about whether an interest rate increase will be forthcoming from the Fed this year. A front-page story in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, A1, Hilsenrath, Sussman, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says a rate increase in 2015 is becoming less likely given the new signs of weak economic activity.

Bernanke Defends Fed's "Aggressive Actions." The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Mui, 6.76M) reports in its "Wonkblog" blog that in his new book, "Courage to Act," former Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke provides "a careful, detailed and exceptionally clear justification for the Fed's aggressive actions to avert another Great Depression and resuscitate the American economy." In an interview with the blog, Bernanke

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

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DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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SECRETARY JEWELL TOURS AREAS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAMAGED BY WILDFIRES. [KPBS-TV](#)

San Diego (10/14, 5K) reports that “federal officials on Wednesday toured the Cal Fire Incident Command Center in El Cajon in an effort to highlight the threat of wildfires.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell joined Rep. Scott Peters, “who is calling on Congress to create a funding plan that would treat wildfires similar to natural disasters.” According to the article, “Peters’ plan, which the Obama administration supports, would provide greater certainty in addressing growing fire suppression needs while preserving funds meant for prevention and other non-suppression programs.”

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (10/14, 542K) reports that Jewell said that “the problem is rooted in how the government pays to both prevent and fight wildfires.” She said that “a change to the complex federal budget could cut the risk of homes going up in flames when a backcountry fire spreads.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KGTV-TV](#) San Diego (10/15, 102K), [KNSD-TV](#) San Diego (10/15, 160K), and [KFMB-TV](#) San Diego (10/15, 53K).

Pilotless Helicopter For Firefighting Tested In Idaho. The [AP](#) (10/15, 2.28M) reports that “the future of wildland firefighting launched Wednesday morning in Idaho.” According to the article, “a Lockheed Martin helicopter capable of flying autonomously with no human control did so as it scooped up water, dropped it on targets and delivered supplies to a distant ridge in a demonstration in front of top federal decision makers 20 miles east of Boise.” Mark Bathrick, director of the Interior Department’s Office of Aviation Services, said, “Wildland fires are a huge problem, particularly here in the West. I’m a believer in the technology that could be put on other helicopters, that eventually could be put on fixed-wing aircraft — scoopers and air tankers.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (10/15, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/15, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (10/15, 962K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/15, Keith Ridler |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/15, Ridler, 344K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/15, Ridler, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (10/15, 3.97M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/15, 5.59M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/15, Ridler, 5.98M), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/14, 183K), and the [Idaho Statesman](#) (10/14, 190K).

Ranchers, Environmentalists Dispute Grazing’s Impact On Soda Fire. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/14, 113K) reports that “Idaho ranchers claim that better grazing management would have reduced the size and severity of the Soda fire that scorched 279,000 acres of land in Owyhee County and part of Eastern Oregon in August.” But Idaho-based Western Watersheds Project “claims that livestock grazing contributed to the severity of the Soda fire and other wildfires that burned millions of acres of land across the West this year.” Jessica Gardetto, a spokeswoman for Idaho BLM, said “‘the jury is still out’ on grazing’s overall impact on wildfire behavior but some studies have shown that grazing can diminish fire danger where certain fuels, such as invasive cheatgrass, dominate.”

SECRETARY JEWELL ATTENDS DEDICATION CEREMONY OF VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL

PRESERVE. The [Outside](#) (10/15, 258K) reports Interior Secretary Sally Jewell attended the dedication ceremony of Valles Caldera National Preserve last weekend. Jewell said, “This is land that has the potential to educate Americans and people around the world about how to live in harmony with nature and how to learn from nature.” She also expressed frustration about the expiration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. She said, “We want that reauthorized, and frankly, it needs to be funded at the level it was originally intended.”

SEN. FEINSTEIN PUSHES FOR MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT. The [Greenwire](#) (10/14,

Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein “told a sweaty and often hostile crowd of about 800 here yesterday that President Obama should designate three new national monuments spanning more than 1 million acres of Mojave Desert as national monuments if her legislative efforts run dry.” Feinstein has “fought for more than six years to establish the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountains monuments.” The article notes that “the designation would cover 1.1 million acres and be Obama’s largest under the 1906 Antiquities Act.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/14, Cart, 4.07M), the [Inland Empire \(CA\) Community Newspapers](#) (10/15), and [KABC-TV](#) Los Angeles (10/15, 413K).

BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION TO FIGHT FOR CONSERVATION PROPOSAL IN DC. [E&L Publishing](#) (10/14, 705) reports that “officials from a handful of Southwest American Indian tribes will be in Washington, D.C., tomorrow to urge protections for 1.9 million acres of federal lands in southeast Utah that they consider sacred.” The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, “which includes Navajo, Hopi, Ute Mountain Ute, Ute Tribe of the Uinta Ouray Reservation, Zuni Pueblo and Cochiti Pueblo, expects to meet with Obama administration officials and congressional offices about its ‘Bears Ears’ conservation proposal.” The coalition “wants 1.9 million acres surrounding Bears Ears protected as a national conservation area (NCA) with a full mineral withdrawal, or, if necessary, as a national monument designated by the president.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/14, 32K).

FAMILY WANTS BUILDING PLANNED BY BOR NAMED AFTER FALLEN FIREFIGHTER. The [Star of Grand Coulee \(WA\)](#) (10/14, 41) reports that “the family of a woman killed while fighting a local wildfire 25 years ago is hoping a new fire station planned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation could be named after her.” According to the article, “Toni Godsil died Aug. 6, 1990, while fighting a wildland fire in Douglas County with the Grand Coulee Volunteer Fire Department when wind shifted and the flames caught up to her.” Since the recognition would require an act of Congress, “Townsend said family members and supporters are getting ready to send letters to the state’s congressional delegation to seek support, ‘trying to see if anyone can help us get this done.’” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, “who visited local wildland fires in August, said then that she hadn’t heard of the family’s wishes but that her office would be willing to look into the matter.”

SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS TO CELEBRATE WORLD HERITAGE WEEKEND. The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (10/15, 884K) reports that “a full weekend of tours, exhibits and activities are planned around Saturday’s inscription of the five San Antonio missions as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.”

CALIFORNIA BANS SCHOOLS FROM USING “REDSKINS”. The [Digital Journal](#) (10/15, 28K) reports that “California became the first state to ban schools from using ‘Redskins’ as a team name or mascot as Gov. Jerry Brown signed the California Racial Mascots Act into law Sunday morning.” The article notes that “earlier this year, the Obama administration told executives of the Washington NFL franchise that they would have to change their name before the team would be allowed to move to a new stadium in Washington, DC.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said last September, “Personally, I think we would never consider naming a team the ‘Blackskins’ or the ‘Brownskins’ or the ‘Whiteskins.’ So, personally, I find it surprising that in this day and age, the name is not different.”

CRS: AGENCY SPENDING ON ADVERTISING FALLS INTO “BUREAUCRATIC BLACK HOLE.” In its “Federal Eye” blog, the [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Rein, 6.76M) reported on “a murky and little-scrutinized area of the federal budget: Advertising,” citing a CRS study which found that executive branch agencies “spent about \$4.4 billion on contracts for ‘advertising services’ from fiscal 2009 to fiscal 2013, \$892.5 million of that in the last year.” According to the study, “this kind of federal spending falls into a bureaucratic black hole,” and agencies “don’t really have to be transparent about what they’re doing and why.” There is no “government-wide definition of what constitutes advertising” and no central place where agencies are required to report advertising-related expenditures,” which means “agencies can pretty much spend what they want.”

STUDY: RESTORING NATURE COULD FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE. [TIME](#) (10/15, Worland, 19.55M) reports that a growing body of research supports the need for climate change solutions rooted in nature: “ensuring biodiversity, revitalizing forests and supporting other natural environments.” A new study published in the journal *Nature* offers strong evidence that “biodiversity strengthens ecosystems, increasing their resistance to extreme climate events and improving their capacity to stem climate change,” *TIME* reports. “In addition to enacting regulations to alter human behavior, policymakers can work to restore nature as a method of addressing global warming,” *TIME* explains.

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR PROPOSAL WOULD HELP FORMATION OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY. The [University of Hawaii – Ka Leo O Voice](#) (10/15) reports that “if the Native Hawaiian community forms a unified government and want a government-to-government relationship with the United States, a U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI) proposal would create the administrative criteria and procedure that would be enacted.” According to the article, “two highlights of the proposal are that the Native Hawaiian government would decide whether to reorganize itself, and what form that government would take.” The article notes that “the proposal does not

change anything regarding Hawaiian homelands, offer compensation for past wrongs or offer a relationship with more than one Native Hawaiian government” and “it also does not offer the same services and programs that are available to Native American’s governments.”

SETTLEMENT DISCUSSED IN CASINO LAND DISPUTE. [Law360](#) (10/15, 21K) reports that “a D.C. federal judge agreed on Wednesday to give more time to an Oklahoma tribe and the federal government to try to resolve claims over a National Indian Gaming Commission decision reaffirming that the tribe was illegally conducting gaming on trust land in New Mexico.” According to the article, “the Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, the NIGC, the U.S. Department of the Interior and department officials jointly sought the stay on Tuesday to allow them to exhaust discussions to potentially settle the tribe’s suit.”

ALASKA GOV. WALKER CREATES TRIBAL ADVISORY COUNCIL.. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/14, 219K) reports that “following up on a pledge to improve relations between the state government and Native tribes, Gov. Bill Walker on Wednesday issued an administrative order creating a tribal advisory council.” Walker “signed the order at the end of his address to a one-day Anchorage conference on tribal issues held by the Alaska Federation of Natives and the National Congress of American Indians.”

BIE APPOINTS NEW ASSOCIATE DEPUTY DIRECTOR. [Politico](#) (10/15, 942K) reports that “Tony Dearman has been appointed associate deputy director for bureau operated schools at the Bureau of Indian Education.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ADDITIONAL \$10 MILLION TRANSFERRED TO COBELL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND. Additional coverage that the Interior Department “announced that an additional \$10 million has been transferred to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund” was provided by the [Char-Koosta News](#) (10/15, 12K).

[Office of Insular Affairs:](#)

MICRONESIANS RELOCATING IN GREATER NUMBERS. The [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (10/15, 41) reports on “the exodus” of Micronesians. According to the article, “Micronesians are leaving their island homes in large numbers and coming to the U.S. in search of medical care, education, jobs and economic prosperity — things they can’t find back at home.”

[Tackling America’s Water Challenges:](#)

FOLSOM LAKE FALLS TO LOWEST LEVEL IN 20-PLUS YEARS. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/15, 535K) reports that “even as Sacramento waits for the soaking El Niño forecast to hit this fall, Folsom Lake continues to lose water and will almost certainly fall Thursday to its lowest level in more than 20 years, government data show.” The article notes that “on Wednesday afternoon, Folsom Lake had about 162,000 acre-feet of water – just 17 percent of its capacity – and operators were still releasing about 800 acre-feet a day, according to the California Department of Water Resources.” The BOR, “which operates the reservoir, initially warned that the lake could fall to 120,000 acre-feet by the end of September.”

[Securing America’s Energy Future:](#)

[Renewable Energy:](#)

FIRST OFFSHORE WIND FARM IS US STIRS EXCITEMENT. The [Melbourne \(AUS\) Herald Sun](#) (10/15, 74K) reports that “construction is underway off Rhode Island’s coast on the US’ first offshore wind farm, a milestone that federal and state officials say will help the fledgling industry surge ahead.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said that “lenders, regulators and stakeholders could now see a path forward.” She said, “It’s great to witness a pioneering moment in US history. I think it will help the country understand the potential that exists here.”

[Onshore Energy Development:](#)

OSMRE BEGINS TRAPPER MINE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (10/15, 73K) reports that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is “beginning a new environmental review involving coal mining at the Trapper Mine near Craig in response to a judge’s ruling

calendar this year. The agency said in a public notice issued Wednesday that it will prepare an environmental assessment to analyze impacts of a mining plan approval for current and future mining involving two federal coal leases at the surface mine." The mining notes that "as part of the agency's review, it will hold a public meeting in Craig Oct. 29."

NORTH DAKOTA OIL INDUSTRY CONCERNED ABOUT FEDERAL FLARING RULES. The [AP](#) (10/15, Macpherson) reports that North Dakota Petroleum Council Vice President Kari Cutting told a North Dakota committee on energy development that "jurisdictional overreach appears to be the norm in the federal agency rulemaking process." The AP adds that Cutting, whose group represents more than 550 companies, "said the industry has increased efficiencies...but the industry will have a tougher time adapting to what she calls a 'jurisdictional grab' by the federal government." North Dakota's oil industry is most concerned about gas flaring regulations, the AP reports, adding that producers in the state flare 20 percent due to insufficient infrastructure, much more than the 1 percent national average and 3 percent global average.

TRIBE IN TALKS ABOUT SETTLEMENT OF FRACKING LAWSUIT. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication) reports that "an American Indian tribe is in talks with the Obama administration to settle a legal battle over the Interior Department's much-contested hydraulic fracturing rule." According to the article, "the Department of Justice, Interior and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe last week asked a federal court to pause their case while the sides continue settlement talks." The Southern Utes "filed their lawsuit in June, three months after the Bureau of Land Management finalized the rule, which regulates well construction, wastewater management and chemical disclosure for fracking on public and tribal lands."

CORDERO ROJO MINE TO RECEIVE RECLAMATION AWARD. The [World Coal](#) (10/15) reports that "Cloud Peak Energy's Cordero Rojo coal mine has been awarded the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's 2015 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Award for its restoration work on the Belle Fourche River." According to the article, "the mine relocated a portion of the river and reclaimed the stream channel to return it to approximately the same conditions as existed before mining." The award will be presented at the National Mining Association's awards ceremony in Washington DC on 9 November.

CONCERNS GROWING ABOUT EARTHQUAKES IN OKLAHOMA NEAR A HUB OF US OIL. The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Wines, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports an earthquake in Oklahoma over "last weekend has raised fresh concern about the security of a vast crude oil storage complex, close to the quake's center, that sits at the crossroads of the nation's oil pipeline network." The quake occurred near Cushing, "home to the so-called Cushing Hub, a sprawling tank farm that is among the largest oil storage facilities in the world." Last month, scientists said that an intense earthquake near the site "could seriously damage storage tanks and pipelines." The hub has been designated by the Federal government as "a critical national infrastructure." The 4.5 magnitude quake "is among the largest of thousands of temblors that have rocked central and northern Oklahoma in the past five years, largely set off by the injection of oil and gas industry wastes deep into the earth."

STUDIES TIE FRACKING CHEMICAL EXPOSURE TO PREMATURE BIRTHS, LONG-TERM REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES. The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Bakalar, 11.82M) "Well" blog reported that "living near hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, operations" may be tied to "premature births," according to research published Sept. 30 in the journal *Epidemiology*. The study of "10,496 singleton births by 9,384 mothers from 2009 to 2013 in Pennsylvania" revealed that "the 25 percent of mothers most exposed to fracking were 40 percent more likely to give birth preterm...than the quarter least exposed."

Meanwhile, the [Huffington Post](#) (10/15, Peeples, 164K) reports that "prenatal exposure to a cocktail of chemicals commonly used in the various phases of oil and natural gas production, including fracking, could carry long-term reproductive health consequences," a study published online Oct. 14 in the journal *Endocrinology* suggests.

Offshore Energy Development:

IGNORING ST. JOHNS BRIDGE PROTEST COULD HAVE COST OREGON THOUSANDS IN FINES. The [Oregonian](#) (10/15, Theriault, 756K) reported that if Oregon officials had held back during Greenpeace's summer protest of Shell's Arctic drilling, it "could have cost the state thousands of dollars in federal fines, according to internal documents reviewed by The Oregonian/OregonLive." Oregon officials responded after 13 Greenpeace protestors dangled from the St. Johns Bridge and briefly blocked the passage of a ship belonging to Shell. The Oregon Department of Transportation "requires a permit from the U.S. Coast Guard to operate

the St. Johns Bridge and must ensure that ships up to 174 feet tall can pass below. The protesters and their flags put the DOT in violation of the permit, and had the state balked in its response to the protestors, it could have set up “a contentious back-and-forth of written warnings, legal reviews and fines that could have hit \$25,000 every time operators of a ship thought about traveling under the bridge but decided not to risk it.”

[Inside Climate News](#) (10/14, Bagley) reported that “activists across the U.S. will push for quick and aggressive climate action Wednesday by staging protests, collecting signatures, organizing panels and even floating 30 miles down the Missouri River.” Events are scheduled for nearly 200 locations and “will be known collectively as the People’s Climate Movement, a follow-up to last year’s People’s Climate March.” Events “aim to draw attention to the local impacts of global warming...and the hundreds of grassroots groups fighting for action.” The article briefly reported that “there was also a significant upturn this year in civil disobedience campaigns,” including Greenpeace’s July protest on Portland’s St. Johns Bridge.

Shell Drilling Rigs Leave Arctic. On its website, [KUCB-FM](#) Unalaska, AK (10/15, Ryan) reported that Shell Oil’s Polar Pioneer rig “left Alaska’s Dutch Harbor for Port Angeles, Washington, on Wednesday” while Shell’s “other Arctic rig, the Noble Discoverer, left Dutch Harbor for Everett, Washington, on Monday.” Other ships in Shell’s Arctic fleet “will leave Alaska over the next couple of weeks, and the company has not disclosed the fate of the 400 employees who have worked on the project in Anchorage.”

The [AP](#) (10/14, Joling, 2.28M) reported that two of Royal Dutch Shell’s drill vessels, the Noble Discoverer and the Polar Pioneer, “have safely departed Arctic waters for the Pacific Northwest.” Following a Coast Guard inspection, the Noble Discoverer departed Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands on Monday “for the Port of Everett in Washington state, Shell spokesman Curtis Smith said.” The Polar Pioneer “reached Dutch Harbor on Monday afternoon” along with two tug boats, and will be towed to Port Angeles. The AP reported that “the next destinations for both vessels have not been determined, Smith said.”

The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/13, Connelly, 560K) reported that the Polar Pioneer “will not be returning to Seattle, where it was greeted last April by a seaborne protest of ‘kayactivists’ including local politicians.” Shell “has not requested any exclusion zone around the vessels, as it did last spring.” Shell “is promising a less dramatic return journey than in December of 2012,” when it “tried to tow the conical drilling vessel Kulluk across the Gulf of Alaska in the teeth of an early winter storm.” The Kulluk “broke loose from its tow lines and went aground New Year’s Eve on an island near Kodiak.”

The [Puget Sound \(WA\) Business Journal](#) (10/13, Zak, Subscription Publication, 59K) reported that Shell spokeswoman Megan Baldino said, “Decisions about the final destination are still being worked out.” The Journal added that “it’s likely that the rigs will remain in Port Angeles and Everett for a while until their next destinations are determined.”

[KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (10/14, 5:08 p.m. PDT, 92K) broadcast, “Two Shell oil rigs are returning to ports in our state but they won’t be docked in Seattle. The Puget Sound Business Journal reports that one of them will be moored in Everett and the other in Port Angeles. The Polar Pioneer triggered intense protests while it was docked in Seattle’s Terminal 5 before the expedition. Last month, Shell announced it’s abandoning plans to drill for oil in the Arctic but they do say some supply ships could still be docked in Seattle.”

[KPLC-TV](#) Lake Charles, LA (10/14, 6:51 a.m. CDT, 33K), [KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (10/13, 6:10 p.m. AKDT, 31K), [KONG-TV](#) Seattle (10/13, 10:14 p.m. PDT, 53K), [KGW-TV](#) Portland, OR (10/13, 6:08 p.m. PDT, 39K) and [KOIN-TV](#) Portland, OR (10/13, 4:34 p.m. PDT, 27K) also broadcast coverage of the story.

Alaska Gov. Calls For Expanded Oil Drilling To Fund State’s Climate Change Adaptions. [TIME](#) (10/14, Worland, 19.55M) reported that Alaska Governor Bill Walker “called for expanded oil drilling to help him address the challenge of climate change in his state.” Walker “told the BBC that increased revenue from oil...would allow his state to fund measures to adapt to a changing environment” and “said he wants to drill as soon as possible in the Arctic National Wilderness Refuge.” Said Walker, “We are in a significant fiscal challenge. ... We have villages that are washing away because of changes in the climate.”

[Slate](#) (10/13, 1.38M) reported that “the situation has grown still worse in Alaska in recent weeks: In late September, Royal Dutch Shell suddenly announced it was abandoning plans to drill offshore of Alaska’s northwest coast after it failed to locate oil in any meaningful quantities during its controversial exploration this summer. ... Without oil as a reliable income source, Alaska’s politicians have begun a tough look inward to re-envision their state’s future.” Added Slate, “Apparently, that reality check hasn’t yet reached the governor’s

since.

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/13, Follett, 375K) and the [CBC News \(CAN\)](#) (10/15, 225K) also covered the story.

Reasons Shell Halted Arctic Oil Drilling Examined. On its website, the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) examined reasons for Shell halting its exploratory drilling for oil in the Alaskan Arctic. While Kara Moriarty of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association “blamed the slow pace of federal permitting and a thicket of regulations,” the article also looked at the reasons listed in Shell’s statement, including the results at the Burger J well, the “challenging and unpredictable” regulatory environment, and the cost of the project.

OFFICIALS TOUT CAMINADA RESTORATION TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF COASTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/14, 718K) reports that “thousands of pounds of sand from the Gulf of Mexico spewed from a pipe Wednesday (Oct. 14) onto the re-growing beach and dunes that makes up the Caminada Headlands, the southernmost edge of Jefferson and Lafourche parishes that protects both rich wetlands just to its north and the nationally important Port Fourchon, jumping off point for deepwater drilling.” Observing “the rebuilding by a team of 80 employees of Weeks Marine, a dredging firm based in Covington, were representatives of five federal agencies and the state Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority who were on the Elmer’s Island segment of the Caminada beachfront to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act.” The article notes that “the project under way Thursday is actually funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, with the money coming from the \$1 billion 2013 settlement of civil and criminal charges facing Transocean, the company that owned the Deepwater Horizon drillship that was at the center of the BP Macondo well blowout and oil spill in 2010.”

LOUISIANA TO RECEIVE BP SETTLEMENT. The [AP](#) (10/15, Burdeau, 344K) reports that “the next governor will play a crucial role in Louisiana’s coastal crisis – either by aggressively working to save the coast or missing a prime opportunity to stop the state from slipping further into the Gulf of Mexico.” Louisiana is “poised to receive about \$8.7 billion in settlement money over damages caused by BP’s catastrophic 2010 Gulf oil spill – money mandated by law for environmental restoration.” The article notes that “all four major candidates – the three Republicans, U.S. Sen. David Vitter, Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, Public Service Commissioner Scott Angelle and Democratic state Rep. John Bel Edwards – say they unequivocally support ongoing coastal restoration plans,” but each has “offered some new ideas.”

MISSISSIPPI TO SPEND MILLIONS ON RESTORATION PROJECTS. The [Jackson \(MS\) Clarion Ledger](#) (10/14, 263K) reports that “Mississippi officials will turn to the public and other stakeholders to help decide how to spend \$582 million the state will get to restore areas damaged by the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.” The funds will “begin flowing to Mississippi in 2017 under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourism Opportunities and Revived Economies Act, also known as the RESTORE Act.” According to the article, “state officials haven’t decided yet on final projects but plan to focus on improving water quality, protecting and restoring marine resources and buying land to protect habitats.”

GRETNA CITY COUNCIL APPROVES PLAN FOR BP SETTLEMENT MONEY. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/15, Samuels, 718K) reports that the Gretna City Council on Wednesday “approved a plan for the \$3.29 million in settlement money the city is receiving as a result of the 2010 BP oil spill.” Nearly a third of the money will go toward legal costs, \$500,000 will be entered into next year’s public works budget, and the remaining \$1.96 million will be set aside for future use.

ALASKA, FEDERAL OFFICIALS NOT TO PURSUE ADDITIONAL \$92 MILLION IN EXXON VALDEZ DAMAGES. The [AP](#) (10/15) reports that state and federal governments have decided not to pursue \$92 million in additional damages from ExxonMobil for the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, “citing the recovery of ducks and sea otters in Alaska’s Prince William Sound.” Wildlife monitoring showed that wildlife populations have returned to pre-spill levels and officials concluded the legal requirements for pursuing a claim were no longer met.

[Reuters](#) (10/15) also reports.

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION SUES OVER LAND USE PLANS. [KTWO-AM](#) Casper, WY (10/15, 576) reports that “the Wyoming Stock Growers Association has sued federal agencies that allegedly ignored its comments for land use plans in areas with sage grouse habitat, its executive vice president said Wednesday.” Jim Magagna said, “Our view is the grazing regulations and requirements that we already have with the BLM (U.S. Bureau of Land Management) of meeting range land health standards are adequate and beneficial to the range land and therefore to sage grouse habitat. We’ve not been convinced that we need additional requirements on top of those.”

BLM REVIEWING ARMY PROPOSAL FOR LONG-TERM TRAINING. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that “the Army plans to have Fort Carson helicopters practice high-altitude operations on public land west of Canon City this fall.” The BLM said Wednesday “the Army expects to use five landing zones in Fremont County from mid-October through December.” The BLM says “the operations are expected to have little or no ground impact on the landing sites or neighboring property owners.” The BLM is also “reviewing an Army proposal for longer-term training.”

BLM SEEKS MORE COMMENTS ON PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF RED CLIFFS, BEAVER DAM WASH NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/15, 407K) reports that “what sort of land management approach should be embraced involving nearly 110,000 acres in Washington County is drawing sharp disagreement among county leaders and an environmental organization, prompting a prolonged public comment period on draft plans.” The BLM “released a draft environmental impact statement this summer on proposed management of the Red Cliffs and the Beaver Dam Wash national conservation areas, which were established through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.” According to the article, “a 90-day public comment period on an array of alternatives to managing these sections of lands was proposed, in addition to informational open houses, but BLM officials say the level of interest is driving a second round of outreach.”

BLM UNVEILS LEMHI VALLEY TRAVEL PLAN. The [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (10/15, 1K) reports that the BLM will “hold a public meeting in Salmon next week about a travel management plan for nearly 500 square miles in the Lemhi Valley.” According to the article, “representatives at the open house will provide information and take comments on three alternatives included in an environmental assessment that would permit varying amounts of motorized recreation on roads and trails on BLM land southeast of Salmon.”

GROUP ACCUSES BLM OF EXPERIMENTING ON HORSES. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/15, 22K) reports that the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign on Wednesday issued a statement claiming that the BLM is “ignoring scientific advice and environmental complaints in its decision to proceed with the use of an experimental fertility control vaccine on wild horses in the Antelope Herd Management Area in eastern Nevada.” Deniz Bolbol, AWHPC director of field operations, said, “We are disappointed that the White House office that is supposed to ensure agency compliance with environmental laws is allowing the BLM to experiment on America’s wild horses without any scientific oversight, review, or, for that matter, any scientific method for determining the impacts of the experiments on the horses themselves. Further, the use of GonaCon in this unscientific, unregimented proposal will place in jeopardy the individual horses’ long-term well-being and their natural, social behaviors, which are attributes that make wild horses celebrated American icons, treasured by Americans and others around the world.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS MOVES AHEAD WITH MEXICAN WOLF RELEASES. The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (10/15, 67K) reports that “in a direct snub to state officials, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Wednesday that it will release about 10 Mexican gray wolves into the wilds of southwestern New Mexico, even though state game officials have refused to issue a permit for the action.” The FWS “issued a statement Wednesday that said it will release the wolves as part of its recovery program for a species that is at risk of extinction.”

SCIENTISTS ASK FOR PUBLIC HELP WITH SICK OTTERS IN ALASKA. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that “scientists are turning to the public for help dealing with sick and dead otters in Alaska.” FWS officials say “they have recently received about 200 reports of sick or dead sea otters in the Kachemak Bay region.” The FWS is “working with Alaska Sea Life Center in Seward and running tests to find out what’s hurting the animals.”

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP WANTS FOIA SUIT DISMISSED. The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (10/15, 87K)

reports that an environmental organization with an office in Canada is asking a judge to dismiss a lawsuit it filed against a federal agency for allegedly violating the Freedom of Information Act.” The Center for Biological Diversity sued the FWS “for allegedly failing to provide documents the center requested about the agency’s decision not to list a fish as an endangered species.” The center said last week the FWS “provided the requested documents in August, but also withheld and redacted several documents based on the legal concept of attorney-client privilege.” But “despite some documents being withheld and redacted, the environmental organization stated in the court filing last week that the lawsuit should be dismissed.”

CLEANUP OF DEAD FISH ON VIRGINIA EASTERN SHORE COMPLICATED BY ENDANGERED BEETLE.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Hedgpeth, 6.76M) reports that “clean-up of the tens of thousands of dead fish that washed up on Virginia’s Eastern Shore is proving to be harder after authorities learned that an endangered tiger beetle also inhabits the beach area.” According to the article, “the incident began Oct. 7 when a net owned by Omega Protein, a large commercial fishing operation out of Houston that specializes in harvesting menhaden, tore open,” and “on Tuesday, officials with Omega Protein said they estimated that some 75,000 fish had washed ashore.” The company said it has “received details from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on how to deal with the cleanup of the dead fish and not harm the tiger beetles in the area.”

FWS HOLDS OPEN HOUSE ON ACCESS TO RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN. The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (10/15, 100K) reports that “about 50 people who attended an afternoon open house held in Richland by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to hear ideas about access to Rattlesnake Mountain and surrounding land.” An evening meeting also was held. Former Rep. Doc Hastings “got legislation passed shortly before he retired in December requiring the public be given access to the top of the mountain.” The FWS is “starting planning with a list of restrictions from other laws and regulations.”

MISSOURI RESIDENTS WANT LEAD MINE SETTLEMENT SPENT IN COMMUNITIES. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that “some residents in southeast Missouri want money from a lead mining settlement spent in communities affected by contamination, not on a new state park.” According to the article, “residents planned a plan to buy 2,500 acres for the Oregon County park during a special meeting Tuesday.” The Missouri Department of Natural Resources and two federal agencies, the FWS and the U.S. Forest Service, “would decide how to spend the settlement after getting public input.”

LOG CABIN DAY FESTIVAL KICKS OFF AT MUSCATATUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (10/15, Rutherford, 344K) reports that “deep within the leafy recesses of Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge near Seymour sits an old log cabin and barn.” Myers Cabin has “no running water, no electricity, but plenty of rustic charm.” On Saturday, “crowds of people gathered at the cabin for the annual Log Cabin Day Festival.” The article notes that “the event served as the kickoff for National Wildlife Refuge Week, which runs through Sunday.”

“DING” DARLING DAYS KICKS OFF SUNDAY. The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (10/14, 171K) reports that the J.N. ‘Ding’ Darling National Wildlife Refuge will hold a kickoff on Sunday “of the week-long celebration of the man behind the name.” According to the article, “the refuge is named for Jay Norwood ‘Ding’ Darling, an editorial cartoonist who espoused environmental issues.”

CONGRESS URGED TO PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES. In an op-ed for the [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (10/14, 336K), Michael Bean, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Department of the Interior, writes that “last month, farmers, conservationists and landowners came together at a small field in Dover, New Hampshire to celebrate the recovery of the New England cottontail.” Bean says that “that type of conservation success story can and should be common.” However, he warns that “there are threats to unravel a key ingredient: the Endangered Species Act.” Bean hopes that “the Pope’s visit last month can remind us of the importance of protecting our fellow creatures.”

HABITAT EXCHANGES URGED TO PROTECT SPECIES. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Krupp, Subscription Publication, 5.95M), Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, lauds the Interior Department’s recent decision not to list the greater sage grouse. Krupp argues that the Endangered Species Act is necessary, but it is also a last resort. He asserts that to protect wildlife populations and the economy, we must initiate care much sooner and the prescription must be collaborative. He suggests that habitat exchanges can be part of the prescription.

National Park Service:

REPORT URGES NPS TO ADD CHARGING STATIONS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES. The [Greenwire](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication) reports that the NPS “should double the small fraction of parks with electric vehicle charging stations, along with other steps to reduce car-related emissions, a think tank urged in a report released today.” The article notes that “at present, 21 of 470 national parks, or about 4 percent, have installed charging stations, the Center for American Progress said in the report, which recommends increasing that number to 42, with the inclusion of such iconic destinations as Yosemite National Park, Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Glacier National Park.” The report said that “besides installing more charging stations,” the NPS “should also reduce admission fees for visitors driving electric vehicles.”

REPORT DETAILS BRINKERHOFF LODGE ABUSE AT GRAND TETON. The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (10/15, 1K) reports that “over a recent four-year period Grand Teton National Park would have collected nearly \$29,000 in additional revenue were guests to the Brinkerhoff Lodge properly billed, federal investigators say.” according to a U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Inspector General report released last month, “between 2011 and 2014 guests of the historic cabin near Jackson Lake Dam were billed just 15 percent of the time.” The report found that the NNPS “could put the government asset to better use, that there are safety problems requiring immediate attention and that — counter to their rules — Grand Teton officials were allowing high-ranking government officials to use the lodge as a low- or no-cost vacation getaway.”

PROPOSAL WOULD HELP MAKE EVERS HOME PART OF NPS. The [AP](#) (10/15, 89K) reports that “the home where Mississippi civil rights leader Medgar Evers was assassinated in 1963 gets thousands of visitors each year, operates as a college-owned museum and relies on state grants and private donations for maintenance funds.” Now, “the state’s U.S. senators are hoping the National Park Service can lend a hand.” Sens. Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker said “last week they’ve filed a bill that would authorize a study on the national significance of the Evers home, as a step toward making it part of the Park Service.”

VETERAN SUES AFTER BEING INJURED BY 16-POUND PINE CONE IN SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. The [Greenwire](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication) reports that “a U.S. Navy veteran is suing the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service after a 16-pound pine cone fell on his head while he sat beneath a tree in San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.” According to the article, “celebrating Fleet Week ashore in San Francisco in 2014, Sean Mace said he was reading and napping under a bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) when a cone larger than a pineapple struck his head.” The article says that “with no signs warning about the danger from falling pine cones, Mace is suing the park for nearly \$5 million.”

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES 125 YEARS. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/15, 259K) reports that “the 125th anniversary of Yosemite National Park has been marked by a ceremony in Yosemite Valley.” The NPS says “about 1,500 people attended the recent event, which included a Native American blessing and a portrayal of John Muir, the naturalist who worked to preserve Yosemite and other parts of the Sierra Nevada.”

NPS CLARIFIES RENAMING OF BUILDING HOUSING OF SELMA INTERPRETIVE CENTER. The [Selma \(AL\) Times Journal](#) (10/14, 22K) reports that “the building that houses the Selma Interpretive Center is being renamed, but the National Park Service wants to clarify that the name of the center itself is not changing.” The Selma City Council “passed a resolution Tuesday night to rename the building the James Perkins Jr. Voting Rights Interpretive Center.” Sandy Perkins, the superintendent for the Selma to Montgomery Historic Trail, “wants to make sure the public understands the interpretive center, which is run by the National Park Service, is not changing names.”

NPS APPROVES REHABILITATION AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. The [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (10/15, 20K) reports that “visitors to Yellowstone National Park will find many of the overlooks and trails along the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River under construction” after the NPS “issued a Finding of No Significant Impact.” The article notes that “the action addresses aging and deteriorating infrastructure, provide improved accessibility to visitors, improve pedestrian flow, address safety issues, and improve the visitor experience in the Park.”

RINGTAIL AT CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK HAD RABIES. The [AP](#) (10/15, 259K) reports that “a ringtail whose unusual behavior prompted a temporary closure of one entrance to the cave at Carlsbad Caverns National Park had rabies.” According to park officials, “that determination was made by the New Mexico Department of Health and Science in Albuquerque.”

CONGREER NATIONAL PARK REOPENS AFTER FLOODING. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that the Congaree National Park south of Columbia has reopened after the historic flooding earlier this month." The park has "been closed since Oct. 4 because of the flooding." Officials say "the flood waters are receding at the park."

UTAH PARKS SEES RECORD NUMBERS OF VISITORS. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that "southern Utah's parks have been attracting a record number of visitors in 2015." The article notes that "Bryce Canyon National Park broke its record number of visitors in a calendar year by hitting 1.5 million in September." Also, "Zion National Park is expected to reach more than 3.2 million visitors this month, setting a new record." Meanwhile, "other parks like Canyonlands, Cedar Breaks and Pipe Spring are also poised to set records."

COMPLETION OF BIRDSALL MURAL NEARS. The [Seward \(AK\) City News](#) (10/15) reports that "except for one panel that is being completed in Dot Bardarson's garage, the mural for the National Park Service building is finished and awaiting the clear coat process at Seward Body and Paint." The mural, titled "Kenai Fjords, where Mountains, Ice, and Water Meet," will "be mounted next Spring for the celebration of 100 years by the National Park Service."

HISTORIC LUMBER SCHOONER C.A. Thayer Begins Final Stage Of Restoration. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (10/14, 626K) reports that "Jeff Morris, historic ships manager with the National Park Service, and a crew of NPS workers are busy preparing the historic 1895 lumber schooner, the C.A. Thayer, for a trip across the bay to the Bay Ship & Yacht Co. in Alameda for the stepping of three new masts." According to the article, "the historic schooner is entering the last stage of a long restoration that started with its first trip to Alameda in 2003."

NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY CELEBRATED. [Popular Science](#) (10/15, 6.51M) reports on "the fifth annual National Fossil Day, a day trademarked by the National Park Service and celebrated in schools and parks across the country." The NPS "hopes that if people are educated about fossils, they will be more likely to treat fossils they find with respect, whether they're found in a backyard or a national park." In honor of the day, the article highlights "some of our favorite discoveries from this year."

BODY OF MAN RECOVERED IN LAKE POWELL. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that "authorities say the body of a Wyoming man missing after he jumped from a 90-foot cliff into Lake Powell last week has been recovered." The NPS and the Coconino County Sheriff's Office say "the body of 29-year-old William 'Billy' Burke was spotted Wednesday at a depth of 153 feet by a remote operated vehicle."

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (10/14, Schwartz).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS RENTING QUARTERS 17. Additional coverage that the NPS is "offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rent a three-bedroom, two-bathroom house near the Point Bonita Lighthouse in the Marin Headlands" was provided by the [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (10/15, 170K).

US Geological Survey:

FEMA PLANS GREAT SHAKEOUT EARTHQUAKE DRILLS FOR THURSDAY. [Reuters](#) (10/14, Gillam) reports that on Thursday FEMA is organizing Great ShakeOut earthquake drill events nationwide, bolstering emergency preparation at schools and elsewhere as earthquake activity in the US increases. Reuters highlights the event's slogan of "drop, cover and hold on." The article notes that Cushing, Oklahoma experienced a magnitude 4.5 earthquake on Saturday. The [San Diego \(CA\) Union-Tribune](#) (10/14, Robbins, 542K) predicts a "big turnout" for the San Diego County earthquake drill, where more than 943,000 people have signed up to participate, most of whom are "students and government employees."

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/15, Perlman, Subscription Publication, 3.35M) reports that on Wednesday the Calaveras Fault caused "a swarm of small earthquakes" near San Ramon. "By midafternoon, the total had reached 30," according to the US Geological Survey (USGS). The article outlines the history of earthquakes along the fault. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/14, 99K) reports that on Wednesday morning Coachella Valley experienced a magnitude 3.6 earthquake, which did not cause any reported damage. The article notes other recent earthquakes in the Coachella Valley. USGS Seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones is paraphrased as saying "a magnitude 4.0 temblor is considered 'normal' earthquake activity for Southern California."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: TWITTER PROBEY HELPS USGS TRACK EARTHQUAKES. Additional coverage that the USGS is “using Twitter to help detect earthquakes in real time as they are felt across the globe” was provided by the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (10/14, 288K) and the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (10/14, 142K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CALIFORNIA’S SEQUOIAS SHOW SIGNS OF STRESS. Additional coverage that California’s “giant sequoias, which can live thousands of years, are starting to show signs that they’re not getting enough water” was provided by [PBS NewsHour](#) (10/15, 127K).

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: CLINTON’S STRONG DEBATE PERFORMANCE MAKES BIDEN RUN LESS LIKELY.

Continuing coverage of Tuesday evening’s first Democratic presidential debate focuses on the consensus that Hillary Clinton won the face-off and regained momentum, and also on the man who was not there: Vice President Biden. Speculation in broadcast, print, and online media is that Biden is less likely to enter the race since Clinton is getting back on track. Immediately following the debate, [CNN](#) (10/14, 5.17M) said on its website that in the Pivotal Political Prediction Market, the odds of a Biden nomination fell from 15% to 11%. By early Thursday, the odds were down to five percent – with just a 35% chance that Biden will run, a huge fall from 78% before the debate.

On [ABC World News](#) (10/14, story 2, 1:50, Muir, 5.84M), Jonathan Karl reported, “At a meeting today, Vice President Biden struck a note of optimism about America.” Biden: “We’re just going to roll, man. I really mean it. America’s ready.” Karl: “But tonight, there’s much less optimism about Biden’s presidential prospects. Even some of Biden’s strongest supporters are saying privately he may have simply waited too long.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/14, story 4, 2:20, Pelley, 5.08M) reported Biden “said he is proud of last night’s Democratic presidential debate, but if he was looking for a reason to jump into the race, he likely didn’t find it. Hillary Clinton dominated.” [ABC World News](#) (10/14, lead story, 3:25, Muir, 5.84M) said that Clinton’s campaign chairman said Wednesday, “‘At this point, Joe Biden needs to make up his mind.’ Other top Democrats [are] thinking the same, as Clinton gets high marks for her center stage performance.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/14, lead story, 3:15, Holt, 7.86M) said in its lead story that “for months her campaign has been in response mode,” but “at least for this moment,” Clinton “is appearing to have retaken control of the conversation.” Her debate performance may “give nervous supporters a reason to breathe easier and rivals a reason for pause.” Chuck Todd then said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/14, story 2, 1:05, Holt, 7.86M), “There is no doubt that Team Biden was watching last night to see what kind of new openings that they could find. ... If the Biden campaign were about to get off the ground, we’d start hearing about it. We would see leaks about it. ... Almost radio silence from the West Wing there.”

The [AP](#) (10/15) reports Biden “says he’s proud of the Democratic candidates who took part” in the debate, but said little more. [Reuters](#) (10/15, Oliphant) says the dynamics of the Democratic race have changed after Clinton’s strong debate performance, which is dampening calls for a late Biden entry. [USA Today](#) (10/15, Jackson, 5.23M) says “the specter of a Joe Biden candidacy still hovers over the Democratic presidential race, but it may be growing faint.” John Hudak of the Brookings Institution said, “There is no path for Biden. There’s no reason for it.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Martin, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) writes that Clinton’s “sure-footed performance...did not just lift the spirits of her supporters and reassure nervous party officials about her candidacy, it also swiftly cooled talk about the need” for a Biden candidacy. Clinton offered “crisp answers to nearly every question, an aggressiveness her rivals did not seem ready for and a level of confidence that has often been obscured over months of questions about her use of a private email as secretary of state,” and on Wednesday, “Democrats were describing the closing, if not the slamming shut, of a door” for Biden.

Dan Balz writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/15, 6.76M) that “the path for Biden has always looked daunting,” and though “after the debate, Clinton aides were not saying explicitly whether Biden has a path, but after weeks of neutral comments, the language turned.” Clinton campaign chair John Podesta said Biden “will need to make a decision soon.” [Politico](#) (10/14, Gass, 942K) reported Podesta “has a message” for Biden: “The time has come to decide on your White House bid.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Rucker, 6.76M) says in another report that “the official line from the Clinton

campaign was that they were unimpressed with the candidate's performance and that Biden had to make his own decision," but the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Nelson, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says the Democratic establishment is growing impatient. The [Huffington Post](#) (10/14, Stein, 164K) said the Clinton campaign "has begun aggressively pushing" Biden "to make a decision one way or another."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/15, Lauter, 4.07M) writes that Clinton "had three big tasks to accomplish in Tuesday night's debate: Reassure the Democratic establishment, draw contrasts with Sen. Bernie Sanders and deter Vice President Joe Biden. ... It was clear that she had succeeded with the first two. Whether she achieved the third goal should be known within days." [The Hill](#) (10/14, Fabian, 471K) reported, however, that Biden "gave no indication Wednesday that he has a set a deadline to make a decision."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, 6.76M) says Clinton was the only candidate in the debate who "performed like a potential president" with her "impressive performance. Yet the debate also surfaced one of Ms. Clinton's vulnerabilities: the possibility that Mr. Sanders and the leftward drift of the Democratic Party will drag her away from pragmatism – and from general-election voters."

The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says in an editorial that Clinton "reminded us why she's the front-runner, with her experience, command of the issues and strength in communicating ideas. She seemed both at ease and fearless." The Times also says the Democrats argued responsibly and with civility, while "the Republican candidates...haven't a prayer of knowing what to do if they ever enter the White House."

E.J. Dionne writes in his [Washington Post](#) (10/15, 6.76M) column, "At some point during Tuesday night's Democratic debate, many people in living rooms across the country undoubtedly turned to each other with the same basic thought about Hillary Clinton: Oh, so that's why she's the front-runner." Daniel Henninger writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) column that the debate essentially ended the Democratic race by marginalizing Sanders and removing the rationale for a Biden candidacy.

However, Evan Horowitz writes in the [Boston Globe](#) (10/15, 1.1M) that it is "too early to say" if Clinton really won the debate, since "the point isn't to win over expert judges, it's to gain support from non-experts – people who haven't been following the ins and outs of the campaign but who are planning to hit the voting booths come primary season."

AP Analysis: Clinton Displayed "Likely Strength" In General Election Campaign. The [AP](#) (10/15) says in an analysis that Clinton's "polished performance...did more than send a message to her primary rivals. It was a warning to the chaotic Republican field about her likely strength in a general election." She "solidified her shift toward more liberal positions on trade, gun control and immigration, but still stayed largely in step with the battleground state voters she'll need" in a fall campaign, and "also positioned herself as heir to the coalition of women, Hispanics and black voters that propelled Barack Obama to the White House."

But Anne Gearan of the [Washington Post](#) (10/15, 6.76M) writes that if Clinton is the nominee, "her Republican opponents will not let her off so easy" as her Democratic foes did Tuesday. Karl Rove similarly writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) column that Clinton's debate victory was due to the weakness of her opponents. However, the [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Johnson, 6.76M) says for many Democrats, the debate "provided a renewed sense of optimism and confidence in their field's leaders."

Bill Clinton: "Hillary Knocked It Out Of The Park." [The Hill](#) (10/14, Hensch, 471K) reported that in a fundraising email, former President Bill Clinton wrote, "Last night, Hillary knocked it out of the park. She didn't just talk about big ideas – she laid out plans to get them done. That's what Hillary does when she sees a problem to fix: She gets people together, takes on the tough fights and finds her way to the solution."

Trump Says Clinton Won Debate. [The Hill](#) (10/14, Byrnes, 471K) reported Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said Wednesday that he thought Clinton won the debate "and suggested other candidates lacked credibility." [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/14, story 3, 3:05, Holt, 7.86M) showed clips of MSNBC's Katy Tur interviewing Trump, who said, "Bernie [Sanders] made a mistake. He got a great couple of seconds. But he took a situation that's a very serious situation, where Hillary is being investigated by the FBI, and he gave it away. He just gave it away. He can never bring it up again and it's not like he's winning, he's losing."

Rubio: Democratic Debate Was About "Free Stuff." [The Hill](#) (10/14, Byrnes, 471K) reported GOP candidate Sen. Marco Rubio said on Fox News Wednesday morning that the Democratic debate "was all

about giving away free stuff. He said, free college education, free college education for people illegally in this country, free healthcare, free everything. Their answer to every problem in America is a government program and a tax increase.”

“Obama Campaign Alums” Among Critics Of Clinton’s Performance. [Politico](#) (10/14, Cheney, 942K) said some of the biggest Democratic criticism of Clinton came from “Obama campaign alums. ... David Axelrod, Obama’s top political strategist, noted that ‘Clinton made a few mistakes,’” and “even among those Obama allies who praised Clinton’s performance, there were overt shots at Clinton’s longer-term strategy.”

Sanders Raised More Than \$1.3 Million In Hours After Debate. The [AP](#) (10/15) reports Sanders “said his campaign raised more than \$1.3 million in the hours after the first Democratic debate of the 2016 race, and social media metrics showed he was the most-searched candidate on Google and most-discussed on Facebook and Twitter.” [Politico](#) (10/14, Strauss, 942K) reports the Sanders campaign said it received more than 37,600 individual contributions averaging \$31.54 each. And [The Hill](#) (10/14, Byrnes, 471K) says Sanders “slightly edged out Clinton for most Twitter mentions during the debate, with 41 percent of the tweets to Clinton’s 39 percent.”

Sanders gained about 24,000 new Twitter followers after the debate, while Clinton gained about 10,000. But while most of the tweets by [@HillaryClinton](#) Wednesday were clips of her debate performance, [@BernieSanders](#) had little about the debate except for a few retweeted articles like [one from Vox](#) reading, “DC insiders think Bernie Sanders lost the debate. Here’s why they might be wrong.”

However, the [New York Times](#) (10/15, Gabriel, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports under the headline “Debate Cools Momentum Of Bernie Sanders In Iowa” that Clinton’s “self-assurance, command of issues and ease in parrying” Sanders in the debate “drew praise from Iowa Democrats.” [USA Today](#) (10/15, Gaudio, 5.23M) says Sanders faces a question over whether he can “expand his following beyond the Democratic Party’s liberal base.”

WPost Analysis: O’Malley Had No “Make-Or-Break Moment.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Wagner, 6.76M) writes that while O’Malley came to the debate “facing what many had described as a make-or-break moment,” it “turned out to be neither.” While “the prevailing view among observers was that O’Malley had benefited from the broader exposure to a national audience,” it “seemed unlikely that anything that happened in Vegas would fundamentally change the dynamics” of the race.

Racial Justice, Gender Equality Addressed In Debate. The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Williams, 6.76M) reports that “racial justice and gender equality...finally made it to the presidential debate stage” in the Democratic debate after being all but ignored in the first Republican face-offs.

Wasserman Schultz Defends Party’s Diversity. [The Hill](#) (10/14, Richardson, 471K) reported Democratic National Committee Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz defended the party’s diversity in an interview with Fusion’s Jorge Ramos, who said “he did not ‘see a Latino or an African-American or an Asian’ on the Democratic debate stage.” Wasserman Schultz replied, “First of all, our president of the United States, who is a Democrat, is African-American. ... Our party nominated the first African-American, and then Americans elected him not once, but twice. ... There is overwhelmingly more diversity up and down the ballot when it comes to Democrats.”

Debate Draws Record-High Viewership For Democratic Face-Off. [Politico](#) (10/14, Gold, 942K) reported the debate “drew 15.3 million viewers, making it the most watched Democratic primary debate in history,” though it did not draw as many viewers as the first two Republican debates. The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Steel, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says the previous record for a Democratic debate “was set by the 2008 debate in Philadelphia, which averaged 10.7 million viewers.”

FED: CONSUMER SPENDING, HOUSING MARKET PROPELLED MODEST GROWTH. The Fed’s latest Beige Book cites “steady consumer spending and an improving housing market” for “spurr[ing] modest US economic growth in the late summer,” the [AP](#) (10/15) reports, noting that the report “echoes other recent data that suggests the economy, while still expanding, has run into headwinds from overseas and lost momentum.”

Retail Sales Rose 0.1% In September. Another [AP](#) (10/15, Boak) story describes cautious retail spending by consumers in September, noting that the Commerce Department said Wednesday that retail sales “rose just 0.1 percent last month after being unchanged in August.” While auto purchases rose 1.8 percent in

September, and spending rose 0.7 percent at restaurants and 0.9 percent at grocers, they were tempered by sales declines for gasoline, building materials and online outlets.”

[Reuters](#) (10/15, Mutikani) cites the reports as the latest indication that the economy is slowing and notes that they raise more doubts about whether an interest rate increase will be forthcoming from the Fed this year. A front-page story in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, A1, Hilsenrath, Sussman, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says a rate increase in 2015 is becoming less likely given the new signs of weak economic activity.

Bernanke Defends Fed's "Aggressive Actions." The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Mui, 6.76M) reports in its "Wonkblog" blog that in his new book, "Courage to Act," former Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke

"Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Welch, Chelsea" <chelsea_welch@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Oct 15 2015 08:29:32 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, October 15, 2015

I am not, but Emily said it may take a few days to be able to add me to the list. Thanks for sending!

On Thu, Oct 15, 2015 at 10:21 AM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hello,
Are you getting these morning press clips?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bulletin Intelligence** <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 15, 2015 at 6:59 AM
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, October 15, 2015
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TOURS AREAS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAMAGED BY WILDFIRES. [KPBS-TV](#) San Diego (10/14, 5K) reports that "federal officials on Wednesday toured the Cal Fire Incident Command Center in El Cajon in an effort to highlight the threat of wildfires." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell joined Rep. Scott Peters, "who is calling on Congress to create a funding plan that would treat wildfires similar to natural disasters." According to the article, "Peters' plan, which the Obama administration supports, would provide greater certainty in addressing growing fire suppression needs while preserving funds meant for prevention and other non-suppression programs."

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (10/14, 542K) reports that Jewell said that "the problem is rooted in how the government pays to both prevent and fight wildfires." She said that "a change to the complex federal budget could cut the risk of homes going up in flames when a backcountry fire spreads."

Additional coverage was provided by [KGTV-TV](#) San Diego (10/15, 102K), [KNSD-TV](#) San Diego (10/15, 160K), and [KFMB-TV](#) San Diego (10/15, 53K).

Pilotless Helicopter For Firefighting Tested In Idaho. The [AP](#) (10/15, 2.28M) reports that "the future of wildland firefighting launched Wednesday morning in Idaho." According to the article, "a Lockheed Martin

helicopter capable of flying autonomously with no human control and so as it scooped up water, dropped it on targets and delivered supplies to a distant ridge in a demonstration in front of top federal decision makers 20 miles east of Boise.” Mark Bathrick, director of the Interior Department’s Office of Aviation Services, said, “Wildland fires are a huge problem, particularly here in the West. I’m a believer in the technology that could be put on other helicopters, that eventually could be put on fixed-wing aircraft — scoopers and air tankers.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (10/15, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/15, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (10/15, 962K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/15, Keith Ridler |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/15, Ridler, 344K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/15, Ridler, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (10/15, 3.97M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/15, 5.59M), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/15, Ridler, 5.98M), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/14, 183K), and the [Idaho Statesman](#) (10/14, 190K).

Ranchers, Environmentalists Dispute Grazing’s Impact On Soda Fire. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/14, 113K) reports that “Idaho ranchers claim that better grazing management would have reduced the size and severity of the Soda fire that scorched 279,000 acres of land in Owyhee County and part of Eastern Oregon in August.” But Idaho-based Western Watersheds Project “claims that livestock grazing contributed to the severity of the Soda fire and other wildfires that burned millions of acres of land across the West this year.” Jessica Gardetto, a spokeswoman for Idaho BLM, said “‘the jury is still out’ on grazing’s overall impact on wildfire behavior but some studies have shown that grazing can diminish fire danger where certain fuels, such as invasive cheatgrass, dominate.”

SECRETARY JEWELL ATTENDS DEDICATION CEREMONY OF VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE. The [Outside](#) (10/15, 258K) reports Interior Secretary Sally Jewell attended the dedication ceremony of Valles Caldera National Preserve last weekend. Jewell said, “This is land that has the potential to educate Americans and people around the world about how to live in harmony with nature and how to learn from nature.” She also expressed frustration about the expiration of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. She said, “We want that reauthorized, and frankly, it needs to be funded at the level it was originally intended.”

SEN. FEINSTEIN PUSHES FOR MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT. The [Greenwire](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein “told a sweaty and often hostile crowd of about 800 here yesterday that President Obama should designate three new national monuments spanning more than 1 million acres of Mojave Desert as national monuments if her legislative efforts run dry.” Feinstein has “fought for more than six years to establish the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountains monuments.” The article notes that “the designation would cover 1.1 million acres and be Obama’s largest under the 1906 Antiquities Act.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/14, Cart, 4.07M), the [Inland Empire \(CA\) Community Newspapers](#) (10/15), and [KABC-TV Los Angeles](#) (10/15, 413K).

BEARS EARS INTER-TRIBAL COALITION TO PUSH FOR CONSERVATION PROPOSAL IN DC. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/14, 705) reports that “officials from a handful of Southwest American Indian tribes will be in Washington, D.C., tomorrow to urge protections for 1.9 million acres of federal lands in southeast Utah that they consider sacred.” The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, “which includes Navajo, Hopi, Ute Mountain Ute, Ute Tribe of the Uinta Ouray Reservation, Zuni Pueblo and Cochiti Pueblo, expects to meet with Obama administration officials and congressional offices about its ‘Bears Ears’ conservation proposal.” The coalition “wants 1.9 million acres surrounding Bears Ears protected as a national conservation area (NCA) with a full mineral withdrawal, or, if necessary, as a national monument designated by the president.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (10/14, 32K).

FAMILY WANTS BUILDING PLANNED BY BOR NAMED AFTER FALLEN FIREFIGHTER. The [Star of Grand Coulee \(WA\)](#) (10/14, 41) reports that “the family of a woman killed while fighting a local wildfire 25 years ago is hoping a new fire station planned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation could be named after her.” According to the article, “Toni Godsil died Aug. 6, 1990, while fighting a wildland fire in Douglas County with the Grand Coulee Volunteer Fire Department when wind shifted and the flames caught up to her.” Since the recognition would require an act of Congress, “Townsend said family members and supporters are getting ready to send letters to the state’s congressional delegation to seek support, ‘trying

to see if anyone can help us get this done. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who visited local Indian tribes in August, said then that she hadn't heard of the family's wishes but that her office would be willing to look into the matter."

SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS TO CELEBRATE WORLD HERITAGE WEEKEND. The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (10/15, 884K) reports that "a full weekend of tours, exhibits and activities are planned around Saturday's inscription of the five San Antonio missions as a UNESCO World Heritage Site."

CALIFORNIA BANS SCHOOLS FROM USING "REDSKINS". The [Digital Journal](#) (10/15, 28K) reports that "California became the first state to ban schools from using 'Redskins' as a team name or mascot as Gov. Jerry Brown signed the California Racial Mascots Act into law Sunday morning." The article notes that "earlier this year, the Obama administration told executives of the Washington NFL franchise that they would have to change their name before the team would be allowed to move to a new stadium in Washington, DC." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said last September, "Personally, I think we would never consider naming a team the 'Blackskins' or the 'Brownskins' or the 'Whiteskins.' So, personally, I find it surprising that in this day and age, the name is not different."

CRS: AGENCY SPENDING ON ADVERTISING FALLS INTO "BUREAUCRATIC BLACK HOLE." In its "Federal Eye" blog, the [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Rein, 6.76M) reported on "a murky and little-scrutinized area of the federal budget: Advertising," citing a CRS study which found that executive branch agencies "spent about \$4.4 billion on contracts for 'advertising services' from fiscal 2009 to fiscal 2013, \$892.5 million of that in the last year." According to the study, "this kind of federal spending falls into a bureaucratic black hole," and agencies "don't really have to be transparent about what they're doing and why." There is no "government-wide definition of what constitutes advertising" and no central place where agencies are required to report advertising-related expenditures," which means "agencies can pretty much spend what they want."

STUDY: RESTORING NATURE COULD FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE. [TIME](#) (10/15, Worland, 19.55M) reports that a growing body of research supports the need for climate change solutions rooted in nature: "ensuring biodiversity, revitalizing forests and supporting other natural environments." A new study published in the journal *Nature* offers strong evidence that "biodiversity strengthens ecosystems, increasing their resistance to extreme climate events and improving their capacity to stem climate change," *TIME* reports. "In addition to enacting regulations to alter human behavior, policymakers can work to restore nature as a method of addressing global warming," *TIME* explains.

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR PROPOSAL WOULD HELP FORMATION OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN COMMUNITY. The [University of Hawaii – Ka Leo O Voice](#) (10/15) reports that "if the Native Hawaiian community forms a unified government and want a government-to-government relationship with the United States, a U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI) proposal would create the administrative criteria and procedure that would be enacted." According to the article, "two highlights of the proposal are that the Native Hawaiian government would decide whether to reorganize itself, and what form that government would take." The article notes that "the proposal does not change anything regarding Hawaiian homelands, offer compensation for past wrongs or offer a relationship with more than one Native Hawaiian government" and "it also does not offer the same services and programs that are available to Native American's governments."

SETTLEMENT DISCUSSED IN CASINO LAND DISPUTE. [Law360](#) (10/15, 21K) reports that "a D.C. federal judge agreed on Wednesday to give more time to an Oklahoma tribe and the federal government to try to resolve claims over a National Indian Gaming Commission decision reaffirming that the tribe was illegally conducting gaming on trust land in New Mexico." According to the article, "the Fort Sill Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, the NIGC, the U.S. Department of the Interior and department officials jointly sought the stay on Tuesday to allow them to exhaust discussions to potentially settle the tribe's suit."

ALASKA GOV. WALKER CREATES TRIBAL ADVISORY COUNCIL.. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/14, 219K) reports that "following up on a pledge to improve relations between the state government and Native tribes, Gov. Bill Walker on Wednesday issued an administrative order creating a tribal advisory council." Walker "signed the order at the end of his address to a one-day Anchorage conference on tribal issues held

by the Alaska Federation of Natives and the National Congress of American Indians.

BIE APPOINTS NEW ASSOCIATE DEPUTY DIRECTOR. [Politico](#) (10/15, 942K) reports that “Tony Dearman has been appointed associate deputy director for bureau operated schools at the Bureau of Indian Education.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ADDITIONAL \$10 MILLION TRANSFERRED TO COBELL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND. Additional coverage that the Interior Department “announced that an additional \$10 million has been transferred to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund” was provided by the [Char-Koosta News](#) (10/15, 12K).

[Office of Insular Affairs:](#)

MICRONESIANS RELOCATING IN GREATER NUMBERS. The [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (10/15, 41) reports on “the exodus” of Micronesians. According to the article, “Micronesians are leaving their island homes in large numbers and coming to the U.S. in search of medical care, education, jobs and economic prosperity — things they can’t find back at home.”

[Tackling America’s Water Challenges:](#)

FOLSOM LAKE FALLS TO LOWEST LEVEL IN 20-PLUS YEARS. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/15, 535K) reports that “even as Sacramento waits for the soaking El Niño forecast to hit this fall, Folsom Lake continues to lose water and will almost certainly fall Thursday to its lowest level in more than 20 years, government data show.” The article notes that “on Wednesday afternoon, Folsom Lake had about 162,000 acre-feet of water – just 17 percent of its capacity – and operators were still releasing about 800 acre-feet a day, according to the California Department of Water Resources.” The BOR, “which operates the reservoir, initially warned that the lake could fall to 120,000 acre-feet by the end of September.”

[Securing America’s Energy Future:](#)

[Renewable Energy:](#)

FIRST OFFSHORE WIND FARM IS US STIRS EXCITEMENT. The [Melbourne \(AUS\) Herald Sun](#) (10/15, 74K) reports that “construction is underway off Rhode Island’s coast on the US’ first offshore wind farm, a milestone that federal and state officials say will help the fledgling industry surge ahead.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said that “lenders, regulators and stakeholders could now see a path forward.” She said, “It’s great to witness a pioneering moment in US history. I think it will help the country understand the potential that exists here.”

[Onshore Energy Development:](#)

OSMRE BEGINS TRAPPER MINE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (10/15, 73K) reports that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is “beginning a new environmental review involving coal mining at the Trapper Mine near Craig in response to a judge’s ruling earlier this year.” The agency said “in a public notice issued Wednesday that it will prepare an environmental assessment to analyze impacts of a mining plan approval for current and future mining involving two federal coal leases at the surface mine.” The article notes that “as part of the agency’s review, it will hold a public meeting in Craig Oct. 29.”

NORTH DAKOTA OIL INDUSTRY CONCERNED ABOUT FEDERAL FLARING RULES. The [AP](#) (10/15, Macpherson) reports that North Dakota Petroleum Council Vice President Kari Cutting told a North Dakota committee on energy development that “jurisdictional overreach appears to be the norm in the federal agency rulemaking process.” The AP adds that Cutting, whose group represents more than 550 companies, “said the industry has increased efficiencies...but the industry will have a tougher time adapting to what she calls a ‘jurisdictional grab’ by the federal government.” North Dakota’s oil industry is most concerned about gas flaring regulations, the AP reports, adding that producers in the state flare 20 percent due to insufficient infrastructure, much more than the 1 percent national average and 3 percent global average.

TRIBE IN TALKS ABOUT SETTLEMENT OF FRACKING LAWSUIT. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication) reports that “an American Indian tribe is in talks with the Obama administration to settle a legal battle over the Interior Department’s much-contested hydraulic fracturing rule.” According to the article, “the Department of Justice, Interior and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe last week asked a federal court to pause their case while the sides continue settlement talks.” The Southern Utes “filed their lawsuit in June, three months after the Bureau of Land Management finalized the rule, which regulates well construction, wastewater management and chemical disclosure for fracking on public and tribal lands.”

CORDERO ROJO MINE TO RECEIVE RECLAMATION AWARD. The [World Coal](#) (10/15) reports that “Cloud Peak Energy’s Cordero Rojo coal mine has been awarded the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s 2015 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Award for its restoration work on the Belle Fourche River.” According to the article, “the mine relocated a portion of the river and reclaimed the stream channel to return it to approximately the same conditions as existed before mining.” The award will be presented at the National Mining Association’s awards ceremony in Washington DC on 9 November.

CONCERNS GROWING ABOUT EARTHQUAKES IN OKLAHOMA NEAR A HUB OF US OIL. The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Wines, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports an earthquake in Oklahoma over “last weekend has raised fresh concern about the security of a vast crude oil storage complex, close to the quake’s center, that sits at the crossroads of the nation’s oil pipeline network.” The quake occurred near Cushing, “home to the so-called Cushing Hub, a sprawling tank farm that is among the largest oil storage facilities in the world.” Last month, scientists said that an intense earthquake near the site “could seriously damage storage tanks and pipelines.” The hub has been designated by the Federal government as “a critical national infrastructure.” The 4.5 magnitude quake “is among the largest of thousands of temblors that have rocked central and northern Oklahoma in the past five years, largely set off by the injection of oil and gas industry wastes deep into the earth.”

STUDIES TIE FRACKING CHEMICAL EXPOSURE TO PREMATURE BIRTHS, LONG-TERM REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES. The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Bakalar, 11.82M) “Well” blog reported that “living near hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, operations” may be tied to “premature births,” according to research published Sept. 30 in the journal *Epidemiology*. The study of “10,496 singleton births by 9,384 mothers from 2009 to 2013 in Pennsylvania” revealed that “the 25 percent of mothers most exposed to fracking were 40 percent more likely to give birth preterm...than the quarter least exposed.”

Meanwhile, the [Huffington Post](#) (10/15, Peeples, 164K) reports that “prenatal exposure to a cocktail of chemicals commonly used in the various phases of oil and natural gas production, including fracking, could carry long-term reproductive health consequences,” a study published online Oct. 14 in the journal *Endocrinology* suggests.

Offshore Energy Development:

IGNORING ST. JOHNS BRIDGE PROTEST COULD HAVE COST OREGON THOUSANDS IN FINES. The [Oregonian](#) (10/15, Theriault, 756K) reported that if Oregon officials had held back during Greenpeace’s summer protest of Shell’s Arctic drilling, it “could have cost the state thousands of dollars in federal fines, according to internal documents reviewed by The Oregonian/OregonLive.” Oregon officials responded after 13 Greenpeace protestors dangled from the St. Johns Bridge and briefly blocked the passage of a ship belonging to Shell. The Oregon Department of Transportation “requires a permit from the U.S. Coast Guard to operate the St. Johns Bridge” and “must ensure that ships up to 174 feet tall can pass below.” The protestors and their flags put the DOT in violation of the permit, and had the state balked in its response to the protestors, it could have set up “a contentious back-and-forth of written warnings, legal reviews and fines that could have hit \$25,000 every time operators of a ship thought about traveling under the bridge but decided not to risk it.”

[Inside Climate News](#) (10/14, Bagley) reported that “activists across the U.S. will push for quick and aggressive climate action Wednesday by staging protests, collecting signatures, organizing panels and even floating 30 miles down the Missouri River.” Events are scheduled for nearly 200 locations and “will be known collectively as the People’s Climate Movement, a follow-up to last year’s People’s Climate March.” Events “aim to draw attention to the local impacts of global warming...and the hundreds of grassroots groups fighting for action.” The article briefly reported that “there was also a significant upturn this year in civil disobedience campaigns,” including Greenpeace’s July protest on Portland’s St. Johns Bridge.

Shell Drilling Rigs Leave Arctic. On its website, [KUCB-FM](#) Unalaska, AK (10/15, Ryan) reported that Shell Oil's Polar Pioneer rig "left Alaska's Dutch Harbor for Port Angeles, Washington, on Wednesday" while Shell's "other Arctic rig, the Noble Discoverer, left Dutch Harbor for Everett, Washington, on Monday." Other ships in Shell's Arctic fleet "will leave Alaska over the next couple of weeks, and the company has not disclosed the fate of the 400 employees who have worked on the project in Anchorage."

The [AP](#) (10/14, Joling, 2.28M) reported that two of Royal Dutch Shell's drill vessels, the Noble Discoverer and the Polar Pioneer, "have safely departed Arctic waters for the Pacific Northwest." Following a Coast Guard inspection, the Noble Discoverer departed Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands on Monday "for the Port of Everett in Washington state, Shell spokesman Curtis Smith said." The Polar Pioneer "reached Dutch Harbor on Monday afternoon" along with two tug boats, and will be towed to Port Angeles. The AP reported that "the next destinations for both vessels have not been determined, Smith said."

The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/13, Connelly, 560K) reported that the Polar Pioneer "will not be returning to Seattle, where it was greeted last April by a seaborne protest of 'kayactivists' including local politicians." Shell "has not requested any exclusion zone around the vessels, as it did last spring." Shell "is promising a less dramatic return journey than in December of 2012," when it "tried to tow the conical drilling vessel Kulluk across the Gulf of Alaska in the teeth of an early winter storm." The Kulluk "broke loose from its tow lines and went aground New Year's Eve on an island near Kodiak."

The [Puget Sound \(WA\) Business Journal](#) (10/13, Zak, Subscription Publication, 59K) reported that Shell spokeswoman Megan Baldino said, "Decisions about the final destination are still being worked out." The Journal added that "it's likely that the rigs will remain in Port Angeles and Everett for a while until their next destinations are determined."

[KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (10/14, 5:08 p.m. PDT, 92K) broadcast, "Two Shell oil rigs are returning to ports in our state but they won't be docked in Seattle. The Puget Sound Business Journal reports that one of them will be moored in Everett and the other in Port Angeles. The Polar Pioneer triggered intense protests while it was docked in Seattle's Terminal 5 before the expedition. Last month, Shell announced it's abandoning plans to drill for oil in the Arctic but they do say some supply ships could still be docked in Seattle."

[KPLC-TV](#) Lake Charles, LA (10/14, 6:51 a.m. CDT, 33K), [KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (10/13, 6:10 p.m. AKDT, 31K), [KONG-TV](#) Seattle (10/13, 10:14 p.m. PDT, 53K), [KGW-TV](#) Portland, OR (10/13, 6:08 p.m. PDT, 39K) and [KOIN-TV](#) Portland, OR (10/13, 4:34 p.m. PDT, 27K) also broadcast coverage of the story.

Alaska Gov. Calls For Expanded Oil Drilling To Fund State's Climate Change Adaptions. [TIME](#) (10/14, Worland, 19.55M) reported that Alaska Governor Bill Walker "called for expanded oil drilling to help him address the challenge of climate change in his state." Walker "told the BBC that increased revenue from oil...would allow his state to fund measures to adapt to a changing environment" and "said he wants to drill as soon as possible in the Arctic National Wilderness Refuge." Said Walker, "We are in a significant fiscal challenge. ... We have villages that are washing away because of changes in the climate."

[Slate](#) (10/13, 1.38M) reported that "the situation has grown still worse in Alaska in recent weeks: In late September, Royal Dutch Shell suddenly announced it was abandoning plans to drill offshore of Alaska's northwest coast after it failed to locate oil in any meaningful quantities during its controversial exploration this summer. ... Without oil as a reliable income source, Alaska's politicians have begun a tough look inward to re-envision their state's future." Added Slate, "Apparently, that reality check hasn't yet reached the governor's office."

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/13, Follett, 375K) and the [CBC News \(CAN\)](#) (10/15, 225K) also covered the story.

Reasons Shell Halted Arctic Oil Drilling Examined. On its website, the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) examined reasons for Shell halting its exploratory drilling for oil in the Alaskan Arctic. While Kara Moriarty of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association "blamed the slow pace of federal permitting and a thicket of regulations," the article also looked at the reasons listed in Shell's statement, including the results at the Burger J well, the "challenging and unpredictable" regulatory environment, and the cost of the project.

OFFICIALS TOUT CAMINADA RESTORATION TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF COASTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/14, 718K) reports that "thousands of

pounds of sand from the Gulf of Mexico spewed from a pipe Wednesday (Oct. 14) onto the 10-growth beach and dunes that makes up the Caminada Headlands, the southernmost edge of Jefferson and Lafourche parishes that protects both rich wetlands just to its north and the nationally important Port Fourchon, jumping off point for deepwater drilling.” Observing “the rebuilding by a team of 80 employees of Weeks Marine, a dredging firm based in Covington, were representatives of five federal agencies and the state Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority who were on the Elmer’s Island segment of the Caminada beachfront to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act.” The article notes that “the project under way Thursday is actually funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, with the money coming from the \$1 billion 2013 settlement of civil and criminal charges facing Transocean, the company that owned the Deepwater Horizon drillship that was at the center of the BP Macondo well blowout and oil spill in 2010.”

LOUISIANA TO RECEIVE BP SETTLEMENT. The [AP](#) (10/15, Burdeau, 344K) reports that “the next governor will play a crucial role in Louisiana’s coastal crisis – either by aggressively working to save the coast or missing a prime opportunity to stop the state from slipping further into the Gulf of Mexico.” Louisiana is “poised to receive about \$8.7 billion in settlement money over damages caused by BP’s catastrophic 2010 Gulf oil spill – money mandated by law for environmental restoration.” The article notes that “all four major candidates – the three Republicans, U.S. Sen. David Vitter, Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, Public Service Commissioner Scott Angelle and Democratic state Rep. John Bel Edwards – say they unequivocally support ongoing coastal restoration plans,” but each has “offered some new ideas.”

MISSISSIPPI TO SPEND MILLIONS ON RESTORATION PROJECTS. The [Jackson \(MS\) Clarion Ledger](#) (10/14, 263K) reports that “Mississippi officials will turn to the public and other stakeholders to help decide how to spend \$582 million the state will get to restore areas damaged by the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.” The funds will “begin flowing to Mississippi in 2017 under the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourism Opportunities and Revived Economies Act, also known as the RESTORE Act.” According to the article, “state officials haven’t decided yet on final projects but plan to focus on improving water quality, protecting and restoring marine resources and buying land to protect habitats.”

GRETNA CITY COUNCIL APPROVES PLAN FOR BP SETTLEMENT MONEY. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/15, Samuels, 718K) reports that the Gretna City Council on Wednesday “approved a plan for the \$3.29 million in settlement money the city is receiving as a result of the 2010 BP oil spill.” Nearly a third of the money will go toward legal costs, \$500,000 will be entered into next year’s public works budget, and the remaining \$1.96 million will be set aside for future use.

ALASKA, FEDERAL OFFICIALS NOT TO PURSUE ADDITIONAL \$92 MILLION IN EXXON VALDEZ DAMAGES. The [AP](#) (10/15) reports that state and federal governments have decided not to pursue \$92 million in additional damages from ExxonMobil for the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, “citing the recovery of ducks and sea otters in Alaska’s Prince William Sound.” Wildlife monitoring showed that wildlife populations have returned to pre-spill levels and officials concluded the legal requirements for pursuing a claim were no longer met.

[Reuters](#) (10/15) also reports.

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION SUES OVER LAND USE PLANS. [KTWO-AM](#) Casper, WY (10/15, 576) reports that “the Wyoming Stock Growers Association has sued federal agencies that allegedly ignored its comments for land use plans in areas with sage grouse habitat, its executive vice president said Wednesday.” Jim Magagna said, “Our view is the grazing regulations and requirements that we already have with the BLM (U.S. Bureau of Land Management) of meeting range land health standards are adequate and beneficial to the range land and therefore to sage grouse habitat. We’ve not been convinced that we need additional requirements on top of those.”

BLM REVIEWING ARMY PROPOSAL FOR LONG-TERM TRAINING. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that “the Army plans to have Fort Carson helicopters practice high-altitude operations on public land west of Canon City this fall.” The BLM said Wednesday “the Army expects to use five landing zones in Fremont

County from mid-October through December. The BLM says the operations are expected to have little or no ground impact on the landing sites or neighboring property owners." The BLM is also "reviewing an Army proposal for longer-term training."

BLM SEEKS MORE COMMENTS ON PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF RED CLIFFS, BEAVER DAM WASH NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/15, 407K) reports that "what sort of land management approach should be embraced involving nearly 110,000 acres in Washington County is drawing sharp disagreement among county leaders and an environmental organization, prompting a prolonged public comment period on draft plans." The BLM "released a draft environmental impact statement this summer on proposed management of the Red Cliffs and the Beaver Dam Wash national conservation areas, which were established through the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009." According to the article, "a 90-day public comment period on an array of alternatives to managing these sections of lands was proposed, in addition to informational open houses, but BLM officials say the level of interest is driving a second round of outreach."

BLM UNVEILS LEMHI VALLEY TRAVEL PLAN. The [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (10/15, 1K) reports that the BLM will "hold a public meeting in Salmon next week about a travel management plan for nearly 500 square miles in the Lemhi Valley." According to the article, "representatives at the open house will provide information and take comments on three alternatives included in an environmental assessment that would permit varying amounts of motorized recreation on roads and trails on BLM land southeast of Salmon."

GROUP ACCUSES BLM OF EXPERIMENTING ON HORSES. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/15, 22K) reports that the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign on Wednesday issued a statement claiming that the BLM is "ignoring scientific advice and environmental complaints in its decision to proceed with the use of an experimental fertility control vaccine on wild horses in the Antelope Herd Management Area in eastern Nevada." Deniz Bolbol, AWHPC director of field operations, said, "We are disappointed that the White House office that is supposed to ensure agency compliance with environmental laws is allowing the BLM to experiment on America's wild horses without any scientific oversight, review, or, for that matter, any scientific method for determining the impacts of the experiments on the horses themselves. Further, the use of GonaCon in this unscientific, unregimented proposal will place in jeopardy the individual horses' long-term well-being and their natural, social behaviors, which are attributes that make wild horses celebrated American icons, treasured by Americans and others around the world."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS MOVES AHEAD WITH MEXICAN WOLF RELEASES. The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (10/15, 67K) reports that "in a direct snub to state officials, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Wednesday that it will release about 10 Mexican gray wolves into the wilds of southwestern New Mexico, even though state game officials have refused to issue a permit for the action." The FWS "issued a statement Wednesday that said it will release the wolves as part of its recovery program for a species that is at risk of extinction."

SCIENTISTS ASK FOR PUBLIC HELP WITH SICK OTTERS IN ALASKA. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that "scientists are turning to the public for help dealing with sick and dead otters in Alaska." FWS officials say "they have recently received about 200 reports of sick or dead sea otters in the Kachemak Bay region." The FWS is "working with Alaska Sea Life Center in Seward and running tests to find out what's hurting the animals."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP WANTS FOIA SUIT DISMISSED. The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (10/15, 87K) reports that "an environmental organization with an office in Salida is asking a judge to dismiss a lawsuit it filed against a federal agency for allegedly violating the Freedom of Information Act." The Center for Biological Diversity sued the FWS "for allegedly failing to provide documents the center requested about the agency's decision not to list a fish as an endangered species." The center said last week the FWS "provided the requested documents in August, but also withheld and redacted several documents based on the legal concept of attorney-client privilege." But "despite some documents being withheld and redacted, the environmental organization stated in the court filing last week that the lawsuit should be dismissed."

CLEANUP OF DEAD FISH ON VIRGINIA EASTERN SHORE COMPLICATED BY ENDANGERED BEETLE. The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Hedgpeth, 6.76M) reports that "clean-up of the tens of thousands of dead fish that washed up on Virginia's Eastern Shore is proving to be harder after authorities learned that

an endangered tiger beetle also inhabits the beach area. According to the article, the incident began Oct. 7 when a net owned by Omega Protein, a large commercial fishing operation out of Houston that specializes in harvesting menhaden, tore open,” and “on Tuesday, officials with Omega Protein said they estimated that some 75,000 fish had washed ashore.” The company said it has “received details from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on how to deal with the cleanup of the dead fish and not harm the tiger beetles in the area.”

FWS HOLDS OPEN HOUSE ON ACCESS TO RATTLESNAKE MOUNTAIN. The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (10/15, 100K) reports that “about 50 people who attended an afternoon open house held in Richland by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to hear ideas about access to Rattlesnake Mountain and surrounding land.” An evening meeting also was held. Former Rep. Doc Hastings “got legislation passed shortly before he retired in December requiring the public be given access to the top of the mountain.” The FWS is “starting planning with a list of restrictions from other laws and regulations.”

MISSOURI RESIDENTS WANT LEAD MINE SETTLEMENT SPENT IN COMMUNITIES. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that “some residents in southeast Missouri want money from a lead mining settlement spent in communities affected by contamination, not on a new state park.” According to the article, “residents panned a plan to buy 2,500 acres for the Oregon County park during a special meeting Tuesday.” The Missouri Department of Natural Resources and two federal agencies, the FWS and the U.S. Forest Service, “would decide how to spend the settlement after getting public input.”

LOG CABIN DAY FESTIVAL KICKS OFF AT MUSCATATUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (10/15, Rutherford, 344K) reports that “deep within the leafy recesses of Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge near Seymour sits an old log cabin and barn.” Myers Cabin has “no running water, no electricity, but plenty of rustic charm.” On Saturday, “crowds of people gathered at the cabin for the annual Log Cabin Day Festival.” The article notes that “the event served as the kickoff for National Wildlife Refuge Week, which runs through Sunday.”

“DING” DARLING DAYS KICKS OFF SUNDAY. The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (10/14, 171K) reports that the J.N. ‘Ding’ Darling National Wildlife Refuge will hold a kickoff on Sunday “of the week-long celebration of the man behind the name.” According to the article, “the refuge is named for Jay Norwood ‘Ding’ Darling, an editorial cartoonist who espoused environmental issues.”

CONGRESS URGED TO PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES. In an op-ed for the [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (10/14, 336K), Michael Bean, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Department of the Interior, writes that “last month, farmers, conservationists and landowners came together at a small field in Dover, New Hampshire to celebrate the recovery of the New England cottontail.” Bean says that “that type of conservation success story can and should be common.” However, he warns that “there are threats to unravel a key ingredient: the Endangered Species Act.” Bean hopes that “the Pope’s visit last month can remind us of the importance of protecting our fellow creatures.”

HABITAT EXCHANGES URGED TO PROTECT SPECIES. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Krupp, Subscription Publication, 5.95M), Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, lauds the Interior Department’s recent decision not to list the greater sage grouse. Krupp argues that the Endangered Species Act is necessary, but it is also a last resort. He asserts that to protect wildlife populations and the economy, we must initiate care much sooner and the prescription must be collaborative. He suggests that habitat exchanges can be part of the prescription.

National Park Service:

REPORT URGES NPS TO ADD CHARGING STATIONS FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES. The [Greenwire](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication) reports that the NPS “should double the small fraction of parks with electric vehicle charging stations, along with other steps to reduce car-related emissions, a think tank urged in a report released today.” The article notes that “at present, 21 of 470 national parks, or about 4 percent, have installed charging stations, the Center for American Progress said in the report, which recommends increasing that number to 42, with the inclusion of such iconic destinations as Yosemite National Park, Mount Rushmore National Memorial and Glacier National Park.” The report said that “besides installing more charging stations,” the NPS “should also reduce admission fees for visitors driving electric vehicles.”

REPORT DETAILS BRINKERHOFF LODGE ABUSE AT GRAND TETON. The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News](#)

[a Guide](#) (10/15, 11K) reports that “over a recent four-year period Grand Teton National Park would have collected nearly \$29,000 in additional revenue were guests to the Brinkerhoff Lodge properly billed, federal investigators say.” according to a U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Inspector General report released last month, “between 2011 and 2014 guests of the historic cabin near Jackson Lake Dam were billed just 15 percent of the time.” The report found that the NNPS “could put the government asset to better use, that there are safety problems requiring immediate attention and that — counter to their rules — Grand Teton officials were allowing high-ranking government officials to use the lodge as a low- or no-cost vacation getaway.”

PROPOSAL WOULD HELP MAKE EVERS HOME PART OF NPS. The [AP](#) (10/15, 89K) reports that “the home where Mississippi civil rights leader Medgar Evers was assassinated in 1963 gets thousands of visitors each year, operates as a college-owned museum and relies on state grants and private donations for maintenance funds.” Now, “the state’s U.S. senators are hoping the National Park Service can lend a hand.” Sens. Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker said “last week they’ve filed a bill that would authorize a study on the national significance of the Evers home, as a step toward making it part of the Park Service.”

VETERAN SUES AFTER BEING INJURED BY 16-POUND PINE CONE IN SAN FRANCISCO MARITIME NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. The [Greenwire](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication) reports that “a U.S. Navy veteran is suing the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service after a 16-pound pine cone fell on his head while he sat beneath a tree in San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park.” According to the article, “celebrating Fleet Week ashore in San Francisco in 2014, Sean Mace said he was reading and napping under a bunya pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) when a cone larger than a pineapple struck his head.” The article says that “with no signs warning about the danger from falling pine cones, Mace is suing the park for nearly \$5 million.”

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATES 125 YEARS. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/15, 259K) reports that “the 125th anniversary of Yosemite National Park has been marked by a ceremony in Yosemite Valley.” The NPS says “about 1,500 people attended the recent event, which included a Native American blessing and a portrayal of John Muir, the naturalist who worked to preserve Yosemite and other parts of the Sierra Nevada.”

NPS CLARIFIES RENAMING OF BUILDING HOUSING OF SELMA INTERPRETIVE CENTER. The [Selma \(AL\) Times Journal](#) (10/14, 22K) reports that “the building that houses the Selma Interpretive Center is being renamed, but the National Park Service wants to clarify that the name of the center itself is not changing.” The Selma City Council “passed a resolution Tuesday night to rename the building the James Perkins Jr. Voting Rights Interpretive Center.” Sandy Perkins, the superintendent for the Selma to Montgomery Historic Trail, “wants to make sure the public understands the interpretive center, which is run by the National Park Service, is not changing names.”

NPS APPROVES REHABILITATION AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. The [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (10/15, 20K) reports that “visitors to Yellowstone National Park will find many of the overlooks and trails along the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River under construction” after the NPS “issued a Finding of No Significant Impact.” The article notes that “the action addresses aging and deteriorating infrastructure, provide improved accessibility to visitors, improve pedestrian flow, address safety issues, and improve the visitor experience in the Park.”

RINGTAIL AT CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK HAD RABIES. The [AP](#) (10/15, 259K) reports that “a ringtail whose unusual behavior prompted a temporary closure of one entrance to the cave at Carlsbad Caverns National Park had rabies.” According to park officials, “that determination was made by the New Mexico Department of Health and Science in Albuquerque.”

CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK REOPENS AFTER FLOODING. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that “the Congaree National Park south of Columbia has reopened after the historic flooding earlier this month.” The park has “been closed since Oct. 4 because of the flooding.” Officials say “the flood waters are receding at the park.”

UTAH PARKS SEES RECORD NUMBERS OF VISITORS. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that “southern Utah’s parks have been attracting a record number of visitors in 2015.” The article notes that “Bryce Canyon National Park broke its record number of visitors in a calendar year by hitting 1.5 million in September.” Also, “Zion National Park is expected to reach more than 3.2 million visitors this month, setting

a new record. Meanwhile, other parks like Canyonlands, Cedar Breaks and Pipe Spring are also poised to set records.”

COMPLETION OF BIRDSALL MURAL NEARS. The [Seward \(AK\) City News](#) (10/15) reports that “except for one panel that is being completed in Dot Bardarson’s garage, the mural for the National Park Service building is finished and awaiting the clear coat process at Seward Body and Paint.” The mural, titled “Kenai Fjords, where Mountains, Ice, and Water Meet,” will “be mounted next Spring for the celebration of 100 years by the National Park Service.”

HISTORIC LUMBER SCHOONER C.A. Thayer Begins Final Stage Of Restoration. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (10/14, 626K) reports that “Jeff Morris, historic ships manager with the National Park Service, and a crew of NPS workers are busy preparing the historic 1895 lumber schooner, the C.A. Thayer, for a trip across the bay to the Bay Ship & Yacht Co. in Alameda for the stepping of three new masts.” According to the article, “the historic schooner is entering the last stage of a long restoration that started with its first trip to Alameda in 2003.”

NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY CELEBRATED. [Popular Science](#) (10/15, 6.51M) reports on “the fifth annual National Fossil Day, a day trademarked by the National Park Service and celebrated in schools and parks across the country.” The NPS “hopes that if people are educated about fossils, they will be more likely to treat fossils they find with respect, whether they’re found in a backyard or a national park.” In honor of the day, the article highlights “some of our favorite discoveries from this year.”

BODY OF MAN RECOVERED IN LAKE POWELL. The [AP](#) (10/15, 344K) reports that “authorities say the body of a Wyoming man missing after he jumped from a 90-foot cliff into Lake Powell last week has been recovered.” The NPS and the Coconino County Sheriff’s Office say “the body of 29-year-old William ‘Billy’ Burke was spotted Wednesday at a depth of 153 feet by a remote operated vehicle.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (10/14, Schwartz).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS RENTING QUARTERS 17. Additional coverage that the NPS is “offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rent a three-bedroom, two-bathroom house near the Point Bonita Lighthouse in the Marin Headlands” was provided by the [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (10/15, 170K).

US Geological Survey:

FEMA PLANS GREAT SHAKEOUT EARTHQUAKE DRILLS FOR THURSDAY. [Reuters](#) (10/14, Gillam) reports that on Thursday FEMA is organizing Great ShakeOut earthquake drill events nationwide, bolstering emergency preparation at schools and elsewhere as earthquake activity in the US increases. Reuters highlights the event’s slogan of “drop, cover and hold on.” The article notes that Cushing, Oklahoma experienced a magnitude 4.5 earthquake on Saturday. The [San Diego \(CA\) Union-Tribune](#) (10/14, Robbins, 542K) predicts a “big turnout” for the San Diego County earthquake drill, where more than 943,000 people have signed up to participate, most of whom are “students and government employees.”

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/15, Perlman, Subscription Publication, 3.35M) reports that on Wednesday the Calaveras Fault caused “a swarm of small earthquakes” near San Ramon. “By midafternoon, the total had reached 30,” according to the US Geological Survey (USGS). The article outlines the history of earthquakes along the fault. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/14, 99K) reports that on Wednesday morning Coachella Valley experienced a magnitude 3.6 earthquake, which did not cause any reported damage. The article notes other recent earthquakes in the Coachella Valley. USGS Seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones is paraphrased as saying “a magnitude 4.0 temblor is considered ‘normal’ earthquake activity for Southern California.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: TWITTER PROJECT HELPS USGS TRACK EARTHQUAKES. Additional coverage that the USGS is “using Twitter to help detect earthquakes in real time as they are felt across the globe” was provided by the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (10/14, 288K) and the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (10/14, 142K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CALIFORNIA’S SEQUOIAS SHOW SIGNS OF STRESS. Additional coverage that California’s “giant sequoias, which can live thousands of years, are starting to show signs that they’re not getting enough water” was provided by [PBS NewsHour](#) (10/15, 127K).

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: CLINTON'S STRONG DEBATE PERFORMANCE MAKES BIDEN RUN LESS LIKELY. Continuing coverage of Tuesday evening's first Democratic presidential debate focuses on the consensus that Hillary Clinton won the face-off and regained momentum, and also on the man who was not there: Vice President Biden. Speculation in broadcast, print, and online media is that Biden is less likely to enter the race since Clinton is getting back on track. Immediately following the debate, [CNN](#) (10/14, 5.17M) said on its website that in the Pivotal Political Prediction Market, the odds of a Biden nomination fell from 15% to 11%. By early Thursday, the odds were down to five percent – with just a 35% chance that Biden will run, a huge fall from 78% before the debate.

On [ABC World News](#) (10/14, story 2, 1:50, Muir, 5.84M), Jonathan Karl reported, "At a meeting today, Vice President Biden struck a note of optimism about America." Biden: "We're just going to roll, man. I really mean it. America's ready." Karl: "But tonight, there's much less optimism about Biden's presidential prospects. Even some of Biden's strongest supporters are saying privately he may have simply waited too long." The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/14, story 4, 2:20, Pelley, 5.08M) reported Biden "said he is proud of last night's Democratic presidential debate, but if he was looking for a reason to jump into the race, he likely didn't find it. Hillary Clinton dominated." [ABC World News](#) (10/14, lead story, 3:25, Muir, 5.84M) said that Clinton's campaign chairman said Wednesday, "At this point, Joe Biden needs to make up his mind.' Other top Democrats [are] thinking the same, as Clinton gets high marks for her center stage performance."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/14, lead story, 3:15, Holt, 7.86M) said in its lead story that "for months her campaign has been in response mode," but "at least for this moment," Clinton "is appearing to have retaken control of the conversation." Her debate performance may "give nervous supporters a reason to breathe easier and rivals a reason for pause." Chuck Todd then said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/14, story 2, 1:05, Holt, 7.86M), "There is no doubt that Team Biden was watching last night to see what kind of new openings that they could find. ... If the Biden campaign were about to get off the ground, we'd start hearing about it. We would see leaks about it. ... Almost radio silence from the West Wing there."

The [AP](#) (10/15) reports Biden "says he's proud of the Democratic candidates who took part" in the debate, but said little more. [Reuters](#) (10/15, Oliphant) says the dynamics of the Democratic race have changed after Clinton's strong debate performance, which is dampening calls for a late Biden entry. [USA Today](#) (10/15, Jackson, 5.23M) says "the specter of a Joe Biden candidacy still hovers over the Democratic presidential race, but it may be growing faint." John Hudak of the Brookings Institution said, "There is no path for Biden. There's no reason for it."

The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Martin, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) writes that Clinton's "sure-footed performance...did not just lift the spirits of her supporters and reassure nervous party officials about her candidacy, it also swiftly cooled talk about the need" for a Biden candidacy. Clinton offered "crisp answers to nearly every question, an aggressiveness her rivals did not seem ready for and a level of confidence that has often been obscured over months of questions about her use of a private email as secretary of state," and on Wednesday, "Democrats were describing the closing, if not the slamming shut, of a door" for Biden.

Dan Balz writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/15, 6.76M) that "the path for Biden has always looked daunting," and though "after the debate, Clinton aides were not saying explicitly whether Biden has a path, but after weeks of neutral comments, the language turned." Clinton campaign chair John Podesta said Biden "will need to make a decision soon." [Politico](#) (10/14, Gass, 942K) reported Podesta "has a message" for Biden: "The time has come to decide on your White House bid."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Rucker, 6.76M) says in another report that "the official line from the Clinton campaign was that they were thrilled with the candidate's performance and that Biden had to make his own decision," but the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Nelson, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says the Democratic establishment is growing impatient. The [Huffington Post](#) (10/14, Stein, 164K) said the Clinton campaign "has begun aggressively pushing" Biden "to make a decision one way or another."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/15, Lauter, 4.07M) writes that Clinton "had three big tasks to accomplish in Tuesday night's debate: Reassure the Democratic establishment, draw contrasts with Sen. Bernie Sanders and deter Vice President Joe Biden. ... It was clear that she had succeeded with the first two. Whether she

achieved the third goal should be known within days. [The Hill](#) (10/14, Fabian, 471K) reported, however, that Biden “gave no indication Wednesday that he has a set a deadline to make a decision.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, 6.76M) says Clinton was the only candidate in the debate who “performed like a potential president” with her “impressive performance. Yet the debate also surfaced one of Ms. Clinton’s vulnerabilities: the possibility that Mr. Sanders and the leftward drift of the Democratic Party will drag her away from pragmatism – and from general-election voters.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says in an editorial that Clinton “reminded us why she’s the front-runner, with her experience, command of the issues and strength in communicating ideas. She seemed both at ease and fearless.” The Times also says the Democrats argued responsibly and with civility, while “the Republican candidates...haven’t a prayer of knowing what to do if they ever enter the White House.”

E.J. Dionne writes in his [Washington Post](#) (10/15, 6.76M) column, “At some point during Tuesday night’s Democratic debate, many people in living rooms across the country undoubtedly turned to each other with the same basic thought about Hillary Clinton: Oh, so that’s why she’s the front-runner.” Daniel Henninger writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) column that the debate essentially ended the Democratic race by marginalizing Sanders and removing the rationale for a Biden candidacy.

However, Evan Horowitz writes in the [Boston Globe](#) (10/15, 1.1M) that it is “too early to say” if Clinton really won the debate, since “the point isn’t to win over expert judges, it’s to gain support from non-experts – people who haven’t been following the ins and outs of the campaign but who are planning to hit the voting booths come primary season.”

AP Analysis: Clinton Displayed “Likely Strength” In General Election Campaign. The [AP](#) (10/15) says in an analysis that Clinton’s “polished performance...did more than send a message to her primary rivals. It was a warning to the chaotic Republican field about her likely strength in a general election.” She “solidified her shift toward more liberal positions on trade, gun control and immigration, but still stayed largely in step with the battleground state voters she’ll need” in a fall campaign, and “also positioned herself as heir to the coalition of women, Hispanics and black voters that propelled Barack Obama to the White House.”

But Anne Gearan of the [Washington Post](#) (10/15, 6.76M) writes that if Clinton is the nominee, “her Republican opponents will not let her off so easy” as her Democratic foes did Tuesday. Karl Rove similarly writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) column that Clinton’s debate victory was due to the weakness of her opponents. However, the [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Johnson, 6.76M) says for many Democrats, the debate “provided a renewed sense of optimism and confidence in their field’s leaders.”

Bill Clinton: “Hillary Knocked It Out Of The Park.” [The Hill](#) (10/14, Hensch, 471K) reported that in a fundraising email, former President Bill Clinton wrote, “Last night, Hillary knocked it out of the park. She didn’t just talk about big ideas – she laid out plans to get them done. That’s what Hillary does when she sees a problem to fix: She gets people together, takes on the tough fights and finds her way to the solution.”

Trump Says Clinton Won Debate. [The Hill](#) (10/14, Byrnes, 471K) reported Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said Wednesday that he thought Clinton won the debate “and suggested other candidates lacked credibility.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/14, story 3, 3:05, Holt, 7.86M) showed clips of MSNBC’s Katy Tur interviewing Trump, who said, “Bernie [Sanders] made a mistake. He got a great couple of seconds. But he took a situation that’s a very serious situation, where Hillary is being investigated by the FBI, and he gave it away. He just gave it away. He can never bring it up again and it’s not like he’s winning, he’s losing.”

Rubio: Democratic Debate Was About “Free Stuff.” [The Hill](#) (10/14, Byrnes, 471K) reported GOP candidate Sen. Marco Rubio said on Fox News Wednesday morning that the Democratic debate “was all about giving away ‘free stuff.’” He said, “Free college education, free college education for people illegally in this country, free healthcare, free everything. Their answer to every problem in America is a government program and a tax increase.”

Obama Campaign Alumni Among Critics of Clinton's Performance. [Politico](#) (10/14, Cheney, 521K) said some of the biggest Democratic criticism of Clinton came from "Obama campaign alums. ... David Axelrod, Obama's top political strategist, noted that 'Clinton made a few mistakes,'" and "even among those Obama allies who praised Clinton's performance, there were overt shots at Clinton's longer-term strategy."

Sanders Raised More Than \$1.3 Million In Hours After Debate. The [AP](#) (10/15) reports Sanders "said his campaign raised more than \$1.3 million in the hours after the first Democratic debate of the 2016 race, and social media metrics showed he was the most-searched candidate on Google and most-discussed on Facebook and Twitter." [Politico](#) (10/14, Strauss, 942K) reports the Sanders campaign said it received more than 37,600 individual contributions averaging \$31.54 each. And [The Hill](#) (10/14, Byrnes, 471K) says Sanders "slightly edged out Clinton for most Twitter mentions during the debate, with 41 percent of the tweets to Clinton's 39 percent."

Sanders gained about 24,000 new Twitter followers after the debate, while Clinton gained about 10,000. But while most of the tweets by [@HillaryClinton](#) Wednesday were clips of her debate performance, [@BernieSanders](#) had little about the debate except for a few retweeted articles like [one from Vox](#) reading, "DC insiders think Bernie Sanders lost the debate. Here's why they might be wrong."

However, the [New York Times](#) (10/15, Gabriel, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports under the headline "Debate Cools Momentum Of Bernie Sanders In Iowa" that Clinton's "self-assurance, command of issues and ease in parrying" Sanders in the debate "drew praise from Iowa Democrats." [USA Today](#) (10/15, Gaudiano, 5.23M) says Sanders faces a question over whether he can "expand his following beyond the Democratic Party's liberal base."

WPost Analysis: O'Malley Had No "Make-Or-Break Moment." The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Wagner, 6.76M) writes that while O'Malley came to the debate "facing what many had described as a make-or-break moment," it "turned out to be neither." While "the prevailing view among observers was that O'Malley had benefited from the broader exposure to a national audience," it "seemed unlikely that anything that happened in Vegas would fundamentally change the dynamics" of the race.

Racial Justice, Gender Equality Addressed In Debate. The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Williams, 6.76M) reports that "racial justice and gender equality...finally made it to the presidential debate stage" in the Democratic debate after being all but ignored in the first Republican face-offs.

Wasserman Schultz Defends Party's Diversity. [The Hill](#) (10/14, Richardson, 471K) reported Democratic National Committee Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz defended the party's diversity in an interview with Fusion's Jorge Ramos, who said "he did not 'see a Latino or an African-American or an Asian' on the Democratic debate stage." Wasserman Schultz replied, "First of all, our president of the United States, who is a Democrat, is African-American. ... Our party nominated the first African-American, and then Americans elected him not once, but twice. ... There is overwhelmingly more diversity up and down the ballot when it comes to Democrats."

Debate Draws Record-High Viewership For Democratic Face-Off. [Politico](#) (10/14, Gold, 942K) reported the debate "drew 15.3 million viewers, making it the most watched Democratic primary debate in history," thou

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Clip: E&E: Cheers, jeers for 1.1M-acre Mojave plan at raucous meeting

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Subject: Clip: E&E: Cheers, jeers for 1.1M-acre Mojave plan at raucous meeting

Cheers, jeers for 1.1M-acre Mojave plan at raucous meeting

Jeremy P. Jacobs, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, October 14, 2015

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. -- Sen. Dianne Feinstein told a sweaty and often hostile crowd of about 800 here yesterday that President Obama should designate three new national monuments spanning more than 1 million acres of Mojave Desert as national monuments if her legislative efforts run dry.

The California Democrat has fought for more than six years to establish the Sand to Snow, Mojave Trails and Castle Mountains monuments.

The designation would cover 1.1 million acres and be Obama's largest under the 1906 Antiquities Act.

At a public hearing at the Whitewater Preserve, Feinstein emphasized she prefers her legislation, which would protect more than 1.4 million acres and preserve existing off-highway vehicle use.

But "the present political climate is proving extremely difficult to move any public lands legislation through both houses of Congress," she said, leading her to ask the president to designate the lands should her bill fail.

The remarks drew both loud cheers and boos from the testy crowd sitting outside on a 97-degree day.

Feinstein sought to address the critics' concerns.

"Some people say you are taking this away from us," she said. "It's exactly the opposite. What we are

trying to do is protect this land for you.

The monument designations would carve out three swaths from just north of Palm Springs to the Nevada border, including wild lands, Joshua and juniper trees, and prehistoric lava flows that would be protected from new mining and other industrial activities like solar and wind farms.

Feinstein has introduced [S. 414](#) to protect the three areas. But frustrated with gridlock on Capitol Hill, she has also pressed Obama to use the Antiquities Act to designate the monuments by executive action.

The Obama administration dispatched Interior Department Deputy Secretary Michael Connor and Agriculture Department Undersecretary Robert Bonnie to the event -- a sign that the president is seriously considering Feinstein's request.

Before making designations in Nevada, California and New Mexico that each spanned hundreds of thousands of acres, Obama sent Connor or other senior officials to public hearings on the proposals.

Connor provided few hints about whether and when such a designation for the three new monuments in California could come.

In brief remarks, he said he visited some of the landscape in the morning and called it a "truly spectacular place."

"I see the beauty of the landscape and very much appreciate it," he said.

He added that the president will ultimately make a decision on whether to make the designations after Interior and USDA make recommendations.

"It is a process that we take very seriously," he said. "But, quite frankly, I would just note for the record that we do support Feinstein's legislative efforts."

But if the bill stalls, he said, "we have to think about other ways to protect a landscape of this magnitude and importance."

And he pointed out that the Antiquities Act has frequently been used by presidents to protect national treasures -- including the Grand Canyon, which was originally designated under the law.

'Second-rate monuments'

But designations by executive action have sparked significant criticism from Republicans on Capitol Hill, who say the president is abusing his authority and protecting areas that are not under threat.

Those concerns were given full voice yesterday on placards reading "No Antiquities Act!" and "The Public Deserves a Vote!" displayed on the road to the hearing.

California Republican Rep. Paul Cook's chief of staff, John Sobel, told the crowd that his boss believes designating the monuments by executive action would create "second-rate monuments because they lack the adequate support of locals and of Congress."

Cook has introduced [H.R. 3668](#), a companion to Feinstein's bill that would allow more mining opportunities and bar designations under the Antiquities Act. Environmental groups strongly oppose the bill because of the mining provisions.

Sobel said his office was not yet convinced that the public supports the new monuments, remarks that drew a chorus of boos. He added that Cook isn't sure that new economic activity from tourism would replace mining.

Cook, Sobel said, is "absolutely committed to a legislative solution. Please do not assume that we will fail in that effort."

Others said using executive action stymies what should be a transparent process.

Jim Bagley, 59, a Realtor and former mayor of the city Twentynine Palms, said in an interview that each monument should be considered separately and legislatively.

Executive designation, Bagley said, "excludes the public."

Bagley, who has followed Feinstein's efforts since the mid-1990s, said the administration seems to be saying, "We're going to dictate to you."

'Designation means destination'

There was also significant local support for the designations among those who have fought for years for the protections.

Eva Soltes, 67, who formerly sat on Joshua Tree's Chamber of Commerce, said "designation means destination" and that the monuments would spur visitors to the San Bernardino mountain range and desert.

Feinstein's legislation would protect desert habitat for tortoises, bighorn sheep and golden eagles. It would also establish conservation of parts of the Pacific Crest Trail and Route 66.

In often combative remarks, Feinstein attempted to take on what was at times a hostile crowd.

She has worked diligently to reach compromises with interested parties, she said, such as off-road vehicle organizations. Presidential designations do not guarantee access for motorized recreation as Cook's and Feinstein's legislation would.

Feinstein emphasized that off-highway vehicles will be able to continue to use the same trails under a designation.

And with regard to mining, she said access to existing mines would remain available.

"We have one thing in this business, and it's our word," she said. "And if we give it, we keep it. I gave you my word in 1994, and to this day I have kept it, and I intend to continue to do so."

On Tue, Oct 13, 2015 at 10:59 AM, Duran, Leah <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

[Sen. Feinstein asks Obama to designate](#)

monuments in the Mojave Desert

LA Times // Julie Cart // Oct. 13, 2015

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, champion of the California desert, is asking President Obama to take executive action to protect hundreds of thousands of acres in the Mojave Desert.

Since 2009, Feinstein has been unsuccessfully trying to convince her colleagues in Congress to designate the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains areas as new national monuments. Now, the Democratic senator is calling on Obama to use the Antiquities Act to set aside desert tracts near Mojave National Preserve and Death Valley National Park.

In a public meeting scheduled for today in Palm Springs, Feinstein and other national, state and local officials will listen to public comment on setting aside the disparate pieces of public land for heightened protection.

All of the land proposed for monument designation is in federal hands and no transfers are required.

Obama has invoked the Antiquities Act sparingly. Most recently he designated the Berryessa-Snow Mountains National Monument in Northern California.

Monument designations can be controversial because they sometimes place restrictions on hunting, off-road recreation and other uses. But Feinstein's proposal would preserve existing recreational activities.

Obama has the option to designate the new monuments without consulting Congress, but Feinstein said she will continue trying to gain support for her legislation.

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, October 14, 2015

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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- + BLM Releasing Report On Challenges To Sage Grouse Plans.
- + Massive Soda Fire Rehabilitation Effort Underway.
- + Company Ordered To Stop Aerial Pesticide Spraying.
- + Additional Coverage Of New BLM Interactive Mountain Bike Maps.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + FWS, LULAC Sign Historic Partnership Agreement.
- + Conservation Effort To Help Monarch Butterfly Announced.
- + FWS Plans Status Review For Polar Bear.
- + Petition Seeking Emergency Listing For Prince Of Wales Island Wolves Denied.
- + Zimbabwe Won't Charge Killer Of Cecil The Lion.
- + Chevron Molycorp Reaches Settlement Over Questa Mine Release.
- + FWS Investigating Kachemak Sea Otter Deaths.
- + Conservationists Seek To Put Ivory Ban Initiative On Oregon Ballot.
- + Florida Staging 2016 Python Challenge.
- + Clarksburg Water Board Will Go Forward With West Fork Dam Removal.
- + Arizona To Establish New Bison Herd In Conservation Effort.
- + Study: Climate Change Will Reduce Fish Species Diversity.
- + Study: Native Hawaiian Birds Declining Due To Climate Change.
- + Congress Urged To Protect Endangered Species.
- + Federal Government Urged To View States As Partners When Protecting Endangered Species.
- + Conservation Plan For Black-footed Ferrets Lauded.
- + Conservation Plan For Marbled Murrelet To Be Presented.

National Park Service:

- + NPS Preparing For Centennial.
- + Great Rivers Greenway Approves Arch Grounds Agreement.
- + New Yosemite Concessionaire Introducing Changes.
- + NPS Renting Quarters 17.
- + NPS To Aid Feather River Planning Process.
- + Veteran Sues Over California Pine Cone Injury.

US Geological Survey:

- + U.S. Board On Geographic Names Keeps Track Of Ever Changing World.
- + Spring Could Come Three Weeks Earlier Across US.
- + Study Finds Berry Harvests In Alaska Becoming Less Predictable.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + Media Analyses: Clinton Easily Defeated Rivals In Last Night's Debate.
- + Fed Survey: Consumers Predict Lower Inflation, Higher Household Spending.
- + AP Examines "Pros And Cons" Of Speakership For Ryan.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.

BIG PICTURE:

+ [Headlines From Today's Front Pages.](#)

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:

+ [Today's Events In Washington.](#)

LAST LAUGHS:

+ [Late Night Political Humor.](#)

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL SPEAKS AT OREGON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL STATESMAN DINNER. [My Central Oregon](#) (10/12) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was secluded to be the keynote speaker at the Oregon Business Association's Annual Statesman Dinner. According to the article, the focus of the event is "on Recreational tourism- the balance of bringing visitors to Oregon's scenic areas without jeopardizing fragile wildlife."

The [Portland \(OR\) Business Journal](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication, 6K) reports that Jewell called for the renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund during her speech.

Meanwhile, the [Portland \(OR\) Business Journal](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication, 6K) reports that Sen. Ron Wyden hosted a roundtable in Portland Tuesday with Jewell and Rep. Earl Blumenauer "to build support for a proposal to make it easier to use federal lands for recreation."

The [Oregonian](#) (10/14, 756K) reports that Wyden discussed "a draft plan for what could become Wyden's outdoor recreation bill." Jewell was "receptive to the ideas, but also issued a note of caution. She said, "Many of the federal agencies are underfunded." Jewell added, "When you adjust permitting that adds a burden on an underfunded agency over a period of time the agency can't do the job it's required to do."

SEN. FEINSTEIN PUSHES FOR MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/12, 4.07M) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein, "champion of the California desert, is asking President Obama to take executive action to protect hundreds of thousands of acres in the Mojave Desert." Since 2009, "Feinstein has been unsuccessfully trying to convince her colleagues in Congress to designate the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains areas as new national monuments." Now, she is "calling on Obama to use the Antiquities Act to set aside desert tracts near Mojave National Preserve and Death Valley National Park."

The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (10/14, 303K) reports that "hundreds of miners, off-roaders, environmentalists and others voiced passionate opinions Tuesday on U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's effort to establish national monuments in the California desert." But "not all of them agreed, and the senator chided the audience at a public hearing for booing some of the speakers." Feinstein was also "booed when she mentioned the Antiquities Act."

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/13, 99K) reports that "representatives from the U.S. Interior and Agriculture departments also spoke. While they didn't say one way or another whether Obama will create the three proposed monuments via executive authority, they reiterated their support for Feinstein's bill, and said the administration is committed to protecting the desert." Mike Connor, deputy secretary of the Interior, said, "We know we have a gridlocked Congress at times. So we have to think about other ways to protect a landscape of this magnitude and this importance."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (10/13, Writer, 2K), the [Hi-Desert \(CA\) Star](#) (10/14, 23K), the [Banning-Beaumont \(CA\) Patch](#) (10/14, 634), the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (10/13, 142K), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/12, 99K), and the [Public News Service](#) (10/13, 306).

SCHOLARS CALL FOR MORE RESEARCH ON FUTURE OF COLORADO RIVER. The [AP](#) Raleigh, NC (10/14, 193K) reports that "a coalition of scholars across the West is urging the federal government to partner with the National Academy of Sciences to study the future of the Colorado River, including if climate change is leading to reduced stream flow." According to the article, "twenty-three scholars from Western universities sent

a letter Tuesday to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell detailing their request for more scientific research on a host of issues related to the Colorado River.” The article notes that “chief among the concerns is if there will be enough water in the river to support 36 million users in seven U.S. states and parts of Mexico over the next 50 years.” Interior spokeswoman Emily Beyer said that “the department takes Colorado River and all Western water issues seriously and will review the letter once it is received.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/14, 378K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (10/13, 1.12M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/14, 259K), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/13, 113K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/14, 344K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (10/13, 199K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/14, 407K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (10/14, 5.98M).

JEMEZ PUEBLO CONTINUING FIGHT OVER VALLES CALDERA PROPERTY. The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (10/14, 67K) reports that “a fog slowly lifted over the Valles Caldera National Preserve on Saturday morning as officials prepared for a dedication ceremony to mark the transition of 89,000 acres of land atop a dormant volcano to a national park.” However, “despite Saturday’s sunny celebration of the transition — attended by high-ranking U.S. government officials and tribal elders — the matter of who actually owns the land is still foggy.” The Jemez Pueblo, “fueled by a U.S. Court of Appeals decision over the summer, is engaged with the federal government in an ongoing legal dispute about its claim to the property.”

Additional coverage of the dedication ceremony of Valles Caldera National Preserve was provided by [Outside](#) (10/14, 258K).

Editorial: Valles Caldera Made Possible By LWCF. In an editorial, the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (10/14, 67K) says that the preservation of the Valles Caldera would not have happened would without the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It urges Congress to restore the fund.

BILL WOULD CREATE GREATER GRAND CANYON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Greenwire](#) (10/13, Subscription Publication) reports that House Natural Resources ranking member Raúl Grijalva said “he will introduce a bill to protect 1.7 million acres of federal lands surrounding Grand Canyon National Park from future mining and other threats, a measure that is unlikely to pass Congress but aims to provide President Obama a blueprint for protecting the lands under the Antiquities Act.” Grijalva unveiled the bill Monday “at a news conference in Flagstaff, Ariz., where he was joined by tribal leaders.” The Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument would “consist of lands north and south of the national park, including much of the Kaibab National Forest and Kaibab plateau, a key watershed feeding the canyon that is home to mule deer, mountain lions and the endangered California condor.”

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (10/14, Udall, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), Mark Udall, a member of the board of the Grand Canyon Trust, writes in support of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument Act. Because “there’s almost no chance that the legislation will gain approval in today’s gridlocked Congress,” Udall urges President Obama to use the 1906 Antiquities Act to protect the land.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/14, Felicia Fonseca |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Casa Grande \(AZ\) Dispatch](#) (10/14, 24K), and [Public News Service](#) (10/13, 306).

MONTANA OFFICIALS SAY LWCF’S END COULD HURT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT. The [AP](#) Missoula, MT (10/14, 1K) reports that “Montana wildlife officials say the loss of the Land and Water Conservation Fund threatens the federal grants the state uses to help manage endangered and threatened species.” The state has “received more than \$14.3 million in State Wildlife Grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 2000.” Adam Brooks of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks says the end of the LWCF “could harm the program that focuses on nongame species in need of management, such as small birds, reptiles and amphibians.”

In an editorial, the [Montana Standard](#) (10/14, 36K) calls “on Sens. Daines and Tester and Rep. Ryan Zinke to fight hard for Montanans and for the reauthorization of the LWCF.”

REP. WALDEN BACKS FOREST MANAGEMENT BILL. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/13, 113K) reports that Rep. Greg Walden “spoke of frustration with the U.S. Senate’s unwillingness to address forest policy, and fielded questions on the uncertainty surrounding the House speakership during a presentation at the Oregon Forest Industries Council’s annual meeting here Oct. 12.” According to the article, “outside the questions on the House speakership, Walden focused on forest policy during his luncheon presentation, specifically on the unwillingness of the Senate to revise federal forest management.” Walden said, “Three

years in a row, in the U.S. House, bipartisan legislation has been passed to try and give us active management of federal forests to improve their health, to protect their watersheds.”

SUPREME COURT WON'T HEAR UTAH APPEAL OVER ROAD ACCESS. The [AP](#) (10/14, 2.28M) reports that “the Supreme Court won't hear an appeal from Utah officials seeking rights of way over several roads that run through federal lands.” The high court “on Tuesday let stand a lower court ruling that said Utah and Kane County could only claim rights to six of 12 routes over which they sought control.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DENALI NAME CHANGE. Additional coverage of the Denali name change was provided by the [Daily \(WA\)](#) (10/14, 522).

SETTLEMENT WITH CHOCTAWS AND CHICKASAWS WELCOMED. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (10/13, 364K) editorializes that “the U.S. Department of Interior and the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations announced a \$186 million settlement Tuesday, resolving decades of federal mismanagement of tribal assets.” At a Tuesday signing ceremony, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said the “settlement is an opportunity for the federal government to wipe ‘a black mark of history’ from the record.” The editorial concludes that “while the settlement doesn't undo the wrong, it is important action and an opportunity for the tribes and the federal government to begin a new, healthier relationship.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

FEDERAL COURT UPHOLDS TRIBAL SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY DOCTRINE. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (10/13, 75K) reports that “a federal judge has ruled in favor of the Fort Belknap Tribal Community Council, quashing a subpoena that would have forced council President Mark Azure to produce tribal documents or face a contempt of court charge.” U.S. District Court Judge Brian Morris “quashed the subpoena issued in July, which demanded tribal documents associated with a Bureau of Indian Affairs road building project at the center of a \$5 million civil lawsuit.”

TRIBE, WASHINGTON COUNTY CONTEST CASINO LAND APPROVAL. [Law360](#) (10/14, 21K) reports that “a Washington county and city and an Oregon tribe urged the D.C. Circuit on Friday to overturn a district court ruling upholding the U.S. Department of the Interior's ability to take land into trust for a rival tribe's casino project, arguing the agency lacked authority to make the trust acquisition and the land wasn't eligible for gaming.” According to the article, “Clark County and the city of Vancouver, along with the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde Community of Oregon, are contesting the federal government's April 2013 acquisition of land.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA TO ENSURE CLIMATE CHANGE FUNDING FOR NMI IS AVAILABLE. The [Marianas Variety](#) (10/14) reports that Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Esther Kia'aina “in her recent visit to the island said she will ensure that the CNMI gets funding for climate change and hazard mitigation.” Kia'aina said, “There will be funding available for it and I am exploring all current grant authorities to ensure that it is taken into account. There is no reason why the CNMI won't be eligible.” She added, “As far as I'm concerned, all of the infrastructure funding should ensure that it is able to stand the devastating impact [of climate change]. Everybody is aware of the weather conditions here and I'm appealing to everybody to take it very seriously.”

PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS REPEAT CALLS FOR MIGRATION BODY AMID RISING SEA LEVELS. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/14, 3.3M) reports that in a joint statement after a summit in Kiribati the Pacific nations Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu, and Tokelau said they were “gravely concerned over the lack of effective international response to climate change” that posed “major existential challenges” to their populations and cultures. The Guardian reports that the island nations “repeated calls for an international body to be set up to coordinate population movement caused by climate change” which was dropped last week amid opposition from Australia.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SEN. DAINES BLASTS DEMOCRATS FOR BLOCKING WATER, INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS..

[Energy Wire](#), Bozeman, MT (10/14), reports that “late last week, Senator Steve Daines slammed Senate Democrats for blocking the 2016 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill, which funds critical infrastructure projects administered by the Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation – including Montana rural water projects.” Daines said, “Despite the vast majority of Democrats supporting this bill during an Appropriations Committee vote this summer, once again Democrats have chosen to block legislation that protects Montanans’ interests and strengthens our national security through increased energy and water security. This legislation works to enhance our energy efficiency while funding important projects that modernize our nation’s energy and water infrastructure. It’s disheartening that Senate Democrats continue to put partisan politics ahead of commonsense legislation that works for the American people.”

YUROK TRIBE DISCUSSES KLAMATH RIVER FLOWS WITH BOR. [KRCR-TV](#) Redding, CA (10/14, 43K) reports that the Yurok Tribe met with the BOR “Tuesday to discuss long term river flows for the Klamath River that will help protect the salmon the tribe depends on.” According to the article, “the two-hour meeting at the Yurok tribal headquarters involved a presentation from the Bureau which outlined what the agency had researched and addressed with the issue of rivers flows in the Klamath River basin.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: WIND LEASE AUCTION OFF NEW JERSEY COAST TO BE HELD. Additional coverage that the Interior Department has “announced that 343,833 acres off the New Jersey shore will be included in a lease sale scheduled for Nov. 9” was provided by the [Colts Neck \(NJ\) News Transcript](#) (10/15, 3K) and the [Howell \(NJ\) Tri-Town News](#) (10/15).

Onshore Energy Development:

COURT REJECTS TIMELINE FOR DRILLING PROJECT NEAR GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. The [EnergyWire](#) (10/13, Subscription Publication) reports that “a federal judge rejected the Obama administration’s proposed timeline for a long-delayed drilling project near Glacier National Park.” The BLM and Forest Service “submitted their timeline to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in August after the court ordered the agencies to end 30 years of waffling on whether to approve shale drilling.” However, Judge Richard Leon “rejected the agencies’ schedule.” According to the article, “in an order handed down late last week, Leon called it ‘unacceptable’ for BLM to expect Solenex LLC to potentially wait two more years for approval of a drilling project that was first permitted nearly 30 years ago.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (10/14).

INTERIOR RAISES ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS ABOUT OREGON LNG PROJECT. [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department has “submitted a 16-page summary of comments to FERC expressing ‘considerable concerns’ about potential environmental and other impacts from the proposed Oregon LNG project seeking to export gas from a spot at the mouth of the Columbia River.” The article notes that “concerns related to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and national park overseen by the National Parks Service (NPS).” However, “sources tied to the backers of the project dismissed the DOI concerns.”

INTEREST IN BUYING COAL MINES FALTERS. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/14, Miller, Jarzemsky, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) discusses how the widespread lack of interest in buying coal mines is emblematic of the industry’s long term struggles.

Offshore Energy Development:

ALASKA GOV. WALKER SAYS DRILLING WOULD HELP PAY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS. The [ClimateWire](#) (10/13, Subscription Publication) reports that Alaska Gov. Bill Walker “told the BBC that drilling for oil in new reaches of the state would be necessary to pay for the damage caused by climate change.” According to Walker, “rising seas threaten to put a dozen villages in the state underwater, but relocating them is expensive, the governor said.” The article notes that “Alaska’s finances have been hit hard by the drop in oil prices over the past two years.”

[Slate](#) (10/13, 1.35M) reported that the situation has grown still worse in Alaska in recent weeks. In late September, Royal Dutch Shell suddenly announced it was abandoning plans to drill offshore of Alaska's northwest coast after it failed to locate oil in any meaningful quantities during its controversial exploration this summer. ... Without oil as a reliable income source, Alaska's politicians have begun a tough look inward to re-envision their state's future." Added Slate, "Apparently, that reality check hasn't yet reached the governor's office."

Additional coverage was provided by [TIME](#) (10/14, Worland, 19.55M).

NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND MEDICINE SELECTS MEMBERS OF OCEAN ENERGY COMMITTEE. The [Maritime Professional](#) (10/13, 318) reports that the BOEM announced that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine have "selected 14 experts to serve on the new standing committee on environmental science and assessment for offshore energy and mineral resources." BOEM Director Abigail Ross Hopper said, "BOEM is honored to have these extraordinary scientists provide their guidance to the bureau on scientific matters. We look forward to engaging with and learning from them as we continue to address complex offshore energy and marine mineral issues in an environmentally responsible manner."

BP TO REIMBURSE LOUISIANA \$58.2M FOR LEGAL FEES RELATED TO GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL. The [AP](#) (10/14, Press, 6.76M) reports that as part of BP's record \$20 billion settlement between the federal government and Gulf Coast states over the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, the oil company will reimburse the Louisiana Attorney General's Office \$58.2 million for "expenses, fees, and litigation costs."

SHELL DRILL VESSELS DEPART FROM ARCTIC WATERS. In continuing coverage, the [AP](#) (10/14, Joling, 2.28M) reported that two of Royal Dutch Shell's drill vessels, the Noble Discoverer and the Polar Pioneer, "have safely departed Arctic waters for the Pacific Northwest." Following a Coast Guard inspection, the Noble Discoverer departed Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands on Monday "for the Port of Everett in Washington state, Shell spokesman Curtis Smith said." The Polar Pioneer "reached Dutch Harbor on Monday afternoon" along with two tug boats, and will be towed to Port Angeles. The AP reported that "the next destinations for both vessels have not been determined, Smith said."

The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/13, Connelly, 560K) reported that the Polar Pioneer "will not be returning to Seattle, where it was greeted last April by a seaborne protest of 'kayactivists' including local politicians." Shell "has not requested any exclusion zone around the vessels, as it did last spring." Shell "is promising a less dramatic return journey than in December of 2012," when it "tried to tow the conical drilling vessel Kulluk across the Gulf of Alaska in the teeth of an early winter storm." The Kulluk "broke loose from its tow lines and went aground New Year's Eve on an island near Kodiak."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM RELEASING REPORT ON CHALLENGES TO SAGE GROUSE PLANS. The [Greenwire](#) (10/12, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM is "releasing documents detailing the agency's reasons for rejecting challenges by five Western governors to federal greater sage grouse plans designed to protect grouse habitat in the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain regions." The bureau's "27-page protest response report, set to be formally published in tomorrow's Federal Register, highlights point by point the problems the Republican governors of Idaho, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah have with the federal plans the Obama administration finalized last month." Also, "in the case of Utah, BLM's response likely points to the state continuing its challenge of BLM's grouse plans in federal court, according to a senior aide for Gov. Gary Herbert." BLM Director Neil Kornze "specifically rejects each of the issues raised by the governors as part of their formal review of the plans' consistency with state and federal laws and regulations." The article notes that "BLM state directors in each of the five states had already rejected the challenges in August, and the report detail's Kornze's reasoning for upholding those rejections."

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/13, 492K) reports that Utah officials say the BLM "disregarded a workable state conservation plan and ignored the most reliable science to justify 'draconian and unnecessary' restrictions on energy development, including coal mining." According to the article, "the federal sage grouse rules will make surface mining development impossible in areas designated as priority grouse habitat, the

state believed, and went as far as anything to protect state's sage grouse populations, etc.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/14, 22K) reports that “exploration for minerals in most of Elko County may have been killed by the new land use rules concerning sage grouse, according to county officials and Division of Minerals Administrator Richard Perry.” According to Perry and the county, “the key factor in stopping the listing may be a detriment to rural economies.”

Investment Bank Seeks Deals In Wildlife Conservation. The [Washington Business Journal](#) (10/13, Subscription Publication, 112K) reports that “Ashley Allen, the CEO and founder of 18-month-old investment bank i2 Capital, has worked alongside her nine employees to structure a \$25 million deal for a conservation bank and investment vehicle to protect the habit of the brown-and-white, spikey-tailed Sage Grouse.” Under the deal, the BLM will “place a credit value on the maintenance of the Sage Grouse and the complicated water ecosystem within the preserve,” and “developers looking to offset their environmental impact — either out of conscience or because they are required to do so by law or agreement — buy those credits.” Then, “investors buy ‘shares’ of the conservancy financing vehicle and over time are paid returns from the credits purchased by companies.” The article notes that “some of the funds are used to maintain the Sage Grouse habitat and protect and restore waterways on the preserve instead of the state or federal government spending public funds.”

Sage Grouse Plans Criticized. In an op-ed for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (10/14, 116K), George Wuerthner, an ecologist and former BLM biologist/botanist, writes that “the decision to preclude sage grouse from protection of the Endangered Species Act was a politically based decision designed to protect existing exploitative industries like oil and gas and livestock grazing, rather than save the bird from extinction.” Furthermore, he says that the BLM “regulatory plans rely on changes that ‘may’ be made in the allotment management plans when they are renewed.” But he notes that, “these plans are only renewed every 10 years,” and “due to a rider attached to the defense budget euphemistically titled ‘The Grazing Improvement Act,’ grazing permits can be reauthorized for another 10 years under the same terms and conditions without any additional environmental review.” Wuerthner concludes that “all this about grazing management plans being modified for the grouse is a bunch of happy talk because the BLM simply will not have the guts to do much more than minor changes – if they even get around to it.”

MASSIVE SODA FIRE REHABILITATION EFFORT UNDERWAY. The [AP](#) (10/14, 2.28M) reports that “a federal plan to rehabilitate 436 square miles of scorched rangeland in southwestern Idaho and eastern Oregon containing important sage grouse habitat and grazing land for ranchers calls for spending about \$67 million over 5 years.” The BLM “released the 71-page plan late last week that includes massive plantings of grasses, several types of flowering plants known as forbs, and shrubs, with more than \$26 million being spent on seeds and seed planting.” The effort follows the FWS’ “decision last month that sage grouse don’t need protection under the Endangered Species Act because of conservation efforts taking place in multiple states.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/13, 183K), [ABC News](#) (10/14, 3.97M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/14, Ridler, 1.19M), the [Beatrice \(NE\) Daily Sun](#) (10/14, 14K), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (10/14, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/14, Keith Ridler |, Ap, 6.76M), and the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (10/14, 651K).

COMPANY ORDERED TO STOP AERIAL PESTICIDE SPRAYING. The [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (10/14, 172K) reports that “the Oregon Department of Agriculture has received a temporary restraining order to stop a company from conducting aerial pesticide spraying on private timberlands.” The order “comes after the state last month suspended Applebee Aviation’s pesticide operator license over worker protection violations.” But “despite the suspension, Applebee Aviation performed aerial applications.” According to court documents, “owner Mike Applebee told regulators his company continued spraying without a license because he had a \$3 million dollar contract with the Bureau of Land Management and ‘felt pressure to get the job done.’”

Additional coverage was provided by [KATU-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (10/14, 134K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW BLM INTERACTIVE MOUNTAIN BIKE MAPS. Additional coverage of the new BLM interactive mountain bike maps was provided by the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (10/13, 3K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS, LULAC SIGN HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT. The [AmmoLand](#) (10/14, 6K) reports that the

FWS has signed an historic partnership agreement with the oldest and largest Latino advocacy organization in the United States, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).” According to the article, “the organizations will work together to engage Latino families in outdoor recreational sports on public lands and raise awareness and action on wildlife conservation issues that impact Latino health.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “Prudent planning for wildlife conservation efforts require us to prepare and adjust for the future. The American public is becoming increasingly urban and diverse – and disconnected from the outdoors – and it is incumbent on us to bridge the divide between communities and nature. The disconnection to nature and outdoor recreational activities has profound implications for the health and well-being of our citizens and the future of our nation. Our partnership with LULAC – an organization with a strong history of community leadership and civic engagement – will help us create meaningful connections between people and the great outdoors benefiting the environment and the American public.”

CONSERVATION EFFORT TO HELP MONARCH BUTTERFLY ANNOUNCED. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (10/14, 1.15M) reports that “in the midst of the monarch butterfly migration season across Texas, state and federal officials joined Laura Bush Tuesday morning to announce a conservation effort to help repopulate – and sustain- the species’ population.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “The fact that they are declining tells us something about how we are taking care of the planet. We can do better and this is something we can do. We can do it without regulation and we can do it by working together.”

FWS PLANS STATUS REVIEW FOR POLAR BEAR. The [Greenwire](#) (10/12, Subscription Publication) reports that the FWS “plans to conduct a status review of the polar bear, seven years after the species was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.” The article notes that “such reviews are routine, though they are supposed to come every five years.” FWS officials will “look at new scientific and commercial information and decide whether polar bears should remain categorized as threatened, be reclassified as endangered or be removed from the ESA list altogether, which is an unlikely scenario.”

PETITION SEEKING EMERGENCY LISTING FOR PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND WOLVES DENIED. [KRBD-FM](#) Ketchikan, AK (10/13) reports that “a petition asking for emergency Endangered Species Act listing for Prince of Wales Island wolves was essentially denied by the U.S. Department of the Interior office in Anchorage.” According to the article, “six conservation groups asked in mid-September for the emergency listing, citing a state study that shows a steep drop in the number of Alexander Archipelago wolves on Prince of Wales and nearby islands.” But “in a letter effectively denying the emergency ESA request, Assistant Regional Director Mary Colligan writes that an emergency listing is not something that can be petitioned by outside groups, and is a process ‘left to the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior.’”

ZIMBABWE WON’T CHARGE KILLER OF CECIL THE LION. The [Greenwire](#) (10/12, Subscription Publication) reports that “Walter Palmer, the American dentist who killed famed lion Cecil in July, will not face charges in Zimbabwe.” Zimbabwe Environment Minister Oppah Muchinguri-Kashiri said Palmer, “whose slaying of the prized 13-year-old lion triggered an international online firestorm, obtained legal authority to conduct the hunt.” Muchinguri-Kashiri said, “We approached the police and then the prosecutor general, and it turned out that Palmer came to Zimbabwe because all the papers were in order.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (10/12, Dzirutwe), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/13, Blake, 344K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/14, 548K), [US News & World Report](#) (10/12, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/12, Farai Mutsaka |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (10/14, 1.05M), the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (10/14, Mutsaka, Press, 235K), [PBS NewsHour](#) (10/14, 127K), [NPR](#) (10/13, 1.85M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/12, Ap, 5.59M), and the [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (10/14, 986K).

CHEVRON MOLYCORP REACHES SETTLEMENT OVER QUESTA MINE RELEASE. The [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (10/14) reports that “Natural Resource Trustees and Chevron Molycorp Inc. reached a \$4 million settlement to restore natural resources injured as a result of releases of hazardous substances from the Chevron Molycorp mine facility in Questa.” The Trustees will “use the money to implement restoration projects that benefit natural resources through the implementation of restoration projects that have yet to be specifically selected.” Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, Southwest Regional director for the FWS, said, “On behalf of the federal agencies, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have collaborated to achieve this settlement agreement. Because of this agreement we will be able to address the injuries to our trust resources and identify restoration projects that will enhance important habitat for native fish and wildlife.”

FWS INVESTIGATING KACHEMAK SEA OTTER DEATHS. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/13, 2K) reports that officials with the FWS say “the agency has received about 200 reports of sick or dead otters over

the past couple of months. The agency has teamed up with the Alaska Sea Life Center in Cordova and they're running tests to try to find out the cause."

CONSERVATIONISTS SEEK TO PUT IVORY BAN INITIATIVE ON OREGON BALLOT. The [Greenwire](#) (10/13, Subscription Publication) reports that "conservation groups are trying to gather 88,184 signatures in Oregon to put an initiative banning the buying and selling of ivory and endangered wildlife products on the November 2016 ballot." The Humane Society of the United States is "spearheading the Oregon campaign backed by numerous other groups, as well as Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), Portland Metro Council President Tom Hughes and former state Sen. Bruce Starr (R)." Scott Beckstead, Oregon director of the Humane Society of the United States, said "Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen has agreed to help in Oregon but declined to provide something close to the more than \$1.7 million he spent on a similar ballot measure in Washington state."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Voice of America](#) (10/14, 32K).

Consumer Education Important To Combating Illegal Wildlife Trafficking. The [Huffington Post](#) (10/14, Clark, 164K), Jamie Rappaport Clark, President & CEO, Defenders of Wildlife, writes that "if we're ever going to put a stop to the smuggling of illegal wildlife, we've got to make the United States an unappealing target for traffickers." Clark says that "we need to make sure our ports of entry have adequate capacity for the detection and deterrence of illegal shipments at our borders and treat wildlife trafficking as a serious crime." According to Clark, "educating consumers on what to look for to avoid illegal items is an important part of this process."

FLORIDA STAGING 2016 PYTHON CHALLENGE. The [Washington Post](#) (10/14, Fears, 6.76M) reports that "Florida is staging the 2016 Python Challenge, its second big hunt in three years for serpents that invaded the Everglades a few decades ago and are now vying with alligators for supremacy atop the food chain." According to the article, "when the last python challenge was held about three years ago, nearly 1,600 people showed up" but "only 68 snakes were caught." The article notes that "media commentators and other naysayers denounced the 2013 hunt as a failure because relatively few snakes were killed." However, "for the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission, that was so much nonsense."

CLARKSBURG WATER BOARD WILL GO FOWARD WITH WEST FORK DAM REMOVAL. The [Clarksburg \(WV\) Exponent-Telegram](#) (10/14, 41K) reports that "as expected, the Clarksburg Water Board on Tuesday rejected a request from the Harrison County Commission to terminate an agreement authorizing the removal of three dams." According to the article, "the water board's 3-0 vote not to breach its agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sinks any chances that the county commission will take over the dams, virtually assuring the removal of the West Fork River structures."

Additional coverage was provided by [WBOY-TV Clarksburg \(WV\)](#) Clarksburg, WV (10/14, 30K) and [WDTV-TV Bridgeport \(WV\)](#) Bridgeport, WV (10/14, 13K).

ARIZONA TO ESTABLISH NEW BISON HERD IN CONSERVATION EFFORT. The [Arizona Capitol Times](#) (10/13, 599) reports that "Arizona officials are embarking on an effort to help conserve the American bison." The Game and Fish Department said state officials recently signed an agreement with Interior Department officials "to establish a bison herd with genetic lineage from the Wind Cave National Park in western South Dakota."

STUDY: CLIMATE CHANGE WILL REDUCE FISH SPECIES DIVERSITY. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/13, Botkin-Kowacki, 455K) reports on the impact of climate change on the world's fish. Oceans will acidify and fish species diversity will decline, according to a study published Tuesday. Using data from 632 published experiments, "researchers looked at the impact of warming water and acidification on the underwater ecosystems," CSM reports.

STUDY: NATIVE HAWAIIAN BIRDS DECLINING DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE. The [AP](#) (10/14, 344K) reports that studies by US Geologic Survey biologists show that two bird populations native to Hawaii have declined as the "effects of climate change are being observed sooner than expected." The biologists found that birds at high elevations were more vulnerable, the AP adds.

CONGRESS URGED TO PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES. In an op-ed for the [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (10/14, 336K), Michael Bean, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Department of the Interior, writes that "last month, farmers, conservationists and landowners came

together at a small field in Dover, New Hampshire to celebrate the recovery of the New England cottontail. Bean says that “that type of conservation success story can and should be common.” However, he warns that “there are threats to unravel a key ingredient: the Endangered Species Act.” Bean hopes that “the Pope’s visit last month can remind us of the importance of protecting our fellow creatures.”

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT URGED TO VIEW STATES AS PARTNERS WHEN PROTECTING ENDANGERED SPECIES. In an op-ed for the [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (10/13, 163K), Gov. Dennis Daugaard writes that “state governments are routinely left out of the conversation when it comes to ESA decisions.” He says that “time and time again, we have been impacted by unfounded listings and a lack of implementation at the federal level.” Daugaard concludes that “rather than viewing states as unnecessary hurdles, I hope the federal government will come to see the states as partners in accomplishing this goal.”

CONSERVATION PLAN FOR BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS LAUDED. The [Arizona Republic](#) (10/13, 1.12M) editorializes that “last fall, 25 captive-bred endangered ferrets were released near Tin House Camp on Babbitt Ranches’ Espee Ranch.” The paper notes that “the effort was facilitated by a Safe Harbor Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which assures a private property owner that specific, limited management or land-use obligations for an endangered species will not be expanded or changed without consent.” The paper says that when recovery “does happen, Arizona’s natural heritage is enriched.”

CONSERVATION PLAN FOR MARBLED MURRELET TO BE PRESENTED. In an op-ed for the [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (10/14, 41K), Eric Rickerson, the Washington state supervisor for the FWS, and Kyle Blum, the deputy supervisor for state uplands for the state Department of Natural Resources, write that “on Thursday, the state Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will present a range of options for the long-term conservation of the threatened marbled murrelet on lands managed by DNR.” They “believe a careful balance of forest stewardship and conservation can help protect marbled murrelet habitat in Washington.” The authors conclude that “while the bird’s ultimate destiny as a species is tied to the fate of forests and fish along North America’s entire Pacific coast, Washington is committed to helping the marbled murrelet thrive.”

National Park Service:

NPS PREPARING FOR CENTENNIAL. The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (10/14, 326K) reports that “with its 100-year centennial celebration coming up in 2016, the Park Service has been working hard to cultivate more interest and provide additional opportunities for the community.” According to the article, “with the Park Service’s centennial approaching, it is trying to provide some incentives to younger people to visit its historic sites across the nation.” In 2016, the NPS “plans to provide a free pass to all fourth graders and their families so they visit any national park.”

The [Lowell \(MA\) Sun](#) (10/14, 111K) reports that “on Thursday, Oct. 15, the Youth Ambassador Program (YAP!) and the National Park Service will release the music video for the song ‘Centennial,’ celebrating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016.” According to the article, “this summer, Video Producer/Director Ben Gilbarg set out to make a video for the song, hitting the road with YAP! in a van decorated as the ‘History Machine’ and visiting seven national park sites in four states including the Lowell National Historical Park.”

GREAT RIVERS GREENWAY APPROVES ARCH GROUNDS AGREEMENT. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (10/14, 968K) reports that “the board of the Great Rivers Greenway public trails district on Tuesday approved an expanded agreement to pay for yearly upkeep on the renovated grounds of the Gateway Arch.” The decision “came after questions were raised about whether Great Rivers’ Executive Director Susan Trautman had improperly signed an agreement with the National Park Service, which owns the park, without prior board approval.” The board “reviewed the agreement on Tuesday and approved it.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KTVI-TV](#) St. Louis (10/13, 321K).

NEW YOSEMITE CONCESSIONAIRE INTRODUCING CHANGES. The [Greenwire](#) (10/12, Subscription Publication) reports that Yosemite National Park “debuted its new recreation plan last week after introducing Aramark Corp. as the new concessionaire in charge of park amenities.” According to the article, “visitors can expect changes starting March 1 to the ice rink, bike rentals, rafting and horseback rentals – amenities many environmentalists had been pressing to eliminate – when Aramark takes over at Ahwahnee, Glacier Point, Yosemite Lodge at the Falls, Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows Lodge, High Sierra Camps and Curry Village.”

The article notes that the popular outdoor ice rink will move to its original location east of Curry Village for its 86th year, and horseback riding will move from Yosemite Valley to less-visited Wawona near Highway 41 and the park's southern boundary."

NPS RENTING QUARTERS 17. The [Greenwire](#) (10/12, Subscription Publication) reports that the NPS is "now accepting offers to rent a refurbished home with an unobstructed view of the Golden Gate and San Francisco." Constructed "in 1963, Quarters 17 housed Coast Guard operators until the Point Bonita Lighthouse was automated and Golden Gate National Recreation Area rangers moved in." According to spokeswoman Alexandra Picavet said, "exposed on a cliffside, the building proved expensive to repair, so park officials have decided to rent it out as 'a unique way to get a return for the taxpayers.'"

NPS TO AID FEATHER RIVER PLANNING PROCESS. The [Oroville \(CA\) Mercury-Register](#) (10/13, 1K) reports that "the city of Oroville has won a National Park Service grant to help finish a master plan for the Feather River and surrounding area." The article notes that "there is no money involved, but the federal agency will provide in-kind technical assistance to aid the Supplemental Benefits Fund committee in completing the Oroville Feather River Consolidated Master Plan."

VETERAN SUES OVER CALIFORNIA PINE CONE INJURY. The [AP](#) (10/14) reports from San Francisco that a Navy veteran "is suing after what his lawyer describes as a 16-pound pine cone fell and crushed his skull in San Francisco." Sean Mace "is suing the U.S. government, the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior and San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park for \$5 million." Mace's attorney, Scott Johnson, "says the veteran was relaxing under a non-native pine tree at the maritime park when the cone fell, causing an irreversible brain injury."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/14, 2.28M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (10/13, 4.07M), the [Hope \(AR\) Star](#) (10/13, 9K), the [Daily Mirror \(UK\)](#) (10/14, 742K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/14, Press, 1.19M), [Fox News](#) (10/13, 8.91M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (10/14, 962K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/14, 787K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/14, Press, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/14, 344K), the [New York \(NY\) Daily News](#) (10/14, Chan, 3.75M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (10/14, Mailonline, 5.59M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/13, 3.3M), [Reuters](#) (10/13, Wallis), [Mashable](#) (10/13, 2.12M), [TIME](#) (10/14, 19.55M), [Money](#) (10/14, 7.29M), [Examiner](#) (10/14, 1.34M), [UPI](#) (10/13), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/14, Wallis, 5.98M), [KTLA-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/13, 283K), and [KPIX-TV San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (10/13, 116K).

US Geological Survey:

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES KEEPS TRACK OF EVER CHANGING WORLD. The [Washington Post](#) (10/14, Badger, 6.76M) reports that the U.S. Board on Geographic Names "maintains a single repository of the definitive name and location of nearly every significant feature worth mapping in the United States." The article notes that "by the end of the last fiscal year, the BGN's domestic names database included more than 2.7 million names, spanning the country's towns and schools, airports and islands, streams and more." And "more than 12,000 were added that year alone, reflecting a national map that hasn't stopped evolving, even if we long ago believed we'd discovered everything."

SPRING COULD COME THREE WEEKS EARLIER ACROSS US. [TIME](#) (10/14, 19.55M) reports that "spring flowers may arrive as much as three weeks earlier over the next century as climate change drives an earlier end to winters in areas of the United States, researchers say in a new report." Researchers from the University of Wisconsin, USGS and FWS said that "warmer weather earlier in the year might have consequences for farmers as well as wildlife."

STUDY FINDS BERRY HARVESTS IN ALASKA BECOMING LESS PREDICTABLE. The [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (10/12, 18K) reports that "a recent study published by the U.S. Geological Survey found that berry harvests across Alaska may be growing increasingly unpredictable." According to the article, "that doesn't mean that they are disappearing — rather, it means that residents may not be able to forecast which berries will grow each year." Jerry Hupp, "an Anchorage-based research wildlife biologist with the U.S. Department of the Interior and one of the study's authors, said of the 96 responses the researchers received, 67 percent said the berry harvests had declined or become more variable in the last decade."

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: CLINTON EASILY DEFEATED RIVALS IN LAST NIGHT'S DEBATE. Immediate coverage of the first Democratic presidential debate is solidly favorable toward frontrunner Hillary Clinton, with nearly all analyses agreeing that she had the strong showing she needed. Reports also say Sen. Bernie Sanders helped Clinton out a bit by downplaying the issue of her use of a private email server while secretary of state. Some of the behind-the-scenes focus was on whether Vice President Biden would see a weak Clinton performance as motivation to enter the race. As for candidates Lincoln Chafee, Martin O'Malley, and Jim Webb, what little coverage they receive essentially agrees that none managed to make inroads against the two leading candidates.

[Politico](#) (10/13, Goldmacher, 942K) reports under the headline "Clinton Crushes It" that Clinton "ripped into Sanders in the opening minutes of the debate, going straight after her surging rival for his position on guns," and "beamed wide" when Sanders said, "The American people are sick and tired of hearing about your damn emails." Mark Halperin writes for [Bloomberg Politics](#) (10/14, 247K) that Clinton was "polished" and "found a winning rhythm and confidence after a slightly slow beginning." She "remained at the center of attention and handled it deftly." [CNN](#) (10/14, Diaz, 5.17M) reported on its website that the odds of Clinton's nomination "were the only ones to rise" in Pivotal's Political Prediction Market following the debate, from 65% to 70%, while Sanders' odds remained little changed, but those of a Biden nomination fell from 15% to 11%.

The [Miami Herald](#) (10/14, Mazzei, 651K) reports under the headline "Hillary Clinton Shines In Democratic Debate" that she "reminded voters...why she is the frontrunner" for the nomination, delivering "a more polished and robust performance...than any of her four rivals." [McClatchy](#) (10/14, Lightman, 28K) says Clinton "still has far to go to close the deal," but she "showed important political savvy" in going after Sanders on guns. And [TIME](#) (10/14, Frizell, 19.55M) reported on its website that Clinton emerged from the debate "having given no ground" to her rivals with "a strong performance."

The [New York Times](#) (10/14, Healy, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) writes that "on Tuesday night, after months of political heartburn, things finally started cutting Hillary Rodham Clinton's way." Her debate performance "was so commanding that even her greatest vulnerability," the email issue, "ended up redounding to her benefit. ... All night, the debate played to Mrs. Clinton's advantage and to her opponents' limitations." By the close of the debate, Clinton "had seized every opening to try to accomplish her chief goal: re-establishing trust with Democrats."

Writing for [USA Today](#) (10/14, 5.23M), Susan Page says that Clinton "has done this before. And it showed." She "moved to regain her footing," and "aggressively turned back criticism over her vote to authorize the use of force in Iraq by noting it had been a chief attack by rival Barack Obama in the 2008 campaign – and that he then asked her to serve as his secretary of State." Paul Singer wrote in a [USA Today](#) (10/14, 5.23M) blog post that Clinton "scored a huge applause line" when Chafee "suggested her email problem indicates she does not have strong ethical standards. Asked by moderator Anderson Cooper whether she wanted to respond, Clinton simply said 'No.'"

Jake Tapper said on [CNN](#), "I think Hillary Clinton showed this evening that she is indeed the most experienced debater and that practice and preparation for debates does indeed matter. She was very polished, she had answers ready for all of the charges coming her way. She was also given a big assist by Bernie Sanders. ... But I think Sanders obviously showing his fans out there the issues that he has been fighting for decades."

John King said on [CNN](#) (10/13, 11:04 p.m. EDT, 5.17M) that Clinton's "team is ecstatic. They believe she showed the poise she needed to show and that she had a sense of humor at times but was not afraid to mix it up."

David Axelrod said on [CNN](#) (10/14, 11:10 p.m. EDT, 5.17M) that Clinton "did very, very well. I said before the debate that if presidential elections were decathlons, this was her event. I think she showed why. If I were her campaign, I would be thrilled with what she did here tonight."

Steve Kornacki of the Daily Beast said on [MSNBC](#) (10/13, 11:01 p.m. EDT, 545K), "It's a good night for Hillary Clinton. ... There was a question about Vladimir Putin and Russia that Bernie Sanders was stumbling around. This is not the Bernie Sanders people have come to know."

Jonathan Alter said on [MSNBC](#) (10/13, 11:03 p.m. EDT, 545K) that Biden "really has to have an opening and a groundswell for him to get into this thing. ... Hillary was scoring not just in the exchanges with Sanders, but

with the audience, which was women that she needs to hold and women who feel very strongly on the gun issue. She scored points with them tonight.”

The [AP](#) (10/14) reports that “while the five candidates onstage took issue with each other, they also repeatedly sounded traditional Democratic themes – such as fighting income inequality – that are sure to carry over to the general election campaign.” The [New York Times](#) (10/14, Barbaro, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says Clinton “aggressively questioned” Sanders’ “values, positions and voting history...in a series of sometimes biting exchanges.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/14, Fahrenthold, 6.76M) reports that the early part of the debate “focused on the two front-runners: the standout moments all involved Clinton or Sanders, either as the speakers or the targets of attacks. O’Malley, trying desperately to stand out, had his most memorable moments criticizing Sanders for not doing enough to limit gun purchases.” At one point, Webb “complained of not being called on at all.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/14, McCain, Nicholas, Meckler, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says the debate was combative, but focused mainly on policy, not on personalities – in contrast with the first Republican debates.

The [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#) (10/14, Jacobs, 5.23M) reports Clinton “refused to be a punching bag” in the debate, while Sanders “skipped the pleasantries of introducing himself at the debate’s outset and blasted right into a critique of a campaign finance system that’s ‘corrupt and is undermining American democracy.’” Chafee, O’Malley, and Webb “seemed to struggle to prove they’re not just part of a weak Democratic bench.”

The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/14, Lucas, Messerly, Roerink, 199K) reports that “next door to the Wynn Las Vegas, more than 200 Clinton supporters...cheered on their candidate,” and “the crowd applauded Clinton as she touted her record as secretary of state, pushed for equal pay for women and came down on gun control.” The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/14, Hartley, 378K) says Clinton had the most to lose in the debate, while Sanders sought to cement his recent surge.

Larry Sabato writes in his [Crystal Ball](#) (10/14, 4K) column that Clinton “was a clear winner in Tuesday night’s debate and likely will be covered as one.” Her “deep experience in debates shone brightly,” and “she was better than at any joint forum in her previous campaign.” If Biden “was looking for a reason from Tuesday night to run, he’ll have to find it elsewhere.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/13, 164K) said Clinton “pulled the gender card” and “leaned heavily into what she called an ‘obvious’ difference between her and the majority of presidential candidates, but was careful to note that there was more to her candidacy than gender.” She said, “I can’t think of anything more of an outsider than electing the first woman president, but I’m not just running because I would be the first woman president. I’m running because I have a lifetime of experience in getting results and fighting for people, fighting for kids, for women, for families, fighting to even the odds, and I know what it takes to get things done.”

James Robbins writes in his [USA Today](#) (10/14, 5.23M) column that Clinton “is going to win the Democratic nomination because her major challengers are unwilling to attack her where she is most vulnerable – the character question.” He says her rivals “need to throw some sharp elbows to prove they are actually running for president, and not simply competing for lesser cabinet posts in the Hillary Clinton White House.”

In a more critical account, the [Washington Times](#) (10/14, Miller, 344K) says Clinton “was taken to task...on her flip-flopping record,” but even the Times says “she pushed back forcefully by saying she always remained true to her ‘values and principles.’” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/14, 4.07M), meanwhile, says Clinton “defended herself against charges that she has shifted various positions out of political expediency, saying that she, like most people, adapts to changing circumstances.”

SiriusXM host Ari Rabin-Havt writes in a [USA Today](#) (10/14, 5.23M) op-ed that the debate was a victory for the party as a whole, since the candidates “avoided answers that included insults, misogyny or phony bravado” and instead focused on “their distinct approaches to public policy.” He says the party should “immediately add more contests to the calendar.”

Two of the three broadcast networks led their Tuesday evening newscasts with previews of the debate that hyped the event but that dealt mainly with punditry and past candidate comments. [ABC World News](#) (10/13, lead story, 3:10, Muir, 5.84M) said a “high-stakes Democratic showdown” was on tap, while [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/13, lead story, 2:55, Holt, 7.86M) called it “politics without a net” where “a single slip or trip could make for a hard fall.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/13, story 2, 2:35, Pelley, 5.08M), which led with an unrelated story,

was more measured in its report, saying it's the Democrats' debate about, with Clinton facing her closest rival."

In a [New York Times](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) cartoon that appears today but that was drawn before the debate, Patrick Chappatte shows the candidates crowded onto the stage, with a cameraman urging them to "move to your left" – which shoves Clinton off the stage. William Galston writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/14, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) column that half of the Democrats who are expected to vote in the party's nominating process are liberals, while the share of self-described moderates in the party has continued to decline.

Over 2.3 Million Tweets About Debate. There were [more than 2.3 million tweets](#) about the debate on Twitter, where praise for Clinton and Sanders was strong. Paul Begala [tweeted](#), "Somewhere @realDonaldTrump is sweating bullets in an expensive Chinese-made suit after watching @HillaryClinton crush it." Fox News [tweeted](#) a quote from conservative pundit Tammy Bruce "on why @HillaryClinton won #DemDebate: 'She was in a room with a bag of rocks so you have to win.'" However, Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee [tweeted](#), "I trust @BernieSanders with my tax dollars like I trust a North Korean chef with my labrador!" – which was retweeted more than 6,000 times. (Clinton has 4.47 million Twitter followers to Sanders' 704,000, O'Malley's 94,000, Chafee's 22,000, and Webb's 18,900.)

The debate was also [trending on Facebook](#), where Republican candidate Jeb Bush posted, "It's clear that Hillary Clinton and the rest of the Democrats on stage tonight are running for President Obama's third term – more taxes, more spending and more failed foreign policy." And Huckabee wrote, "SHARE if you agree that any Republican candidate for President would do a better job than any of these liberals on stage tonight!"

The [Washington Times](#) (10/14, Dinan, 344K) reports Republican candidate Trump [live-tweeted](#) the Democratic debate, which he said would be "boring" even before it started. [Politico](#) (10/13, Schreckinger, 942K) offers some of "his most memorable tweets of the night." Among them: "Notice that illegal immigrants will be given ObamaCare and free college tuition but nothing has been mentioned about our VETERANS"; "Sorry, there is no STAR on the stage tonight!"; "All are very scripted and rehearsed, two (at least) should not be on the stage"; and "Get rid of all of these commercials."

Sanders Led Online Searches For Candidates During Debate. The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (10/14, Merda, 1.08M) reports that Sanders won on the Internet, where "Google data showed that for a majority of the debate, search interest in Sanders was crushing his opponents, with it more than double that of his Clinton and Donald Trump. ... Sanders also crushed it on Twitter, gaining the most followers than anyone else, more than twice that of Clinton." Google Politics [said on Twitter](#) that search interest in Sanders "spiked 193x from 4 hours ago and the start of" the debate.

Clinton Cites Obama On Foreign Policy. [Politico](#) (10/13, Crowley, 942K) reports that Clinton "twice invoked President Obama to defend her foreign policy record at Tuesday's Democratic debate, though he might not be entirely happy about how she did it." In addition to noting that though then-candidate Obama criticized her 2002 vote to authorize the Iraq war, he later made her secretary of state, she also "drew a contrast with the president's response to Vladimir Putin's military intervention in Syria."

Candidates Vow To Do More On Climate Change Than Obama Has. The [Washington Times](#) (10/14, Wolfgang, 344K) reports that all of the candidates except Webb "vowed Tuesday night to go further than President Obama in fighting climate change," and O'Malley and Sanders "said the administration's 'all-of-the-above' energy strategy is a mistake."

Biden Watched Debate From Home In Washington. The [Huffington Post](#) (10/13, 164K) reports Biden "ended speculation that he would make a surprise appearance" at the debate "by announcing that he would be hosting a high school reunion that evening" at the Naval Observatory, and would then watch the debate from there. [ABC World News](#) (10/13, story 2, 1:55, Muir, 5.84M) reported that "they saved a podium for him" anyway. ABC's Jonathan Karl added, "Tonight, Vice President Biden's supporters have a message: Don't count Joe out. He might still run." But "even some of Biden's supporters are privately growing irritated by his indecisiveness. As one told ABC News, the window is closing quickly."

[McClatchy](#) (10/13, Clark, 28K) reports that Draft Biden launched "a second ad encouraging him to run" Tuesday. But on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/13, story 2, 1:15, Holt, 7.86M), Chuck Todd said, "He has to have a rationale for running. It is not whether or not Hillary Clinton is faltering or Bernie Sanders is pulling support

away. He had to have his own rationale.

Earnest Said Tuesday Obama May Flip Between Debate And Baseball Playoffs. [McClatchy](#) (10/14, Clark, 28K) reports White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Tuesday that President Obama planned to watch the debate “and America’s other pastime, baseball.” Earnest

Conversation Contents

Clips/Final Version: Interior, USDA Officials Join U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein for Public Meeting on Conservation of Mojave Desert

Attachments:

/103. Clips/Final Version: Interior, USDA Officials Join U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein for Public Meeting on Conservation of Mojave Desert/1.1 10-13-15 Interior, USDA officials Join Sen. Feinstein visit Calif. FINAL.docx

"Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Oct 13 2015 15:41:53 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Johnson, Rachael" <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Clips/Final Version: Interior, USDA Officials Join U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein for Public Meeting on Conservation of Mojave Desert
Attachments: 10-13-15 Interior, USDA officials Join Sen. Feinstein visit Calif. FINAL.docx

Good afternoon all,

Attached please find the final release regarding Deputy Secretary Connor's visit to California for a public discussion on desert conservation for embargoed notifications. This will go out at 7 PM EDT.

Below are a few clips as well.

Thanks,
~Leah

[DESERT MONUMENTS: Hundreds show up at Feinstein hearing](#)

The Press Enterprise // October 13, 2015

Hundreds of people lined up before a Tuesday meeting called by U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein to allow the public to voice their opinions on her request that President Barak Obama establish three national monuments in the California desert. Members of labor unions, environmental groups and health foundations crowded under and around a white tent at the Whitewater Preserve north of Interstate 10 several hours before the event was to begin. They represented both sides of the issue. Xavier Morales, executive director of the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California came from Sacramento to speak in favor of the establishing protections for more than 1 million acres in the Mojave Desert. "For us, it's a health issue," Morales said. "Many of our communities are park

poor. A fourth of the state's population lives within a 30-minute drive of the proposed monuments, and a higher percentage of Latinos and minorities suffer from diabetes, he said. Add to that that under-resourced communities have about one-fourth of the parks that wealthier communities have.

[Feinstein to Discuss 'National Monuments' in Whitewater](#)

Patch.com // AUTUMN JOHNSON // October 13, 2015

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., is scheduled to appear at a public meeting in Whitewater Tuesday to discuss designating the desert areas of Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains as national monuments. The event, organized by Campaign for the California Desert, is scheduled for 1 p.m. at the Whitewater Preserve, 9160 Whitewater Canyon Road. Feinstein will be joined by U.S. Department of Interior Deputy Secretary Mike Connor, Undersecretary of Agriculture Robert Bonnie and other senior officials from the Obama administration. Members of the public will be also be allowed voice their opinions on the need to permanently protect the public desert lands. The national monument designation is designed to protect public lands with unique scientific, cultural, natural and historic features, while allowing compatible uses, like outdoor recreation and ranching. For more information, visit californiadesert.org.

[Sen. Feinstein in Whitewater today to propose 3 new national monuments](#)

The Sun // October 13, 2015

Sen. Dianne Feinstein will join federal officials this afternoon in Whitewater to talk about the community's vision for management of public lands in the Southern California desert and her proposal for three new national monuments. The senator will be joined by Michael Connor, U.S. deputy secretary of the Interior; Robert Bonnie, U.S. Department of Agriculture under secretary for Natural Resources and Environment; as well as other federal, state, local and tribal officials, according to a statement from senator's office. The meeting is open to the public and set for 2 p.m. at the Wildlands Conservancy's Whitewater Preserve, near Palm Springs. Feinstein sent a letter to President Barack Obama on Aug. 3 requesting he use his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate three new national monuments: Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains.

[Feinstein Holds Public Meeting on Three Proposed National Monuments in CA](#)

Public News Service // October 13, 2015

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. - Senator Dianne Feinstein is drumming up support for three proposed national monuments in the southern California desert by holding a public listening session this afternoon at the Whitewater Preserve near Palm Springs. She introduced a bill earlier this year, the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015, that would, among other things, create the Sand to Snow and Mojave Trails National Monuments in areas that are home to the endangered desert bighorn sheep and the threatened desert tortoise. Stephanie Dashiell, a California representative with the nonprofit "Defenders of Wildlife," says Mojave Trails in particular is crucial to the survival of the desert tortoise, which has lost 90 percent of its population in some areas.

[Valley Voice: Residents demand new desert monuments](#)

Desert Sun // Lani Miller // October 12, 2015

Rep. Cook clearly misreads the mood in the Coachella Valley regarding the designation of desert lands for permanent protection, ie National Monuments. He underestimates our understanding of these issues and our involvement in them. Before he was elected, our county and city

governments, and supporters which include business owners, veterans, local fair traders, anglers, historians, Native Americans, conservationists, and outdoor enthusiasts, among others, had already been developing and refining the California Desert Protection Act of 2010 and 2011. In fact the process of researching and creating the campaign to gain National Monument status for the federal lands discussed, has been in process for at least a decade.

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Leah Duran

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Department of the Interior

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: October 13, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
[David Glasgow \(USDA\)](mailto:David.Glasgow@oc.usda.gov), david.glasgow@oc.usda.gov

Interior, USDA Officials Join U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein for Public Meeting on Conservation of Mojave Desert

*Officials hear from local and tribal communities on Feinstein's proposals to
conserve Southern California's Mojave Desert public lands*

WHITEWATER, Calif. – U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor and USDA Under Secretary Robert Bonnie today visited the Mojave Desert of California to join a public meeting and hear from the community about its vision for the management of public lands in the region.

Connor and Bonnie visited California at the invitation of Sen. Feinstein, [who has introduced legislation](#) to conserve portions of the Mojave Desert and enhance public recreational access. Sen. Feinstein has also asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate three new national monuments – Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument, and Castle Mountains National Monument.

“The Mojave Desert of Southern California is a resource beloved by millions of Americans for its stark beauty, rich cultural history and outdoor recreational opportunities,” said Deputy Secretary Connor. “For more than 20 years, Sen. Feinstein has led the charge to protect the most special places in the desert, and we support her efforts to preserve these areas for the benefit of future generations. Opportunities like this to hear directly from the local and tribal communities about their vision for conservation and land management are essential to our work as land managers.”

“In addition to its diverse tribal heritage, the San Geronio Mountain region serves as an important recreational hub for the 24 million people that are within a two-hour drive,” said Bonnie. “We appreciate hearing from such a broad range of voices today and we look forward to working with all interested parties as the dialogue continues.”

Today's visit builds on U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's decades-long effort to protect the most special places of the California desert and San Bernardino Mountain range and contributes to the Obama Administration's ongoing work to support locally-driven efforts to preserve and protect places that hold special meaning to communities across the country.

"In my view, the California desert is an American treasure that is highly worthy of preservation. I think the public meeting today only further proved that," Sen. Feinstein said. "Public input in desert conservation is absolutely vital. I've worked with the desert stakeholders for years, and I know how diverse their views are—which makes discussions like these even more important. I'm especially grateful that Deputy Secretary Connor and Under Secretary Bonnie attended and were able to hear local goals for the desert, and I thank the Obama administration for considering these monuments."

Senator Feinstein's proposal would protect more than one million acres in San Bernardino County as the Mojave Trails National Monument. The area, known for its spectacular vistas and intact stretch of historic Route 66, would connect the Mojave National Preserve to the north with Joshua Tree National Park to the south. The Sand to Snow National Monument would span up to 140,000 acres from the snowy mountain peaks of the San Bernardino National Forest to the desert sands of Joshua Tree National Park, including some of the most biologically and culturally rich areas in southern California. The Castle Mountains National Monument would add 20,000 acres of key desert grassland to be managed by the National Park Service as a part of the Mojave National Preserve while respecting existing mining operations in the area.

Today's public meeting included speakers from area tribes, local governments, off-highway vehicle users, and conservation organizations. The meeting also provided ample opportunity for public comment.

As part of their visit, Deputy Secretary Connor and Under Secretary Bonnie, alongside other state and local community members, toured portions of the proposed monument area within the Mojave Desert. The California desert provides significant recreation opportunities for local communities, for the nearby Los Angeles and San Diego metropolitan areas, and for visitors from around the world. The area contains opportunities for off-highway vehicle travel, hiking, camping, mountain biking, and rock climbing. These uses would be protected under Sen. Feinstein's proposal.

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Conversation Contents

For fatal flaw review today: Interior, USDA Officials Join U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein for Public Meeting on Conservation of Mojave Desert

Attachments:

/104. For fatal flaw review today: Interior, USDA Officials Join U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein for Public Meeting on Conservation of Mojave Desert/1.1 10-13-15 Senior Interior, USDA officials Join Sen. Feinstein visit Calif. desert v6 rj.docx

"Johnson, Rachael" <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Johnson, Rachael" <rachael_johnson@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Oct 13 2015 09:44:30 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <CLEff@blm.gov>, Paul Ross <paul_ross@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren Bogard <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>, Richard Cardinale <richard_cardinale@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: For fatal flaw review today: Interior, USDA Officials Join U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein for Public Meeting on Conservation of Mojave Desert
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Dear all--

Please take a final look at the release announcing DS Connor's visit along with Under Secretary Bonnie and Sen. Feinstein to California for a public discussion on desert conservation.

Please review this for any fatal flaws.

Thanks for taking a second look.

Date: October 13, 2015

Interior, USDA Officials Join U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein for Public Meeting on Conservation of Mojave Desert

Officials hear from local and tribal communities on Feinstein's proposals to conserve Southern California's Mojave Desert public lands

WHITEWATER, Calif. – U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior Michael Connor and USDA Under Secretary Robert Bonnie today visited the Mojave Desert of California to join a public meeting and hear from the community about its vision for the management of public lands in the region.

Connor and Bonnie visited California at the invitation of Sen. Feinstein, [who has introduced legislation](#) to conserve portions of the Mojave Desert and enhance public recreational access. Sen. Feinstein has also asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate three new national monuments -- Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument, and Castle Mountains National Monument.

“The Mojave Desert of Southern California is a resource beloved by millions of Americans for its stark beauty, rich cultural history and outdoor recreational opportunities,” said Deputy Secretary Connor. “For more than 20 years, Sen. Feinstein has led the charge to protect the most special places in the desert, and we support her efforts to preserve these areas for the benefit of future generations. Opportunities like this to hear directly from the local and tribal communities about their vision for conservation and land management is essential to our work as land managers.”

“We are supportive of Sen. Feinstein's effort to solicit public comment on her proposal,” said Under Secretary Bonnie. “There appears to be significant public support for this proposal and we look forward to working with all interested parties as this process continues.”

Today's visit builds on U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein's **decades-long effort to protect the most special places of the California desert** and contributes to the Obama Administration's ongoing work to support locally-driven efforts to preserve and protect places that hold special meaning to communities across the country.

“In my view, the California desert is an American treasure that is highly worthy of preservation. I think the public meeting today only further proved that,” Sen. Feinstein said. “Public input in desert conservation is absolutely vital. I’ve worked with the desert stakeholders for years, and I know how diverse their views are—which makes discussions like these even more important. I’m especially grateful that Deputy Secretary Connor and Under Secretary Bonnie attended, and were able to hear local goals for the desert, and I thank the Obama administration for considering these monuments.”

Senator Feinstein’s proposal would protect more than 1 million acres in San Bernardino County as the Mojave Trails National Monument. The area, known for its spectacular vistas and intact stretch of historic Route 66, would connect the Mojave National Preserve to the north with Joshua Tree National Park to the south. The Sand to Snow National Monument would span 140,000 acres from the snowy mountain peaks of the San Bernardino National Forest to the desert sands of Joshua Tree National Park, including some of the most biologically and culturally rich areas in southern California. The Castle Mountains National Monument would add 20,000 acres of key desert grassland to be managed by the National Park Service as a part of the Mojave National Preserve while respecting existing mining operations in the area.

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News Release

Date: October 13, 2015

Contacts: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
[David Glasgow \(USDA\)](mailto:David_Glasgow@oc.usda.gov), david.glasgow@oc.usda.gov

Interior, USDA Officials Join U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein for Public Meeting on Conservation of Mojave Desert

*Officials hear from local and tribal communities on Feinstein's proposals to
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Connor and Bonnie visited California at the invitation of Sen. Feinstein, [who has introduced legislation](#) to conserve portions of the Mojave Desert and enhance public recreational access. Sen. Feinstein has also asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate three new national monuments -- Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument, and Castle Mountains National Monument.

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"The Mojave Desert of Southern California is a resource beloved by millions of Americans for its stark beauty, rich cultural history and outdoor recreation opportunities," said Connor. "For more than 20 years, Sen. Feinstein has led the charge to protect the most special places in the desert, and we support her efforts to preserve these areas for the benefit of future generations. Opportunities like this to hear directly from the local and tribal communities about their vision for conservation and land management is essential to our work as land managers."

TBD PLACEHOLDER QUOTE: “We are supportive of Sen. Feinstein's effort to solicit public comment on her proposal,” said Under Secretary Bonnie. “There appears to be significant public support for this proposal and we look forward to working with all interested parties as this process continues.”

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Comment [JLK1]: We need to keep this linked to what I had linked to previously. Can we put the link back?

“In my view, the California desert is an American treasure that is highly worthy of preservation. I think the public meeting today only further proved that,” Sen. Feinstein said. “Public input in desert conservation is absolutely vital. I’ve worked with the desert stakeholders for years, and I know how diverse their views are—which makes discussions like these even more important. I’m especially grateful that Deputy Secretary Connor and Under Secretary Bonnie attended, and were able to hear local goals for the desert, and I thank the Obama administration for considering these monuments.”

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Conversation Contents

Clip: Sen. Feinstein asks Obama to designate monuments in the Mojave Desert

"Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Duran, Leah" <leah_duran@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Oct 13 2015 08:59:24 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Michael Bean <michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>
To:
Subject: Clip: Sen. Feinstein asks Obama to designate monuments in the Mojave Desert

Sen. Feinstein asks Obama to designate monuments in the Mojave Desert

LA Times // Julie Cart // Oct. 13, 2015

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, champion of the California desert, is asking President Obama to take executive action to protect hundreds of thousands of acres in the Mojave Desert.

Since 2009, Feinstein has been unsuccessfully trying to convince her colleagues in Congress to designate the Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains areas as new national monuments. Now, the Democratic senator is calling on Obama to use the Antiquities Act to set aside desert tracts near Mojave National

Preserve and Death Valley National Park.

In a public meeting scheduled for today in Palm Springs, Feinstein and other national, state and local officials will listen to public comment on setting aside the disparate pieces of public land for heightened protection.

All of the land proposed for monument designation is in federal hands and no transfers are required.

Obama has invoked the Antiquities Act sparingly. Most recently he designated the Berryessa-Snow Mountains National Monument in Northern California.

Monument designations can be controversial because they sometimes place restrictions on hunting, off-road recreation and other uses. But Feinstein's proposal would preserve existing recreational activities.

Obama has the option to designate the new monuments without consulting Congress, but Feinstein said she will continue trying to gain support for her legislation.

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Leah Duran

Public Affairs Specialist

U.S. Department of the Interior

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Wed Sep 23 2015 05:00:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, September 23, 2015

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

+ [Today's Events In Washington.](#)

LAST LAUGHS

+ [Late Night Political Humor.](#)

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES THAT SAGE GROUSE WON'T BE LISTED AS ENDANGERED SPECIES. The [Greenwire](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced on Tuesday that the FWS will not list the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act. The determination by FWS scientists that a listing is "not warranted" is due to an "epic conservation effort" among federal, state and private partners, according to Jewell. In a prepared statement ahead of the announcement, Jewell said, "This is truly a historic effort – one that represents extraordinary collaboration across the American West."

The [AP](#) (9/23, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that "flanked by the governors of Wyoming, Montana, Nevada and Colorado," Jewell said "at an event near Denver that a massive five-year effort to keep the bird off the endangered and threatened species list had paid off." According to the article, "that includes commitments of more than \$750 million from government and outside interest groups to buy up conservation easements and restore the bird's range."

[Politico Pro](#) (9/22) reports that Jewell said, "I'm optimistic that we have shown that epic collaboration across a landscape guided by sound science is truly the future of American conservation." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/23, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that Jewell said, "These collective efforts add up to a bright future for the sage grouse."

The [AP](#) (9/23, 2 28M) reports that "a northern Nevada rancher says a more trustful relationship between Western states and Washington helped avoid federal protections for the greater sage grouse that many argued would threaten industry." According to the article, at Tuesday's announcement of the decision, "Duane Coombs says he inherited his father's distrust of the U.S. government but that cooperation between private landowners and federal officials to protect the bird has changed his mind."

The [AP](#) (9/23, 3 97M) reports that "Tuesday's announcement signals that the Obama administration believes it has struck a balance to save the widespread, ground-dwelling birds from extinction without crippling the West's economy." The article notes that "it follows a costly conservation effort, and could help defuse a potential political liability for Democrats heading into the 2016 election."

Decision Draws Mixed Reactions. The [Greenwire](#) (9/22, Subscription Publication) reports that the decision was "hailed as a conservation triumph by many officials and environmentalists but drew immediate threats of lawsuits and a congressional probe."

The [New York Times](#) (9/23, Krauss, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that "environmentalists were divided over whether the measures went far enough to protect the bird from eventual extinction or were simply a sellout to business interests."

[The Hill](#) (9/23, Cama, 471K) reports that "the decision received widespread praise from conservationists and others." David Yarnold, president of the National Audubon Society, said in a statement, "This is a new lease on life for the Greater Sage-Grouse and the entire sagebrush ecosystem." He added, "Unprecedented cooperation by private landowners, states, and the federal government has created a framework for conservation at a scale unique in the world."

However, the [Washington Post](#) (9/23, Fears, 6.76M) reports that WildEarth Guardians, "which had pushed for sage grouse to be listed as endangered, said it appeared industry and its supporters had won." Erik Molvar, a wildlife biologist with the organization, said, "The sage grouse faces huge problems from industrial development and livestock grazing across the West, and now the Interior Department seems to be squandering a major opportunity to put science before politics and solve these problems." Also, "a second group, Defenders of Wildlife, predicted that in the absence of an endangered listing, current plans would fall short."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/23, 213K) reports that "industry groups like the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, representing the hundreds of power utilities that serve rural America, say Tuesday's determination deserves praise because it endorses a plan put forward by Western governors, and will enable transmission line development to continue in the west."

On the other hand, [USA Today](#) (9/22, Bacon, Rice, 5 23M) reports that the Independent Petroleum Association of America criticized the decision. Dan Naatz, a vice president for the group, said "the sage grouse can be protected without 'unworkable management plans' that harm business." He said, "Despite the numerous private-public partnerships and voluntary conservation efforts to conserve the greater sage grouse and its habitat, America's energy producers – and in turn, the American taxpayers – will suffer from these more-restrictive land management plans."

States Vary In Reactions. [McClatchy](#) (9/23, Cockerham, 28K) reports that House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop said "new conservation measures being imposed by the Obama administration to protect the bird will still restrict Western development." Bishop said, "Do not be fooled. The announcement not to list the sage grouse is a cynical ploy. With the stroke of a pen, the Obama administration's oppressive land management plan is the same as a listing." Bishop said "he plans to hold a congressional hearing Sept. 30 to look into the issue." Also providing coverage are the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, 2.28M), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/23, 492K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/23, 492K), and [Utah Policy](#) (9/23).

But the [AP](#) (9/23, 2 28M) reports that "a senior congressional Democrat says Republican criticism of the decision not to give federal protections to the greater sage grouse lacks credibility." Rep. Raul Grijalva says "House Republicans attack President Barack Obama when his administration lists a species as endangered and attack him when it decides against a listing, comparing the rhetoric to a game of 'Mad Libs.'"

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (9/23, 344K) reports that "reaction to the government's decision to deny the greater sage grouse protection under the Endangered Species Act runs the gamut in Nevada, home to some of the best quality remaining habitat in the West and second only to Wyoming in terms of sheer numbers of the bird." Sen. Harry Reid says "the Obama administration should be applauded for the 'unparalleled collaboration' by the Interior Department and 11 western states to avert the listing." But Sen. Dean Heller says "the administration used the 'threat of a listing to get what it really wanted all along' – further restrictions on development through accompanying land use regulations." However, "moderate Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval, who traveled to Denver to join Secretary Sally Jewell for the announcement, says it's a 'huge win.'"

The [AP](#) (9/23, 2 28M) reports that "people in the state with the most sage grouse and energy development in their habitat mostly welcomed Tuesday's announcement by the Interior Department that the birds don't need protection under the federal Endangered Species Act." The article notes that "the decision means Wyoming's coal, oil, gas, uranium and livestock industries won't have to live with the possibility of strict limits to their business out in the sagebrush country." Gov. Matt Mead said, "It provides a path forward for development. It provides a path forward to ensure that habitat is preserved for the sage grouse."

The [AP](#) (9/23, 2 28M) reports that "Montana officials are relieved by the Interior Department's decision not to recommend endangered species protections for the greater sage grouse, but they are critical of the new conservation plans meant to protect the bird's habitat on federal lands." Gov. Steve Bullock has "criticized the BLM plans as being more restrictive than the state's own sage grouse conservation plan." Bullock spokesman Mike Wessler says "state officials will pressure the BLM to adjust its plans to make them more consistent with Montana's."

The [AP](#) (9/23, 2 28M) reports that Gov. C. L. "Butch" Otter says "the federal government replaced transparency with closed-door meetings while deciding to deny protections for the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act." Otter says "the land management schemes drafted by the federal government remain a mystery for property owners and state and local wildlife officials." Otter "warned the issue was far from over."

Additional coverage was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (9/23, 74K), and [KECI-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (9/23, 1K).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by [CBS News](#) (9/23, 7 05M), [Fox Business](#) (9/22, 418K), [NPR](#) (9/22, 1 85M), [NPR](#) (9/22, 1.85M), [Reuters](#) (9/22, Coffman), [Reuters](#) (9/22, Coffman), [Reuters](#) (9/23, Coffman), [Bloomberg News](#) (9/22, Murtaugh, 2.66M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/22, 455K), the [Huffington Post](#) (9/23, 164K), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/23, Yardley, 4 07M), the [Denver Post](#) (9/23, Finley, 787K), the [Oregonian](#) (9/23, 756K), the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/23, 378K), the [Daily Caller](#) (9/23, Bastasch, 375K), [Newsweek](#) (9/23, 198K), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (9/23, 20K), the [White House Blog](#) (9/22, 72K), the [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (9/23, 1K), [Nation](#) (9/23, 361K), [County 10](#) (9/22), the [National Geographic](#) (9/23, 31.65M), [Common Dreams](#) (9/22, 12K), [Popular Science](#) (9/23, 6 51M), [Scientific American](#) (9/23, 2.99M), [Think Progress](#) (9/22, 453K), [WJAX-TV Jacksonville \(FL\)](#) Jacksonville, FL (9/23, 72K), [WBUR-FM Boston \(MA\)](#) Boston (9/22, 113K), [KTVB-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (9/22, 191K),

[KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (9/22, 79K), [KNPR-FM Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (9/23, 1K), [KXLO-FM Lewiston \(MT\)](#) Lewiston, MT (9/23), [KSJR-FM Collegeville \(MN\)](#) Collegeville, MN (9/22, 60K), [KBZK-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (9/23, 785), [KMGH-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (9/23, 121K), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (9/22, 180K), [KELO-AM Sioux Falls \(SD\)](#) Sioux Falls, SD (9/22), [WAMU-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (9/23, 30K), [KAJ-TV Kalispell \(MT\)](#) Kalispell, MT (9/23, 909), [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (9/22, 222K), [KAUZ-TV Wichita Falls \(TX\)](#) Wichita Falls, TX (9/23, 447), [KKCO-TV Grand Junction \(CO\)](#) Grand Junction, CO (9/23, 508), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (9/23, 494K), [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (9/22, 79K), [WBUR-FM](#) Boston (9/22, 113K), [KJL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (9/23, 494K), and [KUNC-FM](#) Greeley, CO (9/23, 5K).

Also providing coverage are the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/23, 115K), the [Canon City \(CO\) Daily Record](#) (9/23, 22K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/22, 1.12M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (9/23, 1.05M), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (9/23, 548K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/23, Brown, Gruver, 344K), the [Vail \(CO\) Daily](#) (9/23, 44K), [The East Oregonian](#) (9/22, 24K), the [Rock Hill \(SC\) Herald](#) (9/23, 91K), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (9/22, 190K), the [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (9/23, 32K), the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (9/23), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (9/22, 199K), the [Peoria \(IL\) Journal Star](#) (9/22, 181K), [Fox News](#) (9/22, 8.91M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (9/23, 1.05M), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (9/23, 548K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/23, 5.59M), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (9/22, 28K), the [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (9/23, 19K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/22, 183K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/23, 407K), the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (9/22, 30K), the [Grand Island \(NE\) Independent](#) (9/23, 54K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, 2.28M), the [US News & World Report](#) (9/22, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/23, Fears, 6.76M), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (9/23, 99K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/22, 183K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (9/23, Brown, Gruver, 1.19M), the [Boise \(ID\) Weekly](#) (9/23, 103K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/22, 183K), [Bloomberg News](#) (9/22, Martin, 2.66M), the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (9/23, 161K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), [Yahoo! News](#) (9/23, Brown, Volz, 5.98M), the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (9/23, 172K), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/23, 94K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (9/23, Finley, 787K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/23, 73K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/23, 259K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (9/22, 2.46M), [NBC News](#) (9/23, 3.73M), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/23), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/23, Brown, Gruver, 344K), [The Steamboat Pilot & Today](#) (9/22, 30K), the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (9/23, 100K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/23, 115K), [Yahoo! News](#) (9/23, 5.98M), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (9/22, 68K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/23, 407K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/23, 407K), the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (9/22, 10K), the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (9/22, 179K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/21, Press, 6.76M), the [Lake Tahoe \(CA\) News](#) (9/23), the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (9/22, 506), the [Lahontan Valley \(NV\) News](#) (9/23, 11K), the [Tahoe \(CA\) Daily Tribune](#) (9/23, 27K), the [Gardnerville \(NV\) Record Courier](#) (9/23, 20K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/22, 183K), the [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (9/23, 1K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (9/22, 132K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (9/23, 962K), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (9/22, 15K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/23, 73K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/23, 407K), the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (9/22, 44K), the [Baker City \(OR\) Herald](#) (9/23, 8K), the [Colorado Independent](#) (9/23, 1K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/23, 115K), and the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (9/23, 22K).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/23, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), [ABC](#) (9/23, 3.97M), [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/23, 1.19M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (9/23, 1.05M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/23, 5.59M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, 2.28M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (9/23, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [US News & World Report](#) (9/22, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/23, Mead Gruver J, Ap, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/23, Gruver, 344K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (9/23, 99K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/23, Press, 6.76M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/23, 5.59M), the [Daily News \(WA\)](#) (9/23, 72K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (9/23, Press, 1.19M), the [Dayton \(OH\) Daily News](#) (9/23, 117K), the [US News & World Report](#) (9/22, 811K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/23, Fears, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/23, Brown, Gruver, 344K), and the [Somerset County \(PA\) Daily American](#) (9/23, 40K).

SEN. UDALL INTRODUCES LEGISLATION IN WAKE OF GOLD KING MIND SPILL. The [AP](#) (9/23, Press, 787K) reports that "the federal government would be required to identify the most dangerous abandoned mines in the West and make plans to clean them up under legislation introduced Tuesday in response to the spill of millions of gallons of toxic wastewater from a Colorado mine." Sen. Tom Udall "outlined the proposal during a conference call with reporters." Udall said "the main focus would be compensating communities affected by the spill, but another goal is to prevent future environmental disasters."

OBAMA DECLARES CALIFORNIA VALLEY FIRE A MAJOR DISASTER. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/23, Rocha, 4.07M) reports President Obama has declared a major disaster for the Valley Fire in California, freeing up "federal assistance for home repairs, replacements and other aid." Gov. Jerry Brown requested the declaration.

Additional Coverage Of Wildfires. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (9/22, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (9/22, 105K), [KTVB-TV](#) Boise, ID (8/10, 191K) and [Homeland Security Today](#) (9/23).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (9/23, 9K) reports that "Browns Canyon National Monument was designated by President Barack Obama in February, the capstone to a decades-long grassroots effort to secure permanent protection for the 22,000-acre parcel northwest of Salida." The article notes that "a dedication ceremony was held for Browns Canyon in June," and "speakers included Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, and U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, among many other state, federal and local representatives."

CONGRESS URGED TO REAUTHORIZE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. In an op-ed for the [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (9/23, 32K), Dan and Kerri Schwartz, the owners and operators of Ripple Creek Lodge, urges Congress to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund. They say that "if you've ever hunted, fished, hiked or camped on our nation's public lands, chances are you've benefited directly from investments made by the LWCF." The authors also note that the "LWCF has delivered these benefits to Colorado and nationwide without depending on taxpayer dollars."

Additional pieces in support of the LWCF appear in the [Oregonian](#) (9/23, 756K), the [Montana Standard](#) (9/23, 36K), the [Conway \(NH\) Daily Sun](#) (9/23, 49K), the [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) (9/22, 561K), and the [Winston-Salem \(NC\) Journal](#) (9/23, 167K).

Also providing coverage of the LWCF is the [Northern Arizona Today](#) (9/23).

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR TO TAKE A DOZEN PARCELS INTO TRUST FOR MOHEGANS. The [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (9/22, 77K) reports that the Interior Department "intends to take 12 parcels of Mohegan Tribe-owned land into trust for the tribe, removing the parcels from the local tax rolls." According to the article, "in a notice published Friday, the Interior Department said the acting regional director for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Eastern Region determined Sept. 14 that she would accept the parcels into trust 'pursuant to the Mohegan Nation Land Claims Settlement Act.'" The article note that "the decision will become final at the end of a 30-day appeal period."

COURT WEIGHS ARGUMENTS ON WHETHER TRIBAL OFFICIALS MUST COMPLY WITH SUBPOENAS. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/22, 75K) reports that "a federal court judge in Great Falls is weighing opposing legal arguments on whether tribal officials must comply with subpoenas demanding access to tribal government documents, or whether Indian tribes are immune from court orders to produce evidence because they are sovereign nations." The "dispute came to a head based upon a lawsuit filed by Terry Matt, a Cut Bank attorney and enrolled member of the Assiniboine Tribe of Montana." Matt is suing the BIA "for more than \$5 million in compensation for alleged damages that occurred when the BIA built a new road across Matt's property."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE BIA APPROVES MASHPEE WAMPANOAG LAND INTO TRUST APPLICATION. Additional coverage that the BIA "on Friday accepted the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe's application for reservation status" was provided by [Connecticut Public Radio](#) (9/23), the [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (9/23, 336K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (9/23, 548K), and the [Law 360](#) (9/23, 21K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR DEFENDS WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT AGREEMENT. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/23, Boxall, 4.07M) reports that five years ago, Mike Connor, then commissioner of the BOR, "outlined the terms of potential legislation to resolve a lingering battle over badly drained farmland in the Westlands Water District." However, "the agreement approved last week by the Obama administration and Westlands beats a long retreat from those requirements, prompting cries that a district legendary for its political sway and hardball tactics has once again come out on top." Now deputy Interior secretary, Connor "helped negotiate the settlement, which must still be approved by Congress." According to the article, "while disputing that the agreement gives away too much, Connor was forthright about the administration's desire to escape the legal liability and mounting financial costs of dealing with the contaminated drain water that flows from Westlands fields." He said, "We have a settlement that is a very significant financial benefit to the United States and the U.S. taxpayer."

In his column for the [Stockton \(CA\) Record](#) (9/22, Columnist, 106K), Michael Fitzgerald criticizes the contract for being "open-ended." According to Fitzgerald, "it's as if the U.S. Department of the Interior hasn't noticed that the Delta is dying or the changing climate of the West."

BOR URGED TO PRIORITIZE YELLOWSTONE INTAKE DIVERSION DAM. The [Sidney \(MT\) Herald](#) (9/23, 10K) reports that Sen. Steve Daines "led the Montana and North Dakota congressional delegations Monday in urging the Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation to prioritize concerns at the Yellowstone Intake Diversion Dam." In a letter to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jo-Ellen Darcy and BOR Commissioner Estevan Lopez, "the bipartisan delegations emphasized the economic benefit that the dam provides to both Montana and North Dakota." They wrote, "We urge ACE and BOR to address the concerns of the Court and conduct the necessary analyses in a timely manner to ensure this essential source of water for farmers, ranchers, and communities throughout much of northeastern Montana and northwestern North Dakota is not unduly disrupted."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM FINDS NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IN WIND LEASING OFF NORTH CAROLINA COAST. The [AP](#) (9/23, 2 28M) reports that "a federal government review says there will be no significant environmental or socioeconomic impacts in leasing tracts off the North Carolina coast for wind energy development." The BOEM is "proposing three tracts off the coast for wind energy — one off Kitty Hawk on the Outer Banks and two in the Cape Fear area near Wilmington." The bureau's North Carolina Renewable Energy Task Force will "hold a meeting Oct. 7 in Wilmington to discuss holding an auction for leasing tracts to wind energy companies."

Additional coverage was provided by [WWAY-TV Wilmington \(NC\)](#) Wilmington, NC (9/22, 2K), [WRAL-TV Raleigh \(NC\)](#) Raleigh, NC (9/23, 193K), and [WITN-TV Greenville \(NC\)](#) Greenville, NC (9/23, 94K).

Onshore Energy Development:

FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDS CANCELLATION OF BADGER-TWO MEDICINE LEASES. The [Greenwire](#) (9/22, Subscription Publication) reports that "a federal advisory panel is urging the Obama administration to withdraw or cancel leases for natural gas drilling in Montana's Lewis and Clark National Forest, east of Glacier National Park." The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation "told the Departments of Interior and Agriculture that the Badger-Two Medicine area of northwest Montana — the source of the Blackfeet Tribe's origin story — is too sacred for drilling." The panel said that "gas exploration would lead to 'serious and irreparable degradation' in the 165,588-acre traditional cultural district, an area protected by the National Historic Preservation Act that includes parts of the Lewis and Clark forest, Flathead National Forest and Blackfeet Indian Reservation."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/23, 2 28M) and the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (9/23).

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS THREATEN TO SUE OVER NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/22, 705) reports that several environmental groups have "threatened to sue the Obama administration over protections for the threatened northern long-eared bat." The groups — including the Center for Biological Diversity, Coal River Mountain Watch, the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition and the Sierra Club — accused the FWS and the OSMRE "of failing to ensure that plans for two West Virginia strip mines protect the bat."

Also reporting on the story is the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (9/22).

NORTH DAKOTA OIL PRODUCERS SPAR WITH REGULATORS OVER PROPOSED RULES. [Reuters](#) (9/22, Scheyder) reported that at Tuesday's North Dakota Petroleum Council annual meeting, North Dakota's oil producers sparred with federal regulators over a Bureau of Land Management proposal to more strictly regulate how crude is extracted from shale and an Environmental Protection Agency proposal over the use of small bodies of water in the US. These and other proposals have drawn criticism from industry members while environmentalists say they are crucial.

GEOLOGIST SLOWING SALTWATER INJECTIONS COINCIDES WITH DIMINISHED EARTHQUAKES IN KANSAS. The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (9/22, Carpenter, 109K) reported that a Kansas Corporation Commission decision "to limit injection of saltwater deep underground after drawn to the surface by oil producers coincided with diminished intensity of earthquakes in south-central Kansas, a state geologist said Tuesday." Rex Buchanan, interim director of the Kansas Geological Survey, "said during a forum at the Kansas Energy Conference in Topeka the decline in magnitude of earthquakes mirrored adoption of the KCC's rule in March." The KCC "is poised to renew for another six months the injection restraints applicable in Harper and Sumner counties that were inspired by the proliferation of earthquakes rattling the region's residents."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS ON FEDERAL COAL LEASING PROGRAM. Additional coverage of the public listening sessions held on the federal coal leasing program was provided by the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (9/22, 30K).

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM ISSUES PROPOSED GUIDELINES ON PAYING TO DISMANTLE OFFSHORE FACILITIES. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (9/22, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that under proposed guidelines issued by the BOEM Tuesday, "fewer companies will be able to self-insure to cover the eventual costs of decommissioning those offshore wells and platforms," although "firms will have more flexibility to assemble financial assurance packages, without relying solely on expensive surety bonds as a guarantee." The move "is designed to ensure that the companies have set aside enough money to dismantle offshore facilities once oil and gas stops flowing."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/22, 2.28M).

CRITICS POINT TO RECORDS SHOWING LACK OF OFFSHORE ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT. [WWL-TV](#) New Orleans (9/22, 105K) reports that "the federal agency that regulates offshore oil and gas drilling and production has used budget increases since the BP disaster to hire dozens of engineers and geologists, but has all but ignored an environmental enforcement division beset by understaffing and massive work backlogs." Michael Bromwich, "who created the Interior Department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to separate regulators from the influence of the oil and gas industry, set up an environmental enforcement division to make sure companies operate without damaging marine life and habitat." However, "in the three budget years since Bromwich left, government records show only two of 10 funded vacancies have been filled."

Also providing coverage is [USA Today](#) (9/23, Hammer, 5 23M).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BILL WOULD REMOVE SOME WILDLIFE STUDY AREA DESIGNATION IN NEW MEXICO. The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (9/23, 18K) reports that "legislation that would get rid of some Wilderness Study Area designations in New Mexico has been introduced" by Rep. Steve Pearce. The legislation, "introduced Sept. 10, would return some Wilderness Study Area-designated areas in Luna and Hidalgo counties to the Bureau of Land Management so they can be used for other purposes." Pearce said, "Allowing the BLM to open up these lands for multiple uses will not only benefit communities economically, but also restore habitats and watersheds, increase revenues and create jobs."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

INVESTIGATION OPENED INTO DEATHS OF 25 WALRUS ON ALASKA BEACH. The [AP](#) (9/23, 2.28M) reports that "federal prosecutors have opened a criminal investigation into the deaths of 25 Pacific walrus found last week on an isolated northwest Alaska beach." The FWS "on Wednesday received a report and photos of the dead animals found near Cape Lisburne on the Chukchi Sea about 230 miles northeast of the Bering Strait." The article notes that "initial reports indicated the walrus — 12 pups and 13 adults — had been shot," but "the agency would not speculate on the causes of death and sent two officers from its law enforcement division to investigate."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/21, Dan Joling |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/22, 455K), [BBC News](#) (9/23, 1.68M), and [UPI](#) (9/22).

TIMELINES SET FOR CONSIDERING PROTECTION FOR SEVEN AQUATIC SPECIES. The [AP](#) (9/23, 2 28M) reports that "officials have agreed on timelines for determining whether seven aquatic species from nine states will be protected under the Endangered Species Act." The species "include six fish and a freshwater mussel." They are "the ashy darter, frecklebelly madtom, longhead darter, sickle darter, trispot darter, candy darter and yellow lance mussel."

Also reporting on the story is the [Alabama Live](#) (9/23, 825K). Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/23, Press, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/23, 344K), and [WWAY-TV Wilmington \(NC\)](#) Wilmington, NC (9/22, 2K).

DECISION ON LISTING EELS ON ENDANGERED LIST EXPECTED NEXT WEEK. The [AP](#) (9/23, 2 28M) reports that "a decision from the federal government about whether to list American eels under the Endangered Species Act will likely come next week." A spokesman for the FWS says "the decision is due by the end of September and will probably arrive close to the end of the month."

FWS OPTS TO CRUSH IVORY, RATHER THAN BURN IT. [BBC News](#) (9/23, 1.68M) reports that a FWS "experiment suggested that burning ivory for a short time does not destroy it." Gavin Shire from the FWS, said that "the US chose to crush, rather than burn, one tonne of its ivory stockpile in public in June because ivory 'doesn't catch fire the way you might imagine but rather just chars on the outside.'"

GREEN SEA TURTLES HAVING RECORD YEAR. The [New York Times](#) (9/21, Gorman, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that green sea turtles are rebounding. In the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, "they are having a record year." The article notes that "researchers and students at the University of Central Florida's Marine Turtle Research Group counted 12,804 nests as of Thursday in the 13 miles of the refuge's beaches that they monitor."

SANTA ANA SUCKER CASE APPEALED TO SUPREME COURT. The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (9/23, 303K) reports that "a dozen Inland water providers that have long fought federal habitat protections for a small, algae-eating fish – the Santa Ana sucker – petitioned the United States Supreme Court on Tuesday to hear their case." The agencies claim the FWS "violated two federal environmental laws when it doubled the acreage of critical habitat – land considered crucial for recovery of a species – in 2010." They said that "the habitat designation jeopardizes numerous water capture and groundwater recharge projects planned for the Santa Ana River, from its upper reaches at the Seven Oaks Dam near Highland to Prado Dam near Corona."

Also reporting on the story are the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (9/22, 142K) and the [Courthouse News](#) (9/22, 7K).

EXPERTS CAUTION AGAINST DRAWING CONCLUSIONS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE FROM STARVING POLAR BEAR PICTURE. The [Washington Post](#) (9/22, Harvey, 6.76M) reports that "last month, wildlife photographer Kerstin Langenberger shocked the world when she revealed a horrifying photograph of a severely emaciated polar bear, shot on the Norwegian island of Svalbard." According to the article, "in a Facebook post, she expressed her concerns about the health of the Svalbard polar bears and the ways climate change might be affecting the Arctic. Her photo, visible here, quickly went viral — having been shared more than 50,000 times since then." The article notes that "when Langenberger's photo surfaced, the immediate conclusion for many people was that the starving bear was the victim of warming-induced ice-melt in the Arctic." However, "while this is possible, experts are cautioning the public not to make the image the new face of climate change just yet." Eric Regehr, a polar bear biologist with the FWS in Alaska, said, "It is not possible to attribute this animal's specific condition to climate change, without more information on the animal's history and physiology."

NMFS PROPOSES LISTING TWO TYPES OF GROUPEL. The [Greenwire](#) (9/22, Subscription Publication) reports that the National Marine Fisheries Service is "proposing to list two species of grouper under the Endangered Species Act, in its latest response to a petition from WildEarth Guardians to protect dozens of marine species." In a proposed rule, the federal agency "asserts that the gulf grouper should be listed as endangered and the island grouper as threatened."

National Park Service:

LANDMARK MUSIC FESTIVAL COULD BE BEGINNING OF END OF FREE MUSIC AT NATIONAL MALL. The [Washington Post](#) (9/23, Higham, 6.76M) reports that for the NPS, the Landmark Music Festival near the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on Saturday and Sunday could "be a windfall for the agency and for the Mall" as "more than 40 bands will perform on five stages to raise money for the Park Service, helping the agency to restore and maintain the hallowed, historic grounds, the site of some of the nation's most defining moments." However, "the concert comes at a cost" because the festival "marks the first time a section of the mall and its memorials will be cordoned off for a concert and closed to the nonpaying public." The article notes that "activists and historians who monitor the Mall say the decision to charge admission to the music festival sets a troubling precedent that could signal an end to the days of free music in the national park, ushering in an era of pricey, multi-day festivals."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (9/23, Ramanathan, 6.76M) and the [Huffington Post](#) (9/23, 164K).

NEW YORK LAWMAKERS PUSH FOR STONEWALL NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (9/21, Verena Dobnik |, Ap, 6.76M) reports that "two New York legislators are leading a campaign to designate Stonewall Inn as the first national park honoring LGBT history." Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Rep. Jerrold Nadler "made their announcement Sunday in front of the Greenwich Village tavern that was the scene of a 1969 uprising at a key moment for the nascent gay rights movement." They were "joined by other elected officials and members of the National Parks Conservation Association and the Human Rights Campaign."

GREAT RIVERS GREENWAY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPROVES SPENDING FOR ARCH GROUNDS OPERATING COSTS. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (9/23, 968K) reports that the head of a taxpayer-funded trails district has "doubled her agency's commitment to pay yearly operating costs at the newly renovated Arch grounds, acting without board approval and in the face of adverse financial projections." The NPS, "which owns the park, has estimated that figure at \$2.6 million a year." Great Rivers Greenway Executive Director Susan Trautman "agreed to split the bill with CityArchRiver, the foundation formed to raise private donations for the project."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "EVERY KID IN A PARK" INITIATIVE. Additional coverage of the "Every Kid in a Park" initiative was provided by the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/22, 46K), the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (9/21, 646), and the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/22, 1.12M).

POLITICAL LEADERS CRITICIZED FOR NOT SUPPORTING NPS. In an op-ed for the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Independent](#) (9/23, 53K), author Jim Hightower writes that "while our presidents praise America's magnificent national park system, they're not maintaining them." He acknowledges that President Obama has "proposed a 2016 'Centennial Budget' for NPS, mitigating years of destructive underfunding and calling for \$1 billion to address the backlog." However, Hightower notes that "still leaves a \$10 billion shortfall, and the sour duo of Sen. Mitch McConnell and Speaker John Boehner will oppose even that little increase for the maintenance of these invaluable public assets." Hightower concludes: "Our so-called 'leaders' are literally stripping 'service' out of the National Park Service and assuring that our national treasures will fall into acute disrepair. It's a bipartisan disgrace."

NEW LEADER OF COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT URGED TO CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/23, 73K) editorializes that "too often in the past we've seen NPS officials, both active and retired, staunchly 'protecting' the Colorado National Monument "instead of encouraging and welcoming users." The paper argues that "the goal should be making the monument part of the surrounding community instead of an island onto itself." It hopes that "Ken Mabery's appointment as permanent superintendent of the monument" will be "a change in leadership" that will provide "a natural opportunity to re-establish a community connection."

US Geological Survey:

NATIVE AMERICANS SEEK NAME CHANGE FOR WYOMING'S DEVILS TOWER. [Reuters](#) (9/22, Zuckerman) reports that spiritual leaders of the Sioux and more than a dozen Native American tribes want U.S. officials to rename Devils Tower. Chief Arvol Looking Horse, spiritual leader of the Great Sioux Nation and the head of the effort, said the name is offensive. In letters to President Barack Obama and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, Looking Horse has asked that it be renamed Bear Lodge.

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE OBAMA LOOKS FORWARD TO DISCUSSING "SHARED VALUES" WITH POPE. Pope Francis' arrival in the US and his agenda during his visit led all three network news broadcasts, which dedicated more than 22 minutes of coverage to the story and are the subject of extensive print and online reporting. While the coverage touches on a wide range of issues surrounding the Pope's visit, major themes include the issues he will highlight in his meeting with the President, as well as his address to Congress and the security preparations for the trip. The potential political impact of the Pope's visit was a subtext to much of the coverage.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/22, story 2, 1:20, Holt, 7.86M), for example, Anne Thompson noted that the Pope "knows he has the world's attention and we expect him to use it to hit" some of his favorite issues, such as climate change, immigration, and "the plight of the poor." In a report outlining the Pope's itinerary while he is in the US, the [Washington Post](#) (9/23, Boorstein, 6.76M) says that while it is "already clear that Pope Francis will speak about immigration and religious liberty during a major address at Independence Hall in Philadelphia on Saturday," his "unpredictable approach to the papacy means that 'there's just no template' for his first US visit," according to Catholic University theologian Chad Pecknold.

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/22), White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the President "is looking forward" to discussing "shared values" when they meet at the White House on Wednesday. Earnest added that the meeting is not about efforts to "advance a political agenda but rather sit down and talk about values they have in common and how the two men in the very different roles they have in the public can advance those shared values together." However, Kevin Corke reported on [Fox News Special Report](#) (9/22) that while there are many areas of agreement between the Pope and Obama, there is also significant disagreement on issues such as same-sex marriage, abortion, stem cell research, and contraception.

The [New York Times](#) (9/23, Baker, Ahmed, Yardley, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says the White House "sought to highlight the alignment between the president and the pope, while de-emphasizing areas of discord," and quotes Earnest as saying, "Both President Obama and Pope Francis have over the course of their careers demonstrated a commitment to values related to social and economic justice." [McClatchy](#) (9/23, Kumar, 28K) reports that while Earnest "did not reveal the agenda for the meeting Wednesday," he said "he would not describe it as a 'social meeting,'" adding, "When the president sits down with Pope Francis tomorrow in the Oval Office, the president will not arrive at that meeting with a political agenda. This is an opportunity for two men who have so many values in common to talk about the efforts that they are taking in their respective and quite different roles to advance those shared values."

Under the headline "Pope Of The Poor Arrives In US Denying He's A Liberal," the [AP](#) (9/23, Winfield, Zoll) says the Pope arrived in the US "denying he is a leftist." During his flight to the US, he "defended himself against conservative criticism that his condemnation of trickle-down economics makes him a communist," saying, "I am certain that I have never

said anything beyond what is in the social doctrine of the church." The Pope added that "some may have misinterpreted his writings in a way that makes him sound 'a little bit more left-leaning,' but he said that's wrong."

Noting that, upon arrival, he "climbed into the back of a little Fiat," the [AP](#) (9/23, Winfield, Zoll) also says the Pope's "choice of car was in keeping with his simple habits and his stand against consumerism," and his "decision to roll down the windows reflected his penchant for trying to connect to ordinary people despite the tight security around him." [USA Today](#) (9/23, Woodyard, 5 23M) similarly notes that the Pope, "known for being humble and unassuming, chose a car that doesn't even break the \$20,000 barrier."

In the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/22, lead story, 3:10, Holt, 7.86M), Holt said that while "the next six days offer a chance to see and touch a leader who is inspired with his humbleness and compassion and mercy," the Pope's "outspokenness on matters of world affairs ensures his visit is seen through political eyes." [USA Today](#) (9/23, Korte, 5.23M) says the Pope's visit "will have political, diplomatic and spiritual ramifications," noting that it comes "at the convergence of pivotal moments for the United States, the church, and the world." The [New York Times](#) (9/23, Baker, Ahmed, Yardley, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) describes the Pope as "determined to press the world's last superpower to do more to care for the planet and its most marginalized inhabitants," adding that there is "not a small degree of tension over his message."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/22), Wolf Blitzer characterized the Pope's Tuesday arrival in the US as "a visit by a world leader unlike one we've ever seen before," adding that it is "a first to have a president and Vice President greet the world leader" at Joint Base Andrews. The [New York Times](#) (9/23, Baker, Ahmed, Yardley, Subscription Publication, 11 82M) calls the President's "personal welcome" at Andrews "a sign of respect," noting that presidents "rarely greet foreign visitors at Andrews, instead waiting for them to make their way to the White House."

Lester Holt noted on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/22, story 9, 1:55, Holt, 7 86M) that "when the Pope arrived in Washington...he was greeted...by new generations of the American Catholics. Children selected to be among the first faces he saw as he stepped off the airplane." [AFP](#) (9/23) also reports briefly on the Pope's arrival. Scott Pelley noted on the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/22, story 8, 2:20, Pelley, 5 08M) that "There are 80 million Catholics in America, and Francis has won most of them over." A CBS News/New York Times poll showed "63 percent have a favorable opinion of him."

In a front-page story, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/23, A1, Rocca, Subscription Publication, 5 95M) reports that conservative Catholics in the US have concerns about the Pope's views on a number of issues and fear he is obscuring some of the church's fundamental teachings.

Other stories this morning cover a variety of issues surrounding the Pope's visit. For example, [USA Today](#) (9/23, Scammell, 5.23M) chronicles the evolution of the "popemobile," noting that it has "gone through numerous iterations as the Vatican has tried to balance safety, accessibility, spontaneity and technological innovation."

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (9/23, Loyd, 641K) notes that the US Conference of Bishops has chartered a Boeing 777 to transport the Pope in the US. According to the Inquirer, the FAA "has approved 'Shepherd One' as the plane's call sign," and while the "papal seal will be on the side of the aircraft," there were "no major modifications to the plane," according to American spokesman Ross Feinstein.

Another story in the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (9/23, McCabe, 641K) reports on a Philadelphia area couple who are "one of only a few couples from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia who were hand-selected to greet Francis during his historic trip Saturday morning," noting that each couple was selected "for their commitment to the Church and their dedication to the sacrament of marriage." [TIME](#) (9/23, Dias, 19 55M), meanwhile, reported on an Iraqi couple who were invited by the Pope "to participate in his Extraordinary Synod of the Bishops on the Family last year," noting that when they "attempted to travel to Philadelphia during the Pope's visit," they were "prevented due to visa restrictions given the ongoing violence in Iraq."

Earnest: "No Theological Test" Before Handing Out Tickets To Arrival Ceremony. On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/22), Earnest also discussed the guest list for the Pope's arrival ceremony, which includes a gay episcopal bishop, a transgender activist, and a nun who leads an organization that opposes the Vatican on several issues. Earnest said the attendees will include "thousands of people representing a variety of communities all across the country who are eager to welcome the Pope not just to the United States but the White House." Earnest said, "There's no theological test administered to people before they got tickets. Our goal here is to invite people just as inspired by the Pope and his message that the President himself is."

[Politico](#) (9/22, Toosi, 942K) said that while "Vatican representatives insist the pope is on a pastoral mission, his every word (most of which will be in his native Spanish) will likely be picked apart for political innuendo by both Democrats and Republicans," adding that "lawmakers and interest groups already have begun using the pontiff's visit to press their agendas, hosting rallies, sending out statements and making other public moves." On [Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor](#) (9/22, 767K), Bill O'Reilly said in his "Talking Points Memo" that "wisely, the Pope doesn't want to be used in a photo op. That might indicate passive endorsement of a point of view the President might hold." O'Reilly added, "It's obvious the Vatican is aware of President Obama's overall agenda and is not endorsing it. However, the Pope is a liberal guy."

Pope Originally Wanted To Enter US From Mexico. [USA Today](#) (9/23, Jervis, 5.23M) reports that in Cuba on Tuesday morning, the Pope celebrated a Mass "at Our Lady of Charity shrine, dedicated to Cuba's revered patron saint," and "visited Santiago's main cathedral and blessed the city," before he boarded a plane to the US. Francis "expressed admiration for Cubans who have kept the faith alive," and said, "Generation after generation, day after day, we are asked to renew our faith. We are asked to live the revolution of tenderness as Mary, our Mother of Charity, did." The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (9/23, O'Reilly, 641K) reports that during the flight, the Pope said his original plan was not "to enter the United States from Cuba," adding, "I had wanted to enter the United States through Mexico" but it "would have been too difficult to visit Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico's patron saint, 'and that would have been a slap in the face' to the Mexican people."

The [Miami Herald](#) (9/23, Mazzei, 651K) reports that Miami's archbishop Thomas Wenski left Cuba on Tuesday "after what he deemed a successful trip bringing Roman Catholic pilgrims to Havana and welcoming Pope Francis before the pontiff's arrival in the US." Wenski, who "praised Francis' 'emotional' visit," said, "The fact that he's coming to the United States from Cuba – that's a very important gesture. ... It's a bridge he's establishing, a bridge between Cuba and the United States, a bridge between Cubans in the United States and Cubans on the island."

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (9/23, Matza, 641K) profiles an "undocumented Mexican immigrant" who will be among a group of "56 pilgrims" traveling by bus "from the 25 Hispanic parishes in the Archdiocese of Mobile to Philadelphia for Saturday's epic Papal Mass on the Franklin Parkway."

Pope Says He Won't Address Cuba Embargo In Speech To Congress. A number of reports speculate on what the Pope will say during his address to Congress on Thursday. Scott Pelley reported in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/22, lead story, 3:20, Pelley, 5.08M) that "the Pope keeps his plans under his hat." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/23, Parsons, 4 07M), however, notes that "Vatican officials have hinted that Francis may use his address to both houses of Congress on Thursday...or another stop in Washington to speak about the sanctity of life and his opposition to capital punishment, issues where he is at odds with Obama."

While the [Miami Herald](#) (9/23, Wyss, 651K) says that Cubans "said they hoped Francis, who has been key to the rapprochement, might convince American politicians to dismantle the five-decade economic embargo on the island," in the lead story for [ABC World News](#) (9/22, lead story, 2 35, Muir, 5.84M), Terry Moran said the Pope on the plane ride to the US said "he would not mention the US embargo on Cuba" while addressing Congress. [Reuters](#) (9/23) similarly notes the Pope said that although he hopes the US will lift the embargo, he will not raise the issue.

[Politico](#) (9/22, Kim, 942K) noted that the Buenos Aires-born Pope "has focused much of his papacy on liberalizing immigration policies and showing compassion for migrants," adding that religious leaders expect him "to promote that message during his speech to Congress on Thursday – a theme advocates hope will be a subtle rebuke to the GOP," whose presidential primary has been characterized by a hardline tone and position toward immigration." [Roll Call](#) (9/22, Bowman, 113K) reports that federal contract workers "are hoping the pope's emphasis on economic inequality will strike a chord with members of Congress" and push them "to raise their wages and allow for union representation."

[USA Today](#) (9/23, Singer, 5 23M) reports that "the adults in Congress would like everybody to be on their best behavior" during the Pope's address, noting that Sen. Roger Wicker said, "We actually hope that we can show a little more decorum for the pope than we sometimes do at State of the Union addresses. ... It is our hope...that we can avoid the dueling ovations, the jack-in-the box standing for this or for that." Senate Minority Leader Reid "agreed that he hopes this won't happen Thursday," saying, "If there's applause during the speech, we can all applaud, but not the up-and-down stuff. I think that's not a dignified way to conduct ourselves."

Rubio: Pope's Comments On Economy Demonstrate "Fundamental Misunderstanding." On [Fox News Special Report](#) (9/22), Sen. Marco Rubio was shown explaining areas of disagreement with the Pope. Rubio said, "On moral issues he speaks with incredible authority and has done so consistently on the value of life, the sanctity of life, the importance of marriage and on the family." However, Rubio added that "on economic issues the Pope is a person and a head of state. ... I see in the Pope's comments a fundamental misunderstanding about the difference between free enterprise and corporatism."

Large-Scale Security Effort Surrounds Pope's Visit. Brian Todd reported on the security situation for [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/22), saying the "massive event" is "the biggest security event we've seen in the United States in a long, long time." In an earlier segment on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/22), Deborah Feyerick reported that while there is "no specific credible threat," when "you have somebody of the Pope's stature in town, there's an implied threat because it is such an attractive terror target for anyone who wanted to do something bad." Feyerick noted that the visit "has been designated" a "national security special event," meaning "extra resources have been thrown at this event."

Cecilia Vega reported on [ABC World News](#) (9/22, story 2, 2:30, Muir, 5.84M) about the crowds expected to follow the Pope on his visit, noting that they will "rang[e] from large to enormous. 15,000 people at the White House. 80,000 watching the Pope ride through New York's Central Park. Up to one million people for Sunday mass in Philadelphia." David Muir noted in a separate [ABC World News](#) (9/22, story 3, 1:00, Muir, 5.84M) segment that "security [is] being beefed up in the three cities the Pope will visit."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/22), Blitzer noted that the "unprecedented security surrounding" the visit "isn't just on the ground," but "also extends to US air space." Rene Marsh reported "there is a new airborne threat that's causing concern." Marsh said, "Drones and even a gyro copter have penetrated some of the most protected real estate in America." Security Analyst Don Aviv said, "This is the greatest threat because biological, chemical, even a small expl

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To:

Subject: Legislative Summary, Wednesday, September 23, 2015

Attachments: Legislative Summary-09-23-15.doc

Legislative Summary, Wednesday, September 23, 2015

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Legislative Summary
from
the Legislative Counsel
Wednesday, September 23, 2015
To: All Interested Interior Offices

Attached for your information is today's Legislative Summary.

In order to keep the Summary as up-to-date as possible, we request that any bureau or office contacted directly regarding hearings or markups notify this office immediately.

New information about scheduled hearings and business meetings appears shaded in yellow. Hearings printed in *bold italic* type indicate DOI involvement.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Joseph Nevils on (202) 208-4580, or via E-Mail (Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov).

2015 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
		No Votes October 2-5
State Work Period October 12-26	Columbus Day October 12	District Work Period October 12-19
		No Votes October 30
November 11	Veterans Day November 11	District Work Week November 6-13
State Work Period November 23-27	Thanksgiving Day November 26	District Work Week November 20-27
		No Votes December 4
		No Votes December 11-14
State Work Period December 21-31		
TBD	Target Adjournment	December 18

Scheduled Floor Action

House

Wednesday, Sept. 23, Not in Session

Thursday, Sept. 24, 8:30 a.m.

The House meets at 8:30 a.m. for legislative business and will recess immediately. At approximately 9:45 a.m., the House and Senate will hold a joint session to receive Pope Francis of the Holy See. The chamber is expected to consider measures under suspension of the rules.

Agenda

S 1707 — A bill to designate the Federal building located at 617 Walnut Street in Helena, Arkansas, as the "Jacob Trieber Federal Building, United States Post Office, and United States Court House"

S 261 — A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 200 NW 4th Street in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, as the William J. Holloway, Jr. United States Courthouse.

HR 3116 — Quarterly Financial Report Reauthorization Act

S 994 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1 Walter Hammond Place in Waldwick, New Jersey, as the "Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine Post Office Building."

HR 1442 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 90 Cornell Street in Kingston, New York, as the "Staff Sergeant Robert H. Dietz Post Office Building"

HR 322 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 16105 Swingley Ridge Road in Chesterfield, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Zachary M. Fisher Post Office"

HR 323 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 Grasso Plaza in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Sgt. Amanda N. Pinson Post Office".

HR 324 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11662 Gravois Road in St. Louis, Missouri, as the "Lt. Daniel P. Riordan Post Office".

HR 558 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 55 South Pioneer Boulevard in Springboro, Ohio, as the "Richard 'Dick' Chenault Post Office Building".

HR 1884 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 West Commercial Street in East Rochester, New York, as the "Officer Daryl R. Pierson Memorial Post Office Building".

HR 3059 — A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4500 SE 28th Street, Del City, Oklahoma, as the James Robert Kalsu Post Office Building.

Friday, Sept. 25, 9 a.m.

The House reconvenes at 9 a.m. for legislative business and is expected to consider a bill (HR 348) that would expedite the approval process of certain projects.

Agenda

HR 348 — Responsibly And Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act

Senate

Wednesday, Sept. 23, Not in Session

The Senate is not in session.

Thursday, Sept. 24

Pope Francis of the Holy See will deliver an address before a Joint Meeting of Congress at 10 a.m., after which the Senate is expected to be in session

Friday, Sept. 25

The Senate is expected to be in session

Recent Legislative Activity of Interest

Senate:

By Mr. **MORAN**:

S. 2061. A bill to designate a National Memorial to Fallen Educators at the National Teachers Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Measures Passed:

Truth in Settlements Act: Senate passed [S. 1109](#), to require adequate information regarding the tax treatment of payments under settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies

The Department has been Invited to the Following Hearings:

Tues., Sep. 29 Tribal Recognition

House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs (Young)

Subcommittee hearing on

H.R. 286 (Zinke), To extend the Federal recognition of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes; and

H.R. 872 (Wittman), To extend Federal Recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe –Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe.

Time: 2:00 pm; Room 1324 Longworth

Invitation Received 9.22.2015

Witness: Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

.....
Wed., Sept.30 Energy and the States

House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Respecting State Authority, Responsibilities, and Expertise Regarding Resource Management and Energy Development

10:00 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth

Hearing Noticed 9.22.15

DOI witness not yet determined

.....

Oct., 7

Indian Affairs Lands Bills

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (Barrasso)

Full Committee hearing on

S. 817 (Wyden), A bill to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon

S. 818 (Wyden), A bill to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections

S. 1436 (Reid), A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes

S. 1761 (Boxer), A bill to take certain Federal land located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria

S. 1822 (Boxer), A bill to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

S. 1986 (Reid), A bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada

H.R. 387 (Ruiz), To provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians

Time TBD; Room SD-628 Dirksen

Witness: Larry Roberts, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs



Tentative Hearings:

Tues., Sept. 29 Endangered Species Act Implementation

***Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Inhofe)*
Full committee oversight hearing on ESA implementation**

Time and Location TBD
Potential witness: TBD

.....
Thurs., Oct.1 Soda Ash

***Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining (Barrasso)*
Subcommittee legislative hearing on yet to be introduced soda ash royalty relief legislation**

2:30 p.m.; Room TBD
Potential witness TBD

.....
Thurs., Oct.8 Drought Legislation

***Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)*
Full Committee legislative hearing on drought related bills**

10:00 a.m.; Room TBD
Potential witness TBD

.....
Thurs., Oct.1 Miscellaneous Legislation

***Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining (Barrasso)*
Subcommittee legislative hearing on yet to be determined legislation**

2:30 p.m.; Room TBD
Potential witness TBD
.....

Tues. Oct.20 **Confirmation Hearing**
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)
Confirmation hearing on nomination of:
 Kris Sarri to be Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget;

 Suzette Kimball to be Director of the U.S. Geological Survey; and

 DOE nominee(s)

10:00 a.m.; Room TBD
Potential witness TBD

Tues., Oct.27 **Stream Protection Rule**

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)
Full Committee oversight hearing on Stream Protection Rule
10:00 a.m.; Room TBD

Potential witness TBD

POSTPONEMENTS



Hearings of Interest:

Thurs., Sep 24 Marine National Monuments

House Natural Resources S/C on Water, Power and Oceans (Fleming)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on The Potential Implications of Pending Marine National Monument Designations

10:00 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth

No request for DOI witness

Thurs., Sep 24 Federal Forest Management

House Natural Resources S/C on Federal Lands (McClintock)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on State, Local and Tribal Approaches to Forest Management: Lessons for Better Management of our Federal Forests

10:30 a.m.; Room 1334 Longworth

No request for DOI witness

Thurs., Sep 24 Intelligence and Cybersecurity Issues

Senate Select Intelligence Committee (Burr)

Full Committee oversight hearing on national security issues

2:30 p.m.; Room SH-219 Hart

No request for DOI witness

Wed., Sep 30 Great Lakes Restoration

House Transportation and Infrastructure S/C on Water Resources and Environment (Gibbs)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: A Review of the Progress and Challenges in Restoring the Great Lakes

10:00 a.m.; Room 3167 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

Date TBD Public and Private Sector Cybersecurity

House Science, Space and Technology S/C on Research and Technology (Cornstock) and S/C on Oversight (Loudermilk)

Joint Subcommittee oversight hearing on Cyber Security: What the Federal Government Can Learn From the Private Sector

Time TBD: 2318 Rayburn

No request for DOI witness

Status of DOI Testimony
March 23, 2016

Bureau/Preparer	Witness	Committee	Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor	OCL Attorney	Date of Hearing	Date CLC Notified	Due to OMB	Bureau Notified	Date Due to CLC	Date Rec'd in CLC
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**The following requests for comments have been received
Tuesday, September 22, 2015**

**HRG #139 LABOR Oversight Testimony 9/29/15
Re: Fair Pay and Safe Workplace
(4 pages)
DUE 9/22/15 Atty: Josh Mahan**

**HRG #139 OMB Oversight Testimony 9/29/15
Re: Fair Pay and Safe Workplace
(3 pages)
DUE 9/22/15 Atty: Josh Mahan**

**S. 2021 OMB Request for Views
Re: Fair Chance Act
(16 pages)
DUE 9/24/15 Atty: Pam Barkin**

**HRG #119 INTERIOR (NPS) Questions for the Record from 7/23/15 Hearing
Re: Modernizing the National Park Service Concession Program
(3 pages)
DUE 9/25/15 Atty: Pam Barkin**

Conversation Contents

September 21 -- Greenwire is ready

E&E Publishing <ealerts@eenews.net>

From: E&E Publishing <ealerts@eenews.net>
Sent: Mon Sep 21 2015 11:19:47 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov
Subject: September 21 -- Greenwire is ready

[Read today's Greenwire on the web](#)

AN E&E PUBLISHING SERVICE

GREENWIRE — Mon., September 21, 2015

[READ FULL EDITION](#)

1. ENERGY POLICY:

Industry execs pressed Okla. governor on message -- emails

Two well-known energy executives pressed Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin (R) to pay more attention to coal and oil in her public remarks, according to emails obtained by *Greenwire*.

TOP STORIES

2. ENDANGERED SPECIES

Listing decision for sage grouse coming tomorrow

3. NEWSMAKER

Cowboy is likely pick to lead BLM's embattled Nev. office

4. FEDERAL AGENCIES

IGs burdened by budget, bureaucracy -- survey

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18. CALIFORNIA

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E&E TV'S ONPOINT

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DOE's Greenwald discusses path to double energy productivity

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Greenwire is written and produced by the staff of E&E Publishing, LLC. The one-stop source for those who need to stay on top of all of today's major energy and environmental action with an average of more than 20 stories a day, Greenwire covers the complete spectrum, from electricity industry restructuring to Clean Air Act litigation to public lands management. Greenwire publishes daily at 1 p.m.

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, September 18, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Fri Sep 18 2015 05:02:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, September 18, 2015

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL HAILS \$940 MILLION LANDMARK SETTLEMENT WITH TRIBES. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/17, 705) reports that the Interior Department has "proposed a \$940 million settlement to make up for discrepancies between what the U.S. government promised to pay tribes to provide federal services on their own lands and what they actually were paid – a gap at the center of a more than two-decade-old class-action lawsuit." The lawyers "representing the 645 tribal plaintiffs agreed to the deal filed yesterday in U.S. District Court in Albuquerque, N.M." If a judge agrees, "and barring a legal appeal, payments could start rolling out in the next year." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "hailed the agreement as another landmark victory for the Obama administration in Indian Country." The article notes that "with the proposed settlement, Interior is resolving claims from contracts between 1994 and 2013, but the problem dates back to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/17, 213K) reports that Jewell said, "This landmark settlement represents another important step in the Obama administration's efforts to turn the page on past challenges in our government-to-government relationship with tribes." She added that "tribal self-determination and self-governance will continue to be our 'North Star' as the federal government works to assist tribes in running their own reservations and lands."

The [AP](#) (9/17) reports that Kevin Washburn, the Interior Department's Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, said, "When the plaintiffs in this case forced the administration to confront an issue that had festered for decades, the administration embraced the principle that the plaintiffs won in court. We have fully funded these costs ever since."

Additional coverage was provided by [South Dakota Public Broadcasting](#) (9/18, 4K), [The Ada News](#) (9/17, 23K), [NBC](#) Las Vegas (9/17, 12K), [ABC Nebraska](#) Lincoln, NE (9/17, 2K), [Law 360](#) (9/17, 21K), the [Tulsa World](#) (9/18, 364K), [CJ Online](#) (9/16, 109K), [SW OK News](#) (9/17, 60K), [Lake Powell News](#) (9/17), the [Native American Times](#) (9/17, 337), [KRWG \(Local NPR\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (9/17, 1K), [Interior](#) (9/17, 22K), [Ramah Navajo Chapter](#) (9/17), [Oglala Sioux Tribe](#) (9/17), [Zuni Pueblo](#) (9/17), [Class Counsel](#) (9/17), and [Q+A](#) (9/17).

Also providing coverage are the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/18, Press, Subscription Publication, 5.95M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (9/18, Hudetz, 1.19M), the [Idaho State Journal](#) (9/18, 59K), [Al Jazeera America](#) (9/18, 109K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/18, 5.59M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/18, 2.28M), [US News & World Report](#) (9/17, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/18, Mary Hudetz |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/18, Hudetz, 344K), the [Oklahoman](#) (9/18, 408K), the [Olympian \(WA\)](#) (9/18, 78K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/18, 259K), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (9/17, 2K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (9/17, 28K), [ABC News](#) (9/18, 3.97M), [Yahoo! News](#) (9/18, Hudetz, 5.98M), [Courthouse News](#) (9/17, 7K), [Reuters](#) (9/17, Dobuzinskis), the [Native American Times](#) (9/18, 337), [ENews Park Forest](#) (9/18, 2K), the [Law 360](#) (9/18, 21K), the [Law 360](#) (9/18, 21K), [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (9/17), [KXAN-TV Austin \(TX\)](#) Austin, TX (9/17, 150K), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (9/17, 1K), and [WLUC-TV Marquette \(MI\)](#) Marquette, MI (9/18, 14K).

SECRETARY JEWELL DECLINES TO TESTIFY ON GOLD KING MINE SPILL. The [Daily Caller](#) (9/17, Bastasch, 375K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "refusing to testify before Congress about her department's ongoing investigation of the massive toxic mine spill caused by EPA workers last month." According to the article, "despite an invitation Republican lawmakers to get Jewell to come before the committee Thursday to testify on the Interior's investigation, the former CEO of REI has declined." Instead, the article notes, "Jewell's staffers sent an unsigned statement to House lawmakers."

Legislation Would Compensate Native Americans Affected By Spill. The [E&E Daily](#) (9/17, Subscription Publication) reports that "New Mexico Democratic Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich plan to introduce legislation to help compensate American Indians affected by last month's spill from a Colorado abandoned mine." During a hearing of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, Udall said a new law is necessary "to separately guide the compensation process through a dedicated office at EPA." Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye said his tribe "was disrupted through the negligence" of EPA, and during the hearing, he called the spill an "injustice" and demanded compensation.

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the spill was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (9/18, Bastasch, 375K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/18, 492K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (9/17, 28K), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (9/18, 213K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (9/18, Paul, 787K), the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (9/18, 44K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/18, 259K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (9/18, Brown, 5.98M).

CRITICS BLAME FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT FOR WILDFIRES. [Fox News](#) (9/17, 8.91M) reports that "wildfires are continuing to plague drought-stricken California and federal funding to fight them has dried up like parched El Dorado County farmland, leading critics to say the real problem lies nearly 3,000 miles away, in Washington." Some experts "believe more private ownership of land would divert the responsibility and cost from taxpayers." Chris Edwards, director of tax policy studies at public policy think tank the CATO Institute, said, "The federal government has shown itself to be a poor steward of its massive land holdings. The issues with Western lands are far too complex and sensitive for far-away politicians and bureaucrats in Washington to be able to solve."

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (9/18, Ridler) reports that "a high-tech drone is spending a week flying over a west-central Idaho wildfire to see if it's capable of supplying real-time information that incident commanders can use when directing ground-based firefighters and manned aircraft."

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/18, 265K), the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (9/18, 13K) and [Fierce Homeland Security](#) (9/18, Sarkar).

DEADLINE LOOMS FOR LWCF REAUTHORIZATION. The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Warrick, 6.76M) reports that the Land and Water Conservation Fund is "set to go away in less than two weeks, and Congressional dithering is to blame," according to House Democrats. They claim that "the Congressional majority is making no move to reauthorize the fund, despite its history of broad support among both political parties for half a century." Several Democrats "took to the House floor on Wednesday night to call on leaders of the House Natural Resources Committee to allow a vote on reauthorizing the program."

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (9/18, 69K).

NPS Can Use LWCF Grants To Turn Inholdings Into Public Land. The [Atlantic](#) (9/17, 2.69M) reports that "many national parks are dotted with 'inholdings': private land contained within a larger public shell." However, "the government has some ability to turn inholdings into national parkland" because "if a seller is willing, the National Park Service can use grants from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund to purchase available land." The article notes that "a new map from the Center for Western Priorities... reveals how much national parkland has been purchased with funds in the past half-century."

Additional coverage of the map was provided by the [Greenwire](#) (9/17, Subscription Publication) and the [Cherry Creek \(CO\) News](#) (9/17).

Congress Urged to Renew LWCF. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (9/18, Arce, 471K), Maite Arce, president & CEO of the Hispanic Access Foundation, writes that "for elected officials looking at how to best engage, gain support from and represent the Latino community, LWCF provides a crucial opportunity to do so." According to Arce, "LWCF has been instrumental in creating, protecting and providing access to public lands not just for the Latino community, but also for everyone across the nation – and at no cost to taxpayers." Arce concludes, "It's time for Republicans and Democrats to fortify the bipartisan promise made to protect America's public lands, water resources and cultural heritage. It's time for Congress to reauthorize and dedicate full funding to LWCF."

APPROPRIATORS URGED TO MAINTAIN CONSERVATION FUNDING. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/17, 705) reports that "more than 100 organizations have signed onto a letter urging

House and Senate head appropriators to maintain mandatory conservation funding set aside in the 2014 farm bill." The groups are "protesting conservation-program cuts in the House and Senate fiscal 2016 agriculture appropriations bills, decisions that exacerbate the already-steep reductions to water quality, soil health and wildlife efforts in the 2014 farm bill." The letter said that in passing the last farm bill, Congress "consolidated or eliminated nearly a dozen conservation programs and reduced mandatory funding by \$4 billion, with sequestration scheduled to cut an additional \$2 billion." It stated, "The House and Senate Agriculture Committees did their part to reduce federal spending and did so voluntarily. The cuts contained in the new farm bill were real, serious, and deep."

SALT LAKE CITY MAYOR BECKER LAUNCHES INITIATIVE URGING KIDS TO CONNECT WITH NATURE. [KUER-FM](#) Salt Lake City (9/17, 4K) reports that "Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker wants to get children outdoors and inspire a new generation of environmental stewards." Sixth graders of the Pacific Heritage Academy and Curious George joined Becker Thursday "to announce his new program, SLC Kids Explore." The article notes that "it's linked to a national initiative recently unveiled by U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell."

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/17, 407K) reports that "Becker launched the program to challenge local youths and their parents to spend at least 30 minutes a day outdoors for a 30-day period." The mayor said, "We must nurture a populace with a personal relationship to nature and a sense of responsibility for their and our environment. By creating this program, we are opening the door to helping Salt Lake City youth connect with nature in a direct and meaningful way."

Also providing coverage is [KUTV-TV](#) Salt Lake City (9/18, 58K).

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM STILL MIGHT RETURN TO RFK LAND DESPITE NEIGHBORS' OPPOSITION. [Hill Now \(DC\)](#) (9/17) reports that "the organization managing the RFK Stadium campus has not ruled out a proposal to bring the Redskins back to the property despite significant resistance last night from locals who live nearby." However, "in order for the Redskins to make their home on the RFK Stadium grounds again, the team would need approval from the National Park Service, which owns the land." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said "earlier this year that the Obama administration isn't inclined to let the Redskins build a new stadium on the property unless the team has a new name."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/18, O'Connell, 6.76M).

BOMBAY HOOK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HONORED ON NEW QUARTER. The [AP](#) (9/18, 2.28M) reports that the U.S. Mint is honoring the Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge with a new coin. Officials from the Mint and the FWS are set to launch the new "quarter at a ceremony Friday at the refuge visitor center Smyrna." The article notes that "members of Delaware's congressional delegation are scheduled to be on hand, along with Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe, and former Delaware Congressman Michael Castle."

REPORT BLASTS CONGRESS FOR DISRUPTING EXECUTIVE BRANCH. The [E&E Daily](#) (9/17, Subscription Publication) reports that "a new report blasts dysfunction and partisanship on Capitol Hill for disrupting the management and operation of federal agencies." The study by the Partnership for Public Service "comes as ongoing budget battles in Congress could again shut down the federal government, with funding set to run out at the end of this month." The article notes that "agency managers have to check their shutdown contingency plans to keep vital functions running if they have to close their doors and pick who on their staff will and will not be sent home on furlough." According to the partnership, "the never-ending funding crises in Congress that have resulted in significant cuts under sequestration, rancor over raising the debt ceiling and the 2013 government shutdown have not helped the executive branch."

LAWMAKERS TAKE FIELD TRIP THROUGH UTAH. The [AP](#) (9/18, 2.28M) reports that "state lawmakers floated the Colorado River and hiked into Arches National Park in eastern Utah on Thursday as part of a two-day field trip in which legislators heard from local officials in tourism and counties that depend on energy development." According to Rep. Jim Dunningan, "the trips help lawmakers understand how vital tourism is to the Moab area and the impact more visitors and federal regulations are having on the local economy."

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/18, 407K) reports that "even as angst continues to dominate the discussions over a potential monument designation in Utah — for proponents and foes alike — one county is eagerly pursuing a new national park and monument as part of a congressional lands bill." Rep. Rob Bishop's "public lands initiative process for Emery County includes a new national park designation, a new national monument and permanent wilderness status for seven current wilderness study areas." According to the article, "on the final leg of a two-day trip through multiple rural Utah counties, more than 60 Utah legislators were briefed Thursday about Emery County's part in the congressional lands bill, and why it is so important."

INTERIOR CRITICIZED FOR MISMANAGING RESOURCES. In an op-ed for the [Waynesboro \(VA\) News Virginian](#) (9/17, 28K), Brian Carlton, the managing editor of the News Virginian, writes that "Tuesday's announcement by U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell that the Bureau of Land Management needed more money wasn't surprising." But he says that "the announcement that the department doesn't have enough resources to inspect high-risk oil and natural gas wells" is "a problem." According to Carlton, "like many federal problems, it's not a question of needing more money. It's about not knowing how to spend what you've got."

PUBLIC LANDS AGENCIES THANKED. In an op-ed for the [Moab \(UT\) Sun News](#) (9/18), Jeanne von Zastrow writes that "it's always easy to complain and criticize the government," but she wants to give a "shout out" of "well done" to the Forest Service, BLM and "our national parks and give them a big thanks for their work on keeping our world-class public lands protected and accessible to multiple uses for the enjoyment of all." According to von Zastrow, "we need new, radical collaboration between government, foundations, universities and the public for innovative ideas and more 'out of the office and in the field' personnel/ volunteers to protect Utah's greatest treasures."

Empowering Native American Communities:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN DISCUSSES HOT ISSUES IN INTERVIEW. In an interview with the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (9/17, 32K), Kevin K. Washburn, Assistant Secretary — Indian Affairs, discussed "hot topics in Indian country like: reformed federal recognition rules, Cobell, Oak Flat, Land in Trust and more." Looking ahead to the future, Washburn said: "The President has committed us to preparing Indian country for the future, by expanding tribal self-governance, restoring tribal homelands, supporting Native youth and confronting climate change. We're focused on running through the finish line on everything from land into trust, to the right-of-way regulations, to the Indian Child Welfare Act regulations. We're going to move forward with other regulatory initiatives that will be dependent on future administrations to finish. Our hope is that the House Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs focus on legislative priorities, including, of course, a Carcieri fix, and other bills that restore tribal homelands and promote tribal self-governance. There's only so much that we can do administratively to support tribes. Congress needs to do its part. The HEARTH Act was a major accomplishment for the past Congress. Our hope is that the current Committees can build off that and work to make even greater progress for Indian country. We also are working through numerous initiatives with individual tribes. Deputy Assistant Secretary Ann Marie Bledsoe Downes is working hard to develop and staff the White House Council on Native American Affairs so that it becomes a permanent part of the federal landscape. The White House Council engages nearly all of the federal agencies in Indian country work and insures that the trust responsibility is shared across the federal government."

INTERIOR LOSES BID TO DISMISS TRIBAL TRUST ACCOUNTING LAWSUIT. [Law 360](#) (9/18, 21K) reports that "a Washington, D.C., federal court on Thursday denied the U.S. Department of the Interior's bid to dismiss a suit launched by 10 Native American tribes, finding that it has jurisdiction to hear a dispute alleging the agency neglected accounting rules for the tribes' trusts." U.S. District Judge Thomas F. Hogan "rejected arguments that the tribes' claims for relief are monetary damages in disguise and found that they are within the Administrative Procedure Act's sovereign immunity waiver."

ABOUT 100 WORKERS FURLOUGHED AT CHUKCHANSI GOLD. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/18, 265K) reports that "about 100 workers at Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino lost their jobs this week after federal regulators learned about a conflict between tribal gaming officials and the tribal council." The article notes that "also this week, two of the three tribal gaming commissioners and the commission's executive director submitted their resignations, saying the tribal council was trying to usurp their authority." The recent "developments heightened concerns by federal officials over whether the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians should be allowed to reopen the casino, now closed for nearly one year."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE QUINALT INDIAN NATION AMONG NEW TRIBES JOINING LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. Additional coverage that "the Quinalt Indian Nation will receive \$19 million from the federal government to buy back land" was provided by the [Daily World \(WA\)](#) (9/18, 1K).

Office of Insular Affairs:

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM OPENS RENOVATED FITNESS CENTER. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (9/16, 61K) reports that "there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 16 for the University of Guam Calvo Field House Triton Fitness Center." In his opening remarks, Keith Aughenbaugh, grants management specialist at the U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs, said, "I've seen it progress from not so good to wonderful." The article notes that "the renovations are just the first phase of a two-phase, \$3 million project funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the University of Guam capital improvement project fund to update the UOG Calvo Field House."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Pacific News Center](#) (9/17).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

YUROK TRIBE WITHDRAWING FROM KLAMATH AGREEMENTS. The [Siskiyou \(CA\) Daily News](#) (9/17, 16K) reports that "the Yurok Tribe has issued a notice that it is withdrawing from the two Klamath River agreements signed by a number of parties five years ago in an effort to remove dams on the river and bring in targeted funding to the basin." The article notes that "the agreements – the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement and the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement – created a framework for the possible removal of four dams on the Klamath River and a series of restoration programs, respectively." A press release stated, "Unfortunately, Congress has failed to pass legislation authorizing the agreements, and over time the bargained for benefits of the agreements have become unachievable. The Tribe is left with no choice other than to withdraw from the Klamath Agreements."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM MOVES TO LEASE NORTH CAROLINA WATERS FOR WIND ENERGY. The [Greenwire](#) (9/17, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department announced Thursday that "it completed its environmental review of plans to lease up to 308,000 acres of federal waters off North Carolina for commercial wind farm development." The BOEM "released a revised environmental assessment that concluded the leasing plan would have no significant impacts on the ocean or its users." The bureau will "next decide whether to issue one or more commercial leases within three wind energy areas including a 122,000-acre site about 28 miles off the coast of Kitty Hawk and two additional areas of 52,000 acres and 134,000 acres beginning about 12 miles off Cape Fear."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (9/18, 354K), the [Carteret County \(NC\) News-Times](#) (9/18, 28K), the [Carteret County \(NC\) News-Times](#) (9/18, 28K), the [Coastal Review](#) (9/18), and [reNews](#) (9/18).

Onshore Energy Development:

CONSERVATION GROUP SAYS SAGE GROUSE PROTECTION, DRILLING CAN COEXIST. The [Greenwire](#) (9/17, Subscription Publication) reports that "priority greater sage grouse habitat in proposed federal grouse conservation plans rarely overlaps with areas deemed viable for oil and natural gas development and should have little to no impact on the industry, according to an analysis of the plans from a government watchdog group." The analysis by the Western Values Project was "immediately criticized as 'incomplete and misleading' by oil and gas industry leaders." Industry groups claim that "the sweeping federal directives amending dozens of Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service land-use plans to adopt grouse protections across millions of acres in 10 states would negatively affect fossil fuel development on public lands." Western Values Project, however, says "its latest analysis is meant to discredit those claims just days before BLM and the Forest Service are expected to finalize the plans."

Also reporting on the story is [The Hill](#) (9/17, Henry, 471K).

Colorado Seeks Approval Of Sage Grouse Protection Measure. The [AP](#) (9/18, 2 28M) reports that "Colorado asked the federal government Thursday to approve a habitat exchange that would let energy companies and others offset damage to the habitat of the greater sage grouse by financing improvements elsewhere." According to the article, "the proposal — a key part of the state's effort to protect the birds — was made by Gov. John Hickenlooper to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management as a way to mitigate habitat damage from oil and gas drilling and other development." The article notes that "other states have proposed similar exchanges in hopes of keeping the sage grouse from being listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act, which would trigger tougher conservation rules."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/18, Elliott, 344K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (9/18, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Denver \(CO\) Business Journal](#) (9/18, Subscription Publication, 41K), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (9/17, 79K).

HEARING HELD ON STREAM PROTECTION RULE IN CHARLESTON. The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (9/17) reports that "more than 100 people filled an auditorium at the Charleston Civic Center Thursday night to voice their opposition or support for the newly proposed Stream Protection Rule, created by the federal Office of Surface Mining." According to the article, "the comments during Thursday's meeting were less about specifics and more about people's interpretations of how the rule would effect their jobs, West Virginia's economy and the country's electricity supply." And "at times, the meeting was more about theatrics than substance."

[WVVA-TV](#) Bluefield, WV (9/17, 45K) reports that "85 people spoke against the federal proposed Stream Protection Rule." Harry Payne, Chief of Division of Regulatory Support, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, said, "Certainly we are as concerned about job impact as the people that are impacted directly. One of the reasons we're here is to get comments. If there are any aspects of the rule that they think we can change or revise in a way that will reduce that impact, we welcome those, we want to hear those. While at the same time we are ensuring that the people who live here for generations to come have clean water to drink, fish and swim in."

The [Morgantown \(WV\) Dominion Post](#) (9/18, 52K) reports that "the Coal Forum held a special pro-coal rally at the Civic Center Thursday, Sept. 17, before a public hearing staged by the U.S. Office of Surface Mining regarding a new 6,000-plus Stream Protection Rule."

Additional coverage was provided by the [West Virginia MetroNews](#) (9/17, 6K), the [Bluefield \(WV\) Daily Telegraph](#) (9/18, 45K), the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (9/17), the [Bluefield \(WV\) Daily Telegraph](#) (9/18, 45K), the [Huntington News Network](#) (9/18, 479), and [Williamson \(WV\) Daily News](#) (9/18, 1K).

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON MASTER LEASING PLAN. The [Moab \(UT\) Times-Independent](#) (9/18) reports that "in an effort to expand public comment on its draft Moab Master Leasing Plan (MLP), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is hosting an open house Sept. 23." BLM officials said "the 900,000-acre MLP will guide local public lands planning 15 years into the future and provides ground rules for BLM decisions regarding new leases for oil, gas and potash development." Megan Crandall, Utah BLM's external affairs chief, said, "[The MLP was launched] to address a leasing system that was close to the breaking point with nearly half of all proposed parcels receiving community protests and a substantial proportion resulting in litigation. The plans establish a framework for determining which areas are appropriate for responsible exploration and development of oil and gas resources while protecting the area's conservation resources. The reforms were designed to encourage stakeholder input early in the planning process, which reduces protests and litigation and provides developers with greater certainty."

KANSAS EARTHQUAKES FALL WITH INJECTION RESTRICTIONS BUT DATA INSUFFICIENT TO PINPOINT CAUSE. The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (9/18, Hart, 109K) reports that on comment from U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Justin Rubinstein, who spoke in Lawrence on Wednesday to representatives from the Kansas Geological Survey and the Kansas Corporation Commission. According to the article, "the number of earthquakes has fallen since the KCC issued an order in March restricting the amount of saltwater that could be injected in Sumner and Harper counties, Rubinstein said, but there isn't yet enough data to pinpoint the order as the cause."

Offshore Energy Development:

NBC ANALYSIS SHELL PLACING BIG BET ON ARCTIC OIL. [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/17, story 10, 3 20, Holt, 7.86M) broadcast the final part of its series on "the melting American Arctic," where Royal Dutch Shell "is placing a bet that no other oil company's making right now." NBC reports that so far, Shell has spent \$7 billion "looking for oil without a barrel to show for it." NBC added, "Some say up to 13 percent of the world's undiscovered oil is in the Arctic and with climate change and more and more melting ice, that oil is now more accessible than ever. But locals here are divided about drilling." NBC broadcast footage from Shell's Alaska operations and spoke with Shell Oil President Marvin Odum on Shell's emergency fleet and rapid response capabilities, as well as interviewing some residents opposed to the drilling.

[NBC News](#) (9/18, 3.73M) also covered the story on its website, reporting that Odum "Said Shell believes in man-made global warming, but that shouldn't put the Arctic off limit." NBC reports that "even as the U.S. shifts to alternative energy sources, it will still need to pump or import oil for decades, he said."

"If it's done in the U.S. waters then we can control how it's done," he said. "And we can be sure it's done the right way."

Royal Dutch Shell CEO: Arctic Production Likely To Occur Nearer To 2030. Drawing on Royal Dutch Shell CEO Ben van Beurden's interview with the BBC, which was published Thursday, the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (9/18, Connelly, 560K) reports that van Beurden "says oil development in Arctic waters is not a sure thing, and that a great deal rests with what the drilling rig Polar Pioneer finds during an exploration season fast approaching its end." The article notes that van Beurden said he does not see sanctioning a project before 2020, and expects production to occur nearer to 2030.

[Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/18, 219K) reports that van Beurden "also used the BBC interview to defend Shell's Arctic efforts against environmental critics." Said van Beurden, "I think ultimately the world needs energy. ... Fossil fuels will have a role to play simply because there is not an alternative available in sufficient quantities within the timetable we are talking about."

[KGW-TV](#) Portland, OR (9/17, 6:37 p.m. PDT, 200K) also broadcast coverage of the story.

BOEM Tells Shell To Stick To Deadlines. The [EnergyWire](#) (9/17, Subscription Publication) reports that "Royal Dutch Shell PLC began this year's Arctic drilling season by formally asking federal regulators to give the company a little more time to probe into the oil zone at its Chukchi Sea leases." However, the BOEM told Shell "to stick to the deadlines spelled out in the company's exploration plan, approved by the government in May." The article notes that "under that plan, Shell must pull out of the hydrocarbon-laden rock at the drill site by Sept. 28 but can continue to drill top holes at the company's Burger prospect." Also, "all rigs and support vessels must clear out of the region by late October."

Group Files FOIA Request For Communications Related To Shell's Arctic Drilling Permit. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/17, 705) reports that the Institute for Energy Research's on Thursday "asked the federal government for records of any communications with environmentalists regarding the permitting of Royal Dutch Shell PLC to drill in the Arctic Ocean this summer." The group's Freedom of Information Act request "seeks to 'better understand the reasoning and potential influences' behind permitting decisions that hindered Shell's oil exploration, said ER President Thomas Pyle."

Actors Join "Funny Or Die" Production Team On Greenpeace Ship For Series On Arctic Threats. The [AP](#) (9/18, Joling) reports that actors have joined "a Greenpeace ship in the Greenland Sea with a team from the Funny or Die production company to make a comedy series focused on industrial threats to the Arctic." The actors are Alexander Skarsgard of "True Blood" and Jack McBrayer of "30 Rock," and they joined by Andy Bichlbaum of "The Yes Men" activists. The article also notes other actors opposing Arctic drilling, including Ted Danson and Sam Waterston of "Law and Order."

Shell Executives Make Case For Arctic Drilling To Seattle Business Leaders. The [Puget Sound \(WA\) Business Journal](#) (9/18, Wilhelm, Subscription Publication, 59K) reports that Shell Oil "will spend \$317 million with Seattle-area businesses and state entities over the next two years, according to" an analysis presented to business leaders at a breakfast event on Thursday. Findings were presented by "Shell executives and Alaska consultant McDowell Group," who made a case "for the value of Shell's activities in Seattle." Mark Guadagnini, Shell vice president of Arctic maritime and logistics, spoke at the event about Shell's drilling in the Arctic, and "said the Shell rig 'Polar Pioneer,' which attracted the most attention from protesters while it was in Seattle, is now drilling 'very successfully' in Alaska's Chukchi Sea."

Foss Maritime CEO: Environmental Values Are Not Comprised By Servicing Shell's Oil Rig. The [Puget Sound \(WA\) Business Journal](#) (9/18, Wilhelm, Subscription Publication, 59K) reports that Foss Maritime "continues to fight for the right to service a controversial Arctic oil rig" for Shell at the Port of Seattle's Terminal 5. In comments to a gathering of "100 maritime industrial leaders supportive of Shell Oil and its controversial drilling program north of the Arctic Circle" on Thursday in Seattle, Foss CEO Paul Stevens "said Foss' environmental values are not compromised by servicing the rig for Shell." Stevens "said he believes the operation can be done safely." The article adds that "while operating the West Seattle terminal where the rig is serviced when it's not in the Arctic, Foss this year will spend about \$70 million with 'hundreds of vendors' to support the oil rig, which it said was bringing family wage jobs to people who work with their hands."

BEACH COMMUNITIES OPPOSE OFFSHORE DRILLING. [WHQR-FM](#) Wilmington, NC (9/18) reports that "beach communities from New Jersey to Florida have passed resolutions against" offshore drilling and seismic testing. The article focuses on Kure Beach, where "seismic testing and the potential for offshore drilling has galvanized strong opposition."

The [Coastal Observer \(SC\)](#) (9/18) reports that "Pawleys Island Town Council voted this week to oppose oil drilling off the South Carolina coast," but "it didn't mention natural gas."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FIELD HEARING ON GULF OFFSHORE ACTIVITY. Additional coverage of the House Committee on Natural Resources' oversight hearing in New Orleans "on the current state of offshore oil and gas activity in the Gulf of Mexico" was provided by the [Maritime Executive](#) (9/18, 21).

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM BEGINS ROUNDUP IN WEST DOUGLAS HERD AREA. The [AP](#) (9/18, 2.28M) reports that "almost two dozen horses are in Bureau of Land Management custody after the first day of a roundup in northwest Colorado's West Douglas Herd Area." U.S. District Judge Christopher Cooper held Wednesday that the BLM was "allowed to manage the herd, calling potential harm from the roundup 'minimal.'" BLM spokesman Christopher Joyner said that "all the horses looked healthy as they were baited and trapped."

Additional coverage of the round up of West Douglas wild horses was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (9/18, 787K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/18, 344K), the [Courthouse News](#) (9/17, 7K), [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (9/17, 222K), and [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (9/17, 222K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS CONSIDERING PROTECTIONS FOR NINE SPECIES. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/18, 535K) reports that "the tricolored blackbird, a species whose numbers have plunged in the Central Valley, has been included as one of nine species that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will consider listing as endangered." The decision by the FWS "to consider listing the tricolored blackbird begins a lengthy process that starts Friday with a 90-day public comment period that ends Nov. 17." The FWS said Thursday "it is also considering listing the California spotted owl, Inyo Mountains salamander, Kern Plateau salamander, lesser slender salamander, limestone salamander, Panamint alligator lizard, Shasta salamander and the southern rubber boa."

Also providing coverage is the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (9/17, 626K).

FWS To Consider Protections For California Spotted Owl. The [AP](#) (9/18, 2.28M) reports that "wildlife officials say they'll consider granting California's spotted owl protection under the federal Endangered Species Act." The FWS said "this week that a petition wildlife advocates filed late last year deserves further investigation." According to the article, "organizations including the John Muir Project seek the owl's protection, saying that the logging of forest trees that have been burned in wildfires is driving the owls to extinction."

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (9/18, Subscription Publication, 3.35M) and [KDRV-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (9/18, 671).

Two Salamanders In Oregon, Washington May Qualify For Protection. The [AP](#) (9/18) reports that the FWS says "two salamanders in Oregon and Washington may qualify for Endangered Species Act protection." The article notes that "the findings on Tuesday about the Cascade torrent salamander and Columbia torrent salamander mean the agency will initiate full status reviews for the species to see if they warrant protection." The move comes "in response to a petition by the Center for Biological Diversity."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/18, 2.28M) and [KATU-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (9/18, 134K).

Butterfly Found In Arkansas A Possibility For Endangered List. The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (9/18, 297K) reports that the FWS is "considering adding a butterfly found in Arkansas to the endangered-species list, the agency announced Thursday." The agency will "now gather scientific and commercial information on the status of the orange and black regal fritillary to decide whether it should be listed as threatened or endangered or remain unprotected."

FWS Rejects Petition To Delist Stephens' Kangaroo Rat. The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (9/18, 303K) reports that "federal wildlife officials on Thursday, Sept. 17, announced they have rejected a petition from the Riverside County Farm Bureau that demanded the Stephens' kangaroo rat no longer be listed as an endangered species." According to Jane Hendron, a spokeswoman for the FWS, "the bureau's petition lacked substantial information to warrant changing the protected status of the nocturnal rodent." Hendron said, "We still have identified threats to the species. They include fragmented and degraded habitat, and the introduction of non-native species."

NEW BILL WOULD REDUCE SPORT HUNTING. The [E&E Daily](#) (9/17, Subscription Publication) reports that "over two dozen House Democrats yesterday announced their support for a bill to restrict the import of stuffed or mounted 'trophies' of species that have been proposed for protection under the Endangered Species Act." The new bill is "a companion to the 'Conserving Ecosystems by Ceasing the Importation of Large Animal Trophies Act,' or 'CECIL Animal Trophies Act' for short, introduced in the Senate earlier last month by New Jersey Democrat Bob Menendez."

APPEALS COURT FINDS AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP IN RARE NEVADA FISH CASE. The [AP](#) (9/18, 344K) reports that "a federal appeals court rejected an environmental advocacy group's claim that the federal government failed to properly protect an endangered fish found only in Nevada's Moapa Valley Wildlife Refuge." The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held Thursday there was no evidence the FWS "improperly decided in 2006 that groundwater pumping in the Coyote Spring Valley wouldn't hurt the imperiled Moapa dace."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTVN-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (9/18, 3K).

National Park Service:

NPS ROLLING OUT PILOT PROGRAM FOR ONLINE PASS SALES. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/17, 705) reports that the NPS "disclosed today that it is looking into making park

passes available online and in local businesses." NPS Deputy Director Peggy O'Dell told Sen. Angus King at an Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on public land fees "We hope to have a pilot program up and running in several parks – Acadia [National Park] among them – by January 2016 to test out" instant online pass sales. NPS spokesman Jeffrey Olson "confirmed the timing of the effort." However, he added, "We haven't yet determined the other pilot project parks. We're working with industry to see what solutions are out there that will meet our needs."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (9/17, 148K).

WASHINGTON THINK TANK QUESTIONS NPS' BAN ON VAPING. [The Hill](#) (9/18, Wheeler, 471K) reports that the R Street Institute, a Washington, DC think tank, sought to "reverse" a decision by the NPS to ban vaping in all places where it bans tobacco smoking. Joel Nitzkin, a senior fellow for tobacco policy, wrote to NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis on Thursday highlighting research that shows that vapor exhaled by e-cigarette users contains only trace amounts of nicotine and the devices pose "no fire hazard." R Street spokeswoman Nicole Roeberg refused to confirm whether it has received funding from the e-cigarette industry.

Additional coverage of the ban was provided by [Yahoo! Travel](#) (9/18, 794K) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (9/18, 494K).

NPS' NATIONAL MALL APP OFFERS SELF-GUIDED TOURS. The [Washington Post Magazine](#) (9/15) reports that the NPS' new National Mall app "offers a menu of self-guided tours, including a one-day version that hits 19 monuments and memorials." Also, "a four-hour tour is limited to the major presidential and war memorials and the Washington Monument." According to the article, "the gem of the app, though, is the Off the Beaten Path tour, which guides visitors to spots on the Mall even longtime residents might not have noticed, including the German-American Friendship Garden, dedicated in 1988 to commemorate the first German settlement in 1683."

Additional coverage of the National Mall was provided by the [Washington Post Magazine](#) (9/15).

YOUNG ADULTS SELECTED AS NPS CENTENNIAL VOLUNTEER AMBASSADORS. The [Sierra Star \(CA\)](#) (9/17, 12K) reports that "Claire Finn has been selected as Yosemite National Park's volunteer ambassador." Finn is "one of 70 energetic, young adults who are leading an effort to connect people to their national parks and public lands." NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "The National Park Service's Centennial celebration will focus as much on our future as on our past. We are excited that young people, including our Centennial Volunteer Ambassadors, are stepping up as the next generation of conservation leaders. I know this opportunity will enable them to form lasting connections to national parks and the natural world. I also know that their contagious passion will inspire many others to do the same."

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB TAKING KIDS CAMPING IN SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK THIS WEEKEND. [WCAV-TV](#) Charlottesville, VA (9/18, 3K) reports that "the Boys and Girls Club of Central Virginia-Southwood will be taking some kids camping in the Shenandoah National Park this upcoming weekend." The article notes that "it's the Big Camp Out, which is part of the Step Up to the Great Outdoors: From Neighborhood to National Park program the Shenandoah National Park Trust and the National Park Service launched earlier this year." According to the article, "the kids will learn how to pitch a tent and cook on a camp stove as well as hike and play in the woods."

SUPERINTENDENT OF NEW VALLES CALDERA PARK UNIT NAMED. The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/18, 67K) reports that the NPS has "named a native New Mexican and 10-year federal employee as superintendent of the Valles Caldera National Preserve in the Jemez Mountains near Los Alamos." Jorge Silva-Bañuelos, "who has been serving as executive director of the preserve while it is still operated by the presidentially appointed Valles Caldera Trust, will assume his new job Oct. 1." The NPS "takes over management of the preserve Sept. 30."

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK RAISES ENTRY, CAMPING FEES. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (9/18, 39K) reports that "Glacier National Park will raise its fees for entrance and front-country camping starting in November." The article notes that "the increases are expected to bring an additional \$500,000 annually to the park, which gets to keep 80 percent of the revenue it raises from entry passes and permits." According to park spokeswoman Denise Germann, "that money pays for visitor services and facilities, interpretative programs at campgrounds, trail repair and restoration, restroom improvements, wildlife habitat restoration, road maintenance and the park's shuttle bus system."

RABID DEER KILLED ALONG CHESAPEAKE & OHIO CANAL IN MARYLAND. The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Martin, 6.76M) reports that "an eight-point rabid buck that charged at National Park Service ranger was killed along the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal in Maryland, an agency spokeswoman said." Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles, a spokeswoman for the NPS, said "a ranger — who was responding to a call about an animal in distress — shot the adult white-tailed deer near Sycamore Landing on Wednesday." According to Anzelmo-Sarles, "the deer looked sick and was having a hard time standing on its own." Anzelmo-Sarles said the "buck was turned over to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, who performed a necropsy — a wildlife version of an autopsy — and discovered that it tested positive for rabies."

AMTRAK RUNNING "GREAT DOME" CAR FROM ALBANY TO MONTREAL THIS FALL. The [AP](#) (9/18, 2.28M) reports that "Amtrak is again running its 'Great Dome' car between Albany and Montreal during leaf-peeping season." Amtrak is "running the program in partnership with the state Department of Transportation and the National Park Service Trails and Rails program."

YOSEMITE VENDOR SAYS NPS BREACHED CONTRACT. [Law 360](#) (9/18, 21K) reports that "a hospitality company serving visitors to Yosemite National Park hit the federal government with a breach of contract suit Thursday, saying the National Park Service failed to meet its obligation to help the vendor sell assets to its successor when Aramark Corp. outbid the company in June for a new contract."

BODY OF HIKER KILLED BY FLOODING IN UTAH RECOVERED. In continuing coverage, the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/17, story 7, 0:10, Pelley, 5.08M) broadcast that the body of the "last of seven hikers killed when" floodwater "rushed through Zion National Park" in Utah earlier this week has been recovered. [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/17, story 8, 0:20, Holt, 7.86M) aired a similar report last night. The [AP](#) (9/18), [CNN](#) (9/18, Ellis, 5.17M), [NPR](#) (9/17, Wagner, 1.85M), [CBS News](#) (9/18, 7.05M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/18, Press), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/18, Mims, 492K), [Business Insider](#) (9/18, 2.93M), [WAMU-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (9/18, 30K), and [WTOL-TV Toledo \(OH\)](#) Toledo, OH (9/18, 56K) also cover this story.

BABYLON VILLAGE'S MUSEUM JOINS NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (9/18, 1.3M) reports that the former Babylon library has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAN ON SALES OF BOTTLED WATER AT NATIONAL PARKS. Additional coverage of the ban on sales of bottled water at national parks was provided by the [AlterNet](#) (9/18, 146K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK'S ASTRONOMY FESTIVAL. Additional coverage of Great Basin National Park's Astronomy Festival was provided by [Vegas Seven \(NV\)](#) (9/17).

[Top National News:](#)

MEDIA ANALYSES HOUSE REPUBLICANS DIVIDED AS SHUTDOWN LOOMS. A push by conservatives in the House to defund Planned Parenthood, and the potential government shutdown that could ensue, was largely ignored by the network news broadcasts, with only Andrea Mitchell of [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/17, story 2, 2:10, Holt, 7.86M) mentioning it, in a report on Wednesday night's Republican presidential debate, that congressional Republicans "are threatening to shut down the government by the end of this month over Planned Parenthood funding." Print and online coverage, however, is substantial, describing a sharp GOP split between party leaders — including House Speaker Boehner, whose speakership is portrayed as being under threat due to the issue — and conservative members, unmoved by the argument that Republicans would be blamed for a shutdown. Democrats, meanwhile, are described as unified, with the President, House Minority Leader Pelosi, and Senate Minority Leader Reid firmly opposing any effort to cut off the group's funding.

Indicating that the fight over Planned Parenthood has "prevented Congress from making any further progress on talks to keep the government open," [USA Today](#) (9/18, Singer, 5.23M) reports that House Republicans "will force several votes on the House floor Friday to cut federal funding for Planned Parenthood and transfer that money to other women's health services." It notes, however, that there "does not appear to be any path to get the bills through the Senate." Boehner, who "acknowledged it may be hard to get the bills through the Senate," would not "rule out attempting to add Planned Parenthood language to a type of budget bill that is immune from Senate filibuster rules and only requires a majority vote to pass."

A [New York Times](#) (9/18, Herszenhorn, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) story says the House "voted to move forward with a bill that would end government financing for Planned Parenthood." While the move "intensifies" the abortion fight there are "signs that congressional leaders were counting on a fallback plan to keep the government functioning temporarily, roughly at last year's spending levels."

The [Huffington Post](#) (9/17, Bassett, 164K) reported that House GOP leaders "are hoping to appease the party's conservative base" with the votes, and the [AP](#) (9/18, Taylor, Fram) similarly notes that GOP leaders sought to provide "an outlet for GOP lawmakers' outrage" over secretly-recorded videos which abortion opponents say "show that Planned Parenthood illegally profits from selling tissue from aborted fetuses to medical researchers." The AP says that advancing "a short-term spending bill to keep the government open past an Oct. 1 deadline remains a major headache for House GOP leaders, chiefly" Boehner, adding that "hard-right lawmakers and tea partiers are threatening to try to topple"

him. In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (9/18, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 11 82M) says "abortion politics" are "posing the greatest threat to [Boehner's] speakership since he ascended to that position four years ago." Boehner is being forced "to choose between the pragmatic approach embraced by" Senate Majority Leader McConnell "to keep the government open and take on the Planned Parenthood fight later — a choice that could lead to an embarrassing challenge to the speaker — or fling himself headfirst into yet another spending showdown in which conservatives have little chance of prevailing."

Fred Barnes said on [Fox News' Special Report with Bret Baier](#) (9/17, 1.53M) that Republicans "do not have the votes," adding that "Ted Cruz is right about this one thing. If every time Obama says he going to veto something, and you say, 'Oh well we can't bring that up,' Republicans really take themselves out of the game. You can't wait on everything on the hope that maybe, just maybe in 2016, a Republican president will be elected. You are just giving up too much power to Obama."

[Government Executive](#) (9/17, Newhauser, 3K) reported that after a meeting Wednesday, House Republicans were "no closer to a decision about how to fund the government at month's end while addressing activists' concerns about choking off federal funding for Planned Parenthood," adding that it is "unclear where GOP leaders will find consensus in their conference." [The Hill](#) (9/17, Shabad, Sullivan, 471K) said House Republican leaders are seeking to convince their caucus that risking a shutdown over Planned Parenthood funding "would be a bad move." During a closed-door conference meeting Thursday, GOP leaders presented "polling data from the House GOP's campaign arm showing Republicans would be blamed for a government shutdown."

Jeff Birnbaum said on [Fox News' Special Report with Bret Baier](#) (9/17, 1.53M), "I don't think the government is going to shut down over this. ... If the government is shut down, it would be terrible for the Republican party in particular. It will hurt the establishment candidates for president who are trying to come up against the outsiders that are at the top of the polls. It would be very damaging and the ugliness in between could also damage the establishment." Mort Kondracke said on [Fox News' Special Report with Bret Baier](#) (9/17, 1.53M), "I think it's crazy for Republicans to shut the government shutdown for something that deserves investigation but is not resolved."

[Roll Call](#) (9/18, Dennis, 113K) noted that as Republicans "are splintering into factions," Democratic leaders "put forward a united front Thursday" following a meeting with the President. Speaking to reporters outside the West Wing, Pelosi and Reid "laid out their demands," which include "a short-term continuing resolution to keep the government open without riders and with any additional funding equally divided between defense and non-defense programs 'dollar for dollar.'" Roll Call added that the President, Reid, and Pelosi "are committed to block any Republican attempts to defund Planned Parenthood." Under the headline "Congress Inching Ever Closer Toward Government Shutdown," the [Washington Post](#) (9/18, A1, Mufson, Snell, 6.76M) says in a front-page story that Reid and Pelosi "said they are willing to back a continuing resolution to keep the government open, but insisted that such a stopgap measure be a short-term one," and that "it not include any language about ideological issues, such as funding for Planned Parenthood."

[Reuters](#) (9/18, Lambert) quotes Reid as saying, "The three of us agree that we want a short-term CR (continuing resolution). We want to make sure that the riders are off that. We want to make sure we have equal money for defense and non-defense." [The Hill](#) (9/17, Fabian, 471K) said the Democratic leaders "sought to present a united front in the contentious budget battle, even as Reid and Pelosi extended an olive branch to their Republican counterparts, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (Ky.) and Speaker John Boehner (Ohio), to sit down and hammer out a comprehensive budget agreement."

Noting that more than 40 conservative House Republicans have said they will oppose any appropriations that include funding for Planned Parenthood, a [Bloomberg Politics](#) (9/18, Wasson, 247K) analysis says Boehner is left with "only one way to avoid a shutdown: ask his Democratic counterpart, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, for help." [Politico](#) (9/17, French, 942K) said that Pelosi met with Boehner on Thursday evening "to discuss the looming government funding crisis." Boehner initiated the meeting "after Pelosi had been pressuring him for weeks to start negotiations on legislation that would keep the government open past Sept. 30."

Meanwhile, in her weekly press conference Thursday, Pelosi said Republicans were trying to block Planned Parenthood funding "because they don't respect women and don't believe in family planning," the [Washington Times](#) (9/18, Miller, 344K) reports. Pelosi argued that "Republicans have always been out to get Planned Parenthood," saying, "I can attest personally to the fact that for decades that I've been here they have been out to get Planned Parenthood because they don't believe in family planning."

The [Huffington Post](#) (9/17, Bassett, 164K) also reported that the White House said in a statement Thursday that the President "strongly opposes" and would veto a pair of House bills that would strip federal funds from Planned Parenthood and impose new restrictions on abortion," arguing that the measures "would have the same consequence of limiting women's health care choices." [The Hill](#) (9/17, Ferris, 471K) said the Administration argued that the "GOP's 'fascination' with defunding Planned Parenthood" has "brought the government to the brink of a shutdown." White House press secretary Josh Earnest placed the blame on Republicans "and their field of presidential candidates" for "concentrating attention on defunding the women's health provider at a time when they should be funding the government." The Hill called Earnest's comments "a preview of the White House's plan of attack if Republicans fail to reach a government funding deal by Sept. 30." [Reuters](#) (9/18, Rascoe) notes that Earnest called on Republicans to fund the budget on time to avoid a shutdown, adding that while he said Republicans should negotiate with Democrats, he did not rule out talks between the President and GOP leaders.

[Politico](#) (9/17, Everett, Haberkorn, 942K) noted that the Senate "is laying the groundwork for a potential end game if the House stumbles." Following a vote Tuesday "to ban abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy," the Senate "would take up a government spending bill that cuts Planned Parenthood funding, knowing that it will fail." Then, "assuming that maneuver is blocked, at the 11th hour the Senate would proceed to a spending bill that includes funding for Planned Parenthood," which lawmakers and aides believe "would draw Democratic support and clear the Senate's 60-vote threshold."

Clinton Urges Republicans Not To Shut Down Government. In a statement Thursday, Hillary Clinton "warn[ed] congressional Republicans not to shut down the federal government," the [AP](#) (9/18, Thomas) reports. Clinton said Boehner "and his Republican colleagues 'have a job to do, and they should do it.'" [Politico](#) (9/17, DeBenedetti, 942K) said Clinton also "accused the GOP presidential contenders of using 'hateful rhetoric and lies' in Wednesday night's debate," saying in her statement, "It's bad enough to see hateful rhetoric and lies in a presidential debate. But just like the candidates on stage last night, Republicans in Congress want to defund Planned Parenthood. And they're willing to shut down the federal government to do it, no matter how bad it is for our country."

Clinton said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/17, 554K), "What this is about is the fact that some of the Planned Parenthood facilities perform abortions which is legal under the laws of the United States. I understand that the Republican party and particularly the candidates we heard from last night wish that were not the case, wish that abortion were illegal and they could turn the clock back. So I think we ought to be very clear that Planned Parenthood has served to provide health care, necessary health care, for millions of women. And I think it deserves not only our support but the continuing funding from the federal government so that these women and girls who are seeking the kinds of services that are provided will be able to achieve that."

Planned Parenthood Calls Fiorina A "Liar." Planned Parenthood called Carly Fiorina "a liar" for her "characterization of videos released by anti-abortion activists" during Wednesday night's GOP debate, [Politico](#) (9/17, Gass, 942K) reported. Responding to Fiorina's claim that the videos show "a fully formed fetus on the table, its heart beating, its legs kicking while someone says, 'We have to keep it alive to harvest its brain,'" Planned Parenthood spokesman Eric Ferrero said in an email Thursday, "The images show nothing like what Carly Fiorina said they do, and they have nothing to do with Planned Parenthood. The video footage that she claims exists — and that she 'dared' people to watch — does not exist. ... We have a word for that: t's a lie. And it's not the first time Carly Fiorina has lied." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/17, story 2, 2:10, Holt, 7 86M), Andrea Mitchell called Fiorina's attack "fierce," but noted that "the women's health group said Fiorina was a liar, sending her a letter saying, 'Your claims are completely false.'" The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, 6.76M) notes in an editorial that Fiorina's "characterizations" of the videos "are false," adding that the images she described "don't exist."

Robert Costa of the Washington Post said on [MSNBC's Hardball with Chris Matthews](#) (9/17, 713K) that Fiorina "was making an overt appeal to anti-abortion conservative women. I think that was actually the most telling moment of the debate, rather than her exchanges with Trump. You see Fiorina seeing a lane on the far right. She sees herself as an outsider, could compete with Carson and Trump."

WPost: GOP Debate "Exacerbated" Shutdown Threat. The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, 6.76M) editorial is also critical of the entire GOP presidential field, saying that during the debate Wednesday, they "by and large exacerbated the threat of a shutdown with inflammatory pandering on the subject of Planned Parenthood." The Post argues that "most Americans don't want Planned Parenthood defunded and most certainly don't want the government closed over the issue."

Reich Urges Support For Planned Parenthood Funding. In a [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/17, 455K) op-ed, former Labor Secretary Robert Reich says it is "up to all of us to fight back" against the "attack" on Planned Parenthood. Reich argues that public spending on family planning makes "economic sense," because when women "have control over their lives, they can contribute even more to the economy, better break the glass ceiling, equalize the pay gap, and much more."

Appeals Court Weighs-In On Abortion Videos. [Politico](#) (9/17, Gerstein, 942K) reported in its "Under The Radar" blog that after US District Court Judge William Orrick issued a temporary restraining order in July barring the Center for Medical Progress "from releasing videos of National Abortion Federation

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Subject: Legislative Summary, Friday, September 18, 2015

Attachments: Legislative Summary-09-18-15.doc

Legislative Summary, Friday, September 18, 2015

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Legislative Summary
from
the Legislative Counsel
Friday, September 18, 2015
To: All Interested Interior Offices

Attached for your information is today's Legislative Summary.

In order to keep the Summary as up-to-date as possible, we request that any bureau or office contacted directly regarding hearings or markups notify this office immediately.

New information about scheduled hearings and business meetings appears shaded in yellow. Hearings printed in *bold italic* type indicate DOI involvement.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Joseph Nevils on (202) 208-4580, or via E-Mail (Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov).

2015 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
		District Work Week September 21-25
		No Votes October 2-5
State Work Period October 12-26	Columbus Day October 12	District Work Period October 12-19
		No Votes October 30
November 11	Veterans Day November 11	District Work Week November 6-13
State Work Period November 23-27	Thanksgiving Day November 26	District Work Week November 20-27
		No Votes December 4
		No Votes December 11-14
State Work Period December 21-31		
TBD	Target Adjournment	December 18

Scheduled Floor Action

House

Friday, Sept. 18, 9 a.m.

The House reconvenes at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 3134) that would defund Planned Parenthood for one year and a bill that would address the care of infants if born alive during the performance of an abortion.

Agenda

HR 3134 — A bill to provide for a moratorium on Federal funding to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.

Senate

Recent Legislative Activity of Interest

Senate:

By Mr. **ENZI** (for himself and Mr. **BARRASSO**):

S. 2039. A bill to designate the mountain at the Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming, as Devils Tower, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

House:

By Mr. **UPTON**:

H.R. 8. A bill to modernize energy infrastructure, build a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce, bolster America's energy security and diplomacy, and promote energy efficiency and government accountability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Education and the Workforce, Oversight and Government Reform, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. **SENSENBRENNER** (for himself, Ms. **MOORE**, Mr. **KIND**, Mr. **RIBBLE**, Mr. **GROTHMAN**, Mr. **POCAN**, Mr. **NOLAN**, and Ms. **ESTY**):

H.R. 3511. A bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. **JOLLY**:

H.R. 3521. A bill to authorize grants for data collection for use in stock assessments of red snapper and other reef fish species in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. **GRIJALVA** (for himself, Mr. **SCHIFF**, Mr. **HONDA**, Ms. **BROWNLEY** of California, Mr. **VAN HOLLEN**, Mr. **CARTWRIGHT**, Ms. **TITUS**, Ms. **BORDALLO**, Mr. **BLUMENAUER**, Ms. **BROWN** of Florida, Mr. **CÁRDENAS**, Mr. **COHEN**, Mr. **CONYERS**, Mrs. **DAVIS** of California, Ms. **EDWARDS**, Mr. **FARR**, Ms. **NORTON**, Mr. **KEATING**, Mr. **TED LIEU** of California, Mr. **LOEBSACK**, Mr. **LOWENTHAL**, Mr. **LYNCH**, Mr. **MEEKS**, Mr. **QUIGLEY**, Mr. **RANGEL**, Ms. **ROYBAL-ALLARD**, Mr. **SHERMAN**, and Ms. **JUDY CHU** of California):

H.R. 3526. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to extend the import- and export-related provision of that Act to species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under that Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. **LUMMIS**:

H.R. 3527. A bill to designate the mountain at the Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming, as Devils Tower, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

[H. Res. 420](#), providing for consideration of the bill ([H.R. 348](#)) to provide for improved coordination of agency actions in the preparation and adoption of environmental documents for permitting determinations, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill ([H.R. 758](#)) to amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 114-261)

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2015: Concur in the Senate amendment to [H.R. 23](#), to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program;

Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015: Concur in the Senate amendment to [H.R. 720](#), to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports;

Allowing the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands: [H.R. 487](#), to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands;

Medgar Evers House Study Act: [H.R. 959](#), amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House, located in Jackson, Mississippi;

National Forest Small Tracts Act Amendments Act of 2015: [H.R. 1214](#), amended, to amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, and to resolve minor encroachments, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 403 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 495;

John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act: [H.R. 1289](#), amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California;

Elkhorn Ranch and White River National Forest Conveyance Act of 2015: [H.R. 1554](#), to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado;

National Liberty Memorial Clarification Act of 2015: [H.R. 1949](#), amended, to provide for the consideration and submission of site and design proposals for the National Liberty Memorial approved for establishment in the District of Columbia, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 402 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 496;

Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act: [H.R. 2791](#), to require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of certain Indian tribes in Oregon;

New Mexico Navajo Water Settlement Technical Corrections Act: [S. 501](#), to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico;

Providing for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska: [S. 230](#), to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska; and

Crags, Colorado Land Exchange Act of 2015: [H.R. 2223](#), to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado.

The Department has been Invited to the Following Hearings:

Tentative Hearings:

Tues., Sept.29 Endangered Species Act Implementation

***Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Inhofe)*
*Full committee oversight hearing on ESA implementation***

Time and Location TBD
Potential witness: TBD

.....
Wed., Sept.30 Federalism in Resource Management

***House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)*
*Full Committee oversight hearing on Respecting State Authority,
Responsibilities, and Expertise Regarding Resource Management and Energy
Development***

10:00 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth
Potential witness TBD

.....
Thurs., Oct.1 Soda Ash

***Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Forests, and Mining (Barrasso)*
*Subcommittee legislative hearing on yet to be introduced soda ash royalty
relief legislation***

2:30 p.m.; Room TBD
Potential witness TBD

.....
Thurs., Oct.8 Drought Legislation

***Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)*
*Full Committee legislative hearing on drought related bills***

10:00 a.m.; Room TBD
Potential witness TBD
.....

Thurs., Oct.1 Miscellaneous Legislation

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining (Barrasso)

Subcommittee legislative hearing on yet to be determined legislation

2:30 p.m.; Room TBD

Potential witness TBD

.....
Tues. Oct.20 Confirmation Hearing

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)

Confirmation hearing on nomination of:

Kris Sarri to be Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget;

Suzette Kimball to be Director of the U.S. Geological Survey; and

DOE nominee(s)

10:00 a.m.; Room TBD

Potential witness TBD

.....
Tues., Oct.27 Stream Protection Rule

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Stream Protection Rule

10:00 a.m.; Room TBD

Potential witness TBD

POSTPONEMENTS

*Date TBD
Postponed*

Indian Affairs Lands Bills

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (Barrasso)

Full Committee hearing on

S. 817 (Wyden), A bill to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon

S. 818 (Wyden), A bill to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections

S. 1436 (Reid), A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for certain Indian tribes

S. 1761 (Boxer), A bill to take certain Federal land located in Lassen County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Susanville Indian Rancheria

S. 1822 (Boxer), A bill to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

S. 1986 (Reid), A bill to provide for a land conveyance in the State of Nevada

H.R. 387 (Ruiz), To provide for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians

2:15 p.m.; Room SD-628 Dirksen

Invitation Received 8.26.15

Witness: Larry Roberts, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

.....

Hearings of Interest:

Fri., Sep 18 **Homeland Security Management**

House Homeland Security S/C on Oversight and Management Efficiency (Perry)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Making DHS More Efficient: Industry Recommendations to Improve Homeland Security

10:00 a.m.; Room 311 Cannon
No request for DOI witness

Fri., Sep 18 **Pipeline Safety**

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation S/C on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security (Fisher)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Pipeline Safety: State and Local Perspectives

12:00 p.m.; Room 148, Billings Library, Montana State University, Billings, MT
No request for DOI witness

.....
Thurs., Sep 24 **Intelligence and Cybersecurity Issues**

Senate Select Intelligence Committee (Burr)

Full Committee oversight hearing on national security issues

2:30 p.m.; Room SH-219 Hart
No request for DOI witness

.....
Wed., Sep 30 **Great Lakes Restoration**

House Transportation and Infrastructure S/C on Water Resources and Environment (Gibbs)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: A Review of the Progress and Challenges in Restoring the Great Lakes

10:00 a.m.; Room 3167 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

.....
Date TBD **Public and Private Sector Cybersecurity**

House Science, Space and Technology S/C on Research and Technology (Cornstock) and S/C on Oversight (Loudermilk)

Joint Subcommittee oversight hearing on Cyber Security: What the Federal Government Can Learn From the Private Sector

Time TBD: 2318 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Status of DOI Testimony
March 23, 2016

Bureau/Preparer	Witness	Committee	Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor	OCL Attorney	Date of Hearing	Date CLC Notified	Due to OMB	Bureau Notified	Date Due to CLC	Date Rec'd in CLC
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**The following requests for comments have been received
Thursday, September 17, 2015**

**MISC #108 ENERGY Draft Bill on Purchase Power Drought Fund for Southwestern
Power Administration
(4 pages)
DUE 9/22/15 Atty: Josh Mahan**

Conversation Contents

Updated leg summary for tomorrow ...

Attachments:

/179. Updated leg summary for tomorrow .../1.1 Legislative Summary-09-18-15 cps.doc

"Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Sep 17 2015 09:10:34 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Joseph Nevils <joseph_nevils@ios.doi.gov>, Pamela Barkin <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>, Dominic Maione <Dominic_Maione@ios.doi.gov>, Joshua Mahan <Joshua_Mahan@ios.doi.gov>, Tracy Goodluck <tracy_goodluck@ios.doi.gov>, "Quinn, Matthew" <Matthew_Quinn@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Ayesha Giles <ayesha_r_giles@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Powell <jason_powell@ios.doi.gov>, Felipe Mendoza <felipe_mendoza@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Updated leg summary for tomorrow ...
Attachments: Legislative Summary-09-18-15 cps.doc

is attached. Note that as of today we have no confirmed hearings on the summary and a number of tentative hearings for late September/October. If you are aware of hearings that have been noticed or for which we've received an invitation please let me or Joe know.

Thanks, Chris

--
Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: 202.208.1403

Legislative Summary
from
the Legislative Counsel
ThursdayFriday, September 1718, 2015
To: All Interested Interior Offices

Attached for your information is today's Legislative Summary.

In order to keep the Summary as up-to-date as possible, we request that any bureau or office contacted directly regarding hearings or markups notify this office immediately.

New information about scheduled hearings and business meetings appears shaded in yellow. Hearings printed in *bold italic* type indicate DOI involvement.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Joseph Nevils on (202) 208-4580, or via E-Mail (Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov).

2015 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
		District Work Week September 21-25
		No Votes October 2-5
State Work Period October 12-26	Columbus Day October 12	District Work Period October 12-19
		No Votes October 30
November 11	Veterans Day November 11	District Work Week November 6-13
State Work Period November 23-27	Thanksgiving Day November 26	District Work Week November 20-27
		No Votes December 4
		No Votes December 11-14
State Work Period December 21-31		
TBD	Target Adjournment	December 18

Scheduled Floor Action

House

Friday, Sept. 18, 9 a.m.

The House reconvenes at 9 a.m. for legislative business. The chamber is expected to consider a bill (HR 3134) that would defund Planned Parenthood for one year and a bill that would address the care of infants if born alive during the performance of an abortion.

Agenda

HR 3134 — A bill to provide for a moratorium on Federal funding to Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc.

Recent Legislative Activity of Interest

Senate:

By Mr. **ENZI** (for himself and Mr. **BARRASSO**):

S. 2039. A bill to designate the mountain at the Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming, as Devils Tower, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

House:

By Mr. **UPTON**:

H.R. 8. A bill to modernize energy infrastructure, build a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce, bolster America's energy security and diplomacy, and promote energy efficiency and government accountability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Education and the Workforce, Oversight and Government Reform, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. **SENSENBRENNER** (for himself, Ms. **MOORE**, Mr. **KIND**, Mr. **RIBBLE**, Mr. **GROTHMAN**, Mr. **POCAN**, Mr. **NOLAN**, and Ms. **ESTY**):

H.R. 3511. A bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. **JOLLY**:

H.R. 3521. A bill to authorize grants for data collection for use in stock assessments of red snapper and other reef fish species in the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. **GRIJALVA** (for himself, Mr. **SCHIFF**, Mr. **HONDA**, Ms. **BROWNLEY** of California, Mr. **VAN HOLLEN**, Mr. **CARTWRIGHT**, Ms. **TITUS**, Ms. **BORDALLO**, Mr. **BLUMENAUER**, Ms. **BROWN** of Florida, Mr. **CÁRDENAS**, Mr. **COHEN**, Mr. **CONYERS**, Mrs. **DAVIS** of California, Ms. **EDWARDS**, Mr. **FARR**, Ms. **NORTON**, Mr. **KEATING**, Mr. **TED LIEU** of California, Mr. **LOEBSACK**, Mr. **LOWENTHAL**, Mr. **LYNCH**, Mr. **MEEKS**, Mr. **QUIGLEY**, Mr. **RANGEL**, Ms. **ROYBAL-ALLARD**, Mr. **SHERMAN**, and Ms. **JUDY CHU** of California):

H.R. 3526. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to extend the import- and export-related provision of that Act to species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under that Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. **LUMMIS**:

H.R. 3527. A bill to designate the mountain at the Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming, as Devils Tower, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 420, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 348) to provide for improved coordination of agency actions in the preparation and adoption of environmental documents for permitting determinations, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 758) to amend Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to improve attorney accountability, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 114-261)

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act Reauthorization of 2015: Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 23, to reauthorize the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program;

Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015: Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 720, to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports;

Allowing the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands: H.R. 487, to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands;

Medgar Evers House Study Act: H.R. 959, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the Medgar Evers House, located in Jackson, Mississippi;

National Forest Small Tracts Act Amendments Act of 2015: H.R. 1214, amended, to amend the Small Tracts Act to expand the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange small parcels of National Forest System land to enhance the management of the National Forest System, and to resolve minor encroachments, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 403 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 495;

John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act: H.R. 1289, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California;

Elkhorn Ranch and White River National Forest Conveyance Act of 2015: H.R. 1554, to require a land conveyance involving the Elkhorn Ranch and the White River National Forest in the State of Colorado;

National Liberty Memorial Clarification Act of 2015: H.R. 1949, amended, to provide for the consideration and submission of site and design proposals for the National Liberty Memorial approved for establishment in the District of Columbia, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 402 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 496;

Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act: H.R. 2791, to require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of certain Indian tribes in Oregon;

New Mexico Navajo Water Settlement Technical Corrections Act: S. 501, to make technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico;

Providing for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska: S. 230, to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska; and

Crags, Colorado Land Exchange Act of 2015: H.R. 2223, to authorize, direct, expedite, and facilitate a land exchange in El Paso and Teller Counties, Colorado.

The Department has been Invited to the Following Hearings:

Tentative Hearings:

Tues., Sept.29 Endangered Species Act Implementation

***Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Inhofe)*
*Full committee oversight hearing on ESA implementation***

Time and Location TBD
Potential witness: TBD

.....
Wed., Sept.30 Federalism in Resource Management

***House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)*
*Full Committee oversight hearing on Respecting State Authority,
Responsibilities, and Expertise Regarding Resource Management and Energy
Development***

10:00 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth
Potential witness TBD

.....
Thurs., Oct.1 Soda Ash

***Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands,
Forests, and Mining (Barrasso)*
*Subcommittee legislative hearing on yet to be introduced soda ash royalty
relief legislation***

2:30 p.m.; Room TBD
Potential witness TBD

.....
Thurs., Oct.8 Drought Legislation

***Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)*
*Full Committee legislative hearing on drought related bills***

10:00 a.m.; Room TBD
Potential witness TBD
.....

Thurs., Oct.1 Miscellaneous Legislation

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining (Barrasso)

Subcommittee legislative hearing on yet to be determined legislation

2:30 p.m.; Room TBD

Potential witness TBD

.....
Tues. Oct.20 Confirmation Hearing

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)

Confirmation hearing on nomination of:

Kris Sarri to be Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget;

Suzette Kimball to be Director of the U.S. Geological Survey; and

DOE nominee(s)

10:00 a.m.; Room TBD

Potential witness TBD

.....
Tues., Oct.27 Stream Protection Rule

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Stream Protection Rule

10:00 a.m.; Room TBD

Potential witness TBD

POSTPONEMENTS

Hearings of Interest:

Fri., Sep 18 **Homeland Security Management**

House Homeland Security S/C on Oversight and Management Efficiency (Perry)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Making DHS More Efficient: Industry Recommendations to Improve Homeland Security

10:00 a.m.; Room 311 Cannon
No request for DOI witness

Fri., Sep 18 **Pipeline Safety**

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation S/C on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security (Fisher)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Pipeline Safety: State and Local Perspectives

12:00 p.m.; Room 148, Billings Library, Montana State University, Billings, MT
No request for DOI witness

.....
Thurs., Sep 24 **Intelligence and Cybersecurity Issues**

Senate Select Intelligence Committee (Burr)

Full Committee oversight hearing on national security issues

2:30 p.m.; Room SH-219 Hart
No request for DOI witness

.....
Wed., Sep 30 **Great Lakes Restoration**

House Transportation and Infrastructure S/C on Water Resources and Environment (Gibbs)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: A Review of the Progress and Challenges in Restoring the Great Lakes

10:00 a.m.; Room 3167 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

.....
Date TBD **Public and Private Sector Cybersecurity**

House Science, Space and Technology S/C on Research and Technology (Cornstock) and S/C on Oversight (Loudermilk)

Joint Subcommittee oversight hearing on Cyber Security: What the Federal Government Can Learn From the Private Sector

Time TBD: 2318 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Status of DOI Testimony
March 25, 2016

Bureau/Preparer	Witness	Committee	Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor	OCL Attorney	Date of Hearing	Date CLC Notified	Due to OMB	Bureau Notified	Date Due to CLC	Date Rec'd in CLC
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**The following requests for comments have been received
Thursday, September 17, 2015**

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, September 14, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Mon Sep 14 2015 05:00:35 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, September 14, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

TODAY'S TABLE OF CONTENTS

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- + Secretary Jewell Celebrates River Day In Lowell.
- + Conservation Efforts Help New England Cottontail Rebound.
- + Fast-Moving California Wildfire Leads To State Of Emergency Declarations.
- + Mine Clean-up In Four States Suspended.
- + Hunting, Fishing Business Call On Congress To Reauthorize LWCF.
- + Protesters Oppose Telescope On Mauna Kea In Hawaii.
- + National Renewable Energy Laboratory Helps Interior Reduce Energy Usage.
- + Environmentalists Urge Obama Administration To Stop Issuing New Leases For Fossil Fuel Production.
- + Former Secretary Of State Shultz Promotes National Parks And Treasures.
- + Petition Calls For Designation Of National Monuments.
- + Additional Coverage: Flight 93 Memorial Museum.
- + Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell's visit to Colville Reservation.
- + Additional Coverage Of Border Crossing Between Big Bend National Park To Boquillas.
- + Secretary Jewell Criticized For Blocking King Cove Road.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

- + Additional Coverage Of Washington Football Team's Name.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES

- + Irrigation Settlement To Be Signed With Westlands Water District.
- + BOR Awards Contract To Improve Accessibility At Hungry Horse Dam.
- + Study Examines Impacts Of Colorado River Shortage.
- + Low Folsom Lake Levels Unveil Gold Rush-Era Town.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE

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- + BOEM Discusses Offshore Wind Energy Concerns With South Carolina Advisory Committee.
- + Two Louisiana Firms Play Key Roles In Rhode Island Offshore Wind Farm.
- + Developer Eyes Opportunities For WindFloats.
- + Migration Of Bighorn Sheep Threatened By New Solar Facility.

Onshore Energy Development:

- + Murray Criticizes Stream Protection Rule.
- + Trapper Mine Environmental Review Proposed.
- + Rep. Thompson Expresses Doubt About Power Plus Plan.
- + Illinois Coal Miners Anticipate Changes Under New Federal Regulations.
- + Lawsuit Filed Over Flat Canyon Tract Lease.
- + Possible Exploration Near South Park Worries Some Residents.
- + Trial Over Platinum Mining Operation Set To Begin.
- + Oil And Gas Study To Be Launched In Colorado Next Year.
- + Additional Coverage Of Public Listening Session On Federal Coal Program.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + Obama Administration To Auction Acres In Gulf Of Mexico For Drilling.
- + Analysis: Alaskans Divided Over Shell's Offshore Drilling Plans.
- + BSEE Points To Errors In Gulf Blowout.
- + House Committee To Meet About Oil, Gas Rules In New Orleans.
- + Opposition To Offshore Drilling Mounts.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Bureau of Land Management:

- + BLM Won't Merge Arizona, New Mexico Offices.
- + Another Federal Judge Recused In ATV Protest Case.
- + Bill Would Create Wilderness Areas Near Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.
- + Lawsuit Filed To Halt Scheduled Wild Horse Roundup In Colorado.
- + Washington County Officials Outraged By Draft BLM Plan..
- + BLM Field Manager In Prineville On The Job.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + FWS Faces Decision On Sage Grouse.
- + FWS To Rule On Ten Species Within Year.
- + FWS Launching "Soft Opening" Of Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
- + Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Mostly Dry.
- + South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Helps Endangered Species Rebound.

- + Young Hunters Participate On 20th Youth Waterfowl Day.
- + Additional Coverage Of Ruling On Lesser Prairie Chicken Status.
- + Additional Coverage Of Effort To Save Monarch Butterfly.

National Park Service:

- + NPS Seeks To Connect With Youth.
- + Sen Murphy Calls On NPS To Sell More American-made Goods At Stores.
- + Subaru Launches Video Series On NPS' Zero Landfill Goal.
- + 9/11 Memorial Officials Seek Cash From Congress On Anniversary Of Attacks.
- + Hartford Reaches Key Agreement On Coltsville National Park.
- + Test Run Held For Twin Cities Canoe- And Bike-sharing Program.
- + Educators Participate In NPS Teacher Ranger Teacher Program.
- + NPS Approves Plans For New Marine Reserve Within Biscayne National Park.
- + Some Landowners Allowed To Hunt On Grand Teton Park Inholdings.
- + Hangar At Fort Barry Gets Makeover.
- + CDC Studying Puzzling Rise In Rabbit Fever In Western US.
- + NPS To Close Anacostia Marina.
- + Great Smoky Mountains National Park Closes Whiteoak Sink Area To Protect Bat Population.
- + Yellowstone Attendance Exceeds Past Records.
- + Concessionaire Making Improvements At Shenandoah National Park.
- + Body Of Missing Student Found In Yosemite National Park.
- + Central Berwyn Bungalow Historic District Added To National Register Of Historic Places.
- + Additional Coverage Of "Every Kid In A Park" Initiative.
- + WPost: Lafayette Square Should Be Kept Open During Chinese President's Visit.
- + News Sentinel: Oak Ridge Workers Contributions To WWII Should Not Be Forgotten.

US Geological Survey:

- + USGS Scientists Conducting Drought Study In Six Western States.
- + Additional Coverage: Denali Shrinks 10 Feet.

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- + Clinton Leads Trump By Three In General Election Match-Up; Both Lead Primary Fields.
- + Trump Takes Aim At High CEO Salaries.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE

- + Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

- + Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS

- + Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL CELEBRATES RIVER DAY IN LOWELL. The [Lowell \(MA\) Sun](#) (9/13, 111K) reports that "during her first visit to Lowell, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell celebrated the 9th Annual River Day on Saturday with a pristine boat ride along the city's 'urban canyon' – the Pawtucket Canal." According to the article, "the boat tour began at Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord and ended at Lowell's Lower Locks Gatehouse, where Jewell spoke to a crowd at nearby Middlesex Community College." Jewell "told the crowd that through partnerships the history our nation's rivers and their importance in the community and the country needs to be celebrated and flow forward." She warned that on Sept. 30, the LWCF "will expire unless Congress re-authorizes it for another 50 years." Also, "turning to a group of fourth-graders in the crowd, Jewell announced the kickoff on Sept. 1 of the Obama Administration's 'Every Kid in a Park' initiative."

The [Concord \(NH\) Monitor](#) (9/13, 66K) reports that "work could begin as early as this year on the first leg of the long-discussed Merrimack River Greenway Trail, thanks in part to \$100,000 from" the LWCF.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lowell \(MA\) Sun](#) (9/13, 111K), the [Lowell \(MA\) Sun](#) (9/13, 111K), the [Fitchburg \(MA\) Sentinel and Enterprise](#) (9/13, 38K), the [MetroWest \(MA\) Daily News](#) (9/11, 79K) and the [MetroWest \(MA\) Daily News](#) (9/11, 79K).

CONSERVATION EFFORTS HELP NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL REBOUND. The [AP](#) (9/13, 3.97M) reports that "public and private conservation efforts have helped the New England cottontail rebound to the point where it can be taken off the list of species under consideration for protection, the federal government said Friday." The article notes that "during the past three years, federal officials worked with private landowners to restore more than 4,400 acres of habitat by removing trees and invasive species, planting native shrubs and creating brush piles," and "to date, state, federal and private entities have spent \$33 million for land management and acquisition, research, monitoring and outreach to protect the cottontail." According to the article, "the decision to delist the rabbit, the first time a species has come off the list in New England, means the agency has 'high certainty' that conservation programs would be successful and the species will recover without formal protections."

[The Hill](#) (9/13, Cama, 471K) reports that "Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, FWS Director Dan Ashe, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (R-N.H.) and others gathered in New Hampshire Friday to announce the finding."

The [Greenwire](#) (9/11, Subscription Publication) reports that Jewell said, "Thanks to the dedication of many partners, we can now say that future generations of Americans will know the cottontail – and not just through a character in children's literature." She added, "This is a great Endangered Species Act success story of how proactive conservation across a landscape can benefit not only the cottontail, but other wildlife, and people who rely on healthy New England forests."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Valley News \(VT\)](#) (9/13, 11K), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (9/11, 148K), the [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (9/13, 131K), the [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (9/11, 77K), the [Clay Center \(KS\) Dispatch](#) (9/13, 9K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/11, 344K), the [Pioneer News](#) (9/13), [New Hampshire Public Radio](#) (9/13, 2K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/13, 5.59M), [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (9/13, 1.3M), [US News & World Report](#) (9/11, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/11, Press, 6.76M), [WABI-TV Bangor \(ME\)](#) Bangor, ME (9/11, 5K), [WCVB-TV Boston \(MA\)](#) Boston (9/13, 246K), [WJAX-TV Jacksonville \(FL\)](#) Jacksonville, FL (9/13, 72K), [WTIC-TV Hartford \(CT\)](#) Hartford, CT (9/11, 100K), [KFVS-TV Cape Girardeau \(MO\)](#) Cape Girardeau, MO (9/13, 24K), [WFSB-TV New Haven \(CT\)](#) New Haven, CT (9/13, 269K), [WLNE-TV Providence \(RI\)](#) Providence, RI (9/13, 24K), the [Boston Globe](#) (9/11, Abel, 1.1M), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (9/11, 148K), the [Concord \(NH\) Monitor](#) (9/11, 66K), [Boston](#) (9/11, 658K), the [Foster's Daily Democrat \(NH\)](#) (9/11, Casey Conley Cconley@, fosters.com, 9K), [WSB-TV Atlanta](#) (9/13, 534K), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/13), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/13, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), [WFSB](#) New Haven, CT (9/13, 269K), [New York Times](#) (9/11, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), [Worcester Telegram](#) (9/11, 175K), [WCAX](#) Burlington, VT (9/13, 105K), [Sun Herald](#) (9/11, 129K), and [FOX News](#) (9/11, 8 91M).

FAST-MOVING CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE LEADS TO STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS. [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/13, lead story, 3:15, Quintanilla, 7.86M) opened Sunday evening by reporting that "the historic wildfire season in California has taken another turn for the worse. This one is called the Valley Fire north of Sacramento, and in just 24 hours it's grown to some 60 square miles."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/13, lead story, 3:25, Dahler, 5 08M) reported in its lead story that the "incredibly fast-moving wildfire in northern California is scorching land at a rate of speed fire officials have not seen in 30 years." [ABC World News](#) (9/13, lead story, 3 00, Llamas, 5.84M) also led with the story, with correspondent Aditi Roy saying the fire grew "200 times larger in just five hours overnight...forcing at least 17,000 people out of their homes."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/14, Romney, 4 07M) reports Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency for Lake and Napa counties, and “authorities have issued mandatory evacuation orders” for several communities. The [New York Times](#) (9/14, Lovett, Southall, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) also reports.

Wildfires Rage Along West Coast. The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Fears, 6.76M) discusses the large wildfires that are burning across California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska, noting “Never have so many acres burned with so much time left in the wildfire season.”

In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/12, lead story, 2:50, Hill, 7.86M) focused on the Butte Fire, “a 100-square-mile inferno east of Sacramento” that “is growing at an alarming rate.” Gadi Schwartz also reported on “the massive Rough Fire, California’s largest at 128,000 acres burning now for nearly a month and a half. Both fires leaving behind more scorched earth every day in a fire season that is far from over.”

Carter Evans reported in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/12, lead story, 2:15, Axelrod, 5.08M) about the two fires, noting “Record heat and strong winds have made what was a small fire in Butte County explosive as it bears down on several mountain towns.” However, Evans said “much cooler weather next week could finally give firefighters a break.”

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the [Associated Press](#) (9/14, Wozniacka), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/14, Press, 6.76M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/12, Reporter, 5.59M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/12), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (9/13, O’Connell, 113K), and the [Walla Walla \(WA\) Union-Bulletin](#) (9/13, 38K).

USGS Says Sage Grouse Face Decline If Wildfires Can’t Be Stopped. The [AP](#) (9/13) reports that “if increasingly destructive wildfires in the Great Basin can’t be stopped, the sage grouse population will be cut in half over the next three decades,” according to a report released Thursday by the USGS. The article notes that “the study also identified potential ways to avert sage grouse declines by classifying areas for their resilience to disturbance and resistance to invasive species such as cheatgrass, and then applying suitable strategies.” It also notes that “public land managers have already been doing that, but the USGS report could fine tune those efforts.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/13, Ridler, 344K), the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (9/13, 59K), the [Watertown \(SD\) Public Opinion](#) (9/13), the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (9/13, 179K), and the [Oregonian](#) (9/13, 756K).

MINE CLEAN-UP IN FOUR STATES SUSPENDED. The investigation and clean-up of 10 mining complexes in California, Colorado, Montana, and Missouri has been suspended, the [AP](#) (9/13, Brown, Elliott) reports, “because of conditions similar to those that led to a massive wastewater blowout from an inactive Colorado gold mine.” Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus stated, “We want to take extra caution before we initiate any work.”

GAO Report Criticizes Failure To Locate Abandoned Mines. According to a Government Accountability Report (GOA) released on Friday, the government has no way of locating how many abandoned mines there are on Federal land, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12, Frosch, Berzon, Subscription Publication, 5 95M) reports. The report notes the possibility that thousands of unknown mines exist and pose an environmental and human health threat. Moreover, the report criticizes responsible government agencies for not failing to assess the pollution levels of those mines that have already been identified.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Greenwire](#) (9/11, Subscription Publication).

Analysis: Colorado Mine Incident Shows Difficulty In Cleaning Contaminated Sites. In an analysis piece, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12, Frosch, Berzon, Subscription Publication, 5 95M) asserts that the Colorado mine spill from last month demonstrates the difficulty that the Environmental Protection Agency’s Superfund program has in cleaning up contaminated sites. The Journal notes distrust among impacted communities and cuts to the EPA’s budget.

HUNTING, FISHING BUSINESS CALL ON CONGRESS TO REAUTHORIZE LWCF. The [Fly Rod & Reel](#) (9/13, 146K) reports that 114 hunting and fishing businesses have “sent a letter to House and Senate leadership asking for the speedy reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which is set to expire on September 30.” The letter presses “Congress to continue to allow the fund—which is supported by off-shore gas royalties, not taxpayer dollars—to provide quality places for Americans to hunt and fish, thereby helping to grow an outdoor recreation economy that currently provides millions of jobs and drives \$646 billion into local communities each year.”

For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (9/13, Roberts, 471K), Amy Roberts, executive director of Outdoor Industry Association, also urges Congress to support the LWCF.

In an op-ed for the [Pocono \(PA\) Record](#) (9/12, Cartwright, 46K), Rep. Matt Cartwright supports the LWCF.

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [E&E Daily](#) (9/11, Subscription Publication), the [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (9/13, 143K), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Post-Gazette](#) (9/13, Hayes, 493K), the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (9/13, 401K), the [Asbury Park \(NJ\) Press](#) (9/11, 378K), and [WHBL-AM Sheboygan \(WI\)](#) Sheboygan, WI (9/14, 1K).

PROTESTERS OPPOSE TELESCOPE ON MAUNA KEA IN HAWAII. [Al Jazeera America](#) (9/13, 109K) reports that in the last five months, Mauna Kea on the Big Island of Hawaii has “become a battleground.” According to the article, “after plans were announced to build the world’s most powerful telescope atop the mountain, hundreds of protesters calling themselves protectors blocked Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) construction crews and equipment from accessing the summit, resulting in shutdowns and dozens of arrests.” The article notes that “the protests are not only are responding to the mismanagement of the mountain, which hosts more than a dozen other aging telescopes, they but are also are emblematic of a native people fed up with the under-prioritization of their interests, from the 1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom to the erosion of Hawaii’s culture and natural environment.”

NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY HELPS INTERIOR REDUCE ENERGY USAGE. The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (9/13, 32K) reports that “with zero congressional wrangling, President Obama sent down an executive order in March — dubbed ‘Planning For Federal Sustainability In The Next Decade’ — that mandates that federal agencies get at least 30 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by the year 2025.” According to the article, “engineers at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden have the task of guiding building supervisors toward that goal.” The article notes that “one sprawling federal jurisdiction where NREL’s assistance has paid off is the Department of the Interior, parent to the National Park Service.” The Interior Department has “managed to reduce the amount of energy it uses by about 34 percent from ten years earlier, while increasing its use of renewable energy sources by 10.1 percent since 2008, NREL said in a separate release.”

ENVIRONMENTALISTS URGE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO STOP ISSUING NEW LEASES FOR FOSSIL FUEL PRODUCTION. The [Vice](#) (9/13, 1.29M) reports that “analysts from the Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Earth, and the environmental consulting firm EcoShift estimate there are enough fossil fuels under federally owned lands and the Outer Continental Shelf to release the equivalent of 450 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere if they were all consumed.” They say that “without passing any new laws, the president could stop issuing new leases on federal land tomorrow.” But Kathleen Sgamma, vice president for government and public affairs at the Western Energy Alliance, said, “If the federal government wants to withdraw lands from leasing, there is a process to go through that requires congressional approval. It’s not one of these things that the president can unilaterally say, ‘We’re just not going to lease anymore.’”

Study: Burning All Fossil Fuels Will Melt Entire Antarctic Ice Sheet. In a 1,337-word article, the [New York Times](#) (9/12, Gillis, Subscription Publication, 11 82M) reports that in a study released on Friday, scientists indicate that rising temperatures resulting from the “Burning of all the world’s deposits of coal, oil and natural gas” would melt the Antarctic ice sheet in its entirety and raise sea levels “by more than 160 feet.” According to the Times, the paper notes that the ice sheets could be completely melted within 1000 years, raising sea levels at a rate 10 times faster than is currently happening. A researcher from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research located in Germany stated, “If we burn it all, we melt it all.”

Study Says Use Of All Earth’s Fossil Fuels Would Raise Sea Levels More Than 200 Feet. The [Huffington Post](#) (9/13, Visser, 164K) reports that a study published Friday in Science Advances “forecasts sea levels rising more than 200 feet should all fossil fuels be used by humanity. In such a scenario, the entire ice sheet covering Antarctica, as well as every bit of land ice on Earth, would melt.”

FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ PROMOTES NATIONAL PARKS AND TREASURES. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/13, Subscription Publication, 3 35M) reports on former Secretary of State George Shultz and his wife, Charlotte, who “have tasked themselves with protecting our national treasures.”

PETITION CALLS FOR DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS. A petition on [Change](#) (9/13, 378K) calls for the protection of “more than 3 million acres of our public land through designating Boulder-White Clouds, Gold Butte, Mojave Trails, Birthplace of Rivers, and Owyhee Canyonlands as National Monuments.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL MUSEUM. Additional coverage of the opening of the new museum at the Flight 93 National Memorial was provided by the [Somerset County \(PA\) Daily American](#) (9/13, 40K), the [Somerset County \(PA\) Daily American](#) (9/11, 40K), the [Richland Source \(OH\)](#) (9/13), [AOL](#) (9/11, 6 06M), the [Petoskey \(MI\) News-Review](#) (9/13, 30K), [USA Today](#) (9/10, Hook, 5.23M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (9/11, Pearce, 4.07M), [NPR](#) (9/10, 1.85M), [ABC News](#) (9/10, 3.97M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/11, Mandak), the [Philadelphia \(PA\) Inquirer](#) (9/13, 641K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (9/11, 884K), the [Hanover \(PA\) Evening Sun](#) (9/13, 59K), the [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/12, Hamill, 493K), the [Telegraph \(L\)](#) (9/13, 62K), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/11, 3.3M), [Legal Insurrection](#) (9/13, 2K), and [KDKA-TV Pittsburgh \(PA\)](#) Pittsburgh (9/13, 94K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SECRETARY JEWELL'S VISIT TO COLVILLE RESERVATION. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to the Colville Reservation was provided by the [Tribal Tribune](#) (9/13).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BORDER CROSSING BETWEEN BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK TO BOQUILLAS. Additional coverage of the pedestrian border crossing from Big Bend National Park to Boquillas was provided by the [Fronteras](#) (9/13).

SECRETARY JEWELL CRITICIZED FOR BLOCKING KING COVE ROAD. In a piece for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/12, 219K), Paul Jenkins writes that although a court has agreed with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's decision against a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, she "could not be more wrong." As a result of the decision, "King Cove remains the victim of a bureaucracy that could not care less about federal trust responsibilities to Alaska Natives, a bureaucracy that values migratory ducks and eel grass more than human life." He concludes that what "Jewell has done is legal," but "in human terms she could not be more wrong."

Empowering Native American Communities:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM'S NAME. Additional coverage of the controversy over the name of the Washington-based NFL football team's name was provided by the [Atlantic](#) (9/13, 2.69M).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

IRRIGATION SETTLEMENT TO BE SIGNED WITH WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT. The [McClatchy](#) (9/11, 28K) reports that "a top Interior Department official next Tuesday will sign a San Joaquin Valley irrigation settlement with the Westlands Water District, signaling the end of a long-running legal battle, but marking the start of a hot new political fight." According to the article, "after years of wrangling, negotiators agreed to a deal that absolves the federal government of the responsibility to provide irrigation drainage to farms in the Westlands district." Under the agreement, "the 600,000-acre Westlands district will retire at least 100,000 acres of farmland."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (9/13, Boxall, 4.07M).

BOR AWARDS CONTRACT TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AT HUNGRY HORSE DAM. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (9/13, 116K) reports that the BOR has "awarded a \$1.2 million construction contract to Advanced Solutions Group LLC, a small business based in Kaysville, Utah, to improve visitors' accessibility at Hungry Horse Dam." The article notes that "the work includes replacing the visitor center overlook, adding a walkway from the overlook to the visitor center, improving the parking lot, adding two viewing windows in the parapet wall of the dam, and constructing a walking, viewing and picnic pad overlooking Hungry Horse Reservoir."

STUDY EXAMINES IMPACTS OF COLORADO RIVER SHORTAGE. The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/13, 257K) reports that "a shortage of Colorado River water would affect Arizona and the Southwest more than many people previously believed, a new study says." According to the article, "called 'The Bathtub Ring' after Lake Mead's whitish coating, the study examined potential side effects of a Colorado River supply shortfall." The study "warns that electricity costs for Hoover Dam power customers would rise sharply, that visitation to Lake Mead could tumble and that California, not just Arizona, would suffer from an early shortage."

Additional coverage of the Colorado River basin was provided by the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/13, 73K) and the [Yuma \(AZ\) Sun](#) (9/13, 70K).

LOW FOLSOM LAKE LEVELS UNVEIL GOLD RUSH-ERA TOWN. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/13, 535K) reports that "as of Sept. 9, Folsom Lake held about 188 acre feet of water, down 50 percent from the same time in 2014." According to the article, "taxed by years of drought, the lake is currently filled to 19 percent of its total capacity, with officials from the federal Bureau of Reclamation foreseeing it may yet drop below the 1977 record-low of 150 acre feet." Low water levels have unveiled "remnants of a usually inundated Gold Rush-era town known as Mormon Island."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM DISCUSSES OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY CONCERNS WITH SOUTH CAROLINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The [AP](#) (9/13, 75K) reports that "developing wind energy off the South Carolina coast is not as simple as putting up a wind turbine and running a power line to shore." Regulators say "the impacts of the industry on everything from marine creatures to what the giant turbines would look like from shore must be considered." The BOEM has "identified almost 1,200 nautical square miles in four tracts off the coast that have the potential to be leased for wind energy," but "before that is done, there will be extensive studies." The article notes that "a number of concerns were discussed last week as officials from the bureau met with a South Carolina advisory committee working on offshore wind energy."

TWO LOUISIANA FIRMS PLAY KEY ROLES IN RHODE ISLAND OFFSHORE WIND FARM. The [AP](#) (9/14, Thompson) reports "two Louisiana firms with roots in the oil and gas industry" are "playing a leading part in what could be the nation's first offshore wind farm." Once it is in operation, "Deepwater Wind's Block Island project is in line to generate 30 megawatts of electricity" around "3 miles off Rhode Island's coast." The "massive steel foundations" for Deepwater Wind's "five turbines were designed by Keystone Engineering, of Mandeville, and built by Gulf Island Fabrication in Houma." The firms "were a natural fit for the project: Though destined for the East Coast, the foundations were modeled on offshore technology used by the oil industry in the Gulf of Mexico."

DEVELOPER EYES OPPORTUNITIES FOR WINDFLOATS. The [Recharge News](#) (9/13, 633) reports that "developer Principle Power sees the US as a growth market for its innovative semi-submersible, three-column pontoon design floating wind turbine foundation, with opportunities along both the east and west coasts and Hawaii," according to a company official.

MIGRATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP THREATENED BY NEW SOLAR FACILITY. In a [New York Times](#) (9/12, Lovejoy, Wilson, Subscription Publication, 11 82M) op-ed, professors Thomas E. Lovejoy and Edward O. Wilson note that the development of alternative renewable energy sources and the issue of environmental protection "are squaring off against each other in the Soda Mountains of California's Mojave Desert." Bechtel Corporation is hoping to build a solar facility on "1,900 acres of federal land along Interstate 15 near Baker, Calif., less than a mile from the Mojave National Preserve." The authors argue against the construction of the facility, which they contend would "disturb the migration of bighorn sheep in a region already fragmented by highways."

Onshore Energy Development:

MURRAY CRITICIZES STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [Bloomberg News](#) (9/11, Loh, 2.66M) reports that "Robert E. Murray, the coal miner who has sued the Obama administration over environmental regulations, said Thursday that his industry's facing its biggest regulatory threat yet" with the Stream Protection Rule. The rule would "kill an industry practice known as 'longwall mining.'" The article notes that "the technique, which involves multiple revolving blades cutting coal from a seam into slices, is key to operations run by closely held Murray Energy," and "it has emerged as one of the cheapest and most efficient ways for miners to weather the worst industry downturn in decades."

[Politico Pro](#) (9/11) reports that Murray "attempted to link Interior's stream rule with Katie McGinty, a Democrat running for a Pennsylvania Senate seat." Murray said that "McGinty and Joseph Pizarchik, now the head of Interior's Office of Surface Mining, did something similar to him a decade ago." According to the article, "in 2004, McGinty and Pizarchik were top officials in Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection." Murray said "they prevented his company from moving further into a three-year-old mine that lay beneath a 'dry ditch that seldom had water in it,' forcing him to lay off 550 workers."

Additional coverage was provided by the [E&E Daily](#) (9/11, Subscription Publication), [The Hill](#) (9/12, Cama, 471K), the [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (9/13, 55K), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Post-Gazette](#) (9/14, Hopey, 493K), the [Greene County \(PA\) Observer-Reporter](#) (9/11, 83K), and the [Martins Ferry \(OH\) Times Leader](#) (9/13, 36K).

TRAPPER MINE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROPOSED. The [AP](#) (9/13, 2 28M) reports that "another northwestern Colorado coal mine is set to get a new environmental review after environmentalists challenged its permit." According to the article, "a proposed deal between the Trapper mine, environmentalists and regulators filed in federal court Thursday calls for a review to be performed by April 30." The article notes that "the mine would be able to continue to operate on land where mining is already underway and provide monthly status updates starting next month."

The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (9/12, 10K) editorializes that "Craig and Moffat County can weather this war on coal. America can't operate without coal mines." According to the paper, "the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement worked hard to protect Colowyo, and it now has until April to complete an environmental assessment for Trapper."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (9/13, Press, 787K), [Colorado Public Radio](#) (9/13), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (9/13, 116K), the [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (9/13, 19K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/11, Slevin, 344K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/13, 73K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/13, 73K), the [Craig \(CO\)](#)

[Daily Press](#) (9/11, 10K), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (9/11, 79K).

REP. THOMPSON EXPRESSES DOUBT ABOUT POWER PLUS PLAN. The [E&E Daily](#) (9/11, Subscription Publication) reports that “a key Republican lawmaker has expressed doubts about President Obama’s plan to help mining communities reeling from the coal industry downturn.” The article notes that “a key aspect of the White House’s Power Plus Plan, announced earlier this year, is speeding up the release of \$1 billion from the coal abandoned mine land (AML) reclamation fund over five years.” However, “despite strong lobbying from the White House and bipartisan support for helping coal field communities, the AML portion of Power Plus is getting bogged down in the program’s complicated politics.” Rep. Glenn Thompson said, “I don’t think that’s going to get ahead of [the program’s] reauthorization. I can see that being a potential part of reauthorization.”

ILLINOIS COAL MINERS ANTICIPATE CHANGES UNDER NEW FEDERAL REGULATIONS. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (9/13, 968K) reports that last Thursday, hundreds of people attended a forum at the St. Charles Convention Center to weigh in on the US Department of Interior’s proposed water protection rule for the coal industry. According to some coal miners, the new rule “may actually deliver the ‘knockout punch’ to a coal industry hobbled by natural gas competition and the Environmental Protection Agency’s air regulations.” Agency officials, on the other hand, insist that the rule would have a “negligible” effect on mining jobs and production, and environmentalists “say the regulations are long overdue.” Under the proposed rules, the Illinois Basin is “expected to experience big changes,” while the Powder River Basin in Wyoming and Montana, “which supplies much of Ameren Missouri’s plants and has become the country’s largest coal-producing region, is expected to face smaller impacts.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WSIL-TV Carterville \(IL\)](#) Carterville, IL (9/13, 22K).

LAWSUIT FILED OVER FLAT CANYON TRACT LEASE. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/11, 705) reports that an environmental group sued the BLM and the Forest Service “for approving the Utah lease of 40 million tons of coal.” WildEarth Guardians is “accusing the agencies of leasing the 2,692-acre Flat Canyon tract in central Utah based on a 15-year-old environmental analysis.” The group, “which filed its complaint in Colorado U.S. District Court, said the Obama administration failed to adequately weigh mining’s climate impacts.”

POSSIBLE EXPLORATION NEAR SOUTH PARK WORRIES SOME RESIDENTS. The [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (9/13, Handy, 148K) reports in depth on concerns among some in the Colorado Springs area about the possibility of energy exploration near South Park, as the Bureau of Land Management prepares a master leasing plan for risk evaluations. According to the Gazette, much of the concern stems from the possibility of an environmental disaster adversely affecting the area’s ecology, and subsequently “those who make their living off the wildlife and water” in the region.

TRIAL OVER PLATINUM MINING OPERATION SET TO BEGIN. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/13, 219K) reports that “a first-in-Alaska federal environmental crimes trial over a mining operation is set to begin this month in Anchorage with a single defendant.” The article notes that “two other managers with XS Platinum Inc. already have pleaded guilty – one earlier this month – which opens the possibility they might testify at the trial of Canadian James Slade.” Slade is “trying to mount a ‘public authority defense,’ arguing that an official of the Bureau of Land Management allowed XS Platinum to continue its mining work even though it was generating water pollution.”

OIL AND GAS STUDY TO BE LAUNCHED IN COLORADO NEXT YEAR. The [Denver Post](#) (9/14, Whaley, 787K) reports an “unprecedented study of the hazards rooted in America’s largest oil patches will be launched” in 2016 by health officials with the Federal government “in Colorado who hope to cut the dangers faced by oil and gas workers.” Researchers “from the Denver office of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health — which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — will distribute questionnaires to 500 oil field workers in North Dakota, Texas and another unnamed state.” Personnel with the institute “will fan out to so-called ‘man camps’; training centers; equipment and trucking yards; well sites; and community centers in oilfield towns.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PUBLIC LISTENING SESSION ON FEDERAL COAL PROGRAM. Additional coverage of the public listening session held August 13 on federal coal lease program was provided by the [Wyoming Business Report](#) (9/13, 24K).

Offshore Energy Development:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO AUCTION ACRES IN GULF OF MEXICO FOR DRILLING. [The Hill](#) (9/12, Henry, 471K) reported Obama Administration officials on Friday announced plans to “lease up to 40 million acres of the Gulf of Mexico for new offshore oil and gas drilling next year,” which could produce up to “965 million barrels of oil and more than 4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.” Space in the Gulf of Mexico off of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama will be auctioned off next March.

[Politico Pro](#) (9/11) reports that BOEM Director Abigail Ross Harper called the sales “another important step in promoting responsible domestic energy production through the safe, environmentally sound development of the nation’s offshore energy resources, while ensuring a fair return to the American people.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (9/13, 718K), the [New Orleans \(LA\) CityBusiness](#) (9/11, 28K), [Marine Link](#) (9/13, 1K), the [Oil and Gas Investor](#) (9/13, Subscription Publication), the [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (9/13, 1K), and [Offshore Engineer](#) (9/13).

ANALYSIS ALASKANS DIVIDED OVER SHELL’S OFFSHORE DRILLING PLANS. Alaskans are divided over Shell Oil’s plans for offshore drilling, the [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Mufson, 6.76M) reports in a 2364 word article. Shell president Marvin Odum traveled to Alaska in early September to seek “political support from Alaska Natives in Barrow.” However, in the wake of President Obama’s visit, which focused on climate change, environmental groups “called him to block Shell’s Arctic drilling, which they said contradicts his message on slowing climate change.” Yet, Alaska Natives have argued that “they need some other source of economic welfare. And new oil development is the only option.”

Additional coverage of Arctic oil was provided by the [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (9/13, 140K).

Shell Said To Have Left Climate Change Lobby Group Over Arctic Drilling. In continuing coverage, [Greenwire](#) (9/11, Subscription Publication) reports that Royal Dutch Shell PLC has left the Prince of Wales’ Corporate Leaders Group, “an influential British lobbying group known for pushing the government to act on climate change.” Although the group “announced Shell’s departure without giving a reason,” the article reports that “people close to the group have said that the oil company’s policies, which include drilling in the Arctic, has been controversial among the group’s members.” A speaker identified as “one person” is quoted saying, “When the group started 10 years ago, Shell seemed as keen as anyone on reducing emissions and tackling climate change. ... But what with its activities in the [Canadian] tar sands and the Arctic, it’s become clear that is no longer the case.”

BSEE POINTS TO ERRORS IN GULF BLOWOUT. The [Greenwire](#) (9/11, Subscription Publication) reports that “a federal probe into a 2013 well blowout in the Gulf of Mexico found workers could have prevented the incident if they had reacted more quickly.” The federal investigation also placed blame on “Walter Oil & Gas Corp. and drilling contractor Hercules Offshore Inc. for miscalculating the ability of pumping fluids into the well to keep gas under control by overestimating the fluid’s density.” The report from the BSEE “also cited faulty emergency equipment at the rig.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (9/11, Dlouhy, 2 28M) and the [Penn Energy](#) (9/13, 128).

HOUSE COMMITTEE TO MEET ABOUT OIL, GAS RULES IN NEW ORLEANS. The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (9/12, 55K) reports that “U.S. lawmakers from Louisiana are expected push against proposed safety rules for oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico during a House committee hearing Tuesday in New Orleans.” Sen. Bill Cassidy and Sen. David Vitter say “they plan to address the House Natural Resources Committee.” Cassidy said, “Opening the Gulf to more oil and gas development means more workers in Louisiana and across the country can have good paying energy jobs. Federal policies are holding this development back, keeping workers from these jobs.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Thibodaux \(LA\) Daily Comet](#) (9/12, 42K).

OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING MOUNTS. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (9/11, 365K) reports that “the next wave of opposition to offshore testing for oil and gas deposits and drilling is emerging — grassroots groups looking to amass voter numbers to sway government officials.” The article notes that “Don’t Drill Lowcountry plans a launch-party meeting Tuesday with addresses by drilling opponents U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford and state Sen. Chip Campsen.” Meanwhile, “resident groups have begun coalescing in the Carolinas after at least 40 community governments in the two states have come out against the proposed drilling, along with hundreds of businesses and business groups.”

Additional coverage of offshore drilling was provided by the [Greater Wilmington \(NC\) Business Journal](#) (9/11).

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM WON’T MERGE ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO OFFICES. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/11, 705) reports that the BLM announced last week “it was abandoning the planned merger of its offices in New Mexico and Arizona after fielding bipartisan complaints from lawmakers and resistance from a Western oil and gas group.” Spokesman Jeff Krauss said, “The BLM listened carefully to feedback from partners and stakeholders expressing the importance of maintaining separate state offices. After considering this feedback, the BLM has decided not to move forward with a merger.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (9/13), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/11, 344K), and [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (9/13, 92K).

ANOTHER FEDERAL JUDGE RECUSED IN ATV PROTEST CASE. The [AP](#) (9/13, 2.28M) reports that "another federal judge has been recused from the case of a county commissioner convicted of leading an ATV protest ride through a closed canyon." New U.S. District Court Judge Jill Parrish was "removed from the case Friday and replaced by Judge David Sam." According to the article, "Parrish had asked to be recused because she represented the Bureau of Land Management during her eight-year stint as a federal prosecutor."

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/13, 492K), Patrick Shea, a Salt Lake City attorney and former director of the BLM, criticizes the legal maneuver to get Sam recused. Shea says that "after a four-day jury trial before an impartial jurist like Judge Shelby, to then use a motion to recuse to undermine the integrity of the system is an outrage, and should be seen as such."

BILL WOULD CREATE WILDERNESS AREAS NEAR RIO GRANDE DEL NORTE NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (9/13, 31K) reports on the Cerros del Norte Conservation Act, introduced by Sen. Martin Heinrich and co-sponsored by Sen. Tom Udall. The bill would "create the 8,000-acre Rio San Antonio Wilderness and the 13,420-acre Cerro del Yuta (Ute Mountain) Wilderness at the far northern ends of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument." The legislation "managed to make it out of committee and is eligible to go to a full vote before the Senate."

LAWSUIT FILED TO HALT SCHEDULED WILD HORSE ROUNDUP IN COLORADO. The [Rio Blanco \(CO\) Herald Times](#) (9/13) reports that "late Friday, a lawsuit was filed in federal court by The Cloud Foundation (TCF), Wild Horse Freedom Federation (WHFF), The Colorado Wild Horse and Burro Coalition (CWHBC), Dr. Don Moore and Toni Moore of Fruita, Colo., and Barb Flores of Greeley, Colo., to block the Bureau of Land Management's proposed roundups of horses from northwestern Colorado's herds." The lawsuit "alleges that the BLM violated the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act (WFRHBA) by authorizing the removal of 167 wild horses from public lands in West Douglas Herd Area (WDHA) and Piceance East Douglas Herd Management Area (PEDHMA)."

WASHINGTON COUNTY OFFICIALS OUTRAGED BY DRAFT BLM PLAN.. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (9/11, 3K) reports that "Washington County officials are outraged by a recently released Bureau of Land Management draft resource management plan which they say betrays the language and direction of a 2009 bill and has the potential to negatively impact every resident in the county, changing the Southern Utah lifestyle forever." According to the article, "commissioners and local mayors feel betrayed by the BLM's failure to consult with local officials and by the restrictive proposals contained in the draft resource plans." They "expressed their outrage and disappointment at a special Washington County Commission meeting and press conference Thursday."

BLM FIELD MANAGER IN PRINEVILLE ON THE JOB. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/13, 94K) reports that Jeff Kitchens is the new Deschutes resource area field manager for the BLM in Prineville. Kitchens began "July 29, taking over for Molly Brown, who is now a BLM field manager in Arcata, California," according to Lisa Clark, spokeswoman for the agency in Prineville.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS FACES DECISION ON SAGE GROUSE. [Boise \(ID\) State Public Radio](#) (9/13) reports that the FWS faces a deadline by the end of the month on the greater sage grouse. Until now, "there has been an enormous amount of work done to protect the bird – enough to suggest a threat is sometimes big enough to get the job done." The article looks at whether "the intent all along" was "to make the threat big enough so that an actual listing might be avoided."

Additional coverage of the sage grouse was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (9/14, 213K), [NBC News](#) (9/13, 3.73M), [KULR-TV](#) Billings, MT (9/14, 2K), and the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (9/13, 22K).

FWS TO RULE ON TEN SPECIES WITHIN YEAR. The [AP](#) (9/13, 2.28M) reports that the FWS has "agreed to decide whether a rare aquatic insect that's found only in Glacier National Park should be protected under the Endangered Species Act within the year." According to the article, "in a settlement with the Center for Biological Diversity, the federal agency agreed to make a decision by Sept. 30, 2016." The article notes that "the western glacier stonefly is one of 10 species of birds, fish and invertebrates the agency has agreed to rule on."

FWS LAUNCHING "SOFT OPENING" OF ROCKY FLATS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (9/13, 161K) reports that the FWS has "launched what some observers are terming a 'soft opening' of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. The article notes that "refuge management and state health officials insist there is no risk to the public." Barbara Boyle, the FWS "refuge supervisor overseeing the management of refuges in Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska, said 'we don't at this time' have public health concerns for people visiting the refuge."

SACRAMENTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MOSTLY DRY. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/13, Subscription Publication, 3 35M) reports that "of the six wildlife refuges that make up the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex, four are 99 percent dry. They are Colusa, Sutter, Butte Sink and Llano Seco." And "of the two that have water, Sacramento has only 17 percent wetlands and Delevan has 22 percent."

SOUTH BAY SALT POND RESTORATION PROJECT HELPS ENDANGERED SPECIES REBOUND. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (9/14, Krieger, 626K) reports that "two endangered species have returned to a nearly lifeless former salt pond in the southern San Francisco Bay, the first proof that the ambitious 30-year South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project is helping nature heal." According to the article, "Clapper Rails and Salt Marsh Harvest Mice have been discovered in a rehabilitated pond on the edge of Fremont, buoying hopes that the creatures are returning a century after they vanished due to salt harvesting by agricultural giant Cargill."

YOUNG HUNTERS PARTICIPATE ON 20TH YOUTH WATERFOWL DAY. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/13, 1.19M) reports that "an estimated 5,000 youngsters age 15 and under...hunted waterfowl Saturday on the 20th annual Youth Waterfowl Day." The FWS "allows youths who went through the Young Waterfowlers Program to return during the regular waterfowl season to hunt Blue Lake on the refuge, where boats, life jackets and decoys are provided."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RULING ON LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN STATUS. Additional coverage of the "recent federal court ruling in Texas on the Endangered Species status of the lesser prairie chicken" that "removed federal protections for the bird" was provided by the [Pratt \(KS\) Tribune](#) (9/12, 6K) and the [La Junta \(CO\) Tribune-Democrat](#) (9/13, 341).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EFFORT TO SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLY. Additional coverage of the effort to save the monarch butterfly was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/13, 455K), the [Asheville \(NC\) Mountain Xpress](#) (9/13, 46K), and the [Troy \(NY\) Daily News](#) (9/13).

National Park Service:

NPS SEEKS TO CONNECT WITH YOUTH. The [Skift](#) (9/12) reports that "despite ramping up digital marketing efforts to reach millennial travelers and better than expected visitation numbers this summer, the National Park Service (NPS) still struggles to attract younger travelers." According to the article, "to help connect with these younger visitors the NPS, and travel suppliers that serve the park, are focusing on offering more active adventure activities, targeting families and funding content marketing initiatives like documentary films to spur interest."

Meanwhile, the [Sevierville \(TN\) Mountain Press](#) (9/13, 27K) reports that Great Smoky Mountains National Park Superintendent Cassius Cash spoke about connecting with youth during a Leadership Sevier luncheon at River Plantation RV Park. Cash, "in his seventh month as the 16th superintendent of the park, was talking to the group on leadership when he mentioned how the future of the National Park Service depends on shaping the younger generation." He noted that "with the park service's 100th anniversary coming up next year, it's a crucial point in the system's history."

Wish List For NPS Centennial. The [National Parks Traveler](#) (9/13, 989) lists some "birthday wishes" for the NPS' 100th anniversary, such as the passing of the National Park Service Centennial Act.

SEN MURPHY CALLS ON NPS TO SELL MORE AMERICAN-MADE GOODS AT STORES. The [Hill](#) (9/13, Wheeler, 471K) reports that Sen. Chris Murphy is calling on the NPS "to sell more American-made merchandise in national park stores." In a letter to NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis on Friday, Murphy said "a Connecticut constituent recently brought it to his attention that stores were carrying foreign-made products." Murphy asked Jarvis "to increase the percentage of American-made merchandise that's being sold to at least 50 percent of all products at every store." He also asked Jarvis "to ensure no products otherwise available through domestic manufacturers are imported from foreign companies."

SUBARU LAUNCHES VIDEO SERIES ON NPS' ZERO LANDFILL GOAL. [JustMeans](#) (9/13, 1K) reports that "Subaru, recognized for having the first automotive assembly plant in America designated as zero landfill, presents 'Who We Are is What We Leave Behind,' a new video series documenting the National Parks zero landfill initiative."

According to the article, "in Episode 1: The Meeting of the Minds, Subaru assembles the team that will begin to form the plan to make the National Parks zero landfill." The article notes that "representatives from the National Park Service, National Parks Conservation Association, National Park Foundation, and concessioner representatives from each pilot park (Yosemite, Grand Teton and Denali) visited Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc. (SIA)."

9/11 MEMORIAL OFFICIALS SEEK CASH FROM CONGRESS ON ANNIVERSARY OF ATTACKS. The [New York Post](#) (9/13, 2.73M) reports that "while the names of September 11 victims were being solemnly read aloud at Ground Zero on Friday, 9/11 Memorial officials were in Washington, DC, angling for cash from Congress." According to the article, "the sparsely attended House hearing infuriated a group of 9/11 family members who say it was timed to gain 'maximum sympathy' — and disrespected their lost loved ones."

HARTFORD REACHES KEY AGREEMENT ON COLTSMVILLE NATIONAL PARK. The [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (9/11, 606K) reports that Hartford has "reached an agreement on its role in the national park created at the historic Colt manufacturing complex, including its stewardship of Colt Park." The deal, "which still must be approved by the city council, outlines how the properties that the city owns within the national park boundaries would be maintained by the standards of the federal National Park Services." The article notes that "the city also would work with the park service on amenities for visitors and promote preservation of the structures with the national park."

TEST RUN HELD FOR TWIN CITIES CANOE- AND BIKE-SHARING PROGRAM. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/13, 1.19M) reports that "park planners agreed this week that they need to find a location that's safe and convenient" for "the launch of a first-of-its-kind National Park Service canoe- and bike-sharing service along the Mississippi River." The article notes that "two dozen state, local and national parks stakeholders tested the 12-mile bike and 9-mile river route this week on one stretch between the city of Ramsey and the Coon Rapids Dam." According to the article, "many said they found the canoe portion safe and navigable, but that more brainstorming is needed for the bike portion."

EDUCATORS PARTICIPATE IN NPS TEACHER RANGER TEACHER PROGRAM. The [Northern Virginia Daily](#) (9/14, 48K) reports that "Shenandoah schoolteacher Donna Shrum marked a first at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Park when she decided to participate in the National Park Service Teacher Ranger Teacher program there this summer." According to the article, "through the program, K-12 teachers around the country network with parks by working as a ranger for the summer, forming lesson plans and teaching projects based on their experiences there." And at the same time, "the teachers earn graduate credit hours through the University of Colorado, Denver."

NPS APPROVES PLANS FOR NEW MARINE RESERVE WITHIN BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (9/14, 75K) reports that the NPS has "approved plans to establish a new marine reserve within Biscayne National Park." According to the article, "the agency's regional director recently said that the need is clear for plans to restore the park's coral reefs and improve visitor experiences." However, "critics say the reserve will hurt fishing businesses reliant on the park's waters." But "park officials say the reserve will allow the reefs to recover, which will lure bigger fish and enhance the experiences of people snorkeling, diving or viewing the waters from glass-bottom boats."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Cape Coral \(FL\) Daily Breeze](#) (9/14, 6K) and [WBBH-TV Fort Myers \(FL\)](#) Fort Myers, FL (9/14, 155K).

SOME LANDOWNERS ALLOWED TO HUNT ON GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK INHOLDINGS. The [AP](#) (9/13) reports that "it will be legal this fall for some landowners whose property is inside or borders Grand Teton National Park to hunt game such as black bears and mule deer." The article notes that "the regulatory shift dates to late last year, when the National Park Service gave the state management authority over wildlife on privately held land that's within or borders the park." The Wyoming Game and Fish Department Commission "decided that such land would be managed like any other land that the state has jurisdiction over."

HANGAR AT FORT BARRY GETS MAKEOVER. The [AP](#) (9/13, 2.28M) reports that "a military hangar once used to house gigantic, tethered balloons during the U.S. Army's brief experiments to determine how they might be used to supplement the nation's coastal defense system is getting a makeover." According to the article, "the hangar at Fort Barry near Sausalito will get a new coat of paint and a historically accurate shell." NPS project manager Rich Melbostad said "the upgrade will keep the hangar from falling down."

CDC STUDYING PUZZLING RISE IN RABBIT FEVER IN WESTERN US. [Reuters](#) (9/10, Zuckerman) reports that on Thursday state epidemiologist officials said the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is studying the puzzling rise in cases of tularemia, or rabbit fever, a rare bacterial disease that has killed a Wyoming man and sickened many in Colorado, South Dakota and Nebraska this year. Reuters explains that tularemia rarely affects more than a few people each year, compared to this year's 74 confirmed cases in Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota. The article notes that animals that tested positive for tularemia near Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming led the NPS to post signs urging visitors to stay on marked trails and avoid contact with animals.

NPS TO CLOSE ANACOSTIA MARINA. The [Seven Valleys \(PA\) Bay Journal](#) (9/13, 146K) reports that "despite efforts to increase residents' access to the Anacostia River — and to continue making its waters clean enough that people want to access it — the National Park Service said this week it will close one of eight marinas on the river." The article notes that "nearly 60 boat owners currently use Buzzard Point Marina, located near the Anacostia's confluence with the Potomac River, and have been notified to move their boats before the marina closes at the end of the year."

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK CLOSES WHITEOAK SINK AREA TO PROTECT BAT POPULATION. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (9/11, 235K) reports that "Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials announced Friday the closure of the Whiteoak Sink area through March 31 to protect the bat population."

YELLOWSTONE ATTENDANCE EXCEEDS PAST RECORDS. The [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (9/13, 20K) reports that "in the wake of record-breaking attendance this summer, the crush of people in cars pouring through the gates of Yellowstone National Park has been so large at times National Park Service officials have waved them through for free." The article notes that "month after month the 2015 attendance figures at the world's oldest national park, has exceeded past records, putting the annual attendance at 3,133,965 through August, a pace expected to exceed last year's record of 3.5 million people."

CONCESSIONAIRE MAKING IMPROVEMENTS AT SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK. The [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press](#) (9/13, 280) reports that "under the terms of their 10-year contract with the National Park Service, the Delaware North Company is making significant improvements in many aspects of the concession-operated facilities at Shenandoah National Park, according to Park Superintendent Jim Northup." He said, "We are delighted with the progress that Delaware North has made so far. All of this work will really enhance the visitor experience," he added.

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/14, Press, 6.76M).

BODY OF MISSING STUDENT FOUND IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (9/13, 2.28M) reports that "authorities say they have recovered the body of a missing University of Nevada, Reno student in Yosemite National Park." According to the article, "park rangers confirmed a body found earlier this week is that of 24-year-old graduate student Matthew Baldwin." Park spokeswoman Ashley Mayer says "Baldwin's car was discovered Sunday near the Tamarac Flat Campgrounds and his body was roughly 5 miles away near the El Capitan Gully."

CENTRAL BERWYN BUNGALOW HISTORIC DISTRICT ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Daily Southtown \(IL\)](#) (9/11) reports that "the Central Berwyn Bungalow Historic District, roughly bounded by Cermak Road (north), 26th Street (south), Ridgeland Avenue (east) and Home Avenue (west), has been added to the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service effective September 11, 2015."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "EVERY KID IN A PARK" INITIATIVE. Additional coverage of the "Every Kid in a Park" initiative was provided by the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Bulletin](#) (9/13, 58K), the [Sidney \(NE\) Sun Telegraph](#) (9/10, 857), the [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (9/10, 140K), the [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (9/13, Times, 253K), the [Pike County \(PA\) Courier](#) (9/10, 21K), the [Deming \(NM\) Headlight](#) (9/13, 10K), and the [Seward \(AK\) Phoenix Log](#) (9/10, 5K).

WPOST LAFEYETTE SQUARE SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN DURING CHINESE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Board, 6.76M) supports keeping Square, "a prominent place for political protest in the nation's capital," open during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit this month to the United States. It notes that

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, September 4, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

Holiday Message. In observance of the federal Labor Day holiday, we will not publish on Monday, September 7, 2015. Service will resume on Tuesday, September 8, 2015. We wish our readers a safe and happy holiday.

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DOI in the News:

REPUBLICANS QUESTION WHETHER INTERIOR'S INVESTIGATION OF EPA MINE SPILL WILL BE INDEPENDENT. The [AP](#) (9/4, Press, 1.19M) reports that "some members of Congress say they're concerned that politics will influence the U.S. Interior Department's investigation of a toxic mine spill caused by another federal agency." In a letter sent Thursday to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, "Republicans questioned whether the agency's review would be independent." The letter was signed by Reps. Jason Chaffetz and Rob Bishop of Utah and Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/4, 2.28M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (9/4, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/4, Press, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/4, 344K), [ABC News](#) (9/4, 3 97M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/4, 5.59M), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/4, 407K), and [Nonprofit Quarterly](#) (9/3).

EPA Chief Will Not Appear At Congressional Hearing On Colorado Spill. The [Washington Times](#) (9/4, Richardson, 344K) reports the House Science, Space and Technology Committee said Thursday it will hold the first congressional hearing into the Environmental Protection Agency's Animas River spill, but Administrator McCarthy will not testify. The Times notes that Chairman Lamar Smith "had called" on McCarthy to testify, "but her name was not on the list" of those appearing. Mathy Stanislaus, the assistant administrator of the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, "will represent the agency."

WSJournal: Mine Leak, Clean Water Rule Highlight Problems With EPA. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4, Subscription Publication, 5 95M) editorial highlights the Colorado mine leak and a Federal judge's criticism of the Clean Water Rule as evidence of problems in the way the EPA makes decisions. The Journal says that while the Administration wants broad powers to take action as it relates to the environment, the White House can not be trusted to possess that type of unchecked regulatory authority.

PRESIDENT OBAMA CLOSES OUT ALASKA TRIP. [Outside](#) (9/4, 258K) reports that "President Barack Obama closed out his three-day Alaska trip yesterday in Kotzebue, a town of 3,200 people that sits 33 miles north of the Arctic Circle." According to the article, "the overall response he's received from Alaskans has been positive—surprisingly so."

In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/3, 219K), Mark Trahan, the Charles R. Johnson endowed professor of journalism at the University of North Dakota, writes that "there is one story that's missing from the national accounts of the president's visit: the role of tribes in determining Alaska's future." He notes that "that story has multiple chapters that include the recognition of those tribes by the federal government, the push for Native hunting and fishing rights as well as the management of fish and game, law enforcement, and the most recent episode, a debate about land into trust." Additional coverage of the land-into-trust lawsuit was provided by the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (9/4, 15K).

Additional coverage of Alaska and Arctic issues was provided by the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/3, 219K), the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (9/4, 15K), the [Arctic \(AK\) Sounder](#) (9/4, 6K), [Fierce Homeland Security](#) (9/4, Sarkar) and [Western Journalism](#) (9/4, 303K).

Moore: Humans Are Not Causing Glaciers To Recede. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) op-ed, Patrick Moore, a co-founder and former leader of Greenpeace and a director of the CO2 Coalition, takes issue with the President's use of Alaska's receding glaciers to argue that humans are causing climate change, arguing that the glacier in Glacier Bay began receding around 1750, well before human greenhouse gas emissions could have been responsible.

Continuing Coverage Of Controversy Over Denali Name Change. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (9/4, 1.03M) editorializes that "given that Alaskans of all persuasions demonstrably want to name the mountain Denali, it is hard to consider the protest by Ohio's congressional Republicans, who are all...up for re-election in 2016, as anything more than a publicity stunt." It urges politicians to concentrate on "our other problems," instead of "the name of a mountain, thousands of miles from Ohio."

For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (9/3, Anderson, Contributor, 471K), Tom Anderson, the managing partner at Optima Public Relations, writes that President McKinley "gave his life in and for public service" and his "most notable namesake was the tallest peak on the North American continent, the huge upthrust rising center of the great state of Alaska." But "sadly, this honor has now been wiped away with the flick of a pen by a former CEO-of-REI-named-secretary-of-the -Interior by a president who, until this week, had also had never formally been to Alaska." Anderson is troubled because "if it's so easy to pull recognition from under the feet of an assassinated president, what national landmark or treasure is safe?"

Additional coverage of the controversy was provided by the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/2, 213K), the [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (9/4, 111K), the [Clovis \(NM\) News Journal](#) (9/3, 21K), the [Youngstown \(OH\) Vindicator](#) (9/4, 157K), and [My Dayton \(OH\) Daily News](#) (9/4).

Additional Coverage: USGS Announces New Height For Denali. Additional coverage that "the recently renamed mountain, Denali, is 10 feet shorter according to the US Geological Survey" was provided by [LiveScience](#) (9/4, 467K), [Outside](#) (9/4, 258K) and [Pulse Headlines](#) (9/4).

Additional Coverage: No Plans To Rename Mount Rainier. Additional coverage that federal officials have no plans to rename Mount Rainer to Mount Tacoma was provided by the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (9/4, 962K), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/3, 219K), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/4, 94K), and [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (9/2, 515K).

LWCF COULD EXPIRE AT END OF MONTH. [WPTA-TV](#) Fort Wayne, N (9/4, 11K) reports that the Land and Water Conservation Fund "could expire at the end of this month." The article notes that "a Senate Committee passed a bill to permanently reauthorize the LWCF, but the bill will still have to go through the full Senate and House for passage."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Earth Island Journal](#) (9/4, 213) and the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/4, 183K).

Congress Urged To Reauthorize LWCF. In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (9/3, 5.23M), Jamie Williams, president of The Wilderness Society, urges Congress to take action "to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund before Sept. 30." Williams writes that "if we lose the Land and Water Conservation Fund, we rob America's future generations

of the chance to be stronger, healthier and happier by enjoying natural spaces." Also, he adds that "we unduly expose our national heritage to unacceptable development, such as private resorts in national parks and the destruction of hallowed battlefields to make way for strip malls and roadways."

Protection Of Rocky Fork Tract Celebrated. The [Greeneville \(TN\) Sun](#) (9/4, 43K) reports that officials gathered Wednesday "to celebrate the protection of the final 100 acres of the more than 9,800-acre tract making up the Rocky Fork area, which is located within the Appalachian Trail Corridor along the Tennessee-North Carolina border." The article notes that "over the past seven years, more than \$30 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been utilized by the Forest Service to acquire more than 7,700 acres of Rocky Fork property from the Conservation Fund." That land will now be preserved as part of the Cherokee National Forest.

Fort Ransom State Park To Build Visitor Center. The [Jamestown \(ND\) Sun](#) (9/4, 850) reports that Sens. Heidi Heitkamp and John Hoeven "announced Wednesday that the National Park Service has awarded \$388,794 to the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department to construct a visitor information center at Fort Ransom State Park." The federal funds are made available through the LWCF.

WEBSITE FOR "EVERY KID IN A PARK" DESIGNED TO BE KID-FRIENDLY. [Federal Times](#) (9/3, 117K) reports that "colors, along with friendly icons and pictures, are what will make a new federal website for kids a success, according to its designers at 18F." The site is "everykidinapark.gov, the landing page for Every Kid in a Park, an Interior Department program to promote the National Park system." The article notes that "the website includes a comprehensive list of locations, information about the program and other resources, and a way to print paper passes allowing access." The site was "designed specifically to encourage 10-year-olds to use it, rather than deferring to adults."

Additional coverage of the "Every Kid in a Park" initiative was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/2, 4.07M), the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (9/4, 566K), the [Concord \(NC\) Independent Tribune](#) (9/4, 49K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (9/4, 560K), the [Syracuse \(NE\) Journal-Democrat](#) (9/3, 5K), the [Daily Ardmoreite \(OK\)](#) (9/3, 29K), the [Orangeburg \(SC\) Times And Democrat](#) (9/4, 51K), the [Putnam Daily Voice](#) (9/4), [KSNV-TV](#) Las Vegas (9/4, 12K), [WGNS-FM](#) Murfreesboro, TN (9/4, 125), and [WSJV-TV](#) South Bend, IN (9/3, 1K).

FOREST SERVICE SPENDS A RECORD \$243M LAST WEEK ON WILDFIRES. The [AP](#) (9/4, 2.28M) reports that "the U.S. Forest Service spent a record \$243 million last week battling forest fires around the country, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said Thursday." The article notes that "the agency has spent all the money Congress provided for fighting wildfires in the 12-month budget period, forcing it to borrow money from forest restoration work designed to reduce the risk of fires." Vilsack said "further transfers are likely and the agency expects to continue spending about \$200 million per week on fire suppression during the coming weeks."

Additional coverage was provided by [US News & World Report](#) (9/3, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/4, Press, 6.76M), [T ME](#) (9/4, 19.55M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/4, Ridler), and [National Geographic](#) (9/4, 31.65M).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ATTEND RIVER DAY IN LOWELL. The [Boston Globe](#) (9/4, Malloy, 1.1M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will attend River Day in Lowell next Saturday. According to the article, "held in partnership with the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust, the event celebrates the role waterways play in local communities." Jewell and Rep. Niki Tsongas will "kick off the day with a canoe paddle on the Concord River and meet with local nonprofits that focus on the environment."

REP. CHAFFETZ SEEKS BACKING FOR PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE. The [Moab \(UT\) Sun News](#) (9/4) reports that Rep. Jason Chaffetz is "hoping to strike a deal between energy developers, conservationists and recreationists, while averting a presidential proclamation of a national monument in southeastern Utah." Chaffetz is "proposing revisions to the eastern Utah Public Lands Initiative that would include a 50,000-acre expansion of Arches National Park, as well as the designation of wilderness and a National Conservation Area in Labyrinth Canyon along the Green River." He is also "proposing to withdraw approximately 24,000 acres of proposed wilderness in the Book Cliffs – before Utah's congressional delegation introduces a bill in Congress some time this fall." The article notes that "Chaffetz is also insisting on a permanent exemption of the Antiquities Act, which he fears President Barack Obama will use to declare either a Greater Canyonlands, or a Bears Ears/ Cedar Mesa National Monument in San Juan County."

INTERIOR SEEKS NEW DEPUTY CIO. The [ExecutiveGov](#) (9/4, 548) reports that "Interior Department is looking for a new deputy chief information officer who will support the duties, responsibilities and authority of the CIO and the secretary for information management and technology." According to the article, "in a notice posted Monday on USAJobs.gov, the department said the deputy CIO role is a Senior Executive Service position and has a Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information security clearance."

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM CALLED "AN EMBARRASSMENT OF UNFATHOMABLE PROPORTIONS." In a piece for [USA Today](#) (9/4, 5.23M), Mike Foss writes that "the Washington Redskins have been a loathsome franchise for quite some time now" and has "become synonymous with unfathomable stupidity across all aspects of its organization." Of note, Foss writes that "it's a team who has defiantly refused to change its nickname amid claims of racism from Native American groups." He notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has said the NPS "won't allow the team a new lease at hallowed RFK Stadium because of the nickname." However, "owner Dan Snyder has said the team will 'NEVER' change its name."

ARIZONA URGED TO DEVELOP PLAN TO TRANSFER FEDERAL LANDS. In his column for the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/3, 1.12M), Robert Robb writes that "Arizona should follow the lead of other states and develop a carefully considered plan" for the transfer of federal land. He claims that "the federal government loses money on the public lands it manages. The states make money, and quite a bit of it." According to Robb, the federal government has "lost the ability to put lands intended to be managed for multiple purposes to any use other than conservation."

Empowering Native American Communities:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN ANNOUNCES \$1.7 MILLION NOW AVAILABLE FOR TRIBAL EDUCATION. The [Lakota Country \(SD\) Times](#) (9/3) reports that "on Monday, Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn announced that \$1.7 million dollars has been made available to tribes through initiatives set in motion by the Bureau of Indian Education."

RAND PAUL SAYS "LACK OF ASSIMILATION" HAS BEEN "DISASTER" FOR NATIVE AMERICANS. The [Huffington Post](#) (9/3, 164K) reports that "GOP presidential candidate Rand Paul took to the airwaves Thursday to broadcast his theory that Native Americans 'don't do very well because of their lack of assimilation.'" In an exchange with conservative talk show host Laura Ingraham, Paul said, "I think assimilation is an amazing thing. A good example of how, even in our country, assimilation didn't happen – and it has been a disaster for the people – has been the Native American population on the reservations. If they were assimilated, within a decade they'd probably be doing as well as the rest of us. But instead, seclusion and isolating them – we took their land, and then we put them all on small quadrants of land." His comments were rebuked by Democrats and Native leaders.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BARGE AIMS TO KEEP WATER FROM FOLSOM LAKE FLOWING. [KQVR-TV](#) Sacramento, CA (9/3, 61K) reports that "work has begun on building a barge that would supply Folsom with drinking water if water levels get so low the current system doesn't function." According to the article, "if water goes below the intake valve currently used to get water to Folsom, the barge will be put to use pumping water from the lake over the dam and into a pipeline to the city of Folsom." The BOR has "been planning this temporary pump system for months and say water levels and storage can take them through October." However, "they wanted a system in place if it's needed."

Additional coverage was provided by [KSTE-AM Rancho Cordova \(CA\)](#) Rancho Cordova, CA (9/4, 6K) and [KTXL-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (9/3, 122K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND INDUSTRY HOPES TO CUT BAT KILLINGS. [The Hill](#) (9/4, Cama, 471K) reports the wind industry is "slowing down their turbines this fall in an effort to dramatically reduce the number of bats the blades kill." The American Wind Energy Association is hoping that by "reducing the speed of turbines to between one and three revolutions per minute during bats' top migrating season," it will "eliminate 30 percent of the bat killings that would happen this year." The strategy, if successful, "could take a big bite out of one of the top criticisms of wind power: that its fast-moving blades kill wildlife such as birds and bats."

LAWSUIT SEEKS TO STOP TRANSFER OF KERR DAM TO TRIBES. The [AP](#) (9/3, 15K) reports that "residents in and around Flathead Lake are asking a judge to temporarily block federal officials from transferring a hydroelectric dam in northwestern Montana to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes." The plaintiffs — state Sen. Bob Keenan, a Bigfork business owner, Verdell Jackson, supervisor of the Flathead Conservation District and Pointer Scenic Cruises — filed a motion in U.S. District Court in the District of Columbia on Wednesday. The transfer is scheduled to take place on Saturday. According to the article, "it wasn't clear if a judge would hold a hearing in time to delay the transfer." The motion requests that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission be "required to hold hearings to determine if the tribe and its public utility Energy Keepers Inc. have the financial and technical ability to safely operate the dam and if the transfer will be in the public interest."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (9/4, 116K), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/3, 75K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/4, Hanson, 344K), the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (9/4, 39K), and [WRAL-TV Raleigh \(NC\)](#), Raleigh, NC (9/4, 193K).

Onshore Energy Development:

OSMRE BACK KEEPING COLOWYO MINE OPEN. The [AP](#) (9/4, Slevin, 344K) reports that “federal regulators have recommended that a northwestern Colorado coal mine threatened with closure partly over its impact on global warming remain open.” The OSMRE “issued its decision Tuesday, five days before a court-imposed deadline that congressional, state and local lawmakers had urged the office to meet to keep the Colowyo mine operating near Craig.” The Interior Department “still must decide whether to accept the recommendation to ensure the mine’s future, but U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet said Thursday that the review ‘will help relieve significant anxiety in Moffat and Rio Blanco counties.’”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (9/4, Slevin), the [Macon \(GA\) Telegraph](#) (9/4, 161K), the [Oklahoman](#) (9/4, 408K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (9/4, Slevin, Press, 5.98M).

OSMRE HOLDS PUBLIC HEARING IN LEXINGTON TO DISCUSS PROPOSED STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [WYMT-TV](#) Hazard, KY (9/4) reports that OSMRE officials are “holding a public hearing in Lexington regarding a proposed rule that’s drawing criticism from the coal industry.” The agency “held a public hearing Tuesday in Denver and will hold four more hearings in cities across the country.” The article notes that “several prominent lawmakers, including Congressman Andy Barr and State Senator Brandon Smith of Hazard, are expected to speak.”

The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (9/3, 251K) reports that “industry officials and politicians told OSM at the meeting that the agency has not given people enough time to analyze or comment on the rule, but that it was clear the proposal would hamstring surface and underground mining and wipe out jobs.” On the other hand, “representatives of the Sierra Club, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and others told OSM Thursday that the proposed rule is a step toward greater protection,” although “environmentalists said the rule needs to do even more.”

NEW FRACKING RULES DELAYED UNTIL MID-OCTOBER. The [Platts](#) (9/4, 1K) reports that “new federal fracking rules, originally set to take effect in June, will be delayed until at least mid-October after both sides in a federal case challenging the rules requested more time this week to submit arguments.” Lawyers wrote in joint motion Wednesday, “Given the voluminous nature of the record, the parties agree that additional time is necessary to complete a preliminary review of the record and identify additional citations pertinent to the pending motions for a preliminary injunction.” US District Court of Wyoming Judge Scott Skavdahl “approved the motion Thursday, setting up an expected decision in the case by mid-October.”

WHITE HOUSE REVIEWING FWS OIL, GAS RULE. The [Greenwire](#) (9/3, Subscription Publication) reports that “the White House’s Office of Management and Budget is reviewing a controversial proposal from the Fish and Wildlife Service to update the agency’s nearly-five-decade-old oil and gas regulations.” The article notes that “the draft revision aims to provide a higher and more consistent level of protection for National Wildlife Refuge System resources and recreational opportunities from the impacts of fossil fuel production and abandoned infrastructure.” OMB is “examining the proposal before its public release because the White House considers it to be a ‘significant’ regulation.”

PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDEES CRITICIZE DRILLING LEASE ON NATIVE AMERICAN LAND. The [AP](#) (9/3) reports on an advisory panel meeting in Helena, MT debating the reinstatement of an oil and gas drilling lease on land sacred to Native Americans. Meeting attendees spoke out against the reinstatement of the lease, which was granted to Solenex LLC in the 1980s and suspended in 1997. The panel will make its recommendation on Sept. 21.

TREATY AUTHORITY SEEKS TO UNITE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWA BANDS AGAINST SANDPIPER. The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (9/4, 137K) reports that “the 1855 Treaty Authority said Thursday it wants a resolution from each of the bands within the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe calling for more environmental study before all proposed crude oil pipelines being permitted by the state — including the Sandpiper line — can go forward.” Treaty Authority spokesperson Frank Bibeau said “after a meeting Wednesday with officials from the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, the treaty rights advocacy group plans to ask each of the tribal councils for a resolution calling for an environmental impact statement on the pipelines under the argument they’re entitled to one based on their treaty rights.”

BIA TO FUND MONITORING OF WATER QUALITY OF STIKINE, TAKU, UNUK RIVERS. [KSTK](#) (9/3) reports that the BIA will “fund baseline water quality testing for three Southeast Alaska rivers that could be affected by British Columbia mine development.” The BIA is “partnering with the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska to gather baseline water data from the Stikine, Taku and Unuk Rivers.”

OSMRE RECOGNIZES WORK ON SIMPSON NORTHEAST COAL REFUSE FIRE. The [Carbondale \(PA\) News](#) (9/3, 8K) reports that “the Department of Environmental Protection’s Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (DEP-BAMR) will receive the 2015 Excellence in Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Appalachian Regional Award.” The award is given by the OSMRE “for its work on the Simpson Northeast Coal Refuse Fire in Fell Township, Lackawanna County in 2014.” It will “be presented at the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs Annual Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico on September 28.”

Offshore Energy Development:

BP SEEKING RETURN OF SOME MONEY PAID OUT FOR OIL SPILL CLAIMS. The [AP](#) (9/4, Mcgill) reports that attorneys representing BP “told a federal appeals court Thursday that the company should be able to get back some of the money it paid in economic damage claims to businesses and individuals under a settlement arising from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.” After the settlement’s approval, BP “argued that the claims administrator had not been correctly matching business’ revenues and expenses, resulting in overpayments,” and while “a court eventually ordered a new calculation method,” it “refused to order restitution of payments already made.” BP “wants restitution of some of the money paid out prior to October 2013.”

[The Hill](#) (9/4, Cama, 471K) reports, that “in briefs before the New Orleans-based appeals court, BP said hundreds of millions of dollars are at stake in the case.” The article reports that “the three-judge panel is not expected to rule immediately on BP’s appeal.”

Report: Claims Related To BP Oil Spill Reach More Than \$5.6 Billion. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (9/4, 718K) reports that “claims payments to people and businesses harmed by the 2010 BP oil spill have reached more than \$5.6 billion, according to figures the settlement administrator released this week.” Business claims account for the “largest chunk of funds paid under the agreement.” The article reports that “claims submitted since the start of the program totaled 368,230,” and “of that total, 94,600 claims have been paid, the report says.” The article adds that “according to the report, the program has denied payment to more than 92,000 claims.”

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP SETTLES LAWSUIT AGAINST TAYLOR ENERGY. The [AP](#) (9/3) reports on the settlement of a lawsuit between The Waterkeeper Alliance and Taylor Energy Company regarding oil leaking from the site of a downed Taylor Energy oil platform. Under the terms of the settlement, Taylor Energy agrees to a public meeting discussing the causes of the leakage and agrees to donate \$400,000 for environmental research.

TIMES-PICAYUNE FEDS MUST USE GAS, OIL ROYALTIES TO REBUILD GULF COAST. In an editorial, the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (9/4, 718K) argues that revenue produced from Louisiana oil and gas royalties should be used to rebuild the Gulf coast, noting that “Louisiana and the other Gulf states are the ones that have paid the environmental and infrastructure costs of energy production” and yet “they have gotten essentially nothing to help offset those costs.” The editorial argues that Louisiana “always should have gotten a share of the royalties paid by oil and gas companies, as inland states do for drilling done within their borders” yet “for years the federal government has kept all that bounty.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

STUDIES SAY MORE GRAZING WOULDN’T HAVE STOPPED SODA FIRE. The [Idaho Statesman](#) (9/4, 190K) reports that “ranchers repeatedly said that the Soda Fire would not have been so large had they been allowed to have their cattle graze more of the grasses that had grown thick with spring rains,” but “ranchers consistently overstate the potential to stop wildfires with more grazing, Bureau of Land Management leaders insist.” The article notes that “studies conducted by the University of Idaho and others support the BLM’s argument, most notably studies done after the 2007 Murphy Springs Fire that burned more than 600,000 acres.”

NEWLY RENOVATED SANTA CRUZ LAKE REOPENS FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND. The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/4, 67K) reports that “Santa Cruz Lake, a popular recreation area closed almost a year for renovations, will reopen Saturday in time for the Labor Day weekend.” The article notes that “the lake, located about 30 miles north of Santa Fe near the village of Chimayo, was abuzz with construction activity Thursday as about 15 staffers under the guidance of Bureau of Land Management civil engineer Herb Chavez worked feverishly to meet the deadline.” The BLM will “reopen the lake on Sept. 5 for boating and fishing,” but “swimming is not allowed at the lake because of the strong underwater currents created by the dam.”

FBI ADMITS TO SPYING ON BURNING MAN IN 2010. The [RT](#) (9/4, 346K) reports that “federal agents spied on Burning Man festival in the Nevada desert in 2010, citing the need to collect intelligence and prevent terrorism, newly released documents reveal.” But “they found no threats apart from festival-goers using ‘illegal drugs.’” The BLM “issued almost 200 citations and arrested 8 people at the 2010 event, attended by more than 50,000 ‘Burners.’”

COOS BAY FORESTRY PIONEER ESTELLA MORGAN REMEMBERED. The [Oregonian](#) (9/4, 756K) reports that Estella Morgan “was killed Nov. 4, 2014, when a tree crushed her truck’s cab while she made her rounds in the Blue Ridge area southeast of Coos Bay.” She was “a dynamic woman who made a lasting mark in the Coos Bay area where she was born.” Morgan “rose to be a leader in the Bureau of Land Management,” and was “known for her exacting standards and reliability in evaluating federal timber as the Coos Bay District’s lead cruise appraiser.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

TEN ANIMALS THAT DEPEND ON WESTERN SAGEBRUSH. The [Washington Post](#) (9/4, Fears, 6.76M) reports that “sage grouse are dominating the conversation on threats to animals in America’s western sagebrush,” but “other animals of concern also need a voice.” The article highlights “nine other species of animals that live — and die — alongside sage grouse in a declining habitat.”

Opinion: Sage Grouse Conservation Efforts Should Prevent Listing. In a piece for the [Mesquite \(NV\) Local News](#) (9/4, 16K), Thomas Mitchell writes that listing the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act “could be devastating for mining, oil and natural gas exploration, agriculture, wind turbines, solar panels, power transmission lines and recreation.” Mitchell hopes that “a court-mandated deadline on whether to list greater sage grouse is due by Sept. 30.” He hopes that recent efforts to save the grouse “are provably already succeeding” and “will be heard in Washington.”

Additional coverage of the sage grouse was provided by [Boise \(D\) State Public Radio](#) (9/3) and the [Audubon Society](#) (9/4, 1.65M).

PRAIRIE CHICKEN RULING CASTS DOUBT ON FWS LISTING POLICY. The [Greenwire](#) (9/3, Subscription Publication) reports that “a judge’s decision Tuesday to strip federal protections from a prairie grouse that roams the southern Great Plains has thrown into question how the government considers voluntary conservation measures when issuing listing decisions under the Endangered Species Act.” The holding could influence how the FWS “considers voluntary conservation programs in other high-profile listing decisions, such as the greater sage grouse.” The ruling by Judge Robert Junell of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas “overturned the agency’s decision in spring 2014 to list the lesser prairie chicken as threatened in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado, where the bird’s native grassland and prairie habitat had shrunk by 84 percent.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (9/2, 109K), the [Salina \(KS\) Post](#) (9/3), the [Hays \(KS\) Post](#) (9/3), the [Oklahoman](#) (9/4, 408K), [Reuters](#) (9/3, Maclean), and [KAMR-TV Amarillo \(TX\)](#) Amarillo, TX (9/4, 428).

FWS STANDS BY DECISION ALLOWING KILLING OF ENDANGERED NORTH CAROLINA RED WOLVES. [Reuters](#) (9/3, Liston) reports that the FWS on Thursday stood by its decision to authorize recent killings of two highly endangered North Carolina red wolves on private property, despite plans by conservationists to sue. FWS spokesman Tom MacKenzie said, “We are confident we have the authority to take these management actions.”

FWS RELEASES REPORT SHOWING GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION FROM GE’S CHEMICALS. [International Business Times](#) (9/4, 835K) reports that “environmental groups and Democratic legislators are pressuring New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to say that General Electric must continue cleaning up the massive pollution the company dumped into the Hudson River over decades during the 20th century.” GE has “called its operations ‘one of the largest and most successful environmental cleanup projects ever undertaken in the United States.’” However, Margaret Byrne, an official at the FWS, “who is the agency’s assessment and restoration manager for the Hudson River, raised questions about GE’s plan to shut down its dredging operations this year.” The FWS “on Thursday released a report showing that groundwater in some upstate towns remains contaminated by GE’s chemicals.”

A [New York Times](#) (9/4, Subscription Publication, 11 82M) editorial calls on General Electric to complete its clean-up of the Hudson River. If it fails to do so, the Times says New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo should “do right by the river,” and “demand payback” or “the state could dredge the canal itself, and send G.E. the bill.”

FWS BIOLOGIST RAISES CONCERNS THAT QUARRY COULD KILL KANKAKEE FISH. The [AP](#) (9/4, 36K) reports that “area farmers are making a last ditch effort to stop the Singleton Stone Quarry even as bulldozers scrape off acres of topsoil to clear the way for deeper stone excavations.” Elizabeth S. McCloskey, a biologist for the FWS, “recently wrote the Indiana Department of Environmental Management asking them to deny quarry operators permission to pump millions of gallons of groundwater into the Singleton Ditch where it could cloud the man-made waterway and farther downstream in the Kankakee River with sediment, endangering fish and freshwater mussels.” James Wieser, an attorney for Singleton Stone and its parent company, Reith-Riley Construction Co., said Monday that “he is unaware of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife letter, but is confident the state is ready to give its final approval for all quarry operations.”

O’SULLIVAN’S ISLAND IN DERBY RECEIVES GRANT TO BUILD FISHING PIER. The [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (9/3, 172K) reports that “the city has secured a \$325,000 grant to build a fishing pier at O’Sullivan’s Island.” The grant was awarded by the FWS on behalf of the Connecticut Housatonic Natural Resource Trustee Council.

ARIZONA SEEKS TO INTERVENE IN LAWSUIT OVER MEXICAN WOLF REGULATIONS. The [Prescott \(AZ\) Daily Courier](#) (9/4, 42K) reports that “the state of Arizona and Office of the Arizona Attorney General Tuesday, Sept. 1, filed a motion to intervene in a lawsuit brought by several groups in July against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” According to the article, “the lawsuit challenges some aspects of the Service’s revised 10(j) rule that governs the management of Mexican wolves in Arizona and New Mexico.”

National Park Service:

BUZZARD POINT MARINA TO CLOSE IN DECEMBER. The [Washington Post](#) (9/4, Zauzmer, 6.76M) reports that “Buzzard Point Marina, where boat owners have docked for more than a half-century, will close in December, displacing about 60 boat owners, the National Park Service said Thursday.” Officials said “the marina is in need of improvements to remain safe and modern, but to do so would be prohibitively expensive.” Instead, “the marina will close, and later, the agency will study other opportunities to offer recreational facilities on the Anacostia River.” NPS Superintendent Gopaul Noojibail said, “Closing the marina is not a decision that was made lightly.”

TWO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS INSTALLED ON NATIONAL MALL. The [Autoblog](#) (9/3, 632K) reports that “two EV charging stations have been installed at the National Mall in Washington, DC.” Installed by the NPS, “the stations – which cost \$2 per hour to use – are located across from the National Museum of American History and from the National Air and Space Museum.” NPS Acting Superintendent Karen Cucurullo said, “As the National Park Service prepares for its second century of service to the American people, we are committed to providing clean and green energy to promote a healthy environment.”

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT DAVID VELA SPEAKS TO “CITY KIDS.” The [AP](#) (9/4, 2.28M) reports on City Kids, “a nonprofit that provides underserved and at-risk Washington, D.C.-area youth with wilderness experiences.” The group is “made up of sixth- through 12th-graders, and they visit Jackson each year to accomplish a laundry list of tasks.” Grand Teton National Park Superintendent David Vela “spoke to the kids and shared a story they could all relate to.” Vela said, “What this program does is that it brings them out to a national park to experience things that may be new, but most importantly to give them confidence and peace of mind that they belong here, that national parks are part of their birthright and that they can have life-changing and memorable experiences. That’s what this program does.”

AMATEUR PALEONTOLOGIST FINDS RARE FOSSIL OF FISH AT PETRIFIED FOREST. The [AP](#) (9/4, 2.28M) reports that Stephanie Leco, an amateur paleontologist, “hit a paleontology jackpot this summer with the discovery of a jaw bone from a long-snouted fish at Petrified Forest known to exist more than 220 million years ago.” Leco was “part of the first dig for citizens held last month at the national park near Holbrook that routinely turns up fossils from the dawn of dinosaurs and has vast expanses of rainbow-colored desert.” According to the article, “the fossil about the size of a pinky fingernail was unearthed from the site of what was a lake or pond during the Late Triassic period when the fish were thought to be extinct in North America.”

MAN FOUND DEAD IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK HAD BEEN HIKING ALONE. [Reuters](#) (9/3) reports that Yosemite National Park officials said on Thursday that a man whose body was found in the park this week had been hiking alone and was not discovered for more than three weeks because nobody reported him missing. The remains of James Michael Millett Jr., who was last seen alive on Aug. 11, were found earlier this week, according to park spokeswoman Jodi Bailey.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE DIGNITARIES, VETERANS MARK THE END OF WORLD WAR II. Additional coverage that dignitaries and veterans “laid wreaths at the National World War II Memorial in Washington to mark the official end of the war” was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/3, 1.12M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SCHOODIC CAMPGROUND OPENS AT ACADIA NATIONAL PARK. Additional coverage of the opening of Schoodic Woods Campground at Acadia National Park was provided by the [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (9/4) and [WABI-TV Bangor \(ME\)](#) Bangor, ME (9/2, 5K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY. Additional coverage of Rocky Mountain National Park’s 100th anniversary celebration was provided by the [Fetes Park \(CO\) News](#) (9/4).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE WILDLIFE OVERPASS PROPOSED ON 101 FREEWAY IN LOS ANGELES. Additional coverage of a proposed wildlife crossing over Highway 101 in Los Angeles was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/4, 344K), [CBS News](#) (9/4, 7.05M) and the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (9/4, 144K).

OP-ED NATIONAL PARKS NEED TO ATTRACT MORE DIVERSITY IN VISITORS. In an op-ed for the [Seattle Times](#) (9/4, 962K), Glenn Nelson, the founder of TrailPosse.com, writes that the numbers on the diversity of national park visitors "portend disaster for our public lands." He notes that "the Census Bureau projects a nonwhite majority in the U.S. within the next three decades," and says that "if that new majority doesn't develop any affinity for the outdoors, the Park Service, as well as the retail and nonprofit ecosystem surrounding it, could go the way of pay phones, records and film cameras — from indispensable to irrelevant." Nelson suggests that one place to begin is the makeup of NPS employees. He argues that "if the Park Service is the face of outdoors in our country, it can't be so unrelentingly white." He continues, "factor in the overwhelmingly Caucasian nature of conservation and environmental organizations, as well as the near-complete absence of minorities in media and advertisements, and it's no wonder that people of color view the outdoors as an exclusive, whites-only club."

Top National News:

IN TRIP TO FLORIDA, BIDEN ATTEMPTS TO SWAY JEWISH LEADERS ON IRAN DEAL. The Vice President's meeting with Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Jewish leaders in South Florida to defend the Iran nuclear agreement garners heavy print and online coverage, but was not mentioned on the network news broadcasts Thursday evening. Several reports this morning indicate that Biden appears to have been unsuccessful in swaying the Jewish leaders, who remain vehemently opposed to the deal. Another theme evident in some of the coverage is speculation over whether the Vice President will enter the 2016 presidential race, with several reports casting his comments as an effort to present his foreign policy credentials and portray himself as the President's natural successor.

The [Miami Herald](#) (9/4, Sherman, 651K) reports that in his "longest public defense of the Iran deal," the Vice President said he has been "very skeptical" about the ability to constrain the activities of Iran related to its nuclear ambitions," but "concluded that it is a good deal." Biden also said "he respects those who have decided to oppose the deal, but 'the only thing I don't have a lot of time for' is 'the idea that we can't do business with the bad guys.'" The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (9/4, Bennett, 497K) notes that the Vice President said that making a deal "with the 'bad guys' in Iran is as necessary as the nuclear arms agreements the US made with the Soviet Union during the Cold War."

[Reuters](#) (9/4, Whitesides) reports that the Vice President expressed confidence that the deal would eliminate Iran's ability to develop a nuclear weapon, saying, "If we can take the nuclear bomb off the table, it's better to deal with those bad guys than if we are dealing with those bad guys and the nuclear bomb is on the table." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (9/3, Talev, 247K) says the Vice President said it is "simply not true" as some opponents suggest, that the deal gives the international community no ability to know what's going on in Iranian military facilities," and "invoked former President George H.W. Bush," saying, "As one person said: Read my lips. ... Not true. We can."

[USA Today](#) (9/4, Korte, 5.23M) reports that in his "meandering...off-the-cuff" remarks, the Vice President argued that "US credibility around the world is at stake," saying, "I've been doing foreign policy for 42 years. I cannot think of a single time since I've been involved where our ability to conduct foreign policy has been so strained because of the dysfunction in Washington and in Congress."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that Biden also discussed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, saying that because he wants to maintain Iran's legitimacy, he will not use the billions of dollars the country will receive under the deal to fund military activities, as deal opponents have said, but would invest the funds in Iran's economy.

The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (9/4, 651K) says that while opponents of the deal gave the Vice President "high marks...for his detailed and impassioned defense of the agreement, he didn't seem to persuade many of the South Florida Jewish leaders who heard his pitch." The Sun Sentinel adds that Wasserman Schultz, who chairs the DNC, "said she still doesn't know how she'll vote." The [New York Times](#) (9/4, Harris, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says that "the head of the president's party committee" can traditionally "be counted on to support and fight for every major White House priority." Wasserman Schultz "said she still needed to speak to nuclear experts and foreign diplomats as part of her research and promised to make a decision before Tuesday, when Congress comes back into session." The [Washington Post](#) (9/4, O'Keefe, 6.76M) similarly notes that the Vice President "did little to sway" the Jewish leaders "who strongly oppose the agreement."

The [New York Times](#) (9/4, Harris, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) also reports that the Vice President "offered few clues about his thinking" on the 2016 presidential race and did not address whether he will run. According to his aides, he "may not decide until early October or perhaps later." However, the [Washington Post](#) (9/4, O'Keefe, 6.76M) says that if the Vice President enters the race, "Thursday's event was an early reminder to would-be supporters of Biden's deep knowledge of foreign affairs and support for Israel."

[Politico](#) (9/3, Gass, 942K) noted that the Vice President "ticked through his foreign policy bona fides...amid speculation that he might launch a presidential bid of his own," saying, "I've traveled, as of today, 992,894 miles for the president. I've met with virtually every major leader in the world. I know these guys, I know them better than anybody in the administration because I've been hanging around so long." [The Hill](#) (9/3, Fabian, 471K), likewise, said that the Vice President "put his foreign policy chops on full display," noting that the event "doubled as a chance for Biden to show off his decades of foreign policy experience as he considers challenging Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination." His comments, [The Hill](#) added, "offered a view of the foreign policy arguments he might make if he enters the 2016 presidential race."

The [AP](#) (9/4, Thomas), meanwhile, said Biden's "robust defense" of the deal in Florida is "the latest sign of his work to present himself as a natural heir to President Barack Obama" as he "considers a late entry into the Democratic presidential primaries." The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (9/4, 1.05M) reports that in a speech at an Atlanta synagogue later Thursday, the Vice President "delivered a forceful defense" of the deal and "sought to position himself as the candidate who would continue President Barack Obama's legacy were he to run for president."

Three More Senate Democrats Voice Support For Deal. Back in Washington, three more Senate Democrats, Cory Booker, Mark Warner, and Heidi Heitkamp, announced their support for the deal. [Politico](#) (9/3, Kim, 942K) reported they all "said the deal isn't flawless but beats the alternative," adding that Booker, "who's faced pressure from the Jewish community in New Jersey to oppose the deal," faced an almost immediate backlash. Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, "whose relationship with Booker dates nearly 25 years, criticized Booker's 'troubling and tragic choice' to back the deal and called his reasoning 'riddled with logical inconsistencies.'"

[Reuters](#) (9/4, Zengerle) notes that their support brings the total number of senators supporting the deal to 37, four short of the votes needed to filibuster a resolution of disapproval. The [AP](#) (9/4, Werner) says it "deflat[ed] opponents and boost[ed] White House hopes of blocking a disapproval resolution in the Senate and sparing President Barack Obama from resorting to a veto." [Roll Call](#) (9/3, Fleming, 113K) noted that the President "has a pretty good track record of blocking bills he opposes before they reach his desk."

In a [Huffington Post](#) (9/3, Stein, Conetta, 164K) report on its latest "Drinking & Talking" panel, Sen. Chris Murphy was quoted as saying of the Senate majority leader's opposition to the deal, "Whether the Senate likes it or not, it is the American president that sets American foreign policy." The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/2, Kiefer, 455K) story published Tuesday said that the deal "stands out for the thoroughness and deliberation that Democrats...have brought to this difficult vote," adding that many "consider it among the most important and agonizing votes of their careers."

Rasmussen Poll Finds Public Support For Deal Slipping. The [Washington Times](#) (9/4, Richardson, 344K) reports that a Rasmussen Reports survey released Thursday shows public support for the deal is slipping. According to the survey, "50 percent of voters surveyed want their congressional representatives to vote against the deal, while 32 percent want to see Congress approve" it. In a poll released two days after the deal was unveiled, Rasmussen "found that 39 percent favored the deal while 42 percent opposed it."

Duncan Requests "Full Record" Of Administration Negotiations With Iran. The [Washington Times](#) (9/4, Taylor, 344K) reports that in a move that "set[s] the stage for a new standoff between the White House and Congress," Rep. Jeff Duncan on Thursday called on the Administration "to provide a full record of its negotiations with Iran relating to the nuclear deal." In a letter to Secretary of State Kerry on Wednesday, Duncan "asked for the State Department to 'release to all documents and communications in your possession, custody, or control relating to the nuclear deal,'" and "called for a release of all communications between the US and its negotiating partners...arguing that such materials are needed 'in order to ensure that members of Congress are fully aware of the implications' of the accord." The Times notes that the request "zeroes in on charges that parts of the final deal have still not been shown to lawmakers as they prepare to vote."

Netanyahu Says He Will Continue Push Against Iran Deal. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4, A1, Entous, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports in a front-page story that Israel's bid to derail the deal has angered the White House and embittered many Democrats. The Journal also notes that while Israel's effort to scuttle the deal in Congress appears to have fallen short, Netanyahu and his allies may seek other ways to accomplish that goal.

[McClatchy](#) (9/4, Greenberg, 28K) reports that Netanyahu "is giving no sign that he is about to change course or halt his public criticism of the accord." Netanyahu "suggested Thursday that he would take his message to the American people," saying, "An overwhelming majority of the American public sees eye to eye with us on the danger posed by Iran. ... It's important to instill in American public opinion in the coming decade, and maybe beyond, the fact that Iran is an enemy of the United States. It openly declares this. And Israel is an ally of the United States. This understanding has important implications for our security." In his [Washington Post](#) (9/4, Ignatius, 6.76M) column, David Ignatius says Netanyahu is facing a "stark dilemma" over whether to "try to rebuild bipartisan relations in Washington" after the President has secured the votes needed to implement the deal,

or "double-down once again, by encouraging Republican presidential candidates to repudiate the deal if elected."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/4, Booth, 6.76M) says that while Netanyahu "appears to have suffered the worst foreign policy defeat of his career," senior Israeli officials "are saying their prime minister has not failed — but won, in a way." Israeli officials "predict that when the dust settles, Israel will receive a windfall in new, advanced weaponry, including the most modern aircraft and missile technology, from members of Congress eager to show their pro-Israel bona fides and to demonstrate they remain steadfast enemies of Iran, even if some may have backed Obama on the nuclear pact."

Khamenei Says "No Deal" If Sanctions Are Not Lifted. The [AP](#) (9/4, Karimi) reports that Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei said a "suspension" of the sanctions against Tehran is "unacceptable," adding that "there will be no deal" if world powers insist on suspending rather than lifting sanctions. In remarks which were read on Iranian state TV, Khamenei said, "If the sanctions are going to be suspended, then we will also fulfill our obligations on the ground at the level of suspension and not in a fundamental way." [Reuters](#) (9/4, Selyukh, Rascoe, Heavey) reports that White House press secretary Josh Earnest responded by saying that sanctions relief for Iran is linked to its compliance with the deal.

The [New York Times](#) (9/4, Erdbrink, Sengupta, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that Khamenei, "ordered Parliament to vote on the agreement," noting that while Parliament "is expected to approve the agreement, the announcement nonetheless represented a setback for President Hassan Rouhani and his team of nuclear negotiators, who have long held that the deal should be ratified by the Supreme National Security Council, which Mr. Rouhani heads." [Reuters](#) (9/4, Hafezi) says Rouhani and his allies have opposed a parliamentary vote on the grounds that it could result in legal obligations that could hinder the implementation of the deal.

[USA Today](#) (9/4, McCoy, 5.23M) reports that the Speaker of Iran's Parliament, Ali Larijani, predicted Thursday that Parliament's debate about the deal "could be more heated than US congressional proceedings on the pact," telling a group of US reporters, "I think maybe the drama in my country may be bigger than that of yours. ... There is one thing that I am sure of, and that is there will be heated discussions and debates in the Iranian parliament, as well, because there are people who are opposed to the agreement, and they have different voices."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/4, Morello, 6.76M) reports that Larijani also suggested that "Americans imprisoned in Iran, including a Washington Post reporter, could be swapped for Iranians in US jails." During an interview with [NPR](#) while he was in New York, Larijani was asked "if the Iranian government might release the Americans, mentioning Jason Rezaian, the Post's Tehran correspondent." He said, "There are practical ways, of course. ... For example, there is a number of Iranians in prison here [in the US]. Definitely for matters of this sort, one can come up with solutions. I think your politicians know about those ways." Asked if he was referring to a prisoner swap, Larijani said, "That's one way. There are other ways that the judiciary systems of the two countries can come up with."

Obama Praises "Humans Of New York" Photo. [TIME](#) (9/4, White, 19.55M) reported that the President "left a heartfelt note" in response to a [photograph](#) "posted Thursday to the Humans of New York Facebook page, featur[ing] a young Iranian boy and his father, along with a story from the proud parent telling how he knew his son would be a humanitarian when the boy gave away a bag of fruit he was asked to hold." Using the White House Facebook account, the President wrote, "One of the most fulfilling things that can happen to you as a parent is to see the values you've worked to instill in your kids start to manifest themselves in their actions. ... And this one really resonated with me." In what [TIME](#) said was a "possible allusion to his impending nuclear deal with Iran," the President "promised to 'continue doing whatever I can to make this world a place where he and every young person like him can live up to their full potential.'" The [Times Of Israel](#) (9/4, Dolsten, 16K) notes that the President's comment "received over 57,000 likes as of the publication of this article."

[Vox](#) (9/3, Fisher, 1.1M) said that "Obama's repeated gestures of comity and warmth toward the Iranian people are, truly, unusual," and noted that his "expression of hope that he might one day meet this 10-year-old Iranian boy has subtext to it: That meeting, unless the boy immigrates to the US, would likely require a substantial change in the nature of US-Iran relations."

Cohen: For Republicans, Iran Deal Is Like Obamacare. In his [New York Times](#) (9/4, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) column, Roger Cohen calls the fact that "Republican maneuvering, backed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, has not prevailed" is "a victory for reason in a season of rage." Noting that former undersecretary of state Nicholas Burns said the deal "will become the 'Obamacare of foreign policy,'" Cohen wrote, "Yes, it will" in that "something sensible (at least in the eyes of most people across the world) to which Republicans will never acquiesce and which they will try to use in every conceivable way to undermine a president they loathe."

KENTUCKY COUNTY CLERK JAILED FOR REFUSING TO ISSUE MARRIAGE LICENSES. The jailing of Rowan County, KY clerk Kim Davis for contempt of court for her refusal to grant marriage licenses led all three network newscasts last night, garnering nearly eight minutes of coverage, and continued to generate heavy print and online treatment this morning. [ABC World News](#) (9/3, lead story, 2:35, Muir, 5.84M) reported that Davis was "elected to her post, but after the Supreme Court ruling on same sex marriage" was "still refusing to issue licenses to gay couples," arguing "she's abiding by God's authority that allows her faith to refuse those couples." US District Judge David Bunning found her in contempt of his order to issue the licenses. [ABC](#) (Perez) added that Davis "can resign, but if she doesn't and refuses to comply," Judge Bunning "can keep her in custody as long as she stands her ground."

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (9/4, Wynn, Kenning, 414K) reports that five of Davis' six deputies "say they will process the paperwork" for the licenses beginning today. The "holdout was Davis' son, Nathan Davis." The [Courier-Journal](#) notes that "the other deputy clerks had reservations, some based on religion, as Davis has maintained, others with questions about their legal authority to sign off on forms without the elected official's consent," and Davis' attorneys "also called into question whether any licenses issued in her absence would be legal."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/3, lead story, 2:45, Reynolds, 5.08M) reported that that Davis' supporters "engaged in a fire-and-brim stone rally" outside the Ashland, KY federal courthouse, but "in the quiet of his courtroom," Judge Bunning "made it clear that he would not be swayed." On the stand, Davis "wept as she talked about her faith and her inability to carry out the judge's order to issue marriage licenses for same-sex couples," but Judge Bunning said, "Her good-faith belief is not a viable defense." The judge held Davis in contempt "and ordered her to jail until she ended her defiance." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/3, lead story, 2:35, Holt, 7.86M) noted that Judge Bunning "drew a clear line as to where religious freedom ends and the law of the land begins" in jailing Davis.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/4, Somashekhar, 6.76M) reports that Judge Bunning told Davis "she could remain a free woman" if "she gave permission to her deputies to sign the certificates in her stead," but after consulting with her attorneys, when the court reconvened after a short recess on Thursday, Davis "was not in her seat," and one of her attorneys "explained that Davis, an Apostolic Christian, 'does not grant her authority nor would allow any employee to issue those licenses.'" Davis therefore "consented herself to jail, sparking a fresh round of legal wrangling and political calculation in the face of the most audacious display of defiance on the issue of same-sex marriage" since the Supreme Court ruling. The [New York Times](#) (9/4, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that Judge Bunning, who was appointed by President George W. Bush, said, "The court cannot condone the willful disobedience of its lawfully issued order. If you give people the opportunity to choose which orders they follow, that's what potentially causes problems."

[Politico](#) (9/3, Collins, 942K) reports that the American Civil Liberties Union attorneys "who filed the motion on Monday did not ask for jail time; instead they requested Davis be fined because she 'continues to collect compensation from the Commonwealth for duties she fails to perform,' according to the motion."

The [New York Times](#) (9/4, Rogers, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that "dozens of people gathered" outside the courthouse "in two cacophonous groups to debate what both sides felt was history in the making, but for different reasons." On one side were "those condemning" Davis' actions. Her critics "saw her jailing as vindication, and as an indication that the final barriers to same-sex marriage were continuing to fall." On the other side, "a vocal crowd" of Davis' supporters "argued that her case is further proof that religious freedom in America is in jeopardy." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4, Campo-Flores, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) and [Reuters](#) (9/4, Bittenbender) also report on the court proceedings.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/4, 6.76M) editorializes that Davis "brought this on herself by refusing to resign from a government position with duties she openly admits she will not fulfill." Davis "has every right to oppose same-sex marriage as a private citizen," but "her religious convictions do not excuse her from having to apply the law as it stands in her official duties, a commitment she made when she took office." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4, Subscription Publication, 5.95M), meanwhile, editorializes that Judge Bunning's ruling shows a double standard, arguing that former Attorney General Holder chose not to defend challenges to the Defense of Marriage Act, and former San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples in defiance of California law. The [Journal](#) contends that both were praised for putting their consciences before the law, while Davis is being vilified for doing the same.

Paul, Cruz Blast Judge For Jailing Davis. [The Hill](#) (9/3, Byrnes, 471K) reports in its "Blog Briefing Room" blog that Davis "is getting full-throated support from several Republican presidential candidates." Sens. Rand Paul and Ted Cruz "blasted a judge's decision" to jail Davis. Paul told CNN, "I think it's absurd to put someone in jail for exercising their religious liberty." Cruz, "a vocal opponent of the Supreme Court's decision legalizing same-sex marriage this summer, also rebuked the judge. 'Today, judicial lawlessness crossed into judicial tyranny. Today, for the first time ever, the government arrested a Christian woman for living according to her faith. This is wrong. This is not America,'" Cruz said "in a lengthy statement posted to his campaign website next to a bright red button for supporters to donate to his White House bid."

EX-STATE IT OFFICIAL WILL NOT TESTIFY ABOUT CLINTON EMAIL SERVER DESPITE CAMPAIGN'S WISH THAT HE DO SO. Coverage of the controversy over Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of state runs primarily on two related threads: the refusal of ex-State information technology official Bryan Pagliano, who helped set up the server, to testify before the House Select Committee on Benghazi.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, September 3, 2015

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DOI in the News:

AS OBAMA CONCLUDES VISIT TO ALASKA, ENVIRONMENTALISTS SLAM DRILLING DECISION. The final day of the President's visit to Alaska generated a brief report on the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/2, story 12, 0:25, Pelley, 5 08M), which noted an incident in which the President held up a salmon and "the fish...disgraced itself, on Mr. Obama's shoes," and a short report on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/2, story 9, 0:25, Holt, 7.86M), which also noted the incident. Print and online coverage, which are also lighter, highlight the President's visit to the towns of Dillingham and Kotzebue, casting it as an effort to draw attention to the impact climate change is already having. While it was not as ubiquitous in the coverage as in previous days, criticism from environmentalists over the decision to allow Royal Dutch Shell to drill in the Arctic continues to appear alongside coverage of the President's trip.

Under the headline, "Obama Paints Dire View On Climate Change," the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (9/3, Brehmer, 14K) says the President "seems to be setting the agenda for the final 16 months of his presidency, and climate change is his top priority." However, the Journal also notes that environmentalists, who are "typically in the president's corner had harsh words for him stemming from his administration's approval of Shell's drilling offshore drilling plan in the Chukchi Sea," and includes statements from several groups criticizing the decision. Dan Springer reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/2, 1.53M) that the Administration's "all-of-the-above energy strategy in Alaska is pleasing none of the above." While environmentalists "are outraged" that the President allowed drilling in the Arctic, the oil industry believes he "remains too restrictive" by blocking "huge potential reserves."

The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (9/3, McNally, 288K) reprints a Global Post piece by Caitlin McNally, who noted that as she wrote, "Shell's rig, the Transocean Polar Pioneer, was approaching its destination 70 miles off the shores of Wainwright, Alaska." McNally wrote that during a visit to the Royal Dutch Shell offices in London, "it was made abundantly clear to me that the company accepts the fact of global warming and the consequences of climate change as a new normal," but "part of this focus on climate change reality includes an unapologetic reminder to the world that Shell is, after all, an oil and gas company."

[Reuters](#) (9/3, Rampton, Quinn) portrays the President's visits to Dillingham and Kotzebue as an effort by the White House to draw attention to the impact climate change is having on Americans. The [AP](#) (9/3, Lederman) reports that the President's "goal was to showcase the havoc he says human-influenced climate change is wreaking on Alaska's delicate landscape: entire rural villages sinking into the ground as permafrost thaws, protective sea ice melts and temperatures climb."

A later story from the [AP](#) (9/3, Lederman) reported that the President told residents of Kotzebue "that their plight should be the world's wake-up call on global warming." During his visit to the town, which was "designed to snap the country to attention by illustrating the ways warmer temperatures have already threatened entire communities and ways of life in Alaska," the President "I've been trying to make the rest of the country more aware of the changing climate, but you're already living it." The [New York Times](#) (9/3, Davis, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says that in his "history-making stop," the President delivered an "alarm-sounding message about the warming of the planet — a phenomenon occurring twice as quickly in Alaska as in the rest of the United States." [USA Today](#) (9/3, Korte, 5 23M) also reports the President "sound[ed] the alarm on climate change," saying, "What's happening here should be America's wake-up call. It's the world's wake up call."

On its website, [Voice of America](#) (9/3, Williams, Gallo, 32K) reviewed the President's entire visit to Alaska, noting that the "highly choreographed trip across Alaska aims to build support for his environmental policies to combat climate change." In a story on the President's use of a "selfie stick" during the trip, [The Hill](#) (9/2, Henry, 471K) noted that the White House cast the trip "as an opportunity for him to personally show Americans the impact of climate change on the region."

In an in-depth piece, [Vox](#) (9/2, Plumer, 1.1M) discusses "why Shell is going to such extreme lengths for oil, why Obama gave it the green light, and how this drilling project acquired such outsized significance in the climate debate." The article discusses several points, including: (1) Shell wants to produce from US Arctic waters as no one else is currently doing; (2) Shell's efforts have so far "been bogged down by lawsuits and disasters;" (3) the Obama Administration "now thinks Shell is ready to drill;" (4) the difficulties of cleaning up an Arctic oil spill; (5) disagreement between Obama and environmentalists "on whether Shell's drilling matters for global warming;" (6) what to expect from the next president; and (7) that Arctic drilling's future "is highly uncertain — and a lot depends on Shell."

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (9/2, 5.17M), [The Hill](#) (9/3, Biette, 471K), the [Baltimore \(MD\) Sun](#) (9/3, 834K), the [New Republic](#) (9/2, 242K), [KSHB-TV Kansas City \(MO\)](#) Kansas City, MO (9/3, 100K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (9/3, 345K), and [WDIV-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (9/3, 292K).

White House Announces Initiatives To Promote Energy Efficiency In Alaska. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/3, 219K) reports that ahead of the President's visit to Kotzebue, the White House "announced new efforts and funding to encourage energy efficiency in remote villages and the appointment of a federal coordinator for 'climate resilience' in Alaska." The announcement "includes more than \$20 million in new funding through grants and other routes." Among the initiatives announced by the White House, the [Washington Post](#) (9/3, Eilperin, 6.76M) notes, is \$4 million "to speed the development of renewable energy in remote Alaskan communities, part of a package of new programs aimed at reducing fossil fuel use and countering climate impacts in the region of the world that is warming the fastest." The Post notes that although the Administration announced the initiatives "under the umbrella of helping tribal and rural communities cope with climate change and other challenges," several tribal leaders "said they expected more from the federal government given the peril their communities now face."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Greenwire](#) (9/2, Subscription Publication), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/3, Martinson, 219K), and the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (9/2, 560K).

Obama Administration Unveils New Climate Resilience Tools. The [Native American Times](#) (9/2, 337) reports that "as part of the Obama Administration's Climate Data Initiative, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced a new set of online climate data resources to help Arctic communities with climate change planning, adaptation and management." The article notes that "the new data sets, introduced today as part of an online Climate Resilience Toolkit, comprised more than 250 Arctic-related datasets and more than 40 maps, tools, and other resources designed to support climate-resilience efforts in the Arctic." Jewell said, "Through the release of Arctic-themed climate data, the U.S. is demonstrating its leadership in sharing free and open climate-relevant information, while also encouraging public innovation and partnerships with private sector entities that are interested in leveraging this data. Also, by sharing climate data among nations, we are providing tools that may be useful in increasing resilience measures across national boundaries in the Arctic."

Additional coverage was provided by [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/3, 219K).

USGS Announces New Height For Denali. The [AP](#) (9/2, D'oro) reports that "Denali, the Alaska mountain formerly known Mount McKinley, is now officially 10 feet shorter, measuring 20,310 feet at its highest point, the U.S. Geological Survey announced Wednesday." The article notes that "the previous measurement of 20,320 feet stemmed from a 1953 survey that used the technology of the time, officials said." According to the article, "the new elevation is the result of data collected from the mountain by climbers in June using technology that didn't exist in the earlier survey, such as GPS instruments."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Greenwire](#) (9/2, Subscription Publication), [NBC News](#) (9/2, 3.73M), [The Hill](#) (9/2, Cama, 471K), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/2, Harder, 5.95M), [ABC](#) (9/2, 1.47M), [T ME](#) (9/2, 19.55M), [US News & World Report](#) (9/2, 811K), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/2, 3.3M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (9/3, Pearce, 4.07M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/2, 455K), the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (9/2, 626K), [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/2, 219K), [GISuser](#) (9/2), and [Popular Science](#) (9/2, 6.51M).

Additional coverage of the Denali name change was provided by the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (9/3, 594K) the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/3, 183K), the [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (9/2, 18K), the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/3, 67K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/3, 73K), the [Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#) (9/3, 449K), the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (9/2, 515K), the [Cleveland \(OH\) Plain Dealer](#) (9/3, 1 03M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (9/2, 560K), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (9/3, 1.15M), [New Hampshire Public Radio](#) (9/2, 2K), [Western Journalism](#) (9/3, 303K), [Salon](#) (9/2, 1.08M), [Intercontinental Cry Magazine](#) (9/3), [Opposing Views](#) (9/3, 1.75M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (9/3, Palermo, 5.98M).

Actress Emma Thompson Protests Arctic Drilling. In continuing coverage, the [Daily Caller](#) (9/2, Bentley, 375K) reports on actress Emma Thompson's protest against Shell's plans to drill in the Arctic. The Caller says Thompson "recited a bizarre poem for news cameras Wednesday warning of an apocalyptic world of 'liquefied slaughter' and melting ice caps all thanks to greedy fossil fuel companies."

[Agencia EFE \(ESP\)](#) (9/3) also covered the story, reporting that Greenpeace installed a polar bear robot the size of a double-decker bus in front of Shell's London headquarters.

Agencies Responding To Greenpeace Portland Protest Paid Out Nearly \$90,000 In Overtime. The [Oregonian](#) (9/2, 756K) reports that "the nine agencies that responded to the Greenpeace protest on the St. Johns Bridge," in which "13 rappelled off the Portland bridge and dangled there for two days in an effort to block a Shell Oil Arctic icebreaker from leaving Portland," paid out a total of \$88,737.97 in overtime. Agencies racking up overtime include the Portland Police Bureau, Oregon State Police and the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

Arctic Development Push Sparks Debate Over Law Of The Sea Treaty. The [Washington Times](#) (9/3, Taylor, 344K) notes that amid the "international scramble over development, energy and climate change in the Arctic" there is "fresh debate over whether American influence in the region may be limited by the fact that the US is the only nation in the fight to have never ratified the Law of the Sea treaty." Noting that US officials often refer to the treaty "as a gold standard for resolving potential future disputes in the Arctic and elsewhere around the globe," the Times says "some international experts say there is a whiff of hypocrisy in such rhetoric because — while American diplomats signed the treaty in 1982 — Congress has never actually approved it."

Pentagon: Chinese Warships Spotted In Bering Sea During Obama's Alaska Visit. The [AP](#) (9/3, Baldor) reports that five Chinese warships have been spotted moving into the Bering Sea near Alaska, but US "officials said they don't view the ships as a threat" as the President visits Alaska. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the Pentagon "positively identified a number of Chinese naval vessels in that region, but based on their analysis they have not detected any sort of threat or threatening activities." However, he acknowledged that the intent of the ships presence "is still unclear." [Reuters](#) (9/3, Rampton) also reports Earnest's remarks, and a senior Defense official confirmed to [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/2, 1.53M) "that five Chinese navy ships have been spotted in the Bering Sea off the Alaskan coast," which "coincides" with the President's visit to the state.

A second [Reuters](#) (9/3, Stewart) report says the ships' positioning in the Bering Sea marked a first for the Chinese military, while the [New York Times](#) (9/3, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that a "Pentagon official noted that China has every right to patrol international waters," and Pentagon spokesman Capt. Jeff Davis said that the Defense Department respected "the freedom of all nations to operate military vessels in international waters." According to a front-page story in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/3, A1, Page, Lubold, Subscription Publication, 5.95M), the Pentagon has known for several days that the ships were in the area and were monitoring their movements.

Commentary Discusses Visit To Shell London Headquarters, Climate Change. The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (9/3, McNally, 288K) reprints a Global Post piece by Caitlin McNally, who noted that as she wrote, "Shell's rig, the Transocean Polar Pioneer, was approaching its destination 70 miles off the shores of Wainwright, Alaska." McNally wrote that during a visit to the Royal Dutch Shell offices in London, "it was made abundantly clear to me that the company accepts the fact of global warming and the consequences of climate change as a new normal," but "part of this focus on climate change reality includes an unapologetic reminder to the world that Shell is, after all, an oil and gas company."

Former Unalaska Mayor Touts Benefits Of Shell's Arctic Drilling Program. In commentary for [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/2, 219K), Paul Fuhs, former mayor of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, discusses the benefits Shell's Arctic drilling program will have for Alaska by creating jobs, bolstering the economy and increasing area safety because its Arctic fleet can respond to emergencies outside its own companies.

Arctic Institute Director: Oil Industry Should Be Invited To Discuss Climate Change. In commentary for [The Hill](#) (9/3, Herrmann, 471K), Victoria Herrmann, U.S. director of the Arctic Institute, argues that "offering the petroleum industry an invitation to discuss climate change mitigation and adaptation in a region that is melting because of their business model is counterintuitive and controversial. But it is essential." Herrmann says it's important to acknowledge "that de-carbonizing the global economy will not happen overnight" and that oil "will continue to play a major role in both international energy supplies and domestic economies in the short and medium-term."

AJOC Editor Discusses Denali Renaming, Compliments Obama On Allowing Drilling. Andrew Jensen, managing editor, writes in the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (9/2, 14K) writes on the support of both Alaska residents and lawmakers for Obama's announcement that Mt. McKinley will officially be renamed Denali. Jensen concludes that "amid a global economic slowdown and a collapse in oil prices, Obama's record in Alaska isn't all bad," noting Shell's drilling in the Chukchi Sea and ConocoPhillips drilling in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Says Jensen, "Alaska is one of the few places on Earth where this level of investment and actual drilling is currently happening. Obama's administration hasn't necessarily made it easy, but it hasn't stopped it, either. That's an executive inaction worth appreciating."

Smith Blasts Obama's Climate Change Plan. The [Washington Times](#) (9/3, Richardson, 344K) reports that House Science, Space and Technology Committee chairman Rep. Lamar Smith blasted the President's climate change plan, saying in a statement, "The president is on thin ice to claim his costly plan will address climate change or benefit Americans." Noting the President's climate change predictions, Smith said, that "the only thing certain about long-term climate predictions is that they're certain to miss the mark," adding, "The president and his EPA have become traveling salesmen, touring the world to push their extreme climate change agenda. ... But the science doesn't support the president's exaggerated claims linking climate change to severe weather events."

SECRETARY JEWELL IN NEVADA HIGHLIGHTS "EVERY KID IN A PARK" CAMPAIGN. The [AP](#) (9/2, 179K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "led a delegation of schoolchildren to a scenic national area outside Las Vegas on Wednesday to highlight a federal 'Every Kid in a Park' campaign." Jewell and the head of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Christy Goldfuss, "joined fourth-grade students from West Preparatory Academy at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area." According to the article, "organizers called it an inaugural event of an Obama administration campaign to let fourth-graders nationwide use [www.everykidinapark.gov](#) to obtain free family passes to more than 2,000 federally managed parks and conservation areas until next September."

Also providing coverage are the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (9/3, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/3, Press, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/3, 344K), the [Oklahoman](#) (9/3, 408K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (9/3, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/3, 2.28M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (9/3, Press, 1.19M), [ABC News](#) (9/3, News, 3.97M), [Yahoo! News](#) (9/3, 5.98M), [KTNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (9/3, 56K), [KOLO-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (9/3, 3K), [KTNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (9/3, 56K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) (9/2, 1.07M).

Additional coverage of the "Every Kid in a Park" initiative was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (9/2, 756K), the [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (9/2, 769K), the [Cambridge \(OH\) Daily Jeffersonian](#) (9/2, 358), [Care2](#) (9/2, 222K), [Dispatch Times](#) (9/2), [HCP Live](#) (9/2, 1K), [KDLT-TV](#) Sioux Falls, SD (9/2, 1K), [KSHB-TV](#) Kansas City, MO (9/2, 100K), [WTVG-TV Toledo \(OH\)](#) Toledo, OH (9/3, 59K), [KGWN-TV Cheyenne \(WY\)](#) Cheyenne, WY (9/3, 519), [KHON-TV Honolulu \(HI\)](#) Honolulu (9/2, 72K), [HOLAciudad!](#) (9/2), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (9/1, 28K), [WCCU-TV](#) Champaign, IL (9/2, 119), [PRNewswire](#) (9/2), and the [Sierra Star \(CA\)](#) (9/2, 12K).

National Parks Seeing Surge Of Visitors This Summer. The [AP](#) (9/3) reports that "throng of tourists have been showing up in big numbers at...national parks" this summer, "driven by good weather, cheap gas and marketing campaigns ahead of next year's National Park Service centennial." The article notes that "with the busy Labor Day weekend still ahead, the Park Service already has recorded 5 million more visitors from this time last year." Officials at the parks say "they are making do with the resources they have, including encouraging visitors to use shuttles to cut down on the number of vehicles within parks and paying overtime to keep as many entrance gates open as possible." The article notes that "the increase in visitors is due partly to the Park Service's 'Find Your Park' campaign, which launched earlier this year to reintroduce people to the parks." And "another campaign promises to bring more tourists: Fourth-graders and their families are being encouraged to go to national parks with a free, yearlong pass for them, starting this week."

Additional coverage was picked up by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/3, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/3, Felicia Fonseca |, Ap, 6.76M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/3, Fonseca, 344K).

ANALYSIS WILDFIRE BILL IS HOUSE PANEL'S MOST BIPARTISAN. The [Greenwire](#) (9/2, Subscription Publication) reports that "a bill to overhaul how the nation budgets for wildfire is the most bipartisan piece of legislation before the House Natural Resources Committee and should promptly receive a vote, according to an analysis released today by a Western conservation group." The "Wildfire Disaster Funding Act" by Reps. Mike Simpson and Kurt Schrader is "sponsored by 125 lawmakers — 70 Democrats and 55 Republicans — broader support than for any of the 338 other bills that have been referred to the committee this Congress, the Center for Western Priorities said."

Additional Coverage: Drones Helping To Battle Northwest Wildfires. Additional coverage that "a Boeing-built drone has been helping out human-piloted aircraft fighting Washington state wildfires" was provided by the [Puget Sound \(WA\) Business Journal](#) (9/3, Subscription Publication, 59K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

CROW TRIBAL MEMBERS PLAN TO CLOSE SAGE CREEK ROAD. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (9/3, 179K) reports that "members of the Crow Tribe plan to close Sage Creek Road across their property beginning Sept. 8, citing years of use and abuse of the route without upkeep in addition to damage to historical sites in the area east of Bridger." Terry Plain Bull said, "We've been complaining to the (Bureau of Indian Affairs) for years, since we closed the Gap, now we're closing the route to the ice caves."

WILL CALLS FOR CHANGES TO INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT. George Will writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/3, 6.76M) column that the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act “was passed to prevent a real abuse, the taking of Indian children from their homes without justifiable cause.” But by “protecting tribal sovereignty without stipulating the primary importance of protecting the best interests of the children, the rights of the tribes have essentially erased those of the children and the parents who wish to adopt them.” He says the law “should be overturned or revised.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

GOLD KING MINE SPILL PROMPTS CHANGES IN WARNING SYSTEM. The [AP](#) (9/3, 2.28M) reports that “a massive wastewater spill from an old gold mine in Colorado has prompted state officials to expand the list of downstream users they will warn after such accidents.” Last month, “Colorado health officials notified only agencies inside the state after 3 million gallons of water tainted with heavy metals gushed out of the Gold King mine near Silverton and eventually reached the Animas, San Juan and Colorado rivers in New Mexico and Utah.” In the future, “the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will warn downstream states as well, department spokesman Mark Salley said.”

Additional coverage of the spill was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/2, Smith, 259K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (9/3, Paul, 787K), and [The Hill](#) (9/3, Mintz, 471K).

FIGHT BETWEEN TRIBES AND FARMERS OVER TRINITY RIVER WATER PROVIDES CASE STUDY ABOUT DROUGHT ISSUES. [McClatchy](#) (9/3, Doyle, 28K) provides an overview of “the conflict over the Trinity River in Northern California.” According to the article, “amid record drought, this long-running and singular battle has become a case study about the difficulties in balancing Western water use.”

BACKERS OF DELTA TUNNELS CRITICIZED. The [Central Valley \(CA\) Business Times](#) (9/3, 206) reports that “the California Department of Water Resources and the federal Bureau of Reclamation have made fundamental errors and perhaps may be lying in their push to get the State Water Resources Control Board to approve the Delta water tunnels, local water agencies say.” According to the article, “in a letter to the executive director of the Water Board, the Water Agencies of the North Delta and the Central Delta Water Agency list the problems with the DWR tunnels request.” However, “the water agencies are not stopping with calling the petition into question with the water board, four out of five members of which owe their jobs to the governor, the major proponent of the tunnels.” They are also “calling on the Sacramento County District Attorney to look into whether the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation lied.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR TAKING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON STREAM PROTECTION RULE. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (9/2, 414K) reports that “Kentucky coal industry supporters and environmental advocates are expected to clash in Lexington on Thursday over proposed regulations that seek to protect streams from mining destruction.” The article notes that “the Sierra Club and other environmental groups are rallying supporters to attend, as is the Kentucky Coal Association, as a U.S. Interior Department agency takes public comment on a so-called stream protection rule.” According to the article, “environmental groups have said the Office of Surface Mining proposal doesn’t go far enough and will continue to allow the filling of mountain valleys in headwaters of streams with waste rock, harming aquatic life and causing pollution that flows downriver.” Meanwhile, “mining interests and their political supporters are saying the proposed regulations are another example of a ‘war on coal’ by the Obama administration.”

The [Greene County \(PA\) Observer-Reporter](#) (9/2, 83K) reports that “a public hearing will be held in Green Tree next week on proposed federal rules aimed at protecting streams from the impacts of coal mining, a contentious issue particularly in Washington and Greene counties where longwall mining is employed.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [4-Traders](#) (9/3, 5K) and [WFPL-FM Louisville \(KY\)](#) Louisville, KY (9/3, 6K).

OSMRE RELEASES COLOWYO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AHEAD OF DEADLINE. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/3, 73K) reports that “a federal agency has completed an environmental review involving the Colowyo Coal Mine a week ahead of a court-ordered deadline, likely ending the threat of a temporary shutdown in operations there.” The OSMRE “finds in an environmental assessment that the mine’s continued operations in an expansion area would result in no significant environmental impact, including when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions resulting from mining the coal and burning it in the nearby Craig Station power plant in Moffat County.”

[Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (9/2, 30K) reports that “sometime this week, it will issue a mining plan recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior’s Office.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KDVR-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (9/2, 166K).

HEARING HELD ON BADGER-TWO MEDICINE GAS LEASE. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/2, 75K) reports that “public comments given at a hearing held by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Choteau on Wednesday urged overwhelmingly that a lease for an exploratory natural gas well in the Badger-Two Medicine be canceled.” According to the article, “the purpose of Wednesday’s meeting was to look at ways to mitigate the affect drilling could have on the Badger-Two Medicine.” The article notes that “many meeting attendees argued that no mitigation effort could prevent the area from being damaged.”

Also providing coverage is the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (9/3, 39K).

PUBLIC CALLS FOR FEDERAL COAL LEASING REFORM AT HEARINGS. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (9/2, Hitt, 164K), Mary Anne Hitt, Director, Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign, writes that “in August, the Sierra Club and its partners united for a series of hearings on the federal coal program by the BLM’s parent agency, the Department of the Interior.” She notes that “four of the five sessions took place in the heart of coal country, so it’s no surprise that Big Coal brought senior executives out in number.” However, Hitt says that “Interior probably did not expect to hear from so many passionate community members who asked BLM to reform the federal coal leasing program.”

Offshore Energy Development:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE RESEARCHERS RECOMMEND MONITORING OCEAN SEISMIC TESTING LIKE POLLUTION. Additional coverage that “scientists say new global regulations on ocean noise pollution are needed to protect marine life” was provided by the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (9/2, 506) and the [AZoCleantech](#) (9/3).

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

JURASSIC NATIONAL MONUMENT PROPOSAL RECEIVES LOCAL SUPPORT. The [Greenwire](#) (9/2, Subscription Publication) reports that a local county board on Tuesday “unanimously backed a proposal from Utah Republican Reps. Jason Chaffetz and Rob Bishop to designate a quarry packed with dinosaur fossils as a national monument.” According to the article, “with the Emery County public lands council’s approval, the plan to turn the Cleveland-Lloyd dinosaur fossil quarry, already a national natural landmark, into Jurassic National Monument is not expected to face opposition locally.” Ethan Migliori, chairman of the Emery County Commission, said “ranchers’ fears about losing grazing access have been allayed, clearing the way for widespread support.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/3, Brady McCombs |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/3, 2.28M), and the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (9/3, Subscription Publication, 3.35M).

EFFORT TO SAVE SAGE GROUSE CONCENTRATES ON SAGEBRUSH. The [Washington Post](#) (9/3, Fears, 6.76M) reports that “the vast sagebrush that sprawls across 11 Western states” is “being overshadowed by attention focused on the greater sage grouse, a chicken-like bird that dances and shouts in mating rituals across the West.” However, “a new effort by the federal government, Western states, environmental groups and ranchers to revive the dwindling sage grouse population is, in reality, a determined push to save the ranging sagebrush.” According to the article, “this consortium of strange bedfellows is finally giving sagebrush its due, throwing movie money at it — hundreds of millions of dollars — in a bid to restore the ecology in large chunks of one of the largest ecosystems in the United States so that 350 species of animals living there can survive.” The article notes that “in less than two weeks, the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service, which own more than half of the land covered by sagebrush, are expected to finalize a plan that will change how mining operations, cattle ranchers and developers have operated on the territory for decades.”

OHV Group Seeks Delay In Sage Grouse Listing. The [Greenwire](#) (9/2, Subscription Publication) reports that “an off-highway vehicle (OHV) group last week asked the Obama administration to push back its legally binding Sept. 30 deadline to decide whether to protect the greater sage grouse, warning it is prepared to join a ‘flurry of litigation’ against the government’s actions.” Paul Turcke, an attorney for the national OHV group BlueRibbon Coalition, “warned in a letter to administration officials that land-use restrictions proposed by the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service to avoid an Endangered Species Act listing for the sage grouse are untested and need additional environmental review.”

Turcke wrote that “while the BLM and Forest Service plans are the cornerstone of federal efforts to avoid a listing, they include ‘unjustified and unacceptable conditions’ that could harm the interest of motorized recreation.”

MURDER TRIAL POSSIBLE FOR STEINLE SHOOTING SUSPECT. The [AP](#) (9/3) reports that “a San Francisco judge is deciding whether to schedule a murder trial for” Steinle murder suspect Juan Francisco Lopez-Sanchez, who “has pleaded not guilty to murder charges, though he admits to firing the shot that killed Kathryn Steinle, while she was on an evening stroll with her father.” The AP recounts San Francisco’s dealings with Lopez-Sanchez and details of the shooting.

BLM’S ST. GEORGE FIELD OFFICE HOLDS OPEN HOUSE ON DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLANS. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (9/2, 3K) reports that “conservationists, rock climbers, off-road enthusiasts and public officials were among the attendees at the Bureau of Land Management’s open house in St. George Tuesday.” The St. George Field Office of the BLM-Utah is “conducting public open houses this week to provide the public with information about recently released draft management plans for the Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs national conservation areas.” The bureau “presented its draft resource management plans to the public at the meeting, answering questions about the resource management plans and also accepting public comments.”

LONG-TERM WILD HORSES PLACEMENT COSTS TAXPAYERS \$43 MILLION A YEAR. [KJCT-TV](#) Grand Junction, CO (9/3, 1K) reports that “the excesses number of horses are ruining range-land health and costing tax payers a lot of money.” According to the article, “since the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 the Bureau of Land Management has worked to manage and protect wild horses on the Western Slope, yet in recent years the horse numbers have grown so large that they are exhausting the land of resources necessary for them to survive.” The article notes that “according to the BLM the long term placement of the horses is costing tax payers more than \$43 million a year.”

BLM HOLDING WILD HORSE ADOPTION EVENT IN WISCONSIN. On [WUWM-FM](#) Milwaukee (9/3, 3K), Martha Malik, public affairs specialist for the BLM in Milwaukee, talked “about a wild horse adoption effort this weekend in Mequon.” Malik “explains that because wild horses have no predators and can double their size in four years, their population has increased,” and “this increase in population has led to the efforts of the federal Bureau of Land Management to find people in Wisconsin to adopt the horses.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

JUDGE TOSSES FWS LISTING OF LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN. [Politico Pro](#) (9/2, Subscription Publication) reports that “a Texas federal judge has vacated the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s listing of the lesser prairie chicken as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, saying the agency failed to conduct a rigorous enough analysis.” The service “did not follow its own rules when evaluating proposed and existing conservation measures throughout the five-state range of the bird when it finalized the listing under the ESA in 2014,” held Judge Robert Junell of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas in his opinion in *Permian Basin Petroleum, et al., v. Department of the Interior*.

The [Greenwire](#) (9/2, Subscription Publication) reports that “Junell said FWS’s regulations require the agency to fully consider such conservation measures – including ones that have yet to be implemented – to see whether they will be sufficient to avoid a listing.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (9/3, Henry, 471K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/3, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/3, 344K), the [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (9/2, 109K), the [Midland \(TX\) Reporter-Telegram](#) (9/3, 45K), the [Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#) (9/3, 449K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/3, Press, 6.76M), the [Hutchinson \(KS\) News](#) (9/3, 2K), the [Garden City \(KS\) Telegram](#) (9/3, 24K), the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (9/3, 566K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (9/3, 884K), [Fox News](#) (9/2, 8.91M), [Agri-Pulse](#) (9/3), and [KFDA-TV Amarillo \(TX\)](#) Amarillo, TX (9/3, 88K).

GROUPS NOTIFY FWS OF LAWSUIT FOR COASTAL MARTEN PROTECTION. The [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (9/2, 55K) reports that “continuing with efforts started half a decade ago to protect the small carnivore known as the coastal marten, two environmental groups notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of their intent to sue after the service denied a petition to federally protect the species earlier this year.” In 2010, the Environmental Protection Information Center joined the Center for Biological Diversity “in filing a petition to federally list the marten under the Endangered Species Act,” and “in April of this year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined the species was not eligible for protection under the act.” EPIC and the Center for Biological Diversity sent the notice of intent to sue to the FWS on Tuesday.

LAWSUIT FILED OVER THE STEPHENS’ KANGAROO RAT . The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (9/3, 303K) reports that the Riverside County Farm Bureau and others are contending in federal court that the FWS “failed to respond as required by law to a petition filed last year that claims” the Stephens’ kangaroo rat is no longer endangered. The lawsuit was “filed in federal court Wednesday, Sept. 2, opening another chapter in the ongoing litigation over the nocturnal Inland critter that dates back to at least 1995.” According to the article, “the petition argues that new scientific analysis by the Fresno-based Center for Environmental Science, Accuracy, and Reliability found that the animal is doing well and does not need to be listed as endangered, which requires more stringent habitat protections.”

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION BACKS AWAY FROM FEDERAL PLAN TO CREATE NEW PANTHER POPULATIONS. The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (9/3, 143K) reports that “Florida’s lead wildlife agency backed away Wednesday from a key part of a federal plan that calls for establishing new Florida panther populations before the iconic wildcat can be taken off the endangered species list.” According to the article, “after hearing from more than 40 environmentalists, ranchers and hunters — including a fourth-grade girl clutching a toy stuffed panther — the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission voted 4-1 to approve a new panther policy to focus instead on managing conflicts between humans and panthers south of the Caloosahatchee River in Southwest Florida.” Meanwhile, “Commissioner Ron Bergeron, who cast the lone dissenting vote Wednesday, said it was too soon to give up on establishing two new panther populations in Florida or other southeastern states as called for in the federal plan.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington County \(FL\) Foster Folly News](#) (9/2).

“SUE AND SETTLE” TACTICS CRITICIZED. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (9/3, Bradley, 471K), Robert L. Bradley Jr., CEO of the Institute for Energy Research, writes that “in a scathing report, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) has blown the whistle on the oft-used, controversial ‘sue-and-settle’ tactic used to design environmental regulations.” He claims that “the federal bureaucracy has aligned itself with interest groups, rather than working for the benefit of the citizens.” Bradley urges Congress to “stop the sue-and-settle ruse and challenge the cozy relationship between federal agencies and politically motivated environmental groups.”

National Park Service:

TWO HOUSE DEMOCRATS BACK BILL TO PROVIDE \$1 BILLION TO NPS. The [Greenwire](#) (9/2, Subscription Publication) reports that “a pair of House Democrats is backing legislation released by the Obama administration that would pump more than \$1 billion into the National Park Service to honor its 100th anniversary next year.” In a joint statement with Rep. Niki Tsongas, the top Democrat on the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands, Rep. Raúl Grijalva, the ranking member on the Natural Resources Committee, said, “I intend to sponsor this bill in the House and work with my colleagues to see it move forward.” The article notes that “the bill is likely to be a tougher sell with Republicans, who are generally loath to increase spending without offsetting the expenditures elsewhere in the federal budget.” However, Emily Beyer, a spokeswoman for the Interior Department, said in an email that “a number of members in both the House and Senate have expressed interest in the legislation and are currently reviewing the details.”

Additional coverage of the proposal was provided by [National Parks Traveler](#) (9/3, 989) and [WTSP-TV St. Petersburg \(FL\)](#) St. Petersburg, FL (9/2, 89K).

DOLE JOINS VETERANS AT WWII MEMORIAL TO MARK ANNIVERSARY OF JAPANESE SURRENDER. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/2, story 11, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) briefly reported that on Wednesday, “American veterans marked the 70th anniversary of Japan’s surrender at the World War II Memorial in Washington. Former Sen. Bob Dole, now 92, reflected on the sacrifices made by so many. He also joked that it would be a good time to announce his candidacy for president.”

YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY CUBS ARRIVE AT NEW HOME AT TOLEDO ZOO. [CNN](#) (9/2, 5.17M) reports that “two orphaned grizzly cubs have found a new home at the Toledo Zoo.” The article notes that “the twin females were orphaned soon after their mother killed a hiker in Yellowstone National Park in August.” Zoo officials said that “the cubs, which appear to be in good health, will undergo the zoo’s standard 30-to-60-day quarantine process before any public viewing will be considered.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WDIV-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (9/3, 292K) and [WTVR-TV Richmond \(VA\)](#) Richmond, VA (9/2, 130K).

SCHOODIC CAMPGROUND OPENS AT ACADIA NATIONAL PARK. The [Ellsworth \(ME\) American](#) (9/2, 40K) reports that “the owners of the new Schoodic Woods Campground on the Schoodic Peninsula have transferred their interest in the property to the National Park Foundation.” According to the article, “the change in ownership occurred two weeks before the Sept. 2 ribbon-cutting at the 94-site campground.” Susan Newton, an executive with the National Park Foundation, said “on Wednesday that the foundation has taken ownership of the property until it can be transferred to the National Park Service.”

The [AP](#) (9/3, 2.28M) reports that “federal officials and conservationists are celebrating the opening of a new campground at Acadia National Park.” The more than 1,400-acre Schoodic Woods Campground is opening on Wednesday. Sen. Angus King, Acadia Superintendent Sheridan Steele and Schoodic Institute President Mark Berry will speak at a ceremony at the campground.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (9/2, 223K)

NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH HELP WITH PRESERVATION PROJECTS THROUGH HOPE INITIATIVE. The [AP](#) (9/3, Susan Montoya Bryan |, Ap, 6.76M) reports that Native American youth "spent most of the summer helping" with preservation projects "as part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's HOPE initiative, or Hands-On Preservation Experience." The trust partnered with the National Park Service and the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps "to train more young people in preservation skills while helping historical sites on public land." The article notes that "from New Mexico and Arizona to Virginia and Vermont, crews worked on some 30 projects this summer."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK TO CELEBRATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY. The [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (9/3, 51K) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park will "mark its 100th anniversary with a rededication ceremony at 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday in a meadow at the Glacier Basin Campground." The article notes that "the event will feature music, family activities and cake, and special guests including Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, Sen. Cory Gardner, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, Rocky Mountain National Park Superintendent Vaughn Baker and former Sen. Mark Udall, the honorary chairman of Rocky's Centennial."

CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK NAMED "INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK". The [AP](#) (9/3, 2.28M) reports that Canyonlands National Park is "being recognized for its dark skies and lack of light pollution." Park officials announced that Canyonlands was "named as an 'International Dark Sky Park' by the Arizona-based International Dark-Sky Association." The NPS is "planning a special astronomy event at the park on Sept. 18 to commemorate the dark-sky designation and showcase views of star-filled skies."

TWO YOSEMITE VISITORS RECOVER AFTER BEING INFECTED WITH BUBONIC PLAGUE. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/3, 535K) reports that "in the past two months, two people became infected with the bubonic plague after visiting Yosemite National Park, a boy from Los Angeles and an adult from Georgia." According to the article, "in response, the state park closed two campgrounds and posted warning signs at all campsites." The article notes that "both people have been treated and recovered."

NPS RELEASES EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN. [Trade Only](#) (9/3) reports that the NPS "released the final General Management Plan for Everglades National Park, which includes several changes that will affect recreational boating and fishing access and habitat conservation in the park." The article notes that "a coalition of eight groups representing recreational fishing and boating expressed its appreciation to park officials for addressing concerns that were raised during the process."

BIOLOGIST RECOMMENDS IMPORTING WOLVES TO MICHIGAN'S ISLE ROYALE "AS SOON AS POSSIBLE". The [MLive \(MI\)](#) (9/3, 739K) reports that as the NPS "mulls what, if anything, should be done to save the meager wolf population on Isle Royale, a leading environmental science researcher says the best way to tame the exploding moose population and protect island vegetation is to begin importing wolves." John Vucetich, a Michigan Tech University biologist who studies the wildlife of Isle Royale, said, "It's important that action be taken sooner rather than later." Meanwhile, Sens. Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow are "trying to speed things up by urging the park service to complete a management plan to save the wolves by next July, a deadline that's unlikely to be met."

WILDLIFE OVERPASS PROPOSED ON 101 FREEWAY IN LOS ANGELES. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/3, Groves, 4.07M) reports that "mountain lions, bobcats and other wildlife would have less chance of becoming roadkill if the state adopts a plan to build a landscaped bridge over the 101 Freeway in Agoura Hills, supporters of the proposal said Wednesday." According to the article, "state agencies, elected officials and wildlife advocates urged the state to provide the much-needed link in an area where rampant development and highways have fragmented once-continuous habitat." The article notes that since NPS "biologists began researching mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains in 2002, motorists have struck and killed a dozen of the big cats in the study area, including a male puma hit on the 101 near Liberty Canyon two years ago."

KAYMOOR TRAIL IN NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER CLOSED FOR WEATHER-RELATED REPAIRS. The [AP](#) (9/3, 344K) reports that the NPS has "closed a portion of a hiking trail in southern West Virginia due to an unstable slope." Park officials say "parts of the Kaymoor Trail in the New River Gorge National River will remain closed indefinitely until repairs can be made."

ANDERSONVILLE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE TO HOLD FUNERAL FOR 13,000. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (9/3, 1.05M) reports that "the Andersonville National Historic Site, already a gutwrenchingly moving testament to the rigors of the Civil War, takes on a new role on Sept. 19th as the setting for a one-of-a-kind funeral." According to the article, the "Funeral for 13,000" is "an acknowledgment of the more than 12,900 United States soldiers who died at the southwest Georgia facility during its fourteen months of operation as a Confederate prison."

NPS TO DECIDE ON BELMONT BARBECUE PIT. The [Citizen of Laconia \(NH\)](#) (9/3) reports that the NPS is "being asked to amend a grant boundary to Belmont's Sargent Park and allow the town to reconstruct a barbecue pit at the new Tioga Pavilion." The article notes that "the new pit is part of Belmont's recent effort to construct the \$89,000 pavilion using partial grant money from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund."

BODY OF MISSING HIKER IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK FOUND. The [AP](#) (9/3, 2.28M) reports that "officials at Yosemite National Park have found the body of a man who was missing for more than three weeks." According to park spokesman Scott Gediman, "the body of 39-year-old James Michael Millet Jr. was found above Yosemite Valley on Tuesday." The article notes that "a cause of death was not released" and "an investigation is ongoing."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (9/3, Rocha, 4.07M), the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/3, 265K), and [Reuters](#) (9/2).

US Geological Survey:

HIKER WHO DIED AT GRAND CANYON WAS USGS RESEARCHER. The [AP](#) (9/3, 344K) reports that "a hiker who fell to his death at the Grand Canyon was a U.S. Geological Survey researcher studying riparian vegetation." According to Grand Canyon National Park spokeswoman Emily Davis, "51-year-old Daniel Sarr fell into a gully Friday while hiking to the Colorado River to join a rafting trip." Sarr was a research ecologist at the USGS Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center in Flagstaff.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/2, 1.12M) and the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (9/3, 34K).

DECLINING SNOWFALL HITTING NAVAJO PEOPLE. The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/2, 1.12M) reports that "a lifetime of declining snowfall on the Navajo Reservation is making an already unforgiving desert landscape increasingly uninhabitable." The article notes that "snow tracked at six northeastern Arizona weather stations has plummeted by more than two-thirds on average since the 1930s, according to research led by the U.S. Geological Survey." USGS geomorphologist Margaret Hiza Redsteer said, "It's just hitting the Navajo people first."

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES SAVING IRAN DEAL IN US SENATE A MAJOR VICTORY FOR OBAMA. Sen. Barbara Mikulski's announcement that she will support the Iran nuclear deal, which gives the President the 34 votes he needs to prevent the Senate from overriding his veto of a resolution of disapproval, is being cast as a major victory for the President. Coverage is extensive, with reports on all three network news broadcasts and heavy print and online coverage. While many reports say Mikulski's decision will embolden Democrats in their effort to secure the 41 votes they need to filibuster the resolution and keep the President from having to use his veto, several also indicate that Republicans are considering other options to derail the deal.

[ABC World News](#) (9/2, story 6, 0:25, Muir, 5.84M) called Mikulski's announcement a "big victory" for the President, adding that the deal, which has been "under fire" from Republicans, "is safe," and [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/2, story 5, 1:20, Holt, 7.86M) said it was "a major win for the Obama Administration," adding that the deal "now appears unstoppable." Cable commentary was similar Wednesday evening. Jake Tapper said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/2, 320K) that the White House dodged a "major legislative bullet," while Brianna Keilar on [CNN Wolf](#) (9/2, 224K) called it "a major victory for President Obama," and Shannon Bream said on [Fox News Real Story](#) (9/2) that the White House "score[d] a big foreign policy victory." Rachel Maddow said on [MSNBC's Rachel Maddow Show](#) (9/2, 769K) that the President has "sealed what may be the biggest diplomatic achievement of his presidency," adding that this is "a huge political victory for the Obama Administration."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/3, Richter, Mascaro, 4.07M) similarly says Mikulski's support "assured a political victory for Obama, and a surprising loss for the Republican majority in Congress, which uniformly opposes the deal." In addition, it "pushed Obama's allies in the Senate to go for broke and try to get seven of the final 10 wavering Democrats on their side," which could "block a GOP-backed resolution of disapproval with a filibuster." However, [Reuters](#) (9/3, Zengerle) reports that leadership aides from both sides of the aisle say it is too soon to tell whether deal supporters will be able to muster the 41 votes they need. Kristen Welker said on [MSNBC](#) (9/2, 545K) that Mikulski's support is "being greeted as a victory by President Obama." Welker added that while the White House is "optimistic" about securing the 41 votes needed to prevent a vote, "they say it's going to be tough."

[Politico](#) (9/2, Toosi, 942K) said the White House "is more determined than ever to keep the agreement from reaching a vote in the first place," and the [Washington Times](#) (9/3, Wolfgang, 344K) reports that while the White House "celebrated" word of Mikulski's support, press secretary Josh Earnest "said the White House will continue lobbying undecided members of Congress."

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (9/3, Fritze, 834K) says Mikulski "handed the White House a symbolic victory, at least," and both [Voice of America](#) (9/3, Saine, 32K) and [TIME](#) (9/3, Calabresi, 19.55M) called Mikulski's announcement "a major foreign-policy victory" for the President. TIME adds, however, that the support of 34 senators is "hardly a resounding victory for the administration's position" as it is "the bare minimum number of Senators Obama needs to ensure he can deliver on his end of the deal with Iran." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/3,

A1, Peterson, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) notes that while Mikulski's support represents a victory for the Administration, the downside is that the President will be carrying out a major piece of US foreign policy without majority support from Congress.

While the [New York Times](#) (9/3, A1, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says that "support for the deal has not been enthusiastic," it adds that there is "growing recognition, even among some accord opponents, that the other nations — Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia, and especially Iran — would be unwilling to renegotiate the agreement even if Congress formally rejected it." The [Huffington Post](#) (9/2, Stein, Terkel, 164K) said that while the President has "both notched one of the most significant nuclear non-proliferation agreements in history and cemented a foreign policy legacy of robust diplomatic engagement," the question of whether "that legacy turns out sterling or sour" will not be answered until "well beyond the end date of his presidency." An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/3, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says that with Mikulski's support, which ensures that the deal will move forward, Democrats, including the Vice President and Hillary Clinton, have taken responsibility for ensuring that Iran complies.

The [AP](#) (9/3, Werner) says Mikulski's support "spells failure for opponents of the international agreement who sought to foil it by turning Congress against it." [USA Today](#) (9/3, Kelly, 5.23M) notes that while they acknowledged they will be unable to override the President's veto, Senate Republicans "pushed back hard against the deal." GOP presidential candidate Sen. Lindsey Graham said, "The Iranians have now secured enough votes in the Senate to ensure they have a pathway to a bomb, the missile to deliver it and the money to pay for it." Another presidential hopeful, Sen. Marco Rubio, "vowed to overturn the agreement if he is elected." Majority Leader McConnell, meanwhile, "accused the Obama administration of reducing 'this important national security matter to a partisan contest.'" [Bloomberg Politics](#) (9/3, Miller, 247K) reports.

The [New York Daily News](#) (9/3, Edelman, 3.75M) reports that Republicans said that "the next President will have a chance to undo the deal," adding that a spokesman for House Speaker Boehner "said the deal 'is far from being implemented.'" The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/2, story 2, 1:00, Cordes, 5.08M) cast Boehner's comment as a signal that "Republicans might try to find some other way to block it or at least to slow its implementation." The [New York Times](#) (9/3, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 11 82M) says Republicans "are considering legislative options to counter the deal, including the possible reimposition of sanctions the agreement is supposed to lift," adding that they have been "thinking through alternatives for months, knowing that Mr. Obama would probably be able to fend off efforts to override his veto."

In a separate story, [Politico](#) (9/2, Kim, 942K) noted that House Minority Leader Pelosi "has indicated that she's confident there will be enough Democratic support in her chamber to sustain a veto of a resolution disapproving the Iran deal, should Obama issue one." [The Hill](#) (9/2, Marcos, 471K) reported in its "Floor Action" blog that Pelosi "urged Democrats to announce their position as soon as possible," noting in a letter to House Democrats that she learned from Boehner "that the critical vote to disapprove of the Iran deal could take place in the House as soon as next week when Congress returns from the August recess." Pelosi "stressed that the looming vote.. means that House Democrats who haven't yet stated their position on the Iran deal should do so sooner rather than later."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/3, A1, Morello, 6.76M) notes that "the splits forming around the agreement in Congress appear to be reflected throughout the country," noting that while "a majority of Americans oppose the deal, a strong majority of Democrats support it and a strong majority of Republicans oppose it."

[Roll Call](#) (9/2, Lesniewski, 113K), meanwhile, reported that Mikulski said in a statement, "No deal is perfect, especially one negotiated with the Iranian regime. ... I have concluded that this Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is the best option available to block Iran from having a nuclear bomb. For these reasons, I will vote in favor of this deal. However, Congress must also reaffirm our commitment to the safety and security of Israel."

Cardin Remains Undecided. The [Washington Post](#) (9/3, Weiner, 6.76M) reports that Mikulski's Maryland colleague, Sen. Ben Cardin, "continues to wrestle with whether to support the deal," as the White House continues its push to secure seven more votes in favor of it. Cardin is seen by supporters and opponents "as a key vote" because, as ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, his views on the deal carry "considerable weight," but as of Wednesday morning, he "remained undecided."

Kerry Defends Deal In Speech, On Television, In Letters To Lawmakers. In a speech at the National Constitution Center on Wednesday, Secretary of State Kerry defended the deal as a "'hugely positive step' for world stability," the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (9/3, Fitzgerald, Gammage, 641K) reports. Kerry said, "History may judge it a turning point, a moment when the builders of stability seize the initiative from the destroyers of hope." [Politico](#) (9/2, Gass, 942K) said that Kerry "made an appeal to 'common sense,'" and "declar[ed] that Congress' decision on the agreement when it returns next week 'will matter as much as any foreign policy decision in recent history.'"

[The Hill](#) (9/2, Byrnes, 471K) said Kerry "offered a fiery defense" of the deal, and [McClatchy](#) (9/3, Allam, 28K) describes Kerry's speech as "impassioned," adding that he "attempted to reach across the aisle to Republicans — not a single one in the Senate supports the deal — by invoking former Bush administration Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson and Reagan-era Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volker, both of whom have warned that Iran sanctions would collapse without a deal." McClatchy says it was "a further projection of bipartisanship" that Kerry "was introduced by former Republican Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, whose support of the de

Conversation Contents

Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, September 2, 2015

"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Sep 02 2015 07:24:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, September 2, 2015

Server issues this morning prevented the DOI clips bulletin from pushing through - please find a copy of the bulletin below as we work to resolve the issue.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

MEDIA ANALYSES ARCTIC DRILLING COULD HURT OBAMA'S CLIMATE CHANGE LEGACY. While somewhat lighter than yesterday, media coverage of the President's trip to Alaska was once again extensive, with stories on all three network news broadcasts and heavy print and online reporting. Though much of it highlighted the President's schedule in Alaska, included in the coverage is a significant undercurrent of criticism of Obama from environmentalists over his approval of drilling in the Arctic, with several analyses and commentators questioning whether the move will damage his effort to burnish his climate change legacy.

[Wired](#) (9/1, Lapowsky, 4.12M), for example, said that "in the last year of his presidency, Obama is working hard to make addressing climate change a crucial part of his legacy and to ensure the next President takes up the fight, as well," but a [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/1, Fedde, 455K) analysis, noting that the President "approved expanded drilling by Royal Dutch Shell," said that his trip "is bringing attention" to his "complicated environmental record." According to the Monitor, his "energy and environmental record might mute his otherwise loud call for action in the face of irrevocable climate change." Similarly, [TIME](#) (9/1, Worland, 19.55M) noted that while the President "has billed his trip as an opportunity to highlight the threat of climate change...his policies embody the tension between the vital fossil fuels play in the US economy and the need to reduce carbon emissions." While he has "proposed aggressive US action on climate change," he has also "supported measures to open oil drilling in the Arctic, a move condemned by environmentalists."

The [Huffington Post](#) (9/1, Robinson, 164K) noted that MSNBC host Rachel Maddow on Monday questioned if the President's "recent climate change rhetoric is hard to reconcile with his administration's decision to allow off-shore drilling in the Arctic," saying, "I mean, it is hard to square the president talking about climate change in these very aggressive terms in Alaska...with the green light he just gave to drill the Arctic for oil up there." Maddow asked NBC News' senior White House correspondent Chris Jansing "if the administration hopes that the drilling will be overlooked when Obama's legacy on climate change is assessed," to which Jansing responded "by saying the administration is making a case that climate change is much larger than one issue, while environmental leaders continue to call out the president."

[National Geographic](#) (9/1, Welch, 31.65M) reported on its website that while the President "faces criticism on many fronts: that he's not doing more to outfox Russia in the race for control of the melting Arctic Ocean or that he's not doing enough to help convince Arctic nations to set aside more ocean for protection," and from environmentalists over his "recent move to allow Shell to drill for oil in the nearby Chukchi Sea," he is "playing to a larger audience," ahead of a "busy fall for the earth's climate," including "a conference in Paris in late November where many hope a stronger commitment will emerge to reduce global carbon-dioxide emissions."

Several opinion pieces this morning also consider the criticism leveled at the President by environmentalists. [USA Today](#) (9/2, 5.23M) takes issue with environmentalists who have called the President a "hypocrite" for "pushing for climate action, shortly after approving" Shell's plan, arguing that there is "nothing intrinsically wrong with fighting to mitigate climate change while also recognizing that oil remains an important energy source for the time being." However, in an accompanying [USA Today](#) (9/2, 5.23M) op-ed, Annie Leonard, executive director of Greenpeace USA, says the President's decision to allow Shell to drill in the Arctic "seriously undermines his climate legacy."

In a piece for the [Washington Post](#) (9/2, 6.76M), Post editorial writer Stephen Stromberg calls the attacks from environmentalists proof that "virtually nothing will be enough for some activists," noting that the President "has done more on climate change than any other [president] ever — and perhaps a lot more than the next one will." Stromberg adds that "meaningful climate action" will not be achieved by "haphazardly reject[ing] oil projects in the vain hope that people elsewhere will decline to produce oil, too," but by "reduc[ing] demand for fossil fuels, either by mandating reductions in their use, which Obama has done, or by slapping a fee on carbon dioxide emissions."

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/2, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) notes that while the President's trip highlighted the issue of climate change, it also drew attention to the "fundamental conflict between the need to reduce greenhouse gases and to expand economic development," an issue which was "thrust to the forefront...by the administration's approval" of Shell's plan to drill in the Arctic. The Times argues that while it is "important for the president to drive home the reality of what is happening to our planet," it is "also good that this voyage is drawing attention to the other challenges of the thawing Arctic, including the fact that the same greenhouse gases that are raising temperatures are also opening access to vast deposits of fossil fuels."

Obama Visits Glacier To Highlight Climate Change's Impact. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/1, story 11, 0 20, Pelley, 5.08M) noted that the Exit Glacier "shrunk a quarter mile" from "where it stood in 1951," which the President cited as proof "that time is running out to reverse climate change." The [Washington Post](#) (9/2, Mufson, 6.76M) reports that the President said at the foot of the glacier that "this is as good of a signpost of what we're dealing with when it comes to climate change as just about anything," adding that near the 1951 marker, "What it indicates, because of the changing patterns of winter and less snow and longer, hotter summers, is how rapidly the glacier is receding. It sends a message."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/2, Ganga, Memoli, 4.07M) says the President's hike is "part of his effort to show Americans that the threat of climate change is an urgent one requiring an equally urgent response," as he seeks to "build momentum...on behalf of a sweeping, binding agreement to reduce emissions to be reached at a major UN climate summit in Paris late this year." The [AP](#) (9/2, Lederman) similarly says the President hiked the melting glacier "to highlight the dangers of global warming," providing "a powerful visual designed to make an impact in ways his speeches and ominous warnings have not." The AP notes that the President "is counting on Alaska's exquisite but deteriorating landscape to add urgency to his message on climate change," adding that the "carefully choreographed trip aims to make an impression with audiences that don't follow the news through traditional means."

On its website, [NBC News](#) (9/1, Donnelly, 3.73M) said the President is also using the trip "to highlight what scientists say is a frightening connection in the vast forested lands of Alaska between raging, record-setting wildfires and climate change." In his speech to the GLACIER conference on Monday, the President said, "Alaska's fire season is now more than a month longer than it was in 1950. At one point this summer, more than 300 wildfires were burning at once."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/2, Mooney, 6.76M), meanwhile, cites the President's discussion of "the science of the gigaton" and use of the phrase "'negative feedback loop' to describe how wildfires can worsen the loss of permafrost," noting that his "using of these admittedly alien scientific terms — and then explaining them clearly" comes about because one of the problems with the issue of climate change "is that it is so big that humans have a very hard time comprehending it."

Obama Calls For Accelerating Acquisition Of Coast Guard Ice Breaker. [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/1, story 7, 0:35, Holt, 7.86M) reported that while the President "has pushed for more action on climate change," he also "wants to protect US interests in an area with vast economic potential from that melting sea ice," and on Tuesday, "he called for speeding up the purchase of a new icebreaker to clear more maritime routes." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (9/1, Sink, 247K) notes that the Administration has asked Congress to accelerate the acquisition of the ice breaker "from 2022 to 2020." A separate story in the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/1, Truong, 455K) said that the President "said that the lack of icebreakers in the American fleet risks control of shipping routes, oil fields, and fishing grounds, and protected habitat, not to mention the ability for the US to perform emergency search-and-rescue operations." A statement from the White House said, "The growth of human activity in the Arctic region will require highly engaged stewardship to maintain the open seas

necessary for global commerce and scientific research, allow for search and rescue activities, and provide for regional peace and stability.”

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/1, Bennett, 375K) noted that according to the President, the icebreakers are needed “because climate change is causing ice to decrease, making the region more navigable,” which will mean “a coming surge in shipping, tourism, fishing and other activities.” The [New York Times](#) (9/2, Davis, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says the proposal is “part of an effort to close the gap between the United States and other nations, especially Russia, in a global competition to gain a foothold in the rapidly changing Arctic.” The Times notes that while the announcement “fell short of guaranteeing the new icebreakers; lawmakers must approve the funding, and it would take years for the vessels to become available.” Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan “cheered the step, saying it was long overdue.” [Politico](#) (9/1, Wheaton, 942K) noted that the “subtext” of the President’s trip “is as much Cold War as global warming,” adding that the announcement of plans to accelerate the acquisition of the icebreaker “wasn’t so much about acts of nature as acts of Vladimir Putin.”

Obama To Pledge Aid To Alaskans Hurt By Climate Change. The [New York Times](#) (9/2, Davis, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that during a visit today to the Arctic Circle, the President “will announce federal grant programs to help villages there cope with coastal erosion and high energy costs, and, in some extreme cases, relocate altogether, the White House said.” According to the Times, the “assistance package will include new grant programs from the Agriculture Department and the Environmental Protection Agency for water and waste projects in vulnerable Alaskan villages,” while the Energy Department “will announce initiatives to help remote Alaskan communities and native tribes develop clean-energy programs to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.”

The [AP](#) (9/2, Lederman) reports senior Obama adviser Brian Deese “said the administration was looking for ways to be more nimble in helping communities relocate – not to make the decision for them.” Said Deese, “It should be easier and more effective for the federal government to come in and support that decision.”

Obama Meets With Alaska Native Leaders. On its website, [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (9/1, Estus, 2K) reported on the President’s meeting Monday with “Alaska Native leaders from across the state,” including Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium president Andy Teuber, who said, “He told us up front that he was there to listen, and he did. He listened to everybody around the table, including all the tribal or indigenous leaders. ... And he followed up with questions and took copious notes, and Secretary Jewell was in the room with us and several members of his administration staff members. And we look forward to following up with members of his administration on the points that were made and some of the challenges that were presented.”

Meanwhile, [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/1, Shalev, Rosen, 219K) noted that indigenous residents told international leaders attending the GLACIER conference that climate change “is an existential threat,” and, “in a change from what many Alaska Natives contend has been the pattern of the past, the international leaders were listening – including President Obama.” In his remarks to the conference, the President said, “The Arctic is the leading edge of climate change, the leading indicator of what the entire planet faces.” After “tick[ing] off documented effects in the state, like rapidly rising temperatures, thawing permafrost, vanishing sea ice, accelerated coastline erosion, expanding wildfires and changing wildlife patterns,” he added, “The impacts here are very real.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/1, story 8, 3 30, McFadden, 7.86M) visited the Alaskan villages of Shishmaref and Kotzebue, which are “changing fast as temperatures warm twice as rapidly here as the rest of the planet,” and, as a result, are under threat due to the melting ice. NBC noted that according to scientists, “if the oceans continue to rise it won’t just be an arctic problem but one for the rest of us too.”

Trump: Mt. McKinley Name Change An Insult To Ohio. [ABC World News](#) (9/1, story 5, 0 30, Muir, 5.84M) reported that Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump called the President’s decision to rename Mt. McKinley as Denali is “an insult to Ohio where McKinley was from,” and “if elected, he’ll change the name right back.”

In a piece that focuses primarily on the recent push to eliminate Confederate symbols, meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (9/2, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) casts the President’s decision to rename the peak as part of “a larger movement to excise uncomfortable history from the more than two centuries of American life.” The Times notes that lawmakers and Alaskans say that removing McKinley’s name “was not meant as a slight to the former president,” but “as a recognition of the enduring role of Native Americans in the state,” while opponents “chose to see Mr. Obama’s move as yet another example of an executive power grab, a Republican accusation for much of his second term.”

In an editorial, the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (9/2, 15K) says that “when it comes to North America’s highest peak, a wrong has finally been made right.” According to the paper, “Alaskans everywhere — from Ketchikan to Kaktovik — celebrated to the news when U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell signed the name change from Mount McKinley to Denali.” It asserts that “President Obama and Jewell simply made right a wrong. They didn’t rename the mountain. They ‘restored’ its proper name.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Chicago \(L\) Tribune](#) (9/1, 2.46M), the [Cleveland \(OH\) Plain Dealer](#) (9/2, 1 03M), the [Dayton \(OH\) Business Journal](#) (9/2, Subscription Publication), the [Alaska Native News](#) (9/2, 245), the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/1, 1.12M), [Salon](#) (9/1, 1.08M), the [Native American Times](#) (9/2, 337), and the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/2, 5.59M).

Sen. Murkowski Fights For King Cove Access Road As Obama Visits Alaska. The [Washington Times](#) (9/2, Wolfgang, 344K) reports that “as President Obama treks across Alaska this week, leading Republicans in Washington say they will continue to fight the administration over its refusal to approve a potentially lifesaving road in a remote corner of the state.” Sen. Lisa Murkowski is “trying to force the issue by including in Interior Department appropriations legislation provisions to build the road.” According to the article, “her bill would facilitate a land swap between Alaska and the federal government, setting aside other parts of the state as protected wilderness and removing barriers to the construction of the King Cove road.”

Shell President Odum Discusses Arctic Drilling With The AP. The [AP](#) (9/2, Joling, 811K) reports that in a Tuesday interview with the AP, Marvin Odum, president of Shell Oil Co., “said...exploratory drilling off Alaska’s northwest coast is going well” despite last week’s weather causing a temporary suspension in operations. Odum also “said he expects further protests against the company’s plans for Arctic drilling” and “said he’s ‘110 percent ready’ to work with people who want to find ways to improve drilling.” Odum discussed the need for oil during the U.S.’ transition to more renewable energy, saying, “Oil will be required for a long time. ... Let’s take a really close look at developing our own resources, control how it’s done and get all the benefits that go along with it.” The AP reports that Odum “is confident exploration can be done safely, and the overriding factor dictating whether Shell completes an exploratory well this year will be safety.” Odum and the AP also note the scrutiny Arctic drilling has undergone.

Environmentalists Asks Court To Find Arctic Drilling Leases Violate NEPA. [Law 360](#) (9/2, 21K) reports that “environmentalists challenging energy companies’ ability to look for oil and gas off Alaska’s northern coast have asked an Alaska federal judge to find the U.S. government violated the National Environmental Policy Act by not considering new information when it reaffirmed leases in the Chukchi Sea.” According to the article, “in a Friday motion for summary judgment, the 12 groups, represented by Earthjustice and joined by three Alaskan communities, said that the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management ignored new information.”

McCain: Putin Poses More Immediate Threat In Arctic. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/2, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) op-ed, Sen. John McCain argues that while the President is highlighting the issue of climate change, a more immediate threat is posed by Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose imperial aims are extending into the Arctic. An editorial cartoon in the [New York Times](#) (9/2, Chappatte, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) depicts the President hiking in the Arctic along with a guide, who tells him the bear they spotted is “Russian and marking his territory.”

Roberts: Conservatives Reject Any US Responsibility For Climate Change. In a piece for [Vox](#) (9/1, 1.1M), David Roberts wrote that the President’s claim in his speech to the GLAC ER conference that the United States “recognizes our role in creating the problem” of climate change “illuminates why conservatives have resisted acknowledging climate change for so long.” Roberts noted that the “notion that America is (partially) to blame” for the problem is “repulsive to the nativist sentiment that currently has Donald Trump atop the polls,” adding that “nativist conservatives” oppose “any effort to assign the US blame or responsibility for ills in the world, which they see as unpatriotic.”

Continuing Coverage Of Obama’s Historic Trip To Alaska. [KUAC-FM](#) Fairbanks, AK (9/2) reports on President Obama’s “historic visit to Alaska.” Obama says “he’s coming to Alaska because what’s going on here demonstrates the urgent need to respond to climate change.”

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ASKS CONGRESS TO MARK NPS CENTENNIAL. The [Greenwire](#) (9/1, Subscription Publication) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced Tuesday that the Obama Administration will “propose a bill to provide additional funding and flexibility for the National Park Service ahead of its 100th anniversary.” Jewell said, “This proposal acknowledges the important place our national parks have in the hearts and minds of all Americans. This administration and this Congress have the unique opportunity to shape the second century of the National Park Service as they preserve the legacy of some of our nation’s greatest treasures for generations to come.” According to the article, the Interior Department said “the proposal would provide funding for ‘signature Centennial projects to make necessary improvements to park infrastructure.”

The Hill (9/1, Henry, 471K) reports that “Obama will ask Congress to fund infrastructure improvements at NPS facilities and establish an endowment fund for future upgrades and projects at the parks.” The legislation, “which Obama will formally announce and send to Congress after he visits a national park in Alaska on Tuesday, would look to increase funding for an NPS volunteer program and expand eligibility for a fund that hires young workers.” The measure would “also strengthen education programs at parks and allow the NPS to provide new services for visitors, such as lodging and dining, according to the Interior Department.”

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (9/1, Korte, 5 23M).

Who to Have Officially Launches “Every Kid In A Park” Program. The [Crescent](#) (9/1, Subscription Publication) reports that “with children across America headed back to

school," the White House on Tuesday "officially launched its 'Every Kid in a Park' program." The article notes that "all fourth-graders and their families now have free access to all federally managed lands and waters through the end of the 2015-16 school year." Starting Tuesday, "those students can log onto the program's website to obtain and print a paper pass."

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/1, 378K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will visit Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area on Wednesday to officially launch the Every Kid in a Park program. During Wednesday's event, Jewell and Christy Goldfuss, managing director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, will hike with a group of local fourth graders and hand out some of the first passes, which are good for the 2015-16 school year. Jewell said. "We want to make sure that every American has the opportunity to develop a lifelong connection to our nation's land, water and wildlife."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/1, 493K), [Money](#) (9/1, 7.29M), [CBS News](#) (9/1, 8.2M), the [Gettysburg \(PA\) Times](#) (9/1, 26K), the [Philly \(PA\) Voice](#) (9/1), the [Mesquite \(NV\) Local News](#) (9/1, 16K), [KOB-TV](#) Albuquerque, NM (9/1, 92K), [KXRM-TV](#) Colorado Springs, CO (9/1, 2K), and [KWCH-TV](#) Wichita, KS (9/1, 109K).

Coverage was also picked up by: [The San Luis Obispo Tribune](#) (9/1, 114K), [Fairfield Citizen](#) (9/1, 55K), [ABC News](#) (9/1, 3.97M), [The Valley Dispatch](#) (9/1), [Houston Chronicle](#) (9/1, 2.28M), [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (9/1, 560K), [Washington Post](#) (9/1, Traci Carl |, Ap, 6.76M), [Minneapolis Star-Tribune](#) (9/1, 1.19M), [SF Gate](#) (9/1, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), [Washington Times](#) (9/1, Carl, 344K), [The Wichita Eagle](#) (9/1, 280K), [CT Post](#) (9/1, 199K), [Sun Herald](#) (9/1, 129K), [WVLT](#) Knoxville, TN (9/1, 58K), [The Olympian](#) (9/1, 78K), [Lexington-Herald Leader](#) (9/1, 251K), [Bradenton Herald](#) (9/1, 144K), [Paradise Post](#) (9/1, 15K), [Long Beach Press Telegram](#) (9/1, 149K), [Albany Times Union](#) (9/1, 530K), [The New York Times](#) (9/1, Press, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), [Miami Herald](#) (9/1, 651K), and the [New Jersey Herald](#) (9/1, 54K).

Also providing coverage are the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/1, Traci Carl |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/2, 2.28M), the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (9/1, 10K), the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (9/1, 3K), the [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) News](#) (9/1, 431), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/1, 46K), the [Maple Valley \(WA\) Voice of the Valley](#) (9/2), [7th Space Interactive](#) (9/2, 624), the [Examiner](#) (9/2, 1.34M), [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (9/2, 32K), [KWCH-TV Wichita \(KS\)](#) Wichita, KS (9/1, 109K), and [KSBW-TV Monterey \(CA\)](#) Monterey, CA (9/2, 27K).

GROUPS URGE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO CREATE NATIONAL MONUMENT OFF NEW ENGLAND. The [Greenwire](#) (9/1, Subscription Publication) reports that "conservationists want President Obama to create a national monument off the shores of New England, asserting that the area must be protected before it's commercialized." According to the article, "a coalition of large environmental groups will kick off the campaign tomorrow at the New England Aquarium in Boston." The article notes that "the groups are also asking the White House to protect 530 square nautical miles on Cashes Ledge, an underwater mountain that's home to commercially important fish."

FEDERAL OFFICIALS SAY NO PLANS TO RENAME MOUNT RAINIER. [McClatchy](#) (9/1, Cockerham, 28K) reports "since President Barack Obama decided to rename Mount McKinley," advocates are also seeking "to rename Mount Rainier as Mount Tacoma or Tahoma." However, federal officials say "there are no plans to rename Mount Rainier and that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's order changing Mount McKinley to its Koyukon Athabascan name of Denali was unique." Lou Yost, executive secretary of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, said that "the board has already rejected an effort to rename Mount Rainier and 'the secretary and probably the president would defer to what the board has done.'"

CENTER HONORING UNITED FLIGHT 93 TO OPEN DAY BEFORE 9/11 ANNIVERSARY. [USA Today](#) (9/2, Eversley, 5.23M) reports that "almost 14 years to the day of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, the National Park Service is preparing to open a visitor center on the site where United Flight 93 went down outside Shanksville, Penn., killing 40 people and four hijackers." According to the article, "the site, which includes a 4,000-square-foot permanent exhibit and a Wall of Names of the passengers and crew, will be dedicated in a ceremony Sept. 10 that will include Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf." Steve Clark, superintendent of the memorial, said, "The Flight 93 National Memorial Visitor Center will open on Sept. 10, on time and within budget, thanks to the dedicated effort of the memorial staff, our partners and our contractors. We look forward to welcoming visitors and providing them a fuller story about the heroic efforts of the passengers and crew of United Flight 93."

REPS. BISHOP, CHAFFETZ SAY EPA KNEW SPILL RISK AT COLORADO MINE FOR A YEAR. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/2, 549K) reports that "two congressional committee leaders from Utah say the Environmental Protection Agency and a federal contractor knew more than year ago that work in an abandoned Colorado mine could cause a toxic spill." Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Resources Committee, and Rep. Jason Chaffetz, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, "sent letters late Monday to the EPA and Missouri-based Environmental Restoration demanding documents for their investigation of the incident." The two Republicans "wrote in the letters that the agency and the company knew in June 2014 that conditions at the site could cause a release of water containing heavy metals from inside the mine."

Also reporting on the story are the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/2, 492K), [Law 360](#) (9/2, 21K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (9/2, 1.07M).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (9/2, 44K) and the [Racine \(WI\) Journal Times](#) (9/2, 102K).

DRONE TESTED IN FIGHT AGAINST WILDFIRE. [KOMO-AM](#) reports that a drone built by Boeing subsidiary InSitu this past week provided real-time overhead video to officials battling the Paradise fire in Olympic National Park.

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/1), the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/1, 1.12M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/2, Nicholas K. Geranios |, Ap, 6.76M).

WHITE HOUSE TO ANNOUNCE SIGNIFICANT SENIOR EXECUTIVE REFORMS THIS FALL. [Government Executive](#) (9/2, 3K) reports that "the White House will unveil significant reforms of the Senior Executive Service later this fall, marking one of the Obama administration's final attempts at improving management in the federal workforce." The White House Advisory Group on Senior Executive Service Reform "recently concluded its preliminary work and issued its proposals to the Office of Management and Budget." According to the article, "OMB is currently fine-tuning the recommendations and will roll them out in the coming weeks."

SECRETARY JEWELL IMPRESSED BY YOUNG LEADERS ON CLIMATE CHANGE. In an op-ed for the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (9/1, Jewell, 15K), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell writes about her experience meeting "some extraordinary young Alaskans who are taking important steps to make a meaningful impact on the future of their communities" at the Conference on Global Leadership in the Arctic. According to Jewell, "their voices and solutions for how to sustain communities, cultures and the environment in a changing Arctic are the reasons why they were selected for the United States Arctic Youth Ambassadors program." She concludes, "when we can excite and encourage youth to serve their communities and serve as an inspiration to the next generation of leaders, as we know these five ambassadors will, then we've invested wisely in our future, and more importantly, in theirs."

CONGRESS URGED TO SUPPORT LWCF, ANTIQUITIES ACT. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (9/1, Calderon, 164K), Jose Calderon, President of the Hispanic Federation, writes that "while there are numerous contributing factors, the lack of access to parks and green spaces throughout Latino neighborhoods is a major obstacle to maintaining a healthy lifestyle." According to Calderon, "one way Congress can help Latinos solve these issues is by providing permanent support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), set to expire September 2015, and to support the Antiquities Act, both powerful tools that can help Americans preserve their vital public lands."

Also covering the LWCF was the [Fort Wayne \(N\) Journal-Gazette](#) (9/2, 172K).

Additional pieces calling for the renewal of the LWCF appeared in the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (9/2, 37K) and the [Grand Haven \(MI\) Tribune](#) (9/2, 26K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

NATIVE AMERICAN LANDOWNERS TARGET BIA OVER "ILLEGAL" EVICTION ATTEMPT. [Law 360](#) (9/2, 21K) reports that "two Native American landowners on Monday lashed out at the Bureau of Indian Affairs over its 'illegal attempt' to oust them from a troubled-plagued property in Puyallup, Washington, urging a federal judge to put a stop to an alleged conspiracy."

FLATHEAD JOINT BOARD OF CONTROL SEEKS LOCAL CONTROL OF FLATHEAD INDIAN IRRIGATION PROJECT. The [Ronan Valley \(MT\) Journal](#) (9/2, 22K) reports that "the Flathead Joint Board of Control will appeal a federal lawsuit to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in an effort to regain local control of the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project." The article notes that "the board's attorneys said Aug. 25 that they will also try to work out an agreement outside of the courtroom with the Department of the Interior to plan for future management of the project, which irrigates 127,000 acres in Lake, Sanders, and Missoula County."

JUDGE CLEARS MAN ACCUSED OF HARASSING AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENTS. The [AP](#) (9/2, 2.28M) reports that "a South Dakota man accused of using racial slurs and spilling beer on American Indian students during a hockey game was cleared of a disorderly conduct charge Tuesday, more than a month after a trial in the controversial case attracted more than 200 people." Trace O'Connell was "charged after authorities alleged he sprayed beer and used racially charged language near a large group of Native American students during a minor league hockey game in Rapid City." Magistrate Judge Eric Strawn "released a ruling Tuesday siding with O'Connell, finding that the 41-year-old man from Philip unintentionally spilled beer on the students while celebrating an 'important score' at a Rapid City Rush game." Strawn also said "the city didn't prove O'Connell said any racially charged words near the students."

ATTORNEY PREDICTS ALASKA WILL LOSE APPEAL OF TRIBAL LAND INTO TRUST. In an op-ed for [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/1, 219K), Donald Craig Mitchell, an Anchorage attorney, predicts that Alaska will lose its appeal of tribal land into federal trust. He notes that "last December, Kevin Washburn, the present assistant secretary of the Interior for Indian affairs, amended the regulations that govern the implementation of section 5 of the RA in the forty-eight coterminous states by removing the sentence that prohibited the secretary of the Interior from taking title to land in Alaska into trust (which raises the question of whether that action mooted the state's appeal)."

Office of Insular Affairs:

NEW CENTER HELPS NEWCOMERS FROM MICRONESIA. [KITV-TV](#) Honolulu (9/2, 44K) reports that "on Friday, 'We Are Oceania', or WAO, held its grand opening at Saint Elizabeth Episcopal Church." According to the article, "WAO is a new center to help members of the Micronesian community get settled in the islands." The center will "serve as a one-stop center that will help newcomers from Micronesia obtain legal documents, explain medical benefits and provide job training skills."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR DISCUSSES DIFFERENT SOLUTION FOR LAKE TSCHIDA CABIN OWNERS. [KQCD-TV](#) Dickinson, ND (9/2, 104) reports that "in 2009, the Bureau of Reclamation ordered that all permanent structures in the flood pool of Lake Tschida, 114 cabins in total, had to be removed by 2010" and "that deadline was extended to 2021." On Tuesday, Sen. John Hoeven "hosted Bureau Commissioner Estevan López at the lake to try to have the trailer owners work with the bureau to come up with a different solution."

Additional coverage was provided by [KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#) Bismarck, ND (9/2, 1K) and [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (9/2, 1K).

QUAKE STRIKES NEAR GRAND COULEE DAM. [Reuters](#) (9/1) reports that a magnitude 4.2 earthquake hit near Grand Coulee Dam on Tuesday, prompting an immediate inspection of the facility but leaving no visible damage, a spokeswoman said. Lynne Brouger, a spokeswoman for the BOR, said that operation of the Columbia River dam was not disrupted by the tremor.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM TO HOLD NEW JERSEY OFFSHORE WIND LEASE SALES THIS FALL. The [Recharge News](#) (9/1, 633) reports that the BOEM "this fall will hold a competitive sale of two lease areas off the coast of New Jersey that if fully developed, may be able to support up to 3.4GW of commercial wind generation."

Onshore Energy Development:

OSMRE KICKS OFF STREAM RULE HEARINGS. The [Greenwire](#) (9/1, Subscription Publication) reports that the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement on Tuesday will "kick off a round of public hearings on its new stream protection rule." The proposal, "meant to protect waterways near coal mines, would add bonding, monitoring and reclamation requirements to the permitting process." The article notes that "groups including the National Mining Association and the Interstate Mining Compact Commission have expressed concern about the rule's size and scope, and have asked for an extension of the comment period."

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (9/1, 547K) reports that "opponents of a proposed update to federal rules protecting water sources from coal mining pollution vowed Tuesday to fight the regulations." Hal Quinn, head of the National Mining Association, said, "This seems to be less about new science and more about new politics." The National Mining Association "expects Congress to hold hearings on the issue this fall."

SETTLEMENT REACHED IN ARKANSAS MINERALS CASE. The [AP](#) (9/2, 2.28M) reports that "federal prosecutors in Arkansas say an energy company has agreed to pay the U.S. government \$950,000 to settle a mineral trespass case." According to the article, "prosecutors announced the settlement Tuesday with SWN Production, LLC, formerly known as SEECO, Inc., of Texas, which will pay the federal government within 45 days." The article notes that "the case came to light after a field office for the Bureau of Land Management found evidence in 2009 indicating a natural gas well operated by the company drilled into unleased, federally owned minerals in Conway and Van Buren counties."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arkansas Times](#) (9/1, 59K).

ENERGY COMPANY ASKS DISTRICT JUDGE TO LIFT HOLD ON DRILLING LEASE NEAR GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (9/2) reports an attorney for Baton Rouge-based energy company Solenex LLC is asking US District Judge Richard Leon to "reject the government's timeline for lifting its hold on an energy lease" in Montana, arguing that the schedule will "add years to a three-decade delay the company already has endured." However, the Blackfeet tribes of US and Canada, which oppose drilling on what they call their spiritual homeland, say the original lease was illegally issued because the Montana tribe was not consulted. Solenex's request comes prior to a public hearing Wednesday in which a federal historic preservation panel will discuss "allowing drilling on the 6,200-acre lease site near Glacier National Park."

APPEALS COURT REVIVES GREEN GROUPS' CHALLENGE TO BLM LEASES IN MONTANA. The [AP](#) (9/2, 2.28M) reports that "a federal appeals court ruling has revived a bid by environmentalists to block drilling for oil and gas on public lands in Montana until the government looks more closely at climate change impacts." The article notes that "the case had been dismissed two years ago by a judge who said the environmentalists could not demonstrate drilling activities would cause them harm." However, "a three-judge panel from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed in a Monday ruling that sends the case back to U.S. District Judge Sam Haddon."

TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION REPORT CLEARS ENERGY COMPANY OF CAUSING LOCAL EARTHQUAKES. The [AP](#) (9/1, Shinkman, 811K) reports the Texas Railroad Commissions has determined that seismological activity in North Texas "like wasn't caused by drilling operations by" Exxon Mobil subsidiary XTO Energy. The preliminary findings represent the TRC's first decision since it was authorized last year to explore if injection wells were responsible seismological activity. The commission ordered hearings after a university study suggested injection wells "were responsible for quakes that shook Reno, Texas in 2013 and 2014." Investigators included a XTO Energy well "likely didn't cause the quakes," but noted there was not evidence to determine the earthquakes were naturally occurring. The report was released one day prior to a new law took effect preventing Texas cities from banning fracking and "limiting local authority to restrict other oil and gas operations." Reno Mayor Lynda Stokes said she was not surprised by the findings and is unsure what legal recourse her city should take next.

The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (9/2, 884K) also reports on the commission's findings.

EDITORIAL SHUTDOWN OF COLOWYO COAL MINE SHOULD BE AVERTED. The [Denver Post](#) (9/2, Board, 787K) editorializes that it's unfortunate that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has decided against appealing Judge R. Brooke Jackson's ruling on the Colowyo coal mine. But it notes that Jewell has also said federal officials were "doing everything we can" to avoid a mine shutdown. On Tuesday, OSMRE released a revised environmental assessment that the paper hopes will be enough to satisfy the judge.

OP-ED METHANE REGULATION IS NECESSARY TO FORCE ENERGY COMPANIES TO ACT IN THE PUBLIC'S BEST INTEREST. Richard Revesz, a professor New York University School of Law and director of the Institute for Policy Integrity, writes in [The Hill](#) (9/2, Revesz, Contributor, 471K) contributors blog that the EPA's new regulators to limit methane emissions has resulted in a "wave of criticism" from oil and gas groups. Revesz argues that that regulation is necessary "because energy companies don't face the right incentive to reduce the adverse social consequence of their activities." The decision to regulate methane means the EPA "compels companies to act in the best interests of the public to reduce emissions." The proposed rule is a "good start" toward the Obama administration's goal of reducing methane emissions in the oil and gas sector 40 to 45 percent from 2012 levels by 2025. However, "more will be needed to reach it," such as enacting new policies that govern methane capture on federal lands and other efforts "to target sources outside the scope of this rule."

Offshore Energy Development:

WATCHDOG SAYS INTERIOR OFFSHORE DRILLING OVERSIGHT DIVISION UNDERSTAFFED. [Fierce Government](#) (9/2, Mcdermott, 224) reports that "the Interior Department division that handles oversight of offshore drilling needs more full-time staff to review and respond to incidents, according to a recently released DOI Inspector General report." In June 2010, the Investigations and Review Unit, or IRU, of the BSEE was "established to respond to allegations of misconduct by either BSEE employees or private companies involved in off-shore energy projects." In 2011, the DOI IG "recommended that BSEE reorganize and add more full-time staff members." Now, "in its latest report, auditors reiterate IRU needs more dedicated employees to do its job effectively."

RESEARCHERS RECOMMEND MONITORING OCEAN SEISMIC TESTING LIKE POLLUTION. The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (9/2, Jarvis, 354K) reports that in a paper published Tuesday in *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, eight universities and environmental groups argue that "high-decibel seismic testing for oil and gas in ocean waters should be controlled and monitored like pollution." According to researchers, loud seismic test impulses can disrupt "marine life by masking the sounds they rely on to communicate, navigate, find food and avoid predators." Douglas Nowacek, a marine ecology and bioacoustics expert at Duke University, stressed the urgent need to administer

these controls, "especially with oil and gas exploration awaiting government approval as close as three miles offshore."

SHARING OF OFFSHORE OIL, GAS REVENUES URGED. In a piece for the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (9/1, 718K), Jarvis DeBerry writes that "while the president has sounded the right note on climate change, his administration hasn't always taken the right position regarding efforts to restore Louisiana's coast." He notes that "in February, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell suggested the undoing of a law that's scheduled to give the state a percentage of the royalties the federal government gets for allowing drilling off the Louisiana coast." According to DeBerry, "it was alarming to hear an Obama cabinet official criticize that law."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

STEINLE FAMILY CONTENDS FEDERAL, LOCAL AUTHORITIES CONTRIBUTED TO DEATH. The [AP](#) (9/2, Elias) reports that Kathryn Steinle's parents contend that "federal and local authorities contributed to the death of their daughter through negligence and bureaucratic bungling." The Steinle family and attorneys "filed three separate legal claims seeking unspecified damages from the BLM, San Francisco Sheriff's Department and U.S. Department of Homeland Security" and are cited saying they "would file lawsuits if the claims are denied." The AP says "similar lawsuits alleging that so-called sanctuary city policies contributed to killings by illegal immigrants have failed, including a high-profile case in San Francisco." ICE spokeswoman Virginia Kice is quoted saying, "the director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement met recently with members of the Steinle family to express the agency's profound sympathy for their loss."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/2, Romney, 4.07M) quotes an attorney for the family saying they want "public officials who issued statements in the wake of Steinle's killing to 'not only stop the finger-pointing, stop the bickering, but we want to ensure that it does not happen again.'"

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/2, Subscription Publication, 3.35M) cites the family saying "they were ready to go to court to force the city and federal government to take steps to prevent a repeat of the tragedy."

The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (9/2, 626K) reports that Steinle's parents argued in an "emotional" news conference that "they want to hold accountable not just the illegal immigrant charged with her killing but also the public officials who failed to keep him off the streets."

On its website, [KPIX-TV](#) San Francisco (9/1, Castaneda, 116K) quotes father Jim Steinle: "if you think this can't happen to you, think again,...I'm walking down the pier, arm-in-arm with my daughter she stops, takes a selfie, she turns around, and is shot. As she fell said, 'Help me, dad.' That's my bedtime story every night. And if you want it to be your bedtime story every night, then do nothing. But if you feel this was wrong – and it is- be active and let the people in this city, and the state and the country know this this this can't stand."

[ABC News](#) (9/2, 3.97M) says that amid the family's claims, "a fierce debate in Washington over the practice of so-called 'sanctuary cities' is expected to consume Congress after members return from their summer recess." Two months after her murder, "Kate's Law" is "still stalled in the Senate Judiciary Committee."

In its coverage of this story, [Fox News Real Story with Gretchen Carlson](#) (9/2) calls it "interesting" that San Francisco has persisted with its "sanctuary city" policy while other communities in California and elsewhere have changed their policies after the murder.

The [Huffington Post](#) (9/2, 164K) cites an ICE spokeswoman's email saying ICE Director Sarah Saldana "recently met with Steinle's family 'to express the agency's profound sympathy for their loss,' but the department wouldn't comment directly about the lawsuit's allegations."

Also reporting this story were the [ABC News](#) (9/2, 3.97M) website, the [CNN](#) (9/1, 5.17M) website, [Reuters](#) (9/2, Berg), the [Washington Times](#) (9/2, Noble, 344K), the [KGO-TV](#) San Francisco (9/2, 4K) website, and the [Fox News](#) (9/2, 8 91M) website.

PROPOSAL TO CREATE "JURASSIC NATIONAL MONUMENT" GAINS LOCAL SUPPORT. The [AP](#) (9/2, 2 28M) reports that "a proposal from two congressmen to convert a central Utah dinosaur fossil quarry rich in Jurassic-period bones into a national monument gained a key endorsement Tuesday from county officials." The Emery County public lands council "voted unanimously to back a plan that would elevate the Cleveland-Lloyd dinosaur fossil quarry to what could be known as the 'Jurassic National Monument,' said Randy Johnson, Emery County's public lands adviser." The Emery County commission is "also expected to back the idea."

Additional coverage was provided by [US News & World Report](#) (9/1, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/2, Brady McCombs |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/2, McCombs, 344K), and the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/2, 5.59M).

BLM TO STUDY WILD HORSE, BURRO POPULATIONS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/2, 549K) reports that "a trio of Utah field offices within the Bureau of Land Management plan to study wild horse and burro populations, including the potential sterilization of male animals." According to the article, "representatives of the Price, Fillmore and Cedar City BLM offices are proposing to partner with the U.S. Geological Survey's Fort Collins Science Center to carry out several studies looking at the demography of burro and wild horse populations in certain herd management areas." The bureau said "the research is in response to a 2013 National Academies of Science report commissioned by the BLM that found the government needed to use science-based approaches to solve the population dilemma."

CEMEX COULD APPEAL CANCELLATION OF MINE. The [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) Signal](#) (9/2, 23K) reports that "with the Bureau of Land Management's announcement last week that contracts for the proposed mega-mine in Soledad Canyon have been canceled, effectively killing the proposal, the federal agency is preparing for the next step." BLM spokeswoman Martha Maciel said that "Cemex has 30 days to initiate an appeal" and "such action would go to the Interior Board of Land Appeals." Maciel said, "Cemex has been notified of their appeal rights. Our next steps are to give Cemex time to review and decide what, if any action, they wish to pursue related to the decision."

OP-ED PROPOSAL TO EXPAND ALTON COAL MINE THREATENS SAGE GROUSE. In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/2, 549K), Erik Molvar, a wildlife biologist who directs the Sagebrush Sea Campaign for WildEarth Guardians, writes that "a new coal mine expansion in southern Utah threatens to undermine our efforts to combat climate change and worse, drive the imperiled sage grouse closer to extinction." According to Molvar, it is the BLM "that's driving this dirty energy disaster." He claims that "the proposal to expand the Alton coal mine into prime sage grouse habitats is demonstrating that federal and state officials are eager to abandon commitments to sage grouse conservation to approve a damaging industrial project, which makes the case that the highly touted state and federal plans won't save the sage grouse and that the Endangered Species Act protections are necessary."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS FAULTED OVER ENDANGERED WOLF DEATHS. The [AP](#) (9/2, 2.28M) reports that "wildlife advocacy groups say federal officials violated the Endangered Species Act by allowing landowners to kill red wolves on their property." According to the article, "a letter to the government Tuesday by the Southern Environmental Law Center says two killings of endangered wolves have been allowed since 2014 after only cursory non-lethal efforts." The letter claim "the government has also failed to conduct a required review of the world's only wild population of the wolf in North Carolina." It also threatens to sue.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (9/2, 344K), the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (9/2, 354K), the [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (9/2, 503K), and [WRAL-TV Raleigh \(NC\)](#) Raleigh, NC (9/2, 193K).

ENDANGERED GREEN SEA TURTLES BREAK NESTING RECORD. [USA Today](#) (9/1, Waymer, 5.23M) reports that this year, endangered green sea turtles "dug a record number of nests at the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, with two months still left in their nesting season." According to the article, "this year, UCF researchers counted 12,026 green turtle nests at Archie Carr refuge, already crushing a record the turtles set at the refuge in 2013 — 11,839 nests." The article notes that "the nesting at Archie Carr is significant, because biologists consider that span of beach among the most important sea turtle nesting spots in North America and indicative of how turtle nesting is going as a whole."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (9/1, 5 23M).

SUPPORT URGED FOR CECIL ACT. For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (9/2, Sainato, Contributor, 471K), Michael Sainato, a freelance writer, says that "the killing of Cecil the lion has inspired a remarkable amount of backlash against the hunter, Minnesota dentist Walter Palmer, who paid \$55,000 to hunt the lion." However, "the inexcusable murder of Cecil the lion is not an anomaly; it is a manifestation of a trophy-hunting culture that cultivates this violence towards wildlife." Sainato calls on Congress to support the Conserving Ecosystems by Ceasing the Importation of Large (CECIL) Animal Trophies Act, which would "discourage trophy hunting abroad by making it illegal to import parts of any species listed as threatened or endangered, but more steps through policy, advocacy and funding need to be made to ensure trophy hunting is eradicated and animals are protected."

OP-ED VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS CAN GARNER BIPARTISAN SUPPORT. In an op-ed for [Roll Call](#) (9/2, 113K), Bruce Knight and Dave White, both

former chiefs for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, write that "in a season where Republicans and Democrats find themselves on opposing sides of almost every issue, there's something on which we both agree: the value and effectiveness of voluntary conservation programs to improve water quality, protect the soil, and preserve and increase habitat for wildlife." They argue that "voluntary conservation is a strategy that works for landowners, for wildlife and for taxpayers." The authors conclude that "it's a triple win that cuts across party lines and fence lines to improve biodiversity and preserve landowners' land use options. And it's an approach we need to continue to support on a bipartisan basis."

FLORIDA'S STANCE ON PANTHER QUESTIONED. In an op-ed for the [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (9/1, 651K), Rob Moher, president and CEO of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, writes that the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is "poised to consider approval of a new policy position statement on the Florida panther that questions the current federal plan for recovering this federally endangered species." Moher argues that "rather than following the science, the proposed state policy is being driven by speculative concerns that the federal plan is not going to be successful and by a few ranchers who occasionally lose livestock to panther predation." According to Moher, "since the Florida panther is a federally endangered species, it is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's role and responsibility to lead in recovery decisions and efforts according to the national Endangered Species Act." He concludes that "the state should support its federal partner agency, offering input while following its lead — rather than moving its own independent position statement forward ahead of the Fish and Wildlife Service."

The piece also appears at the [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (9/1, 171K).

National Park Service:

NPS TO MARK 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-J DAY. The [Washington Times](#) (9/1, 344K) reports that "Wednesday is the 70th anniversary of V-J Day, commemorating the anniversary of the Allied forces' victory in the Pacific and the end of World War II." The NPS and the Friends of the National World War II Memorial will "pay tribute to those who won that victory at the aforementioned memorial."

NPS CLOSES LAKE POWELL BEACH DUE TO FUEL SPILL. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/2, 492K) reports that "just a few days in front of a holiday weekend, National Park Service officials have closed a popular Lake Powell beach Monday after a moored boat leaked a tankful of fuel into the water near Wahweap marina." According to Christiana Admiral, the park's chief of interpretation, "a park visitor reported a diesel smell late afternoon and officials soon discovered a neon sheen on the lake's surface covering an area of about a half mile by a half mile." Admiral said "the beach closure is temporary, but was not sure when it would be re-opened."

Additional coverage was provided by [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (9/1, 180K).

NEW RULES FOR EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK DUE OUT FRIDAY. The [Greenwire](#) (9/1, Subscription Publication) reports that "new rules for Everglades National Park due out Friday will phase out a way of life for the aging gladesmen who have spent their lives running the River of Grass in airboats." The article notes that "restrictions on airboat operations and no-motor zones in Florida Bay are part of the first rule changes in the park since 1978." According to the article, "the park is planning to offset the impact on four commercial airboat operations by buying land and striking concession deals with the current owners."

CANYONLANDS AWARDED GOLD-TIER INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK STATUS. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (9/2, 1 07M) reports that "Canyonlands National Park recently received the rare award of having one of the darkest skies in America." The park was "awarded the Gold-Tier International Dark Sky Park status by the International Dark-Sky Association on Aug. 31." Canyonlands National Park Superintendent Kate Cannon said in a statement, "The Milky Way stretching across the park's incredibly dark night sky is a sight many visitors will never forget. With this gold-tier designation, the International Dark-Sky Association recognizes the importance of the natural darkness found here."

DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED. The [Pocono \(PA\) Record](#) (9/1, 46K) reports that NPS "staff took time Tuesday to celebrate the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area's 50th anniversary." Park Superintendent John Donahue said, "ts natural setting makes it the perfect location for wildlife viewing, including black bear, deer, and a wide variety of birds." The article notes that "the park is holding public meetings this month on a future visitor use management plan and historic properties management plan, involving the public in the process."

AUTHORITIES ASK PUBLIC'S HELP IN FINDING MAN MISSING IN YOSEMITE. The [AP](#) (9/2, 2 28M) reports that "Yosemite National Park officials are asking for the public's help in locating a missing man." According to the article, "39-year-old James Michael Millet Jr. planned a day hike to Upper Yosemite Fall on Aug. 11, and has not returned to his vehicle."

HIKER WHO DIED IN GRAND CANYON PARK IDENTIFIED. The [AP](#) (9/2, 344K) reports that "authorities have identified a hiker who died last week in Grand Canyon National Park." According to park officials, "the hiker was 51-year-old Daniel Sarr of Flagstaff."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE WORK ON PART OF LINCOLN MEMORIAL REFLECTING POOL TO BEGIN. Additional coverage that a project to repair the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool was provided by [WCAV-TV Charlottesville \(VA\)](#) Charlottesville, VA (9/2, 3K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (9/2, 345K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (9/2, 345K).

Top National News:

CLINTON WROTE AT LEAST SIX LATER-CLASSIFIED EMAILS USING PRIVATE SERVER. The [Washington Post](#) (9/2, Helderman, 6.76M) reports that then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton "wrote and sent at least six e-mails using her private server that contained what government officials now say is classified information," according to the latest set of emails released by the State Department. While officials "deemed the e-mails classified after Clinton left office, they could complicate her efforts to move beyond the political fallout from the controversy."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/1, story 7, 2:20, Pelley, 5 08M) reported that Clinton "chafed from time to time at the classified computer system that could be difficult to access." While the State Department said that the new batch of emails contained information that was marked classified after the fact, intelligence officials "say regardless, that material should not have been sitting on Clinton's home server for years." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/1, story 5, 2 30, Holt, 7.86M) said that one of the emails "reveals even the State Department help desk didn't recognize Clinton's private email address."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/2, Solomon, 344K) reports that "one of the most serious potential breaches of national security identified so far by the intelligence community" in the emails "involves the relaying of classified information concerning the movement of North Korean nuclear assets." One source speaking on condition of anonymity told the Times, "While everyone talks about the U.S. being aware of the high threat of hacking and foreign spying, there was a certain nonchalance at Mrs. Clinton's State Department in protecting sensitive data that alarms the intel community. We're supposed to be making it harder, not easier, for our enemies to intercept us."

DOJ Will Ask Judge To Consolidate FOIA Suits Over Clinton Emails. [Politico](#) (9/1, Gerstein, 942K) reports the Justice Department will ask US District Court for the District of Columbia Chief Judge Richard Roberts "to consolidate an unwieldy flurry of pending lawsuits which demand copies of emails sent or received by Hillary Clinton or her top aides." That would mean that "dozens of Freedom of Information Act lawsuits could be placed in front of a single judge – at least for a period of time – in order to avoid conflicting schedules for the release of records."

Blumenthal Advised Clinton On Foreign Policy, Domestic Politics In Emails. [Reuters](#) (9/2, Bell, Allen) reports that many of the latest Clinton emails to be released by the State Department show the large role longtime friend and adviser Sidney Blumenthal had in Clinton's deliberations. Blumenthal sent Clinton lengthy memos on both foreign policy and domestic politics. The [New York Times](#) (9/2, Baker, Subscription Publication, 11 82M) says "in addition to memos on Libya that have drawn attention, Mr. Blumenthal weighed in freely on events in Britain, Northern Ireland, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Iran, China, Greece, Mexico, Italy and even Kyrgyzstan," and "also served as an informer on domestic pol

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, September 1, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DOI in the News:

OBAMA WARNS OF DIRE CONSEQUENCES IF WORLD FAILS TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE. The [Greenwire](#) (8/31, Subscription Publication) reports that "President Obama kicks off a three-day tour of Alaska today, where he's plunging into some of the most hot-button environmental disputes facing his administration." Obama's "historic tour will include a glacier hike, a stop at a Bristol Bay fishing town and an international climate conference." According to the article, "along the way, he'll be confronted with questions about his administration's policies on drilling and mining, his climate change agenda, and the politics surrounding his decision to rename North America's tallest mountain."

Focusing on the tenor of the President's remarks to the GLACIER conference, the [AP](#) (9/1, Lederman) describes them as "a doomsday scenario" and the [New York Times](#) (9/1, Davis, Myers, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) as bordering "on the apocalyptic." A number of reports note that while the President is using the trip to help cement his legacy on climate change, he is facing criticism from environmentalists over the Administration's decision to allow drilling in the Arctic.

The [AP](#) (9/1, Lederman) reports that in the speech to the GLACIER conference in which he "sought to set the tone" for his Alaska visit, the President "called on other nations to take swift action as negotiations for a global climate treaty near a close." The [New York Times](#) (9/1, Davis, Myers, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says he "issued a global call for urgent action to address climate change" and "warned that the effects of global warming that have hit the Arctic the hardest would soon engulf the world — submerging entire countries, annihilating cities and leaving fields barren — unless more was done to reduce emissions." The President, the Times notes, declared that "the United States was partly to blame for what he called the defining challenge of the century and would rally the world to counter it." [USA Today](#) (9/1, Korte, 5 23M), likewise, indicates the President "used near apocalyptic imagery to drive home his call to action," arguing that the "result of inaction will be catastrophic in economic and security terms."

[AFP](#) (9/1, Cartillier) says the President described the "urgent and growing" threat that was not being addressed quickly enough, "as he "sketched the problems already facing people living in one of America's last wilderness frontiers." He said the challenge "will define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other," and "with one eye on Republicans who reject humans' role in heating the planet," he argued, "Human activity is disrupting the climate, in many ways faster than we thought. ... The deniers are increasingly alone, on their own shrinking island."

On its website, [NBC News](#) (8/31, Abdullah, 3.73M) described the President's address as "forceful," noting that he said unless the world acts aggressively and quickly, "entire nations will find themselves under severe, severe problems: More drought. More floods. Rising sea levels. Greater migration. More refugees. More scarcity. More conflict." The [Washington Post](#) (9/1, Mufson, Eilperin, 6.76M) also reports that the President told the conference, "The point is that climate change is no longer some far off problem. ... It is happening here and is happening now."

A later version of the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/1, Ganga, 4.07M) report, which was posted after the President's speech, noted that upon arriving in Anchorage, the President sat down "with a group of Alaska native leaders." The President told reporters, "They don't just represent a large portion of Alaska's population. These are communities that have been around for 10,000 years or so, so it's worth paying attention to them. They know a little bit from all that history." He added that by "the end of his tenure in the White House," he will "have visited more tribal communities than any other previous sitting president, and I feel pretty good about that, in case anybody's keeping track."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/31, story 5, 1 55, Plante, 5 08M) also reported that Alaska is providing "the backdrop for President Obama's call for action on climate change," and Secretary of State Kerry "set the tone today." Kerry was shown saying, "But what we discuss here today is important not just for the Arctic, it is important for the rest of this planet." [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/31, Rosen, 219K) reports that in remarks to the conference earlier Monday, Kerry "mentioned dramatic changes documented in Alaska," noting, "The bottom line is that climate change is not a distant threat for our children and their children. ... It is now. It is happening now. I think anybody running for any high office in any nation in the world should come to Alaska or any other place where it is happening and inform themselves about this."

Jim Acosta reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/31, 554K) that CNN spoke with Kerry about the Administration's agenda on climate change, focusing on how the agenda "has almost zero support among most Republicans in Congress." Kerry said the lack of support from Republicans is "one of the reasons we're in Alaska." Kerry explained that for those who don't believe climate change is happening, "All they have to do is come here and open their minds and their eyes and their ears. Listen, look and they will see the impact of what is happening."

In a story posted before the President arrived in Alaska, [Reuters](#) (9/1, Rampton) reported that the goal of the President's trip is to highlight the impact of increasing temperatures and rising oceans and persuade Americans to take action. An [AP](#) (9/1, Lederman) story, also posted before the President's arrival, noted that he "hopes to raise the sense of urgency to deal quickly to slow climate change in the US and overseas." A [Washington Post](#) (9/1, Mufson, Eilperin, 6.76M) analysis says that while the President is seeking to use Alaska "as the backdrop for his urgent message that climate change is not just a thing of the future but is already well underway in America's largest state," Alaska "is not a perfect setting for Obama's message," as it "reflects all too well the cacophony of disputes over mapping international sea borders, exploiting the Arctic's resources, and making greater use of northern shipping routes."

In a blog post on the [Huffington Post](#) (8/31, 164K), Jamie Rappaport Clark, President and CEO of Defenders of Wildlife, said the President has a "chance to take a significant leadership role during this international conference and address the myriad threats that face this unique landscape." Clark noted "issues threatening Alaska and arctic wildlife" she would like the President to address and called on Congress to support the Clean Power Plan.

[Roll Call](#) (8/31, Dennis, 113K) reported that during the three-day trip, the President "may rile the GOP" as he "highlights the effects of climate change and his go-it-alone plans to tackle it." An early version of a story from the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/1, Ganga, 4.07M) notes that there are "those who argue that Obama hasn't done enough to allow for the extraction of this cash-strapped state's abundant natural resources, among them, oil, natural gas and minerals key to manufacturing."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/31, story 5, 1 55, Plante, 5 08M) noted that the visit "comes at an awkward time," just weeks after the Administration "issued new permits for offshore oil exploration." CBS added that according to the President, "as long as fossil fuel is needed, the US should be as self-sufficient as possible." Similarly, the [New Republic](#) (8/31, Leber, 242K) notes that the trip "draws attention to the greatest weakness in his environmental agenda," adding that while the President has "done more than any president to slow demand for fossil fuels, his green critics say he hasn't done enough to limit the supply of oil, gas, and coal." That "tension" was exposed by the White House decision to allow "Shell to explore the Arctic for oil," and by traveling to Alaska, "to highlight the impacts of climate change, Obama has awkwardly drawn attention to his conflicting actions."

The early [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/1, Ganga, 4.07M) story also says that while the President "hopes to make climate change the cornerstone of his final time in office," environmentalists "are wary of the man who just allowed Royal Dutch Shell to develop limited offshore oil drilling in the Chukchi Sea." The [Huffington Post](#) (8/31, Sheppard, 164K) said the President "is facing criticism and outright outrage from environmental advocates who say his focus on climate change while in the region contradicts his administration's decision to allow Shell to drill there."

In a post on [Slate's](#) (8/31, 1.38M) "The Slatest" blog, Eric Holthaus noted that while the White House says the trip will highlight the fact that climate change "is one of the biggest threats we face, it is being driven by human activity, and it is disrupting Americans' lives right now," the words "fall flat when compared with Obama's mixed record on climate."

Holthaus argued that “the scale of action that climate science demands is far beyond what Obama has put in place.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (9/1, Davis, Myers, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (9/1, Davis, Subscription Publication, 11.82M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/1, Mufson, Eilperin, 6.76M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (9/1, Ganga, 4.07M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (9/1, Ganga, 4.07M), the [Huffington Post](#) (8/31, Sheppard, 164K), the [Huffington Post](#) (8/31, 164K), [MSNBC](#) (8/31, Dokoupil, 545K), the [International Business Times](#) (9/1, Marcin, 835K), [Voice of America](#) (9/1, Dockins, 32K), [US News & World Report](#) (9/1, Lederman), [Bloomberg Politics](#) (9/1, Sink, 247K), the [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (9/1, Snow, 1K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (9/1, Lederman, 548K), [TIME](#) (9/1, Lederman), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (8/31, Reports, 2.46M), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/31, Kelkar, 219K), the [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (9/1, Lederman, 146K), the [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (8/31, Times, 305K), [La Opinión \(CA\)](#) (8/31, 360K), [Yahoo! News](#) (9/1, Gertz, 5.98M), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (9/1, Cunningham, 5.57M), [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (9/1, 128K), and [KTVA-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (9/1, Rivera, 1K).

Over Ohio Lawmakers' Objections, Obama Renames Mt. McKinley As Denali. Also garnering a great deal of media attention is the President's announcement that Alaska's Mt. McKinley has been officially renamed Denali, with most reports focusing on the angry reaction from lawmakers and officials from Ohio, President McKinley's home state. [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/31, story 4, 2:40, Jansing, 7 86M) reported that the President's move “sett[ed] a decades-long dispute between the Alaska congressional delegation and the politically powerful Ohio delegation.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/31, story 4, 0:30, Pelley, 5 08M) said the President took his action “to the delight of native Alaskans” and “to the disappointment of native Ohioans, including House Speaker John Boehner.” In a brief report, [ABC World News](#) (8/31, story 6, 0 25, Muir, 5.84M) noted that lawmakers from McKinley's home state of Ohio “are vowing to fight” the action.

The [New York Times](#) (9/1, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) notes that in the wake of the President's announcement, “the political outrage — manufactured, deeply felt and otherwise convenient” is “flowing from the state of Ohio,” adding that it has created “rare unity between Republican and Democratic Buckeyes against Mr. Obama under the well-worn complaint about excessive executive power, and even rarer agreement from members of both parties in Alaska praising the president.” Similarly, [USA Today](#) (9/1, Madhani, 5.23M) says “the Ohio delegation is apoplectic about the perceived slight and has slammed the president for being guilty of one of Washington's greatest sins: Overreach,” and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/1, Williamson, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says Ohio's congressional delegation blasted the move, noting that Sen. Rob Portman tweeted, “I urge Admin 2 work w/ me 2 find alternative ways 2 preserve McKinley's legacy somewhere else in the natl park that once bore his name.” Meanwhile, Rep. Bob Gibbs said, “President Obama has decided to ignore an act of Congress in unilaterally renaming Mount McKinley in order to promote his job-killing war on energy.”

A separate story in [USA Today](#) (9/1, Korte, 5.23M) notes that Ohio Gov. John Kasich said the President “overstepped his bounds.” The [AP](#) (9/1) reports that Kasich, a Republican presidential candidate, said during a campaign stop in Michigan that Ohioans “feel the name is appropriate and there is no reason to change it.”

[Voice of America](#) (8/31, 32K) reported on its website that Boehner “said he was deeply disappointed by the decision to rename the mountain,” saying in a statement, “There is a reason President McKinley's name has served atop the highest peak in North America for more than 100 years, and that is because it is a testament to his great legacy.” However, Interior Secretary Jewell said in a statement that “although the mountain was named after the famous Ohioan, ‘President McKinley never visited, nor did he have any significant historical connection to, the mountain or to Alaska.’”

The [Homer \(AK\) News](#) (8/31, Brooks, 9K) reports that Jewell said, “The name change is official. The mountain is Denali. I've already signed the paperwork. You can cheer if you like; I hope that you do.” Jewell said “she signed the paperwork Aug. 28.”

Noting Boehner's claim that naming the peak after McKinley is “a testament to his great legacy,” the [Washington Post](#) (9/1, McGregor, 6.76M) examines “how monumental” that legacy is. Among “the rankings of American presidents by historians or political scientists,” McKinley “comes out above average, even underrated, but hardly top tier.” In an analysis, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/31, Grier, 455K) said that “McKinley is a forgotten name” to most Americans, and noted that historians “have had a difficult time rating McKinley, in part because he's been overshadowed by the president who came after him: Theodore Roosevelt.”

In his [Washington Post](#) (9/1, Milbank, 6.76M) column, Dana Milbank argues that the President “is perfectly within his authority to make the change.” Milbank suggests the Ohioans criticizing the move “rename something of their own — say, Cincinnati or Columbus — after McKinley,” but adds that it is more likely that “the mountain will be added to other molehills of Obama overreach: Obamacare, the stimulus, Dodd Frank, the IRS, immigration, executive appointments and on and on,” about which the “common objection...is less about what was done than who did it.”

Additional coverage of the re-designation of Alaska's Mount McKinley as Denali was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (9/1, Kirkpatrick, 6.76M), [Newsweek](#) (9/1, 198K), [NBC News](#) (8/31, 3.73M), [USA Today](#) (9/1, Korte, 5.23M), the [Greenwire](#) (8/31, Subscription Publication), [Slate](#) (8/31, Gross, 1.38M), [BBC News](#) (9/1, 1.68M), the [UPI](#) (8/31), [Politico](#) (9/1, Evers, 942K), [The Hill](#) (8/31, Byrnes, 471K), [Quartz](#) (8/31, 429K), and the [Weather Channel](#) (9/1, 14.41M).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (8/31, Brooks, 15K), [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (8/31, 128K), [The Hill](#) (8/31, Cama, 471K), [Politico](#) (9/1, Evers, 942K), [Reuters](#) (9/1, Rampton), the [Toronto \(CAN\) Sun](#) (8/31, Lederman, 84K), [US News & World Report](#) (8/31, Thiessen, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/1, Mooney, 6.76M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/1, Kirkpatrick, 6.76M), [Roll Call](#) (8/31, Lesniewski, 113K), [ABC News](#) (9/1, 3.97M), [Anniston \(AL\) Star](#) (9/1, 59K), [Yahoo! News](#) (9/1, Rampton, 5.98M), [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/31, Holtz, 455K), [NBC News](#) (8/31, 3.73M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/31, Truong, 455K), [Yahoo! News](#) (9/1, Truong, 5.98M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/31, 455K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (9/1, Lederman, Thiessen, 1.19M), the [Coeur d'Alene \(ID\) Press](#) (9/1, 67K), the [National Geographic](#) (9/1, Howard, 31.65M), [Seattle \(WA\) Magazine](#) (9/1, Mang, 110K), [AM New York](#) (9/1, 665K), [MSNBC](#) (9/1, Benen, 545K), [Voice of America](#) (8/31, 32K), [TV Newsroom \(UK\)](#) (9/1), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/31, Holtz, 455K), the [Talking Points Memo](#) (9/1, Lederman, Thiessen, 399K), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/30, 223K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (8/31, Connelly, 560K), the [Cleveland \(OH\) Plain Dealer](#) (8/31, 1 03M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (9/1, Thiessen, 962K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (9/1, Thiessen, 99K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (9/1, Thiessen, 1.19M), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/1, Williamson, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.95M), the [Canton \(OH\) Repository](#) (8/31, 128K), [NBC News](#) (9/1, Schuppe, 3.73M), [USA Today](#) (9/1, Madhani, 5.23M), the [International Business Times](#) (9/1, Glum, 835K), [Yahoo! News](#) (9/1, Lederman, Thiessen, 5.98M), [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (8/31, Ruskin, 2K), the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (8/31, 32K), [USA Today](#) (8/31, Meyer, 5.23M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (8/31, Ganga, 4.07M), [USA Today](#) (9/1, Korte, 5 23M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/1, Mark Thiessen |, Ap, 6.76M), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (8/31, 548K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/1, Press, 6.76M), [The Hill](#) (9/1, Cama, 471K), [The Hill](#) (9/1, Henry, 471K), [The Hill](#) (8/31, Byrnes, 471K), [US News & World Report](#) (8/31, Levy, 811K), the [Akron \(OH\) Beacon Journal](#) (9/1, Downing, 313K), the [National Review](#) (8/31, Geraghty, 504K), the [National Review](#) (9/1, Geraghty, 504K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/1, Thiessen, 2.28M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/1, Lederman, Thiessen, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (9/1, Lederman Mark Thiessen |, Ap, 6.76M), [Forbes](#) (8/31, 7.42M), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (9/1, Lederman, 548K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (9/1, Lederman, 2.28M), [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (8/31, 1.3M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/1, Farberov, 5.59M), [TIME](#) (9/1, Kedmey, 19.55M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (9/1, Glionna, 4.07M), [TIME](#) (9/1, Berenson, 19.55M), [Vox](#) (9/1, Yglesias, 1.1M), [TIME](#) (9/1, 19 55M), [ABC News](#) (9/1, 3.97M), the [National Journal](#) (8/31, Condon, Subscription Publication, 144K), [Yahoo! News](#) (9/1, Staff, 5 98M), [WBUR-FM Boston \(MA\)](#) Boston (8/31, 113K), [WAMU-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (9/1, Booker, 30K), [KTNA-FM Talkeetna \(AK\)](#) Talkeetna, AK (8/31, Manning), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (9/1, 1.07M).

Obama To Film Episode Of “Running Wild With Bear Grylls.” [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/31, Martinson, 219K) reported that NBC announced Monday that while he is in Alaska, the President “will film an episode of the survivalist show ‘Running Wild With Bear Grylls.’” According to an NBC press release, during the episode, which will tape on Tuesday, the President will “receive a crash course in survival techniques from Bear Grylls.” [USA Today](#) (9/1, Lawler, 5 23M) notes that the President and Grylls “will be trekking through the Alaskan wilderness in an effort to highlight the effects of climate change in that area.” [Bloomberg Politics](#) (9/1, Olorunnipa, 247K) casts the appearance as part of the “unorthodox media” that has become “something of a fascination for Obama,” and [AFP](#) (9/1) says it is “just the latest in a series of White House efforts to reach new audiences.” The [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (8/31, Fuller, 460K), [TIME](#) (8/31, Berman, 19.55M), [E! Entertainment](#) (8/31, Harnick, 2 99M), the [New York Daily News](#) (8/31, Edelman, 3.75M), the [Huffington Post](#) (8/31, Lavender, 164K), [Reuters](#) (9/1, Serjeant), and the [Washington Times](#) (9/1, Chasmar, 344K) all run similar reports on the President's appearance on the program.

Documents Show Governors, Activists Helped Push Obama's Climate Agenda. The [Washington Times](#) (9/1, Dinan, Wolfgang, 344K) reports that “newly released emails and other records obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests” reveal that the Administration, “top climate change crusaders and governors from across the country have engaged in a highly coordinated effort to publicly sell the president's green agenda and put private pressure on opponents.” A “striking report from the Energy and Environment Legal Institute's Christopher Horner... sheds new light on the level of cooperation among top White House officials, billionaire and climate change activist Tom Steyer, Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear and other backers of Mr. Obama's global warming regulations, including restrictions on carbon pollution from power plants.” The report “lays out in detail how environmental activists and public officials coordinated on how best to drum up support for Mr. Obama's climate agenda.”

Study: Rising Water Temperatures In Arctic Fuel Harsh Winters In US, Asia. [Bloomberg News](#) (8/31, Nussbaum, 2.66M) reports that a study published Monday in the journal *Nature Geoscience* says increasing temperatures “in the waters north of Russia and Alaska are changing atmospheric circulation patterns and may play a ‘central role’ in record-breaking winters that have hit East Asia and North America.” Researchers from South Korea and the UK found that “warmer weather in the Kara and Barents seas, north of Russia and Norway, is often followed about 15 days later by severe weather in East Asia,” and warmer temperatures “in the East Siberian and Chuckchi seas, above Russia and Alaska, often occur about five days before cold spells in the US and Canada.”

Anxiety In Alaska Over Obama Administration's Takes On Pipeline. [Bloomberg News](#) (8/31, Gale, 2 66M) reports that on the eve of President Obama's trip to Alaska, officials in Alaska, including the state governor, Bill Walker, have expressed concerns about the drilling limits and declining volumes in the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. Some

However, while most analysts describe a complete shutdown of the pipeline unlikely, analysts have also noted that forecasts on the pipeline's future are complicated, as it will depend on multiple factors including taxes and the price of oil.

Native Communities Stand By Arctic Drilling In Face Of Climate Change. The [Greenwire](#) (8/31, Subscription Publication) reports that "the prospects of climate change making...severe storms more frequent haven't convinced local leaders to oppose oil drilling in the Arctic." However, "scientists say that as the Earth's climate continues to warm, Native communities on the Arctic Ocean and Bering Strait will experience more frequent devastating storms that could erode their shorelines and force the most vulnerable villages to move to higher ground."

Environmentalists Rally In Anchorage Against Arctic Drilling. The [AP](#) (9/1) reports that a "few hundred people" attended a two-hour rally in Anchorage Monday against oil drilling in the Arctic. Speakers at the rally "warned about the environmental risks involved in Royal Dutch Shell's recently approved Arctic drilling plans at a time when climate change is already wreaking environmental chaos" and "said now is the time pursue solutions, such as canceling Shell's Arctic drilling program."

The [Offshore Engineer](#) (9/1, Sustaita) reports that "Shell disconnected the Noble Discoverer semisubmersible from its anchors in the Chukchi Sea after weather temporary put a halt to its Arctic operations over the weekend." Shell spokesperson Natalie Mazey said, "We made the decision to disconnect the Noble Discoverer from its anchors and weather the storm in the Chukchi Sea using engine power. As safety is paramount to Shell, we will resume operations as soon as it is safe to do so."

Additional coverage of Shell's Arctic drilling plans was provided by the [Argus Media](#) (9/1).

Secretary Jewell Impressed By Young Leaders On Climate Change. In an op-ed for the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (9/1, Jewell, 15K), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell writes about her experience meeting "some extraordinary young Alaskans who are taking important steps to make a meaningful impact on the future of their communities" at the Conference on Global Leadership in the Arctic. According to Jewell, "their voices and solutions for how to sustain communities, cultures and the environment in a changing Arctic are the reasons why they were selected for the United States Arctic Youth Ambassadors program." She concludes, "when we can excite and encourage youth to serve their communities and serve as an inspiration to the next generation of leaders, as we know these five ambassadors will, then we've invested wisely in our future, and more importantly, in theirs."

Climate Change Blamed For Walrus Haulout. In a piece for the [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/31, Huppke, 2.46M), Rex W. Huppke writes that "the bleeding hearts at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will tell you the sudden illegal immigration of walrus onto sovereign Alaskan soil is a phenomenon called a 'coastal haulout.'" He says that "government scientists, presumably in between drum circles and pot-smoking sessions, blame this potentially devastating ecological development on global warming."

Additional coverage of walrus was provided by [Business Insider](#) (9/1, Brodwin, 2.93M) and [Tech Insider](#) (9/1, Loria).

GROUP URGES OBAMA TO UNILATERALLY CREATE NATIONAL MARINE MONUMENTS. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/31, 219K) reports that "a national conservation group is urging President Barack Obama to enhance his environmental legacy by creating marine national monuments in Alaska for the first time." Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility announced Monday that "more than 100,000 people had signed an online petition requesting that Obama use his executive powers to create marine monuments in Alaska to help protect iconic Alaska animals such as polar bears, bowhead whales and wild salmon."

Gov. LePage Tells Obama To Back Away From National Park Debate. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/31, 223K) reports that Gov. Paul LePage has "sent letters to President Barack Obama and Maine's congressional delegation to express opposition to as-yet unreleased proposals that would apply national monument protections to federal land in the Gulf of Maine and land eyed for a national park in the Millinocket area." According to LePage, "the federal government is considering new monument designations under the provisions of the Antiquities Act, which LePage suggests should be reformed." LePage "argued that national monument designations for the two areas would harm Maine's economy by putting some of its natural resources off limits."

Latinos Embrace Conservation. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (9/1, Ruano, 471K), Cecilia Ruano, pastor of the Rosa de Saron Asamblea de Dios Church, writes that Latinos "rejoiced" at the passing of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act. Ruano writes that "for Latinos, which account for 12 percent of Idaho's population – the 16th largest Hispanic statewide population in the nation – we couldn't help but to celebrate the new law ensuring that families in Idaho will have access to healthy recreation, more economic opportunities, and clean water and air." She claims that "in contrast to the common myth that Latinos are primarily concerned with immigration policy issues, Latinos have embraced environmental stewardship."

LWCF SET TO EXPIRE. The [Lynchburg \(VA\) News & Advance](#) (8/30, 77K) reports that the Land and Water Conservation Fund is "set to expire Sept. 30, barring an extension from Congress." The article notes that "the LWCF has provided Virginia with approximately \$283 million in investment over the past 50 years, through national lands and state support programs, which include matching grants for planning, acquisition and/or development." However, "political gridlock in Washington, D.C., sets the LWCF reauthorization up for a late-hour extension or rejection growing more common in fiscal debates."

Opinion pieces in the [Wilkes-Barre \(PA\) Citizens' Voice](#) (9/1, 127K), the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (9/1, 161K), and the [Pocono \(PA\) Record](#) (8/29, Ralph "Bud", Cook, 46K) call for fund's renewal.

Additional coverage was provided by [Indiana Public Media](#) (9/1, 3K), and [WBOI-FM](#) Fort Wayne, IN (9/1).

RAIN, RISING HUMIDITY ASSIST FIREFIGHTERS IN WEST. The [AP](#) (9/1, Nicholas K. Geranios |, Ap, 6.76M) reports that "rain and cooler temperatures Monday helped firefighters battling a series of big blazes in north-central Washington and other states in the West." The article notes that "in Washington, the North Star Complex of wildfires stood at 313 square miles and was about 22 percent contained." Meanwhile, "the Okanogan Complex of wildfires stood at about 30 percent containment on Monday."

FEDERAL AGENCIES URGED TO BOOST CYBERSECURITY MEASURES. [Federal Times](#) (8/31, 117K) reports that after the recent cybersecurity breaches, Federal CIO Tony Scott "launched a high-profile, 30-day 'Cybersecurity Sprint' as a way to apply intense, top-level focus to existing cybersecurity weaknesses across federal agencies and to shore them up as quickly as possible." The article notes that "the ultimate goal of Scott and the Office of Management and Budget is to get all agencies adopting two-factor authentication for at least 75 percent of their workforces." Notably, "the Interior Department went from 0 percent in 2013 to 36 percent in 2014 to 89 percent."

FEDERAL AGENCIES REACH OUT TO MILLENNIALS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA. [Federal Times](#) (8/31, 117K) reports that "earlier this month, a report from the Partnership for Public Service—a nonprofit, advocacy group for that works to improve the civil service—noted that the number of federal employees under 30 has dropped to 6.6 percent in 2015, a decade low." And "with OPM estimating that four out of every 10 federal employees will be eligible for retirement in the next five years, getting young blood into the workforce is becoming more of an imperative." The article notes that "alongside efforts to update and improve the user experience on job sites like usajobs.gov, streamlining the HR process and making talent acquisition more data-driven, agencies are looking to their social media pages in hopes of making the civil service more alluring to millennials."

BATTLE OVER PUBLIC LANDS CONTINUES. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (8/31, 199K) reports that "since the West was settled, private landowners have chafed at the federal government telling them how the lands and the water that runs through it can be used." The article notes that "the tension has fueled frequent and sometimes violent showdowns that include the Sagebrush Rebellions of the 1970s and 1990s, and the recent standoff at the Bundy ranch." According to the article, "it's a never-ending battle that pits a host of competing claims against one another: conservation vs. economic development, humans vs. the animals that have lived on the land for centuries, the rights of private citizens vs. the public good."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE DUWAMISH TRIBE CHAIR CONFRONTS SECRETARY JEWELL IN SEATTLE. Additional coverage of Duwamish Tribe chair Cecile Hansen's encounter with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in Seattle was provided by the [West Seattle Blog](#) (9/1, 2K) and the [Seattle Stranger](#) (8/31, 290K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE DETROIT'S LAFAYETTE PARK DESIGNATED A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. Additional coverage of the designation of Detroit's Lafayette Park as a National Historic Landmark was provided by [Newsweek](#) (9/1, 198K).

SEN. FEINSTEIN URGED TO FIND SUPPORT FOR DESERT PROTECTION ACT IN CONGRESS. In an editorial, the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (8/31, 99K) opposes the effort by Sen. Dianne Feinstein to create new national monuments in the California desert under the 1906 Antiquities Act. Rather, the paper urges Feinstein to "keep working the halls of Capitol Hill to push this desert legislation." The paper argues that "congressional gridlock must not become an excuse for presidential action on every issue." It concludes that "this expansion of the Desert Protection Act can and should win the day in Congress on its own merits."

Empowering Native American Communities:

CENTER FOR NATIVE AMERICAN YOUTH RELEASES RESOURCES MAP. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (8/31, 32K) reports that "last week, the Washington D.C. based Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) announced their release of a comprehensive map of resources as part of the Obama administration's Generation Indigenous or GEN-I initiative." The center's "map, which is available online, includes a list of nationwide programs, services and Native Youth contacts in support of the Obama Administration's GEN-I initiative to improve the lives of Native Youth in Indian Country."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE BIA NEARS DECISION ON MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBAL CASINO. Additional coverage of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribal casino was provided by the [Cape Cod \(MA\) Day](#) (8/31).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR AWARDS CONTRACT FOR ELECTRICAL WORK AT ANDERSON RANCH FIELD STATION. The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (9/1, 75K) reports that the BOR "awarded a \$1.6 million construction contract Aug. 3 to Burke Electric LLC, a small business based in Bellevue, Wash., to replace critical electrical infrastructure used to operate the Anderson Ranch Field Station." BOR Commissioner Estevan Lopez said, "A number of people depend upon Anderson Ranch Dam for agricultural and residential irrigation, recreation and clean hydropower so it is important that the facility operates efficiently and safely. When it is complete, this work will significantly improve the long-term dependability of the facility."

LAKE MEAD GETS BOOST FROM PRESERVATION PROGRAM. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (8/31, 32K) reports that "a drought now in its 16th year (one of the worst droughts in the past 1,200 years, according to the director of the Reclamation Bureau's Lower Colorado River region), the impacts of continuing climate change, and an increase in demand by a growing population base (already 40 million people) all contribute to the lowering of storage supplies in Lake Mead, which is formed by the river and the Hoover Dam." According to the article, "a project known as the Pilot System Conservation Agreement is underway to stem the continuing loss of water in Lake Mead—at 110 miles long, the largest reservoir on the river." Called the Leave It in the Lake program, "it's an \$11 million collaboration between the Bureau of Reclamation, the federal agency that manages the large dams, and big urban water suppliers like the Central Arizona Project (CAP)."

Meanwhile, [Arizona State University Cronkite News](#) (8/31) reports that "unusually high rainfall in the Colorado River basin this spring helped boost Lake Mead water levels, averting a possible water emergency that would have triggered cuts in water allocations next year." The BOR "earlier this month reported that there would not be an emergency declaration."

BOR SETS NEW DATE FOR BERRYESSA RESORT BIDS. The [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (9/1, 37K) reports that the BOR will "face a moment of truth on Sept. 15 over its planned rejuvenation of Lake Berryessa as a major regional draw for boaters and others who enjoy water recreation." The agency will "stop taking bids at 4 p.m. that day to operate five resorts along the eastern Napa County reservoir's 165-mile-long shoreline." The original deadline had been Aug. 31.

BOR TO REDUCE FLOWS OUT OF FOLSOM LAKE. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/1, 535K) reports that the BOR will "cut flows out of Folsom Lake in half by the end of the week as water levels at the reservoir near historic lows."

LAS CRUCES WATER TRIAL KICKS OFF. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/1, 47K) reports that "a water trial that kicked off Monday afternoon in Las Cruces is expected to delve into more than a century of Doña Ana County's Rio Grande irrigation history before it winds down in two weeks." The article notes that "the trial, part of a massive water lawsuit ongoing for decades, will determine what's known as the 'priority date' for the federal government's involvement in river water irrigation in south-central New Mexico."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE COURT MAINTAINS RIVER FLOWS FOR NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SALMON. Additional coverage that "a federal judge last week decided to maintain a key flow program aimed at boosting flows in the Trinity River" was provided by the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (8/31, 506).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

STUDY SUGGESTS HOW TO REDUCE IMPACT OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS ON WILDLIFE. The [Washington Post](#) (9/1, Warrick, 6.76M) reports that, in a study published in PLOS ONE, researchers Brad Fedy and Jason Tack examined data on wind patterns and known golden eagle nesting sites in Wyoming and then "successfully identified 'sweet spots,' places far removed from nesting grounds but directly in the path of prevailing winds." Fedy, a professor of environmental studies at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, said their findings demonstrate "that it's possible to guide development of sustainable energy projects, while having the least impact on wildlife populations."

BOEM TO HOLD NEW JERSEY OFFSHORE WIND LEASE SALES THIS FALL. The [Recharge News](#) (9/1, 633) reports that the BOEM "this fall will hold a competitive sale of two lease areas off the coast of New Jersey that if fully developed, may be able to support up to 3.4GW of commercial wind generation."

Onshore Energy Development:

APPEALS COURT REVIVES GREEN GROUPS' CHALLENGE TO BLM LEASES IN MONTANA. The [Greenwire](#) (8/31, Subscription Publication) reports that a federal appeals court on Monday "breathed new life into a bid by environmental groups to force the Interior Department to consider the climate impacts of oil and gas leases in Montana." The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals "threw out a lower court ruling that dismissed the claims from Montana Environmental Information Center, WildEarth Guardians and others." At question is the BLM's "environmental assessment of 100 oil and gas leases for about 50,000 acres in Montana." The environmental groups claim that "under the National Environmental Policy Act, that review should have included an analysis of the climate change effects of releases of methane – a potent greenhouse gas – at oil and gas wells and possible harm to other natural resources."

COURT RULES AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS' CHALLENGE TO COAL LEASING. The [Courthouse News](#) (8/31, 7K) reports that the Interior Department "need not reassess how leasing the rights to mine federally owned coal will affect the environment, a federal judge ruled." Western Organization of Resource Councils had "sought such relief in a 2014 lawsuit brought with Friends of the Earth." The groups argued that "new research on the causes of global warming should force reconsideration of the government's policy for giving companies the rights to mine coal." U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton held Thursday, however, "that new research is not enough to force the government to reconsider the impact of the mining rights it hands out, and that the government's program remains in line with the environmental impact statement prepared in 1979."

REPORT ANALYZES COSTS OF FOSSIL FUELS, HARDROCK MINING. The [Denver Westword](#) (9/1, 232K) reports that a new report by Center for Western Priorities and the Center for American Progress, Fair Share Scorecard, "looks specifically at the costs associated with drilling and mining on public lands and what kind of return American taxpayers are getting for the exploitation of public resources." According to the article, "the report finds that hardrock mining is the worst deal of all." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has "pledged far-reaching reforms in the way the government handles energy leases and royalty collection (a massive headache and source of scandal for many previous Interior chiefs, including Ken Salazar)." However, "the scorecard suggests we still have a long way to go."

CLEAN POWER PLAN ISN'T DEATHBLOW FOR COAL. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (9/1, 74K) reports that "the Clean Power Plan sets carbon-reduction targets for 2030, for states and tribes with power plants," and "nationwide, the plan is expected to yield a 32 percent cut in emissions from 2005 levels." The article notes that "from an environmental perspective, this is momentous," but Wyoming, "which mines 40 percent of the nation's coal and claims 23,000 coal-related jobs, sees the plan as an existential threat." According to the article, "the plan isn't a certain deathblow for the West's oldest facilities," partly because "a number of those units are already slated for closure, either to comply with federal regulations to clear haze from national parks and wilderness areas, or to meet states' carbon goals."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BLM'S LISTENING SESSIONS ON COAL PROGRAM. Additional coverage of the BLM's public listening sessions on the federal coal program was provided by [WBUR-FM](#) Boston (8/31, 113K).

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM HOLDING PUBLIC MEETING IN GULF STATES ON UPCOMING OIL LEASE SALE. [WDAM-TV](#) Hattiesburg, MS (9/1, 67K) reports that "the U.S. government is holding public meetings this week in Mississippi as well as Alabama and Louisiana as authorities are working on a supplemental environmental impact statement for an oil lease sale, which is tentatively planned for 2017."

Additional coverage was provided by [WTOK-TV Meridian \(MS\)](#) Meridian, MS (9/1, 900), [WBRC-TV Birmingham \(AL\)](#) Birmingham, AL (9/1, 90K), and [WDAM-TV Hattiesburg \(MS\)](#) Hattiesburg, MS (9/1, 67K).

FEDERAL AGENCIES BEGIN HISTORIC WWI SHIPWRECK SURVEY. The [Marine Link](#) (9/1, 1K) reports that "partnering U.S. agencies have commenced surveying the historic shipwreck of an American lightship shelled and sunk by a German U-boat during World War I nearly 100 years ago." According to the article, "teams from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), on Sunday, August 30, began a survey of the historic wreck of Diamond Shoal Lightship No. 71, the only American lightship to be sunk by enemy action during World War I." The article notes that "the archaeological survey expedition off the coast of Beaufort, N.C., will document the wreck site, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places this month."

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

STEINLE FAMILY TO FILE CLAIMS RELATED TO DEATH. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (8/31, 626K) reports that Kate Steinle's father "plans to file a claim Tuesday against San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi, the Bureau of Land Management and Immigration and Customs Enforcement to hold them accountable for" her death. The Steinle family "will hold a news conference on the steps of San Francisco City Hall at 11 a.m. Tuesday along with their attorneys to announce the filing."

[KGO-TV](#) San Francisco (9/1, 4K) reports on its website that the "embattled" Mirkarimi "has not changed his position with ICE one bit."

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/1, Subscription Publication, 3.35M) and the [Bay City \(CA\) News](#) (9/1), and the [KPIX-TV](#) San Francisco (8/31, 116K) website also report this story.

FEDERAL AGENCIES POLICING BURNING MAN. The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (9/1, 5 59M) reports that "when it comes to Burning Man, US Forest Service rangers and Bureau of Land Management officials will be shouldering policing duties for the duration of the art festival, with some help from a couple dozen volunteers." On Sunday, "the first Burning Man law enforcement officials arrived at the main campsite situated in a five-mile stretch of the Nevada desert known as the 'playa.'"

ACTIVISTS SEEKS TO BLOCK BLM FROM ROUNDING UP WILD HORSES. [KATU-TV](#) Portland, OR (9/1, 134K) reports that "a group of activists hoping to stop the federal government from rounding up wild horses staged a 'sit-in' at Gov. Kate Brown's office Monday." The group called on Brown "to protect mustangs in the Kiger and Riddell horse management areas from being rounded up by the Bureau of Land Management near Burns."

BLM'S DRAFT AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR RED CLIFFS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA CRITICIZED. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (8/31, 3K) reports that "a draft management plan issued by the Bureau of Land Management-Utah for the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area has county officials frustrated and at odds with conservationists over a proposed northern transportation corridor through desert tortoise habitat." According to the article, "the regional transportation authority for Washington County, Dixie Metropolitan Planning Organization, has proposed a northern corridor that would run through the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area from Interstate 15 at Washington Parkway to Red Hills Parkway east of its new intersection with state Route 18 (above Bluff Street)." County officials say "they have been planning for the northern corridor for decades, but the BLM's recently released draft management plan states a much higher impact on the Red Cliffs conservation area than MPO planners believe is accurate."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE BLM SHUTS DOWN CEMEX MINE IN SANTA CLARITA. Additional coverage of the shut down of the Cemex mine in Santa Clarita was provided by the [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) News](#) (8/31, 431) and [KHTS-AM Santa Clarita \(CA\)](#) Santa Clarita, CA (9/1, 2K).

BLM'S LAND USE PLAN TO SAVE SAGE GROUSE CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (9/1, 116K), Devon Coquillard, the communications and public outreach manager for the American Exploration & Mining Association, criticizes the Interior Department's "latest land use plan amendments for 11 western states" that were "drafted with the intent of saving an already flourishing sage grouse population." According to Coquillard, "to the surprise of the West and its governors, and in violation of federal law, the Bureau of Land Management land use plan amendments unilaterally rejected the efforts of the states." Coquillard claims that "DOI has delivered one of the largest federal land grabs in the history of the U.S., in the shortest order and with the least deference to the leadership and residents of Montana who depend and recreate on these lands."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

WESTERN STATES HOPE TO AVERT POSSIBLE SAGE GROUSE PROTECTIONS. [NPR](#) (9/1, 1.85M) reports that the FWS has "been tasked with determining whether or not the greater sage grouse needs protections under the Endangered Species Act by the end of the month, a deadline that's led to hand-wringing across the West." According to the article, "the shared hope is that by putting sufficient protections in place for the greater sage grouse, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service won't list the bird as endangered."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/30, 1.19M) reports that "even though Walter Palmer's trophy of Cecil the lion reportedly stayed in Zimbabwe, the Minnesota dentist's hunting saga is focusing the world's attention on the global flow of wildlife." The article notes that "the more than 700 African lions killed for sport and shipped as hunting trophies to the United States last year are a drop in a vast pipeline of imperiled wildlife stamped and cleared for import every year, according to a Star Tribune analysis of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data."

FWS PROPOSES TO DELIST KENTUCKY WILDFLOWER. The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (8/31, 251K) reports that "Eastern Kentucky's white-haired goldenrod shows the possibility of recovery." The wildflower has "been listed as threatened for more than 25 years, but efforts to protect it have worked so well that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed Monday that it be taken off the list of species in danger of extinction." According to Tom MacKenzie, a spokesman for FWS, "the flower would be the 31st species overall taken off the list of threatened and endangered species based on their recovery."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/1, Subscription Publication, 3.35M) and the [AmmoLand](#) (9/1, 6K).

"POLLINATOR PLEDGE" KICKS OFF IN ST CROIX RIVER WATERSHED. To The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/1, Giles, 1.19M) reports that "three federal agencies, two large Minnesota corporations, thousands of Rotarians, dozens of conservation groups and U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum announced their support Monday for a major initiative to save pollinators in the St. Croix River valley." The "Pollinator Pledge" seeks "to restore habitat for monarch butterflies, bees and other pollinators in the sprawling St. Croix watershed." However, the article notes, "the pledge announced Monday doesn't include opposition to pesticides, including a class known as neonicotinoids that many conservationists blame for the global decline of honeybees and other insects."

Additional coverage was provided by the [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (9/1, 447K).

JUDGE FURTHER DELAYS HEBGEN LAKE TIMBER SALE. The [AP](#) (9/1, Subscription Publication, 3 35M) reports that "a federal judge has decided to continue delaying the sale of timber on up to four square miles of National Forest Service land along Hebgen Lake, ruling against two federal agencies that asked for the injunction to be thrown out." Alliance for the Wild Rockies and Native Ecosystems Council filed a lawsuit "in 2013 to stop the logging plans, saying the sale poses a threat to grizzly bears and Canadian Lynx." The judge held Monday that the Forest Service and FWS "did not do enough to determine the projects impact on wildlife."

SETTLEMENT REACHED ON PROPOSED GRIZZLY BEAR PROTECTION. The [AP](#) (9/1, 2 28M) reports that "the state Land Board on Monday approved a proposed lawsuit settlement between Montana and three conservation groups that would protect grizzly bears while still allowing logging in two state forests west of Glacier National Park." The agreement would "create restrictions designed to minimize disturbances to grizzly bears in seven 'security zones' totaling 34 square miles within the Stillwater and Coal Creek state forests."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (8/31, 15K) and the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (9/1, 39K).

MAN PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO CUTTING TREES FROM RED ROCK LAKES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (9/1, 2 28M) reports that "a man accused of illegally cutting down 52 Douglas fir trees from the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in southwest Montana has pleaded not guilty to theft of government property." The article notes that "the trees were valued at nearly \$18,000 and that 64-year-old Bob Young is accused of cutting them from July 2012 until at least 2014."

National Park Service:

WORK ON PART OF LINCOLN MEMORIAL REFLECTING POOL TO BEGIN. The [AP](#) (9/1, 2.28M) reports that the NPS says "a small part of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool will be drained for reconstruction of the basin." The project, "set to begin on Sept. 8, will affect about 30 feet of the pool." The work will "repair damage caused by work at the World War II Memorial in 2013."

Additional coverage was provided by [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (9/1, 345K).

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK RELEASES MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [National Parks Traveler](#) (9/1, 989) reports that "after 13 years of meetings, discussion, and debate, Everglades National Park officials have released a general management plan to guide the park for the next 20 or so years." But "whether the park will receive the funding necessary to fully implement the plan is another matter." According to the article, "if the plan gains final approval following a 30-day 'no-action' period, and Everglades can get the funding to fully implement this management plan, the first since one was crafted back in 1979."

SMOKIES APPEALING TO VISITORS NOT TO LEAVE MARK. The [AP](#) (9/1, 2.28M) reports that "officials at Great Smoky Mountains National Park are asking visitors to refrain from leaving their mark on the park." According to rangers, "graffiti detracts from the park's natural beauty and in some cases can permanently damage resources that can't be

replaced, such as log structures made from historic wood." The article notes that "park rangers and volunteers educate visitors about the results of defacing park resources through education programs, signs and a graffiti-removal program."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (9/1, 235K).

NPS TO RECONSTRUCT CENTER FIELD AT HUNT CAMP. The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (9/1, 75K) reports that "the NPS plans to reconstruct center field at the internment camp known locally as the 'Hunt Camp.'" The agency "hopes to start building in the spring but first needs help from the public to learn what the field looked like."

WOMAN DIED IN NATIONAL PARK FROM HYPOTHERMIA, OVERDOSE. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (9/1, 235K) reports that "a North Carolina woman known for her nature blogging on the Great Smoky Mountains National Park whose body was found in June in a creek died from hypothermia and an apparent 'intentional' overdose of Benadryl, authorities said Monday."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE NPS PROPOSES CHANGES IN DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. Additional coverage of the "proposed changes for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area" was provided by the [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (8/28, 362K).

US Geological Survey:

USGS' OVERSIGHT OF RESEARCH ON NATIONAL FAUNA, FLORA RAISES CONTROVERSY. The [Greenwire](#) (8/31, Subscription Publication) reports that the "dead mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles" at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History are curated by the USGS. The survey is "commonly associated with rocks and maps, but nearly two decades ago, the federal research agency took on the job of studying the nation's fauna and flora." According to the article, "that has created controversy among government workers who believe USGS isn't adequately preserving and protecting critical research."

Top National News:

STATE DEPARTMENT RELEASES LARGEST CLINTON EMAIL SET SO FAR, WITH 150 REDACTIONS. The State Department released [roughly 7 000 pages](#) of email messages from then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's private server late Monday. Before the release took place, [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/31, story 3, 0:20, Holt, 7 86M) briefly reported that State said "150 more emails" from the server had been found to contain information that was later classified. On [ABC World News](#) (8/31, story 7, 1:40, Muir, 5.84M), Jonathan Karl said that while none of the 150 emails were marked classified at the time they were sent, "it's more evidence that classified information may have been mishandled."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/31, story 8, 1 55, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that "the information now judged to be confidential will be censored retroactively." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/31, Baier, 1.53M) showed footage of a reporter asking State Department spokesman Mark Toner whether he can "say categorically that Secretary Clinton followed the rules and the law." Toner responded, "I'm just not going to answer that question."

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, August 26, 2015

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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- + Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SEEKS INPUT ON COAL LEASING PROGRAM. In an op-ed for the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (8/26, 44K), Sally Jewell, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and Shaun Donovan, the Director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, writes that the federal government has "hosted five listening sessions around the country – including one this week in Farmington, with Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze — to learn how we can improve the leasing and revenue collection processes to better ensure we are meeting our mandated responsibilities." They write that they want "to hear from everyone as we look at the full range of policy options to improve how best to manage the coal resources on public lands that belong to all Americans." Jewell and Donovan assert that "efforts are squarely focused on responsibly managing the nation's energy resources, protecting taxpayer interests and getting a fair return to our citizens when public assets are sold."

Additional coverage that the Interior Department is reviewing its coal lease program was provided by the [AP](#) (8/26, Brown).

BIPARTISAN COMPREHENSIVE WILDFIRE BILL TO BE UNVEILED. The [Greenwire](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. Maria Cantwell announced Tuesday "she plans to unveil portions of a bipartisan comprehensive wildfire bill during a committee field hearing Thursday on wildland fires that have scorched her home state this summer." Cantwell, the ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, will be joined at the hearing in Seattle by Sen. John Barrasso, who chairs the Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining. According to the article, "Cantwell and other senators have been working on a comprehensive wildfire bill for more than a year, and the hearing comes as Washington and other states in the West are facing a catastrophic wildfire season that so far has burned more than 7 million acres."

Meanwhile, the [ClimateWire](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication) reports that "wildfires in Washington have grown so severe that the state called on its citizens to join local and foreign firefighters and military personnel in the fight against the blazes and was immediately swamped by eager – if inexperienced – volunteers." The article notes that "almost 7.5 million acres have burned in the country so far, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, more than any other comparative season in the last decade." As of Tuesday, "around 72 large fires are burning on 1.6 million acres across the country, mostly in the Northern Rockies and the Pacific Northwest."

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by [NPR](#) (8/26, 1.85M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/26, Press, 787K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/26, 2.28M), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (8/26, 115K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/26, Nicholson, 787K), [The East Oregonian](#) (8/25, 24K), the [Idaho Press Tribune](#) (8/26, 6K), [Discovery Channel](#) (8/26, 767K), and [KIVI-TV Boise \(ID\)](#), Boise, D (8/26, 861).

DEADLINE TO RENEW LWCF LOOMS. [USA Today](#) (8/25, Theobald, 5.23M) reports that "conservation advocates are worried the looming expiration of a fund for buying park and forest land and funding local recreation projects may get lost in the shuffle when Congress returns after Labor Day with a full agenda." The Land and Water Conservation Fund, "which expires Sept. 30, has been the primary source of money for acquiring land by the National Park Service, the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management."

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (8/26, 116K) reports that on Monday, "some politicians and heavyweight conservationists gathered in McCormick Park to stress the urgency" of renewing the LWCF. A crowd of about 50 gathered at Missoula's "Rally in the Park" for the fund, and they heard from Sen. Jon Tester, Missoula mayor John Engen and Charles Robison, state director for Sen. Steve Daines. According to the article, "they talked of the value of public lands to families and communities, to the business climate, to hunters and fishermen, and even to agricultural industries."

Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (8/26, 100K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/25, 1.12M), [New Hampshire Public Radio](#) (8/26, 2K), the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (8/25, 59K), and [KTVX-TV](#) Salt Lake City (8/26, 15K).

UTAH PUBLIC LANDS PLAN PROPOSED. The [AP](#) (8/26, 2.28M) reports that "a public lands proposal set to be unveiled next month would promote Utah's reputation as a mecca for dinosaur fossils by elevating Dinosaur National Monument to a national park and by creating a new 'Jurassic National Monument' in central Utah." According to Rep. Jason Chaffetz, "the ambitious, sweeping plan that has been in the works for years would also add protections for about 4 million acres of land in eastern Utah in exchange for freeing up about 365,000 acres land for oil and gas development in the same part of the state." Chaffetz said "the numbers and designations are all preliminary and could change, something echoed by Tuesday by a spokesman for Rep. Rob Bishop, who has spearheaded the proposal."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (8/26, Price, 344K) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (8/26, 1 07M).

GROUPS PUSH FOR NEW FEDERAL MINING RULES. [The Hill](#) (8/26, Henry, 471K) reports that "a coalition of environmental groups and Native American tribes is asking officials to overhaul federal mining standards ahead of new uranium mining near the Grand Canyon." The groups, "a collection that includes local tribes and conservation organizations like the Grand Canyon Trust, petitioned four agency heads on Tuesday asking for changes to rules governing mining on federal lands." The petition "comes months after a federal judge cleared an energy company to begin mining for uranium near the Grand Canyon in Arizona years after the company abandoned its original mining plans there." According to the article, "new standards are especially necessary, the groups argued, in light of this month's toxic waste spill triggered by a clean-up crew at an abandoned mine in Colorado."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona State University Cronkite News](#) (8/25), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (8/25, 190K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (8/25, 28K), the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (8/26, 44K), and the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/26, Coyle, 787K).

Smith Criticizes EPA For Missing Deadline On Turning Over Gold King Mine Spill Documents. The [Washington Times](#) (8/26, Richardson, 344K) reports House Science, Space, and Technology Chairman Lamar Smith rebuked the EPA Tuesday for failing to meet his deadline "to turn over most of the documents requested" by the committee related to the Gold King Mine spill in Colorado. EPA spokeswoman Melissa Harrison said the agency is trying to keep up with a large number of requests for documents related to the response and will get the requested documents to the committee as soon as possible.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS DEAL WITH CHEATING SITE FALLOUT. The [Greenwire](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication) reports that Obama Administration "officials are grappling with how to handle federal employees who have been using Ashley Madison, an online forum for cheating spouses with the motto: 'Life is short. Have an affair.'" According to the article, "employees at energy and environmental agencies including the Interior Department, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Tennessee Valley Authority are among those who used government email addresses when paying to access the site." The article notes that "leaked data and reports revealing that federal workers accessed the site with their work emails or while on the job have spurred government agencies to investigate and could trigger beefed-up scrutiny from Capitol Hill, where badly behaving workers have become popular targets."

RE-ELECTED AFGE PRESIDENT HAS "FIGHTS ON HIS HANDS." The [Washington Post](#) (8/26, Davidson, 6.76M) "Federal Eye" reports that American Federation of Government Employees President J. David Cox Sr. is starting his second term "with fights on his hands" against Republican efforts "to hit federal employee retirement, make workers pay more for health insurance, cut staffing and undermine union power." Cox was easily elected to another three-year term at the union's convention last week, winning 63% of the vote in a four-candidate field.

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF CONTROVERSY OVER WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM'S NAME. The [Washington Post](#) (8/26, Steinberg, 6.76M) reports that during a panel discussion on ESPN's "Outside the Lines" on the name of the Washington football team, D.C. Council member Jack Evans (D-Ward 2) said that Washington politicians should stop being asked about it. The article notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser "in the spring that the National Park Service, which owns the RFK Stadium site, was unlikely to approve a new stadium for the Redskins unless the team changes its name." Later, team president Bruce Allen said "the team would not change its stance on the name even if it got in the way of a stadium deal."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL'S VISIT TO UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE. In an editorial, the [Winona \(MN\) Daily News](#) (8/26, 28K) notes that "earlier this month, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell came to La Crosse to tour the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge – an area that brings in four million visitors each year." Jewell said, "This is a great example of very accessible public land that can bring the outdoors and nature into people's everyday lives. It's accessible. It supports a desire that visitors to Wisconsin and community members here have to connect with nature."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE INTERIOR REVAMPS WEBSITE. Additional coverage of the Interior Department's new website was provided by the [NextGov](#) (8/26, 2K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE GOV SANDOVAL TALKS WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA ABOUT GREATER SAGE GROUSE. Additional coverage that Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval discussed the sage grouse with President Obama was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/25, 787K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (8/26, 115K), the [Montana Kaimin](#) (8/26, 11K), and [KIVI-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (8/26, 861).

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA DIRECTOR TO VISIT OSAGE NATION IN SEPTEMBER. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (8/26, 364K) reports that "with the Osage Nation recently winning a court order to stop new oil and gas regulations from taking effect, at least temporarily, the director of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs will visit the tribe next month, setting up what could potentially be a heated meeting." According to the article, "invited by the tribe's principal chief, Mike Black will visit Pawhuska on Sept. 9 to 'discuss issues related to the Osage mineral estate,' the tribe announced Tuesday." The tribe said that Black's remarks will avoid "any matters which are in litigation," but he will "address concerns over declining oil and gas production."

BIA CLEARS WASHINGTON TRIBES' LAND LEASE RULES UNDER HEARTH ACT. [Law 360](#) (8/26, 21K) reports that "two Washington tribes became the latest of almost two dozen Native American tribes Tuesday to win ratification of land leasing regulations by the Bureau of Indian Affairs under the HEARTH Act that allows them to bypass formal BIA approval of land-lease deals." According to the article, "the lease for the Makah Tribe, based in Neah Bay, was authorized for residential and business purposes and wind and solar development, and the lease for the Squaxin Island Tribe, based in Shelton, had its lease authorized for business purposes."

OFFICIALS CELEBRATE LEASE EXTENSION AT FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (8/26, 44K) reports that "government and Arizona Public Service Co. officials gathered under a tent in a parking lot at the Four Corners Power Plant on Tuesday to celebrate the future of the facility." Four Corners officials "held the event to note an achievement that many described as an against-all-odds feat — final approval of a multi-year power project, including a lease extension approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, that gives the coal-fired plant the ability to operate until 2041." The article notes that "in addition to the lease extension, which was approved in February 2011 by the Navajo Nation Council, the plant was also approved by the BIA for 323 transmission line rights of way between the plant and the Navajo Nation."

FLORIDA, SEMINOLE TRIBE HEAD TO MEDIATION OVER CASINO AGREEMENT. The [Miami Herald](#) (8/26, 651K) reports that "the state and the Seminole Tribe are headed into mediation — shepherded by a lawyer whose past clients include Mick Jagger and Leona Helmsley — to resolve a possible standoff over the future of blackjack and other banked card games at most of the tribe's Florida casinos." The tribe "formally requested mediation last month after negotiations over the card games — part of a \$1 billion, five-year deal — stalled this spring." The Interior Department, "which oversees gambling on tribal lands, has to give final approval to any agreement reached between the state and the Seminoles."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (8/26, 857K) and [WFOR-TV Miami \(FL\)](#) Miami (8/25, 29K).

ALASKA FILES CHALLENGE TO FEDERAL LAND TRUST FOR ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES. The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (8/26, 42K) reports that Alaska will "move forward with a legal challenge to a landmark court decision that allows the federal government to take land into trust for Alaska Native tribes." The Alaska Department of Law "filed the appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals on Monday in an attempt to overturn the decision in the *Akiachak v. U.S. Interior Department* lawsuit."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/25, 219K), [Law 360](#) (8/26, 21K) and [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (8/25).

BIA'S DECISION ON MASHPEE WAMPANOAG TRIBAL CASINO IMMINENT. The [Cape Cod \(MA\) News](#) (8/26) reports that "a decision from federal officials that would pave the way for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to build a casino resort in Taunton is now imminent." A letter from the BIA to Taunton City Council President Estele Borges "indicated that a land-into-trust decision would be announced within 30 days." The article notes that "the process to designate the land has been underway for several years and is one of the last hurdles the Wampanoag tribe faces before moving ahead with the casino."

SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE DECLARES A STATE OF EMERGENCY. The [Devils Lake \(ND\) Journal](#) (8/25, 11K) reports that "in response to a wide-spread, mounting problem on the reservation the leaders of the Spirit Lake Nation have taken a bold stand by declaring a 'state of emergency' on Friday, Aug. 21." According to Nancy Greene-Robertson, "who serves on the Spirit Lake Nation Tribal Council in the dual role of Secretary-Treasurer, this is one of many steps to come in the battle against illegal drug use, abuse and trafficking on the Spirit Lake Nation."

Office of Insular Affairs:

FUNDING ANNOUNCED TO ELIMINATE BROWN TREE SNAKES. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/25, 61K) reports that "the federal government is providing more funding to help eradicate and control Guam's brown tree snake population." Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina "announced this month that a \$3.7 million grant will go toward control efforts in Guam, as well as prevention efforts in the Northern Mariana Islands and Hawaii." The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Wildlife Research Center in Guam will "receive \$237,842 for phase II of its automated aerial bait drop system, which dispenses dead mice loaded with the medication acetaminophen into Guam's jungles via helicopter."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

WATER DISTRICTS CHALLENGE KLAMATH DIVERSIONS. The [Greenwire](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication) reports that "two California water districts are asking a federal judge to halt releases of extra water in the Klamath Basin." The lawsuit filed late Friday at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in Fresno by Westlands Water District and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority is "seeking a preliminary injunction against the releases, which are meant to help salmon survive the drought." The water districts argue the BOR "has no authority to send water to the Klamath River to help salmon because they are not protected by the Endangered Species Act."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Red Bluff \(CA\) Daily News](#) (8/25, 578) and the [Western Farm Press](#) (8/26, 2K).

9TH CIRCUIT RULES BOR DID NOT NEED DISCHARGE PERMIT FOR KLAMATH DRAIN. [Bloomberg BNA](#) (8/26, 3K) reports that the BOR "did not violate the Clean Water Act by discharging pollutants from an irrigation project drain into a river because the waters transferred via the drain are not 'meaningfully distinct' from the river water, a federal appeals court ruled." According to the article, "writing for a unanimous panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Judge Richard R. Clifton held in an Aug. 21 opinion that the Clean Water Act does not require the bureau to obtain a discharge permit because the waters flowing into the Klamath River from the Klamath Straits drainage are not distinct."

SALEM CANAL BREACH BLAMED ON GOPHERS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/26, 549K) reports that “a canal was breached Tuesday because of a gopher problem, sending a rush of water downhill and causing a scare for Salem residents.” The BOR said “gophers made tunnels in the side of its 99-year-old canal, causing the breach.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/26, 492K), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (8/26, 1.07M), and [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (8/26, 15K).

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE INTERIOR CLEARS BLYTHE MESA SOLAR PROJECT. Additional coverage that the Interior Department “on Monday gave the green light to RRG Renewables for its 485-MW Blythe Mesa solar photovoltaic (PV) project in California” was provided by the [SeeNews](#) (8/26), the [Engineering News Record](#) (8/24, 2K), [ENews Park Forest](#) (8/26, 2K), [4-Traders](#) (8/26, 5K), [PV-Tech](#) (8/25, 529), [Energy Matters \(AUS\)](#) (8/26, 2K), and the [Recharge News](#) (8/25, 633).

Onshore Energy Development:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS PRAISE BLM MASTER LEASING PLAN FOR MOAB. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/26, 73K) reports that “a master leasing plan recently released by the Bureau of Land Management, for oil and gas and potash development in the area surrounding Arches and Canyonlands national parks, is gaining praise from recreational and environmental interests due to its stipulations on preserving scenic views.” Stephen Bloch, legal director for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, said, “Once finalized, the (Moab plan) will give industry certainty where leasing and ultimately development could take place, and companies will understand the terms and conditions for those activities. Likewise, the public and local communities will know that many of southeastern Utah’s stunningly beautiful canyons and mesas won’t be marred by the sight and sound of drill rigs and pump jacks.” The article also notes that “recreation-oriented interests including the Outdoor Industry Association, Cortez-based Osprey Packs and Moab-based Western Spirit Cycling all have praised the draft Moab plan.”

COAL COMMUNITIES CONTEST FOR ABANDONED MINE LANDS RECLAMATION FUNDS. The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/26, 213K) reports that coal communities are “fighting each other along an East-West divide over a pot of money that could spur economic recovery in downtrodden Appalachian locales.” The article notes that “at issue is the Abandoned Mine Lands reclamation fund, a program created by Congress in 1977 that has drifted from its mission of fixing up old mine sites that pollute waterways and scar mountaintops.” According to the article, “the Appalachian states want Congress to change the payment formula so that they can get the money to clean up those sites, while Wyoming’s boosters say the state has been historically underfunded and needs the money now.” The article notes that “the interest in addressing the program comes as President Obama is preparing a big push on a proposal to change how the fund pays states.”

FOSSIL FUEL GROUP WANTS BEETLE DELISTING. The [Greenwire](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Independent Petroleum Association of America wants the American burying beetle removed from the endangered species list, filing a petition yesterday asserting that federal officials erred in listing the species 26 years ago.” The article notes that “the orange-and-black beetle has long bothered the oil and gas industry, which sees its endangered status as an impediment to operations, particularly in Oklahoma.” The FWS “listed the beetle under the Endangered Species Act in 1989, citing its disappearance from 90 percent of the species’s historical range.” The FWS has “called the beetle an ‘indicator species,’ or one whose disappearance may indicate problems in the larger environment.” However, “in its petition to FWS, PAA argued that the government has never completed ‘scientifically defensible, range-wide studies’ on the beetles’ abundance.”

EARTHQUAKE REGISTERING 3.5 MAGNITUDE HITS PAYNE COUNTY. The [AP](#) (8/26) reports that according to the U.S. Geological Survey, a 3.5 magnitude earthquake “was recorded at about 8 a.m. Tuesday” in Payne County, Oklahoma at a depth of less than 2 miles. The Oklahoma Geological Survey “has said it is likely that many recent earthquakes in the state are being triggered by the injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas drilling operations.”

OPPOSITION TO COLORADO COAL MINE CRITICIZED. In an editorial, the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (8/26, 87K) notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has “given public assurances that her department’s Office of Surface Mining will comply with a judge’s order to complete an environmental review for a coal mine permit in Northwestern Colorado.” The paper also says that “it’s important to note this is not a battle between the coal mine and federal regulators.” Rather, the paper states, “this is a fight brought on unilaterally by New Mexico-based WildEarth Guardians, which has filed similar lawsuits against mines in New Mexico and Montana.” The editorial says it is “appalled by this self-styled environmental group’s cynical attempts to exploit federal regulatory law and the courts with the sole intent of shutting down coal production that is so integral to our nation’s power grid and quality of life.”

Offshore Energy Development:

IG OF LOUISIANA PARISH WANTS FULL TRANSPARENCY IN SPENDING OF BP SETTLEMENT MONEY. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (8/26, 718K) reports that Inspector General David McClintock for Louisiana’s Jefferson Parish wants the Parish Council and President John Young “to ensure transparency in spending \$53.1 million from the BP settlement” by making “a unique project number and account code for the money.”

FORMER ADMIRAL ADMINISTRATION MUST SEIZE LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ARCTIC. Retired Admiral Gary Roughead, former chief naval operations, writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/26, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) that the Obama Administration needs to seize a leadership position in the Arctic before control is ceded to increasingly aggressive claims on the region by Russia and China. Roughead says sitting on the sidelines over concerns like climate change will not prevent problems since the competing countries will fill the vacuum and set the rules. He urges President Obama to use the US’ two-year chairmanship of the Arctic Council to reclaim an appropriate stake in the region, set responsible standards, and facilitate US energy exploration instead of impeding it.

OFFSHORE DRILLING CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Wilmington \(NC\) Star News](#) (8/25, 111K), Kevin O’Grady, a member of the Wilmington City Council, criticizes Donald van der Vaart, the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, for his support of offshore drilling. According to O’Grady, “Van der Vaart, by trivializing the studied decision by the Wilmington City Council to join the majority of coastal communities in North Carolina that oppose both seismic testing and drilling for offshore oil, brushes aside the coastal communities based upon his personal confidence that all testing and drilling can be done safely.” O’Grady asserts, “We need a DENR secretary that is not confident oil drilling is safe – we need a defender of our coastal economic interests, natural resources, and lifestyle.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE TO DISCUSSES SODA FIRE REHABILITATION IN BOISE. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (8/25, 183K) reports that BLM Director Neil Kornze is “headed to Boise tomorrow to discuss rehabilitation after the Soda Fire;” he “announced that the huge range fire that burned 285,000 acres in southwestern Idaho is currently the BLM’s highest rehabilitation priority.” Meanwhile, BLM officials are “planning an emergency roundup of roughly 285 wild horses whose range burned in the fire; 29 died in the fire, and six more had to be killed due to injuries from the blaze.” The article notes that “the ‘emergency wild horse gather,’ which will start this week, is designed to reduce the wild horse numbers to match the remaining forage; the rest will be held at the BLM’s Boise Wild Horse Corrals through the winter until the range recovers.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KTVB-TV](#) Boise, ID (8/25, 191K).

PROSECUTORS WANT JAIL TIME FOR OFFICIAL CONVICTED IN ATV PROTEST RIDE. The [AP](#) (8/26) reports that “prosecutors want jail time for a county commissioner convicted of leading an ATV protest ride on an off-limits trail in a show of defiance against the federal government.” The U.S. Attorney’s Office has “requested jail terms for San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman and blogger Monte Wells, according to court documents filed Monday.” The article notes that “the documents don’t specify a requested length for the terms but point out that one year is the maximum for the misdemeanor convictions.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (8/26, Mccombs, 344K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/26, 492K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (8/26, 1.07M).

MINING GROUP CLAIMS BLM RESTRICTIONS UNNEEDED FOR SAGE GROUSE. [F&E Publishing](#) (8/24, 705) reports that the BLM’s “proposed restrictions on miners and off-highway vehicles are unnecessary as sage grouse populations surge across the West, a mining group said today in a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.” The American Exploration & Mining Association said the bureau “should abandon proposed land-use plans to conserve grouse habitat on 50 million acres of the West and instead defer to state plans that are beginning to bear fruit.” The group has “denounced BLM’s land-use plans – unveiled in May and set to be finalized within weeks – for recommending that 9 million acres be withdrawn from future hardrock mining claims and placing restrictions on where and when OHVs can access the public estate.”

BLM RESPONDS TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN CONCERNS. The [Coos Bay \(OR\) World](#) (8/26, 32K) reports that “agitated by the Bureau of Land Management Draft Resource Management Plan for Western Oregon, the Coos County Commissioners voiced their concerns with the comment period’s end just around the corner.” The article notes

that “the comments uttered by Coos County commissioner Bob Main echo similar comments and concerns voiced at the local outreach sessions in the lead-up to the release of the draft, prompting some to question if they were ignored.” In response, BLM project manager Mark Brown sought “to dispel those concerns.” Brown said, “The BLM listens to all comments received, which is why we produce a draft and put it out for public review. The frustration I can appreciate because the public doesn’t necessarily get instant feedback, which is a product of the draft process, but we integrate them however we can.”

STUDY OF BOISE FOOTHILLS TRAILS RECEIVES FUNDING. The [Idaho Statesman](#) (8/25, 190K) reports that “the city of Boise, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Wells Fargo Bank are sharing the cost of an \$85,000 study that will examine how many miles of trails the Boise Foothills should have and where they should be.” The article notes that “the BLM is contributing \$36,000. Wells Fargo’s share is \$25,000. Boise will cover the roughly \$24,000 balance.” The City Council approved that expenditure at their meeting Tuesday.

BLM RANGERS STEP UP MONITORING OF BASTENDORFF BEACH ILLEGAL CAMPING. [KCBY-TV](#) Coos Bay, OR (8/26, 671) reports that “it was reported earlier this month that illegal camping has become a problem at Bastendorff Beach, but it appears some progress has been made in dealing with the issue.” The article notes that “fewer vehicles are parked among the trees, though several tents and RVs remain.” According to the Coos Bay BLM, “rangers have stepped up enforcement and increased their presence at the beach.” BLM’s Megan Harper said, “They’ve made contact with over 75 people in the last week and a half, been able to issue citations to people who are staying longer than they should, and we’ve also begun towing vehicles that have been abandoned and/or people aren’t moving out in a timely manner.”

BLM CREW CLEANS UP ILLEGAL DUMPSITES. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (8/26, 47K) reports that “discarded items” were “picked up by a cleaning crew of college students hired for the summer through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) — one of the local member agencies of the Illegal Dumping Partnership.” Dominick Chavez, safety specialist for BLM, said, “The whole idea behind this was to clean up illegal dumpsites around the district.” The article notes that “every day, the crew of five summer interns picked up approximately 3,000 pounds — a ton and a half — of illegally discarded garbage that included household waste, animal carcasses (pets and livestock), shingles, tiles and other construction debris.”

HEALTH DEPARTMENT WARNS GRAND COUNTY RESIDENTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN NEARBY COLORADO. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/26, 549K) reports that “residents in Grand County are being cautioned against an infectious animal and insect-borne disease that has affected several people in Colorado this year.” According to the article, “twenty-seven cases of Tularemia have been reported in Colorado this year through August 14, as opposed to 16 confirmed cases in the state in all of 2014.” The article notes that “two women and one child were infected in Mesa County in recent days, all while spending time along the Colorado River, the Utah Department of Health and the Bureau of Land Management in Utah said in a prepared statement Tuesday.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE JUDGE SAYS USE OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES FOR JUNIPER REMOVAL IN WILDERNESS IS PROHIBITED. Additional coverage that “a federal judge has ruled that it is illegal to use motorized vehicles to remove juniper in wilderness study areas near Oregon’s Steens Mountain” was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (8/26, 344K), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (8/26, 94K), and the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (8/26, 172K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS OPENING MORE AREAS TO FISHING, HUNTING. [E&E Publishing](#) (8/25, 705) reports that the FWS is “opening more areas to fishing and hunting on 21 refuges, including one refuge where youth hunters will be able to shoot migratory birds for the first time.” The agency will “publish the final rule in tomorrow’s Federal Register, expanding fishing and hunting opportunities in refuges scattered throughout the country.” At the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, the service will “open migratory bird hunting to youth, while at four other refuges in North Dakota, visitors will be able to go sport fishing for the first time.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (8/26, Devaney, 471K) and [AmmoLand](#) (8/26, 6K).

FWS SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON SPECIES PRIOR TO INFLUENTIAL GATHERING OF 181 NATIONS. The [AmmoLand](#) (8/26, 6K) reports that the FWS is seeking “input from members of the public on a number of wildlife species being considered for submission to the world’s largest and most influential meeting on international wildlife trade.” The article notes that “the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from Sept. 24 through Oct. 5, 2016.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “The CITES treaty provides a critical framework for global cooperation on wildlife trade and a powerful opportunity to combat wildlife trafficking. The Conference of the Parties offers a forum for the United States to demonstrate global leadership and collaboration in efforts to protect wild animals and plants from over-exploitation. We encourage the public to participate by submitting comments and information regarding species proposals under consideration. Together, we can ensure international trade does not threaten the survival of imperiled wild animals and plants.”

BARRIER ISLAND ADDED TO CAPE ROMAIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Charleston \(SC\) Moultrie News](#) (8/25) reports that “the Nature Conservancy recently transferred a 19-acre hammock island near McClellanville to the ownership of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” The property will be added to the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge. The article notes that “previously, it was one of the last remaining in-holdings – or areas still under private ownership – within the Refuge boundary.” Refuge Manager Sarah Dawsey said, “Protecting the remaining lands already inside the Refuge boundary helps ensure that this area will remain pristine for birds, fish and other wildlife. We’re grateful to the previous landowners and The Nature Conservancy for making this purchase possible.”

ARIZONA LAWMAKERS SEEK MEXICAN WOLF DELISTING. The [Eastern Arizona Courier](#) (8/26, 18K) reports that “during last month’s meeting with U.S. Rep Martha McSally, R-Ariz., members of the Willcox-San Simon Natural Resource Conservation District expressed concerns over the reintroduction of the Mexican wolf.” McSally is a co-sponsor of a piece of legislation related to this issue, known as the “Mexican Wolf Transparency Act.” Introduced on June 25 this year by Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., the legislation is to ensure that “USFWS Mexican wolf nonessential experimental population 10(j) rule has no force or effect, and for other purposes.”

FWS PULLS DISCOVERY CENTER STAFFING, SUPPORT. The [Greenfield \(MA\) Recorder](#) (8/26, 666) reports that “the Great Falls Discovery Center is grappling with how to handle a potential loss of programming and support after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service withdrew its staffing from the center on short notice this month.” According to the article, “at the beginning of August, Fish and Wildlife notified the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center volunteer group that it would be vacating its sole staff position at the center within nine days due to lack of funding.” The FWS “had been a partner of the center since it opened about 20 years ago.”

THREE SPECIES OF ENDANGERED MUSSELS BOLSTERED IN BIG SOUTH FORK. The [AP](#) (8/26, 2.28M) reports that “the populations of three endangered species of freshwater mussels have been bolstered with more than 100 juvenile members of the species added to the Big South Fork of Cumberland River.” The article notes that “the project was a collaborative effort by state Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service.”

TESTS TURN UP NO SIGN OF ASIAN CARP IN FOX, MILWAUKEE RIVERS. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (8/26, 564K) reports that “test results of water from the Milwaukee River watershed and the Fox River in northeast Wisconsin have revealed no genetic signs of Asian carp, state officials announced Tuesday.” The Department of Natural Resources said that “160 water samples taken in May and June showed no evidence of the DNA of silver or bighead carp.” The article notes that “the testing was conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service, with help from the DNR.”

BIOLOGISTS QUESTIONS GATOR HUNTS. The [Washington Post](#) (8/26, Fears, 6.76M) reports that some biologists are questioning whether the killing of huge gators during regulated hunts in Alabama, Texas and Florida are “a good thing.” The article notes that “big dominant males manage the habitat where they reside, keeping smaller, more aggressive males away.”

National Park Service:

NPS CELEBRATES 99TH BIRTHDAY. [WBUR-FM](#) Boston (8/25, 113K) reports that the NPS celebrated its 99th birthday on Tuesday “with a list of “99 Ways to Find Your Park” and by offering free admission to its 408 national parks.” The article revisits “Jeremy Hobson’s April conversation with U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell about how the park service can continue to bring in visitors and embrace 21st century technology.”

[The Hill](#) (8/26, Cama, 471K) reports that “next year will mark the 100th anniversary of enactment of the National Park Service Organic Act, which created the agency to manage a number of existing federal parks.” The article notes that “earlier this year, President Obama asked Congress for an additional \$326 million for the Park Service’s discretionary budget, with much of it going to building new infrastructure, hiring more rangers, recruiting more volunteers and otherwise preparing parks for the 100th birthday.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Newsweek](#) (8/26, 198K), [TIME](#) (8/26, 19.55M), the [Huffington Post](#) (8/26, 164K), the [Vox](#) (8/26, 1.1M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/26, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (8/26, 344K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (8/26, Mai-Duc, 4 07M), the [Hawley \(PA\) News Eagle](#) (8/24, 13K), [Arizona Public Media](#) (8/26, 2K), [EcoWatch](#) (8/25, 28K), [WBIR-TV Knoxville \(TN\)](#) Knoxville, TN (8/25, 149K), [WHSV-TV Harrisonburg \(VA\)](#) Harrisonburg, VA (8/26, 51K), [WJHL-TV Tri-Cities \(TN-VA\)](#) Tri-Cities (TN-VA) (8/25, 55K), [WFLX-TV West Palm Beach \(FL\)](#) West Palm Beach, FL (8/26, 1K), [KYTV-TV Springfield \(MO\)](#) Springfield, MO (8/26, 135K), [KQVR-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (8/25, 61K), [KTIV-TV Sioux City \(IA\)](#) Sioux City, IA (8/25, 74K), [WCCO-TV Minneapolis \(MN\)](#) Minneapolis (8/25, 70K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (8/26, 345K).

diverse audience, but are those efforts too little, too late?" NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis said in a statement, "The National Park Service's 99th birthday is an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the role of national parks in the American story. And it's also a time to look ahead to our centennial year, and the next 100 years. These national treasures belong to all of us, and we want everyone — especially the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates — to discover and connect with their national parks."

2016 Philadelphia Flower Show To Celebrate 99th Anniversary Of NPS. The [Lancaster \(PA\) New Era](#) (8/26, 192K) reports that "the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society this afternoon announced the theme of the 2016 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show will celebrate the 99th anniversary of the National Park Service."

Additional coverage was provided by [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (8/26, Melamed, 641K) and the [Philadelphia \(PA\) Business Journal](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 68K).

Laura Bush Shares Camping Photos For National Parks Centennial. [People](#) (8/26, 45.27M) reports that former First Lady Laura Bush, "and her friends gave PEOPLE an exclusive peek inside their visit to California's Yosemite National Park late last month, as part of the National Park Service's yearlong centennial celebration, which Bush co-chairs with First Lady Michelle Obama, and which kicks off on Tuesday, the service's 99th birthday." According to the article, "encouraging families everywhere to Find Your Park and explore natural wonders in their own states, Bush says her camping buddies are not all that she carries with her from her childhood on these outdoor adventures — she also brings her mother's love of nature."

Support Urged For National Parks. In an op-ed for [LiveScience](#) (8/26, 467K), Michael Sainato, a freelance writer who focuses on environmental and race issues, writes that as the NPS "approaches its centennial next year, it recently launched the Find Your Park campaign to remind young Americans of the natural connection they have always had but now are at risk of losing." Sainato argues that "humanity is rooted in nature," and "without protecting and preserving those roots, we lose the context for all that we value." He adds that "in an age where wilderness is vastly disappearing, it is imperative to the future of our planet that the National Parks are successful in engaging future generations, and in representing the diversity of our country, so the penchant for conservation that has saved our existing National Parks continues to be shared to expand and reaffirm the protection of nature."

Congress Urged To Renew LWCF. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (8/26, Alt, 164K), Margie Alt, Executive director, Environment America, writes that "the best birthday gift Congress could give is renewing and fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund before it's too late." She writes that "our parks deserve what we all want on our birthday: friends coming together, setting aside their disagreements, and having a good time." Alt continues, "Congressional friends of land protection need to do just that: put business as usual on hold, and renew and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

Yelp Reviews Of National Parks Analyzed. For the [Mother Jones](#) (8/26, 758K), Tim Murphy writes that "Yelp is filled with one- and two-star reviews of America's most pristine and majestic natural wonders," which are "riveting."

NEW HEAD OF VISITOR, RESOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED. [E&E Publishing](#) (8/25, 705) reports that "a longtime National Park Service official will head the agency's visitor and resource protection programs, NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis announced today." Rick Obernesser has "worked for NPS for more than 30 years, most recently as superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in Alaska." According to the article, "as the new associate director for visitor and resource protection, he will oversee 850 employees and a \$200 million budget." Obernesser takes over for Cam Sholly, "who left the associate director position in December to become the Midwest region director at NPS." Jarvis said in a statement, "Rick is passionate about the National Park Service mission and does not shy away from tough questions or issues. His straightforward but low-key leadership style will work well within the National Park Service's leadership team."

GOV. MCAULIFFE HANDS OVER FORT MONROE LAND TO NPS. The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 201K) reports that Gov. Terry McAuliffe on Tuesday "signed about 121 acres of state land over to the Park Service, completing a years-long effort to finally transfer the Fort Monroe National Monument to the federal agency." McAuliffe said that "he hopes the move will bolster the landmark's profile." He said, "We haven't done a very good job of making use of these assets."

MAN GETS TWO YEARS IN PRISON AFTER ASSAULT AT NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (8/26, 2 28M) reports that "Rocky Mountain National Park officials said a 36-year-old Nebraska man has been sentenced to two years in federal prison for assaulting a man who was by himself in the park." Park spokeswoman Kyle Patterson said Tuesday that "the 64-year-old victim, who is not being identified, was assaulted last year in June at the Upper Beaver Meadows area of the park." According to park officials, "the attack was random."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver Post](#) (8/26, Mcghee, 787K).

TWO BEARS WHO CAUSED TROUBLE AT GRAND TETON NOW CALL DAKOTA ZOO HOME. The [AP](#) (8/25, 811K) reports that "a zoo in southeast South Dakota has taken in two black bears that caused some trouble at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming." The Great Plains Zoo and Delbridge Museum of Natural History in Sioux Falls will "now be home to a 12-year-old female bear and her young cub." According to zoo officials, "the older bear has a long history of nuisance behavior at Grand Teton, where she had raided backpacks and campsites for food for several years."

Also providing coverage are [USA Today](#) (8/25, Falls, 5.23M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (8/26, Press, 6.76M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/26, 2.28M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (8/26, 5 59M).

NIPSCO ANNOUNCES PRESERVATION PROJECTS IN NORTHWEST INDIANA. The [Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (8/26, 105K) reports that "the dune and swale of the Indiana Dunes was an apt setting on Tuesday afternoon as NIPSCO announced 10 projects chosen by area environmental organizations to protect the unique habitat and biodiversity of Northwest Indiana." NIPSCO "provided \$2 million to fund the acquisition and preservation of nearly 1,630 acres of land for public enjoyment and to improve regional plant and animal life." The article notes that "the funding grew out of NIPSCO's 2010 consent decree with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management."

Additional coverage was provided by the [La Porte County \(IN\) Life](#) (8/26).

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY FINDS MERCURY IN GRAND CANYON. The [AP](#) (8/26, 344K) reports that "researchers say mercury and other chemicals that were found in Lake Powell have moved downstream and are now being found in fish and aquatic plants in the Grand Canyon." According to the article, "no consumption advisories have been issued for fish in the study area that was researched by the U.S. Geological Survey." The article notes that "the study found mercury and selenium in algae, bugs and fish."

Also providing coverage was the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (8/26, 34K), [EcoWatch](#) (8/25, 28K), [KNXV-TV Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (8/26, 103K), [KTAR-FM Glendale \(AZ\)](#) Glendale, AZ (8/24, 17K), and [KPHO-TV Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (8/26, 120K).

Top National News:

OBAMA'S "CRAZIES" COMMENT DRAWS OPPONENTS' FIRE. Administration efforts to build congressional support for the Iran nuclear deal were not covered by the network news broadcasts Tuesday evening, and discussion on cable news was largely limited to the President's comments at a Nevada fundraiser. The President told those in attendance that he and Senate Minority Leader Reid would have to "deal with the crazies" when they returned to Washington — remarks that received relatively heavy print and online coverage which cast them as part of an offensive against opponents of the Iran deal. The White House, however, later said that Obama was not referring to one particular issue, and several reports note that the President's first reference to the deal came well after the "crazies" comment. Also receiving heavy coverage this morning is Sen. Patty Murray's announcement that she will support the deal.

Under the headline "Barack Obama Calls Opponents Of Iran Deal 'The Crazies,'" [Politico](#) (8/25, Dove, 942K) likened the comment to former Secretary of State Dean Acheson, who referred to opponents of President Truman as "the primitives." However, in a blog post on the [Washington Post](#) (8/25, 6.76M) website, Erik Wemple takes issue with Politico's headline, noting that "the transcript shows a nine-paragraph gap between 'the crazies' and the first mention of Iran." Lawrence O'Donnell similarly noted on [MSNBC's The Last Word](#) (8/26, 638K) that "the President did not mention the Iran deal in those comments until ten minutes after his reference to the crazies."

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/25, Ross, 375K) said the President "went on the offensive.. against opponents of his Iran nuclear deal," adding that the comments "are just the latest in a series of aggressive rhetorical attacks on lawmakers who oppose the nuclear pact." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (8/26, Olorunnipa, 247K) reports that the President did not specify who "the crazies" are, but White House spokesman Eric Schultz told reporters, "He may have been a bit flip with his remarks, but we have seen Republicans do wildly irresponsible things." The [AP](#) (8/26) reports that Schultz "says Obama was not talking about Iran," and Jennifer Griffin noted on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/25, 1.53M) that "under intensive questioning about who exactly are the crazies, the White House today said the remark was not in reference to any specific issue and the transcript seems to bear that out."

[The Hill](#) (8/25, Fabian, 471K) notes that when he was asked "if the president regrets his choice of words, Schultz replied 'no,'" adding, "If you take a step back...and look at what some Republicans have floated in Washington, whether that's shutting down the government, whether that's funding the government at sequester levels when the economy needs

more support, he thinks those are reckless steps." A [New York Post](#) (8/25, 2.73M) editorial notes that "the 'crazies' on the other side include New York's own Sen. Chuck Schumer, who's set to succeed Reid as Senate Democratic leader come 2017," but adds that it is "possible Obama was thinking of the other big fight coming in Washington — the battle over next year's budget."

Nonetheless, the remark drew fire from the President's opponents, the [Washington Times](#) (8/26, Wolfgang, 344K) reports, noting that they "blasted the president for his rhetoric at the fundraiser." Rep. Diane Black said, "First, he likened opponents of his deal to Iranian hardliners chanting 'death to America' and now, in an even lazier line of attack, he's simply resorted to calling us 'crazies.' That incendiary rhetoric cheapens our political discourse and ignores the real concerns that Americans of all political persuasions have about the implications of this far-reaching deal." [Politico](#) (8/25, Wheaton, 942K), which also quoted Black, said Republicans "took renewed umbrage" at the remarks.

Noting that "more than 50 percent of Americans do not like this deal," Sen. Tim Scott said on [Fox News Your World with Neil Cavuto](#) (8/25, 1.04M), "I guess he was referring to the American public as crazy." Scott added, "It is crazy to believe that you can make a good deal with Iran. It is crazy to believe that self inspections, allowing Iran to self inspect, has any grain of commonsense. What is crazy is to listen to the leaders in Iran...say death to America and think you can make a good deal with them." KT McFarland said on [Fox News Real Story with Gretchen Carlson](#) (8/25), "As far as only crazies are against it, what do you call former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, my old boss, former Secretary of State George Schultz, former Defense Secretary Bob Gates. There are a number of very senior, significant, respected diplomats who have said, 'Wait a minute, I've got real problems with this deal.'" In his [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/26, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) column, William A. Galston writes that while the President is winning the Democratic support he needs, public support for the agreement is slipping. Galston argues that the Administration should undertake an honest public education effort about the agreement that does not cast its critics as partisans or "crazies."

Zeke Miller said on [MSNBC's The Last Word](#) (8/26, 638K) that "the whole range" of presidential candidates will "make hay out of that comment. It was certainly not necessarily the right comment for the President to make right now as he is trying to marshal Democrats and Republicans on board."

Meanwhile, Murray on Tuesday became the 29th Senate Democrat to announce support for the deal, the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (8/26, Hill, 183K) reported in its "Spin Control" blog. Murray said that while the deal is "not perfect," it is "necessary as 'the best chance we have at a strong diplomatic solution, (and) it puts us in a stronger position no matter what Iran chooses to do.'" The [Washington Post](#) (8/26, Kane, 6.76M) notes that Murray's statement "voiced some doubts of the plan's efficacy but gave a strong overall backing for the outline," while [Politico](#) (8/25, Kim, 942K) reported that she "warned that if lawmakers reject the agreement, it would only push Iran closer to developing nuclear weapons."

[The Hill](#) (8/25, Carney, 471K) reported in its "Floor Action" blog that Murray "dismissed the idea that Congress could reject the deal and get Iran to agree to a better one," saying, "I have heard directly from top ambassadors representing our P5+1 partners as well as members of the Administration that starting over is not an option. ... Additionally, Iran would be spending the time it took to renegotiate a new deal to continue expanding their nuclear program."

The [Huffington Post](#) (8/25, 164K) calls Murray's announcement "another indication that the nuclear accord will survive in the Senate," adding that Murray "was considered a genuinely undecided vote within the White House and among fellow Senate Democrats." [Bloomberg News](#) (8/26, Miller, 2.66M) says Murray's support, which "gives the deal the backing of three of the top four Senate Democrats," brings the President "within five votes of the total needed to keep Congress from blocking the agreement." [Reuters](#) (8/26, Cowan) also briefly reports on Murray's announcement.

Supporters Of Iran Agreement Eye Possible Filibuster Of Anti-Deal Legislation. The [AP](#) (8/26, Werner) notes that the "growing momentum" on the side of deal supporters has raised "the possibility they'll be able to block a disapproval resolution and protect President Barack Obama from having to use his veto pen." While "such an outcome.. remains a long shot," it would be "a major victory for Obama, who is staking his foreign policy legacy largely on the agreement." The [Washington Post](#) (8/26, Kane, 6.76M) says supporters are "openly talking about getting at least 41 Democrats to back the deal so that the opponents' legislation would be filibustered in the Senate and never even reach the Oval Office."

The [New York Times](#) (8/26, Hulse, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) examines the possibility that deal opponents could break a Democratic filibuster of a resolution stating Congress' disapproval of the deal, noting that while "all 54 Republican senators could be expected to support efforts to end a filibuster," opponents would be four votes short of the 60 they need, meaning they would need "to secure the support of at least four of about a dozen Democrats who have yet to disclose their position." [Roll Call](#) (8/25, Lesniewski, 113K) notes that Reid told reporters on Monday that "filibustering legislation disapproving of the Iran deal would be a 'longshot,' but he was upbeat about the prospects of sustaining a presidential veto."

In his [Boston Herald](#) (8/26, 548K) column, Jeff Robbins writes that "the president faces the prospect of having to ram his nuclear gamble.. past a Congress decisively opposed to it and an American people whose future will be endangered if he is wrong," adding that a filibuster would allow him to "avoid the spectacle of having to veto the will of the American people on a nuclear gamble favored by him and opposed by them."

Researchers: Rejection Of Diplomacy Is Rooted In GOP's History. In a [New York Times](#) (8/26, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) op-ed, Nicole Hemmer and Tom Switzer, research associates at the United States Studies Center at the University of Sydney, criticize the "fire-and-brimstone zeal" with which Republicans have attacked the agreement, adding that "the tendency to reject diplomatic deals is rooted on the right of the American political spectrum." They argue that the belief that "diplomacy compromised America's moral authority led these conservatives to oppose reflexively any negotiations with Communist countries," and "the modern-day inheritors of the hardline tradition...are simply reminding Americans of earlier episodes of right-wing rejectionism."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/26, Boyer, 344K) cites several examples of the Administration crossing "many of its own red lines" in pursuit of the deal and notes that critics "point to the administration's own words to outline how the deal falls short of what the US hoped to achieve."

Iranian Activists Use Social Media To Urge Americans To Support Deal. The [New York Times](#) (8/26, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports on a growing social media push by "Iranian human rights activists and artists, including a Nobel laureate and people who have spent time in prison for their views," to urge Americans to support the deal. The Times calls the messages, which have been "uploaded to YouTube and Facebook over the past few days," a "new element in the emotional arguments for and against the nuclear agreement that are underway in the United States ahead of a mid-September vote in Congress."

IAEA: Iran Has Provided "Substantive Volume" Of Information On Its Nuclear Program. [Reuters](#) (8/25, Nasralla) reports that IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano said Tuesday that his agency had received a "substantive volume" of information from Iran seeking to quiet concerns its nuclear program had military elements. Amano noted, "At this stage it is premature to say if there is any new information or not. ... We are now analyzing it. ... (It) could be even misleading to provide a partial assessment." The [AP](#) (8/26, Jahn) notes that the "probe of the suspected past weapons work" is "formally separate" from the nuclear agreement.

Amano Appeals For More Funds To Monitor Deal. Also Tuesday, the IAEA said "it will run out of money next month and asked member countries to increase funding the costs of its monitoring, which will rise to \$10 million a year," the [Washington Times](#) (8/26, Howell, 344K) reports. Amano "said the 800,000 euros (\$924,000) per month the agency receives will run out by the end of next month." It will need "at least another 160,000 euros (\$182,564) per month leading up to the implementation of the agreement, which could happen sometime in the first half of next year."

Author: Iran's "Troublemaking" Will Increase Because Of Agreement. In a [USA Today](#) (8/26, 5.23M) op-ed, author Anne R. Pierce argues that current US foreign policy "downplays American ideals and downgrades American power" in the hope that "can create a harmonious world if only we stop being arrogant and assertive, and find 'common interests' with enemies as well as friends," adding that this is seen by others as "weakness and naiveté," and efforts "to create peace, stability and unity end up having the opposite effect." Pierce adds that this "upside-down dynamic" is evident in the Iran nuclear agreement, noting that "the Iranian regime's power, influence, and capacity for troublemaking will increase" as a result.

Ross, Petraeus: Iran Must Know US Will Not Allow It To Develop Nuclear Weapons. In a [Washington Post](#) (8/26, Petraeus, 6.76M) op-ed, Dennis Ross, who served as special assistant to President Obama for the Middle East and South Asia from 2009 to 2011, and former CIA Director Gen. David H. Petraeus, argue that while the deal "has clear benefits and there is no obvious negotiated alternative," it lacks "deterrence," which is "the key to ensuring not just that the Iranians live up to the agreement but also to preventing them from developing nuclear weapons." Iran, they write, "must know that we will not permit it to become a nuclear weapons state ever." Iran and the world need to know that "if Iran dashes toward a weapon, especially after year 15, that it will trigger the use of force," and it is "critically important for the president to state this clearly, particularly given his perceived hesitancy to use force."

WSJournal: Administration Should Provide Details Of All Side Deals. Citing the IAEA's side agreement which will allow Iran to conduct its own inspection of the Parchin military site, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/26, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) calls on Congress to demand that the Administration abide by the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act and provide details of any "annexes, appendices, codicils, side agreements, implementing materials, documents, and guidance, technical or other understandings, and any related agreements."

CHINESE MARKET CONTINUES TO CRASH, SENDING GLOBAL STOCKS LOWER. While the media continued to focus on the ongoing financial chaos in the Chinese

Conversation Contents

FW: Clay Jenkinson Sunday column on National Monument

"Jameson, Tyler (Heitkamp)" <Tyler_Jameson@heitkamp.senate.gov>

From: "Jameson, Tyler (Heitkamp)" <Tyler_Jameson@heitkamp.senate.gov>
Sent: Mon Aug 17 2015 09:12:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Jeremy Bratt (Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov)" <Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: FW: Clay Jenkinson Sunday column on National Monument

Could I do a quick call with your national monument staff to discuss this?

From: Keys, Ross (Heitkamp)
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 10:33 AM
To: Meyer, Shirley (Heitkamp); Jameson, Tyler (Heitkamp)
Subject: Clay Jenkinson Sunday column on National Monument

http://bismarcktribune.com/news/columnists/clay-jenkinson/e-khorm-ranch-should-rise-to-national-status/article_3b9879c9-e391-5d77-a36b-037414f6b474.html

Ross Keys

Deputy State Director

U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp

701-258-4648

www.heitkamp.senate.gov



"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Aug 17 2015 09:12:53 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Tyler_Jameson@heitkamp.senate.gov
Subject: Re: FW: Clay Jenkinson Sunday column on National Monument

I am out of the office until Monday, August 24.

Prior to Tuesday, August 18, if you need immediate assistance please contact chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov.

After Tuesday, August 18, please contact stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov

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Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 25 2015 09:51:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Jameson, Tyler (Heitkamp)" <Tyler_Jameson@heitkamp.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: Clay Jenkinson Sunday column on National Monument

Hey there,
Sorry for the delay on this. I don't know if you reached out to my colleague Stephenne last week when I was out of the office, but do you still want to talk?
Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Mon, Aug 17, 2015 at 11:12 AM, Jameson, Tyler (Heitkamp) <Tyler_Jameson@heitkamp.senate.gov> wrote:

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"Jameson, Tyler (Heitkamp)" <Tyler_Jameson@heitkamp.senate.gov>

From: "Jameson, Tyler (Heitkamp)" <Tyler_Jameson@heitkamp.senate.gov>
Sent: Tue Aug 25 2015 09:56:07 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: FW: Clay Jenkinson Sunday column on National Monument

No worries, it isn't urgent. I didn't talk to Stephenne, but would still like to talk to someone.

From Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent Tuesday, August 25, 2015 11:52 AM
To Jameson, Tyler (Heitkamp)
Subject Re: FW: Clay Jenkinson Sunday column on National Monument

Hey there,

Sorry for the delay on this. I don't know if you reached out to my colleague Stephenne last week when I was out of the office, but do you still want to talk?

Jeremy

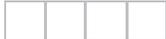
Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Mon, Aug 17, 2015 at 11:12 AM, Jameson, Tyler (Heitkamp) <Tyler_Jameson@heitkamp.senate.gov> wrote:
Could I do a quick call with your national monument staff to discuss this?

From Keys, Ross (Heitkamp)
Sent Thursday, August 13, 2015 10:33 AM
To Meyer, Shirley (Heitkamp); Jameson, Tyler (Heitkamp)
Subject Clay Jenkinson Sunday column on National Monument

http://bismarcktribune.com/news/columnists/clay-jenkinson/e-khorm-ranch-should-rise-to-national-status/article_3b9879c9-e391-5d77-a36b-037414f6b474.html

Ross Keys
Deputy State Director
U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp
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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, August 25, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Tue Aug 25 2015 05:05:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, August 25, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR APPROVES BLYTHE SOLAR PROJECT. [Politico Pro](#) (8/24) reports that the Interior Department on Monday "gave the nod to a 485-megawatt photovoltaic solar farm in California as part of a suite of clean energy executive actions President Barack Obama announced." The Blythe Mesa solar project is "to be built on 3,500 acres of private land formerly used for agriculture in Riverside County."

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (8/25, Roth, 99K) reports that among the "flurry of new initiatives" announced by the Administration on Monday was "the approval of a massive solar project in Riverside County." The "485-megawatt Blythe Mesa solar plant" will "power more than 145,000 homes." Federal approval was needed because the project's "transmission lines will cross federal land."

Obama The [AP](#) (8/25, 127K) reports that "the Wilderness Society's Chase Huntley called the project a good example 'of how we can meet our clean energy goals with limited impact to wildlands and wildlife habitat.'"

[Take Part](#) (8/24, 238K) reports "that the Blythe project is moving forward is also a sign that solar energy is becoming increasingly competitive with fossil fuels." The article notes that "earlier huge solar power plants had only been commercially viable thanks to a 30 percent federal tax credit." But "that incentive is set to fall to 10 percent at the end of 2016, meaning the Renewable Resources Group likely thinks it can make money without the government largesse."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (8/25, 303K), [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (8/25, 1K), [reNews](#) (8/25), and [Recharge News](#) (8/25, 633).

GOV. SANDOVAL TALKS WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA ABOUT GREATER SAGE GROUSE. The [AP](#) Reno, NV (8/25, 2K) reports that "Gov. Brian Sandoval says he'll talk privately with President Barack Obama about keeping the greater sage grouse off the endangered species list in Nevada and 10 other Western states." Sandoval "plans to meet with Obama on Monday, after welcoming him to Las Vegas for a clean energy conference."

The [AP](#) (8/24, 199K) reports that after the meeting, Sandoval said in a statement, "Today we discussed several pressing issues facing the mountain west including conservation, economic development, and renewable energy. Most importantly, we discussed the critical need for efforts to protect populations of the greater sage-grouse to responsibly align with ongoing development efforts, which I firmly believe is achievable through a conservation plan based on cutting edge science, common sense best practices and collaborative decision-making." He added, "I am hopeful that our meeting today will serve as a stepping stone as we continue to navigate this important issue. Working together, I'm hopeful that we can preclude the need to list the greater sage-grouse just as we have done with the bi-state sage-grouse."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/25, 787K), the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (8/25, 101K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/25, 2.28M), the [Nevada Appeal](#) (8/25, 49K), and [KOLO-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (8/25, 3K).

Mining Group Claims BLM Restrictions Unneeded For Sage Grouse. [E&E Publishing](#) (8/24, 705) reports that the BLM's "proposed restrictions on miners and off-highway vehicles are unnecessary as sage grouse populations surge across the West, a mining group said today in a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell." The American Exploration & Mining Association said the bureau "should abandon proposed land-use plans to conserve grouse habitat on 50 million acres of the West and instead defer to state plans that are beginning to bear fruit." The group has "denounced BLM's land-use plans – unveiled in May and set to be finalized within weeks – for recommending that 9 million acres be withdrawn from future hardrock mining claims and placing restrictions on where and when OHVs can access the public estate."

Report Says New Drilling Could Impact Sage Grouse Recovery In Wyoming. The [Greenwire](#) (8/24, Subscription Publication) reports that "the Obama administration has postponed approving most oil and gas wells within Wyoming's prime sage grouse habitat, but the industry has over 27,000 wells in the project pipeline in the Cowboy State that could greatly fragment the bird's best breeding grounds and drive it closer to extinction, according to a report released last week by WildEarth Guardians." According to the article, "the case study by WildEarth looked at how many oil and gas wells, mines, wind farms, and transmission lines have been built within sage grouse core breeding areas in Wyoming over the past six years and how those have impacted grouse."

Study: Power Lines Restrict Sage Grouse Movement In Washington. [Science Daily](#) (8/25, 156K) reports that "transmission lines that funnel power from hydroelectric dams and wind turbines across Eastern Washington affect greater sage grouse habitat by isolating fragile populations and limiting movement, a new study finds." The report, "which looks at how features in the landscape limit the species' distribution and gene flow, is the first to show that power-line corridors are an obstacle for sage grouse as they move across the landscape to feed and reproduce."

SEN. FEINSTEIN SEEKS THREE NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATIONS IN CALIFORNIA. The [Greenwire](#) (8/24, Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein has "asked President Obama to declare three national monuments protecting more than 1 million acres of Southern California deserts, woodlands, mountains and historical sites." Her "Aug. 3 letter to Obama, reported Saturday by The Los Angeles Times, urges him to use the Antiquities Act to designate Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow and Castle Mountains national monuments." The article notes that "the designations, which would require no congressional approval, would protect habitat important to desert tortoises, bighorn sheep and golden eagles while preserving portions of historic Route 66, the Pacific Crest Trail and the headwaters of Southern California's longest river, the Santa Ana, according to conservation groups and business owners who praised Feinstein's call."

FATE OF UTAH'S PUBLIC LANDS UP IN THE AIR. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/24, 549K) reports that "Utah's public lands face a variety of alternate futures backed by conflicting priorities." According to the article, "ahead lies a field of options that range from oil and gas development to wilderness designation, the highest level of land preservation afforded by U.S. law." The article notes that "it's a dilemma that has played out in neighboring states, which saw different outcomes that could become a reality for Utah."

Utah Reps. Jason Chaffetz and Rob Bishop want to turn "what is today the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry in Emery County into a national monument," and to upgrade the Dinosaur National Monument into a national park. Chaffetz "brought the plans forward during a conversation with the editorial board of the Deseret News on Monday, building on what Bishop has discussed about his public lands proposal for seven counties in eastern Utah." Meanwhile, "Bishop and his legislative team are currently drafting the bill, which would also set aside lands for designated wilderness, conservation, oil and gas extraction, and consolidate areas under the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration." However, "getting the bill through the White House could be a 'tough sell,' Chaffetz conceded." The article notes that "the proposal would prohibit the president from designating national monuments in the future in any of the seven counties involved in the initiative, similar to policies that prohibit Antiquities Act designations in Wyoming and Alaska."

INTERIOR LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE. The [FedScoop](#) (8/25) reports that on Friday, the Interior Department “quietly launched an updated DOI.gov that uses a new Drupal-based platform.” According to the article, “Virginia-based technology company Phase2 worked with BM to build the platform last year,” and “then earlier this year, Phase2 and Fig Leaf Software teamed up to migrate Interior’s content to the new system.” Interior spokeswoman Emily Beyer said, “We’re excited to be launching a new and improved doi.gov. In the coming days we’ll have more to share about the updated look and feel, and the platform supporting it.”

CONTROVERSY SURROUNDS HAWAII STATEHOOD DAY. [Yahoo! \(UK\)](#) (8/25, 39K) reports that “controversy circles the 56th anniversary of Hawaii becoming the newest state of the USA on 21 August and there are calls for it to be removed as culturally insensitive to Native Hawaiians.” The article notes that “independent activists are using the public holiday to gather support for Hawaiian sovereignty.” According to the article, “over the summer, the US Department of the Interior held a series of hearings inviting Native Hawaiians to comment on the formation of a federally recognised nation.”

SENATORS RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT FEDERAL TAX FORM PROCESSING. [The Hill](#) (8/25, Becker, 471K) reports that “the Senate’s top two tax writers pressed four federal payroll centers on Monday over concerns that key tax forms aren’t being processed quickly enough, which could make life easier for identity thieves.” Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch and the panel’s top Democrat, Sen. Ron Wyden, said “they had heard concerns from state agencies that the four shared-service centers weren’t giving them wage and withholding information quickly enough.” Hatch and Wyden sent a “letter to the Agriculture Department’s National Finance Center, the Pentagon’s Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the Interior Department’s National Business Center and the General Service Administration’s National Payroll Branch.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF WILDFIRES. Continuing coverage of wildfires was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/25, 2.28M), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), the [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (8/25, 278K), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (8/24, 1.05M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (8/24, Raab, 4.07M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/24, 455K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/25, Volz), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/25), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (8/25, 548K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (8/23, Press, 344K), the [US News & World Report](#) (8/24, 811K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/25, 787K), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/25, 54K), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (8/24, 46K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 3.35M), [T ME](#) (8/25, Geranios, Melley), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/24, 3.3M), [My Mother Lode \(CA\)](#) (8/25, 1K), the [Boise \(D\) Weekly](#) (8/25, 103K), the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (8/25, 15K), the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (8/24, 32K), and [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (8/24, 248K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SECRETARY JEWELL PRAISES LAKE LINK TRAIL DURING DEDICATION CEREMONY. Additional coverage of the dedication ceremony of the Lake Link Trail was provided [Cleveland Scene Magazine](#) (8/24, 29K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK ESTABLISHES SISTER PARK RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE RESERVE IN CHINA. Additional coverage that “Shenandoah National Park and the Baihuashan National Nature Reserve in China are building on shared similarities in becoming sister parks” was provided by the [Culpeper \(VA\) Star Exponent](#) (8/24, 17K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY JEWELL’S VISIT TO UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE. In an editorial, the [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (8/24, 87K) notes that “ten days ago, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell came to La Crosse to tour the Upper Mississippi River National Fish and Wildlife Refuge — an area that brings in 4 million visitors each year.” Jewell said, “This is a great example of very accessible public land that can bring the outdoors and nature into people’s everyday lives. It’s accessible. It supports a desire that visitors to Wisconsin and community members here have to connect with nature.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE WACO MAMMOTH SITE BECOMES NATIONAL MONUMENT. Additional coverage that “the Waco Mammoth Site became a National Monument on July 10 after President Obama signs executive order” was provided by the [Baylor Lariat \(TX\)](#) (8/24).

CONGRESS URGED TO RENEW LWCF. In an op-ed for the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (8/23, 183K), Suzy Dix, a member of the board of trustees for The Nature Conservancy for the state of Washington, and board member of the Dishman Hills Conservancy, urges Congress to act on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). She notes that “over the years, the LWCF has made numerous investments in our communities, protecting Turnbull and Little Pend Oreille national wildlife refuges and improving public access to the Colville National Forest.” Dix highlights that “these lands are used and loved by hunters, anglers, hikers and wildlife watchers from across the state, and help support a strong outdoor economy here in Spokane County, where outdoor recreation on public lands supports 12,500 jobs and \$1.3 billion in consumer spending each year.”

Additional pieces calling for the renewal of the LWCF was carried in the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (8/25, Board, 493K), the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (8/25, 39K), the [Asbury Park \(NJ\) Press](#) (8/23, 378K), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/25, 54K), the [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (8/25, 1.03M), the [York \(PA\) Daily Record](#) (8/25, 149K), and the [Tahoe \(CA\) Daily Tribune](#) (8/25, 27K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

PANEL AFFIRMS DECISIONS BY BIA BY SIDING WITH ELEM INDIAN COLONY OF POMO INDIANS. [Law 360](#) (8/25, 21K) reports that “the Interior Board of Indian Appeals affirmed three prior decisions from the Bureau of Indian Affairs rejecting petitions from a California tribal member to nullify a November 2012 tribal election, saying the individual was not barred from the election process and lacked standing to appeal on behalf of third parties.” IBIA judges Steven K. Linscheid and Thomas A. Blaser sided with the Elem Indian Colony of Pomo Indians on Wednesday.

PANEL SAYS BIA BUNGLED CALIFORNIA TRUST LAND DECISION. [Law 360](#) (8/25, 21K) reports that the Interior Board of Indian Appeals on Friday “vacated and remanded a Bureau of Indian Affairs decision to take land in San Diego County into trust for a California tribe, ruling the official who made the decision failed to consider its impact on non-Indian landowners’ property rights.” At issue is “an application from the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation in August 2013 to take around 18 acres of land and related easements into trust.”

BIA INVESTIGATING SHOOTING AT LODGE GRASS. The [AP](#) (8/25) reports that “law enforcement officers in Lodge Grass arrested a man who had reportedly been driving around town firing a gun.” No one was injured. The BIA is investigating the shooting.

ALASKA TO CHALLENGE COURT’S RULING ALLOWING ALASKA NATIVE TRIBES TO PUT LAND INTO FEDERAL TRUST. The [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (8/25, 15K) reports that “the state of Alaska will challenge a federal court ruling that would allow Alaska Native tribes to put land into federal trust, protecting it from state and local taxes.” The state filed its appellant brief with the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on Monday.

LAWSUIT CHALLENGES CONSTITUTIONALITY OF OKLAHOMA INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (8/25, 364K) reports that “an Oklahoma couple has filed a federal lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of portions of the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Act.” According to the article, “the couple specifically objects to provisions of the Oklahoma act that permit tribes to intervene in private, voluntary adoption cases involving Indian children.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fort Smith \(AR\) Times Record](#) (8/25, 107K).

RESIDENT OPPOSES INDIAN COUNTRY LAND STATUS IN ALASKA. In a piece for the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (8/25, 42K), Mary Bishop lists a “few reasons to avoid Indian country land status in Alaska.” One of the reasons is the BIA “rubber-stamping tribal trust applications.” According to Bishop, the “BIA has a record of rubber-stamping applications for tribal trust land with little if any regard for neighboring complaints and concerns — or else sitting on them forever.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

OIA COMMITS TO \$5 MILLION FOR GUAM EDUCATION. In a piece for the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/24, 61K), Jon Fernandez, the superintendent of the Guam Department of Education, notes that “to assist with facility improvements, the US Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, has committed \$5 million over five years to address critical health and safety needs, based on the Army Corps of Engineers Report completed in 2013.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

SMITH WANTS MCCARTHY TO TESTIFY OVER GOLD KING MINE SPILL. The [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Richardson, 344K) reports House Science, Space, and Technology Chairman Lamar Smith says he has asked the head of Environmental Restoration LLC to testify before a September 9 hearing on the Gold King Mine spill. Alexander has also called on EPA Administrator McCarthy to testify. In a statement, he said, “Both parties should be prepared to be more forthcoming with Congress than EPA has been up to this point.”

Additional coverage of the spill was provided by [The Hill](#) (8/25, Cama, 471K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (8/25, Felicia Fonseca |, Ap, 6.76M), and the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/25, Paul, 787K).

BOR DIVERTS WATER TO KLAMATH WATER TO AVOID FISH KILLS. The [Greenwire](#) (8/24, Subscription Publication) reports that the BOR is “again diverting water to the Klamath River in an attempt to avoid massive fish kills.” The article notes that “three tribes rely on the Oregon river for subsistence fishing, and a fourth is hoping that aging hydroelectric dams could be removed so it can harvest salmon there.” The tribes have “requested a diversion to prevent an outbreak of a gill-rotting disease that spreads in low- and warm-water conditions.” On Friday, the BOR “began releasing water from the Lewiston Dam on the Trinity River, a tributary to the Klamath, in order to avoid a repeat fish kill.”

The [AP](#) (8/25, 2 28M) reports that “agricultural water providers in the Central Valley of California are asking a federal judge to stop releases of extra water intended to help salmon in the Klamath Basin survive the drought.” The legal action “seeking a preliminary injunction was filed late Friday in U.S. District Court in Fresno by Westlands Water District and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, which supply farmers.” The water districts argue the BOR has “no authority to send water that should go down the Sacramento to the Klamath River to help salmon that are not protected by the Endangered Species Act.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (8/25, 756K), [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (8/25, 32K), and [KFMB-TV San Diego \(CA\)](#) San Diego (8/25, 53K).

CALIFORNIA'S NATIVE FISH AN OVERLOOKED VICTIM OF DROUGHT. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/25, Boxall, 4 07M) reports that “the drought’s toll on California has been measured mostly in terms of idled cropland, dried up domestic wells and brown lawns,” but “less visible but more devastating has been damage to native fish that struggle for survival in the best of times.” The article notes that “four years of drought — and the accompanying relaxation of environmental standards by state regulators — have compounded the harm of dams and diversions that long ago thwarted fish migration and destroyed habitat.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (8/25, Fears, 6.76M).

SAN DIEGO PURSUING DESALINATED WATER. In his column for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/25, 535K), Dan Walters writes that “San Diego’s vigorous pursuit not only of desalinated water but other supplies, as well as aggressive conservation, are aimed at making it less dependent on water from Southern California’s Metropolitan Water District, which in turn is highly dependent on water from Northern California via the California Aqueduct and its own aqueduct from the eastern slope of the Sierra.” But “as Southern California becomes less dependent on Northern California water, the rationale for the MWD’s essential support of Brown’s plan to build two water tunnels beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta becomes ever-weaker.” San Diego, “the MWD’s largest single subagency, is openly opposed to the tunnels, saying they are not needed to make the region water-independent and will cost too much for the very marginal benefit they will bring.” According to Walters, “thus, in a roundabout way, were Brown to help bring additional desalination supplies on line, he would be undercutting the tunnel project, which he clearly sees as completing the State Water Project his father began and adding to his own political legacy.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR REVIEWING COAL LEASE PROGRAM. The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (8/24, 67K) reports that “the Department of the Interior is leasing millions of acres of federal coal to private mining companies even as the Obama administration ramps up efforts to curb greenhouse gases from coal-burning power plants and natural gas pipelines under the president’s Climate Action Plan.” The article notes that “to environmentalists and some Navajo activists living near coal mines in New Mexico, the disconnect between leasing the coal while clamping down on the climate-changing pollution it causes couldn’t be more stark.” The Interior Department has “spent the last few months listening to public comments about how to revamp the federal coal leasing program.”

LONGER COMMENT PERIOD SOUGHT ON PROPOSED STREAM RULE. The [Southern Illinoisian](#) (8/25, 23K) reports that “some state representatives and a state coal association are calling for brakes on a government agency that is trying to update its rules governing the impact of mining on surface and ground waters, wildlife and the environment.” State Sen. Gary Forby, Sen. Sam McCann, and the president of the Illinois Coal Association “want the U.S. Department of the Interior to slow movement on its Draft Stream Protection Rule.” According to the article, “though the government entity has proposed taking comments on that change for another month — until Sept. 25, 2015 — opponents are asking that the comment period be extended for at least 180 days, or six months.”

APPALACHIAN COMMUNITIES EMBRACE POWER PLUS PLAN. The [Greenwire](#) (8/24, Subscription Publication) reports that “roughly a dozen communities across Appalachia have passed resolutions supporting President Obama’s plan to help areas reeling from the coal mining downturn.” The Power Plus Plan “includes grants through several agencies” and “it also expedites \$1 billion in spending from the abandoned coal mine cleanup fund and would shore up miner pensions.” The article notes that “communities that have called for Congress to approve the plan in recent weeks include Campbell County, Tenn.; Wise County, Va.; and Harlan County, Ky.”

BLM APPROVES TWO MASTER LEASING PLANS FOR DRILLING IN COLORADO. The [Greenwire](#) (8/24, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM “continues to advance onshore oil and gas reforms, approving two new master leasing plans in northern Colorado that include drilling restrictions designed to protect sensitive wildlife across thousands of acres.” BLM Colorado State Director Ruth Welch “announced Friday that she finalized two records of decision approving the Dinosaur Trail and the Shale Ridges and Canyons master leasing plans (MLPs).” Welch said “the plans will balance natural resource protections with the development of federal lands and subsurface mineral estate.”

BLM SAYS LEASE REVIEW PROPOSAL NOT A PREFERENCE. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/25, 73K) reports that the BLM is “warning against reading too much into the fact that it is considering retention of 65 oil and gas leases on the White River National Forest as its proposed action in an upcoming draft environmental review.” Spokesman David Boyd said the bureau is “required to identify a proposed action when it lays out alternatives for consideration in its draft environmental impact statement, but that’s different from a preferred alternative.” He said, “Even though the wording suggests that that’s what we’re saying we want to do, that’s just the action that initiates” the EIS process. Boyd was “responding to concerns raised by Pitkin County officials last week.”

Offshore Energy Development:

CALIFORNIA PADDLERS RAISE AWARENESS FOR OFFSHORE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. The [Daily Beast](#) (8/24, Joiner, 978K) reports that “a flotilla of Californians” organized by the Surrfrider Foundation paddled about three miles to an offshore oil platform off of Santa Barbara, where they unfurled a 70-foot-long floating banner that read “#CrudeAwakening” to raise awareness for several bills that they claim would increase offshore environmental protection. Specifically, the group supports bills SB788, SB414, AB864 and SB295 that would “close a loophole that allows new drilling in a designated Marine Protected Area, establish a mandatory team of trained seamen to act as emergency responders to any spills, require companies to use the ‘best available technology’ on pipelines, and improve inspection requirements.”

OFFICIALS REOPEN SUMMERLAND BEACH. The [AP](#) (8/25) reports that Santa Barbara County officials have reopened Summerland beach, stating that immediate health concerns have diminished, although it is still unclear where the oil is coming from. The article notes that natural oil seepage from the ocean floor is common in the area, “and there are also old wells in the area.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM TOP DIRECTOR TO RUN BURNING MAN LAW ENFORCEMENT. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (8/21, 179K) reports that the BLM has “opted for a change of leadership and has designated the highest ranking law enforcement director in the agency to oversee federal law enforcement operations at Burning Man this year.” According to BLM spokesman Jeff Krawse, “Washington, D.C.-based BLM Law Enforcement and Security Director Salvatore Lauro will be the senior BLM law enforcement official on scene throughout the event.” The article notes that “in recent years, Special Agent-in-charge Dan Love of Utah, whose jurisdiction also includes Nevada, has overseen law enforcement operations at Burning Man,” and “Burning Man officials and former BLM director Bob Abbey named Love, along with BLM Winnemucca District manager Gene Seidnitz, in a series of emails that stated Love and Seidnitz were behind a list of unprecedented demands from the BLM.”

BLM, TEXAS RANCHERS EMBROILED IN DISPUTE OVER RED RIVER PROPERTY. The [Greenwire](#) (8/24, Subscription Publication) reports on the dispute over Red River property between the BLM and Texas ranchers.

BLM CRAFTING PLAN TO MANAGE TARGET SHOOTING IN UTAH. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/25, 492K) reports that “after years of damage and conflicts with nearby property owners, the BLM has started crafting a plan to manage target shooting on 9,000 acres of federal land on the eastern slope of the Lake Mountains.” In a related move, the bureau “proposes giving 160 acres to Utah County to operate a public shooting range.” Bekee Hotze, the BLM’s Salt Lake field office manager, said, “We are not trying to exclude a user group. We are trying to enhance the multiple uses on the land. But it can’t be every use everywhere.”

BLM CLOSES CASE ON LAS VEGAS DEVELOPER’S PROPOSED LAND SWAP. The [AP](#) Tucson, AZ (8/25, 23K) reports that “a Las Vegas developer isn’t getting access to an aquifer in the Red Lake area after failing to respond to a Bureau of Land Management information request.” Kingman Farms owner Jim Rhodes “proposed a 21,000-acre land swap that drew concern over the access it would have given him to area water sources.” Colorado River District Manager Roxie Trost said the BLM “requested more information on the exchange more than two months ago, but the case was closed when Rhodes didn’t respond.”

JUDGE SAYS USE OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES FOR JUNIPER REMOVAL IN WILDERNESS IS PROHIBITED. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (8/24, 113K) reports that "a federal judge has ruled that it's unlawful to use motorized vehicles to remove juniper from nearly 80,000 acres in the vicinity of Oregon's Steens Mountain." The BLM is "cutting juniper from roughly 336,000 acres in the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management Area because the trees are crowding out native vegetation." U.S. District Judge Garr King held that "using motorized vehicles within 'wilderness study areas' is prohibited by a federal law that governs management of the Steens Mountain area."

ECOLOGIST ARGUES WILD HORSES SHOULD BE PROTECTED. In an op-ed for the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (8/24, 179K), Craig C. Downer, a wildlife ecologist, argues that "wild horses should qualify as endangered 'distinct population units' for protection under the Endangered Species Act." According to Downer, "they quickly revert to the wild and adapt harmoniously and in complementary manner to each unique ecosystem, yet they are being either eliminated from their legal lands or brought to sub-viable, mere token population levels by their unjust enemies, including betrayers in the very branches of our government charged with protecting them – the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service!" Downer concludes that "we must quickly rectify this miserable situation and learn to share the land and freedom with such magnificent and highly evolved beings, as the progressive Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act still intends."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS SEEKS COMMENTS ON CRITICAL HABITAT DESIGNATION FOR MARBLED MURRELETS. The [Hill](#) (8/25, Wheeler, 471K) reports that the FWS is "asking the public to comment on the areas in Washington, Oregon and California it has designated as a critical habitat for marbled murrelet." According to the article, "the current designation includes 3.7 million acres, but the agency is asking for help determining whether all of that area meets the statutory definition of critical habitat."

NORTHERN ARAPAHO TRIBE WANTS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DROP EAGLE APPEAL. The [AP](#) (8/25) reports that "the Northern Arapaho Tribe is calling on the federal government to drop a legal appeal that's blocking the tribe from killing bald eagles for religious purposes on the central Wyoming reservation it shares with another tribe." According to the article, "the federal government in June appealed this spring's decision by U.S. District Judge Alan B. Johnson of Cheyenne that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service violated the religious rights of the Northern Arapaho by denying the tribe permission to kill bald eagles for its annual Sun Dance." The agency's "appeal of Johnson's ruling is pending in the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver and the agency has just over a month left to file a brief laying out its arguments."

HONEYWELL AGREES TO \$300,000 PENALTY FOR RELEASING CHEMICALS INTO JAMES RIVER. [WVBT-TV](#) Richmond, VA (8/25, 94K) reports that "Honeywell has agreed to pay a \$300,000 penalty for releasing chemicals into the James River from its Hopewell manufacturing facility, according to officials with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality." The firm "signed a consent order calling for the fine and additional repairs, which will cost more than \$13 million, to prevent future spills." The article notes that "in addition to the proposed enforcement action, DEQ and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are coordinating to address natural resource damages caused by past spills."

POINT LAY PREPARES FOR POSSIBLE WALRUS HAULOUT. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/22, 219K) reports that "in case thousands of walrus haul out again this year on the shores of Point Lay, the village is taking a proactive step to ensure that they are protected from the glare of international media attention." According to the article, "in a release this week from various wildlife agencies in conjunction with the Native Village of Point Lay, the town asked that media keep their distance."

KENTUCKY ENDS MOUNTAIN LION INVESTIGATION. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (8/24, 414K) reports that "Kentucky wildlife officials are concluding that someone brought the mountain lion that was shot last year into the state, but they don't know who might have done it and have suspended their investigation." Also, "the official necropsy of the mountain lion found that there was 'no conclusive evidence the animal is of captive origin.'" The article notes that "the animal's DNA likely linked it to a wild population in South Dakota, testing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found."

Additional coverage was provided by [WKYT-TV Lexington \(KY\)](#) Lexington, KY (8/25, 116K) and [WTVQ-TV Lexington \(KY\)](#) Lexington, KY (8/25, 1K).

National Park Service:

NPS LOOKING AT SITES FROM RECONSTRUCTION ERA. The [New York Times](#) (8/25, Schuessler, Subscription Publication, 11 82M) reports that the NPS has "hired two historians to conduct its first comprehensive survey of 'nationally significant' sites connected with Reconstruction — the first step toward possible designation of a new site by Congress." The article notes that "the initiative was announced in May," and "since then, the massacre of nine African-Americans at a church in Charleston, S.C., in the midst of continuing debates over the Black Lives Matter campaign, has only underlined the enduring relevance of an era that saw both the dramatic expansion of rights for African-Americans and their violent rollback." The NPS is "looking at sites across the country," but "if there's a logical place to center an uplifting story of Reconstruction, many say, it's the area around Beaufort, a picturesque city of 13,000 that sits between several popular tourist destinations: Charleston and Hilton Head Island in South Carolina and Savannah, Ga."

NPS PROVIDES FUNDING FOR SANDY-DAMAGED STRUCTURES. [New Jersey Local News](#) (8/25, 837K) reports that "the City of Trenton has received \$17,475 in grant money for the replacement of 10 windows at the former Roebing Machine Shop that were damaged in Hurricane Sandy." The article notes that "the Machine Shop was among dozens of historic properties that were able to make storm repairs through a federally-supported \$8 million grant program." The NPS "provided the funding, while the state's historic preservation office along with the New Jersey Historic Trust — an agency connected with the state Department of Community Affairs — administered the grants."

INDIAN RIVER LIFE-SAVING STATION RECEIVES NPS GRANT. The [Lewes \(DE\) Cape Gazette](#) (8/25, 42K) reports that "the Indian River Life-Saving Station Museum, located in Delaware Seashore State Park, has been awarded a grant of just over \$25,000 through the Maritime Heritage Grants Program of the National Park Service."

WORK BEGINS ON JEWEL CAVE VISITOR CENTER EXPANSION PROJECT. The [AP](#) (8/25, 2.28M) reports that "work began Monday on a \$671,000 expansion project for the visitor center at Jewel Cave National Monument in western South Dakota." Acting Superintendent Donald Hart said, "This expansion will improve the visitor experience by making it easier for visitors to enter and exit the cave, as well as providing more space for those waiting for a cave tour." The NPS has said "the 15,000-square-foot expansion will mean more space for environmental education, including classrooms, theater space and educational display space."

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SEEKS INPUT ON IMPROVEMENT PLAN. The [AP](#) (8/25, 2.28M) reports that Yellowstone National Park is "seeking public comment on a plan to rehabilitate many of the overlooks and trails along the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River." The NPS says "the project would rehabilitate a number of existing overlooks and trails situated along both the north and south rims of the canyon." The article notes that "areas to be rehabilitated include: the Brink of the Upper Falls overlooks and trails, the Brink of the Lower Falls overlook and trail, Inspiration Point overlook and trail, and portions of the North and South Rim Trails."

NPS CAUSE UNDETERMINED IN DOUBLE CLIMBING DEATH AT GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (8/25, 2.28M) reports that the NPS has "no word yet on what caused two women climbers to fall to their deaths at Grand Teton National Park over the weekend." The climbers, 27-year-old Tyler Strandberg and 28-year-old Catherine Nix, "died Saturday morning after falling about 200 feet while trying to climb 12,300-foot Teewinot Mountain, the sixth-tallest peak in the Teton Range." According to park spokesman Andrew White, "a third member of the climbing party, 26-year-old Rebecca Anderson of Jackson, was rescued unhurt from a small ledge by helicopter."

Additional coverage was provided by [NBC News](#) (8/25, 3.73M), [Reuters](#) (8/24, Zuckerman), [Fox News](#) (8/24, 8 91M), and [TIME](#) (8/25, 19.55M).

MAN DIES IN HANG-GLIDING ACCIDENT AT GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The [AP](#) (8/25, 2.28M) reports that "a 69-year-old man has died in a hang-gliding accident in San Francisco's Golden Gate National Recreation Area." The NPS said "in a statement that the accident occurred Sunday afternoon immediately after takeoff and may have involved a mechanical failure." According to the article, "park police and fire department paramedics found the man 30 feet down the side of a cliff below the hang-gliding launch pad at Fort Funston in the recreation area."

Additional coverage was provided by [WRC-TV](#) Washington (8/25, 345K).

SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD HAS NEW SUPERINTENDENT. The [Saratogian \(NY\)](#) (8/21, 22K) reports that Amy Bracewell is the new superintendent of Saratoga National Historical Park. She said, "I'm really impressed by the landscapes here. We're very lucky to have such supportive neighbors and towns that understand the value of preserving these views." Bracewell, "who took over in mid-July, replaces former long-time park superintendent Joseph Finan who has retired."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE NPS CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY. Additional coverage of that the NPS is celebrating its 99th birthday this Tuesday was provided by the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (8/24, 3K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/25, 2 28M), the [Knoxville \(TN\) Daily Sun](#) (8/25), the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (8/25, Staff, 235K), the [Daily Astorian \(OR\)](#) (8/24, 23K), and [WATE-TV Knoxville \(TN\)](#) Knoxville, TN (8/24, 59K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EVERY KID IN A PARK INITIATIVE. Additional coverage of the Every Kid in a Park Initiative was provided by [KFQX-TV](#) Grand Junction, CO (8/25, Marshall, 1K).

SUPPORT URGED FOR NATIONAL PARK IN KATAHDIN REGION. In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/24, 223K), Lisa Pohlmann, executive director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and Ken Olson, chair of the Acadia National Park Maine-wide Centennial Working Group, argue in favor of creating a national park in the

conservation, recreation, economic and community status benefits it would produce." They urge Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King and U.S. Reps. Chellie Pingree and Bruce Poliquin to "make it happen."

Top National News:

OBAMA BLASTS "FOSSIL FUEL INTERESTS" IN SPEECH AT CLEAN ENERGY SUMMIT. Print and online coverage of the President's speech at the National Clean Energy Summit in Las Vegas focuses on two main areas: the announcement of new executive actions aimed at promoting more clean power projects across the country, and the President's criticism of "fossil fuel" interests that oppose his agenda. The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, Mooney, 6.76M) says the President's appearance at the summit "was the first stop in a climate and energy-focused tour that will also take the president to New Orleans and Arctic Alaska this month." In a story posted Monday evening, [USA Today](#) (8/24, Korte, 5.23M) reports that during the tour, the President "will deliver a three-pronged message: The United States needs to increase the use of alternative energy sources, make coastal communities more resilient and urge a global response to climate change."

The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (8/25, Roerink, Shine, 199K) reports that the President said "now 'is not the time to pull back' on federal investment in renewable energy projects," adding that "the nation as a whole was in the middle of a large-scale transition towards new forms of energy production." The Sun also notes that the President's appearance at the summit "underscores his close relationship with [Senate Minority Leader] Reid," adding that they "have been among the most outspoken on climate change and have worked on projects to cut the prices of solar panels and reduce carbon emissions."

[Politico](#) (8/24, Restuccia, Dove, 942K) says the President "wielded" his "yes we can" campaign slogan "to hail the green energy revolution" and "to bash the critics who he said were desperately clinging to the past as a renewable energy future approaches," noting that he "lit into fossil fuel interests, pointedly calling out the Koch brothers, Reid's longtime foes." [USA Today](#) (8/24, Korte, 5.23M) reports that the President "made a political and an economic case for solar energy," noting that "the explosive growth in solar power 'has some big fossil fuel interests pretty nervous.'"

[Voice of America](#) (8/24, 32K) noted on its website that the President's speech "was aimed at countering fossil fuel and utility interests that have been working to undercut clean energy policies with arguments that the matter should be left to the free market." The [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Boyer, Wolfgang, 344K) says the President accused "conservative opponents of his climate change agenda...of carrying out an un-American campaign to protect their fossil fuel interests at the expense of the country." He also "chided congressional Republicans for fighting higher spending on his clean energy agenda and instead 'chasing mindless austerity.'"

[National Journal](#) (8/24, Plautz, Subscription Publication, 144K) noted on its website that the President "highlighted the efforts that private companies and even some utilities...have made to invest in renewable energy or allow homeowners to go green," noting that those measures "stand in contrast...to the efforts of 'fossil fuel interests or conservative interests or the Koch Brothers' to roll back renewable energy incentives." On its website, [CBS News](#) (8/25, 8.2M) says the President "highlighted the unusual coalition of tea party activists and environmentalists that supports solar power," saying, "it is rare the tea party and I are on the same side of an issue...I agree with them here."

An [AP](#) (8/25, Ritter) story noted that Obama was using the summit "to announce new executive actions and other efforts aimed at making it easier for homeowners and businesses to invest in green energy improvements." [Reuters](#) (8/25, Edwards) says the President discussed new financial incentives to encourage the development and use of solar power including \$1 billion in loan guarantees for new research projects and savings for homeowners who use renewable energy. The [Blaze](#) (8/24, 1.66M) reported that the President's "package of executive actions includes \$1 billion in new taxpayer subsidies to the green energy industry and homeowners, while also promoting existing \$10 billion in loan programs." A [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/24, Unger, 455K) analysis describes the new initiatives as "modest, especially when compared to the sector-wide Clean Power Plan finalized earlier this month."

The [New York Times](#) (8/25, Harris, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) provides more detail on the Administration measures "to encourage the use of solar power," which were announced "hours before President Obama was scheduled to fly to Nevada to speak at the National Clean Energy Summit there," and notes that for the President, the measures and the speech Monday "are part of an increasingly intense effort to highlight the dangers of climate change and implement policies to address them." The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, Mooney, 6.76M) says the announcement that the Administration will seek to expand the loan program was "heralded by the solar industry."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (8/25, 213K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (8/25, 344K), [Bloomberg News](#) (8/24, Doring, 2.66M), [Bloomberg News](#) (8/25, Doring, Olorunnipa, 2.66M), [Reuters](#) (8/25), and [Reuters](#) (8/25, Edwards).

Reid: Utilities Should Take A Lesson From "Moneyball." [Roll Call](#) (8/24, Lesniewski, 113K) reported in its "#WGDB" blog that as Reid kicked off the summit Monday, he likened "utility companies that undervalue renewable power to an ill-managed baseball team," saying, "Nevada and electric utilities should learn from 'Moneyball.' Just as Major League Baseball was stuck in the past, electric utilities continue to rely upon business models from past centuries. Companies you will hear today are developing new energy technologies and services of which Thomas Edison never dreamed." Reid compared the efforts of former Oakland Athletics general manager Billy Beane, "with electric utilities like Nevada Energy, saying 'utilities cannot remain attached to the past.'" Reid added, "The Athletics began using an analytical, evidence-based approach to assemble a baseball team. With the help of state-of-the-art computer software, the team analyzed the value of every player; identified how to fully utilize their talents; and maximized the team's return on investment." The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/25, 378K) says Reid "helped unveil a new 80-acre 'community solar generation project' to be managed by Pahrump-based Valley Electric Association." The project "will create 200 jobs and an unspecified amount of new tax revenue, said Valley Electric CEO Tom Husted."

Switch Joins Obama's Climate Action Plan. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (8/25, Roemik, 199K) notes that the Nevada data company Switch has become the first company in the state "to sign the White House's American Businesses Act on Climate Pledge," which seeks to build support for the President's Climate Action Plan.

AMID BIDEN SPECULATION, WHITE HOUSE WON'T RULE OUT ENDORSEMENT IN DEMOCRATIC RACE. All three broadcast networks reported in some detail on the increasing speculation that Vice President Biden will enter the presidential race, with each giving the story about two minutes of coverage. Reports focus on Biden's meetings with President Obama and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Biden's prospects against Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, and on how Obama might deal with an unexpected nomination fight between two of the most prominent members of his Administration.

[ABC World News](#) (8/24, story 3, 2:05, Stephanopoulos, 5.84M) reported that "all eyes on" Biden after his "secret meeting" with Warren over the weekend and his lunch with the President today, saying that speculation on a Biden run is at a "fever pitch, which could put President Obama in an awkward spot: Does he endorse Hillary or Joe?" ABC's Jon Karl asked White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest about the speculation at his daily briefing, with Earnest responding, "The President has indicated that to add Joe Biden to the ticket as his running mate was the smartest decision that he had ever made in politics." Many of the other reports focus on Earnest's response to Karl. [Reuters](#) (8/25, Mason), meanwhile, reports that in his comments, Earnest also said, "I wouldn't rule out the possibility of...an endorsement in the Democratic primary." [Politico](#) (8/24, Gass, 942K) notes that Earnest said Obama "is not 'torn' over the issue...as running for president is an "intensely personal decision."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/24, story 6, 1:55, O'Donnell, 5.08M) reported that Obama "had lunch with his vice president" on Monday, and "it appears the menu included presidential politics." CBS (Goldman) added, "Sources tell CBS News that President Obama has given his vice president the green light to mull a White House run," though "a Biden candidacy could be awkward for the President with his former secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, the Democratic front-runner." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/24, story 6, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) said that "a big dilemma is emerging" for Obama "amid more signs that Vice President Biden is seriously considering challenging Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination." As for Biden's meeting with Warren, NBC's Peter Alexander said it "has electrified the political world, especially liberal Democrats not sold on Clinton, many of whom have flocked to Bernie Sanders." Sanders: "Joe would be a formidable opponent. I'm not sure who politically it would help."

The [AP](#) (8/25, Pace) says Biden "has been ramping up discussions" about whether he will run, which "would put Obama in an awkward spot." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says that while there now seems to be a real chance that Biden will enter the race, he would have a hard time catching up with Clinton's fundraising. The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, Gold, 6.76M) reports Biden has invited "major Democratic fundraisers" to his US Naval Observatory residence after Labor Day. [The Hill](#) (8/24, Richardson, 471K) also reports on the planned meeting.

Jonathan Allen of [Vox](#) (8/24, 1.1M) writes that Biden "starts with a huge fundraising deficit and polling numbers that have been consistently between 10 percent and 15 percent for the last month. ... So, it's an uphill battle for Biden, even with the working-class voters on whom he's staked his appeal as a candidate. That doesn't mean he won't do it. He's run and lost twice before."

Dan Balz writes in the [Washington Post](#) (8/25, 6.76M) that "personal issues stand as the biggest unresolved obstacle" for Biden, who is "trying to gauge whether his family is emotionally prepared for a grueling campaign while still grieving over the recent death of his son Beau." Those close to the Biden family say he is "now leaning more toward running than he was earlier in the summer, though he is still weeks from a decision."

William McGurn of the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) says a Biden entry could help to distance the White House from the ongoing questions about Clinton's email server. But the [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Boyer, 344K) reports Earnest did say it is "too early for Democrats to worry about" Clinton's "faltering" campaign. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (8/24, Chipman, 247K), and [The Hill](#) (8/24, Fabian, 471K), and the [NPR](#) (8/24, 1.85M) website run similar reports.

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) editorial says Earnest would not have commented that the President thinks his decision to choose Biden as a running mate was "the smartest decision he's ever made in politics" without the President's approval, which raises questions about the White House's feelings about Clinton's candidacy and what the President and Biden know about the controversy surrounding her private email server.

Podesta Says He Is Not Nervous About Possible Biden Run. [Politico](#) (8/24, Restuccia, 942K) reports Clinton campaign chair John Podesta said Monday "that he isn't losing sleep over the possibility that Joe Biden will jump into the race." Podesta told reporters, "Am I nervous? No. ... It's his decision to make about whether he's going to get in. But I'm convinced that we have a strong campaign – that she's the right candidate." [USA Today](#) (8/25, Gaudiano, 5.23M) says Biden and Clinton "have a long history together," and a Biden run would "test that friendship."

Warren Supporters "Lukewarm" On Biden. [Politico](#) (8/24, Debenedetti, 942K) writes that despite Biden's meeting with Warren, many of those who tried to draft the Massachusetts senator into the presidential race are "lukewarm on him." That is "a considerable problem because Biden, to be successful, would need to appeal to a large majority of progressives who are disenchanted with Clinton, while persuading them that he's a better vehicle for their beliefs than Sanders."

Biden Has "Packed September Schedule." [Bloomberg News](#) (8/24, Talev, 2.66M) says Biden "is gearing up for a packed September schedule in his day job that could showcase him as the politician best poised to carry on" Obama's policies, "or open him up to new lines of attack if he stumbles. These include mid-September votes in Congress on an Iran deal that Biden has been deeply involved in promoting; visits to Washington by Pope Francis and Chinese President Xi Jinping; a looming budget showdown; and administration efforts on climate change, renewing the Export-Import Bank's charter, criminal justice reform and closing the terrorism detention facility at Guantanamo Bay."

Biden Selects MPAA's Bedingfield As New Communications Director. The [AP](#) (8/24, Lederman) reports Biden "has chosen a top film industry official and former spokeswoman for John Edwards' 2008 presidential campaign to be his new communications director." Kate Bedingfield was most recently vice president of corporate communications for the Motion Picture Association of America. [Variety](#) (8/24, Johnson, 552K) says Bedingfield "joined the MPAA in 2011, before which she was associate communications director at the White House." The [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Boyer, 344K) and [Hollywood Reporter](#) (8/24, Vlessing, 736K) also report on the choice.

IN WILD DAY OF TRADING, US AND GLOBAL MARKETS DROP SHARPLY. The sharp drops that afflicted global financial markets on Monday are the top news item across the media spectrum including all three network newscasts, which devoted a combined 10 minutes to the story. The media consensus is that investors are extremely concerned over the slowdown of growth in the Chinese economy. Media accounts are using terms like "frenzy," "wild," and "chaos" to describe the situation.

The [AP](#) (8/25, McDonald) reports that the Dow dropped 588.47 points to 15,871.28, while the S&P 500 index fell 77.68 points to 1,893.21 and the Nasdaq Composite Index was down 179.79 points to 4,526.25. [USA Today](#) (8/25, Shell, 5.23M) reports that the "selling spree" has "now infected every corner of the US stock market." The Dow, "small-company Russell 2000, large-company S&P 500 and tech-dominated Nasdaq composite are all down more than 10% from their record peaks from earlier this year and in full-fledged corrections."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, Harwell, 6.76M) reports that the "worldwide selling frenzy" came as "investors worried over China's slowing economy extended a global-market meltdown." The "global whiplash underscored investors' shaken confidence in China's slowing economy and central bank." The [New York Times](#) (8/25, A1, Popper, Gough, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that investors' "concerns over China's economic slowdown and a souring view of emerging economies have rattled financial markets around the world in recent days, and showed no signs of letting up."

[AFP](#) (8/25, Jackson, Zhang) reports that Chinese stocks "have tumbled since peaking in mid-June and authorities have launched broad interventions to try to restrain the drops, but Beijing's latest market intervention has failed to restore confidence." [Reuters](#) (8/25, Agrawal) similar says that a lack of new market-stabilization effort in China following last week's rout drove the declines.

In an analysis piece, the [New York Times](#) (8/25, Irwin, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that the "immediate trigger to the outburst of global volatility was China." However, looking deeper, the "fact that the Chinese government has pulled out unprecedented steps to try to contain the stock market sell-off, to little avail, may suggest limitations on the power of even the mighty Chinese state."

More technically, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, Driebusch, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that the day's early drop came as investors looked to protect themselves against earlier losses in overseas markets, along with a series of stop-loss orders, which are designed to protect investors by selling stocks if they fall to a certain level.

The [New York Times](#) (8/25, Schwartz, Abrams, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that as the market tanked in early trading, financial advisers and others, including Apple CEO Tim Cook, worked to calm fearful investors. While it worked for a while, by the end of the day, "Apple and the rest of the market had yielded to the gravitational pull of investor fear."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/25, Peltz, 4.07M) reports that Wall Street "endured a wild ride" on Monday. However, the piece reports that several financial professionals were not rattled by the drop. For example, Chris Hardt of Edward Jones said, "The market will pull back 10% about once a year on average. This is a normal thing," while Michael Kanigher, a USB managing director, suggests that the markets still appear strong.

The [Huffington Post](#) (8/24, Kaufman, 164K) reports that worldwide, markets "tumbled toward historic losses amid a toxic cocktail of financial volatility." For example, the pan-European Stoxx 600 index "fell nearly 6 percent on Monday morning," while London's FTSE 100 stock index "plunged more than 5 percentage points."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, Denyer, 6.76M) reports that the "market slide continued Tuesday across Asia." [USA Today](#) (8/25, Toppo, 5.23M) reports that in early trading on Tuesday, Japan's Nikkei index fell "nearly 4%," while China's Shanghai Composite index declined 7.6%, and "is now below the psychologically important 3,000 level." Both indexes are building on substantial losses on Monday.

In its lead story, [ABC World News](#) (8/24, lead story, 2:15, Stephanopolous, 5.84M) reported that Wall Street had its "worst day in more than four years after the second worst on Friday." It was a "chain reaction that started in China." ABC (Jarvis) said that "even veteran traders" were "stunned by the drop." White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said, "What I would encourage people to evaluate is the ongoing strength and resilience of the US economy." However, ABC added that "to many on Wall Street, with stocks up nearly 60 percent over the last five years, today's slide was long overdue."

In its lead story, The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/24, lead story, 2:15, O'Donnell, 5.08M) reported that the multi-day declines are "wiping out market gains back to February of last year." CBS (Mason) said it was a "breathtaking ride even for veteran traders." In a second piece, the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/24, story 2, 1:00, O'Donnell, 5.08M) gave advice for those with 401(k) plans. CBS (Schlesinger) said, "Sit tight and do nothing. Remember, I know it can be scary here, but let's say you had sold at the bottom of the bear market in 2009. The Dow is at 6,500. You would have missed that nearly tripling of the index to 18,000."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/24, lead story, 3:00, Holt, 7.86M) reported, "A lot of investment portfolios including retirement nest eggs shrank today when stocks took another stunning fall. And experts warn we may need a strong stomach because this up and down ride is likely not over." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/24, story 2, 1:30, Holt, 7.86M) ran an interview with CNBC's Jim Cramer, who looks at how to respond for investors in various age brackets. Looking forward, Cramer suggests that the market downturn is likely to continue in the short term.

Administration Stresses US Economy Remains Strong. [Reuters](#) (8/24) reports that the White House said on Monday that the President had been briefed on developments in the financial markets. White House spokesman Josh Earnest stressed that the US economy remains strong and that US officials are continuing to press China to pursue financial reforms. The [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Sands, 344K) reports that Earnest also "said the market turmoil was another argument to avoid 'self-inflicted wounds' to the US economy, calling on Congress to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank and to ease spending caps on domestic investment programs."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Taylor, 344K) separately reports that the Administration "pleaded with Beijing to be more transparent about its economy to win back investor confidence." Earnest said, "A more transparent economy is one that will benefit not just the Chinese economy but the global economy."

[The Hill](#) (8/24, Schroeder, 471K) reports that the Treasury Department, "through a spokesman, downplayed the drama by saying it was closely moni

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August 21 -- Greenwire is ready

E&E Publishing <ealerts@eenews.net>

From: E&E Publishing <ealerts@eenews.net>
Sent: Fri Aug 21 2015 11:12:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov
Subject: August 21 -- Greenwire is ready

[Read today's Greenwire on the web](#)

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GREENWIRE — Fri., August 21, 2015

[READ FULL EDITION](#)

1. PUBLIC LANDS:

'Bears Ears' latest battleground in Utah monument fight

CEDAR MESA, Utah -- The fight over federal protections for this desert region has reached a critical stage. Republican lawmakers aim to roll out a bill soon, but President Obama could pre-empt them by creating a national monument. A recent proposal known as "Bears Ears" from dozens of local tribes has emerged as a major flashpoint in the debate.

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, August 21, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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DATE FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

THREE FIREFIGHTERS KILLED WHILE BATTLING BLAZE IN WASHINGTON. The [Greenwire](#) (8/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "three firefighters were killed and four others injured yesterday as wildfires forced the evacuation of two towns in central Washington state." Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said "the firefighters were killed near Twisp, Wash." They "became trapped amid the flames when winds shifted."

[KIVI-TV](#) Boise, D (8/21, 861) reports that Interior Sally Jewell Thursday "honored the three firefighters killed in Washington Wednesday after their vehicle crashed during a wildfire."

The [Wenatchee \(WA\) World](#) (8/20, 60K) reports that in a statement, Jewell said, "My heart goes out to the families and fellow firefighters of these fallen heroes as we mourn their loss in service to others. I join the entire Interior Department family in honoring their courage and sacrifice and standing with their loved ones in their time of grief. This is a stark reminder of the dangers faced by our Nation's brave firefighters each day." She added, "As fires continue to burn across the West, we continue to ask that residents and communities do their part to support firefighters by making your homes fire-wise and having a wildfire action plan for your family."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (8/20, 86K), [NBC News](#) (8/21, 3.73M), [USA Today](#) (8/21, Krem-Tv, 5 23M), [Environment News Service](#) (8/20, 230), and [ENews Park Forest](#) (8/21, 2K).

Continuing Coverage Of Wildfires. Continuing coverage of wildfires was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/21), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (8/21, 115K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (8/21, 378K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (8/20, 183K), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (8/21, 94K), [The East Oregonian](#) (8/20, 24K), the [Blue Mountain \(OR\) Eagle](#) (8/20, 7K), the [Army Times](#) (8/20, 336K), [RTI](#) (8/21, 346K), and [KARNV-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (8/21, 2K).

\$1.5 MILLION FROM LWCF TO BE GIVEN TO SIXTEEN OHIO COMMUNITIES. The [Clermont \(OH\) Sun](#) (8/20) reports that "the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has recommended projects from 16 Ohio communities for grant funding that will exceed \$1.5 million." The "funds are pending final approval by the National Park Service and are provided through a federal matching grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)."

Congress Urged To Act On LWCF. In an editorial, the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (8/20, 86K) urges Congress to tackle "a pressing issue when they return to work: renewal of the Land and Water Conservation Fund." The paper urges Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler to "take a lead position in supporting a fund that reflects the interests of her constituents." According to the paper, the benefits of the LWCF are "logical" and "meshes with the ethos of the environmentally conscientious Northwest."

In an editorial, the [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (8/20, 265K) also calls on Congress to save the LWCF.

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Houghton \(MI\) Daily Mining Gazette](#) (8/21, 23K), [WSAU-AM Wausau \(WI\)](#) Wausau, WI (8/21, 988), [KOAM-TV](#) Pittsburg, KS (8/21, 1K), and [Think Progress](#) (8/20, 453K).

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK ESTABLISHES SISTER PARK RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE RESERVE IN CHINA. The [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press](#) (8/21, 280) reports that "Shenandoah National Park and Baihuashan National Nature Reserve in China formalized a sister park arrangement at an official ceremony on July 4 in Beijing." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was "present to witness the signing of the arrangement by Shenandoah National Park Superintendent Jim Northup and, Baihuashan National Nature Reserve Director Liu Dong." The article notes that "this marks the eighth sister park arrangement between Chinese protected areas and the National Park Service as well as the second sister park arrangement for Shenandoah National Park."

ALASKA GOV. WALKER SENDS LIST OF PRIORITIES AHEAD OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S VISIT. The [EnergyWire](#) (8/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "Alaska Gov. Bill Walker (I) recently sent President Obama a wish list of state priorities that the governor plans to raise during Obama's state visit in late August." Obama will "be in Anchorage on Aug. 31 to speak at a State Department climate change conference." Walker "reasserted the state's desire to open oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and to build a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge to provide emergency access to the remote village of King Cove."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/19, 219K).

SEN. BENNET TO INTRODUCE WILDERNESS BILL. The [Greenwire](#) (8/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "politically vulnerable Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) announced yesterday that he intends to introduce a bill to preserve 58,000 acres of wilderness and recreation lands about 80 miles west of Denver." According to the article, "the decision was announced after Bennet met with local elected officials and community members to discuss a House bill dubbed the 'Continental Divide Wilderness and Recreation Act.'" Introduced by Rep. Jared Polis, H.R. 2554 "seeks to create new wilderness areas in the Williams Fork Mountains, Tenmile Range and Hoosier Ridge, as well as expand the existing Holy Cross, Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness areas." The measure would "also create an 11,500-acre Recreation Management Area south of the ski town of Breckenridge."

UTAH LAWMAKERS CRITICIZE REP BISHOP'S COMPROMISE PLAN FOR PUBLIC LANDS. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/21, 492K) reports that during a legislative briefing Thursday, "Republican state lawmakers openly derided Rep. Rob Bishop's 'grand bargain' as more of a raw deal for the state." According to the article, "critics of the public-lands process Bishop launched three years ago said it detracts from the campaign to transfer public lands to state management — the ultimate prize in the state's disputes with the federal government." However, "Bishop's legislative director, Casey Snider, argued a successful process would not only bring certainty to public lands management, but would also forestall a national monument designation that is expected to come in the waning days of Barack Obama's tenure as president."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE INTERIOR UNVEILS NATIONAL SEED STRATEGY. Additional coverage of the Interior Department's new national seed strategy was provided by [Fierce Homeland Security](#) (8/21, Sarkar).

WHITE HOUSE URGED TO BAN NEW FOSSIL FUEL LEASES. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (8/21, Suckling, 164K), Kieran Suckling, Executive Director, Center for Biological Diversity, writes that "a new report released Wednesday finds that unleased fossil fuels on public lands and offshore areas — publicly owned fossil fuels controlled by federal agencies — hold up to 450 billion tons of greenhouse gases." Suckling warns that "if we allow that coal, oil and natural gas to be developed, we'll cripple America's ability to meet its obligation to cut carbon and avoid the worst effects of the global climate crisis." According to Suckling, "that's why it's never been more clear that President Obama — and whoever comes after him in the White House — needs to pledge to ban new fossil fuel leases on U.S. public lands and offshore coastal areas."

Empowering Native American Communities:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN ANNOUNCES BIA-OJS PURPOSE CODE X PROGRAM. The [Native American Times](#) (8/21, 337) reports that Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn has "announced a new Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Justice Services (BIA-OJS) program to assist federally recognized tribal social services agencies seeking to place children in safe homes." Washburn said, "The BIA-OJS Purpose Code X Program will provide tribal social service agencies with the information they need to protect the children they place into care in emergency situations when parents are unable to provide for their welfare. This program provides BIA law enforcement personnel with the ability to provide our social service agency partners with much-needed information to help to make sure children requiring emergency placements will be placed

VIRGINIA LAWMAKERS PUSHING FOR MORE FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF TRIBES. [WTVF-AM](#) Blacksburg, VA (8/21) reports that "Virginia lawmakers are redoubling their efforts to attain federal recognition for six Virginia Native American tribes." The legislators are "more optimistic now that the Bureau of Indian Affairs granted federal recognition to the Pamunkey Tribe." However, "getting the six other tribes recognized won't be as easy as one might think." According to Sen. Tim Kaine, "a part of the reason is that the other tribes don't have their own reservation lands, which makes their struggle that much harder."

PROGRESS SLOW AFTER NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT PASSED. The [Motherboard](#) (8/21, 10K) reports that "over the last two centuries, scientists and collectors have exhumed Indian graves and battlefields across the country, gathering at least 200,000 Native American skeletons for science or self-enrichment—stockpiles that indigenous peoples have demanded back ever since." The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act was "passed in 1990 to establish an official process through which Native Americans could retrieve their ancestors' bones, but 25 years after going into effect, progress remains haltingly slow." The article notes that "tribes acknowledge that scientific attitudes toward their sacred histories are improving, but only about 10 percent of the stockpiled human remains have actually been physically returned amid never-ending battles over the past."

JUDGE TOSSES LAWSUIT BY FLATHEAD JOINT BOARD OF CONTROL. [Law 360](#) (8/21, 21K) reports that "a federal judge on Wednesday tossed the Flathead Joint Board of Control's lawsuit disputing the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs' control of a tribal irrigation project in Montana, concluding that congressional mandate gave the government discretion to determine when and how to cede control to local landowners."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

OWNER OF COLORADO MINE SAYS HE TRIED TO PREVENT EPA ACCESS. The [Washington Times](#) (8/21, Richardson, 344K) reports that Todd Hennis, owner of the Gold King Mine in Silverton, Colorado, says he tried to prevent the EPA "from gaining access to his property" four years ago, "but that he relented after the agency threatened to pound him with ruinous fines if he refused." The Times says the EPA's leakage investigation on the property "triggered the Aug. 5 blowout that sent 3 million gallons of toxic orange wastewater down the Animas River."

Navajo Nation Officials Say EPA Delivered Water In Dirty Oil Tanks. The [Washington Times](#) (8/21, Richardson, 344K) also reports that while "the EPA spill...was bad enough," Navajo Nation officials are now "fuming after a delivery of water for livestock and crops arrived in dirty oil tanks." In a video posted online Wednesday, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye ran his finger inside the "brown and oily" spigot of a water tank delivered by the EPA, and said, "This is totally unacceptable. How can anybody give water from a tank like this that was clearly an oil tank and expect us to drink it, our animals to drink it? And to contaminate our soil with this?"

BOR, TRIBES AGREE ON FISH-KILL PREVENTATIVE FLOWS. The [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (8/20, 55K) reports that on Thursday, the BOR "agreed to release fish-kill preventative flows from a Trinity River dam starting this weekend in order to protect fish on the lower Klamath River from deadly pathogens caused by warm, low-flowing water conditions, tribal fisheries officials said." The article notes that "the decision comes just after the Yurok Tribe Fisheries Department found two Chinook salmon on the Klamath River's Blue Creek tributary with more severe infections of the parasite ich — the same responsible for the devastating fish kill of 2002 — than had been found in a survey conducted in mid-July." Hoopa Valley Tribal Fisheries Director Mike Orcutt said Thursday's agreement was "a lot better than it had been previous to today's discussions."

GROUPS FILE INJUNCTION TO STOP FISH BYPASS ON LOWER YELLOWSTONE. [KFYR-TV](#) Bismarck, ND (8/21, 1K) reports that "a legal battle might put" the future of the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project "in jeopardy." The Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project, the Army Corps of Engineers and the BLM are "trying to create a fish bypass to help protect the pallid sturgeon." But "Montana's National Resources Defense Council and Defenders of Wildlife have filed an injunction to stop the passage from being built."

RESEARCHERS GLOBAL WARMING HAS INTENSIFIED CALIFORNIA DROUGHT. The [New York Times](#) (8/21, Gillis, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that research published in *Geophysical Research Letters* this week concludes that "global warming caused by human emissions has most likely intensified the drought in California by roughly 15 to 20 percent." While the findings indicate the drought "s primarily a consequence of natural climate variability, the scientists added that the likelihood of any drought becoming acute is rising because of climate change."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FEDERAL AGENCIES PARTICIPATE IN JOINT SAFETY TRAINING. The [Windpower Engineering & Development](#) (8/20) reports that "professionals from across the wind industry were joined by government agency experts this week at a Suzlon training facility near Chicago for a battery of drills to promote safety in the fast-growing industry." According to the article, "thirty-two safety professionals from two federal agencies — the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Department of Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) — were trained to climb a turbine, perform self-rescue and rescue scenarios in Elgin, Illinois."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM HOLDS LISTENING SESSION ON FEDERAL COAL PROGRAM. [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (8/21, 1K) reports that "nearly one hundred New Mexicans representing over a dozen organizations gathered at a session hosted by the Bureau of Land Management to testify in support of reforming the outdated federal coal lease program." The article notes that "clean air advocates at the session highlighted the damaging health impacts of local coal mining and burning, and called for New Mexico taxpayers to receive a fair share of the profits made by coal companies by mining on public lands."

In an op-ed for the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (8/21, 161K), Luis Toro, the director of Denver-based Colorado Ethics Watch, claims that "some coal companies have been using the alchemy of corporate restructuring to cheat taxpayers out of fair royalties for coal mined on public lands owned by the federal government." He argues that "they're also gaining an unfair advantage over their competitors who play by the rules." According to Toro, "the scheme is so obvious that officials in the Department of the Interior want to put a stop to it." He notes that "Interior officials were in Golden earlier this week to listen to members of the public on this issue."

Additional coverage of the public listening sessions being held by the BLM on the federal coal program was provided by the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (8/21, 44K), the [Colorado Independent](#) (8/21, 1K), [KFYR-TV](#) Bismarck, ND (8/21, 1K), and [KUNC-FM](#) Greeley, CO (8/21, 5K).

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON DRAFT MASTER LEASING PLAN FOR MOAB AREA. The [Moab \(UT\) Sun News](#) (8/21) reports that the BLM's "long-awaited draft Master Leasing Plan proposal for the greater Moab area is now available for public review." The bureau will "officially publish the draft plan in the Federal Register on Friday, Aug. 21, kicking off a 90-day public comment period."

STUDY STOP FOSSIL FUEL LEASES ON FEDERAL LANDS TO KEEP GREENHOUSE GASES OUT OF ATMOSPHERE. [Reuters](#) (8/20, Arsenault) reports that according to a study released Wednesday by the consultancy EcoShift on behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and Friends of the Earth environmental groups, if federal lands were no longer leased to fossil fuel companies by the U.S. government it would keep up to 450 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases out of the earth's atmosphere. The study claims that the fossil fuels under federal lands could constitute up to half of potential emissions from remaining fossil fuels in the U.S.

GROUP SAYS REFORM NEEDED IN FEDERAL FOSSIL FUEL EXTRACTION PROGRAMS. [Grist](#) (8/21, 6K) reports that the Center for American Progress is "out with new evidence" that "reform is desperately needed" for federal resource-extraction programs. The "liberal think tank" has "released a report and scorecard detailing the extent to which different federal resource-extraction programs are ripping off the American taxpayer."

CHEAP NATURAL GAS CONTRIBUTING TO DECLINE IN COAL INDUSTRY. [Bloomberg News](#) (8/20, Loh, 2.66M) reports on the decline of the coal industry, due in part to China's slowing imports but in larger part to "the boom in cheap natural gas, which has taken market share from coal at power plants and will probably keep doing so." The article also examines the negative impact sliding coal prices and job cuts have had on Central Appalachia.

SCIENTISTS IN MARYLAND TO MONITOR SEISMIC ACTIVITY IN PREPARATION FOR FRACKING. Drawing on coverage from the Baltimore Sun, the [AP](#) (8/20) reports "scientists say they will begin monitoring seismic activity in western Maryland in preparation" for fracking. Maryland Geological Survey Director Richard Ort told the Sun that "his agency plans to install a seismometer somewhere in Garrett or Allegany county by next June." The state's moratorium on fracking "ends in October 2017." The seismometer "would measure underground rumblings like those attributed elsewhere to the disposal of wastewater from fracking."

Offshore Energy Development:

GULF OF MEXICO LEASE SALE GENERATES LOWEST NUMBER OF BIDS ON RECORD. The [EnergyWire](#) (8/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "a federal government sale of offshore drilling rights in the Gulf of Mexico received very low interest in another sign the oil and gas industry is shying away from spending in a low oil price

waters off the coast of Texas." The article notes that "five companies participated" and "proceeds amounted to a bit over \$22.7 million."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Australian Financial Review](#) (8/20, 274K), the [Sentinel Republic](#) (8/21), [China Post](#) (8/21, 1K), [UPI](#) (8/20), [Offshore Magazine](#) (8/21, 129K), and [WBRZ-TV Baton Rouge \(LA\)](#) Baton Rouge, LA (8/21, 4K).

VERMONT SENATORS SEEK INFORMATION ON ARCTIC DRILLING. The [Rutland \(VT\) Herald](#) (8/20, 38K) reports that "Vermont's U.S. senators are calling for greater scrutiny of proposed drilling for oil and natural gas in the Arctic Ocean." The Obama Administration "gave approval Monday to Royal Dutch Shell to sink exploratory wells into a section of the Arctic Ocean controlled by the United States — an area previously closed to drilling." Sen. Patrick Leahy and Sen. Bernie Sanders "sent a letter Wednesday to the Securities and Exchange Commission calling for greater information on the project for investors in the company."

Additional coverage of the Arctic drilling decision was provided by [Salon](#) (8/21, 1.08M).

CSMonitor Analysis: Obama Will Not Have Final Word On Arctic Drilling. In an analysis, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/20, Gass, 455K) notes that while the President has given Shell "permission to drill for oil in the Alaskan Arctic," Democratic presidential hopefuls Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley, and Sen. Bernie Sanders have all voiced their opposition to Arctic drilling, which "could be significant," because the "executive powers that Obama is now wielding to open the Arctic to drilling could be used by the next president to reverse course," meaning "Obama's decision this week is hardly the final word." While that "gives environmentalists hope that drilling in the American Arctic might never come to pass," with "Republican presidential candidates favoring the move, it also makes next year's presidential election hugely important to the future of the plan."

SETTLEMENT IN OFFSHORE FRACKING CASE UNDER NEGOTIATION. The [EnergyWire](#) (8/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "the Obama administration is in settlement talks with an environmental group that opposes offshore hydraulic fracturing in the Pacific Ocean." According to court filings submitted this week, the Interior Department is "negotiating a potential settlement with the California-based Environmental Defense Center over a lawsuit that asks the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California to block permitting of fracking off the coast of California." The environmental group "alleged in a December lawsuit that Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement have been rubber-stamping permits for fracking and acid well stimulation from offshore platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel, failing to complete full environmental review." The lawsuit "challenges 51 permits that were permitted through categorical exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act, instead of more in-depth environmental impact statements."

PROFESSOR WARNS AGAINST OFFSHORE DRILLING IN ATLANTIC. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (8/21, Peterson, 164K), Charles 'Pete' Peterson, Professor of Marine Sciences, Biology, and Ecology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, writes that "a decision looms now for the South Atlantic coast, where the Department of the Interior is deciding whether to open the seafloor from Virginia to Georgia to oil and gas leasing — a shift in federal and state policies." He argues that "oil drilling off North Carolina and the other Southeast states risks much for the many and gains little for a few." Peterson warns that "this decision by our federal government could forever alter the coast we know and love."

SOME BP SETTLEMENT MONEY WENT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FAR FROM COAST. The [AP](#) (8/20, Kunzelman) reports it has obtained records that show "clusters of landlocked municipalities" more than "100 miles from the Gulf Coast have secured millions of dollars in BP money through settlements designed to compensate local governments for lost tourism dollars and other economic damage from the company's 2010 oil spill." BP, this week, "finished making approximately \$687.4 million in settlement payments to 383 local government entities in the five Gulf states." Almost "\$8 million of that money went to 32 government entities that are more than 100 miles from the coast, in places like the Mississippi Delta and suburbs of central Alabama, the records show."

[America's Great Outdoors:](#)

[Bureau of Land Management:](#)

PENTAGON GIVES \$2M GRANT FOR SAGE GROUSE PRESERVATION. The [Greenwire](#) (8/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "the Pentagon has provided a \$2 million boost to a Nevada effort to protect greater sage grouse habitat while preserving naval air training." The grant from the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) program will "pump up the Nevada Department of Wildlife program being done with the Nature Conservancy, Nevada Land Trust, Nevada Conservation Districts Program and U.S. Bureau of Land Management." The article notes that "the Pentagon's investment will be matched by participants in order to help pay for conservation easements in more than 11,000 acres of grouse habitat under air space controlled by Naval Air Station Fallon."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (8/21, 378K) and the [Fiscal Times](#) (8/20, 78K).

Moffat County Looks For Changes To BLM Sage Grouse Plan. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (8/20, 10K) reports that the proposed BLM "greater sage grouse plan — which will affect about 1,167,000 acres of federal surface land in Moffat County and 31,700 acres in Routt County — is nearing completion, and Moffat County Commissioners are hoping the final recorded plan will reflect some of the changes they requested." Moffat County Commissioners "sent a 17-page protest letter, dated June 29, detailing their problems with the proposed BLM and U.S. Forest Service Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Final Environmental Impact Statement, released May 28." According to the article, "Moffat County's protests are based largely on assertions that the BLM does not comply with federal law in several aspects of the plan, and that it is not based on the best available science."

BLM WORKING TO CLEAR SALT CEDAR. The [AP](#) (8/21, 6.76M) reports on the effort to contain and treat salt cedar, or Tamarisk, trees. The article notes that "government agencies like the Bureau of Land Management in Arizona is currently working with communities like Buckeye to assist and fund salt cedar clearing, said Dolores Garcia, fire mitigation specialist at the Bureau of Land Management."

BLM'S CEASE-AND-DESIST ORDER COULD KILL RHODES' LAND SWAP. The [Kingman \(AZ\) Daily Miner](#) (8/21, 26K) reports that the BLM "issued a 'cease and desist' order to developer Jim Rhodes that finds him in violation of federal laws and could drive a stake through his proposed land swap of 21,000 acres in the Red Lake area." The bureau "found evidence that Rhodes trespassed on federal land earlier this year when he built roads and destroyed monument markers that had been in place for about 100 years." In a May 15 letter to Rhodes, Colorado River District Manager Roxie Trost wrote, "As a result of this unauthorized activity, at a minimum, you are liable for fair market value rent of the public lands, rehabilitation and stabilization of the lands damaged by your act, and administrative costs incurred by the BLM as a consequence of your act."

BUGS INFEST BURNING MAN. The [Los Angeles Weekly](#) (8/21, 52K) reports that bugs are invading Burning Man. Burning Man spokesman Jim Graham "confirmed that the playa has been invaded by various desert bugs, but he said it's not clear why they're so numerous this year." A spokesman for the BLM said "he didn't know anything about the bugs." He said, "it is out in the middle of nowhere."

[Fish and Wildlife Service:](#)

FWS PLEDGES \$20 MILLION TO MONARCH BUTTERFLY RESCUE EFFORT. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/21, Kennedy, 1.19M) reports that "monarch butterfly rescue efforts will get a \$20 million boost from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under a new funding initiative announced Thursday in Bloomington by the agency's top executive." Accompanied by Sen. Amy Klobuchar, FWS Dan Ashe said "his agency has dedicated \$4 million a year over the next five years to support monarchs, an iconic species that may be on its way to the endangered species list." Ashe "visited a monarch conservation celebration at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and said in a news release that the money will be shared with partners to conserve monarch breeding and migration habitat in priority areas throughout the country, including Minnesota."

Additional coverage was provided by [KSJR-FM Collegeville \(MN\)](#) Collegeville, MN (8/20, 60K).

SAGE GROUSE POPULATION REBOUNDS TO NEARLY 425K. [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (8/21, Subscription Publication) reports that "a conservation group that represents several Western states and provinces said the number of greater sage grouse observed in the field has increased over the past two springs and that the total population of the birds is close to 425,000. According to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, "the number of male birds counted on leks — a mating area in the field where males compete for visiting females — had increased from 43,397 in 2013 to 80,284 in 2015." The organization estimated that the minimum breeding population totaled 424,645, a figure that does not include grouse on unknown leks."

CALIFORNIA'S FIRST WOLF PACK IN DECADES CAUGHT ON CAMERA. The [AP](#) (8/21, 2.28M) reports that "California has its first wolf pack since the state's gray wolf population went extinct in 1924." State and federal authorities announced Thursday that "a remote camera captured photos earlier this month of two adults and five pups in southeastern Siskiyou County." They were named the Shasta pack for nearby Mount Shasta.

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (8/20, Bernstein), [TME](#) (8/21, 19.55M), the [Huffington Post](#) (8/21, 164K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (8/21, Cart, 4.07M), the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (8/21, 144K), [KERO-TV Bakersfield \(CA\)](#) Bakersfield, CA (8/21, 2K), and [KXJZ-FM Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (8/20, 6K).

GROUP RELEASES "STATE OF THE TROUT" REPORT. The [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (8/20, 87K) reports that "America's native trout have declined dramatically over the last

century thanks to a number of threats ranging from hatchery fish stocking to logging and mining to poorly designed roads and livestock grazing practices," and "now a new suite of threats, from energy development to a changing climate, poses even greater challenges," according to a new Trout Unlimited report. The report titled "State of the Trout" said that "these threats are greater than ever, and they make for an uncertain future for coldwater fish if steps are not taken to protect and restore habitat, reconnect tributaries to mainstem rivers and keep native trout populations viable for the benefit of anglers and the country's riparian ecosystems."

POACHING DECIMATES ELEPHANT POPULATION IN TANZANIA. The [Greenwire](#) (8/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "safari guides at Tanzania's wildlife reserves say poachers are decimating the elephant population there with no government interference." The article notes that "the Selous ecosystem in southern Tanzania was once known as the 'elephant capital of the world.'" However, "last year, the journal *Science* named it Africa's poaching hot spot."

CONGRESS URGED TO STOP CATERING TO SPECIAL INTEREST TROPHY HUNTERS. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (8/21, Markarian, 471K), Michael Markarian, the chief program and policy officer of The Humane Society of the United States, writes that "weeks after news first broke of the illegal killing of Cecil the lion by a Minnesota dentist, the American public is still outraged." He notes that "some members of Congress rightly leapt into action and urged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect lions under the Endangered Species Act," but "other lawmakers are busy trying to push through dangerous provisions that would give a sweetheart deal to an elite group of trophy hunters just like Walter Palmer." Markarian argues that "Congress needs to stop catering to the special interest trophy hunters who have bullied our country into giving them whatever they want in the past." He urges Congress to "instead listen to the tremendous outpouring of concern Americans have shown over trophy hunting, and the desire to do what's right for wildlife protection and conservation in the wake of Cecil's death."

National Park Service:

VIRGINIA TRANSFERRING PORTIONS OF FORT MONROE TO NPS. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (8/20, Subscription Publication, 201K) reports that Virginia "plans to transfer more than 100 acres of Fort Monroe to the National Park Service, a decision that comes nearly four years after President Barack Obama designated portions of the property as a national monument." Gov. Terry McAuliffe is "expected to finalize the transfer in a ceremony Tuesday morning at the stone fort's main gate." According to the article, "the agreement will transfer 112 acres of the North Beach area as well as the Parade Grounds, Old Quarters 1, Lee's Quarters and Engineer's Quarters."

Also providing coverage is [WVEC-TV Hampton Roads \(VA\)](#) Hampton Roads, VA (8/20, 44K).

DRIVE LAUNCHED TO ADD CASCADE COTTAGES TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (8/21, 2.28M) reports that "nonprofit groups want to raise \$3.6 million to buy a privately owned parcel of land inside Rocky Mountain National Park and turn it over to the park." The Rocky Mountain Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land said Wednesday that "the owners of the 40-acre site of Cascade Cottages offered to sell it to the park before offering it for public sale." The article notes that "it's the largest remaining privately held property within the park."

CORONADO NATIONAL MEMORIAL HOSTING BIG BUG BLITZ. The [Sierra Vista \(AZ\) Herald](#) (8/21, 3K) reports that the NPS is "turning 99 years old on Aug. 25 and Coronado National Memorial is hosting a Big Bug Blitz to identify 99 different types of insects." The article notes that "in preparation for next year's big centennial celebration, the National Park Service is inviting everyone to Find Your Park."

Additional coverage of the anniversary was provided by the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (8/20, 86K), the [St. Louis \(MO\) Post-Dispatch](#) (8/21, 968K), and [KCSG-TV St. George \(UT\)](#) St. George, UT (8/21, 43).

NATIVE AMERICANS DISPLEASED WITH NPS' PROPOSED RULE ON GATHERING PLANTS. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (8/20, 32K) reports that the NPS' proposed rule that would allow Native Americans "to gather traditional and medicinal plants in national parks" are not being well received by Indian country. The article notes that "most who submitted comments had something to say about the authority vested in the park superintendents, the designated gatherers and limiting them to tribal members, and the disclosure of traditional information with no assurance that this information won't be made public (sharing these details with anyone outside of the tribe is not customary—period)." Jeffrey Olson, a NPS public affairs officer, said that "the comments on the proposed rule will be examined, analyzed, and addressed."

PLAGUE INFECTS ANOTHER YOSEMITE VISITOR. The [Greenwire](#) (8/20, Subscription Publication) reports that "another visitor to Yosemite National Park in California has been diagnosed with the plague, according to health officials." The article notes that "the victim is the second park visitor to be diagnosed with the illness and the latest of several cases in the western United States this year." According to the California Department of Public Health, "the visitor was on vacation from Georgia and also spent time in the Sierra National Forest."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (8/21, Walker, 999K).

NPS TO CLOSE EXIT FROM GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY TO KEY BRIDGE ON MONDAY. The [Arlington \(VA\) Patch](#) (8/21, 3K) reports that the NPS will "close the exit ramp from southbound George Washington Memorial Parkway to Key Bridge prior to morning rush hour on Monday, August 24, according to the Parkway Web site." The article notes that "the ramp will remain closed through Friday, August 28."

Top National News:

IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL GAINS MORE CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT. The President moved closer Thursday to gaining the votes he needs to sustain a veto of legislation to block the Iran nuclear agreement with Sen. Claire McCaskill's announcement that she will support the deal. While the agreement received no coverage on the three network news broadcasts, print and online coverage is extensive. Coverage focuses on McCaskill's comments and the Administration's ongoing efforts to secure lawmakers' support for the deal — which is generally cast as likely to survive a vote in Congress — as well as IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano's reaction to an [AP report](#) which said Iran will be permitted to conduct its own inspections of the Parchin military site.

[Reuters](#) (8/21, Cowan) reports that McCaskill said she will back the deal despite the fact that it "isn't perfect and no one trusts Iran." McCaskill's announcement comes in the wake of Sen. Joe Donnelly's declaration of support on Wednesday, prompting the [AP](#) (8/21, Werner) to note that the deal is gaining "crucial support from swing-state Senate Democrats." With the addition of McCaskill and Donnelly, the total number of Senate Democrats backing the deal is now 26, including "10 of the 12 members on the Democratic side of the Senate Armed Services Committee."

On [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/20, Baier, 1.53M), Kevin Corke called McCaskill's announcement a "major boost" for the Administration, and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (8/21, Miller, 247K) notes that her support "means Obama needs just eight more senators to sustain his promised veto if, as expected, the Republican-controlled Congress passes a resolution disapproving of the deal next month." [Politico](#) (8/20, Everett, Herb, 942K) says McCaskill is "the latest in a string of red-state and centrist Democrats to endorse" the deal "providing a surge of momentum" for the President ahead of the vote. Politico also noted the "swelling number of Democrats supporting the pact who are up for reelection in 2018 in red and purple states," adding that most "key undecided Democratic senators hail from Northeastern states with significant Jewish populations."

[Indiana Public Media](#) (8/20, Frazee, 3K) reports that during a speech in Odon, Indiana on Thursday, Donnelly defended his support of the deal, noting that his decision came "after many talks with the administration and military officials — but most importantly his constituents." The [Fort Wayne \(IN\) Journal-Gazette](#) (8/21, Francisco, 172K) notes that Donnelly "had been considered a possible swing vote," but "squelched that speculation with his four-paragraph statement," which said, in part, "With or without this deal, the day may come when we are left with no alternative but to take military action to prevent Iran from crossing the nuclear threshold."

In his [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Pincus, 6.76M) column, Walter Pincus criticizes an [op-ed](#) by Sen. Bob Corker which appeared in the Post early this week, noting that while he was clear that Congress should reject the deal, his "reasons for doing away with the agreement and what he would do instead" were not.

Pelosi: House Democrats Have Votes To Uphold Veto. The [AP](#) (8/21) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi said Wednesday that House Democrats "have the votes, if necessary, to uphold President Barack Obama's veto of a resolution against" the deal. Pelosi noted that "if such a vote were held today there would be enough support among House Democrats for Obama to prevail." The AP notes that upholding a veto "would take 146 House Democrats, and fewer than 60 have publicly declared their support so far." Pelosi "declined to disclose her private vote count but expressed confidence in the outcome."

Obama Defends Agreement In Menendez's Hometown Newspaper. [The Hill](#) (8/20, Fabian, 471K) reports in its "Blog Briefing Room" blog that the President is "pushing back against Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), who defied the White House by opposing the nuclear deal," with an [op-ed](#) in Menendez's hometown newspaper, the *Star-Ledger*. In the [op-ed](#), the President "urged Congress to back the agreement and dismissed critics who are calling for the US to go back to the negotiating table to extract more concessions from Tehran," writing, "The idea that we can get a better deal by talking tough or squeezing Iran into submission with more sanctions is simply not realistic. ... The international unity we spent years building — the unity that brought Iran to the negotiating table — would be destroyed if this deal is rejected."

Obama Letter To Lawmakers Says US Will Keep Pressure On Iran. The [New York Times](#) (8/21, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) calls an Aug. 19 letter to Congress the President's "most comprehensive effort to assure wavering Democrats." While the letter is addressed to Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) it is "also aimed at other

Democrats with concerns about the deal." For the President, the letter "reflects steps the administration could take outside the agreement." In it, he said that the US "would unilaterally maintain economic pressure and deploy military options if needed to deter Iranian aggression, both during and beyond the proposed nuclear accord." The President wrote, "Should Iran seek to dash toward a nuclear weapon, all of the options available to the United States – including the military option – will remain available through the life of the deal and beyond."

Obama To Defend Deal In Webcast To North American Jewish Community. The [Jewish Telegraphic Agency](#) (8/20, 7K) reports that in a webcast scheduled for Aug. 28, the President "will speak directly to the North American Jewish community about the Iran nuclear deal." The webcast "is being co-sponsored by The Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations," which "sponsored a similar webcast earlier this month on the deal with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu."

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (8/21, Perry, Federman) reports that while most Israelis "seem to agree that a better bargain could have been squeezed out of the Islamic Republic," many "are concluding that with the agreement all but wrapped up, it is time to give up the fight and adjust to the new reality, most critically by repairing a tattered relationship with the White House." The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/20, Mitnick, 455K) notes that many Israelis are "wary about the fight unfolding in Congress" over the agreement. The Monitor notes that many "say they consider the full-throated lobbying efforts by their government to be undermining ties with the country's most important ally." In a [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Kuttab, 6.76M) op-ed, Palestinian journalist Daoud Kuttab argues that in "a region as volatile as the Middle East, any agreement that ensures that nuclear proliferation is put in check must be welcomed."

Poll: Public Opposes Deal 56%-41%. A new poll indicates Americans are not on board with that argument, however. [The Hill](#) (8/20, Byrnes, 471K) reports in its "Blog Briefing Room" blog that a new CNN/ORC International poll found that 56% of Americans "want lawmakers to reject the deal," while 41% "say Congress should accept the deal."

WPost Analysis: Ads About Deal Running In At Least 23 States. A [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Ho, 6.76M) analysis has found that television ads about the deal "are being aired in at least 23 states" during Congress' August recess. According to the Post, "opponents of the deal are more heavily targeting House members while supporters are aiming their fire at both chambers," and most of the ads "opposing the deal are running in Florida, Texas, California and Pennsylvania, while most ads supporting the deal are running in Colorado, Michigan, Maryland and Pennsylvania."

IAEA Head Pushes Back Against AP Report On Parchin Inspections. The [Washington Times](#) (8/21, Sands, 344K) says Amano "pushed back strongly" against the AP report, saying in an "unusually pointed" statement Thursday, "I am disturbed by statements suggesting that the IAEA has given responsibility for nuclear inspections to Iran. ... Such statements misrepresent the way in which we will undertake this important verification work." On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/20, 554K), Jim Sciutto said questions of whether or not the IAEA will be on site when Iranian inspectors take samples "seems like a small difference, but potentially it could have some meaning." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/21, Norman, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) also reports on Amano's comments, noting that he took issue with suggestions he relinquished control over the inspections to Iran. The [Washington Post](#) (8/21, DeYoung, 6.76M) calls Amano's statement an "unusual rebuttal" and notes that he argued that critics of the deal "misrepresent" IAEA plans for verifying Iran's compliance. Corke noted on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/20, Baier, 1.53M) that verification with the Iranians "has been a problem in the past...as far back as 2004."

[Reuters](#) (8/21, Nasralla) reports that while the IAEA cited its legal obligation to keep its arrangements with Iran confidential, it did say that it is satisfied with the access it will be granted to the site. IAEA spokesman Serge Gas said, "The separate arrangements of the roadmap are consistent with the IAEA verification practice and they meet the IAEA requirements."

Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/20, 554K) that he doesn't think the deal between the IAEA and Iran "is anywhere near as alarming as it's being presented," adding that "if you're looking at how do we stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, no one has really presented to this point a better approach than what is in this agreement." Smith noted that while he has "questions still to be answered," the IAEA agreement "isn't one of them." Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/20, 554K) that the agreement will "only limit the ability for those anywhere anytime inspections."

Meanwhile, the [Huffington Post](#) (8/20, 164K) reports that there are questions about the "underlying assertions" in the AP's report and "the accuracy of its claims." According to nonproliferation expert Jeffrey Lewis, "the AP deleted several paragraphs that contained the most damning allegations about the way in which inspections would occur." In addition, the revised version "scrubbed a paragraph that suggested IAEA inspectors would oversee Iranian scientists as they collected samples and photographs at Parchin." The Post noted that State Department spokesman John Kirby on Thursday "hedged towards an outright denial of the AP report, saying the IAEA would 'in no way' give the Iranians the authority to conduct their own inspections of Parchin."

The [AP](#) (8/21, Jahn) examines what the agreement between Iran and the IAEA "means for the larger deal," citing an "official" who said that "US intelligence officials do not consider the Parchin inspections a critical part of the broader deal" because the US "believes most weapons work occurred there in 2003...and the site has been thoroughly cleaned up since then." The AP also notes that the separate agreement "does not affect the broader deal signed in July," and "it doesn't appear yet that the revelation will change any votes in Congress for or against a resolution of disapproval."

Slaughter: Only Alternative To Agreement Is War With Iran. In a [USA Today](#) (8/21, 5.23M) op-ed, Anne Marie Slaughter, former director of policy planning at the State Department, argues that despite the claims of opponents of the deal, the only alternative is war with Iran. Slaughter urges Americans who "think that this deal, with all its flaws, is better than bombing," to "hold your nose and tell your representative to approve it."

Rabbi Faults Obama For Singling Out Israel. In a [Jerusalem Post \(ISR\)](#) (8/21, 34K) op-ed, author Rabbi Shmuley Boteach criticizes the President for "singling out" Israel with the claim that every nation in the world that has commented publicly, with the exception of the Israeli government, has expressed support. Boteach notes that the President "conveniently omitted the fact that most Sunni nations are very wary with regard to this deal," and argues that "his words easily lend themselves to damaging misinterpretation and perverse anti-Jewish archetypes."

British Embassy To Reopen In Tehran. The [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Murphy, 6.76M) cites a Reuters report which said Britain "plans to reopen its embassy in Tehran." According to Reuters, "a British diplomatic source, said the embassy would reopen 'this weekend.'" The [New York Times](#) (8/21, Erlanger, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that British officials said the embassy will reopen "probably on Sunday." British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond "is expected to travel to Iran this weekend with a small delegation of businesspeople, including representatives from Royal Dutch Shell, a British official said, speaking anonymously in accordance with diplomatic practice." The Times calls the development "a significant indication of warming Western relations with Iran" in the wake of the nuclear agreement.

JUDGE CLINTON EMAIL SYSTEM BROKE "GOVERNMENT POLICY." [Politico](#) (8/20, Gerstein, 942K) reports that US District Judge Emmet Sullivan on Thursday "indicated" that he thinks former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton "violated government policy by storing official emails on a private server" during her tenure at the State Department. Sullivan said yesterday during a hearing related to a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought by Judicial Watch that Clinton's email arrangement "had complicated the State Department's ability to respond to requests for the agency's records on various topics." In an apparent reference to Clinton, Sullivan said, "We wouldn't be here today if this employee had followed government policy."

The [New York Times](#) (8/21, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that in making the comment, Sullivan challenged Clinton's "longstanding claim that she had complied with the rules." The Times notes that Clinton campaign spokesman Brian Fallon on Thursday said, "Hillary Clinton's use of a personal email account was consistent with the practice of other secretaries of state, and permissible under the department's policy at the time."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/21, Dinan, 344K) reports that Sullivan's remark "cast...doubt on" Clinton's contention "that she did nothing wrong" in employing the email system "and only belatedly returned 30,000 emails to the" State Department. The Times notes that Sullivan said that Clinton's email system prompted the State Department to speak with "the FBI to see what documents can be recovered from the computer server and flash drives used to store her emails." Sullivan jabbed at the contention by the Obama Administration "that the FBI needed to be left alone to conduct its investigation," giving "them 30 days to figure out whether emails can be recovered."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/21, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 5.95M) reports that Sullivan ordered government attorneys to press the FBI to determine if it can pull up any government records that Clinton deleted from her private computer server. The Journal says that if the FBI follows through with the judge's order, the scope of the agency's review would expand from an inquiry into the security of Clinton's email system to include whether the former secretary of state and her attorneys turned over all pertinent government documents.

Source: Feds Probing How Classified Data Wound Up On Clinton's Server. Meanwhile, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (8/21, Strohm, Walcott, 247K) reports that Federal "law enforcement officials are investigating how classified material found its way into messages that members...Clinton's State Department staff sent to her private e-mail address, according to a U.S. official with knowledge of the inquiry." That "official" told Bloomberg Politics that "there is some indication that Clinton aides drew upon a variety of messages in classified information systems to produce summaries and updates of events in Libya and elsewhere," later sending the information "to the secretary's personal e-mail server. This transfer of classified information onto a server not approved to handle sensitive material is a focus of the investigation and could form the basis for a criminal probe to determine just how much classified material was sent – and who prepared and sent it."

he wants the criminal investigation because "it looks like her assistant may have produced emails back and forth with her that utilized classified information. That's clearly a crime. It not only is a wrongful disclosure potentially, but it made us very vulnerable by the very nature." Blitzer said his understanding is that there "seems to be a dispute going on between the State Department and other agencies" over whether the emails were "classified at the time." Issa responded that from his experience, it has been "amazing how the State Department" has classified even the "most mundane information," adding that the CIA, NSA, and other agencies "appear to be appalled that very sensitive information was sent out on her non-government server in an unclassified format."

Meanwhile, [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/20, 554K) reviewed how the email controversy began, noting that the situation has reached the point where Clinton's "team" has handed over her private server to the Justice Department, with FBI officials now looking to scrutinize "some 300 emails that passed through it."

Court Filing: Clinton Used Personal iPad "Not Certified As Secure" By State. Catherine Herridge reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/20, Baier, 1.53M) that documents from a recent court filing show that Clinton used a personal iPad "that was not certified as secure by State Department I.T. specialists," who have a policy to deny approval of a personal device if "that information system would result in a high potential impact on organizations or individuals."

Clinton Spokesman Makes "Novel Argument" In Her Defense. On its website, the [New York Times](#) (8/20, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that while defending Clinton during a Wednesday conference call about her email system, her spokesman, Brian Fallon, "made a novel argument," pointing to a Fox News report that said a pair of "Clinton's aides while she was secretary of state had sent her classified information over her private email server." Contending that the report illustrated that "the definition of what is classified is subjective, and the emails weren't marked as classified at the time they were sent," Fallon said that "for the I.G. to now declare the material as classified, since it was provided by State to the House Benghazi committee earlier this year in unredacted form, presumably that means that members of the House Benghazi committee may have unwittingly handled classified material on unclassified systems within the House of Representatives."

[Politico](#) (8/20, Bender, 942K) reports that while the Clinton camp on Wednesday contended "that Clinton, in the worst-case scenario, was simply a 'passive recipient of unwitting information that subsequently became deemed as classified,'" some "fellow diplomats and other specialists said on Thursday that if any emails were blatantly of a sensitive nature, she could have been expected to flag it." For example, former Ambassador Thomas Pickering, "who served under the former secretary of state and oversaw a department review of the deadly attack in 2012 on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi," is quoted as saying that Clinton "might have had some responsibility to blow the whistle," adding, "The recipient may have an induced kind of responsibility, if they see something that appears to be a serious breach of security."

McClatchy: After 2013 Hack, State Did Nothing To Tighten Clinton Emails' Security. [McClatchy](#) (8/21, Kumar, Taylor, Gordon, 28K) reports, "Despite a hack two years ago that publicly exposed...Clinton's emails, the State Department took no action to shore up the security of the former secretary of state's private computer server. A State Department official said the agency wasn't able to 'do anything in response to the March 2013 hack of longtime Clinton confidant Sidney Blumenthal because it occurred on a non-governmental computer system.'" McClatchy adds that the revelation "renews questions of when State Department officials first learned that Clinton was doing department business on a private server and what steps they took to safeguard her sensitive diplomatic communications, some of which have been deemed classified."

Clinton Calls For Expansion Of AmeriCorps Civil Service Program. The [AP](#) (8/21, Barrow) reports that Hillary Clinton is proposing "to expand the AmeriCorps service program launched under her husband's administration," calling "for spending about \$20 billion over 10 years on the expansion, increasing the number of civil service volunteers from 75,000 to 250,000 and more than doubling the educational grant that enrollees can receive." The proposal "is part of Clinton's \$350 billion 'new college compact'" aimed at addressing the rising "costs of attending college." [Reuters](#) (8/21, Becker) also reports on Clinton's plan.

GOP CONTENDERS PLOT STRATEGIES ON "HOW TO DEAL WITH" TRUMP. The [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Costa, Rucker, 6.76M) reports as they seek to figure out "how to deal with Donald Trump," his GOP presidential rivals this week "debut[ed] strategies for engaging the white-hot front-runner." The Post says that Trump's rivals "are falling into three categories: Those who are emulating and befriend[ing] him in an effort to win over his supporters," such as Sen. Ted Cruz and Gov. Scott Walker; "those who are assailing his background or calling him out for his views and rhetoric," such as Jeb Bush and Sen. Rand Paul; "and those who prefer to stay silent, as if hunkering down in the basement to ride out the tornado," such as Govs. Chris Christie and John Kasich and Sen. Marco Rubio.

The [New York Times](#) (8/21, Parker, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports, "After weeks of" answering Trump's attacks "with elliptical, indirect and sparing responses, Jeb Bush aggressively" went after the GOP presidential frontrunner on Thursday in New Hampshire, casting the billionaire "as a Democratic-leaning poseur," one "with a record that should disqualify him as a genuine conservative." Speaking with reporters, Bush said, "There's a big difference between Donald Trump and me. I'm a proven conservative with a record. He isn't."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/20, story 6, 1:55, Rose, 5.08M), Major Garrett reported, "Desperate to regain lot of momentum during the summer of Trump, Jeb Bush used separate New Hampshire campaign events to" go after the billionaire. Bush was shown saying, "You don't win when you're the large, you know, dog in the room where it's all about you. You win when you connect with people about their aspirations, not about how, you know, great you are, how rich you are, how this you are, how that you are. That's -- that's not leadership."

Under the headline "Trump And Allies Plot Path To Victory," [USA Today](#) (8/21, Jackson, Jacobs, 5.23M) reports that as Trump and his backers assess the race for the GOP presidential nomination, "the path to victory is fairly clear. First, consolidate the leads he enjoys in Republican polls; then turn out enough supporters to win early state contests; then ride a wave of new and energized anti-establishment voters to the" GOP "nomination and beyond."

Trump: "Low Minimum Wage Is Not A Bad Thing For" US. [Reuters](#) (8/21, Heavey) reports that during a Thursday appearance on MSNBC, Trump said that he wouldn't support raising the minimum wage, arguing that do so would damage the US' ability to compete economically with other nations. Trump said, "Having a low minimum wage is not a bad thing for this country," adding, "We can't have a situation where our labor is so much more expensive than other countries' that we can no longer win."

Trump Organization Seeking to "Make Peace" With Hispanic Media. [Politico](#) (8/20, Gold, 942K) reports that "Trump's organization is quietly reaching out to a Hispanic media group with a very un-Trump-like request: Let's meet and make peace." Speaking with Politico, National Hispanic Media Coalition CEO Alex Nogales said "he received a call last week from Lawrence Glick, executive vice president of strategic development at the Trump Organization, proposing the meeting." Nogales is quoted as saying that the crux of Glick's message the message "was let's get together to talk so we can solve our differences." Politico noted that Trump previously "has publicly railed against the Hispanic media."

Fact Check: Some Claims In Trump Immigration Plan "Stray From The Facts." A [Fact Check](#) (8/21, Robertson, Kiely, 6K) piece says that "Trump's immigration plan includes several statements that stray from the facts." For example, Fact Check noted that Trump has "said 'birthright citizenship' is the 'biggest magnet for illegal immigration.'" Actually, research indicates the biggest draw is economic opportunity." In another example, Fact Check noted that Trump has "claimed taxpayers have paid 'hundreds of billions' in health care, education, welfare and more for illegal immigration from Mexico. But the Congressional Budget Office found the net financial impact of illegal immigration on state and local budgets was 'most likely modest.'"

NYTimes Analysis: Trump Remarks On Immigration Draw Little Fire In Brazil. The [New York Times](#) (8/21, Romero, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) reports that in the Latin America countries of Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru, there has been an outcry over Trump's "caustic remarks about Latino immigrants in the" US. However, in Brazil, "Trump's new 171-room" hotel being built in Rio de Janeiro "has generated...little uproar." The Times says that those in academia "attribute some of the indifference...about Mr. Trump's immigration remarks to an entrenched tradition in Portuguese-speaking Brazil of seeing the country as separate from its Spanish-speaking neighbors in Latin America."

Bergdahl Attorney Says Trump Remarks Threaten Fair Trial. The [AP](#) (8/21, Riechmann) reports that the attorney "representing Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who left his infantry post and was held by the Taliban for five years," on Thursday asserted that remarks "Trump is making about his client are threatening the soldier's right to a fair trial." While campaigning in New Hampshire this week, Trump, among other things, "called Bergdahl a 'dirty, rotten traitor,'" "claimed six U.S. troops died while searching for Bergdahl," and said "that the five Taliban leaders who were released" from the US prison at Guantanamo Bay in exchange for Bergdahl "were now 'back on the battlefield.'" In a statement, Bergdahl's lawyer, Eugene Fidell, said, "Mr. Trump's comments, along with many others that have been made over the last year, directly threaten my client's right to a fair trial."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Children Die Because People Are Wrongly Afraid Of Vaccines." An editorial in the [New York Times](#) (8/21, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) laments "the delay or refusal by misinformed people to accept vaccination for themselves and their children," arguing that it adds to "the grim toll of 1.5 million children who die annually for lack of immunization, according to the World Health Organization." The Times adds that healthcare workers and governments "have no choice but to pursue" campaigns of "enforcement and education" because "the lives of millions of children remain at risk."

"Putin Vs. Parmesan." The [New York Times](#) (8/21, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says in an editorial that "Vladimir Putin's zany crackdown on European flowers and food imports" seems to be aimed at sending the message "that Russia is standing up to the perfidious West, whether by bravely destroying its food or blocking its bugs." But while Putin "still appears to be enormously popular with the masses," there is "an educated layer of the population that doesn't buy into the Western conspiracies or Ukrainian adventures and sees Mr. Putin's war on food for the propaganda gimmick it is."

“**‘Little Pink Pill’ For Woman Comes With Risks.**” The [New York Times](#) (8/21, Board, Subscription Publication, 11.82M) says in an editorial that “we will probably never know” whether in approving “a marginally effective drug to enhance the sexual drive of women with low libido,” the FDA “made a purely scientific judgment or whether it was unduly influenced by a campaign, partly financed by the manufacturer and organized with the help of one of its consultants, to depict the agency as gender-biased.” The Times says fibanserin, marketed as Addyi, has “serious side effects.”

“**Consumers Are Cutting The Cord To Gain Choices And Pay Less.**”

WASHINGTON POST. “*The Heroin Emergency.*” The

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Aug 21 2015 05:01:20 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: Re: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, August 21, 2015

I am out of the office until Monday, August 24.

Prior to Tuesday, August 18, if you need immediate assistance please contact chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov.

After Tuesday, August 18, please contact stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, August 17, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Mon Aug 17 2015 05:00:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, August 17, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL PROMOTES LWCF IN WISCONSIN. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (8/17, Smith, 564K) reports that Interior Secretary Jewell "toured western Wisconsin" with Rep. Ron Kind "on Friday to see firsthand some of the habitat and facilities supported by" the LWCF. Jewell said, "Wildlife and outdoor recreation are highly valued by Americans. When it comes to investing in these values, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is exemplary." She also "announced \$42 million of projects to be funded by LWCF this year, including \$800,000 in Wisconsin."

The [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (8/17, 87K) reports that "Jewell said the outdoor recreation industry, which generates an estimated \$12 billion and employs more than 100,000 workers in Wisconsin, needs to do a better job of telling Congress about the importance of access to public lands." She said, "This is good for jobs. It's good for the economy. It's sustainable."

Additional coverage was provided by [Crain's Cleveland \(OH\) Business](#) (8/13, 63K), the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (8/16, 515K), [Wisconsin Politics](#) (8/17, 370), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/17, 2.28M), [WXOW-TV LaCrosse \(WI\)](#) LaCrosse, WI (8/14, 2K), [WFAU-TV Eau Claire \(WI\)](#) Eau Claire, WI (8/17, 64K), [WKBT-TV La Crosse \(WI\)](#) La Crosse, WI (8/17, 26K), [WKYC-TV Cleveland \(OH\)](#) Cleveland (8/15, 135K), [KCSG-TV St. George \(UT\)](#) St. George, UT (8/17, 43), [KVRR-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (8/17, 198), [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (8/17, 1K), and [WIZM-AM](#) La Crosse, WI (8/16).

Also providing coverage of the LWCF was provided by the [Biloxi \(MS\) Sun Herald](#) (8/14, 129K), the [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (8/14, 118K), and the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (8/17, 101K).

Calls To Renew LWCF Ramp Up. The [National Parks Traveler](#) (8/16, 989) reports that "with time running out on the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund that sends billions of dollars out into the states to support recreation, efforts are ramping up to garner public pressure to ensure Congress renews the program." The article notes that "a 'new and urgent Care2 petition,' signed by more than 25,000 people (through Thursday afternoon), calls on the Interior Department to take immediate action to protect the National Park System and save the critically important Land and Water Conservation Fund that helps fund them." According to the article, "the petition signers fear that if Congress fails to reauthorize the fund, major oil corporations will be able to secure leases to drill without revenues contributing to national parks."

WILDFIRES BURNING THROUGH FIREFIGHTING BUDGET. The [AP](#) (8/17, 2.28M) reports that "the Obama administration says wildfires have been so bad this season that the Forest Service will exhaust its firefighting budget next week and will again have to tap into other programs for more money." Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, whose department includes the Forest Service, said Friday that "Congress needs to change the way it funds firefighting." In an interview, Vilsack said "firefighting costs are consuming an ever-greater share of the agency's budget, taking money away from programs that could help prevent wildfires."

In an editorial, the [Sheridan \(WY\) Press](#) (8/17) urges Congress to take action on wildfire funding. It notes that "the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act was introduced in January and has since been referred to a committee on federal lands." Also, "the Flame Act Amendments of 2015 were reintroduced by legislators earlier this year." However, "little if any action has been taken on this legislation."

Wildfire Burns Sage Grouse Habitat In Idaho. The [Greenwire](#) (8/14, Subscription Publication) reports that "a wildfire in southwest Idaho has grown rapidly this week, burning more than 256,000 acres of sage grouse habitat and causing a 'tragic impact' on local ranching communities, according to federal responders." Since Monday, the Soda Fire has "burned roughly 265,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management rangelands southwest of Boise, covering an area at least 40 miles long and 10 miles wide, according to the most recent report from InciWeb, an interagency service." The article notes that "it is by far the largest wildfire currently burning in the United States, according to the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise." According to Ron Dunton, BLM's assistant director of fire and aviation, "flames have been driven by gusty winds and hot, dry weather, and are being fueled by invasive cheat grass."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by [CBS News](#) (8/17), [T ME](#) (8/17, 19.55M), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (8/17, 74K), the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (8/17, 297K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (8/17, Press, 6.76M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/17, 2.28M), [Fox News](#) (8/16, 8.91M), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (8/17, 548K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/17, Press, 787K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/17, 2.28M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (8/17, 962K), [National Parks Traveler](#) (8/17, 989), [US News & World Report](#) (8/16, 811K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/17, 492K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/17, 492K), the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (8/16, 10K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/17, 2.28M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/17, 787K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (8/17, O'Sullivan, Day, 962K), the [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (8/17, 86K), the [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (8/17, 23K), the [Yuma \(AZ\) Sun](#) (8/17, 70K), the [New Republic](#) (8/17, 242K), the [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (8/17), [KRNV-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (8/17, 2K), [KMGH-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (8/17, 121K), [KATU-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (8/17, 134K), [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (8/16, 79K), [K NG-TV Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (8/16, 316K), [WBUR-FM Boston \(MA\)](#) Boston (8/17, 113K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (8/17, 1.07M).

INTERIOR TO PROPOSE INTERGOVERNMENTAL RULE FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT. The [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (8/17, 41) reports that the Interior Department has "taken a major step toward federal recognition of Native Hawaiians." The department has "moved forward regarding procedures to re-establish a government-to-government relationship with a native governing entity by submitting a draft rule for regulatory review." Jessica Kershaw, press secretary for the Interior Department, confirmed Friday that a draft rule will be proposed. She said, "I will confirm for you that in response to an extensive public comment period with public meetings, as you are aware, in Hawaii and also Indian country in the continental United States and requests from congressional states and Native Hawaiian community leaders, the Department of Interior will propose a rule that establishes an administrative procedure that the secretary would use if the Native Hawaiian community forms a unified government that seeks a formal government-to-government

relationship with the United States."

Additional coverage was provided by [West Hawaii Today](#) (8/17, 24K).

FATE OF UTAH'S PUBLIC LANDS TO CLARIFY IN SEPTEMBER. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/17, 549K) reports on the effort "to create a compromise reasonably in managing public lands in several eastern Utah counties, including spaces for designated wilderness, conservation, recreation, resource extraction and a national monument." Rep. Rob Bishop said "he believes he can deliver a 'better product' for Utah through his public lands initiative than President Barack Obama can create through a national monument designation." In an interview, Bishop said, "We have made it very clear because we have shown maps to the White House as well: 'This is what we intend to do. We can create more certainty as well as conservation than you can ever do with your monument process. They also know if they go ahead with this monument, everything here is screwed up.'" However, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell a week earlier said that "details of the initiative have yet to be seen, despite several requests, and that she doesn't control the president's pen when it comes to another monument designation in Utah." She said, "I have met with Congressman Bishop on this a couple of times. We've asked for detail because we have no detail. Once we see the bill, we'll be able to provide input on how we can help get it across the finish line or what concerns we might have. But we actually haven't seen anything tangible." The article notes that "with Obama's second term nearing completion, the fate of Utah's public lands appears to be coming to a head in September, when Bishop is expected to present formal lands initiative legislation and Jewell's team has a chance to weigh in on its implications."

INTERIOR GAINS FOLLOWERS WITH SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY. [The Hill](#) (8/17, Cama, 471K) reports that the Interior Department "seems to have found the key to social media success in the federal government: cute animals and beautiful landscapes." The department has "amassed more than 1 million followers and growing on platforms like Twitter and Instagram, mostly by sending out photos of breathtaking landscapes, wildlife, sunsets and the occasional bear belly-flopping into a stream." According to the article, "in the federal government, where social media is usually limited to press releases and meeting notices, Interior stands out, with a following approaching that of the White House and NASA." The article notes that Interior's social media "content often goes viral, either on news websites and blogs publishing listicles of breathtaking landscapes or with individual posts like one in May of bear cubs wrestling at Yellowstone National Park."

CYBERSECURITY REMAINS ON GAO'S "HIGH-RISK LIST." The [Washington Post](#) (8/17, Davidson, 6.76M) reported in its "Federal Eye" blog that cybersecurity "remains on the Government Accountability Office's 2015 high-risk list." The Post quoted a statement from GAO which said that cybersecurity "remains an ongoing problem and additional efforts are needed to address this issue government-wide," and added that the effort should include "recruiting young, bright, eager folks." GAO has offered "three recommendations to help government focus on closing the skills gap," telling OPM in January that it should "strengthen how it identifies and addresses the skills gap in cybersecurity and other critical areas, 'establish a schedule and process for collecting government-wide staffing' data and develop a core set of metrics for use by all agencies in government-wide workforce analyses."

PRESIDENT OBAMA URGED TO CONTINUE USING ANTIQUITIES ACT. For the "Taking Note" blog of the [New York Times](#) (8/14, 12.12M), Robert B. Semple Jr. lauds President Obama for "making more use of the Antiquities Act in his final years in office (if only as a threat), much as Bill Clinton did near the end of his presidency." He says that "there are at least two more monuments we would recommend to Mr. Obama before he retires." One, "known as the California Desert, would add more than a million acres to already-protected lands in southeastern California," and would be relatively uncontroversial. However, "the other one, which would cover 1.9 million acres of in the so-called Bears Ears region of southeastern Utah, could be hugely controversial and will take a good deal of preparation and Presidential courage to pull off."

Empowering Native American Communities:

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ASSAULT ON BIA OFFICER. The [AP](#) (8/17, 2.28M) reports that "a North Dakota man has pleaded guilty to an assault that injured a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer." According to the article, "Brandon Belgarde, of Rugby, pleaded guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon, and assaulting and resisting a federal officer." Authorities say "Belgarde rammed his vehicle into a BIA vehicle during a November 2014 traffic stop."

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA ANNOUNCES GRANTS UNDER OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS' TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (8/17, 641) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina announced Friday "\$500,000 in grant assistance under the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program for two non-governmental organizations, one in Hawaii and one in Guam, both collaborating with federal, state, and territorial officials on the ground to establish wrap-around one-stop social services for migrants from the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau." Kia'aina said, "Given the financial and social welfare of migrants from the freely associated states, it is important that the federal government do what it can within its current resources to help empower our Micronesian communities as well as help affected jurisdictions like Hawaii and Guam."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

ANIMUS RIVER REOPENS AS OFFICIALS SAY TOXIC PLUME NO LONGER A RISK. The [AP](#) (8/15, Whitehurst) reports the Animus river on Friday "reopened" for recreational use after officials stated that the yellow "toxic plume" that resulted from a spill of three million gallons of water from the Gold King Mine "now presents little danger to users beyond Lake Powell." Southern Nevada Waste Authority spokesman Corey Enus stated that "His agency estimates the wastewater will make it out of Lake Powell in about two weeks," and further testing will be done to monitor possible contaminants. Meanwhile, the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/14, story 6, 0:25, Pelley, 5 08M) reported that "Colorado health officials reopened the Animus River, but warned people not to drink untreated water and to scrub their hands and clothes if they come in contact with sediment."

WSJournal Analysis: Spill Highlights Issues With Cleaning Old Mines. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/15, Frosch, Harder, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) reports that the spill in the Animus river shows highlights the Environmental Protection Agency's difficult task of cleaning up abandoned mines that may contaminate as much as 40 percent of the headwaters of western US watersheds. The Journal notes that more than 160,000 abandoned mines exist throughout the west, with at least 33,000 linked to pollution of local water sources.

Media Analysis: EPA "Under Fire" For Toxic Spill. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is "under fire" for the toxic waste spill that contaminated the Animus River in Colorado last week, reported [The Hill](#) (8/15, Cama, 471K). Dan Kish, of the conservative Institute for Energy Research, said the spill "raised serious questions about competency" and "puts a big dent" on the agency's reputation as "a pollution fighting brand." Meanwhile, Republicans have also decried the EPA as "hypocritical." The Hill noted the spill comes "at a particularly sensitive time for the EPA and President Obama's environmental record," occurring just two days following the President's unveiling of new emissions regulations for power plants.

The [AP](#) (8/16, Biesecker) reports that the "political fallout" for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "could linger." According to the AP, critics are using the EPA's "much maligned handling of the mine spill to undercut the Obama administrations rollout of major regulation aimed at cutting greenhouse gas emissions at the nation's power plants."

SENATE TO HOLD HEARING FOR DELTA TUNNELS PROPOSAL. The [Woodland \(CA\) Daily Democrat](#) (8/14, 22K) reports that "a Tuesday hearing is planned to examine thus far unanswered questions about the Delta tunnels proposal 'in an attempt to determine whether the proposal is good for California.'" The Senate Select Committee on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, chaired by Sen. Lois Wolk, will host the discussion. The article notes that "the session is meant to consider whether the tunnels are a 'good investment,' and if they 'meet the co-equal goals of providing a 'more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem' in a manner that 'protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.'"

Additional coverage of the project was provided by the [Red Green & Blue](#) (8/15, 7).

TEN PILOT PROJECTS UNDER PILOT SYSTEM CONSERVATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED. The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (8/16, 506) reports that "water allocation in the Colorado River Basin may be entering a new era, officials said last week as they announced finalization of 10 pilot projects that will allow farmers, municipalities and other water users to voluntarily and temporarily forego use of their water in exchange for compensation." According to the article, "the 10 projects, five in Colorado and five in Wyoming, will be funded for one or more years, at a total cost of roughly \$1 million." The program is "part of a larger \$11 million Pilot System Conservation Program involving all seven Colorado River states." The article notes that "Denver Water, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Central Arizona Water Conservation District, together with the United States Bureau of Reclamation, are funding the Pilot System Conservation Program."

MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT RECEIVES GRANT FOR DROUGHT RESILIENCY PROJECTS. The [Merced \(CA\) Sun-Star](#) (8/17, 35K) reports that "the Merced Irrigation District received nearly \$300,000 of grant funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for drought resiliency projects." The funds will "help MID develop a real-time simulation water management model that will help the district analyze, predict and respond to drought conditions." The article notes that "the district also will install two weather stations and two river gauge stations to collect water supply data on precipitation, flows, temperature and system losses."

BOR MOVING FORWARD WITH PLANS FOR YAKIMA. [KING-TV](#) Seattle (8/14, 316K) reports that "the drought of 2015 has for the second time in 10 years pointed out the limitations of the state's Yakima Basin irrigation projects." However "this time the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is moving forward on plans to both provide more water to farmers in

the rich Yakima Valley and even improve fish habitat in the upper Yakima River, one of the nation's blue ribbon fly fishing streams." The article notes that "it's a project with multiple phases that could be built out over 30 years at a cost of \$900 million."

PALO VERDE VALLEY FARMERS ARE KEY ACTORS IN FIGHT AGAINST DROUGHT. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/15, Perry, 4.07M) reports that "in the desert of California, where the Colorado River for decades has turned barren ground into an agricultural bounty, farmers are being paid not to grow crops on a portion of their land so that water can be shipped to thirsty cities on the coast." The article notes that "in the Imperial Valley, so-called fallowing agreements have caused political upheaval, recriminations and litigation." According to the article, "the federal government had to threaten to take the water without compensation to get the Imperial Irrigation District to agree in 2003 to sell water to San Diego." However, "just to the north, in the smaller Palo Verde Valley, a 35-year agreement signed in 2005 with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has enjoyed public acceptance by farmers and local officials."

FARMERS CLOSELY WATCHING NEXT STEPS FOR SAN JOAQUIN RIVER. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/17, 265K) reports that "more than six decades after their deaths, the San Joaquin River and chinook salmon slowly are coming back to life in an unprecedented, hard-fought revival." The article notes that "until now, some water released from Friant Dam for this project has been collected at Mendota Pool in west Fresno County, a point dozens of miles from the end of the restoration project." However, "when the river finally refills beyond the Mendota Pool in the future, federal officials may have to contend with statewide water fights in the controversial Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta."

BOR SCIENCE INTEGRITY OFFICER PROFILED. The [New York Times](#) (8/15, Murphy, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) profiles David Raff, the science integrity officer for the BOR, "which is currently struggling to manage competing demands for a dwindling resource."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FISHERMEN'S ENERGY UNVEILS NEW OFFSHORE WIND TURBINE ACCESS LADDER. The [Recharge News](#) (8/17, 633) reports that "Fishermen's Energy has demonstrated a new type of access ladder that has been created to increase safety and provide service personnel greater access to offshore wind turbines."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM RELEASES DRAFT PLAN FOR PERMITTING OIL AND GAS WELLS AROUND MOAB. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/17, 492K) reports that "federal land managers Friday released a much-anticipated analysis of mineral lease options for lands around Moab." The article notes that "the preferred alternative from the Bureau of Land Management of Utah would close areas adjacent to Arches and Canyonlands national parks to leasing and block disturbance on larger regions popular with mountain bikers, hikers and tourists driving to scenic destinations." According to the article, "the plan — which covers 1 million acres of public land in east-central Utah — is considered a bellwether for a new planning and permitting process, which grew out of controversial leases the BLM sold for the area in 2008 and later retracted after activist Tim DeChristopher monkey-wrenched a sale."

BLM TO AUCTION MORE DRILLING RIGHTS ON PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND. The [Denver Business Journal](#) (8/17, Subscription Publication, 41K) reports that the BLM said Friday "it will offer at its November lease auction 19 parcels totaling 10,050 acres in three counties: Weld, Huerfano and Las Animas. The Weld County parcel is near Fort Morgan." The article notes that "also on the BLM's auction block in November are 102 parcels owned by the U.S. Forest Service covering 79,487 acres of underground mineral rights within the Pawnee National Grassland in Weld County — a rolling area of Colorado's eastern plains that is known internationally among bird watchers for the variety of wildlife that live in the area."

KENTUCKY COAL MINING TOWN URGES REPUBLICANS TO SUPPORT POWER+ PLAN. The [Vox](#) (8/16, 1.1M) reports that "while Appalachia's representatives in Washington use coal miners and their communities as a political bludgeon, it's President Obama who's actually trying to help them," with the POWER+ Plan. Last week, "the little town of Whitesburg, Kentucky, passed a resolution in support of the POWER+ Plan," and urging its representatives in Congress to support the plan.

WYOMING TREASURER SUPPORTS COAL LEASING PROGRAM. In an op-ed for the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (8/17, 115K), Mark Gordon, treasurer of Wyoming, writes that the federal coal leasing program, "through which companies pay to lease and mine coal on federal land, has been a remarkable success by any reasonable measure." According to Gordon, "the BLM Federal coal lease program creates great value for taxpayers and those who rely on affordable electricity." He concludes, "While there may be room for process improvement, continuing the program is certainly in the best interest of Wyoming and the United States."

Additional coverage of the listening session being held on the federal coal program was provided by the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (8/15, Hopey, 493K), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (8/17, 74K) and the [Douglas \(WY\) Budget](#) (8/17, 80).

FEDERAL AGENCIES URGED TO CLOSE URANIUM-MINING LOOPHOLES AT GRAND CANYON. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/16, 1.12M), Steve Martin, who served as superintendent of Grand Canyon National Park from 2007 to 2011, criticizes regulatory agencies that "continue to allow private companies to mine uranium on public lands surrounding the Grand Canyon, exposing one of America's most treasured national parks to the risk of permanent radioactive contamination." According to Martin, "for this privilege, companies pay zero federal royalties, and past experience indicates they're likely to leave the American taxpayer on the hook for costly mine cleanups." He urges U.S. Forest Service and BLM "decision-makers" to "step forward as guardians of public lands, reform the flawed regulations and protect the Colorado River and Grand Canyon from permanent radiological contamination."

Offshore Energy Development:

NOIA SUPPORTS UPCOMING OFFSHORE LEASE SALE. The [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press](#) (8/17, 280) reports that NOIA President Randall Luthi issued a statement "supporting DOI's Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale scheduled for next week." He said, "Delaying the sale due to concerns that the LWCF has not been re-authorized is the epitome of the tail wagging the dog. The problem is with how the LWCF funds have been used, not with the funding source. These groups should be working with Congress to see that the LWCF truly reflects the needs and desires of the public and the conservation community. Their current effort would leave the LWCF with no funding."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Offshore Engineer](#) (8/17), [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (8/17, 1K), and [World Oil](#) (8/17).

BOEM TO PREPARE SEIS FOR 2017 CENTRAL GULF OF MEXICO LEASE SALE. The [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (8/17, 1K) reports that the BOEM "plans to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement for the final Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area oil and gas lease sale under the current 5-year US Outer Continental Shelf program." The bureau "proposed offering 46 million acres in the area, with the exception of whole and portions of blocks that are off-limits under the 2006 Gulf of Mexico Security Act, and blocks which are beyond the US Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap." According to the article, "public scoping meetings for OCS Sale No. 247's SEIS will be held on Sept. 1 in Mobile, Ala.; Sept. 2 in Gulfport, Miss.; and Sept. 3 in New Orleans, the US Department of the Interior agency said on Aug. 14."

Additional coverage was provided by [Marine Link](#) (8/17, 1K).

FEDERAL AGENCIES REASSESSING WILDLIFE IMPACTS FROM AN ARCTIC SPILL. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/15, 219K) reports that "with increased ship traffic and oil exploration in Alaska's Arctic waters, federal agencies are reassessing their guidelines for responders to assure as many animals as possible survive a spill." According to the article, "in the event of a large oil spill in Alaska's Arctic, officials say they would have limited ability to clean oiled marine mammals, and in some cases might not be able to clean them at all." The article notes that "assuming rescuers could reach them, polar bears would have to be cleaned just a few at a time. And the prospects for walrus are even grimmer."

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH TO CONSIDER OPPOSING OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (8/17, 36K) reports that "a week after Myrtle Beach City Council passed a resolution opposing offshore drilling off the coast of South Carolina, North Myrtle Beach council members are poised to become the third Grand Strand community to take a stand against oil exploration." North Myrtle Beach City Council "on Tuesday will consider a resolution that points to the need to protect the area's greatest asset — the beach — as a reason to oppose oil exploration."

BLACK ELK ENERGY FACING FEDERAL CHARGES FOR DEADLY PLATFORM BLAST. The [AP](#) (8/17) reports that "oil platform operator Black Elk Energy is facing federal criminal charges in connection with a November 2012 explosion off Louisiana's coast that left three workers dead and others badly injured." U.S. Attorney Kenneth Allen Polite Jr. of the Eastern District in Louisiana "filed a six-count criminal complaint against Houston-based Black Elk Energy Offshore Operations last week." Polite claim "Black Elk and its contractors failed to comply with federal safety regulations on the platform, located about 20 miles south of Grand Isle." The BSEE "issued a report in November 2013 that said storage tanks weren't properly purged of flammable liquid before the crew began welding nearby."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE \$120 MILLION IN PROPOSED OIL SPILL RESTORATION PROJECTS ANNOUNCED. Additional coverage of the \$120 million in funding for

restoration projects for 10 watersheds across the Gulf of Mexico was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/17, 2.28M), the [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (8/16, 125K), [Marine Link](#) (8/17, 1K), [Marine Technology](#) (8/17), and [KSTP-TV Minneapolis-St. Paul \(MN\)](#) Minneapolis-St Paul, MN (8/17, 139K).

VIRGINIA PILOT VIRGINIA BEACH LEADERS NEED TO OPPOSE DRILLING. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (8/17, 363K) editorializes that Virginia Beach's leaders should reverse a 2010 decision to allow drilling off the shore of Virginia. According to Virginia Pilot, the decision was a "mistake" based on exaggerated projections of job growth and with no agreement that ensured major royalties for the state. Virginia-Pilot adds that the US Navy has written in opposition to drilling, citing it as incompatible with its training missions. Virginia-Pilot also references the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, explaining that the potential of an oil spill leaves Virginia's large tourism industry vulnerable.

America's Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM HOLDING HORSE, BURRO ADOPTION EVENTS. The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, Greenberg, 6.76M) reports on the adoption events being held by the BLM this year. According to the article, "it's just one of the ways the federal government is working to contain the burgeoning population of mustangs and burros in the western United States." Davida Carnahan, who works with BLM's Eastern States office, noted that "contraception and adoption, among other methods, are used to curb population growth."

BUSINESS LEADERS CRITICIZE GARFIELD COUNTY PROCLAMATION BLAMING FEDERAL AGENCIES. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/17, 492K) reports that on June 22, the Garfield County Commission declared a state of emergency claiming that the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service are "to blame for the county's economic malaise because policies have 'eliminated' multiple use." But "several Escalante business leaders" are "frustrated with the commission's declaration." According to the article, "they believe the three-page resolution, which calls on federal land agencies to align their management with the county's priorities, exhibits a lack of vision for the future and could wind up harming Escalante's economic prospects by discouraging investment."

BILL INTRODUCED TO EXPAND BLACK HILLS NATIONAL CEMETERY. The [AP](#) (8/17, 2.28M) reports that "South Dakota's U.S. senators are pushing to add nearly 200 acres of land to expand the Black Hills National Cemetery to make room for future veterans." Sens. Mike Rounds and John Thune "introduced a bill earlier this month that would permanently transfer the federal land to the 100-acre cemetery in Sturgis." The article notes that "the land that would be added borders the existing cemetery grounds to the north and is held by the Bureau of Land Management."

WILKS BROTHERS CONSIDER OPENING 16,000 ACRES TO HUNTING. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/17, 179K) reports that "although nothing has been agreed to yet, the state's largest private landowners are telling Montanans they are considering opening up 16,000 acres of their land in Fergus and Golden Valley counties to public hunting." Darryl James, a spokesman for brothers Dan and Farris Wilks, said "the proposal is meant to 'assuage the fears of Montana sportsmen' as well as to 'help manage a clearly over objective elk population.'" The article notes that "the Wilkses are seeking 4,900 acres of scattered BLM inholdings in exchange for 5,200 acres of their private land along Red Hill Road and in the Missouri River Breaks."

MIGRANTS LOST IN DESERT NEAR GILA BEND FOUND. The [Arizona Republic](#) (8/15, 1.12M) reports that "a group of 5 migrants reported lost in the desert south of Interstate 8 and east of Gila Bend have been found, authorities said Saturday." The article notes that "units with the federal Bureau of Land Management and Border Patrol assisted MCSO in their search efforts."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

HUNTER WHO SHOT CECIL THE LION ILLEGALLY SLAYED BEAR IN 2006. The [New York Post](#) (8/15, 2.73M) reports that "despised dentist Walter Palmer illegally killed a black bear years before he slew Cecil the lion, it was revealed Friday." According to the article, "newly surfaced photos show the 55-year-old Minnesota man — who sparked a global firestorm of criticism last month by killing one of Zimbabwe's most beloved big cats — posing with the carcass of a black bear he unlawfully shot during a 2006 hunt in Wisconsin." Palmer, "who lied to authorities about killing the bear in September 2006, pleaded guilty to making false statements about the hunt two years later, according to officials."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/14, 3.3M), the [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (8/17, 986K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (8/17, 5.59M), [ABC News](#) (8/17, 3.97M), and [WIMS-AM South Shore \(IN\)](#) South Shore, N (8/14).

STEP TAKEN TOWARD PROPOSED GRAND KANKAKEE MARSH FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Kankakee \(IL\) Daily Journal](#) (8/17, 87K) reports that "a first small step" toward "establishing the proposed Grand Kankakee Marsh Fish and Wildlife Refuge is being taken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said John Rogner, wildlife refuge landscape conservation coordinator for the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes." The agency is "accepting the donation of 'a little over 70 acres' of high-quality natural habitat in the northeast corner of Iroquois County from Friends of the Kankakee, an organization formed in 2005 and dedicated to acquiring lands to be donated to this cause."

FROZEN SPERM MAY HELP BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS RECOVER. The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, Feltman, 6.76M) reports that "for a critically endangered species, frozen sperm is truly the gift that keeps on giving." The article notes that "the black-footed ferret, a critically endangered species native to North America, is the latest animal to benefit." In a study published Thursday in the journal *Animal Conservation*, researchers working as part of an FWS recovery program "report successfully using sperm frozen as much as 20 years before to increase the genetic diversity of the small population."

CRITICAL HABITATS DESIGNATED FOR RARE PLANTS IN FLORIDA. The [Miami Herald](#) (8/17, 651K) reports that "two rare plants that grow in pine rockland slated for a controversial Walmart shopping center and proposed amusement park will be getting an additional level of protection, federal wildlife managers said Friday." According to the article, "more than 2,700 acres will be designated as 'critical habitat' for the Florida brickell-bush and Carter's small-flowered flax, two small ground flowers that grow in the crevices of the rocky forest floor and are found only in South Miami-Dade County." However, "because of the complexity of the federal law, the designation, which will be formally announced on Monday, will affect the two projects differently."

PUBLIC MEETING ON NAVASSA SUPERFUND SITE TO BE HELD TUESDAY. [WWAY-TV](#) Wilmington, NC (8/13, 2K) reports that "the public will have an opportunity Tuesday to give federal and state agencies feedback on a plan to restore the natural resources in a Brunswick County town where a wood treatment operation contaminated the nearby environment for several decades." The FWS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources are "trustees acting on behalf of the public to develop and carry out a plan to restore the natural resources affected by the contamination as part of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration process." They are "hosting the meeting so people can provide their ideas for restoring natural resources, which were impacted by four decades of contamination caused by chemicals that were used to treat wood at the old Kerr-McGee Chemical Corp. site in Navassa."

SHOOTING OF GRIZZLY BEAR UNDER INVESTIGATION. The [AP](#) (8/17, 2.28M) reports that "a woman who shot a grizzly bear that ultimately died after she believed it posed a threat to her North Idaho family is worried she may be in trouble for killing a federally protected species." Wayne Kasworm, a FWS biologist, said "the bear was trapped and collared near Troy, Montana, three weeks ago," and "the bear was released between 5 to 10 miles from where it was killed." The incident is under investigation.

FWS CREWS SEARCHING FOR INVASIVE SEA LAMPREY IN WESTERN NEW YORK. [WIVB-TV](#) Buffalo, NY (8/14, 108K) reports that FWS crews are "in Western New York searching for invasive sea lampreys in area streams." According to the article, "the biological science technicians are looking in the water for the presence and concentration of lamprey larvae to help determine future chemical treatment plans to kill the aquatic invaders."

EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO SAVE ENDANGERED RATTLESNAKE. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/17, 2.28M) reports that "a northern Indiana college professor is on mission to determine how many members of an endangered rattlesnake species remain in Indiana's wilds." According to the article, "students of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne biology professor Bruce Kingsbury have been searching for evidence of eastern massasauga rattlesnakes." The FWS says "the snake is also a candidate for a federal endangered species listing."

FLORIDA OFFICIALS SEEK NEW DIRECTION IN PANTHER PROTECTION. The [AP](#) (8/17, 2.28M) reports that "Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officials on Friday said they have no intention of seeking to remove the Florida panther from the endangered species list or changing any protections." However, "the officials also said they believe it's time to rethink some of the criteria set by federal officials about what it would take for the panther to be taken off the list and what the state agency's responsibilities are." The article notes that "chief among those is loosening a requirement for Florida officials to establish panther populations outside of southwest Florida, where they are concentrated currently, according to a revision of a draft policy paper that will be voted on by commissioners in September."

ANTENNA COLLECTS DATA ON MIGRATORY BIRDS. The [Falmouth \(MA\) Enterprise](#) (8/17, 28K) reports that "a 40-foot radio antenna used to track migratory birds and bats was recently installed at South Cape Beach." The objective of "the study is to collect new information on the flight paths of birds and bats across southern New England to support conservation decisions in the planning process." The article notes that "the study—spearheaded by the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Birds, and funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management—tracks migratory birds that have been outfitted with a new technology called NanoTags, or VHF transmitters."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE FWS AWARDS GRANTS THROUGH COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND. Additional coverage of the grants awarded through the was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/17, 2.28M), [AmmoLand](#) (8/17, 6K), the [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (8/14), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (8/14, 99K), and [KREM-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (8/14, 88K).

OP-ED LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN SHOULD BE TAKEN OFF THREATENED LIST. For the [Hutchinson \(KS\) News](#) (8/17, 2K), Jeff Myrick writes that “a 50-percent increase this year in the population of the lesser prairie chicken (LPC) has prompted Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas to ask U.S. Fish and Wildlife Director Dan Ashe if that will get the bird taken off the threatened list, which the agency hung it on in 2014.” According to Myrick, “Moran appears to be right.” He concludes that “whatever threat there was to the lesser prairie chicken appears to be gone.”

National Park Service:

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK CLOSES CAMPGROUND AFTER TWO PLAGUE-INFECTED SQUIRRELS FOUND DEAD. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/15, Rocha, 4.07M) reports Yosemite National Park officials announced they are closing the “popular” Tuolumne Meadows Campground “from noon Monday to noon Friday, Aug. 21” after finding squirrels infected with the plague and about a week after a child contracted the disease at a different campsite.

According to the [AP](#) (8/15), the California Department of Health said Friday “Campers had their reservations canceled at the 304-site campground so the insecticide can be sprayed into rodent ‘burrow holes.’”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Izadi, 6.76M) also reports.

Falling Tree Limb Falls Kills Two Young Campers In Yosemite. The [AP](#) (8/14, Press, 6.76M) reports that “officials say an oak tree limb fell on a tent in the heart of Yosemite National Park killing two young campers.” Park spokesman Scott Gediman on Friday “declined to release the ages or any details about the two, describing them only as under age 18.” Gediman “also declined to describe the size of the limb, citing a pending investigation.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (8/14, Rocha, 4.07M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (8/15, Rocha, 4.07M), the [New York \(NY\) Daily News](#) (8/14, Chan, 3.75M), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (8/17, Subscription Publication, 3 35M), the [Detroit \(MI\) Free Press](#) (8/15, 910K), [NBC News](#) (8/17, 3.73M), [USA Today](#) (8/15, Bowerman, 4.95M), [US News & World Report](#) (8/14, 811K), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/14, 3.3M), the [Huffington Post](#) (8/17, 164K), and [TIME](#) (8/17, 19 55M).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (8/15, Cart, 4 07M), [US News & World Report](#) (8/15, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (8/17, Press, 6.76M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/15, 455K), and [Nature World Report](#) (8/17).

UTAH'S NATIONAL PARKS RECEIVE LOW GRADES FOR POLLUTION. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/17, 492K) reports that “Utah’s national parks aren’t failing the dirty air test — but just barely.” According to the article, “in a new assessment, a report card for polluted parks from the National Parks Conservation Association, three of the state’s ‘Mighty Five’ got D grades for two out of three clean-air categories. And another two earned just middling C’s.”

Opinion: EPA Smog Rules Criticized. In the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/16, 535K), Jillian Melchior, an energy fellow for Independent Women’s Forum, criticizes the EPA’s increasingly tough standards on smog, writing that the policies force “clean air” cities to impose measures that could cost billions and hinder growth. Melchior notes that “the last regulatory revisions, established in 2008, were so stringent that several national park sites — as well as myriad cities and towns across America — fail to meet them.” And “even more adamant smog standards to mandate ozone levels somewhere between 60 and 70 ppb” means “the number of noncompliant national park sites will roughly double, and even immaculate places like the Mojave Desert and Colorado’s Longs Peak could land on the naughty list.”

OHIO ZOO TAKING CUBS OF EUTHANIZED GRIZZLY BEAR. The [Greenwire](#) (8/14, Subscription Publication) reports that “an Ohio zoo is taking the two orphaned cubs of a grizzly bear euthanized after killing a hiker in Yellowstone National Park.” The Toledo Zoo “agreed to take in the female cubs as part of its planned brown bear exhibit.” According to the article, “before their transfer sometime this fall, the zoo’s curator of mammals said, the cubs will be held at a rehabilitation center.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [International Business Times](#) (8/17, 835K), [WAMU-FM](#) Washington (8/17, 30K), and [KTWO-AM](#) Casper, WY (8/17, 576).

YELLOWSTONE BISON CULLED TO KEEP POPULATION IN CHECK. The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Warrick, 6.76M) reports that “the culling of the bison is a routine, if little-known, facet of managing Yellowstone’s roughly 4,900 bison, the country’s biggest and wildest repository of descendants of the great herds that once roamed the Western plains.” The article notes that “since January, more than 500 of the woolly beasts — the most in years — have been chased onto trucks by government workers and hauled to slaughterhouses.” Also, “some 200 others that wandered off park grounds were rounded up in a similar fashion or stalked by hunters and shot.” And “next year’s takings are expected to be still higher, a consequence of a surging population and strict rules that park officials themselves find difficult to carry out.”

GPS COLLARS TRACK NUISANCE BEARS IN GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (8/17, 2.28M) reports that “biologists are now tracking nuisance bears in Great Smoky Mountains National Park with GPS collars.” Wildlife biologist Bill Stiver said “the collars are providing scientists with a real-time look at the problem bears’ behavior for the first time.” According to the article, “so far, they are tracking two females and three males that were trapped earlier this summer at campgrounds and picnic areas.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (8/17, 235K), the [Memphis \(TN\) Commercial Appeal](#) (8/17, 282K), and the [Kingsport \(TN\) Times-News](#) (8/17, 109K).

PANEL CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION SHOULD DELAY VENUE DECISION. The [AP](#) (8/14, Carolyn Thompson |, Ap, 6.76M) reports that “the Chautauqua Institution must choose between programming and preservation in deciding the future of its 122-year-old amphitheater, a panel of preservationists concluded, adding that a decision to demolish the venue ‘cannot be reversed, only regretted.’” The article notes that “plans to raze and rebuild the open-air theater where Susan B. Anthony, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Duke Ellington and countless others have taken the stage have been debated through the summer at the intellectual and arts retreat in anticipation of an Aug. 29 vote by the institution’s board.” A historic preservation panel formed at the recommendation of the NPS said “in an Aug. 6 report that the institution must decide whether its desire for expanded programming and capacity is worth losing the existing amphitheater over.”

SELMA INTERPRETIVE CENTER RECEIVES \$150,000 IN FUNDING. The [AP](#) (8/17, 2 28M) reports that “an interpretive center explaining the history of the civil rights movement in Selma is receiving \$150,000 for renovations.” The article notes that the “funding is the final part of a \$1.65 million renovation to the Selma Interpretive Center’s second and third floors.” The funds will also allow the NPS “to hire another employee to manage it.”

STUDY BACKS BAN ON DRONES IN NATIONAL PARKS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/14, Khan, 4.07M) reports that “drones flying near American black bears in Minnesota caused the animals’ heart rates to soar, even though few bears showed any outward symptoms of stress, according to a new study led by University of Minnesota researchers.” According to the article, “the findings, published in the journal *Current Biology*, could help researchers learn to better deploy drones to study animals without adversely affecting them, and help provide insight into how drones’ rising presence could affect sensitive or endangered populations.” The study authors concluded, “Our results support the 2014 decision by the U.S. National Park Service to ban all public use of UAVs within park boundaries after a low-flying UAV caused a herd of big horn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) in Zion National Park to scatter, separating lambs from their mothers.”

FEDERAL AGENCIES PARTNERING FOR SW ECODISTRICT. [WAMU-FM](#) Washington (8/17, 30K) reports that the National Capital Planning Commission is “overseeing the creation of the ‘SW Ecodistrict.’” The article notes that “seventeen federal and local agencies have joined up to get this thing off the ground.” According to the article, “the SW Ecodistrict is bounded by Independence Avenue to the north, 12th Street to the west, Sixth Street to the east, and includes Banneker Park, at the end of L’Enfant Promenade.”

INTERIOR SAYS CAPT. JOHN SMITH WATER TRAIL ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Virginia Gazette](#) (8/14, Bogues, 50K) reports that “preservation groups opposed to Dominion’s proposal to build transmission lines across the James River got a big victory this week when the U.S. Department of Interior ruled a section of the Capt. John Smith Historic Water Trail was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.” According to the article, “the application for the portion of the trail to be declared eligible was filed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a Washington, D.C.-based group that argues the transmission towers Dominion wants to build threaten the historic view of the river.” The article notes that “the eligibility will now become an important consideration for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as it considers whether to grant Dominion a permit to build the transmission lines cross the James.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAN ON SALES OF BOTTLED WATER AT NATIONAL PARKS. Additional coverage of the ban on sales of bottled water at national parks was provided by the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (8/16, 297K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE & AMP MUSEUM COULD BECOME PART OF NPS. Additional coverage that the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum could become part of the NPS was provided by the [Washington Business Journal](#) (8/14, Subscription Publication, 112K).

US Geological Survey:

RESEARCHERS STUDYING SEQUOIA TO MEASURE DROUGHT'S IMPACT. [NPR](#) (8/17, 1.85M) reports that "the giant sequoias in the Sierra Nevada are one of America's treasures, but for the first time in the Sequoia National Park's history, the trees are showing visible signs of exhaustion due to the drought." The "notion that the giant sequoias could die because of drought has brought together multiple agencies, including the National Park Service, Stanford, the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey and the Carnegie Airborne Observatory, for the first health-related study on the giant sequoia."

DEWBERRY TO EVALUATE NEW LIDAR TECHNOLOGIES FOR USGS. [Directions Magazine](#) (8/17, 82K) reports that "under its Geospatial Products and Services Contract (GPSC) with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Dewberry is executing a task order to evaluate two new forms of light detection and ranging (lidar) to determine if single photon lidar (SPL) and Geiger mode lidar (GML) can satisfy USGS Lidar Base Specification version 1 2 for quality level (QL2) lidar with two points per square meter (pts/m2) and vertical RMSE ≤10 cm for use in the USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP)."

Top National News:

OBAMA PRAISES BOND AS A "HERO" AND A "FRIEND." The death of former NAACP Chairman Julian Bond this weekend garners significant print and online coverage this morning, and received nearly five minutes of coverage on the network news broadcasts last evening. Most reports highlight the President's comments on the late civil rights leader, and almost universally, the coverage details Bond's work in the civil rights movement as a Georgia lawmaker and as an educator. The reports on Bond's death and expressions of mourning from political and civil rights figures appear this morning alongside a number of reports on the current state of race relations across the nation.

Jeff Glor, on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, story 6, 1 55, Glor, 5.08M), called Bond a "giant of the civil rights movement," and Jericka Duncan added that he "made history," having "worked side-by-side with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." as "one of the original leaders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee." Similarly, on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, story 7, 2:20, Hill, 7.86M), Erica Hill called Bond one of the country's "strongest voices for justice and equality," and Kristen Dahlgren said that for many, he was "a vital link to the past." Bond: "Like many of you, I was privileged to be here 50 years ago. And like many of you, I am the grandson of a slave."

In a brief report on [ABC World News](#) (8/16, story 9, 0:30, Llamas, 5.84M), Tom Llamas called Bond "a pioneer" and noted that the President called him "a hero who helped change America." The [AP](#) (8/17, Superville) reports that the President said Bond "was a hero and friend," and noted that he and the First Lady "have benefited from Bond's example, counsel and friendship." [Reuters](#) (8/17, Cowan) quotes a statement from the President, which said, "Julian Bond was a hero and, I'm privileged to say, a friend. Justice and equality was the mission that spanned his life. ... Julian Bond helped change this country for the better." [USA Today](#) (8/17, Eversley, 4 95M) notes that Bond praised the President during last month's NAACP convention in Philadelphia, "telling USA TODAY that the president's speech condemning the US criminal justice system showed Obama is 'a path-breaking president and he proved it today.'"

A more than 1,300-word report in the [New York Times](#) (8/17, Reed, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) eulogizes Bond and quotes Rep. John Lewis, who defeated him in a 1986 congressional campaign, as saying in a tweet, "We went through a difficult period during our campaign for Congress in 1986, but many years ago we emerged even closer." Lewis wrote in another message, "Julian Bond's leadership and his spirit will be deeply missed."

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (8/17, Leslie, 1.05M) reports on reactions to Bond's death, which "came from all corners of the region and nation Sunday morning." In addition to the President and Lewis, the Journal notes reactions from political and civil rights figures including Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and the Rev. Al Sharpton, among others.

The [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (8/16, Danner, 460K) describes Bond as "one of the giants of the Civil Rights Movement," and on its website, [People](#) (8/16, Carlson, 45.27M) called him "a major figure of the '60s civil rights movement and a tirelessly outspoken voice for change in the decades since," and detailed his "decades of activism and public service." Similar to other reports, the [Huffington Post](#) (8/16, Workneh, 164K) examined Bond's career and noted the expressions of mourning and condolences from political and civil rights figures.

A number of reports this morning consider the current state of race relations in the nation, examining issues ranging from racial profiling by police, to the exclusion of blacks from juries, the impact of the Charleston, South Carolina church shootings on the long-standing policy of openness at black churches, and the declining incomes of blacks with college degrees. [USA Today](#) (8/17, Bolten, 4.95M) examines the "chasm of mistrust between many black lawns and the law officers paid to protect and serve the public," noting that the mistrust "has been further fueled by the recent slayings of unarmed black men by white police officers." USA Today cites a study of racial profiling conducted by the Des Moines Register, which found that of the 23 black lawns it interviewed, "all but one — a black police officer — said they believe the state's law enforcement officers routinely single out minorities for questioning and use their authority as a method of intimidation."

A lengthy piece in the [New York Times](#) (8/17, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports on the exclusion of blacks from juries across the nation, noting that "a study to be released Monday has found that" in Louisiana's Caddo Parish, "prosecutors used peremptory challenges three times as often to strike black potential jurors as others during the last decade." The finding "is consistent with patterns researchers found earlier in Alabama, Louisiana and North Carolina, where prosecutors struck black jurors at double or triple the rates of others." The Times notes that this fall, the Supreme Court will review a Georgia death penalty case "against a black defendant" in which "prosecutors excluded every black prospective." The Times says the findings "bring fresh attention to a question that has long haunted the American justice system: Are criminal juries warped by racism and bias?"

A separate story in [USA Today](#) (8/17, Pager, 4.95M) says that in the wake of the Charleston, South Carolina church shootings, black churches across the country "must confront their own vulnerabilities without undercutting what lies at the foundation of their faith — an open-door policy meant to create a safe haven in African-American communities." While the "long-standing practice and tradition of the churches, historically at the center of the black community, is to welcome all who want to pray," after the Charleston shootings "black churches contemplated whether the time had come to ask more questions when a stranger arrives."

The [New York Times](#) (8/17, Cohen, Subscription Publication, 12.12M) reports in another story that while a college degree "has long been recognized as a great equalizer, a path for minorities to help bridge the economic chasm that separates them from whites," a report set for release Monday "raises troubling questions about the ability of a college education to narrow the racial and ethnic wealth gap." According to the report, from 1992 to 2013, "the median net worth of blacks who finished college dropped nearly 56 percent (adjusted for inflation)." During that same period, "the median net worth of whites with college degrees rose about 86 percent."

Clay Defends His Response After Ferguson. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (8/17, 968K) reports that while friends of Rep. William Lacy Clay, which include "community activists [and] high-ranking White House officials," say he is "a persistent advocate for St. Louis and Missouri's 1st Congressional District and a spark for the Justice Department's investigation of Brown's death," critics "say he has not been visible enough in the community and has too long lived off" the legacy of his father, former Rep. Bill Clay. In the wake of Michael Brown's death and the "sometimes violent aftermath, Lacy Clay has encountered fresh comparisons to his father and renewed questions about his leadership." Clay "defends his response to Ferguson," saying, "I don't regret anything. ... I reached out to the Justice Department through a letter and phone call, asking them to do a parallel investigation. And those results have come back and it certainly has changed the way Ferguson operates as a city."

Sanders Vows To Address Racial Injustice. The [AP](#) (8/17, Thomas) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders "is making racial injustice a touchstone of his presidential campaign after facing disruptions from activists promoting the Black Lives Matter movement." During a three-day campaign swing through Iowa, Sanders said he would "fight institutional racism, address police brutality and criminal justice reform." Asked on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (8/16, 3.08M) about an article quoting his campaign as apologizing to Black Lives Matter organizers, Sanders said, "Well, that was sent out by a staffer, not by me. Look, we are reaching out to all kinds of groups, absolutely. I met with people at Black Lives Matter. ... We're reaching out to everybody. On this issue of Black Lives Matter, let me be very clear, the issue they are raising is a very, very important issue. There is no candidate for president who will be stronger in fighting against institutional racism and, by the way, reforming a broken criminal justice system."

GOWDY CALLS FOR INTELLIGENCE IG TO REVIEW CLINTON EMAIL SERVER. [Reuters](#) (8/17, Dunsmuir) reports that House Oversight Chair Trey Gowdy said on Sunday that Clinton's private email server should be examined by the Intelligence IG after the FBI completes its review of it.

In an interview on

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Aug 17 2015 05:01:19 GMT-0600 (MDT)

To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: Re: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, August 17, 2015

I am out of the office until Monday, August 24.

Prior to Tuesday, August 18, if you need immediate assistance please contact chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov.

After Tuesday, August 18, please contact stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov

--

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

Conversation Contents

FW: Report highlights the need for protection of lands that are Too Wild to Drill

/222. FW: Report highlights the need for protection of lands that are Too Wild to Drill/1.1 TooWildtoDrill.pdf

Katy Siddall <katy_siddall@twS.org>

From: Katy Siddall <katy_siddall@twS.org>
Sent: Wed Aug 12 2015 12:52:54 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, "sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: FW: Report highlights the need for protection of lands that are Too Wild to Drill
Attachments: TooWildtoDrill.pdf

Hi Jeremy and Sarah,

Just passing this along per Stephenne's out-of-office message.

Thanks!

Katy

From Katy Siddall
Sent Wednesday, August 12, 2015 2:27 PM
To Stephenne Harding (Stephenne_Harding@ios.doi.gov)
Subject Report highlights the need for protection of lands that are Too Wild to Drill

Hi Stephenne,

I wanted to flag our 2015 *Too Wild To Drill* report that TWS released today. The [Too Wild to Drill](#) place-based report features a half dozen western lands that are facing threats from energy development and asks the Interior Department to protect these treasured places. The new report of *Too Wild to Drill* also highlights a few landscapes from previous reports that have since been protected.

Check out our [press release](#) and [visit the web page](#) for an interactive map, video, and other creative tools you can share and explore.

Please let me know if you need more information on the report.

Best,

Katy

Katy Siddall
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We protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Aug 12 2015 12:55:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Katy Siddall <katy_siddall@twS.org>
Subject: Re: FW: Report highlights the need for protection of lands that are Too Wild to Drill

Thank you!

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

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We protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places



THE
WILDERNESS
— S O C I E T Y —

Too Wild to Drill

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America is home to millions and millions of acres of publicly owned land – shared by all Americans. These lands provide key habitat for diverse species of wildlife, fish and birds. They are where the streams and rivers that quench our thirst and water our crops originate. They are places that provide the energy resources that fuel society. They are the places we visit to hike, camp and escape the hustle and bustle of the modern electronic world.

There are many values to the roughly 640 million acres of federally-owned lands in the United States. This report is about the wildest lands that are most at risk. These lands are in danger of being valued only for the extractive resources under them while ignoring the overwhelming values of what's above. These are the lands that are *Too Wild to Drill*.

Tipping the scales

For generations, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has encouraged and incentivized energy development on federal lands. This approach has led to an enormous imbalance in how the BLM governs the lands in its jurisdiction – more than 90% of the lands within its management plans are available to oil and gas leasing. This approach fails to balance the many uses of public land and other values that Americans desire. The BLM's approach has led to some of the wildest places in America being threatened by oil and gas drilling.

Change is coming to the agency. Thanks to reforms started under then Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and now continued by Secretary Sally Jewell and BLM Director Neil Kornze, the agency is taking meaningful steps to modernize how western lands are managed.

Protecting a legacy of wilderness

America's wildlands are world-renowned. The creation of the National Park System, about to celebrate its 100th anniversary, is a visionary

example of protecting and preserving American historic and wild places for future generations. From Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee to the giant redwoods in California, our national parks will continue to weave the stories of those who came before us with those who will explore these same lands in years to come.

In addition to our national parks and monuments, there are millions of acres of American wildlands managed by the BLM and the US Forest Service that still need to be protected for the future. Sagebrush steppes in the intermountain west provide habitat for sage-grouse, mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope and hundreds of bird species. The Arctic tundra has an equally impressive diversity of wildlife, with everything from Arctic terns to polar bears spending some part of their lifecycle on the coastal plains.

These wildlands are also part of a booming recreation economy. Millions of people flock to wildlands to hike, camp, hunt, fish, bird-watch or participate in many other activities. They stay in nearby towns, eat at local restaurants and buy gear, licenses, supplies and gifts in local stores. Outdoor recreation adds more than \$646 billion to the U.S. economy every year. This economic driver employs millions of people as well – usually in the places closest to the protected wildlands that people are visiting.

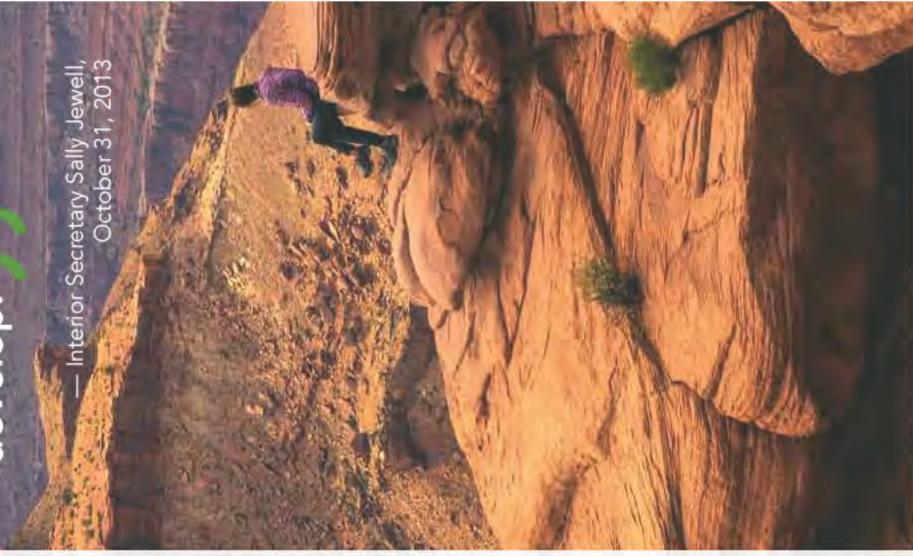
Protecting the landscapes featured in this report will build on the bedrock of conservation and preservation that has shaped American culture since the early 1900s. Modern management approaches and smarter guidelines could help land managers embrace a commitment to conservation. This commitment is needed to restore balance and update the lopsided and antiquated management of our lands.

The best way to protect and conserve these places is for citizens to demand it – and public engagement can make a huge difference. Many places listed in previous *Too Wild to Drill* reports have been protected because citizens advocated for strong conservation.

Some places in America are simply *Too Wild to Drill* and there is a role for everyone to play in protecting these treasures.

Part of the answer is recognizing that there are some places that are too special to develop.

— Interior Secretary Sally Jewell,
October 31, 2013



Successes

Since 1935, The Wilderness Society has worked to protect America's wildest landscapes for future generations. Here are some places that have been featured in previous editions of the Too Wild to Drill report that have been fully protected, thanks to the work of The Wilderness Society, our partners and people like you. The key to success is often local people speaking out about why it is important to protect local areas. Working together, we've protected millions of acres that were once threatened by oil and gas development including the Wyoming Range, the North Fork of the Flathead River drainage in Montana, and these examples:

Roan Plateau

Threatened by oil and gas drilling for years, Colorado's Roan Plateau has a better opportunity for protection thanks to an October 2014 legal settlement for the area. This is great news for the herds of elk and mule deer that call the plateau home, as well as the streams full of cutthroat trout.

In 2008 the area was opened to oil and gas leasing over the objections of The Wilderness Society and others. A 2012 court decision forced the Bureau of Land Management to reconsider the way it was managing the Roan but by then many leases had already been sold. It wasn't until 2014 that a settlement could be reached that would cancel some of the leases and give us a chance to come up with a better plan.

The Wilderness Society will continue working to make sure that the Roan Plateau stays off-limits to drilling in the future.

Rocky Mountain Front

Montana's Rocky Mountain Front, the border between the towering peaks of the Rocky Mountains and the idyllic northern prairie, was protected in late 2006 when Congress voted to set aside 500,000 acres of the Front from oil and gas leasing.

In addition, the area was part of a package of wilderness and other land protection bills passed by Congress in 2014. The newly protected 67,000 acres of wilderness and 208,000 acres of a Conservation Management Area stretches from the edge of the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness areas to the rolling prairielands to the east.

The region is a mix of prairie, forest and tundra and stands among the country's most biologically diverse, hosting huge herds of bighorn sheep, migratory elk and mule deer. A coalition of ranchers, local community leaders and sportsmen teamed up with The Wilderness Society and other conservation groups to bring permanent protection to this popular area.

George Washington National Forest

Containing more than 2,000 miles of hiking trails and eight designated wilderness areas, Virginia's George Washington National Forest is definitely Too Wild to Drill. Fortunately, plans released by the Forest Service in late 2014 will prohibit new natural gas leases in the forest and keep drilling out of essential parts of this wild landscape.

Keeping gas drilling out of the wildest parts of the George Washington National Forest will protect the drinking water for the more than 8 million people that live between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia.

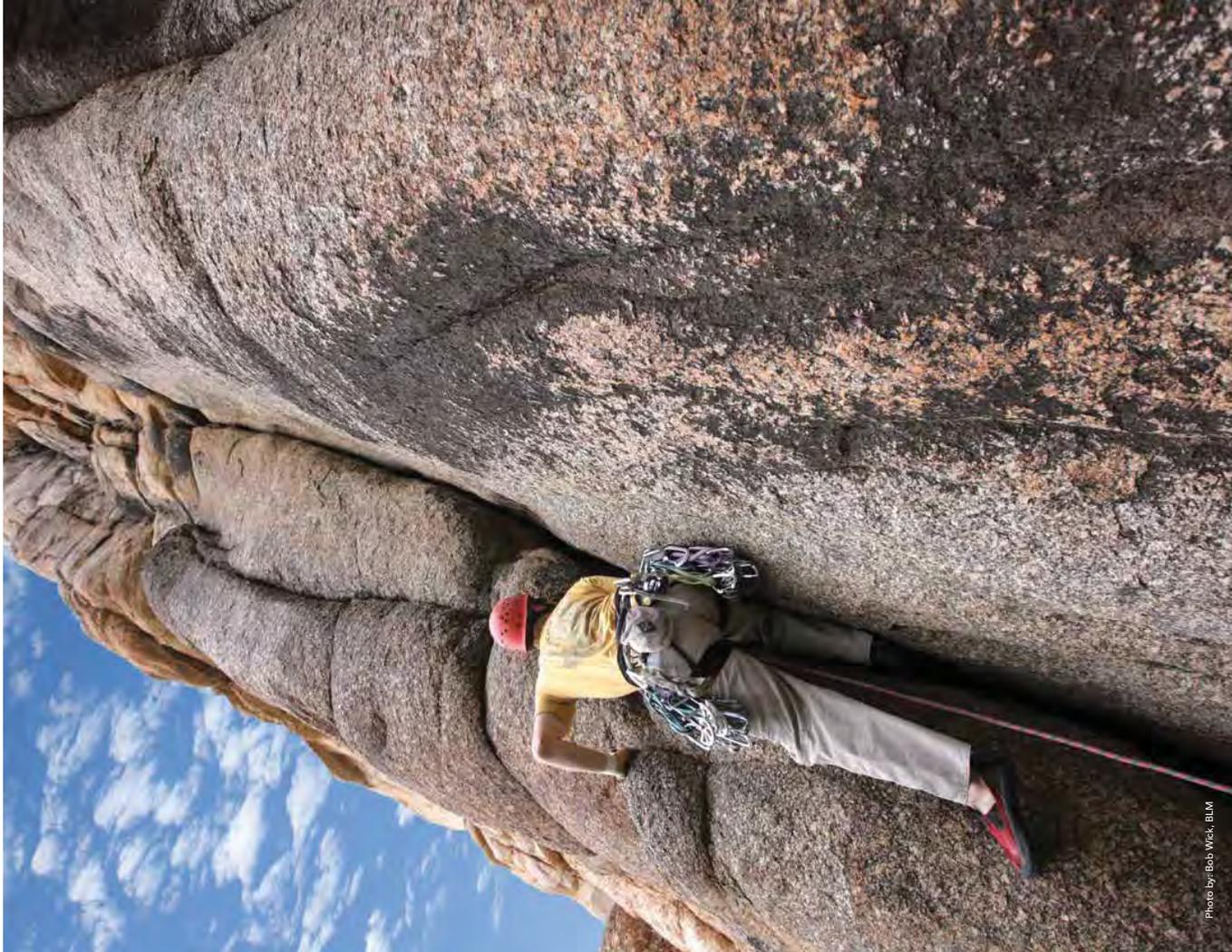
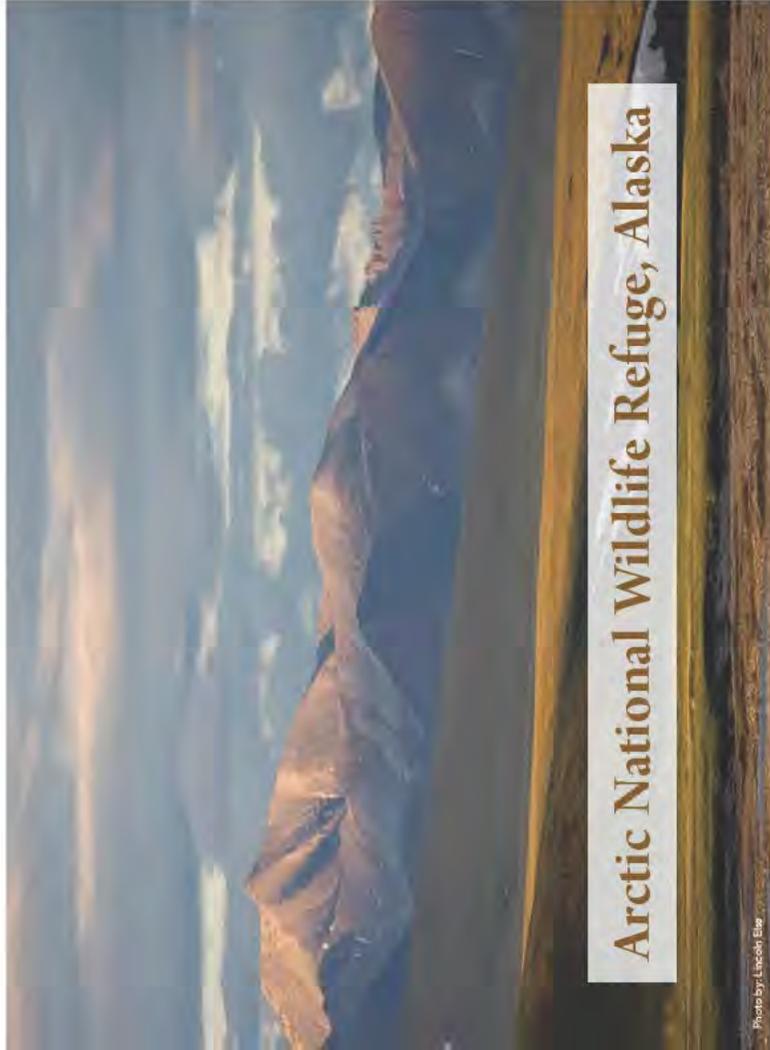


Photo by Bob Wick, BLM



Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska

Photo by: Lucinda Elze

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge stretches nearly 200 miles south from the Arctic Ocean, spanning a uniquely diverse range of wilderness landscapes and habitat. Of the 19 million acres included within the refuge, more than 7 million acres are congressionally designated wilderness, the highest degree of protection.

In January 2015, the Obama Administration announced that it was recommending the Coastal Plain and other portions of the Arctic refuge for wilderness designation – and that it would manage these areas to uphold their wild character. This recommendation is particularly important because the Arctic is experiencing impacts from climate change at twice the rate of the rest of the globe.

What's at Risk?

This vast refuge encompasses five distinct ecological regions – from coastal lagoons to windswept alpine tundra all the way to the tall spruce, birch and aspen trees of the northern boreal forest south of the Brooks Range. This varied habitat allows 42 fish species, 37 land mammals, eight marine mammals and more than 200 migratory and resident bird species to thrive – including the most diverse and stunning populations of wildlife in the Arctic.

North of the jagged peaks of the Brooks Range lies the refuge's Coastal Plain that encompasses 1.4 million acres of gently sloping tundra nestled between mountains and sea. The Coastal Plain is the biological heart of the refuge.

The cooling breezes and summer plants of the Coastal Plain provide irreplaceable habitat for the more than 120,000-animal porcupine caribou herd.

“To Gwich'in communities, this is not merely an environmental or conservation issue. Protecting the Coastal Plain of the refuge is about upholding our rights to continue our Native ways of life. ...Do we not have a moral obligation to future generations to do all we can to work toward leaving behind a more vibrant, thriving planet that will sustain human life?”

— Princess Daazhrait Johnson, Former Executive Director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee

The caribou journey hundreds of miles to give birth to their young on the ancient calving grounds of the Coastal Plain. There, calves gain nourishment from tundra plants, refuge from predators, and relief from hordes of midsummer mosquitoes. Typically, one-half to three-quarters or more of the Porcupine Caribou Herd's calves are born within this relatively small area each summer, making it an essential place for the herd's viability.

Included in the refuge boundary is a Marine Protected Area that encompasses coastal islands and lagoons where seals and whales, such as beluga, gray and bowhead, may be seen swimming by on their way to feeding areas. Sea ducks and other waterfowl are found in these lagoons with many migratory birds using both land and marine waters of the refuge. When days shorten and darkness begins to set in, whales and many birds migrate to other parts of the world while the Arctic's year-round residents, such as musk oxen, owls, mink and wolves remain behind. As winter envelopes the Coastal Plain, polar bears, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, dig into their dens, birth their cubs and nurse them until spring. The refuge's Coastal Plain includes the most important land denning habitat for polar bears along America's Arctic coast.

Threats to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Keeping such an amazing place pristine and protected seems like an obvious choice; yet, to some members of congress, the Arctic refuge is nothing more than a ripe oilfield waiting to be drilled.

In 2015 alone, more than a half-dozen bills to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling have been introduced – some as standalone measures, and some that are tucked into much larger bills.

With comprehensive energy bills near the top of the congressional to-do list, there is a very real possibility that a provision to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge could sneak through.

Protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The only way to protect the Arctic refuge is to ensure that efforts to open it to drilling – even exploratory or so-called “safe” drilling – are stopped in their tracks.

The Obama Administration has done virtually everything it can to protect the refuge. The last line of defense may be the stroke of a veto pen.



Photo by: The Strand Agency

On Montana's Rocky Mountain Front, in the heart of the Crown of the Continent, there is a sacred place called the Badger-Two Medicine. The name comes from Badger Creek and the Two Medicine River whose headwaters originate along the Continental Divide. The land of the Badger-Two Medicine and its pure unpolluted waters are at the forefront of a drilling controversy.

What's at Risk?

The 130,000-acre Badger-Two Medicine, managed by the Lewis and Clark National Forest, is part of a larger Traditional Cultural District that under the National Historic Preservation Act requires the Department of the Interior to consult with tribes regarding potential development. Bounded on the northwest by Glacier National Park, on the east by the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, and on the south by the Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wilderness, the Badger-Two Medicine is central to the Blackfeet Tribe's creation stories and their cultural identity. The Blackfeet call the Rocky Mountains running

Photo by: teolyhinum.com

Badger-Two Medicine, Montana

“The Badger-Two Medicine for thousands of years has helped shape the identity of the Blackfeet people. This area has been utilized as a sanctuary for not only the wildlife, but also for our people to come together and realize their spirituality and to be in touch with their creator...These ancient lands are among the most revered landscapes in North America and it should not be sacrificed, for any price.”

— letter from Earl Old Person, Chief of the Blackfeet Nation of Montana to President Barack Obama, March 19, 2015

through British Columbia, Alberta and Montana – the Backbone of the World – and the Badger is known as a place of prayer, fasting and vision questing. A holy place.

The Badger-Two Medicine is also home to grizzly bears and elk, and offers the best remaining habitat for the genetically-pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout along the Rocky Mountain Front. The grasslands, forests and rugged terrain provide secure habitat for wildlife, allowing long-term connectivity and secure migration routes for animals like wolverines. It's also a magnet for hikers, hunters and anglers who visit the Badger-Two Medicine to explore the confluence of peaks and plains, a hallmark of the Rocky Mountain Front.

Much of the Badger-Two Medicine area is roadless, and in 2009, in recognition of the high ecological values and cultural significance, the Forest Service closed nearly all of the area to motorized travel. This roadless forest is the source of the Two Medicine River, which then flows into the Tiber Reservoir, a major source of irrigation water for the state of Montana. Drilling in the area would harm this critical watershed, which is already feeling the stresses of climate change and dwindling snowpack.

Threats to Badger-Two Medicine

The threats facing the Badger-Two Medicine come from decades-old oil and gas leases. In 1981, the Department of the Interior under the Reagan administration began issuing leases in the Badger-Two Medicine without full environmental review and consulting the Blackfeet people, violating laws requiring that they do so. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s battles over the leases were fought in and out of courts, administrative offices and even in the halls of congress.

A 1997 moratorium on oil and gas leasing along the Rocky Mountain Front was followed by a 2006 law permanently withdrawing the Front's public lands (including the Badger-Two Medicine) from all new oil and gas leasing. By 2010, all but 18 of the old leases had been voluntarily relinquished by the leaseholders, but nearly 41,000 acres – all in the Badger-Two Medicine – still remain as a constant reminder of the area's vulnerability to drilling.

Now the threat to the Badger-Two Medicine has been awakened – the Solenex energy company,

based in Louisiana, has filed a lawsuit claiming that the suspension of its original leases from 1981 must be lifted and the company allowed to drill. Solenex's Hall Creek lease lies in the heart of the Badger-Two Medicine and literally on the doorstep of Glacier National Park. All that separates the national park from the area that Solenex wants to develop is a two-lane highway. With climate change from fossil fuel use already melting away many of the national park's glaciers, allowing oil drilling to take place right next door is just adding insult to injury.

Protecting Badger-Two Medicine

Because the leases were improperly issued and violate key environmental laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act, the Department of the Interior has the legal authority and moral obligation to cancel the remaining federal oil and gas leases in the Badger-Two Medicine.

The people of the Blackfeet Nation are leading the charge in this effort and have the support of 19 tribes, including the Crow, Shoshone and Sioux, as well as the National Congress of American Indians. Jon Tester, Montana's senior senator, also supports the call to rid the Badger-Two Medicine of the leases. The Wilderness Society and other conservation groups, along with hunters, anglers and local community leaders, support the Blackfeet's request that Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack (who oversees the U.S. Forest Service) and the Obama Administration cancel the leases. Now is the time to protect the Badger-Two Medicine.

Desolation Canyon, Utah

Few areas outside of Utah's most well-known national parks look as perfectly Utah as Desolation Canyon. Rapids roar past red rock sandstone carved across millennia by the Green River through the rafters' paradise of Desolation Canyon. Cottonwood trees and wildlife populate the sandy beaches throughout the canyon. But the threat of drill rigs and well pads still threaten to mar this picture perfect part of Utah.

Will over 200 oil and gas wells ruin the quiet, rugged wilderness of Desolation Canyon? Or will it remain *Too Wild to Drill?*

What's at Risk?

Desolation Canyon is one of the premier rafting destinations in Utah – so vast and secluded that the Utah tourism website proudly exclaims: "Desolation and Gray Canyons are too extensive to be rafted in a single day."

Historical remnants abound throughout the Desolation Canyon area. American Indian petroglyphs and artifacts can still be found in the surrounding wildlands, and notorious outlaws Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid frequented the area to trade for horses during their criminal days.

Recreation is a key industry in Utah – bringing in more than \$12 billion in economic activity to the state and providing for more than 122,000 jobs.

More than a dozen rafting guide services take people through Desolation Canyon, and hundreds more people take unguided trips through the canyon. All of these visits generate economic activity in the towns bordering Desolation Canyon – visits to restaurants, gear stores and the other businesses that cater to river runners before and after their trips.

But it's the lands of the Desolation Canyon region that are most at risk from oil and gas drilling. The area around Desolation Canyon has some of the most prized wilderness-quality lands in the lower 48 states that are still open to oil and gas drilling. There are an estimated 700,000 acres of wilderness-quality

lands in the area – lands so wild that they qualify for protection under the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Areas outside of the Desolation Canyon complex have already been heavily developed – making the need to protect this wild slice of Utah even more important.



Photo by: Ray Blokhum, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance

Threats to Desolation Canyon

In 2012, the BLM approved an oil and gas company's plans to develop the lands in and around the Desolation Canyon region. This plan allowed for more than 1,300 oil and gas wells – with more than 200 around the wildest parts of the Desolation Canyon area.

Sprawling development surrounding Desolation Canyon would fragment the wilderness-quality lands in the area – leaving islands of remote wilderness between pipelines, wellheads and access roads across previously untouched areas.

Pollution would also threaten Desolation Canyon. Smog and other air pollution already run rampant throughout eastern Utah, especially in the winter. Additional development would only make these problems worse, threaten the health of local communities and degrade the wild experiences of the rafters and other visitors to Desolation Canyon.

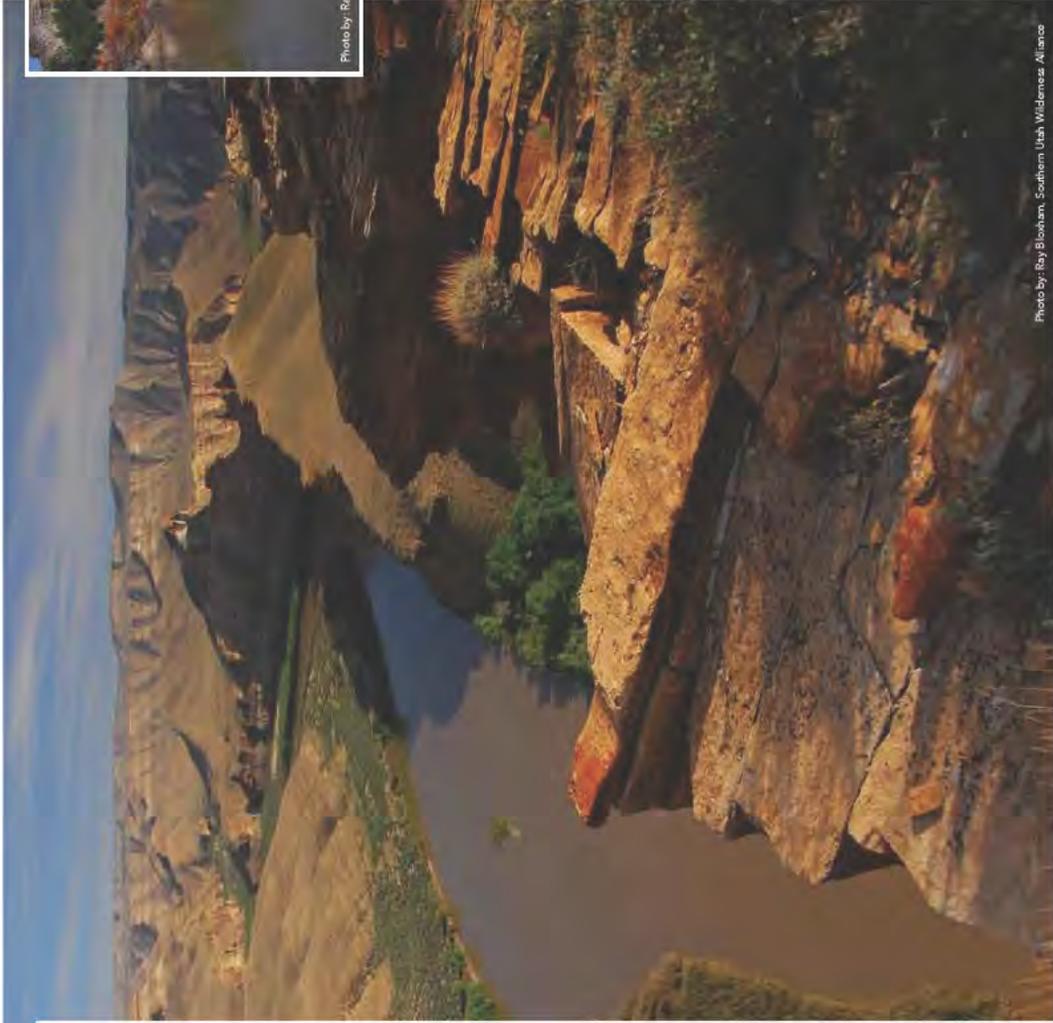
Protecting Desolation Canyon

There are several options for protecting the wilderness, cultural resources and amazing recreational experiences of Desolation Canyon.

The most straightforward would be for the BLM to prevent drilling on the 200 wells around the wildest parts of Desolation Canyon. This is clearly within the BLM's authority and would show that the agency truly does have a commitment to conservation even if it didn't achieve it in its 2012 decision.

The court system could also help. The Wilderness Society is part of a legal challenge to the BLM's drilling plan in court, and a favorable ruling could mean that Desolation Canyon will be protected from oil and gas drilling, but only legislation can protect this place forever.

Photo by: Ray Blokhum, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance



Thompson Divide, Colorado



One of Colorado's crown jewels, the Thompson Divide in the White River National Forest is a sublimely wild slice of the American west. Encompassing nearly 220,000 acres of mountain peaks, clear trout streams, abundant wildlife and endless aspen groves, the Thompson Divide is definitely *Too Wild to Drill*.

Unfortunately, 25 leases were illegally granted more than a decade ago, and oil and gas drilling now threatens Thompson Divide.

Despite broad community support from the area's residents, ranchers, hunters and anglers for protecting this area, these leases – and the fate of the Thompson Divide – remain in limbo.

What's at Risk?

Hikers, campers, hunters and anglers flock to the Thompson Divide from across the country for wildlife and a remote back-country experience. Even President Theodore Roosevelt trod the trails through the Thompson Divide back in 1905, calling it "a great, wild country ... where the mountains crowded together in chain, peak, and tableland; all of the higher ones wrapped in an unrent shroud of snow."

The Thompson Divide is critical to the local economy, providing nearly 300 jobs in the hunting,

fishing, grazing and outdoor recreation industries and contributing \$30 million to the region's economy every year. Whether hiking or biking, climbing, hitting the Nordic ski area outside of Carbondale or snowmobiling the Sunlight to Powderhorn trail, there is something for practically every type of outdoor enthusiast in the Thompson Divide.

Wildlife is abundant in the region. Elk, black bear, bighorn sheep and even rare Canada lynx can be found in the Thompson Divide's valleys and sub-alpine meadows. Rare birds also make their way through the area, including the rarely seen black swift and speedy peregrine falcon.

All of that wildlife is a huge draw for hunters from across the nation. The Thompson Divide is part of one of the most sought-after hunting permits in the state of Colorado, with just three hunting areas accounting for 20,000 hunting licenses. Anglers flock to Thompson Divide to fish for native cutthroat trout in the cold mountain streams that feed the gold-medal Roaring Fork River.

Cattle ranching is also important in the area and could be negatively impacted by leasing. Nearly three dozen grazing allotments provide crucial summer forage for local cattle herds. Those grazing areas don't just benefit cows though. Throughout the cold months, elk and mule deer come down from the mountains to winter retreat in the area.

Threats to the Thompson Divide

In 2003, the Bush administration sold a set of 25 oil and gas leases in the Thompson Divide. These leases were sold for the statutory minimum – \$2 an acre – and the BLM has acknowledged that they were issued without the legally required environmental review or protection for roadless areas.

If the leases are allowed to be developed, substantial and irreversible changes will impact the Thompson Divide. Pipelines and access roads would dissect the land, disrupting the wildlife and cattle. Nearby landowners and towns would have little recourse to stop or mitigate the new industrial activities and associated noise and pollution that would move in next door.

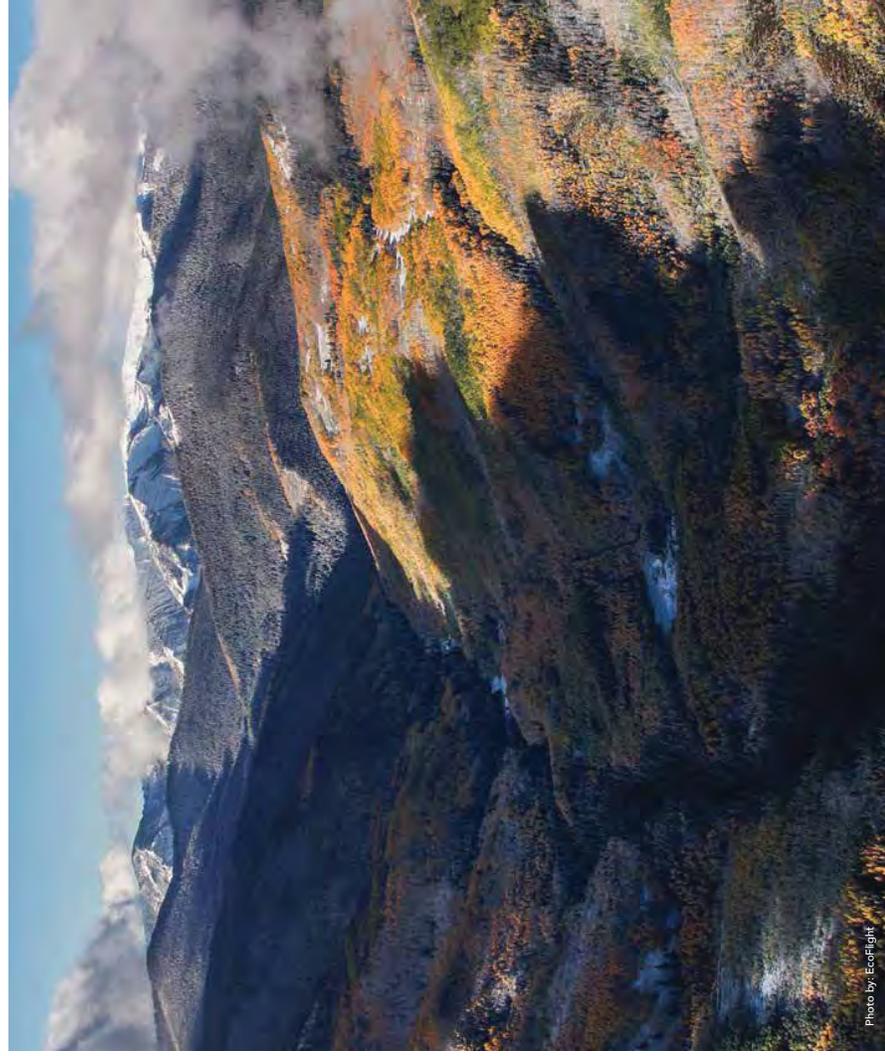
Protecting the Thompson Divide

There are multiple efforts underway to protect the Thompson Divide. At the federal level, the U.S. Forest Service, which manages most of the area, released a management plan that prevents future leasing in large portions of the Thompson Divide for the next 20 years – but it doesn't protect the entire area nor stop development on existing oil and gas leases.

The BLM, which oversees the 25 illegally issued leases, is reviewing those leases, and could ultimately void them, modify their terms or leave

them in place. The local community has spoken out strongly in favor of voiding the leases.

Currently, the BLM's efforts, as well as several community-led initiatives to find solutions for the Thompson Divide, are being considered. The BLM could decide to cancel the illegally issued leases as part of its current reevaluation. Other plans would involve action from congress. Legislation to permanently withdraw lands in the Thompson Divide from future leasing and allow the existing leases to be retired or bought out was introduced in the last congress and members of Colorado's delegation are working on reintroducing the bill this year.



Bears Ears, Utah

Significant cultural resources, forested plateaus, narrow slot canyons and grand vistas are just a few of the hallmarks of the Bears Ears region of southeast Utah. Named for the two buttes that rise up from the Elk Ridge plateau, Bears Ears is a region rich with Native American cultural sites, wildlife habitat and amazing recreation opportunities.

However, the threat of oil and gas drilling, potash, tar sands and uranium mining loom over this region – one of the most significant, unprotected cultural landscapes in the nation.

What's at Risk

Cultural resources and outdoor recreation are two of the biggest draws of the area. Home to more than 100,000 cultural and historic sites, many of them still undisturbed, Bears Ears contains irreplaceable Ice Age hunting camps and cliff dwellings, prehistoric villages and rock art panels of ancestral Puebloan peoples.

For Native American tribes, the region is vital to the cultural and ceremonial lives of their people as a place for hunting and collecting traditional foods and medicines. This place remains vibrant and alive as a center of subsistence, spirituality, healing and contemplation for tribes of the Colorado Plateau.

For the outdoor enthusiast, the opportunities are endless in the Bears Ears region. Rock climbers can test their skills on world-class pitches along Indian Creek and Harts Draw. Hikers experience unparalleled solitude throughout the region, exploring the towering red rock of Hammond, Woodenshoe and Fish and Owl Canyons. Rafting on the San Juan and Colorado Rivers in the region offers everything from mild to wild, with chances to view desert bighorn sheep along the way.

For shutterbugs, the region is packed with amazing views, both vast and intimate. The Valley of the Gods in the southeastern part of the area hosts a number of diverse photo opportunities of striking red rock monoliths. Grand Gulch and Fish and Owl canyons feature steep, sheer cliffs, loaded with archeological sites. The overlooks of the San Juan River feature mesmerizing world-class views.

Threats to Bears Ears

Despite the wealth of cultural resources and recreation opportunities, extractive industries are pushing to exploit Bears Ears region. Now, oil and gas development, uranium and tar sands mining, looting of cultural sites, careless visitation and irresponsible off-road vehicle use all threaten to destroy the area.

Oil and gas companies are pressing to explore the region, and leases have previously been sold in Lockhart Basin, on the doorstep of Canyonlands National Park. Drilling in these areas would seriously degrade these landscapes, while impairing neighboring Canyonlands National Park with increased heavy truck traffic, dust, noise and air pollution. Light pollution associated with

new development also threatens the region's night skies – which are currently some of the darkest in the lower 48 states.

Without permanent protections for the area, the region could fall victim to the dirty mining required to extract the even dirtier tar sands oil from the ground.

Protecting Bears Ears

Given the variety of cultural values and spectacular wilderness in the Bears Ears region, it is clear that the area needs permanent protection. A total of 24 tribes so far, including Navajo, Hopi, Ute, Hualapai, Zuni and other Pueblo tribes all support permanently protecting the 1.9 million acres of the Bears Ears region. Many tribes have also passed resolutions for permanent protection of the region and have urged

the Obama Administration to consider the region for monument designation.

The tribes have proposed that the region be permanently protected for its rich cultural and natural values, and many have cited their individual tribal interests and ties to the region. Preserving the cultural and historic sites and wilderness values of Bears Ears, as well as ensuring access for traditional activities like ceremonies and collection, are key goals in protecting the area. Tribes are unique and key stakeholders in the process of protection, and have asserted their strong interest in cooperating in the management of the lands of the region.

Efforts are being made to craft legislation to protect the region, but if a legislative solution can't be found, a national monument proclamation by the president will ensure that these valued treasures are protected forever.

Grand Junction, Colorado

Colorado's western slope near Grand Junction is an absolute treasure trove of canyon complexes. From the banks of the Dolores River to the hoodoo-filled South Shale Ridge, there is no shortage of diversity in the region's landscapes.

Unfortunately, the BLM is poised to finalize management decisions that will leave a looming threat of oil and gas drilling and unchecked off-road vehicle use through some of the wildest areas.

What's at Risk?

The Grand Junction area is an outdoor enthusiast's dream – if you can do it outside, you can do it around Grand Junction. Hiker? Check out Bangs Canyon, just miles from downtown Grand Junction, where the only crowds you'll find on the Unaweep trail through the canyon are the bighorn sheep that frequent the area. Biker? The mountain biking mecca of Fruita is home to miles of trails – some of the best in the nation. Angler? Get ready to chase native Colorado River cutthroat trout in Carr Creek, near Brush Mountain. Birder? Head to Granite Creek and keep your eyes peeled and binoculars ready to spot Mexican spotted owls, western burrowing owls, southwest willow flycatchers, whooping cranes and even peregrine falcons and bald eagles. Just like taking in the scenery? The area is rich with wide open vistas and wildlife.

Research and exploration by The Wilderness Society and other citizen-scientists have identified more than 400,000 acres of wilderness caliber lands throughout the region. These include areas with unparalleled solitude in addition to stunning recreation opportunities. They are also key habitat for wildlife – elk, mule deer, black bears and many different migratory birds.

These are just a few examples of the incredible wealth of opportunities in the Grand Junction area. But while the opportunities to enjoy the outdoors are bountiful, so are the threats to these experiences.

Threats to Grand Junction

With so many opportunities to get away from it all around Grand Junction, it's hard to imagine that industrialization could threaten such a collection of wild landscapes. Unfortunately, oil and gas drilling and motorized vehicle use already threaten the peace and quiet of the region.

In April 2015 a proposed Resource Management Plan from the BLM for the Grand Junction region, including areas like Bangs Canyon, Book Cliffs, Kings Canyon, Carr Creek and many other wild places, was put forward. Disappointingly, this plan left many wilderness-quality lands open to potential oil and gas leasing and off-road vehicle use, which would seriously degrade trails and wildlife habitat. Equally disappointing, the BLM failed to acknowledge the hundreds of thousands of acres of wilderness-quality lands identified by citizens.

The BLM's plan would only protect 44,000 acres of the "lands with wilderness characteristics" (the agency's term for wilderness-quality lands), while making nearly a million acres available to oil and gas leasing.

Leaving so much land open to development and exploitation threatens many of the landscapes listed above. Kings Canyon, with its cliffs that rise 1,000 feet above the Little Dolores River like the parapets of an enormous castle, could see its wild qualities destroyed underneath ATV tires and heavy oil trucks.

The overall plan lacks a commitment to conservation that the BLM must make in order to protect wild places like those in the Grand Junction region. Oil and gas drilling in some of these places would destroy the peace and quiet, disturb birds and wildlife, and cause air pollution in some of Colorado's wildest landscapes.



Protecting Grand Junction

The BLM hasn't finalized the Grand Junction plan – although it will happen later this year. In the meantime, The Wilderness Society is pushing the BLM to reconsider protective management for wilderness quality lands. The BLM needs to follow its own policies and recognize these spectacular wild acres as "lands with wilderness characteristics," ensuring they remain wild. With the wealth of wilderness lands around Grand Junction, it's clear that more of them deserve to be protected.

All photos by Bob West, BLM

A Commitment to Conservation

For generations, the Bureau of Land Management held a single-minded approach to managing the 245 million acres under its purview. Despite a legal obligation to manage its lands for multiple uses, like recreation, wildness, wildlife habitat and other values, the BLM management almost always defers to energy interests – specifically by making 90% of its lands available for polluting energy sources like drilling for oil and natural gas, as well as mining coal.

A commitment to conservation means ensuring a balanced approach to energy development and conservation on federal lands. Guiding energy development – both fossil fuels and renewable energy like wind and solar – to places with fewer conflicts and protecting areas that are better suited for other uses should be the goal.

Energy development often industrializes the landscape and converts it to a single use. When the BLM approves energy development it needs to demonstrate its commitment to conservation too, protecting natural and recreational values with administrative designations and updated policies that move our country forward on a smarter path. By taking a landscape-level approach that protects watersheds and wildlife habitat, the agency can better balance energy development and conservation of our public lands.

During the past few decades the public expectation of how public lands should be managed has changed and more people are looking to public lands for recreation or wildlife values. Recent surveys have also shown broad support for modernizing outdated policies and guidelines that fail to recognize the many values of our land. It is time for the BLM to catch up with the public's desires.

Smarter leasing plans have begun to be implemented in some BLM field office, decisions, and now it is time for the agency as a whole to embrace the concept.

How the BLM Can Commit to Conservation

South Park – Colorado: A great opportunity for the BLM to demonstrate a commitment to conservation is in Colorado's South Park area. This area, part of eastern Colorado's Royal Gorge Field Office, is less than two hours from downtown Denver, nestled in the mountains of the Front Range.

The BLM is in the beginning stages of developing a new Resource Management Plan for the field office, and as part of that process the agency is considering a Master Leasing Plan for the South Park area. A Master Leasing Plan is the right approach to ensure South Park has a guided plan for leasing, drilling, and most importantly, conservation, which will govern the activities in the area.

Showing a commitment to conservation in South Park must include dosing some areas to oil and gas leasing as part of a balanced management plan. The public lands surrounding the James Mark Jones State Wildlife Area have important wilderness character and wildlife habitat and should be protected from oil and gas development. Places such as Reinecker Ridge provide abundant opportunities for backpacking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, snowshoeing and photography in the backyard of a thriving metro area.

The BLM should also commit to conserving the way of life for Park County residents. The local community is working together to advocate for a Master Leasing Plan that protects their water, land and heritage for future generations, and this is an important opportunity for the BLM to make sure that happens.

Examples of Committing to Conservation

National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska: On the western side of Alaska's Arctic lies the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR-A). While the name makes it sound like one big oilfield, it is a large wild place – at 23 million acres it is ten times the size of Yellowstone National Park.

In 2012 the Department of Interior announced its plan for managing the NPR-A. The legislation that

created the NPR-A called for "Special Areas" to be protected, areas important for caribou migrations and waterfowl nesting areas. The BLM issued a landscape-level plan that protected 11 million acres of key wildlife and waterfowl habitat, while making more than 70 percent of the economically recoverable oil and gas reserves available to leasing. The BLM's plan conserved critical areas like the bird nesting mecca of Teshekpuk Lake, and habitat for thousands of migrating caribou. This kind of smart planning and balance is a perfect example of committing to conservation and should be replicated across the nation – not just in Alaska.

Dinosaur Trail: In March 2015, one of the first Master Leasing Plans was put in place by the BLM in northwest Colorado's White River Field Office. This Master Leasing Plan covered the area south of Dinosaur National Monument, and will protect more than 140,000 acres of "Lands with Wilderness Characteristics" so that they stay pristine. These acres are home to imperiled sage-grouse, pronghorn antelope and herds of mule deer that have been threatened by oil and gas development.

For some of the areas that are open to leasing, the BLM is committing to "phased leasing" – ensuring any drilling in the area is done gradually to reduce the possibility of air pollution and disturbance to wildlife and wildlands.

The Dinosaur Trail MLP is another example of the BLM showing what a strategic commitment to conservation looks like in practice.



Photo by: Ron Hunter

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AUGUST 2015

Cover photo: tonybynum.com, Montana's Rocky Mountain Front.

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Deseret News//Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's favorite Utah hikes

"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Aug 07 2015 15:23:19 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:
Subject: Deseret News//Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's favorite Utah hikes

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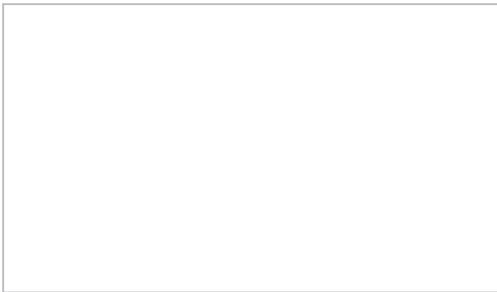
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But we also asked another question: Secretary Jewell, what are some of your favorite hikes in Utah?

Here are her answers.

#1 - Mount Timpanogos

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Ravell Call, Deseret News

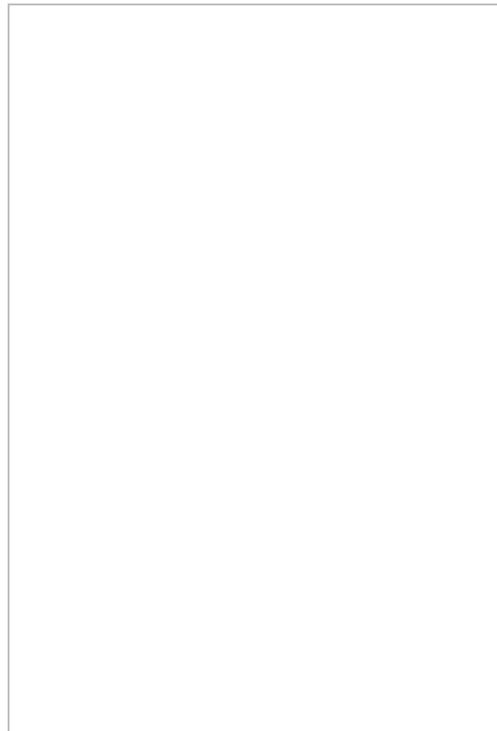
#1 - Mount Timpanogos

This beautiful hike stretches 7.5 miles to the summit from the trailhead and, as Secretary Jewell noted, "you don't have to go all the way."

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#2 - Zion's Narrows

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Ravell Call, Deseret News

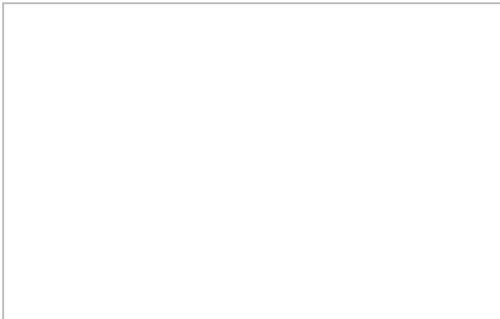
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Jewell's second pick was Zion's Narrows.

It's Zion Park's most popular hike, according to Utah.com »

#3 - Delicate Arch

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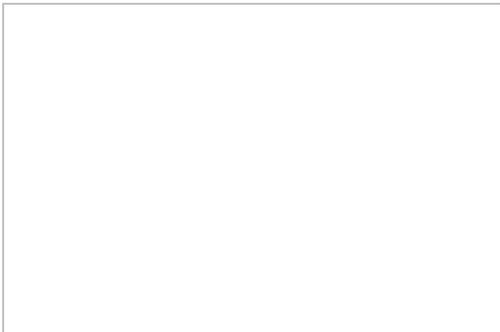
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Jewell said that it's wonderful taking people to the Delicate Arch who are seeing it for the first time.

Ray Grass, Deseret News

#4 - The Wave

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#4 - The Wave

And the hike that Jewell said she would like to do but hasn't yet?

The Wave.

Brian Witte, Associated Press

[Jewells-favorite-Utah-hikes.html](http://www.deseretnews.com/top/3345/20/4-The-Wave-Interior-Secretary-Sally-Jewells-favorite-Utah-hikes.html)

<http://www.deseretnews.com/top/3345/20/4-The-Wave-Interior-Secretary-Sally-Jewells-favorite-Utah-hikes.html>

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Sent: Mon Aug 10 2015 08:07:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "jdbratt@gmail.com" <jdbratt@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Deseret News//Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's favorite Utah hikes

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----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Kershaw, Jessica** <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Aug 7, 2015 at 5:23 PM
Subject: Deseret News//Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's favorite Utah hikes
To:

Deseret News//Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's favorite Utah hikes

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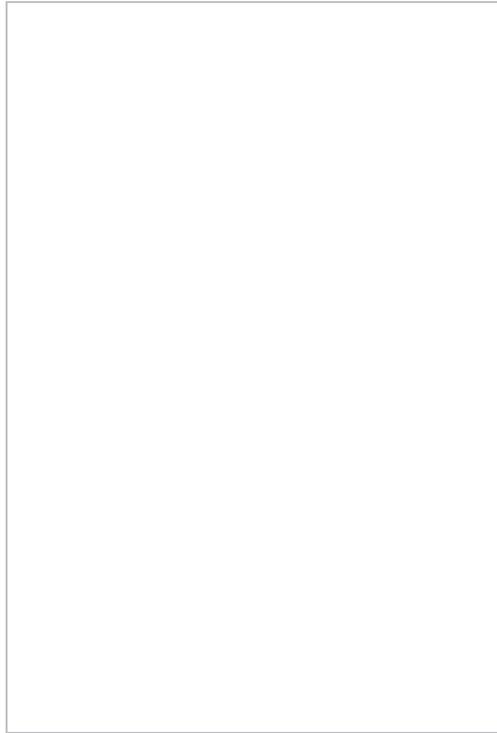
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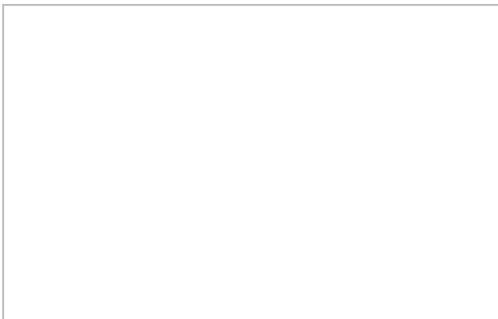
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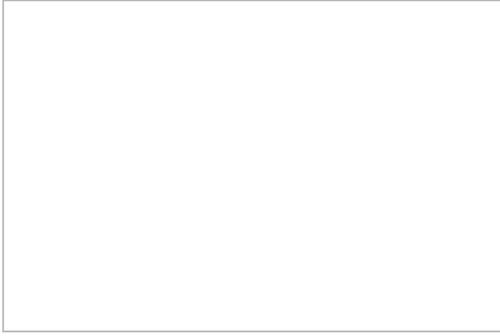
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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, August 10, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Mon Aug 10 2015 04:59:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, August 10, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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- + WSJournal: Administration Must Hold OPM Accountable For Security Breach.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

- + Sen. Moran's Bill Would Reaffirm Tribal Control Of Land.
- + Panel Settles Alaska Tribal Leadership Dispute.
- + Youth Working With Wind River Conservation Program.
- + Native American Conservation Corps Works In Grand Canyon.
- + Bill Would Expedite Transfer In Ownership Of Kennewick Man.
- + Gov. Walker Urged To Drop State's Appeal In Tribal Trust Land Case.

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS

- + OIA Provides \$2.1 Million To USVI For School Maintenance.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES

- + California Emergency Drought Relief Act Introduced.
- + Colorado River Under Strain.
- + Tulloch Lake Dropping Early To Cool Stanislaus River Fish.
- + Continuing Coverage Of Delta Water Tunnels.
- + Additional Coverage: Tribes Fear Salmon Kill In Klamath River.

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE

Renewable Energy:

- + Voters Back Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan.

Onshore Energy Development:

- + Conservation Group Pushes Interior To End Public Lands Coal Mining.
- + Senators Seek Longer Comment Time On Stream Protection Rule.
- + Emergency Declared In Colorado After EPA Accidentally Pollutes River.
- + Natural Gas Line Project Proposed In Eagle.
- + Comments Urged To Keep Colowyo Mine Open.
- + BLM Urged To Reject Alton Coal Development Proposal.

Offshore Energy Development:

- + Senate Bill Ends Ban On Exportation Of Oil.
- + Shell's Fennica Heads To Chukchi Sea.

AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Bureau of Land Management:

- + BLM Grants Burning Man Permit.
- + Utah Stakes Claim To Recapture Canyon Citing Repealed Frontier-era Law.
- + New Land Exchange Proposal Involving Wilks Ranch.
- + Red River Landowners Protest Against BLM Claims.
- + BLM Bat Study Seeks To Find Roosts.
- + Woman Infected With Tularemia.
- + Protection Urged For Great Divide Basin, Northern Red Desert.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + Zimbabwe Still Plan To Seek Extradition Of Hunter Accused Of Killing Cecil The Lion.
- + Plan Would Limit Interaction With Manatees At Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge.
- + Judge Tosses Out Lawsuit Over Recreational Sea Turtle Takes.
- + Mysterious Fungus Poses Threat To Snakes.

National Park Service:

- + National Parks Attracting More Visitors.

- + Bill Would Designate Women's Rights Museum As National Park.
- + Child Contracts Plague At Yosemite.
- + Hiker Killed By Bear At Yellowstone National Park.
- + French Couple Dies At White Sands National Monument; Son Survives.
- + Manassas Battlefield Trust Receives \$20,000 Grant.
- + Interior Releases Final Study Of Shepherdstown Battlefield.
- + NPS Releases Study On Ste. Genevieve Log Homes.
- + NPS Studying Expansion Of Joshua Tree National Park.
- + New Badlands Superintendent Could Revive Work On Tribal National Park.
- + New USS Arizona Memorial Superintendent Announced.
- + Sheep Belong To Southern Nevada Water Authority Illegally Grazing Within Great Basin National Park .
- + Fatally Injured Sea Turtle May Have Been Attacked By Human.
- + Drought Causes Emergency Fishing Closure In Olympic National Park.
- + Wolf Hunt To Resume Monday Near Denali National Park And Preserve.
- + NPS Commemorates Olmstead's Yosemite Report.
- + Sleeping Bear Dunes Area Partially Reopens After Storms.
- + Body Of Missing New Jersey Swimmer Recovered.
- + Attempt To Established National Park In Maine Criticized.

US Geological Survey:

- + Biologists Releasing 10,000 Lake Sturgeon In Northern New York Waterway.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS

- + Obama Defends Iran Deal During Sunday Show Appearance.
- + Shots Fired During Ferguson Protests Marking Anniversary Of Brown Shooting.
- + Opponents: Court Challenge Most Effective Attack On Obama Climate Rules.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE

- + Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

- + Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS

- + Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

PRESIDENT OBAMA DESIGNATES NEW IDAHO WILDERNESS REGION. [McClatchy](#) (8/8, Clark, Baccellieri, 28K) reports President Obama on Friday "signed legislation creating three new wilderness regions in Idaho." The legislation "sets aside 275,665 acres of land" that will be distributed into three distinct areas: "the Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness, the White Clouds Wilderness and the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness."

Also providing coverage is the [AP](#), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (8/7, 183K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (8/9, 183K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (8/10, 22K), the [Boise \(ID\) Weekly](#) (8/10, 103K), the [UPI](#) (8/7), [WBAL-AM Baltimore \(MD\)](#) Baltimore (8/10, 12K), and [WIMS-AM South Shore \(N\)](#) South Shore, IN (8/7).

SECRETARY JEWELL TALKS ABOUT FAVORITE UTAH HIKES. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/10, 549K) about her "favorite hikes in Utah." Jewell's top picks were Mount Timpanogos, Zion's Narrows, Delicate Arch, and The Wave.

REP. SIMPSON PUSHES WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING ACT. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/8, Knickerbocker, 455K) reports that "fire borrowing" was "politically and economically tolerable when there were fewer such fires (especially in the West, where most such wildland conflagrations occur) and the budget for fire-fighting covered at least most of the cost." However, "in recent years, as drought conditions continued to increase – exacerbated, many experts say, by climate change – and homebuilding and other development pushed into what's called the 'wildland-urban interface,' the budgeting situation worsened." Rep. Mike Simpson is "the lead sponsor of the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, a bill that would treat catastrophic wildfires like other natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.), funding suppression of such fires through emergency disaster programs."

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the [National Geographic](#) (8/10, 31 65M), the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (8/9, 142K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/8, 1.12M), [Reuters](#) (8/9, Schwartz), [Reuters](#) (8/8, Dobuzinskis), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (8/10, 116K), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (8/9, 15K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/10, 2.28M), [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (8/10, 22K), the [Havasupai \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (8/10, 27K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (8/9, 199K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (8/10, 259K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (8/6, 28K), [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (8/10, 32K), [KNXV-TV Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (8/10, 103K), [KTAR-FM Glendale \(AZ\)](#) Glendale, AZ (8/8, 17K), and [KTVN-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (8/10, 3K).

CENTURY CONSERVATION SERVICE CORPS ACT OF 2015 UNVEILED. The [Greenwire](#) (8/7, Subscription Publication) reports that bipartisan Senate legislation unveiled last week "aims to bolster the ranks of groups descended from the New Deal-era Civilian Conservation Corps by streamlining their collaborations with federal agencies." The "21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act of 2015," S. 1993, from Sens. John McCain and Michael Bennet, would "enable certain federal departments and agencies more easily to hire youth service organizations without increasing federal spending." McCain said, "While more and more young people each year are applying for service opportunities, they are being turned away – even as our federal agencies could use their help to complete a growing backlog of critical projects."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (8/7).

NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION TRANSPARENCY ACT INTRODUCED. The [Examiner](#) (8/10, 1.34M) reports that Rep. Devin Nunes has "introduced the National Monument Designation Transparency Act (H R. 3389), which would require new procedures for designating national monuments." According to the article, "the bill would require the president to give notice to Congress as well as the governor of a state and the chief elected official of each unit of local government that a proposed monument would be located in," and "such notice would have to come at least 30 days before any proposed designation." The legislation was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

SIX ARRESTED IN SERIES OF SOUTHERN NEVADA POLICE CAR RAMMINGS. The [AP](#) (8/10, 2.28M) reports that "Las Vegas police officers say six people have been arrested after several law enforcement vehicles were intentionally rammed with stolen cars over the past few months." According to authorities, "they identified the suspects on Friday and found stolen guns, motorcycles and vehicles when they served search warrants at six locations in southern Nevada." The article notes that "police have been investigating since April 29, when a federal Department of the Interior K9 vehicle was rammed and a nearby home was damaged."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS ALASKA VILLAGE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF CLIMATE CHANGE'S IMPACT. The [Public Radio International](#) (8/9, 3K) reports that "scientists estimate that due to climate change, the village of Kivalina, in northwestern Alaska, will be underwater by the year 2025." The article notes that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell visited Kivalina earlier this year. Her visit was "intended to raise awareness of Kivalina's plight and to highlight that in the coming decades numerous other towns along US coastlines may face the same problem."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CREATION OF RESILIENT LANDS AND WATERS PARTNERSHIPS. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (8/7, 32K) reports that "President Barack Obama is stepping up efforts to combat climate change as he nears the end of his second and last term, with tribes among the beneficiaries of new policies and grants." As an example, the article notes that "in June several federal agencies got together on a joint initiative, to create partnerships across the country. The Department of the Interior (DOI), Department of Agriculture (USDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on June 24 announced the creation of the Resilient Lands and Waters partnerships: the California Headwaters, California's North-Central Coast and Russian River Watersheds, the Colorado Plateau, the Florida Everglades, the Great Lakes, the Gulf of Mexico, the Hawaiian Islands, the Mississippi River, the Pacific Northwest, the Rocky Mountain West, the Southeastern United States, the Southwest, the Tennessee River, the Upper Midwest, the Virginia Piedmont, the Washington Coast, the Wisconsin and Michigan Great Lakes, and the Yellowstone and Snake River Basins."

the Everglades, climate change threatens many of our treasured landscapes, which impacts our natural and cultural heritage, public health and economic activity. The key to making these areas more resilient is collaboration through sound science and partnerships that take a landscape-level approach to preparing for and adapting to climate change.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SECRETARY JEWELL LAUNCHES YOUTH OUTDOOR INITIATIVE IN SALT LAKE CITY. Additional coverage of Salt Lake City’s inclusion “in a national initiative to connect children with nature” was provided by [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (8/10, 1.07M).

SEN. LEE CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF ANTIQUITIES MODERNIZATION ACT. In an op-ed for the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (8/7, 46K), Sen. Mike Lee writes that he has introduced the Antiquities Modernization Act in the Senate to “both preserve the original Antiquities Act intent by continuing the president’s power to designate monument sites that need protection, while also giving local communities a say in the process.” According to Lee, “this legislation would both end top-down Washington land grabs and encourage a new ground-up, open, and public process that maximizes input from all the stakeholders involved.” He argues that “public lands management always works better when local, state, and federal government agencies work together.”

WSJOURNAL ADMINISTRATION MUST HOLD OPM ACCOUNTABLE FOR SECURITY BREACH. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8, Subscription Publication, 6.06M) urges the Administration to hold individuals accountable following the Office of Personnel Management security breach, rather than interfering with the work of the OPM’s Inspector General, who this week said his investigation was being hampered.

Empowering Native American Communities:

SEN. MORAN’S BILL WOULD REAFFIRM TRIBAL CONTROL OF LAND. The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (8/9, 109K) reports that “millions of acres of land obtained by the federal government on behalf of Native American tribes would be affected by legislation introduced last week by U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran.” Moran, “a Republican member of the 14-member Senate Indian Affairs Committee, introduced S. 1931 on Tuesday.” The legislation would “reaffirm that land taken into trust for tribes since 1934 can be utilized by those tribes.”

PANEL SETTLES ALASKA TRIBAL LEADERSHIP DISPUTE. The [AP](#) (8/8, Rachel D’oro |, Ap, 6.76M) reports that “a federal appeals panel has sided with the new leaders in a tribal power dispute that has stalled efforts to relocate a badly eroded village in western Alaska.” The Interior Board of Indian Appeals “stepped in to review a 2013 ruling by a Bureau of Indian Affairs official that determined the sitting tribal council no longer represented the Yup’ik Eskimo community of Newtok for bureau funding purposes.” The appeals board said in “its Thursday decision that the old faction failed to submit any evidence in support of ‘its own claim of continuing authority.’”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (8/7, 2K).

YOUTH WORKING WITH WIND RIVER CONSERVATION PROGRAM. The [County 10](#) (8/7) reports that “the Wind River Conservation Program has been working with a bunch of local youth on great community service projects in and around the Wind River Indian Reservation.” According to the article, “some of the work has been done in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.” The article notes that “this is the first year of the program, which is funded by a \$153,000 Bureau of Indian Affairs Forestry Youth Incentive grant.”

NATIVE AMERICAN CONSERVATION CORPS WORKS IN GRAND CANYON. The [Arizona Republic](#) (8/8, 1.12M) reports on a team of six young Hopi and Navajo crew members working in Grand Canyon National Park through the Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps. According to the article, “team members had been living and working on the rim and in the inner canyon since May, repairing trails and doing various manual labor projects.” The article notes that “perhaps most importantly, they were serving as ambassadors for Native American culture whenever they encountered curious tourists.”

BILL WOULD EXPEDITE TRANSFER IN OWNERSHIP OF KENNEWICK MAN. The [Greenwire](#) (8/7, Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. Patty Murray has “introduced a bill to expedite the return of an ancient skeleton to Northwest American Indian tribes that have been demanding the return for almost two decades. Kennewick Man, or the Ancient One, as the skeleton is known to the tribes requesting repatriation, has been at the center of a bitter fight between Native Americans, federal officials and researchers since it was found on a bank of the Columbia River near Kennewick, Wash., in 1996.” S. 1979, the “Bring the Ancient One Home Act,” seeks “to transfer ownership of the bones from the Army Corps to the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation in hopes the state agency’s more efficient repatriation process can see the return through.”

GOV. WALKER URGED TO DROP STATE’S APPEAL IN TRIBAL TRUST LAND CASE. In an op-ed for the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (8/9, 15K), Richard Peterson, president of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, urges Alaska Gov. Bill Walker to “drop the state’s appeal in *Akiachak Native Community v. Department of the Interior* before the end of August.” He argues that “the state of Alaska’s fear of tribal trust land is unfounded.” Peterson concludes that “tribal acquisitions of land in trust should be welcomed — it is good for everyone.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

OIA PROVIDES \$2.1 MILLION TO USVI FOR SCHOOL MAINTENANCE. The [St. Croix Source](#) (8/7) reports that “the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs will provide \$2.1 million to the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Education for school maintenance, Delegate Stacey Plaskett announced Thursday.” Plaskett said, “The Department of Interior and Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina has released more than \$2 million in grant funding to the Department of Education for maintenance to the territory’s school. As we all know, the schools in our territory are in dire need of repair and most of them, quite frankly, need to be rebuilt.” The article notes that “the grant funding is part of OIA’s Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms (ABCs) Initiative.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (8/10).

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF ACT INTRODUCED. The [Lexology](#) (8/10, 5K) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein “introduced a bill last week to help address ongoing and future drought in California.” The legislation, “known as the California Emergency Drought Relief Act (Act), is expected to be folded into broader legislation addressing the historic drought in the Western United States.” The article notes that “the bill’s goals are to move existing water supplies and develop new water sources in order to help those communities suffering the worst effects of the drought, while complying with the existing regulatory regime under the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act.”

In an editorial, the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/10, 535K) says that the measure “includes plenty to embrace, not the least of which is that it offers \$1.3 billion for California’s water system, an important though modest sum in this large and thirsty state.”

COLORADO RIVER UNDER STRAIN. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (8/10, 259K) reports that the Colorado River is “suffering from a historic drought that has exposed the region’s dependence on a single, vulnerable resource.” According to the article, “the drought, now in its 16th year, has made one fact brutally clear: The Colorado cannot continue to meet the current urban, agricultural, hydroelectric and recreational demands on it – and the point at which the river will fall short could come sooner than anyone thought.” The article notes that “in the decades to come, federal officials say, significant shortages are likely to force water-supply cutbacks in parts of the basin – the first in the more than 90 years that the river has been managed under the 1922 Colorado River Compact.”

Meanwhile, the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (8/10, 257K) reports that a wet May has “bailed out a water supply that’s on the edge” in Arizona. According to the article, “they delayed a water shortage for the Central Arizona Project that many officials had feared was imminent.”

TULLOCH LAKE DROPPING EARLY TO COOL STANISLAUS RIVER FISH. The [Modesto \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/10, 179K) reports that “fish concerns will force Tulloch Lake to drop sooner than water agencies had announced in a milestone spring accord, while construction work meant to ensure that 7,000 people won’t run out of water for drinking and fire protection has not yet begun.” The Oakdale and South San Joaquin irrigation districts “in recent days announced that Tulloch’s water level must come down five weeks sooner, regardless of the April agreement.” State and federal agencies have “deemed water temperatures in the Stanislaus River dangerously high for fish and lowering Tulloch is part of a strategy to cool the river.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF DELTA WATER TUNNELS. Continuing coverage of “Gov. Jerry Brown’s plan to build a pair of tunnels around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta” was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/10, 535K) and the [Antioch \(CA\) Herald](#) (8/10, 81K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE TRIBES FEAR SALMON KILL IN KLAMATH RIVER. Additional coverage that two American Indian tribes are raising concerns about the spread of a deadly fish disease in the Klamath River was provided by [Reuters](#) (8/8, Sherwood).

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

VOTERS BACK DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN. In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (8/8, 99K), Dave Metz, a partner at Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates, and Lori Weigel, a partner at Public Opinion Strategies, writes that a "June 2015 survey of 807 voters commissioned by the Pew Charitable Trusts found solid agreement with the Bureau of Land Management's Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, commonly called the 'DRECP.'" They note that "while most voters in the region are not currently aware of the plan, which identifies areas for renewable energy development as well as areas to be conserved as wildlife habitat and for its environmental value, those who are familiar with the plan overwhelmingly support it (66 percent)" and "once the basics of the plan are explained, even more support it (74 percent)." They conclude that "this data confirms that support for protecting public lands in the California desert and the DRECP is strong for voters across geographic boundaries, party lines, and ethnic backgrounds in the region."

Onshore Energy Development:

CONSERVATION GROUP PUSHES INTERIOR TO END PUBLIC LANDS COAL MINING. The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (8/7, 506) reports that "continuing to extract and burn the coal from public lands at current rate will make it nearly impossible to meet even modest climate targets, conservation advocates said this week, calling on Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to acknowledge the risks of unchecked carbon emissions." According to the article, "with a series of public hearings on coal mining policies coming up, WildEarth Guardians this week released a roadmap for keeping publicly owned coal in the ground and leading the nation away from fossil fuels." Jeremy Nichols, Climate and Energy Program Director for WildEarth Guardians, said, "it's time for the Interior Department to shut it down. Keeping our coal in the ground is the only way to ensure our country successfully transitions to clean energy and effectively confronts the climate crisis."

Commentary. In an op-ed for the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (8/10, 51K), Matt Lee-Ashley, a senior fellow and director of the Public Lands Project at the Center for American Progress, writes that "even with the Clean Power Plan in place, little-known federal policies and subsidies at the Department of the Interior will continue to tilt U.S. energy markets in favor of coal." He argues that "there is no reason coal should get a special deal on America's public lands." He concludes that "taxpayers deserve a fair share from coal mining on public lands; it's far past time to modernize an outdated program, end coal subsidies, and require that everyone play by the same rules."

For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (8/7, Seur, 164K), Carrie La Seur, an environmental lawyer, calls the federal coal program "corporate welfare at its slickest." According to La Seur, "it is high time Interior sewed shut this hole in the federal purse – but that is not what Interior proposes."

In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/10, 179K), John Ostlund, a Yellowstone County commissioner, writes that "we are not getting as much revenue from the vast federal coal resources as we should be, because we're not producing as much coal as we could." He notes that "it matters for Yellowstone County, and other counties in which coal is mined, because one-eighth of the federal coal royalty tax revenue collected by DOI is distributed back to the county where the coal originated," and "another 40 percent of federal coal tax revenue is distributed to the state general fund." Ostlund urges the Interior Department to "change the bonus bid process so that it is paid only on the coal that is actually mined, not on unrecoverable coal, for instance," and "to reform the permitting process."

SENATORS SEEK LONGER COMMENT TIME ON STREAM PROTECTION RULE. [The Hill](#) (8/10, Cama, 471K) reports that "dozens of senators are asking the Obama administration to double the public comment period for a new mountaintop removal mining regulation." Led by Sen. Dan Coats, "the 33 senators said Friday that they and other stakeholders need 120 days to thoroughly analyze the rule and its impacts on mining and other sectors." The senators wrote in their letter, "The background and complexity of the proposed rule raise many potential issues that justify an extended comment period."

EMERGENCY DECLARED IN COLORADO AFTER EPA ACCIDENTALLY POLLUTES RIVER. [USA Today](#) (8/10, Toppo, 4.95M) reports that Durango, Colorado and nearby La Plata County "declared a state of emergency Sunday," after the EPA "took responsibility for breaching a debris dam near a Colorado mine, releasing water contaminated with heavy metals into a river that flows through the region." Now, "the Navajo Nation is considering suing the EPA." Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye told a local paper "that he had directed Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch to assemble a legal team to file a lawsuit against the EPA."

[ABC World News](#) (8/9, story 6, 1:55, Llamas, 5.84M) reported that the "potentially toxic runoff has stretched 100 miles, shutting down vacation spots and angering residents." The EPA "is on the scene because get this, one of their crews caused it." ABC (Bruce) said that the "thick yellow muck" is heading toward Lake Powell in Utah and could reach the Grand Canyon.

The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (8/10, 44K) reports that EPA officials said Sunday that the "Gold King Mine discharged an estimated 3 million gallons of contaminated water, three times the amount previously believed." "The mine continues to discharge 500 gallons per minute, EPA Region 8 administrator Shaun McGrath said in a teleconference call Sunday afternoon, but the polluted water is being contained and treated in two ponds by the site of the spill near Silverton, Colo."

EPA "Takes Full Responsibility" For Colorado Wastewater Spill. The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/7, story 10, 1:50, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) "takes full responsibility" for accidentally releasing "a million gallons of toxic sludge" into the Animus River in southern Colorado. Tests have confirmed that "heavy metals, like lead, cadmium, and arsenic are now flowing in the river," which is a source of "drinking water for towns surrounding it" and "dangerous for human life." [ABC World News](#) (8/7, story 9, 0:25, Muir, 5.84M) similarly reported that "dozens of miles of river" are now closed, "stretching all the way to New Mexico."

Wastewater Drainage Slowing, Reaches New Mexico. Toxic wastewater is continuing to drain into Colorado's Animus River, reports the [AP](#) (8/9). The rate of drainage from the abandoned mine, however, is currently "about 550 gallons per minute," which is "down from about 740 gallons per minute on Friday." The AP states the toxic waste has "reached the northern New Mexico cities of Aztec and Farmington."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/9, Kelly, 4.07M) reports that "portable labs for testing well water" are being "rushed" to Farmington, as "residents, farmers and others nervously wait for answers on whether the water is safe for them and their livestock." EPA officials have said the wastewater spilling out of the Gold King Mine is now being "collected in a settling pond and treated to make it less toxic," but they also "have no idea how much water remained in the mine." The Times further notes the toxic waste already in the river is now heading for "the San Juan River, Lake Powell and the Colorado River." [ABC World News](#) (8/8, story 7, 0:30, Vega, 5.84M) reported that wastewater "is also now approaching Utah."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/8, story 8, 0:30, Axelrod, 5.08M) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/8, story 4, 2:15, Geist, 7.86M) also provided coverage, with NBC noting that the EPA had been excavating the mine when "heavy machinery tore" a hole and "out gushed a million gallons of bright mustard colored ooze."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (8/9, Richardson, 344K) reports New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez "blasted the EPA for accidentally flooding the Animus River," and she is "calling on the agency to hold itself to the same standard for the disaster as it would a private entity." The Times additionally notes Martinez is "disturbed" by the lack of information the EPA is providing, indicating that she was not informed about the spill until almost a full day after the incident began.

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/9, Drajem, 2.66M) reported that "five drinking water systems that might be impacted downstream in New Mexico have closed off intakes from the river," which won't be opened up until clean-up is complete and water quality is improved. In a Saturday statement, the EPA indicated "it is providing technical and laboratory assistance."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by [US News & World Report](#) (8/9, 811K), [Bloomberg News](#) (8/7, Drajem, 2.66M), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/10, 73K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (8/9, 28K), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/7, 3.3M), the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (8/10, 44K), the [Canon City \(CO\) Daily Record](#) (8/10, 22K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/10, Paul, 787K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/10, Paul, 787K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/10, 492K), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (8/7, 79K).

NATURAL GAS LINE PROJECT PROPOSED IN EAGLE. The [Vail \(CO\) Daily](#) (8/10, 44K) reports that a project to upgrade or relocate a natural gas transmission line will "be presented to the public for the first time during an open house Monday in Eagle." The article notes that "because the alternative routes impact both U.S. Bureau of Land Management and town of Eagle Open Space, the two governmental entities are co-hosting the open house."

COMMENTS URGED TO KEEP COLOWYO MINE OPEN. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (8/8, 10K) editorializes that "the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is in a very important comment period, and it's vital for the Moffat County community to submit comments in order to keep Colowyo Mine." t argues that "comments make a difference, and it's critical to understand that all the comments submitted will be read, assessed and used to help determine the fate of Colowyo."

Additional coverage of the Colowyo Mine case was provided by [Inside Climate News](#) (8/10).

BLM URGED TO REJECT ALTON COAL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/10, 492K), Clait Braun, Ph.D., principal of Grouse Inc. in Tucson, Ariz., and Allison Jones, conservation biologist and director of Wild Utah Project, write that "a proposal from Alton Coal Development to greatly expand a coal strip mine from private lands to public lands less than 10 miles from Bryce Canyon National Park" would "destroy thousands of acres of sensitive sage-grouse habitats designated for the highest level of protection by the state of Utah and allow further habitat destruction by a coal company that has failed to reclaim the land on its existing private property mine." They write that "in a recently released Environmental Impact Statement now out for public comment the BLM proposes a sage grouse mitigation plan that would be laughable if it didn't result in the

Action alternative for the Alton Coal mine expansion.”

Offshore Energy Development:

SENATE BILL ENDS BAN ON EXPORTATION OF OIL. The [Charleston \(SC\) Moultrie News](#) (8/7) reports that “the U.S. Senate Energy Committee has passed legislation eliminating a 40-year ban on exportation of U.S. crude oil in anticipation of new drilling off the coast of South Carolina and three other South Atlantic states.” The legislation was “approved July 30 on a 12-10 vote, and is expected to be before the full Senate this year.”

Also providing coverage is [WPDE-TV](#) Myrtle Beach, SC (8/10, 3K).

Additional coverage of offshore drilling was provided by the [Carteret County \(NC\) News-Times](#) (8/10, 28K), the [Jacksonville \(NC\) Daily News](#) (8/8, 2K), and the [Coastal Review](#) (8/10).

Oil Industry Pushes For More Gulf Drilling Access. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (8/9, Gibson, 651K) reports that the US oil industry is lobbying Congress to pass a bill expanding drilling access to much of the eastern Gulf of Mexico. “We can continue to put downward pressure on the cost of important energy resources into the future,” said David Mica, executive director of the Florida Petroleum Council. The industry argues that doing so would create jobs, but critics are skeptical. “I honestly think some of these industry reports are inflated by an order of magnitude 10 times greater than what’s actually there,” said Frank Alcock, a former Energy Department economist.

SHELL’S FENNICA HEADS TO CHUKCHI SEA. On its website, the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (8/7, 2K) reported that Shell’s Fennica icebreaker left Alaska’s Dutch Harbor on Thursday for the Chukchi Sea, where upon its arrival, “Interior Department officials said they expect to quickly approve the deeper drilling” into the sea floor. The article compared the Fennica’s mission with that of the Coast Guard icebreaker Healy, which will conduct scientific experiments. The [Marine Link](#) (8/10, 1K) and the [Maritime Executive](#) (8/7, 21) carried similar coverage.

Shell’s Arctic Executive Pickard Profiled. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/7, Dlouhy, 2.28M) featured an in-depth profile of Ann Pickard, Shell’s executive vice president of its Arctic operations, highlighting “her career taking on some of the toughest jobs in the oil industry,” and featuring comments from Pickard herself. The Chronicle outlined Pickard’s work handling challenging situations in Australia and Nigeria, as well as her encouragement to pursue Arctic exploration, and featured highly positive comments from energy industry figures about Pickard and her leadership.

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM GRANTS BURNING MAN PERMIT. The [AP](#) (8/10, 2.28M) reports that the BLM has “rescinded its request for V P accommodations at the Burning Man festival and granted the permit needed to hold the event in Nevada’s Black Rock Desert starting Aug. 30.” The bureau “announced Friday that it scrapped a request for festival organizers to build the so-called Blue Pit Compound at a cost of \$1 million.” BLM Nevada spokesman Steven Clutter said, “We worked to maximize the efficiency of the operation, and it’s essentially back to where it was last year.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (8/8, 199K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/10, Press, 787K), the [Lakeland \(FL\) Ledger](#) (8/9, 136K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (8/10, 5.59M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (8/10, 5.59M), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (8/10, 651K), the [US News & World Report](#) (8/8, 811K), [Yahoo! News](#) (8/8, 5.98M), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (8/10, 99K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (8/8, Press, 6.76M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (8/8, Press, 1.19M), [USA Today](#) (8/8, 4.95M), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (8/10), and [Fox News](#) (8/8, 8.91M).

UTAH STAKES CLAIM TO RECAPTURE CANYON CITING REPEALED FRONTIER-ERA LAW. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/10, 492K) reports that “the state of Utah has added a 9.22-mile ‘road’ through Recapture Canyon to a list of 12,000 routes it is seeking to wrest from federal ownership.” In a letter Wednesday to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, state officials claim “the state enjoys a ‘right-of-way’ through the canyon under the repealed frontier-era law known as RS 2477.” According to the article, “the law allows Western counties to claim title to routes over public lands if they can demonstrate 10 years of continuous use prior to the law’s repeal in 1976.”

NEW LAND EXCHANGE PROPOSAL INVOLVING WILKS RANCH. The [AP](#) (8/10, 2.28M) reports that “Montana’s largest landowner is proposing a new land exchange with the federal Bureau of Land Management after a previous one met opposition from hunters.” According to the article, “Farris Wilks and his brother, Dan, who own the NBar Ranch at Grass Range in Fergus County, are proposing, on a preliminary basis, to give 5,200 acres of their land to the BLM in return for 4,900 acres of BLM land.” The article notes that “about 3,400 acres of the Wilks property that would be exchanged is inside the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument and 640 acres is adjacent to it.”

RED RIVER LANDOWNERS PROTEST AGAINST BLM CLAIMS. [KAUZ-TV](#) Wichita Falls, TX (8/10, 447) reports that the BLM has “tried to claim the land of another Red River landowner.” The BLM is “now claiming that 100 of Jimmy Smith’s “145 acres he bought and owns is not his.” But “instead of backing down and allowing the government agency to take over his land Smith has joined many other Red River landowners in protesting the BLM claims to land.”

BLM BAT STUDY SEEKS TO FIND ROOSTS. The [AP](#) (8/10, 2.28M) reports that “a team of bat catchers...trekked out into the High Desert east of Bend on a recent Monday night” as “part of a two-year Bureau of Land Management project trying to determine where western long-eared myotis bats go during the daytime,” according to Christopher “Digger” Anthony, wildlife biologist with the BLM in Prineville. Anthony, “who is leading the research as part of his master graduate studies with Oregon State University in Corvallis,” said, “The main thing is to identify their roosts.” The article notes that “figuring out where the bats go during the day will fill in gaps in knowledge about what habitats are most important for the flying mammals.”

WOMAN INFECTED WITH TULAREMIA. [KKCO-TV](#) Grand Junction, CO (8/10, 508) reports that “a Mesa County woman has a confirmed case of the bacterial infection Tularemia.” The BLM believes the woman was “infected near the Colorado River.” According to the article, “while there have been reported cases of Tularemia the BMI says the threat is not high enough to considering restricting access to public lands.” Christopher Joyner from the BLM said, “People really enjoy recreating on public lands, and we don’t want to do anything to restrict that access. What we do want to do is make sure the public takes necessary actions so they don’t get infected.”

PROTECTION URGED FOR GREAT DIVIDE BASIN, NORTHERN RED DESERT. In an op-ed for the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (8/10, 115K), Kyle Wilson, a BLM Wild Lands Specialist with the Wyoming Wilderness Association, writes that “setting aside lands from development has been to the economic and recreational benefit of all Americans,” and “in Wyoming, protected federal lands provide local government and businesses with sustainable revenues that are less subject to the boom and bust cycles seen in the energy industry.” He calls attention to “the often forgotten lands in our basins and deserts are beginning to gain some much-needed attention.” According to Wilson, “the Great Divide Basin and northern Red Desert, for example, are a recreational paradise.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

ZIMBABWE STILL PLAN TO SEEK EXTRADITION OF HUNTER ACCUSED OF KILLING CECIL THE LION. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/10, 1.19M) reports that “Zimbabwe still plans to ask the U.S. to extradite the Twin Cities big-game hunter who shot the famed African lion Cecil, but not until the police send over charges, an official of the African nation said Friday.” A spokesman for Zimbabwe’s top prosecuting authority said “the agency is still waiting for police in Zimbabwe to send them charging documents in the case of Walter J. Palmer, as well as the police request for extradition.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/7, Board, 2.46M) and the [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (8/10, 283K).

PLAN WOULD LIMIT INTERACTION WITH MANATEES AT CRYSTAL RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (8/10, 2.28M) reports that “federal wildlife officials are seeking public comment for plans to limit swimming among manatees at a popular Florida refuge.” The FWS is “proposing new measures to protect manatees that spend the winter at Three Sisters Springs in the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge.” According to the article, “from Nov. 15 through March 31 each year, the wildlife service would cut the number of tour operators allowed access to the springs, limit the number of people in the water with the manatees and restrict how those people interact with the endangered animals.”

JUDGE TOSSES OUT LAWSUIT OVER RECREATIONAL SEA TURTLE TAKES. The [Carteret County \(NC\) News-Times](#) (8/10, 28K) reports that “a U.S. District Court judge has dismissed the civil complaint against state and federal agencies and their officials filed by the N.C. Fisheries Association and Carteret County Fisherman’s Association.” Judge James Dever III “granted on July 22 motions to dismiss forwarded by federal and state defendants in the NCF’s complaint, which alleged violations of the Endangered Species Act due to recreational sea turtle takes.”

MYSTERIOUS FUNGUS POSES THREAT TO SNAKES. The [AP](#) (8/10, 2.28M) reports that “a mysterious fungus spreading across the eastern half of the country” poses a threat to snakes. According to the article, “in less than a decade, the fungus has been identified in at least nine Eastern states, and although it affects a number of species, it’s

especially threatening to rattlesnakes that live in small, isolated populations with little genetic diversity, such as those found in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York." The article notes that "biologists have compared its appearance to the fungus that causes white nose syndrome in bats, which since 2006 has killed millions of the creatures and continues to spread across North America."

National Park Service:

NATIONAL PARKS ATTRACTING MORE VISITORS. [USA Today](#) (8/7, 4.95M) reports that "more than 292 million visitors made 2014 the busiest year ever for America's national parks." The article notes that "this year, attendance is up another 4% through May, according to National Parks visitor data." According to the article, "a combination of cheaper gasoline, more retiring baby boomers with time on their hands and heavy state tourism advertising campaigns may get the credit."

Glacier National Park Sees Spike In Visitors. The [Greenwire](#) (8/7, Subscription Publication) reports that "visits to Glacier National Park are at a record pace this year, despite an active wildfire that has shut down several miles of the Montana park's most popular attraction." The article notes that "totals are up 11 percent compared with the same period last year." It also notes that "a record 2.3 million people visited Glacier National Park in 2014."

Congress Urged To Fund NPS. In an op-ed for the [Daytona Beach \(FL\) News-Journal](#) (8/9, 166K), Joseph H. Carter Sr., a Washington speech writer, writes that "Florida's nine national parks are suffering, needing about \$190 million in crucial maintenance left unfunded and neglected at the end of the last fiscal year, the National Park Service reports." According to Carter, "powerful forces are loudly demanding that wildlife prairies be opened for livestock grazing, that park forests be cut for lumber, and that mineral-rich public land be opened to mining and petroleum production," and "the plea for money to fix neglected parks is lost in the tumult." Carter urges Congress to "properly" fund "our National Park Service, which serves nearly 300 million visitors annually."

BILL WOULD DESIGNATE WOMEN'S RIGHTS MUSEUM AS NATIONAL PARK. The [Huffington Post](#) (8/10, 164K) reports that "the 14 Democratic women in the U.S. Senate introduced a bill on Thursday to designate the nation's foremost museum of women's suffrage as a national park." If the legislation "passes, it would mean increased funding to pay for park rangers, expanded hours and crucial repairs to the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum in Washington, D.C." Sen. Barbara Mikulski, "the bill's chief sponsor, in a statement Thursday in the congressional record," said, "Not a single one of us would be here without Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party. That's why it's so important that we not only preserve the place where they fought for women's full inclusion in society, the Sewall-Belmont House, but elevate it to its rightful spot among our nation's most important national treasures."

CHILD CONTRACTS PLAGUE AT YOSEMITE. [ABC World News](#) (8/7, story 13, 0:15, Muir, 5.84M) briefly reported that a child is in the hospital "being treated for the plague after contracting the disease while camping with her family" two weeks ago in Yosemite National Park.

The [Greenwire](#) (8/7, Subscription Publication) reports that "the California Public Health Laboratory confirmed that a child returning from a camping trip to Yosemite National Park and Stanislaus National Forest contracted the first case of plague in the state since 2006, but officials are urging calm." Health officials said plague is "extremely rare, with no known cases of human-to-human infection in California since 1924."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Daily News](#) (8/7, 3.75M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (8/10, 5.59M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/7, 3.3M), and [Reuters](#) (8/7, Bernstein).

HIKER KILLED BY BEAR AT YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (8/8, Press, 6.76M) reports that the NPS says "a Montana man found dead in Yellowstone National Park was the victim of a grizzly bear attack." According to the article, "based on tracks found at the scene and other evidence, it appears that an adult female grizzly and at least one cub were likely involved." However, "authorities were not releasing an official cause of death until an autopsy is done Monday and additional evidence is reviewed."

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (8/8, Grinberg, 5.17M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/10, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (8/10, Holley, 6.76M), [USA Today](#) (8/9, Calfas, 4.95M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/10, Simpson, 787K), the [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (8/8, 179K), [ABC News](#) (8/10, 3.97M), [Reuters](#) (8/9, Zuckerman), [NBC News](#) (8/10, 3.73M), [TIME](#) (8/10, 19.55M), [Slate](#) (8/10, 1.38M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (8/10, 5.59M), [ABC Radio Australia](#) (8/9, 769), [Gawker](#) (8/10, 1.79M), [Yahoo! News](#) (8/10, 5.98M), [WIMS-AM South Shore \(N\)](#) South Shore, IN (8/8), [WFXT-TV Boston \(MA\)](#) Boston (8/10, 131K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (8/10, 345K), and [WDIV-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (8/10, 292K).

FRENCH COUPLE DIES AT WHITE SANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT SON SURVIVES. The [AP](#) (8/10, 2.28M) reports that "a French couple who died during an afternoon hike across the searing New Mexico desert likely saved their 9-year-old son by giving him two sips of water for each one they took before the supply ran out, a sheriff said Friday." According to Otero County Sheriff Benny House, "the boy was dehydrated but in remarkably good shape when he was found alongside his dead father on a trail in the White Sands National Monument." House "identified the couple as David Steiner, 42, and his wife, Ornella Steiner, 51."

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (8/8, Gray, 5.17M), the [US News & World Report](#) (8/7, 811K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (8/7, Press, 6.76M), [World News Australia](#) (8/9, 9K), [MSN](#) (8/10, 7.76M), the [Inquisitr](#) (8/10, 527K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (8/10, 5.59M), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/9, 3.3M).

MANASSAS BATTLEFIELD TRUST RECEIVES \$20,000 GRANT. The [Washington Post](#) (8/10, —, Lane, 6.76M) reports that "the Manassas Battlefield Trust, the friends group associated with the Manassas National Battlefield Park, was awarded one of 25 grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program, a division of the National Park Service." According to the article, "the \$20,000 grant will provide funding for the group's recently hired executive director, Debra Kathman, as well as the development of outreach and marketing materials to raise awareness about the trust and its mission."

INTERIOR RELEASES FINAL STUDY OF SHEPHERDSTOWN BATTLEFIELD. The [Shepherdstown \(WV\) Chronicle](#) (8/10) reports that "in early July, The Department of Interior released the final study documents of the National Park Service's (NPS) Special Resource Study (SRS) of the Shepherdstown Battlefield." The study "concluded that the 510 acre site of the 1862 Battle of Shepherdstown would be preferably included within the Antietam National Battlefield Park."

NPS RELEASES STUDY ON STE. GENEVIEVE LOG HOMES. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (8/10, 968K) reports that "the centuries-old vertical log homes of Ste. Genevieve, Mo., are now on the official path to becoming a national park." The NPS "released on Friday a study declaring dozens of properties in the 4,000-person Mississippi River town as historically significant and suitable for a park designation." According to the article, "the study said Ste. Genevieve, about an hour south of St. Louis, holds one of the oldest National Historic Landmark districts in the country, 'possessing a large and rare collection of French vernacular vertical log houses.'"

NPS STUDYING EXPANSION OF JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (8/9, 99K) reports that "local activists have long wanted to see Eagle Mountain become part" of Joshua Tree National Park, "citing its importance to at-risk species and its potential value as a historical attraction." The NPS is "now deciding whether it should try to make that happen, launching a 'boundary study' that drew several hundred people to public comment meetings this week." David Lamfrom, California desert program director for the nonprofit National Parks Conservation Association, said, "The park service is going to do an examination to determine if those lands are of national park quality or not."

NEW BADLANDS SUPERINTENDENT COULD REVIVE WORK ON TRIBAL NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (8/10, 2.28M) reports that "the incoming superintendent of Badlands National Park says he's open to a languishing plan to create a tribal national park in the Badlands." Recently named Superintendent Mike Pflaum said that "he wants to help repair relationships with tribal officials on issues including the plan." Pflaum says "he wants to learn more once he arrives to lead the park."

NEW USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCED. The [AP](#) (8/10, 2.28M) reports that the NPS said Friday "it was naming the superintendent of national parks in the Seattle area to oversee the USS Arizona Memorial, which has been rocked by allegations that tickets to the memorial were sold even though people aren't supposed to pay to visit the solemn site honoring World War II dead." Jacqueline Ashwell, "who currently leads the Seattle unit of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park and other Park Service sites, will assume her new role Oct. 19, the agency said in a statement." Ashwell will "replace Paul DePrey, who was at the helm during the alleged ticket sales."

SHEEP BELONG TO SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY ILLEGALLY GRAZING WITHIN GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/10, 378K) reports that for years, sheep belonging to the Southern Nevada Water Authority have been grazing illegally inside Great Basin National Park. Park superintendent Steve Mietz said, "It's been going on for a while now, and we're still having trouble with trespass sheep." According to the article, the two agencies have been discussing ways to fix the problem, but the sheep keep intruding.

FATALLY INJURED SEA TURTLE MAY HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY HUMAN. The [AP](#) (8/10, 2.28M) reports that "an endangered loggerhead sea turtle that died after being found with a crushing head wound at a North Carolina national park may have been attacked by a person, authorities said Friday." According to the article, "the young turtle was found alive by a park ranger at the Outer Banks' Cape Lookout National Seashore in late July, and was handed over to veterinarians from North Carolina State University to receive treatment." However, "the turtle was later found unresponsive at the rehabilitation facility at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, and was given pain medication and allowed to die, according to a report by the Coastal Conservation Association."

DROUGHT CAUSES EMERGENCY FISHING CLOSURE IN OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK. [K NG-TV Seattle](#) (8/9, 316K) reports that "most Rivers and streams in Olympic

this summer." Park spokesperson Barb Maynes said, "Pacific salmon and trout show signs of physiological stress at water temperatures above 60 degrees Fahrenheit, with lethal effects beginning at 70 degrees."

WOLF HUNT TO RESUME MONDAY NEAR DENALI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/9, 219K) reports that "wolf hunting will resume Monday on state lands northeast of Denali National Park and Preserve amid calls by conservationist groups to reinstate the long-disputed 'wolf buffer' near the park." In May, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Sam Cotten had "closed the corridor outside the park to wolf hunting two weeks before the end of the season after two wolves were shot legally near the Stampede Trail." On Friday, the state's wildlife conservation director, Bruce Dale, "confirmed that the northeast corridor would reopen to wolf hunting on Monday, Aug. 10."

NPS COMMEMORATES OLMSTEAD'S YOSEMITE REPORT. The [Boston Globe](#) (8/7, Humphries, 1.1M) reports that the NPS will commemorate Frederick Law Olmsted's Yosemite report Sunday at 10 a.m. at Arnold Arboretum. According to the article, "scholars today see it as an important statement that influenced the nascent preservation movement and eventually the creation of the National Park Service 50 years later."

SLEEPING BEAR DUNES AREA PARTIALLY REOPENS AFTER STORMS. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (8/9, 910K) reports that "authorities say they have reopened parts of northern Michigan's Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore — a week after severe storms and violent winds uprooted trees, scattered debris and spoiled the landscape in the popular tourist area." The NPS "announced late Saturday the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive and Dune Climb have partially reopened." The article notes that "the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail also has been cleared from Empire to Glen Haven, but the stretch between Glen Haven and Glen Arbor remains closed."

Also providing coverage is [WWJ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (8/9, 34K).

BODY OF MISSING NEW JERSEY SWIMMER RECOVERED. The [New York Post](#) (8/7, 2.73M) reports that "officials have positively identified the body of a swimmer who disappeared off Sandy Hook that has been found in the surf." According to Gateway Recreation Area spokeswoman Daphne Yun, "the body of 25-year-old Andros Vega-Pena, of Red Bank, was found Friday." Yun says the NPS is "saddened by the man's death and thanks those who helped with the rescue and recovery effort."

ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Central Maine](#) (8/8, 12K), Jim Robbins, president and owner of Robbins Lumber in Searsport, writes that the effort to establish a national park in Maine is "just a misguided, misleading attempt to provide" Roxanne Quimby "with a legacy that even her vast fortune can't buy." He notes that "Quimby failed to win over local residents despite a massive public relations campaign and large donations to environmental and community groups, such as the Friends of Baxter State Park, the Millinocket Trail's End Festival and the Natural Resources Council of Maine." Robbins argues that "a national monument certainly would attract fewer visitors and provide even fewer jobs, while provoking the same concerns about the way federal lands grow in size, scope and restrictions on activities within their boundaries and on adjacent areas."

US Geological Survey:

BIOLOGISTS RELEASING 10,000 LAKE STURGEON IN NORTHERN NEW YORK WATERWAY. The [AP](#) (8/10) reports that "state fish biologists are releasing 10,000 lake sturgeon into northern New York waters as part of a restoration program for the threatened species." On Monday, "7,500 sturgeon are to be released into Chaumont Bay at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, and 2,500 are to be released into the St. Lawrence River at Ogdensburg." The article notes that "the restoration effort is a collaboration between the Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, the New York Power Authority and the U.S. Geological Survey."

Top National News:

OBAMA DEFENDS IRAN DEAL DURING SUNDAY SHOW APPEARANCE. The President's interview on [CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS](#), during which he defended the Iran nuclear agreement, received no coverage on the three network news broadcasts Sunday evening, and print and online coverage are relatively light. Much of the coverage describes the President as continuing to defend the agreement, but generally does not offer analysis of his tone. Also, while a number of stories report on lawmakers' announcing their positions, there is no speculation on how the agreement will fare when Congress votes.

The [AP](#) (8/10, Superville) notes that the President said the agreement achieves the goal of dealing with Iran's "nuclear problem" better than "any alternative." He argued that "a constructive relationship with Iran could be a byproduct of the deal...but it won't happen immediately. If at all." The [Jerusalem Post](#) (8/10, Wilner, 34K) calls the CNN interview "another opportunity for the US president to outline his extensive argument in favor of the deal." The President said, "If Iran is able to get a nuclear weapon, if its breakout time remains as short it is — as it is right now and they are installing advanced centrifuges, and so on — then they will be emboldened to engage in more of the activities, which are not constrained or bound by the amount of money Iran has, but rather have to do with the very strategic decisions that Iran is making at any given time." [The Hill](#) (8/9, Richardson, 471K) reported that while he "acknowledged that Iran would benefit economically" from the agreement, the President "contended that it would not be a 'game-changer'" and argued that "the threat of Iran acquiring a nuclear weapon far outstrips that of Tehran becoming economically enriched."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/10, Parsons, 4.07M) says the President "stood by his charge that Iranian hardliners are making 'common cause' with Republican lawmakers" opposing the deal, "insisting that such an accusation 'is absolutely true, factually.'" The President told [CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS](#) (8/9, 10:02 a.m. EDT, 410K) that "inside of Iran, the people most opposed to the deal are the Revolutionary Guard, the Quds Force, hardliners implacably opposed to any cooperation with the international community, and there is a reason for that. Because they recognize that, if in fact this deal gets done, that rather than them being in the driver's seat with respect to the Iranian economy, they are in a weaker position. And the point I was simply making is that, if you look at the facts, the merits of this deal, then you will conclude that, not only does it cut off a pathway for Iran getting a nuclear weapon, but it also establishes the most effective verification and inspection regime that's ever been put in place."

On its website, [Voice of America](#) (8/9, 32K) reported that the President "dismissed the importance of a tweet from Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, showing an apparent silhouette of the American leader with a gun to his own head," saying, "I think that he tweeted that in response to me stating a fact, which is that if we were confronted with a situation in which we could not resolve this issue diplomatically, that we could militarily take out much of Iran's military infrastructure. I don't think that's disputable."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/10, A1, Boyer, 344K) notes that the President said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "has failed to offer a better alternative" to the deal, despite his "vehement criticism that the accord won't prevent Tehran from building nuclear weapons." The President argued that "Netanyahu and the Israeli public should get behind the deal because it is 'very good for Israel,' a consideration that he said has always driven the prime minister's decisions."

During the [interview](#) (8/9, 10:02 a.m. EDT, 410K), which was recorded before Sen. Chuck Schumer announced his opposition to the deal, the President was asked why the agreement doesn't have broad support from the public or Congress. The President said, "People haven't been getting all the information. ... But the people who know most about the central challenge that we're trying to deal with, which is making sure that Iran does not get a nuclear weapon, they are overwhelmingly in favor of it." In his column for the [Washington Post](#) (8/10, 6.76M), E. J. Dionne says last week's Republican presidential debate demonstrated why the President does not have "any chance of turning the opposition party" in favor of the deal. The President realizes that Republicans "will have the votes to pass a measure disapproving it, and he needs to keep enough Democrats on his side to sustain his veto." Dionne adds that the President "knows that he is in an ongoing battle for public opinion over a very big issue," and he "has to convince Americans that his measured approach to the world is the safest path for the country."

In a piece for [Politico Magazine](#) (8/9), former White House national security adviser Samuel Berger argued in favor of the agreement, writing that rejection "fundamentally shifts the balance of power on Iran from the president to the Congress in a way that makes a future agreement virtually impossible to achieve." Rejection, he adds, "isolates us in the world," and "allows Iran to move further toward a nuclear weapon, presenting the United States and Israel with terrible choices." Berger added that lawmakers "need to recognize that no means no — not for now, but not for exerting some control over Iran's nuclear program."

McCaskill Says She Is Still Undecided. Also Sunday, Sen. Claire McCaskill "insisted" that Schumer's opposition "hasn't placed pressure on fellow Democrats to follow suit," the [Washington Times](#) (8/10, Howell, 344K) reports. McCaskill said on NBC's "Meet the Press," "I don't think any of [us] feel pressure, either by Chuck Schumer's rejection of this deal or the president's full-throated support of this deal." McCaskill also said on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (8/9, 11 05 a.m. EDT, 3.08M) that she is still undecided, noting, "I hope my colleagues are doing what I'm doing, their homework. [Republicans] insisted on 60 days to review this deal. Most of them made their mind up in about five minutes. This is one where the heightened rhetoric on both sides is not always helpful."

Deutch Opposes Deal. The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (8/9, Bennett, 497K) notes that Rep. Ted Deutch, who is "hardly a member of the stick-it-to Obama crowd," announced his opposition to the deal last week.

Sanders Voices His Support For Deal, Takes Issue

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, June 26, 2015

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From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Fri Jun 26 2015 05:00:34 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, June 26, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES \$405 MILLION IN PILT PAYMENTS. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/25, 705) reports that the Interior Department on Thursday "announced it will distribute nearly \$405 million to 1,900 counties as part of a federal program that pays rural counties hundreds of millions of dollars a year to offset lost property tax revenue.". Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, in announcing the PILT payments, called it "a 'lifeline for many local communities,' noting that the payments go to mostly rural counties near national parks and refuges that use the money for public schools, roads and local police."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/26, 470K), the [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (6/25, 55K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (6/25, 28K), the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (6/26, 45K), and the [Loveland \(OH\) Magazine](#) (6/26).

SECRETARY JEWELL VOWS TO BRING NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY TO JUSTICE. The [Greenwire](#) (6/25, Subscription Publication) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said “Nevada cattle rancher Cliven Bundy, whose ranch was the site of an armed confrontation with federal officials last year over unpaid grazing fees, will be brought to justice.” Speaking with reporters ahead of this week’s Western Governors’ Association meeting, Jewell said “the federal government will continue pursuing Bundy in the courts.” She said, “Cliven Bundy has had multiple court orders to remove his cattle from federal public lands, and he has not paid his grazing fees, and he has not abided by the law, and so we will continue to pursue that.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/26, Cama, 533K), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (6/26, 380K), and [Western Journalism](#) (6/26, 361K).

SECRETARY JEWELL DISCUSSES SAGE GROUSE DURING WESTERN GOVERNORS MEETING. The [Greenwire](#) (6/25, Subscription Publication) reports that “the governors of Utah and Wyoming signaled yesterday that they are concerned the Bureau of Land Management’s final plans to increase sage grouse protections could unduly limit development in their states, but stopped short of directly opposing them.” Addressing the Western Governors’ Association’s annual meeting, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “argued that the plans have a real shot at preventing the bird from being listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act – a move that could severely inhibit any number of activities across the Western landscape, from energy development to infrastructure construction.” She said, “If we stay the course, we will have a decision by the end of September, and I remain optimistic that if we continue on this path together, that the Fish and Wildlife Service will have the certainty it needs that a ‘not warranted’ listing is a clear possibility.”

SECRETARY JEWELL SAYS NO DECISION MADE ON BASIN AND RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT YET. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/25, 705) reports that “the Obama administration has made no decision about whether it will designate a 700,000-acre national monument protecting public rangelands and mountains in east-central Nevada, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said yesterday.” However, “the area that conservationists and art enthusiasts are recommending be designated the ‘Basin and Range National Monument’ is ‘very special’ and could be preserved with minimal conflicts with other land uses, Jewell told reporters at the Western Governors’ Association annual meeting near Lake Tahoe.” Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, “who has introduced legislation to withdraw more than 800,000 acres of the Basin and Range area from future mineral development, has urged the administration to consider using its powers under the Antiquities Act to designate the lands as a monument if Congress fails to act.”

SECRETARY JEWELL TO VISIT GUAM, CHINA AND VIETNAM. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (6/25, 61K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is “scheduled to visit Guam as part of her Asia-Pacific tour, the federal agency announced early this morning.” Jewell will visit Guam as part of her trip next week to China and Vietnam, the release states.” Assistant Secretary of Insular Affairs Esther Kia’aina will “also be on island, according to the governor’s office.” According to the article, “the federal officials will meet with local leaders to discuss issues such as Compact Impact and the cost of compliance with federal regulations, the governor’s office stated in a press release.”

Also reporting on the story are the [Pacific News Center](#) (6/26) and [KUAM-TV](#) Dededo, GUM (6/25, 171).

HOUSE BEGINS DEBATE ON INTERIOR-EPA FUNDING BILL. The [Law 360](#) (6/26, 15K) reports that “the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday kicked off debate on a nearly \$30.2 billion bill to fund the U.S. Department of the Interior and Environmental Protection Agency for 2016, taking up several amendments including an increase in funding for the Bureau of Indian Affairs.” Legislators “began with general debate on the bill, H.R. 2822, the 2016 Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, before moving on to discuss proposed amendments.”

Amendment To Interior-EPA Bill Would Upend BLM’s Sage Grouse Plans. The [Greenwire](#) (6/25, Subscription Publication) reports that Rep. Mark Amodei has “offered an amendment to the House’s fiscal 2016 spending bill for the Interior Department that would upend federal efforts to conserve public lands for the greater sage grouse and throw a potential twist into the September decision whether to list the bird under the Endangered Species Act.” The amendment would “impose a one-year ban on the Bureau of Land Management’s recommending mineral withdrawals under the 1872 mining law for the purpose of conserving sage grouse.” The measure also “appears to ban funding for BLM to finalize or implement dozens of land-use plans across the West designed to beef up protections for sage grouse ahead of the September listing decision.”

Meanwhile, the [Boise State \(ID\) Public Radio](#) (6/26) reports that the Idaho Cattle Association is going to protest the federal sage grouse plan.

Additional coverage of the sage grouse was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/26, 74K) and the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (6/26, 10K).

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BIPARTISAN PUSH SEEKS TO REAUTHORIZE LWCF. The [Greenwire](#) (6/25, Subscription Publication) reports that “lawmakers from both parties and each side of the Capitol today sought to give new momentum to stalled legislation that would reauthorize” the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/26, 241K), Regina Wheeler, CEO, Positive Energy Solar, writes that “more than 60 other local businesses...recently wrote U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair Lisa Murkowski and ranking member Maria Cantwell asking them to reauthorize LWCF before it sunsets.” Wheeler argues that the “impact of this program in New Mexico is broad and deep, and if Congress does not act quickly it will be a tragedy felt by all New Mexicans for years to come.”

SBA REPORT RANKS INTERIOR’S HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESSES. The [Washington Post](#) (6/26, Jayakumar, 5.03M) reports that the Small Business Administration released its annual scorecard for government agencies on Friday, measuring their effectiveness in “awarding work to small businesses.” The Post says the Federal government awarded almost 25 percent of “prime contracts” to small businesses, higher than its goal of 23 percent; although top performers include the State, Interior, and

Transportation Departments, “agencies that performed poorly included the Energy Department and the Education Department.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF WILDFIRES. Continuing coverage of various wildfires was provided by [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/25, 199K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/26, 22K), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/25, 199K), [KIVI-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (6/26, 861), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/26, 5.37M), [WWBT-TV Richmond \(VA\)](#) Richmond, VA (6/26, 83K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (6/26, 100K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/26, Press, 2.29M), the [St. Joseph \(MO\) News-Press](#) (6/26, 20K), the [Bloomington \(IL\) Pantagraph](#) (6/26, 158K), the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (6/26, 557K), the [Watertown \(WI\) Daily Times](#) (6/26, 27K), [WPXI-TV Pittsburgh \(PA\)](#) Pittsburgh (6/25, 307K), the [Corvallis \(OR\) Gazette-Times](#) (6/26, 32K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (6/26, 970K), [Newser](#) (6/26, 245K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (6/24, 539K), the [Carson City \(NV\) Now](#) (6/26, 211), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (6/25, 2.93M), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (6/26), the [Greenwich \(CT\) Time](#) (6/26, 20K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (6/26, 100K), [CBS News](#) (6/26, 8.2M), the [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (6/26, Press, 279K), [KIVI-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (6/26, 861), and [KRXI-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (6/26, 656).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WESTERN GOVERNORS’ ASSOCIATION MEETING. Additional coverage of the meeting of the Western Governors’ Association was provided by the [Crookston \(MN\) Times](#) (6/25, 5K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/26, 99K), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (6/25, 2K), the [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (6/26, 23K), the [Casa Grande \(AZ\) Dispatch](#) (6/26, 24K), [KBOI-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (6/26, 1K), and [KIVI-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (6/26, 861).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SECRETARY JEWELL TOURS FIRE COMMAND CENTER. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s tour of a fire incident command center was provided by the [Greenfield \(IN\) Daily Reporter](#) (6/26, 31K) and the [Gardnerville \(NV\) Record Courier](#) (6/26, 20K). [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (6/26, 45K),

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INTERIOR’S PHOTOS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. Additional coverage of the photos the Interior Department shares on social media was provided by the [Oklahoman](#) (6/26, 506K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RESILIENT LANDS AND WATERS INITIATIVE. Additional coverage of the Resilient Lands and Waters initiative was provided by the [Government Security News](#) (6/26, 104K).

OP-ED: CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS DESERVES MONUMENT. In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/26, 241K), Joseph P. Sánchez, Ph.D., who retired from the NPS in 2014 after 35 years of service, writes that although the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration were “important to the nation and to National Parks throughout the country, and although their works remain evident in many parks, nowhere is there a unit of the National Park System dedicated to preserving and telling their stories.” He argues that “there ought to be such a national monument, it ought to be in New Mexico and it ought to be at the Old Santa Fe Trail Building in Santa Fe, itself a CCC project.” Sánchez urges President Barack Obama to “take a major step forward regarding that almost forgotten, but significant, part of our national history, by proclaiming a Civilian Conservation Corps/Works Projects Administration National Monument at the Old Santa Fe Trail Building.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES MILESTONE FOR LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. The [Native American Times](#) (6/26, 337) reports that “in a major milestone for the Department of the Interior’s Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program), Deputy Secretary Michael Connor today announced that more than \$500 million has been paid to more than 24,000 individual landowners to restore the equivalent of nearly 850,000 acres of land to tribal governments.” Connor said, “The Department is making significant progress toward fulfilling President Obama’s goal of strengthening and investing in tribal communities. Today’s announcement highlights not only the efficiency of our work in the department but also our partnership with tribal governments. The Buy-Back Program and tribal leaders must continue to work together to ensure that landowners are aware of the opportunity to consolidate their fractional land interests for the benefit of both the landowner and tribal communities.”

In a piece for the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (6/25, 28K), Connor writes that he milestone is “a significant achievement for the Program, which began making offers in 2013, and reflects tremendous work in partnership with tribal governments across Indian Country.” He asserts that the Interior Department is “taking significant and lasting steps toward fulfilling President Obama’s goal of strengthening and investing in tribal communities through this exceptional opportunity.” Connor concludes that “the Buy-Back Program is another example of this Administration’s commitment to provide more sustainability for landowners, their families, and tribal communities for the benefit of generations to come.”

BIA APPROVES FAST-TRACK LEASING REGULATIONS FOR TWO TRIBES. [Law 360](#) (6/26, 15K) reports that the BIA has “signed off on regulations proposed by two Native American tribes under the HEARTH Act that will allow them to bypass BIA approval of land-lease deals, according to notices published Thursday in the Federal Register.” The article notes that “the California-based Rincon Band of Luiseno Mission Indians and the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma are the latest of 20 tribes to take advantage of the 2012 legislation.”

FBI CONFIRMS MAN WAS KILLED BY LAW OFFICERS ON SPIRIT LAKE RESERVATION. The [AP](#) (6/26) reports that “federal authorities have confirmed that law officers shot and killed a man on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation last week.” FBI spokesman Kyle Loven said that “31-year-old Joseph Charboneau (SHAHR’-buh-noh) was killed during an altercation with Bureau of Indian Affairs officers on June 16.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS INTRODUCE NEW DROUGHT RELIEF LEGISLATION. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/25, 705) reports that a group of House Republicans on Thursday “introduced new legislation to address the drought in California and other parts of the West, the latest move in a yearslong effort to find a legislative fix for the region’s ongoing water crisis.” According to the article, “the California-specific provisions in H.R. 2898, the ‘Western Water and American Food Security Act,’ focus on boosting

water transfers from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Valley Delta to parched agricultural communities in the Central Valley and municipalities farther south, including Los Angeles, that are running low on water.” In order “to allow for more water to flow south from the bay delta, the legislation would tweak the science formulas used to protect the region’s endangered smelt and salmon species, a change that Democrats have long argued would roll back environmental regulations for the region’s vulnerable fish population.”

Also reporting on the story are [The Hill](#) (6/25, Cama, 533K), the [National Journal](#) (6/26, Plautz, Subscription Publication, 156K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/26, Freking, 2.29M), and the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/26, 313K).

BOR PLANS WORK AT LAKE NIGHORSE. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (6/25, 28K) reports that the BOR has “plans to build an entrance station and boat-decontamination station at Lake Nighthorse, according to Brent Rheese, the bureau’s Upper Colorado River regional director, who last week attended a meeting in Durango of the four-state Upper Colorado River Commission.” The article notes that “lack of recreation access has been a sore point and a source of snarky jokes for area residents since the reservoir filled.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

HOUSE COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON BLM’S RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS. The [E&E Daily](#) (6/25, Subscription Publication) reports that a House Natural Resources Committee hearing Wednesday “on BLM’s renewable energy programs erupted into a partisan shouting match after a Republican leader accused an agency official of misleading the panel.” The hearing of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations “reviewed a newly released GAO report that found flaws in BLM’s ability to collect and maintain the bonds required to cover the cost of reclaiming projects in case a company goes belly-up.” A BLM employee in Wyoming told GAO that “someone had mistakenly shredded several bonds that had been kept in a safe at the Rawlins field office because he or she did not know what they were.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Kansas City \(MO\) infoZine](#) (6/26, 175).

FEDERAL REGULATORS CRITICIZE GRANT LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT. The [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (6/25, 17K) reports that “a set of environmental, recreational, and engineering studies supporting the controversial Grant Lake hydroelectric project is missing necessary information, according to comments released by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the federal agency that licenses hydroelectric projects.” The article notes that “comments released on Thursday by the US Fish and Wildlife Service also found weaknesses in HEA’s 2013 fisheries research and the analysis based on it.” Jeffry Anderson, supervisor of the Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office, “wrote in his comments that environmental sampling done during a single year is insufficient to ‘differentiate potential impacts of the Project from natural background variation.’”

Onshore Energy Development:

FRACKING OPPONENTS SEEM TO BE LOSING MOMENTUM. The [Washington Times](#) (6/25, Richardson, 641K) reports that “in a development that has caught both sides by surprise, the legal and political momentum these days appears to be running against the anti-fracking cause.” According to the article, “in states where the revolutionary oil- and gas-drilling technique actually is being employed in a significant way, the movement is losing ground.” The article notes that “foes of fracking were hit with another setback Tuesday as a federal judge delayed this week’s scheduled implementation of the Obama administration’s tight new fracking rules for federal lands, prompted by a lawsuit challenging the regulations filed by four states.”

REPORT TRACKS FUGITIVE METHANE EMISSIONS. [Think Progress](#) (6/25, 435K) reports that “oil and gas operations located on federal and tribal lands leaked \$360 million worth of fuel in 2013, money which would have gone in part to taxpayers and tribes in the form of royalties, according to a new report.” The report was commissioned by the Environmental Defense Fund “to track fugitive methane emissions, a term referring to methane released when natural gas is leaked, vented, or flared.” According to the article, “the report looked specifically at fugitive methane emissions on federal and tribal lands,” and “it found that, on those lands, more than 65 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas was wasted via leaks and venting in 2013, representing more than 1 million metric tons of methane.”

REVISION OF ROYALTY RATES URGED. In an op-ed for [Newsweek](#) (6/26, 175K), Nicole Gentile, the director of campaigns with the Public Lands Project at the Center for American Progress, writes that “under the current royalty rates, bonding requirements, minimum bids and rental rates on public lands—some of which have not been updated in nearly a century—American taxpayers and energy-producing states are not receiving a fair return from the development of their valuable resources.” According to Gentile, “from a business perspective, the federal government is lagging behind states and private landowners in defending the financial interests of their shareholders: American taxpayers.” She concludes that “the upcoming rulemaking that addresses the federal oil and gas leasing process is a critical opportunity for the Obama administration to re-evaluate how public lands are leased and ensure that the public receives a fair and equitable share of these shared resources.”

SEN. MCCONNELL PUSHES BACK AGAINST REGULATIONS IMPACTING COAL INDUSTRY. In an op-ed for the [Harlan \(KY\) Daily Enterprise](#) (6/26, 19K), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell criticizes the Obama Administration for waging “a war against Kentucky coal jobs, miners, and their families.” McConnell touts a step taken by the Senate Appropriations Committee “towards using Congress’s power of the purse” to “help those not only in the coal industry but also farmers and Kentucky job creators.” Among the things, the measure “expresses the committee’s concerns with the Department of Interior rewriting the Stream Buffer Zone rule.”

The piece also appears at the [Middlesboro \(KY\) Daily News](#) (6/26, 433).

Offshore Energy Development:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION URGED TO REMOVE VIRGINIA FROM OFFSHORE DRILLING PLANS. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (6/26, Subscription Publication, 219K) reports that “Sierra Club Virginia joined with two former military leaders Thursday to urge the Obama administration to remove Virginia from its draft plan for offshore oil and gas development, citing potential risks to military readiness, the aerospace industry and future offshore wind energy.” Sierra Club Virginia says “it has examined maps and reports from a number of federal agencies and consulted with current and former Pentagon officials to compile a report examining potential conflicts with offshore drilling.” Eileen Levandoski, assistant director of Sierra Club Virginia, “Because of the high level of military activities, there is a limited area off Virginia’s coast for any energy development, including offshore wind.”

BOEM RELEASE DOCUMENTARY ON STUDY OF UNDERWATER CANYONS. [KATC-TV Lafayette, LA](#) (6/26, 71K) reports that “research related to sea corals conducted at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette is featured in a video recently released by the national Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.” The film, “Pathways to the Abyss,” shows “initial findings of a five-year, \$9 million study of underwater canyons off the coasts of Maryland and Virginia.” According to the article, “scientists are researching submarine topography and marine habitats in the Baltimore and Norfolk canyons for potential offshore energy and mineral exploration.”

PIPELINE COMPANY’S OIL SPILL RESPONSE PLAN RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT RESPONSE TO CALIFORNIA SPILL. [Politico Pro](#) (6/26, Subscription Publication) reports that “the pipeline company responsible for last month’s 100,000-gallon California oil spill said it could detect a leak and shut down oil flows within 15 minutes of oil escaping from the line, according to a copy of its response plan approved by federal regulators.” According to documents released Wednesday by four Democratic lawmakers, “federal regulators at the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration said earlier this month they were still working to redact portions of that 1,100-plus-page spill response plan that the regulator approved last year for Plains All American, the company behind the May 19 oil spill at Santa Barbara’s Refugio Beach.”

HOMEOWNER SUES PIPELINE OPERATOR OVER SANTA BARBARA COUNTY OIL SPILL. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/26, Panzar, 4.03M) reports that the latest lawsuit filed against Plains All American Pipeline by Santa Barbara County homeowner Alexandra Geremia claims that her home has been “‘bombarded’ with a steady stream of tar balls and oil sheen from the spill that prevents her from walking on the beach.” Moreover, the lawsuit describes the spill’s clean-up efforts as “unsatisfactory,” and claims that the value of Geremia’s property will be hurt for years to come.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOEM ANNOUNCES RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL ACADEMIES. Additional coverage of the BOEM’s new research partnership with the National Academies was provided by [Offshore Magazine](#) (6/26, 129K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SHELL’S ARCTIC DRILLING PLANS. Additional coverage of Shell’s Arctic drilling plans was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (6/26, Sheppard, 194K) and the [Homer \(AK\) News](#) (6/25, 9K).

America’s Great Outdoors:

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM, FOREST SERVICE RELOCATING TO NEW BUILDING IN GREAT FALLS. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (6/25, 80K) reports that the BLM and Lewis and Clark National Forest “plan to relocate to a new office building in Great Falls on River Drive North, which officials say will be smaller but more energy efficient compared to the building they share now at 1101 15th St. N.” According to the article, “last week, Sletten Construction Co. broke ground on a new, 32,148-square-foot building at 38th Street North and River Drive North that will serve as a new regional headquarters for both the forest and the BLM.”

BLM RECOGNIZES WYOMING YOUTH WITH VOLUNTEER AWARD. The [AP](#) (6/26, Mathers, 2.29M) reports that “now in their 16th year, Casper-based Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education youth are cleaning up the Big Horn Basin one scrap at a time while appreciating what the Basin’s environs have to offer.” According to the article, “recently, the youth hiked to the summit of Heart Mountain,” where they “hauled a 200-pound bench to the top, taking turns carrying the bench dismantled in two parts.” Victor Orr, CORE conservation outdoor recreation educator, “who leads kids on outdoor trips all summer,” said that “now the seat sits at the summit for hikers.” Sarah Beckwith, BLM public affairs in Worland, said, “Orr and the kids received the BLM’s prestigious ‘Making a Difference’ National Volunteer Award for outstanding youth.”

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR NEW HAYDEN FOX VEGETATION TREATMENT PROJECT IN OREGON ENDS FRIDAY. The [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (6/26, 3K) reports that “the public comment period for the New Hayden Fox vegetation treatment project in southern Oregon ends Friday.” The BLM “field office in Klamath Falls is proposing commercial timber thinning, brush mowing and reducing overall fire hazards.” Lisa Bryant, public affairs specialist with the Lakeview district of the BLM, said, “I think mostly we are trying to address wildlife habitat, we are trying to address timber needs and we are trying to address fuel hazards and prevention of or minimizing impacts of future fires.”

SUPPORT URGED FOR RESILIENT FEDERAL FORESTS ACT OF 2015. In an op-ed for the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (6/25, 113K), Nick Smith, Executive Director of Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities, supports HR 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015, which “would give the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management policy and legal tools to make federal forests less vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire, insects and disease.” According to Smith, “in addition to improving the health of federal forests across the nation, the legislation would create thousands of jobs in forested communities while generating additional timber revenues for rural counties with large amounts of federal forest land.” He claims that the measure “addresses many of the current obstacles to federal forest management, from curbing excessive litigation to providing more resources for forest management activities.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

GLOBAL ANTI-POACHING ACT ADVANCES OUT OF HOUSE COMMITTEE. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/25, 705) reports that “a sweeping bill aimed at curbing wildlife trafficking today moved one step closer to becoming law when it advanced with

little debate out of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.” The “Global Anti-Poaching Act,” H.R. 2494, would “name and shame countries involved in the illicit trade and provide increased assistance to nations attempting to fight it.” The legislation also “includes a provision to make the penalties for smuggling or selling endangered species and products made from them equivalent to the ones for trafficking weapons and drugs, which is a key component of the White House’s strategy to reduce the illegal wildlife trade.”

Congress Urged To Support Anti-Poaching Efforts. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (6/26, Pacelle, 533K), Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, argues that anti-poaching efforts impacts national security. According to Pacelle, “it is well known that terrorist groups like Al-Shabaab, Joseph Kony’s Lord’s Resistance Army and the Janjaweed share a common reliance on poaching to fund their terrorism.” He notes that “on Thursday, the House takes up a spending bill for the Interior Department” and “one controversial provision would block the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from proposing a federal rule to clamp down on the ivory trade in the United States.” Pacelle writes that “lawmakers who care about elephants, national security and the future of Africa should offer an amendment to strike that language, enabling the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take action on the issue and do what’s right for elephants, Africa and the world.”

COURT ASKED TO OVERTURN DECISION STRIKING DOWN PRAIRIE DOG PROTECTIONS. The [AP](#) (6/26, Whitehurst, 2.29M) reports that “government attorneys are defending federal protections for Utah prairie dogs after 10 states stepped into the case in favor of a ruling that animal activists say could undermine the Endangered Species Act.” U.S. Department of Justice attorneys “want a federal appeals court to overturn the unusual decision striking down prairie dog protections near the southern Utah town of Cedar City, about 250 miles south of Salt Lake City.” The article notes that “the ruling could have wide-ranging effects because most protected animals in the U.S. are only found in one state,” and “if it’s upheld on appeal, the case could bring the Endangered Species Act before the U.S. Supreme Court.”

COURT BACKS HABITAT BOOST FOR SANTA ANA SUCKER. The [Courthouse News](#) (6/25, 7K) reports that “federal regulators need not defend their designation of several thousand acres in California as ‘critical habitat’ for the Santa Ana sucker, the Ninth Circuit ruled Thursday.” According to the article, “rejecting claims that the government did not sufficiently cooperate with state and local agencies on water-resource issues, the court noted that the pertinent statute ‘is a non-operative statement of policy that ‘does not create an enforceable mandate for some additional procedural step.’”

NEW REPORT FINDS 25 PERCENT INCREASE IN LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN POPULATION. The [Midland \(TX\) Reporter-Telegram](#) (6/26, 45K) reports that “a year after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the lesser prairie chicken as threatened, a new report finds the species’ fortunes have improved.” The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, “which oversees conservation efforts through a range-wide plan, reports a 25 percent increase in the lesser prairie chicken’s population from 2014 to 2015.” Still, the Permian Basin Petroleum Association and “four Southeast New Mexico counties are continuing to pursue the lawsuit they filed against the Fish and Wildlife Service for listing the species.”

ENDANGERED RED WOLF KILLED IN NORTH CAROLINA. The [AP](#) (6/26) reports that “wildlife protection advocates are calling for federal authorities to care for the puppies of a rare red wolf legally shot and killed on private property last week.” According to the article, “a landowner in Hyde County in northeastern North Carolina reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that he shot the wolf June 17.” FWS spokesman Pete Benjamin in Raleigh says “the wolf showed signs of nursing, but officials don’t know how many or where the puppies might be.”

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON REMOVAL OF LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST. The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (6/26, 34K) reports that “a sparse but well-informed crowd gathered in Baton Rouge on Thursday night to give their comments about a proposal to remove the Louisiana black bear from the Endangered Species List.” According to the article, “about 20 people attended the public hearing at the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries offices.”

FWS IMPOSES FIRE BAN ON MID-COLUMBIA RIVER WILDLIFE REFUGES. The [Sunnyside \(WA\) Daily Sun-News](#) (6/25) reports that “due to extreme fire conditions, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has imposed a complete ban on activities likely to start a fire on Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuges.” The article notes that “included in the order are the Hanford Reach National Monument and Columbia, Cold Springs, Conboy Lake, McKay Creek, McNary, Toppenish and Umatilla National Wildlife Refuges.”

FLESH-EATING BACTERIA KILLS FLORIDA SWIMMER. [USA Today](#) (6/25, Cumley, 5.01M) reports that “a Florida man died after encountering a deadly bacteria while he was swimming, according to his mother.” Karen Yeager Mercer said that Cason Yeager “died June 16, two days after he and family went swimming in the Gulf of Mexico south of Pine Island.” Mercer said “her family started its Sunday outing on their boat in the Weeki Wachee River and traveled out about 2 miles into the Gulf in an area filled with shallow water and islands that are part of the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge about 65 miles north of St. Petersburg, Fla.”

NEW MANATEE ZONES FOR PINELLAS COUNTY APPROVED. [WTSP-TV](#) St. Petersburg, FL (6/25, 89K) reports that “the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission approved a final rule establishing new manatee zones in portions of the inshore waters of western Pinellas County at its June 24 meeting in Sarasota.” The article notes that “the new zones will slow speeds in seagrass areas where manatees feed and will have limited effect on travel time for boaters because only a small portion of the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) channel is included.”

PELICANS NESTING AT CHASE LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE A NEAR RECORD. Additional coverage of the pelicans nesting at Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/26, Press, 5.03M), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (6/26, 166K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (6/26, 100K), [ABC News](#) (6/26, 3.69M), [Fox News](#) (6/25, 9.4M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (6/26, 6.18M).

HANFORD REACH NATIONAL MONUMENT MARKS 15TH ANNIVERSARY. In his column for the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (6/26, 822K), Joel Connelly marks the 15th anniversary of the Hanford Reach National Monument. He writes it was “a good deed it was to spare this stretch of river, and spare the shrub-steppe lands around it from the predations of corporate agriculture.”

National Park Service:

NPS PULLS CONFEDERATE FLAG MERCHANDISE. In its “Blog Briefing Room” blog, [The Hill](#) (6/26, Hensch, 533K) reports that the NPS announced on Thursday that Confederate battle flags will “no longer be available as a memento for visitors to the parks system.” NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said in a statement, “We strive to tell the complete story of America. All sales items are evaluated based on educational value and their connection to the park.” He added, “Any standalone depictions of Confederate flags have no place in park stores.” Jarvis said the move is “driven by last week’s mass shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a historic black church in Charleston, S.C.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/26, Ellis, Subscription Publication, 5.68M), [NBC News](#) (6/26, 2.54M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (6/24, 4.03M), the [Hanover \(PA\) Evening Sun](#) (6/26, 59K), the [Reston \(VA\) Patch](#) (6/26, 888), the [New York \(NY\) Daily News](#) (6/25, Gologowski, 3.79M), [USA Today](#) (6/25, Stanglin, 5.01M), the [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (6/25, 305K), the [Hilton Head Island \(SC\) Packet](#) (6/25, 84K), [Reuters](#) (6/25, Dekok), the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (6/25, 506), the [Baltimore \(MD\) Sun](#) (6/25, 802K), the [Huffington Post](#) (6/25, O'Connor, 194K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/26, 5.37M), [MSN](#) (6/26, 7.78M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/26, 2.29M), the [Chambersburg \(PA\) Public Opinion](#) (6/26, 35K), the [Charleston \(SC\) City Paper](#) (6/26, 9K), [WPMT-TV Harrisburg \(PA\)](#) Harrisburg, PA (6/25, 71K), [WCIV-TV Charleston \(SC\)](#) Charleston, SC (6/26, 16K), and [WGAL-TV Lancaster \(PA\)](#) Lancaster, PA (6/26, 101K).

FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER TO OPEN SEPTEMBER 10. The [AP](#) (6/26, Mandak, 1.29M) reports that “a \$26 million visitors center complex at the Flight 93 National Memorial will be dedicated and open to the public Sept. 10, a day before the 14th anniversary of the terror attacks.” According to the article, “the new center near Shanksville, about 75 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, consists of two buildings, a 4,700-square-foot learning center that will play host to activities, guest speakers and events and a separate visitors center with exhibit space and more serene, sober reminders of the crash site.” Keith Newlin, the deputy superintendent of the memorial, said that “officials hope the new visitors center will boost annual visitors from about 300,000 to 500,000 but more importantly spread the story of the heroes who died there.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New Jersey Local News](#) (6/26, 871K), the [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (6/25, 374K), the [Lansdale \(PA\) Reporter](#) (6/25, 22K), the [West Chester \(PA\) Daily Local News](#) (6/25, 43K), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Post-Gazette](#) (6/26, Mandak, 621K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/26, 5.37M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/26, Mandak, 2.29M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/26, Joe Mandak |, Ap, 5.03M), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/26, Mandak, Press, 6.18M), [WTAE-TV Pittsburgh \(PA\)](#) Pittsburgh (6/26, 248K), [KYW-TV Philadelphia \(PA\)](#) Philadelphia (6/25, 45K), and [WHP-TV Harrisburg \(PA\)](#) Harrisburg, PA (6/26, 1K).

LEADING PRESIDENTS BASED ON TOURISM NUMBERS RANKED. [TIME](#) (6/26, 19.57M) “looked at all the federal land each president established, according to the National Park Service — from national parks to battlefields to national historic sites — as well as each president’s library and monuments to him.” According to the article, “totaling the annual visitor statistics for each location, the president who came out on top was Richard Nixon, with more than 31 million tourists visiting his sites in 2014.” The Golden Gate National Recreation Area “launches” Nixon “to the No. 1 spot.”

CONGRESS URGED TO FUND ROADS. [The Hill](#) (6/26, Laing, 533K) reports that Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx is “imploping Congress to find the money to pay for a plan to spend \$275 billion on the nation’s roads over the next six years that was approved by a Senate committee on Wednesday.” The measure, called the Developing a Reliable and Innovative Vision for the Economy (DRIVE) Act, “calls for appropriating nearly \$43 billion per year to the federal government’s highway program until 2021 — if lawmakers can come up with a way to pay for it.” The article notes that “the measure also includes approximately \$240 million per year for the National Park Service and about \$1.3 billion per year for federal lands and tribal transportation programs.”

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK RECEIVES FUNDING FOR NEW RESILIENT LANDSCAPES PROGRAM. The [Visalia \(CA\) Times-Delta](#) (6/25, 36K) reports that the NPS, “U.S. Forest Service, CAL FIRE and University of California, Berkeley, are joining forces in support of a new resilient landscapes program.” The article notes that “the project has been funded with \$89,000 for the 2015 fiscal year and has the opportunity to receive additional money in the future.” Woody Smeck, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Superintendent, said, “This is a wonderful opportunity for the park to work on an interagency project with Sequoia National Forest, CAL FIRE, and University of California, Berkeley as we build a fire resilient landscape to enhance giant sequoia habitat, protect watershed, and enhance defensible space around our gateway and in-holding communities.”

NPS SURVEYS SHEEP IN DENALI NATIONAL PARK. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (6/25, 2K) provides a video of the NPS conducting “ground-based and aerial surveys to identify sheep population trends in an effort to ensure effective management” within Denali National Park.

GRAND CANYON TEMPORARILY CLOSING WALKWAY FOR REPAIRS. The [AP](#) (6/26, Press, 5.03M) reports that Grand Canyon National Park is “temporarily closing a staircase leading from the train depot to the El Tovar Hotel.” According to the article, “crews plan to close the trail and the staircase from July 1 through the end of October.”

HIKER WHO DIED AT GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK OFFICIALS IDENTIFIED. The [AP](#) (6/26, Press, 1.29M) reports that “authorities at Grand Canyon National Park have identified a man from Japan who died during a hike last week.” Park officials said Thursday that “36-year-old Takayuki Fujiwara was visiting from Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture, Japan.” An official cause of death was not released.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/26, Press, 5.03M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/26, 5.37M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (6/26, 6.18M).

PERMANENT SUPERINTENDENT FOR TRUMAN SITE NAMED. The [Independence \(MO\) Examiner](#) (6/25, 22K) reports that Carol Dage, who has been the Harry S. Truman National Historic Site’s chief of cultural resources and, for the last 10 months, the acting superintendent, has been named “the permanent superintendent effective next month.” According to the article, “one of her immediate

tasks, she said, is to fill six staff positions left open until a new superintendent was named.”

CAMERAS SHOWS BROWN BEARS AT KATMAI NATIONAL PARK. The [Huffington Post](#) (6/26, Mazza, 194K) reports that “a series of cameras set up near Brooks Falls in Alaska’s Katmai National Park have returned for the season, allowing armchair travelers to watch coastal brown bears catch and eat sockeye salmon.” The NPS says “up to 25 bears have been seen on the camera at once in previous years, eating fish and fighting for prime salmon-catching spots.” The article notes that “the three cameras come courtesy of a \$150,000 grant from the Annenberg Foundation’s Explore.org, which funds cameras and other projects in locations around the world.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REPORT SAYS NATIONAL PARKS AT RISK FROM RISING SEAS. Additional coverage of the report on the risk of rising seas to national parks was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/26), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/26, 641K), the [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (6/25, 39K), and [WCTI-TV Greenville \(NC\)](#) Greenville, NC (6/26, 62K).

SUPPORTERS OF NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/25, 179K), Andy Young, a founding member of Preserve Maine Traditions, writes that the job figures touted by supporters of a national park in Maine are “imaginary numbers.” He notes that “the numbers Roxanne Quimby and Lucas St. Clair keep pushing at us go back to a study they commissioned in 2013, when they hired Headwaters Economics to do a report on the economic performance of other similar parks around the country.” According to Young, “they chose six ‘peer regions’ that supposedly are similar to the Katahdin area, but in reality those ‘peers’ bear little resemblance to it.”

In a piece for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/24, 179K), Patricia Callahan claims that “Mainers, especially northern Mainers, don’t share our fellow Americans’ lovesickness with extreme wealth and don’t take kindly to being told what to do. They prefer Stephen and Tabitha King’s philanthropic style to that of Roxanne Quimby and her son.”

TUSAYAN MAYOR DEFENDS PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT NEAR GRAND CANYON. In a piece for the [Arizona Republic](#) (6/25, 1.27M), Tusayan Mayor Greg Bryan “defends proposed development near the Grand Canyon.” He argues that “without new development, Tusayan will remain a landlocked company town with no land to build much-needed affordable housing and amenities.” Bryan also asserts that “the development will better meet current and future visitor needs and reduce pressures inside the national park for employee housing, visitor services and educational opportunities about the area.”

PROTECTION URGED FOR EVERGLADES. In an op-ed for [LiveScience](#) (6/26, 444K), Michael Sainato writes that the Everglades has “been a battleground of controversy, as environmentalists and developers continuously struggle over its uses and resources.” He notes that “this past Earth Day, U.S. president Barack Obama used the Everglades as his stage to address the stark realities of climate change in the face of Florida politicians, such as Governor Rick Scott, who still uphold policies that fail to fully account for the environmental impacts of unchecked development and growth throughout the state.” Sainato argues that “the livelihood of Florida depends on the Everglades.” Also, he notes that “the Everglades provides one of the best support systems Florida has against climate change and rising sea levels by mitigating saltwater intrusion to south Florida’s freshwater supplies and creating a natural protective barrier for Florida from tropical storms and hurricanes.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS TO CONDUCT HYDROGEOLOGICAL STUDY OF PROPOSED MANURE LAGOON SITE. The [Watertown \(NY\) Daily Times](#) (6/26, 68K) reports that “the owners of a proposed manure lagoon site near the Black River in the town of Rutland have agreed to share the cost of a hydrogeological study of the area around the planned facility.” James W. Wright, executive director of the Development Authority of the North Country, said Thursday that Milk Street Dairy has “agreed to participate in the subsurface study of the lagoon planned on Ridge Road to determine how liquid manure would flow if it leaks from the 7.5-million-gallon manure storage facility.” The study will be conducted by the USGS “under the guidance of the state Department of Environmental Conservation.”

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: SCOTUS ACA RULING A MAJOR VICTORY FOR OBAMA. Coverage of the [Supreme Court ruling](#) in King v. Burwell cast it as another major victory for President Obama in a week that has been one of the best – or possibly even the best – of his presidency. Analyses also focus on the unlikely role of Chief Justice John Roberts, who wrote for the 6-3 majority, as the two-time savior of the Affordable Care Act, and on conservative anger at Roberts over the ruling. Coverage led all three broadcast network newscasts, which combined for nearly 17 minutes of coverage, with NBC devoting nearly eight minutes to the subject, more than twice as much as ABC.

[ABC World News](#) (6/25, lead story, 2:25, Muir, 5.84M) called it a “historic ruling” bringing “very strong reaction tonight on both sides. ... Many tonight pointing to” Roberts, “twice now saving Obamacare.” Terry Moran called it “a stunning 6-3 decision” that “saved the linchpin of the President’s healthcare law.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/25, lead story, 3:15, Pelley, 5.08M) said the ACA “was saved from a devastating blow,” and like ABC, said that “the conservative Chief Justice of the United States rescued for the second time the largest part of President Obama’s legacy. ... The President said today, ‘Now Obamacare is woven into the fabric of America.’” On the [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/25, lead story, 4:05, Holt, 7.86M), Pete Williams reported, “This is the second time the US Supreme Court has bailed out Obamacare – this time, even more decisively than it did three years ago.” On [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/25, 554K), Wolf Blitzer called the ruling “a huge victory for President Obama.”

The [AP](#) (6/26, Sherman) says the Supreme Court “sent a clear message” that the ACA “is here to stay,” adding, “Whether you call it the Affordable Care Act, Obamacare, or in the words of a dissenting justice, SCOTUScare, Obama’s signature domestic achievement is, as the president himself put it, ‘reality.’” But House Speaker Boehner, “declining to concede,” said Republicans “will ‘continue our efforts to repeal the law and replace it with patient-centered solutions that meet the needs of seniors, small business owners, and middle-class families.’” [Bloomberg News](#) (6/26, Deprez, Olorunnipa, 3.81M) says the decision “strikes at a tenet of the modern-day

Republican party: Obamacare must be undone.”

[USA Today](#) (6/26, Wolf, Heath, 5.01M) reports the ruling put the “landmark 2010 statute on solid legal footing for the immediate future.” In his majority decision, Roberts wrote, “Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not to destroy them. If at all possible, we must interpret the act in a way that is consistent with the former, and avoids the latter.” Roberts argued that the ACA “makes clear that Congress wanted subsidies available everywhere, and the alternative ‘could well push a state’s individual insurance market into a death spiral.’” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/26, A1, Kendall, Radnofsky, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports that Roberts said the plaintiffs raised strong arguments for their view, but that in context, the intent of the legislation was clear.

In his dissent, the [New York Times](#) (6/26, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports, Justice Antonin Scalia “called the majority’s reasoning ‘quite absurd.’” Scalia wrote, “The court’s decision reflects the philosophy that judges should endure whatever interpretive distortions it takes in order to correct a supposed flaw in the statutory machinery. It is up to Congress to design its laws with care, and it is up to the people to hold them to account if they fail to carry out that responsibility.” The Times notes that Scalia “announced his dissent from the bench, a sign of bitter disagreement.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/26, Barnes, 5.03M) reports Scalia said Roberts “performed ‘somersaults of statutory interpretation’ to save the act: ‘We should start calling this law SCOTUScare,’” a line also noted by [Vox](#) (6/25, Lind, 839K). In its “The Fix” blog, the [Washington Post](#) (6/25, Schwarz, 5.03M) writes that in his 21-page dissent, “Scalia went full Scalia,” calling the decision “‘interpretive jiggery-pokery,’ a ‘defense of the indefensible’ and ‘pure applesauce.’”

[Politico](#) (6/25, Haberkorn, Gerstein, 1.11M) says a ruling in favor of the plaintiffs “would have eliminated the subsidies in the 34 states that refused to set up an insurance exchange,” which the Urban Institute has estimated would strip more than 8.2 million people of insurance. [McClatchy](#) (6/26, Doyle, Pugh, 32K) says the decision “does not end all legal challenges” to the ACA, “but it’s probably the last one that had the potential to gut the law.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/26, Savage, 4.03M) and the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (6/25, Richey, 539K) both call it “a major victory for President Obama.”

In a front-page analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (6/26, A1, Barnes, 5.03M) writes that Obama and Roberts “got off to a rough start from the very beginning, when they tripped over each other’s words during a key line in the oath at Obama’s first inauguration,” but on Thursday, he “again helped sustain the president’s policy legacy in a way that few could have anticipated” at that time. [USA Today](#) (6/26, Wolf, Heath, 5.01M) calls Roberts “an unlikely savior for President Obama.”

Linda Greenhouse writes in the [New York Times](#) (6/26, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) that the 6-3 ruling “means that one or perhaps two of the justices who grabbed this case back in November had to have jumped ship,” since “it takes at least four votes to add a case to the court’s docket.” Greenhouse argues that Roberts and Justice Anthony Kennedy probably saw that backing “a cynically manufactured and meritless argument” would result in the Court being perceived “as a partisan tool.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/26, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says in an editorial that the Court “rightly rejected a blatantly political effort to destroy” the ACA, calling King v. Burwell “an ideological farce dressed in a specious legal argument. ... Its core claim – that an ambiguous four-word phrase buried deep in the 900-page law eliminates health insurance for millions of lower-income Americans – was preposterous.” A [Washington Post](#) (6/26, 5.03M) editorial calls it a “cogent ruling” that endorsed “the most reasonable reading of the statute.” [USA Today](#) (6/26, 5.01M) similarly says the case “was always a feeble, ‘gotcha’ sort of a challenge, and the court majority saw it that way.”

Paul Krugman writes in his [New York Times](#) (6/26, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) column that the ACA is doing “better than even many supporters realize,” with “around 15 million Americans” gaining insurance coverage under the law, and many of the uninsured left “in that position because their state governments have refused to let the federal government enroll them in Medicaid.”

In a [New York Times](#) (6/26, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) op-ed, University of Minnesota political scientist Lawrence Jacobs and Harvard professor of government and sociology Theda Skocpol, co-authors of “Healthcare Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know,” write that the “Supreme Court decision, rejecting an ultraright challenge” to ACA subsidies, “will speed the already remarkable implementation of health reform,” which “has been truly rapid by historical standards.”

Ezra Klein writes at [Vox](#) (6/25, 839K) that “this wasn’t a ‘win for Obamacare.’ ... This was a win for the more than 6 million people who will keep their health insurance,” and “also a win for common sense, and for judicial restraint.”

Jonathan Cohn of the [Huffington Post](#) (6/25, 194K) writes that Roberts “gave Obamacare opponents a major smackdown.” Brian Beutler of the [New Republic](#) (6/25, 228K) says the ruling “marks the end of the line for Obamacare’s most zealous challengers.” Pamela Brown said on [CNN’s Legal View](#) (6/25, 473K), “Once again, the Supreme Court saved the Affordable Care Act, essentially. ... This is a huge victory for the Obama Administration.” [Reuters](#) (6/26, Hurley) and the [Washington Times](#) (6/26, Howell, 641K) also report on the ruling.

Analyses: Obama Experiencing One Of The Best Weeks Of His Presidency. Several analysis pieces look at the ruling in the context of the President’s legacy, with [National Journal](#) (6/25, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 156K) calling it “Barack Obama’s Best Day Ever.” The [AP](#) (6/26, Pace) writes that following on the passage of trade promotion authority on Wednesday, Obama “is defying the lame-duck label and solidifying the contours of his legacy with the help of unlikely allies in Congress and the Supreme Court.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/26, Lee, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) writes about the two victories under the headline “Obama Has A Good Week.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/25, story 2, 2:25, Holt, 7.86M) ran a feature on some of those covered under the ACA that was sympathetic to supporters of the law, saying “the Obamacare law [is] directly affecting so many families who say it’s been quite literally a lifesaver.”

In a [New York Times](#) (6/26, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) analysis piece, Michael Shear writes that the TPA vote is a “major legislative accomplishment,” but the Court ruling “is a bigger domestic political victory for Mr. Obama, whose health care legacy has

always depended on the Affordable Care Act becoming as permanent a part of the American social safety net as Medicare and Social Security.”

[Politico](#) (6/25, Wheaton, 1.11M) says the Court “handed Obama one of the biggest victories of his presidency,” and the [Washington Post](#) (6/26, Nakamura, 5.03M) says for the Administration, “this was a cheerful moment to remember – an inflection point, as White House aides like to say, that brought an emerging domestic legacy into sharper focus.” Howard Dean said on [MSNBC’s Ed Show](#) (6/25, 444K), “The President’s had a huge day and huge week. ... He’s had an unbelievable week, maybe the best of his presidency.”

White House Political Director David Simas said on [MSNBC’s Hardball](#) (6/25, 713K), “This is why we do the work that we do. This is why that after 100 years of trying and then a very tough legislative fight up here in Washington, the President made the decision to make sure that when he had this opportunity, he could finally deliver on the promise of healthcare as a right rather than a privilege.”

Jeffrey Toobin said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (6/25, 320K), “When you look at the Obama presidency, which is now about three-quarters over, what’s the most significant thing he has done? You could say ending the war in Iraq. You could say winding down the war in Afghanistan, you could talk about the economic recovery. But in terms of what will endure, I think the Affordable Care Act is now firmly established, and you are talking about millions of people who have healthcare who wouldn’t otherwise have healthcare.”

The AP’s Julie Pace noted on [MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (6/25, 487K) that while the President “was taking a victory lap,” it was “interesting that he wasn’t gloating. He wasn’t taking political shots at Republicans, though did he note how many times they have tried to repeal this on the Hill and how they tried to push this in the courts.”

Conservatives Expressing Anger At Roberts. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/26, Kapur, Weigel, 161K) says “conservatives took direct aim at...their one-time hero Chief Justice John Roberts” following the ruling. Club For Growth President David McIntosh said, “Roberts told everybody he was just going to be an umpire and call strikes and balls, but now as justice he’s got two results-oriented decisions that go far beyond that role.” And Competitive Enterprise Institute “general counsel Sam Kazman told reporters that Roberts’s rationale seemed to abandon the logic of ‘what words mean’ in favor of executive power.”

[Politico](#) (6/25, Gerstein, 1.11M) says “conservatives were left baffled” after Roberts “saved Obamacare three years ago,” but after Thursday’s decision, “they felt betrayed. Adding to the sting: The chief justice wasn’t just along for the ride,” but “wrote the majority opinion and delivered it from the bench.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/26, A1, Kendall, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports Gov. Mike Pence called the ruling “judicial activism” and Rep. Matt Salmon (R-AZ) questioned whether Roberts could still be called a conservative. Salmon said, “I don’t know that you can

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, June 23, 2015

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DOI in the News:

HOUSE TO VOTE ON INTERIOR-EPA SPENDING BILL THIS WEEK. The [E&E Daily](#) (6/22, Subscription Publication) reports that "the House this week will take up a fiscal 2016 spending plan for the Interior Department and U.S. EPA that includes several policy riders aimed at key Obama administration environmental regulations." House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers has said that "both the bill's funding levels and the policy provisions would put a halt to regulations that Republicans believe are crippling industry."

Also providing coverage are the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/23, Harder, 5.68M) and [The Hill](#) (6/22, Marcos, Carney, 533K).

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS TURNS TO INTERIOR, USDA FOR HELP. The [Greenwire](#) (6/22, Subscription Publication) reports that members from the Civilian Conservation Corps "tromped from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial out across the nation's capital Friday" during the Corps Network's second annual Day of Service. The group "brought together 150 members of modern-day service organizations, the scions of the CCC, Roosevelt's New Deal program, for a day of fence painting and trail clearing at three national park sites during 'Great Outdoors Month,' as the Obama administration pushes to grow the ranks of youth corps nationwide to 100,000." President and CEO Mary Ellen Sprenkel said "modern politics make replicating a multibillion-dollar federal effort that put thousands of young men to work on public lands during the Great Depression all but impossible." According to the article, "asking Congress for more money to reach the goal of a 100,000-strong workforce is a non-starter, so the Corps Network has turned to the Interior and Agriculture departments for help."

INCLUSION OF LAKE BERRYESSA IN PROPOSED BERRYESSA NATIONAL MONUMENT UNCERTAIN. [KQED-FM](#) San

Francisco (6/20, 40K) reports that “a 360,000-acre patchwork of federal lands north of the Bay Area may yet become California’s next national monument, but it will happen without a major component — or so it seems.” According to the article, “how Lake Berryessa came to be removed from the proposed Berryessa-Snow Mountain National Monument remains a mystery even to the most keen observers.” Rep. Mike Thompson’s “latest version of the bill, which remains stalled in committee, is murky on the status of the 20,000-acre lake, currently managed by the federal Bureau of Reclamation.”

INTERIOR’S INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT GAINS POPULARITY. The [National Journal](#) (6/22, Subscription Publication, 156K) reports that the Interior Department has “access to photos posted by employees and volunteers on 435 Facebook accounts for national parks, wildlife refuges and public lands.” The “photos have proved to be popular with the #naturelovers of Instagram.” Rebecca Matulka, Interior’s senior digital media strategist who runs the account, says “she sometimes notices users comment on a photo thinking it’s from National Geographic, and then they correct themselves.” Matulka said, “That is pretty amazing that they think our photos are up with that quality.”

Additional coverage of the Interior Department’s use of social media was provided by the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/23, 5.37M).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF WILDFIRES. Continuing coverage of various wildfires was provided by [Fox News](#) (6/23, 9.4M), the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (6/23, 34K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/23, 22K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/23, Subscription Publication, 2.92M), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/22, 199K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (6/22, 30K), the [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (6/23, 19K), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (6/23, 395K), the [Casa Grande \(AZ\) Dispatch](#) (6/23, 24K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/23, Weber, 2.29M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/23), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/23, Christopher Weber |, Ap).

CONGRESS URGED TO REAUTHORIZE AND FUND LWCF. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (6/23, Peterman, 533K), Frank Peterman, a conservationist, warns that the Land and Water Conservation Fund is “at a particularly precarious and vulnerable time this summer.” He writes that “with its authorizing legislation expiring in September, it’s urgent that Congress hears from the public how vital it is to reauthorize the bill and acts to save the fund.” Peterman asserts that “our elected officials can and must reauthorize and fully fund this program that has been ensuring access to our public lands and preserving our heritage for a half-century.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

STUDY SAYS WARMER WEATHER WILL DRIVE VISITORS TO NATIONAL PARKS. The [ClimateWire](#) (6/22, Subscription Publication) reports that “a new study concludes that as temperatures rise, managers of many of America’s national parks – from Maine’s Acadia to California’s Redwood – should brace for even bigger crowds during peak travel season.” Led by researchers with the NPS, “the study found that the number of visitors in many U.S. national parks is highly likely to change as the planet warms.” The article notes that “the study projects that by 2060, the national park system will see an increase in visitation of up to 23 percent.”

FOURTH GRADERS CAN VISIT NATIONAL PARKS FOR FREE. The [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (6/22, 491K) reports that “the National Park Foundation is offering all fourth graders in the United States and their families a school year’s worth of free access to any U.S. national parks.” Once registered under the “Every Kid in a Park” program, “the family of the fourth grade student will be given a voucher that grants free entrance to the child plus a carload of passengers to federal recreation areas for a year.”

NPS REASSURES DEL. NORTON OF SAFETY OF WASHINGTON MONUMENT ELEVATOR. The [Roll Call](#) (6/23, 99K) reports that “after meeting with National Park Service officials, Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., is certain the Washington Monument elevator is safe to ride, following a string of electrical issues that led to recent closures.” Norton said in a statement, “After hearing today’s briefing I would not hesitate to bring my 3-year-old grandson and his brother, who is two months old, to ride the elevator to the top of the monument. hope that the thousands of visitors who come to the nation’s capital during this busy tourist season are also reassured.”

US PARK POLICE REACHES SETTLEMENT OVER PROTEST TACTICS. The [Washington Post](#) (6/23, Hsu, 5.03M) reports that a federal judge, ending “a 13-year legal struggle,” gave “final approval Monday to a settlement in which the federal government agreed to new terms of engagement with demonstrators in the nation’s capital and to pay \$2.2 million to almost 400 protesters and bystanders swept up by U.S. and local police during a September 2002 demonstration against the World Bank.” Washington, DC “in 2010 agreed to pay \$8.25 million to the same class-action litigants, who were picked up in a mass arrest at Pershing Park, and also agreed to overhaul police practices to protect the First Amendment rights of protesters.” In approving the deal, US District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan “called the settlement ‘historic’ and said it could guide police agencies nationwide.” It is significant this agreement is with the federal government, because the Department of Justice is reviewing the practices and the policies of local law enforcement agencies,” Sullivan said.

GRANT TO SUPPORT DOCUMENTATION OF JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT. The [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) News](#) (6/22, 431) reports that “archives at 15 California State University campuses are collaborating to digitize nearly 10,000 documents and more than 100 oral histories related to the confinement of Japanese Americans during World War II.” The NPS recently “awarded a two-year \$321,554 grant to CSU Dominguez Hills, which is serving as the principal investigator for the CSU Japanese American Digitization Project.” The article notes that “the grant was one of 20 awarded by the National Park Service totaling more than \$2.8 million to help preserve and interpret the World War II confinement sites of Japanese Americans.”

SEN. GILLIBRAND ANNOUNCES EFFORT TO DESIGNATE FINGER LAKES AS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA. The [Corning \(NY\) Leader](#) (6/22, 757) reports that Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand “wants the world to know about the Finger Lakes Region, so she’s agreed to champion the effort to seek its designation as a National Heritage Area.” Gillibrand “came to Penn Yan Monday afternoon to announce her plans to push for federal legislation to fund a feasibility study of the Finger Lakes Region (Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland,

Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates counties) for the potential designation." If the legislation passes, the NPS will conduct the study.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Victor \(NY\) Post](#) (6/22).

GROUP PUSHES FOR VOLVON NATIONAL PARK. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (6/23, Subscription Publication, 2.92M) reports that "a renewed push for a new national park in the Bay Area could settle the debate over historic American Indian sites." According to the article, "a group called the East Bay Hill People has envisioned Volvon National Park, a combination of existing parks from Mount Diablo to the east that overlay historic territory of the Volvon tribe." James Benney of the East Bay Hill People, said, "We have identified over 80 intact villages and campsites and over 2,000 mortar holes in Volvon territory alone."

OCMULGEE NATIONAL MONUMENT CLOSER TO BECOMING NATIONAL PARK. [WMGT-TV](#) Macon, GA (6/23) reports that "the Ocmulgee National Monument is one step closer to becoming a national park." Last week, legislators "introduced a bill that would change the site's name as well as create a larger boundary for the existing area."

RESEARCHERS COLLECTING DATA ON VISITOR TRENDS OF GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK. The [Logan \(UT\) Herald Journal](#) (6/23, 47K) reports that "Utah State University and other universities are collecting data on visitor experiences in the popular Grand Teton National Park to help park officials with a comprehensive management plan." USU's Quinney College of Natural Resources and Pennsylvania State University have "compiled reports and continue to collect data on who is visiting the Moose-Wilson corridor and why, how they are moving through it and their expectations." According to the article, "people-tracking by researchers at both Penn State and USU is helping Grand Teton National Park make decisions about a popular southern approach to the park, including whether they should add parking areas, restrooms and a multipurpose trail along the way."

VOTE TO BE HELD ON PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/22, 179K) reports that "voters will take a stance on a proposed north woods national park and recreation area in a nonbinding referendum on Tuesday, June 23." Town Administrative Assistant Kathy Lee said Monday that "the Board of Selectmen endorses the proposal but was not speaking for townspeople." The article notes that "the board's endorsement came with eight conditions it outlined in a March 2 letter to members of the state's federal delegation."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (6/23, 641K).

ENTRANCE FEES AT PETRIFIED FOREST INCREASING. The [Arizona Republic](#) (6/21, 1.27M) reports that "entrance fees at the Petrified Forest National Park are going up later this year." The NPS announced that "the fee increase will occur on October 1 and will pay for important maintenance and improvement projects within the park in northeastern Arizona."

YELLOWSTONE VISITATION FOR 2015 JUMPS. The [AP](#) (6/23, 2.29M) reports that "Yellowstone National Park has seen about 24 percent more visitors January through May of this year compared to the same time period in 2014." The NPS says "some of that increase could be attributed to a new after-hours counter at the park's West Entrance." However, "it also credits a mild winter and early spring for drawing more people to the park."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/23, Press, 1.29M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/23, Press, 5.03M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/23, 641K), the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (6/23, 1K), and the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/23, 99K).

SMALL AIRCRAFT MAKES EMERGENCY LANDING NEAR HOOVER DAM. The [AP](#) (6/23, Ho) reports that the NTSB and the FAA are investigating a small plane that made an emergency landing onto Boulder Beach, near the Hoover Dam, causing at least two of the female passengers aboard some minor injuries. The aircraft landed between two portable restrooms, but neither was damaged. The FAA however "said the downed plane's left elevator, left wing and landing gear were damaged," the AP reports. Authorities closed off a section of the beach to remove the airplane and conduct an investigation.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/23, Laux, 380K) reports that the three female occupants of the 1979 Piper PA-32P-301, as well as the pilot suffered some scrapes and bruising, but were not hospitalized. The Park Service too is investigating the incident alongside the NTSB and the FAA.

[KXNT-AM](#) Las Vegas (6/22, 10K) reports there has been "no word on the cause of the incident," which will be investigated by the FAA and likely by the NTSB.

The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (6/22, 176K) and [KSNV-TV](#) Las Vegas (6/23, 12K) also cover the story.

AUTHORITIES FIND BODY OF MAN REPORTED MISSING IN BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER . The [AP](#) (6/23, 30K) reports that "authorities have recovered the body of a Missouri man reported missing in the Buffalo National River last week during rough weather." The NPS says "search crews on Monday morning found the body of 22-year-old Curtis Miller of Independence, Missouri." The agency says "Miller's body was found in sandbar about 2 miles downstream from Grinder's Ferry in Searcy County, Arkansas, where Miller was last seen swimming Thursday evening."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (6/22, 342K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/23, 2.29M), and the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (6/23, 590K).

MAN DIES AFTER RAFTING ACCIDENT IN DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (6/22, 30K) reports that "the body of a 34-year-old Denver man was recovered in the Green River Monday, two days after he disappeared in a rafting accident in Dinosaur National Monument, according to officials."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/23, Paul, 894K).

Bureau of Land Management:

GARFIELD COUNTY BLAMES GRAND STAIRCASE FOR LOW SCHOOL ENROLLMENT. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/23, 470K) reports that “alarmed about dropping school enrollment, the Garfield County Commission on Monday declared a ‘state of emergency,’ claiming restrictive federal land management policies are endangering the future of Escalante, Panguitch and other communities in the southern Utah county.” It claims that the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service “refuse to collaborate with counties in decision-making, according to the declaration unanimously approved by the commission.” Escalante Mayor Jerry Taylor said, “We need good jobs and something to sustain our community. It’s tough right now. Tourism is up. We promote it, but we need something more. We can’t have all our eggs in one basket.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/23, 538K) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (6/23, 1.07M).

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON UTAH COUNTY SHOOTING RESTRICTIONS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/23, 538K) reports that the BLM is “seeking public input to determine target shooting restrictions in an area of northwest Utah County.” According to the article, “the area includes about 8,124 acres of public lands located within the area known as Lake Mountain in Utah County, west of Utah Lake and near Saratoga Springs and Eagle Mountain.”

BLM ANNOUNCES NEW UTAH RESOURCE COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/23, 538K) reports that the BLM has “appointed three new members and reappointed another to its Utah Resource Advisory Council.” According to the article, “new members are Daniel McClendon of Kanab, who has a background in energy issues; Rich County Commissioner William Cox; and Willie Grayeyes of Navajo Mountain, representing Indian tribes.” Steven Burr, of Moab, who specializes in recreation, was reappointed to the council.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT URGED TO HOLD BUNDY ACCOUNTABLE FOR STANDOFF. In an op-ed for the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/23, 380K), David Jenkins, president of Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship, criticizes the Obama Administration for failing to hold Cliven Bundy accountable for the armed standoff he incited more than a year ago. He claims that the government’s actions has only served to embolden Bundy and encourage further lawlessness and intimidation. Jenkins urges the government to bring Cliven Bundy and those who took up arms against law enforcement in the standoff to justice.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FUNDING WILL HELP PROTECT SAGE GROUSE. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (6/22, 178K) reports that “funding to help protect Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of the greater Sage Grouse from wildfire was announced Friday by U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev.” The announcement included that the Interior Department will “award \$4.3 million to Nevada to restore the health and fire resilience of iconic landscapes in the states, including \$395,000 for the Bi-State Sage Grouse in Nevada and a portion of eastern California.”

Additional coverage of the sage grouse was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/23, 74K) and the [Ecosystem Marketplace](#) (6/23).

PROGRAM DEVELOPED FOR 13 STATES TO CATALOG CULVERTS. The [AP](#) (6/21, Ring, 641K) reports that “Vermont, which has been assessing its culverts for about a decade, helped develop a program being put into place for 13 Eastern states that are contributing to a regional database of those road-stream crossings that will help policymakers decide which culverts should be replaced or upgraded first, said Rich Kirn, a biologist with the Department of Fish and Wildlife who has helped lead Vermont’s efforts.” A program involving “13 states along with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service” has been developed. The article notes that “the collaborative is funded with \$475,000 from the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, which dedicates federal funds for Superstorm Sandy recovery.”

SUPREME COURT DECLINES APPEAL OF TEXAS WHOOPING CRANE CASE. The [Greenwire](#) (6/22, Subscription Publication) reports that the Supreme Court on Monday “declined an appeal by conservationists claiming Texas’ water management unlawfully threatened endangered whooping cranes.” Environmentalists said that “the state was permitting too much water to be drawn from the San Antonio and Guadalupe rivers.” According to the environmentalists, “that practice was depleting the Aransas Wildlife Refuge, the winter home to the world’s only flock of whooping cranes.”

GROUPS FILE LAWSUIT OVER MONTANA MINES’ IMPACT. The [Greenwire](#) (6/22, Subscription Publication) reports that “environmental and conservation groups are suing the Fish and Wildlife Service over permitting for what could become one of the world’s largest copper and silver mines in Montana’s Cabinet Mountains.” Save Our Cabinets, Earthworks and Defenders of Wildlife claim “the agency’s biological opinion making way for development of Mines Management Inc.’s Montanore project doesn’t take enough account of the mine’s potential impact on grizzly bears and bull trout.” The groups, “which filed their lawsuit in Missoula U.S. District Court, say FWS asserting the mine and animals can coexist goes against the agency’s own science.”

FWS WEIGHING PROTECTIONS FOR ALEXANDER ARCHIPELAGO WOLVES. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/22, 705) reports that “the Alaska Department of Fish and Game confirmed last week that the population of Alexander Archipelago wolves on the largest island in the chain plummeted last year, yet it didn’t recommend any changes to the upcoming wolf hunting season.” According to the article, “citing a draft report from the ADFG, the U.S. Forest Service previously warned that the ‘dramatic decline’ in the smaller, darker subspecies of gray wolves on Prince of Wales Island could complicate its long-running plan to allow logging in the Tongass National Forest, which spans much of the Alexander Archipelago (Greenwire, June 8).” The FWS is “weighing whether Endangered Species Act protections are warranted for Alexander Archipelago wolves, which rely on the roots of old-growth trees in

the Tongass to create their dens.”

FLORIDA COMMISSION PROPOSES TO SHIFT FOCUS IN EFFORTS TO SAVE PANTHERS. The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (6/23, 186K) reports that “Florida’s top wildlife agency is proposing to back away from a key piece of a federal plan to save the Florida panther from extinction.” According to the article, “in a draft position paper set to get an airing Tuesday at a meeting of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Sarasota, the agency says it will not work to relocate panthers north of the Caloosahatchee River as a way to give panthers more room to roam.” Instead, the commission says “it plans to focus its efforts first on keeping the growing population south of the river at a sustainable level and finding ways for panthers and people to coexist.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/23, Campo-Flores, Subscription Publication, 5.68M).

CONSTRUCTION COMPANY TO PAY \$20K FOR DISTURBING PLANTS IN MINNESOTA VALLEY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (6/23, 2.29M) reports that “the U.S. Attorney’s office says a Hugo construction company has agreed to pay \$20,000 for allegedly disturbing plants in a national wildlife refuge.” Lametti & Sons Inc. “agreed to pay a \$10,000 fine and \$10,000 in restitution to the nonprofit group Refuge Friends Inc.” According to the article, “a criminal petty offense citation charged the company with one count of disturbing plants last summer in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/23, Press, 1.29M), the [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (6/23, 484K), and [WCCO-AM Minneapolis \(MN\)](#) Minneapolis (6/22, 70K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: CONFISCATED IVORY CRUSHED IN TIMES SQUARE TO HIGHLIGHT ELEPHANT POACHING. Additional coverage of the ivory crush in Times Square was provided by the [Government Executive](#) (6/23, 2K), the [Courier Mail \(AUS\)](#) (6/23, 22K), [Vice](#) (6/23, 1.43M), and [Business Insider India](#) (6/23).

US Geological Survey:

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTING THE NAVAJO NATION. [KNPR-FM](#) Las Vegas (6/23, 3K) reports that “a third of the Navajo Nation is now covered with sand dunes — the result of climate change.” Margaret Hiza Redsteer, a research scientist for the USGS, said, “It’s a losing battle, unfortunately. They have to plow the road quite frequently to keep the road open so they can get in and out to their house.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

HOUSE PANEL TO REVIEW BLM’S MANAGEMENT OF RECLAMATION BONDS. The [E&E Daily](#) (6/22, Subscription Publication) reports that “a House Natural Resources panel Wednesday will review a new report by the Government Accountability Office that committee Republicans say documents the Bureau of Land Management’s ‘chronic mismanagement’ of wind and solar reclamation bonds.” The report, requested by former committee Chairman Doc Hastings, has been “delivered to the committee but has not yet been released to the public.” The committee has “not disclosed any details of the report’s findings.”

Onshore Energy Development:

JUDGE TO RULE SOON ON FEDERAL DRILLING RULES. The [AP](#) (6/23, Gruver) reports that US District Judge Scott Skavdahl is expected to rule on new drilling rules from the federal Bureau of Land Management before they take effect Wednesday. Four states and the petroleum industry have sued the Interior Department, saying that the regulations that require developers to disclose chemical products used in fracking are duplicative and would be an unnecessary burden. They are asking Skavdahl to suspend implementation while litigation continues. The six-hour hearing is scheduled for Tuesday. Six environmental groups have filed in support of the government.

Additional coverage was provided by [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/23, 161K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/23, Gruver, 1.29M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/23, Gruver, 2.29M), the [San Diego \(CA\) Union-Tribune](#) (6/22, 579K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/23, 5.37M), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/23, Gruver, 6.18M), [KMGH-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (6/23, 124K), [KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#) Bismarck, ND (6/23, 1K), and [KTWO-AM Casper \(WY\)](#) Casper, WY (6/23, 576).

SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE SUES BLM OVER FRACKING RULE. The [EnergyWire](#) (6/22, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Southern Ute Indian Tribe filed suit late last week in U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, arguing that the Bureau of Land Management’s new rule for fracking on public and American Indian lands conflicts with the tribe’s sovereignty.” Chairman Clement Frost said in a statement Friday, “The Tribe values the Reservation environment, but the BLM was overreaching when it enacted this rule for tribal lands. Tribal lands should be treated differently than federal lands.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Courthouse News](#) (6/22, 7K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/23, 241K), and the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/23, Subscription Publication).

BLM APPROVES COAL LEASE IN UTAH. [KUER-FM](#) Salt Lake City (6/23, 3K) reports that “the federal government approved a big coal lease in central Utah Friday over the objections of environmental groups.” WildEarth Guardians, Greenpeace and other environmental groups asked the BLM “earlier this month to scrap an auction for 42 million tons of coal in Sanpete County.” However, “the agency went ahead Thursday and approved the \$17 million sale, adjacent to the Skyline Mine.” Megan Crandall, spokeswoman for the BLM’s Utah office, says “the lease could mean work for 300 miners and federal royalties of \$100 million that would be split with Utah.”

TEXAS APPROVES MONEY FOR EARTHQUAKE STUDY. The [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (6/23, Wilonsky, 1.09M) reports that Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has approved \$4.47 million to fund the TexNext Seismic Monitoring Program to gather data on earthquakes in the state. The program will place 22 seismometers around the state and will send data to the Bureau of Economic Geology, run out of the University of Texas at Austin. The [Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#) (6/23, Baker, 489K) reports that the seismometers will join 16 already in place. State Rep. Drew Darby, chairman of the House Energy Resources Committee said that increased seismic activity spurred the appropriation, telling the Star-Telegram that “Someone was telling us we needed to listen and we listened appropriately and we have a measured response.” The move comes as there is disagreement between academia, industry, and regulators over whether or not fracking wastewater wells in North Texas are triggering the tremors.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: REPORT CALLS FOR UPDATE OF ROYALTY RATE. Additional coverage of the report issued by the Center for American Progress calling for an update of the royalty rate was provided by the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/23, Subscription Publication).

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM COMPLETES GULF OF MEXICO LEASE SALE. The [Marine Link](#) (6/23, 1K) reports that the BOEM “completed its required evaluation of bids to ensure that the public receives fair market value for tracts leased as part of the Gulf of Mexico Central Planning Area Oil and Gas Lease Sale 235.” According to the article, “the sale held on March 18, 2015, made 7,788 unleased blocks covering about 41.2 million acres offshore Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama available for lease.” The BOEM “awarded 161 leases on tracts covering 923,711 acres to the successful high bidders who participated in the sale.”

COAST GUARD CLEARS SHELL DRILLSHIP BOUND FOR ARCTIC. The [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (6/22, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that Shell’s Noble Discoverer, “now docked in Washington state waters, has received a critical ‘certificate of compliance’ from the U.S. Coast Guard verifying it meets a host of safety and security requirements.” According to the article, “since a May 20 Coast Guard inspection, Shell and Noble cleared more than a dozen violations documented at the vessel.” However, “it remains unclear when the rig might begin venturing north, with critical federal permits still pending and Shell’s other Arctic rig, the Transocean Polar Pioneer, already en route.”

FITCH: DEEPWATER HORIZON COULD HAUNT BP’S RATINGS FOR YEARS. [Bloomberg News](#) (6/22, Katakey, 3.81M) reports that Fitch Ratings downgraded BP’s outlook to “negative” over lower crude prices and the imminent ruling over fines sought by the US Government in relation to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The rating itself remained at A. Fitch said in a statement that BP’s ability to respond to low prices is constrained by the need to hoard cash to cover what could be a \$13.7 billion payout mandated by the American justice system. Such a hit would push BP’s debt levels above its guidance through 2020. The [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (6/22, Eaton, 670K) reports that Fitch cited the oil company’s “continued uncertainty” over the fine and the fact that it has only set aside \$3.5 billion for the judgment. Further, BP hasn’t settled a combined \$35 billion in claims from five US states over the spill, though Fitch said that it doesn’t expect eventual rulings to reach that high. The company’s A rating comes from the fact that it is sufficiently capitalized to pay off its debts over the course of several years.

ENERGY XXI TO SELL GULF PIPELINE SYSTEM FOR \$245 MILLION. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (6/22, Meyers, 7K) reports that Energy XXI “will sell a subsea pipeline system in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico for \$245 million as part of a broader campaign to shed assets and increase cash.” CorEnergy, a real estate trust that holds midstream assets, will buy the 153-mile pipeline system in a deal that is still being negotiated.

TESTING CONTINUES TO DETERMINE EXPANSE OF SANTA BARBARA OIL SPILL. The [AP](#) (6/23, Melley) reports that test results released Monday show that tar from the Santa Barbara oil spill washed up at least as far away as Manhattan Beach in Los Angeles County. Testing continues on samples found farther south at San Clemente Beach in Orange County, but the Department of Fish and Wildlife has not yet declared that the spill was responsible for the oil and tar debris found there.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/23, Panzar, 4.03M) and [Reuters](#) (6/23, Gorman) also provide coverage.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE TO TAKE UP MEASURES TO BOOST WATER SUPPLY. The [E&E Daily](#) (6/22, Subscription Publication) reports that “with more than a third of the West gripped by severe drought or worse, a House Natural Resources Committee subpanel will this week take up a handful of measures aimed at boosting some local supplies and getting a grip on the state of the federal government’s infrastructure.” Rep. John Fleming’s Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans will “take the measures up at a Thursday morning hearing.”

CALIFORNIA AGENCIES CLAIM FARMERS ARE ILLEGALLY DIVERTING WATER. The [ClimateWire](#) (6/22, Subscription Publication) reports that “as the California drought rages on, a group of 27 public water agencies is lodging a complaint with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) asking for an immediate order to block farmers in the southern part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta from diverting water for crop irrigation.” The State Water Contractors (SWC), “a coalition of water agencies representing about 26 million Californians, says farmers in the delta south of the San Joaquin River are illegally diverting between 100,000 and 300,000 acre-feet of water per year.” According to the article, “in the complaint filed last week, the SWC provided calculations from two models, which it says proves farmers in this region of the delta illegally took enough water to serve more than 2 million people last year.”

GRAND CANYON FLOODS ARE REBUILDING SANDBARS. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/23, 74K) reports that “strategically timed surges of water...released from Lake Powell to create artificial floods” is “working as intended” according to scientists. The article notes that “many sandbars are growing again.” The researchers note that “the continued success of floods as a management tool is dependent on good monsoons in the future.” However, “how seasonal storm patterns in the Southwest might be affected by

climate change is still highly uncertain.”

BOR WARNS OF RISING WATER LEVELS ON PECOS RIVER. The [AP](#) (6/23) reports that “federal officials are warning that water levels on the Pecos River will be rising in the coming days.” The BOR says “it’s moving water downstream for farmers who are part of the Carlsbad Irrigation District.” According to the article, “the release from Santa Rosa Reservoir began Monday morning,” and “water will be released from Sumner Reservoir on Tuesday, once the water from Santa Rosa arrives.”

JUDGE TO HEAR ARGUMENTS ON COLUMBIA RIVER DAMS AND SALMON. [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (6/23, 3K) reports that “the longstanding legal battle over maintaining dams and salmon in the Columbia River is back in court this week.” On Tuesday, Oregon U.S. District Court Judge Michael Simon will “hear arguments on the Obama administration’s latest salmon plan.” Simon took over the case when Judge James Redden retired.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAHONTAN DAM CELEBRATED. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (6/22, 178K) reports that “on Saturday, the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District and a handful of regional and U. S. Bureau of Reclamation officials and water users gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Lahontan Dam.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

LAWSUIT BY CHICKASAW AND CHOCTAW NATIONS CLAIMS GOVERNMENT MISMANAGEMENT OF ASSETS. The [Bartlesville \(OK\) Examiner-Enterprise](#) (6/23, 602) reports that “citing a history of corruption and swindles that dates back more than 100 years, the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations are asking a judge to order federal agencies to provide a full accounting for how they have managed tribal trust assets.” The tribes also “want compensation to make them ‘whole.’” According to the article, “if current mediation efforts fail, a non-jury federal court trial is scheduled to begin July 14 in Oklahoma City before U.S. District Judge Lee R. West.”

Also reporting on the story is [KJRH-TV](#) Tulsa, OK (6/23, 41K).

Top National News:

OBAMA USES EPITHET IN INTERVIEW TO UNDERSCORE POINT ON RACE RELATIONS. Media coverage – including reports on all three broadcast networks – of President Obama’s [podcast interview](#) with Marc Maron focused largely on the President’s use of one word in discussing racism in the wake of the killing of nine people at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina last week. There is little media or commentator criticism of the President for using the term in the context of the wider discussion, but some reports and pundits suggest the use of the epithet may overshadow the wider message.

[ABC World News](#) (6/22, story 2, 1:30, Muir, 5.84M) reported the interview is “making national headlines...because of a word he used, something we have not heard from this president or any other president in recent times.” Obama: “Racism, we are not cured of it. And it’s not just a matter of it not being polite to say [bleeped] in public. That’s not the measure of whether racism still exists or not.” ABC (Karl): “Those are blunt words for a president who has had to address the issue of race over and over again...and the White House has said the President has absolutely no regrets about using that word.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/22, story 3, 2:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported Obama “said racism is ‘still part of our DNA,’ then he doubled down with six letters that perhaps only the President can get away with saying in public.” CBS (Garrett) added, “The White House said the President did not plan on using the ‘n’ word, but that he had no regrets. It was the first time he has used that word in public as president.” CBS noted that Obama “used the ‘n’ word more than ten times in his memoir ‘Dreams From My Father,’” and added that “the only other known public presidential utterance came from Bill Clinton in 1995 when he discussed seeds of hate in America.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/22, story 2, 2:45, Holt, 7.86M) said Obama spoke “about race in the most blunt language the American public has ever heard from him. In doing so he used a controversial word, one steeped in a legacy of hate, to make his point.” NBC (Welker) said, “Out of sensitivity, NBC News has decided to bleep out the word.” While most print and online media did publish Obama’s remarks unedited, [USA Today](#) (6/23, Jackson, 5.01M), [Politico](#) (6/22, Gass, 1.11M), and [The Hill](#) (6/22, Fabian, 533K) edited out the offensive word.

The [AP](#) (6/23, Pickler) reports that “coarse language is often part of the discussion” on the Maron program, but White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Obama “didn’t plan in advance to use the word to be provocative...but was simply making a point during a casual, free-flowing interview. He said he didn’t recall ever hearing the president say the racial slur aloud before, but noted that it did appear” in his memoir. [The Hill](#) (6/22, Fabian, 533K) says the “discussion about race consumed cable news chatter,” and Earnest “fielded more than a dozen questions about Obama’s comments at his daily briefing with reporters.”

[USA Today](#) (6/23, Jackson, 5.01M) says Obama “used a racial slur to underscore his point that, while the United States has made great progress on race relations, more work needs to be done,” according to Earnest. USA Today writes, “The use of the so-called ‘n word’ generated intense debate on social media.” Previous presidents “have used the term privately, according to the historical record.” [Reuters](#) (6/23, Edwards, Spetalnick) reports that Randall Kennedy, author of a 2001 book on the history of the term, said Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, and Richard Nixon were known to do so.

The [New York Times](#) (6/23, Shear, Hauser, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says Obama and Maron had “a wide-ranging conversation about race” in which the President discussed “his own upbringing as a man born to a black father and a white woman.” The Times says Obama “has been more open about the issue of race during his second term, in part because of racially charged episodes in the last several years” including the killing of Trayvon Martin and several high-profile police shootings of unarmed black men.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/23, Delreal, 5.03M) says Obama “made a startling declaration about race relations in America...and it's not exactly what he said, but how he said it.” While his word choice is getting attention, the Post says Obama emphasized “that race relations have dramatically improved in recent decades.” The President said, “I always tell young people in particular: do not say that nothing has changed when it comes to race in America unless you lived through being a black man in the 1950s, or 60s, or 70s. It is incontrovertible that race relations have improved significantly during my lifetime and yours and that opportunities have opened up and that attitudes have changed.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/23, Tau, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports Obama also said the US has a legacy of centuries of racism to overcome, and that that cannot change “overnight.”

Obama was less optimistic about the prospects for gun control in the aftermath of this most recent mass shooting. [Politico](#) (6/22, Gass, 1.11M) said Obama “doesn't foresee any progress for the time being.” He told Maron, “The grip of the NRA on Congress is extremely strong. I don't foresee any legislative action being taken in this Congress and I don't foresee any real action being taken until the American public feels a sufficient sense of urgency and they say to themselves, ‘This is not normal, this is something that we can change, and we're going to change it.’” [McClatchy](#) (6/23, Clark, 32K) adds that Obama “repeated that he's spoken about gun violence ‘too many times’ and called it ‘not enough just to feel bad.’”

Appearing on [MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (6/23, 487K), Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-SC) said Obama “was being the professor that he used to be before he became a United States senator. ... The problem we have today is when you try to lay out such an elongated explanation, we live in sort of a sound bite world. So people will lift the word out, lift that one sentence out, and people lose the context.”

NAACP President/CEO Cornell William Brooks said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/23, 554K), “The NAACP several years ago buried the ‘n’ word, plain and simple. That word, however, is being resurrected not by the President's podcast but by contemporary events. And so we condemn the use of the word, but we commend the President trying to have an honest and frank conversation about race.”

On [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/23, Baier, 1.53M), Wesley Lowery of the Washington Post said, “I didn't have an issue with the President's use of the ‘n’ word in this instance in part because this was a conversation about the word in the academic sense. ... So I think a little bit of the political furor around it is a little disingenuous.”

However, Harold Ford said on [MSNBC's Now](#) (6/23, 213K), “I didn't think saying that word made his point any stronger at all. Furthermore, I think you give people license to use that word the moment you hear the President use it, and that is not what the President intended.”

Obama To Eulogize Pinckney; Biden Will Also Attend Funeral. The [New York Times](#) (6/23, Baker, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports President Obama and Vice President Biden will attend the funeral of Emanuel AME Church minister Clementa Pinckney in Charleston on Friday, and the President will deliver the eulogy. In a brief item, [ABC World News](#) (6/22, story 3, 0:15, Muir, 5.84M) said Obama “knew Pinckney personally.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/23, Eilperin, 5.03M) says Biden said on Pinckney last week, “He was a good man, a man of faith, a man of service who carried forward Mother Emanuel's legacy as a sacred place promoting freedom, equality, and justice for all.” [McClatchy](#) (6/23, Clark, 32K), [Politico](#) (6/22, Reynolds, 1.11M), and [The Hill](#) (6/22, Fabian, 533K) also briefly report.

Haley Calls For Confederate Flag's Removal, And Many Republicans Join Her. While the President's remarks on the podcast were covered in detail, all three broadcast networks opened Monday evening with coverage of South Carolina Republican Gov. Nikki Haley's public call for the Confederate flag to be removed from the State House grounds in Columbia, a reversal from her cautious remarks just days ago, and one that led many Republicans who had been taking a similarly cautious line to endorse her call. By law, only the state legislature can order the flag removed.

On [ABC World News](#) (6/22, lead story, 2:25, Muir, 5.84M), Steve Osunsami reported that Haley said “she is not against the heritage the flag represents,” but “is demanding the state lawmakers meeting this week move quickly to take down the Confederate battle flag flying at the State House.” Haley: “We can honor the nine blessed souls who are now in heaven.” Scott Pelley opened the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/22, lead story, 3:10, 5.08M) by saying, “The state that fired the first shot in the Civil War may be the last to retire the colors. The Confederate battle flag at the state Capitol has long been the third rail of South Carolina politics,” but “today, after 150 years of history, politicians could see which way the wind is blowing now.” On [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/22, lead story, 2:55, Holt, 7.86M), Ron Allen noted that “Haley previously defended the flag when running for re-election.” Haley: “I spend a lot of my days on the phones with CEOs and recruiting jobs to this state. I can honestly say I have not had one conversation with a single CEO about the confederate flag.”

The [AP](#) (6/23, Adcox, Collins, Kinnard) says Haley's “about-face comes just days after” the shootings. Haley said Monday, “The murderer now locked up in Charleston said he hoped his actions would start a race war. We have an opportunity to show that not only was he wrong, but that just the opposite is happening.” Both South Carolina senators and Democratic Rep. Jim Clyburn – the state's “only black congressman” – were on hand for the statement.

[USA Today](#) (6/23, 5.01M) says Haley delivered an “impassioned speech.” On its front page, the [New York Times](#) (6/23, A1, Robles, Pérez-Peña, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports Haley was met with “a long, loud burst of applause and cheers” from members of both parties. Jamelle Bouie of [Slate](#) (6/23, 1.31M) writes that Haley “was cautious” on Friday, “telling CBS that she hoped the state could have a conversation with ‘thoughtful words to be exchanged,’” but by Monday, “pushed by public outrage, she had changed her tune.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/23, Muskal, 4.03M) says Haley “said the Confederate flag could continue to fly on private property, but called on the Legislature to change an existing law that allows the battle flag on Statehouse grounds. The Legislature is coming back for a special session on the budget on Tuesday, but the timing on the flag issue is unclear.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/23, A1, Frankel, 5.03M), on its front page, reports Haley acknowledged that “a symbol deeply embedded in state history is today widely seen more as a racist relic than as a proud heirloom.” The Post says “a growing number of people view the Confederate flag as a ‘symbol of hatred,’ as Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley called it Monday when he said the flag should be moved to a museum.” In another front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (6/23, A1, Harlan, 5.03M) says the flag “can stand for almost anything in this state – an emblem of identity or racial hate or just boozy partying” – but in the wake of the shootings, people across South Carolina “are trying to make sense of a symbol that is both a war relic and a banner for white supremacists.”

The [AP](#) (6/23, Peoples, Lerer) reports Republican presidential contenders “rushed Monday to embrace” Haley’s call, “eager to move past a vexing issue that challenges the GOP’s effort to win over the diverse coalition of voters it likely needs to win back the White House.” Jeb Bush, Gov. John Kasich, Rick Perry, and Gov. Scott Walker all offered support on Twitter shortly after Haley spoke. The AP says it was “a sharp shift for the GOP’s presidential class, which avoided taking such a firm position about the flag for several days.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/23, Rappeport, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports Walker “said he supported her decision,” while Perry said, “Removing the flag is an act of healing and unity that allows us to find a shared purpose based on the values that unify us.” [The Hill](#) (6/22, Zimmerman, 533K) reports in its “Blog Briefing Room” that Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus also weighed in, saying in statement, “Now is the time to do what is right, and I support the call by Governor [Nikki] Haley and South Carolina leaders to remove the Confederate battle flag from state house grounds.”

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/22, Niquette, 161K), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/23, Dawsey, McWhirter, Subscription Publication, 5.68M), [McClatchy](#) (6/23, Lightman, 32K), the [Washington Times](#) (6/23, McLaughlin, 641K), and [Politico](#) (6/22, Lerner, 1.11M) also have reports.

The [New York Times](#) (6/23, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says in an editorial that Haley “acted in the interest of her state and the nation” in calling for the removal of the flag. State lawmakers “who must vote on removing it need to do that now and show the nation they understand the pain this symbol of hate and brutality causes to this day.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/23, 5.03M) says in an editorial that “South Carolina’s Confederate battle flag is the last on any state government grounds. With its removal, the nation would finally be saying that the flag is not a symbol worthy of respect. There is no excuse for any member of the South Carolina legislature to vote, or for any presidential candidate to say, otherwise.”

Kathleen Parker, a South Carolinian, agrees in her [Washington Post](#) (6/23, 5.03M) column, writing, “Now, once and for all, it is clear that the Confederate battle flag that flies on the South Carolina State House grounds is the racist symbol many have long thought it to be.”

Dewayne Wickham writes in his [USA Today](#) (6/23, Wickham, 5.01M) column that supporters of the flag “ignore the documented racist purpose of the fight they waged. The Republican majority of the South Carolina legislature also seems to be either dumbstruck or just playing dumb, when it comes to this ugly reality.”

Bush Faced Backlash After Removing Flag In Florida In 2001. The [Washington Post](#) (6/23, O’Keefe, 5.03M) writes that in 2001, after then-Florida Gov. Jeb Bush ordered the removal of “a mostly white flag that featured the Confederate battle flag design in the top left corner” from the grounds of the State Capitol in Tallahassee, Bush received many angry emails and replied to them directly, as was his practice when possible. The Post samples some of the messages and Bush’s replies.

Clinton Has Embraced Race Issues As GOP Candidates Have “Stumbled.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/23, Rucker, Gearan, 5.03M) writes that while “the Republican hopefuls mostly stammered and stumbled in response to the shootings,” Hillary Clinton “has forcefully initiated a conversation about race and bigotry in recent days.” The [New York Times](#) (6/23, Chozick, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says this is markedly different from 2008, when Clinton – facing a black rival for the Democratic nomination – was more circumspect. In 2008, she “appeared reluctant to make race a central issue,” but “now, Mrs. Clinton is offering sweeping and passionate speeches on race, which was one of the subjects that first drove her interest in politics in the 1960s and ‘70s.”

Carson: Dangerous To Ignore That Shootings Were Racism. Presidential candidate Ben Carson writes in a [USA Today](#) (6/23, 5.01M) op-ed, “Not everything is about race in this country. But when it is about race, then it just is. ... To some, calling the events in Charleston, S.C., a hate crime reinforces a stigma, which they have fought hard to put behind them. But refusing to call it what it is – racism – is a far more dangerous proposition.”

Republicans Return Or Donate Funds From Council Of Conservative Citizens Leader. The [AP](#) (6/23) reports, “Republican presidential candidates, GOP lawmakers and the lone black Republican in the House are returning donations” from Earl Holt of the Council of Conservative Citizens, “a white supremacist group” cited by shooting suspect Dylann Roof in his manifesto, or donating the money to charity. Sen. Rand Paul, Rick Santorum, and Gov. Scott Walker will all give the money “to a fund set up by Charleston’s mayor to assist the victims’ families,” while Rep. Mia Love (R-UT) has returned the donations.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/23, Hamburger, 5.03M) reports Sen. Ted Cruz, whose campaign “was the first to announce that it would return money it had received,” also donated the money to the Mother Emanuel Hope Fund. Still, [The Hill](#) (6/22, Kamisar, Lillis, 533K) reports in its “Ballot Box” blog, Democratic strategists were “wasting no time attacking vulnerable Republicans for accepting the donations to begin with.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/22, story 4, 1:50, Pelley, 5.08M) had an update on the investigation into Roof that focused on the manifesto he appears to have written. The story mentioned Roof’s citing of the Council’s website. Jared Taylor of the Council told CBS, “The council unequivocally condemns violence or illegality of any kind. What we present is the truth about race relations in the United States.” CBS (Pegues) said the Southern Poverty Law Center, “which tracks hate groups, calls the Council a white nationalist race group.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/23, A1, Wines, Alvarez, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports in a front-page story that the Council “opposes ‘all efforts to mix the races,’ and believes ‘that the American people and government should remain European in their composition and character.’” It grew out of “the ashes of the old and unabashedly racist White Citizens’ Councils,” and in the 1990s, “the council counted influential Republican friends from town halls to the halls of Congress” including then-Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott.

Walmart To Remove “All Items” With Confederate Flag Image. [USA Today](#) (6/23, Brackett, 5.01M) reports Walmart said Monday “that it is removing ‘all items’ promoting the Confederate flag for sale from its stores and its website.” Spokesman Brian Nick said in a statement, “We never want to offend anyone with the products that we offer. We have taken steps to remove all items promoting the Confederate flag from our assortment.”

More Commentary. Eugene Robinson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (6/23, 5.03M) column, “If American racism were a thing of the past, nine men and women who went to church last Wednesday evening would be alive.” While “the weekend displays of multiracial unity” throughout Charleston were inspiring, “they cannot be taken as a sign that the country has moved beyond its troubled racial past.” Robinson said President Obama’s election “marked a milestone, one I never dreamed I’d live to see.” But he did not “fully appreciate...the extent to which the mere fact of a black family living in the White House would, at least in the short term, heighten racial anxieties and conflicts.”

In his [Washington Post](#) (6/23, 5.03M) column, Michael Gerson writes that “when many relatives of those cruelly murdered in Charleston...publicly offered their forgiveness, it was stunning and admirable in many ways” that “provided a contrast to our political culture. So many are engaged in a search for evidence of their victimization in order to justify their anger. Here, genuine victims of a horrible crime responded with mercy.”

Gerald F. Seib similarly writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/23, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) that while the families’ response has been inspiring, the reaction from the political class has been predictable and disappointing.

SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN FEDERAL RAISIN SEIZURE PROGRAM. The [AP](#) (6/23, Hananel) reports that the Supreme Court ruled on Monday that the government cannot force raisin farmers “to give up part of their annual crop for less than it’s worth, a victory for conservative groups that hailed the decision as a win for private property rights.” The court ruled 8-1 that “a 1940s-era program born out of the Great Depression is unconstitutional because it allows federal officials to seize personal property from farmers without fully compensating them, even though the goal is to benefit farmers by stabilizing market prices.” The justices “sided with California farmers Marvin and Laura Horne, who claimed they were losing money under a program they called outdated and ineffective.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/23, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that the case “arose from the activities of” the Hornes, who “set up a business arrangement that they claimed allowed them to avoid the program.” The Agriculture Department imposed fines, and the Hornes “defended themselves on the ground that aspects of the program violated the takings clause of the Fifth Amendment, which says private property may not be taken for public use without just compensation.” Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the court, “said the program was indeed a government taking of private property.” Justice Sonia Sotomayor dissented, saying “the program was not a classic taking because it did not deprive the Hornes of all of their property rights.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/23, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports that the ruling could affect several similar Agriculture Department programs, covering such crops as almonds, dates, dried prunes, spearmint oil, and tart cherries, but is unlikely to have a huge affect on the agricultural economy.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/23, Savage, 4.03M) reports that the court ruled that Marvin Horne “must be paid in full for his crop – a decision that bolstered free markets and property rights and could potentially crimp other government regulation of business.” The court “struck down as unconstitutional one of the last farm programs, spawned in the Great Depression, that had allowed growers to band together with the support of government to keep prices steady.” California produces 99% of the nation’s raisins, and “in years when the market was glutted, the Raisin Administrative Committee would set aside part of the crop and keep it off the open market,” but it “has not used that authority in recent years as raisin acreage has declined.”

[McClatchy](#) (6/22, Doyle, 32K) reports that the ruling “will reshape the contours of the decades-old raisin program,” and that while “part of a long-running challenge to federal regulation of various agricultural markets, the ruling Monday also broadens the government’s responsibilities to private property owners. ‘The government has a categorical duty to pay just compensation when it takes your car, just as when it takes your home,’ Roberts wrote, adding that the Fifth Amendment ‘protects ‘private property’ without any distinction between different types.’”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/23, 5.03M) editorializes in support of the ruling, saying that the court “usefully clarified that the Fifth Amendment protects uncompensated takings of personal property, not merely real estate, as a lower court had ruled,” and that “the educational value of the case extends much more widely: to federal agriculture policy in general, which can fairly be characterized as a series of New Deal-vintage controls and subsidies that have not grown any more rational with age.” The Post adds that it is now “up to Congress to liberate sugar, milk, corn, soybeans and all the other commodities still entangled in an outmoded web of regulations and corporate welfare.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/23, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) also praises the ruling, noting that the court has struck a major blow for property rights.

In a column for [USA Today](#) (6/23, 5.01M), David B. Rivkin, Jr., and Andrew M. Grossman, who practice constitutional law at the law firm Baker & Hostetler, write that “what brought the justices together in this case may be a shared wariness of government cronyism.” While many government programs “can at least be defended as advancing the public interest, the raisin marketing program only

benefits private parties like major producers and exporters at the expense of other private parties like smaller farms and consumers.” The attorneys argue that “as Republicans and Democrats bicker over the budget, the economy, health care, and just about everything else, they should be able to come together on a non-partisan reform agenda taking aim at government cronyism and corporate welfare.”

HIGH COURT STRIKES DOWN LOS ANGELES LAW ON HOTEL REGISTRY INSPECTIONS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/23, Savage, 4.03M) reports that the Supreme Court on Monday “struck down as unconstitutional a Los Angeles city ordinance that authorized police to instantly inspect hotel and motel guest registries at any hour of the day or night.” The ruling “marks one of the rare times the high court has restricted the right of government officials to access business records.” In a 5-4 decision, the justices “unexpectedly concluded that the ordinance violated the 4th Amendment’s ban on ‘unreasonable searches’ because the mostly small-business owners had no right to object to the surprise inspections, even if they suspected the police were harassing them needlessly. ‘Even if a hotel has been searched 10 times a day, every day,’ Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, the owner ‘can be arrested on the spot’ for refusing an officer’s request to check the registry.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/23, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that Justices Anthony Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan joined the majority opinion, while in dissent, Justice Antonin Scalia argued that “the majority had struck a needless blow against a valuable and barely intrusive practice.” He was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Clarence Thomas. Justice Samuel Alito filed a separate dissent.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/23, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports that Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer said the ruling provided guidance for city officials in changing the law, saying in a released statement, “We believe we can craft an ordinance, consistent with the Supreme Court’s decision, which enables the city to renew our efforts to combat human trafficking and other crimes associated with these motels.”

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, June 19, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DOI in the News:

SENATE PANEL APPROVES INTERIOR-EPA SPENDING BILL. The [Greenwire](#) (6/18, Subscription Publication) reports that the Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday "approved the \$30 billion fiscal 2016 spending bill for the Interior Department and U.S. EPA on a 16-14 party-line vote, as Democratic frustration with spending cuts and multiple policy riders boiled over." Both sides "traded barbs over the measure from the outset of the markup, with Democrats slamming the \$7.6 billion that the bill would hand EPA, a more than \$538 million reduction from current levels." The Interior Department would "see \$11 billion and the Forest Service \$5.12 billion under the bill, which was approved in subcommittee Tuesday."

The [AP](#) (6/19, Taylor, 5.03M) reports that "measure is certain to attract a veto threat from the White House and a filibuster by Democrats" because it includes policy riders that block much of President Obama's climate agenda, including proposed rules on ozone, fracking, coal plants, and waterways. "It will protect jobs, keep electricity prices low and fight back against the bureaucratic overreach committed by this administration's EPA," said Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), who attended the panel's debate.

[The Hill](#) (6/19, Shabad, 533K) notes that ranking member Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) offered amendments to strip the riders and boost funding, but all were rejected. "These riders are terrible policy. They're nothing more than a special interest giveaway to polluters," he said.

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/19, 38K) reports that "Senate committee action on Thursday saw funding for the Land and

Water Conservation Fund restored to current year levels, but reauthorization for the program that uses offshore oil lease royalties to buy wildlife habitat still faces a looming September sunset." According to the article, "a successful amendment to the Department of Interior appropriations bill co-sponsored by Sen. Steve Daines, R-Montana, added \$14 million to bring total funding to match this year at \$306 million." However, "whether that funding will ever hit the ground still hinges on reauthorization before a Sept. 30 deadline."

The [Oregonian](#) (6/19, Brosseau, 1M) reports that "a bill passed Thursday in the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations tries to preserve money for fire prevention by untangling it from spending to put out fires." According to the article, "the new financing model would treat wildfires more like natural disasters, such as floods."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/19, Shabad, 533K), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (6/19, 349K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/19, 241K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (6/18, 28K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/19, Taylor, 2.29M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/19, Taylor, 1.29M), [ABC Otus News](#) (6/19), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/19, 5.37M), the [Florence \(SC\) Morning News](#) (6/19, 90K), the [US News & World Report](#) (6/18, 907K), the [St. Louis \(MO\) Post-Dispatch](#) (6/19, 1.01M), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/19, 22K), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/19, Taylor, 6.18M), [Stars And Stripes \(DC\)](#) (6/19, 19K), [PBS NewsHour](#) (6/19), [Utility Dive](#) (6/19), [Agri-Pulse](#) (6/19), [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (6/19), [KDLG-AM](#) Dillingham, AK (6/19), [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (6/19, 1K), and [KSCB-AM](#) Liberal, KS (6/19).

WILDFIRES BURN IN WEST. The [AP](#) (6/19, Press) reports that "wildfires are chewing through parched parts of the West, where temperatures are rising Thursday." The article provides "a look at the latest hotspots" in four states and "what crews are doing to control them."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/19, Press, 5.03M), the [US News & World Report](#) (6/18, 907K), [USA Today](#) (6/18, 5.01M), the [Daily World \(WA\)](#) (6/19, 881), the [Payson \(AZ\) Roundup](#) (6/18, 21K), the [Lebanon \(OR\) Express](#) (6/19, 92K), [KCSG-TV St. George \(UT\)](#) St. George, UT (6/19, 43), and [WPDE-TV Myrtle Beach \(SC\)](#) Myrtle Beach, SC (6/19, 3K).

COMPANIES SEEK EXEMPTION FOR SEASONAL OUTDOOR STAFF FROM ORDER RAISING WAGE FOR FEDERAL CONTRACTORS. In its "Federal Eye" blog, the [Washington Post](#) (6/19, Davidson, 5.03M) reports that "Executive Order 13658, which applies to contracts issued on or after Jan. 1 this year, is under fire from outdoor recreation companies that hire seasonal employees to run tours on federal lands." They want such "workers excluded from the order." According to the article, "if legislation to do that is successful, advocates for the higher wage fear it would be followed by other actions to undermine the executive order, keeping more federal contractor employees in low-paying positions." However, "if the guides and outfitters are not exempted, the bill's proponents say the mandated wage could run some of those companies to ground."

CONGRESS URGED TO LEAVE ANTIQUITIES ACT ALONE. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (6/19, Streit, Basil, Gomez, Jr., 533K), Nick Streit, a sportsman, Toby Basil, a veteran, and Rafael Gomez, Jr., a tribal council member, write that they all support safeguarding "our cultural, historical, and natural treasures for future generations to enjoy." They are sharing their stories "as our country celebrates the 109th anniversary of the Antiquities Act this month," because "each of us has a unique and special bond to a national monument created through the Antiquities Act." They urge Congress to oppose "proposals that would undermine the Antiquities Act."

[America's Great Outdoors:](#)

National Park Service:

SCIENTISTS PUTTING TRACKING DEVICES ON NATIONAL PARK VISITORS. The [AP](#) (6/19, Mead Gruver |, Ap, 5.03M) reports that "scientists are putting tracking devices on a new species — people — as they try to learn more about how their movements affect ecosystems in national parks." According to the article, "park visitors carrying global positioning devices have provided Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado data to improve shuttle service to a popular, and often congested, lake." Also, "another recent study at Yosemite National Park in California tracked where people stroll through two popular meadows and pause now and then to admire the view." Now, "people-tracking by researchers with Penn State and Utah State is helping Grand Teton National Park make decisions about a popular southern approach to the park, including whether they should add parking areas, restrooms and a multipurpose trail along the way."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/19, Press, 894K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/19, Gruver, 2.29M), and the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (6/19, 822K).

NPS SHRINKS BUFFERS FOR BIRDS, TURTLES AT CAPE HATTERAS NATIONAL SEASHORE. The [Greenwire](#) (6/18, Subscription Publication) reports that the NPS "this week finalized a plan to scale back protective buffers around beach-nesting birds and turtles in North Carolina, a positive step according to some fishermen but which drew criticism from environmentalists." The service's "goal is to improve access for fishing and other beach activities at Cape Hatteras National Seashore, as required by the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, which Congress passed in December." The agency "will require additional staff to conduct intensive monitoring to protect newly hatched chicks." According to the NPS, "the anticipated cost — \$250,000 annually — will be funded through the sales of off-road vehicle (ORV) permits."

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK AWARDS \$2 BILLION CONCESSIONS CONTRACT. The [Greenwire](#) (6/18, Subscription Publication) reports that Yosemite National Park officials have announced "a new company has the option to take over the single most lucrative contract in the national park system." Aramark was "offered the 15-year contract to manage the iconic California park's Ahwahnee Hotel, Curry Village, Badger Pass Ski Resort, several shops, High Sierra camps and other services, a \$2 billion value." Aramark, "which hold contracts in Denali National Park & Preserve, Glacier Bay and four other national parks, would step in the day after Delaware North's current contract expires March 1, 2016, if it reaches a deal with the Park Service and gets Congress' approval."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Buffalo \(NY\) News](#) (6/19, 493K) and [KPIX-TV San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (6/18, 130K).

MORE HIKERS NEED RESCUING AT GRAND CANYON. The [Greenwire](#) (6/18, Subscription Publication) reports that “Grand Canyon National Park officials blamed mostly unprepared hikers for making 2014 the year with the most rescues since 2001.” According to spokeswoman Emily Davis, “the park spent half a million dollars on 324 search-and-rescue operations last year, mostly for instances of fatigue, inexperience or physical inability.” The article notes that “last year, the National Park Service as a whole spent \$4 million on about 2,600 search-and-rescue operations, averaging seven per day.”

CONSERVATIONISTS WANT END TO YELLOWSTONE BISON CULL. The [Greenwire](#) (6/18, Subscription Publication) reports that “conservation groups released a report yesterday calling for a halt to bison culling just as the National Park Service closed the public comment period for updating the management plan for Yellowstone National Park’s bison herd.” The current management plan has “allowed bison wandering from the park in search of food to be killed upon entry into Montana.”

AAA CALLS FOR NPS CHANGES AFTER GW PARKWAY CLOSURE. The [ARLnow \(VA\)](#) (6/18, 2K) reports that AAA says “the recent lane closures on the corroding Memorial Bridge demonstrate the park service’s ‘inability to appropriately manage transportation facilities under its control.’” According to the article, “the auto association said the National Park Service, which manages the parkway, is either too underfunded or too inept to effectively run a major commuter route.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/19, Hedgpeth, 5.03M).

U.S. PARK POLICE THROWS OUT DATED POLICY ON PREGNANT OFFICERS IT SETTLEMENT. In its “Federal Eye” blog, the [Washington Post](#) (6/19, Rein, 5.03M) reports that “the U.S. Park Police, in agreeing this week to pay \$300,000 to a former detective who sued after she got pregnant and was assigned to clerical work, also threw out a longstanding policy that critics derided as out of touch with the times.” On Tuesday, the Park Police agreed to settle the case of Renee Abt, “awarding Abt \$300,000 for her pain and suffering, the maximum allowed under federal law.” It also “agreed to rescind its previous pregnancy policies and comply instead with the Pregnancy Discrimination Act.”

RESERVATION SYSTEM PROPOSED FOR VISITORS TO MUIR WOODS. [KPIX-TV](#) San Francisco (6/18, 130K) reports that a plan proposed by Rep. Jared Huffman for Muir Woods National Monument “calls for a vehicle parking reservation system, parking limits and public transit and traffic enforcement.” According to the article, “the goal is to allow no more than 80 vehicles to park on Muir Woods Road during peak periods for two and a half years, with those spaces being reserved ahead of time.” The article notes that “the reservation system would take up to two years to be put in place and Huffman’s plan is long-term, a seven year course of action.”

ADVOCATES WANT STONEWALL TO BE A NATIONAL PARK. [The Villager \(NY\)](#) (6/18, 1K) reports that “the Stonewall Inn could soon be a city landmark, and if advocates have their way, it could also become a national park.” According to the article, “a movement is underway to get Christopher Park, the small triangular park located directly across from the famed gay bar, transferred to the U.S. National Park Service.”

OPPONENTS OF NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE HOLD RALLY. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/18, 179K) reports that “opponents of a proposed 150,000-acre national park and recreation area east of Baxter State Park held a rally Thursday, during which they presented a list of 224 businesses directly employing more than 3,900 people that don’t want to see the plan realized.” The article notes that “possibly the strongest single display of opposition to the proposal since Lucas St. Clair began leading the call for a park in 2012, the businesses include some of the biggest logging, papermaking, forestry, land management and trucking companies in the state.”

Also, the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/18, 179K) reports that “about 175 regional residents attended a debate over the proposal from Roxanne Quimby family scion Lucas St. Clair.”

NPS PLANS FOR POSSIBLE FLOODING AT BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER. [KATV-TV](#) Little Rock, AR (6/19, 91K) reports that the NPS is “planning for possible flooding at Tyler Bend Campground along the Buffalo National River.” According to the article, “until the threat passes, the pavilion restroom and group site restrooms will be closed.”

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP SEARCHES FOR CLUES ABOUT CENTURIES-OLD MANDAN ARCHITECTURE. The [AP](#) (6/19, 25K) reports that “a nonprofit archaeological group from Denver is digging in North Dakota, looking for clues on how Mandan American Indians lived 500 years ago.” The article notes that “funding for the project is coming from the Northern Plains Heritage Area, a National Park Service program, along with money from Colorado State University, Minnesota State University Moorhead, the University of Arkansas and the University of Colorado.”

NEW PATROL HORSE DONATED TO NPS. The [Topanga \(CA\) Messenger](#) (6/19) reports that the NPS “recently welcomed a new patrol horse to its ranks.” Called Jordan, “the 10-year-old quarter horse was donated by the Santa Monica Mountains Fund, the park’s official fundraising partner.” According to the article, “Jordan joins two other patrol horses at the Rancho Sierra Vista stables near Newbury Park.”

SAINT-GAUDENS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE TO DISPLAY 12-FOOT BRONZE LINCOLN STATUE. The [Hanover \(PA\) Evening Sun](#) (6/19, 59K) reports that a team at Gettysburg is “crafting a replica of” Augustus Saint-Gaudens’ “Abraham Lincoln: The Man” for “a monument that will greet visitors at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, a national park built around the artist’s studio and gardens in New Hampshire.” Gettysburg National Military Park spokeswoman Katie Lawhon said, “We have done some pretty in-depth restoration on Gettysburg’s monuments, but it’s unusual that we’re building one for elsewhere.”

The story also appears at the [York \(PA\) Daily Record](#) (6/19, 191K).

TWO CHARGED WITH VANDALIZING BOULDER FIELD LANDMARK. The [Lehigh Valley \(PA\) Express Times](#) (6/19, 230K) reports that “two Monroe County residents have been charged with vandalizing Boulder Field, a National Natural Landmark at Hickory Run State Park in Carbon County, according to a report.” According to the article, “authorities on May 14 found numerous rocks and a tree at Boulder Field had been spray-painted.”

ALCATRAZ IS AMERICA'S NO. 1 TOURIST SPOT. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/16, Forgione, 4.03M) reports that “Alcatraz beat out the Golden Gate Bridge, the Lincoln Memorial and the Statue of Liberty to be selected the No. 1 landmark in the U.S. in TripAdvisor’s recent Travelers’ Choice awards.” The article notes that “it also ranked as the seventh most popular landmark in the world, between the spectacular cathedral in Milan, Italy (No. 6) and the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro (No. 8).”

NEW SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCED FOR THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (6/19, 2.29M) reports that Wendy Ross has been named superintendent of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. NPS Midwest Regional Director Cameron Sholly said in a statement, “She has a great blend of experiences and a proven track record of solving complex problems through innovation and relationship building.”

GRAND TETON'S MUSEUM CURATOR PROFILED. The [AP](#) (6/19, Anderson, 2.29M) reports on the work of Bridgette Guild, Grand Teton’s museum curator, archives and library manager and tribal liaison. Guild said, “It’s a geological park, established because of landscape, but because of the cultural landscape, the cultural resources are so rich.”

MEMORIAL UNION ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Madison \(WI\) Capital Times](#) (6/19, 205K) reports that the UW-Madison Memorial Union has joined the National Register of Historic Places.

Bureau of Land Management:

VINTAGE POSTERS RELEASED FOR 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLM NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (6/19, 1.07M) reports that “Tuesday marked the 15th anniversary of the Bureau of Land Management’s National Conservation Lands, and to celebrate, the organization released three new, vintage-inspired posters” The article notes that “the posters are part of an ongoing series that highlights the beautiful BLM conservation lands in a new, unique way, according to a BLM news release.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/19, 894K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (6/19, 670K), and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/19, 2.29M).

SIERRA CLUB DIRECTOR CALLS FOR EXPANSION OF FEDERALLY PROTECTED LANDS. The [Moab \(UT\) Times-Independent](#) (6/19) reports that Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune “called for expanding federally protected lands in the Grand and San Juan counties — including the establishment of a Greater Canyonlands National Monument —during a public event in Moab on Tuesday, June 16.” The Sierra Club and “other environmental groups are advocating the creation of the Greater Canyonlands National Monument, which would comprise an additional 1.8 million acres of federal Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service lands that surround the existing Canyonlands National Park.” Also, “a 1.9 million-acre parcel known as the Bears Ears area in the southeast corner of Utah is also being promoted as worthy of greater federal protection.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS TO CRUSH IVORY IN TIMES SQUARE. The [Greenwire](#) (6/18, Subscription Publication) reports that the FWS is “planning to crush more than a ton of confiscated ivory tomorrow in New York City’s Time Square as part of the Obama administration’s drive to stop the poaching of African elephants for their highly sought-after tusks.” According to the article, “the media-savvy move is supported by conservation groups that want to bring attention to the poaching crisis and the role played by the demand for ivory trinkets.” However, “some advocates say the administration should do more with its regulatory authority to protect elephants.” The FWS will “crush about \$3 million worth of illicit goods.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/19, Cama, 533K), the [New York \(NY\) Daily News](#) (6/19, Schiffman, 3.79M), the [National Geographic](#) (6/19, 32.75M), [LiveScience](#) (6/19, 444K), and the [Scientific American](#) (6/19, 2.87M).

FWS RECRUITS “CITIZEN SCIENTISTS” TO WATCH MAYFLIES. The [AP](#) (6/19, 2.29M) report that FWS “officials are recruiting ‘citizen scientists’ to gather field data to help better predict when millions of the mayflies will swarm the banks of the Mississippi River.” According to the article, “volunteers are asked to gather and submit field observations using a website and smartphone apps developed in 2008 by the USA-National Phenology Network.” Steingraeber, a fisheries biologist with the FWS in Onalaska, said that “the technology, known as Nature’s Notebook, will allow those with little training to record standardized observations that will be uploaded to public databases available to scientists.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (6/19, 87K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/19, Press, 1.29M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/19, 894K), the [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (6/19, 484K), and [WISC-TV Madison \(WI\)](#) Madison, WI (6/19, 267K).

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE TO ATTEND URBAN KIDS FISHING DERBY. The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (6/19, 590K) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe will be “in Kansas City on Saturday to attend the 10th annual Urban Kids Fishing Derby.” The article notes that “the event, sponsored by Urban American Outdoors and the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department, attracts hundreds of children and their parents each year.”

PLAN FOR LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN FACES OPPOSITION. [Science Magazine](#) (6/19, 398K) reports that the FWS decided in March 2014 to formally list the lesser prairie chicken as threatened. The agency “called for forging closer collaborations with western

state governments, which are often uneasy with federal action, and with the private landowners who control an estimated 95% of the prairie chicken's habitat." However, "some members of Congress are trying to block the plan, and at least a dozen industry groups, four states, and three environmental groups are challenging it in federal court."

FWS SUED OVER RIO GRANDE CUTTHROAT TROUT. The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (6/19, 79K) reports that "an environmental organization is suing a federal agency to get endangered species records about a fish whose habitat includes Southern Colorado." The Center for Biological Diversity is suing the FWS, "seeking information about its decision not to list the Rio Grande cutthroat trout as an endangered species." The center claims the FWS "violated the Freedom of Information Act by allegedly failing to provide documents requested."

RESEARCHER SAYS FEDERAL AGENCIES LOSE TRACK OF ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION MEASURES. The [Newswise](#) (6/19, 1K) reports that "using a case study approach to investigate protection of endangered species, University at Buffalo Law School Associate Professor Jessica Owley found significant gaps in how public agencies keep track of endangered species agreements." Owley's "findings demonstrate key concerns with monitoring and enforcement of endangered species permits." Owley's article, "Keeping Track of Conservation," appears in *Ecology Law Quarterly*.

GILLNETS BANNED BELOW TULUKSAK TO PROTECT KING SALMON RUN. The [AP](#) (6/19, 2.29M) reports that "qualified subsistence fishermen can't use gillnets in the Kuskokwim River below Tuluksak under a restriction intended to help protect this season's king salmon run." According to the article, "gillnets targeting king salmon and years of dwindling returns for the species prompted the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge to announce in a news release Tuesday that conservancy measures are warranted."

CREW LOOKS FOR INVASIVE SPECIES IN FOX RIVER. The [Green Bay \(WI\) Press-Gazette](#) (6/18, 121K) reports that "four biological technicians with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service have been fishing for sea lampreys this week in the lower Fox." According to the article, "after two days of searching," the "team hadn't found a trace."

FWS FINALIZES GUIDE FOR UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE AND FISH REFUGE. The [Clinton \(IA\) Herald](#) (6/19, 27K) reports that the FWS has "released the final prospectus and invitation for applications to conduct commercial waterfowl hunting guide services on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

MORE BIRDS DIE FROM SOLAR PLANTS AND WINDMILLS THAN FROM OIL SPILLS. In an analysis for [Investors Business Daily](#) (6/19, 551K), Kerry Jackson examines whether oil spills or solar plants and windmills cause more bird deaths. Jackson notes that toll by oil spills pales in comparison "to the damage wrought by wind and solar power." He also notes that "the biggest cause of bird deaths" in the United States is cats.

Also providing coverage is the [American Thinker](#) (6/19, 19K).

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR UNDER PRESSURE TO PREVENT CLOSURE OF COLOWYO MINE. In an op-ed for the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (6/18, 10K), Rep. Scott Tipton writes that he is "pressuring the U.S. Department of the Interior to take swift action to prevent the impending closure of the Colowyo, including an appeal of the court's decision, and Sen. Cory Gardner is joining us in this effort." Also, "on the state front, Gov. John Hickenlooper has vowed to join the battle to save the mine as well." Tipton claims that "this battle offers a vivid and all-too-familiar lesson in how environmental special interests, if not balanced against the practical need for a healthy and growing economy, can wreak havoc in the everyday lives of Coloradans."

The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (6/18, 10K) reports that on Tuesday, Tipton, "a long with six other congressmen and women, sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, urging her to visit Northwest Colorado and hold a community meeting to address the region's concerns." The letter stated, "Because your presence would signal a high level of attention to this process and mean so much to the many people impacted by this situation, we urge you to personally visit the region and hold a community meeting to address concerns and answer questions."

The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (6/18, 10K) reports that "the Steamboat Institute hosted a panel of experts Wednesday night at Strings Music Pavillion to discuss 'The Coming Storm of Federal Energy Regulations and Their Impact on Colorado Business.'" According to the article, "the three-person panel discussed upcoming Environmental Protection Agency regulations and the situation at Colowyo Coal Mine before taking questions from the audience." The story also appears at the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (6/18, 30K).

REPUBLICANS INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE MISMANAGEMENT AT OSMRE. The [E&E Daily](#) (6/18, Subscription Publication) reports that "Republican lawmakers in both the Senate and House are investigating the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement over what they call possible mismanagement." The agency has "for years been under the congressional microscope for a rulemaking that Director Joseph Pizarchik said would better implement the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, particularly the forthcoming stream protection rule." Now, the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee are probing "claims that Pizarchik may be usurping power from states, a long-standing concern of local regulators and mining companies."

BLM FIGHTS STATE, INDUSTRY BID TO DELAY FRACKING RULES. [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/19, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM is "pushing back against state and industry calls for an injunction against the federal hydraulic fracturing

(fracking) rule that is scheduled to take effect this month.” BLM lawyers “filed a brief last week in U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming, arguing that a motion by states for the injunction ‘falls far short of standards’ normally applied to obtaining extraordinary remedy.” It argued that “the states have not established that ‘irreparable harm’ would happen unless the new rule is blocked.”

REPORT CALLS FOR UPDATE OF ROYALTY RATE. The [Greenwire](#) (6/18, Subscription Publication) reports that “taxpayers across the West lose out on as much as \$730 million each year due to the low oil and natural gas royalty rates energy developers pay to drill on federal lands, according to a nonpartisan government watchdog group that is urging the Obama administration to update royalties for the first time in nearly a century.” The Center for Western Priorities “released a new report that blasts ‘antiquated’ federal policies that fail to collect ‘a fair share’ from companies extracting oil and gas from public lands.” The BLM “in April published an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking asking the public for input on updating oil and gas royalty rates, as well as rental payments, lease sale minimum bids, civil penalty caps and financial assurances.”

Also providing coverage are [Politico](#) (6/19, Schor, 1.11M) and the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/19, 73K).

TWO STUDIES LINK EARTHQUAKES TO OIL, GAS WASTEWATER DISPOSAL. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/18, 705) reports that “two studies out today point to oil and gas activity, specifically deep injection of wastewater, as the cause of a surge in earthquakes in Oklahoma and the central United States.” According to the article, “to slow or stop the earthquakes, the studies say, oil and gas producers will need to cut the volume of waste fluid they’re injecting into wells.” However, “the studies differ on where to focus those efforts.” The article notes that “one from the University of Colorado and the U.S. Geological Survey, published in *Science*, suggests regulators look at high-volume disposal wells,” and “the other study, from Stanford University, looking at Oklahoma, puts the focus on cumulative injection across broad areas of earthquake activity.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Bloomberg News](#) (6/19, Doom, 3.81M), the [US News & World Report](#) (6/18, 907K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/19, Finley, 894K), the [Denver \(CO\) Business Journal](#) (6/18, Subscription Publication, 62K), [UPI](#) (6/18), and the [Friendswood \(TX\) Journal](#) (6/19, 77).

COAL INDUSTRY CRITICIZES PAPAL ENCYCLICAL. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/18, 705) reports that “the coal industry and its supporters have been among the most vocal critics of Pope Francis’ new message focused on environmental protection and climate change.” In response, “the coal industry deployed its long-standing message that coal can help boost energy production in the developing world and help reduce poverty.” The article notes that “the message was in an email to allies by Arch Coal Inc. lobbyist Thomas Altmeyer, which was obtained and leaked by the environmental group Greenpeace.” The note said, “Industry, policymakers and social leaders – like Pope Francis – must work together to support policies that bring about new advances in fossil energy technologies so we can strike a balance between global economic needs and climate concerns.”

CLOUD PEAK RECOGNIZED FOR RECLAMATION WORK BY OSMRE. The [Riverton \(WY\) Ranger](#) (6/19, 167) reports that “Cloud Peak Energy was recognized in 2014 for its reclamation work at the Antelope Mine in northeastern Wyoming.” The firm “received the 2014 Excellence in Surface Mining Reclamation Award from the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement for the project south of Gillette.” Cloud Peak spokesman Rick Curtsinger said “the government specifically noted the mine’s work to fight cheat grass – an invasive species – while promoting native plant life on reclaimed tracts of land.”

COMPANY APPLIES TO SEARCH FOR OIL IN BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. Additional coverage that a company has applied to explore for oil and gas in the Big Cypress National Preserve was provided by the [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (6/18, 177K) and [WTSP-TV St. Petersburg \(FL\)](#) St. Petersburg, FL (6/18, 89K).

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE OFFICIALS CONFIRM SHELL COMPLETED TESTING OF EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT PRIOR TO ARCTIC DRILLING. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (6/19, Dlouhy, 7K) reports on Thursday, Shell employees and contractors “successfully deployed and tested emergency equipment meant to respond to a blow-out well in the Arctic Ocean.” Interior Department’s Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement officials oversaw the deployment of the equipment this week in waters near Washington state that are “slightly deeper than Shell’s proposed drilling sites in the Chukchi Sea northwest of Alaska.” Additional details of the exercise were not provided, and while BSEE officials confirmed the equipment “could function under pressures that exceed those expected at Shell’s planned wells in the Arctic,” a letter written by a BSEE official “outlined federal regulators’ concerns with some incidents during the containment dome’s deployment.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (6/19, 670K) and [Marine Link](#) (6/19, 1K).

CROWD PROTESTS SHELL’S ARCTIC PLANS. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (6/18, 2K) reports that “a crowd of about 40 gathered in the drizzling rain outside Juneau’s federal building this afternoon to protest Royal Dutch Shell’s oil rig, the Polar Pioneer.” The article notes that “concerns from environmental groups include the likelihood of a spill, the impact on coastal Native communities and climate change.” In a statement, the BOEM says the Polar Pioneer will “meet ‘rigorous safety standards’ during its exploration.”

Also reporting on the story are the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (6/19, 14K) and [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (6/19).

BOEM, AASG TO PARTNER IN SHARING OCS INFORMATION. The [Offshore Engineer](#) (6/19) reports that the BOEM and the Association of American State Geologists “signed an agreement to foster interaction, cooperation and coordination on marine minerals and oil and gas resources on the outer continental shelf (OCS).” Renee Orr, BOEM’s chief of strategic resources, said, “As BOEM worked through extensive coordination with 13 Atlantic states following Hurricane Sandy, we realized that we could streamline operations even more through closer coordination with state geologists. They are important partners in helping us strengthen coastal resilience using OCS sand, as well as managing offshore oil and gas activities in all four OCS regions — the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico and offshore Alaska.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Marine Link](#) (6/19, 1K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR AWARDING \$6.5 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING TO HELP RELIEVE DROUGHT IN CALIFORNIA. [Government Security News](#) (6/19, 104K) reports that the Interior Department has announced that the BOR is "awarding grants totaling \$6.5 million for more efficient management and conservation of California's water as part of the Obama Administration's effort to bring relief to drought-stricken communities." Interior Deputy Secretary Mike Connor said, "These are just the latest grants in the President's all-hands-on-deck campaign to alleviate the impacts of this historic drought in California and throughout the West. The entire government is dedicated to helping respond to continued drought conditions. We know that water is the lifeblood of our communities and every drop counts."

CALIFORNIA PASSES EMERGENCY CONSERVATION REGULATIONS. The [ClimateWire](#) (6/18, Subscription Publication) reports that "as California's historic drought rages on, two of the state's key fish species already in significant population decline – central California coast's coho salmon and steelhead – are facing additional mortality this summer if water supplies are not increased in one of their prime spawning habitats, four tributaries of the Russian River." On Wednesday, the State Water Resources Control Board "passed emergency regulations that require enhanced conservation measures for about 13,000 landowners who live near these tributaries, above and beyond statewide restrictions that already mandate water reductions from all Californians." The article notes that "the emergency regulations also give the state water board the authority to collect water use data from landowners who live in the 130 square miles of land that surrounds the affected tributaries."

TOXIC ALGAE CLOSES SCOOTENEY PARK FOR ANOTHER WEEKEND. The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (6/18, 100K) reports that "the recreation facilities at Scootenevy Reservoir and Park will be closed for a second weekend, the Bureau of Reclamation said." According to the article, "the closure is expected through June 26 or until the toxicity level from algae blooms in the reservoir reduces and a potable water supply is in place." Julia Pierko, acting field office manager in Ephrata for the Bureau of Reclamation, said, "This area is very popular with the local community, and we are doing what we can to reopen the park."

Empowering Native American Communities:

SENATE COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON FINANCIAL STRUGGLES OF NATIVE AMERICANS IN HEARING. The [E&E Daily](#) (6/18, Subscription Publication) reports that "capital is still largely failing to reach Indian Country due to failing or underfunded federal programs, lawmakers and experts" said Wednesday. The article notes that "the financial investment struggles of American Indian tribes were the focus of not only the Senate Indian Affairs Committee's oversight hearing," but "the four-day Reservation Economic Summit on Capitol Hill hosted by the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development." Committee Chairman John Barrasso "called on Congress to help tribes clear financial hurdles during his keynote address at the summit yesterday morning." Also, "at his committee's hearing later on, experts noted that Native Americans are the most undeserved demographic when it comes to access to capital."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Native American Times](#) (6/19, 337).

BILL INTRODUCED TO REPEAL LAND SWAP FOR COPPER MINE IN ARIZONA. The [E&E Daily](#) (6/18, Subscription Publication) reports that Rep. Raúl Grijalva "introduced legislation yesterday to repeal a land swap to facilitate development of a copper mine in southern Arizona." Grijalva and "other project foes – notably the San Carlos Apache Tribe and the Yavapai-Apache Nation – say the swap is not only bad for the environment but allows the company to disturb culturally sensitive sites."

QUAPAW SEEK TO HAVE KANSAS LAWSUIT ON GAMING EXPANSION DISMISSED. The [Joplin \(MO\) Globe](#) (6/19, 64K) reports that the Quapaw Tribe said filed a motion on Monday asking that a Kansas lawsuit on gaming expansion "be dismissed because the tribe has sovereign immunity, which largely protects it against lawsuits." The article notes that "federal attorneys also are trying to get the lawsuit thrown out."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (6/19, 342K).

TRIBE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT KEWADIN LANSING CASINO PLAN. The [Lansing \(MI\) State Journal](#) (6/18, 180K) reports that "an Upper Peninsula American Indian tribe's plans for a \$245 million, 125,000-square foot downtown casino aren't dead, despite an ongoing legal dispute with Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette's office." According to the article, "the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is 'firmly convinced' it has the legal right to pursue the Kewadin Lansing Casino project adjacent to the Lansing Center, and is optimistic the U.S. Department of the Interior will approve its application to have the site taken into trust."

GRANT ANNOUNCED TO ASSIST PINE RIDGE SCHOOL RECOVERY EFFORTS. Additional coverage of the grant announced for the Pine Ridge School was provided by the [Mitchell \(SD\) Daily Republic](#) (6/19, 37K), the [Yankton \(SD\) Press & Dakotan](#) (6/19, 25K), the [Pierre \(SD\) Capital Journal](#) (6/19, 620), and the [Native American Times](#) (6/19, 337).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR APPROVES SPOKANE TRIBE CASINO. Additional coverage of the approval of the Spokane Tribe casino was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (6/18, 28K).

Top National News:

OBAMA: "THIS TYPE OF MASS VIOLENCE DOES NOT HAPPEN IN OTHER ADVANCED COUNTRIES." Amid saturation coverage of the shooting spree in Charleston, the President's [remarks](#) about the tragedy – particularly his exasperated plea for stricter gun laws – sparked extensive, largely sympathetic reporting. As [Mother Jones](#) (6/19, Oh, 723K) noted on its website, "this time last

year, Obama called the nation's political failure to act on guns the 'biggest frustration' of his presidency." Yesterday, says the [AP](#) (6/19, 709K), the President "expressed anger, sadness and heartache," and, according to the [Washington Post](#) (6/19, Eilperin, 5.03M), struggled "to contain his emotions at times." He stood, says [Politico](#) (6/19, Wheaton, 1.11M), "righteous, angry and powerless...as he responded to yet another mass killing." To [McClatchy](#) (6/19, Kumar, 32K), he was "somber" as he delivered his "emotional plea to lawmakers." Obama's comments were featured on all three network newscasts, which devoted a combined 38 minutes to the Charleston massacre.

In the fifth story in its line-up last night – the first four were also devoted to the shooting – the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/18, story 5, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that the President "expressed his sadness over the tragedy," and also "his anger." CBS (Garrett) added, "Fourteen times...Obama has consoled the nation after a deadly shooting," and "in every instance," he issued "a call for action to reduce the violence." The President "has taken 23 separate executive actions to limit actions to some firearms under certain conditions," and "top officials say they've exhausted all executive powers on gun control." Obama "appears exhausted by gun violence and the political stalemate."

At the tail end of its lead story last night, [ABC World News](#) (6/18, lead story, 5:55, Muir, 5.84M) showed the President saying, "I've had to make statements like this too many times. Communities like this have had to endure tragedies like this too many times." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/18, story 4, 1:15, Guthrie, 7.86M) didn't note the President's comments until the fourth story in its line-up, in which it showed him saying, "At some point, we as a country will have to reckon with the fact that this type of mass violence does not happen in other advanced countries and it is in our power to do something about it. The fact that this took place in a black church, obviously, also raises questions about a dark part of our history, and we know that hatred across races and faiths pose a particular threat to our democracy and our ideals."

Chris Cillizza, in a post for the [Washington Post](#) (6/19, 5.03M), said "two emotions" were "evident" in Obama yesterday: "anger" over "the fact that he was, once again, addressing the country in the wake of a mass shooting," and "a head-shaking weariness about the almost-certain fact that this latest shooting would do little to move the needle on gun control legislation." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/19, Branson-Potts, 4.03M) reports that Obama "condemned the politics surrounding" the issue "and called for Americans to do something about gun violence." On its website, [NPR](#) (6/18, Montanaro, 1.52M) noted that the President said, "I say that recognizing the politics in this town foreclose a lot of those avenues right now," but "it would be wrong for us not to acknowledge it. And at some point, it's going to be important for the American people to come to grips with it, and for us to be able to shift how we think about the issue of gun violence collectively."

[USA Today](#) (6/19, Korte, 5.01M) reports that "as Obama spoke, Vice President Biden stood silently at his side." The Vice President "later released a statement saying, 'Hate has once again been let loose in an American community.'" The [National Journal](#) (6/19, Resnick, Alvarez, Subscription Publication, 156K) notes that Biden also said, "As a nation we must confront the ravages of gun violence and the stain of hatred that continues to be visited on our streets, in our schools, in our houses of worship, and in our communities."

[Al Jazeera America](#) (6/19, 133K) reported on its website that Obama said that he and Biden "both spoke with Charleston Mayor Joseph Riley to express condolences." The President also "said he and first lady Michelle Obama knew several parishioners at Emanuel AME church, including the church's pastor, South Carolina State Senator Clementa Pinckney, who was among those killed." The [Washington Times](#) (6/19, Boyer, 641K) notes that the President said, "There is something particularly heartbreaking about a death happening in a place where we seek solace and peace."

The [New York Times](#) (6/19, Horowitz, Corasaniti, Southall, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that DOJ's Civil Rights Division, the FBI, and the US Attorney's Office for South Carolina "have opened a hate crime investigation into the shooting." The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (6/19, Pan, 305K) indicates that South Carolina "is one of five states, including Arkansas, Wyoming, Georgia and Michigan, that doesn't have a hate crime statute on the books, so local authorities are forced to rely on federal authorities to make charges in these cases." [Newsweek](#) (6/19, Richinick, 175K) noted on its website that Attorney General Lynch told reporters yesterday, "Acts like this have no place in our country and in a civilized society."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/18, lead story, 4:35, Pelley, 5.08M) kicked off its broadcast last night saying, "So here we are again, another mass shooting in America. Our neighbors – this time ministers, a librarian, and grandparents – cut down for nothing." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/18, lead story, 3:45, Guthrie, 7.86M) also led its broadcast with the "stunning act of mass murder in a predominantly African-American house of worship," which is "being investigated as a hate crime." [ABC World News](#) (6/18, lead story, 5:55, Muir, 5.84M) called the church "a symbol of the civil rights movement," and [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/18, story 5, 1:45, Allen, 7.86M) noted that it "is affectionately known as Mother Emanuel" and has "been a pillar in the struggle for freedom and equality." The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/18, story 4, 0:30, Pelley, 5.08M) said of Mother Emanuel that it was "founded during the era of slavery in 1816. Whites burned it to the ground six years later and church members met secretly until it was rebuilt after the Civil War. Booker T. Washington spoke here in 1909. The reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1962." The [New York Times](#) (6/19, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) also reports on the church's history this morning.

Obama Discusses Shootings At Los Angeles Fundraiser. The [AP](#) (6/19, 709K) reports that "hours after delivering a statement on the shooting massacre of nine people at an historic church in Charleston," Obama "and a group of entertainment industry donors had a lengthy discussion about the roots of gun violence in the first of two Hollywood-centric fundraisers in Los Angeles on Thursday, according to an attendee who was present." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/19, Parsons, 4.03M) notes that the President urged people who are "upset about mass shootings and other social problems...to 'push society and ultimately push Congress' in the direction of change."

The [Hollywood Reporter](#) (6/19, Daunt, 758K) reported that according to an attendee, "Obama told the group: 'This shooting is incredibly personal, and I've done this too much as president. Look, we've got to go back to the base of the issue and we have to fight it until it's fixed.'" There were "about 25 people at the event, which cost \$16,700 per person to benefit the Democratic National Committee."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/19, Sink, 161K) says that “some Republican presidential candidates canceled political events on Thursday,” but “Obama carried on with fundraisers at the homes of two of Hollywood’s most famous producers,” Tyler Perry and Chuck Lorre.

Friend Says Roof “Wanted Something Big Like Trayvon Martin.” [ABC World News](#) (6/18, story 2, 2:05, Muir, 5.84M) noted the “new chilling details...coming in about the suspect,” 21-year-old Dylann Roof, and ABC’s Cecilia Vega added that according to “friends” Roof’s “alleged plan was six months in the making.” A childhood friend of the suspect, Joey Meek, was shown saying, “I think he wanted something big like Trayvon Martin. He wanted to make something spark up the race war again.”

[Newsweek](#) (6/19, Richinick, 175K) reported on its website that “just before noon...police apprehended the accused gunman,” who on Wednesday night had “sat with churchgoers...before opening fire on a weekly Bible meeting.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/19, Glionna, Mejia, Bierman, 4.03M) notes that Roof “was taken into custody during a traffic stop” in Shelby, NC, and [ABC World News](#) (6/18, story 4, 0:55, Thomas, 5.84M) indicated that “senior law enforcement officials say, so far, the evidence suggests Roof acted alone.”

The [Miami Herald](#) (6/19, Mazzei, 676K) reports that Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. “described the shooting as ‘pure, pure concentrated evil.’” The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (6/19, Bartelme, 305K) reports that Roof “wore patches popular in white supremacist circles, had strong conservative beliefs about the South and may have recently received a gun for his birthday, according to friends and relatives.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/19, Horowitz, Dewan, Oppel, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that Roof’s Facebook profile picture shows him “against a distinctly Southern backdrop: a swamp dripping with Spanish moss.” Roof’s “black jacket is adorned with two flags – one from apartheid-era South Africa, the other from white-ruled Rhodesia – that have been adopted as emblems by modern-day white supremacists.” [USA Today](#) (6/19, Frank, 5.01M), the [Washington Post](#) (6/19, A1, Markon, 5.03M), and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/19, Levitz, Kamp, Subscription Publication, 5.68M), among other news outlets, also describe the alleged shooter’s background, and his drift toward racist violence.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/19, Serrano, Phelps, Muskal, 4.03M) reports that according to Charleston Police Chief Greg Mullen, “a witness in the church who was unharmed – one of three survivors in the church – told authorities that the gunman let her live so she could tell her story.” The [Washington Times](#) (6/19, Boyer, Miller, 641K) notes Roof reportedly said, “I have to do it. You rape our women and you’re taking over our country. And you have to go.”

Shootings Rekindle Debate Over Racism. The [Washington Post](#) (6/19, Horwitz, 5.03M) reports that “almost immediately, the shooting – by a white man in a black church – rekindled heated discussion about race relations and hate groups.” The massacre, says the [New York Times](#) (6/19, Baker, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), “once again confronted...Obama with a moment of racial turmoil,” and “any hopes of what supporters once called a ‘post-racial’ era now seem fanciful.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/18, story 6, 2:00, Pelley, 5.08M) noted that the shootings came “at a time of increasing mistrust between blacks and whites,” and added (Axelrod) the country is “growing increasingly pessimistic” about race, with a recent CBS News/New York Times poll showing 61% saying “race relations are bad,” which is “the highest number since the Rodney King riots 23 years ago.” CBS added that “the full picture of hate in this country may actually be more troubling” than most Americans realize: The FBI “reported 5,922 hate crimes in 2013,” and “Richard Cohen, head of the Southern Poverty Law Center, says that is just a fraction.” Cohen was shown saying, “The true number, according to the Bureau of Justice statistics, is over 200,000.”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/19, Miller, 641K) reports that “black community activists raised alarms Thursday about the mass murder...potentially sparking race riots in Charleston.” Under the headline “Racist Ideology Still Runs Deep In Charleston, Some Say,” [USA Today](#) (6/19, Pager, 5.01M) reports, “Slavery may be abolished, but some Charleston residents say white supremacy is not.” The [Huffington Post](#) (6/18, Bellware, 194K), meanwhile, indicated that yesterday, “flowers were laid, black cloth was draped and flags at the state’s Capitol building were lowered to half-staff. Except one,” a Confederate flag “that’s part of a Civil War memorial on the grounds of the South Carolina State House.” That “sparked outrage” in Charleston.

Tavis Smiley, author and host/managing editor of Tavis Smiley on PBS, writes in [USA Today](#) (6/19, 5.01M), “Black America is under attack. Unsafe. Unprotected. Subject to random violence. Hated for who we are.”

Patricia Williams Lessane, director of the Avery Institute of Afro-American History and Culture at the College of Charleston, writes in the [New York Times](#) (6/19, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), “For me, last night’s events signal several visceral truths. One, that we African-Americans have no sanctuary,” and also that the “daily threat of terror does not exist within a vacuum,” but rather “looms within the growing prison-industrial state, against the backdrop of school-reform debates, our slow movement toward gun reform and the political maneuvers by Republicans to make it increasingly more difficult for poor people and minorities to vote.”

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/19, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) disputes the notion that any sort of institutional racism was behind the attack. Rather, to the Journal, the shooter was motivated by mental illness and by pure evil.

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (6/19, A1, Ross, 5.03M) notes the massacre “comes at a moment when a resurgent civil rights movement grips the nation...with its Black Lives Matter catchphrase and raucous social-media-empowered legions, is about stemming police violence and pushing the criminal justice system to treat African Americans equally.” Adds the Post, “For many, the Black Lives Matter movement is picking up the unfinished work of activists who fought for equal voting rights five decades ago.”

The [Birmingham \(AL\) News](#) (6/19, Wright, 219K) reports, “The murders in a church in South Carolina and the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham nearly 50 years ago are disheartening in a profound way, said the daughter of a civil rights icon.” Arthur Shores’ daughter, Judge Helen Shores Lee, said yesterday, “The Sixteenth Street Church bombing was a hate crime. The mayor of Charleston talked this morning about this being a hate crime. This person had nothing else to do but to shoot all these black people.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/18, story 6, 1:50, Guthrie, 7.86M) interviewed Rep. James Clyburn, who said, "I think from what I've been hearing today, these people are so appreciative of the way the mayor has conducted himself in this, the way the police chief last night did not hesitate to label this crime with what it should be labeled and the way they went about apprehending the perpetrator. I think that started us on the road of healing."

The [Huffington Post](#) (6/18, Alman, 194K) noted that "during a live segment Thursday in Charleston...following the church massacre there, a black woman heckled [CNN anchor Don] Lemon and CNN co-host John Berman on camera, calling Lemon and...Obama 'Uncle Toms' – a derogatory term for black people who are considered subservient to whites."

"Civil Rights Advocates" Ask Why Attack Isn't Being Designated As Terrorism. The [New York Times](#) (6/19, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that while the tragedy "has been classified as a possible hate crime...many civil rights advocates are asking why the attack has not officially been called terrorism." The Times adds that "against the backdrop of rising worries about violent Muslim extremism in the United States, advocates see hypocrisy in the way the attack and the man under arrest in the shooting have been described by law enforcement officials and the news media."

Clinton Calls For Action To Curb Gun Violence. The [AP](#) (6/19, Riccardi) reports that in an appearance in Las Vegas, Hillary Clinton "said Thursday the country has to face 'hard truths' about guns and race." Asked Clinton, "How many innocent people in our country, from little children to church members to movie theater attendees, how many people do we need to see cut down before we act?" [Reuters](#) (6/19, Becker) notes that Clinton also said, "I pledge to you I will work with you. ... Let's unite in partnership, not just to talk but to act."

[Politico](#) (6/19, Karni, 1.11M) reports that Clinton "quoted Martin Luther King, Jr. in her message to the families of the victims, saying: 'you do not walk alone. You do not walk alone because millions of Americans regardless of race, creed, ethnicity, or religion are walking with you, in grief, in solidarity, in determination, we are with you.'"

Republicans Avoid Race, Gun Debates. [Reuters](#) (6/19, Sullivan, Oliphant) reports that GOP White House hopefuls avoided addressing racism and the gun issue in their reaction to the Charleston tragedy. Sen. Rand Paul said, "There's a sickness in our country, there's something terribly wrong, but it isn't going to be fixed by your government." Ted Cruz said, "A sick and deranged person came and prayed with an historically black congregation for an hour and then murdered nine innocent souls." Sen. Marco Rubio, meanwhile, did not even mention the killings yesterday. [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/18, story 2, 2:20, Guthrie, 7.86M) showed Sen. Lindsey Graham saying of Roof, "I don't know if he finished high school, but [he is a] strange, disturbed young man."

[The Hill](#) (6/19, Fabian, 533K) reports that Obama "called South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley" and Sens. Graham and Tim Scott. The President "placed the call from Air Force One en route to Los Angeles, where he was scheduled to attend two Democratic National Committee fundraisers."

First Lady, Daughters Light Candle In Victims' Memory At Milan's Duomo. The [AP](#) (6/19, Barry) reports that the First Lady "and her daughters visited Milan's Duomo cathedral on Thursday, where an official traveling with her said they lit candles in memory of the victims of the shooting in South Carolina." Mrs. Obama "made no comment and issued no statement."

Lawmakers Hold Prayer Circle For Victims. [USA Today](#) (6/19, Troyan, 5.01M) reports that "members of Congress and their staffs, some overcome with emotion and grief, gathered outside the Capitol on Thursday with the Senate chaplain to pray for the victims." USA Today adds that "the congressional prayer circle, arranged by South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott's office, was one of many signs that the murder of nine churchgoers was shocking to everyone on Capitol Hill."

WPost: Gun Control Not A Panacea, But Would "Reduce The Violence." The [Washington Post](#) (6/19, 5.03M) editorializes, "Expanding background checks or shutting down unscrupulous gun dealers would not prevent every incident, but they are sensible steps that would reduce the violence."

Eugene Robinson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (6/19, 5.03M), "Maybe it was white rage that provoked a young man to kill nine innocent worshippers as they prayed. Maybe it was mental illness or some other twisted motivation." But "the one thing about which there can be no debate is that he had a gun."

Activists: Guns Should Be Allowed In Churches For Self-Defense. The [Washington Times](#) (6/19, Richardson, 641K) reports that the Charleston tragedy "Wednesday prompted not just a surge in calls from the left for tighter gun-control laws, but also pleas from the right for churches to protect themselves by allowing their parishioners to pack heat." Activist Kenneth Blackwell, "former Ohio secretary of state, said houses of worship could take themselves out of the line of fire by taking down the 'gun-free zone' signs and letting it be known that law-abiding concealed-carry permit holders – and their guns – are welcome."

MEDIA ANALYSES: AFTER HOUSE PASSAGE, TPA FACES UNCERTAIN FATE IN SENATE. Amid heavy coverage of the South Carolina church shooting, the House's 218-208 vote on Thursday for a stand-alone TPA measure was not mentioned on the network news broadcasts, and cable coverage was very light. Print and online coverage, while still heavy, were also noticeably lighter than earlier this week. Much of the coverage casts the House vote as a win for the President and Repu

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From:

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Sent: Fri Jun 19 2015 05:03:17 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: Re: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, June 19, 2015

I am currently out of the office until Monday, June 22. If you need immediate assistance, please contact stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov. Thank you.

--

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Wed Jun 17 2015 04:58:38 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, June 17, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

LAWMAKERS BLAST OPM "NEGLIGENCE" THAT LED TO CYBERATTACKS. Members of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee blasted OPM Tuesday for what they described as "gross negligence" which allowed hackers tied to China to access private information about Federal employees and personal information on military and intelligence workers with security clearances in two cyberattacks last year. Coverage of the hearing highlighted the bipartisan and vitriolic nature of Congress members' remarks regarding the breach and the performance of OPM officials present.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/17, Bennett, Diersing, 4.03M) describes the hearing as "contentious," adding that lawmakers "ripped into the officials in charge of securing the networks," and the [AP](#) (6/17, Dilanian) notes that the criticism came from both sides of the aisle and "from within" OPM as well, as OPM assistant inspector general for audit Michael Esser "detailed a yearslong failure by OPM to adhere to reasonable cybersecurity practices," and said that "for a long time, the people running the agency's information technology had no expertise." Esser also noted that an inspector general's report recommended shutting down some vulnerable networks, which OPM Director Katherine Archuleta declined to do as "it would interfere with the agency's mission." DHS cyber official Andy Ozment is cited saying "hackers gained access to OPM's network using stolen credentials," an "important" point since the credentials could have been used to access encrypted as well as unencrypted data.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/17, Rein, 5.03M) "Federal Eye" blog cites Esser's testimony, saying that OPM "has not disciplined any employees for the agency's failure to pass numerous cybersecurity audits" and many OPM personnel in charge of information technology "had no IT background."

[AFP](#) (6/17, Lever) quotes Ozment saying, "As our detection methods continue to improve, more events will come to light."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/17, Dinan, 641K) also highlights Esser's testimony, in which he says OPM does not keep track of all

servers and databases on its main network, meaning it “cannot fully defend its network;” Esser is quoted saying that “In the case of the background check systems that aren’t updated, that ‘could potentially have national security implications.’”

[Politico](#) (6/16, Perera, 1.11M) reported that Archuleta and other OPM officials “struggled to respond to a barrage of questions from outraged lawmakers.” Asked about the agency’s failure to encrypt personal information, Archuleta said, “It is not feasible to implement on networks that are too old,” but her “attempts at an explanation only further stoked the anger of House Oversight and Government and Reform Chairman Jason Chaffetz, who expressed disbelief that OPM had failed to take apparently simple steps to secure its data,” saying, “You failed, utterly and totally. ... Your systems were vulnerable! The data was not encrypted!” Chaffetz is cited saying the Administration “should fire” Archuleta and OPM Chief Information Officer Donna Seymour.

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/16, 3.81M) cites Archuleta saying OPM “fends off an average of 10 million hacking attempts a month and the attacks will increase.” Archuleta is quoted saying, “We discovered these intrusions because of our increased efforts in the last eighteen months to improve cybersecurity at OPM, not despite them.” Bloomberg also briefly notes the KeyPoint breach, quoting DHS spokesman S.Y. Lee saying, “To date, no nefarious activity associated with this potential intrusion has been observed...We are committed to ensuring our employees’ privacy and take very seriously our responsibility to protect sensitive data in background investigations.”

[USA Today](#) (6/17, Kelly, 5.01M) notes that Archuleta told the panel that investigators “are still trying to figure out how many federal employees are victims” of the attacks, adding that “4.2 million federal workers will be notified by June 19 that their personnel records have been compromised.” Archuleta told “angry members” of the committee, “While we have not yet determined its scope and impact, we are committed to notifying those individuals whose information may have been compromised as soon as practicable.”

[Reuters](#) (6/16, Zengerle, Chiacu) quotes Archuleta: “I want to emphasize that cyber security issues that the Government is facing is a problem that has been decades in the making, due to a lack of investment in federal IT systems and a lack of efforts in both the public and private sectors to secure our internet infrastructure.”

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (6/16, 539K) says “much of the discussion focused on what OPM can do to improve security,” though OMB chief information officer Tony Scott is quoted saying that “significantly better forms of network protections may not come for ‘years and years.’”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/17, Dinan, 641K) notes that “Top officials said they don’t yet know how many millions had their information stolen” and refused to discuss in an open hearing whether “CIA agents and other sensitive employees” were among those affected, “though lawmakers took that silence as confirmation of their worst fears.” The refusal to discuss certain matters in an open hearing “left committee members on both sides of the aisle frustrated.” US Rep. Steven Lynch (D-MA) is quoted saying, “This is one of those hearings where I think I am going to know less coming out of this hearing than I did when I walked,” adding, “Matter of fact, I wish that you were as strenuous and hardworking at keeping information out of the hands of hackers as you are keeping information out of the hands of Congress and federal employees.”

[The Hill](#) (6/17, Bennett, 533K) also reports this story.

In his [Washington Post](#) (6/17, Ignatius, 5.03M) column discussing DHS challenges more broadly, David Ignatius says Secretary Johnson “must reenlist US citizens — and a weary government bureaucracy — to fight the next rounds and keep the country safe.” Johnson’s challenge, he adds, “is that homeland security is a cooperative venture” and the “place where security cooperation is most needed, and hardest to get these days, is Silicon Valley.” The breaches at OPM show “just how vulnerable the US government and private companies are to hacking Post-Snowden,” and in a recent speech in San Francisco, Johnson is quoted telling tech companies, “We need each other, and we must work together. There are things government can do for you, and there are things we need you to do for us.”

An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (6/17, Board, 5.03M) says the breach of OPM’s networks “represents a failure of stewardship and a serious external threat,” adding that both OPM and DHS, “which is supposed to protect federal civilian networks, have a lot of explaining to do.” The Post says “the president and Congress ought to question the DHS’s obvious weakness at protecting civilian federal networks,” in that Einstein “has failed to stop a series of breaches of federal agencies.” The Post says the breach “calls for a determined probe to identify the hackers and strike back,” adding that “We don’t suggest this lightly,” because an “essential aspect of deterrence is the credible threat of retaliation.”

OPM Officials Urged To Resign. [Bloomberg News](#) (6/16, 3.81M) reports that Chaffetz urged the resignation of Archuleta and Seymour, saying, “Those two had an opportunity to right the ship...They were given strong recommendations over a series of years but they didn’t get it done and there should be consequences. If we want a different result, we’re going to have to have different people.” House Oversight ranking Democrat Elijah Cummings is cited wondering whether the same hackers who breached USIS last year and KeyPoint Government Solutions “used stolen data to break into OPM’s networks;” Cummings is quoted saying, “I believe USIS and it’s parent company may now be obstructing this committee’s work.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/17, Paletta, 5.68M) says Congressional browbeating is a rite of passage for federal officials, but this hearing was notable for the bipartisan criticism from lawmakers who appeared upset that a lack of information was provided. As an example, US Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) is quoted saying he wanted a “few good people to accept responsibility and resign for the good of the nation.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [National Journal](#) (6/17, Subscription Publication, 156K), [Politico](#) (6/16, Perera, 1.11M), [Politico](#) (6/16, Perera, 1.11M), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (6/16, 539K), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/17, Carollo, 6.18M), [Ars Technica](#) (6/16, 571K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (6/16, Reports, 2.74M), [NextGov](#) (6/17, 2K), [NextGov](#) (6/17, 2K), the [Federal Times](#) (6/16, 118K), and the [Government Executive](#) (6/17, 2K).

WHITE HOUSE DETAILS “SERIOUS CONCERNS” WITH HOUSE’S INTERIOR-EPA BILL. The [E&E Daily](#) (6/16, Subscription Publication) reports that “a top White House official yesterday said the Obama administration has ‘serious concerns’ with the House’s fiscal 2016 spending bill for the Interior Department and U.S. EPA, warning that it is short on funding and long on ‘ideological riders.’” Office of Management and Budget Director Shaun Donovan “detailed the administration’s concerns in a letter to House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers (R-Ky.) a day before today’s scheduled committee markup of the \$30.17 billion measure funding Interior, EPA and the Forest Service.” The article notes that “as in previous letters to appropriators, Donovan said the president is unwilling to ‘lock in’ sequestration spending levels, as the House’s overall budget would do, ‘nor will he accept fixes to defense without also fixing non-defense.’” Also providing coverage are the [Washington Times](#) (6/17, Boyer, 641K) and the [Energy Guardian](#) (6/17).

House Approves Spending Bill. The [Greenwire](#) (6/16, Subscription Publication) reports that “persistent partisan deadlock on spending levels and policy riders was on full display this morning as the House Appropriations Committee considered an Interior Department and U.S. EPA funding bill that faces long odds to enactment.”

[Politico Pro](#) (6/17, Subscription Publication) reports that “the House Appropriations Committee Tuesday approved deep cuts to EPA and blocked funds for regulations on greenhouse gases and hydraulic fracturing in a 2016 spending bill that is all but certain to be draw a veto threat.” Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/17, Henry, 533K).

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/17, Henry, 533K) and the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/17, Taylor).

Senate Clears Spending Bill. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/16, 705) reports that “a Senate fiscal 2016 spending plan for the Interior Department and U.S. EPA contains policy riders and funding levels aimed at ‘aggressively’ curtailing environmental regulations.”

[Politico Pro](#) (6/17, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Senate’s Interior-EPA spending panel approved a 2016 spending bill on Tuesday that cuts funding for EPA and includes a series of policy riders designed to hamper key administration environmental initiatives.” According to the article, “the \$30 billion package” includes policy riders that “would block all or parts” the Interior Department’s fracking rule, among other programs, according to lawmakers. The measure also “authorizes the construction of an emergency access road to the remote Alaskan community of King Cove, a project long sought by Sen. Lisa Murkowski.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/17, Cama, 533K), the [National Journal](#) (6/17, Plautz, Subscription Publication, 156K), the [Biloxi \(MS\) Sun Herald](#) (6/16, 127K), the [Spartanburg \(SC\) Herald-Journal](#) (6/16, 109K), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (6/17), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (6/16, 2K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/17, 5.37M), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/17, Taylor), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/17, Taylor, 2.29M), [US News & World Report](#) (6/16, 907K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/17, Andrew Taylor |, Ap, 5.03M), [WCAV-TV Charlottesville \(VA\)](#) Charlottesville, VA (6/17, 1K), and [WJAX-TV Jacksonville \(FL\)](#) Jacksonville, FL (6/17).

House Cuts Funding For Eisenhower Memorial Commission. [Roll Call](#) (6/17, 99K) reports that “posing the biggest threat yet to architect Frank Gehry’s plans for a memorial” to Dwight D. Eisenhower, the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday “approved a bill, 30-21, that would cut all funding for the Eisenhower Memorial Commission, and advanced non-binding language calling for a ‘reset’ on the project, which has not received any construction funds from Congress since fiscal 2012.” The article notes that “only one member objected to the report on the Interior-Environment spending bill that urges House and Senate committees with jurisdiction to work expeditiously on legislation that would direct appointment of a new EMC staff, and authorize an ‘open, public, and transparent new design process’ involving Congress, the Eisenhower family, the National Park Service and others.” Rep. Sanford D. Bishop Jr., “a House appointee to the 11-member commission, asked his colleagues to ‘reconsider this attack on the Eisenhower Memorial Commission’ during the three-hour markup.”

Riders Would Delist Gray Wolves. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (6/17, Sherry, 1.29M) reports that “senate and House Republicans are trying to insert language to delist gray wolves in Minnesota, Wyoming, Wisconsin and Michigan from the endangered species list in big Interior Department spending bill proposals this week.” The rider has “already caught the ire of environmentalists and wolf advocacy groups.” According to the article, “the language provides for the delisting of gray wolves and prohibits the rule from ever being subjected to judicial review – which means it could never be overruled by a future judge.”

House Bill Contains Funding For Everglades. The [Sunshine State \(FL\) News](#) (6/17, 3K) reports that federal funding for the Everglades was “contained in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill passed Tuesday by the U.S. House Appropriations Committee.” According to the article, “almost \$140 million” from NPS funds “would go to restore the Everglades at the following national parks: Big Cypress, Biscayne, Everglades and Dry Tortugas.”

Senate Bill Would Boost Funding For Native Services, Firefighting. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/16, 216K) reports that the Senate appropriations bill would “ensure dedicated funding for emergency firefighting but also cut billions of dollars from federal lands and environment funding.” The legislation “includes a timely funding boost for activities to prevent forest fires by providing pruning and forest breaks to reduce the risk of fires spreading quickly.”

QUESTIONS RAISED OVER FEDERAL SAGE GROUSE PLANS. The [Greenwire](#) (6/16, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Obama administration is promoting final federal greater sage grouse protection plans as powerful conservation tools that won’t stifle ‘sustainable development and traditional uses of the land’ across 50 million acres in 10 Western states.” Last month, in announcing the plans, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, “They respect the existing rights that exist on those lands. They take a balanced and a targeted approach, focusing protections on the places that matter most.” However, “some ranchers, energy developers and others affected by those plans aren’t so sure they’re ‘balanced and targeted.’” According to the article, “stakeholders have questions and strong concerns about how they’ll be affected by land-use amendments outlined in the plans’ 14 final environmental impact statements.”

Additional coverage of the sage grouse was provided by the [WyoFile](#) (6/17).

Scientists Deploy Drones To Map Sagebrush For Wildfire Strategy. The [AP](#) (6/17, 3.69M) reports that “scientists have deployed drones over western Idaho to map a little-known landscape as part of an effort to reduce wildfire risks and protect sage grouse and other wildlife across the West.” According to the article, “they say they have to learn more about what grows in the region so that when charred areas are restored, land managers don’t plant a type of sagebrush that sage grouse won’t eat.” The article notes that “a key part of the Interior Department’s new wildfire strategy involves replacing native plants after giant blazes, which have been an increasing problem in rangeland in many Western states over the last decade.”

Idaho Land Managers Receive Funds To Remove Plants That Threaten Sage Grouse. The [Boise State \(ID\) Public Radio](#) (6/16) reports that “Idaho is among 12 states that will share \$10 million from the Interior Department, which will be used to keep the threat of wildfire to a minimum in sensitive sage grouse habitat.” The BLM’s district in Boise was “awarded \$166,000 to cut down dense and invasive conifer trees like junipers.” The BLM’s Lance Okeson said, “This project is really important because what we’re doing is we’re focusing on the best of the best habitat [for sage grouse]. [I]f we start early before the trees get very big... it’s really cheap and it’s really effective. And it’s easy to maintain those habitats.”

SEN. CANTWELL WANTS TO RESHAPE APPROACH TO NATIONAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT. The [ClimateWire](#) (6/16, Subscription Publication) reports that Sen. Maria Cantwell is “aiming to shape a more holistic approach to national wildfire management.” She has “released a white paper outlining the problems a new bill, the ‘Wildlife Management Act of 2015,’ is likely to address when it is completed.” Cantwell said, “The science is clearly telling us that wildfires are not behaving the same way they have in the past several decades.” She added, “We cannot keep using the same, tired approaches we have for the last 100 years. We need to make sure we are focusing on getting different results. Common sense tells us that our response needs to be modified now that we know the problem is different.”

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/17, Dan Joling |, Ap, 5.03M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/17, Dan Joling |, Ap, 5.03M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (6/17, 970K), the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (6/16, 10K), the [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (6/16, 17K), [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (6/17, 78K), the [Eko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/17, 22K), and [KCPQ-TV Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (6/16, 157K).

REP. LABRADOR RAISES DOUBTS ABOUT SUPPORT FOR BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS WILDERNESS. The [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/16, 199K) reports that Rep. Raul Labrador “raised doubts Monday about the support for a wilderness bill Republican Rep. Mike Simpson has pushed for 15 years at a House hearing.” Labrador, “questioning a Forest Service official Tuesday at the House Resources Committee’s subcommittee on Public Lands, said motorized recreation users only support the bill because they fear the alternative — a national monument designation by President Barack Obama.” He said, “The truth is, the public will is against this bill.”

SECRETARY JEWELL PROMOTES “EVERY KID IN A PARK” INITIATIVE WITH A ROCK CLIMB. [Outdoor USA Magazine](#) (6/17) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “recently donned a helmet and climbing harness and joined renowned climber Tommy Caldwell on a rock face in Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.” Accompanying the two “on the climb and short hike were 25 third-graders from Elsie Whitlow Stokes Charter School in Washington, D.C.” The article notes that “the outing was designed to highlight the Obama Administration’s Every Kid in a Park initiative.”

UTAH MOVERS CLOSER TO LAWSUIT IN PUSH TO CONTROL FEDERAL LANDS. The [AP](#) (6/17, 506K) reports that “Utah lawmakers inched closer to a possible lawsuit in the state’s push to seize control of federal lands with the selection Tuesday of two consulting firms that will prepare a legal strategy and attempt to sway public opinion in their favor.” According to the article, “a Utah legislative commission voted unanimously to pay up to \$2 million for the work to a law firm and public policy research organization.” The Davillier Law Group will “prepare an analysis by year’s end of the historical and constitutional grounds for transferring the lands,” said Rep. Keven Stratton.

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/17, Subscription Publication, 2.92M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (6/17, 822K), the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (6/17, 75K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/17, McCombs, 641K), and the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/17, 99K).

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSION DENOUNCES PROPOSED GRAND CANYON WATERSHED NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (6/16, 3K) reports that “the Washington County Commission passed a resolution at its regular meeting Tuesday opposing the creation of” a proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. The measure “cites concerns over the loss of multiple uses on public lands, without public input, in an area directly south of Washington County.”

WILL SHAFROTH APPOINTED HEAD OF NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION. The [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (6/17, 167K) reports that Will Shafroth, “a former congressional candidate from Boulder, has been appointed president and chief executive officer of the National Parks Foundation.” In a statement, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, “noted Shafroth’s longtime experience advocating for America’s scenic lands and parks.” She said, “Will has a passion for public lands and the necessary experience to guide the foundation into the future as the National Park Service celebrates its centennial next year.”

AMENDMENTS TO NDAA SHOW CRITICIZED. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (6/17, Reppenhagen, 533K), Gareth Reppenhagen, the Rocky Mountain director of Vet Voice Foundation, writes that the legislation to fund the Department of Defense for the coming year could “include some entirely unrelated issues – and threaten the parks and public lands I visit and enjoy with my family, and the heritage I hope to pass along to my son.” Reppenhagen criticizes provisions that “block the ability of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the Greater sage-grouse,” as well as “language in the defense bill that would block the president’s ability to protect national monuments.” Reppenhagen asserts that those supporting these riders “cannot be permitted to single-handedly set precedents about the management and conservation of our wildlife or our parks, monuments and public lands, especially by sneaking provisions such as these into unrelated legislation.”

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS AWARDS GRANTS TO WORLD WAR II INTERNMENT PROJECTS IN HAWAII. [KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (6/16, 37K) reports that “projects that preserve and interpret Japanese American confinement sites in Hawaii will receive more than \$366,000 in grant money, the National Park Service announced Tuesday.” The funds are “part of 20 grants totaling more than \$2.8 million to be distributed nationwide.” NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, “As stewards of our nation’s history, the National Park Service recognizes the importance of preserving these confinement sites. They are poignant reminders – today and for future generations – that we must be always vigilant in upholding civil liberties for all. These grants help us share valuable lessons on the fragility of our constitutional rights and ensure the experiences of those who were incarcerated are not forgotten.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (6/17, 342K), the [Northwest Arkansas Online](#) (6/17), and [KITV-TV](#) Honolulu (6/17, 39K).

NPS AWARDS CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD GRANTS FOR KENTUCKY SITES. The [Danville \(KY\) Advocate-Messenger](#) (6/17, 34K) reports that “Perryville Battlefield is among three Kentucky parks to receive Lands and Water Conservation Fund grants to help preserve Civil War battlefields.” Perryville “received \$77,510 to preserve and continue to develop.” NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis said, “The impact of the events that took place on those hallowed grounds continues to affect all Americans. The protection of these sites provides opportunities for all of us to connect physically and emotionally with our country’s journey from Civil War to Civil Rights.”

NPS PRORANGER PROGRAM RECRUITS STUDENTS FOR RANGER POSITIONS. [USA Today](#) (6/16, 5.01M) reports on the NPS’ ProRanger Program. According to the article, “the ProRanger program requires students take four courses through the university, complete two summer internships at parks, attend Temple’s seasonal law enforcement training program, take one course during their summer internships and complete various projects and activities during any given semester.” Lofton Wiley, the ProRanger program manager, said, “I personally enjoy seeing people’s careers flourish and seeing people be successful. I like to help people out during their careers. I believe if we can help cultivate the next generation, we’re doing the park service justice.”

NPS BUILDING IN SANTA FE TO REOPEN TO VISITORS. The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (6/17, 49K) reports that “a campaign by advocates of reopening the historic National Park Service building on Old Santa Fe Trail to the public apparently has succeeded.” Sen. Tom Udall, said Tuesday that “the landmark adobe structure on Museum Hill — built by the Civilian Conservation Corps and decorated by the Works Progress Administration and members of the Santa Fe art colony before it opened in 1939 — will be staffed by volunteers able to provide information about the building, as well as about parks and trails in the area.”

BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK OFFICIALS URGE VISITORS TO USE TRAILS. The [AP](#) (6/17, 2.29M) reports that “officials at Badlands National Park are urging visitors to use the park’s trails following a cave-in that injured several members of a family over the weekend.” Park spokeswoman Julie Johndreau says “trails are there for a reason and that they’re reminding visitors to use them while they explore this summer.”

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON YELLOWSTONE BISON PLAN. The [AP](#) (6/17, 2.29M) reports that “more than 2,800 individual letters and online comments have been submitted during the initial public comment period on the future of Yellowstone bison.” The state of Montana and Yellowstone National Park is looking to rewrite the Interagency Bison Management Plan.

NPS STUDYING SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE & MUSEUM. In his column for the [Washington Post](#) (6/17, Kelly, 5.03M), John Kelly notes that the NPS is “considering adding the Sewall-Belmont House & Museum to the stable of properties it oversees.” The agency “made the announcement last week after a two-year feasibility study”

NPS TO MARK CHKALOV FLIGHT ANNIVERSARY. The [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (6/16, 109K) reports that “re-enactors, vintage aircraft and a new generation of Russian visitors will help set the scene on Saturday for the 78th anniversary of the Chkalov flight.” The NPS will “host the observance at 10:30 a.m. at Pearson Air Museum, 1115 E. Fifth St. in Vancouver.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. Additional coverage of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park was provided by the [Oak Ridger \(TN\)](#) (6/16, 15K).

NATIONAL LANDMARK STATUS SUPPORTED FOR PAOLI BATTLEFIELD. In an editorial, the [West Chester \(PA\) Daily Local News](#) (6/16, 43K) supports National Historical Landmark status for the Paoli Battlefield.

Bureau of Land Management:

UTAH LAWMAKERS BACK AID FOR OFFICIAL CONVICTED IN ATV PROTEST. The [AP](#) (6/17, McCombs, 2.29M) reports that “a Republican-dominated Utah legislative commission is throwing its support behind using state money to help pay legal bills of a county commissioner convicted in an ATV ride protesting federal control of public lands.” According to the article, “despite opposition from its two Democratic members, the state commission for the stewardship of public lands voted Tuesday to send a recommendation to the state’s Constitutional Defense Council.” The money would aid “San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman, who along with blogger Monte Wells was found guilty by a jury last month of federal misdemeanor charges.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/17, 470K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/17, 538K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (6/17, 1.07M).

Lyman Launches Nonprofit. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/17, 705) reports that Lyman has “launched a nonprofit dedicated to supporting those ‘whose freedoms are at risk.’” The Recapture Institute will “host educational talks on Navajo culture,

offer volunteer opportunities, support civic action and provide a public forum for discussing policies that ‘compromise the American dream,’ according to the organization’s website.” The organization will “also raise awareness of Lyman’s role in the May 10, 2014, OHV ride through Recapture Canyon just east of Blanding, Utah, which the organization contends was lawful, and raise money ‘in support of Commissioner Lyman,’ according to the site.”

CONCERNS RAISED OVER BLM PLAN FOR BIG HORN BASIN. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/17, 99K) reports that “conservationists and ranchers are raising concerns over a U.S. Bureau of Land Management plan that will govern 3.2 million federal acres in the Big Horn Basin.” The plan “calls on managing 1.1 million acres as priority sage grouse habitat, establishes three master leasing areas that seek to minimize the impacts of energy development on wildlife, and identifies three new areas for greater environmental protections.”

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON TARGET SHOOTING CLOSURES NEAR LAKE MOUNTAIN. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (6/17, 1.07M) reports that the BLM is “asking for the public’s input on amending the management plan which closed the eastern Lake Mountains area to target shooting.” Officials are “asking for input and comments from the public as it begins an environmental assessment ‘to determine the suitability of and potential for target shooting restrictions on public lands in this area’ according to a BLM news release.”

CORE YOUTH RECEIVE BLM’S VOLUNTEER AWARD. The [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (6/17, 13K) reports that “now in their 16th year, Casper-based Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education (CORE) youth are cleaning up the Big Horn Basin one scrap at a time while appreciating what the Basin’s environs have to offer.” According to Victor Orr, CORE conservation outdoor recreation educator, on Tuesday, “they hauled a 200-pound bench to the top, taking turns carrying the bench dismantled in two parts.” Sarah Beckwith, BLM public affairs in Worland said, “Orr and the kids received the BLM’s prestigious ‘Making a Difference’ National Volunteer Award for outstanding youth.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS PROPOSES DELISTING EASTERN COUGAR. The [Greenwire](#) (6/16, Subscription Publication) reports that the FWS has “announced that it intends to formally remove the Eastern cougar from the endangered species list due to extinction.” An agency “review four years ago formally concluded that the subspecies of the North American cougar had gone extinct,” but “reported sightings of Eastern cougars – also known as mountain lions, pumas, panthers or ‘ghost cats’ – persist.” Martin Miller, chief of endangered species for the agency’s Northeast region, said in a statement, “We recognize that people have seen cougars in the wild in the eastern U.S.. Those cougars are not of the eastern cougar subspecies.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/17, Devaney, 533K), [Reuters](#) (6/17, Zuckerman), [CNN](#) (6/16, Dinan, 3.17M), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (6/17), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/17, 5.37M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (6/17, 970K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/17, David Sharp |, Ap, 5.03M), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/17, Sharp, 6.18M), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (6/17, 709K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/17, Sharp, 2.29M), the [Worcester \(MA\) Telegram & Gazette](#) (6/16, 191K), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (6/16, 153K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/17, Sharp, 1.29M), the [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (6/16, 305K), [WDIV-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (6/17, 292K), [W GAL-TV Lancaster \(PA\)](#) Lancaster, PA (6/17, 101K), [WTAE-TV Pittsburgh \(PA\)](#) Pittsburgh (6/17, 248K), [WZVN-TV Fort Myers \(FL\)](#) Fort Myers, FL (6/17, 1K), [WCAX-TV Burlington \(VT\)](#) Burlington, VT (6/17, 57K), [WKYT-TV Lexington \(KY\)](#) Lexington, KY (6/17, 83K), [WBZ-TV Boston \(MA\)](#) Boston (6/16, 119K), [WCAV-TV Charlottesville \(VA\)](#) Charlottesville, VA (6/17, 1K), and [WJXT-TV Jacksonville \(FL\)](#) Jacksonville, FL (6/17, 340K).

GROUP THREATENS LAWSUIT OVER DENIAL OF PROTECTIONS FOR RIO GRANDE CUTTHROAT TROUT. The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (6/17, 49K) reports that “a wildlife conservation group has put the federal government on notice that a decision last fall to deny Endangered Species Act protections to New Mexico’s struggling state fish, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, will soon be greeted by a lawsuit.” The Center for Biological Diversity announced Tuesday that “it and other interested parties plan to file suit in 60 days against the Department of the Interior’s Secretary Sally Jewell in her oversight role for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” The group’s “letter claims sections of the Endangered Species Act were violated when the agency decided last September that listing the cutthroat trout subspecies as endangered isn’t warranted.”

FEDERAL AGENCIES SUED OVER BIGHORN SHEEP HABITAT. The [Courthouse News](#) (6/16, 7K) reports that “grizzly bears and bighorn sheep are threatened by federal permission for 8,000 domestic sheep to graze in prime habitat in Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest in Montana, environmentalists claim in court.” The Gallatin Wildlife Association “sued the U.S. Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service in Federal Court, to protect bighorn sheep habitat ‘in the heart of the Gravelly Mountains.’”

FLOODING IMPACTS TRINITY RIVER REFUGE. The [Dayton \(TX\) News](#) (6/17, 23) reports that “the recent flooding in Houston” has left “95 percent” of the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge “submerged in water.” The article notes that “prior to the flooding, only 5 percent of the refuge was underwater.” According to the article, “the refuge has been almost completely submerged for around 90 days and has, since then, undergone noticeable short term changes.” For instance, “in search of dry land, wildlife has dispersed onto higher ground – often placing themselves in greater danger alongside public roads.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS DESIGNATES ALL CHIMPANZEES AS “ENDANGERED.” Additional coverage that the FWS “on Friday introduced that all chimpanzees in the US will be listed as endangered” was provided by the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (6/17, Board, 886K), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (6/16, 85K), [LatinosPost](#) (6/16, 27K), [Vocal Republic](#) (6/17), [io9](#) (6/16, 837K), and [Tech Times](#) (6/16, 153K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EFFORT TO SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLY. Additional coverage of the effort to save the Monarch butterfly was provided by the [AgWeek](#) (6/17, 87K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SEN. INHOFE’S CONCERN FOR MANATEES. Additional coverage of Sen. James Inhofe’s concern for manatees was provided by [Salon](#) (6/16, 1.16M).

US Geological Survey:

USGS WANTS MORE SEISMIC MONITORS AT GLACIER PEAK. The [AP](#) (6/16) reports that the USGS is “seeking permission to install four new monitoring stations around Glacier Peak, Snohomish County’s only volcano.” According to the article, the USGS “started mapping the volcano and its surrounding peaks and calleys last year using Light Detection and Ranging, or lidar.” Now, “the hope for U.S. Forest Service approval to set up equipment that can track seismic activity.”

USGS MONITORING STREAMS, RIVERS IN COLORADO AFTER HEAVY RAIN. [KUSA-TV](#) Denver (6/16, 248K) reports that USGS “crews are paying close attention to river levels around the state” after “weeks of heavy rain and snowmelt.” USGS associate director of hydrologic studies Suzanne Pashke said, “Right now, the South Platte is flowing at 1,640 cubic feet per second or about 2,000 cubic feet per second over the last few days.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

JUDGE DEMANDS EXPLANATION FOR LENGTHY DELAY ON ENERGY LEASE OUTSIDE GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (6/17, Brown) reports that “a federal judge is pressing U.S. officials to explain why it’s taken three decades to decide on a proposal to drill for natural gas just outside Glacier National Park in an area considered sacred by some Indian tribes in Montana and Canada.” According to the article, “a frustrated U.S. District Judge Richard Leon called the delay ‘troubling’ and a ‘nightmare’ during a recent court hearing.” Leon “ordered the Interior and Agriculture departments to report back to him with any other example of where they have ‘dragged their feet’ for so long.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (6/17).

MOFFAT COUNTY BECOMES COOPERATING AGENCY IN DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ANALYSIS FOR COLOWYO COAL MINE. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (6/16, 10K) reports that “at Tuesday morning’s Moffat County Commissioners meeting, the commissioners signed a memo of understanding establishing the county as a cooperating agency in the development of the new environmental analysis for Colowyo coal mine.” According to the article, “the agreement sets forth the roles and responsibilities agreed to between the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement and Moffat County, for the purpose of collaborative planning and production of an environmental assessment for Colowyo’s South Taylor Pit.” The article notes that “as a cooperating agency, Moffat County will be able to assist in identifying issues to be addressed in the planning effort, provide relevant data for the construction of the environmental assessment and suggest alternatives to be considered in the assessment.”

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON DAN RIVER ASH DAMAGE PLAN. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (6/17, 601K) reports that “a state-federal team is seeking public comment on its plan to assess natural resource damage from Duke Energy’s 2014 spill of coal ash into the Dan River.” The FWS, “Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and North Carolina’s Department of Environment and Natural Resources are jointly overseeing the damage assessment.”

BLM URGED TO RAISE ROYALTY RATE. In a piece for the [Washington Post](#) (6/17, Hein, 5.03M), Jayni Foley Hein, policy director at the Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU School of Law, writes that “last fiscal year, the federal government generated more than \$13 billion from drilling and mining activities on its land – but it should have made hundreds of millions of dollars more.” Hein argues that “antiquated pricing rules have given these energy companies access to federal lands at prices that ignore decades of inflation, as well as many environmental and health costs of fossil fuel production.” She notes that the BLM has “never increased the royalty rate” and argues that “as a starting point, the federal government should update the minimum bid to account for inflation; that alone would raise it to \$24.”

Offshore Energy Development:

DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS CRITICIZE PRESIDENT OBAMA’S DRILLING REGULATIONS. [The Hill](#) (6/16, Cama, 533K) reports that President Obama’s Arctic drilling policies are generating criticism from both parties. Republicans are accusing Obama of squelching development with over-regulation, while Democrats argue that the President has not gone far enough to restrict offshore drilling in the Arctic, says [The Hill](#), adding that most of the criticism is in reference to a rule restricting drilling season, requiring the driller to have a rig available to relieve a blowout, and demanding Arctic-specific plans. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (6/16, 2.29M) reports that oil industry representatives argue that these regulations are “too prescriptive” and threaten to temper exploration and keep old technologies in use.

Industry Allies, Environmentalists Respond To Government-Sponsored Arctic Drilling Report. The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (6/17, 670K) reports that “oil industry representatives and allies on Capital Hill on Tuesday touted a National Petroleum Council on Arctic drilling as a definitive, unbiased resource.” The report makes the case that the United States should “aggressively develop Arctic oil and gas resources” in anticipation of declining onshore production. Although the NPC is a federal advisory committee established to provide guidance to the government, the group is “set apart... by its heavy oil and gas industry membership.” Environmentalists have seized on this point in their criticism of the report, arguing that it “reads more like an industry wish list... than a balanced assessment.” While Republican Rep. Garret Graves (LA) “observed that the NPC leadership behind the report are all appointed by the energy secretary, presumably because of their oil and gas expertise,” Democratic Rep. Jared Huffman (CA) argued that “it’s an industry-sponsored effort,” noting that employees from Exxon Mobil, Chevron, and Shell held leadership positions in the preparation of the report.

Environmentalists Criticize NPC Arctic Drilling Report. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (6/16, Dlouhy, 7K) reports on environmentalists’ claims that a recent National Petroleum Council report on Arctic drilling advocating aggressive US development of oil and gas resources has

"serious flaws and...a number of highly problematic assumptions." More than half of the contributors to the report work in the oil and gas industry, says Fuel Fix, adding that critics question the assessment of the industry's ability to handle an oil spill in Arctic conditions.

BSEE Director Salerno Testifies Before House Subpanel. [Politico Pro](#) (6/17, Subscription Publication) reports that BSEE chief Brian Salerno "disputed some of the National Petroleum Council's conclusions issued in its March report on Arctic oil and gas drilling." Salerno "told the House Natural Resources Committee's energy subpanel that he had contacted his Canadian counterparts to follow up on a suggestion in the NPC report that Canada was considering alternatives to a requirement in the Obama administration's proposed Arctic drilling safety rules that companies have the capability to build a relief well in the same drilling season that the production well is drilled." Salerno also "challenged NPC's criticism of the limits on drilling during the Arctic shoulder season that Interior included in its safety proposal."

The [Argus Media](#) (6/17) reports that Salerno "defended a proposed rule that would require oil and gas producers exploring in the arctic to have equipment on hand to drill a relief well in case of a blowout." He said "regulators must ensure that producers operating in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas off the Alaskan coast can seal off a blown out well within the same drilling season."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/16, Cama, 533K), [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (6/16, 2K), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/16, 216K), [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (6/17), and the [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (6/17, 1K).

Meanwhile, the [EIN News](#) (6/17, 1K) reports that "API encouraged Congress and regulators to prioritize Arctic offshore oil and natural gas development as the House Natural Resources Committee prepared to hold a hearing on Arctic energy today." API Upstream Group Director Er k Milito said, "Arctic oil and natural gas represent incredible potential for American energy security, jobs and revenue for the government. No other undeveloped energy basin in the country can match the amount of oil and natural gas we can produce in the Arctic." Additional coverage was provided by [Penn Energy](#) (6/17, 128).

SHELL MAY SOON RESUME ARCTIC OIL EXPLORATION. [Bloomberg](#) (6/16, Drajem, 3.81M) reports that Royal Dutch Shell received permission from the Commerce Department to use air guns, ice-breaking, anchor handling, and drilling that may disturb arctic marine animals. The final hurdle, receiving approval of its drilling plan from the Interior Department, could be imminent, allowing Shell to resume oil exploration of the coast of Alaska, says Bloomberg, adding that these operations were shut down in 2012 after its main drilling rig broke down and was lost. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (6/16, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that although the Interior Department did not see any "showstoppers," its safety bureau expressed some concerns in a letter to Shell about one of its tugboats, which "dragged anchor amid gale-force winds" during an exercise.

Additional coverage of Shell's plans in the Arctic was provided by [Bloomberg News](#) (6/16, Drajem, 3.81M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (6/16, Press, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (6/16, 5.69M), and the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/17, Subscription Publication).

REP. CARNEY TOURS REHOBOTH BEACH TO LEARN ABOUT RISKS OF OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [Lewes \(DE\) Cape Gazette](#) (6/17, 42K) reports that Rep. John Carney, who "opposes opening the mid-Atlantic to offshore drilling," toured "Rehoboth Beach May 27 to find out more about the risks of opening offshore areas to gas and oil companies." Carney said "he doesn't want to see a repeat of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico." He said "he plans to fight the Department of Interior's offshore drilling proposal."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR AWARDED \$6.5 MILLION IN GRANT FUNDING TO HELP RELIEVE DROUGHT IN CALIFORNIA. The [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (6/17, 1K) reports that the Interior Department "announced that its Bureau of Reclamation is awarding grants totaling \$6.5 million for more efficient management and conservation of California's water as part of the Obama Administration's effort to bring relief to drought-stricken communities." Interior Deputy Secretary M ke Connor said, "These are just the latest grants in the President's all-hands-on-deck campaign to alleviate the impacts of this historic drought in California and throughout the West. The entire government is dedicated to helping respond to continued drought conditions. We know that water is the lifeblood of our communities and every drop counts."

NAVAJO GENERATING STATION'S IMPACT ON CLIMATE, DROUGHT EXAMINED. [ProPublica](#) (6/17, 25K) reports on that "the Navajo Generating Station is a monument to man's outsized confidence that it would always be possible to engineer new solutions to an arid region's environmental limits." The article notes that "15 years into a historic drought, it is becoming increasingly clear that the era of engineering more and more water out of the Colorado River is coming to a close." Also, "every hour the Navajo's generators spin, the plant spews more climate-warming gases into the atmosphere than almost any other facility in the United States." It says that "the Navajo Generating Station is more a caution than a marvel, showing how much energy it takes to move water through an artificial river system, and the unforeseen damage produced by doing so."

OFFICIALS REVISE STRATEGY FOR SHASTA LAKE. The [AP](#) (6/17, 2.29M) reports that "state and federal officials said Tuesday that they're revising their strategy for releasing water from the California's largest reservoir for the coming long, hot summer to avoid killing off this year's run of endangered salmon." The move "to hold back water from Shasta Lake north of Redding is meant to take advantage of what little cool water there is in the warming lake required for survival of spawning winter-run Chinook salmon." The article notes that "this year is especially challenging, water officials said, because this summer is expected to be hotter than last year's and there is less water in the state to go around."

BOR MAKES A CALL FOR WATER ON BEHALF OF KLAMATH PROJECT. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (6/17, 45K) reports that the BOR's Klamath Basin Area Office "on Tuesday made a call to exercise a 1905 water right on behalf of the Klamath Project." Area Manager Therese O'Rourke Bradford said, "The call for administration, made by both Reclamation and Project

water users, will assist in managing the limited water supply to ensure water will be available as long as possible through the 2015 spring-summer irrigation season.”

NASA DATA SHOWS WORLD DRAINING MAJOR AQUIFERS. The [Washington Post](#) (6/17, A1, Frankel, 5.03M) reports on its front page that California isn't the “only place draining underground aquifers in the hunt for fresh water,” as according to NASA data released on Tuesday, it is “happening across the world.” The Post says that 21 of the world's 37 largest aquifers have “passed their sustainability tipping points, meaning more water is being removed than replaced from these vital underground reservoirs” and 13 of them “fell at rates that put them into the most troubled category.”

Drought Restrictions Cut Water To California Town. The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/16, story 10, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “In just two days,” Mountain House, “a town in central California, could run out of water.” The town “lost its only supplier last week when the state ordered severe cuts to save water during the historic drought. Fifteen thousand live” in the town, and local officials “are now scouring the state to find someone to sell them water.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

WHITE HOUSE QUESTIONS ‘MISPLACED PRIORITIES’ IN APPROPRIATIONS BILL. The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/16) reports that “the White House is objecting to an appropriations measure that reduces funding for Indian programs and includes some questionable Indian policy riders.” Shaun Donovan, director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, “questioned the ‘misplaced priorities’ in the bill, which is being brought up for markup this morning.” Donovan said “lawmakers are putting lives in danger by not embracing the increases that President Barack Obama requested for the Indian Health Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.”

Federal Recognition New Rule Attacked In Interior's Appropriations Bill. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (6/16, 28K) reports that “a rider that would stop the Bureau of Indian Affairs from revising procedures for federal acknowledgment of Indian tribes has been attached to the Interior Department's 2016 spending plan by the House Appropriations Subcommittee.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Nation Sun News](#) (6/17).

PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT FELLOW WORKS ON NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (6/16, 28K) profiles Tracy Leigh Canard Goodluck (Oneida/Mvskoke Creek), “recently selected as a Presidential Management Fellow and assigned to the White House Domestic Policy Council (DPC).” Goodluck said, “It has been exciting to work on this initiative both at the White House and at DOI because the work we are doing with BIE [Bureau of Indian Education] reform, Native youth engagement opportunities such as the White House Tribal Youth Gathering being held in July, and the partnerships with Native organizations across the country, all have real and tangible impacts in Indian country.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: INTERIOR APPROVES SPOKANES’ CASINO PROJECT. Additional coverage of the approval of the proposed Spokane Tribe casino was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/17, 2.29M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (6/17, 970K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/16, 172K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/16, 172K), the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (6/16, 28K), the [Law 360](#) (6/17, 15K), [KREM-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (6/16, 44K), and [KXLY-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (6/17, 18K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SENATE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TAKES UP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. Additional coverage that the Senate Indian Affairs Committee is holding a listening session on the Buy Indian Act was provided by the [Nation Sun News](#) (6/16).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BIA ENCOURAGING TRIBES TO APPLY FOR WAIVERS UNDER NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND. Additional coverage that the BIA is encouraging tribes to apply for No Child Left Behind waivers was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (6/16, Rumore, 1.27M) and the [Navajo-Hopi Observer](#) (6/17, 43K).

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES: EVEN WITH ADDITIONAL TIME, OBAMA TRADE AGENDA IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. The network news broadcasts did not cover the House's 236-189 vote Tuesday to extend the deadline to pass a trade adjustment assistance bill to July 30, and discussion of the vote on cable was very light. Print and online coverage, however, are extensive. The tone of the coverage has not shifted significantly from yesterday, with most reports noting that the move buys the President and House Republicans more time, but questioning whether the President and Republicans actually have a fair chance to find the needed votes.

While [The Hill](#) (6/16, Marcos, 533K) reported in its “Floor Action” blog that the move gave lawmakers “through the end of July to figure out how to pass President Obama's trade agenda,” [Foreign Policy](#) (6/16, Francis, 449K) noted that the trade pact “remains on legislative life support.” [NPR](#) (6/16, Kurtzleben, Taylor, 1.52M) similarly said on its website that “it's clear that Obama and the House GOP have their work cut out for them in procuring those votes.”

Likewise, the [Washington Times](#) (6/17, Boyer, Dinan, 641K) reports that it “remains unclear whether the White House will be able to sway enough votes,” noting that the White House will need to win “up to 90...and has made little headway.” [Vox](#) (6/16, Allen, 839K), along similar lines, said that the “inability of the White House to formulate a political strategy for reviving the fast-track trade authority bill is the latest and most conclusive sign that the legislation is dead for now.” Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (6/16, Hughes, Lawder) reports that while the extension provides more time to build support for the pact, it compresses the time frame for the President to negotiate the agreement.

[McClatchy](#) (6/17, Hotakainen, 32K) says trade opponents criticized the move, saying it “was unfair to delay a vote for so long and to make it part of an intelligence bill,” a reference to the fact that the extension was included “in a rule for debate on the 2016 intelligence

authorization bill.” In a separate story on its website, [NPR](#) (6/16, 1.52M) said that Democrats “were virtually united in opposing the six-week extension to reconsider the matter, even though that’s what Obama wanted.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/17, Kane, DeBonis, 5.03M) calls yesterday’s vote a “modest victory” for the President and notes that White House spokesman Josh Earnest “called the move to buy more time on the existing trade package a ‘prudent one,’” saying it will “give members of the House and Senate additional time to consider the path forward. ... In this case, we are pleased that Democrats and Republicans appear to be working together to try to find this path.” The [New York Times](#) (6/17, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says Earnest “suggested...that Mr. Obama’s efforts to win support from House Democrats might have cooled for now.”

[US News & World Report](#) (6/17, Williams, 907K) noted on its “Washington Whispers” blog that “Republicans and pro-trade Democrats are talking to the White House, trying to figure out how to revive the bill,” but “no one’s got any answers.” Peter Cook said on [Bloomberg’s TV Market Makers](#) (6/16), “One option being discussed that’s on the table is going to conference with the Senate,” in the hope that “they can cut a deal by getting into a closed room with senators and trying to work a final deal there.” However, Cook added that the President’s trade agenda is “effectively in a deep freeze.”

[The Hill](#) (6/17, Lillis, 533K) said that pro-Democrats are pressing the Administration to provide more details about the TPP, arguing that “a lack of transparency has made it much tougher to move President Obama’s ambitious trade agenda through Congress.” According to the lawmakers, they told USTR Froman and National Economic Council head Zients “to release more details of the trade pact, a strategy they think will assuage many of the concerns.”

GOP Leaders Ponder Standalone TPA, TAA Measures. [USA Today](#) (6/17, Davis, 5.01M) reports that “there are few options for TPA supporters to get it to Obama’s desk,” and the [AP](#) (6/17, Babington, Kuhnhen) says that following talks with the President, GOP leaders in Congress crafted a “quick rescue plan,” under which Speaker Boehner and Senate Majority Leader McConnell would “split the stalled bill into two parts in hopes of sending them to the president separately, with Republicans providing most of the needed votes for one part, and Democrats for the other.” One measure would give Congress “the right to accept or reject any future deal, but not change it,” and the other would renew the trade adjustment assistance program.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/17, Peterson, Stanley-Becker, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) quotes House Majority Leader McCarthy as saying a standalone vote on TPA would be “a very good option,” but questions whether a sufficient number of the 13 Senate Democrats who backed TPA will support the strategy. [Politico](#) (6/17, Sherman, Raju, 1.11M) reported that the House is “on the brink of scheduling a standalone vote” on TPA without the accompanying TAA legislation, citing sources that said a House vote on TPA could come “as early as this week.”

Lori Wallach, Director of Public Citizen’s Global Trade Watch, said on [MSNBC’s The Ed Show](#) (6/16, 444K) that what is “likely to happen” is that Republicans will “come back to the House without the worker adjustment assistance that was attached to it,” while the [Huffington Post](#) (6/16, Delaney, 194K) reported that House Democrats are “confident” that TAA “won’t be a casualty of an ongoing standoff with Republicans over President Barack Obama’s trade agenda.” Rep. Sander Levin “pointed to the Obama administration’s emphasis on trade assistance,” saying, “As long as the president is emphatic that before any trade bill there has to be TAA, TAA is not in jeopardy.”

Boehner Blasts Members Over Vote On Trade Rule. [Politico](#) (6/16, Sherman, 1.11M) reported that during a closed Republican strategy meeting Tuesday morning, Boehner “laid into Republicans who have abandoned the party on procedural votes, reminding lawmakers that they are part of a team.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/17, Kane, DeBonis, 5.03M) says Boehner “acknowledged that he gave a brow-beating address to his rank-and-file Republicans Tuesday morning in advance of the vote,” and [Foreign Policy](#) (6/16, Francis, 449K) reported that Tuesday’s vote came after Speaker Boehner “scolded Republicans who refused to allow the trade debate to move forward.”

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/17, House, 161K) reports that according to a House GOP aide, Majority Whip Scalise removed Reps. Cynthia Lummis, Steve Pearce, and Trent Franks from the GOP Whip team as punishment for “siding again

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, June 15, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR WILDFIRE PROJECTS. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/12, 705)

reports that “the Obama administration is advancing efforts to protect landscapes from wildfires, announcing funding today for 10 projects designed to improve natural fire resiliency across millions of acres of public lands stretching from Oregon to states in the Southeast coastal plain.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement “the \$10 million for the first projects funded this year under the Wildland Fire Resilient Landscapes Program will restore critical areas that are ‘essential for mitigating the impacts of fire and climate change.’” The article notes that “all the projects have matching funds and incorporate partnerships with various state, local and private partners.”

The [AP Atlanta](#) (6/14, 167K) reports that Jewell said, “These projects will restore critical landscapes, which is essential for mitigating the impacts of fire and climate change. These projects support our efforts to protect our nation’s landscapes for this and future generations.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Deseret News](#) (6/14, 538K), [Washington Post](#) (6/12, Keith Ridler |, Ap, 5.03M), [Capital Press](#) (6/12, 113K), [Naples Daily News](#) (6/14, 186K), [Cache Valley Daily](#) (6/14, 639), [WDEF](#) Chattanooga, TN (6/14, 2K), [Porterville Recorder](#) (6/14, 26K), [AZ Family](#) Phoenix (6/14, 175K), [KPHO](#) Phoenix (6/14, 148K), [Las Vegas Sun](#) (6/12, 176K), [Longview Daily News](#) (6/14, 72K), [Daily Herald](#) (6/14, 130K), [Corvallis Gazette Times](#) (6/14, 32K), [Lompoc Record](#) (6/14, 11K), [Idaho State Journal](#) (6/14, 59K), [Albany Times Union](#) (6/14, 538K), [Colorado Springs Gazette](#) (6/14, 166K), [SCNow](#) (6/14, 90K), [WJAX](#) Jacksonville, FL (6/14), [Statesman Journal](#) (6/12, 30K), [Arizona Daily Star](#) (6/14, 72K), [KTVB](#) Boise, ID (6/12, 119K), [NewsOK](#) (6/14, 506K), [WALA](#) Mobile, AL (6/14, 49K), [Dispatch](#) (6/12, 24K), [SF Gate](#) (6/14, Subscription Publication, 2.92M), [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (6/14, Subscription Publication, 2.92M), [Republic](#) (6/14, 75K), [KTVK](#) Phoenix (6/14, 175K), [Times Union](#) (6/14, 538K), [San Jose Mercury News](#) (6/14, Press, 762K), [KTAR](#) Glendale, AZ (6/14, 19K), [WBTW](#) Charlotte, NC (6/14, 62K), [WCBT](#) Charleston, SC (6/14, 128K), [WSOC](#) Charlotte, NC (6/14, 230K), [WMBF](#) Myrtle Beach, SC (6/14, 23K), [KWES](#) Odessa, TX (6/14, 5K), [Chron](#) (6/12, Ridler, 2.29M), [Seattle PI](#) (6/14, 822K), [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (6/12, 579K), [WSB-TV](#) Atlanta (6/14, 167K), [WFTV](#) Orlando, FL (6/14, 176K), [Herald-Tribune](#) (6/12, 161K), [San Antonio Express-News](#) (6/14, 670K), [My Fox Orlando](#) Orlando, FL (6/14, 26K), [KOOA](#) Colorado Springs, CO (6/14, 34K), [KTVN](#) Reno, NV (6/14, 1K), [WBBH](#) Fort Myers, FL (6/14, 149K), [WSB-AM](#) Atlanta (6/14, 63K), [Palm Beach Post](#) (6/14, 495K), [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (6/14, 1.07M), [Washington Times](#) (6/12, Ridler, 641K), [KNVN/KHSL](#) (6/14), [Monterey County Herald](#) (6/12, 86K), [WFLX](#) West Palm Beach, FL (6/14, 1K), [Beaumont Enterprise](#) (6/14, 104K), [Jackson County Tribune](#) (6/14, 28K), [My San Antonio](#) (6/14, 670K), [WRAL](#) Raleigh, NC (6/14, 117K), [Houston Chronicle](#) (6/14, 2.29M), [Nevada Appeal](#) (6/14, 48K), [Greenwich Time](#) (6/14, 20K), [Fairfield Citizen](#) (6/14, 18K), [Daily Journal](#) (6/14, 51K), [CT Post](#) (6/14, 250K), [WLOS](#) Asheville, NC (6/14, 29K), [WDBO](#) Orlando, FL (6/14, 3K), [KFDA](#) Amarillo, TX (6/14, 166K), [WSAV](#) Savannah, GA (6/14, 19K), [Gazette](#) (6/14, 166K), [Winston-Salem Journal](#) (6/14, 205K), [Coos Bay World](#) (6/14, 32K), [WRDW](#) Augusta, GA (6/14, 20K), [Times and Democrat](#) (6/14, 51K), [Hanford Sentinel](#) (6/14, 25K), [Cherokee Tribune](#) (6/14, 15K), [Wink News](#) Fort Myers, FL (6/12, 8K), [A bany Democrat-Herald](#) (6/14, 42K), [AZ Daily Sun](#) (6/14, 34K), [Magic Valley](#) (6/14, 75K), [Marietta Daily](#) (6/14, 79K), [Boise State Public Radio](#) (6/14), [KLIX-AM](#) Twin Falls, ID (6/14, 492), [KPHO](#) Phoenix (6/14, 148K), [WFOX/WJAX](#) Jacksonville, FL (6/14), [KJZZ](#) Phoenix (6/14, 7K), [Contra Costa Times](#) (6/14, Press, 279K), [Chico Enterprise-Record](#) (6/12, 90K), [Yuma Sun](#) (6/14, 73K), [WN](#) (6/12), [KRQE](#) Albuquerque, NM (6/12, 47K), [KSBW](#) Monterey, CA (6/14, 27K), [Times Free Press](#) (6/12, 196K), [News Observer](#) (6/14, 462K), [Post Register](#) (6/14), [KPTV](#) Portland, OR (6/14, 288K), [Moscow-Pullman Daily](#) (6/14, 26K), [San Diego Source](#) (6/14, 30K), [Times-Standard](#) (6/12, 55K), [Casper-Star Tribune](#) (6/14, 99K), [South Carolina State](#) (6/14, 300K), [Newsplex](#) Charlottesville, VA (6/14, 1K), [WIS-TV](#) Columbia, SC (6/14, 140K), [Herald](#) (6/14, 82K), [Independent Mail](#) (6/14, 88K), [Richmond Times-Dispatch](#) (6/14, 365K), [WCIV](#) Charleston, SC (6/14, 16K).

Also reporting was the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (6/14, Press, 762K), [My Central Oregon](#) (6/12), [KTVB-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (6/12, 119K), the [Lake Tahoe \(CA\) News](#) (6/13), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/14, 538K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/12, Ridler, 2.29M), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (6/12, 176K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (6/12, 30K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/12, Keith Ridler |, Ap, 5.03M), [WCIV-TV Charleston \(SC\)](#) Charleston, SC (6/14, 16K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/14, 22K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/12, Ridler, 2.29M), the [Rock Hill \(SC\) Herald](#) (6/14, 82K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (6/14, 670K), [KRQE-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (6/12, 47K), the [Lewiston \(ID\) Tribune](#) (6/14, 44K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/14, 99K), the [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (6/14, 45K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/12, 172K), [KLIX-AM Twin Falls \(ID\)](#) Twin Falls, ID (6/14, 492), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/14, 22K), the [Hendersonville \(NC\) Times-News](#) (6/13, 34K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/12, 2.29M), [KRXI-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (6/14, 656), [KOLO-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (6/14, 3K), [WIS-TV Columbia \(SC\)](#) Columbia, SC (6/14, 140K), [KVOA-TV Tucson \(AZ\)](#) Tucson, AZ (6/14, 28K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/14, 241K), the [Coeur d’Alene \(ID\) Press](#) (6/14, 64K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/14, 538K), [WCAV-TV Charlottesville \(VA\)](#) Charlottesville, VA (6/14, 1K), and the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/14, 470K).

Congress Urged To Act On Wildfire Bills. In an editorial, the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (6/12, 85K) urges Congress to approve “bipartisan legislation that would end the need for ‘fire borrowing,’ where the Forest Service and Interior Department are forced to shift funds from other needed projects to deal with catastrophic fires.” The editorial says that “Washington should stop playing politics with the issue and stop needless shifting of funds away from forest management work that could prevent or minimize these catastrophic events in the first place.”

Op-Ed: Partnerships Critical To Managing Forests. In an op-ed for the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (6/14, 166K), Daniel Jirón is, regional forester for the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region, discusses how partnerships are important in protecting Colorado’s forests and grasslands.

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by [KUNC-FM](#) Greeley, CO (6/14, 6K), the [Walla Walla \(WA\) Union-Bulletin](#) (6/12, 38K), the [Idaho Press Tribune](#) (6/14, 6K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (6/12, 822K), the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (6/14, 646), the [Walla Walla \(WA\) Union-Bulletin](#) (6/12, 38K), [Southwest Farm Press](#) (6/14, 86K), and the [Roseburg \(OR\) News-Review](#) (6/14, 53K).

WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES \$110 MILLION IN FUNDS TO BATTLE WESTERN DROUGHT. [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/14, story 6, 2:00, Quintanilla, 7.86M) reported, “With folks out West dealing with one of the worst droughts in over a century, this week the White House said it’s giving more than \$100 million in aid to communities that have been hit.” The President was shown saying, “I think it’s important that all of us take responsibility, because it’s not just California.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Mooney, 5.03M) reports that on Friday the Administration announced it will allocate \$110 million in additional funds to help communities impacted by the ongoing Western drought as well as fight regional wildfires. White House senior adviser Brian Deese said, "We are focused on and concerned about the impact of the drought for economic and social conditions across the Western United States." The new funding is in addition to more than \$190 million from Federal agencies to aid Western communities, as well as another \$1.2 billion the Department of Agriculture is expecting to provide for losses of grazing land for livestock producers.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/13, Stevens, 4.03M) notes that prior to the announcement, President Obama and his advisers met with Western governors to participate in a briefing about wildfires and the drought. Officials said about 35% of the West is undergoing "severe to exceptional drought." Of the new funds, "a significant share" will be apportioned to California, where a recent UC Davis study estimated "18,000 jobs have been lost" due to the drought. Officials with the Labor Department will grant up to \$18 million to the state for "temporary jobs for dislocated workers," according to Assistant Labor Secretary Portia Wu. Additionally, \$10 million of the funds will go to small, rural California communities in need of "emergency water," according to Agriculture Undersecretary Robert Bonnie. [The Hill](#) (6/12, Cama, 533K) also noted the announcement of funds and meeting with Western governors.

California Orders Long-Term Water Rights Holders To Cut Water Use. As part of the ongoing effort to address the record drought in California, state regulators have taken "drastic action" by implementing new rules "governing water rights," the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/13, story 6, 1:50, Axelrod, 5.08M) reported. Officials are now mandating that senior rights holders "stop diverting river water immediately."

The [AP](#) (6/13) reports that California officials on Friday announced they would order more than 100 "senior rights holders" in the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and delta watersheds to halt pumping at the sites. The ban on water pumping is "the first time that the state has forced large numbers of holders of senior-water rights" to curb their water use.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/13, Boxall, 4.03M) notes that Friday's announcement pertains to senior water rights holders who have rights dating back to between 1903 and 1914, and follows an announcement earlier this Spring halting water pumping from about 9,000 holders of junior water rights. The Times says the effects of the latest order "will vary," with most large irrigation districts having sufficient water storage for continued use. Additionally, utilities will be able to keep using water for hydropower "as long as the water is returned to the rivers." And, many ranchers and growers have other groundwater supplies that aren't affected by the order.

In a related article, the [Washington Post](#) (6/14, Kuznia, 5.03M) reports that "ultra-wealthy" enclaves in California "guzzle five times more water per capita than the statewide average." As state regulators impose new "water rationing" rules, local officials are reserving the "right to install flow restrictors" as a way to control water usage by "ultra-wealthy customers undeterred by financial penalties." In response to the restrictions, residents "are feeling aggrieved."

California's Water Czar Now A Prominent Personality. The [New York Times](#) (6/15, Nagourney, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) profiles Water Resources Board head Felicia Marcus, California's "water czar," saying that when Gov. Jerry Brown chose her for "this powerful if relatively little known board 27 months ago, it seemed a wonky niche of a job, albeit an important assignment." Now, Marcus "has become the face of California's crackdown on water abusers" and "is a drought celebrity." She is "the lightning rod one day, and the empathetic enforcer the next."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the drought was provided by the [Greenwire](#) (6/12, Subscription Publication), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (6/12, Stevens, 4.03M), the [Reading \(PA\) Eagle](#) (6/14, 111K), the [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (6/12, 83K), the [Columbus \(GA\) Ledger-Enquirer](#) (6/12, 119K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/14, Subscription Publication, 2.92M), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (6/14), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/12, Williams), [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (6/13, 57K), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/12, Williams, 6.18M), [KCRA-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (6/14, 136K), [KNXV-TV Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (6/14, 139K), the [Dubuque \(IA\) Telegraph Herald](#) (6/14, 88K), the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (6/14, 172K), the [Imperial Valley \(CA\) News](#) (6/14, 1K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/14, Subscription Publication, 2.92M), [Government Security News](#) (6/15, 104K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/14, Subscription Publication, 2.92M), and the [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (6/14, 1.15M).

SECRETARY JEWELL CRITICIZES SAGE RIDERS IN DEFENSE BILL. The [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/12, 199K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said "riders to the National Defense Authorization Act that would allow states to veto sections of federal plans designed to protect sage grouse would leave the status quo in place and cause uncertainty for business and ranchers across the West." Jewell, "who met this week by phone with the Idaho Statesman editorial board, said riders like one written by Republican Rep. Rob Bishop that would delay implementing sage grouse conservation plans for six years 'would be very destructive,' and make it unlikely her department could downlist sage grouse and remove the threat of harsh restrictions under the Federal Endangered Species Act."

House Republicans Seek To Remove Protections For Gray Wolves. The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (6/14, 506) reports that "for the second time in five years, anti-environmental Republicans in Congress are trying to make an end run around the Endangered Species Act by stripping federal protection for gray wolves in Wyoming and the western Great Lakes states." According to the article, "the amendment to a spending bill for the Interior Department is similar to a measure passed in 2011, when Congress removed protections for wolves in Idaho and Montana — the first time that Congress legislatively removed protections for a species. Since the 2011 rider passed, more than 1,900 wolves have been killed in the two states."

SEN. VITTER DEMANDS NEW INSPECTOR GENERAL NOMINEE. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (6/14, 733K) reports that Sen. David Vitter is "objecting to President Barack Obama's nomination of Mary Kendall to be inspector general at the Department of Interior." His "objection centers on Kendall's role as acting inspector general at the Interior Department following the BP oil spill, specifically the review of how a White House report had been edited, making it seem that an outside group of experts agreed with the department's decision to employ a moratorium on deep-water drilling." Vitter said, "Mary Kendall has a long history of allowing political ideology to influence her decisions. I believe she was at the core of the administration's devastating Gulf drilling moratorium and may have used her authority inappropriately."

The [Greenwire](#) (6/12, Subscription Publication) reports that in a letter to President Obama, Vitter wrote, "I must notify you that I will strenuously object to any consideration of her nomination, and request that you immediately withdraw it and instead put forward a nominee who can be confirmed by the Senate and hit the ground running, without questions about their independence from the political leadership of the DOI and the White House."

Meanwhile, the [Greenwire](#) (6/12, Subscription Publication) reports that "Kendall has a tough road ahead before she can be the Department of the Interior's permanent watchdog." The article notes that "her tenure in the position has angered several Republican lawmakers – enough so that a trio of GOP senators sparked an investigation of Kendall by her fellow inspectors general." In a May 2012 letter, Sens. David Vitter (R-La.), Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.) and John Cornyn (R-Texas) called for an investigation into Kendall by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

Also reporting on the story is the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/14, 349K).

HOUSE PANEL TO HOLD HEARING ON OCMULGEE MOUNDS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK BOUNDARY REVISION ACT OF 2015. The [Macon \(GA\) Telegraph](#) (6/12, 178K) reports that "a bid to turn the Ocmulgee National Monument into Georgia's first national historical park could gain ground next week." The House of Representative's Federal Lands Subcommittee will hold hearing on the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2015 on Tuesday. The legislation "aims to redesignate the national monument, expand the current boundaries to include a total of about 2,800 acres, and administer a special study by the Department of the Interior."

INTERIOR OFFICIALS TO CELEBRATE BROWNS DESIGNATION. The [Mountain Mail](#) (6/14, 17K) reports that "several federal and state officials will celebrate the designation of Browns Canyon National Monument July 18 in downtown Buena Vista." Attendees will include Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and BLM Director Neil Kornze.

GROUP STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF HERNANDO DESOTO HISTORIC TRAIL. The [New Albany \(MS\) Gazette](#) (6/12) reports that "now that the Tanglefoot Trail is fully, and successfully, in use and has been designated a part of the National Recreational Trails system, area history and tourism officials are moving to their next project: more recognition for Hernando DeSoto." According to the article, "a group of stakeholders from Union, Pontotoc and DeSoto counties met at the museum here Wednesday to discuss" the creation of a Hernando DeSoto Historic Trail..

GOV. HICKENLOOPER WOULD "CONSIDER" OFFER OF A CABINET POST. The [Denver Post](#) (6/14, Nussbaum, 894K) reports that Gov. John Hickenlooper said he would consider accepting a cabinet post if offered one after the 2016 presidential election. When asked about serving as secretary of the Interior Department, Hickenlooper said, "I would consider it." He added, "I'd have to evaluate and really be convinced that I could make a dramatic difference for the future of the country and do such a better job than the governor of New Mexico or the governor of — its usually a Western state — the governor of Washington."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (6/15, 167K) and the [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (6/15, 51K).

REP. WILSON UNVEILS CYBERATTACK STANDARDS STUDY ACT. In response to the recent OPM breach, Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) introduced the Cyberattack Standards Study Act, which that "asks the federal government to conduct a study on cyberattack standards of measurement," the [Aiken \(SC\) Standard](#) (6/12, Asberry, 42K) reported. Officials revealed that "cyberattackers walked away with personnel data and Social Security numbers for all the federal workers from a central personnel database."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: RENOVATED SAGAMORE HILL TO REOPEN. Additional coverage that Sagamore Hill is reopening after renovations was provided by the [New York Times](#) (6/12, Press, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), the [Oneida \(NY\) Dispatch](#) (6/13, 7K), the [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (6/14, 538K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/14, 5.37M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/12, Eltman, 2.29M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (6/14, 822K), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/12, Eltman, 6.18M), the [Waterbury \(CT\) Republican-American](#) (6/14, 124K), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/12, Frank Eltman |, Ap, 5.03M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "EVERY KID IN A PARK" INITIATIVE. Additional coverage of the "Every Kid in a Park" initiative was provided by [WTOP-FM](#) Washington (6/14, 333K).

WPOST LAUDS OBAMA'S PUSH FOR FEDERAL WORKERS COMPENSATION REFORM. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/14, 5.03M) offers "Kudos to President Obama for repeatedly tackling the issue" of reforming worker compensation for federal employees "in his budget proposals, including his most recent one, and to Rep. Tim Walberg, chairman of the House subcommittee on workforce protections, for holding a recent hearing on the president's ideas." The Post concludes, "Here's hoping that with both House Republicans and the Obama administration pulling in the right direction, Congress will finally crown reform efforts with success."

DESIGNATION OF AUTAUGA CREEK AS NATIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL PRAISED. The [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#) (6/14, 28K) praises the designation of Autauga Creek as a National Recreational Trail. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement, "Our world-class network of national trails provides easily access ble places to get exercise and connect with nature in both urban and rural areas while also boosting tourism and supporting economic opportunities in local communities across the country."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

LWCF GRANTS TO PRESERVE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS. The [AP](#) (6/15, 7K) reports that “Tennessee and Kentucky are among seven states that will receive a portion of \$3.1 million in grants to help preserve Civil War battlefields.” The other states to receive grant money are Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. The NPS says the Land and Water Conservation Fund grants will “preserve more than 270 acres of battlefields that are threatened with damage or destruction by development.”

SEN. ROBERTS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER MEMORIAL COMMISSION. The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (6/14, 117K) reports that “a long and winding 16-year saga to create a national memorial for Dwight D. Eisenhower, mired in artistic disagreements and political dissension, has fallen into the lap” of Sen. Pat Roberts. Roberts was “elected chairman of the Eisenhower Memorial Commission in late April, following the resignation of then-chairman Rocco Siciliano.” Roberts’ spokeswoman, Sarah Little, said, “After several years of meeting with the approval agencies, the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission, the Eisenhower Memorial Commission is planning to submit for final approval from both agencies this summer.”

OVER 200,000 PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED ON PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT NEAR GRAND CANYON. The [AP](#) (6/12, 2.29M) reports that “the Kaibab National Forest is sifting through more than 200,000 public comments that are mostly against an easement through the town of Tusayan that would help make a development near the Grand Canyon possible.” Kaibab spokeswoman Jackie Banks says “the scope of a review of environmental impacts will be determined later this month, partially directed by the public comments.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (6/12, 1.27M) and [Reuters](#) (6/12, Zuckerman).

CREWS CLEAN ST. LOUIS GATEWAY ARCH. [WCSC-TV](#) Charleston, SC (6/14, 47K) reports that a video released by the NPS “shows the nerve-racking job of cleaning the iconic Gateway Arch in St. Louis.” The article notes that “in addition to cleaning the monument, the crew that scaled it also collected samples of discoloration for a study on the arch’s corrosion.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KEYE-TV Austin \(TX\)](#) Austin, TX (6/14, 4K), [WTVW-TV Evansville \(IN\)](#) Evansville, IN (6/14, 4K), and [WGN-TV Chicago \(IL\)](#) Chicago (6/14, 196K).

MONGOLIAN OFFICIALS LEARN FROM NATIONAL PARKS. The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (6/14, 39K) reports that “to learn what U.S. parks have done to keep natural habitats alive and well, five Mongolian officials visited North Dakota, embarking upon a protected area study tour hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Society.” The article notes that “Theodore Roosevelt National Park was the last stop on the tour, which visited Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone National Park and Badlands National Park.” According to the article, “the visitors met with park staff and other officials to learn best practices related to protected area management, tourism, community outreach, industry relations and finance strategies.”

SEARCH FOR MISSING CLIMBER ON MOUNT RAINIER SUSPENDED AFTER BODY SPOTTED. The [AP](#) (6/14, 2.29M) reports that “the search for the missing Utah climber on Mount Rainier was called off Saturday afternoon after a helicopter spotted the body of a deceased male climber near the summit.” Mount Rainier National Park spokeswoman Patricia Wold said “the body matches the description of missing climber Kyle Bufis, but the Pierce County Medical Examiner will confirm the person’s identity after climbing rangers retrieve the body.” Additional coverage was provided by the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (6/14, 970K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (6/14, 970K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/14, 5.37M), and the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/14, 470K).

Meanwhile, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/14, 470K) provides “a map of park service searches and rescues in 2014.” The article also provides “the data in a spreadsheet.” Additional coverage of search and rescue efforts at national parks was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/15, 470K).

CHANGES MAKE ANGELS LANDING TRAIL SAFER. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/14, 470K) reports that once considered “one of the deadliest trails in the world,” Angels Landing has “gone five years without a death.” The article notes that “safety began to improve in 2011. That spring, the National Park Service erected a sign near the trailhead warning Angels Landing hikers — or would-be hikers — that six people have died from falls on the trail since 2004.” The NPS also “installed more chains, which hikers can grip like a stairway railing as they walk.” The agency also “carved more steps in the rock.”

OLDEST ACTIVE PARK RANGER RELATES STORIES FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE. The [Washington Post](#) (6/12, 5.03M) profiles Betty Soskin, 93, a park ranger at the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park. The article notes that Soskin is “the oldest, full-time park ranger in the National Park Service.” Soskin is “able to relate personal tales of racial segregation in the Jim Crow era, as a ‘primary source,’ she said.”

COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PROVIDE INPUT ON FUTURE OF BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (6/14, 108K) reports that “a group of college students from Texas will play a big role in mapping the future of Badlands National Park, with an eye toward attracting more young people to the sprawling park near Wall.” According to the article, “the students, along with park experts, will have a say in the way future visitors to the Badlands interact with rangers and scientists; how patrons trek the 244,000-acre preserve’s back country; and how people learn about the vast inland sea that once supported plesiosaurs and other exotic species.” The NPS “recently partnered with the University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center to create a plan for the future of the Badlands’ Cedar Pass area in western South Dakota.”

DRAFT PLAN FOR FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE RELEASED. [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (6/14, 1.46M) reports that the NPS is “proposing to protect and manage Fire Island by partnering more with state and local stakeholders, instead of issuing top-down directives.” According to officials, “the draft management plan for the Fire Island National Seashore, released last week, looks ahead 20 years and is the first overhaul of federal policies since 1977.” The report says that “through greater collaboration, the ways people enjoy Fire Island will be balanced with the need to protect wildlife and other natural resources.”

YELLOWSTONE CONSIDERS MONITORING UNGUIDED SNOWMOBILE USERS. The [AP](#) (6/14, 2.29M) reports that NPS officials are “proposing to track whether unguided groups of snowmobilers are doing more harm to the landscape than commercially led snowmachines in Yellowstone National Park.” The proposal is “included in a draft winter-use adaptive management plan for Yellowstone.” According to the article, “if adopted, law enforcement personnel would begin keeping data on violations such as disturbing wildlife and driving under the influence that distinguish between snowmobilers out on their own and those who are being commercially guided.”

POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE FACES CHALLENGES IN TULE ELK MANAGEMENT. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (6/14, Journal, 762K) reports that “once thought extinct, tule elk have returned in force in Marin and now have become the source of concern as well as controversy as herds in West Marin are managed against the backdrop of drought, working farms and tourism.” Earlier this year, Point Reyes National Seashore officials “revealed that more than 250 tule elk died inside the fenced area over a two-year period, in part because pools that the herds rely on for water had gone dry.” Meanwhile, “ranchers are complaining about the free-range elk getting on their land and eating grass and drinking water intended for their dairy cattle and other agricultural operations.”

MAN CLAIMS SELF-DEFENSE AFTER SHOOTING ELK IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (6/14, 2.29M) reports that “a Colorado State University student says he killed an elk inside Rocky Mountain National Park in an act of self-defense.” Park spokesman Kyle Patterson “confirmed that Raphael Bresselsmith is under investigation for illegally shooting the cow elk on June 3 but could not provide more details.” Bresselsmith said in a statement that the elk “charged at him twice.”

BLACK BEAR EUTHANIZED IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (6/12, 2.29M) reports that “wildlife officials have euthanized a 3-year-old female black bear they say became too habituated to visitors in Grand Teton National Park.” The animal was “put down Thursday after it climbed into the open trunk of a vehicle at Jenny Lake Lodge, ate some food and then tried to get into the main part of the car.” According to the article, “witnesses say the 125-pound bear visited some nearby cabins before she ripped into items left in a housekeeping cart and stole a purse, which she carried off into the woods.”

MONTANA CONSIDERS RELEASING WILD BISON OUTSIDE YELLOWSTONE. [Reuters](#) (6/13) reports that Montana wildlife managers are seeking public input on a proposals regarding the management of wild bison. The proposals span taking no steps to restore bison to the landscape to reintroducing them on private or public acreage.

BADLANDS, JEWEL CAVE NATIONAL PARKS SEE LEADERSHIP CHANGES. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (6/14, 108K) reports that “Friday brought leadership changes to two area National Park Service sites, Badlands National Park and Jewel Cave National Park.” Eric Brunnemann, who “completed his last day as superintendent at Badlands National Park,” will “transfer to become superintendent of Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Texas and New Mexico.” The interim superintendent at Badlands National Park will be Larry Johnson, who is the outgoing superintendent at Jewel Cave National Monument. Johnson will “eventually transfer to become superintendent at Ozark National Scenic Riverways in Missouri.”

BADLANDS BUTTE COLLAPSES, INJURING FIVE. The [Pierre \(SD\) Capital Journal](#) (6/14, 620) reports that “five people were injured in Badlands National Park when a butte collapsed Saturday, the National Park Service announced Sunday in a news release.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (6/15, 2.29M).

MAN APPARENTLY DROWNS AT LAKE MEAD. The [AP](#) (6/15) reports that the NPS says “a swimmer apparently drowned at Lake Mead.” According to the article, “rangers say they received a call early Sunday afternoon about a man who appeared to be drowning near Boulder Beach in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.”

HEALTH CONCERNS ENDED PUBLIC’S ACCESS TO STAIRS AT THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT. In his column for the [Washington Post](#) (6/14, Kelly, 5.03M), John Kelly explains that “it was concerns over health that ended routine access” to the Washington Monument’s stairs. According to Kelly, “a worrying number of people were experiencing heart attacks during the climb or injuring themselves in falls during the descent.”

COOPERATION URGED IN TELLING RECONSTRUCTION’S STORY. In an editorial, the [Hilton Head Island \(SC\) Packet](#) (6/14, 84K) notes that the NPS “recently commissioned the first comprehensive review of nationally significant historical sites of the Reconstruction era.” The paper advises that cooperation will be necessary “to understanding Reconstruction.” It argues that “the story must be told and that the triumphs and failings of mankind throughout the period must be accepted as fact.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Florence \(SC\) Morning News](#) (6/15, 90K) and the [Florence \(SC\) Morning News](#) (6/15, 90K).

CONGRESS URGED TO EMBRACE NEW CLEAN WATER RULE. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (6/14, Finnerty, 533K), Maureen Finnerty, chair of the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks – Voices of Experience, writes that “a new rule to re-extend protections of the Clean Water Act to the headwater streams and wetlands that provide drinking water for one in every three Americans” is “great news for our national parks.” She notes that “already, more than half of our 407 national parks have waterways deemed “impaired” under the Clean Water Act and in need of attention.” Finnerty urges Congress to “join national park visitors and tourism-dependent businesses and communities in celebrating what this new rule means for our heritage – not seeking to undermine or delay the rule.”

Bureau of Land Management:

NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY DENIES FIRING GUNSHOTS NEAR RESEARCHERS. The [AP](#) (6/14, Griffith, 2.29M) reports that “Nevada rancher and states’ rights advocate Cliven Bundy said Saturday that contract researchers for the federal Bureau of Land Management had no business being on rangeland where he grazes cattle, but he denied he or his supporters fired gunshots near them.” BLM officials have “declined comment beyond a statement saying the shooting prompted them to take unspecified safety

precautions in the area to protect is employees and contractors.” Bundy said “he and his son, Ryan, were checking a water source when they met the three employees on a remote dirt road June 5, but he did not learn about the shooting and that they were researchers until reading a newspaper story nearly a week later.” However, Bundy said “he became upset after learning the researchers were monitoring water seeps and springs in the area.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New Jersey Herald](#) (6/14, 39K), the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (6/13, 178K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/14, 5.37M), [KFMB-TV San Diego \(CA\)](#) San Diego (6/14, 58K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/14, Martin Griffith |, Ap, 5.03M), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (6/13, 176K), [WJLA-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/14, 36K), [Fox News](#) (6/13, 9.4M), the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (6/14, 631K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/14, 538K), [KTVN-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (6/14, 1K), [Newsmax](#) (6/13, 584K), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/14, Griffith, 6.18M), [KNXV-TV Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (6/14, 139K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/13, 172K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/12, Griffith, 1.29M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/14, 5.37M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/12, Martin Griffith |, Ap, 5.03M), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/12, Griffith, 6.18M), [KOLQ-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (6/14, 3K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/12, Griffith, 2.29M), the [Provo \(UT\) Daily Herald](#) (6/14, 130K), [KOLD-TV Tucson \(AZ\)](#) Tucson, AZ (6/14, 20K), and the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/14, 22K).

COURT OVERTURNS RULING ORDERING BLM TO LOG MORE IN OREGON. The [AP](#) (6/12, Barnard, 2.29M) reports that “a federal appeals court on Friday overturned a 2013 ruling that ordered the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to sell more timber in southern Oregon.” The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit also “overturned a ruling in the same case that had annulled a system federal scientists used to estimate the harm to northern spotted owls, a threatened species, from logging projects.” The appeals court held that “timber companies and organizations demanding more timber under a 1937 law known as the O&C Act had no standing to sue because they failed to show evidence they suffered harm from reduced logging levels.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (6/14, 1M), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (6/14, 94K), [Fox Business](#) (6/12, 387K), and the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (6/14, 172K).

WILD HORSE ADVOCATES DIVIDED ON BLM’S PLAN TO DART HORSES IN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL FERTILITY. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/14, 470K) reports that federal land managers are planning “to shoot a ‘fertility vaccine’ into the haunches of wild horses in Tooele County’s Onaqui herd.” The BLM “pitches the mass vaccinations, to be administered annually for the next five years, as a humane alternative to the controversial and costly roundups demanded by the state’s ranchers and rural county commissioners angry about the proliferation of wild horses across public rangelands.” However, wild-horse advocates are “split by the BLM’s new methodology for controlling wild horse populations in the West.”

GOV. HICKENLOOPER WEIGHS IN ON BLM’S TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/14, 73K) reports that Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper on Friday asked that the BLM “set back a final decision on the proposed travel-management plan for lands in Mesa and surrounding counties.” Mesa County Commissioner Rose Pugliese “complained this week that Hickenlooper failed to support the county in its request for the delay during the governor’s consistency review, a forum that officials said was inappropriate for such a request.” Meanwhile, BLM officials are “planning to meet with county officials next week, spokesman Christopher Joyner said.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DESIGNATES ALL CHIMPANZEES AS “ENDANGERED.” On Friday, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service designated all chimpanzees “as endangered under the Endangered Species Act,” the [New York Times](#) (6/13, Fleur, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports. The ruling “follows a petition filed in 2010” by advocates “to eliminate a longstanding distinction between the legal status of captive chimpanzees, which were previously listed as ‘threatened,’ and their wild counterparts, which have been deemed ‘endangered’ for decades.” As a result of the new designation, “biomedical research, interstate trade, and export and import of captive chimpanzees will now require permits issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service.” FWS Director Dan Ashe, said, “At the time we thought it was important to encourage breeding of captive chimps to expand their numbers. But we expanded a culture of treating these animals as a commodity for research, sale, import and export, and entertainment. That has undermined the conservation of chimpanzees in the wild.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Fears, 5.03M) reports that the ruling “hits medical research in the United States the hardest” as it is “the only developed nation that continues to use apes for research, at the insistence of the NIH.” [McClatchy](#) (6/13, Adams, 32K) reports that the rule “will be published next week” and will take “effective in September.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/14, Devaney, 533K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/14, 5.37M), the [International Business Times](#) (6/14, 774K), [NBC News](#) (6/14, 2.54M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (6/14, 970K), [TIME](#) (6/14, 19.57M), the [Economic Times \(IND\)](#) (6/14, 1.92M), the [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (6/13, 124K), the [Sydney \(AUS\) Morning Herald](#) (6/13, 180K), and the [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (6/14, 912K).

FWS PROPOSE OPENING FOUR WILDLIFE REFUGES FOR SPORT FISHING IN NORTH DAKOTA. The [AP](#) (6/14, 2.29M) reports that the FWS is “proposing opening four wildlife refuges for sport fishing in the Devils Lake area.” The proposed rule would allow sport fishing for the first time at the Ardoch National Wildlife Refuge, the Lake Alice National Wildlife Refuge, the Rose Lake National Wildlife Refuge and the Silver Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The agency will be “accepting public comments on the proposed rule through July 13.”

STUDY FINDS THREAT OF SAGE GROUSE LISTING MAY HAVE INCREASED HUNTING IN UTAH. The [Greenwire](#) (6/12, Subscription Publication) reports that “the threat of an Endangered Species Act listing may have slightly boosted the rate of Utah sportsmen and women hunting sage grouse, researchers found.” According to the article, “a newly published study by scientists at Utah State University found the participation rate in Utah’s annual sage grouse hunt increased by about 5 percent in 2010 after the Fish and Wildlife Service decided ESA protections were ‘warranted’ for the bird.” The study also “found that the percentage of hunters who said a potential federal listing was a primary motivational factor in hunting sage grouse increased from 10 percent in 2009 to 17

percent in 2010.”

INTERAGENCY GRIZZLY BEAR COMMITTEE CONSIDERS STRIPPING PROTECTIONS FROM SOME MONTANA

GRIZZLIES. [Reuters](#) (6/12, Zuckerman) reports that the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee believes that the grizzly bears in and along the northern Continental Divide in Montana have recovered sufficiently that they may no longer require federal protections. Government bear managers may recommend removing the animals from the federal list of endangered and threatened species at a Montana meeting of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee on Tuesday, according to committee spokesman Gregg Losinski.

PUBLIC COMMENTS BEING WEIGHED IN PROPOSAL TO RETURN GRIZZLIES TO CASCADES. The [Seattle Times](#) (6/15, 970K) reports on the comments received on reintroducing grizzly bears into the Cascades. According to the article, “a final decision is expected in late 2017, and it could recommend anything from leaving things as is, hoping that grizzlies return on their own, to bringing in new populations.”

INVASIVE CARIBOU KILLED ON KAGALASKA ISLAND. The [Bristol Bay \(AK\) Times](#) (6/14, 4K) reports that “the meat wasn’t wasted when federal hunters killed nine caribou on Kagalaska Island last month, and donated more than half a ton of hindquarters, back straps, and other choice cuts of wild game to Adak residents, according to Steve Delehanty, refuge manager of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.” Delehanty said “it cost \$71,000 to remove the invasive all-male caribou population from the nearby island.” Delehanty said “1,208 pounds of caribou meat were backpacked out of Kagalaska and brought to Adak, by four U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees, and one volunteer local resident during the two-day project in late May.”

BABY BATS HALT I-65 PROJECT. The [AP](#) (6/14, 2.29M) reports that “baby bats have brought one element of the ongoing widening of Interstate 65 to a halt.” According to the article, “the presence of northern long-eared bat pups means workers widening I-65 between Bowling Green and Elizabethtown won’t be able to clear trees from the right of way for the project until August.”

BIOLOGISTS VIEW MUD AS SOLUTION TO CONSERVATION ISSUES IN ARKANSAS. The [AP](#) (6/14, Bowden, 2.29M) reports that “farmers have struggled in recent weeks against the elements, trying to find time to plant and treat crops amid standing water and mud.” But Micheal Budd, a land biologist for the FWS, said “mud could be the solution to many deep-seated conservation issues facing northeast Arkansas during the harvest season.” Budd, “the organizer of the MUD Drive, an event that aims to convince farmers to voluntarily stop draining fields after harvest,” said, “There could be better conditions to talk about this in, but this could save a lot of fields and wildlife habitats.”

WISCONSIN’S WOLF POPULATION INCREASES. The [AP](#) (6/14, 484K) reports that “a Wisconsin wildlife official says the state’s gray wolf population has gone up by about 13 percent in the past year.” David MacFarland with the Department of Natural Resources said that “a preliminary estimate says there are 746 gray wolves in the state.” The article notes that “it’s the first increase in the estimated population since hunting and trapping of gray wolves was legalized in 2012.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (6/14, Smith, 784K).

THURSTON COUNTY SETS UP SCREENING PROCESS TO PROTECT GOPHERS. The [AP](#) (6/14, 2.29M) reports that “Thurston County officials have set up a screening process for developers in unincorporated areas designed to protect pocket gophers.” According to the article, “the new reviews will consider the impact developments have on Mazama pocket gophers and other species.” The FWS “listed for subspecies of the gophers as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.”

US Geological Survey:

GEOLOGISTS INVESTIGATING EARTHQUAKE SWARMS IN ALABAMA. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (6/13, 539K) reports that “more than a dozen weak earthquakes” have struck Alabama in the last seven months, and “geologists are trying to figure out what is causing the seismic swarm in an area of the South more prone to tornadoes than earthquakes.” The article notes that “one potential source that regulators are discounting is hydraulic fracturing or ‘fracking,’ a process for extracting underground oil or natural gas that has been blamed for earthquake swarms elsewhere, including Oklahoma.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

FLOODS EXPOSE DANGERS FROM OIL, GAS ACTIVITIES IN REFUGES. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/14, 705) reports recent floods have exposed “the danger that oil and gas activities pose to habitat and wildlife” in national refuges. The article notes that “as far back as 1984, the General Accounting Office found that over 90 percent of FWS managers with oil and gas exploration or production in their refuges considered such activities a threat to natural resources,” and “five years later, GAO, which now stands for the Government Accountability Office, concluded that fossil fuel production was ‘incompatible’ with the refuge system’s mission and recommended “bold action” to address the conflict.” However, “there are still 5,002 oil and gas wells on 107 of the National Wildlife Refuge System’s 563 units, according to a study from FWS researchers published April 27 in PLOS ONE, a peer-reviewed open access scientific journal.”

WYOMING OFFICIAL CRITICIZES BLM VARIANCE. The [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (6/14, 1K) reports that Wyoming State Oil and Gas Supervisor Mark Watson said the BLM would “benefit rather than the states from a variance stipulation within BLM’s final hydraulic fracturing rule.” Watson said, “A better solution would be a mechanism to allow states to apply for primacy if they could demonstrate that the objectives of the BLM frac rule could be met by the states’ rules and regulations.” Watson said “a primacy arrangement would provide certainty and uniformity in enforcing a fracturing rule.”

OSAGE OIL, GAS OPERATORS RAISE CONCERNS OVER NEW RULES. The [Bartlesville \(OK\) Examiner-Enterprise](#) (6/14, 602)

reports that "doing business in Osage County oilfields has been increasingly difficult since the U.S. government settled a class-action lawsuit over its historic mismanagement of oil-and-gas leases on the former Osage Indian Reservation." Revisions to the Code of Federal Regulations for the Osage County leases were outlined in a document published in the May 11 Federal Register. According to Rob Lyon, president of the O

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, June 12, 2015

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DOI in the News:

DATA BREACH MAY HAVE COMPROMISED ALL FEDERAL EMPLOYEES. A new development in the OPM breach story comes from American Federation of Government Employees president J. David Cox, who wrote to OPM saying that the breach may have

compromised the information of all current Federal employees as well as former employees and Federal retirees. The possibility of the breach affecting government contractors and family members and acquaintances of Federal employees is also discussed. The upper bound for estimates of those affected is 14 million; the coverage noted that this figure is far higher than the 4 million initially reported by the Administration. While most major print outlets devoted coverage to this story, it was mentioned only in passing in one evening news broadcast.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/11, story 6, 0:25, Holt, 7.86M) reported that US officials acknowledge “the massive hack into government personnel records is more serious than we were originally told.” Data stolen included “diplomats and workers with security clearances who deal with nuclear and trade secrets.” Congress was told that “China’s government appears to be behind it.”

[USA Today](#) (6/12, Kelly, 5.01M) reports that a cyber attack on the Office of Personnel Management “compromised the Social Security numbers of every federal employee,” according to J. David Cox, president of the American Federation of Government Employees.

The [AP](#) (6/12, Dilanian) reports that Sen. Harry Reid accused “the Chinese” of being responsible for the attack, that, according to Cox’s letter to OPM, compromised “all personnel data for every federal employee, every federal retiree, and up to one million former federal employees.” That data, said Cox, includes “military records and veterans’ status information, address, birth date, job and pay history, health insurance, life insurance, and pension information; and age, gender and race data.” He also said that the union believes that “Social Security numbers were not encrypted,” which he called “a cybersecurity failure that is absolutely indefensible and outrageous.” The union “said it is basing its assessment on ‘sketchy information provided by OPM,’ which in turn “has sought to downplay the damage.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/12, Rein, 5.03M) “Federal Eye” blog says the AFGE “points to a database called the Central Personnel Data File as the hackers’ target;” the Post notes that years ago, it “became part of a database called Enterprise Human Resources Integration,” managed by an Interior Department business center and which “likely contains the personnel files that were accessed.” The Post also notes that “it remains unclear whether in fact the hackers actually stole what they had gained access to, for instance by downloading records of employees’ financial information.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/12, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) cites OPM saying it would cover 18 months of credit monitoring for all those affected; Cox is quoted saying in his letter that OPM “owes employees free lifetime credit monitoring and liability insurance that covers the entirety of any loss attributable to the breach.”

[AFP](#) (6/12) quotes White House spokesman Josh Earnest saying, “The precise scope of this particular intrusion is one that continues to be under investigation by the FBI and other technical experts...We have already begun the process of contacting those that we, thus far, believe could potentially have been affected.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/12, Rein, 5.03M) “Federal Eye” blog reports that Winvale Group was hired last Friday “to start notifying victims of the intrusion;” call center staff in three states “are already answering questions from anxious callers.” Winvale spokesman Patrick Hillmann is quoted saying, “The current call volumes we’re experiencing are expected for a cybersecurity incident of this proportion.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/12, Howell, 641K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/12, Kurtenbach), and the [Federal Times](#) (6/11, 118K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ATTEND SAGAMORE HILL REOPENING. The [AP](#) (6/12, Eltman) reports that “Sagamore Hill, the ‘Summer White House,’ during Theodore Roosevelt’s presidency, is set to reopen.” According to the article, “the 28-room mansion in Oyster Bay has undergone an extensive four-year, \$10 million renovation by the National Park Service.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is among the dignitaries expected to attend the official reopening scheduled for July 12.

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (6/12, 3.69M), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/12, Eltman, 6.18M), and [KSRO-AM Santa Rosa \(CA\)](#) Santa Rosa, CA (6/12).

IDAHO SPORTSMEN SEND SMOKED SALMON TO WHITE HOUSE, INTERIOR. [Politico Pro](#) (6/11) reports that “a group of Idaho sportsmen sent smoked salmon to the White House, Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior, hoping to encourage the agencies to provide permanent protection for the Boulder-White Clouds region through the establishment of a national monument.” The group says that “while salmon swim nearly 1,000 miles upstream to central Idaho’s Boulder-White Clouds in under two months, after more than a decade, Congress has still been unable to provide permanent protections for the area.”

The [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/11, 199K) reports that The House Natural Resources subcommittee on Federal Lands will conduct a hearing Tuesday on Rep. Mike Simpson’s bill to protect wilderness in the Boulder-White Clouds.

PROPOSED GRAND CANYON WATERSHED NATIONAL MONUMENT FACES OPPOSITION. The [Kingman \(AZ\) Daily Miner](#) (6/12, 26K) reports that “Mohave County elected officials and congressional representatives of Arizona are pushing back against the Sierra Club and other environmentalists who want to take down 1.7 million acres of federal land for the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument.” According to the article, “they’re opposed to forming the proposed national monument by presidential executive order, rather than by congressional action.” But “proponents of the watershed say it remains at risk from threats such as toxic uranium mining and the logging of old-growth forest.”

REPUBLICAN LAWMAKERS, OUTDOOR INDUSTRY DECRY MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE. The [E&E Daily](#) (6/11, Subscription Publication) reports that “House Republicans and outdoor recreation industry leaders attacked President Obama’s move to increase the minimum wage for companies operating on federal land during a hearing yesterday, saying it would cause economic harm.” Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Interior Chairwoman Cynthia Lummis said, “What we have here is something that unfortunately we see time and again, especially in the West – the federal government in Washington forcing a one-size-fits-all

directive on the people.” Last year, Obama issued Executive Order 13658, “which imposed a \$10.10 minimum wage on all federal contractors.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/12, 74K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF POLICY RIDERS IN INTERIOR-EPA BILL. Additional coverage of the policy riders in the spending bill to fund the Interior Department and the Environmental Protection Agency was provided by the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/12, Subscription Publication).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW NATIONAL RECREATIONAL TRAILS. Additional coverage of the new national recreation trails was provided by the [Chickasaw Journal](#) (6/11, 5K) and the [Chickasaw Journal](#) (6/11, 5K).

CONGRESS URGED TO ACT ON WILDFIRE THREAT. In an editorial, the [A bany \(OR\) Democrat-Herald](#) (6/12, 42K) urges Congress “to act to implement a fairly simple fix: Pending legislation would allow the agencies to classify the very largest wildfires as natural disasters, and would allow the agencies to pay for those fires out of federal disaster funds instead of their firefighting budgets.” The editorial doesn’t “understand why this bipartisan proposal has failed to get much traction in Congress.” It concludes that “maybe the fact that our forests again are ablaze (and will be for months to come) finally will light a fire under lawmakers.”

Additional coverage of the concerns raised by federal officials about the upcoming wildfire season was provided by the [Southwest Farm Press](#) (6/12, 86K), the [High Plains and Midwest AG \(KS\) Journal](#) (6/12), the [Idaho Business Review](#) (6/11, 35K), the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (6/12, 172K), [Inside Tucson Business \(AZ\)](#) (6/12, 12K), the [Mattoon \(IL\) Journal Gazette & Times Courier](#) (6/12, 36K), the [Newton County \(AR\) Times](#) (6/12, 7K), and the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (6/9, 28K).

OP-ED: SCULPTURE “CITY” SHOULD BE A NATIONAL MONUMENT. In an op-ed for the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (6/12, Subscription Publication, 2.92M), Jon Christensen writes that “artist Michael Heizer’s monumental sculpture ‘City’ — a landscape of modern and ancient forms the size of the National Mall in Washington, D.C. — sits in a vast empty valley in the middle of the Nevada desert and at the center of a visionary proposal to establish a new national monument.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS QUESTIONED ON REVIEW OF JAMES K. POLK HOME. The [E&E Daily](#) (6/11, Subscription Publication) reports that “in an unorthodox but tactically clever move, Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) yesterday in his first hearing as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks allowed all of the lawmakers in the room to question the National Park Service witness before he did.” During the hearing, Sen. Lamar Alexander pressed Victor Knox, the associate director of park planning, facilities and lands at NPS, “to quickly complete a review of the James K. Polk Home for inclusion in the National Park System, as called for in his bill S. 1483.”

NPS AWARDS PROVIDES CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD GRANTS. The [AP](#) (6/12, 641K) reports that “Tennessee and Kentucky are among seven states that will receive a portion of \$3.1 million in grants to help preserve Civil War battlefields.” The NPS says “the Land and Water Conservation Fund grants will preserve more than 270 acres of battlefields that are threatened with damage or destruction by development.” According to the article, “in Tennessee, the Franklin II Battlefield in Franklin will receive \$1.4 million, and the Chattanooga Battlefield will get \$258,250.” Also, Kentucky battlefields include the Mill Springs Battlefield in Pulaski County, which “will receive \$85,919, Perryville Battlefield in Boyle County gets \$77,510 and Richmond Battlefields in Madison County \$35,340.”

The [AP](#) (6/12, 28K) reports that the NPS is “providing \$389,000 to preserve Civil War battlefield sites in Mississippi.” The funds are “part of \$3.1 million being awarded nationwide.” The grants are administered by the Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program. Additional coverage was provided by [WDBD-TV](#) Jackson, MS (6/12, 105K).

SENATORS WANTS NPS CONTRACT PROCESS REFORM. [WCSH-TV](#) Portland, ME (6/11, 30K) reports that Sens. Angus King and Susan Collins are “continuing to fight the National Park Service over the way it awards contracts to companies providing concession services inside national parks.” The article notes that “the issue became heated last year when the park service selected a New Mexico based corporation over a Maine company to operate the Acadia National Park concessions, including three gift shops and the restaurant at Jordan Pond House.” King “believes the bidding process is flawed because they didn’t factor in the \$3 million impact to the local economy.”

DC TO LAUNCH NEW CIRCULATOR BUS ROUTE ON NATIONAL MALL. The [AP](#) (6/12, Press, 5.03M) reports that “District of Columbia officials are launching a new Circulator bus route with stops at tourist sites along the National Mall.” Mayor Muriel Bowser plans to join NPS officials to announce the service Friday.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/12, Dingfelder, 5.03M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/12, 641K), [Greater Greater Washington \(DC\)](#) (6/12), the [Washington \(DC\) City Paper](#) (6/11, 592K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/12, 433K).

SEWALL-BELMONT HOUSE & MUSEUM CLOSER TOWARD NATIONAL PARK STATUS. [Hill Now \(DC\)](#) (6/11) reports that “a historic home on Capitol Hill is one step closer to becoming part of the national park system.” The Sewall-Belmont House & Museum at 144 Constitution Ave. NE has “received word from the National Park Service that the site’s inclusion in the system is ‘suitable and feasible.’”

GLACIER PARK WELCOMES 100 MILLIONTH VISITOR. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (6/11, 15K) reports that Becky Janssen is the

100 millionth visitor to Glacier National Park. The article notes that “among the items the park gave Janssen is a license plate commemorating the event.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (6/12, 118K) and [KECI-TV](#) Missoula, MT (6/12, 2K).

HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK RECOGNIZED WITH EPA GREEN CHALLENGE AWARD. [KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (6/11, 37K) reports that Hawaii Volcanoes National Park has been honored with the EPA’s Federal Green Challenge Regional Overall Achievement award “for reducing its environmental footprint through sustainable practices in six target areas: energy, water, waste, electronics, purchasing and transportation.” Jared Blumenfeld, EPA’s regional administrator for the Pacific Southwest, said, “We applaud National Park Service staff for leading the way towards zero waste, and educating the millions of visitors to Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. This unique landscape deserves protection, and that starts with the commitment by the federal employees who work there.” Park superintendent Cindy Orlando said, “We are extremely honored to receive this level of recognition for our climate-friendly efforts. Our staff is dedicated to implementing environmentally responsible practices, and we encourage our visitors and park partners to do the same.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Hawaii 24/7](#) (6/11).

NPS ORGANIZING RECYCLING PROGRAM. The [Lovell \(WY\) Chronicle](#) (6/12) reports that “residents of Lovell will soon be asked if they want to help support a community recycling program financially.” According to the article, “members of the Rose City Recycling committee attended a work meeting of the Lovell Town Council Tuesday, June 2, and presented three proposals for advancing the recycling program currently being organized by the National Park Service and staffed with local volunteers.” The NPS has been “organizing and paying for most of the cost of the recycling program for some six or seven years now, even purchasing the trailers that are parked at the Red Apple parking lot,” and “the Park Service budget will not allow the agency to carry the burden after December 31 of this year.”

ANGLERS OPPOSE DECISION TO CLOSE PUBLIC WATER IN BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK. The [Augusta \(GA\) Chronicle](#) (6/12, 184K) reports that the NPS has “announced plans to close nearly 10,000 acres of public water in Biscayne National Park off southern Florida.” The article notes that “public hearings on the plan resulted in mostly negative comments from recreational anglers and local communities whose economies would be affected.”

NTSB REVEALS DETAILS ON PLANE PROP THAT KILLED ALASKA PILOT. [KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (6/12, Klint, 78K) reports that according to a preliminary NTSB report, the Piper PA-18 Super Cub which propeller “struck and killed its pilot in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve last week” had been left on, along with three others, “to stave off swarms of mosquitoes while loading the airplanes,” according to the NTSB. Another airplane had begun to slowly move forward toward the PA-18, prompting the pilot to “go around the front of his airplane towards the left wing to prevent the two airplanes from making contact,” NTSB officials wrote. “Subsequently, (he) ran into the back of the spinning propeller, and was struck three times,” according to investigators.

[Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/11, Edge, 216K) reports that the NTSB report said, “The engines of all four airplanes were started and allowed to operate at idle, with the cockpits unattended.”

BROAD CHANNEL OFFICIALS LAMENT LACK OF NOTICE OF WEST PARKING LOT PROJECT. The [Queens \(NY\) Chronicle](#) (6/12, 101K) reports that two weeks ago, the FHWA began work to renovate the west parking lot at the Broad Channel side of the Joseph P. Addabbo Memorial Bridge. The article notes that while officials in the New York City neighborhood of Broad Channel praised the work on the parking lot, they “lamented the lack of prior notice given to them by” the National Park Service, which manages the land. According to the report, an FHWA spokesman said in an email that the project “consists of ‘grading, asphalt pavement removal, hot asphalt concrete pavement, concrete curb and sidewalks, cellular confinement systems, drainage improvements, riprap and other miscellaneous work.’” The FHWA spokesman said that the project is slated to be completed by next October.

ST. CROIX COMMUNITY BIDS NPS ARCHAEOLOGISTS FAREWELL. The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (6/12, 333) reports that “more than 70 teachers, students, historians, conservationists, community organizers, college professors, small business owners and non-profit groups bid farewell and ‘Thank You’ on Wednesday to a pair of National Park Service archaeologists who – everyone attested – have changed the face of the park service on St. Croix.” According to the article, “David Goldstein, chief of interpretation and education at the National Park Service sites on St. Croix, and Joshua Torres, National Park Service Cultural Resource Program Manager, were treated to a surprise send-off party and pot-luck dinner at The Buccaneer’s Mermaid restaurant and lauded by all in attendance for four years of service to the St. Croix community.” Park Service Chief of Resource Management Zandy Hillis-Starr “thanked Goldstein and Torres on behalf of the organization.”

MAN RESCUED AFTER FALL AT MOUNT RAINIER PARK. The [AP](#) (6/12, 2.29M) reports that “a Mount Rainier National Park spokeswoman says park rangers have rescued an injured 18-year-old man who fell 30 to 40 feet in an area below Christine Falls.” According to spokeswoman Patti Wold, the “man suffered multiple injuries in the fall Thursday and was flown to a hospital.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS SUPPORTS RENAMING ALASKA’S MOUNT MCKINLEY. Additional coverage that the NPS supports renaming Mount McKinley was provided by the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (6/11, 2K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/12, 2.29M), the [Madison \(WI\) Capital Times](#) (6/12, 205K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/12, 641K), [Newser](#) (6/12, 245K), and [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (6/12, 78K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF “FIND YOUR PARK” MOVEMENT. Additional coverage of the “Find Your Park” movement was provided by the [Pike County \(PA\) Courier](#) (6/11, 21K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SUBARU SHARING ZERO LANDFILL KNOWLEDGE WITH NPS. Additional coverage that Subaru is sharing its zero landfill knowledge with the NPS was provided by the [News Wheel](#) (6/12).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS MODIFIES NATIONAL MALL VOLLEYBALL COURTS RESERVATION POLICY. Additional coverage that the changes to the National Mall volleyball courts reservation policy was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/12, Stein, 5.03M).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM FIREFIGHTER DIES AFTER TRAINING IN SOUTHWEST IDAHO. The [AP](#) (6/12, 3K) reports that “federal officials say a wildland firefighter has died after a physical training exercise.” The BLM says “33-year-old Terry Sonner of Hammett died Wednesday morning after collapsing.” According to agency spokeswoman Jessica Gardetto, “attempts by crewmembers to revive Sonner failed.” The cause of death hasn’t been determined.

Additional coverage was provided by the [East Idaho News](#) (6/12), the [Idaho Press Tribune](#) (6/12, 6K), [KTVB-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (6/11, 119K), and [KMVT-TV Twin Falls \(ID\)](#) Twin Falls, ID (6/12, 1K).

BLM TELLS WORKERS TO STAY OUT OF GOLD BUTTE AFTER SHOTS FIRED NEAR SURVEYORS. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/12, 380K) reports that the BLM has told its employees and contractors to keep out of a disputed swath of public land in northeastern Clark County after shots were fired near a survey crew’s camp June 5. No one was injured in the incident. The surveyors said the men identified themselves as ranchers and were “very cordial.”

LOGGING ACCIDENT KILLS MAN WORKING ON TREE-THINNING PROJECT FOR BLM. The [AP](#) Seattle (6/11, 157K) reports that “the Coos County sheriff’s office in southwest Oregon says a 45-year-old Myrtle Creek man has died in a logging accident.” According to the sheriff’s office, “a load of logs was being pulled to a log landing Wednesday when one of the logs swung around and fatally struck Darrell Carmichael.” Carmichael was “working for JSP Cutting out of Myrtle Creek on a tree-thinning project for the federal Bureau of Land Management.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KOBI-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (6/12) and [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (6/12, 1K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

LION HUNTERS RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT PROPOSED PROTECTIONS. [Reuters](#) (6/11, Nyambura-Mwaura) reports that lion hunters are raising concerns over proposal by the FWS to list lions as a threatened species and set up a system of permits for importing trophies from lion hunts. Hunting advocates and opponents are lobbying the FWS ahead of its expected final decision this year. FWS spokesman Gavin Shire said, “We would look to see if each permit application is consistent with the conservation of the species.”

BANDON MARSH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MAKES PROGRESS IN MOSQUITO CONTROL. The [Oregonian](#) (6/12, 1M) reports that “a spring monitoring program has found few mosquito larvae in the Ni-les’tun Unit of the Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge.” According to the FWS, “this year, monitoring has detected few saltmarsh mosquito larvae within the marsh compared to last year.” The low figures is “a result of the intensive efforts last year to kill larvae before they could develop into adults and fly off.”

LOCAL RESIDENTS OPPOSE FISHING DECISION AT YUKON DELTA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/11, 216K) reports that “federal managers have greatly expanded their authority over salmon-producing waters in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, including a long stretch of the Kuskokwim River, by shutting down all fishing by nonrural residents to protect king salmon.” The FWS in-season manager, Neil Lalonde, “last week shut down fishing by nonrural residents, and the decision is not sitting well with some locals.”

DEVICE AIMS TO REVEAL AGE, GENDER, AND IDENTITY OF ENDANGERED WOLVES FROM SCAT. The [Mongabay](#) (6/11, 7K) reports that a scientist is “building a handheld device that analyzes the odor of wolf scat to determine the age, gender, and individual identity of the animal that left it.” According to the article, “the goal is to improve estimates of the size and demographics of endangered Mexican gray wolf populations, and ultimately to help bring back the wolf and restore greater balance to the forests of the southwestern U.S. and Mexico.”

RISING TEMPERATURES WOULD HURT PLANT GROWTH. [TIME](#) (6/12, Worland, 19.57M) reports that a new study finds that, given limited efforts to curb climate change, plant growth will be stunted in 2100 compared to now. The study’s authors say that though rising temperatures will reduce the number of freezing days and therefore increasing growing time, they will also decrease water availability and change soil conditions, resulting in less net growth. “Those that think climate change will benefit plants need to see the light, literally and figuratively,” said lead study author Camilo Mora, professor at the University of Hawaii. The study concedes that this is a worst-case scenario relying on little effort being made to reduce carbon emissions.

DELAY URGED IN SAGE GROUSE PROTECTION. The [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (6/12, 83K) editorializes that Sens. Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee are “correct in trying to prevent the greater sage grouse from being protected under the Endangered Species Act.” The lawmakers have “joined colleagues in the House, including Utah’s Rep. Bishop, in introducing amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act that will delay listing the sage grouse as endangered for at least 10 years.” The paper says that “if it comes down to a choice between maintaining military readiness or listing the sage grouse as endangered, we’re going to choose military readiness.”

US Geological Survey:

STUDY FINDS SANDBARS MIGHT NOT BE CRITICAL FOR ENDANGERED CHUB. The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (6/12, 34K) reports that “a common perception exists that the presence of sandbars in the Colorado River is an important, and possibly necessary, element for the survival of the river’s endangered humpback chub.” However, “one study published this year found that backwaters

may not be as vital to the chub's survival as once thought. The study's authors found that after a controlled flood from Glen Canyon Dam, the majority of juvenile humpback chub were found outside of the backwater habitats associated with sandbars." Ted Melis, deputy director of the USGS's Southwest Biological Science Center, said, "We don't have any publications to date to connect survival of young humpback chub to these sandbars. We've done some studies but nobody has shown that having those backwaters created by sandbars is a limiting factor on how well humpback chub survive."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SCIENTISTS CONCLUDE RELEASES FROM GLEN CANYON DAM WORKING. Additional coverage that three years after the BOR made "high-flow experiment" releases from Glen Canyon Dam "an established protocol, a group of current and former U.S. Geological Survey scientists have concluded that the tactic is indeed showing promise as a way to reverse decades of sandbar declines" was provided by the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (6/12, 34K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CHOCKECHERRY AND SIERRA MADRE WIND ENERGY PROJECT WOULD BE LARGEST ONSHORE WIND FARM IN NORTH AMERICA. The [Greenwire](#) (6/11, Subscription Publication) reports that Power Company of Wyoming "plans to string 157 wind turbines...as part of the much larger Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project." According to the article, "once completed in the coming decade, it will number 1,000 turbines and rank as the largest onshore wind farm in North America, if not the world."

LOS ANGELES WON'T BUY POWER FROM SODA MOUNTAIN SOLAR PROJECT. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/12, Sahagun, 4.03M) reports that "the city of Los Angeles has dropped plans to buy electricity from a controversial solar plant proposed for the Mojave Desert, delivering a serious blow to the most environmentally sensitive renewable energy project in the state." City officials said Thursday that the Soda Mountain Solar Project would be "too damaging to bighorn sheep, desert tortoises and other wildlife near the site along Interstate 15, just south of Baker and less than a mile from the Mojave National Preserve." According to the article, "the decision was made after a Department of Water and Power review found that other proposed renewable energy projects would charge the city less for electricity and would have fewer challenges in delivering the power to Los Angeles."

OPINION: WIND TAX CREDIT NECESSARY FOR INDUSTRY. Writing in [The Hill](#) (6/12, Garland, Reilly, 533K), Sitting American Wind Energy Association chair Mike Garland and former chair Susan Reilly accuse former Sen. Don Nickles of misrepresenting the position of their organization on the Wind Production Tax Credit. It is their position that the tax credit is necessary for the continued expansion of the wind power industry. They also note that Nickles' firm has made over \$1.4 million lobbying for fossil fuel interests, including \$200,000 to fight the tax credit specifically.

Onshore Energy Development:

FRACKING RULES TO FACE LEGAL CHALLENGE. [Reuters](#) (6/12, Rascoe) reports that energy industry organizations and state officials who oppose new Federal rules for hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, on public land are taking their legal challenge to court this month in an effort to block the regulations just before they are to take effect. Opponents of the regulations will ask a federal judge on June 23 for a preliminary injunction. The Interior Department rules, which are scheduled to take effect on June 24, would force companies to provide information on chemicals used in fracking and to take measures to prevent leakage from oil and gas wells on Federal land.

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (6/12, Rascoe).

HOUSE PANEL PASSES PIPELINE BILL. The [Greenwire](#) (6/11, Subscription Publication) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee has "approved bills to hasten logging projects on national forests and to allow the Interior Department to approve the siting of gas pipelines through national parks, part of a broader GOP push to improve forest health and reduce the price of energy." The article notes that "Democrats and environmental groups objected to both bills, arguing they would erode environmental protections and limit citizens' ability to influence the management of federal lands."

[Politico Pro](#) (6/11) reports that the green group Western Values Project said in its statement ahead of the panel vote, "Pipelines through these pristine places could not only tarnish the landscape — they could put western economies at risk. If national parks are America's best idea, then fast-track approval of pipelines through them is one of Congress' worst."

BLM MOVES FORWARD WITH COAL LEASE NEAR BRYCE CANYON NATIONAL PARK. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/11, 705) reports that the BLM is "closer to a decision on whether to lease more than 3,500 acres of federal coal near Bryce Canyon National Park in Utah." The bureau has "completed a long-awaited supplemental draft environmental impact statement for the so-called Alton tract, according to a notice set to appear in tomorrow's edition of the Federal Register." The BLM was "moving forward with approving the lease sale in 2012 when, amid pressure from environmental groups and sister agencies, it decided to go back to the drawing board."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SUE BLM OVER CALIFORNIA DRILLING PLAN. The [EnergyWire](#) (6/11, Subscription Publication) reports that "environmental groups say the Bureau of Land Management failed to consider risks from hydraulic fracturing before opening up vast swaths of public lands in California to oil and gas development." The Center for Biological Diversity and Los Padres ForestWatch sued the bureau "yesterday in federal court, arguing that the agency's resource management plan for public lands in California allows drilling across the Central Valley, San Joaquin Valley and southern Sierra Nevada, and along California's central coast, without considering unique environmental impacts associated with fracking."

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON MANAGEMENT OF LAND IN COLORADO. The [Greenwire](#) (6/11, Subscription Publication) reports that

the BLM is "asking for public comment on its management of 680,000 acres of land in Colorado to help determine which areas to open up to mining and oil and gas exploration. "The bureau has "already identified 78,000 acres with wilderness characteristics that could prevent energy development and exploration." But Wild Connections, a conservation group, has "found 246,000 acres with wilderness characteristics." The group said the bureau "left out the Table Mountain plateau north of the Arkansas River, which Wild Connections says is a key wildlife refuge."

FERC DECISION ON JORDAN COVE LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PROJECT IN COOS BAY DELAYED AGAIN. The [Oregonian](#) (6/12, 1M) reports that "a final federal decision on the controversial Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas project in Coos Bay has been delayed once again." The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is "widely expected to approve the project, and was scheduled to release the project's final environmental impact statement on Friday." However, the FERC "now says the U.S. Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management require additional information to determine how an alternative route for a section of the Pacific Connector Pipeline would affect its lands."

SEN. GARDNER DECRIES "ASSAULT" ON COLOWYO MINE. The [PJ Tatler](#) (6/11, 6K) reports that Sen. Cory Gardner is warning that "the federal government could devastate a local community and raise energy prices with an 'assault'" on the Colowyo Mine. Gardner said, "For a community that's the size of the town I live in, three thousand people or so, to lose two hundred twenty jobs would be economic catastrophe."

In an editorial, the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (6/12, 79K) supports efforts by Rep. Scott Tipton and Sen. Cory Gardner "to prevent the closure of a Colorado coal mine at the hands of an anti-coal environmental group called WildEarth Guardians." The paper argues that "the government shouldn't give in to anti-coal organizations that seek to legislate environmental policy through the courts when they don't get their way through normal channels."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (6/11, 10K), the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (6/11, 30K) and the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/12, 73K).

COMPANY PAYS \$175,000 TO SETTLE CLAIMS INVOLVING INDIAN OIL, NATURAL GAS LEASES. The [AP](#) (6/12) reports that "federal prosecutors say a Kay County company has agreed to pay \$175,000 to settle claims involving debt owed to the government involving Indian oil and natural gas leases." Oklahoma City U.S. Attorney Sanford Coats said Thursday that Case Sales Company, Inc., "held five Indian oil and gas leases for wells in the Anadarko area" and "the company was required to comply with certain reporting requirements to the U.S. Department of Interior for each well it operated." However, "prosecutors allege that from 2004 through 2009, Case failed to submit timely and accurate reports," and "as a result, the agency assessed a civil penalty against the company."

EARTHQUAKES SUBSIDE AFTER WASTEWATER WELL PLUGGED. The [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/12, Elliott) reports that seismic activity around a wastewater well in northern Colorado has ceased for the past two months after the bottom 450 feet of the well was capped with cement last year. The shortened well is back in operation, but no tremors greater than magnitude 1 have appeared. Operators are optimistic, but not convinced that shortening the well stopped the shaking.

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (6/12, Elliott, 2.29M).

FRACKING SUPPORTERS LAUNCH BUZZFEED-STYLE WEBSITE. [Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (6/12, Meyers, 7K) reports that supporters of fracking have launched the FrackFeed.com website in hopes of swaying public opinion to support the practice. Using memes of Ron Burgundy and Dr. Evil, the site is styled similarly to Buzzfeed, with "short, pithy pieces of content." The goal is to counter what the site's backers say are myths about the practice and try to stand up to the more effective grassroots campaign model pursued by environmentalists.

AMA CALLS FOR FRACKING CHEMICAL DISCLOSURE. In continuing coverage, the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Post-Gazette](#) (6/12, Hopey, 621K) reports that the American Medical Association has adopted the policy that companies should disclose the chemicals used in the fracking process and that monitoring "should focus on human exposure in well water and surface water and government agencies should share this information with physicians and the public." "Keeping the names of the chemicals secret is preposterous," said plank author Todd Sack, a physician from Florida. He argues that physicians cannot effectively treat public health issues if they do not know what compounds their patients may have been exposed to.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. Additional coverage of the Buffalo Field Office Resource Management Plan was provided by the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (6/11, 44K).

PROFESSOR PORTER: STUDY SHOWS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ARE IMPROVING, BUT TRANSPARENCY NEEDED. In an interview with [Bloomberg News](#) (6/11, 3.81M), Harvard Professor Michael Porter says that the oil and gas industry should be more transparent in explaining the fracking process to diffuse the political arguments surrounding the practice, and that their adversarial approach to communities "makes it worse." Further, he says that reducing some of the environmental risks can be done at little cost.

PROFESSOR: NEW FRACKING RULES DO NOT GO FAR ENOUGH. Writing in the [Oklahoman](#) (6/12, Kraft, 506K), Professor emeritus Michael Kraft of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay says that the Interior Department's new fracking rules do not go far enough to protect localities. He praises requirements to disclose the chemicals involved, but says that rules should require companies to disclose their chemical mixes before drilling begins and cover toxic air emissions.

EDITORIAL: EPA'S STANCE ON FRACKING IS CORRECT. The [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/12, 894K) editorializes that the EPA's finding that fracking does not cause widespread environmental harm is good news for the US as the world works to reduce its carbon footprint because the practice drives down the price of natural gas and allows it to displace coal as a fuel for electricity generation. It also says that the environmental groups relying on a small caveat in the report to vindicate their stance on the issue are grasping at straws.

EDITORIAL: TEXAS RAILROAD COMMISSION NEEDS TO ACCEPT THAT WASTEWATER WELLS CAUSE

EARTHQUAKES. The [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (6/12, 1.09M) editorializes that Texas Railroad Commission staff seismologist Craig Pearson's continued insistence that there is no evidence that wastewater wells established in fracking operations are to blame for seismic activity is false. The Morning News points to studies by Southern Methodist University, the University of Texas, and the United States Geological Survey as strong scientific evidence that they do, and that the commission's credibility as an industry regulator is at stake if it ignores the facts.

COMMENTARY: STATES SHOULD LIMIT LOCAL FRACKING BANS. Writing in the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/12, Lacy, Powell, 2.29M) local Texas leaders Ross Lacy and Clinton Powell argue that limiting bans on fracking is a good policy move because cooperation between local and state regulators is vital to successful oil and gas development, and the ban on bans forces it to occur. Further, creating a patchwork of different municipal regulations on the issue would make economic investment in Texas more difficult, they say.

Offshore Energy Development:

APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS SHELL'S SPILL-RESPONSE PLANS FOR DRILLING IN ARCTIC. [The Hill](#) (6/11, Henry, 533K) reports the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals "has upheld the Interior Department's approval of a Royal Dutch Shell oil spill clean-up strategy for the company's planned Arctic drilling operations." Green groups had sued the department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement "over its decision to sign off on Shell's oil spill response plans." But the court ruled yesterday "that the bureau acted lawfully when it approved the proposal, Reuters reports."

[Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (6/11, 7K) reports "a federal district court previously ruled for the agency and Shell, which intervened in the case;" the decision yesterday "upheld it." At the center of the lawsuit "were the oil spill response plans Shell submitted for proposed exploratory oil drilling in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas," which the BSEE "approved in March 2012."

The [AP](#) (6/12) reports the case made by the environmental groups argued that "the approvals violated Clean Water and Endangered Species acts." But "the government countered the groups' claims were based, in part, on a misreading of the laws and Shell's response plans."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (6/11, 822K), [Reuters](#) (6/11), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/12, 2.29M), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/11, 216K), the [Law 360](#) (6/12, 15K), the [Maritime Executive](#) (6/12, 21), [Courthouse News](#) (6/11, 7K), and [KUCB-FM Unalaska \(AK\)](#) Unalaska, AK (6/12).

First Vessel Leaves Washington State For Planned Arctic Drilling. In an article headlined "First Vessel In Shell's Arctic Drilling Fleet Heads For Alaska" [Reuters](#) (6/11, Cavaliere) reports that oil spill containment barge The Arctic Challenger departed Washington State for Alaska in preparation for Shell's oil and gas exploration in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas this summer. Seattle's ports have been the site of several weeks of protests from environmental groups because of Shell's plans to return to the Arctic.

SOUTH CAROLINA AGENCY DENIES REQUEST TO STOP SEISMIC TESTING. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (6/11, 305K) reports that South Carolina "won't stop a federal permit to use seismic guns to search for oil and natural gas offshore, its environmental regulatory board decided Thursday." The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control board "denied a request by environmental advocates and others to overrule a staff decision to approve the first of three permits."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (6/12, 300K) and [WCIV-TV Charleston \(SC\)](#) Charleston, SC (6/12, 16K).

PENALTY RULING MAY BE NEAR IN DEEPWATER HORIZON DISASTER. The [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (6/12, Larino, 733K) reports that a filing in US district court Wednesday means that a New Orleans judge may be near to ruling how much BP will pay in fines over the catastrophic 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill. The judge and magistrate were due to meet with lawyers for a regular status conference, but canceled it and said it will be rescheduled after a penalty ruling. The Clean Water Act provides for up to \$13.7 billion in fines for the British company. BP says that its work to clean up the mess warrants a lower fine.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BOEM, LOUISIANA TO RESTORE WHISKEY ISLAND. Additional coverage that the BOEM "signed an agreement with Louisiana officials allowing the state to mine 13.4 million cubic yards of sand from Ship Shoal" was provided by the [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (6/12, 733K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES WANT BOR TO STOP RELEASING WATER FROM TRINITY RESERVOIR. The [Western Farm Press](#) (6/12, 2K) reports that "two California water agencies want the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to comply with provisions of the Endangered Species Act and stop releasing water from Trinity Reservoir in northern California until consultations with other regulatory agencies can be made." Westlands Water District and San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority are "challenging three years' worth of increased flows to the Trinity River that the USBR made in alleged violation of the ESA." According to the article, "the water districts filed a 'notice of violation' with U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on June 10, alleging the USBR violated federal law by unilaterally releasing 120,000 acre feet of water from Trinity Lake in northern California over a three-year period."

BOR PREPARING TO FLOAT PUMPS IF FOLSOM LAKE DROPS TOO LOW. [KXTV-TV](#) Sacramento, CA (6/11, 45K) reports that the BOR is "preparing a barge with eleven floating pumps to continue providing tap water to hundreds of thousands of people if the level of Folsom Lake drops below the water supply outlet built into the dam." BOR spokesperson Erin Curtis said, "We're just making a prudent decision now based on what could happen." The agency "first began considering floating pumps last year as the lake

approached a record low level of 357 feet above sea level – just 40 feet above the center of the outlet that provides domestic water to the cities of Roseville and Folsom, Folsom Prison and the San Juan Water District.”

ALMOND FARMERS A TARGET AS CALIFORNIA DEALS WITH DROUGHT. The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/11, story 7, 2:10, Pelley, 5.08M) reported, “A damp spring has not eased California’s historic drought” as a “report out today shows conditions are still severe in 94 percent of the state.” Now there is a “fight” over water supplies and the farmers “who produce 80 percent of the world’s almonds are right in the middle of it.” CBS (Tracy) says that “California almonds are a \$6.5 billion industry, the most profitable crop in the state. But almond trees are also thirsty. A recent study shows that it takes one gallon of water to grow one single almond.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

WHITE HOUSE HOSTING TRIBAL YOUTH GATHERING. [Politico](#) (6/12, Burris, 1.11M) reports that “for the first time, the White House is inviting Native-American youth to voice their concerns about issues faced in their community.” According to the article, “those eager to be among the 800 Native Americans who will be chosen to attend the first Tribal Youth Gathering hope to share their stories about issues like foster care, cultural preservation and education.” The article notes that “to qualify to for the conference, they must complete the Generation Indigenous Challenge by joining the National Native Youth Network, a White House effort in partnership with the Aspen Institute’s Center for Native-American Youth and the U.S. Department of the Interior.”

APPEALS COURT SIDES WITH BIG LAGOON RANCHERIA IN FIGHT OVER LAND DECISIONS. The [AP](#) (6/12, 442) reports that “in a victory for Native American tribes, an appeals court ruled Thursday that states cannot use negotiations for a Native American casino to challenge the federal government’s decisions to recognize a tribe and set aside land for it.” An 11-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said “states have to use a separate process to contest those decisions and have a window of six years to file their challenge.” The decision “came in a fight between California and the Humboldt County-based Big Lagoon Rancheria over the tribe’s plan for a Las Vegas-style casino.”

SPOKANE TRIBE CASINO DECISION EXPECTED SOON. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/12, 172K) reports that “after more than two years of waiting, the Spokane Tribe – and the city and county that share its name – may know soon whether it will get the federal go-ahead to build a casino, hotel and shopping mall on the West Plains.” According to the article, “several government sources said Thursday they have been told to expect a decision from the U.S. Department of the Interior in the near future, although no date has been set for the announcement.”

MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE INCREASES FUNDS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATION. The [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (6/12, 484K) reports that “the Minnesota Legislature left the Capitol at midnight on May 18 with deals set on education, energy, environment and economic development.” Originally, a \$3.2 million increase was proposed “to help schools better serve Indian students.” Now, there will be “\$14.5 million in new funds split between per pupil student aid and assistance to schools operated by the federal Bureau of Indian Education.”

Top National News:

HOUSE TRADE MEASURES CLEAR FIRST HURDLE AHEAD OF TODAY’S KEY VOTES. Media coverage of the trade debate in the House highlights conflicting signals ahead of today’s key votes. The [Washington Times](#) (6/12, Dinan, 641K) indicates that “optimism abounded among free-trade supporters,” and the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (6/12, Votaw, 565K) noted that Speaker Boehner “expressed growing optimism.” Less sanguine was the [Huffington Post](#) (6/11, Barron-Lopez, 194K), which reported that the President’s trade agenda “could be less than a day away from taking a deep blow that would unravel it all,” while [Roll Call](#) (6/11, Dumain, 99K) described the situation as “dire” for “fast track” supporters. [McClatchy](#) (6/11, Hotakainen, 32K), meanwhile, says “both sides braced for a close vote,” which “will determine whether the president suffers a high-profile defeat or one of the biggest wins of his second term.”

As the House debate got underway Thursday, [USA Today](#) (6/12, Davis, 5.01M) reports, “trade supporters scored a critical victory” with a narrow 217-212 vote on the rule for the “trio of trade bills...set to receive votes” today. The trio includes TAA, trade promotion authority (TPA) – which is the “most contentious” – and “a customs enforcement bill.” [The Hill](#) (6/11, Marcos, 533K) said trade supporters “survived a bad scare,” with 34 Republicans voting against the rule and just 8 Democrats supporting it. Notably, the [ABC Otus News](#) (6/12, Parkinson) blog reported before the vote that as of Thursday, “18 House Democrats” had “come out in support of TPA” – 10 more than supported the rule. [Politico](#) (6/11, French, 1.11M) indicates that the President’s trade agenda survived, but just “barely,” and [The Hill](#) (6/11, Marcos, 533K) said that the “tight” tally “foreshadows the challenge GOP leaders will face” today.

[Politico](#) (6/11, Dove, 1.11M) also reports that the President “and his aides are accusing House Democrats of raising a last-minute funding objection” TAA provisions “designed to scuttle the entire package.” In a separate story, [Politico](#) (6/11, French, 1.11M) says “the uncertainty surrounding the” TAA measure is “becoming a serious problem for Obama,” because “if TAA fails, the House will not take up Trade Promotion Authority.”

The TAA issue, says the [AP](#) (6/12, Babington, Werner) along similar lines, is boosting TPP opponents’ “hopes of bringing down the whole package,” as “numerous House Democrats said they would vote” against it today. The AP notes that AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka “urged House Democrats to do something once unthinkable,” oppose TAA “as the best means to kill fast track.” Lawmakers “attending the meeting” with the labor leader said he “told Democrats he would pray for those who oppose the unions’ position.”

“Obama and other top White House officials are in regular communication with leaders on Capitol Hill,” the [Washington Times](#) (6/12, Wolfgang, 641K) reports, noting that the President and Boehner spoke on the phone yesterday. Asked about it, notes [Reuters](#) (6/12), White House press secretary Josh Earnest said, “I am confident that is not the only telephone call the president will have with a member of Congress today.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/12, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) notes that Boehner told

reporters yesterday, "I have talked to the president. ... He's working at this. And I hope his efforts are successful." The [National Journal](#) (6/12, Koren, Subscription Publication, 156K) notes that Boehner also said, "We've had good conversations this week on a bipartisan basis."

The [AP](#) (6/12) remarks on the fact that the "controversy" about the bills is "so thick that...Obama conferred on strategy with...Boehner and drew a public rebuttal in the House from a Democratic foe of the measure," Rep. Peter DeFazio, who said on the House floor, "You're not right, Mr. President. Actually, you're wrong." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/12, House, Dougherty, 161K) notes that Pelosi, meanwhile, "didn't say whether she will support the trade package," though "she praised the 'excellent and impassioned work' of people on all sides of the trade debate."

In the afternoon, noted the [Huffington Post](#) (6/11, Barron-Lopez, 194K), "White House Chief Of Staff Denis McDonough, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and Labor Secretary Tom Perez rushed to Capitol Hill...to meet with House Democrats," and "a number of Democrats said that the three officials' message, while not stated outright, was implied loud and clear: This vote is for the president." [Roll Call](#) (6/11, Dumain, 99K) reported that "House Democrats emerged from" the meeting "with more questions than answers on how members will proceed on Trade Promotion Authority – and few predictions of if or how the impasse would be broken."

On its website, the [Washington Post](#) (6/11, Kane, 5.03M) noted that "on a letter to Congress on Thursday," Perez "called the TAA program 'a critical lifeline to workers.'" The Post cast Democrats as still "pondering whether to use their considerable leverage to tank...Obama's top domestic legislative priority."

Under the headline "The Return Of Growth Economics," meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/12, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) editorializes that passage of the TPP would boost the US economy and put the GOP Congress on track to change the course of US economic policy for years to come.

Obama Visits With Lawmakers At Congressional Baseball Game. [USA Today](#) (6/11, Korte, 5.01M) reported on its website that the President "cheered on both teams when he visited Nationals Park Thursday night for the annual Congressional Baseball Game, but it was clear to everyone that he was really there to root for a free trade deal." USA adds that "upon arriving, he first sought out...Pelosi," and then "visited both the Democratic and Republican dugouts." He "spent only about an inning at the game – long enough to watch Sen. Rand Paul...strike out." The Democrats ultimately "won, 5-2."

Also on its website, the [Washington Post](#) (6/11, Kane, 5.03M) reported that "Republican fans – largely staff and lawmakers who aren't playing – cheered and chanted 'TPA,'" while "Democratic fans chanted 'O-BAM-A.'"

WPost A1: Obama's Difficulty Enlisting Chicago Democrats "Emblematic." Under the headline "What Chicago Democrats Tell Us About President Obama's Problems On Trade," the [Washington Post](#) (6/12, A1, Debonis, 5.03M) reports on its front page that Chicago Rep. Danny K. Davis, who "was right there with him" when the President announced his Senate candidacy in 2004, has not been swayed by "months of lobbying and personal appeals from Obama." Moreover, Davis "is hardly an outlier in Obama's home town," and "in a city where clout is king, the most powerful man on the planet seems to have none." To the Post, "Obama's failure to persuade Chicagoland Democrats is emblematic of the difficulties he has had convincing Democrats across the country."

Sanders, De Blasio Call On Clinton To State Position On TPP. The [Huffington Post](#) (6/11, Bobic, 194K) reported that Sen. Bernie Sanders said yesterday that "it's long past time for Hillary Clinton to make clear where she stands on a pending trade deal between the US and Pacific nations that has divided wings of the Democratic Party." Said Sanders, "If she's against this, we need her to speak out. Right now. Right now. I don't understand how any candidate, Democrat or Republican, is not speaking out on that issue."

The [New York Times](#) (6/12, Burns, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), meanwhile, reports that "reviving a public split with the White House," New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio "declared on the eve of a key vote in Washington that it would be a 'huge mistake' for Congress to approve...Obama's chief legislative priority," the TPP. The mayor, "who has yet to endorse a candidate for president," also said Clinton "should speak forcefully against the trade agreement," adding, "Democrats all over the country are looking to her for leadership."

Caroline Kennedy Defends TPP, Cites Father's Support For Free Trade. US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy writes in a piece for [Politico Magazine](#) (6/12), "For my father, President John F. Kennedy, expanding trade was integral to America's prosperity and security." The TPP "is the most progressive trade deal in history," and it will "support more jobs that pay higher wages here at home." After calling to passage the TPA, and then the trade agreement, Kennedy concludes, "As my uncle, Senator Kennedy, said two decades ago, 'We cannot turn our backs on progress or cast our votes against the future.'"

US CONSIDERING NETWORK OF BASES IN IRAQ. Statements by Pentagon officials that the US is considering a network of "lily pad" bases to aid American forces to train Iraqi troops prompted overwhelmingly negative and pessimistic analysis and commentary. Reporting characterized the plan as another indication of an uncertain strategy which doesn't show a firm US commitment to fighting ISIL.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/11, story 4, 0:45, Pelley, 5.08M) reported the US "is considering building a series of new military bases in Iraq so that US forces can help the Iraqi army take on ISIS." Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey "likened the bases to lily pads from which American soldiers would train Iraqi troops and, in Dempsey's words, encourage the Iraqi security forces forward."

The [New York Times](#) (6/12, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports the possible move represents "potentially deepening American involvement in the country." Dempsey "described a possible future campaign entailing the establishment" of the bases that would host American trainers working with Iraqi forces and tribesmen. Dempsey, according to the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/12, Lubold, Entous, Subscription Publication, 5.68M), noted that he is not attempting to "float" any specific proposals. Rather, the Pentagon is studying all possible options.

In a [Washington Post](#) (6/12, 5.03M) column, Eugene Robinson tells readers that they should not “feel bad if you’re confused” about the US strategy in Iraq, because President Obama “doesn’t seem to know either.” Robinson notes that the decision to send 450 additional troops comes “days after” the President “admitt[ed]” the US does not “yet have a complete strategy” for training Iraqi forces. Robinson says that Obama “imposed such tight restrictions” on US troops’ activities “that only the sunniest optimist would believe this increase can make a difference.”

David Ignatius also suggests the US plan does not have enough force behind it in his [Washington Post](#) (6/12, 5.03M) column. Ignatius says while the Administration and ISIL “both issued new manifestos for the battle in Iraq this week,” the militants’ plan is the “more forceful.” Ignatius says the US is taking a “careful, incremental step,” while the Islamic State’s “message” is “that it will continue its rampage and compel Sunnis to accept its rule.” According to Ignatius, the US “is fighting an uphill battle” in part because it’s focusing the effort on trying to bring Iraqis together in a war defined by brutal “beheadings, stonings, point-blank assassinations and wanton destruction” of religious symbols.

[Reuters](#) (6/11, Stewart) reports Dempsey told reporters that the “lily pad” plan is “one of the options that we’re considering,” but it’s “just part of prudent planning.” Dempsey added, “At the planning level, it’s not theoretical. It’s very practical, looking at geographic locations, road networks, airfields, places where we can actually establish these hubs.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/11, story 5, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M) reported that the idea “is raising new questions about the President’s strategy,” including the possibility that it represents “mission creep.” Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said, “We don’t have a specific plan to open another base at this time but if we see a need the Iraqi security forces have, we have the ability to move US forces either from outside the country or from within the country.” Asked if his explanation was an example of “mission creep,” Rhodes replied, “No, this is the exact same mission that we’ve been pursuing, which is to train, advise, and assist Iraqis. Americans are not in combat.”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/12, Klimas, 641K) reports that under the plan the US base at al Taqaddum that is being used to help train Iraqis would be the first of the hubs. Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said any location where the US established a forward operating base during the last war in Iraq is a possibility for future operations, so the military has “hundreds of options.” Warren, according to the [Washington Post](#) (6/12, Ryan, 5.03M), “said the choice of any new sites would depend in part on whether the United States sees opportunities to help build up tribal forces.”

Meanwhile, [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/11, 5:26 p.m. EDT, 2:58, Keillar, 554K) reported the Pentagon has been working on a proposal for “a system of forward bases” in Iraq. Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr explained that while t

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, June 9, 2015

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DOI in the News:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS WILDFIRE THREATS TUESDAY IN DENVER. The [AP](#) (6/9, Elliott, 2.29M) reports that "an unusually wet May reduced the likelihood of wildfires during June over much of the nation, but the danger will increase from July through September, the National Interagency Fire Center said in its latest outlook report." According to the article, "as the summer progresses, fire danger is expected to increase across the country, especially in the Northwest, Georgia and the Carolinas." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack will "discuss wildfire threats and the nationwide outlook for the wildfire season Tuesday in Denver." The two will also "discuss a proposal by Obama to change the way wildfire-fighting is funded to ease the strain on the U.S. Forest Service budget."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/9, Press, 894K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/9, Subscription Publication, 2.92M), [US News & World Report](#) (6/9, 907K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/9, Dan Elliott |, Ap, 5.03M), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/9, Elliott, 6.18M), and [Fox News](#) (6/9, 9.4M).

Ecologist Argues Native Plants Should Be Used To Curb Wildfires. In an op-ed for the [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/8, 199K), Wayne Padgett, "an ecologist who retired in 2013 as the program lead for BLM's Colorado Plateau Native Plant Materials Development Program," criticizes the "use a non-native invasive species such as forage kochia to build a '356-mile network of fuel breaks along a 57-mile section of the Interstate 84 corridor from Boise to Glenns Ferry.'" He notes that "through research and development funded by the BLM, locally adapted native plant materials are available." Padgett argues that "they are not invasive, and they can not only help reduce the severity of future fires, but also restore resilience and provide forage and habitat critical for sage grouse."

SECURITY OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S INTRUSION DETECTION SYSTEM QUESTIONED. The [NextGov](#) (6/9, 2K) reports that "when attackers compromised a federal personnel system holding records on up to 4 million current and former employees, the files were in an Interior Department data center equipped with the most up-to-date version of a governmentwide intrusion detection tool, a government official with knowledge of the center at the time said Friday." However, "that tool, called EINSTEIN 3, would not have been able to catch a threat that has no known footprints, according to multiple industry experts." Interior Department officials said in a statement they "continue to be vigilant to ensure that necessary security measures are in place to further strengthen and protect agency, customer and employee data." Interior has a "multipronged remediation strategy to prevent, detect and act against malicious activity on our network in order to respond and recover following an incident," officials added.

The [EnergyTrio](#) (6/8, Subscription Publication) reports that “security experts are questioning the U.S. government’s ability to fend off hackers and help guard private networks following a massive breach of federal workers’ personal data.” According to the article, “while historically poor cyber practices at OPM may have exacerbated the effect of the attack, the data breach also drew attention to the Department of Homeland Security and its role protecting both government and private critical infrastructure networks.”

Additional coverage was provided by [ExecutiveGov](#) (6/9, 548) and [Ars Technica](#) (6/8, 571K).

SECRETARY JEWELL ATTENDS HONOULIULI DEDICATION CEREMONY. [Honolulu Magazine](#) (6/9, 2K) reports a dedication ceremony was held on March 31 to celebrates Honouliuli’s new status as a national monument. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, “It’s time for the shame to be forgotten.”

SENATE PANEL TO HOLD HEARING BEFORE TACKLING COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY BILL. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/9, 705) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a session on “energy accountability and reform” this week “before committee leaders turn to hashing out a comprehensive energy bill.” The hearing will “focus on more than three dozen bills aiming to tweak programs and authority under the Energy Department, the Interior Department, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other federal agencies regarding the commercialization of federal labs, energy resource standards, oil and gas leasing, energy markets, research programs, manufacturing and federal loan guarantees, among other issues.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: TEN NEW NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS DESIGNATED. Additional coverage of the ten new trails designated for national recognition as part of the National Trails System was provided by the [Oshkosh \(WI\) Northwestern](#) (6/5, 35K), the [Woodinville \(WA\) Weekly](#) (6/9, 84K), and the [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#) (6/8, 28K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS’ VISIT TO WEST VIRGINIA. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and OSM Director Joseph Pizarch k’s visit to West Virginia was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (6/5, Mattise, 641K), the [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (6/9, 41K), and [WRAL-TV](#) Raleigh, NC (6/9, 117K).

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

SUBARU TO SHARE ZERO LANDFILL EXPERTISE WITH NPS TO REDUCE PARK WASTE. The [Treehugger](#) (6/9, 42K) reports that a partnership between Subaru, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), and the National Park Service (NPS), will tackle the challenge of reducing waste at national parks. According to the article, “three of America’s most iconic National Parks are getting a helping hand on their waste management practices from Subaru’s zero-landfill experts.” The work will be for Yosemite, Grand Teton, and Denali National Parks, but it could also help “the development of ‘scalable zero landfill implementation plans’ that can be adopted by other national parks in the near future.”

THREE PIPE BOMBS DISCOVERED, MADE SAFE AT LAKE MOHAVE. [KVVU-TV](#) Las Vegas (6/9, 71K) reports that “three pipe bombs were discovered and rendered safe at Lake Mohave,” according to the NPS. Lake Mead National Recreation Area Deputy Chief Engineer Mark Hnat, said, “The visitor did the right thing in reporting these suspicious devices. If you see something suspicious, it’s important to report it, so together we can keep our park safe.” According to the article, “it’s believed all of the devices have been located.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (6/8, 176K) and [KTNV-TV](#) Las Vegas (6/9, 56K).

FOURTH-GRADERS VISIT TONTO NATIONAL MONUMENT THROUGH GRANT FROM NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION. The [Payson \(AZ\) Roundup](#) (6/8, 21K) reports that “six fourth-grade classes from Julia Randall Elementary School recently got a chance to visit Tonto National Monument, thanks to a grant from the National Park Foundation, which paid for bus.” According to the article, “the students, teachers and chaperones hiked on the paved trail to the Lower Cliff Dwelling where park staff offered a tour of the 700-year-old cliff dwellings built by the Salado people.” Superintendent Duane Hubbard said, “As a Payson resident with two children enrolled in the district, I wanted to see a stronger connection between Northern Gila County and Tonto National Monument. The monument staff have collaborated with the Globe and Miami schools through field trips and classroom presentations for many years. We look forward to strengthening these already established relationships while welcoming the Payson children to our park and encouraging them to discover the amazing resources of Tonto National Monument.”

NPS OFFERS ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL AT FORT VANCOUVER NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE. The [Stars And Stripes \(DC\)](#) (6/9, 19K) reports on “this summer’s archaeology field school at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.” The NPS “partners with Portland State University and Washington State University Vancouver in the annual session, which gives college students some hands-on experience in archaeology.” According to the article, “it also gives members of the public a chance to observe the careful excavations, the precise record-keeping and the preservation of artifacts involved in an actual archaeological project.”

ARIZONA HEALTH OFFICIALS TO MONITOR FOR PLAGUE AT GRAND CANYON. The [AP](#) (6/9, 2.29M) reports that “Arizona health officials plan to start monthly monitoring of public areas along the South Rim of the Grand Canyon for plague.” Grand Canyon National Park officials say “they’re collaborating in the monitoring that will be conducted by the Coconino County Public Health Services District and involve testing fleas found on squirrels in the area.” According to park officials, “if plague is found during the testing that will be conducted monthly through September, steps then will be taken to prevent it from spreading to the public.”

PETITION SEEKS TO HALT THE KILLING OF DENALI NATIONAL PARK WOLVES. The [Ketchikan \(AK\) SitNews](#) (6/9) reports that “the iconic wolf population of Denali National Park has plummeted to its lowest level on record in the park, and hunting may be a key factor, according to a revised National Park Service (NPS) monitoring report released in May 2015.” Meanwhile, “a citizen petition calling for an end to wolf hunting and trapping inside Alaska’s Denali Park and no-kill buffers on its border has drawn in excess of over

11,000 signatures with a goal to reach 10,000 by early 2016.

NPS MONITORS NESTING EAGLETS. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (6/9, Jones, 784K) reports that “for several years the National Park Service has monitored young bald eagles along National Park areas of the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers and Apostle Islands in Wisconsin.” The work is “done in the spring before bald eagles fledge at 11- to 12-weeks-old and are still tied to their nests.” Bill Route, an ecologist with the Great Lakes Inventory and Monitoring Program for the National Park Service, said, “They’re our biological technicians. They’re collecting our data.”

ZION PARK ADDS NEW TRAM RIDE. The [AP](#) (6/9, Beth J. Harpaz |, Ap, 5.03M) reports that “a new narrated tram ride in Zion National Park has been added to the options for seeing Zion Canyon Scenic Drive.”

NEW CHIEF TO TAKE POST AT TIMUCUAN ECOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVE. The [Florida Times-Union](#) (6/8, 277K) reports that Chris Hughes, currently chief of science and resource management at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Utah and Arizona, as well as the nearby Rainbow Bridge National Monument, is leaving “to take charge next month at Jacksonville’s national park, the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.”

WILLIAM J. AND SARAH WAGNER LIPPINCOTT HOUSE ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [AP](#) (6/9, 2.29M) reports that the William J. and Sarah Wagner Lippincott House, which was “once owned by Steve Miller of the Steve Miller Band has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS PLANS NO-FISHING MARINE RESERVE AT BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK. Additional coverage of the plans to create a no-fishing marine reserve at Biscayne National Park was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (6/9, Pierno, 194K) and the [Soundings](#) (6/9, 961).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BEAR ATTACK IN SMOKIES. Additional coverage that “Great Smoky Mountains National Park closed several trails and backcountry campsites Sunday after a bear encounter sent a teenager to the hospital” was provided by [USA Today](#) (6/8, Overton, 5.01M), [Reuters](#) (6/8, Reilly), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/9, Press, 5.03M).

Bureau of Land Management:

HOLLOW PIPES AT PROPOSED NEVADA NATIONAL MONUMENT POSE THREAT TO WILDLIFE . The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/9, 380K) reports that hollow plastic pipes in an area that has been proposed for a new National Monument in Nevada pose a threat to wildlife. The pipes, driven into the ground to mark mining claims, attract birds who get trapped and die. The BLM, Nevada Department of Wildlife and volunteers have made an effort to remove hollow pipe markers throughout much of Southern Nevada

CELEBRATION PARK FIRE UNDER INVESTIGATION. The [AP](#) (6/9, 75K) reports that “authorities say a wildfire that has scorched at least 7,000 acres near Celebration Park is believed to have been started by people, but the cause is under investigation.” BLM spokeswoman Carrie Bilbao says “the fire was mostly contained by Sunday morning, but there’s still no solid estimate of when it will be fully contained.” Bi bao says “no structures are threatened by the fire, which is burning in brush and grass northeast of Murphy.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/8, 172K).

NEW LAWSUITS FILED OVER CHARIOT FIRE. The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (6/8, 579K) reports that “eight lawsuits have now been filed in federal court claiming a design flaw in the 2009 Jeep Wrangler was partially responsible for the 2013 Chariot fire that destroyed nearly 150 buildings in the Mount Laguna area east of San Diego.” According to the article, “the two most recent claims are from insurance carriers — the United Services Automobile Association (USAA) and State Farm Insurance — seeking to recoup losses stemming from the 7,000-acre blaze.” The article notes that “the new suits mimic an initial claim made by the Al Bahr Shriners of San Diego County, which earlier this year added Chrysler as a defendant in a \$20 million lawsuit against the federal Bureau of Land Management, alleging a BLM field officer accidentally started the fire as he drove the Jeep over the desert floor.”

MERCURY CLEAN-UP BEGINS IN BLM AREA IN OREGON. The [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (6/9, 3K) reports that “cleanup of a mercury-contaminated site began Monday on a Bureau of Land Management area in Central Oregon.” The Barnes Butte Area will “close for two weeks while crews work to remove mercury contamination from a 1940s mine site.”

BLM ANNOUNCES NEW EASTERN COLORADO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (6/9, 9K) reports that the BLM “began the process for a new land management plan Monday that will cover the Royal Gorge Field Office boundaries.” The conservation nonprofit Wild Connections is “pushing for the agency to recognize more land with wilderness characteristics, specifically around the Bighorn Sheep Canyon area.” The Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan will “combine what used to be two different management plans – the Royal Gorge and northeastern management plans.”

BLM ARIZONA WARNS ABOUT EQUINE INFLUENZA. [The Horse](#) (6/9, 5K) reports that “the BLM Arizona office is advising horse and burro owners near the Black Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA), in the northwest part of the state, that their animals could have been exposed to equine influenza (EI) by wild burros.” According to Roger Oyler, BLM Arizona spokesman, “veterinary testing determined that two burros from the HMA that had died were infected with EI in May.” In all, six wild burros tested positive for the virus, Oyler said.

WILDLIFE MANAGERS URGED TO USE CONTRACEPTIVE VACCINE TO MANAGE WILD HORSES. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/9, 178K) editorializes that the “BLM has been seeking public comment on a plan for the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range this fall.” The paper notes that “such horse removals have become rarer, and it’s expected that the fall operation will be one of the last in the Pryors.” According to the editorial, wildlife managers will be able to use a contraceptive vaccine “for keeping the population at carrying capacity — without killing or removing any horses.”

DECISION ON PRAIRIE DOG COULD IMPACT ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/9, 705) reports that a ruling in a case involving the Utah prairie dog “shocked environmentalists and emboldened conservatives who had long questioned the take provision’s constitutionality.” Now, “the government’s appeal of the prairie dog decision has become one of the country’s most important environmental cases.” According to the article, “if federal regulators can’t protect the prairie dog on private property, it could undermine protections for countless other species.”

ALASKA FIRE CREWS BATTLING WILDFIRES AT YUKON DELTA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (6/9, D’oro, 2.29M) reports that “following a winter marked by little snow and warmer temperatures, fire crews on Monday were tackling two large wildfires burning on mostly treeless tundra in the southwest part of the state.” According to the article, “weekend rain helped tamp down the lightning-caused fires that through Monday have burned 63 square miles in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, about 50 miles northeast of the commercial hub town of Bethel.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (6/9), [US News & World Report](#) (6/8, 907K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/9, Rachel D’oro |, Ap, 5.03M), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Tribune-Review](#) (6/9, 682K), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/9, D’oro, 6.18M), [Fox News](#) (6/8, 9.4M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/9, 5.37M), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (6/9, 1.07M).

ARIZONA SUES OVER LACK OF MEXICAN WOLF PLAN. The [AP](#) (6/9, 2.29M) reports that “the Arizona Game and Fish Department is suing the federal government to force it to develop an updated recovery plan for endangered Mexican grey wolves.” The lawsuit filed Monday seeks to force the FWS “to publish a plan that includes guidelines for when the wolves can be removed from the endangered species list.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (6/9, 34K), the [Arizona Republic](#) (6/8, 1.27M), and [KNAU-FM Flagstaff \(AZ\)](#) Flagstaff, AZ (6/9, 3K).

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SAYS ENBRIDGE TO PAY \$4 MILLION, RESTORE AREA HIT BY 2010 OIL SPILL. The [Detroit News](#) (6/8, Lynch, 523K) reports “four weeks after the State of Michigan filed a \$75 million settlement agreement with the Canadian company responsible for 2010’s Kalamazoo River oil spill, the federal government weighed in with its own settlement which tacks an additional \$4 million onto” the Enbridge’s tab. Obama Administration officials “announced the agreement with the company Monday.” An additional “settlement, under the federal Oil Pollution Act, is expected some time in the future.” In a statement Assistant Attorney General John C. Cruden for the Justice Department’s Environment and Natural Resources Division, said, “This settlement will restore natural resources affected by the 2010 spill — one of the largest inland spills in our history — and compensates the public for natural resource losses resulting from the spill.”

The [MLive](#) (6/9, 803K) reports that Charlie Wooley, deputy regional director for the Midwest Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, “Working together, the natural resource trustees are using the settlements in tandem to develop a big-picture, comprehensive plan to restore natural resources. This cooperative approach will enhance our ability to return to the public the natural resources lost due to the spill.”

[Reuters](#) (6/8, Stephenson) also provides coverage.

EAST ROCK SCHOOL STUDENTS HELP TO BUILD BIRD HABITAT. The [New Haven \(CT\) Independent](#) (6/9, 4K) reports that “children at East Rock Community Magnet School gathered in a field Monday to witness a ceremony that would certify a habitat right in their backyard as an urban oasis.” The article notes that East Rock is “one of six schools across New Haven to have an outdoor habitat, and is the second school to receive a grant this year that allowed for them to create nature trails, rock and rain gardens, bird feeder stations, butterfly and songbird habitats and meadows with walking paths.” According to the article, “many people and organizations were involved in making this schoolyard habitat possible, including Audubon Connecticut, Common Ground, the Yale Peabody Museum, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as students and teachers at East Rock School.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (6/8, 193K).

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BLM PROPOSES TRIMMING SODA MOUNTAIN SOLAR PROJECT. Additional coverage of the revision to the Soda Mountain Solar Project was provided by [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (6/8, 1K) and [Penn Energy](#) (6/9, 128).

Onshore Energy Development:

OSM DIRECTOR PIZARCHIK RECOMMENDS WEST VIRGINIA SEEKS FEDERAL HELP IN STUDYING IMPACTS OF MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL MINING. The [Greenwire](#) (6/8, Subscription Publication) reports that OSM Director Joseph Pizarchik is “recommending that West Virginia seek federal help in reviewing the potential health and environmental impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining.” According to the article, “at issue are numerous peer-reviewed studies in recent years linking the practice to negative health outcomes, including birth defects and cancer.” The article notes that “in recent months – after years of pressure from environmentalists and other critics of the Appalachian coal strip mining – the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health and the Department of Environmental Protection signaled interest in looking into the issue.”

Also reporting on the story is [WYMT-TV](#) Hazard, KY (6/9).

caused the widespread contamination of American drinking water, response has varied in tone with invested parties highlighting the parts of the report that lend credence to their arguments. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (6/8, Caspari, 539K) reports that oil and gas industry groups praised the finding that widespread contamination has not occurred, with the American Petroleum Institute saying in a statement that “Hydraulic fracturing is being done safely under the strong environmental stewardship of state regulators and industry best practices.” However, environmentalists focused in the caveat that it can and has in a few instances. Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said that the study “confirms what millions of Americans already know – that dirty oil and gas fracking contaminates drinking water.”

[KRTV-TV](#) Great Falls, MT (6/9, Talwani, 3K) reports on its website that Montana is experiencing the same divide, with Montana Petroleum Association executive director Dave Galt saying that it “reaffirms” fracking’s safety, while Montana Environmental Information Center attorney Derf Johnson said that “the biggest take-home message from this study is that contrary to what the petroleum industry has been saying for some time, fracking does indeed contaminate water.”

Both of the leading papers in Washington, DC commented on the report. The [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/9, 641K) editorializes that the EPA, “of all villains,” confirmed advocates’ claims and Hollywood pieces as “fantasy,” adding that the “left-wing prosecution of innovators” will likely move on to accusing fracking of causing earthquakes. Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (6/9, 5.03M) editorializes that in the fight over fracking, “the loudest voices try their best to obscure this essential point: The controversial drilling technique doesn’t need to be banned; it needs to be well regulated.” That’s particularly true in the wake of the release of the EPA’s assessment on fracking’s impact on drinking water, which “supports neither side.”

Study: Not Enough Evidence To Condemn Fracking As Unhealthy. [NPR](#) (6/8, Hurdle, 1.52M) reports that a study written before but released after the EPA determination and published in Health Affairs finds that there isn’t enough data to determine whether fracking is a health hazard or not. It points to the lack of government funding and the reluctance of the industry to disclose the chemicals involved in the process, as well as the long time frames needed for epidemiological studies as reasons why a determination cannot yet be made. While other studies have linked fracking to water contamination, information on pre-fracking baseline data are “often hard or impossible to find.”

WPost: EPA Report Shows Fracking Needs To Be Regulated, Not Banned. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/9, 5.03M) says that in the fight over fracking, “the loudest voices try their best to obscure this essential point: The controversial drilling technique doesn’t need to be banned; it needs to be well regulated.” That’s particularly true in the wake of the release of the EPA’s assessment on fracking’s impact on drinking water, which “supports neither side.”

BLM’S NEW PROPOSED FEDERAL COAL LEASES IN POWDER RIVER BASIN CRITICIZED. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (6/9, Hitt, 194K), Mary Anne Hitt, Director, Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign, writes that the BLM has “just made an under-the-radar decision that threatens to set back U.S. progress on clean energy and climate change” with “a resource management plan that calls for up to 10 billion tons of coal development and thousands of new fracking and oil and gas wells in Wyoming’s Powder River Basin.” According to Hitt, “at a time when the rest of the Obama administration is taking meaningful steps to address climate disruption, the carbon impact of BLM’s proposal is enormous.” She argues that “the U.S. simply cannot afford to keep subsidizing coal mining on public lands, and the Interior Department must not continue to blindly expand the scope of this program without informing itself and the public of the predictable, expensive, and avoidable climate consequences.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: COLOWYO MINE MAY CLOSE. Additional coverage of the Colowyo mine was provided by [Fox News](#) (6/8, 9.4M).

Offshore Energy Development:

VIDEO SHOWS DEEPWATER HABITATS OF TWO SUBMARINE CANYONS. To mark World Oceans Day, the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (6/9, Moodley, 1.01M) highlights “a small clip of some of” the BOEM’s “scientific findings over the last five years in the Atlantic Ocean.” The bureau’s “five-year project, sponsored by the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP) and funded alongside the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), studied two mid-Atlantic Canyons 100 miles off the coasts of Virginia and Maryland.” According to the article, “the group managed to study biologically rich regions never previously explored fully, thus making some notable discoveries, such as a high density of corals and varieties not known to previously inhabit the area, as well as over 125 species of fish.”

Additional coverage of World Oceans Day was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (6/9, Calvelli, 194K) and the [Huffington Post](#) (6/9, Sakashita, 194K).

CLAIMANTS RUSH TO FILE FOR LOSSES FROM BP OIL SPILL. The [AP](#) (6/9, Mcgill, 6.18M) reports “people seeking money for losses from the 2010 BP oil spill rushed to file claims online or lined up outside Gulf Coast claims offices Monday as a midnight filing deadline” neared. The “claims are being filed for compensation under the terms of a 2012 settlement that plaintiffs’ lawyers struck with BP.” There was a spike in filings yesterday, according to Patrick Juneau, the attorney appointed by a federal court overseeing the process. Juneau “said it would take days to arrive at a final figure, noting that claims also were being filed by mail and would be accepted as long as they were postmarked June 8.”

OPPONENTS OF SHELL’S PLANS TO DRILL IN ARCTIC STAGE ELECTRONIC BLOCKADE. The [Seattle Times](#) (6/9, Kamb, 970K) reports “opponents of Shell Oil’s lease of a Port of Seattle terminal to stage the company’s Arctic drilling fleet” are employing “a new tactic in their battle against the oil giant: deluging phone lines and email accounts of firms supporting the company’s stay in Seattle.” Yesterday, shell.noblogs.org “directed protesters to engage in an ‘electronic blockade’ of local firms supporting the oil company.” The blog post said that the goal was to “keep their phones ringing, their voice mail full and their email mounting for eight hours. ... We make our voices an immediate concern because we are tying up the resources they use to do business.”

Seattle Times' reporter reports that Seattle police have taken down a tent that was used as an organization spot by protesters.

CALIFORNIA'S TOP SENATE CANDIDATES VOW ACTION ON OIL SPILLS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/9, Finnegan, 4.03M) reports that the two leading contenders for Democrat Barbara Boxer's Senate seat both made beachfront appearances in the past four days to examine and comment on the May 19 oil spill. "As California's top law enforcement official," state Attorney General Kamala Harris used her visit "to vow swift prosecution of any criminal wrongdoing that her squads of lawyers and investigators might find in the oil spill." Candidate Loretta Sanchez "made the most of her less-powerful perch" to emphasize bipartisanship, and "said she would look into what the federal government can do to prevent oil spills and tighten oversight of the industry's accident prevention practices."

CALIFORNIA REPUBLICANS RESPOND TO PROPOSED BAN ON OFFSHORE DRILLING. [Fox News](#) (6/8, 9.4M) reports that a bill to halt offshore oil drilling off California's coast is coming up against Republican criticism that it could hurt the local economy. Republican state Sen. Jeff Stone told the Los Angeles Times, "This bill, I think, sends the wrong message about oil and gas production in our state,"

SEN. SULLIVAN CRITICIZES WASHINGTON LEADERS FOR MOVES TO BLOCK SHELL'S ALASKA PLANS. In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/6, 216K), Sen. Dan Sullivan criticizes officials in Washington for recent moves to "Shell's Alaska drilling program." According to Sullivan, "while genuine concerns and actions to protect the environment are laudable, it is not laudable to use bold statements about the environment as a means for political grandstanding that could undermine economic opportunities for Alaska, Washington and the country." He argues that "not only are the actions of Washington's politicians potentially harmful to Alaskans, they threaten the well-being of Washington's businesses, families, the fishing community and union members."

OP-ED: OHIO WOULD BENEFIT FROM ARCTIC DRILLING. In an op-ed for the [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) (6/8, 467K), Jim Samuel, founder and principal of Capitol Integrity Group in Columbus, supports recent decisions by the federal government that could "lead to limited oil and gas exploration this summer in the Chukchi Sea off the coast of Alaska." Samuel argues that Arctic oil development can affect Ohio's "economy in a very direct way" because "Ohio is the nation's second largest producer of raw steel, and the oil and gas industry is a huge consumer of steel products, from drilling platforms to compressors to pipelines." He concludes that "our national security and our economy are pressing reasons to move forward with energy development in the Arctic as it is with our shale energy development here in the Appalachian Basin."

OPPOSITION TO ARCTIC DRILLING SAID BASED ON COST, CLEANUP CHALLENGES. Charlie Kronick of Greenpeace writes to the editors of the [Financial Times](#) (6/8, Subscription Publication, 1.34M) that Arctic oil would not be cost-competitive for Shell to develop and that any spill response would be hampered by extreme weather conditions.

[Empowering Native American Communities:](#)

BUYBACK OFFERS EXTENDED TO MONTANA LAND OWNERS. The [AP](#) (6/9, 72K) reports that "the U.S. government has made offers worth more than \$230 million combined to buy fractionated parcels of land on two Montana American Indian reservations and turn them over to tribal governments, Department of Interior officials said." The article notes that "the offers involving almost 12,000 landowners on the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap reservations are part of a nationwide program that aims to buy land parcels owned by multiple individuals so they can be put to beneficial use." Interior officials said Monday "they had expanded the effort to include properties with buildings, homes and other structures, although only the underlying land would be eligible for purchase."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lewiston \(ID\) Tribune](#) (6/9, 44K), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (6/9, 118K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Daily Journal of Commerce](#) (6/9, 13K), the [Montana Standard](#) (6/9, 37K), the [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (6/9, 108K), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (6/8, 15K), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (6/8, 80K), the [Winfield \(KS\) Daily Courier](#) (6/9, 13K), and the [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (6/8, 124K).

GAMING COMPACT BETWEEN NEW MEXICO, GAMING TRIBES APPROVED. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (6/9, 45K) reports that "the gaming compact between the state of New Mexico and five tribes, including the Navajo Nation, has been approved." The Interior Department "did not take action on the compact, so it was approved Friday, one day after the review window expired, said Jared Touchin, spokesman for the Office of the Speaker."

TRIBES ASK JUDGE TO ALLOW EXPERT TESTIMONY IN TRUST LAND ROW. The [Law 360](#) (6/9, 15K) reports that "the Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation urged an Oklahoma federal judge on Friday to allow expert testimony in a suit alleging the U.S. Department of the Interior failed to protect tribal trust land, arguing their four experts provided useful opinions the court can weigh at trial." The tribes "asked the court to exercise its broad discretion to deny the government's in limine motions to exclude reports and other testimony from two former DOI officials and two other experts."

[Top National News:](#)

OBAMA: NO "COMPLETE STRATEGY" YET IN PLACE TO FIGHT ISIL. The President's comments about the campaign against ISIL, during a press conference at the end of the G-7 summit, are generating largely negative coverage for the White House. Most reports cast the remarks as an acknowledgment that Obama has yet to settle on a military strategy for the ongoing campaign – nearly 10 months after telling reporters, "We don't have a strategy yet." Yesterday, in what the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/8, story 7, 1:50, Rose, 5.08M) described as "a startling admission," the President said, "We don't yet have a complete strategy." Though he went on to say that the strategy isn't "complete" because "it requires commitments on the part of the Iraqis," much of the reporting was unforgiving. As [Politico](#) (6/8, Dove, 1.11M) puts it, "The nuances of military planning don't make for good sound bites," and "to critics, this kind of statement is Obama admitting exactly what they accuse him of: that he's a president neither prepared for what he's facing in the Middle East nor willing to do what now needs to be done."

[ABC World News](#) (6/8, story 8, 0:50, Muir, 5.84M), for example, referred to “an amazing admission,” since he “said the same thing last August: We have no strategy. It’s been 10 months since he sent American forces back into action in Iraq and” on Monday he said “the same thing: no strategy to win.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/9, Parsons, 4.03M) also describes Obama as “acknowledging that the US-led coalition does not yet have a ‘complete strategy,’” and [Roll Call](#) (6/8, Dennis, 99K) reported that “nearly a year after” saying “he didn’t yet have a strategy to defeat ISIS,” a “frustrated” Obama “said he needs the Pentagon and the Iraqis to form” one.

[The Blaze](#) (6/8, Lucas, 1.87M), likewise, said “Obama had a similar assessment last August,” while [The Hill](#) (6/8, Fabian, 533K) calls the comments a “surprising admission nine months into the US-led coalition’s campaign.” [TIME](#) (6/8, Rhodan, 19.57M) observed on its website that “Obama’s previous statements about not having a plan to defeat ISIS have been the source of political contention for quite some time.”

The [Daily Caller](#) (6/8, Wenig, 366K) said of the President’s comments, “He seems to contend that his strategy (that there is no strategy) depends on the participation and willingness and proficiency of actors otherwise outside of his control – the Iraqis. Odd thing is, as journalists were quick to point out, Obama said pretty much the same exact thing a year ago...except then he blamed Congress.”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/8, Wolfgang, 641K) indicates that “critics were quick to pounce” yesterday, with House Majority Leader McCarthy saying that “Obama’s failure to develop a ‘complete strategy’ is the reason why the Islamic State continues to gain ground and retain control of large sections of Iraq and Syria.” Kristin Roberts, writing for [National Journal](#) (6/8, Subscription Publication, 156K), indicated that “according to Obama, arresting ISIS is an Iraqi responsibility,” and “this is dishonest.” While “the truth is that his ambivalence reflects the collective churning of the American gut...we’ve seen this movie before, and we didn’t like the ending.”

However, Jonathan Allen wrote for [Vox](#) (6/8, 839K) that while “some news outlets have played” the President’s comment “as a gaffe that reveals Obama’s own doubts about his ability to defeat ISIS,” in fact “that’s not what he said.” Added Allen, “What Obama said is that there’s no full strategy yet for training and equipping Iraqi soldiers because ‘it requires commitments on the part of the Iraqis.’” That is “different than saying he has no strategy for ISIS.” On [Foreign Policy](#) (6/8, 449K), John Hudson and Paul McLeary made the same point, “Obama said the United States and its allies must accelerate the training of the Iraqi security forces.”

In fact, the [New York Times](#) (6/9, Davis, Shear, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports, Obama said ISIL’s “recent gains indicated a need for a shift in strategy.” The [AP](#) (6/9, Pace, Pickler), meanwhile, says that he acknowledged “military setbacks,” but “touted ‘significant progress’ in areas where the US has trained Iraqis to fight.” [Reuters](#) (6/9, Mason) quotes the President as saying, “We want to get more Iraqi security forces trained, fresh, well-equipped and focused and (Prime Minister) Abadi wants the same thing so we’re reviewing a range of plans for how we might do that.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) notes that Obama added, “When a finalized plan is presented to me by the Pentagon, then I will share it with the American people.”

State Department spokesman John Kirby was interviewed on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/8, 554K), where he defended the President’s comments, “I think what the President was referring to is the train and equip strategy isn’t complete, because there still needs to be commitment from the Iraqi side. You need more trainees, and we’re working with them on that. ... But make no mistake, we have been training literally hundreds of Iraqi troops and units to get out there in the field and fight and those that we have trained and held and equipped have done well out there.”

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) mocks the President’s comment and traces the problems in the fight against ISIL to his decision to withdraw all troops from Iraq in 2011. To the Journal, that decision signaled to Sunni fighters that the US would not be a committed partner to them in the fight against extremism.

[McClatchy](#) (6/9, Prothero, 32K) reports that “US officials say the bombing campaign has killed more than 10,000 Islamic State fighters and insist that the group controls 25 percent less territory in Iraq than it did when the US began bombing Islamic State positions there 10 months ago.” However, “the casualty numbers are impossible to confirm independently and suggest that, at best, the Islamic State is a far larger organization than American officials initially imagined.” Moreover, “the number of people living under Islamic State rule has grown since the US bombing began.”

“Defense Officials”: Baghdad Not Sending Recruits To At Least One US Training Site. [The Hill](#) (6/8, Wong, 533K) reports “the US mission in Iraq has stalled at one of five coalition training sites because the central government has not been sending new recruits, according to defense officials.” The Hill adds that “Baghdad has not identified or sent any new recruits to the Al-Asad air base in western Iraq for as many as four to six weeks, defense officials said Monday.”

Awkward Encounter Between Obama And Abadi Noted. The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/8, story 7, 1:50, Rose, 5.08M) reported last night that “strains in the relationship were plain as the Iraqi prime minister tried to steal a moment of the President’s time after the ceremonial G-7 photo.” CBS added that “immersed in conversation with other leaders, the President never turned around,” and Prime Minister “Abadi and his translator finally walked away in frustration.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/8, story 6, 1:25, Jansing, 7.86M) reported that Abadi “looked like the ultimate outsider trying to make his way in.” He was “eager to get...Obama’s attention: sitting, standing, hovering. It looked like a snub, but looks were deceiving,” and Abadi “got what he came for: a promise of more help to defeat surprisingly resilient ISIL fighters.” The [AP](#) (6/9) also recounts the scene, describing it as “awkward.”

State Spokesman: ISIL Campaign Likely To Last “Three To Five” Years. Asked about how long the campaign against ISIL would take on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/8, 554K), State Department’s Kirby said, “We think it’s a multiyear effort, probably three to five is the best estimate that people have. It’s going to take a while.” Regarding cooperation with the Kurds, Kirby stated that although “all the arming and equipping is going through the government,” the US does “have dialogue across the spectrum of Iraqi society.”

may consider creating national guard units to combat the [Washington Post](#) (6/8, Carney, 533K) reported in its “Floor Action” blog that in an interview with The Joe Elliot Show on Monday, Senate Majority Leader McConnell said that the fight against ISIL will have to be led by local Iraqi forces, not US troops. McConnell said, “In the end the boots on the ground there are going to have to be local boots on the ground, not ours, to engage in combat, to take these areas of Iraq back. ... I think all we can do at this point is provide the kind of training that should have been done on an ongoing basis for the Iraqi military.” McConnell also “suggested that the current situation in Iraq could have been avoided if...Obama had left a residual force after the war ended.”

McConnell: Iraqi Forces Must Lead Fight Against ISIL. [The Hill](#) (6/8, Carney, 533K) reported in its “Floor Action” blog that in an interview with The Joe Elliot Show on Monday, Senate Majority Leader McConnell said that the fight against ISIL will have to be led by local Iraqi forces, not US troops. McConnell said, “In the end the boots on the ground there are going to have to be local boots on the ground, not ours, to engage in combat, to take these areas of Iraq back. ... I think all we can do at this point is provide the kind of training that should have been done on an ongoing basis for the Iraqi military.” McConnell also “suggested that the current situation in Iraq could have been avoided if...Obama had left a residual force after the war ended.”

OBAMA SAYS HIGH COURT SHOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN UP SUBSIDIES CASE. Media reports cast the President’s comments about the upcoming ruling on the ACA subsidies provision as a preemptive rebuke of the US Supreme Court. The [New York Times](#) (6/9, A1, Shear, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), for example, calls Obama’s comments on the case his “most pointed yet,” while the [National Journal](#) (6/8, Scott, Subscription Publication, 156K) says the President “sought...to portray the...lawsuit...as baseless litigation founded in political animus.” [Politico](#) (6/8, Wheaton, 1.11M) reports that Obama was expressing “deep frustration with the...Supreme Court,” and the [Washington Times](#) (6/9, Curl, 641K) indicates that he “took a swipe at” it. To [The Hill](#) (6/8, Fabian, 533K), the President uttered “his toughest and bluntest comments to date,” as his “frustration that the federal courts could unwind much of his legacy burst into public display.”

The [Blaze](#) (6/8, Lucas, 1.87M) quoted Obama as saying of the court potentially striking down subsidies, “This would be hard to fix,” but “fortunately, there is no reason to have to do it. It doesn’t need fixing.” [Reuters](#) (6/9, Mason) notes the President also said, “Under well-established precedent, there is no reason why the existing (healthcare) exchanges should be overturned through a court case.” The [Blaze](#) (6/8, Lucas, 1.87M) reported that Obama “added that the health care law is working, and is getting less criticism now.” Added Obama, “We haven’t had a lot of conversation about the horrors of Obamacare because none of them have come to pass. ... None of the predictions about how this wouldn’t work have come to pass.”

The [AP](#) (6/8) reports that Obama stated that “it has been well-documented that Congress never intended to exclude people who went through the federal exchange.” In fact, the [New York Daily News](#) (6/8, Chasan, 3.79M) indicated that he “called the challenge bizarre,” while the [New York Times](#) (6/9, A1, Shear, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) notes that he went on to say that a ruling striking down the subsidies “would be a ‘contorted reading’ of the Affordable Care Act.” The case, he added, “probably shouldn’t have even been taken up.” Obama also “warned that only Congress – led by Republicans who opposed the health care law – could prevent that disarray if the court invalidates the subsidies.” With “a slight smirk,” the President remarked, “Congress could fix this whole thing with a one-sentence provision.” [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/9, Kapur, 161K), however, reports that “Obama had barely finished proposing an idea to deal with a far-reaching Supreme Court decision on Obamacare before Republicans fired back with a categorical response: Not gonna happen.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, Tau, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) quotes Sen. John Barrasso as saying, “Instead of bullying the Supreme Court, the president should spend his time preparing for the reality that the court may soon rule against his decision to illegally issue tax penalties and subsidies on Americans in two-thirds of the country.” [The Hill](#) (6/8, Ferris, 533K) noted that Barrasso also warned that “the GOP will not pass ‘a so called ‘one-sentence’ fake fix.’”

The [Huffington Post](#) (6/8, Marans, 194K) reported that “if the court rules in favor of a narrow interpretation of that provision of the law, 6.4 million people in 34 states will lose their subsidies, leaving many unable to afford insurance.” Moreover, noted [NPR](#) (6/8, Rovner, 1.52M), “an analysis from the Kaiser Family Foundation found that subsidized enrollees would face an average effective premium increase of 287 percent if the court rules against the administration.” NPR also reported that “Supreme Court decisions generally take effect 25 days after they are issued,” and that “could mean subsidies would stop flowing as soon as August, assuming the decision is issued later this month, as expected.”

According to the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/9, A1, Levey, 4.03M), “states have made few, if any, concrete plans to deal with the chaotic fallout potentially just weeks away,” with “just two states whose residents are in jeopardy – Pennsylvania and Delaware” – outlining “strategies for preserving subsidies.”

McConnell: GOP Will Unveil Backup Plan “If Plaintiff Is Successful.” [The Hill](#) (6/8, Carney, 533K) reported that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell yesterday “declined to discuss the details of a Republican backup plan for ObamaCare, saying that the party will be ready if the Supreme Court rules against the healthcare law.” Interviewed on The Joe Elliott Show, McConnell said, “We’ll have a plan that makes sense for the American people. ... If the plaintiff is successful it will require some addressing of the issue, and if that were to happen we’ll be ready to announce our proposal.”

PPP Poll: Two-Thirds Back Subsidies. [The Hill](#) (6/8, Ferris, 533K) reports that “two-thirds of people hope that ObamaCare subsidies will be upheld in court later this month, including nearly 50 percent of Republicans, according to a new” PPP poll. Writing for [Salon](#) (6/8, 1.16M), however, Jim Newell noted that “the outcome of King v. Burwell will not be decided by popular vote. It will most likely come down to what side of the bed a certain Chief Justice woke up on after oral arguments a few months ago.”

Reporting on a Washington Post-ABC News poll, meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (6/9, Howell, 641K) notes that it shows that “54 percent of people oppose the law itself, a six-point increase in dissatisfaction from last year. Support for the law rests at 39 percent.”

OBAMA’S HOUSE ALLIES EXPECTED TO ABANDON HIM ON TPA. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (6/8, Kiefer, 539K) reported that many of the President’s “most loyal foot soldiers are expected to abandon him” when the House votes on whether to grant him trade promotion authority. While the President and top officials are lobbying the black caucus, “which makes up about a quarter of

House Democrats, for many members, trade is in a category of its own, and some members of the caucus say labor unions are forcing the issue, taking away whatever advantage Obama might have." Currently, fewer than "20 Democrats have publicly sided with Obama," and with fast track needing 218 votes to pass, the White House "is looking under every Democratic rock for votes." [The Hill](#) (6/8, Needham, 533K) said that on Monday, Rep. Suzan DelBene "became the 19th House Democrat to say she would back fast-track trade authority for President Obama, according to The Hill's Whip list."

[Politico](#) (6/8, Bresnahan, 1.11M) reported that while fast-track supporters remain "confident they can secure the votes needed," House Majority Leader McCarthy "and other GOP leaders have not yet committed" to bringing up the measure by the end of the week, "a sign that while pro-trade leaders in the House are closing in on the 217 ayes they need to pass the bill, the contentious vote remains very close." Politico added that GOP aides "predicted a decision by Wednesday on whether the measure would come up for consideration in the House this week, signaling it does not have the votes to pass quite yet."

Labor Plans More Ads To Pressure Democrats On Fast Track. In a separate story, [Politico](#) (6/8, French, 1.11M) said that labor is making "a final push to scuttle" the fast track legislation, "by pressuring on-the-fence Democrats to vote against the measure when the House takes it up." The Coalition to Stop Fast Track said Monday that "labor leaders, including the AFL-CIO, will buy TV ads in congressional districts nationwide where Democrats have announced intentions to vote for or are still deciding whether to support" the bill. Ads "will run in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Carolina, Texas and Washington." Politico added that progressive will "hold a protest outside Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's San Francisco office on Tuesday to urge the California Democrat to oppose fast-track."

WSJournal: TPA Opponents Clouding The Facts About Trade Deficit. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) editorial questions claims made by Rep. Rosa DeLauro and other opponents of the trade promotion legislation, arguing that they are clouding the facts about the US trade deficit because of the strong evidence that free trade improves American living standards.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "The Supreme Court's Jerusalem Passport Case." The [New York Times](#) (6/9, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) editorializes in favor of the Supreme Court's ruling in the Jerusalem passport case, because "decisions about recognizing foreign states and their territorial claims have long been the province of the president for reasons of both 'common sense and necessity,' as [Justice Anthony] Kennedy wrote," and thus "the court was right to keep them there."

"Democracy Wins In Turkey." A [New York Times](#) (6/9, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) editorial says the "weeks ahead are likely to be unstable and uncertain," in Turkey, "and new elections may be necessary if a coalition government cannot be formed." But even if one is formed, it warns that "formidable challenges remain: a stalled economy, two million Syrian refugees living in camps within Turkey's borders, the Islamic State just over the horizon in Syria and Iraq, and troubled relationships with the Turkish Kurds and the West that need repairing. The country can ill afford protracted indecision."

"What Doctors Say About Transgender Troops." A [New York Times](#) (6/9, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) discusses the AMA's resolution that there is "no medically valid reason" for barring transgender troops, writing, "While the Defense Department's health care regulations are designed to 'maintain and restore health,' the statement notes that military doctors are now barred from providing 'safe, effective and medically necessary' treatment to service members who are transgender." The Times calls on the President and Defense Secretary Carter to "move swiftly to repeal that discriminatory policy so that thousands of transgender Americans in uniform have the option to serve openly."

WASHINGTON POST. "Testing The Waters." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/9, 5.03M) says that in the fight over fracking, "the loudest voices try their best to obscure this essential point: The controversial drilling technique doesn't need to be banned; it needs to be well regulated." That's particularly true in the wake of the release of the EPA's assessment on fracking's impact on drinking water, which "supports neither side."

"Turkey's Decisive Rejection." A [Washington Post](#) (6/9, 5.03M) editorial says it "remains to be seen whether" Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, "who has dominated Turkish politics for the past dozen years will accept his defeat," and he "may be tempted to maneuver around his rebuff." The Post says a "period of turmoil could, in the end, benefit Turkey if the result is to defang an autocracy-in-the-making. But better that Mr. Erdogan accept now that he must change course."

"A Is For Assessment."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "Return Of The Speech Police." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) editorializes about lobbying efforts to persuade the Justice Department and the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to investigate former Florida Governor Jeb Bush and his Right to Rise Super PAC for alleged violations of campaign finance law. Last month, the Campaign Legal Center and Democracy 21 asked Attorney General Loretta Lynch to appoint a special investigator to probe whether Bush "is raising and spending money as a candidate." The Journal argues that under Federal law, a politician is not a candidate for Federal office until a declaration of intent to seek the office, and when more than \$5,000 is raised or spent on the candidacy. The Journal also contends that Bush's PAC may lawfully raise money before he announces his candidacy.

"It Requires Commitments." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) mocks the President's comment that "We don't yet have a complete strategy" against ISIL, and traces the problems in the fight against ISIL to his decision to withdraw all troops from Iraq in 2011. To the Journal, that decision signaled to Sunni fighters that the US would not be a committed partner to them in the fight against extremism.

"Trade Deficit Myths." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) editorial questions claims made by Rep. Rosa

Business and other opponents of the trade promotion legislation, arguing that they are obscuring the facts about the US trade deficit because of the strong evidence that free trade improves American living standards.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

["Pay To Play" Traffic Fine Policy Ends](#)

[In Mexico, "El Bronco" Rides To Election History](#)

[Possible Secret Weapons Facilities At Issue](#)

[His Namesake Poll Shaped State's Politics](#)

[States Ill-Prepared For Any Loss Of Healthcare Subsidies](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Turkey Faces Political Uncertainty](#)

[Delinquencies Jump On Home-Equity Lines](#)

[How Disney Milks Its Hits For Profits Ever After](#)

[Chrysler Enlists Activists To Prod GM Into A Merger](#)

New York Times:

[Supreme Court Backs White House On Jerusalem Passport Dispute](#)

[A Raid On ISIS Yields A Trove Of Intelligence](#)

[Evangelicals Open Door To Debate On Gay Rights](#)

[Cleveland Leaders Bypass Prosecutors To Seek Charge In Tamir Rice Case](#)

[MERS Virus's Path: One Man, Many South Korean Hospitals](#)

[Carl Heastie's Campaign Spending Blurs Line Between Political And Personal](#)

[Ukraine Crisis And Advance Of ISIS Dominate Agenda For Group Of 7](#)

Washington Post:

[A Single Voice On Foreign Borders](#)

[Didn't He Know He Was Being Recorded?](#)

[A Lot Of \(Gary\) Hart Flows Into O'Malley Campaign](#)

[Attack Victim Takes Stand In Matthew's Fairfax Trial](#)

[Islamic State's Pillaging Of Antiquities Now Systematic](#)

Financial Times:

[G7 Agrees To Phase Out Fossil Fuels](#)

[Nat Rothschild Gives Up Battle For Asia Resource](#)

Washington Times:

[Obama Bashes US Courts Deciding Major Legacy Laws](#)

[Carter's Candor A Welcome Change In Congress](#)

[No Shell-Shocker](#)

[Number Of Illegal Border Crossings At 40-Year Low](#)

[Cuba Ties To Hinge On Business Interests Versus Human Rights](#)

[Wisconsin Straw Poll Shows Sanders Close Behind Clinton](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: New York Prison Break-Search; Medical Alert-Extreme TB Case; Dallas Police Officer-Teenager Confrontation; South Carolina Police Shooting-Officer Indicted; Boston Terror Suspect Shooting; Pennsylvania-Chemical Warehouse Fire; Severe Weather; G7 Summit-ISIL; Mediterranean-Migrant Rescues; Florida Shark Attack; Vacation Season Theft; Real Estate Agent Attacks.

CBS: Airline Security Investigation; South Carolina Police Shooting-Officer Indicted; New York Prison Break-Search; Severe Weather; Supercell Footage; Pennsylvania-Chemical Warehouse Fire; G7 Summit-ISIL; Boston Terror Suspect Shooting; Mediterranean-Migrant Rescues; US Army Website Hacked; Iran-Washington Post Reporter Trial; Dallas Police Officer-Teenager Confrontation; Medical Alert-Extreme TB Case; Allegiant Airlines-Emergency Landing; NASA-Flying Saucer Test.

NBC: New York Prison Break-Search; New York Prison Break-Escape Process; Dallas Police Officer-Teenager Confrontation; South Carolina Police Shooting-Officer Indicted; Boston Terror Suspect Shooting; Pennsylvania-Chemical Warehouse Fire; G7 Summit-ISIL; Former House Speaker-Trial; Severe Weather; Cholesterol Drug Testing; Florida Shark Attack; New Jersey-Concert Riots; Barbara Bush Interview.

Network TV At A Glance:

New York-Prison Break – 11 minutes, 45 seconds

Dallas Police Officer-Teenager Confrontation – 6 minutes, 25 seconds

G7 Summit – 4 minutes, 05 seconds

Severe Weather – 3 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: New York Prison Break-Search; Serial Murder Victim Found; Severe Weather-Flooding; Dallas Police Officer-Teenager Confrontation; US Government Hacking-Obama Comments.

CBS: New York Prison Break-Search; Former House Speaker-Court Appearance; Federal Railroad Association-Speed Limit

... Republic, ...

NPR: G7 Summit-Russia Discussion; G7 Summit-ISIL Strategy; Student Debt Relief-For Profit Colleges; South Carolina Police Shooting-Officer Indicted; New York Prison Break-Search; Kansas-Tax Increase Proposal.

FOX: G7 Summit Topics-ISIL; New York Prison Break-Search; South Carolina Police Shooting-Indictment; Stanley Cup Finals.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Attends the Catholic Hospital Association Conference in Washington, DC to discuss what healthcare reform has meant to Americans.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled events.

US Senate: 9:30 a.m. **ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES** — Hearing to receive testimony on energy accountability and reform legislation. Multiple bills. Witnesses: Lynn Orr, Under Secretary for Science and Energy, US Department of Energy; Colleen M. McAleer, Commissioner, Port of Port Angeles, Washington; Norman Augustine, Board Member, Bipartisan Policy Center; Karen Harbert

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, June 8, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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- + Lakeport City Council Supports Protection Of Berryessa Snow Mountain Region.
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- + Additional Coverage: White House Nominates Interior Inspector General.
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DOI in the News:

MEDIA: MANY UNKNOWNNS REMAIN REGARDING CYBERATTACK AGAINST OPM. The day after the Administration announced that suspected Chinese hackers breached the Office of Personal Management, placing the personal data of up to four million current and former Federal employees at risk, reporting continued to focus on the potential impact and large-scale nature of the attack, as well as theories about the origins and purpose. Reporting almost universally noted that the government is still unsure of

the scope of the attack and the presence of a plethora of other unknowns. While noting the likely connection to China and possible security implications, media also included statements by the White House and lawmakers, which mostly focused on the need for legislative action to deter and prevent similar attacks in the future. The major print dailies covered the story and the three network broadcasts combined for five minutes and 15 seconds of reporting.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/5, story 5, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M) , Andrea Mitchell reported that US officials and outside experts say the cyberattack against OPM has “China’s cyber fingerprints.” Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (6/6, Dilanian, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports the “giant hack” of personnel files “is being treated as the work of foreign spies who could use the information to fake their way into more-secure computers and plunder U.S. secrets.” Federal employees were told by video on Friday “to change all their passwords, put fraud alerts on their credit reports and watch for attempts by foreign intelligence services to exploit them.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/6, Nakashima, 5.03M) reports China “is building a massive database of Americans’ personal information by hacking government agencies and U.S. health-care companies.” Hackers “working for the Chinese government have compromised the networks” of OPM, which “holds data on millions of current and former federal employees, as well as the health insurance giant Anthem, among other targets,” according to officials.

On the [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/5, 554K) , Michelle Kosinski reported that “this is looking like an act of cyber warfare at this point.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/6, Bennett, Serrano, 4.03M) reports the investigation into the cyberattack “is proceeding on the theory that the hack was directed by the Chinese government and aimed at uncovering sensitive, personal information that could” be utilized in efforts to “blackmail or bribe government employees to obtain secrets.” Officials said that social security numbers, email addresses, and job performance reviews were among the information “siphoned out of the computer servers.” The Times notes “there is no indication so far that classified servers were breached.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/6, Rein, 5.03M) “Federal Eye” blog notes that the information reached by hackers is contained “in a data center at the Department of the Interior.” The Interior Business Center “manages personnel systems – including payroll and security information – and finances for 150 federal agencies offices.” According to the Post, “the database contains a trove of data on every civilian employee in the government.” According to [Reuters](#) (6/6, Shalal, Spetalnick) and [The Hill](#) (6/5, Bennett, 533K), security clearance and background check data going as far back as 1985 might have been exposed in the cyberattack. The Hill quotes an “unnamed official” as saying, “This is deep. This means that they potentially have information about retirees, and they could know what they did after leaving government.”

Jeff Pegues reported for the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/5, story 4, 1:45, Rose, 5.08M) that the hacking “bears similarities to earlier attacks against healthcare companies Anthem Blue Cross and Premera.” All of which “appear aimed at personnel records and not financial information.” The [New York Times](#) (6/6, A1, Perlroth, Sanger, Davis, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports the “multiple attacks” started last year and “appear to mark a new era in cyberespionage with the theft of huge quantities of data and no clear motive for the hackers.” Similarly, [The Hill](#) (6/5, Bennett, 533K) reported the data stolen in the cyberattacks against the healthcare firms “has not really been monetized on the dark web,” said John Hultquist, iSight’s senior manager of online espionage threat intelligence. Hultquist said hackers “may have the information to impersonate them or may be even able to exploit them based on the fact that they have some sensitive information.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/6, Barrett, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports officials were on Friday attempting to determine what information was compromised. Similarly, [USA Today](#) (6/6, Jackson, 5.01M) reports that White House officials are “under fire over” the cyberattack and said Friday “they are still trying to learn the scope” of the breach. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said, “There is still a lot of work that needs to be done to get to the bottom of this particular incident.” Earnest and other officials indicated “the U.S. is speeding up plans for additional defenses to deter hackers.” According to Earnest, “‘The threat is ever evolving’, so it is critical that the government adapt its defenses to ‘reflect that ever-evolving risk.’”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/6, Boyer, 641K) reports that Earnest said President Obama will “of course” still host Chinese President Xi Jinping for an official state visit in September. The Times says the cyberattack makes it “likely” the meeting will “include more discussions about China’s role in cyberattacks.” Earnest said the President “has frequently, including in every single meeting...raised China’s activities in cyber space as a significant source of concern.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/6, Denyer, 5.03M) reports that China “dismissed American computer hacking allegations on Friday,” and Pierre Thomas reported for [ABC World News](#) (6/5, story 8, 1:15, Muir, 5.84M) that “the Chinese have denied the allegations, even saying the US should ‘show more trust and participate in more cooperation.’” Similarly, the [AP](#) (6/6, Mader) notes that China responded by “saying such claims are unproven and irresponsible,” adding “that it wishes the United States would trust it more.” Chinese Foreign Minister spokesman Hong Lei said he “hopes the U.S. would be ‘less suspicious and stop making any unverified allegations, but show more trust and participate more in cooperation.’” [The Hill](#) (6/5, Bennett, 533K) quoted Zhu Haiquan, the spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, as saying, the accusations are “not responsible and counterproductive.” Zhu added, according to Chinese news outlet Xinhua, that “Cyber attacks conducted across countries are hard to track and therefore the source of attacks is difficult to identify.”

Earnest and some members of Congress called on the legislature to take action to help deter breaches such as the one that occurred at OPM. [The Hill](#) (6/5, Kamisar, 533K) reported that Earnest said Congress must “come out of the Dark Ages” and begin to address the need to protect the country from cyberattacks. Earnest said, “We need not just improved efforts on the part of the federal government, but improved coordination with the private sector on these matters, and that effort to coordinate requires congressional action.” Corey Fritz, a spokesman for House Speaker Boehner “fired back at the White House” by highlighting the House passed two cybersecurity bills focused on data sharing. Fritz said, “Where is the leadership?,” adding that in the aftermath of the cyberattack, the Administration is placing “blame” on “anyone but itself. It’s absolutely disgusting.”

[The Hill](#) (6/5, Hensch, 533K) reported Sen. John McCain “argued Friday that public and private data are both vulnerable to breaches if Congress doesn’t act.” McCain urged action, saying, “We cannot sit idly-by, accepting a situation in which persistent cyber-attacks

and data integrity are the new norm. [Washington Post](#) (6/6, 5.03M) reports that Rep. Adam Schiff also notes that he hopes the breach might push the Senate to pass cybersecurity legislation that has already cleared the House.” Schiff said in a statement, “It’s clear that a substantial improvement in our cyber databases and defenses is perilously overdue.”

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/6, 5.03M) asserts “What’s so disconcerting about the breach” of the computer system of the Office of Personnel Management, “is that it is just one in a series of intrusions into vital computer systems of the U.S. government,” adding, “We hope the breach at the OPM...awakens the administration and Congress to the need for a robust strategy that puts safeguards in place and promises consequences for the people and countries who try to violate them.”

GOP Lawmakers Pan Federal Government For Failing To Protect Data. The recently reported breach of Office of Personnel Management data by hackers drew attention on the Sunday shows, and much fire was directed at the federal government for its failure to protect data. Lawmakers of both parties are also calling for a strong US response, both defensively and offensively.

On [Fox News Sunday](#) (6/7, Wallace), House Homeland Security Committee member Peter King and House Intelligence Committee ranking member Adam Schiff talked about the recent cyberattack against the OPM. King stated, “The House has passed two bills in recent months, which would begin to address some cybersecurity issues, but more has to be done. I think we also have to find a way effectively use of all our intelligence and surveillance apparatus, even if that involves the NSA and others. We’re talking about nation states here.” Schiff added that the stolen data is “very valuable information. ... One thing we have to do, in addition to defending against these attacks, is find out how we can go on offensive and deter future attacks.”

House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul said on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (6/7, Dickerson, 2.64M) that the breach is “very significant. We look at the threat indicators who has motive and intent to steal this data. It’s a huge data mining process that targeted the federal government. In my judgment, this was an attack by China against United States government. It qualifies as espionage and that raises all sorts of issues.”

House Majority Whip Steve Scalise said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#) (6/7), “This is a typical example of the President having something happen right under his nose. ... This is the second attack at OPM. This is a federal agency that the President has authority over, not Congress. Obviously, we’re going to look into this [cyberattack] at the Congressional level, but with four million more federal employees [impacted], the President ought to be working with us to do more. We need to go after China and these other countries that are trying to steal data.”

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/8, Subscription Publication, 5.68M), in an editorial, condemns the OPM for its failure to do more to protect the data, despite previous breaches and repeated warnings. The Journal condemns the White House’s focus on private-sector cybersecurity, arguing the primary focus for the federal government should be in protecting its own data. The Journal says that the US is in a cyberwar, and needs to start acting like it.

INTERIOR OFFICIALS VISIT WEST VIRGINIA MINING SITES. The [AP](#) (6/5, 641K) reports that Interior Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell is visiting surface mining and mine land reclamation projects in West Virginia.” Along with Joseph Pizarchik, director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement,” Jewell will “receive briefings from state and industry officials on production and reclamation technologies.”

During her visit on Friday, Jewell said “Obama administration officials aren’t ‘turning our backs on coal,’” the [AP](#) (6/6, Mattise, 2.29M) reports. Jewell also “mentioned the \$55 million Obama proposed in his budget for grants for ailing coal communities.” The article notes that “many elected officials in West Virginia loathe Obama policies that affect coal and aim to stem global warming.”

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette](#) (6/5, 31K) reports that “the federal Office of Surface Mining plans to recommend that the National Academy of Sciences review a series of studies that have found that residents living near mountaintop removal mining operations face increased risks of serious illnesses and premature death.” OSM Director Joseph Pizarchik said Friday that “his agency would propose asking for the academy’s expert assistance in response to a request from West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection officials for help in examining the studies.” Pizarchik said, “From the standpoint of those studies, those are obviously going to have to be validated and looked at. Those people have the types of expertise to be able to look at those studies and make an informed decision based on an analysis of that on how best to proceed.”

Also providing coverage are the [Steubenville \(OH\) Herald Star](#) (6/8, 32K), the [Times West Virginian](#) (6/8, 30K), the [Bluefield \(WV\) Daily Telegraph](#) (6/8, 45K), the [Elkins \(WV\) InterMountain](#) (6/8, 30K), the [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (6/8, 74K), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (6/8, 75K), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/5, Mattise, Press, 6.18M), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (6/8, 5.69M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/6, 2.29M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/6, 641K), [West Virginia MetroNews](#) (6/8, 16K), [WBNS-TV Columbus \(OH\)](#) Columbus, OH (6/7, 184K), [WSAZ-TV Huntington \(WV\)](#) Huntington, WV (6/8, 51K), and [WSAZ-TV Huntington \(WV\)](#) Huntington, WV (6/8, 51K).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Marietta \(OH\) Times](#) (6/8, 26K), [WOWK-TV](#) Charleston, WV (6/7, 9K), the [Bluefield \(WV\) Daily Telegraph](#) (6/7, 45K), and [West Virginia Public Broadcasting](#) (6/7).

SECRETARY JEWELL JOINS CABINET MEMBERS PRESENT AT BEAU BIDEN’S FUNERAL. In a story about those in attendance at the funeral for Beau Biden on Saturday, [The Hill](#) (6/6, Hensch, 533K) “Briefing Room” blog mentioned that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was but one cabinet member present at the ceremony. The [Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#) (6/7, Blackwell, 352K) reports with similar coverage.

FEDERAL AGENCIES TO ASSESS CLIMATE CHANGE’S IMPACT ON STATES. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (6/8, 1.07M) reports that “the Intermountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service is beginning a lengthy, first effort to craft a threat assessment from climate change, identifying specific vulnerabilities in the area that spans 34 million acres in Utah, Nevada and portions of four other states.” According to the article, “during this study phase of what is called the Intermountain Adaptation Partnership, the Forest Service and partners like the National Park Service, universities and the Interior Department’s Southwest Climate Science Center will look at

species and ecosystems that are challenged by a changing climate.

LAKEPORT CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTS PROTECTION OF BERRYESSA SNOW MOUNTAIN REGION. The [Lake County \(CA\) Record-Bee](#) (6/6, 21K) reports that “Lakeport’s City Council issued a resolution supporting the permanent protection of the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region.” Also, Lakeport Mayor, Martin Scheel said, “I’m proud to support the proposed Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. This designation will stimulate local economies and protect our natural and recreational resources. Lakeport and many other surrounding cities will benefit from protecting these lands.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: TEN NEW NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS DESIGNATED. Additional coverage of the ten new trails designated for national recognition as part of the National Trails System was provided by the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/5, 172K), the [Sno Valley \(WA\) Star](#) (6/5), the [Glens Falls \(NY\) Post-Star](#) (6/7, 98K), the [National Parks Traveler](#) (6/7, 989), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (6/5, 822K), the [Biloxi \(MS\) Sun Herald](#) (6/6, 127K), [KTVN-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (6/8, 1K), and the [Las Vegas Sun](#) (6/4, 176K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: WHITE HOUSE NOMINATES INTERIOR INSPECTOR GENERAL. Additional coverage that the White House has nominated a full-time inspector general for the Interior Department was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/5, Boyer, 641K) and [The Hill](#) (6/8, Henry, 533K).

CONGRESS URGED TO FULLY FUND LWCF. In an op-ed for the [Southern Maryland Newspapers](#) (6/5, 4K), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Rep. Steny Hoyer warn that the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act is in “jeopardy.” They note that “two weeks ago, we held an event at Douglas Point to highlight the importance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.” The authors say “our message is simple: A half-century ago, Congress made the historic commitment to the American people to offset the impact of development on our lands and waters with smart investments in their conservation and restoration. It is time for Congress to reaffirm this commitment and ensure that our natural and historic resources are protected for generations to come.”

In an editorial, the [Lincoln \(NE\) Journal Star](#) (6/8, 267K) also supports reauthorizing the fund.

ARGUMENTS FOR PUBLIC LAND TRANSFER ANALYZED. In a piece for the [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/5, 199K), Rocky Barker writes that the Campaign for Accountability is “asking Utah, Montana and Arizona to investigate the primary proponent of public land transfer to western states for fraud.” Barber notes that when he “hiked with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell recently in the Boise Foothills, which remain open space instead of development primarily because of federal ownership, she made another argument that hasn’t been heard much.” Jewell said, “Just a takeover of public land by states is really cheating the American taxpayer who currently owns these lands.” However, in conclusion, Barber questions the validity of the fraud argument.

CONGRESS URGED TO TREAT WILDFIRES LIKE DISASTERS. Writing for the [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (6/8, 45K), Pat Bushey urges Congress to support the effort “to get the worst wildfires declared federal disasters eligible for federal disaster funds.” Bushey doubts that anybody “can argue that the massive fires that have burned through rural communities in recent years don’t constitute disasters.” He concludes that “they should be treated that way by the federal government without cutting into thinning programs that lessen the risk of future wildfires.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL REOPENS AFTER DOCK REPAIRED. The [AP](#) (6/5, Mcavoy, 2.29M) reports that “visitors may visit the USS Arizona Memorial once more now that the Navy has finished repairing a dock damaged in a mishap involving a hospital ship and two tugboats, the National Park Service said Friday.” The NPS and Navy “had to suspend tours to the Pearl Harbor landmark for more than a week after last Wednesday’s incident.” According to the NPS, “the Navy finished repairing the dock on Thursday, the park service said.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/5, Audrey Mcavoy |, Ap, 5.03M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/5, Audrey Mcavoy |, Ap, 5.03M), the [Huffington Post](#) (6/5, |, Mcavoy, 194K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/8, 5.37M), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/5, Mcavoy, 6.18M), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/5, Mcavoy, 6.18M), and [KHON-TV Honolulu \(HI\)](#) Honolulu (6/4, 37K).

NPS TO EXCAVATE “PERSISTENCE” CAVE AT WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (6/8, Burbach, 1.29M) reports that the NPS is “beginning to excavate the mouth of an unexplored cave in the Black Hills of South Dakota, and researchers believe it could help broaden our understanding of how the region’s climate has changed over thousands of years.” A NPS worker first located the cave, called “Persistence,” in 2004 on Wind Cave National Park land. On Monday, “a team of scientists led by East Tennessee State University professor Jim Mead will begin unearthing the entrance of the cave, hauling out bags of sediment and animal bones to be carefully analyzed. “

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (6/8), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/8, Burbach, 2.29M), the [Memphis \(TN\) Commercial Appeal](#) (6/8, 318K), [US News & World Report](#) (6/7, 907K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/8, Kevin Burbach |, Ap, 5.03M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/8, 5.37M), [Fox News](#) (6/7, 9.4M), [KSFY-TV Sioux Falls \(SD\)](#) Sioux Falls, SD (6/8, 3K), and [KXXV-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (6/8, 30K).

FEDERAL OFFICIALS MEET TO DISCUSS MANHATTAN PROJECT PARK PLAN. This past week, officials with the NPS and Energy Department met with leaders from the Los Alamos National Laboratory, Hanford Nuclear Reservation, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory “to discuss an ambitious plan: to create a new national park scattered across three different states and dedicated to the history of the atomic bomb,” the [AP](#) (6/7) reported. DOE official Laurie Morman stated: “There are a number of sites that still have an active mission, so we’re still working through those challenges to how adjustments can be made.” The article noted that “NPS

[Mexican](#) (6/8, Wright, 49K) reports that funding is expected to be an issue “at a time of strained congressional relations and budgets.” Neither of the federal agencies has a firm cost estimate for the project, and it will take years to sort out what areas should be open to the public.

Additional coverage is available from the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (6/7, 28K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/8, 2.29M) , [WBIR-TV](#) Knoxville, TN (6/7, 56K) and [KUNM-FM](#) Albuquerque, NM (6/8, 4K).

“SOCCER IN THE CIRCLE” RETURNING TO DUPONT CIRCLE. In its “Going Out Guide,” the [Washington Post](#) (6/5, Hahn, 5.03M) reports that “the immensely popular Soccer in the Circle returns to the center of Dupont Circle on June 12 for the U.S.-Sweden match.” The article notes that “though it’s taking place on National Park Service property, the event is sponsored by the Embassy of Sweden.”

CLIMATE CHANGE HASTENS DECLINE OF THE JOSHUA TREE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/6, Sahagun, 4.03M) reports that “climate change is taking an enormous toll, and the current drought has hastened the decline of” the Joshua tree, a species that is regarded as the symbol of California deserts.” In a collaborative effort launched this year, Joshua Tree National Park, the FWS and a research team led by Riverside ecologist Cameron Barrows “organized the first long-term project designed to monitor the Joshua trees’ responses to climate change and drought.” According to the article, “the data, collected with help from volunteer citizen scientists from the nonprofit group Earthwatch, will create baseline information to help guide conservation decisions as Joshua trees retreat to cooler and wetter higher elevations.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (6/8, 2.29M).

PILOT DIES AT ALASKA NATIONAL PARK AFTER WALKING INTO HIS PLANE’S PROPELLER. The [AP](#) (6/5) reported National Park Service officials say a pilot died “after being struck by the rotating propeller of his own plane at Alaska’s Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve” on Thursday. The AP reported that Clint Johnson, head of the NTSB’s Alaska office, said it’s his understanding that Baldwin’s plane was idling and it is not known why he walked into the propeller.

[Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/5, Shedlock, 216K) reported Johnson said the NTSB “wasn’t told of the incident until about 5:30 p.m. Thursday night because of weather and communication issues at the park.” The story adds that since the plane’s engine was running, the NTSB is assisting in the investigation, which will be led by the National Park Service, according to Johnson.

[KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (6/8, Patil, 78K) online reported according to Johnson there were four other planes at the strip at the time of the fatality. “We will be investigating it, as is our duty, but we won’t be sending an investigator out there,” Johnson said.

[Mat-Su Valley \(AK\) Frontiersman](#) (6/8, O’Connor, 21K) provided additional coverage.

EROSION CLOSES TWO STAIRWAYS TO BEACH AT INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE. The [Merrillville \(IN\) Post-Tribune](#) (6/5, 114K) reports that “large waves kicked up by strong winds washed away what little beach remained in front of the Lakeview picnic area at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore near Beverly Shores and forced the closure of two stairways leading to the beach, the National Park Service said Friday.” According to the article, “the June 1 storm left a steep drop-off onto large boulders that have armored this portion of the shoreline dating back before the establishment of the national lakeshore.” The NPS “closed the picnic area’s two beach-access stairways in response to what it said were dangerous conditions.”

NPS DEBUNKS RUMORS OF ERUPTION AT SUNSET CRATER VOLCANO NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Provo \(UT\) Daily Herald](#) (6/8, 130K) reports that “what appeared to be steam plumes coming from Sunset Crater” has “proved only to be a controlled burn in the area.” The NPS was “quick to extinguish any rumors about a volcanic eruption at Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument.” A statement said, “The National Park Service has received numerous inquiries about the possibility of current volcanic activity at Sunset Crater Volcano. The internet source of the purported eruption is based upon a black and white satellite image. The report is not from an academic source or part a scientific agency, such as the United States Geological Survey.”

DESCENDANT OF JUIAN ALDEN WEIR DONATES TWO ART PIECES TO NPS. The [Wilton \(CT\) Bulletin](#) (6/8, 9K) reports that “a descendant of American painter Juian Alden Weir recently helped Weir Farm commemorate its 25th anniversary as a national historic site by donating two pieces of art to the National Park Service.” According to the article, “Charlie Burlingham, grandson of the American Impressionist painter, and president of the Weir Farm Art Center, donated his grandfather’s works last Thursday, May 28.”

DENALI NATIONAL PARK ISSUES WARNING ABOUT COW MOOSE THAT HAS CHARGED VISITORS. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/5, 216K) reports that Denali National Park and Preserve is “warning visitors to watch out for a cow moose with two calves at the Riley Creek Campground that has charged three people in the last two weeks, one of whom was attacked and injured by the moose.” The animal has been “roaming Riley Creek Campground at the park entrance for a few weeks, according to Denali National Park volunteer program manager Kathleen Kelly.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (6/6, Press, 5.03M) and [Reuters](#) (6/7, Quinn).

ARCHES NATIONAL PARK PROPOSES RESERVATION SYSTEM. The [AP](#) (6/6, 2.29M) reports that “more people are visiting Arches National Park every year, and the park superintendent is proposing a reservation system during the busy season to ensure they don’t have to turn people away.” However, “the idea is fiercely opposed by the business community in nearby Moab, Utah, who rely on tourists and fear the system would be confusing and lead to fewer impromptu visits.” The article notes that “the issue flared up again Memorial Day weekend when the state highway patrol closed the park entrance because of overcrowding and dangerous traffic conditions.”

STUDY COMMISSIONED BY GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK SAYS PROPOSED PATHWAY CONFLICTS WITH GRIZZLY

... The [BBC](#) (6/8, 55K) reports that a study led by a wildlife biologist says a proposed maintenance pathway shouldn't be added to Moose-Wilson Road because of the potential for interactions between humans and bears." According to the article, "the 82-page report from British Columbia wildlife biologist Grant MacHutchon says the pathway could be dangerous for humans and have an impact on grizzly habitat." Grand Teton National Park "commissioned the study and will consider it when making a final decision about the pathway." The report "recommends that if the pathway must be built, it should be attached to the Moose-Wilson Road shoulder and open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in summer months."

SEVERAL SMOKIES TRAILS, CAMPSITES CLOSED AFTER BEAR ATTACK. [WBIR-TV](#) Knoxville, TN (6/7, 56K) reports that "officials in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park closed several trails and backcountry campsites Sunday after a bear encounter that sent a teenager to the hospital." According to park officials, "a 16-year-old boy from Ohio was hurt Saturday night when a bear pulled him from his hammock." After the attack, "rangers and wildlife biologists responded to those sites to clear out other campers and evaluate bear activity in the area."

BRINK OF THE LOWER FALLS TRAIL IN YELLOWSTONE REOPENED. The [AP](#) (6/6, 2.29M) reports that "the popular Brink of the Lower Falls Trail in Yellowstone National Park has reopened." According to the article, "crews removed a large boulder, cleaned up a mud slide and repaired damage to the trail caused by heavy rains in May."

CIVIL WAR TRUST TOUTS SUCCESS OF BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION CAMPAIGN. The [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (6/8, 85K) reports that the Civil War Trust "far surpassed the original goal of 'Campaign 150: Our Time, Our Legacy,' begun four years ago this month, having raised more than \$52 million to protect more than 10,000 acres at 64 battlefields in 16 states." At its annual conference, held this year in the former Confederate capital, the trust noted that the figure is "the largest sum privately raised for heritage land preservation in the nation's history."

GLOBAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST TO FOCUS ON YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (6/8, 54K) reports on Yellowstone Forever, "a photography contest sponsored by Yellowstone Park Foundation and Nature's Best Photography magazine." Entries for Yellowstone Forever will be accepted through Sept. 10, 2015. According to the article, "winners will be featured in Nature's Best Photography in spring 2016 and a print exhibition of the winning images will be displayed at the Old Faithful Haynes Photo Shop in Yellowstone."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF MAINTENANCE BACKLOG AT NATIONAL PARKS. Additional coverage of the backlog in maintenance work at national parks was provided by the [Baltimore Sun](#) (6/5, 802K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS WORKING TO RECOGNIZE RECONSTRUCTION SITES. Additional coverage of the effort to recognize Reconstruction sites was provided by the [Hilton Head Island \(SC\) Packet](#) (6/7, 84K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK' GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN. Additional coverage of Biscayne National Park' General Management Plan was provided by the [AmmoLand](#) (6/8, 5K), [WPLG-TV](#) Miami (6/8, 225K), and [WJAX-TV](#) Jacksonville, FL (6/8).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: HOMESTEAD MONUMENT TO HOST NATURALIZATION CEREMONY. Additional coverage of the naturalization ceremony for new United States citizens hosted at the Homestead National Monument of America last Friday was provided by the [AP](#) (6/8, 2.29M).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM, IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY PREPARE FOR FIRE SEASON. [KIFI-TV](#) Idaho Falls, ID (6/7, 3K) reports that "on Thursday, Idaho National Laboratory and Bureau of Land Management fire officials discussed what to expect this coming fire season, including communications, operational strategies, mutual aid agreements and critically important sage grouse protection." Eric Gosswiller, INL fire chief, said, "The secretary of the interior (Sally Jewell) recently issued a new directive that establishes sage grouse habitat as one of the top priorities for the West. And with that are a number of initiatives that include responding more aggressively to the fires, more collaboration with different agencies. What that means in terms of response resources, if we have a lot of fires activity in our region, we have a lot of valuable sage grouse habitat. The chances are we'll have priority to get some additional response resources, including aircraft."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/7, 199K).

New Firefighters Undergo Training. The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (6/5, 75K) reports that "fifty-four new firefighters from the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service gathered in the Fairfield District of the Sawtooth National Forest for a week of training" last week. Tony Erickson, assistant fire management officer with the BLM's Twin Falls District, said "protecting sage grouse habitats will not change fire fighting techniques, but they will be pre-positioning resources and pre-planning for fires in those areas."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (6/8, 75K).

BLM ALLOWS GRAZING ON CLOSED ALLOTMENT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION. The [AP](#) (6/5, Press, 1.29M) reports that "federal land managers say they won't immediately enforce drought-related grazing restrictions in northern Nevada so as to avoid confrontation with ranchers openly defying the order." Ranchers Dan and Eddyann Filippini have been "notified they are violating the closure ordered in 2013 in an area covering more than 150 square miles near Battle Mountain about 200 miles northeast of Reno," BLM spokesman Rudy Evenson said Thursday. However, "he said BLM acting-state director John Ruhs told them the agency won't try to stop them while they continue negotiating a compromise." Conservationists claim "it's another example of the government caving in to scofflaw ranchers like Cliven Bundy, who continues to graze his cattle illegally in southern Nevada after the Bureau of Land Management backed down from an armed standoff last year."

Additional coverage was provided by [The News \(OR\)](#) (6/5, 6.03M), the [Salem Daily Emerald \(OR\)](#) (6/5, 6.03M), the [Freemason Post \(6/5, Press, 5.03M\)](#), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle \(6/5, 2.29M\)](#), the [Daily Mail \(UK\) \(6/8, 5.37M\)](#), and [Yahoo! News \(6/5, 6.18M\)](#).

FIRE BURNING IN IDAHO'S CELEBRATION PARK MOSTLY CONTAINED. The [AP \(6/8, 1M\)](#) reports that "authorities say a wildland fire that has scorched at least 3,000 acres of Celebration Park is 90 percent contained." BLM spokeswoman Carrie Bilbao said "the fire is mostly contained as of Sunday morning, but there's still no solid estimate of when it will be fully contained." Bilbao said "the fire isn't threatening any structures."

BLM RELEASES TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BIG BELT MOUNTAINS. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record \(6/8, 38K\)](#) reports that "m trail users may push for a new campground near Helgate Gulch, as the Bureau of Land Management recently released travel management proposals and an environmental assessment for lands it manages in the Big Belt Mountains southeast of Helena." The bureau "began accepting public comment June 1 and will continue to do so through July 9 for proposed travel plan alternatives in the Missouri River Foothills Planning Area, which will decide what routes will be open or closed to motorized use."

BLM PRESENTS "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARD. The [Kern Valley \(CA\) Sun \(6/8, 16K\)](#) reports that the BLM "presented the 2015 'Making a Difference' National Volunteer Award to Bodfish resident, Ted Brummer, for outstanding volunteer service." Brummer's "work focuses on visitor education, trash clean up, historical interpretation, historical resource monitoring, and local history research for the Keyesville Special Recreation Management Area just outside the town of Lake Isabella."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS SOUTHEAST REGION BANS GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS ON REFUGES. The [Greenwire \(6/5, Subscription Publication\)](#) reports that the FWS' Southeast Region will "stop planting genetically modified crops in wildlife refuges, according to a Federal Register notice to be published Monday." The move "comes as FWS halts its work on a programmatic environmental assessment stemming from a 2012 legal settlement reached with environmental and public interest groups." According to the article, "the region chose to stop the environmental assessment as a result of FWS headquarters' announcement last year that it would phase out genetically engineered crops on all of its refuges by January 2016."

Also reporting on the story is the [Hope \(AR\) Star \(6/6, 9K\)](#).

FEDERAL POLLINATOR PLAN NEEDS MILKWEEDS FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLIES. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune \(6/6, Marcotty, 1.29M\)](#) reports that the national pollinator plan released recently by the White House seeks to "rescue pollinators considered vital to a healthy environment." According to the article, "scientists both in and outside federal agencies are trying to figure out just how much land and how many milkweed plants will suffice to increase the number of monarchs to 225 million in five years, or enough to cover 15 acres of trees in Mexico." The FWS is "looking at the land it manages with an eye toward planting pollinator-friendly habitat."

COLORADO RESERVOIRS RELEASE PEAK FLOWS FOR ENDANGERED FISH. The [Vail \(CO\) Daily \(6/8, 44K\)](#) reports that for the first time in five years, the Colorado River Water Conservation District "collaborated with the Bureau of Reclamation and Denver Water to mimic natural spring runoff and peak-river flows." Jana Mohrman, the FWS hydrologist with the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, noted that "that's about the opposite of what reservoir operators typically do as they try to store water for times of drought, prevent floods and generally even out flows throughout the year." The article notes that "the three reservoir operators finished a conference call Monday and made the decision to participate in the Coordinated Reservoirs Operations Program with their six reservoirs starting that afternoon."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP \(6/8, 6.18M\)](#), the [Denver \(CO\) Post \(6/8, Finley, 894K\)](#), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Free Press \(6/8, 43K\)](#).

CREWS TURN UP EMPTY IN SEARCH OF DETROIT RIVER FOR PRESENCE OF SEA LAMPREY LARVAE. The [Detroit Free Press \(6/6, 957K\)](#) reports that "crews from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fanned out across the Detroit River on Saturday, scouring the water for the presence of sea lamprey larvae, which burrow into river bottoms until they become parasites that use their suction-cup mouths to prey on Great Lakes fish." According to fish biologist Aaron Jubar, "Saturday's search turned up no evidence they have infested the river." The article notes that "the inspections in the Detroit and St. Clair rivers this week are part of an effort by the Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor hundreds of Great Lakes tributaries every spring and summer."

FWS TO IMPROVE FISH PASSAGE BENEATH CENTRAL CALIFORNIA TRACTION RAILROAD TRESTLE. The [Stockton \(CA\) Record \(6/7, Writer, 121K\)](#) reports that the FWS "recently committed about \$200,000 to improving fish passage beneath the Central California Traction Railroad trestle that crosses the Stockton Diverting Canal just east of Wilson Way." The article notes that "this will be the third of four significant obstacles on the Lower Calaveras to be fixed, though a separate, more expensive multimillion-dollar upgrade farther upstream at Bellota Weir is considered even more important."

EPA SUED OVER IMPACT OF NITROGEN POLLUTION NEAR ANTIOCH DUNES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [SFbay \(6/5, 52\)](#) reports that "an environmental nonprofit filed a lawsuit Wednesday against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, claiming it didn't do enough to protect endangered species at a wildlife refuge in Antioch." The Wild Equity Institute said "in the suit that the EPA failed to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the effects of a PG&E power plant located near the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge."

NUMBERS OF NORTHWEST MONTANA GRIZZLIES LAG WHILE OTHER BEAR POPULATIONS GROW. The [AP \(6/6, Scott, 2.29M\)](#) reports that although the population of remote population of grizzly bears in the Cabinet-Yaak Mountains of Northwest Montana are "climbing out of the 'negative territory' for the first time in decades, wildlife officials say human-caused mortalities continue to plague the tenuous population, which is estimated to number around 50, with a projected growth of 1.4 percent annually." The article notes that "in contrast, the robust grizzly populations of the much-larger Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE)

Wayne Kasworm, the FWS recovery coordinator in Libby, said “augmenting the sparse population with transplanted bears – an effort begun in 1990 – has finally started to take hold.”

STATES URGED TO BETTER PROTECT SAGE GROUSE. In an op-ed for the [Denver Post](#) (6/8, Molvar, 894K), Erik Molvar, the Sagebrush Sea Campaign director for WildEarth Guardians, writes that the efforts by states to prevent the listing of the greater sage grouse has been inadequate. Molvar acknowledges that states could have conserved sage grouse without federal intervention, but they have failed to do so. Molvar advises states to stop complaining about federal encroachment and start taking responsibility.

CALIFORNIA URGED TO TIGHTEN RULES ON IVORY SALES. In an editorial, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/8, Board, 4.03M) supports AB 96, introduced by Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins, which would “tighten the rules by barring the sale of almost all ivory in California.” The bill “passed the Assembly last week with bipartisan support,” and the Times urges the Senate to “pass it too,” and the governor to “sign it into law.” The paper argues that “as the decimation of the African elephant continues, fueled by the illegal ivory trade, this law is not only smart, but necessary.”

US Geological Survey:

GEOLOGISTS SEE SUCCESS IN ARTIFICIAL GRAND CANYON FLOODS. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/8, 470K) reports that “after three straight years of experimental controlled floods unleashed to push sediments down the Colorado River, the U.S. Geological Survey released a report this week declaring the seasonal gushers a success.” USGS scientists have “rigged remote time-lapse cameras along the canyon’s 200-mile reach, training their lenses on 43 sandbar locations to document how each responds to the floods and changes over time.” According to project leader Paul Grams, “the data are shedding new light on how sandbars form.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BLM ADVANCES PARED-DOWN SODA MOUNTAIN SOLAR PROJECT. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (6/5, 705) reports that the BLM has “significantly reduced the size of a controversial large-scale solar power project in the Southern California desert in an effort to move it forward and appease critics who have roundly blasted the project’s location near the Mojave National Preserve.” However, “the revised proposal outlined in a final environmental impact statement (EIS) released today does not appear to have lessened the near unanimous condemnation of the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Project by critics who maintain it could damage sensitive wildlife habitat, deplete groundwater quantity and spoil viewsheds in the preserve.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (6/5, Freking, 641K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/5, Freking, 2.29M), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (6/5, 85K), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (6/7, 85K), the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (6/5, 120K), and the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (6/8, 395K).

QUESTIONS REMAIN CONCERNING TURBINES’ IMPACT ON BIRDS. The [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (6/6, Thomas, 279K) reported Saturday that questions remain unanswered concerning the impact of wind turbines on endangered birds in Contra Costa County, California. While environmentalists claim that wind farms are to blame for a larger number of bird deaths, wind energy companies say that the deaths are part of “background mortality.” A study commissioned by the wind industry saw the number of birds dying stay unchanged when the turbines were switched off.

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM’S SAGE GROUSE PLANS COULD IMPACT ENERGY INDUSTRY. The [Greenwire](#) (6/5, Subscription Publication) reports that the BLM “released final plans last week for bolstering sage grouse protections across 50 million acres in 10 states in what’s been called the agency’s largest landscape-scale conservation plan.” The Obama Administration said “the plans are a critical step to saving the West’s vanishing sagebrush habitat and convincing the Fish and Wildlife Service that sage grouse need no protection under the Endangered Species Act.” However, “industry groups panned the administration’s land-use plans as a property grab, warning that they will restrict oil and gas drilling, mining, and other forms of development across much of the West and cause more economic harm than a federal listing.”

The [EnergyWire](#) (6/5, Subscription Publication) reports that “even as stakeholders nervously watch the looming September deadline that will decide the bird’s fate under the Endangered Species Act, landowner and environmental advocates have condemned the plan as inadequately protecting both the bird and landowners’ rights in the mineral-rich basin.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Sidney \(MT\) Herald](#) (6/8, 10K).

Republicans Plan To Bring Sage Grouse Into Defense Authorization Debate. The [E&E Daily](#) (6/5, Subscription Publication) reports that “supporters of ending the crude oil export ban are trying to drum up Democratic support ahead of possible amendment votes in the Senate next week, while GOP senators signaled plans to bring the sage grouse and other threatened species into the defense authorization debate.” Republicans have “indicated there’s solid support in their caucus for taking on the export ban but conceded that the extent of Democratic support was less clear.”

Republicans Criticized For Attacking Environmental Laws. The [New York Times](#) (6/8, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) editorializes that “President Obama has announced or will soon propose important protections for clean water, clean air, threatened species and threatened landscapes,” but “Republicans in Congress are trying hard not to let that happen — counterattacking with a legislative blitz.” The Times notes that “the usual complaints about ‘executive overreach’ and ‘job-killing regulations’ have been raised,” but it claims that “beneath all the political sound bites lies a deep-seated if unspoken grievance that Mr. Obama is actually

...ing to realize the promises of laws that Congress passed years ago but which remain a promise that today's Congress. The editorial highlights "a further example of how far these Republicans have strayed from what was once a bipartisan commitment to environmental stewardship is their tepid response to what could be one of great conservation efforts of this century: a multiyear, ecosystem-wide effort by the Interior Department, in concert with states and private landowners, to keep a threatened bird called the greater sage grouse off the endangered species list by protecting its habitat across 10 Western states."

JUDGE MERGES LAWSUITS AGAINST NEW FEDERAL DRILLING RULES. The [AP](#) (6/5) reported, "Wyoming US District Judge Scott Skavdahl on Thursday granted a consolidation request filed by both sides in a lawsuit filed by the Independent Petroleum Association of America and Western Energy Alliance against the Interior Department, US Bureau of Land Management and their directors." The other lawsuit against the BLM "was filed by the state of Wyoming, which has been joined by Colorado and North Dakota," the article reports. "Meanwhile, six environmental groups including the Sierra Club, Earthworks and The Wilderness Society have joined both lawsuits on the federal government's side," according to the article.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/5, 2.29M), [KFGO-AM Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (6/6, 3K), [KNBN-TV Rapid City \(SD\)](#) Rapid City, SD (6/8, 33), and [KULR-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (6/8, 2K).

COLORADO MAY JOIN LEGAL BATTLE TO HALT SHUTDOWN OF COLOWYO COAL MINE. The [Denver Business Journal](#) (6/5, Proctor, Subscription Publication, 62K) reports that "Gov. John Hickenlooper's administration may join the legal battle to keep a major Colorado coal mine open in the face of federal judge's threat to shutter the Colowyo coal mine in northwestern Colorado." Mike King, the executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, said, "We are reviewing opportunities to participate in an appeal of the U.S. District Court ruling that threatens the shutdown of the Colowyo Coal mine, eliminate 220 jobs and create economic hardship to northwest Colorado." Hickenlooper also has sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell asking her to "do everything possible" to prevent the shutdown of the mine.

OSM To Hold Public Meeting. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (6/6, 10K) reports that "on Wednesday, the Office of Surface Mining, Enforcement and Reclamation will host a public participation meeting from 4 to 8 p.m. under the Moffat County Fairgrounds Grandstands." The event is "a step in the 120 day new analysis process that OSM has to take to continue mining at Colowyo."

HILL ANALYSIS: DIVIDE OVER FRACKING FALLS ALONG PARTY LINES. [The Hill](#) (6/6, Cama, 533K) examined the political divide over fracking in red and blue states. While some liberal states such as New York and Maryland have banned fracking, some conservative states "such as Texas and Oklahoma have gone the opposite route, moving to ensure that local towns and cities cannot outlaw the practice in their communities." Fearing "a patchwork of rules for fracking across municipal lines," industry groups "want the regulatory questions to be settled on a state-by-state basis."

Companies Face Questions About Possible Link Between Fracking, Earthquakes. During a Wednesday hearing in Texas, oil and gas companies faced questions about the possible link between fracking and a recent spate of quakes near Fort Worth, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7, Ailworth, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports.

FEDERAL JUDGE RULES PEBBLE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP SUIT CAN MOVE FORWARD. US District Judge H. Russel Holland on Thursday "refused to block a lawsuit by" Pebble Limited Partnership, an Alaskan mining company that claims the EPA "was biased when it tried to block the firm's efforts to build a huge gold and copper mine southwest of Anchorage," the [Washington Post](#) (6/6, Warrick, 5.03M) reports. Holland found "the mining company had made a 'plausible' case in arguing that anti-mine activists had unfairly influenced regulators in their decision to block the mine."

OPINION: US SHOULD LIFT CRUDE OIL EXPORT BAN. Writing in [The Hill](#) (6/6, Andrews, 533K), former Rep. Michael Andrews (D-TX) argues that the US would benefit from lifting the crude oil export ban because doing so would create American jobs and bring export policy in line with trade policy. He notes that the circumstances under which the ban was instituted are gone now, and that the domestic oil industry needs more markets for its products in order to sustain more job creation. Further, Andrews says that it is "inconsistent" for the US to push free trade and challenge barriers put up by competitors while maintaining the ban.

Editorial: End Oil Export Ban. The [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/6, 2.29M) editorialized Saturday that the US should repeal its ban on the export of crude oil, saying that doing so would open more markets to American industry and provide a foreign policy tool. The paper further argues that the country's energy future can be achieved with methods like fracking as long as the industry follows proper safety protocols.

Offshore Energy Development:

US GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP WITH OFFSHORE FRACKING DOCUMENTS. [Reuters](#) (6/5, Rascoe) reported that the US government will provide a Green group with documents about the fracking in the Gulf of Mexico after the Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit seeking access to the information.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Maritime Executive](#) (6/8, 21).

FORMER BP EXECUTIVE ACQUITTED OF LYING OVER 2010 SPILL. [Bloomberg News](#) (6/5, Fisk, 3.81M) reported Friday that former BP Vice President for Gulf of Mexico Exploration David Rainey has been acquitted of charges related to the response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Prosecutors alleged that Rainey lied about the flow rates into the Gulf of Mexico, but the jury determined that there wasn't enough evidence to prove this. Rainey's attorney said that he is "grateful and relieved and really wants to put this chapter behind him," while a lawyer for the Justice Department said that they will "respect the jury's verdict."

The [AP](#) (6/6, McGill) reported that the jury spent two hours in deliberation, and that US District Judge Kurt Engelhardt expressed agreement with the verdict.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/7, 1.6M) reports that the proposal to open “up areas off Florida’s Atlantic and Gulf coasts to oil and gas exploration” is receiving mixed reactions. Last month, “Gulf Coast senators led by Republican Bill Cassidy of Louisiana introduced a bill that would open up oil drilling within 50 miles of Florida’s Gulf Coast starting in 2017. The state’s existing 125-mile buffer expires in 2022.” According to the article, “the moves have left some members of Florida’s congressional delegation and state officials scrambling to protect the state’s largely pristine and nationally celebrated coastline, especially with memories of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon BP oil spill fresh in their minds.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS FILE LEGAL CHALLENGE TO SHELL’S ARCTIC PLANS. Additional coverage of the lawsuit filed “in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of 10 environmental organizations” challenging “the approval of Shell’s exploration plan in the Arctic, which was approved by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management last month” was provided by the [Bristol Bay \(AK\) Times](#) (6/8, 4K).

INCREASE IN OIL-SPILL LIABILITY CAP URGED. In an op-ed for the [Camden \(NJ\) Courier Post](#) (6/7, 140K), Ian Adams, the western region director of the R Street Institute, supports raising the oil-spill liability cap. Adams notes that the cap was recently raised to \$134 million, but he argues that “the cap on oil-spill liability should be higher still, particularly in light of the amount of damage that spills repeatedly have been shown to cause.” Raising the oil-spill liability cap “substantially,” Adams argues, will “allow private risk-transfer mechanisms to send the sort of price signals that will deter risky behavior.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

PANEL UNDERLINES CHALLENGES CALIFORNIA FACES IN MEETING WATER DEMANDS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/8, Lin, 4.03M) reports that “a panel of water experts on Sunday mapped out the challenges California faces in meeting future demands for water at a time when water sources are under stress and future supplies appear uncertain.” According to the article, “the panel, speaking at the Los Angeles Times book club, agreed the problems are serious and multifaceted: groundwater reserves underneath California’s Central Valley are estimated to have been depleted by 125 million acre-feet since the first wells were drilled more than a century ago and as water demand is forecast to outstrip supply coming from the Colorado River in the coming decades.” Mike Sweeney, executive director of the Nature Conservancy in California, noted that one solution would be “building tunnels that would allow water to be pumped from the water-rich Sacramento River around the delta, instead of through it,” but the option also raises further questions.

Feinstein: Federal Help Needed For California Drought. In a [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/7, 4.03M) op-ed, Sen. Dianne Feinstein notes her plans to introduce drought legislation in Congress to grant California Federal aid to help address the state’s drought. Feinstein says Federal assistance is crucial to plans “for new and expanded reservoirs to store water north and south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta,” in part to get needed environmental assessments completed. Feinstein added that desalination and water recycling must be implemented to help communities be “more self-reliant” in the future.

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the drought was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/6, Bierman, 4.03M), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (6/8, 176K), and the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/8, 551K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

QUAPAW TRIBE CHAIRMAN DEFENDS LAND TRUST PROPOSAL. The [AP](#) (6/8, 456K) reports that “the chairman of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma is defending the tribe’s request to put 160 acres of land it has purchased in Arkansas into federal trust.” Chairman John Berrey said in letters to the BIA office in Nashville, Tennessee, “and to the federal assistant secretary of Indian Affairs that there are no plans for a casino on the land in Pulaski County.” Berrey said “there are no plans to change the current agricultural use of the land near the Little Rock Port Authority’s industrial park.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (6/6, 342K).

GOV. MALLOY TO SIGN CONNECTICUT CASINO BILL INTO LAW. The [AP](#) (6/5, Haigh, Press, 6.18M) reports that Gov. Dannel P. Malloy “plans to sign a bill into law creating a multi-step process for possibly opening a new tribal casino along the Connecticut border to fight out-of-state gambling competition.” Under the legislation, “the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes would issue a request for proposals, or RFP, from municipalities interested in hosting one satellite casino to compete with the MGM Resorts casino planned in Springfield, Massachusetts.”

JUDGE TO DECIDE ON DISPUTE OVER MARTHA’S VINEYARD CASINO PLAN. The [AP](#) (6/6, Marcelo, 2.29M) reports that “the state of Massachusetts and an Indian tribe whose ancestors first inhabited Martha’s Vineyard are asking a federal judge to settle whether the tribe can build a casino on the island that has long been a favored vacation destination for the rich and powerful.” The Aquinnah Wampanoags “want to turn an unfinished tribal community center on the remote, western side of the island into a gambling hall filled with electronic betting machines.” They claim “the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act permits them to offer certain types of gambling because they are a federally-recognized tribe with jurisdiction over about 485 acres in the town of Aquinnah.”

MAN TO PLEAD GUILTY TO ASSAULTING, INJURING BIA OFFICER. The [AP](#) (6/8, 2.29M) reports that “a North Dakota man says he will plead guilty to an assault that injured a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer.” According to the article, “a plea agreement calls for Brandon Belgarde, of Rugby, to plead guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon, and assaulting and resisting a federal officer.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

MARSHALL ISLANDS RECEIVES \$348,200 FROM OIA. The [Marianas Variety](#) (6/8) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina has “approved \$348,200 from the Technical and Maintenance Assistance Programs in the Office of Insular Affairs to the Republic of the Marshall Islands for fiscal year 2015.” N kolao P

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, June 1, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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DOI in the News:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF SAGE GROUSE PLAN. The [Greenwire](#) (5/29, Subscription Publication) reports that Last week, the Interior Department "unveiled more than a dozen resource management plans covering millions of acres of land across the West." One plan "for almost 800,000 federal acres in the Powder River Basin envisions the leasing of more than 10 billion tons of coal to mining companies over the next two decades."

The [AP](#) (6/1) reports that "a conservationist in the corner of northeast Wyoming known for vast coal deposits and vaster vistas sees little new on climate change in a new management plan from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management." Shannon Anderson, a lawyer at the Powder River Basin Resource Council, said, "The big issue for a lot of groups is the carbon bomb unleashed with these plans. It doesn't do different things. It affirms business as usual." BLM Director Neil Kornze said that while the Buffalo Resource Management Plan "includes no substantial changes on coal leasing, the agency has seen interest in new leases decline in recent years." Kornze added: "We look at greenhouse gas impacts of production in our (environmental impact statements), and we have guidances related to that. We'll be following the guidance that we have out there already."

Also reporting on the story is the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/1, 99K).

Additional coverage was provided by the [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (6/1, 1K), the [Switchboard](#) (6/1, 116K), and the [Vox](#) (6/1, 839K).

Plan Receives Mixed Responses. The [Colorado Statesman](#) (6/1, 17K) reports that the announcement was "met with mixed reviews on Thursday, as environmentalists praised the new rules while the oil and gas industry expressed concerns about potential economic impacts from drilling restrictions." Also, "several sportsmen groups issued a joint statement today praising the plans." Meanwhile, "Kathleen Sgamma of the Western Energy Alliance said the regulations could affect more than 18,000 oil and gas industry jobs and will have an economic impact of nearly \$5 billion felt across Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming." But "the BLM's statement said any economic impact will be minimal."

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/1, 73K) editorializes that "if Fish and Wildlife agrees that the plans lay the proper groundwork to avert a listing, then Congress will have to provide the resources." It notes that Sen. Michael Bennet is "urging the Senate Appropriations Committee to include full funding for conservation efforts." According to the paper, "that's a better approach than measures introduced in Congress to prevent Fish and Wildlife from making a decision for 6-10 years."

In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/1, 470K) criticizes Rep. Rob Bishop response to the announcement by characterizing it as a way to "endear himself to the oil and gas lobby by demonstrating ignorance of just how the natural world works."

In a piece for the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/1, 380K), Glen Cook criticizes the plan and argues that the announcement shows why local control of federal lands is such an important issue in Nevada.

Additional coverage was provided by [Bloomberg BNA](#) (6/1, 8K), [NPR](#) (5/29, 1 52M), [McClatchy](#) (5/29, Adams, 32K), the [Vail \(CO\) Daily](#) (6/1, 44K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (5/28, 28K), the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (6/1, 172K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/1, 22K), the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (5/29, 506), the [Black Hills \(SD\) Pioneer](#) (6/1, 11K), the [High Plains and Midwest AG \(KS\) Journal](#) (6/1), the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (5/29, 3K), the [Wyoming Public Media](#) (6/1), the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (5/29, 44K), [AgWeb](#) (6/1, 14K), [Argus Media](#) (6/1), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (6/1, 1.07M), [KCSG-TV St. George \(UT\)](#) St. George, UT (6/1, 43), [KTVN-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (6/1, 1K), and [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (5/29, 233K).

ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED CHANGES TO FEDERAL WORKERS' COMP RULES RILE ALLIES. The [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Davidson, 5.03M) reports in its "Federal Eye" blog that the Administration, "with support from House Republicans," is looking to reduce workers' compensation for federal employees, "to the consternation of fellow Democrats" and the President's "union allies." The changes proposed by the Labor Department would save the Federal government money, but "nowhere in the department's recent statement to the House workforce-protections subcommittee did the agency provide evidence to back the administration's concern about 'disincentives' for the return to work."

NON-PROFIT ONLY SEVEN FEDERAL AGENCIES RESPONDED ADEQUATELY TO FOIA REQUEST. The [Washington Post](#) (5/30, 5 03M) "In the Loop" blog by Al Kamen examines which Federal agencies will respond to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests in a reasonable amount of time. Kamen says the non-profit Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University "decided to test 21 various agencies' responses to requests for documents under that act." Kamen cites that as of April 24, over three months since the requests were sent out, only seven of the 21 Federal agencies "had provided usable data," according to TRAC.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

WASHINGTON MONUMENT REOPENS AFTER POWER RESTORED TO ELEVATOR. The [AP](#) (5/29, 2.29M) reports that the NPS says the Washington Monument has "reopened after a power failure two days ago." The NPS announced Friday that the monument reopened at noon Friday. It was closed on Thursday and Friday morning after an electrical problem caused a power failure on Wednesday evening.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/29, Weil, 5.03M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/29, Press, 5.03M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/29, Hedgpeth, 5.03M), [Fox News](#) (5/29, 9.4M), [Yahoo! News](#) (5/29, 6.18M), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/1, 433K).

USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL DOCK MISHAP BEING INVESTIGATED. The [AP](#) (5/29, Mcavoy, 2.29M) reports that "the Navy command overseeing the hospital ship involved in a mishap that damaged the USS Arizona Memorial's dock has sent investigators to Hawaii to probe what happened." The Military Sealift Command's operations chief, Capt. Dean Vesely, will lead the investigation. Meanwhile, "the U.S. Coast Guard has started its own probe because civilian tugboats were involved."

Also providing coverage are the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/29, Audrey Mcavoy J, Ap, 5.03M), the [Honolulu \(HI\) Star-Advertiser](#) (6/1, 353K), the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (6/1, 405K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (6/1, 5.37M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (5/29, Mcavoy, 6.18M).

SENATORS PRESS FOR QUICKER ACTION ON ISLE ROYALE WOLVES. The [AP](#) (5/29, 2.29M) reports that Sens. Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow "want the federal government to decide faster what to do about Isle Royale National Park's imperiled wolf population." In a letter sent Friday to NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis, they said "without wolves, the moose will degrade Isle Royale's vegetation and eventually suffer their own crash." The NPS is "planning a review that could last two to three years." According to the article, "the senators urged the agency to move faster and consider emergency measures, including bringing in more wolves."

Also providing coverage are the [Detroit \(MI\) Free Press](#) (5/29, 957K), the [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (6/1, 484K), and [WWJ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (5/30, 34K).

MEMORIAL BRIDGE TO HAVE TWO LANES CLOSED FOR SIX TO NINE MONTHS TO FIX CORROSION DETERIORATION. The [Washington Business Journal](#) (5/30, Neibauer, Subscription Publication, 119K) reports that on Friday the National Park Service closed both curb lanes of Memorial Bridge, the "iconic, six-lane Potomac River span" in Washington, after FHWA inspections discovered "increasingly rapid deterioration and corrosion." The story says bridge, built in 1932, has been on the decline for years, and FHWA officials have "been preparing plans for emergency repair work for many months."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/29, Hedgpeth, Laris, 5.03M) reports the prohibition on vehicles over 10-tons on the bridge begins Friday but with an "education period" without ticketing for a few weeks to give "Metro and tour bus operators time to find detours," according to the National Park Service. Two lanes of the bridge will be partially shutdown for six to nine months, transportation officials said.

Additional coverage was provided by [WAMU-FM](#) Washington (6/1, 35K).

BIOLOGISTS STUDYING COUGAR FOUND IN VERDUGO MOUNTAINS. The [AP](#) (5/29, 2.29M) reports that "biologists are for the first time studying a mountain lion found in the Verdugo Mountains, a small range surrounded by suburbs north of downtown Los Angeles." The NPS said Friday "the adult male dubbed P-41 was captured May 7 and outfitted with a GPS tracking collar." Also, "blood and tissue samples were collected before it was released."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Daily News](#) (5/29, 379K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Observed](#) (6/1, 2K), [KCAL-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (5/29, 153K), and [WLS-TV Chicago \(IL\)](#) Chicago (6/1, 6K).

NPS TO CONDUCT SURVEY OF SITE OF FREEDOM RIDERS BUS BURNING. The [Anniston \(AL\) Star](#) (6/1, 57K) reports that "federal surveyors could determine this summer if the site where a mob fire-bombed a bus carrying civil rights activists just outside Anniston should be a national park." Ben West, of the Southeast Regional Office of the NPS, announced Friday that "his agency would conduct a survey of the 1961 bus burning to determine its national significance." The article notes that "the announcement is the latest in a years-long community push to build a park at the site."

STONES ALONG DISTRICT-MARYLAND BORDER BEING RESTORED. The [Washington Post](#) (5/30, Harris, 5.03M) reports that a restoration team is "working to restore 26 of the boundary stones along the District-Maryland border." David Maloney, state historic preservation officer in the D.C. Office of Planning, said, "Our historic preservation staff has been working over the past several years to make this project happen. We have partnered with DDOT [District Department of Transportation] and the NPS's [National Park Service] Historic Preservation Training Center to fully restore these important historic artifacts."

PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL MONUMENT KEEPS "CONSCIENCE PILE." [USA Today](#) (5/31, Mckinnon, Republic, 5.01M) reports on the "conscience pile" at Petrified Forest National Monument. According to the article, "when a piece of wood is returned, the park files away the letter and puts the wood in a rusted metal box at the main office." Then, "when the box is full, a park ranger takes it to a service road closed to the public and empties it on an ever-growing pile of wood." This is because "to replace a piece of wood that had been removed would disrupt the record and potentially affect future research."

WYOMING INTERVENES IN GRAND TETON GRIZZLY SUIT. The [AP](#) (5/29, Gruver, 2.29M) reports that "the state of Wyoming is intervening on the side of the federal government in a lawsuit over the number of grizzly bears that elk hunters in Grand Teton National Park would be allowed to kill before park officials would have to reassess their rules for the hunt." Attorneys for the state argued in court documents that "the need to keep elk from overpopulating and damaging private property outside the park is one reason Wyoming should be allowed to side with the federal government in the case."

DEMAND FOR HIKING PERMITS AT GRAND CANYON LESS THAN EXPECTED. The [AP](#) (6/1, 2.29M) reports that "it isn't clear yet if a new permit program for rim-to-rim hikes at the Grand Canyon is proving successful, park officials said Sunday." Grand Canyon National Park "so far has given out fewer permits than expected because the new system went into effect last September." According to park spokeswoman Kirby-Lynn Sheldowski, "only nine permits have been given this year."

RETIRED TEACHER HAS BEEN VOLUNTEERING AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK FOR DECADES. The [AP](#) (5/30, Mansfield, 641K) reports that Jim Flanigan, a retired English teacher, has volunteered at Rocky Mountain National Park "during the summer months for 32 years." As a member of the Trail Masters, Flanigan "educates and instructs visitors about resource protection and park regulations, helps keep traffic moving, assists visitors with finding a suitable trail for hiking, and answers questions." Flanigan said, "it's been a rewarding experience. When I first started doing this, it was "Wow! This is a chance to give back, a chance to serve, and that's good. But to do it well is important, so I do a lot of reading and researching, and I read all of the sources they provide the paid staff. It's been a thing where you keep learning."

GLACIER OFFICIALS DEVELOPING PLAN TO EASE CONGESTION. The [AP](#) (5/29, 2.29M) reports that Glacier National Park officials are "developing proposals to ease congestion on the Going-to-the-Sun Road that include requiring day hiking permits and vehicle reservations to drive the popular route that crosses the Continental Divide." The article notes that "the number of visitors to the northwestern Montana park reached a record 2.3 million in 2014, with the Going-to-the-Sun Road is its main attraction." According to the article, "a final decision on how to address the crowding won't be made until 2017, but the National Park Service has released five preliminary alternative proposals for the public to comment on until June 5."

TRAFFIC FORCES TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF UNDER ARCHES NATIONAL PARK. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (6/1, 1.07M) reports that "a chaotic and dangerous traffic mess on Memorial Day weekend that forced an unprecedented temporary closure of Arches National Park has lit a fire under a big controversy: Should tourists be required to have a reservation before they can enter the national park?" Kate Cannon, superintendent of Arches and Canyonlands national parks, has "already won approval to begin charging higher entrance fees at peak times." However, "her proposal to initiate a reservation system, though, is drawing fierce opposition from the business community in Moab."

TRAIL RIDGE ROAD THROUGH ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK OPENS FOR SEASON.. The [AP](#) (5/29, 2.29M) reports that Trail Ridge Road is "open for the season but the scenic road through Rocky Mountain National Park will be shut down after dark for now."

Also reporting on the story is the [Denver Post](#) (6/1, Paul, 894K).

YELLOWSTONE SEEKS INPUT ON WINTER PLAN. The [AP](#) (5/29, 2.29M) reports that "last winter, Yellowstone National Park loosened its strict limits on the daily number of individual snowmobiles." Now park officials are seeking "public comment on a proposal to check how the rules affecting the environment, and change them if necessary."

NPS TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS TO DISCUSS YELLOWSTONE BISON MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [AP](#) (5/29, Brown, 2.29M) reports that "a range of proposals that could either curb or accelerate the slaughter of wild bison migrating from Yellowstone National Park will get an initial public airing next week." In March, "government officials proposed changes ranging from letting the park's bison herds expand to 7,500 animals, to even more aggressive efforts to drive down the numbers."

APPLE ORCHARD ALONG BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY PRESERVED. The [AP](#) (6/1, 2.29M) reports that “an apple orchard along the Blue Ridge Parkway in McDowell County has been permanently preserved.” According to the article, “people who worked to protect the Orchard at Altapass gathered there Saturday to celebrate conservation easements signed in March.” The article notes that “in 2001, the Conservation Trust bought 132 acres of the orchard and donated it to the National Park Service to include in the parkway’s official boundary.”

NEW SIGNS FOR HISTORIC SITES IN DOWNTOWN OPELOUSAS. The [AP](#) (6/1, Washington, 641K) reports that “as part of Historic Preservation Month, the city of Opelousas is showing off new signs at its historic locations around town.” According to the article, “the city tourism office announced the addition of historic bronze plaques for selected historic buildings and sites in the National Historic District located in the heart of downtown Opelousas.” The bronze signs are part of a project funded by a Preserve America Grant through the Interior Department.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF MAINTENANCE BACKLOG AT NATIONAL PARKS. Additional coverage of the maintenance backlog at national parks was provided by the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (6/1, 49K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DEBATE OVER NEW NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE. Additional coverage of the debate over a new national park in Maine was provided by [Al Jazeera America](#) (6/1, 133K).

NPS SITES EDUCATE NATION ON CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (6/1, Sainato, 533K), Michael Sainato, a freelance journalist, writes that the stories national parks, monuments, and sites “tell and the gravity of their importance are not all well known, but by understanding and recognizing the lessons they teach us, the connections they have to contemporary issues of civil rights can lead to the awareness necessary for solutions so America’s past prejudices and civil injustices are not perpetuated.” He notes that “a national conscience engagement forum is being held at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site on November 20-22nd, 2015.” Superintendent of the site, Robin White is “helping to organize the forum to address contemporary systematic social issues.” White said, “The National Park Service is a tool I use to make the World a better place as a public servant responsible for one of American history’s greatest stories of the struggle in pursuing an equal education. We have a right to be here, as we are, whoever we are. We are still on the battlefield for civil rights in 2015. The courage and sheer determination of the Little Rock 9 helped changed American minds and the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site now provides a forum for conscious engagement in turning civil wrongs into civil rights.”

PROTECTION OF EVERGLADES URGED. In an op-ed for the [Miami Herald](#) (6/1, 676K), Bob Graham, a U.S. senator from 1987 to 2005, writes that “America’s Everglades is reeling from abuse, neglect and a failure of policy leaders to fully understand the economic and environmental consequences of not restoring and protecting this critical ecosystem.” He notes that “the Everglades is the water supply for almost 8 million Floridians, and millions of visitors,” and “what was once one of the world’s most diverse ecosystems has seen a dramatic decline in wildlife, sea life and flora.” Graham argues that “the state and its federal partner should reconsider the 2000 decision to grant to the now-rudderless Water Management District the authority to purchase land for Everglades restoration and place it in the hands of Everglades National Park’s guardian, the U.S. Department of Interior.”

Bureau of Land Management:

SPORTSMEN CALL FOR MORE ACCESS TO FEDERAL LANDS. The [Arizona Republic](#) (5/30, 1.27M) reports that “sportsmen called on a House panel last week to support a sweeping proposal that they said would guarantee hunting, fishing and recreational shooting rights on federal lands for future generations.” However, “officials with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, two of the federal agencies with massive land holdings that would be affected by” the Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act, “hedged their positions on the bill.” According to the article, “they defended their agencies’ support of hunters and sporting activities on federal lands and generally supported many of the goals of the proposal.” However, “they also expressed concerns about some parts, noting that there is not yet an actual bill to comment on, and that they only received the draft proposal recently.”

SKINNY DIPPER HOT SPRINGS TO STAY OPEN DURING APPEAL PROCESS. The [AP](#) (6/1, 75K) reports that “the popular Skinny Dipper Hot Springs won’t close for now, while the Bureau of Land Management weighs an appeal it received seeking to keep it open.” Idaho BLM’s Tate Fischer said “he won’t close or dismantle the hot springs near Banks while the appeals process is underway.” Fischer “says the earliest the site could be closed is 2016.”

Also providing coverage are [The East Oregonian](#) (6/1, 24K), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (5/29, 199K), the [Boise \(ID\) Weekly](#) (6/1, 103K), and [KXLY-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (6/1, 18K).

JOSEPHINE COUNTY OATHKEEPERS WANT INVESTIGATION OF BLM. [KOBI-TV](#) Medford, OR (6/1) reports that “the Oathkeepers of Josephine County say they’re moving operations out of the Sugar Pine Mine area for good, but they say their work is far from over.” In a press conference Friday, the Oathkeepers “urged lawmakers to investigate the BLM for what they call a history of constitutional violations.” Joseph Rice said, “BLM has willfully gone in and violated the civil rights of the miners, and that is a violation of due process and the violations against the fourth amendment against illegal search and seizure.”

TWO BLM EMPLOYEES HONORED BY PUBLIC LANDS FOUNDATION FOR WORK ON LANDER OFFICE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [County 10](#) (5/31) reports that two BLM “employees from Lander were presented with the Outstanding Public Lands Professional Award for their achievements and dedication to managing America’s public lands.” Richard Vander Voet and Sue Oberlie were “recognized by the Public Lands Foundation and the BLM for their work on the nationally significant Lander Office Resource Management Plan (RMP).”

ARIZONA SHERIFF OPPOSES PROPOSED GRAND CANYON WATERSHED. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (5/30, 3K) reports that “the Mohave County Sheriff’s Office in Arizona announced Thursday that Sheriff Jim McCabe has sent letters to federal officials in opposition to the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument.”

SEN. HATCH RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT BLM’S RESTRICTIONS ON RANCHING, GRAZING. In an op-ed for the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (5/31, 46K), Sen. Orrin Hatch warns that the BLM’s “growing restrictions on ranching and grazing operations could threaten our way of life.” He writes that “to address the BLM’s mismanagement and restore our rangeland health, I have introduced the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Grazing Protection Act.” Hatch says the legislation would “restore livestock grazing and direct the BLM to create and implement a management program within the areas of the Monument to improve rangeland conditions for wildlife and livestock carrying capacity.”

ARMED OPPOSITION TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/1, 470K), Lauren Howells, the Karen Shepherd Fellow with the Alliance for a Better Utah, criticizes the response by “armed protesters in both Nevada and Oregon. She writes that “violence and the threat of violence against government agents warrant public dialogue.” Howells argues that “such aggressive and rogue tactics are incompatible with the democratic values that have shaped our nation since inception.” Instead, Howells asks, “isn’t a much better weapon for political change — and one that is more closely aligned with fundamental American values — the ability to freely engage in political discourse without the threat of violence?”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION CLOSE TO BREAKING DELISTING RECORD. The [Greenwire](#) (5/29, Subscription Publication) reports that “the Obama administration intends to remove more recovered species from the federal lists of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants than all previous administrations combined, according to a recently released White House regulatory plan.” The article notes that “the target – set tentatively for the end of September – has divided advocates and critics of the Endangered Species Act, the landmark law that established processes for adding imperiled species to the lists and removing them when they are no longer at threat of extinction.” According to the article, “under President Obama, the Fish and Wildlife Service has delisted 12 species – already more species declared recovered than in any single administration since ESA was enacted in December 1973.”

WISCONSIN TO RECEIVE \$36.5 MILLION FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (5/30, Smith, 784K) reports that “Wisconsin will receive \$36.5 million for conservation programs and projects in 2015, part of a \$1.15 billion apportionment of excise tax revenues to states from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” The article notes that “the funding comes from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration programs, also known as Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson, respectively, for the laws that established them.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “These funds are the cornerstone of state-based efforts that are critical to the preservation of America’s wildlife and natural resources. But they are also the fuel for a massive financial engine that benefits outdoor recreationists, hunters, boaters and anglers, equipment manufacturers and retailers, and local and regional economies. Their value cannot be overstated in providing opportunities for the next generation of Americans to get outdoors, experience our wild places and learn the importance of conserving our natural heritage.”

NATIVE AMERICAN PASTOR EMBROILED IN LAWSUIT OVER EAGLE FEATHERS. The [Washington Post](#) (5/27, Phillip, 5.03M) reports that “nearly a decade after a federal agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service entered a sacred powwow in McAllen, Tex., to confiscate them, pastor Robert Soto finally has his eagle feathers back.” However, “a cloud of fear still hangs over his congregation.” According to the article, “Soto and other members of the church have been locked in a legal battle with federal officials over their right to use eagle feathers in Native American religious ceremonies as their people have done for centuries.” Last week, they were scheduled to “appear before a federal judge in the latest chapter of this legal drama that observers have called ‘one for the ages.’”

FWS TO CONTINUE PROTECTIONS FOR BONE CAVE HARVESTMAN. [The Hill](#) (6/1, Devaney, 533K) reports that the FWS says "it will continue protecting a blind spider-like creature known as the Bone Cave harvestman." The service "rejected a petition to remove protections from the Bone Cave harvestman, which is endemic to Texas." The agency wrote, "Based on our review, we find that the petition does not present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. Therefore, we are not initiating a status review in response to this petition."

RESTORATION PROGRAM APPEARS TO HAVE SUCCEEDED IN SAVING SHOREBIRDS. The [Washington Post](#) (5/29, 5.03M) reports that "a crash program to restore New Jersey bay and ocean beaches wrecked by Hurricane Sandy appears to have succeeded in saving tens of thousands of shorebirds that otherwise might have died after the October 2012 storm wiped out their feeding grounds." According to the article, "the restoration of Delaware Bay beaches succeeded in widening the habitat for the crabs to lay eggs and for birds to land and chow down." Meanwhile, "a few miles away, New Jersey Audubon and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have restored nesting grounds for endangered shorebirds on a stretch of ocean beach."

NINE STATES BACK UTAH RULING TOSSING FEDERAL PRAIRIE DOG RULES. The [AP](#) (5/29, Whitehurst, 2.29M) reports that "nine states have stepped into a lawsuit over the Utah prairie dog to support a ruling that animal activists say threatens to undermine the Endangered Species Act." According to the article, "the attorneys general asked an appeals court to uphold a ruling striking down federal protections for the Utah prairie dog on private property." They claimed that "federal authorities shouldn't be managing animals that live only within state borders."

SIX COMPANIES SUBMIT BIDS FOR WETLANDS RESTORATION PROJECT IN MISSOURI. The [AP](#) (6/1, 2.29M) reports that "six companies have submitted bids for a \$1.1 million wetlands restoration project in southwest Missouri." Scott Hamilton, with the FWS, says "six companies submitted bids on the project, which involves 250 acres of land north of Webb City." A decision on the company selected may arrive in June.

FIGHT AGAINST DEADLY BAT DISEASE IN THE BLACK HILLS CONTINUES. The [AP](#) (6/1, Feldman, 641K) reports that "as a disease that has ravaged the population of the northern long-eared bat continues to spread throughout most of its habitat, scientists are looking at the Black Hills as the last bastion of hope for the species' continued survival." The article notes that "although the bats were listed as 'threatened' and placed on the endangered species list on April 2 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a special exemption was placed in the ruling that essentially eliminated most of the protections the bats would normally get for their habitat in the Black Hills." The Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit against the FWS "on the same day the ruling that included the exemption was passed."

DECISION ON JUNE SUCKER MADE. The [Provo \(UT\) Daily Herald](#) (6/1, 130K) reports that "officials have decided which option to implement in the recovery of the June sucker, an endangered fish that only occurs naturally in Utah Lake." According to the article, "the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission, and the Department of the Interior both selected Alternative B, the preferred alternative, in their official record of decision."

GRIZZLY RESEARCHERS WORKING NEAR SALMO-PRIEST WILDERNESS. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (5/31, 172K) reports that "federal grizzly bear researchers are working near the Salmo-Priest Wilderness to trap and fit GPS collars on grizzly bears. They also are 'trying to get DNA samples from other bears to help determine the number of grizzlies in the Idaho-Washington Selkirk Mountains."

STUDY SAYS FROG DEFORMITIES IN ALASKA COULD BE RELATED TO WARMING, COPPER. The [AP](#) (6/1) reports that "federal and university scientist have found new evidence that Alaska wood frogs may be hurt by warming water and pollution." According to the article, "frogs in southcentral and eastern interior Alaska have been detected with missing limbs, abnormal eyes and other physical problems." Researchers from Alaska Pacific University, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the University of California, Davis "in a study published in the journal *Ecosphere* conclude that wood frog tadpoles found in warmer water that contains minute traces of copper are attacked more quickly and frequently than tadpoles in clear, cooler water."

Also reporting on the story is the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (5/30, 216K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE FWS TO HUNT FOR SEA LAMPREY IN DETROIT RIVER. Additional coverage that a FWS crew will be searching the Detroit River for sea lamprey was provided by the [Detroit News](#) (5/30, 523K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF KILLING OF PROTECTED WOLF IN COLORADO. Additional coverage of the killing of a protected gray wolf in Colorado was provided by [Reuters](#) (5/29).

ATTACKS ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [San Francisco Examiner](#) (6/1, 412K), Gail Mallinson, the director/producer of *The Edge of the Wild*, writes that "the Endangered Species Act is under serious attack in Congress this year." She notes that "Republicans have vowed to dismantle the Act, which would leave privately held wilderness areas in the US open for development, logging, or mining" and "President Obama has also called for changes to the Act that would make it even more difficult for rare species to become designated as endangered, usually the only stopgap between a very rare species and its demise." Mallinson hopes that the story of San Bruno Mountain "shows the folly of disabling or diminishing the Endangered Species Act, and of what can happen if this important law isn't upheld."

US Geological Survey:

SENSOR MALFUNCTIONS RESULT IN THREE FALSE ALARMS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/30, Welsh, 4.03M) reports that "in the past two days, malfunctions in the network of sensors that detect earthquakes in Northern California have issued three false alarms, forcing the U.S. Geological Survey to make a series of embarrassing retractions." USGS officials said "they are working to repair the problem and prevent future false alarms."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "SAN ANDREAS" FILM. Additional coverage of the disaster film "San Andreas" was provided by [Southern California Public Radio](#) (5/29, 85K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CONCERNS RAISED OVER THREAT OF LARGER WIND TURBINES TO BIRDS. In an op-ed for the [Vineland \(NJ\) Daily Journal](#) (5/31, 58K), Michael Parr, vice president and chief conservation officer for the American Bird Conservancy, writes that "a new report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service calls into question the wind industry's assertion that birds fly well above wind turbines' rotor blades." Parr suggests that "before we rush to build thousands of turbines taller than many skyscrapers, with blade tips that often spin in excess of 100 miles per hour, we should pause to examine what we already know about turbines' impacts on wildlife."

COURT BLOCKS WIND FARM OFF ATLANTIC CITY. The [AP](#) (5/29, Parry) reports that a New Jersey appeals court has blocked a plan to build a wind farm three miles off of Atlantic City. Fishermen's Energy will appeal the decision to the state Supreme Court. The plan has been rejected by New Jersey regulators three times over concerns that the firm's Chinese partner, Xiangtan Electric Manufacturing Group, was financially unsound. The US Department of Energy pledged upwards of \$47 million to the project in 2014.

RESEARCH ON WIND TURBINE SIZE, BIRD KILLS CALLED FOR. Writing in the [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (6/1, Parr, 456K), American Bird Conservancy vice president and chief conservation officer Michael Parr argues that more research is needed to ensure that new wind turbines built at a height of 360 feet do not result in the deaths of hundreds of thousands more migratory birds. He claims that "scientists have estimated that as the number of turbines increases, they could kill more than a million birds each year by 2030." As a solution, Parr proposes avoiding building turbines in migration routes along the Atlantic seaboard and the Great Lakes, shutting turbines off during migration season in the spring and fall, and creating a map limiting wind farming areas with respect for bird flight as is done with respect to commercial aviation.

Onshore Energy Development:

COLOWYO MINE URGES OSM TO APPEAL COURT'S RULING. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/1, 73K) reports that "the Colowyo coal mine in northwest Colorado has asked a federal judge to stay his ruling that could force closure of the mine, saying the mine is likely to prevail on appeal." Colowyo, meanwhile, "encouraged the federal Office of Surface Mining also to appeal the May 8 ruling by U.S. District Judge R. Brooke Jackson that gave the federal agency until Sept. 5 to deal with fault he found in the environmental assessment for the mine's permit." But WildEarth Guardians, "which brought the suit, said the federal agency's failure to fully consider the effects of the mine on climate change ought not to be ignored."

Also reporting on the story is the [Denver Post](#) (6/1, Raabe, 894K).

Conservation Group Makes Waves With Lawsuits. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (5/29, 10K) reports that "through a series of federal lawsuits," WildEarth Guardians is "reshaping the way the federal government enforces environmental laws." The article notes that "the most recent example is a claim brought against the Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining, Enforcement and Reclamation regarding the approval of plans to mine federal coal at two locations in Northwest Colorado."

Paper Defends Colowyo Coal Mine. In an editorial, the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (5/29, 10K) criticizes WildEarth Guardians for its lawsuit. The paper says that "Colowyo Coal Mine and Trapper use mechanisms to keep dust down at the mines. They have intense reclamation processes. They are not here to destroy the earth. They're here to keep the lights on."

WYOMING, COLORADO WANT BLM FRACKING RULE BLOCKED. The [AP](#) (5/29, 2.29M) reports that "Wyoming and Colorado are asking a Federal judge to block the US Bureau of Land Management from implementing its hydraulic fracturing rule." The two states on May 29 asked US District Judge Scott Skavdahl of Casper to issue an injunction against the BLM. "Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead says his state has led the way in enacting its own responsible rules for hydraulic fracturing," the article reports, adding that the governor "says the Federal rule would hurt the state's economy."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/1, 894K) and the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/1, 73K).

BLM SEEKS TO LOWER MINE PERMITTING TIMELINE. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/1, 22K) reports that BLM Director Neil Kornze, "who comes from a mining family and spent most of his childhood and teenage years in northeastern Nevada's mining community, said the agency is actively working to cut down on the permitting process for mines on federal land." During a May stop in Elko, he said, "We're requesting (from mining companies) more information up front, which allows us to be more timely in the processing of the application." Kornze "cited the Pan Mine in White Pine County as a notable example."

IMPACT OF ADMINISTRATION'S "WAR ON COAL" CAMPAIGN CONSIDERED. In a 7,000-word article, [Politico](#) (5/30, Grunwald, 1.11M) examined the Administration's "war on coal," which "has quietly transformed the U.S. electric grid and the global climate debate."

HEADLINE ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BLM'S FRACKING RULE. Additional coverage of the BLM's fracking rule was provided by the [Green Biz](#) (6/1, 1K).

CONCERNS RAISED OVER THREAT OF OIL, GAS DRILLING TO CHACO CANYON. In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/1, 241K), Paul F. Reed, a preservation archaeologist, writes that "Chaco Canyon and the greater Chaco landscape" are threatened by oil and gas drilling. Reed urges the BLM to use "a tool known as a 'master leasing plan' for the greater Chaco landscape to ensure we strike a balance between responsible energy development and the protection of communities and cultural resources." He claims that "this approach can help ensure that where development does occur, it happens responsibly, and not to the detriment of people, natural resources and cultural resources."

Offshore Energy Development:

AGENCIES DEFEND OIL SPILL RESPONSE. The [AP](#) (5/30, Blood, Chang) reported Coast Guard Capt. Jennifer Williams, who is overseeing the "massive oil cleanup along the California coast," said, "We had people on the ground on day zero." The initial response to the spill is "under scrutiny in recent days by environmentalists and witnesses who felt little on-the-ground cleanup was done on the first day." Williams noted that "agencies had a playbook to follow including having a cultural monitor on the beach so workers didn't accidentally trample on artifacts." Challenges workers faced included high tide, choppy waters, lights casting shadows when work continued after dark, and the time needed for volunteers' safety training.

In another article, the [AP](#) (5/29, Blood, Chang) reported, "Steve Calanog, the deputy on-scene coordinator with the Environmental Protection Agency, said the first hours were devoted to hatching a plan to clean up the mess." He explained, "In order to be most efficient, we need to be able to size up the situation first in order to effectively develop plans to respond to it."

More Deaths Of Marine Mammals Brought To SeaWorld To Recover From Oil Spill. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/29, Perry, 4.03M) reported that SeaWorld San Diego officials said that two sea lions and a seal who were brought to the park "from the Refugio State Beach oil spill have died." In total, "four sea lions, an elephant seal, and two dolphins brought to SeaWorld have not survived," and the park is still "caring for 17 sea lions and five elephant seals."

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (5/30, Shroder, 579K) also covered this story.

PROPOSED ARCTIC DRILLING REGULATIONS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (5/29, 216K), Sen. Cathy Giessel writes that "while the resumption of Arctic exploration in the Chukchi this summer would be a significant advancement, the Interior department's proposed regulations applicable to Arctic offshore exploration drilling could deal a serious setback to long-term efforts to responsibly explore and produce energy in this vital region." Giessel argues that "the regulations proposed to apply to Arctic offshore exploration drilling are redundant, overly prescriptive and excessive, and may in fact increase safety and environmental risks." She concludes that "the necessary path forward is clear: rather than finalize the proposed Arctic exploration drilling regulations, DOI must go back to the drawing board to lay out a revised and thoughtful proposal."

Additional coverage of Arctic drilling was provided by [Roll Call](#) (6/1, 99K) and the [Ashland \(OR\) Daily Tidings](#) (6/1, Honoré, 10K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

ACTION URGED ON COLORADO RIVER. In an op-ed for the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (6/1, 79K), Nathan Fey is the Colorado stewardship director for American Whitewater, writes that "with the release of phase two of the federal Colorado River Basin Study report, it's time to move beyond talk to action." He argues that "there is enough water to sustain our state, and the rest of the West, if we use it wisely." Fey suggests "moving from an outdated approach to water management based on dam and pipeline building, to an innovative, visionary strategy rooted in using the water we have more wisely and restoring water to our overdeveloped river systems."

CALIFORNIA URGED TO TACKLE WATER ISSUES. In his column for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/30, Hiltzik, 4.03M), Michael Hiltzik writes that the solutions to California's water issues "depend on long-range thinking." According to Hiltzik, the Bay Delta "tunnels themselves may not be the best solution to the water crisis, but billions of dollars in construction — whether new groundwater storage; environmentally sensitive conveyance, flood control and recycling systems; even desalination plants in the few locations where they can do the most good — plainly will be needed."

DROUGHT POTENTIALLY DAMAGING TO CALIFORNIA'S ALMOND ORCHARDS. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/31, story 8, 2:05, Quintanilla, 7.86M) reported that California's drought "could pose a problem for one of the state's biggest crops." NBC (Jackson) focused on the impact on the almond crop, as California "grows 80 percent of the world's almonds." They are "getting more popular in other countries and more profitable here, which is why many farmers are replacing crops like cotton with orchards." However, they are a water-intensive crop, and farmers are being forced to adopt more stringent water-use measures.

Empowering Native American Communities:

OSAGE NATION TO START OUTREACH FOR LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. The [Osage News](#) (5/27) reports that Principal Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear signed the "initial agreement to begin outreach for the Land Buy-Back Program in the Osage Nation." Outreach efforts will start in late June and early July. Outreach efforts will "include town hall meetings, mail outs, advertisements, three short-term positions, and a social media push designed to notify restricted landowners of the opportunity to sell their land interest, said Bruce Cass, Tribal Development and Land Acquisition director."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Round House Talk \(OK\)](#) (5/28), the [Nation Sun News](#) (5/28), the [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (5/28, 456K), the [Oklahoman](#) (5/31, 506K), and the [Oklahoma Journal Record](#) (5/28, Staff, 9K).

LAND BUY-BACK OFFICIALS MAKE PRESENTATION TO TURTLE MOUNTAIN TRIBE. The Turtle Mountain Times reports that Interior Department officials presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Turtle Mountain Tribe. According to the article Turtle Mountain is "going to be allocated 9 million dollars for the purchase." Offers will be sent around March of next year.

TWO MEMBERS OF JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE SUE BIA. The [Courthouse News](#) (5/29, 7K) reports that two "Jamul Indians sued the Bureau of Indian Affairs and a casino company for \$4 million, claiming they dug up their ancestors' remains and dumped them by a freeway." According to the article, "two members of the Jamul Indian Village in San Diego County say their ancestors' cemetery was excavated and 'unceremoniously dumped' on a Caltrans highway construction site, with the approval of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other members of the Indian community, whom they also sued." Plaintiffs Walter Rosales and Karen Toggerly "claim the casino project and cemetery excavation are taking place without proper permits and violate environmental law."

Also reporting on the story is the [San Diego Reader](#) (5/31, 241K).

SOBOBA TRIBE ADDS LAND TO RESERVATION. The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (6/1, 395K) reports that "more than 500 acres of land were added to the Soboba Reservation on Friday, May 29." Soboba Tribal Chairwoman Rosemary Morillo and Amy Dutschke from the BIA "completed a process that started 12 years ago." The Soboba

Band of Luiseno Indians "eventually plans to relocate its casino to the property, which includes the Country Club at Soboba, where the signing ceremony took place."

TRIBES WANT CONGRESS TO REVIEW MAINE INDIAN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (5/30, 179K) reports that "Maine tribal leaders are calling on Congress to take a fresh look at the 35-year old Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act to determine whether state officials are misinterpreting and misusing the agreement." According to the article, "a series of longstanding disputes between the state and tribes over issues ranging from water rights to gaming came to a head Tuesday, when the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot tribes withdrew their representatives from the Maine Legislature." On Wednesday, "tribal leaders held a news conference in which they called on Congress to start an inquiry into the settlement act and how Maine state officials have used it to argue their views in disputes over sovereignty, application of laws and authority."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE LAND BUY-BACK OFFERS SENT TO 6,500 AT CHEYENNE RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION. Additional coverage of the land buy-back offers sent to Cheyenne River Indian Reservation landowners was provided by the [Round House Talk \(OK\)](#) (5/8), the [Round House Talk \(OK\)](#) (5/7), and the [Native News Online](#) (5/31).

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA TO VISIT GUAM. The [Marianas Variety](#) (6/1) reports that Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina will "visit Guam from June 1 to 7 where she will confer with Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo and other leaders on a range of policy issues and convene the U.S. insular areas climate change stakeholder meeting." Kia'aina said, "My expectation is that through this meeting, the federal government will be better able to assess and help each of the Insular Areas develop climate change action plans, depending on their varying needs. This in turn would favorably position the Insular Areas to secure the necessary funding resources and assistance they will need for the implementation of such plans to improve their capacities for climate change adaptation and resiliency strategies."

Additional coverage was provided by [KUAM-TV Dededo \(GUM\)](#) Dededo, GUM (5/31, 171).

Top National News:

PATRIOT ACT PROVISIONS EXPIRE AS SENATE FAILS TO REACH DEAL. Provisions of the Patriot Act expired at midnight after the Senate adjourned a rare Sunday session without a deal to extend them. The Senate did vote to limit debate on the USA Freedom Act, but a final vote on the measure cannot occur until later this week unless all senators agree, which Sen. Rand Paul refuses to do. Coverage of the Senate session is extensive. Amid heavy print and online coverage, the three network news broadcasts – which ran before the midnight deadline – spent five minutes and 20 seconds on the story. The coverage casts Majority Leader McConnell's call for senators to vote for the USA Freedom Act as a major turnaround on his part, while much attention is given to Paul's role in slowing Senate consideration of the bill.

[Politico](#) (5/31, Raju, Everett, 1.11M) calls the fact that the provisions "temporarily lapsed" a "troubling development for Senate Republicans in just their fifth month in the majority," but adds that the Senate "overwhelmingly" voted to advance "the USA Freedom Act." While the measure "easily cleared a filibuster in a 77-17 vote that appeared to set the stage for eventual passage," it was "not the outcome envisioned by...McConnell," who had "hoped to pass a temporary extension of current law to avoid a midnight shutdown of three PATRIOT Act programs, including the controversial 'bulk data' phone record collection program." [USA Today](#) (6/1, Kelly, 5.01M) says the debate "highlighted sharp divisions within the GOP over privacy concerns and national security and carried immediate implications for government surveillance programs."

The [New York Times](#) (6/1, Steinhauer, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says McConnell "relented Sunday, setting up a final round of votes on Tuesday or Wednesday that will most likely send a compromise version of the House bill to President Obama for his signature," and the [AP](#) (6/1, Werner, Dilanian) says McConnell "reluctantly embraced" the bill in an "about-face" after he had "no other options."

The [AP](#) (6/1) also provides a roll call of the Senate vote, while a front-page story in the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/1, A1, Mascaro, 4.03M) says "no final vote on that measure can take place until later this week unless all senators agree, which Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) refused to do."

Tom Llamas reported on [ABC World News](#) (5/31, story 4, 0:25, Llamas, 5.84M) that senators were "working against the clock in a rare Sunday session," and Kristen Welker reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/31, story 3, 2:50, Quintanilla, 7.86M) that while the senators were "working to keep the government surveillance program intact," Paul was "vowing to block it." Jeff Gior also called the Sunday session "rare" on the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/31, story 2, 2:05, Gior, 5.08M), and Julianna Goldman added that while "senators rushed back from recess," they did so "without a clear path for a compromise."

On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (5/31, Sciutto, 420K), Sen. Mike Lee said, "I do believe we have the votes. At this point I think the question is not about whether we will get it passed, but when," and Sen. Angus King said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (5/31, Sciutto, 420K), "I support the concept of moving the data out of the government. I think that's a good idea from a privacy point of view. My concern is, if you move it out of the government and leave it with the phone companies and the phone companies say we will hold that data for a week or month or six months, then the program loses its functionality altogether and you repealed it altogether without saying so."

When asked if he would be voting for the USA Freedom Act, Sen. Bernie Sanders, a presidential candidate, said on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (5/31, Todd, 3.08M), "I may well be voting for it. It doesn't go as far as I want it to go. I voted against the Patriot Act and reauthorization of the Patriot Act. We have to be vigorous in protecting the American people but we have to protect the Constitutional rights of the American people."

[Politico](#) (5/31, Nelson, 1.11M) reported that CIA Director Brennan on Sunday called the Patriot Act "integral" to US efforts to combat terrorism," saying that "the tools in the act have helped thwart terrorist attacks in the dozen years since they were enacted." While Brennan did not address the Act's provision "allowing for the bulk collection of phone and other data," he did respond to Paul's "harsh criticism of the act without directly naming him," telling [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (5/31, Wallace, 2.64M), "Unfortunately, I think there's been a little bit too much political grandstanding and crusading for ideological causes that have skewed the debate on this issue, but these tools are important to American lives." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, Lee, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) notes that while he did not cite any specific incident, Brennan said the programs "really have helped stop attacks."

Former NSA Director Michael Hayden said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (5/31, Wallace), "There's a bit of a political consensus right now. The NSA needs access to metadata." Hayden added, "Why would reasonable people take off the table tools that I believe are lawful, and around which there's already a political consensus? If the vote goes forward most of these things go on. Why would we give up things to keep us safer?"

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/1, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) says now that the program has expired, the government will still have the ability to access telephone records, it could require grand-jury approval and a subpoena, which could take longer than the current program, but an analysis in the [New York Times](#) (6/1, Savage, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says that "interviews with law enforcement and intelligence officials about what they will do in the interim suggests there are multiple workarounds to the gap."

[McClatchy](#) (6/1, Cockerham, 32K) says that while Paul "was able to use Senate rules to object and prevent a final vote on the bill on Sunday night," the Senate "could pass it as soon as Tuesday," meaning "the NSA's surveillance powers might lapse for little more than a day," and the [Huffington Post](#) (5/31, Watkins, 194K) said Paul ran down "the procedural clock in a sensational emergency session Sunday night," leaving the Senate "in a stalemate on the House-passed USA Freedom Act."

However, [Reuters](#) (6/1, Zengerle, Strobel) notes that Paul acknowledged that after the vote, saying, "This bill will ultimately pass." Nonetheless, the [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Nakashima, Debonis, 5.03M) says Paul "declared victory because the House bill...would end the government's collection of phone records."

Several stories this morning consider the effect Paul's stance is having on his relationship with the Republican establishment as well as how it is being received by Republican voters in Iowa. The [Washington Times](#) (6/1, McLaughlin, 641K) reports that GOP analysts say Paul's effort "carries both risk and reward" for his presidential hopes, noting that while it is "helping him solidify his libertarian-leaning base," it "could further alienate voters that already have questions about his world view." A separate story in the [New York Times](#) (6/1, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says Paul's "stand was a lonely one," and ultimately it "only delayed passage of the USA Freedom Act." Nonetheless, "Sunday was Mr. Paul's moment." Paul's "protest of the surveillance program has no doubt solidified his position with the libertarian wing of his party." However, his "one-man stand was a big gamble," as Paul "has spent more than a year cozying up to Mr. McConnell, trying to bolster his bona fides with the party establishment." It now "appears that those overtures might have been for naught."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/1, Hohmann, 5.03M) says that while Paul "has tried to use the issue in recent days to revive his struggling presidential campaign" in Iowa, many Republican voters there "have responded with unease." Some have "said that they simply could not agree with his argument that the National Security Agency's bulk data collection was an unreasonable invasion of privacy." The Post adds that Paul's "hard-line stance on the NSA has so far found little resonance among the rank-and-file Republicans that he will need to win over if he hopes to find success in the caucuses."

Paul Campaign Video May Violate Senate Rules. [Politico](#) (5/31, Everett, 1.11M) reported that a video released by Paul's campaign on Friday violates the Senate's strict prohibition on the "use of its proceedings for campaign activities." In the video, which "includes explicit links to a campaign donation page, Paul...extensively uses footage from

his lengthy speech on the Senate floor on May 20 against bulk data collection and surveillance in the PATRIOT Act." This, despite the "standing rules of the Senate," which state, "The use of any tape duplication of radio or television coverage of the proceedings of the Senate for political campaign purposes is strictly prohibited."

Other Presidential Hopes Weigh-In. Other 2016 presidential candidates also discussed the issue on the Sunday shows. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (5/31, Schieffer, 2.64M), "t's not a violation of civil liberties. There's not a shred of evidence that the metadata program violated anybody's civil liberties. The first duty of our national government is to protect the homeland and this has been an effective tool, along with many others. The Patriot Act should be reauthorized."

Former New York Gov. George Pataki said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (5/31, Sciutto, 420K), "We are at as great a risk today as we have been at anytime since 9/11 of another terrorist attack. I hope the Senate can get it done today. They should reauthorize the Patriot Act."

Former Sen. Rick Santorum said on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (5/31, Todd, 3.08M), "I think the Patriot Act has worked very well. I'm not aware of any abuses of the Patriot act that caused undue fear of invasion of privacy. ... I would vote for [the House bill] and as President I would sign it."

Ben Carson said on [ABC's This Week](#) (5/31, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "I certainly believe that there is a correlation between some of the steps that have been taken since 9/11 and the fact that we haven't had other major insults. Having said that, I think we really have to protect the Constitution and the Fourth Amendment."

FOLLOWING SON'S DEATH, BIDEN RECEIVES BIPARTISAN CONDOLENCES. Coverage of the death of Vice President Biden's son, former Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden, who died Saturday at age 46 following a long battle with brain cancer, continued Sunday evening and this morning, with many reports noting that condolences were going out to the Biden family from across the political spectrum. The three network news broadcasts spent nearly nine minutes on the story, which led two of the broadcasts Sunday evening.

Tom Llamas reported on [ABC World News](#) (5/31, story 3, 2:25, Llamas, 5 84M) that condolences are "pouring in" following the death of the Vice President Biden's oldest son. Jim Avila noted that in a statement the President and First Lady "called him a close friend, full of love, honor and service, who will live on in our hearts." In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/31, lead story, 3:25, Glor, 5.08M), Jeff Glor noted that there has been "an outpouring of grief for the Vice President's eldest son, including from Majority Leader Mitch McConnell," who said before a rare Sunday Senate session, "The Senate offers its presiding officer and every member of his family our prayers and our sympathy." Similarly, Chris Jansing reported in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/31, lead story, 3:00, Quintanilla, 7.86M) that "in a town often torn apart by partisanship," there was "a bipartisan outpouring of grief" for Biden.

The

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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DATE TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING DELAY THREATENS NATIONAL PARKS. The [Washington Post](#) (5/24, Warrick, 5.03M) reports "A government fund that has helped preserve some of the nation's most iconic parks...could disappear as early as fall because of a congressional dispute over how the program's revenues should be spent." In an interview with the Post, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell explained Congress is divided over renewing the Land and Water Conservation Fund after 50 years because some lawmakers see the oil and gas royalties that pay for the Fund as just "a chunk of money" that they would rather reallocate to alternative projects. Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver Post](#) (5/25, Warrick, 894K) and the [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (5/25, 682K).

The [Greenwire](#) (5/22) reports that Jewell "continued her yearlong campaign to prompt Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, visiting a historic site overlooking the Potomac River that was preserved with help from the land conservation fund." Jewell, BLM Director Neil Kornze and House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, "along with state and local government leaders, visited the historic Chiles Homesite at Douglas Point in southern Maryland as Congress debates the fate of the 50-year-old LWCF, which is set to expire at the end of September. "

Mayors Urges Congress To Fully Fund LWCF. The [E&E Daily](#) (5/21) reports that "a bipartisan alliance of 38 mayors from across the country called on Congress today to reauthorize and fully fund" the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Mayors for Parks Coalition wrote in a letter, "Please vote to reauthorize and fully fund LWCF before it expires this September."

Secretary Jewell Discusses Drawing New Visitors To National Parks. In an interview with [WBUR-FM Boston](#) (5/25, 123K), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell discussed drawing new visitors to national parks.

Congress To Reauthorize LWCF. In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (5/23, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 12 24M), Christopher Solomon, a contributing editor at Outside magazine, urges Congress to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. He notes that "in all, the fund has provided more than \$4 billion in matching funds (leveraging another \$4 billion in state and local money) for 42,000 projects spread through every county in America."

SECRETARY JEWELL ASKED TO INTERVENE IN THREATENED COLORADO COAL MINE SHUTDOWN. The [Denver Business Journal](#) (5/22, Hendee, Subscription Publication, 62K) reports that Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper on Friday asked Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "in a letter to 'do everything possible' to prevent a shutdown of the Colowyo Coal Mine near Craig." Hickenlooper said in the letter that the mine "contributes more than \$200 million to the regional economy and generates tax and royalties of \$12 million annually." He wrote, "Given the importance of this mine to the economies of the region, I ask that you do everything possible to respond to the judge's order and remedy the situation as expeditiously as possible."

OSMRE To Review Environmental Study. The [AP](#) (5/22, Slevin, 2.29M) reports that "federal regulators are re-doing an environmental review for a Colorado coal mine after a judge threatened to shut it down unless they took a closer look at its indirect environmental impacts, including its contribution to climate change." But "it's not clear yet whether the federal agency that granted the permit will appeal the overall ruling, which could set a precedent that might endanger mining projects elsewhere." The OSMRE "posted a notice of the review for the Colowyo Mine near Craig on Thursday, saying it would accept public comments through June 15." Agency spokesman Chris Holmes "declined to comment Friday on whether it would appeal the May 8 ruling from U.S. District Judge R. Brooke Jackson in Denver."

Judge Invited To Visit Northwest Colorado's Coal Industry. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (5/22, 10K) editorializes that it is "troublesome that Federal District Judge R. Brooke Jackson ruled that OSM has only 120 days to complete an environmental assessment for mining plans." The editorial asks Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and OSM to appeal Federal District Judge R. Brooke Jackson's decision, and it invites "the judge to visit Northwest Colorado's coal industry."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/25, Jaffe, 894K), the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (5/22, 10K), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/25, 73K), the [Denver \(CO\) Business Journal](#) (5/22, Hendee, Subscription Publication, 62K), and [WKMS-FM Murray \(KY\)](#) Murray, KY (5/25, 5K).

SENATE DEMOCRATS URGE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO BLOCK ARCTIC DRILLING. [Politico Pro](#) (5/22) reports that "eighteen Senate Democrats, led by Sen. Jeff

Merkley and including likely future caucus leader Sen. Chuck Schumer, rapped the Obama administration today for advancing Shell's bid to tap offshore Arctic oil reserves and urged the administration to backtrack on a move they said runs afoul of the president's broader climate change agenda." The Democratic senators wrote to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, "Opening development on a new fossil-fuel reservoir in the Arctic not only puts the natural resources, ecosystems, and the dependent communities at risk, it also contradicts the President's Climate Action Plan to limit greenhouse gas emissions and reduce climate change. It is an unacceptable and irresponsible decision."

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (5/23), [Energy Voice \(UK\)](#) (5/25), [Maritime Executive](#) (5/25, 21), and [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (5/25, 1K).

Environmental Groups Criticize Process For Approving Arctic Drilling. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (5/22, 2.93M) reports that "the Obama administration's process for giving Shell the go-ahead for restarting its drilling in the Arctic lacked transparency and prevented an informed public response, environmental groups have warned." According to the article, "the results of a third-party audit required by the US government before Royal Dutch Shell be allowed back into the US Arctic remain under wraps, and the third-party auditor – supposedly taken on to provide better oversight – was selected and paid for by Shell, the US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement confirmed." The environmental group Greenpeace warns that "the consequences of such a lack of transparency and opportunity for public scrutiny are worrying."

Environmental Activists Damage 'Precious' Marine Habitat In Shell Oil Protests. [Reuters](#) (5/23, Johnson) reported that environmental groups who have vowed to disrupt Royal Dutch Shell's plans for Arctic oil exploration, most recently by using cables to moor a floating barge to the floor of the Elliot Bay, have damaged "precious" marine habitat on the sea floor, according to state officials. The damaged area is a popular underwater area for divers interested in seeing aquatic life, and according to Department of Natural Resources spokesman Joe Smillie, damage to the area will likely have "implications to the food web."

Protestors Chain Themselves To Part Of Shell's Drilling Fleet. [The AP](#) (5/24) reported that two environmental activists have chained themselves to the anchor chain of the Arctic Challenger, which is part of Royal Dutch Shell's exploratory drilling fleet. The Coast Guard has not taken any action, but expressed concern over the health of the protesters.

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of Arctic drilling was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/25, 539K), the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (5/22, 28K), [Oil Price](#) (5/25, 2K), the [Rock River \(L\) Times](#) (5/24, 65K), the [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#) (5/23, 288K), and [Northwest Georgia News](#) (5/25).

CONSERVATIONISTS, OUTDOORSMEN DECRY SENATE SPENDING LEVELS FOR INTERIOR, EPA. [The Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/21, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "conservationists and sportsmen today blasted a vote by Senate appropriators to slash available funding for federal lands agencies and U.S. EPA, warning it will force steep cuts to government services at national parks, refuges, forests and battlefields." America's Voice for Conservation, Recreation and Preservation "urged lawmakers to strike an agreement to raise spending limits similar to the bipartisan accord that was reached in late 2013 to reverse sequester cuts."

FOURTH GRADERS CAN VISIT NATIONAL PARKS FOR FREE WITH "EVERY KID IN THE PARK" INITIATIVE. [The New York Times](#) (5/22, Winchester, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that "next school year, fourth graders in the United States and their families will be entitled to free admission to America's national parks, federal lands and waters." The program is part of the White House's "Every Kid in the Park" initiative, in partnership with the NPS and the National Park Foundation. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "In many provinces in Canada, ski resorts give a free season pass to a particular age of child, and the objective is to introduce kids to outdoor recreation with a view that this will be on their radar. It's the same basic principle."

WHITE HOUSE SAID TO CONSIDERING NATIONAL MONUMENT IN NEVADA. [The Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (5/25, 380K) reports that the White House is said to be considering to designate a national monument in Nevada. The proposal has divided Nevada's congressional delegation, with Democrats urging the president to act and Republicans opposing the creation of new monuments without legislative approval.

National Monument In Caldera Unlikely. [The Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (5/25, 75K) reports that "the notion of a national monument in the Caldera around Island Park has spawned a flurry of opposition over the past two years." However, "for all that opposition, there appears to be very little hard evidence that the Obama Administration is actively considering a monument designation in the caldera."

Concerns Raised About Designating Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. In an editorial, the [Arizona Republic](#) (5/26, 1.27M) notes that "the Obama administration is considering a presidential designation to create a 1.7-million-acre Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument." It argues that "designating a monument is a dramatic step in terms of conservation." In particular, the paper raises concerns that a designation could "threaten the water rights of private-property owners near the monument." The editorial concludes that "if that means a change in access to water, it's only reasonable that people have their voices heard."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of national monuments was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (5/25, 74K), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (5/25, 74K), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (5/25, 74K), and the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (5/25, 74K).

CONSERVATION GROUP BLASTS FIRE PLAN. [The Idaho Mountain Express](#) (5/25, 1K) reports that "by ignoring the effect that livestock grazing has on the spread of cheatgrass, a rangeland fire-management plan released by the U.S. Department of the Interior on Tuesday will not adequately protect sage grouse habitat, Hailey-based conservation organization Western Watersheds Project contends." Ken Cole, Western Watersheds Project's National Environmental Policy Act coordinator, said, "Science shows that ungrazed lands are more resilient to devastating large-scale fires. The land management agencies can sink all of the hundreds of millions of dollars into this strategy, but none of it will have any effect until land managers address the destruction caused by the sacred cows."

GRANT FROM "SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES" PROGRAM HELPS PRESERVATION OF PITTSBURGH COURIER ARCHIVE. [The Houston Chronicle](#) (5/25, Conte, 2.29M) reports that John Brewer, a part-time historian, "has been working to preserve nearly 50,000 photographs that were part of the Pittsburgh Courier's archives." A grant the Interior Department's "Save America's Treasures" program has assisted Brewer, "with support from Rep. Mike Doyle, a Forest Hills Democrat, and Rep. John Lewis, a Georgia Democrat and civil rights pioneer."

GAO RELEASES REPORT ON WIRELESS SPENDING PLANS AT FEDERAL AGENCIES. In its "The Switch" blog, the [Washington Post](#) (5/22, Fung, 5.03M) reports that a new report from the Government Accountability Office shows "just what carriers charge our top civil servants for phone service." The article notes that the Interior Department "pays \$26.39 for 400 minutes, no texts and unlimited data." However, "it also buys a plan whose only difference seems to be the addition of text messages — and it costs 2.5 times more."

GOP ADAPTS TO CHANGING ENERGY REALITY. [Reuters](#) (5/24, Oliphant) reports that Republicans have begun to adapt to losing the political advantage over America's energy security as capital from the country's energy production boom is reaped by the Obama Administration. The article reports that the party's answer is to advocate for the repeal of the crude-oil export ban in order to highlight the reversal in the US' energy import-export balance. The shift is a polar change from the scarcity politics of the 2008 presidential campaign and former Gov. Sarah Palin's "Drill, baby, drill" slogan.

INTERIOR'S INSTAGRAM PHOTOS HIGHLIGHTED. [Wired](#) (5/22, 4.16M) highlights photos on the US Department of the Interior's Instagram feed.

NYTIMES STATE LEADERS SHOULD PUSH GE ON HUDSON RIVER CLEANUP. [The New York Times](#) (5/25, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) editorializes, General Electric plans to end cleanup work this fall on the upper Hudson River, where it has been "digging up toxic PCB's, polychlorinated biphenyls, that it dumped into the river" many years ago. The river "will still be sick" and polluted at that point, "But G.E. is sticking to the letter of its obligations to the Environmental Protection Agency under the Superfund law — an agreement in 2002 to remove only so much mud, in these specific spots, over this period of time." The paper notes that "the three government agencies designated under the law as the Hudson's "natural resource trustees," public guardians of the river's health — the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Interior Department and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration — have warned the E.P.A. and New York State that another 136 acres of river, including the Champlain Canal, should be dredged before the project ends, or else the river's degraded health will persist decades longer." The Times urges environmental groups and state leaders and agencies to push for GE to do more before time runs out.

[America's Great Outdoors:](#)

[National Park Service:](#)

CAPITOL POLICE BLOW UP PRESSURE COOKER NEAR NATIONAL MALL. Kate Snow reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/25, story 5, 0:30, Snow, 7.86M) that as thousands gathered for the Memorial Day concert on the National Mall on Sunday, Capitol Police "noticed a car with a pressure cooker inside and a strong smell of gasoline and propane." Police blew up the device and the car's owner "was charged with driving on a revoked license."

NPS TO STUDY RECONSTRUCTION SITES. [The AP](#) (5/25, Smith, 2.29M) reports that "with its four-year observance of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War now past, the National Park Service is turning its attention to a lesser-known period of American history: the era of Reconstruction after the war." The service is "embarking on a yearlong study to inventory sites throughout the South and beyond that are important to telling the sometimes-bloody story of Reconstruction — a time when 4 million blacks, freed from slavery,

worked to build lives as a free people." The NPS "plans to identify nationally important sites dealing with the Reconstruction era from the Civil War through 1900 that could be designated national historic landmarks."

NPS CONSIDERING FOUR OPTIONS FOR RIM OF THE VALLEY. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/23, 4.03M) reports that the NPS has "proposed adding about 173,000 acres of wildlife habitat, parks and recreational areas (Alternative C) to the existing Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area." However, "other conservation advocates favor Alternative D, which would add about 313,000 acres to the national recreation area."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/23, Groves, 4 03M) reports that Alternative A "would leave the recreation area's boundaries unchanged." And under Alternative B, the NPS would "develop conservation partnerships with other agencies and landowners in the study area."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/23, Groves, 4 03M).

FEDERAL GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR 17 RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROJECTS IN TEXAS. The [Eastex \(TX\) Advocate](#) (5/25) reports that "the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission on Thursday approved \$2.38 million in federal grants for 17 recreational trail projects across the state." The National Recreational Trails Fund "comes from a portion of the federal gas tax generated by gasoline purchases for off-road motorcycles and four-wheelers."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Amarillo \(TX\) Globe News](#) (5/23, 95K).

WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL COMMISSION SEEKING MORE INCLUSIVE DESIGN. The [Washington Post](#) (5/22, Ruane, 5.03M) reports that "the 12-foot bronze statue of Gen. John J. Pershing may not be the centerpiece of a new World War I memorial at Washington's Pershing Park, the vice chairman of the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission said Friday." According to Edwin L. Fountain, "the memorial will include the 35-year-old statue of the famous World War I Army general." However, "the commission is seeking a design that will be a more inclusive commemoration of those who served in the war."

PHILADELPHIA VETERANS SEEK SUPPORT FOR BATTLE OF THE BULGE MEMORIAL. The [Stars And Stripes \(DC\)](#) (5/25, 19K) reports that "a dwindling group of elderly Philadelphia veterans wants to build a Battle of the Bulge memorial in Washington Square, a site within the city's Historic Mile they believe is a fitting place to remember the key World War II confrontation." The article notes that the veterans "need permits from the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior, as well as funds."

USPS DEDICATES LIMITED EDITION MEDAL OF HONOR VIETNAM WAR FOREVER STAMPS. [WTVW-TV](#) Evansville, IN (5/25, 4K) reports that "the US Postal Service and nearly a dozen Vietnam Medal of Honor recipients are to dedicate the Limited Edition Medal of Honor: Vietnam War Forever Stamps Monday at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC." The event is hosted by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the NPS.

INTERIOR WARNS OF WATER IMPACTS FROM MAJOR SOUTH RIM DEVELOPMENT AT GRAND CANYON. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/25, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "plans to build major commercial and residential complexes on the south rim of the Grand Canyon could imperil the park's springs and undermine the United States' conservation commitments under an international treaty, a top Interior Department official warned this month in a letter to the Agriculture Department." According to the article, "the letter urges the Kaibab National Forest to take a close look at plans by Stilo Development Group, an Italian company, to build upscale hotels, a conference center, a spa and an American Indian cultural complex in addition to new houses and townhouses in Tusayan, Ariz., within a few miles of the park." Michael Bean, Interior's principal deputy assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks, wrote in the May 11 letter to Robert Bonnie, who is the Agriculture Department's top official in charge of the Forest Service, "We believe the Forest Service's environmental analysis should consider impacts, including cumulative impacts, beyond the immediate footprint of the right-of-way. In particular, if the development taps into groundwater sources, it could present irretrievable loss in water resources and attendant biota associated with seeps and springs in the park."

NPS APPROVES \$11.28 MILLION PROJECT TO RENOVATE FORT VANCOUVER. The [Olympian \(WA\)](#) (5/23, 76K) reports that "an \$11.28 million project to rehabilitate historic buildings and utilities at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site will also result in moving the Gifford Pinchot National Forest headquarters to the Vancouver, Washington, site." The NPS "announced Tuesday it awarded the contract to Pacific Tech Construction, Inc., of Kelso."

NPS AWARDS FUNDING FOR CAPTAIN PENNIMAN HOUSE RESTORATION. The [Cape Cod \(MA\) News](#) (5/25) reports that the NPS has "awarded the Cape Cod National Seashore \$85,000 to re-paint the Captain Edward Penniman House in Eastham." The money "comes from the park service's Centennial Challenge Fund, which matches the \$100,000 pledged by the friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore."

IMPROVEMENT PLANNED AT BIG SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK. [KFVS-TV](#) Cape Girardeau, MO (5/25, 23K) reports that "this year the National Park Service is planning to begin several major restoration and rehabilitation projects at Big Springs in Carter County, Missouri. Some projects have already started." Big Springs will "start improvements on restoring cabins, trails and recreational areas."

SITE CHOSEN FOR THE POTOMAC YARD METRO STATION. In its "Dr. Gridlock" blog, the [Washington Post](#) (5/22, Lazo, 5.03M) reports "Alexandria took an important step Wednesday night in selecting a site for the proposed Potomac Yard Metro Station, which the city hopes to open in late 2018." Moving forward, the city "in partnership with Metro, the Federal Transit Administration and the National Park Service, will work to finalize the environmental impact statement, a federal requirement that will deliver a thorough examination of the project's impact along with a mitigation plan."

NPS, SHADDOX CEMETERY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS FACE OFF OVER GRAVEYARD FENCE. The [Northwest Arkansas Online](#) (5/24) reports that a fence installed by the Shaddox Cemetery Association members "to keep the animals out has led to an eight-year fight with the National Park Service over two-tenths of an acre of federal land within the fence." After an elk was ground "grazing among the tombstones, the cemetery association spent \$12,000 – 'not to mention a lot of blood, sweat and tears from sanding and painting' – to erect a steel fence, said Lois Willard, 63, of Marble Falls." The NPS says "the association damaged an American Indian archaeological site dating between 700 and 50 B.C. when brush was cleared to build the fence in 2007."

GOV. HERBERT SIGNS AGREEMENT OUTLINING ARCHES NATIONAL PARK WATER RIGHTS. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (5/23, 3K) reports that Gov. Gary R. Herbert "signed a water right agreement Friday with the U.S. Department of Interior and Arches National Park that outlines Arches' water rights and removes the possibility of future litigation." The agreement "also identifies protections for basin water users, including businesses, ranchers, farmers and those that recreate in red rock country." Herbert said, "Today's agreement between the state and federal government once again shows our ability to collaborate and solve complex challenges when we work together. These agreements don't happen overnight. They take time and a commitment from everyone involved, but we came out of this process with a fair and equitable agreement that benefits Arches and the state of Utah."

COTTONWOODS IN ZION NATIONAL PARK DYING OUT. The [AP](#) Salt Lake City (5/25, 1.07M) reports that a NPS hydrologist says "cottonwood trees dotting the red rock landscape of southern Utah's Zion National Park could die out in 30 to 50 years." Hydrologist Dave Sharrow said that "levees protecting canyon roads have kept regular floods from wetting the soil and an unchecked deer population may be eating the cottonwood seedlings that do take hold." According to Sharrow, "the park has asked for \$7 million in federal money for more than a decade to address the levees but it has not yet received the money."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (5/25, 538K) and [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (5/25, 1 07M).

ENDANGERED BUTTERFLY FEARED MISSING AT INDIANA DUNES. The [AP](#) (5/23, 2.29M) reports that "the endangered Karner blue butterfly hasn't been found this spring at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and officials say they're worried the tiny insect could be gone." According to USGS research ecologist Ralph Grundel, "surveys in the late 1990s found more than 1,000 of the butterflies in the park along Lake Michigan but those numbers declined to where only two were spotted last year."

SAND DUNE AT INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE TO REMAIN CLOSED THIS SUMMER. The [AP](#) (5/22, Coyne, 2.29M) reports that "a popular sand dune at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore along Lake Michigan will remain closed this summer as scientists study what caused a boy to nearly be buried alive in 2013, a park spokesman said Friday." According to the article, "a team of scientists have been studying Mount Baldy, which is more than 120 feet tall, to determine what caused a hole that trapped Nathan Woessner under 11 feet of sand for more than three hours on July 12, 2013."

PARCELS IN CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK AVAILABLE FOR LEASE. [ABC News](#) (5/25, 3.69M) reports that "a unique opportunity to live inside of a national park is being offered to those seeking a special home – if they are willing to put in the elbow grease." According to the article, "three farms in need of rehabilitation located inside of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio are available for lease in 2015 to individuals interested in sustainable farming." The article notes that "the parcels will join an existing 10-farm program that operates under the National Park Service's Countryside Initiative nonprofit, whose mission is 'to preserve the agricultural heritage of the Valley,' according to the park's website."

CONCERNS RAISED OVER THREATS TO BUFFALO RIVER. [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (5/25, 8K) reports that some say the Buffalo River "needs to be continually protected from potential threats." Don Castleberry, a retired National Park Service Midwest Regional Director, said, "The immediate threat is the water quality." Castleberry said "the threat comes from hog farm production waste nearby."

DESTRUCTIVE ASH BORER BEETLE ADVANCING IN ST. LOUIS AREA. The [AP](#) Columbia, MO (5/25, 1K) reports that "a green beetle blamed for destroying tens of millions of ash trees in 25 states is advancing in the St. Louis area." The article notes that "the spread of the beetle has prompted some drastic measures." The NPS has "cut down all 800 ash trees on the Gateway Arch's grounds in recent months."

YELLOWSTONE VISITORS MORE LIKELY TO BE INJURED FROM SLIPS, FALLS THAN BEAR MAULING. The [AP](#) (5/25, 2 29M) reports that although Yellowstone National Park is "full of hazards like bears, bison, scalding water and canyons, visitors are most likely to be injured from mundane accidents like trips, slips and falls." Still, the park "works to keep visitors educated about bear safety."

The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (5/25, 590K) reports on the "wild things that happened this month in the wilderness of America's national parks." However, the article notes that "it is routine behaviors inside the parks' extreme environs that cause the most trouble."

RESCUERS PREPARED TO HELP ON MOUNT RAINIER. The [AP](#) (5/23, Le, 2 29M) reports that "as the climbing season gets underway on Mount Rainier, a specialized rescue team has been training to be ready when things go wrong on the 14,411-foot peak." Rescuers from the U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Air Force and National Park Service will "on hand to airlift them to safety."

FRANKLIN'S MASONIC HALL UNVEILS LANDMARK PLAQUE. The [Tennessean](#) (5/22, 444K) reports that state and local officials gathered Friday at Franklin's Masonic Hall "to watch as Gayle Hazelwood, acting on behalf of the National Park Service, unveiled a bronze plaque that will alert visitors to the site's national significance." According to the article, "the plaque notes that the hall, which has been continuously occupied by Hiram Masonic Lodge No. 7 since 1826, was the site of negotiations between President Andrew Jackson and a Chickasaw Nations delegation over the terms of what would be an unratified 1830 treaty."

POPULAR YELLOWSTONE AND GRAND TETON TRAILS CLOSED FOR NOW. The [AP](#) (5/23, 2.29M) reports that "two of the most heavily used day-hiking routes in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks in northwest Wyoming are closed for the time being because of weather damage and maintenance." In Yellowstone, "the iconic Brink of the Lower Falls trail is closed in the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone because of a mud and rock slide that deposited a 7-by-8-foot boulder on the route, effectively blocking the path." In Grand Teton, "the trail beyond Hidden Falls to Inspiration Point is closed and being rerouted so crews can replace bridges over Cascade Creek and rebuild the rocky ledge trails and steps that lead up to the popular Jenny Lake overlook."

ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE CO. RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING POWER RUNNING AT GRAND CANYON. The [Arizona Republic](#) (5/22, 1.27M) reports on the work of Kevin Hartigan, the local representative for Arizona Public Service Co., who is "responsible for keeping the lights on and water flowing at" the Grand Canyon. APS purchased "the remote power system at Grand Canyon from the National Park Service in the 1950s."

Bureau of Land Management:

AGENCIES FIGHT INVASIVE PLANTS TO HELP SAGE GROUSE IN WYOMING. The [AP](#) (5/22, 2 29M) reports that "state and federal land management agencies are teaming up with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and others to keep invasive plants out of sage grouse habitat." The article notes that "the Wind River/Sweetwater River Sage Grouse Working Group this month awarded a \$31,000 grant to Fremont County Weed and Pest." The funds will "go toward a large-scale, three-year noxious weed inventory and treatment effort that the county weed district began last year in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management."

AGENCIES LAUNCH CAMPAIGN FOR WILDFIRE AWARENESS. The [AP](#) (5/25) reports that the BLM "and other federal and state agencies are starting a public information campaign intended to reduce human-caused fires in sagebrush steppe areas in Idaho." The Idaho office of the BLM said in a statement Thursday that "efforts will include radio and television announcements, social media postings and a billboard on Interstate 84 between the Broadway and Gowen Field off-ramps in Boise."

BLM ASKED TO DELAY TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/26, 73K) reports that "Colorado Republican legislators and congressional representatives are asking Gov. John Hickenlooper to scrutinize plans for roads and trails on public lands in the Mesa County area." State lawmakers, "in fact, are asking that Hickenlooper refuse to sign the travel-management section of the proposed resource management plan offered by the Grand Junction Office of the Bureau of Land Management." U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner and U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton, also asked BLM Director Neil Kornze "to delay the final decision on the travel-management section for more study by the county."

BLM ANALYZING PLANS FOR HELIUM PLANT. The [AP](#) (5/25) reports that "a company planning to build a gas processing plant in the Wyoming Range says its proposed development shouldn't cause further degradation to a stream network that no longer supports cutthroat trout." According to the article, "representatives of the Denver firm QEP Resources are planning a gas processing plant to produce helium, methane and carbon dioxide, along with 10 new gas wells and associated infrastructure within the Dry Piney Creek drainage." The project is "in the early stages of being analyzed" by the BLM.

COLORADO SUPREME COURT ASKED TO INTERVENE IN CHRISTO PROJECT. The [AP](#) (5/25, 894K) reports that "a group fighting artist Christo's plan to drape a nearly six-mile stretch of the Arkansas River with translucent fabric is pleading with the Colorado Supreme Court to intervene, asking the high court to decide if an appellate court made a mistake when it ruled that the state parks department made a harmless error when it failed to follow its own procedures." Opponents said the holding "not only threatens the natural beauty of the Arkansas Headwaters and the citizens and wildlife living there, it also is an affront to people who are relying on state regulators."

BLM TO OPEN HANKSVILLE-BURPEE DINOSAUR QUARRY TO PUBLIC. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/25, 470K) reports that the BLM will open the Hanksville-Burpee Dinosaur Quarry to free public tours starting May 29.

BLACK ROCK EVENT CANCELED BECAUSE OF WEATHER. The [Fiko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (5/25, 22K) reports that "visitor and staff safety concerns have prompted the Bureau of Land Management, Black Rock Field Office to cancel this weekend's Black Rock Rendezvous, which was previously scheduled to start today."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE BLM PRESERVING WILL JAMES CABIN. Additional coverage that the BLM is preserving a cabin "that was reportedly used by author and artist Will James" was provided by the [AP](#) (5/25, French, 2 29M).

BLM'S O&C PLANS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (5/24, Kupillas, 64K), Sue Kupillas, a former Jackson County Commissioner and former executive director of Communities for Healthy Forests, writes that "Western Oregon's rural forested communities have waited over 20 years for a solution to restore balance to the management of the Bureau of Land Management's O&C timberlands." However, she says that "the BLM's draft plans are disappointing, though unsurprising considering the sum of broken federal policies that prevent the forests from being actively managed." She calls on "citizens to get involved and urge the BLM to improve their draft plans."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS MOVES TO REGULATE BIRD KILLS. The [Greenwire](#) (5/22) reports that "the Obama administration is considering a new program to permit and mitigate accidental bird kills from drilling pits, gas flares, power lines and communications towers, a move aimed at reducing major sources of avian mortality that was cheered by bird advocates." The FWS "released a notice of intent to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement that could establish a permitting regime under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act requiring that such incidental take be mitigated and potentially offset by habitat restoration or protection." The agency "plans to take 60 days of public comments and will hold open houses in Sacramento, Calif.; Denver; St. Louis; and Arlington, Va., in the coming months."

Also reporting on the story are [The Hill](#) (5/22, Wheeler, 533K) and [The Verge](#) (5/25, 913K).

FWS REVIEWING RETURN OF WETLANDS NEAR ANACONDA. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (5/25, 118K) reports that "the return of 2,400 acres of wetlands near Anaconda is up for public review through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." The FWS has "overseen the Atlantic Richfield Co.'s efforts to replace habitat ruined by a century of mining damage in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin." The article notes that "the latest part of that effort concerns the Dutchman wetlands, which feature a mix of aspen groves, spring-fed creeks, shrub fields and willow corridors."

EFFORTS TO SAVE SHOREBIRDS DECLARED A SUCCESS. The [AP](#) (5/25, Parry, 2.29M) reports that "a crash program to restore New Jersey bay and ocean beaches wrecked by Superstorm Sandy appears to have succeeded in saving tens of thousands of shorebirds that otherwise might have died after the 2012 storm wiped out their feeding grounds." According to the article, "with the birds now returning en masse for a third spring after the storm, those involved feel they can finally say the urgent efforts have worked."

EFFORT CONTINUES TO SAVE AMARGOSA VOLE. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (5/25, 380K) reports that a breeding program for the Amargosa vole at the University of California, Davis was so successful that last month, researchers were ready to replace the 20 voles they had taken from the wild with 29 healthy youngsters born in captivity. But on April 13, as the lab-raised voles were transported to Tecopa to be released into the marshes, they died. It was determined that the voles probably died from a combination of heat dehydration and stress.

CONCERNS RAISED OVER WATER CLEANUP AT GREAT SALT LAKE. The [AP](#) (5/25) reports that “a \$74 million project to clean up ground water contaminated by mining has environmentalists worried that the pollutants could end up hurting birds on the Great Salt Lake.” According to the article, “water regulators are preparing to take the final steps in a decade-long project to clean up underground plumes of water contaminated by 100 years’ worth of minerals and heavy metals dumped by Kennecott miners.” The article notes that “with water levels are at historic lows, some say that the wastewater could combine with minerals already in the lake and hurt the birds.”

GROUP FILES LAWSUIT OVER CAPE SABLE SEASIDE SPARROW. The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (5/24, 177K) reports that “the Cape Sable seaside sparrow is at the ecological forefront after the Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit recently against the federal government for water releases during the record floods of 2013.” FWS spokesman Ken Warren said: “The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has collaborated with scientists from the National Park Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and internationally recognized experts to develop enhanced conservation measures for the Cape Sable seaside sparrow. It’s an ongoing process and we’ll continue to work with our partners to do whatever it takes to ensure the continued existence of this species and to accomplish restoration of the Everglades.”

LAWSUIT FILED TO SAVE CACTUS FERRUGINOUS PYGMY-OWL . The [Payson \(AZ\) Roundup](#) (5/22, 21K) reports that “two environmental groups have filed a lawsuit aimed at forcing the federal government to protect Arizona’s diminishing cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl population under the Endangered Species Act.” According to the article, “the lawsuit filed by Defenders of Wildlife and the Tucson-based Center for Biological Diversity calls for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the owl as endangered.”

KANSAS BIOLOGISTS BANDING EAGLE CHICKS. The [AP](#) (5/22, Pearce, 2.29M) reports that Dan Mulhern is the FWS biologist who oversees Kansas eagles. Mulhern said “this spring Kansas could produce its 1,000th eaglet since 1989.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSAL TO REVISE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT’S PETITION PROCESS. Additional coverage of the proposal to revise the Endangered Species Act’s petition process was provided by the [Courthouse News](#) (5/22, 7K) and the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (5/24, 506).

EFFORTS TO PROTECT SAGE GROUSE ANALYZED. In his column for the [Denver Post](#) (5/25, Carroll, 894K), Vincent Carroll analyzes whether the greater sage grouse can avoid a listing. He writes that efforts to protect sage grouse habitat weights in favor not listing the bird. However, Carroll notes that if the animal is listed, private landowners will likely be less willing to cooperate on conservation measures.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (5/25, 75K) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (5/26, 1.07M).

LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR RECOVERY HAILED. The [New Orleans Advocate](#) (5/25) editorializes that “to move from endangered species to a backyard pest — that’s almost a miracle for the Louisiana black bear.” The paper notes that “among those who deserve credit for the black bear announcement are state and national leaders who have pushed conservation of the woodlands along the big river and its tributaries, including former U.S. Sen. J. Bennett Johnston and the late Gov. David C. Treen, who championed the Tensas wildlife refuges and preservation of the Atchafalaya Basin in the 1980s.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (5/25, 506).

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR OPPOSES “ENERGY CORRIDOR” BILL. Although some lawmakers are pushing “to establish new natural gas pipelines on federal lands in the eastern United States,” the Interior Department is opposing a bill that would “speed up the permitting process for natural gas pipelines.” [The Hill](#) (5/23, Henry, 533K) reported. The measure, introduced by Reps. Tom MacArthur and Cedric Richmond, calls for at least 10 “energy corridors” to be established “in the eastern United States within two years.” Before a House subcommittee this week, Bureau of Land Management representative Timothy Spisak claimed that the timeline is “too short... to adequately coordinate with states, tribes, and other federal partners, and the public.”

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION EXPECTED TO RELEASE NUMEROUS, HIGH-PROFILE REGULATIONS THIS SUMMER. According to a rule-making schedule released by the White House on Thursday, this summer is expected to be “busy for the Obama administration’s energy and environmental regulators, with numerous high-profile rule releases planned,” [The Hill](#) (5/22, Cama, 533K) reported. The schedule revealed that “regulators hope to fill out the Obama administration’s agenda with major rules on greenhouse gases, the oil and natural gas sectors, coal production, and other policy priorities.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Truth-Out](#) (5/25, 9K).

WYOMING MONITORING NEW FRACKING ACTIVITY. In a related article, the [AP](#) (5/24) reported that, “as Wyoming challenges new federal fracking rules on public lands, state regulators are quietly implementing a state requirement that petroleum companies justify keeping secret the ingredients in the chemical products they pump underground during hydraulic fracturing.” Wyoming “has approved six applications from companies seeking to keep their ingredients confidential under the terms of a settlement with environmental groups announced in January.” However, Mark Watson, Wyoming oil and gas supervisor, “says he has rejected three to four applications due to a lack of information.”

TEXAS EARTHQUAKE RESEARCH GETS HALF OF FUNDING FROM OIL, GAS INDUSTRY. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (5/23, Kuchment, Selk, 1.09M) reported that the Bureau of Economic Geology, housed at the University of Texas at Austin, is set to be voted the state’s official quake investigator. The research entity is expected to get as much as “\$4.5 million to deploy quake monitors across the state and help explain why many long-dormant faults are suddenly waking up,” the article reports, noting that the bureau gets about half of its funding from the oil and gas industry. “It doesn’t inherently mean it’s biased research,” said Aaron Velasco, a seismologist with the University of Texas at El Paso. Major environmental groups also back the plan despite its association with funding from the energy industry. “Forty to 60 percent of the bureau’s annual budget comes from fossil fuel companies, according to director Scott Tinker, a former oil company geologist who serves as a paid adviser to Shell Oil Co,” according to the article.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE FOUR STATES SUE OVER FRACKING REGULATIONS. Additional coverage that Wyoming, North Dakota, Colorado and Utah are suing the Interior Department “over fracking regulations issued by the federal government in March” was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (5/24, 28K).

UDALL PRAISED FOR OPPOSITION TO CHACO CANYON DEVELOPMENT. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (5/23, Torrez, 533K), Rod Torrez, communications strategist for HECHO, praises Sen. Tom Udall for voicing “his concern in a Senate hearing last week over oil and gas development in the northwest New Mexico, and its potential impact on Chaco Canyon, which in the Senator’s words is ‘an incredibly rich cultural destination as well as sacred place to the tribes of the Southwest.’” According to Torrez, “Udall was right to flag the potential conflicts and how Chaco Canyon is situated right in one of the most productive oil and gas production areas in the country. It appears that many new leases are getting closer to the Chaco Culture National Historical Park, which really concerns me.” He notes that “Udall then followed up on a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell regarding the protection of Chaco and its ‘enormous significance’ to tribes and America’s future generations.”

Offshore Energy Development:

CALIFORNIA OIL SPILL CLEANUP CONTINUES. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/25, story 4, 0:15, Glor, 5.08M) reported, “The oil spill cleanup continued along the coast of Santa Barbara, California. Up to 101,000 gallons spilled when a pipeline ruptured last week. Two beaches that were closed may reopen next week.”

California Pipeline Spill Stiffens Opposition To State’s Oil Projects. [Reuters](#) (5/22, Hays) reports that the recent oil spill off Santa Barbara County coastline in California is likely to stiffen opposition to large oil projects across the state, particularly several proposed oil-by-rail offloading terminals that were already being contested. John Auers, a consultant at Turner, Mason & Co., said “It’s certainly not good news for anyone trying to permit any kind of oil-related facilities in California.”

Corrective Actions Ordered After California Pipeline Spill. [Reuters](#) (5/23, Gorman) reported that the U.S. Transportation Department’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration has issued a corrective action order against Plains All American Pipeline LP, requiring the company to perform an in-depth analysis of the root cause and “every contributing factor” that contributed to last Tuesday’s spill. The order is not considered a disciplinary enforcement sanctions. Although there are several deadlines in the order, PHMSA said they do not expect a quick restart to the pipeline.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/23, Panzar, 4.03M) reported that no fines were issued against Plains All American Pipeline, but the company “will have to pay for the cleanup and repair environmental damage and is likely to face penalties under U.S. pollution laws, legal experts say.”

The [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Independent](#) (5/23, Fastman, 119K) reported that the ruptured pipeline carried nearly 40,000 barrels per day of oil extracted by Exxon, Venoco and Freeport-McMoRan. Representatives from the affected energy producers are “evaluating their workaround options, but trucking seems to be the only viable transportation options,” as there is no existing infrastructure to transfer oil by trains or tankers. A spokesman for the Western States Petroleum Association said that the closed pipeline carries less than two percent of the oil refined in California daily, so he does not expect consumers to notice any price changes.

The [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Independent](#) (5/22, 119K) also provides coverage of the spill.

Volunteers Scramble To Save Wildlife Caught In California Oil Spill. Tom Llamas reported on [ABC World News](#) (5/24, story 5, 1:20, Llamas, 5.84M) that in Santa Barbara, California, "crews are cleaning up the disastrous oil spill on the coast." As some 105,000 gallons leaked from a ruptured pipeline owned by Texas-based Plains All American Pipeline, volunteers "are racing against the clock to save the animals." Clayton Sandell added that according to wildlife experts, "animals swimming through the oil spill here are showing up as far as 50 miles up and down the California coast."

Ruptured Pipeline Not Equipped With Auto Shut-Off, Says Officials. The [AP](#) (5/24) reported that the pipeline responsible for last Tuesday's spill of thousands of gallons of oil off California's coast "was the only pipe of its kind in the county not required to have an automatic shut-off valve." According to Kevin Drude, deputy director of the county's Energy and Minerals Division, the original pipeline owners skirted the requirement "by successfully arguing in court in the late 1980s that it should be subject to federal oversight because the pipeline is part of an interstate network."

Op-Ed Says Moving Pipelines Inland Is Key To Preventing Offshore Spills. In a column in the [San Gabriel Valley \(CA\) Tribune](#) (5/23, Scauzillo, 121K) Steve Scauzillo wrote that a short-term fix to preventing an offshore oil spill would be keep pipelines away from the coast. Scauzillo notes that few people remember the Plains All American pipeline that burst in Glendale last year, releasing 10,000 gallons of crude into the streets "because oil on land gets cleaned up in a matter of hours, or a few days" versus a much longer timeframe for ocean spills.

COAST GUARD BATTLING FIRE ON OIL RIG ON GULF OF MEXICO. [ABC World News](#) (5/22, story 7, 0:20, Robach, 5.84M) reported that, according to the Coast Guard, an oil rig is burning on the Gulf of Mexico and 28 crew members have "safely evacuated." Officials have spotted an oil slick "more than a mile long." The [AP](#) (5/23, Mcgill) reports that "the fire was still burning Friday evening, the Coast Guard and an environmentalist who flew over the site said." [Bloomberg News](#) (5/22, Polson, 3.81M) identified the Texas Petroleum Investment Co. platform in Breton Sound Block 21, off the southeastern Louisiana coast, as the site of the fire. [The Hill](#) (5/23, Henry, 533K) also reported on the story.

GULF TOURISM REBOUNDS SOME CREDIT BP. The [AP](#) (5/25, Reeves) reports that five years after the BP disaster, "the petroleum giant that was vilified during heated town hall meetings for killing a way of life is being praised by some along the coast for spending more than \$230 million to help lure visitors back to an area that some feared would die because of the spill." While questions about the spills' long term effects remain, especially in light of a large bottlenose dolphins die-off, amid pending claims for reimbursement over losses due to the blowout, visitors to the gulf have increased. "Many attribute the change in large part to the millions of dollars that BP spent on tourism grants and advertising that promoted the Gulf Coast nationwide to people who didn't realize that Alabama and Mississippi had coastlines," the article reports. "We're just amazingly thankful," Ted Scarritt, who offers tourist cruises in Orange Beach said. "I think our area has recovered profoundly," he added.

MAN SENTENCED FOR LYING ABOUT BLOWOUT PREVENTER TESTING. The [Maritime Executive](#) (5/26, 21) reports that "the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana announced that Race Addington, 49, of Houston, was sentenced May 20 for making false statements to agencies or departments of the United States in relation to the veracity of blowout preventer testing on an offshore oil and gas platform located at Ship Shoal 225 on a federal mineral lease in the Gulf of Mexico." U.S. District Judge Helen G. Berrigan sentenced Addington to one year probation and 40 hours of community service.

OPPONENTS OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Houston Community Newspapers](#) (5/25, 8K), Bill Wilson, a board member of Americans for Limited Government, praises the Interior Department's upcoming five-year leasing plan. Wilson criticizes officials of coastal states who are "trying to block the Obama administration's decision to permit offshore energy exploration."

Additional coverage was provided by [WGHP-TV](#) High Point, NC (5/22, 400K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA FARMERS AGREE TO 25% VOLUNTARY WATER CUTS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/23, Morin, 4.03M) reports the California State Water Resources Control Board on Friday "accepted an unprecedented proposal from Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta farmers to voluntarily cut water use by 25%" in an effort to avoid stricter, state government-imposed cuts in water usage. The Times says the agreement "staves off the threat of potentially lengthy litigation" between farmers and the Control Board.

The [AP](#) (5/23, Nirappil, Smith) reports for "the first time since a 1977 drought," California water regulators are warning of coming cuts for senior water-rights holders "whose claims date back a century or more." The AP says California has until now required a 25% conservation by municipalities and reduced water deliveries to many growers and communities "with less solid claims to water."

The [New York Times](#) (5/23, Medina, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that since a recent announcement by California Gov. Jerry Brown of "across-the-board cutbacks for urban water systems, the state's farmers have become something of a scapegoat." The story says urban residents who are cutting back on water usage for showers and landscaping have "angrily accused the agricultural industry of not doing enough to curb its own use of water," leaving California farmers feeling besieged and fighting back with public relations campaigns.

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (5/22, 196K) and [U-T San Diego \(CA\)](#) (5/25, 579K).

BOR ANNOUNCES LAKE BERRYESSA'S SPANISH FLAT RECREATION AREA IS REOPENING. The [Vacaville \(CA\) Reporter](#) (5/22, 52K) reports that the BOR has "signed a short-term concession contract with a new operator, Spanish Flat Partners, LLC, to operate the Spanish Flat Recreation Area at Lake Berryessa starting this Memorial Day weekend and through the summer."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (5/25, 45K).

FEDERAL FUNDING LAGS BEHIND COST OF RURAL WATER PROJECTS. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (5/26, 38K) reports that "since 2000, Congress has provided a steady drip of federal funding for potable water projects in the West," but "the problem, officials say, is that funding isn't keeping up with construction deadlines or inflation." In fact, "in recent years, annual funding for the projects has actually decreased, down from about \$10 million a year in 2008."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE BOR TO INVEST \$50 MILLION FOR WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS. Additional coverage that the BOR will "invest about \$50m to support 64 projects that include enhancing water efficiency and water conservation in 12 western states" was provided by [Desalination & Water Reuse](#) (5/25), [Water Technology Online](#) (5/25), and the [Clean Technology Business Review](#) (5/24).

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA SENDING DELEGATION TO INSPECT LOWER BRULE FINANCIAL RECORDS. The [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (5/23, 116K) reports that the BIA is "sending a delegation to the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation this week to inspect financial records amid an ongoing power struggle and accusations of malfeasance." The article notes that "the struggle between Vice Chairman Kevin Wright and his allies against the friends and family of former Chairman Michael Jandreau, who died April 3, has paralyzed the tribal government." In a letter to Wright announcing the BIA's upcoming visit this week, Regional Director Tim LaPointe wrote: "The BIA is closely monitoring the events at the tribe and we share your concerns."

BILL INTRODUCED TO TAKE LAND AS PART OF LYTTON RANCHERIA RESERVATION. The [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (5/25, 168K) reports that Rep. Jared Huffman "introduced a bill this week to take land near Windsor into federal trust for housing and other purposes — but not a casino — as part of the Lytton Rancheria reservation." The measure, "introduced Thursday, would allow the Pomo tribe to return to a communal homeland about 10 miles from their original reservation north of Healdsburg. No gaming will be conducted on the lands to be taken into trust by the federal government, according to Huffman's office."

BIA OFFICERS CLEAN UP PLAYGROUNDS ON WIND RIVER RESERVATION. The [County 10](#) (5/22) reports that "earlier this month, local Bureau of Indian Affairs officers spent some time at the playgrounds at Beaver Creek and Mill Creek housing to make the areas more kid friendly." The article notes that Officers Dawley, Stream, Pujols and Lt. Keel participated in the project. Special Agent Joe Keel said, "The BIA's motto is that the honor is to serve. My officers and I try live up to that everyday. Doing stuff like this allows us all to better enjoy the community we serve and live in." The clean-up was done in celebration of Earth Day

Office of Insular Affairs:

INTERIOR PROVIDES \$250,000 IN EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO GUAM. [KUAM-TV](#) Dededo, GUM (5/22, 171) reports that "the U.S. Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina today approved \$250,000 to assist Guam Governor Eddie Calvo and other emergency recovery officials in efforts to help over 300

individuals and families displaced in the wake of Typhoon Dolphin that hit Guam on May 15, 2015. The funding will be used to purchase tents, generators, portable cooling units, toiletry and first-aid kits, as well as food." Assistant Secretary Esther Kia'aina said, "People on Guam are still reeling from the effects of this storm and we are pleased to support the Governor in assisting Guam's residents, including those who have migrated from the Freely Associated States under the Compacts of Free Association. The funds will be helping those who are now either homeless or are living in substandard conditions as a result of Dolphin and who are at a risk for their health, safety and well-being. We want Guam to be successful in providing residents the basic necessities as they either return home or move into temporary or intermediate housing for the short-term and transition out of storm shelters for the long-term."

Also reporting on the story is [Pacific News Center](#) (5/26, Carrera).

US WANTS MARSHALL ISLANDS TO REPAY FUNDS SPENT BY INTERIOR. The [Fiji Times](#) (5/26, 893) reports that "the US has put the Marshall Islands Government on notice that it has until July 1 to repay the Interior Department \$US800,000 (\$F1.6m) spent on designs for an elementary school in Majuro that the Marshall Islands says now cannot be built on the planned site."

Top National News:

OBAMA US NOT INVOLVED IN "MAJOR GROUND WAR" FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 9/11. The President's Memorial Day [remarks](#) at Arlington Cemetery generated two brief reports on the network newscasts, as well as largely positive print and online coverage. Stories generally focused on Obama's celebration of the fact that, for the first time since 9/11, no US troops are currently involved in ground fighting overseas. [ABC World News](#) (5/25, story 9, 1:45, Robach, 5.84M), for example, showed the President saying, "This is the first Memorial Day in 14 years that the United States is not engaged in a major ground war." ABC added, "Yes, not a ground war, but they are still serving" in Iraq and Afghanistan. US troops, says the [Washington Post](#) (5/26, Mufson, 5.03M), "remain mired and at risk in both countries, training and advising Iraqi forces against the Islamic State and Afghan forces fighting the Taliban."

The [New York Daily News](#) (5/25, Edelman, 3.79M) reports that in stating that "our servicemembers are at less risk this year," Obama was giving "a nod to his own policies," while [The Hill](#) (5/25, Byrnes, 533K) indicates that he "highlighted the US drawdown in Afghanistan." [Politico](#) (5/25, Nelson, 1.11M) reports that the President said this year's "Memorial Day is 'especially meaningful'" because of it.

The [AP](#) (5/26) also notes the President "said 'we'll continue to bring'" US troops "home and reduce our forces further, down to an embassy presence by the end of the year." [Reuters](#) (5/25) quotes Obama as warning, however, "Afghanistan remains a very dangerous place. And as so many families know, our troops continue to risk their lives for us." The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/25, story 9, 0 30, Gior, 5.08M) noted that "In Kabul" yesterday, "US forces paused to remember the soldiers that died in fighting in Afghanistan."

[USA Today](#) (5/26, Jackson, 5.01M) reports that Obama also "spotlighted the careers of the last two Americans to die in combat in Afghanistan – Wyatt Martin and Ramon Morris – and said the nation will never stop trying to repay the debt owed to these and thousands of others who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of the United States." [TIME](#) (5/25, Luckerson, 19 57M) noted on its website that Obama said, "These two men, these two heroes, if you passed them on the street you wouldn't know that they were brothers. ... They were bonded together to secure our liberty and keep us safe."

The [Philly \(PA\) Voice](#) (5/25, Klopp) recounted that the President had earlier placed "a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier." The [Washington Times](#) (5/26, Boyer, 641K) reports that Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, "who introduced the president at Arlington, said nearly 200,000 U.S. service members are stationed overseas on this Memorial Day." Said Carter, "Troops of such caliber demand great leaders, and there's no doubt they have one in our commander-in-chief. ... He cares deeply about the safety, welfare and dignity of our men and women in uniform and their families."

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (5/26, Alpert, 733K) reports that "also paying a Memorial Day tribute to the sacrifice of American soldiers was House Majority Whip Steve Scalise," who said, "We owe these brave men and women a tremendous debt of gratitude, because without their selfless sacrifice Americans could not experience God

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, May 21, 2015

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DATE THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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[DOI in the News:](#)

SECRETARY JEWELL ANNOUNCES \$50 MILLION FOR WESTERN WATER-SAVING PROJECTS. The [AP](#) (5/21, 3.69M) reports that "the U.S. government will invest nearly \$50 million in water conservation and reuse projects in 12 drought-stricken Western states, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced Wednesday." Jewell said, "It is absolutely critical that states and the federal government leverage our funding resources so that we can make each drop count." The funds come "from the Interior Department's WaterSMART sustainable water initiative, which has provided about \$250 million in funding since 2010."

[Politico Pro](#) (5/20) reports that Jewell said, "In a time of exceptional drought, it is absolutely critical that states and the federal government leverage our funding resources so that we can make each drop count."

The [AP](#) (5/21) reports that the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association announced Wednesday that it will receive a \$900,000 grant from the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation for water conservation and reuse projects at a new hydroelectric facility in Montrose. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell announced funding Wednesday for more than 60 projects in a dozen states, the AP reports.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/21, 5.37M), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (5/21, 75K), the [Graham \(TX\) Leader](#) (5/21, 13K), the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (5/21, Press, 762K), the [U-T San Diego](#) (5/20, 579K), the [Franklin \(N\) Daily Journal](#) (5/21, 51K), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/21, 1.29M), [KSRO-AM](#) (5/21), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (5/21, Subscription Publication, 2.92M), [Reuters](#) (5/20), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/21, 5.37M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/21, 2.29M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/21, 2.29M), the [Oregonian](#) (5/21, 1M), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (5/20, 199K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (5/21, Boxall, 4.03M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Daily News](#) (5/20, 379K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/20, Press, 5.03M), [Yahoo! News](#) (5/21, 6.18M), [KGW-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (5/20, 107K), [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (5/21, 1K), [KCAL-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (5/20, 153K), [KSBW-TV](#) Monterey, CA (5/21, 27K), and [Fox News](#) (5/20, 9.4M).

FWS MOVES TO DELIST LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR. The [Greenwire](#) (5/20) reports that the FWS has "proposed removing from the list of threatened species a type of black bear that is famous for being spared by avid hunter and former President Teddy Roosevelt." The decision "to delist the Louisiana black bear, one of 16 subspecies of American black bears, was trumpeted by the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who oversees FWS, and environmentalists as a prime example of how public-private partnerships can help to recover species protected by the Endangered Species Act." However, "critics of ESA said the rare recovery was possible only through coercing landowners into cooperation with regulators."

[The Hill](#) (5/21, Cama, 533K) reports that Jewell and Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal "announced the proposed delisting under the Endangered Species Act Wednesday, crediting a two-decade public-private partnership with the bear's recovery." Jewell "declared that the recovery shows the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act, which has long been a target of conservatives who decry the economic impacts that protections have on industries that use the land where species live." "Across Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi, we have worked together with our partners to protect and restore habitat, reintroduce populations and reduce the threats to the bear," Jewell said in a statement, following an announcement event with Jindal. "Today's recovery of the bear is yet another success story of the Endangered Species Act."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (5/21, 34K), [KNOE-TV](#) Monroe, LA (5/21, 2K), the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (5/21, 733K), [WVUE-TV](#) New Orleans (5/21, 32K), [ABC News](#) (5/21, 3.69M), [TIME](#) (5/21, 19.57M), [Fox News](#) (5/20, 9.4M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (5/21, McConnaughey, 641K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/21, McConnaughey, 2.29M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/21, McConnaughey, 2.29M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/20, Janet McConnaughey |, Ap, 5.03M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/20, 5.03M), the [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (5/21, 733K), the [Merced \(CA\) Sun-Star](#) (5/21, 46K), the [Mississippi Business Journal](#) (5/21, 1K), the [Modesto \(CA\) Bee](#) (5/21, 163K), the [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (5/21, 34K), [Fox News](#) (5/20, 9.4M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/21, 5.37M), [Yahoo! News](#) (5/21, 6.18M), [KATC-TV Lafayette \(LA\)](#) Lafayette, LA (5/21, 71K), [WVUE-TV New Orleans \(LA\)](#) New Orleans (5/21, 32K), [KNOE-TV Monroe \(LA\)](#) Monroe, LA (5/21, 2K), [KTVE-TV El Dorado \(AR\)](#) El Dorado, AR (5/21, 1K), [KATC-TV Lafayette, LA](#) (5/21, 71K), and the [Seymour \(IN\) Times Tribune](#) (5/21, 28K).

INTERIOR CIO PARTICIPATING IN NEW IT COST COMMISSION. The [Federal Times](#) (5/20, 118K) reports that "the Commission on IT Cost, Opportunity, Strategy and Transparency (IT COST) — created and fostered by the Technology Business Management (TBM) Council — is bringing together federal and private sector CIOs to develop a set of recommendations focused on increasing transparency and providing visibility into even the lowest-level IT buys." The article notes that "Sylvia Burns, CIO at the Department of the Interior, is one of five federal CIOs participating in the new IT COST Commission."

SPORTSMEN TESTIFY AT HOUSE HEARING. The [Arizona State University Cronkite News](#) (5/20) reports that "sportsmen called on a House panel Wednesday to support a sweeping proposal that they said would guarantee hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting rights on federal lands for future generations." The Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act "covers everything from ivory possession and use of lead shot to a requirement that federal agencies adopt a policy of 'open until closed' for hunting on public lands." Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation President Jeff Crane said, "The overarching purpose behind the SHARE Act is quite simply to ensure access to opportunity for hunters, shooters and anglers."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW WILDFIRE STRATEGY. Additional coverage of the new wildfire strategy announced in Boise, Idaho on Tuesday was provided by the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (5/20, 109K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

ELLIS ISLAND NATIONAL IMMIGRATION MUSEUM RESTORED. [NPR](#) (5/20, 1.52M) reports that the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation worked with the NPS to restore Ellis Island's "main building that processed 12 million immigrants around the early 20th century." According to the article, "after it was closed by federal government in 1954, the building was reopened as a museum in 1990," and "it was recently renamed the Ellis Island National Immigration Museum to tell immigrant stories beyond the Ellis Island years."

FIGHT DEVELOPING OVER HISTORIC DESIGNATION OF SITE NEAR CAMP DAVID. The [New York Times](#) (5/21, Siddons, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that the local council is expected to vote "soon" on whether to designate an area known as Trout Run, near Camp David, should be on the register of historic places. However, the "seemingly simple" issue has "turned into a strange fight about what the property might become." If the designation is enacted, then a unit of the Church of Scientology, which currently owns the site, could use a local "loophole" to open a center for recovering addicts on the site, something that a number of local residents oppose.

ALEXANDRIA PICKS LOCATION FOR POTOMAC YARD METRO STATION. The [Washington Post](#) (5/20, Sullivan, 5.03M) reports that "a new Metrorail station at Potomac Yard should be built close to the existing shopping center, the Alexandria City Council unanimously decided Wednesday night, as they waxed nearly poetic about the economic development they believe it will bring." The article notes that "the city is also negotiating an agreement with the National Park Service, which operates the parkway, because 0.16 acres of federal land is needed for the construction." According to the article, "city officials said they expect to provide about \$12 million in improvements to the federal land in exchange."

THREE FINED FOR WORSHIPPING WITH CANNABIS AT ROGER WILLIAMS NATIONAL MEMORIAL. The [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (5/20, 322K) reports that "three people from a West Greenwich church that uses marijuana for prayer and anointing were issued \$100 fines Tuesday during one of their daily novenas at the Roger Williams National Memorial." Jennifer Smith, site manager for the national property, said, "We have issued a special use permit for the Healing Church to gather, speak and conduct First Amendment activities on May 23, 2015. Activities are subject to all applicable federal, state, county and municipal laws, ordinances, regulations, codes, and the terms and conditions of this permit."

FORT MONROE COMMEMORATES "CONTRABAND DECISION." The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (5/20, Subscription Publication, 219K) reports that Fort Monroe will commemorate Union Army Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler's "contraband" decision. According to the article, "actors from New York's 99th Company, the Tidewater Marine Living History Association as well as a Civil War surgeon will be on hand for the event." NPS Ranger Aaron Firth said, "We want people to experience what it was like being there and just what these people would have felt knowing they would not be returned."

ARCHAEOLOGISTS, VOLUNTEERS SEARCH ALCOVE SPRING SITES. The [Marysville \(KS\) Advocate](#) (5/20, 15K) reports that "archaeologists, volunteers and members of the Oregon-California Trails Association spent Saturday sweeping areas at Alcov Spring Historic Park with metal detectors, searching for traces of history." They discovered "a nickel from the 1860s, found in the north part of the park near where the Oregon Trail once crossed the prairie during that very period."

YELLOWSTONE TRAIL CLOSED DUE TO ROCK AND MUD SLIDE. The [AP](#) (5/20, Press, 5 03M) reports that "heavy rain and snow over the weekend has caused a rock and mud slide across a popular Yellowstone National Park trail, forcing its closure until further notice."

MEETING HELD ON NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE. [WCSH-TV](#) Portland, ME (5/20, 30K) reports that "East Millinocket is quickly approaching a non-binding vote on the proposal to bring a national park to the Katahdin region" and "a public discussion on that proposal turned into a heated debate about the area's future Wednesday night." The meeting was organized by the Maine Woods Coalition which opposes the park. According to the article, "they wanted to feature voices from both sides, but the park's chief proponent, Quimby's son, Lucas St. Clair, could not attend."

NEW PROJECT LAUNCHED TO FOCUS ON LGBT HISTORY IN CALIFORNIA. The [Bay Area Reporter \(CA\)](#) (5/21, 310) reports that "a project has been launched in California to focus on the state's LGBT history as work advances on a National Historic Landmark LGBTQ Theme Study and proposed framework for the National Park Service." According to the article, "called California Pride: Mapping LGBTQ Histories, the online, crowdsourced archive will feature, according to organizers, the 'memories, stories, and images related to sites throughout the Golden State associated with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer experience.'"

WYOMING CRIMINALIZES TAKING ECOLOGICAL PHOTOS ON PUBLIC LANDS. [ABC News](#) (5/21, 3.69M) reports that "visitors to Wyoming's renowned Yellowstone National Park could find themselves thrown in jail for simply taking a photograph without permission, according to critics of a statute signed into law by the Wyoming governor this spring." According to the article, "while the law is meant to criminalize the act of entering public and private lands in order to collect pollution data, critics argue that the law's wide-ranging restrictions could ensnare a tourist taking photos in one of the state's National Parks."

Also reporting on the story are the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (5/21, 74K) and the [AllGov](#) (5/21, 2K).

LOS ANGELES URGED TO COLLABORATE ON LA RIVER REVITALIZATION. In an interview with the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/21, Morrison, 4.03M), Sean Woods, superintendent of California State Parks for Los Angeles, says that "the L.A. River is a perfect example that one entity cannot do it alone." To revitalize the river, Woods urges the city "to work with the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service, city parks, and that effort will float all of our boats."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FEE INCREASES AT NPS SITES. Additional coverage of fee hikes at NPS sites was provided by the [Alamogordo \(NM\) Daily News](#) (5/21, 19K), [Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (5/20), [KHON-TV Honolulu \(HI\)](#) Honolulu (5/20, 37K), and [KITV-TV Honolulu \(HI\)](#) Honolulu (5/21, 39K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RECENT BASE JUMPING DEATHS. Additional coverage of recent BASE jumping deaths was provided by the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/21, 5 37M), the [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (5/21, Press, 279K), the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (5/21, 167K), the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (5/20, 886K), the [New York \(NY\) Post](#) (5/21, 3.15M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/21, 894K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/20, Press, 5.03M), [Yahoo! News](#) (5/21, 6.18M), the [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (5/21, Press, 279K), and the [Bradford \(PA\) Era](#) (5/21, 30K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OLDEST ACTIVE PARK RANGER. Additional coverage of Betty Reid Soskin, the nation's oldest active park ranger, was provided by the [Black Entertainment Television](#) (5/20, 933K).

Bureau of Land Management:

JUDGE'S ORDER BARS ENFORCEMENT BY BLM IN OREGON GOLD MINE DISPUTE. The [AP](#) (5/21, Barnard, 2.29M) reports that "the federal government and southern Oregon gold miners have each taken a step back from tensions over a mining claim where a constitutional activist group has posted armed guards." The UBLM is "holding off enforcement action" and "the miners have agreed not to work the claim until their appeal of the agency's decision against their operation is resolved." The agreement was "affirmed Wednesday in a decision from an Interior Board of Land Appeals administrative law judge forbidding the BLM to enforce an order halting work at the mine."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Raw Story](#) (5/20, 668K).

BLM NORTHWEST AND SOUTHWEST RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCILS SEEK NOMINATIONS. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Free Press](#) (5/21, 43K) reports that the BLM has "announced that it is seeking public nominations for open positions on the BLM Colorado Northwest and Southwest District Resource Advisory Councils." Ruth Welch, BLM's Colorado State Director, said, "As a land-management agency that carries out a multiple-use mission, the BLM seeks out and values diverse input from citizens who care about the stewardship of America's public lands. This input advances our efforts in managing uses of and protecting resources on the public lands."

BLM HOLDS PUBLIC MEETINGS ABOUT WESTERN OREGON FOREST PLAN. The [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (5/21, 3K) reports that the BLM "kicked off a series of public meetings Tuesday on how to manage its forests in Western Oregon." The article notes that "over the past three years the agency has been soliciting input from Oregonians on what kinds of recreational opportunities they want to pursue on the O&C Lands."

BLM REPAIRING CABIN USED BY WILL JAMES. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (5/21, 178K) reports that the BLM has been "making repairs to keep" a cabin that was reportedly used by author and artist Will James, "and its ties to history, standing." Jennifer Macy, archaeologist for the Billings Field Office of the BLM, said, "We're trying to preserve it yet keep it historically accurate."

GRAND CANYON WATERSHED NATIONAL MONUMENT CRITICIZED. The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (5/21, 34K), Robert E. Mansell, chairman of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, explains his opposition to the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. He points to the creation of the Sonoran Desert National Monument in 2001 as "a cautionary tale." Mansell claims that "the 1.7 million acres already being successfully managed will instead be subject to deferred management, budget shortages and increased bureaucracy."

WILD HORSE INMATE PROGRAM HELPS PRISONERS. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (5/21, Hayes, 194K), Tim Hayes writes about the success of the Wild Horse Inmate Program. According to Hayes, "the inmates identified" with the horses and "they began to feel compassion, an emotion they had probably never known or felt before."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

HOUSE EFFORT TO BLOCK SAGE GROUSE ESA LISTING SETS OFF "MAJOR" SKIRMISH. The [New York Times](#) (5/21, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 12 24M) reports that a GOP maneuver on the military bill to block the Department of the Interior from adding the sage grouse to the endangered species list has "set off a major congressional skirmish that has spilled over into Western states, where the sage grouse is revered, and among environmental groups that fear a steady erosion" of the ESA. The Times says that effort "is part of an ambitious push that House Republicans have pursued since retaking the majority in 2010 to roll back, limit or unravel environmental regulations."

The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/20, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "House Republicans and Western state officials yesterday said the federal government is snubbing state plans to conserve the greater sage grouse and advancing 'top-down' policies to lock up federal lands." However, "Democrats, sportsmen and a state official from Colorado said the federal government has worked closely with states and that saving sage grouse will take an all-lands approach that includes private, state and federal tracts." The article notes that "those combating views were on display yesterday at a hearing of the Natural Resources Committee just months before the Fish and Wildlife Service is set to decide whether the sage grouse is threatened or endangered across its 165 million acres of Western rangelands."

For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (5/21, Ashe, Kornze, Tidwell, Weller, 533K), Dan Ashe, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Neil Kornze, director of the Bureau of Land Management; Tom Tidwell, chief of the United States Forest Service; and Jason Weller, chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, write that "federal agencies are working hand in hand with states and other partners through voluntary, incentive-based conservation and comprehensive state and federal land management plans to conserve the greater sage-grouse and support traditional land uses and economic development." For example, they note that "the BLM and USFS will soon release plans for managing federal lands to ensure sage-grouse populations thrive, while allowing energy, grazing and other public land uses to continue." They assert that "everyone can win if we stay the course."

Additional coverage was provided by [Slate](#) (5/20, 1 31M), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (5/20, 199K) and [Boise State \(D\) Public Radio](#) (5/21).

BID-WINNING TEXAN KILLS BLACK RHINO IN NAMIBIA. [CNN](#) (5/19, Lavandera, 3.17M) reports that after spending \$350,000 to win a permit almost 18 months ago, Corey Knowlton "arrived quietly in Namibia to hunt the famed black rhino." CNN, which was allowed to follow the crew, did not provide certain details because Namibian government officials "fear poaching syndicates will use the information to identify the location of other black rhinos." With that said, the outlet notes that the 36-year-old Texan "faced scathing criticism and death threats" in the lead up to his killing the animal.

Additional coverage was provided by [Fox News](#) (5/20, 9.4M), [NPR](#) (5/20, 1 52M), [USA Today](#) (5/20, Quinn, Newser, 5.01M), the [Inquisitr](#) (5/21, 369K), the [Dallas \(TX\) Observer](#) (5/21, 194K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (5/21, 670K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (5/21, Subscription Publication, 2.92M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/21, 5 37M), [WTSP-TV St. Petersburg \(FL\)](#) St. Petersburg, FL (5/20, 89K), [KERA-TV Dallas \(TX\)](#) Dallas (5/21, 1K), and [KHOU-TV Houston \(TX\)](#) Houston (5/20, 336K).

Groups Aim To Bring Orphaned Baby Rhinos To Texas. [Reuters](#) (5/19) reports that a coalition of groups in the US and Africa want to bring hundreds of baby white rhinos to Texas. But the governments must first sign off on the conservation initiative. What's more, the well-meaning individuals have to find a way to pay for the animals' transport.

OFFICIALS PLAN TO BOLSTER MANATEE ENFORCEMENT IN BREVARD COUNTY. The [Florida Today](#) (5/20, 168K) reports that "the feds and Florida plan to beef up enforcement this weekend to save more sea cows along the Space Coast." The FWS and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will "initiate a joint enforcement blitz in Brevard County over Memorial Day weekend." The article notes that "they want better enforcement of manatee zones in Brevard, where three manatees have died so far this year from watercraft-related injuries."

Study Indicates Manatees In Better Shape Than Thought. The [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (5/20, 144K) reports that "a new study from the USGS indicates Florida manatees are a lot less likely to go extinct than previously thought." The article notes that "the more hopeful outlook isn't the result of any conservation efforts," but because "they were undercounted previously." According to the article, "the new prediction puts their chance of going extinct in the next century at less than one percent, though researchers caution they didn't take into account several recent mortality events."

DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE BENEFIT DINNER HELD. The [Southgate \(MI\) News Herald](#) (5/20, 60K) reports that "more than 300 people gathered for the annual Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Benefit Dinner in Wyandotte earlier this month, where Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D) was the keynote speaker." Stabenow said, "The Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is the ultimate tribute to the hard work and vision of John D. Dingell. Today, the Friends of the Refuge are building on what he started, restoring wildlife habitats and increasing public access so Michigan families can continue to kayak, fish, or hunt in the Refuge for years to come."

RANCHERS, FARMERS FILE LAWSUIT OVER JAGUAR HABITAT. The [AP](#) (5/21, 2.29M) reports that "farmers and ranchers are suing the federal government over a decision to set aside hundreds of square miles near the U.S.-Mexico border as habitat essential for the conservation of the jaguar." The New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association and the New Mexico Federal Lands Council filed their complaint Wednesday. They claim the FWS "should not have set aside habitat in New Mexico because the area wasn't occupied by the jaguar when the animal was listed as an endangered species."

CREWS BATTLING FIRE IN ALLIGATOR RIVER WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [AP](#) (5/21) reports that "federal and state fire crews are battling a wildfire at the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge across from Manteo on the mainline side of the Outer Banks." According to a spokeswoman for the refuge, "the fire was reported late Tuesday and was then about 20 acres." But "by Wednesday morning, the fire had grown to 100 acres."

HAVASU WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPANDING "NO RECREATION ZONE." The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (5/21, 27K) that the FWS "announced Wednesday that Havasu National Wildlife Refuge will be expanding its zone of protection this week." According to the article, "effective immediately, protected backwater portions of the refuge will be extended 1/2 mile to the south."

INVESTIGATION OF BUTTERFLY CONSUMED IN VIDEO CONCLUDES IT WAS NOT ENDANGERED SPECIES. The [Tomah \(WI\) Journal](#) (5/21, 13K) reports that "the insect purportedly eaten in a video posted on the Facebook account of a former city council member was likely not an endangered Karner blue butterfly." The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources "this week said it closed its joint investigation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the video, which shows Walt Pankowitz eating what he claimed was the butterfly protected under the Endangered Species Act." According to DNR conservation warden supervisor Jeremy Peery, "the butterfly looked like a spring azure, not the rare Karner bluey."

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP TO SUE DHS, GSA OVER PLUM ISLAND. The [Suffolk \(NY\) Times](#) (5/21, 32K) reports that a Plum Island preservation advocacy group informed the Southold, New York town board of its intent to move forward with a lawsuit against DHS and the General Services Administration for alleged failures to protect endangered species living on the island, which is overseen by the two entities. Chris Cryder, special projects coordinator for the Connecticut Fund for the Environment, is quoted saying that DHS and the GSA's response to their notice of intent to sue "was not adequate," and a lawsuit "will be filed in the coming months."

MAN SENTENCED IN WILDLIFE SMUGGLING CASE. The [AP](#) (5/21, 2.29M) reports that "a Florida businessman has been sentenced to three years in federal prison for a wildlife smuggling conspiracy that included rhinoceros horns and elephant ivory." The article notes that "a federal judge on Wednesday also ordered the Boynton Beach auction house owned by Christopher Hayes to pay a \$1.5 million fine."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION CRITICIZED FOR OVERHAUL OF ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (5/21, Greenwald, 194K), Noah Greenwald, Endangered species program director, Center for Biological Diversity, criticizes the Obama Administration for "rolling out a series of regulatory changes that threaten to cripple the Endangered Species Act, dramatic changes that would never have flown under the Bush administration."

Additional coverage of the proposal to reform the Endangered Species Act was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (5/21, 74K).

US Geological Survey:

USGS TURNS TO CITIZEN SCIENTISTS. For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (5/21, Rodewald, Contributor, 533K), Amanda D. Rodewald, director of conservation science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, writes that "citizen scientists are increasingly relied upon to provide agencies and organizations with the data needed to make decisions." As an example, she notes that the USGS "depends on volunteers to improve The National Map and document the aftermath of earthquakes." In fact, Rodewald writes, "the best information we have on bird populations comes via citizen science initiatives such as the USGS's North American Breeding Bird Survey and Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CONSERVANCY GROUP 30,000 WIND TURBINES IN PROTECTED BIRD HABITATS. [CBS News](#) (5/21, Casey, 8.2M) reports on its website that analysis by the American Bird Conservancy "shows that more than 30,000 turbines overlap with federally protected bird habitat," and that by 2030, "wind turbines could kill more than 1.4 million birds annually, not including losses at associated transmission lines and towers." Tom Vinson of the American Wind Energy Association contested ABC's findings and "also argued that bird deaths from wind turbines were far less than other threats, including oil waste pits, windows and buildings," CBS reports. ABC has called for "effective mitigation" and "independent, transparent post-construction monitoring to help inform mitigation, and calculate compensation for the loss of...protected birds."

Onshore Energy Development:

REPUBLICANS FORTHCOMING MOUNTAINTOP MINING REGS PART OF "WAR ON COAL." [McClatchy](#) (5/21, Cockerham, 32K) reports that Congressional Republicans are looking to block a rule expected from the Administration to protect "Appalachian streams from mountaintop removal mining, as opponents of the controversial practice say the mines are getting closer to communities and harming people's health." Some Republicans, McClatchy says, "are describing the move as the latest campaign in the Obama administration's 'war on coal.'"

OFFICIALS FROM THREE STATES COMPLAIN ABOUT STREAM BUFFER ZONE RULE. [Politico Pro](#) (5/20) reports that "officials from three states told House lawmakers on Wednesday that they have largely been shut out of the rulemaking process for the Interior Department's stream buffer zone rule." Gregory Baker of the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy "testified that his state chose to participate in the process in order to have a voice, but that since the initial proposed rule was circulated, the state was not given a chance to review the latest version." Russell Hunter of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection "complained that his state received very little time to review and comment on parts of the draft rule 'in what appeared to be a mockery of the process.'" Randall Johnson, the director of the Alabama Surface Mining Commission, "testified that OSM would not give states more time to comment back in 2011 in order to propose a rule that year. Johnson noted that OSM has yet to propose a rule."

WVDEP Backs Out Of Agreement To Cooperate With OSMRE In Revising Stream Protection Rule. The [Charleston \(WV\) State Journal](#) (5/21, 1K) reports that "the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection is backing out of its agreement with the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement to cooperate in drafting the federal Stream Protection Rule." According to the article, "the WV DEP had previously agreed to cooperate with OSMRE in the preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Statement on proposed revisions to the federal surface mining regulations, but the agency said a 'lack of communication and engagement' has caused it to terminate the agreement, according to a May 20 announcement."

WESTERN STATES WARY OF ENFORCING BLM FRACKING RULES. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/20, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "a second legal and bureaucratic struggle is underway over the Bureau of Land Management's plan to regulate hydraulic fracturing on public land, as states decide whether they'll help enforce the plan." The BLM has "asked at least three oil-producing states to sign memoranda of understanding (MOUs) that would allow the states to enforce the federal rules on federal land." However, "Wyoming and Utah have balked and North Dakota is wavering, in part because BLM would require state regulations to match or exceed the federal regulations as part of an MOU."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (5/21, 39K).

INTERIOR BLASTS EFFORT TO FAST-TRACK PIPELINES THROUGH PARKS. The [Greenwire](#) (5/20) reports that "an Interior Department official today sharply criticized a bicameral effort that would scrap Congress' ability to oversee the construction of natural gas pipelines through national parks and some of the nation's most iconic landscapes." According to the article, "a senior Interior adviser on energy, minerals and realty management told members of a House Natural Resources subcommittee that a bipartisan House bill that mirrors a Republican effort in the Senate threatens to undermine the very purpose for which the National Park Service was created."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (5/21, Henry, 533K).

Offshore Energy Development:

HEARING HELD ON OFFSHORE DRILLING REVENUE-SHARING BILLS. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/21, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "a trio of offshore drilling revenue-sharing bills – focused on the Arctic, Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic – were considered yesterday at a hearing of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee." However, "they ran into sharp objections from committee Democrats and a representative of the Obama administration, suggesting" Sen. Lisa Murkowski "may have to moderate her ambitions in order to secure bipartisan support and win the president's signature."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (5/21, 1K).

SHELL MOVING FORWARD WITH ARCTIC PLANS. The [Independent \(UK\)](#) (5/21, Bawden, 1.01M) reports that "Shell's chief executive has staged a defiant performance at the company's annual shareholders meeting, claiming that calls to curb new oil developments were 'unrealistic' and saying that there would always be opponents to plans to drill in the Arctic." Ben van Beurden said that "the scale of the safety precautions Shell was taking as part of its plan to drill for oil in the Arctic was 'unprecedented' in the history of the oil industry."

Meanwhile, [KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (5/21, 78K) reports that "several environmental groups have asked a judge to stop Shell's Chukchi Sea drilling plans this summer, saying federal authorities didn't properly evaluate the threats drilling may pose to walrus in the region." The National Resources Defense Council said that a "legal brief, filed late Monday from Alaska in U.S. District Court, is its latest move in a case dating back to last year." NRDC officials wrote, "This brief asks a federal judge to invalidate a rule allowing Shell and others to harm walrus in the course of oil and gas exploration in the Chukchi Sea. NRDC's original complaint was filed in November."

Additional coverage was provided by [Scientific American](#) (5/21, 2.87M).

BP SETTLES GULF CLAIMS FOR \$211 MILLION WITH TRANSOCEAN, HALLIBURTON. Transocean announced Wednesday it has settled with BP and individual plaintiffs for \$211 million over the April 20, 2010 Deepwater Horizon incident which killed 11 and released millions of barrels of crude into the Gulf of Mexico.

The [AP](#) (5/21, Mcgill) reports that the "settlement that Transocean reached with the Plaintiffs Steering Committee will involve two classes of businesses and individuals," including a "new 'punitive damages class' that for various reasons was not included in the BP settlement." BP spokesman Geoff Morrell said in a statement, "We have now settled all matters relating to the accident with both our partners in the well and our contractors." Halliburton CEO Dave Lesar similarly expressed satisfaction with the deal "that allows us to close another chapter in the Deepwater Horizon case." The AP adds that notice of the settlement has not yet been filed in Federal court.

[Reuters](#) (5/21) adds that although cross claims have been settled, BP still faces a potential \$13.7 billion fine under the US Clean Water Act.

[USA Today](#) (5/21, 5.01M), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21, Gold, Subscription Publication, 5.68M), [Bloomberg News](#) (5/21, Wethe, 3.81M), the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (5/21, Larino, 733K), and [The Hill](#) (5/21, Henry, 533K) also report.

STUDY DOLPHIN DEATHS MAY BE LINKED TO GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL. The [New York Times](#) (5/21, Fleur, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that researchers believe the death of numerous dolphins over the course of two years may be connected to the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. After analyzing "tissue samples collected from 46 dolphins shortly after they died," researchers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "found more instances of adrenal and lung lesions in the dolphins that died near the Deepwater Horizon spill than in the other dolphins." For its part, BP dismissed the findings.

[AFP](#) (5/21, Sheridan), however, says the paper in the journal PLOS ONE "presents the strongest evidence to date." In addition, the advocacy group "Oceana's vice president for the US, Jacquelyn Savitz, said the study 'confirms yet again that the oil spill is linked to major impacts on marine animals in the Gulf.'" Notably, more than "1,200 dolphins have washed up in area of the Gulf of Mexico affected by the spill since April 29, 2010."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21, Mcwhirter, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) and [The Hill](#) (5/21, Cama, 533K) also provide coverage of this story.

OIL SPILL TRUSTEES ANNOUNCE TEN NEW PROPOSED PROJECTS. The [Alabama Live](#) (5/21, 416K) reports that "state and federal trustees announced 10 new proposed projects Wednesday to restore damage stemming from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, with a total estimated cost of \$133.6 million." The article notes that "if approved, the projects would be funded by BP, which has agreed to provide up to \$1 billion for early restoration projects in the Gulf before the Natural Resources Damage Assessment process is complete."

JUDGE SAYS GULF OIL LEAK RECORDS CANNOT BE KEPT SECRET. The [AP](#) (5/21, McGill) reports that a Federal judge on Wednesday rejected New Orleans-based Taylor Energy's bid to "preserve the confidentiality of numerous emails and reports about its failed efforts to halt a decade-old Gulf of Mexico oil leak." An AP investigation "revealed evidence that the leak at the site of the toppled platform is worse than Taylor or government regulators had publicly reported," and that the documents could boost a lawsuit the Waterkeeper Alliance is leading against Taylor Energy. Lawyers for Taylor Energy had argued "the documents contain commercially valuable trade secrets and private information," and Judge Wells Roby indicated she may order changes to the protective order she characterized as overly broad, the AP reports.

BOEM HOST PUBLIC MEETING ON PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASES. The [Panama City \(FL\) News Herald](#) (5/21, 94K) reports that the BOEM "hosted a public meeting Tuesday to gather public comment as it prepares a draft Environmental Impact Statement for 10 proposed oil and gas lease sales scheduled for between 2017 and 2022." However, "the local meeting drew just one person and no official comments." BOEM public affairs officer John Filostrat said because "the process is still in its early stages, low attendance at scoping meetings is not uncommon."

"MASSIVE CLEANUP" UNDERWAY AFTER CALIFORNIA OIL SPILL. [ABC World News](#) (5/20, story 4, 1 25, Muir, 5 84M) reported that 105,000 gallons of oil are "on the move tonight, and now covering nine miles of coastline in Santa Barbara," after a "major oil spill in California." Kendis Gibson reported that "a massive cleanup effort is under way on one of southern California's most popular beaches." Janet Wolf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors is shown saying, "This oil spill affects all of us. This is a disaster. It's a worst nightmare scenario."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/20, story 2, 2:40, Holt, 7.86M), Hallie Jackson reported that some volunteers "came hoping to help wildlife only to find there's nothing to save." Linda Cropp at the Environmental Defense Center "says it's too soon to tell how badly the spill's hurting birds and other animals here." Cropp is shown saying, "This is one of the worst places to have an oil spill."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/20, story 6, 1:30, Pelley, 5.08M), Ben Tracy reported that a "pipeline ruptured Tuesday afternoon possibly leaking 100,000 gallons of crude, according to its owner Plains All American Pipeline." The company's district manager, Darren Palmer, is shown saying, "We are sorry that this accidentally release has happened and we are bringing in all the resources at our disposal to respond."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR AWARDS 2015 WATER CONSERVATION FIELD SERVICES PROGRAM GRANTS. The [Prairie \(MT\) Star](#) (5/21) reports that the BOR has "awarded 17 Water Conservation Field Services Program grants in the Pacific Northwest Region, ranging from \$11,940 to \$25,000." According to the article, "the Program provides technical and financial assistance to encourage water conservation on Reclamation Projects by assisting irrigation districts to develop and implement water conservation plans, and to foster improved water management."

BOR SAYS NO KLAMATH WATER AVAILABLE TO COMBAT SALMON-KILLING PARASITE. The [AP](#) (5/21, Barnard, 2 29M) reports that "a deadly salmon parasite is thriving in the drought, infecting nearly all the juvenile chinook in the Klamath River in Northern California as they prepare to migrate to the ocean." The Klamath Fish Healthy Advisory Team, "made up of state and federal agencies and Indian tribes, warns a major fish kill is likely, and the Yurok Tribe and NOAA Fisheries Service have asked for extra water releases to flush out worms that carry the parasite, known as C shasta." However, the BOR says "after four years of drought, it has no water to spare for chinook salmon." BOR spokeswoman Erin Curtis said Wednesday "the water stored in Klamath Basin reservoirs is already committed to endangered sucker fish and threatened coho salmon, and releasing water now means less for any crisis that erupts this summer."

EXTRA KLAMATH RIVER WATER RELEASES CURTAILED. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (5/21, 45K) reports that "the potential for a fish-kill in the Klamath River has been upgraded to 'likely,' but no additional flows will be released from Upper Klamath Lake at this time, according to Basin water managers." Brian Person, acting manager for the BOR Klamath Basin Area Office, said "the agency chose not to release flows after consulting with tribal and federal fish health experts and after reviewing recent fish health and water quality reports."

SISKIYOU SUPERVISORS OBJECTS TO MISCHARACTERIZATION BY INTERIOR REPRESENTATIVE. The [Siskiyou \(CA\) Daily News](#) (5/20, 16K) reports that "the rift between the United States Department of the Interior and Siskiyou County may have widened over a recent letter from DOI representative John Bezdek." The article notes that "the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors has long expressed its opposition to the removal of the dams, but the way Bezdek characterized that opposition stoked an impassioned response earlier this month."

Empowering Native American Communities:

DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE PANEL. The [Law 360](#) (5/21, 15K) reports that Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor "told a panel of senators Wednesday that to support tribal self-determination and avoid expensive litigation over water issues in Indian Country, the Obama administration backs water rights settlements with Native American tribes." During a hearing before the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, Connor said "legal disputes between states, tribes and other parties are 'often expensive and divisive.'"

JUDGE DECLINES TO TOSS MESA GRANDE BAND LAND DISPUTE. The [Law 360](#) (5/21, 15K) reports that the Interior Department "has to face a suit over tribal land in the mountains northeast of San Diego, the Court of Federal Claims ruled Wednesday, rejecting arguments that the Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians' action is time-barred." Judge Charles F. Lettow said "in an opinion that the Mesa Grande Band's complaint plausibly alleges that the DOI erred in issuing a land patent for an 80-acre tract claimed by the tribe to the neighboring Santa Ysabel Band."

JUDGE DISMISSES LAWSUIT OVER FLATHEAD RESERVATION WATER RIGHTS. The [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (5/21, 19K) reports that "a federal judge on Monday dismissed a 2014 lawsuit in which the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes sought to have the court affirm that the 1855 Hellgate Treaty reserved the water flowing through the Flathead Indian Reservation for their use." U.S. District Court Judge Dana Christensen said "if the CSKT water compact recently approved by the state Legislature also gains approval from Congress and the Tribal Council, 'a declaration of the kind the Tribes request would serve no purpose.'" The article notes that "on the other hand, Christensen wrote in his decision, if the compact isn't ratified by Congress or the tribes, the declaration they sought 'would result in duplicative litigation and would encourage forum shopping – the Tribes would likely make the same historical and legal arguments made before this Court if they were to appear before the Montana Water Court without a decree.'"

FATE OF MASHPEE WAMPANOAG'S CASINO PROPOSAL REMAINS UNCERTAIN. The [Taunton \(MA\) Gazette](#) (5/20, Tuoti, 27K) reports that "the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe's pursuit of federal approval to build a casino in Taunton remains a major question mark as state gambling regulators examine proposals for commercial casinos in the nearby cities of Brockton and New Bedford." Assistant Secretary of the Interior Kevin Washburn said "last week that he does not have a sense of when a decision will be reached on the Mashpee's land-into-trust application."

CONNECTICUT SENATE PASSES CASINO BILL. The [AP](#) (5/21, Haigh, 641K) reports that "Connecticut senators neared agreement Wednesday night on legislation that creates a two-step process for opening a new tribal casino in the state and sends a message to neighboring Massachusetts that Connecticut is fighting to save thousands of existing casino jobs at Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods Resort Casinos." The article notes that "a vote on the bill was delayed for much of the day, due to a six-hour unofficial filibuster by the General Assembly's minority Republicans, who were upset their Democratic colleagues hadn't brought up bills the minority party wanted to vote on." But Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff, said "enough votes exist to pass the legislation."

The [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (5/20, 591K) reports that "the Senate voted narrowly late Wednesday to start the process of authorizing a third casino in Connecticut, although proceeding on a cautious path that would buy the state more time to sort out complicated legal issues."

OP-ED FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CREATES UNFAIR ADVANTAGE IN GAMING INDUSTRY. In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (5/21, Istook, 641K), Ernest Istook, president of Americans for Less Regulation, writes that "as the Obama administration invites more tribes into the casino game, some established Indian players want to keep the newcomers out." He argues that "those who compete with tribal casinos, or with other tribal businesses, often find themselves at a government-created disadvantage." Istook concludes that "our country needs to be fair to Native Americans, but not in ways that create unfairness for everybody else."

Office of Insular Affairs:

FOUR STUDENTS FROM INSULAR AREAS CHOSEN FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIP IN DC. The [St. Croix Source](#) (5/21) reports that the Interior Department has "selected four students from the U.S. Insular Areas to participate in the Office of Insular Affairs Internship Program." Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina said, "I believe strongly in building the capacity of young people from the Insular Areas, especially those who are interested in public service and giving back to their communities. Because the role of the federal government, including the Office of Insular Affairs, is very important in the Insular Areas, I want our future leaders to learn about the workings of the federal executive branch, Congress and judicial branch. They will get a full and rewarding experience by working closely with senior leadership in our office."

Top National News:

OBAMA CLIMATE CHANGE POSES "IMMEDIATE RISK" TO US SECURITY. The President's [convocation speech](#) at the US Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT was not noted on the network newscasts last night, but it generated mostly positive print and online coverage, with a number of reports casting his arguments as some of his strongest to date on the issue of climate change. [USA Today](#) (5/21, Korte, 5 01M), for example, refers to Obama's "most forceful argument yet that climate change ranks alongside terrorism as a grave threat to America's future." Likewise, Rebecca Leber wrote for the [New Republic](#) (5/21, 228K) that though Obama had "already pitched action on climate change," yesterday "he went a step further," and Keith Johnson said on [Foreign Policy](#) (5/21, 449K) that he "ramped up his rhetoric." [Slate](#) (5/20, Holthaus, 1.31M), meanwhile, remarked on the President's "sharpest jab yet.. against politicians that deny human influence on climate change, sending them this message: You're a threat to national security."

Along those lines, widely noted in the coverage are Obama's comments about climate change deniers, as well as what the [AP](#) (5/21, Benac) calls his "determined and hopeful response to the opposition," which is "not likely to be fulfilled." Said Obama, "This cannot be subject to the usual politics and the usual rhetoric." The [Daily Intelligence \(NY\)](#) (5/21, Fuller, 452K), however, calls the President's speech "forcefully political," and [Politico](#) (5/20, Wheaton, 1.11M) says Obama "castigated" climate skeptics.

The [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (5/20, De la Torre, 591K) quotes him as saying, "I know there are still folks in Washington who refuse to admit that climate change is real," but "politicians who say they care about military readiness ought to care about this as well," because "when the seas rise and the storms come, we all have to be ready." The [Hartford \(CT\) Guardian](#) (5/21, Adams) also notes that Obama charged that "denying it or refusing to deal with" climate change "undermines our national security."

The [Norwich \(CT\) Bulletin](#) (5/21, Penney, 46K) reports that Obama "said climate change – the science of which he called 'indisputable' – increases the risk of instability and conflict, creates new global tensions and will require the military to undertake more humanitarian missions as resources become scarcer and weather more unpredictable." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/20, Keane, 161K) points out that the President "didn't mention Islamic State militants," but indicated that "drought" was "a contributor to the unrest in Syria and to the rise of Boko Haram."

[Politico](#) (5/20, Wheaton, 1.11M) describes the address as "a somber lecture." "Domestically," noted the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/21, Feldmann, 539K), Obama said "the effects of climate change are already visible in coastal areas, putting the Coast Guard on the front lines." Geneva Sands, writing for [Fusion](#) (5/21), wrote that the President "said that rising sea levels threaten" both "economic infrastructure and force readiness." The President also "said that coastal military installations around Norfolk are already being impacted by flooding" and "expressed concern that the thawing permafrost in Alaska is already damaging military facilities."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/21, Parsons, 4.03M), meanwhile, indicates that the President "warned...that climate change poses an 'immediate risk to our national security' so significant that US military forces will have to adjust how they train and operate."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/21, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) quotes Obama as saying, "Climate change will shape how every one of our services plan, operate, train, equip and protect their infrastructure, today and for the long term." [Reuters](#) (5/21, Rampton) reports that he told graduates that it "will affect everything that you do in your careers." On its website, [NPR](#) (5/21, Peralta, 1 52M) noted that Obama also said, "Make no mistake," climate change "will impact how our military defends our country. And so we need to act – and we need to act now."

The [AP](#) (5/21, Benac) reports that Obama's "message was reinforced by Secretary of State John Kerry, just back from meetings in Asia," who "said in a statement that the idea of climate change as a national security issue 'was a primary topic of discussion' throughout his conversations with Asian leaders." The [Daily Caller](#) (5/21, Bastasch, 366K) quoted Kerry as saying, "Anyone who doubts that confronting climate change is a national security issue should have sat in the meetings I just had in Asia, where it was a primary topic of discussion with every one of my interlocutors, alongside other security issues like [North Korea] and violent extremism." The [Washington Post](#) (5/21, Nakamura, 5.03M) notes that Kerry also said, "So now it's time to put aside discredited scientific arguments and partisan politics and to focus on the facts. ... Not just for our health and the health of our children, but for our planet's security as well."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/21, Parsons, 4.03M) reports that the President's "call to action comes as" he "pursues a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," with the White House hoping "to close an ambitious deal with sweeping goals at a December summit in Paris." The [New York Times](#) (5/21, Davis, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) notes that back in March, Obama "introduced a blueprint for cutting greenhouse gas emissions over the next decade in the United States by up to 28 percent from its level in 2005 levels." Moreover, says the [New York Daily News](#) (5/21, Edelman, 3.79M), after "facing resistance from Republicans in Congress," Obama "tried to tackle the problem himself, using executive orders to cut greenhouse gas emissions."

Yet Jeff Goodell, in a post for [Rolling Stone](#) (5/21, 6.04M), noted that Wednesday's speech came "a week after signing off on a new round of offshore drilling off the coast of Alaska," and Rebecca Leber, in the [New Republic](#) (5/21, 228K), also said that last week's announcement, which "effectively reopened the Arctic...to drilling," could be judged as "hypocritical, especially since" the Administration "defends the decision as a national security matter, as well."

In a post for [Mother Jones](#) (5/21, 723K), meanwhile, James West indicated that "the commencement address contained very similar language to the president's State of the Union speech in January," and [TIME](#) (5/21, Rhodan, 19.57M) pointed out on its website that it "echoed statements presented in the White House National Security Strategy." Time also reported that "according to a White House report released Wednesday, the Department of Defense is currently examining the impact climate change can have on US military bases." DOD "is also considering how much strain extreme weather places on the Coast Guard." The [Military Times](#) (5/20, Shane, 756K) noted that the report also "highlights international threats posed by natural disasters, 'which worsen refugee flows and conflicts over basic resources like food and water,'" and "argues climate change will act as 'an accelerant of instability around the world,' one that US forces will be called upon to solve."

Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen (ret.) said on [MSNBC's All In with Chris Hayes](#) (5/20, 251K), "If you look at the security issues related to crop failures, fish stocks declining, the instability that comes from that, regions of the world become less governed or lawless, and the opportunity for terrorism or other forms of illicit trafficking to spring up there." Allen added that "the fact of the matter is our threats out there are evolving and some of that is related to climate." In fact, writes Goodell of [Rolling Stone](#) (5/21, 6.04M), "the notion that climate change is a threat to national security is not news to anyone in the Pentagon," where "there are not a lot of climate skeptics in the military high command." However, "Pentagon officials are reluctant to talk openly about this, in part because they don't like to engage in heated political issues, but mostly because they fear climate deniers in Congress will slash their budgets if they tell the truth too bluntly."

Indeed, some GOP lawmakers had harsh words for Obama's speech in Connecticut. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/20, Keane, 161K) notes that "Republicans said Obama should focus on acute national security threats rather than a long-term problem whose severity they continue to question, despite scientific consensus that temperatures are rising due to human activity." The [AP](#) (5/21, Benac), for example, quotes Rep. Mac Thornberry as saying, "Our adversaries are not motivated by the weather; they are emboldened by America's withdrawal from the world."

[Voice of America](#) (5/21, 63K) reported that Sen. John Barrasso "derided Obama's contention that climate change is a national security threat." Said the senator, "Americans understand that there are much more immediate threats facing our nation – the fall of Ramadi in Iraq, the brutal terrorist attacks by ISIS." "These are clear examples of the real threat that must be addressed by...Obama."

Kevin Corke similarly reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/20, 1.53M) that in Congress the speech garnered "heated criticism," with Sen. John McCain saying, "The President of the United States today says, well, it's climate change that we have to worry about. ... Do we give a damn about what is happening in the streets of Ramadi?"

[Politico](#) (5/20, Wheaton, 1.11M) notes that "one of Congress's top climate skeptics, Sen. James Inhofe," also responded to the speech "by calling Obama's threat assessment a 'severe disconnect from reality.'" Along similar lines, [Fox News](#) (5/21, 9.4M) reported on its website that Obama delivered the speech "at a time when the US military is facing threats on multiple fronts – most immediately, the advances of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, where the terror group recently seized Ramadi."

Greg Gutfeld said on [Fox News' The Five](#) (5/20, 408K) that the President is "saying that practices, our use of fossil fuels, our evil insensitivity towards the planet is causing women to be raped. ... Boko Haram is raping hundreds of women and it's our fault. It's not their fault. ... It's disgusting to me that he would even make this link."

Dana Perino, also on [Fox News' The Five](#) (5/20, 408K), said that the Administration "is pushing us on a national security level...because it becomes a panacea to protect them from any blame about the spread of terrorism on their watch."

On its website, the [Washington Times](#) (5/21, Wolfgang, 641K) quotes Laura Sheehan, senior vice president for communications at the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, as saying that Obama had "missed the boat...by failing

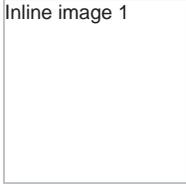
Conversation Contents

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2015 - Celebration of the Designation of Browns Canyon National Monument

"OS, Office of the Secretary" <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>

From: "OS, Office of the Secretary" <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue May 19 2015 09:46:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:
Subject: SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2015 - Celebration of the Designation of Browns Canyon National Monument

Inline image 1



Inline image 2



SAVE THE DATE

Celebration of the Designation of

Browns Canyon National Monument

with

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell,
Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze,
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie,
U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell,
Governor John Hickenlooper (invited),
U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, Former U.S. Senator Mark Udall, State and Local Officials, and Local Community Leaders

Saturday, July 18, 2015

Downtown Buena Vista, Colorado

An invitation with the time and location will follow. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, May 18, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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DATE MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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KAYACTIVISTS PROTEST ARCTIC OIL EXPLORATION. [TIME](#) (5/18, Worland, 19 57M) reports that hundreds of kayaktivists on May 16 came together in the waters of Seattle's Elliott Bay to participate in a protest against Shell plans to drill in the Arctic this summer. Citing an AP story, TIME describes the "Paddle in Seattle" as the beginning of a three-day period of "massive peaceful resistance." The group on May 18 "plans to block access to the oil giant's rig parked in the Port of Seattle's Terminal 5 and delay preparations for drilling," the article reports. Environmental activists say Shell's Arctic drilling plans "pose a threat to local wildlife and will contribute to dependence on fossil fuels. They also cite the company's failed attempt to drill in 2012 as evidence that Shell would not be able to respond quickly to a large-scale oil spill."

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/17, Knickerbocker, 539K) reports that as part of its movement against Shell, the group "sHellNo.org has scheduled 'NonViolent Direct Action Training' for Monday's Mass Direct Action" as part of its civil disobedience movement to block Shell's Polar Pioneer drilling rig. The kayaktivists have so far kept their legal distance from the vessels, approximately 100 yards. "Why would we invest in an energy source that scientists say is leading us to catastrophe?" asked Annie Leonard, executive director of Greenpeace USA. Shell's website says the Arctic holds a large amount of resources that "amounts to...10 times the total oil and gas produced in the North Sea to date." BOEM Director Abigail Ross Hopper said, "We have taken a thoughtful approach to carefully considering potential exploration in the Chukchi Sea, recognizing the significant environmental, social and ecological resources in the region and establishing high standards for the protection of this critical ecosystem, our Arctic communities, and the subsistence needs and cultural traditions of Alaska Natives."

[Reuters](#) (5/17, Cohen, Cavaliere) reports that Shell says it will proceed with its plans despite opposition from activists and Seattle's mayor. "The timeline now is just to make sure the rigs are ready to go," said Curtis Smith, a Shell spokesman. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's consent to the company's Arctic exploration plans earlier this week received the backing of some Alaska lawmakers who touted the economic benefits it would bring to the area.

The [AP](#) (5/16, Bellisle) provided coverage on protests by hundreds of activists on May 16 who sought to show their opposition to Shell's project, while some did not support the activists' efforts. While protesters came in canoes, kayaks and other small ships, insisting that fossil fuels belong below the ground, one by-stander, Greg Huyler of Yakima, Washington, said, "The problem is, all of these kayaks are petroleum products, and they're going to gripe about drilling for oil. And 90 percent of them drove here in cars that use petroleum products."

Rift Grows Between Washington, Alaska. The [Seattle Times](#) (5/17, Bernton, 970K) reported on the growing polarization between Alaska and Washington states with regard to offshore drilling and oil exploration in general. Alaska's House and Senate last month approved a measure in favor of "closing the Boeing production facilities to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide from commercial activity" rather than restricting the oil industry in the state. While the Shell Arctic drilling project will not bring Alaska any new royalties, Sen. Lisa Murkowski is hoping that amendments will be made to the law in order to allow her state to receive some of the federal revenues from further explorations and that new jobs will also be created. Meanwhile, Washington "Gov. Jay Inslee wrote a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell opposing further offshore Arctic oil and gas leases," the article reports.

Trends In Oil Markets Explored. [Bloomberg News](#) (5/15, Roston, 3.81M) took a look at the oil boom in Alaska.

Opinion: Shell Arctic Exploration Should Be Banned. Cindy Shogan, executive director of Alaska Wilderness League, writes for [The Hill](#) (5/17, Shogan, 533K) in its "Congress Blog" that the Obama Administration's decision to grant Shell access to the Arctic is poorly thought out in light of "the Interior Department's own admission" that "there is a 75 percent chance of a major oil spill if full field development occurs in the Chukchi Sea." She adds that former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar in 2012 "promised to hold Shell's feet to the fire," after the company's infractions at the time. Shogan adds that about a year ago, "Rear Admiral Joseph A. Servidio wrote that he was 'most troubled by the significant number and nature of the potential violations of law and regulations'" by Shell. She calls on the Administration to rethink its decision to give Shell another chance considering the company's "incompetence."

WSJournal Praises Decision To Grant Shell Approval To Drill Off Alaska's Coast. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/16, Board, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) called the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's decision to finally grant conditional approval to Royal Dutch Shell for exploratory drilling off the coast of Alaska good news and criticizes the lengthy bureaucratic delays and the opposition from environmental groups to Arctic oil.

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by [BBC News](#) (5/17, 1.79M), [Sky News \(UK\)](#) (5/18, 138K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/17, Press, 894K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/15, Le, 2 29M), the [Waterbury \(CT\) Republican-American](#) (5/17, 124K), the [Orangeburg \(SC\) Times And Democrat](#) (5/17, 51K), the [Lafayette \(LA\) Daily Advertiser](#) (5/17, 83K), [Reuters](#) (5/16), [NPR](#) (5/15, 1.52M), the [Anchorage \(AK\) Petroleum News](#) (5/17, 20K), the [Anchorage \(AK\) Petroleum News](#) (5/17, 20K), [KOMO-TV](#)

[Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (5/17, 200K), [WRTV-TV Indianapolis \(IN\)](#) Indianapolis (5/17, 145K).

SECRETARY JEWELL ASKED TO MONITOR FRACKING NEAR CHACO CANYON. The [Public News Service](#) (5/18, 306) reports that "New Mexico's congressional delegation is asking U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to monitor a possible escalation of fracking in an area considered sacred by many Native Americans." In a letter to Jewell, Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich and Rep. Ben Ray Lujan "stress the historic, cultural and ecological significance of Chaco Culture National Historic Park." Udall also wants Interior Department officials "to keep him posted as they consider offering more oil and gas leases in the region."

SECRETARY JEWELL URGED TO HAVE OSM APPEAL DECISION IN COLORADO MINE CASE. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (5/17, 10K) reports that "Moffat County Commissioners met with U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colorado, on Saturday morning in Mesa County to discuss the recent lawsuit that threatens Colowyo Coal Company." Gardner "drafted a letter to Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell, asking her to have the Office of Surface Mining appeal the decision by Federal District Judge R. Brooke Jackson, who ruled OSM did not comply with federal law when it approved mining plans for Colowyo and Trapper mines roughly 20 years ago."

SCHOOLCHILDREN VISIT WHITE HOUSE FOR "EVERY KID IN A PARK" INITIATIVE. The [Weekly Standard](#) (5/17, 414K) reports that "schoolchildren visited the White House this week for the latest installment of the administration's 'Every Kid in a Park' initiative." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "joined the fun, tweeting some pictures along with the program's basic mission: 'to help more kids experience nature, outdoors ... #FindYourPark.'" However, "the timing of it all was rather ironic," because "Chicago kids trying to #FindTheirPark may soon have one less park to choose from, thanks to President Obama." On Tuesday, the Obama Foundation announced that the Obama Presidential Library will be built "on top of one of Chicago's historical urban parks."

SECRETARY JEWELL ATTENDS WHITE HOUSE AAPI SUMMIT. The [American Bazaar](#) (5/16) reports that "the daylong White House Summit on the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the first-ever White House-sponsored celebration of heritage and advancement in the AAPI community, held on May 12, combined political activism, artistic performances and fireside chats." The article notes that "President Obama was not present, but his 15 cabinet secretaries and senior administration officials participated in the Summit on AAPIs, explaining how the Obama administration's actions have benefited the Asian American community." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was among the cabinet officials who participated.

HOUSE VOTES TO ENSURE NELLIS OPERATIONS WITHIN PROPOSED BASIN AND RANGE NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (5/17, 380K) reports that the House approved an amendment Thursday that seeks to ensure Air Force activities in Nevada are not hindered by a proposed Basin and Range National Monument. Rep. Cresent Hardy said, "My amendment is about protecting America's national security, and that means ensuring that our military has guaranteed access to land located beneath or associated with military operations areas for essential training and readiness activities."

In an op-ed for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/15, Govan, O'Donnell, 4.03M), Michael Govan, director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Brian O'Donnell, executive director of the Conservation Lands Foundation, urge support for the proposed Basin and Range National Monument. They note that "its approximately 700,000 acres would contain a unique variety of Mojave, Sonoran and Great Basin vegetation communities," and "it would shelter at least two dozen threatened and sensitive species, including ancient bristlecone pines, some more than 2,000 years old." Also, they argue that "setting aside this land would help to rectify an imbalance in Nevada's and America's parklands."

REP. MEYER SUPPORTS GRAND CANYON WATERSHED NATIONAL MONUMENT. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (5/15, 1.27M), Rep. Eric Meyer writes that "Grand Canyon's watershed on the lands north and south of Grand Canyon National Park is worthy of designation as a new national monument." He notes that "the region has been temporarily protected from most harmful uranium mining, a decision supported by the majority of Arizonans," but "Arizona's attorney general has decided to back a mining industry challenge to the uranium mining withdrawal that protects the area." Meyer says that "establishing a national monument will make those protections against uranium mining permanent."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

SAGINAW CHIPPEWA INDIAN TRIBE TO REPATRIATE, REBURY REMAINS. The [AP](#) (5/15, 2.29M) reports that "the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan and its Zibiwing Cultural Society are working to repatriate and rebury the remains of 43 Native Americans." According to the article, "the American Museum of Natural, Toledo Zoological Society and Dearborn Historical Museum are collaborating with 10 federally-recognized tribes and two state historic tribes on the planned repatriation and reburial." The article notes that "it's made possible by financial support from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service and the National NAGPRA Program." NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "The work funded by these grants is a step toward addressing past violations of the treatment of human remains and sacred objects of native peoples, while restoring the ability of American Indian and native Hawaiian peoples to be stewards of their own ancestral dead and cultural heritage."

SETTLEMENT REACHED IN SHERCO PLANT LAWSUIT. The [AP](#) (5/15, 2.29M) reports that a settlement has been reached between the Environmental Protection Agency, a subsidiary of Xcel Energy, and several environmental advocacy groups concerning haze produced by the coal-fired Sherco plant impacting two national parks in the area. The agreement "requires Northern States Power Co. to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions from two Sherco units by about 10,000 tons annually by Oct. 1" with more cuts to take place by 2017. The suit was brought against the EPA and Northern States Power after the National Park Service certified that emissions from the plant were obstructing views in Voyageurs and Isle Royale national parks. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/17, Shaffer, 1.29M) reports that Xcel has already invested \$50 million at the plant to reduce emissions, and that a 15-year plan is currently under consideration by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission that would shutter the plant.

BISON GORES EXCHANGE STUDENT IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (5/17, 2.29M) reports that "a 16-year-old girl has been gored by a bison in Yellowstone National Park while posing for a picture near the animal." The NPS says "the unidentified girl's injuries were serious but not life-threatening." The service "described her as an exchange student from Taiwan who was visiting the park with her host family."

Also providing coverage are the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/16, Press, 5.03M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/17, 894K), [US News & World Report](#) (5/16, 907K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/17, 5.37M), [CNN](#) (5/17, Mullen, 3.17M), [CBS News](#) (5/17, 8.2M), [ABC News](#) (5/17, 3.69M), [Reuters](#) (5/17), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/16, 539K), and the [Huffington Post](#) (5/17, 194K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF ELK DEATHS AT POINT REYES. The [New York Times](#) (5/18, Cohen, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that at Point Reyes National Seashore, "the die-off in the elk refuge and the flourishing of the free-roaming flocks have rekindled a dispute over management of these majestic creatures found only in California, where they were half a million strong before the Gold Rush." The article notes that "in defense of the park service, David Press, a wildlife ecologist with the agency, said the plan for managing the elk preserve 'wasn't written in light of the worst drought in records.'" According to the article, "the problem of the tule elk — named after the sedge-like vegetation they favor and pronounced 'too-ly' — pits conservationists, who want wild animals to roam the national seashore freely, against ranchers, who want to confine the elk behind fences."

CROSSING CONNECTS BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK AND MEXICAN PUEBLO. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (5/15, Delsol, 2.29M) reports that "Big Bend National Park and the town of Boquillas del Carmen in Mexico's adjacent Coahuila state are joined at the hip." Recently, "after years of behind-the-scenes analyses and negotiations, the National Park Service and Customs and Border Protection, with the blessing of the federal governments of both countries, unveiled a brand-new automated port of entry like those on Canadian border on April 10, 2013." According to the article, "a few formalities are involved now: Visitors must scan their passports at the new kiosk, and while there are no border patrol agents, park rangers are on hand to explain the process and dispense a little information about Boquillas."

SUSPECT IN NPS EMPLOYEE'S ATTACK CONSIDERING PLEA. The [AP](#) (5/17, 2.29M) reports that "a man accused of assaulting a National Park Service employee in southeastern Arizona will get more time to review the evidence against him before deciding on whether to accept a plea deal." According to the article, "a judge granted the request made by a new court-appointed attorney for Gil Gaxiola during a hearing Friday."

HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK HOSTING BIOBLITZ AND BIODIVERSITY & CULTURAL FESTIVAL. The [Big Island \(HI\) Video News](#) (5/16) reports that "hundreds of scientists, students and Hawaiian cultural practitioners are storming Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park this weekend to participate in the BioBlitz, as well as the Biodiversity & Cultural Festival."

NPS STUDYING PUBLIC PADDLING IN CUYAHOGA RIVER. The [AP](#) (5/17, 2.29M) reports that the NPS is "working with Kent State University to look at opening up the Cuyahoga (ky-uh-HOH'-guh) River for canoeing and kayaking." According to the article, "small private groups will be taking trips over the summer in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park so officials can determine the feasibility of large-scale paddling."

DENALI WOLF POPULATION DROPS TO HISTORIC LOW. The [Cordova \(AK\) Times](#) (5/17, 2K) reports that "a Denali National Park staff report saying the park's historic low wolf numbers have been a result of low snowfall is being challenged by a retired University of Alaska professor who says hunting and trapping may be a factor in wolf mortality." The NPS' "annual wolf monitoring report for Denali suggested that the reason for the 'lowest wolf density estimate since monitoring began in 1986' may be due solely to natural

causes such as low snowfall." But "then came a follow-up report that admitted that both human and natural causes were involved, says Rick Steiner, who is also a board member of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility."

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (5/15, 2.29M) reports that "wolf hunting season will end two weeks early near Denali National Park and Preserve after reports of a recent wolf shooting at a bear baiting station." Alaska's Fish and Game Commissioner Sam Cotten "closed the season at midnight Thursday in an area to the north and east of the park."

SHENANDOAH PARK ESTABLISHES SECOND KID-FRIENDLY TRAIL. The [AP](#) (5/18, Press, 5 03M) reports that "Shenandoah National Park is establishing a second kid-friendly trail." The park says "the activities trail will be at the park's Blackrock Summit trail." The article notes that "the trail is part of the Kids in Parks program, a network of family-friendly outdoor experiences called TRACK Trails."

OPPOSITION TO GRAND CANYON ESCALADE PROJECT LAUDED. The [Fly Rod & Reel](#) (5/17, 146K) reports that "one month after naming the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon America's Most Endangered River of 2015, American Rivers applauded a positive step toward protecting the river from harmful development." The article notes that "newly elected Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye expressed his opposition to the proposed Grand Canyon Escalade Project on the east rim of the Grand Canyon." Bob Irvin, President of American Rivers, said, "The Grand Canyon should be protected for all of us, for all time. We applaud President Begaye's stance against the Escalade project and support his efforts to bring economic development to the Navajo Nation while safeguarding one of our nation's irreplaceable natural treasures."

EAST MILLINOCKET POSTPONES NATIONAL PARK VOTE. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (5/17, 179K) reports that "votes on the proposed north woods national park and the annual town meeting at which the selectmen and school board hope to pass budgets have been delayed by uncertainty about state funding." According to Mark Scally, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, "the school board requested the change recently because state education funds are critical to their budgeting efforts."

CURATOR WANTS STRASBURG TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD. The [AP](#) (5/17, 2 29M) reports that "Utah has long celebrated the completion of the transcontinental railroad in the town of Promontory, when a golden spike was driven into the tracks in 1869." However, "a Colorado museum curator is challenging that legacy, arguing the railroad wasn't completed until the next year in Strasburg, Colorado." Cliff Smith, the curator at the Comanche Crossing Museum in Strasburg, said he hopes the NPS "will one day recognize Strasburg's claim."

TWO DIE IN BASE JUMPING ACCIDENT AT YOSEMITE. The [AP](#) (5/17, Daisy Nguyen |, Ap, 5.03M) reports that "extreme athlete Dean Potter, renowned for his bold and sometimes rogue climbs and BASE jumps, was among two people who were killed while attempting a wingsuit flight in Yosemite National Park, a park spokesman said Sunday." According to park ranger Scott Gediman, Potter and his climbing partner Graham Hunt "jumped from a 7,500-foot promontory called Taft Point." The article notes that "BASE jumping, in which someone parachutes from a fixed structure or cliff, is illegal in Yosemite."

Also providing coverage is the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (5/18, Hamilton, 4.03M), [CNN](#) (5/18, Mullen, Stringer, 3.17M), [NBC News](#) (5/18, 2.54M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (5/18, Branch, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/18, Nguyen, 2.29M), and [TIME](#) (5/18, 19.57M).

COMPANY WAITS FOR APPROVAL TO TRANSFORM FORMER YANKTON POST OFFICE. The [AP](#) (5/17, 2.29M) reports that "the company that plans to transform the former Yankton post office into residential and commercial space is waiting for a final approval from federal officials to be able to begin construction." U.S. Property must ask the NPS "to approve the proposed changes to the old post office because the building is part of the National Register of Historic Places."

YELLOWSTONE WOLVES CHANGED ECOSYSTEM. The [Inquisitr](#) (5/18, 369K) reports that "after about a 70-year absence, wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park when a nearly record-breaking number of public comments were reviewed in 1994." But "after Yellowstone National Park reintroduced wolves into the wilderness, a trophic cascade occurred." According to the article, "their return benefited everything from the bald eagle to the river's flow."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NPS SITES. Additional coverage of the economic impact of NPS sites was provided by the [Tennessean](#) (5/15, 444K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ISLE ROYALE WOLVES. Additional coverage that "only three wolves seem to remain in Isle Royale National Park" was provided by the [Detroit News](#) (5/17, 523K).

SEN. CARDIN URGED TO SUPPORT NPS. In a piece for the [Baltimore Sun](#) (5/17, 802K), Anne Donahue writes that the NPS centennial in 2016 is "a historic opportunity for Sen. Ben Cardin to use his position on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which oversees national park transportation funding, to ensure our parks have the resources to thrive."

Bureau of Land Management:

ANNIVERSARY OF ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS MONUMENT CELEBRATED. The [Alamogordo \(NM\) Daily News](#) (5/17, 19K) reports that "a week-long celebration of the first anniversary of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument continued Saturday evening at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park with a big game cookout." According to the article, "residents, small business owners, sportsmen and dignitaries gathered at the park to enjoy elk tacos, prepared on a disco, beer from High Desert Brewing Co., live music and other culinary novelties."

COUNTIES SAY THEY WERE LEFT OUT OF SAGE GROUSE DECISION. The [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (5/17, 19K) reports that "officials from three counties say they were left out of the decision making that made 'substantial changes' to the proposed final environmental impact statement for greater sage grouse." Malheur, Harney and Lake county governments are "all designated cooperating agencies in the preparation of the final environmental impact statement," but "those governments say they were not included in a decision that would create a new special designation encompassing 1.9 million acres of land within the three counties."

OLD WOMAN MOUNTAINS PRESERVE COMPLETES FIRST PHASE OF IMPROVEMENTS. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (5/15, 85K) reports that "the Old Woman Mountains Preserve — 2,500 acres in the eastern Mojave Desert — has completed a first phase of improvements intended to better connect the ancient landscape to modern visitors and native populations." The article notes that "the Native American Land Conservancy was able to complete the project with a \$376,000 grant from the California State Parks Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division grant program, and more than \$100,000 from the Bureau of Land Management, which offered supplies and technical support."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

REPUBLICANS WORKING TO OVERHAUL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. [The Hill](#) (5/17, Cama, 533K) reports that "Republicans in the House and the Senate are plotting separate courses for how to dial back the Endangered Species Act (ESA), a long-time foe of conservatives and strong GOP supporters like oil drillers and ranchers." Republicans say "they want to improve the law so that it simultaneously is less of a nuisance to landowners and users and it better protects animals and plants." However, "Democrats are promising to defend tooth and nail the four-decade-old law from what they see as attempts to dismantle it, and one top Democrat is planning his own competing package to strengthen the conservation law."

The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/15, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "House efforts to overhaul the Endangered Species Act are about to heat up, according to the leaders of the Natural Resources Committee." According to Chairman Rob Bishop, committee Republicans "plan to reintroduce a package of ESA reform bills that were recommended by a GOP working group last session."

HOUSE TAKES STEPS TO DELIST LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN. The [AP](#) (5/17, Press, 5 03M) reports that "the U.S. House has taken steps to remove federal protections for the lesser prairie chicken." House members "voted 229-190 to approve an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would prohibit listing the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened or endangered species until 2021."

Also providing coverage are [The Hill](#) (5/15, Matishak, Marcos, 533K), the [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (5/15, 117K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/17, 5.37M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/17, 894K), and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/17, 2 29M).

NO SAGE GROUSE PROVISION IN MARKUP OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/15, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "the Senate Armed Services Committee did not include any language about the greater sage grouse or its endangered species listing in its markup of the National Defense Authorization Act." Chairman John McCain said that "unlike the House version of the bill being debated on the floor this week, his committee's bill 'has nothing pertaining to that.'" He said, "Any number of my colleagues of course are free to propose any amendments that come to mind on the floor, but no, I am not frankly interested in that."

HOUSE BILLS PUTS 10-YEAR HOLD ON SAGE GROUSE LISTING. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (5/17, 94K) reports that "the greater sage grouse could not be declared an endangered species for 10 years under legislation passed Friday by the U.S. House of Representatives." According to the bill, "designation of the sage grouse as an endangered species by the secretary of the Interior would have no effect until Sept. 30, 2025."

Also reporting on the story is the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (5/16, 113K).

COLORADO TAKES STEPS TO PROTECT GREATER SAGE GROUSE. [The Hill](#) (5/17, Henry, 533K) reports that "Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper has issued an executive order to protect the state's greater sage grouse population in a move meant to avoid potential federal regulations that could come with an endangered status for the bird." According to the article, "Hickenlooper's order establishes a 'habitat exchange' program in which ranchers and other landowners who take steps toward preserving grouse habitat land on their property earn credits for that work." The order also "requires state agencies to work with regulators if their activities might threaten the grouse's habitat, and it charges the state's Oil and Gas Conservation Commission with tracking energy development in sensitive habitat land."

Also providing coverage are the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/17, Nicholson, 894K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/15, Elliott, 2.29M), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (5/15, 57K).

MAINE RECEIVES GRANT UNDER CLEAN VESSEL ACT. The [AP](#) (5/18, 2.29M) reports that the FWS is "providing a \$356,000 grant to Maine under the Clean Vessel Act." The Maine Department of Environmental Protection "plans to use money to install or upgrade pump-out stations and to subsidize pump-out vessels and facilities."

FWS PETITIONED TO IMPOSE MORATORIUM ON IMPORTS OF LIVE SALAMANDERS. The [New York Times](#) (5/15, 12.24M) reports that "there are signs of hope for American salamanders in the face of a potential biological catastrophe — a fungus that could be carried here through the global trade in exotic pets." According to the article, "federal wildlife officials have signaled a crackdown may be coming on imports of amphibians." The Center for Biological Diversity, along with the group Save the Frogs, has formally petitioned the Fish and Wildlife Service to enact "an emergency moratorium on imports of all live salamanders into the United States to prevent the introduction of this disease while the Service sets up longer-term regulatory measures." Laury Marshall Parramore, a spokeswoman for the wildlife agency, said, "The threat to global salamander populations from a new fungal strain is very real and of great concern to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We're committed to expediting an injurious determination."

FWS ALLOWS INTRODUCTION OF NEW HORSES ON NORTH CAROLINA'S OUTER BANKS. The [Scranton \(PA\) Times Tribune](#) (5/17, 168K) reports that "as the summer tourist season approaches on North Carolina's Outer Banks, there's a growing hope among horse advocates that the iconic wild horses of Corolla can be saved from a fate of inbreeding and deformities." The FWS, "which considers the horses 'nuisance animals' that compete with federally protected birds for habitat, has loosened its stance and is allowing the introduction of new horses into the threatened herd in order to bring in fresh genes."

FWS TO KILL INVASIVE ADAK CARIBOU AND DONATE MEAT. The [Bristol Bay \(AK\) Times](#) (5/17, 4K) reports that "local residents are feeling a little better about a federal agency's plan to kill invasive caribou on Kagalaska Island." The FWS has "promised to donate the meat to community members on nearby Adak Island, according to Adak City Clerk Debra Sharrah."

FWS TESTING ANIMAL SHOT BY COYOTE HUNTER. The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (5/18, 27K) reports that the FWS is "conducting DNA tests on an animal shot by a coyote hunter on April 29 near Kremmling to determine if the animal is a gray wolf." Steve Segin, a public affairs officer with the agency, said, "The way they'll look at it is a potential wild wolf in Grand County."

GROUP SUES TO HALT LOGGING PROJECT IN KOOTENAI FOREST. The [AP](#) (5/17, 2.29M) reports that "a conservation group has filed a lawsuit to halt a logging project in the Kootenai National Forest in northwest Montana." According to the article, "in its lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Missoula, the Helena-based Alliance for the Wild Rockies argues that the U.S. Forest Service's approval of logging on a 92,407-acre area along the east side of Lake Kooncanusa Reservoir violates environmental laws and threatens lynx and grizzly bear habitat."

CRABBERS CRITICIZE NEW FISHING POLICY. [USA Today](#) (5/17, Waymer, Today, 5 01M) reports that "in 2018, the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore plan to phase out commercial fishing, and it's uncertain where those who sell their catches will be allowed to fish on the federal property." Crabbers claim "the feds are unfairly stripping their right to eke out a living here, where the space race left behind a vast buffer of unspoiled nature and some of the best crabbing around."

NEW HAMPSHIRE SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON 10-YEAR WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN. The [AP](#) (5/15, 2.29M) reports that "the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is asking people around the state for their input on a 10-year revision of its Wildlife Action Plan that aims to protect species from becoming endangered." The article notes that "the revision is required by states for them to qualify for State Wildlife Grant funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

EFFORTS TO IMPROVE HABITATS FOR NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL WORKING. The [AP](#) (5/17, 2.29M) reports that "New Hampshire's Fish and Game Department says efforts to improve habitat for the endangered New England cottontail seem to be working." Heidi Holman, a wildlife biologist with the department and leader of the cottontail restoration project, said "five to 10 of the rabbits can be found through 11 acres of habitat around the Stonyfield Farm site in Londonderry."

RESEARCHERS CONTINUE SURVEYS AFTER LYNX FAMILY DOCUMENTED IN VERMONT. The [AP](#) (5/17, Rathke, 2.29M) reports that "researchers are still surveying for Canada lynx in northern Vermont and New Hampshire after evidence of a family of the federally threatened animals was discovered in 2012 and 2013, the first time in Vermont's history that a reproductive lynx had been documented." According to the article, "biologists found tracks as well as scat and hair from a family of three, possibly four, animals traveling together in the Nulhegan Basin in northeastern Vermont in the winter of 2012."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE PHOENIX ZOO BREEDS BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS. Additional coverage of the Phoenix Zoo's breeding program for black-footed ferrets was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (5/15, 1.27M).

FWS REVIEWING STATUS OF AMERICAN BURYING BEETLE. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (5/17, 456K) editorializes that "under pressure from U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, the Fish and Wildlife Service is reviewing the endangered status of the American burying beetle." The paper notes that "the beetle is the poster bug for those who, like Inhofe, think there's something cockeyed about how the Endangered Species Act works." The editorial argues that "a review to determine the true status of the odd little bug is reasonable."

US Geological Survey:

SCIENTISTS LEARN FROM 1980 MOUNT ST. HELENS ERUPTION. [PBS](#) (5/18, 1.23M) reports on the 35th anniversary of the Mount St. Helens eruption. John Pallister, the lead for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Volcano Disaster Assistance Program, said, "It was a watershed event in volcanology in a lot of ways." He said, "It was when geologists after the eruption worldwide started recognizing these giant debris avalanches, these giant landslides that are now recognized as a major hazard at volcanoes all around the world."

Also providing coverage is [USA Today](#) (5/17, Grisham, Network, 5 01M).

USGS STUDY SAYS GLOBAL WARMING THREATENS GENETIC DIVERSITY IN COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN BULL TROUT. The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (5/17, 506) reports that "a native western trout species that's been listed as endangered since 1998 will likely be further threatened by global warming, according to biologists, who found that genetic diversity in bull trout is lowest where stream temperatures are warmest and winter flooding is highest." According to the article, "with these trends predicted to continue, a new U.S. Geological Survey-led study suggests that the species is more susceptible to climate change than previously thought." USGS researcher Ryan Kovach, the lead author of the report, said, "Genetic diversity is extremely depressed where future climatic conditions may be most challenging for bull trout. Together, these results highlight that bull trout may have little resiliency in a warming world."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

CALIFORNIA HYDROELECTRIC POWER DROPS IN DROUGHT. The [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (5/16, Xia, 4.03M) reports that California's dams are producing less power due to drought-depleted reservoirs in the state. The article notes that though some dams are now producing 20 percent of their normal capacity, the state will still be able to meet its electricity needs due to investments in solar and wind. However, a report by the Pacific Institute found that taxpayers spent nearly \$1.4 billion more from 2012 to 2014 on power generation due to increased coal and natural gas use because renewables were only able to fill 55 percent of the reduction in hydroelectric production.

Onshore Energy Development:

RULINGS ON COAL MINES' CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL WARMING EVALUATED. The [AP](#) (5/15, Slevin, Brown, 5 03M) reported that US judges in Denver over the last year required "Federal agencies that approve mining projects... to take into account coal's indirect environmental impact along with traditional concerns about mine dust and equipment emissions." One such mine in northwestern Colorado might "lose its permit if a new environmental review isn't completed within four months," the article reports, adding that "industry representatives fear the rulings, if allowed to stand, could set an example for other judges to follow and eventually threaten the mines that make up the backbone of an industry already facing uncertainty." Colorado Mining Association President Stuart Sanderson "said calculating a mine's contribution to global warming is

meaningless because it's dwarfed by unregulated emissions in the developing world," the article reported. But for environmentalists, rulings will bring transparency "so the public can decide if burning coal is worth the cost," according to the article.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/17, 5.37M), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Tribune-Review](#) (5/17, 682K), the [Denton \(TX\) Record-Chronicle](#) (5/16, 44K), the [Longview \(TX\) News-Journal](#) (5/15, 64K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/15, Slevin, Brown, 2.29M), [US News & World Report](#) (5/15, 907K), and [ABC News](#) (5/17, 3 69M).

The story was also carried by the [Arizona Republic](#), (5/17, Slevin, Brown, 1.27M)

OIL GROUPS SEEK TO BLOCK FRACKING RULE. The [FuelFix](#) (5/15, 7K) reports that oil industry groups "are asking a Federal judge to block the government from implementing new rules for hydraulic fracturing and drilling on public land," adding that "the preliminary injunction request, filed Friday in a US district court in Wyoming, came as part of the Independent Petroleum Association of America and Western Energy Alliance's ongoing challenge of those new mandates." Midway through the story, the Express-News switches from referring to "rules," plural, to "the rule," singular, saying that the rule, which will be effective June 24, "forces companies to disclose the chemicals they pump underground, seal off waste water in storage tanks and sets other standards for the construction of oil and gas wells drilled into land overseen by the Bureau of Land Management." Mark Barron, one of the Denver-based attorneys leading the litigation, said, "BLM has underestimated the cost of the final rule at every phase of development," adding that "injunctive relief is necessary to protect independent producers until the court reaches resolution."

FIGHT OVER COAL ROYALTIES HEATS UP. The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/18, 349K) reports that "the battle over coal has a new front: the royalties companies pay for mining on federal lands." Environmental and watchdog groups claim that there is "a loophole in the Interior Department's coal program that allows coal companies to stiff the state and federal governments." However, "the coal industry and its allies contend critics haven't pointed to any significant underpayments on the 12.5 percent fee they are supposed to pay the government for mining on federal land." The Interior Department "proposed a rule in January that would end a practice in which mining companies sell coal to subsidiaries that they own, which then flip it to international customers at a higher price, mostly in Asia."

CONCERNS RAISED OVER OXBOW WELL VIOLATIONS. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/18, 73K) reports that "conservationists are decrying environmental violations by Oxbow Mining in connection with 36 methane vent wells at its currently idle Elk Creek underground coal mine, and say the violations call into question efforts to let the mine install such wells in a roadless area should it resume operations." According to the article, "following an inspection in October by the state Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety and the federal Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement, the state issued Oxbow a notice of violation and proposed a \$1,500 fine." The article notes that "among the issues the notice of violation raised were well pads that were built to sizes larger than permitted and/or in locations not shown on maps, roads that were larger than permitted, and wells that weren't properly plugged. A federal inspection report raised concerns about mismanaged sediment and topsoil on some sites."

THOMPSON DIVIDE COMPROMISE TOUTED. In an op-ed for the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/18, 73K), Keira Bresnahan, the chairwoman of the Piceance Energy Action Council, writes that "the immediate future for natural gas in Colorado looks relatively dim." But she is hopeful that "there could be a light at the end of the tunnel if SG Interests and Ursa Resources are approved to trade their leases in Pitkin County for leases in Mesa and Delta counties."

Offshore Energy Development:

REPORT SAYS DECADE-OLD GULF OIL LEAK COULD LAST ANOTHER CENTURY. The [AP](#) (5/17, Tucker, Kunzelman, 2.29M) reports that "for more than a decade, oil has been leaking into the Gulf of Mexico where a hurricane toppled a drilling company's platform off the coast of Louisiana." Now, the federal government is "warning that the leak could last another century or more if left unchecked." However, "Taylor Energy Co., which owned the platform and a cluster of oil wells, has played down the extent and environmental impact of the leak." The firm also "maintains that nothing can be done to completely eliminate the chronic oil slicks that often stretch for miles off the Louisiana coast."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (5/17, 985K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/17, Tucker, Kunzelman), the [FuelFix](#) (5/17, 7K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (5/17, 670K), [US News & World Report](#) (5/16, 907K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/17, Tucker, Kunzelman), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (5/17, Tucker, Kunzelman, 641K), the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (5/16, 565K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (5/15, Reports, 2.74M), and the [Huffington Post](#) (5/15, |, Tucker, Kunzelman, 194K).

PROTESTORS RALLY OPPOSITION TO OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [NJ Today](#) (5/16) reports that "at noon, in solidarity with people across the world, New Jersey residents joined hands across the shoreline in opposition to fossil fuels and the importance of moving toward a clean energy future." Jeff Tittel, director of the New Jersey Sierra Club, said, "We are here today standing up for our coast and against offshore drilling. People all across this country are united in the efforts to stop the proposals to drill not only here in the Atlantic but in Alaska. We need to oppose offshore drilling whether it's in ANWAR, or Belmar, or Bradley Beach. We must say no to the fossil fools in Washington and instead move toward offshore wind. If the choice is either windmills or oil rigs, we choose wind. The spill in Virginia could have devastating impacts to our fishing and tourism economy. That is why the only oil we want to see on our beaches is suntan oil."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Press of Atlantic City \(NJ\)](#) (5/17, 214K), the [Daytona Beach \(FL\) News-Journal](#) (5/16, 176K), the [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (5/15, 305K), and [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (5/18, 78K).

FRAUDSTER WILL SERVE NEARLY 3 YEARS FOR LYING ABOUT OIL SPILL DAMAGE. The [AP](#) (5/15) reports that a Mississippi man, who had lied about his employment to receive \$36,000 in oil-spill recovery money following the Deepwater Horizon explosion, has been sentenced to 33 months in prison. Elvis O'Neal Gray in February was convicted in Federal court and sentenced on May 14. US District Judge Louis Guirola Jr. "ordered Gray to pay a \$7,500 fine and serve three years' post-release supervision," the article reports.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

NYTIMES ANALYSIS CALIFORNIA WATER CRISIS PRODUCT OF GOVERNOR'S FATHER. In a 2,455-word analysis of California's water crisis, the [New York Times](#) (5/17, Nagourney, Subscription Publication, 12 24M) suggests it may be partially because of the legacy of former California Gov. Edmund G. Brown Sr. noting, "Nearly 50 years later, it has fallen to Mr. Brown's only son, Gov. Jerry Brown, to manage the modern-day California that his father helped to create."

California Town Blasted For Water-usage. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/15, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "Bermuda Dunes, an oasis town of about 6,000 located in the Coachella Valley, has been named as the heaviest water-using municipality in the drought-stricken state of California." The article notes that "the identification of the town is being touted as the latest example of 'drought shaming,' in which a growing number of Californians are taking to social media to criticize water wasters and pressure them to reduce."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the drought was provided by the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/15, Finley, Subscription Publication, 5 68M), the [Fairfield \(CA\) Daily Republic](#) (5/17, 53K), [Reuters](#) (5/15, Sherwood), [KPBS-TV San Diego \(CA\)](#) San Diego (5/15, 8K), and [KGET-TV Bakersfield, CA](#) (5/17, 216).

FEDERAL WATER BILL REMAINS MIRED IN UNCERTAINTY. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (5/17, 313K) reports that "five months into a new Congress, and deep into a lasting drought, California water legislation still stymies and splits the state's lawmakers." According to the article, "draft copies are tightly held," and "the legislative timing, though a June 2 Senate hearing could yet happen, remains unsettled." Sen. Dianne Feinstein said, "It's very difficult to put something together. Obviously change is controversial, so to propose something and then not to be able to do it makes no sense."

TRUCKS TRANSPORTING CALIFORNIA SALMON TO OCEAN. The [AP](#) (5/17, Knickmeyer, 2.29M) reports that "state and federal wildlife agencies in California are deploying what they say is the biggest fish-lift in the state's history through this month, rolling out convoys of tanker trucks to transport a generation of hatchery salmon downstream to the San Francisco Bay." California is "locked in its driest four-year stretch on record, making the river routes that the salmon normally take to the Pacific Ocean too warm and too shallow for them to survive." The article notes that "for the first time, all five big government hatcheries in California's Central Valley for fall-run Chinook California salmon — a species of concern under the federal Endangered Species Act — are going to truck their young, release-ready salmon down to the Bay, rather than release them into rivers to make the trip themselves."

BOR KEEPING AN EYE ON SHRINKING LAKE POWELL. The [Raw Story](#) (5/17, 668K) reports that Lake Powell "provides a dramatically visible marker of the crisis facing the Colorado river after years of diminishing snowfalls on the Rockies." The BOR is "now facing a difficult balancing act." Rose Davis of the BOR's Upper Colorado region said, "We all are depending on the snow pack on the Rockies and Lake Powell is the first reservoir. It doesn't look very good. We have 56% of normal snowpack is the last reading that I saw. It's just terrible."

TRINITY RIVER COULD BE USED TO PREVENT FISH-KILL. The [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (5/16, 55K) reports that "anticipating another drought-parched summer, Humboldt County supervisors are set to ask Washington, D.C., on Tuesday to help prevent a potential fish-kill by setting aside long-promised Trinity River water." The article notes that "while the supervisors' letter to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel states that Humboldt County will likely use the water in the late summer when fish-kill

conditions seem apparent, it also calls for even more foresight from the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation, which controls the flow of dam water."

BOR MONITORING WATER SEEPAGE. The [Omak-Okanogan County \(WA\) Chronicle](#) (5/15) reports that BOR officials are "monitoring water seepage along Interstate 90 near the Weber Siphon." The bureau was "alerted to the seepage today by the state Department of Transportation, which located it near where two concrete pipes run underneath the interstate."

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (5/17, 551K), Craig Wilson, a former Delta watermaster and former chief counsel to the State Water Resources Control Board, criticizes the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Instead, he argues that "a western conveyance would work better."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES \$2 MILLION IN GRANTS TO BUILD TRIBAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS. The [Lake County \(MT\) Leader & Advertiser](#) (5/17, 11K) reports that "Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn today announced that grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$150,000 per fiscal year are available for federally recognized tribes and their education departments." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "This grant program reflects President Obama's commitment to tribal self-governance and self-determination, and will support tribal educators who best understand the unique needs of their communities as they strengthen their capacity to assume full control of B E-funded schools on their reservations. It is a critical step in redesigning the BIE from a direct provider of education into an innovative organization that will serve as a capacity-builder and service-provider to tribes with BIE-funded schools."

SENATE COMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY ON CONDITION OF INDIAN SCHOOLS. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/17, 1.29M) editorializes that "Minnesota's congressional delegation merits praise for its full-court press last week to improve the nation's dilapidated and underachieving Bureau of Indian Education (B E) school system." The U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs heard testimony on the "poor condition" of BIE schools last week. The paper says that "in this age of highly charged partisanship, the bipartisan charge to tackle this educational crisis is especially admirable — and needed."

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (5/15, Emma, 1.11M), the [Huffington Post](#) (5/15, Klein, 194K), [Education Week](#) (5/17, 139K), and [KTUV-TV](#) Billings, MT (5/17, 4K).

SUICIDES ON PINE RIDGE RESERVATION INVESTIGATED. In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (5/17, Flood, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), Joe Flood addresses the "suicide epidemic" on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. He notes that "tribal leaders and experts are struggling to understand the recent suicide epidemic (specifics on many of the cases aren't widely known), but there's general agreement on one underlying cause: the legacy of federally funded boarding schools that forcibly removed generations of Native American children from their homes." Also, "former students and scholars of the institutions say that the isolation and lack of oversight at the mostly church-run schools allowed physical and sexual abuse to run rampant."

BIA RECEIVES COMMENTS ON NEW ICWA RULE. The [Claremore \(OK\) Daily Progress](#) (5/17, 19K) reports that "tribal leaders and members, attorneys, psychiatrists and other individuals who have a special interest in the adoption of native children participated in a national conference call Tuesday afternoon and a public meeting in Tulsa on Thursday, to provide comments and recommendations to a proposed rule released by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in February." The changes are "proposed in an effort to create consistent Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) implementation in all states."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Native American Times](#) (5/17, 337).

SEN. FEINSTEIN DEFERS ON AGUA CALIENTE LAND EXCHANGE. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (5/15, 85K) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein has "deferred to a government environmental report in responding to concerns about a proposed land exchange between the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the federal Bureau of Land Management."

NATIVE AMERICAN FISH AND WILDLIFE SOCIETY TO MEET. [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (5/17) reports that the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society meets in Juneau May 20-22, where "tribal and other government officials and staff will discuss climate change, subsistence, Arctic policy and dozens of other issues." Norman Jojola, the natural resource manager for the BIA's Northern Pueblos Agency in New Mexico, said, "A lot of the Western knowledge tends to have them tell you what a certain species wants, what a certain species needs, this is how they're going to survive. Instead traditional knowledge would go out, look at the species, live with the species and let the species tell you what it wants rather than you telling it what it's supposed to do."

SANCHEZ OFFERS APOLOGY FOR MAKING NATIVE AMERICAN "WAR CRY" GESTURE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/18, Finnegan, 4.03M) reports that Rep. Loretta Sanchez, who last week announced that she will seek to succeed retiring Sen. Barbara Boxer in 2016, on Sunday offered an apology "for making a stereotypical Native American 'war cry' gesture that disrupted" her nascent bid. Sanchez "made the controversial gesture Saturday while joking with a group of Indian Americans about confusing an Indian American with a Native American." Speaking at the California Democratic Party convention on Sunday, Sanchez said that "in this crazy and exciting rush of meetings yesterday, I said something offensive, and for that I sincerely apologize."

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/17, Bobic, 194K) reported that asked about the incident on Saturday, state Attorney General Kamala Harris, widely perceived as the frontrunner in the Senate race, said, "It is shocking and there is no place for that in our public discourse."

Top National News:

RAMADI'S FALL SPARKS MEDIA QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMINISTRATION'S ISIL STRATEGY. While the three network newscasts spent a combined total of only two minutes on the fall of Ramadi to ISIL, print and online coverage of the story is fairly heavy. Generally, media reports cast the development as a major setback for Iraqi forces, and a number of stories – though that angle does not figure prominently in any of the reports – also question whether the city's fall is a reflection of the Administration's strategy for fighting ISIL, particularly its reliance on airstrikes to support Iraqi forces.

The [New York Times](#) (5/18, Arango, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), for example, says the city's fall, "despite intensified American airstrikes in recent weeks in a bid to save the city," is the "biggest victory so far this year" for IS L, which "laid bare the failed strategy of the Iraqi government" and "raised questions about the United States' strategy to defeat the Islamic State." The [Washington Post](#) (5/18, Naylor, Salim, 5.03M), meanwhile, calls the retreat of Iraqi forces "a blow to efforts announced by Iraqi officials to defend the city.. by sending military reinforcements."

The [AP](#) (5/18) calls Ramadi's takeover "a major victory for Islamic State," which "calls into question the Obama administration's hopes of relying solely on airstrikes to support the Iraqi forces in expelling the extremists," and both [Bloomberg News](#) (5/18, Sabah, 3.81M) and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/18, McDonnell, Bulos, 4.03M) call the fall of the city a "setback," which the Times says "underscores the limitations of airstrikes that lack an effective military partner on the ground." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/18, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) editorial also questions the Administration's strategy, saying the fall of Ramadi undermines assertions from the White House and Pentagon that the war against ISIL is going well, adding that the group has been able to retake most of the ground it lost due to the limitations put on military planners by the White House.

[The Hill](#) (5/17, 533K) noted that ISIL had "raised their black flag over the local government compound in Ramadi," and called the city's fall "a strategic blow to Iraqi forces," while [Reuters](#) (5/18, Coles) says this is ISIL's biggest victory since security forces and Shiite militias began pushing them back with the help of coalition airstrikes last year.

In an interview posted on the [PBS](#) (5/18, 1.23M) website, Nour Malas of the Wall Street Journal said this is "a huge setback for the government campaign launched last month to reclaim Anbar province," and in a story for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/18, Subscription Publication, 5.68M), Malas notes that the Iraqi forces' defeat came as they stepped up an effort to push ISIL out of Anbar province. On [ABC World News](#) (5/17, story 5, 0.30, Llamas, 5.84M), Tom Llamas also called it "a major setback," however, while [USA Today](#) (5/18, Shamary, 5.01M) calls Ramadi's fall "the biggest victory for the extremists this year despite stepped-up US-led airstrikes," it notes that US Central Command "was not yet ready to concede the city to the Islamic State, saying that Ramadi remains 'contested.'"

Charlie D'Agata similarly reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/17, story 4, 1.05, Glor, 5.08M) that the Pentagon said late Sunday that "the situation remains fluid and contested and it is too early to make definitive statements about the situation on the ground," and Savannah Guthrie noted on [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/17, story 4, 0:25, Guthrie, 7.86M) that the Pentagon says "the situation there remains quite fluid and contested." Additionally, [Reuters](#) (5/18, 42K) quoted Pentagon spokeswoman Maureen Schumann as saying, "It is too early to make definitive statements about the situation on the ground there at this time."

Although [AFP](#) (5/18) notes that another Pentagon spokeswoman, Elissa Smith, said the US "warned two months ago that Ramadi could fall, said Smith, adding that losing the city now does not mean it will remain in IS hands," the [Washington Times](#) (5/18, Klimas, 641K) calls the takeover of Ramadi a "major loss for the Iraqi government and the US-Arab coalition supporting the mission with airstrikes," and says that "analysts cautioned that the US may be downplaying gains by the terrorists under pressure for the coalition campaign to be seen as succeeding."

Meanwhile [McClatchy](#) (5/18 Porthero 32K) cites Iraqi security sources who "described the fight for control of the capital of Iraq's largest province as essentially over after

reinforcements sent on Saturday to retake the city were crushed by Islamic State fighters," while the [AP](#) (5/18) says Iraqi officials "disagreed with each other over whether the city had fallen," though Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi "ordered security forces not to abandon their posts across Anbar province."

Displaced Sunnis From Anbar Face Hostility, Suspicion In Baghdad. The [Washington Post](#) (5/18, Morris, 5.03M) reports that Sunnis fleeing the violence in Anbar province are being "met with suspicion and hostility." Displaced Sunnis "complain of harassment by security forces and powerful Shiite militias who worry that the people reaching Baghdad may have ties to the Islamic State." According to Ziad Ali, head of the Baghdad morgue, "the number of unidentified bodies turning up in the Baghdad morgue has risen," which is "seen as a sign of an increase in sectarian killings." While Ali "declined to give exact numbers," he "said that instead of receiving about one unidentified body a day, there were now around five times that."

SENIOR ISIL LEADER KILLED IN US SPECIAL FORCES RAID. Senior IS L leader Abu Sayyaf was killed in a US special forces raid in Syria on Saturday. [McClatchy](#) (5/18, Rosen, 32K) says the raid was intended to capture Abu Sayyaf, but he "resisted and was killed, a Defense Department official said." McClatchy adds that his wife, Umm Sayyaf, "was taken back to Iraq for questioning," while [Reuters](#) (5/18, Dunham, Perry) notes that the raid, which was ordered by the President, marks the first special forces operation in Syria since the failed attempt to resc

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, May 15, 2015

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- + Chaudhuri Sworn In As Chairman Of National Indian Gaming Commission.
- + Jodi Gillette Steps Down As White House Advisor.
- + Additional Coverage Of Youth Suicide Epidemic On Reservations.

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS

- + Interior Awards \$2.37 Million For Renewable Energy Projects In Territories.
- + Interior Announces \$500K Solar Power Grant For Guam Memorial Hospital.
- + Additional Coverage: \$650,000 In Grants Approved To Combat Reef Threats.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS

- + Senate Votes 65-33 To Launch TPA Debate.
- + Boehner Hits Back At Critics Of Amtrak Funding.
- + Stephanopoulos Failed To Disclose Donations To Clinton Foundation.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE

- + Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

- + Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS

- + Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

OBAMA DEFENDS DECISION TO ALLOW SHELL DRILL IN ARCTIC. [Politico Pro](#) (5/15, Subscription Publication) reports that President Barack Obama on Thursday "defended the decision to let Shell drill offshore in the Arctic, and addressed criticism from environmentalists that the move undercuts his fight against climate change." At a press conference, Obama said "Shell had to go back to the drawing board" after its last effort "off the Alaskan coast suffered a series of crippling failures in 2012." Obama "gave a vote of confidence to his Interior Department's response to that stumble, saying the company had to wait a very lengthy period 'until they could provide us with the kind of assurances that we have not seen before.'"

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (5/14, Cama, 533K), the [FuelFix](#) (5/14, 7K), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (5/15, 985K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/15, 2.29M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/14), [US News & World Report](#) (5/14, 907K), and the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/15, 5.37M).

Shell Oil Rigs Arrive In Seattle Amid Controversy. [Reuters](#) (5/14, Cavaliere) reports that Royal Dutch Shell's first two Arctic oil drilling rigs arrived in Seattle on May 14 amid plans by environmentalists to protest the storage of the two vessels in the port.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/15, Yardley, 4 03M) reports that kayaktivists went out in large numbers near Seattle's port to meet the rigs and show their opposition to the docking of the Polar Pioneer in city water, while the city mayor also cited permit violations for Shell's fleet. Yet the company still "intends to make a regular resident here as part of its plans to drill for oil in the Arctic Ocean," the article reports. Paddlers "ungreeted" the boat upon its arrival chanting, "What do we want? Climate justice! When do we want it? Now!" The large vessel remained unphased. Paul Queary, a spokesman for Foss Maritime, said, "we have the bigger boat." The vessels "should be back in late October or early November," Queary said. Cassidy Sharp, a spokeswoman for Greenpeace, said, "the bigger moment is when they leave here and when they're drilling for oil in Alaska... Of course, the endgame is for the Obama administration to cancel the lease to drill in the Chukchi Sea."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (5/14, 100K), the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (5/14, 886K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/14, Phuong Le |, Ap, 5 03M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (5/14, Garnick, Bernton, 970K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (5/14, 822K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/15, 5.37M), and [USA Today](#) (5/14, Graf, King-Tv, Seattle, 5.01M).

Arctic Drilling Rallies Environmentalists Around Other Issues. The [AP](#) (5/14) reports that the arrival of the Shell oil rig in Seattle "marks a pivotal moment for an environmental movement increasingly mobilized around climate change." Environmental groups "in the Pacific Northwest are sensing a shift in the politics that surround energy production, and have mobilized against a series of projects that would transform the region into a gateway for crude oil and coal exports to Asia," the article reports. "These proposals have woken a sleeping giant in the Northwest," said Eric de Place, policy director for Sightline Institute. "It has unleashed this very robust opposition movement," he added. "Shell still needs other permits from state and federal agencies, including one to actually drill offshore in the Arctic and another to dispose of wastewater," the article reports, but the company is moving ahead meanwhile.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/14, 539K) and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/15, Le).

Alaskans Support Shell. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "on Tuesday afternoon, John Hopson Jr., mayor of the Native Alaska village of Wainwright, nervously took the microphone at a Port of Seattle commission meeting and tried to explain the importance of Arctic oil drilling to his community." He was "one of a dozen Alaskans on hand to urge the commissioners to allow Royal Dutch Shell PLC to use the Seattle port as home port for its Arctic drilling armada."

Canada Closely Watching Shell Exploration Plans In Alaska. [CBC News \(CAN\)](#) (5/15, 257K) reports that "Royal Dutch Shell's plans to explore for oil off Alaska's northwestern coast are being closely watched in Canada with a mixture of hope and concern." The article notes that "Shell isn't active in the Canadian Arctic these days, but both proponents and critics say the U.S. decision has implications for Canada."

USA Today: US Should Allow Shell To Drill Off Alaska. In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (5/15, 5.01M) says "there are good reasons to doubt the Obama administration should let Royal Dutch Shell have another try at drilling for oil" off Alaska's coast, but the company "should get another shot." USA Today says the "drilling Shell managed to do" three years ago "went smoothly" and the US "needs the kind of oil that could be found off Alaska."

In a [USA Today](#) (5/15, 5.01M) op-ed, Susan Murray, the deputy vice president for conservation group the Pacific for Oceana, says the approval of Shell's plans to drill off Alaska comes despite the lack of "any significant public evidence that the company has accepted responsibility for the problems it encountered in 2012 or that it is any more prepared now." Murray says any oil in the location "will be there when – and if – companies like shell" are capable of operating there.

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by [BBC News](#) (5/15, 1.79M), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Post-Gazette](#) (5/15, Board, 621K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (5/15, 172K), the [Homer \(AK\) News](#) (5/14, 9K), the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (5/15, 14K), the [Huffington Post](#) (5/15, Profeta, 194K), [OneNewsNow](#) (5/14, 6K), and [EcoWatch](#) (5/14, 27K).

SECRETARY JEWELL RETURNING TO IDAHO TO DISCUSS SAGE GROUSE. The [Idaho Statesman](#) (5/15, 199K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "returning to Idaho for the fourth time since President Barack Obama picked her to be the nation's public landlord in March 2013." Jewell will "talk about wildfires, the same issue she came to talk about the last three times." However, the article notes that "Jewell's last trip and this trip will focus on fire and sage grouse."

STUDY WILDFIRES MAY CONTRIBUTE TO CLIMATE CHANGE. The [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/15, Mooney, 5 03M) reports that a study by researchers from the National

Park Service and UC-Berkeley found that over a nine year period, two thirds of the carbon loss came from six percent of burning land. The study comes as scientists are hypothesizing that wildfires contribute to a warming planet, which increases the chance of wildfire in a reinforcing cycle. William Sommers, a wildfire researcher at George Mason University, notes that while wildfires have been part of the ecosystem for hundreds of millions of years, "with anthropogenic climate change, the acceleration of natural processes makes it a very difficult situation." However, the article notes that "Forest managers are not powerless in the face of stronger wildfires" and that policies can be adapted to reduce the risk.

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

REPUBLICANS PROBING NPS RESPONSE TO PRO-MARIJUANA RALLY ON NATIONAL MALL. The [Greenwire](#) (5/14) reports that "lawmakers have begun to probe how the National Park Service responded to a pro-marijuana rally on the National Mall last month." Reps. Jason Chaffetz, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and Mark Meadows, head of the Government Operations subpanel, have "requested documents as well as a briefing by U.S. Park Police about the rally, according to a letter obtained by Greenwire under the Freedom of Information Act."

DOGS SET LOOSE ON NATIONAL MALL TO CONTROL GEESE. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/14, story 14, 0:15, Holt, 7.86M) reported, "Tonight the National Mall has gone to the dogs. Border collies let loose in the nation's capital on patrol as the so-called geese police to chase away geese who leave a whole lot of droppings on the ground around the monuments making for quite a mess to clean up."

Also reporting on the story are [NBC News](#) (5/15, 2.54M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/15, 2.29M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/15, Press, 5.03M), and [WUSA-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (5/14, 95K).

NEW NAVAJO PRESIDENT OPPOSES GRAND CANYON TRAM. The [Greenwire](#) (5/14) reports that "newly inaugurated Navajo President Russell Begaye didn't actually read the document he signed at his inauguration ceremony that said he planned to develop a controversial aerial tram at the Grand Canyon, a spokesman said yesterday." One day "after hundreds watched him sign the agreement presented by predecessor Ben Shelly as a display of leadership solidarity, Begaye issued a statement that he is and always has been opposed to the Grand Canyon Escalade, a proposal to transport tourists from the east rim of the canyon just outside the national park to the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers below via tram."

Also reporting on the story is the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/14, Felicia Fonseca |, Ap, 5.03M).

SEN. SCHUMER WANTS EASIER ACCESS TO NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The [Queens \(NY\) Chronicle](#) (5/15, 101K) reports that Sen. Chuck Schumer is pushing for "better accessibility" to Gateway National Recreation Area "via public transportation." Schumer is calling on the Interior Department "to work with the city to connect the park with existing transportation infrastructure, including buses and subways, so people may get to it easier." Schumer said, "Despite the fact that fact Gateway National Recreation Area is located in a densely populated area amongst an economically diverse community, the unique potential of this invaluable urban park is hamstrung by insufficient public access to all that it has to offer — from beaches, to camping, to biking, to birding, to fishing, to just plain hanging out in a rare and wide-open space."

GM INVESTING \$1 BILLION IN R& D TECH CENTER. [Forbes](#) (5/14, 6.84M) reports that "General Motors will invest \$1 billion in its research and development campus in suburban Detroit." The article notes that "in 2000, the campus was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and last year, it was named a National Historic Landmark by the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service."

Additional coverage was provided by [WDIV-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (5/15, 292K) and [WWJ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (5/14, 34K).

BRIDGE TO FORKS OF THE ROAD DONATED TO NATCHEZ. The [AP](#) (5/15, Cook, 2.29M) reports that on Wednesday, "the historic brick bridge at the Forks of the Road site was transferred from Chartre Companies to the City of Natchez." Natchez National Historical Park Superintendent Kathleen Jenkins said "Natchez obtaining this land has immense historical significance." Also, "Shawn Bengé, deputy regional director of the National Park Service Southeast Region, said its important sites like Forks of the Road are preserved, because they commemorate American history — both the good and the bad."

ISLE ROYALE WOLF POPULATION DROPS TO THREE. [WUOM-FM](#) Ann Arbor, MI (5/15, 13K) reports that "in their latest winter study report, researchers on Isle Royale" saw only three wolves. However, "the report's finding of just three wolves left doesn't seem to alarm" Park Superintendent Phyllis Green. She said, "It is not at this point in time causing us to take any immediate action, but we are gathering data for moving into our planning process."

COASTAL COMMISSION DELAYS VOTE ON U2 GUITARIST'S MALIBU MANSION PLAN. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/15, Groves, 4.03M) reports that "the California Coastal Commission is keeping U2 guitarist the Edge waiting a while longer over the question of what he can build near a pristine ridge top overlooking Malibu." On Thursday, the commission "voted unanimously at its meeting in Santa Barbara to postpone a decision on rock star David Evans' proposal to build five mansions of 10,000 to 14,000 square feet each, all with swimming pools, in Sweetwater Mesa on the site of an ancient landslide." The article notes that "among those who raised concerns were the National Park Service, Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Serra Retreat homeowners and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which back in 2011 had agreed to remain neutral on the project — then even more expansive — in exchange for money and dedicated open space."

COMSTOCK HISTORY CENTER MUSEUM OPENS NEW MINING PHOTO EXHIBIT.. The [Lahontan Valley \(NV\) News](#) (5/15, 11K) reports that "the Comstock History Center Museum is presenting a new historic photo exhibit, 'Vanishing Icons: A Look Back at Comstock Mines and Mills.'" The article notes that "as part of the Historic American Engineering Record, the project was sponsored by the United States Department of Interior and conducted by the National Park Service."

VETERAN CLIMBER FOUND DEAD ON MOUNT MCKINLEY. [NBC News](#) (5/15, 2.54M) reports that "a veteran mountain climber from Argentina has been found dead in the snow 85 percent of the way to the top of Mount McKinley in Alaska, North America's tallest mountain, the National Park Service confirmed Thursday." According to Maureen Gualtieri, a spokeswoman for the agency, "Heraldo Javier Callupan, 39, from the city of General Roca in central Argentina, was found by two other climbers Sunday 17,200 feet up the 20,237-foot peak, but because of harsh weather on the mountain face, authorities weren't able to identify him and notify his family until late Wednesday."

Also reporting on the story is [WDIV-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (5/15, 292K).

DENALI NATIONAL PARK BIOLOGIST PROFILED. The [National Geographic](#) (5/14, 32.75M) profiles wildlife biologist Patricia Owen, who has "worked at Denali National Park for more than 25 years." Owen oversees "the park's wildlife management program to minimize human-wildlife conflicts through education."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "FIND YOUR PARK" CAMPAIGN. Additional coverage of the "Find Your Park" campaign was provided by the [San Diego LGBT Weekly](#) (5/14).

BAXTER STATE PARK'S FORMER DIRECTOR SUPPORTS NATIONAL PARK PLAN. In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (5/14, 179K), Irvin "Buzz" Caverly, the former director of Baxter State Park, writes that "the lands offered today as a North Woods national park, when accepted, I believe, will be as valuable to future generations as Baxter State Park is to our generation today." He supports this effort and urges "all Maine people and their representatives, state and federal, to make a commitment to a North Woods national park."

GRAND CANYON DEVELOPMENT PLAN CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (5/14, 1.27M), Ash Patel, president/CEO of Southwest Hospitality Management, writes that "the U.S. Forest Service is considering a proposal to improve a few miles of road near the Grand Canyon, and to allow Tusayan to build sewer, water and power lines to two remote parcels of ranch land." Patel argues that "this proposal threatens the Grand Canyon and the livelihood of many who provide services to visitors." According to Patel, "transforming the Grand Canyon into a retail resort would destroy local businesses and sustainability."

SUPPORT URGED FOR CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ACT OF 2015 . In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (5/14, 85K), Scott Robinson, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Cathedral City, writes that the California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015 would "establish a Mojave Trails National Monument and Sand to Snow National Monument, several new wilderness areas, add public lands to Joshua Tree, Death Valley, and Mojave National Preserve, and designate 77 miles of precious California waterways as Wild and Scenic Rivers." He notes that "these lands contain Native American petroglyphs, mule deer, and the rugged desert vistas that our corner of the state is known for." Robinson encourages "local legislators and congressmen Ruiz and Paul Cook to also be leaders on this important issue for our children."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM MAKE CORONA, GEMINI BRIDGES ROPE BAN OFFICIAL. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/15, 470K) reports that "federal land managers this week reinforced a two-year ban on roped activities at Corona Arch and Gemini Bridges." The BLM "listed the closure of 37.3 acres — a plan announced early this year — in the Federal Register Thursday."

According to the article, "the Federal Register announcement, signed by acting Utah BLM Director Megan Crandall, identifies 31 acres around Corona Arch and 6.3 acres surrounding Gemini Bridges in Grand County near Moab."

BLM MODIFIES HI-LINE DISTRICT PLAN. The [AP](#) (5/15, 2.29M) reports that a BLM "plan for 2.4 million federal acres in northern Montana has been modified to classify 5,000 additional acres as 'land with wilderness characteristics.'" The bureau has "altered the Hi-line District Resource Management Plan after the Montana Wilderness Association lobbied for areas the agency had missed in its inventory." A BLM spokesman said "sage grouse protection is driving revisions to several Montana BLM resource management plans, with directions being handed down from the agency's Washington office in an attempt to avoid the bird being listed as an endangered species."

BIOLOGISTS PUTTING GPS BACKPACKS ON SAGE GROUSE. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (5/14, 28K) reports that "To keep tabs on their whereabouts, wildlife biologists are fitting" some Gunnison sage grouse "with GPS backpacks as part of a pilot program with the Bureau of Land Management and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)." The article notes that "four GPS backpacks were purchased for \$4,000 apiece through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation."

BLM FIREFIGHTERS HONORED FOR VALOR AND SERVICE. [KMYT-TV](#) Twin Falls, ID (5/15, 1K) reports that "three Twin Falls District BLM firefighters traveled to Washington, D.C., last week to receive an award for valor and exceptional service to the nation as public servants at the 70th Honor Awards Convocation of the Department of the Interior at its headquarters." According to the article, "Engine Captain Eric Killoy (Heyburn), Engine Operator Camas Beames (Hazelton), firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT) certified Mackenzie Tieg (Buhl), and firefighter and EMT trainee Dylan Forrester (Caldwell) were recognized for their heroic actions last summer when they were the first to respond to a helicopter accident." BLM Deputy Director Linda Lance said, "These employees have made a genuine difference to our nation through their dedication and hard work for the BLM. All of us at the BLM are proud of the enormous contributions that these employees have made to their communities to benefit the public lands."

BLM HOLDING OPEN HOUSE TO EDUCATE PUBLIC ON PLAN FOR OREGON FORESTS. The [Coos Bay \(OR\) World](#) (5/15, 32K) reports that the Coos Bay District of the BLM will hold an open house on May 28. The public is invited to "learn about the Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for western Oregon forests."

EDITORIAL ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT WILL BRING BENEFITS. The [El Paso \(TX\) Times](#) (5/15, Sun-News, 204K) editorializes that "a full year has passed since President Barack Obama used his powers under the Antiquities Act to designate the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument on May 21, 2014." It notes that "the year since then has not brought the calamity monument opponents had warned that it would," but there also hasn't been much "in terms of tourism growth or enhanced economic development, as had been promised by supporters." However, the paper is optimistic that "those benefits will come in time." It concludes that "the goal now should be to make the most of" the designation.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

EFFORT TO BLOCK SAGE GROUSE RIDER IN DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FAIL. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/14, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "Democratic efforts to prevent the Defense Authorization Act from regulating endangered species took a hit last night, with the House Rules Committee rejecting an amendment to take out language on the greater sage grouse and moving forward with another amendment on the lesser prairie chicken and American burying beetle."

Sen. Crapo Urges Collaboration To Avoid Sage-grouse Listing. The [Rexburg \(ID\) Standard Journal](#) (5/15, 16K) reports that Sen. Mike Crapo is calling on the FWS and "various federal agencies to uphold their commitments to collaborate with Idaho to avoid a listing of the greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)." During a Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee hearing, Crapo questioned FWS Director Dan Ashe "about the agency's continued willingness to engage with western states on conservation management plans that would protect the sage-grouse while taking into account unique circumstances within each state."

Gov. Hickenlooper Optimistic About Avoiding Sage-grouse Listing. The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (5/14, 10K) reports that Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper told the members of the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado on Tuesday about sage grouse discussions with the FWS and Colorado Hickenlooper said, "We are very, very close to avoiding a listing altogether." Hickenlooper also "supported the filing of a suit against the agency when it listed the Gunnison sage-grouse as threatened, but declined to say whether he would do the same if the greater sage-grouse is listed."

Species Lead Team Working On Recommendation For Sage Grouse Listing. The [Missoula \(MT\) Independent](#) (5/15, 65K) reports that "for the past few weeks, a five-member Species Lead Team—including representatives from industry, the states and the USFWS—has been scrambling to develop a recommendation on whether to list the sage grouse." The article notes that "the recommendation, which won't be made public, is due to USFWS regional directors by mid-May."

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT IMPACTING NATIVE SPECIES. The [Davis \(CA\) Enterprise](#) (5/15, 17K) reports that "several native species, including several fish and plant species, are struggling with water depletions while others experience temporary setbacks until the rains return." The article notes that "during a research study last summer in more than 60 California streams that previously were recorded as hotspots for native species," Peter Moyle, a professor of wildlife, fish and conservation biology at UC Davis, "found that a third of the streams had gone dry, taking the fish with them."

Additional coverage was provided by [KVPR-FM Fresno \(CA\)](#) Fresno, CA (5/15, 2K) and [KQED-FM San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (5/13, 40K).

COURT FINDS FWS CAN'T BAN PYTHON, ANACONDA INTERSTATE TRANSPORT. [Reuters](#) (5/14) reports that a U.S. court has granted a preliminary injunction sought by the United States Association of Reptile to block a rule issued by the FWS in March banning the transport of the reticulated python and green anaconda across state lines.

FWS DATA SHOWS KILLING OF BIRDS BY GOLF COURSES. [Reveal](#) (5/15) reports that FWS "data show that Dairy Creek Golf Course in San Luis Obispo, California, has intentionally killed hundreds of migratory birds over the past three years." Audubon International has "certified as environmentally friendly more than a dozen golf courses that have killed nuisance birds." According to data from the FWS, "those golf courses, mostly in California, have killed nearly 4,000 birds from 2011 through 2013."

CAPTIVES BREEDING SYSTEM AT PHOENIX ZOO SHOWS PROMISE FOR RECOVERY OF MEXICAN GRAY WOLVES. [KJZZ-FM](#) Phoenix (5/15, 7K) reports that "a lack of genetic diversity and inbreeding...pose a major threat to" the recovery of Mexican gray wolves. However, "a complex captive breeding system and careful genetic planning is showing some promising results." The Mexican gray wolf habitat at the Phoenix Zoo is being managed by the FWS "for potential release into the wild."

GROUP BUYS 170 ACRES FROM DEVELOPER TO PROTECT ENDANGERED FROGS. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (5/15, McConnaughey, 2.29M) reports that "a Mississippi environmental nonprofit has bought more than 170 acres of land from a residential development to reforest and protect as critical habitat for the critically endangered Mississippi gopher frog." The Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain will "replant it in longleaf pine as habitat for the burrowing frogs and other rare animals."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE \$1.1B GENERATED BY HUNTING, FISHING DISTRIBUTED TO STATE AGENCIES. Additional coverage that the FWS "recently announced that \$1.1 billion in generated revenue from hunting and fishing will be distributed back to the state wildlife agencies throughout the nation" was provided by [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (5/15, 1.07M).

ACTION URGED ON ENDANGERED SPECIES. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (5/15, Wright, 194K), Dr. Patricia Wright, Professor of Anthropology, Stony Brook University, writes that "our efforts to protect animals should not stop short of our borders." She notes that "our earth's ecosystems are vastly complex and interconnected." Wright urges "involvement" such as "supporting a conservation organization financially or through volunteering, advocating for smart conservation policies at the state, federal and international level or encouraging young people to pursue careers in the field."

In an op-ed for the [Daily Caller](#) (5/15, Seasholes, 366K), Brian Seasholes, Director, Reason Foundation Endangered Species Project, writes that "private landowners.. are the key to successful endangered species conservation" while the federal government enforcement of the Endangered Species Act is "counterproductive." He notes that "endangered species conservation is often difficult, usually takes many years if not decades, and" claimed that it "is solved on the ground, not in shiny offices, not by pieces of paper, not by wishful thinking, and not by the urban elites who wield much of this country's economic and political power and favor laws like the Endangered Species Act that place enormous burdens on the relatively few, less-wealthy and less-powerful rural landowners." Seasholes argues that "alienating and disenfranchising America's rural landowners — the very people who are the linchpin to successful endangered species conservation — is the worst way to go about saving this country's imperiled species."

Additional coverage of Endangered Species Day was provided by [Take Part](#) (5/14, 309K).

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY FINDS CONNECTION BETWEEN FRACKING DURATION AND CHEMICAL CONCENTRATION IN WASTEWATER. [Manufacturing](#) (5/15, 6K) reports that "a recent study from the U.S. Geological Survey links the duration of hydraulic fracturing to the concentration of organic compounds in drilling wastewater." Also, "researchers speculated that increased microbial activity in water with high levels of organic compounds could prove useful in future efforts to clean up fracking accidents." The agency's "analysis of 13 fracking wells in Pennsylvania's shale gas fields found surprising variation in the wells' levels of organic compounds and microbes."

USGS FLOOD SENSORS IN MEXICO HELP SCIENTISTS KEEP EYE ON FLOOD WATERS DURING THE MONSOON. [KOLD-TV](#) Tucson, AZ (5/15, 20K) reports that "the U.S. & Mexico are working together to keep an eye on rising flood waters during Monsoon 2015 which is about one month away." The USGS says it has "a total of five special weather devices equipped with flood sensors on the Mexico side of the border."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

ONRR SEEKS \$306,000 PENALTY FROM DEFUNCT WYOMING GAS OPERATOR. The [AP](#) (5/15, 2.29M) reports that "the federal government is seeking a \$306,000 penalty against a defunct coal-bed methane developer, alleging the company failed to report production on gas wells in Wyoming." The Office of Natural Resources Revenue claims Patriot Energy Resources, LLC, "didn't submit required production reports on the wells." It also "alleges claims the company has not yet responded to a noncompliance notice sent in July."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (5/15, 641K) and [KGWN-TV Cheyenne \(WY\)](#) Cheyenne, WY (5/15, 519).

HOUSE HOLDS HEARING ON STREAM PROTECTION RULES. The [Argus Media](#) (5/15) reports that "a House of Representatives subcommittee hearing today on stream protection rules highlighted the increasing focus on the coal industry as the Republican-controlled Congress challenges President Barack Obama's administration on a broad array of energy issues." House Republicans are "pushing the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) to delay implementation of an update to stream protection rules." A bill proposed by Rep. Alex Mooney, HR 1644, would "order OSM to study the industry impact of its proposed rulemaking and prevents implementation of a new rule for one year after the completion of the study to allow for congressional, industry and public review."

REP. FLEMING CRITICIZES STUDY ON HEALTH IMPACT OF MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL MINING. The [Washington Post](#) (5/14, 5.03M) reports that Rep. John Fleming is criticizing "a study on the health impact of mountaintop removal mining in rural Kentucky."

PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND LEASED FOR \$32 MILLION BY OIL AND GAS INTERESTS. The [Denver Post](#) (5/14, Jaffe, 894K) reports that the US Bureau of Land Management on May 14 approved a \$32.1 million lease for 33,000 acres for oil and gas development on the Front Range and in the Pawnee National Grassland of Colorado. The sale took place despite environmental concerns over air quality and climate change. Ironhorse Resources LLC purchased a 1,919-acre parcel in the grassland for \$19.4 million. Some 86 parcels were auctioned off with 73 sold, according to BLM. "Allowing mineral access with no surface occupancy allows for resource development while minimizing the overall environmental impact on the Pawnee," Forests and Grassland Supervisor Glenn Casamassa said at the time.

SALT RIVER PROJECT APPROVES \$13 MILLION TO BEGIN PLANT CLOSURE. The [Arizona Republic](#) (5/15, Randazzo, 1.27M) reports that officials with the Salt River Project have agreed to purchase the Los Angeles ownership share of the Navajo Generating Station. The SRP will pay Los Angeles \$10 million for its share and transfer assets at the closed Mojave Generating Station, and spend \$2.9 million to pay for coal expenses. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will vote on the deal on May 19, after which it will need approval from the Mayor and City Council. With NV Energy also exiting the plant by 2019, SRP will be paying for all the costs associated with new pollution regulations on coal plants.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE ADDITIONAL COVERAGE COURT FINDS OSM ILLEGALLY APPROVED COLORADO MINE EXPANSIONS. Additional coverage of the decision on the Colowyo and Trapper coal mines was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (5/15, 74K), the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (5/14, 10K), the [Rio Blanco \(CO\) Herald Times](#) (5/15) and the [Colorado Independent](#) (5/15, 28).

OPINION ENERGY INDUSTRY SUPPORTS CONSERVATION EFFORTS. Barry Russell, president and CEO of the Independent Petroleum Association of America, writes for [The Hill](#) (5/15, Russell, 533K) about the commitment of independent oil and natural gas producers in the US to supporting "species conservation across the country." In the west, "independent oil and natural gas companies are working closely with states, local communities and stakeholders, and conservation groups in the development and implementation of state-based plans to conserve the greater sage-grouse," he writes, adding that one such company "runs an annual conservation and restoration project in the Powder River Basin alongside the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Wyoming Conservation Corps to thin and remove invasive trees across priority sage-grouse habitat on BLM lands." Oil and natural gas companies "also utilize various resources and techniques to limit the impact of their operations on sage-grouse and other species," according to Russell.

Offshore Energy Development:

COASTAL STATES LOOK TO GAIN MORE OFFSHORE DRILLING REVENUE. The [FuelFix](#) (5/14, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that "senators from Texas, Alaska and other coastal states have launched a fresh campaign to siphon off more of the revenue that flows to the federal government from offshore drilling." Sens. Bill Cassidy, R-La., Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska and Mark Warner, D-Va., "introduced a trio of bills this week that aim to broaden the existing revenue sharing program, setting the stage for the proposals' possible inclusion in a wide-ranging energy bill now being assembled in the chamber," the article reports. "States like Texas that host offshore drilling for the benefit of the nation (should) continue to receive a share of the revenue," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas. "Some inland lawmakers insist that coastal waters — and the oil and gas produced from them — belong to all Americans, so the revenue should be shared equally nationwide," according to the article, which notes that the "Obama Administration has adopted this view in its latest Federal budget plan."

The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (5/15, 670K) also carried the story.

BILL WILL EXPAND ACCESS OF GULF TO ENERGY EXPLORATION. The [AP](#) (5/15, 2.29M) reports that legislation introduced by Sen. Bill Cassidy "would amend a 2006 law to open parts of the Outer Continental Shelf for oil and gas exploration." The bill would "redefine President Barack Obama's Eastern Gulf of Mexico drilling moratoria to open access to energy resources in areas 50 miles from the Florida coastline."

FLORIDA LAWMAKERS OPPOSE ATLANTIC DRILLING. The [UPI](#) (5/14) reports that "Florida lawmakers introduced a bill to ban early oil and gas work off the state coast, saying an early push for east coast drilling was too risky." Rep. Patrick Murphy said, "I was involved in the cleanup efforts following the BP oil spill in the Gulf Coast, and I refuse to sit by while Florida's east coast could potentially be threatened from the devastating effects of offshore drilling. Seismic testing is the first step in the wrong direction."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DEBATE ON OFFSHORE DRILLING. Additional coverage of the debate on offshore drilling was provided by the [Coastal Observer \(SC\)](#) (5/15) and the [Switchboard](#) (5/15, 116K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR RELEASE REPORT ON WATER CONSERVATION. The [Imperial \(CA\) Valley Press](#) (5/15, 46K) reports that the BOR "released a report Tuesday outlining opportunities and potential safeguarding actions to address the future water supply in California, and while Colorado River Resources Manager Tina Shields sees this progression as beneficial, she is quick to point out that certain of these measures have been in effect for as long as two years in Imperial County." She said, "We're sort of a model for people to look at, not at all a poster child for efficiency improvements and transfers. Our agricultural community has done a lot, with farmers doing a lot on their own, and the irrigation district has been implementing many water efficiency actions in recent years."

KLAMATH FARMERS TO RECEIVE LESS IRRIGATION WATER. The [AP](#) (5/15, 2.29M) reports that "farmers on a federal irrigation project straddling the Oregon-California border will get less than half the water they would expect in a plentiful year." Greg Addington, executive director of the Klamath Water Users Association, says they were notified this week by the BOR that "the mountain snowpack is rapidly declining and estimates of water availability have dropped." The article notes that "a month ago, the drought was expected to result in 60 percent of full water deliveries this summer," and "now, that will be about 45 percent."

AGENCIES RELEASE SCHEDULE FOR CLEAR CREEK PULSE FLOW. The [Red Bluff \(CA\) Daily News](#) (5/14, 578) reports that the BOR, National Marine Fisheries Service and FWS "announced Wednesday that pulse flow releases from Whiskeytown Dam into Clear Creek will be made in mid-May and mid-June to attract adult spring-run Chinook to Clear Creek habitats for holding and spawning purposes." The article notes that "releases will begin increasing on Monday, May 18, and remain at the peak of 800 cubic feet per second for two days, May 21 and 22."

COLORADO'S RAIN ISN'T REPLENISHING SOUTHWEST RESERVOIRS. The [AP](#) (5/15, 22K) reports that "Colorado is slogging through a wetter than normal spring, with heavy rains restoring much-needed moisture to parched rangeland and sending some rivers over the banks." However, "the precipitation isn't helping dry downstream states in the Southwest that rely on the Colorado River, which originates in western Colorado."

SALTON SEA SOLUTIONS RECYCLED OVER AND OVER. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (5/14, 85K) reports that "concern about the consequences of a shrinking Salton Sea began almost as soon as the floodwaters of the mighty Colorado River stopped pouring into the Salton Sink in 1907 — 16 months after a breach in a canal inundated entire

communities in the Coachella and Imperial valleys and created an accidental lake the size of Delaware.” However, “50 years — and tens of millions of dollars later — some of the same proposals to fix the dying sea have recycled themselves, often many times over.” The article notes that “some of the proposed solutions considered in recent times — building dikes to downsize the sea, constructing desalination plants, creating evaporation ponds, pumping Salton Sea water to the Gulf of Mexico, building ocean-to-sea canals and expanding geothermal development — had been hashed and rehashed by the early 1970s.”

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT CONTINUES UNABATED. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/14, story 9, 2:10, Holt, 7 86M) reported that as California enters the “hottest months of the year,” the drought is “only intensifying.” The piece focuses on the impact of the drought as seen by drone. NBC (Almaguer) adds that “even the occasional rain won’t put a dent in the current drought. Water levels at reservoirs across the state won’t rise any time soon. It’s replenished here by rainfall and the melting snow pack. The forecast calls for neither of those.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BOR REPORT ON COLORADO RIVER. Additional coverage of the BOR’s new report “outlining how to avoid drastic involuntary water cutbacks across the Colorado River Basin” was provided by the [Colorado Independent](#) (5/15, 28).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REVISION TO BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. Additional coverage of the revision to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the [Chico \(CA\) News and Review](#) (5/15, 101K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

HEARING HELD ON CONDITIONS OF INDIAN SCHOOLS. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/15, 1.29M) reports that Rep. John Kline “pushed a top Interior Department official Thursday to move the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School in northern Minnesota up the national list of dilapidated Indian schools to fix.” Kline “invited Obama administration officials to explain why so little has been done to improve the conditions in Indian schools, including the Bug school up on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation.” He said to the panel of officials from the Interior and Education departments, “We want these Native American students to be well educated, but you can’t be well educated, in my opinion, wearing your coat, wearing your mittens, hoping the blanket keeps out the zero degree air.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Education Week](#) (5/15, 139K) and [Think Progress](#) (5/14, 435K).

Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig Administrators Resign After Student Protest. The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (5/15, 100K) reports that “the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School Board accepted the resignations of the school superintendent and principal at Thursday night’s board meeting.” The article notes that “the decision comes a week after students at the high school in Bena protested some decisions by the administration.”

CHAUDHURI SWORN IN AS CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION. The [Economic Times \(IND\)](#) (5/15, 1 92M) reports that “Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri has been sworn in as the chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission, becoming the first Indian-American to occupy this top position in the US.” Chaudhuri was sworn in by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. Chaudhuri said, “I would like to thank President (Barack) Obama, the Senate, Secretary Jewell and those in Indian country who have supported my nomination.”

Also reporting on the story are [Press Trust of India](#) (5/15) and the [Casino City Times](#) (5/15).

JODI GILLETTE STEPS DOWN AS WHITE HOUSE ADVISOR. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (5/14, 28K) reports that “Jodi Archambault Gillette, President Barack Obama’s special assistant for Native American affairs, departed the White House May 14 to accept a new position as policy advisor at the law firm of Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Endreson & Perry, LLP.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF YOUTH SUICIDE EPIDEMIC ON RESERVATIONS. On [Mad In America](#) (5/15), David Walker, PhD discussed “the current epidemic of youth suicide at Pine Ridge Reservation, and a recent story for the New York Times penned by Julie Bosman.” Walker writes that “really troubles” him “about the NYT piece by Ms. Bosman is the implication that having more ‘mental health professionals’ around — particularly those who practice within the bio-medically-dominated Indian Health Service — will have some noticeable impact on the problem of epidemic youth suicide at Pine Ridge.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

INTERIOR AWARDS \$2.37 MILLION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS IN TERRITORIES. The [Marianas Variety](#) (5/15) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia’aina has “announced \$2,374,000 in grant assistance under the Empowering Insular Communities or EIC Program for various clean energy and energy-efficiency projects in American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.” Kia’aina said, “I am pleased to support renewable energy projects that reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and help relieve the high cost burden of electricity in the region. Not only do these projects help build renewable energy infrastructure but they help these communities build climate change resiliency and self-sufficiency.”

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES \$500K SOLAR POWER GRANT FOR GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (5/14, 61K) reports that the Interior Department has “announced it will give Guam Memorial Hospital a \$500,000 grant to install a solar panel power system on its roof.” Assistant Secretary Esther Kia’aina said, “I am pleased to support renewable energy projects that reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and help relieve the high cost burden of electricity in the region. Not only do these projects help build renewable energy infrastructure but they help these communities build climate change resiliency and self-sufficiency.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE \$650,000 IN GRANTS APPROVED TO COMBAT REEF THREATS. Additional coverage of the \$650,000 in initial grant assistance provided under the Coral Reef Initiative program was provided by the [Marianas Variety](#) (5/15).

Top National News:

SENATE VOTES 65-33 TO LAUNCH TPA DEBATE. With the media’s attention heavily focused on the Philadelphia train derailment, yesterday’s developments on the trade debate were not mentioned on the network newscasts, and didn’t generate much coverage on cable. Print and online outlets, meanwhile, continued to remark on the Democratic split on the issue, and cautioned that while Senate passage of “fast-track” legislation now appears likely, the measure faces an uncertain fate in the House. However, as [Politico](#) (5/15, Everett, 1.11M) reports, “Senate liberals know they are going to lose the battle over fast-track trade authority...they’re doing all they can to prolong the fight — perhaps even past the Memorial Day recess into June — in hopes that a long delay will damage the bill’s already difficult prospects in the House.”

[USA Today](#) (5/15, Davis, 5.01M) notes that “the Senate voted 65-33 to begin debate,” with 13 Democrats joining Republican supporters of fast-track, and [Roll Call](#) (5/15, Dennis, 99K) indicated that “every Republican who voted” did so in favor of fast-track. It was “a burst of bipartisanship,” says the [AP](#) (5/15, Espo). Under the headline “Senate Dems Run From Obama On Trade,” however, the [Blaze](#) (5/15, Kasperowicz, 1.87M) said that “nearly every Senate Democrat who’s anybody at all voted against” the bill, and [NPR](#) (5/15, Calamur, 1.52M) noted that opponents of the TPP “say it will hurt US jobs.”

[Roll Call](#) (5/15, Dennis, 99K) reported that “Democrats who backed advancing the bill included Michael Bennet of Colorado, Maria Cantwell of Washington, Thomas R. Carper of Delaware, Chris Coons of Delaware, Dianne Feinstein of California, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, Tim Kaine of Virginia, Claire McCaskill of Missouri, Patty Murray of Washington, Bill Nelson of Florida, Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Mark Warner of Virginia and Ron Wyden of Oregon.”

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/14, Przybyla, 161K) reports that “the 65-33 vote Thursday followed separate votes sought by Democrats to pass proposals curbing currency manipulation and boosting imports from sub-Saharan Africa.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/15, Debonis, 5.03M) notes that the “separate enforcement bill...passed...78 to 20,” and the Trade Preferences Extension Act was approved 97 to 1. [The Hill](#) (5/15, Carney, Bolton, 533K) reports that “Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) was the only no vote.” [Politico](#) (5/15, Palmer, 1.11M) says “the enforcement bill is not particularly controversial, but it contains a provision aimed at China and opposed by the White House that would allow duties on goods from countries that undervalue their currency for a trade advantage.”

[Politico](#) (5/15, French, 1.11M) reports that “in her most pointed criticism of the legislation that’s now on track for Senate passage,” House Minority Leader Pelosi said yesterday “that granting the fast-track trade authority requested by President Barack Obama would give future administrations ‘carte blanche’ to bypass Congress when negotiating trade deals.” Said Pelosi, “This is not a TPA for the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a fast-track just for the Pacific bill. It is effectively a six-year, I don’t want to say ‘get out of jail free’ but it’s something to that effect, a ‘carte blanche.’” [Reuters](#) (5/15, Cowan, Hughes) notes that Pelosi also said, “I would hope there could be some addressing of the length of time.”

The White House, the [New York Times](#) (5/15, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports, “insists that a more diplomatic approach should be pursued.” In effect, “even supporters said that vote was intended more to allow lawmakers to express their frustration on the currency issue,” with “the real showdown” coming “over the Portman-Stabenow amendment attached to the trade promotion authority itself.” Adds the Times, “If that reached Mr. Obama’s desk, supporters say, the president would have to sign it.” Sen. Lindsey Graham said yesterday, “Portman’s the real deal. That’s firing with real bullets.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/15, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) quotes

Sen. Sherrod Brown as saying yesterday, "We cannot have trade promotion without trade enforcement."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/15, Dinan, 641K) notes that "at a press conference Thursday, Mr. Obama said he was worried any moves on punishing currency manipulation could 'end up having a blowback effect' on US monetary policy, possibly tying the Federal Reserve's hands in managing the dollar."

A [McClatchy](#) (5/15, Hall, 32K) analysis examines Senate Democrats' demand for "legislation aimed at currency manipulation by Asian nations, particularly China," noting that while Democrats "said nations such as China devalued their currency, to unfairly promote their exports at the expense of US jobs," that is "an outmoded argument attacking yesterday's problem." China, McClatchy notes, "is not devaluing its currency, and it's actually moving away from policies aimed at propping up its exports."

Sen. Mark Warner said on [MSNBC's Hardball](#) (5/14, 713K) that "virtually all the Democrats...said, if we're going to move forward on a trade agenda, we've also got to make sure that we have strong enforcement provisions. ... We got that guaranteed, passed it overwhelmingly today, because let's face it, I'm pro-trade, but I've also recognized in the past, we lost a lot of jobs in the '90s, textile and furniture jobs. We've not always done as good a job as a country enforcing our trade laws as we should. And we want to make sure we've got the strongest enforcement provisions possible."

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/15, Spencer, 1.29M) reports that "labor unions and some environmentalists expressed disappointment" over yesterday's vote. A spokesman from Friends of the Earth said in a statement, "By voting away their authority to set trade negotiating objectives, the majority of our Senators chose corporate polluters over the American people."

Charles Krauthammer writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/15, 5.03M) that in the House, "very few House Democrats will vote yes," and that "will require Republican near-unanimity. And it's not there." Adds Krauthammer, "Having strongly opposed Obama's constitutional usurpations on immigration, health care, criminal justice and environmental regulation, I'm deeply sympathetic to" him on the trade issue.

In a column defending the TPP, Fareed Zakaria writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/15, 5.03M), "Let's hope we don't look back 20 years from now, under new rules written by China, and wish we had been more assertive when we had the chance."

Obama: "Issue With Respect To Myself And Elizabeth" Not "Personal." [Politico](#) (5/15, Wheaton, 1.11M) reports that the President yesterday "downplayed widespread talk of a feud between him and Sen. Elizabeth Warren." Said Obama, "The issue with respect to myself and Elizabeth has never been personal. ... It's fun for the press to see if we can poke around at it, when you see two close allies who have a disagreement on a policy issue." [The Hill](#) (5/15, Fabian, 533K) says that "Obama smiled and paused for effect as he used Warren's first name during his Thursday press conference."

The [AP](#) (5/15, Kuhnhehn), meanwhile, reports that the rift between Obama and Warren "predates the current hostilities between the two Democrats over trade." Warren "has been aggravating the Obama administration since her pre-Senate days when she chaired an oversight panel charged with being a watchdog over the massive federal bank bailout."

Blake Zeff said on [MSNBC's Now](#) (5/14, 213K) that privately, people at the White House "get very annoyed by...Warren because they feel that she has chopped off a chunk of the President's base" and "tried to undermine his credibility or integrity with the base, and it really bothers him."

Chris Matthews said on [MSNBC's Hardball](#) (5/14, 713K) that the rivalry between the President and Warren "continued to escalate" Thursday. The President "won a key vote...after...Warren led a successful revolt against an earlier vote this week, in spectacular fashion, by the way, by rowing nearly every Senate Democrat against their own President."

Catherine Rampell, in the [Washington Post](#) (5/15, 5.03M) reports that according to Brown, "Obama is not just undemocratic; he's a bigot, too." After quoting the Obama remarks Brown objected to, Rampell adds, "You'll have to squint to locate the sexism in this quote, but somehow Brown excavated it."

Canadian Finance Minister: Volcker Rule Violates NAFTA. The [Huffington Post](#) (5/15, Carter, 194K) reported that "Obama and...Warren... have been locked in a public feud over whether free trade agreements can be used to undermine the 2010 Wall Street reform law," and "on Wednesday, the Canadian government sided with Warren." Canadian Finance Minister Joe Oliver "gave a speech in New York arguing that the Volcker Rule – a key tenet of the 2010 banking law – violates the North American Free Trade Agreement." The HuffPost added that "the US Treasury Department vociferously rejected Oliver's claim," saying in a statement, "The Volcker Rule is clearly not a violation of NAFTA or any other trade agreement, all of which explicitly safeguard the ability of the United States to protect the integrity and stability of our financial system."

McConnell Thanks Obama For "Pushing Back" On "Ridiculous Rhetoric." [Voice of America](#) (5/15, Bowman, 63K) reports that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said yesterday, "I'd like to thank the president. ... No, you're not hearing things. President Obama has done his country a service by taking on his [political] base and pushing back on some of the more ridiculous rhetoric we've heard."

Pritzker Urges Passage Of TPA. In an interview with the [Miami Herald](#) (5/15, Whitefield, 676K) in which she called for US engagement in the Western Hemisphere, Commerce Secretary Pritzker also called on Congress to approve fast-track, saying, "It's a reality that the leaders in the TPP aren't prepared to put their final and best offers on the table until we have [Trade Promotion Authority]." Pritzker also said, "What's important is that we're one step closer to executing on the president's vision of expanded trade."

Ignatius Urges Clinton To Take Stand On TPP. David Ignatius writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/15, 5.03M), "I think Obama is right about the TPP, but there's a larger point here about leadership," which is that "governing is a contact sport." Asks Ignatius, "What does Hillary Clinton believe about the Trans-Pacific Partnership or the Iran nuclear deal? You would assume that she's supportive because she helped get both agreements started." However, "she has been a study in reticence – a trimmer checking the political winds, rather than a leader." Ignatius goes on to criticize "Clinton's rope-a-dope approach to the TPP that deserves most attention, because it highlights her vulnerability as a candidate," and urges her to "take a political lesson from Obama."

Modi Arrives In China In Bid To Strengthen Trade Ties. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/15, Ford, 539K) reported that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has "repeatedly promised to create more jobs, which means boosting industry and infrastructure," arrived in China on Thursday as part of his effort to "attract Chinese companies to invest in his ambitious plans." While a "stubborn border dispute...still dogs China's relationship with India," neither country "wants to let that get in the way of better trade and investment ties."

WSJournal: Lawmakers Should Repeal Protectionist Catfish Program. An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/15, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) urges lawmakers to repeal a program which places responsibility for regulating catfish with the USDA. The Journal describes the program as protectionism, calling it an effort to drive Vietnamese exporters from the US market, and argues that its repeal would be a demonstration that lawmakers are serious about free trade.

BOEHNER HITS BACK AT CRITICS OF AMTRAK FUNDING. The political sparring over the funding of Amtrak in the wake of the crash outside Philadelphia continued on Thursday, with Speaker Boehner hitting back sharply at claims that there is a link between funding and the accident.

[USA Today](#) (5/15, Jansen, 5.01M) reports that the Amtrak crash "highlighted the long-running feud over federal funding for the passenger railroad." A number of Democrats are now calling for additional funding, but Boehner downplayed the impact of funding on the crash, saying, "The train was going twice the speed limit. Adequate funds were there, no money's been cut from rail safety, and the House passed a bill earlier this spring to reauthorize Amtrak and authorize a lot of these programs." The [AP](#) (5/15, Fram) reports that Boehner "mocked a reporter" for asking about the relation of funding to the crash. Boehner said, "Are you really going to ask such a stupid question?"

[Politico](#) (5/15, Sherman, Bade, 1.11M) reports that Democrats "responded, in so many words, that the comment itself was dumb" and "at least one safety expert said that federal investment in train-speed technology would have prevented the accident." For example, Sen. Chuck Schumer (D) said, "Speaker Boehner's comments are patently false. Experts have made clear that positive train control [technology] could have prevented the tragedy in Philadelphia. It is simply a fact that insufficient funding for Amtrak has delayed the installation of PTC, and to deny a connection between the accident and underfunding Amtrak is to deny reality."

[Politico](#) (5/15, Scholtes, Wolfe, Caygle, 1.11M) reports that the crash came after seven years of "feuding" between Congress and the railroad industry "over who should bear the cost of technology designed to prevent such accidents — while the process of installing the safeguards fell disastrously behind schedule." Some Senators, such as Richard Blumenthal (D), "were quick to blame the railroads and their lobbyists for foot-dragging on installing technology that has been available for decades."

[The Hill](#) (5/15, Fabian, 533K) reports that President Obama, for his part, called for more infrastructure spending on Thursday. The President said, "We are a growing country with a growing economy. We need to invest in the infrastructure that keeps us that way. That's what great nations do."

Watchdog Reports Fault Amtrak Spending. The [Washington Times](#) (5/15, Howell, 641K) reports that "dozens" of investigations over the past ten years have "revealed a culture of financial irresponsibility and mismanagement at Amtrak that has led to billions of wasted taxpayer dollars over the years and may have put travelers at risk." The Times

and the only profitable Amtrak route."

More Commentary. In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (5/15, 5.03M), Philip K. Howard, chairman of Common Good, says that the derailment "is just another symptom of Congress's refusal to address the United States' decrepit infrastructure," as Amtrak "is notoriously underfunded, with a huge capital expenditure backlog."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/15, Subscription Publication, 5 68M) takes issue with the idea that more spending could have prevented the crash. Looking at Democrat claims that positive train control (PTC) technology could have prevented it, but wasn't sufficiently funded, the Journal notes that the railroad's IG said back in 2012 that the rollout of the technology had been hindered by poor planning and unreliable engineering, not a lack of funds.

STEPHANOPOULOS FAILED TO DISCLOSE DONATIONS TO CLINTON FOUNDATION. George Stephanopoulos' disclosure of his donations to the Clinton Foundation generated cable commentary, as well as extensive reporting on print and online outlets, much of it very negative toward the former politico turned news anchor. Somewhat surprisingly, the network newscasts – including ABC World News – ignored the story altogether last night. News reports indicate the story originated with questions to ABC News from the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (5/15, Stiles, 113K), which later reported that "Stephanopoulos scored a friendly interview with Clinton on the eve of the government shutdown in September 2013, the same year he made a \$25,000 donation to the Clinton Foundation."

With those questions pending, Stephanopoulos yesterday acknowledged his donations in an interview with Dylan Byers of [Politico](#) (5/15, 1.11M), who wrote that the "This Week" host said "he should not have donated money to the Clinton Foundation and that he will not moderate the ABC News-sponsored Republican primary debate in February after failing to disclose those contributions." Stephanopoulos "said that while he made the donations 'for the best reasons,' he now realizes he should not have given." According to Byers, he gave "\$75,000 to the Clinton Foundation," whereas "ABC News initially said" that he "had given a total of \$50,000."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/14, Eikin, 161K) notes that Stephanopoulos also issued a statement yesterday, in which he said, "I made charitable donations to the Foundation in support of the work they're doing on global A DS prevention and deforestation, causes I care about deeply. ... I thought that my contributions were a matter of public record. However, in hindsight, I should have taken the extra step of personally disclosing my donations to my employer and to the viewers on air during the recent news stories about the Foundation. I apologize."

The [New York Times](#) (5/15, Peters, Koblin, Subscription Publication, 12 24M) reports that "the nature of the disclosure of the donations, made only after news outlets began asking questions, combined with his longstanding ties.. to President Bill Clinton, raised questions that could jeopardize Mr. Stephanopoulos' future as a top-draw interviewer and debate moderator." Politico "senior media writer" Jack Shafer writes in [Politico Magazine](#) (5/15) that the disclosure "corrodes much of the journalistic credibility Stephanopoulos has labored so carefully to accumulate." Shafer says that with his donation "to the politically identified Clinton Foundation, Stephanopoulos has betrayed" a "compact" to avoid partisanship "implicitly and explicitly," even as it "torched the journalism-cred he has acquired in the past two decades." Adds Shafer, "I find it implausible that he did not understand...that his contributions would be an issue with his employers and his viewers."

Howard Kurtz said on

Conversation Contents

Save the Date for Browns Canyon Event

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"Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu May 14 2015 08:40:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Save the Date for Browns Canyon Event
Attachments: Brown Canyon - STD DRAFT.docx

Team OCL:

Attached is a "Save the Date" announcement for the Browns Canyon event in July. I believe everyone has been confirmed as attending or invited, except for Sen. Gardner. Do you know if he's:

- A) been invited
- B) is confirmed as attending
- C) tentative and ok with listing him on the invite with "invited" next to his name

We'd like to get this our soon. Please let me know.

Thanks!

Maria Nájera
Special Assistant | Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs | Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 6225 | Washington, DC 20240
(202.513.0888 (desk) | 202.215 5668 (cell))
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"Anderson, James" <jeanderson@blm.gov>

From: "Anderson, James" <jeanderson@blm.gov>
Sent: Thu May 14 2015 08:44:28 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Save the Date for Browns Canyon Event

Hi Maria-

He has been invited. Unclear on B or C.

Thanks,
Jamey

On Thu, May 14, 2015 at 10:40 AM, Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Thanks!

Maria Nájera
Special Assistant | Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs | Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 6225 | Washington, DC 20240
(202.513.0888 (desk) | 202.215 5668 (cell))
maria_najera@ios.doi.gov

--
James Anderson

Advisor to the Director
Bureau of Land Management
202-208-5996 (o)
202-748-1726 (c)

"Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu May 14 2015 08:52:11 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Anderson, James" <jeanderson@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Save the Date for Browns Canyon Event

Thanks Jamey. Can some check, please? Thanks!

Maria Nájera
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(202.513.0888 (desk) | 202.215 5668 (cell))
maria_najera@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, May 14, 2015 at 10:44 AM, Anderson, James <jeanderson@blm.gov> wrote:
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"Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu May 14 2015 08:53:05 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Anderson, James" <jeanderson@blm.gov>
Subject: Re: Save the Date for Browns Canyon Event

Let me just call his staff.

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Stephenne Harding
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Stephenne_Harding@ios.doi.gov
202-208-6174 (desk)
202-341-8080 (cell)

"Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu May 14 2015 10:51:42 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Save the Date for Browns Canyon Event

Thanks!

Maria Nájera
Special Assistant | Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs | Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 6225 | Washington, DC 20240
(202.513.0888 (desk) | 202.215 5668 (cell)
maria_najera@ios.doi.gov

On Thu, May 14, 2015 at 10:53 AM, Harding, Stephenne <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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DRAFT



SAVE THE DATE

Celebration of the Designation of

Browns Canyon National Monument

with

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell,
Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze,
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and
Environment Robert Bonnie,
U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell,
Governor John Hickenlooper (invited),
U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, U.S. Senator Cory Gardner, Former U.S.
Senator Mark Udall, State and Local Officials, and Local Community
Leaders

Saturday, July 18, 2015

Downtown Buena Vista, Colorado

An invitation with the time and location will follow. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Tue May 12 2015 04:59:29 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, May 12, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

ADMINISTRATION GIVES SHELL CONDITIONAL APPROVAL FOR ARCTIC DRILLING. Coverage of yesterday's announcement of a conditional permission to Shell to drill for oil in the Arctic generated just one brief mention on the network newscasts, but sparked a significant amount of print and online coverage, much of which highlighted environmentalists' outrage about the decision – despite the fact that, according to the [Washington Post](#) (5/12, Warrick, 5.03M), "the tentative approval was widely expected." [ABC World News](#) (5/11, story 12, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) referred to "a controversial move by the Obama Administration," with "a major hurdle cleared for the Shell Oil Company that could allow them to start drilling for oil and gas off the coast of Alaska as early as the summer." According to "critics," the move "will have a devastating impact on the environment."

[Reuters](#) (5/12, Gardner) quotes Abigail Ross Harper, director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, as saying yesterday, "We have taken a thoughtful approach to carefully considering potential exploration in the Chukchi Sea." [McClatchy](#) (5/11, Cockerham, 32K) noted that Harper also said the agency recognizes "the significant environmental, social and ecological resources in the region and establishing high standards for the protection of this critical ecosystem, our Arctic communities and the subsistence needs and cultural traditions of Alaska Natives. ... As we move forward, any offshore exploratory activities will continue to be subject to rigorous safety standards."

[Politico Pro](#) (5/11) reports that "BOEM's approval of the multiyear Shell plan also requires the company to obtain separate permits from BSEE and puts a hold on the start of drilling until Endangered Species Act consultations are complete."

Under the headline "Drill, Baby, Drill In The Arctic," the [National Journal](#) (5/11, Geman, Subscription Publication, 156K) describes the decision as "escalating" an Administration "collision with environmentalists," while the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (5/11, Fuller, 452K) says that "environmental groups, never too pleased with" President Obama, "quickly added this to their list of reasons to be miffed at his administration and this seeming inconsistency in his otherwise consistent statements on energy and climate change."

Writing for [Mother Jones](#) (5/11, McDonnell, 723K), Tim McDonnell similarly indicated that the decision "underscores what many describe as an inconsistency in" the climate change policies of this President, who "despite his aggressive rhetoric on the dangers of global warming, and a suite of policies to curb the nation's carbon footprint...has also pushed to expand offshore oil and gas drilling." [McClatchy](#) (5/11, Cockerham, 32K) notes that Audubon President and CEO David Yarnold said yesterday, "Spills under ice sheets can't be controlled, and America doesn't need the oil in order to maintain its energy independence. So this is just cynical partisan politics, a public relations bone that the Obama administration is throwing to Shell."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/12, Sherfinski, 641K) says Obama's "move on Monday is the second in four months involving offshore drilling that managed to anger environmentalists," and the [Daily Caller](#) (5/11, Bastasch, 366K) reported that the decision "defies...Obama's environmentalist supporters, who are opposed to allowing oil companies to tap into polar reserves." [TME](#) (5/11, Worland, 19.57M) reported that "the relationship between environmental groups and the White House has been fraught with disagreement as well as collaboration." While "environmental groups have praised Obama's aggressive stance on reducing greenhouse gas emissions...they have also criticized his support of efforts to allow drilling in new areas like the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Southeastern US."

[Newsweek](#) (5/11, Schlanger, 175K) notes that "the decision comes three years after the government originally issued the same permission to Shell," which was "temporarily revoked after Shell's first attempt at offshore drilling, in 2012, ended with two rigs running aground." [Slate](#) (5/11, Griswold, 1.31M) noted that environmentalists "maintain that Shell hasn't proven it can operate safely in the Arctic." Moreover, "if there's one thing that industry and environmental groups agree on, it's that drilling in the Chukchi Sea – where the closest Coast Guard station equipped to respond to a spill is more than 1,000 miles away – is extremely dangerous."

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/11, Drajem, 3 81M) reports that Cindy Shogan, executive director of Alaska Wilderness League, said in a statement, "We can't trust Shell with America's Arctic. As we all remember, Shell's mishaps in 2012 culminated with its drilling rig running aground. ... Shell's 2015 plans are even riskier and dirtier this time around."

[Politico Pro](#) (5/11) reports that Franz Matzner, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Beyond Oil Initiative, said in a statement, "President Obama must protect our planet and our children's health from dangerous climate change. That should mean saying 'no' to Shell and 'yes' to clean energy alternatives."

[US News & World Report](#) (5/11, Newhouser, 907K) reported that Marissa Knodel, member of the climate and energy team at Friends of the Earth, said in a statement, "The Department of the Interior's hasty approval of Shell's revised Exploration Plan ignores its legal duties and sets us on the path toward climate catastrophe." Knodel further called it "the largest, loudest and dirtiest exploration plan ever proposed in the American Arctic Ocean."

[USA Today](#) (5/12, Korte, 5.01M) notes "the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's approval of the drilling plan is just one step to allow drilling, and there are still 16 conditions that Shell must meet." Among them, Shell "must apply for and receive permits from the three other federal agencies and the state of Alaska to drill each well." On its front page, the [New York Times](#) (5/12, A1, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 12 24M) calls the decision "a major victory for Shell and the rest of the petroleum industry." Yesterday's "breakthrough," [NPR](#) (5/11, Chappell, 1.52M) reported, "is a new sign that Shell could soon recoup some of the several billion dollars it has spent on federal leases and other preparations in recent years."

[The Hill](#) (5/11, Cama, 533K) notes that Shell spokesman Curtis Smith "said the approval 'is an important milestone and signals the confidence regulators have in our plan.'" The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/12, Harder, Sweet, Subscription Publication, 5 68M) notes that Smith also referred to the additional permits and approvals the company will require, "We'd like to see them sooner rather than later," he said. "We're moving assets and people as if we're going to achieve those permits. We have reason to believe we will."

The [AP](#) (5/12, 2.29M) reports that "a giant floating oil rig currently anchored off Port Angeles, Washington, will be towed to Seattle this week despite the Seattle mayor's assertion that the Port of Seattle can't host the rig until it gets a new land-use permit, a Royal Dutch Shell spokesman said Monday." Shell spokesman Curtis Smith said "the 400-foot-long Polar Pioneer was scheduled to arrive at the Port of Seattle's Terminal 5 'later in the week' to prepare for planned exploration in the Arctic Ocean."

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (5/11, Liptak, Producer, 3.17M), [Fox Business](#) (5/11, 387K), the [Huffington Post](#) (5/11, Sheppard, 194K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/11, 539K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (5/12, Yardley, 4 03M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/11, Mark Thiessen |, Ap, 5.03M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/12, Press, 894K), the [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (5/12, 74K), the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (5/11, 886K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (5/12, Subscription Publication, 2.92M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (5/12, 822K), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (5/11, Cockerham, 32K), the [Macon \(GA\) Telegraph](#) (5/11, 178K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (5/12, 970K), the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (5/11, 506), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/12, Thiessen, 2.29M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (5/12, 985K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (5/12, 709K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (5/11, Reports, 2.74M), the [Alaska Native News](#) (5/12, 245), [My Central Oregon](#) (5/11), the [Japan Times](#) (5/12, 6K), [Environment News Service](#) (5/11, 25), [Fortune](#) (5/11, 2 98M), [CNBC](#) (5/12, 2.01M), the [Law 360](#) (5/12, 15K), [ENews Park Forest](#) (5/12, 2K), [Audubon Magazine](#) (5/12, 1 51M), [UPI](#) (5/11), [MarketWatch](#)

(5/11, 977K), [Think Progress](#) (5/11, 435K), the [Examiner](#) (5/12, 1.2M), [Popular Science](#) (5/12, 6.78M), [BBC News](#) (5/12, 1.79M), [BBC News](#) (5/12, 1.79M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (5/11, 2.93M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/12, 5.37M), [The Times \(UK\)](#) (5/12, 3K), [City AM \(UK\)](#) (5/12, 3K), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (5/12, Subscription Publication), the [Oil and Gas Investor](#) (5/12, Subscription Publication), [Offshore Engineer](#) (5/12), the [Arctic Journal \(GRL\)](#) (5/12), [WIMS-AM South Shore \(IN\)](#) South Shore, N (5/11), [WDIV-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (5/12, 292K), [KING-TV Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (5/11, 298K), [KHOU-TV Houston \(TX\)](#) Houston (5/11, 336K), and [KOMO-TV Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (5/12, 200K).

Also providing coverage are [Politico Pro](#) (5/12, Schor, Subscription Publication), [ABC News](#) (5/12, 3.69M), [CBS](#) (5/12, 8.2M), [Fox Business](#) (5/11, 387K), [Houston Chronicle](#) (5/12, 2.29M), [KOMO News](#) Seattle (5/12, 200K), [Seattle PI](#) (5/12, 822K), [The Arctic Journal](#) (5/12), the [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/11, Subscription Publication, 705), [Platts](#) (5/12, 4K), [World Oil](#) (5/12), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (5/11, 216K), [CNBC](#) (5/12, 2.01M), the [Energy Guardian](#) (5/12), and the [FuelFix](#) (5/11, 7K).

REPORT FOSSIL FUELS FROM PUBLIC LANDS ACCOUNT FOR ONE QUARTER OF TOTAL US CARBON EMISSIONS. [De Smog Blog](#) (5/11, 343) reports that "a newly released analysis by the Climate Accountability Institute concludes that fossil fuels extracted from federal lands release carbon equal to a quarter of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The rate has stayed roughly consistent from 2003 to 2014." The article notes that "when it comes to coal, the rate was even higher than average last year, the report concluded." Rick Heede, author of the analysis, wrote, "In 2014, two-fifths (40.2 percent) of U.S. coal production was from leases on Federal Lands; production on Indian Lands accounted for an additional 1.9 percent of U.S. coal production."

CONGRESS URGED TO SUPPORT LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND. In an op-ed for the [Denver Post](#) (5/12, Simms, 894K), Lisa Simms, assistant director and dean of curriculum and instruction at the Denver School of Innovation and Sustainable Design, urges Congress to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund. In her piece, Simms focuses on the positive impact of the outdoors on youth.

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH COMMISSION OPPOSES PROPOSED NATIONAL MONUMENT IN GRAND CANYON WATERSHED. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Capitol Times](#) (5/11, 599), Robert Mansell, chairman of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, writes about the commission's "opposition to any designation of a national monument in the Grand Canyon watershed." He notes that "the commission's opposition is based on the negative impacts that such a designation is likely to have on wildlife management across this vast expanse in northern Arizona." Mansell points to the creation of the Sonoran Desert National Monument in 2001 as "a cautionary tale."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NEW GIRL SCOUT RANGER PROGRAM ANNOUNCED. [KCSG-TV](#) St. George, UT (5/12, 43) reports that "thousands of Girl Scouts celebrated the announcement of the revamped Girl Scout Ranger Program in Golden Gate National Recreation Area on Saturday, May 2." The program, a joint venture between the NPS and the Girl Scouts of the USA, "connects girls to national parks throughout the United States, including monuments, seashores, and urban sites." NPS Deputy Director Peggy O'Dell said, "The National Park Service and Girl Scouts have the same goal – providing meaningful and memorable outdoor experiences for girls. This partnership will introduce scouts to the many ways they can play, learn, serve, and work in our national parks. We want each girl to 'Find Your Park' and enjoy these treasures."

NPS TO CHARGE MORE FOR YELLOWSTONE ACCESS. The [AP](#) (5/12, 2.29M) reports that "beginning June 1, it will cost more to visit Yellowstone National Park." The NPS "announced Monday that the entrance fee to the first national park will increase to \$30 per vehicle." The article notes that "the higher fees will boost the park's revenue by about \$3 million a year" and "Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk says that will help fund various park projects."

Additional coverage was provided by the [U-T San Diego \(CA\)](#) (5/11, 579K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/11, Press, 5.03M), [ABC News](#) (5/12, 3.69M), and the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (5/12, 75K).

In an editorial, the [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (5/12, 81K) raises concerns that higher fees at NPS sites will "drive" away some visitors.

NPS CLEANS UP TRASH TO DETER BEAR ATTACKS. [TIME](#) (5/12, 19.57M) reports that "ten people have been killed by bears" in Glacier National Park's "105-year history, compared with seven at Yellowstone National Park." The NPS "points out that more people have died — at Yellowstone, at least — by drowning or from burns sustained when they fell into the park's thermal pools." Nevertheless, grizzly attacks have "prompted the park service to clean up its act at Glacier, Yellowstone and other national parks."

Additional Coverage Of Bear Scare At Yellowstone. Additional coverage of the bear that scared Yellowstone visitors was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/12, Brown, 2.29M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/12, Brown, 2.29M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/11, Matthew Brown |, Ap, 5.03M), [CBS News](#) (5/12, 8.2M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/12, 5.37M), the [Discovery Channel](#) (5/12, 774K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (5/12, 1.07M).

NPS, RANCHERS FACE OFF OVER POINT REYES' ELK HERD. The [E&E Daily](#) (5/11) reports that the NPS is facing a new "battle in Point Reyes — this time over a free-roaming band of tule elk, and the ranches where they like to hang out."

REP. KILMER QUESTIONS IMPACT OF NAVY JETS ON OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK. The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (5/11, 822K) reports that Rep. Derek Kilmer wants to know if the sounds at Olympic National Park are "threatened by the U.S. Navy's interest in using areas of the Peninsula for electronic warfare range testing, with an increased number of jets flying over pristine places." In a letter to two Cabinet secretaries and chairman of the federal Interagency Committee on Aviation Noise, Kilmer said, "I write to you today to ask for your assistance in maintaining a strong and ready military and protecting one of the most pristine environments and soundscapes in the lower forty-eight states — the Olympic National Park."

GLACIER NATIONAL PARK MARKS 105TH ANNIVERSARY. [KBZK-TV](#) Butte, MT (5/12, 785) reports that "May 11, 2015, marks the 105th anniversary of Glacier National Park becoming an officially protected land." Last month, a NPS report "revealed that 2.3 million visitors to Glacier National Park in 2014 spent \$193 million in communities near the park." Glacier National Park Superintendent Jeff Mow said, "This study reinforces the fact that Glacier National Park plays a significant role in the economy of the state of Montana, and specifically Northwest Montana."

NPS TO HOLD MEETINGS ON PROPOSED PROTECTION OF NATIVE HABITAT AT NU'U. The [Maui \(HI\) Now](#) (5/11) reports that "the proposed protection and restoration of habitat for native species at Nu'u on the leeward slopes of Haleakalā will be discussed at two upcoming public scoping meetings." The NPS, "in partnership with the Leeward Haleakalā Watershed Restoration Partnership and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, propose to protect and restore either 1,300 or 2,100 acres of habitat in the upper elevations of Nu'u." The park is "starting to prepare an Environmental Assessment and welcomes public participation during the environmental analysis process."

NPS HOLDS PUBLIC HEARINGS ON BUFFERS FOR SHOREBIRDS, SEA TURTLES IN NORTH CAROLINA. The [AP](#) (5/12, 2.29M) reports that "by next month, shorebirds and anglers could share parts of the North Carolina seashore in a way that works for them both." The NPS held public hearings held last week "regarding smaller buffers around shorebirds and sea turtle nests." The article notes that "a federal law that passed in December gave the park six months to decrease the size of the no-drive zones or offer an alternative route around nests."

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK TO OFFER "CAR-FREE" EXPERIENCE SATURDAY MORNING. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (5/11, 179K) reports that "on Saturday, May 16, up until noon, private motorized vehicles will not be permitted on Cadillac Mountain" at Acadia National Park "or anywhere else along the park's roads, so visitors can use them without having to face the sound of engines and smell of exhaust." Park entrance fees also will be waived until noon. ANP Superintendent Sheridan Steele said, "We are excited to offer a way for visitors to enjoy a carefree, car-free experience on the Park Loop Road during our shoulder seasons and look forward to working with the neighboring communities to make it a success."

APPOMATTOX NAMES SUPERINTENDENT OF COURT HOUSE NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (5/12, 2.29M) reports that Robin Snyder has been named the superintendent of Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Snyder, "who has been the acting superintendent at the park since February, will begin her assignment in late June."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/11, Press, 5.03M) and [WSET-TV Lynchburg \(VA\)](#) Lynchburg, VA (5/12, 17K).

TWO DEVELOPMENTS THREATENS GRAND CANYON. In her column for the [Arizona Republic](#) (5/11, 1.27M) Linda Valdez writes that Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent Dave Uberuaga says "two proposed developments are 'fundamentally wrong.'" One development is the proposed Grand Canyon Escalade on the Navajo Nation. The other is a plan "for a major development near Tusayan." Uberuaga wants to prevent "direct, long-term irreversible impacts" to the Grand Canyon.

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR KORNZE TO TESTIFY ON BUDGET REQUEST BEFORE SENATE. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/11, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "Senate appropriators on Wednesday will review the Bureau of Land Management's \$1.25 billion fiscal 2016 budget request, a proposal that seeks new fees on oil and gas drilling and would roughly quadruple funding for an imperiled Western bird." BLM Director Neil Kornze will "defend the budget before the Interior, Environment and Related

Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee."

NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY REACHES OUT TO SUPPORTER. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/12, Glionna, 4.03M) reports that on Monday, Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, "who has waged a running battle of words and lawsuits with the federal government over public lands, made a phone call to an out-of-state supporter facing prison time over comments he made in support of the newly christened tea party folk hero." Will Michael "pleaded guilty last month in federal court to threatening a Bureau of Land Management official as well as making interstate communication threats during Bundy's 2014 standoff with federal officials over land grazing rights." Bundy says "he feels responsible for the man's predicament and wanted to offer a show of emotional support."

MESA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ASK FOR EXTENSION TO REVIEW BLM'S RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. [KKCO-TV](#) Grand Junction, CO (5/12, 1K) reports that "the Mesa County Commissioners are stepping in to address the issues involving the Bureau of Land Management's Resource Management Plan." The commissioners are "sending a letter to the BLM asking for a six month extension to review the plan." The letter "cites three topics of concern including; comprehensive travel and transportation management, fluid leasable minerals and inconsistencies with local and state plans."

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON RED GRADE TRAILS PROJECT. The [Sheridan \(WY\) Press](#) (5/12) reports that the BLM is "currently taking public comments on the environmental assessment of the Sheridan Community Land Trust's proposal to build 6.5 miles of trail and two trailheads on BLM lands, which comprises Phase II of the proposed Red Grade Trails System."

WORK PROGRESSES ON NEW GREAT FALLS FIELD OFFICE. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (5/11, 80K) reports that "Sletten Construction Company is designing a new building for the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management." The project will be the new Great Falls field office for both federal agencies.

CONCERNS RAISED OVER PARADIGM FUEL BREAK PROJECT. The [Idaho Statesman](#) (5/11, 199K) reports that the BLM is "preparing to begin building a 356-mile network of fuel breaks in a 57-mile section of the Interstate 84 corridor. Boise to Glenns Ferry." The Paradigm Fuel Break Project is "aimed to slow down and reduce the size of wild fires in the area, which are mostly caused by humans." However, "critics say the agency's choice to plant an invasive exotic plant threatens the rangeland it hopes to protect."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

MIGRATORY BIRDS TO RECEIVE \$3.8 MILLION IN GRANTS FROM FWS. The [AmmoLand](#) (5/12, 5K) reports that "migratory birds throughout the Western Hemisphere will benefit from \$3.8 million in grants for 27 collaborative conservation projects across the Americas, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today." The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grants will leverage the agency's "investment with \$14.6 million in additional private funds—a nearly 4-to-1 match." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "Migratory birds connect people from many countries to the natural world, and to each other. These projects continue a long history of collaboration and tie conservation actions together across the diverse habitats where these birds breed, migrate and live."

FWS ANNOUNCES NEW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM CHIEF. The [AmmoLand](#) (5/12, 5K) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe "announced the selection of Cynthia Martinez as the agency's chief of the National Wildlife Refuge System." Martinez, "a 21-year veteran of the agency, has served as the Service's deputy chief for the refuge system since 2012." Ashe said, "She possesses a diversity of experience working within the Service and National Wildlife Refuge System. Cynthia also demonstrates the strong leadership and innovation the Service needs as we continue to introduce new generations of Americans to conservation."

AMENDMENTS OFFERED ON SAGE GROUSE, LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN IN DEFENSE BILL. The [E&E Daily](#) (5/11) reports that "House Democrats are taking another crack at votes they lost on an imperiled bird and biofuels policy during last month's House Armed Services Committee markup of the fiscal 2016 National Defense Authorization Act." Democrats have "offered amendments for this week's expected floor debate of the bill that would reverse language added in committee to limit an endangered species listing for the greater sage grouse and the Pentagon's ability to invest in biofuels."

Also, [The Hill](#) (5/12, Wong, 533K) reports that "after the House Armed Services Committee adopted a measure in its defense policy bill to block special protections for the greater sage grouse, Republicans want to do the same for the lesser prairie chicken." The legislation will be "debated this week on the House floor, and a group of Oklahoma Republicans is proposing an amendment that would block the re-listing of the prairie chicken on the endangered species list in 2021, unless the Interior secretary determines that a conservation plan is not working."

Report Says Sage Grouse Likely To Go Extinct In Powder River Basin Within Three Decades. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (5/12, 99K) reports that "sage grouse will likely go extinct in the Powder River Basin within the next three decades, according to a recent study commissioned by the Pew Charitable Trusts." The article notes that "those declines mirror wider trends across the bird's range." The study found that "sage grouse populations across the West declined by 56 percent between 2007 and 2013."

FUNDING WILL KEEP TROUT STOCKED AT TENNESSEE, GEORGIA LAKES. The [AP](#) (5/12, 2.29M) reports that "a steady stream of trout will continue to flow into lakes in Tennessee and Georgia thanks to a funding agreement involving the Tennessee Valley Authority, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state agencies." The article notes that "the agreement will keep open three fish hatcheries that together supply more than a million trout each year for 13 TVA reservoirs and dam tailwaters in the two states." Under the agreement, "TVA pays for the fish, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pays the cost of the hatcheries and state agencies pay for stocking and monitoring."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (5/12, 332K), the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (5/12, 332K), the [Chattanooga \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (5/12, 5K), the [Johnson City \(TN\) Press](#) (5/12, 76K), and the [Johnson City \(TN\) Press](#) (5/12, 76K).

LOUISIANA BLACK BEAR TO BE REMOVED FROM ENDANGERED LIST. The [Monroe \(LA\) News Star](#) (5/11, 67K) reports that "Louisiana's black bear, which was on the brink of extinction half a century ago, is expected to be removed from the Endangered Species Act listing." According to the article, "at least 500 bears — and perhaps as many as 1,000 — roam the deep woods of the Tensas National Wildlife Refuge, Upper Atchafalaya Basin and other connecting corridors like Three Rivers." Tom MacKenzie of the FWS "declined to confirm the removal of the black bear from the endangered species list, but did say, 'We'll be making an announcement May 20.'"

FWS SEES LAHONTAN TROUT RETURN TO TRUCKEE RIVER. The [AP](#) (5/12, 2.29M) reports that "Lahontan cutthroat trout are successfully reproducing in the lower Truckee River in what experts are calling a major milestone in efforts to restore the population once on the brink of extinction." The article notes that "last year, cutthroats raised from a strain of a remnant population in the mountains near the Nevada-Utah line spawned upstream from Pyramid Lake for the first time in nearly 80 years." Now, FWS officials have "documented about 1,000 newly hatched baby cutthroats swimming in the river after a second spawn this spring."

JUDGE WON'T BLOCK PLAN TO KILL CORMORANTS IN COLUMBIA RIVER ESTUARY. The [AP](#) (5/12, 2.29M) reports that "a judge has refused to block a plan to shoot more than 10,000 double-crested cormorants in the Columbia River estuary." U.S. District Judge Michael Simon denied the preliminary injunction sought by conservation groups.

US Geological Survey:

RESEARCHERS STUDYING SEISMIC SHAKING IN DC. The [Washington Post](#) (5/12, 5.03M) reports that "researchers are analyzing seismic shaking underneath the nation's capital to better predict damage to federal buildings and monuments from future earthquakes." The article notes that "their study was sparked by a 2011 Virginia earthquake, a magnitude-5.8 temblor that cracked the Washington Monument and the National Cathedral." According to the article, "to understand why strong earthquake tremors hit the capital, the USGS partnered with Virginia Tech in 2014 to install 27 seismometers around the District."

USGS CHECKS TRINITY RIVER. The [Jacksboro \(TX\) Gazette-News](#) (5/12) reports that "hydrologists and hydrologic technicians from the US Geological Survey were in Jack County Friday afternoon monitoring the flow of the Trinity River at the Highway 59 bridge near Maryetta." USGS' Glenn Harwell said, "We're measuring discharge with a gauge that keeps track of how much water is going downstream. It helps to define the relationships for folks like the Corps of Engineers and Tarrant County Water District."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BOEM TRYING TO EXPAND OFFSHORE WIND. The [Climate Central](#) (5/12, 5K) reports that "the Block Island Wind Farm is set to break ground in July off the coast of Rhode Island, and with it, the future of offshore wind in the U.S. seems very real." The BOEM "held the country's largest offshore wind development lease auction in January for 742,000 acres of open water 12 miles off the shore of Martha's Vineyard." The bureau is also "planning to lease waters off the coast of New Jersey this year, while investigating a possible new wind development area off the coast of South Carolina, BOEM spokeswoman Tracey Moriarty said."

BOEM TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON OFFSHORE WIND PROPOSAL IN HAWAII. The [reNews](#) (5/12) reports that the BOEM will "provide an update on 3 June on Alpha Wind Energy's proposal to build a pair of 408MW floating offshore wind farms off the coast of Oahu in Hawaii." According to the article, "the update will come at the third BOEM Hawaii Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting to be held at the Homer Maxey International Trade Resource Center in Honolulu, Hawaii." The bureau will "present

information on the two unsolicited lease requests, which were received in January, and will explain the next steps in the process."

Onshore Energy Development:

COURT FINDS OSM ILLEGALLY APPROVED COLORADO MINE EXPANSIONS. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/12, 73K) reports that "a judge has ruled that the federal government illegally approved expansions of two mines that supply Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association's Craig coal-fired power plant." U.S. District Court Judge R. Brooke Jackson held Friday that the Office of Surface Mining "approved expansions of the Colowyo Mine north of Meeker and the Trapper Mine near Craig in 2007 and 2009, respectively, without providing public notice of the decisions and accounting for the environmental impacts." Brooke "ordered the Office of Surface Mining to address those shortfalls within 120 days or the approval at Tri-State's Colowyo Mine will be vacated and the affected mining shut down."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (5/10, 30K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/12, Jaffe, 894K), and the [Law 360](#) (5/12, 15K).

ONRR RECEIVES COMMENTS ON PROPOSED COAL RULE. [Think Progress](#) (5/11, 435K) reports that "a proposed rule from DOI's Office of Natural Resources Revenue that aims to close a regulatory loophole that allows coal companies to avoid paying royalties owed to taxpayers" has "attracted a record-breaking 210,000 public comments from taxpayers, who argue that they are not receiving a fair share of revenues from the mining of coal on U.S. public lands." Critics claim that "the proposed rule does not go far enough to guarantee that western states and U.S. taxpayers are receiving a fair value for the coal mined on America's public lands, due to additional subsidies given to coal companies under the rule."

OIL, GAS INDUSTRY DECRIES PROTECTIONS FOR BAT. The [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (5/12, Kelner, 621K) reports that "the oil and gas industry has decried the possible effects that protecting the northern long-eared bat, effective May 4, under the act could have on their operations, while pointing out that other industries are not facing the same restrictions." The Independent Petroleum Association of America has stated that because the FWS "enacted the listing in response to a fungal disease called white-nose syndrome, and not habitat change, drillers should not be subjected to increased restrictions for new projects." Neal Kirby, a spokesman for the IPAA, also noted, "Inexplicably, oil and natural gas activities did not make the exempt list, even though the service acknowledged that oil and natural gas activity does not significantly affect the bat's population levels."

INTERIOR PANEL NIXES BIA EXTENSION OF TRIBAL OIL, GAS LEASE. The [Law 360](#) (5/12, 15K) reports that the BIA "erred in approving a land pooling agreement for oil and gas drilling on 80 acres within 642 acres of tribal land in Oklahoma because the agreement was not submitted on time, the Interior Board of Indian Appeals has ruled."

BILLIONAIRE COAL EXECUTIVE TO RUN FOR WEST VIRGINIA DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION. [Reuters](#) (5/12, Pelt) reports that billionaire coal mining executive Jim Justice, who switched his party affiliation from Republican to Democrat in February, intends to run against incumbent Democratic Governor Earl Ray Tomblin. Reuters reports that Justice supports an all-of-the-above energy approach and credits himself with having saved thousands of energy jobs in the state.

RESEARCHERS SAY FRACKING "MOST LIKELY" BEHIND UPTICK IN TEXAS' EARTHQUAKES. The [International Business Times](#) (5/11, Ross, 774K) reports, "Researchers have pinned the recent rise in small earthquakes" in areas of Texas on fracking, as "all of the earthquakes in the last seven years have occurred above the Barnett Shale, a geological formation that has become a major fracking site for petroleum companies." Scientists from Southern Methodist University in April said most of the new quakes are "most likely" man-made. The report "adds to the growing body of evidence that fracking could be causing more earthquakes," the article reports. "While some uncertainties remain, it is unlikely that natural increases to tectonic stresses led to these events," Heather DeShon, a professor of geophysics at SMU and the report's head researcher, said. But for USGS researcher George Choy, "The connection has not been established, but we cannot rule them out."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE MOUNTAIN TOWN WANT COAL COMPANIES TO PAY ROYALTIES. Additional coverage that mountain towns "leaped into the national political fray last week, demanding the federal government close loopholes and eliminate subsidies to the royalties it charges coal companies to mine on public lands" was provided by [US News & World Report](#) (5/11, 907K), [Colorado Public Radio](#) (5/12), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (5/12, 1.07M).

Offshore Energy Development:

COURT GIVES BP OPTION TO APPEAL SOME GULF SPILL CLAIMS. [The Hill](#) (5/11, Cama, 533K) reports that the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans on May 8 "ruled that oil giant BP has the right to appeal some damage claims under its settlement from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill at its well." The court said that BP's agreement to a settlement does not waive the company's right to appeal claims, after it had in 2012 "said it expected to pay \$7.8 billion to resolve claims," and later revised the sum to some \$10.3 billion.. BP has so far paid almost half that.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (5/11, Larino, 733K) also covers the court's decision, adding, "The ruling could limit payout to victims of the 2010 disaster and stokes plaintiffs' lawyer fears that BP seeks to drag the agreed-upon settlement back through litigation," according to Reuters.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE BSEE DIRECTOR SALERNO MAKES SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT AT OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE. Additional coverage of BSEE Director Brian Salerno's comments at the Offshore Technology Conference was provided by [Occupational Health & Safety](#) (5/12, 235K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CLIMATE CHANGE EXACERBATING DROUGHT. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/11, 161K) reports that "while droughts are common in the western U.S., climate change has led to longer and more frequent water shortages in recent years." The BOR "this week will start a program targeting 17 Western states." According to the article, "the program will provide \$5 million to water districts, cities and tribes for projects, including infrastructure improvements to access water and set up water markets to match buyers and sellers."

Additional coverage of the drought was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (5/12, 551K).

PROTESTORS QUESTION BOR'S PLAN TO RELEASE WATER. The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (5/12, 81K) reports that "protesters took to Shasta Dam Monday morning to question the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's plans to soon release some 2.5 billion gallons of water into Clear Creek for salmon during the fourth year of California's drought."

Empowering Native American Communities:

SOUTHERN CHEROKEE TRIBE MEMBERS SEEK FEDERAL RECOGNITION. The [Rolla \(MO\) Daily News](#) (5/11, 15K) reports that "members of the Southern Cherokee tribe recently mailed the first of two shipments of documentation to the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs in an effort to be re-recognized as a federal Indian tribe." Southern Cherokee Chief Steve Matthews said, "We began our research at the Library of Congress. We visited numerous historical societies, state archives and read books to make sure we got our story right. We also went through three computers in the process."

BIA SEEKS COMMENTS ON UKIAH VALLEY POMO INDIAN TRIBE'S FEDERAL RECOGNITION BID. The [Law 360](#) (5/12, 15K) reports that "the proposed Ukiah Valley Pomo Indian Tribe's quest for federal recognition has taken a step forward after years of litigation, with the Bureau of Indian Affairs asking for public comment on the California-based group's eligibility to organize as a tribe."

YAKIMA, KLICKITAT COUNTIES RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT YAKAMA NATION RETROCESSION PETITION. The [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (5/12, 86K) reports that "as the federal government moves toward approving the Yakama Nation's retrocession petition — which returns civil and criminal jurisdiction over tribal members on the reservation from the state back to the tribe — officials in Yakima and Klickitat counties are concerned that some questions remain unanswered." In Klickitat County, "commissioners want to know how retrocession would affect a long-standing boundary dispute, and officials in Yakima County want to ensure there's a formal plan detailing how tribal and local law enforcement agencies will work together once the retrocession is approved."

BIA HOLDS RETIREMENT CEREMONY FOR CHEROKEE AGENCY SUPERINTENDENT. The [Cherokee \(NC\) One Feather](#) (5/12) reports that the BIA "held a special retirement ceremony for Darlene Whitetree, Cherokee Agency superintendent, on Friday, May 8." Whitetree "retired after 16 years of serving the BIA and leaves behind a wealth of knowledge, strong public service record, and expertise in providing top-notch services to Cherokee." Johnna Blackhair, Eastern Regional Director of the BIA, said, "Today is a day of celebration. We are here to share in the celebration of the career and endeavors she has pursued on behalf of the Cherokee Nation. Her knowledge and expertise in trust matters has significantly impacted the Cherokee agency. It is a bittersweet moment because we are going to miss her and the ability to rely on her for personal expertise."

BIA TO ENFORCE CLICK IT OR TICKET CAMPAIGN 2015. The [Bartlesville \(OK\) Radio](#) (5/12) reports that the BIA Indian Highway Safety Program (IHSP) "sent out a memorandum to all tribal police chiefs at the beginning of the month regarding the national 'Click it or Ticket' safety belt mobilization campaign for 2015." The national campaign runs from May 19 through June 1.

GILA RIVER OFFICIALS REJECT SALT RIVER PROJECT'S PLAN FOR POWER LINE. The [Arizona Republic](#) (5/11, 1 27M) reports that "Salt River Project's plan to build a 230-kilovolt power line in the Southeast Valley was dealt a major setback last week, after the Gila River Indian Community Council rejected a preferred route that would bring most of the new line across tribal land, avoiding residential areas in Chandler and Sun Lakes." The article notes that "the May 6 vote came despite approval from about 4,000 allottees who hold tribal land and gave consent to SRP for the above-ground line."

RESERVATIONS IN MONTANA PLAGUED BY HEALTH PROBLEMS, UNEMPLOYMENT. The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (5/12, 54K) editorializes that "in Montana counties with the highest Native American populations...the rate of premature death can be as much as four times what it is in Gallatin County." Also, "the unemployment rate, a key predictor of health outcomes, can be three times as high." It notes that "the reservations are under the control of the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, a chronically underfunded agency that must walk a fine line between getting involved and respecting tribal sovereignty."

Top National News:

AMID DEMOCRATIC INFIGHTING, "FAST TRACK" FACES UNCERTAIN FATE IN SENATE. Media coverage of the ongoing trade debate in Washington reflects the uncertainty over the fate of the Senate's "fast-track" legislation this week, and casts the President's confrontation with his party's liberal wing as the major obstacle to approval of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The trade debate was not mentioned on the network newscasts last night.

On its website, [T ME](#) (5/11, Edwards, 19.57M) said "the Senate is expected to approve...fast track," a move that "would grease the skids for Obama to finish the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an unprecedentedly massive trade pact." In fact, "most trade experts agree that if the fast track bill passes, it all but guarantees that the Trans-Pacific Partnership will too." Also on its website, [The Hill](#) (5/11, Carney, 533K) reported that "despite the Democratic skepticism, it's unclear if" Senate Minority Leader Reid "will be able to garner enough support to carry out his threat to block the legislation."

However, the [Washington Post](#) (5/12, Kane, 5.03M) reports, "the Democratic infighting" has "left...opponents believing they have the votes to block the measure," opening "the unusual possibility that the president's own party would launch a filibuster against his coveted trade agenda."

At any rate, says the [New York Times](#) (5/12, B1, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 12 24M), "both sides say the vote will be close, but absent a breakthrough in negotiations, the 60-vote threshold will be difficult to meet." Nonetheless, "a bipartisan coalition, from Senator Charles E. Schumer...to Senator Lindsey Graham...has told the White House there will be no trade promotion authority bill without a provision aimed at China's currency policies." Commerce Secretary Pritzker called the approach "a terrible idea," even though it would bolster the authority of her cabinet agency" at Treasury's expense. Added Prizker, "There's one authority over our currency. We should strengthen Treasury. ... We should not dilute this by having more than one department responsible for currency." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/12, A12, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) also criticizes the emphasis on the Chinese currency matter, an effort led in the Senate by Sen. Rob Portman. To the Journal, failure to pass TPA will be evidence of a process of US economic decline – which will enhance China's influence.

[Politico](#) (5/11, Raju, 1.11M) predicts a "cliffhanger vote," and notes that Sen. Ron Wyden, who "co-authored the fast-track trade measure," has "made it clear in a closed-door Democratic meeting last Thursday that he would not vote to advance the Tuesday procedural motion unless Republicans promise they would also move forward with two other trade measures: a customs enforcement bill and the African Growth and Opportunity Act. Otherwise, he would vote no." A "senior Senate Democratic aide" tells Politico, "There was no ambiguity about this." On its front page, however, the [Washington Post](#) (5/12, A1, DeBonis, 5 03M) reports from Oregon that the "deeply blue" state, "with its boom in new-economy jobs, has come to occupy a special role in the debate about the benefits and perils of free trade." The Post quotes Wyden as saying, "We're the face of the opportunity to grow more good-paying jobs." The Post adds that "Democrats elsewhere have been mostly unwilling to extend Obama the benefit of the doubt on trade."

Dana Milbank, in the [Washington Post](#) (5/12, 5.03M), says Obama could be in danger of causing his own defeat on trade, "Let's suppose you are trying to bring a friend around to your point of view. Would you tell her she's emotional, illogical, outdated and not very smart? Would you complain that he's being dishonest, fabricating falsehoods and denying reality with his knee-jerk response?" While "such a method of a persuasion is likelier to get you a black eye than a convert...this is how...Obama treats his fellow Democrats on trade – and why he's in danger of losing." To Milbank, Obama "is also being undermined by his administration's allergy to disclosure and its zeal for confidentiality," which "makes it appear" he "is hiding something." [USA Today](#) (5/12, Davis, 5.01M), meanwhile, predicts that "if successful on Tuesday, Senate leaders will" still "have to navigate an expected barrage of amendments from lawmakers in both parties who want to add certain requirements to the administration's negotiating authority."

Danny Vinik, writing for the [New Republic](#) (5/11, 228K), remarked on the President's interview with Yahoo's Matt Bai this past weekend, where he "delivered his sharpest rebuke yet to Senator Elizabeth Warren and other liberals who oppose the trade deal." Obama said, "The truth of the matter is that Elizabeth is, you know, a politician like everybody else. ... And you know, she's got a voice that she wants to get out there. And I understand that. And on most issues, she and I deeply agree. On this one, though, her arguments don't stand the test of fact and scrutiny." The [National Journal](#) (5/11, Alvarez, Subscription Publication, 156K) says the "heated dispute between" Obama and Warren "spilled into Monday's daily White House press briefing, with White House press secretary Josh Earnest inviting Warren to 'walk over' to read the negotiated document." Said Earnest, "There's no need for this false criticism that members of Congress aren't aware of what's being negotiated."

But Warren "hit back at...Obama" yesterday, notes [Politico](#) (5/11, Van Hall, 1.11M), "saying she is justified in her criticism of trade negotiations that she believes could undermine the Dodd-Frank financial reform." Warren also told the [Washington Post's Plum Line blog](#) (5/12, Sargent, 5.03M) that "the president won't actually let people read the agreement for themselves. It's classified. ... If the president is so confident it's a good deal, he should declassify the text and let people see it before asking Congress to tie its hands on fixing it." [Reuters](#) (5/12) highlights the same Warren quote in its coverage, while [TIME](#) (5/11, Frizell, 19.57M) noted that she "has argued that the deal will weaken regulations and undermine the Dodd Frank financial reforms."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/11, Dorning, 161K), which reports that Warren "commands a loyal following in the party's liberal wing," quotes her as saying, "Whatever the Obama administration has committed to won't bind the next president. ... If that president wants to negotiate a trade deal that undercuts Dodd Frank, it will be very hard to stop it." The [Washington Times](#) (5/12, Sherfinski, 641K) notes that Obama had said over the weekend, "Think about the logic of that, right? ... The notion that I had this massive fight with Wall Street to make sure that we don't repeat what happened in 2007, 2008. And then I sign a provision that would unravel it? ... I'd have to be pretty stupid."

Warren and Rep. Rosa DeLauro write in the [Boston Globe](#) (5/12, 886K) that TPP advocates "sell this proposal as a free trade deal — but the United States already has free trade agreements with half of the countries at the negotiating table," and note that the text of the deal remains classified. Congress, they argue, "should refuse to vote for any expedited procedures to approve the TPP before the trade agreement is made public. And Congress certainly shouldn't vote for expedited procedures to enact trade deals that don't yet even exist."

Jared Keller, in the [Pacific Standard](#) (5/11), asks why "the most liberal president in decades" is "not only backing TPP, but picking an increasingly bitter fight with a key part of his own political base over it? The answer resurrects an old question about the Democratic Party some had thought buried by the tactical brilliance of both Bill Clinton's and Obama's campaigns: Do the Democrats have a political death wish?" Keller further wonders whether in "trying to turn back a seemingly unstoppable march toward global trade," Warren is "risking more – GOP control of both executive and legislative branches, for instance – than she and her allies stand to gain."

In addition to his party's liberal wing, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/12, Davis, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports, Obama also has to contend with some GOP opposition – particularly Sen. Rand Paul, who said last night that he hasn't made a final decision. While the senator claims to be in favor of the TPP, he objected to fast-track.

14 Senate Democrats Call For Stronger Labor Standards Ahead Of TPP Implementation. [The Hill](#) (5/11, Needham, 533K) reports that a group of 14 Senate Democrats, "nearly all of whom oppose fast-tracking trade agreements," yesterday called on Obama "to require that stronger labor standards be implemented before a sweeping Asia-Pacific deal takes effect, firing a shot across the bow on the eve of a crucial test vote in the Senate." In a letter to USTR Froman and Labor Secretary Perez, they argued that "waiting to improve standards until after the" TPP "is enacted could diminish enforcement of labor protections in those countries." The 14 Democrats who signed the letter were Sens. Sherrod Brown, Ben Cardin, Schumer, Debbie Stabenow, Bob Casey, Al Franken, Ed Markey, Tammy Baldwin, Gary Peters, Tom Udall, Richard Blumenthal, Brian Schatz, Jeff Merkley, and Warren.

Rep. Sandy Levin wrote in the [Huffington Post](#) (5/11, 194K), "Eight years ago, Charlie Rangel and I worked with our House Democratic colleagues to co-author what became known as the 'May 10th Agreement' on labor and environmental standards in trade agreements." House Democrats "brought about these historic changes, so we have some standing to evaluate their implementation," and "I have deep concern – and some dismay – when the president says that 'we are just wrong,' or we are 'satisfied with the status quo,' or worse, we are 'making this stuff up.'" Added Levin, "House Democrats know a progressive trade agreement when we see it," and "we think the TPP agreement...falls short of what is needed."

NYTimes Outlines Potential Compromise. A [New York Times](#) (5/12, Board, Subscription Publication, 12 24M) editorial says that while the two sides in the debate "have major differences, a compromise is still possible and would be good for the American economy." Lawmakers, it says, have "legitimate concerns" about currency manipulation, and the President and lawmakers "should be able to write amendments to the bill that clearly explain that trade pacts that could undercut financial and other regulations would not receive fast-track consideration."

Bolton: Warren “Economically Illiterate.” The [Boston Herald](#) (5/12, Stout, 709K) reports that “former UN Ambassador John Bolton – who has weighed a White House run built on hitting the Obama administration on its foreign policy decisions,” said on Monday that Obama “actually ‘got it right’ with his controversial Pacific trade pact,” and called Warren’s “opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership ‘economically illiterate.’”

Amendments Regarding Israel “Raising The Rancor Even More.” [Politico](#) (5/11, Toosi, 1.11M) reports about amendments that “are raising the rancor even more,” namely those which “aim to discourage foreign governments – in particular European ones – from boycotting, divesting from or putting sanctions on commercial activity linked to Israel and Israeli-controlled territories.” The amendments “were inspired by the ‘BDS movement,’ which was started a decade ago by Palestinian activists to put economic pressure on Israel.” AIPAC “backs the provisions,” in an apparent “shift” to “the pro-Israel group’s position on the settlements.”

Union Official Blasts TPP. In a letter to the editor of the [Washington Post](#) (5/12, 5 03M), Marc Perrone, international president of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, argues that “no elected official truly interested in making the economy better and fairer can support the Trans-Pacific Partnership,” which is “bad for our workers, families and shared future.”

WTimes Analysis: Clinton Could Successfully Avoid Picking Sides In Democratic Debate. The [Washington Times](#) (5/12, Miller, 641K) reports that “as calls intensify for...Hillary Rodham Clinton to take a stand on a major trade deal that has split her party, she’s wagered that she can ignore them, and campaign veterans say it’s a safe bet.” Clinton “has refused to pick sides in a fight that has her torn between the party’s liberal base and union allies that desperately want to sink” the TPP and Obama. Hank Sheinkopf, “a Democratic campaign consultant who formerly advised President Bill Clinton,” tells the Times, “She’s playing it very smart. There’s no pressure on her. She can do what she wants when she wants.”

WHITE HOUSE PUSHES BACK AGAINST CLAIMS IN HERSH ARTICLE. The White House is pushing back against claims by investigative journalist in a story for the [London Review of Books](#) that much about the Administration’s official narrative concerning the raid that killed Osama bin Laden is untrue. In a piece for the [Blaze](#) (5/11, 1.87M), Fred Lucas noted that according to Hersh, the Administration “rushed to take sole credit for killing the Al Qaeda leader behind the 9/11 attacks, when in fact the government of Pakistan provided significant assistance.” Hersh said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/11, 686K) that “the simple way to describe it is, the President did authorize the raid. The SEALS carried it out. They killed bin Laden, they got in and out successfully. And the rest is hogwash.”

Lester Holt reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/11, story 8, 2:25, Holt, 7.86M) that the White House is “hitting back hard” against Hersh’s claims. Andrea Mitchell said the White House and former officials said Monday that Hersh’s claims are “flat wrong.” The [Huffington Post](#) (5/11, Bendery, 194K) noted that White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said “there was next to nothing accurate about Hersh’s piece,” noting, “I can tell you that the Obama White House is not the only one to observe that the story is riddled with inaccuracies and outright falsehoods,” and [Politico](#) (5/11, Lerner, 1.11M) reported that former CIA Deputy Director Mike Morell “dismissed” Hersh’s report, telling CBS, “It’s all wrong. ... I started reading the article last night. I got a third of the way through and I stopped, because every sentence I was reading was wrong. The source that Hersh talked to has no idea what he’s talking about.”

[Alabama Live](#) (5/11, 416K) called Hersh’s report “a bombshell,” but noted that “critics are lining up to question his claims,” including the fact that it is based “mostly on a single, anonymous source identified as only as ‘retired senior intelligence official.’” [Politico](#) (5/11, Ewing, 1.11M) said the “firestorm of criticism” in the wake of Hersh’s report “has been immediate and unforgiving, from the White House to the Pentagon to the CIA.”

A [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/11, Grier, 539K) analysis also indicated that Hersh “doesn’t seem to have a lot of sources” for his claim, adding that the “initial reaction in the US media to the account was skeptical, despite Hersh’s famed past work,” and the [New York Times](#) (5/12, Rosenberg, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says Hersh’s article “pairs plausible alternatives to the details about the raid presented by the administration with a number of much more questionable claims,” adding that were it not for Hersh’s byline, “the story would likely have been readily dismissed and gained little attention.”

NBC News: A Year Before Raid, Pakistani Officer Told US Where Bin Laden Was Hiding. Mitchell also reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/11, story 8, 2:25, Holt, 7.86M) that while NBC News “independently learned from two intelligence source that is a Pakistani officer did tell the US where bin Laden was hiding a year before the raid, something the White House disputes,” that “doesn’t necessarily dispute with the White House claim that the US acted alone.”

The New Yorker Declined Hersh Story Years Ago. [Politico](#) (5/11, Byers, 1.11M) reported in its “On Media” blog that The New Yorker, “where Hersh is a regular contributor,” was offered the story but declined it, “years before its publication in the London Review of Books, the On Media blog has confirmed.” According to the blog, the New Yorker declined the story “on the grounds that it didn’t hold up to scrutiny.”

WHITE HOUSE URGES LAWMAKERS TO PASS USA FREEDOM ACT. The [Washington Post](#) (5/12, Nakashima, Debonis, 5.03M) reports that the White House is voicing its support for the USA Freedom Act and is urging lawmakers to pass the bipartisan measure that would “end the National Security Agency’s mass collection of Americans’ phone records.” The Administration’s support for the bill, which “preserves the government’s ability to obtain more limited amounts of records, comes as the House is expected to pass it on Wednesday,” setting up “a showdown in the Senate, where Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) is backing another bill that would maintain the NSA program of mass collection and renew it through 2020.”

Paul Plans To Filibuster Patriot Act Reauthorization. The [Huffington Post](#) (5/11, Bobic, 194K) reported that Sen. Rand Paul plans to “mount a fight against the reauthorization of the Patriot Act,” telling the New Hampshire Union Leader on Monday, “I’m going to lead the charge in the next couple of weeks as the Patriot Act comes forward. We will be filibustering. We will be trying to stop it. We are not going to let them run over us.” The Post added that it is unclear whether he “plans to vote to block reauthorizing the surveillance law, or whether he intends to mount a traditional ‘talking’ filibuster that would eat up valuable time on the Senate floor.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/12, Peters, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says Paul “has become the most unabashed and unambiguous opponent of renewing those far-reaching powers of any presidential candidate,” adding that few of his positions “arouse greater suspicion from conservatives,” and “few issues make him stand out so starkly against a field of rivals who are largely in agreement that the intelligence agencies should have broad, unencumbered powers to pursue terrorists.”

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NEW YORK TIMES. “Trade Wars In Congress.” A [New York Times](#) (5/12, Board, Subscription Publication, 12 24M) editorial says that while the two sides in the debate “have major differences, a compromise is still possible and would be good for the American economy.” Lawmakers, it says, have “legitimate concerns” about currency manipulation, and the President and lawmakers “should be able to write amendments to the bill that clearly explain that trade pacts that could undercut financial and oth

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, May 11, 2015

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL DELIVERS COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AT HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY. The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (5/8, 38K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was the keynote speaker at Haskell Indian Nations University's commencement exercises on Friday. Jewell noted "in her speech that the class of 2015 had representatives from 65 tribes and 40 states." She urged "students to take care of themselves, get outside and find strength and pride in their native heritage."

In an editorial, the [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (5/11, 38K) says it hopes "Jewell left Haskell with a favorable impression of the school and new enthusiasm for its unique mission." The paper notes that "it's been a long time since Haskell has gotten the attention it deserves from federal officials, and Jewell's support could go a long way toward promoting the school and securing some much-needed funding." It concludes that "Haskell is just one small part of Jewell's responsibilities, but visiting the campus had to give the secretary a new appreciation for the school, its people, its heritage and its needs."

Additional coverage was provided by [News-TV Lawrence, KS](#) (5/10) and [News-TV Lawrence, KS](#) (5/10).

INTERIOR PROPOSES REGULATIONS TO CLARIFY HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION ACT. The [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (5/10, 353K) reports that "after nearly a century, the U.S. government for the first time is proposing administrative rules to clarify its oversight of the federally created land trust designed to benefit thousands of Native Hawaiians." According to the article, "the proposed regulations will address the process the Department of the Interior uses to evaluate changes sought by the state to the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, the federal law that established the roughly 200,000-acre trust in 1921." Kris Sarri, the agency's principal deputy assistant secretary for policy, management and budget, said in a statement, "The Department of Interior takes our responsibilities for the Hawaiian Home Lands Trust and its beneficiaries seriously. The trust is vital to the health and strength of the Native Hawaiian community and especially to the beneficiaries who live on the lands or are on the waiting list for a homestead lease."

PRESIDENT OBAMA PLANS NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION IN NEVADA. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/8, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "President Obama is planning to designate a 700,000-acre national monument in rangelands of east-central Nevada, according to a document obtained by Rep. Crescent Hardy (R-Nev.)." The document was "prepared by the White House and has been circulating among federal agencies the past week, Hardy's spokesman said, according to a report in the Las Vegas Review-Journal."

PETITIONERS URGE SECRETARY JEWELL TO HALT KILLING OF DENALI NATIONAL PARK WOLVES. The [National Parks Traveler](#) (5/10, 989) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "being urged by more than 100,000 petitioners to intervene to halt the killings of wolves that wander out of Denali National Park in Alaska." According to the petition drive launched on Care2 by Marybeth Holleran, "trappers and hunters have reduced the wolf population in and around the park and its adjacent preserve from 143 to 48 over the past seven years." The petition asks Jewell to "see that a permanent, no-kill buffer zone is established along the park's boundary."

SECRETARY JEWELL RECOGNIZES RESCUER WITH "CITIZEN'S AWARD FOR BRAVERY." The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (5/10, 342K) reports that Michael Hogrefe was given the "citizen's award for bravery" by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell at a ceremony Thursday for rescuing a 10-year-old girl and the girl's father from the Buffalo National River last July.

ORGANIZATION SAYS IT CAN HELP WESTERN COMMUNITIES WIN BACK FEDERAL LANDS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/10, Duara, 4 03M) reported on the American Lands Council. The organization's goal is "to wrest control of vast swaths of land from the federal government and turn them over to the states." The organization's "pitch resounds in rural communities that have watched their economic fortunes tumble" and currently "struggle to pay for basic services."

SEA RISE AFFECTS FLORIDA BUT STATE LACKS PLAN, COORDINATION. The [AP](#) (5/10, Dearen, Kay) reports that "St. Augustine is one of many chronically flooded communities along Florida's coast, and officials in these diverse places share a concern" that they will be "inundated by rising seas in just a couple of decades" even as the state has "yet to offer a clear plan or coordination to address... a slow-moving emergency." Gov. Rick Scott "is skeptical of man-made climate change and has put aside the task of preparing for sea level rise," according to an AP review, "Scott's administration has organized just a few conference calls." The AP reports that "Scott administration officials are moving forward on a five-year plan that will provide basic guidance to cities dealing with sea level rise."

APP MAKES FINDING CAMPING SITES EASY. The [Washington Post](#) (5/8, Tsukayama, 5.03M) spotlights "the government's free app for finding open spots — a project of several agencies including the National Park Service and the Army Corps of Engineers." As "a good tool for finding places to book," the app is "worth a quick download."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SAGEBRUSH HABITAT PROJECTS. Additional coverage of the \$4 million in projects to "stem the loss of sagebrush habitat" was provided by the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (5/9, 506).

ATTACKS ON PUBLIC LANDS CRITICIZED. For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (5/10, O'Mara, 533K), Collin O'Mara, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, criticizes the "growing assault on our nation's public lands is under way at the state and federal levels." O'Mara argues that "states don't have the resources to suddenly start managing tens of millions of acres of land," and he warns that "the losses would reverberate throughout the U.S. economy." O'Mara concludes that "our public lands belong to all

Americans, no matter where they are.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

FLYOVER OVER NATIONAL MALL HIGHLIGHTS V-E DAY CELEBRATION. [USA Today](#) (5/8, Brown, Jansen, 5.01M) reports that “when 56 planes flew over the National Mall Friday, they were in some of the most secure and restricted airspace in the world.” The article notes that “it’s unique enough that those planes are fighters and bombers from WWII, but they are also flying a path that’s been severely restricted since the terrorist hijackings on Sept. 11, 2001.” According to the article, “Pete Bunce, CEO of the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, which helped organize the event, spent a year coordinating plans with the Federal Aviation Administration, Secret Service, Transportation Security Administration and National Park Service to fly the vintage planes into the heavily controlled airspace over Washington.”

Additional coverage of the event was provided by [USA Today](#) (5/8, Bello, Today, 5.01M) and the [Baltimore \(MD\) Sun](#) (5/8, 802K).

OLD SWEDES CHURCH TO BECOME PART OF DELAWARE’S NEW NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (5/11, Press, 5 03M) reports that “a historic Wilmington church is officially becoming part of Delaware’s new National Historical Park.” Sen. Tom Carper “planned to join the Rev. Patricia Downing on Monday for the signing of a cooperative easement agreement adding Old Swedes Church to the park.”

JACKSONVILLE MOVES FORWARD WITH URBAN AGENDA PROGRAM. The [Jacksonville \(FL\) Daily Record](#) (5/10, 346) reports that “Jacksonville is one of 10 cities — and the only one in the Southeast — selected as a ‘model city’ for the Urban Agenda program. Former Rocky Mountain National Park Backcountry Ranger Nathan Souder will be “moving to Jacksonville in June to begin his tour of duty with the Urban Agenda.”

NPS RANGERS HONORED FOR RESCUE IN TENNESSEE. The [AP](#) Nashville, TN (5/11, 68K) reports that three NPS “rangers in Tennessee have been recognized for rescuing a man stranded in Big South Fork River.” According to the article, “receiving the Valor Award from Interior Secretary Sally Jewell were rangers Thomas A. Hall, Brett F. Painter and Matt L. Hudson.” They were recognized recently at the Department of Interior’s awards convocation ceremony in Washington, D.C.

FISHING VESSEL RUNS AGROUND IN KATMAI NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (5/10, 2.29M) reports that the NPS says “a fishing vessel abandoned after a fire last month has run aground at Katmai National Park.” The agency said Saturday that “the Northern Pride was found between Cape Chiniak and Kaguyak Point along the Shelikof Strait.” The article notes that “the vessel has released an oil-like sheen” and the NPS says “the sheen is unrecoverable.”

WYOMING PAYS MONTANA TO SCHOOL YELLOWSTONE STUDENTS. The [AP](#) (5/10, 2.29M) reports that “the state of Wyoming has paid a Montana school district more than \$438,000 to educate nearly three dozen students who live on the Wyoming side of the border in Yellowstone National Park.” The payment was made in April to Gardiner Public Schools. The article notes that “Wyoming was forced to cover the costs of Mammoth Hot Springs students’ education in Gardiner after the federal government abruptly announced last year that it could no longer foot the bill for the Yellowstone students, as it had for decades.”

BLACK BEARS CHASE TOURISTS IN YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. [ABC News](#) (5/10, 3.69M) reports that a black bear and her three cubs chased tourists at Yellowstone National Park. According to the article, “in a video released by Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, sightseers run as the mother bear, seemingly equally terrified and confused, charges one family as they scramble to get to their car.” The article notes that “no one was attacked or injured, but experts say the run-in is a perfect example of the dangers in Yellowstone National Park.”

YELLOWSTONE RECEIVES FUNDING FOR TWO PROJECTS. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (5/11, 99K) reports that Yellowstone National Park has “received \$1 million from the National Park Service Centennial Challenge to help fund upgrades to its Gardiner gateway as well as for native cutthroat trout revitalization.” The article notes that “a total of \$500,000 in Centennial Challenge funds will go to the Gardiner Gateway Project to be added to nearly \$16 million already allocated to the project through the Yellowstone Park Foundation, local partners and additional federal and state funding sources.” Also, “the second project funded in Yellowstone will help preserve the native Yellowstone cutthroat trout and return the natural function of the ecosystem.” The article notes that “the appropriation of \$500,000 will be added to the \$1 million Yellowstone Park Foundation annual commitment to the fish restoration project.”

JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK SEEING MORE VANDALISM IN RECENT YEARS. The [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (5/11, Steinberg, 279K) reports that Joshua Tree National Park has seen an increase in instances of graffiti recently. David Smith, Joshua Tree National Park’s superintendent, said, “Traditional values may not be held by some of the people coming to National Parks. They may not have grown up visiting natural places. The rules inside a park are different than the rules inside a city or a town.” Smith added that the problem “comes from a diverse group of graffiti vandals.” While, “some are undoubtedly teenagers...a new breed has surfaced recently — people who consider themselves great artists.”

NPS PLANS MEETINGS ON VALLES CALDERA TAKEOVER. The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (5/10, 49K) reports that “three public listening sessions will be held next week in Northern New Mexico as the National Park Service takes over management of the 89,000-acre Valles Caldera National Preserve.” The meetings will be held Monday through Wednesday in Albuquerque, Jemez Springs and Los Alamos.

GRAND CANYON TO CELEBRATE RENOVATION OF HISTORIC PHOTO STUDIO. The [AP](#) (5/11, 2.29M) reports that “the historic Kolb Studio at the Grand Canyon’s South Rim will look like new again this week.” The completion of “a two-year renovation of the iconic, cedar-shingled property” will be celebrated Saturday. The Grand Canyon Association, “which operates Kolb Studio, estimates that more than \$400,000 of restoration work was done.”

CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK PLANS FOR BUSY 2015 SEASON. The [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#) (5/9, 127K) reports that “major road and parking lot improvements, a possible Sister City agreement with China, the Crater Lake Lodge’s 100th anniversary, the National Park Service’s 2016 Centennial, expanded vehicle-free days and creation of a possible Crater Lake symphony are among many projects at a busy Crater Lake National Park slated for this season.” Park superintendent Craig Ackerman said, “We’re expecting record numbers of visitors this year.”

NPS PREPARES ASSESSMENT TO BUILD NEW WALKING TRAIL AT JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (5/8, 120K) reports that “an environmental assessment is being prepared by the National Park Service as officials consider the construction of a new walking trail at Skull Rock in the Joshua Tree National Park.” Park officials have “designed an expanded trail promising to enhance the recreational, educational and interpretative opportunities at Skull Rock.”

NPS PREPARING STUDY ON GLACIER NATIONAL PARK ROAD PLAN. The [AP](#) (5/10, 205K) reports that the NPS is “preparing a draft environmental study of how to handle increasing traffic along Glacier National Park’s Going-to-the-Sun Road.”

STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN OBED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER’S “NATIONAL PARK IN YOUR BACKYARD” PROGRAM. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (5/10, 332K) reports that Obed Wild and Scenic River’s “National Park in Your Backyard” program will be held May 18. According to the article, “students will spend the day with National Park Service rangers learning various aspects of rock-climbing and paddling.”

OBED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER NATIONAL PARK HOLDING PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (5/10, 332K) reports that “the Obed Wild and Scenic River national park is accepting submissions for its fourth annual photography contest through July 21.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REPORT ON ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NPS SITES. Additional coverage of the report on the economic impact of NPS sites was provided by [Newsday](#) (5/10, 1.46M).

Bureau of Land Management:

SENATORS PROPOSE TWO WILDERNESS AREAS INSIDE RÍO GRANDE DEL NORTE NATIONAL MONUMENT . The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (5/10, 241K) reports that Sens. Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall “last week proposed two wilderness areas within the Río Grande del Norte National Monument northwest of Taos.” According to the article, “the two proposed wilderness areas – dubbed the Cerro del Yuta Wilderness and Río San Antonio Wilderness – would comprise 21,420 acres within the 242,500-acre national monument, which President Obama designated two years ago.” Supporters of “such preservation contend it entices tourists and their money, and creates jobs in the recreation industry,” but opponents “argue that such employment creation claims are dubious and that locking up lands to development actually costs potential jobs.”

ADVOCACY GROUPS DIFFER ON BLM’S PLAN TO HELP CONTROL WILD HORSE POPULATION. The [AP](#) (5/10, 2.29M) reports that the BLM’s “plan to inject 50 wild horses in western Utah with contraception drugs to help control the population is being applauded by one wild horse advocacy group but derided by another.” The American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign “supports the plan, saying it is a more humane method than taking horses off their ranges.” However, “the group Protect Mustangs says the anti-fertility drug can lead to sterilization and wreak havoc on natural selection.”

BLM, BOR TO SIGN OFF ON HOWARD PRAIRIE WORK. The [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (5/11, Tribune, 64K) reports that “two federal agencies are expected to sign off on a plan to remove the nearly 100 blown-down trees as well as damaged ones still standing from” Howard Prairie Resort’s South Campground, “as well as from nearby Willow Point Campground, also shuttered by damage from the same storm.” The BLM, “which owns the trees, has been negotiating a nearly \$100,000 agreement for its sister agency,” the BOR, “to pay for the removal of the trees and many of their upended root balls and buy the wood from the BLM.” BOR “officials, in turn, plan to use some of that wood and root balls to build complex wild salmon habitat in Little Butte and Bear creeks as required by a different federal agreement for helping in-stream habitat.”

BLM REMAINS CONCERNED ABOUT ROSEMONT MINE. The [Tucson](#) (5/10, 72K) reports that “a top U.S. Bureau of Land Management official in Arizona said at a 2013 press conference that ‘a lot of progress’ was being made to address the agency’s concerns about the proposed Rosemont Mine.” However, “at the same time, memos obtained by the Arizona Daily Star show, his staff wrote a half-dozen memos and emails raising serious concerns about potential environmental damage from the mine.” In a recent interview, Tim Shannon, “head of the BLM district that includes the Rosemont site, declined to discuss the disparity between his comments and the staff memos, penned in late 2013 and early 2014.” But the article notes that “detailed comments written last month show that the bureau remains concerned about the mine’s impacts on Las Cienegas conservation area and what it sees as the U.S. Forest Service’s failure to properly acknowledge them in its various environmental reports.”

FINDINGS AT NATIVE AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IN MONTANA TO GUIDE MANAGEMENT OF LOCATION. The [AP](#) (5/10, Puckett, 2.29M) reports that “cutting-edge archaeological work that included use of a drone and prescribed fire has unearthed previously unknown information about a one-of-a-kind Native American archaeological site in northeastern Montana dating back thousands of years.” According to Josh Chase, a BLM archaeologist, “among the new findings at the prehistoric site are rock alignments that probably had religious meaning to Native Americans.” Chase said that “the findings will help the agency better study and manage the unique location.”

VOLUNTEERS HELP CLEAN UP TRASH AT SNAKE RIVER CANYON. The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (5/10, 75K) reports that “more than 60 volunteers spent hours Saturday picking up broken pieces of concrete, tree trimmings and shotgun shells.” They “spent the day picking up trash on the Snake River Canyon’s north rim in Jerome County.” The article notes that “it was the 16th annual cleanup day, organized by the Bureau of Land Management’s Twin Falls district office, Southern Idaho Off-Road Association, Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho, Magic Valley ATV Club and Jerome County.”

BLM URGED TO HOLD OFF ON COMPLETING RESOURCE PLAN. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/10, 73K) editorializes that “Mesa County’s request that the Bureau of Land Management hold off for six months before completing the travel-management portion of its proposed resource management plan for the Grand Junction field office may be ‘unprecedented,’ but it’s not inappropriate given the raging national debate about control of public lands.” According to the editorial, “since the BLM deferred route-by-route decisions in the North Fruita Desert and DeBeque areas upon input from cooperators, it doesn’t seem unreasonable for the county to be granted time to understand the new classification system that undergirds the BLM’s route selection process.” The paper also notes that “the state clearly sees the value in minimizing conflicts between local governments and federal land managers and is offering technical assistance to smooth the way.”

CONSERVATION GROUPS HELPED TO PROTECT COAST DAIRIES. In an op-ed for the [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (5/9, 100K), Andy Schiffrin writes that while “livestock people couldn’t afford to purchase the ranch, it’s important to remember that the conservation organizations got involved to prevent the parcelization of Coast Dairies and its conversion into a large and inappropriate number of housing units.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE WYOMING PLAN BY ITSELF WON’T KEEP GROUSE OFF LIST. The [AP](#) (5/8, Gruver, 2.29M) reports that “Wyoming has made key sacrifices as it develops a conservation strategy for the greater sage grouse, but it won’t be enough to keep the birds off the federal endangered species list,” FWS Director Dan Ashe told a U.S. Senate committee on Wednesday. Ashe “urged broader cooperation on conservation measures by several states and federal agencies.” However, “he cautioned that even those measures might not stop ongoing litigation aimed at listing the sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act.”

Coverage was also provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/10, Press, 894K), the [Lewiston \(D\) Tribune](#) (5/10, 44K), and [KOTA-TV Rapid City \(SD\)](#) Rapid City, SD (5/10, 757).

Additional coverage of the sage grouse was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/10, 470K).

PETA SUES FWS OVER LOOPHOLE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. The [AP](#) (5/8, Barakat, 2.29M) reports that “an animal-rights group sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Friday to stop a policy it says allows trophy hunters, circus acts and others dealing with threatened species to skirt the Endangered Species Act by making token donations to conservation groups.” The lawsuit, filed by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, claims that the FWS is “sanctioning a massive loophole in the Endangered Species Act.” The law “allows exceptions in the import or export of endangered species when granting a permit aids the species’ survival” and “PETA says the agency is granting exceptions for applicants making donations as small as \$500 to conservation groups.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/8, Matthew Barakat |, Ap, 5.03M), the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (5/10, 405K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/10, 5.37M), and the [WCAV-TV Charlottesville \(VA\)](#) Charlottesville, VA (5/10, 1K).

CONSERVATION CENTER HELPING EFFORT TO REPOPULATE ENDANGERED WOLVES. The [AP](#) (5/10, Suhr, 2.29M) reports that “a secluded Missouri conservation center heralded for helping repopulate the wild with endangered wolves is tending to its latest puppy season.” Maggie Dwire, the assistant Mexican gray wolf recovery coordinator for the FWS, said, “To take something so close to extinction, breed several generations in captivity and establish a wild population, that’s huge. We’ve been incredibly successful, but we still have a really long way to go.”

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES OPPOSE REMOVING PROTECTIONS FOR YELLOWSTONE-AREA GRIZZLIES. [Reuters](#) (5/9) reports that Native American tribes said on Friday they oppose the federal government plans to remove protections for grizzly bears in the Yellowstone National Park area. Tribal members of the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee have joined with other Indian Nations to demand discussions with the FWS before it officially proposes removing bears in the area from the federal list of endangered and threatened species.

NEW MEXICO DENIES TED TURNER RANCH NEW WOLF PERMIT. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (5/10, 241K) reports that “New Mexico’s Game and Fish Commission has denied for the first time a permit that had been in place for 17 years that allowed Ted Turner’s Ladder Ranch in the Gila mountains to aid the federal Mexican wolf recovery program.” The commission rejected “Turner’s permit renewal request on Thursday, a decision that surprised the Turner team and is being viewed by some as a move by the governor-appointed commission to curb reintroduction of the endangered Mexican gray wolf in New Mexico.” The FWS, “which manages the wolf reintroduction program, said in a statement that the Turner ranch has been ‘an excellent partner in the recovery of Mexican wolves’ and said it is ‘disappointed’ in the commission’s decision.”

FWS HOLDS GRAND OPENING OF THE WHITE-TAIL TRAIL AND THE WHITE-TAIL SLOUGH. The [Daily Astorian \(OR\)](#) (5/10, 23K) reports that the FWS is “holding a grand opening celebration of the White-tail Trail and White-tail Slough at Julia Butler Hansen Refuge for the Columbian White-tailed Deer from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday.” Project Leader Jackie Ferrier said, “The Refuge’s White-tail Trail and White-tail Slough provide rich opportunities for wildlife observation, photography and simply enjoying the great outdoors.”

CULVERT TO BE BUILT BETWEEN WRECK POND AND OCEAN. The [AP](#) (5/10, Parry) reports that “an environmental group and several government agencies will build a \$4 million concrete culvert this fall” between Wreck Pond and “the ocean to make it easier for fish, including herring, to reach the sea.” According to the article, “the project led by the American Littoral Society also should improve water quality, reduce flood damage and lessen a frequent source of beach closures when bacteria from the pond overflows after heavy rainfalls.” The article notes that “the work is being paid for by a post-Superstorm Sandy grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

STUDENTS CREATE MURAL TO HELP ENDANGERED MONK SEAL. The [AP](#) (5/11, Moseley, 2.29M) reports that “five enthusiastic students at Kahakai Elementary School stood in front of a large mural where hand-painted pictures of monk seals shined on a 4-foot-by-8-foot canvass behind them.” According to the article, “the young scholars spent more than two months crafting the drawings of the endangered species and joyfully expressed their knowledge and pride of the animal and a mural that has taken on a life of its own.” The piece “recently left the school to go to the Mokupapapa Discovery Center in Hilo,” and “when the Ke Kai Ola Hawaiian Monk Seal Visitor Center is completed, the artwork will travel there.”

REWARD OFFERED FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SLAIN FLORIDA PANTHER. The [AP](#) (5/10, 2.29M) reports that “the Humane Society of the United States, the Center for Biological Diversity and Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust are offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction of whoever shot an endangered Florida Panther.” The article notes that “the pledge, along with a \$5,000 reward offered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pushes to \$15,000 the total reward being offered.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE FWS DISTRIBUTING \$1.1 BILLION GENERATED FROM OUTDOORS INDUSTRY. Additional coverage that the FWS “recently announced it’s set to distribute \$1.1 billion in revenues generated by the hunting and angling industries through voluntary taxes paid on hunting and fishing gear, to state and territorial wildlife services across the nation” was provided by the [AP](#) (5/11, 75K), the [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (5/10, Season, 59K), and the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (5/10, 565K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE ENDANGERED FERRETS TO BE RELEASED AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Additional coverage that black-footed ferrets will be released at Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge was provided by the [AP](#) (5/10, 2.29M) and the [National Geographic](#) (5/10, 32.75M).

FWS' SOUTHWEST REGION TO FOCUS ON "EMPHASIS AREAS". In a piece for [Government Executive](#) (5/10, 2K), Benjamin Tuggle, regional director of the FWS' Southwest Region, writes about the challenges in steering "conservation of myriad species in a multitude of ecosystems." According to Tuggle, "through careful consideration by the regional leadership team representing every facet of the mission, the Southwest Region will concentrate conservation on geographies where it can most effectively achieve the greatest return on investment of limited resources."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

ANTHER SERIES OF CLUSTER EARTHQUAKES RATTLE DALLAS. On Thursday, a "series of cluster earthquakes rattled the Dallas area," prompting experts to intensify their "subterranean quest to find out how parts of Texas have become 'earthquake country,'" the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/9, Jonsson, 539K) reports. The Texas Railroad Commission "has reserved judgment about whether the wastewater from fracking is the real culprit." However, on Friday, officials "dispatched a team of inspectors to check the wastewater wells for damage."

Fracking 'Likely' Behind Texas Quakes, Report Says. [CNN](#) (5/9, Lett, Morris, 3.17M) reported, "Since 2008, the northern region of Texas experienced four swarms of earthquakes, more than 130 temblors in all." Most are reportedly in the Dallas metro area with a dramatic increase seen in 2015. "There were 25 small quakes in January alone," the article reports, adding, "most are small, but for an area that the USGS says had only one recorded earthquake in the 58 years before 2008, the uptick has many in the community concerned." Susan Hough, a seismologist at the USGS and the California Institute of Technology, says the pattern "fits the mold of induced quakes." An SMU study report says the seismic activity is likely linked to the disposal of fracking wastewater. Head researcher Heather DeShon of SMU wrote in the report, "While some uncertainties remain, it is unlikely that natural increases to tectonic stresses led to these events."

Kemp: Man-made Earthquake Analyzed. John Kemp reported for [Reuters](#) (5/9, Kemp) on the link between fracking wastewater injection wells and seismic activity in Oklahoma and other parts of the US where some 57 million barrels were disposed of each day in 2007. Kemp gives a historic overview of man-made earthquakes from the 1960s and how those were due to chemical weapons contaminated water. He writes that most tremors of low magnitude constitute little risk to infrastructure and humans, adding that the stronger, more destructive man-made quakes are attributed to other elements such as dam projects. Kemp writes that fracking wastewater is unlikely to cause larger seismic activity, unless it the fluid is injected in areas laden with faults. He explains however that carbon capture and storage, which is essential for the continued development of fossil fuels, may pose a much larger earthquake risk than wastewater injection.

THINK TANK WARNS ABOUT LOOPHOLE IN PROPOSED ROYALTIES RULE. [Inside Climate News](#) (5/10) reports that "recently proposed federal rules on mining royalties, intended to close loopholes that subsidize exports of coal mined from public lands, may instead end up giving away the coal to the industry for free, according to an environmentalist think tank." Public comments by Tom Sanzillo of the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, an environmental advocacy group, "described how the proposal could reduce royalties to zero." According to the article, "as long as coal prices remain so low, the deductions allowed by the proposal would make export sales worthless on paper, and the royalties would vanish like disappearing red ink."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (5/10, 268K) and the [Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (5/10, 32K).

OSM RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT WEST VIRGINIA'S COAL CLEANUP LIABILITIES. The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette](#) (5/10, 31K) reports that "federal coal-mine regulators are increasingly concerned about growing pollution cleanup liabilities across West Virginia's coalfields, given the 'precarious financial situation that many of the state's coal companies find themselves in today.'" The OSM "outlined its worries in a letter late last month to Randy Huffman, secretary of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection." Roger Calhoun, director of the OSM's Charleston field office, "urged Huffman to consider the concerns and to refer them to a DEP advisory panel that monitors the state's reclamation fund when it conducts this year's annual study of whether that fund has enough money to clean up mine sites that could be abandoned if mine companies go belly up."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON POTENTIAL OIL, GAS LEASING IN NEVADA. The [AP](#) (5/11, 2.29M) reports that the BLM is "seeking public comment on issues concerning public land being eyed for potential oil and gas leasing in eastern Nevada." The bureau's Ely District is "analyzing 94 parcels of public land covering 140,389 acres to identify potential impacts in an environmental assessment."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GAO REPORT ON NATURAL GAS FLARING. Additional coverage of the GAO report on natural gas flaring was provided by [Think Progress](#) (5/8, 435K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE MOUNTAIN TOWN WANT COAL COMPANIES TO PAY ROYALTIES. Additional coverage that mountain town "signed a letter to U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell calling for the federal government to require coal companies to pay royalties on the true market price of coal mined on public land" was provided by the [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (5/10, 1K) and the [Telluride \(CO\) Daily Planet](#) (5/8, 11K).

WTIMES OP-ED HAILS SHALE BOOM, TOUTS END OF GREEN ENERGY. In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (5/10, Moore, 641K), Heritage Foundation fellow Stephen Moore discusses how the growth of shale gas and oil in the US "crushed green energy," going so far as to say that the movement "is dead." Moore praises the success of the oil and gas industry for helping to lower gas prices, and criticizes green energy supporters for backing technology which "can't possibly compete" with a resurgent fossil fuel industry.

Offshore Energy Development:

SHELL'S ARCTIC VESSEL TO DOCK IN EVERETT FIRST. The [AP](#) (5/8) reports, "The Noble Discoverer, the drillship that's part of Royal Dutch Shell's Arctic drilling fleet, will arrive in Everett next week," according to the Port of Everett. The ship will later head to Seattle where Mayor Ed Murray has required the Port of Seattle to obtain a new permit to host the fleet. "Shell spokesman Curtis Smith said the company is closely watching 'the actions of all interested parties' and is considering its options," the article reports. Kayaktivists are still planning to oppose Shell's use of Terminal 5.

Judge: Protesters Must Stay Away From Shell's Arctic Ships. The [AP](#) (5/11) reported that US District Judge Sharon Gleason ordered Greenpeace activists on Friday to avoid drilling ships owned by Royal Dutch Shell, and also prohibited the organization from operating drones in Shell's planned drilling area in the Arctic. Citing a report from the Alaska Dispatch News, the AP said the "safety-zone injunction is in effect until Oct. 31," and implements "buffer zones" of various sizes around the company's fleet.

Federal Government Urged To Block Shell's Arctic Drilling Plans. In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (5/8, 216K), Lois Epstein, the Arctic program director for The Wilderness Society, writes that "despite Royal Dutch Shell's disastrous performance during its 2012 Arctic Ocean drilling season, the federal government is on track to approve the company's exploratory drilling plan for the Arctic Ocean in 2015." Epstein acknowledges that "the pressure on the federal government – both the Department of the Interior and the US Coast Guard – to approve drilling this summer is enormous," but argues that "the federal government needs to say no."

Additional coverage of Shell's plans was provided by the [Maritime Executive](#) (5/11, 21).

OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF GOVERNORS COALITION PUSHED FOR OFFSHORE OIL TESTING, DRILLING. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (5/10, 305K) reports that a coalition of governors "worked behind the scenes, largely in private, with industry lobbyists to open the Southeast coast to oil and natural gas testing and drilling," according to an Institute for Southern Studies investigation. The Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition was "founded in 2011 in the wake of the Deep Horizon oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico to push for offshore drilling leases, shortly before the Obama administration publicly began considering the move off the Atlantic states."

BLUFFTON MAYOR DOESN'T EXPECT VOTE ON OFFSHORE DRILLING RESOLUTION. The [Bluffton \(SC\) Today](#) (5/10, 48K) reports that "as of last week, nearly two dozen communities in the Carolinas had gone on record against seismic testing and drilling for oil off the states' coasts, with the city of Columbia becoming the first inland municipality to formally oppose the practice." However, "though several Bluffton officials support those municipalities, there are no current plans for Town Council to vote on a formal resolution against offshore drilling and seismic testing, Mayor Lisa Sulka said last week."

JUDGE RULES BP CAN APPEAL SOME DAMAGES CLAIMS FROM GULF SPILL. [Reuters](#) (5/9) reported that a Federal appeals court on Friday ruled that BP should be allowed to appeal some of the damage claims linked to the 2010 spill in the Gulf of Mexico, which could help the company limit the planned \$7.8 billion it pays out to those affected by the spill. In the court's decision, Judge Fortunato Benavides said BP deserved to appeal the claims because it had not waived its right to do so.

Medical Claims From Spill Top 37,500. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (5/11, Larino, 733K) reported Friday that Matt Garretson, the claims administrator for medical

payments related to the BP oil spill, said in a court filing last week that over 25,000 new claims have been filed this year, bringing the total to 37,594. According to the Times-Picayune, Garretson requested extended deadlines for the newer claims, and warned that the increase could exacerbate the wait time for payments.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE BSEE DIRECTOR SALERNO MAKES SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT AT OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE. Additional coverage that BSEE Director Brian Salerno "made two announcements during a press conference in Houston Tuesday at the Offshore Technology Conference" was provided by the [Marine Link](#) (5/9, 1K) and the [Maritime Executive](#) (5/11, 21).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

REP. THOMPSON TO REINTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO CHANGE FEDERAL OVERSIGHT OF LAKE BERRYESSA. The [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (5/11, 45K) reports that Rep. Mike Thompson will "try again to switch federal agencies in charge of managing Lake Berryessa, and again he will have the support of Napa County." Thompson wants the BLM, not the BOR, "to manage recreation at the eastern Napa County reservoir." He plans to reintroduce legislation in Congress to make the change.

BOR LOOKING INTO ELECTRIFICATION OF CHANDLER PUMP STATION. The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (5/10, 100K) reports that "the Yakima Basin drought may be the catalyst needed to move forward a project that would give Kennewick Irrigation District customers a more reliable source of water and keep more water in a critical stretch of the river during a drought." The BOR has "agreed to take another look at the electrification of the Chandler pump station, which the bureau owns and operates."

PROTESTORS TO PICKET AT SHASTA DAM OVER WATER RELEASES. The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (5/10, 81K) reports that "a group of Shasta County residents peeved at Bureau of Reclamation plans to release billions of gallons of water down Clear Creek to help migrating salmon this summer will picket at Shasta Dam on Monday, even if the protest is unlikely to stub the water flows."

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT URGED TO HELP WITH CALIFORNIA DROUGHT. In an op-ed for the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (5/10, 762K), Grace F. Napolitano, Daniel P. Beard and David Wegner write that "the Obama administration and Interior Department officials have been absent as Californians grapple with the drought." According to the authors, "they seem content to plan and promote surface-water projects that won't contribute a drop of water for 20 to 25 years and will cost taxpayers billions of dollars." The authors conclude that "it is time for federal officials to stop wringing their hands about the drought and instead provide some leadership to address the immediate water needs of California communities."

WESTERN STATES CLOSELY MONITORING CALIFORNIA DELTA DEBATE. In an op-ed for the [Las Vegas Sun](#) (5/10, 176K), Patricia Mulroy, a senior fellow of the Brookings Institution at the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV, writes that "what happens to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta matters in Las Vegas, Phoenix, Salt Lake City and Denver." She notes that "the Brown administration has revised the ongoing Bay Delta Conservation Plan process by staging habitat improvements over time, as opposed to a 50-year strategy as first contemplated." Mulroy concludes that "as the rest of the West closely watches California, the hope is for the state to be a beacon of water hope for the world through compromise and forward progress and not a tragic, lost opportunity."

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR SENDS LAND BUY-BACK OFFERS TO 6,500 AT CHEYENNE RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION. The [Sioux City \(IA\) Journal](#) (5/10, 149K) reports that "the federal government says it has sent offers to more than 6,500 landowners who own parcels on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation as part its effort to help tribal governments consolidate land." According to Interior Department Deputy Secretary Michael Connor, "almost \$150 million in purchase offers have been sent to landowners with fractional interests on the reservation."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Nation Sun News](#) (5/7).

AMERICAN INDIAN GRADUATE CENTER ACCEPTING COBELL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS. The [Cherokee \(OK\) Phoenix](#) (5/10, 442) reports that "on April 20, the American Indian Graduate Center announced that it is now accepting Cobell Scholarship applications through June 1 for the fall term." AIGC Director Sam Deloria said, "We at AIGC are eager to fund applicants for the Cobell Scholars Program beginning with the fall 2015 term. The provisions of a scholarship program in conjunction with the Cobell Settlement was an inspired idea and we are pleased to have been selected to administer the program."

NEW MONEY ENTERING INDIAN COUNTRY. [Yahoo! Finance](#) (5/1, 5.69M) reports that "a range of programs and lawsuit settlements have resulted in new money coming into Indian Country." The article notes that "over the past five years, Indian Country lawsuit settlements totaling more than \$3 billion have been reached."

Additional coverage was provided by [Transforming Network Infrastructure](#) (4/30).

BIA RELEASES FINAL RULES REGARDING OSAGE MINERALS ESTATE DEVELOPMENT. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (5/11, 456K) reports that the BIA "on Monday released their final rules that revise government regulations relating to development of the Osage Nation's minerals estate." BIA Director Michael Black said "on Friday that the release comes nearly three years after a \$380 million Osage tribal trust settlement resolved litigation alleging the U.S. mismanaged the tribe's minerals."

LITTLE ROCK PORT AUTHORITY BOARD PASSES LAND-USE RESOLUTION. The [AP](#) (5/8, Lauer, 2 29M) reports that "the Little Rock Port Authority Board of Directors passed a resolution Friday encouraging appropriate land use and development on property beside its industrial park facilities." The article notes that "the board's unanimous vote in a special meeting comes as the deadline for public comment approaches on the Quapaw Tribe's federal application to place 160 acres of land adjacent to the Little Rock Port Industrial Park into federal trust." The trust application before the BIA "asks to remove the property from local jurisdiction and make it American Indian land, which would create a sovereign status for the owners."

YAKAMA NATION'S LAND PETITION CONTESTED. The [Dalles \(OR\) Chronicle](#) (5/9, 14K) reports that "the Yakama Nation has quietly issued a petition to the federal government to retrocede some 99,000 acres of northwestern Klickitat County, including the town of Glenwood, to within its reservation boundaries." Now, "the county and area residents are fighting back, holding meetings, gathering concerned comments from state and federal authorities, and sending a commissioner to Washington, D.C., to meet with officials in an effort to bring this struggle of more than a century to a final resolution."

OP-ED INTERIOR FAILING TO MONITOR MINERAL ISSUES. In a piece for the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (5/10, 28K), attorney Roger Birdbear writes that "the federal government favoring industry at the cost of the mineral owner." In the second part published at the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (5/10, 28K), Birdbear argues that "monitoring these issues is the responsibility of the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs and falls under their trust responsibility." He concludes that "their inability to prevent these deductions, and even their allowance of them, means that a suit can be brought against the federal government for failing in their duties."

MINNESOTA URGED TO INVEST IN NEGLECTED INDIAN SCHOOLS. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/10, 1.29M) editorializes that "Minnesota lawmakers must not squander the opportunity at hand to take a serious run at improving the state's still dismal educational outcomes for its American Indian students." It notes that "after consulting with the state's tribal leaders and educators, Gov. Mark Dayton and Cassellius called for a historic yet affordable \$20 million Indian education initiative this year." The paper says that "although \$20 million in the scope of the state budget is a relatively small sum, it would go far to address dismal educational disparities that the state can't afford to ignore."

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES SAUDI KING'S DECISION NOT TO ATTEND SUMMIT SIGNALS FRAYING TIES WITH US. Saudi King Salman's decision not to attend the President's summit with Arab leaders this week is being cast in the media as a snub that could signal that relations between the US and Saudi Arabia may be fraying over US nuclear negotiations with Iran. For example, Julianna Goldman reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/10, story 6, 2:10, Glor, 5.08M) that those who watch the region closely say it could "signal some pretty serious gaps between pretty serious allies," and [Al Jazeera America](#) (5/11, 133K), likewise, says the king's decision raises "questions about relations between Riyadh and Washington," adding that "some commentators called the king's cancellation a snub."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/11, Morello, DeYoung, 5.03M) notes that while US officials said the king's absence "did not signal any displeasure with security assurances the United States is preparing to offer" at the summit, the announcement "represented an abrupt about-face, nonetheless, and came as a surprise after Secretary of State John F. Kerry was assured of the king's attendance when he met with Saudi officials last week in Riyadh and Paris."

The [New York Times](#) (5/11, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), meanwhile, calls King Salman's decision not to attend "an apparent signal of its continued displeasure with the administration over United States relations with Iran, its rising regional adversary." The Times cites Arab officials who said "they viewed the king's failure to attend the meeting as a sign of disappointment with what the White House was willing to offer at the summit meeting as reassurance that the United States would back its Arab allies against a rising Iran," while [Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/11, Atlas, Syeed, Lerman, 161K) says the king's decision "may be a sign of frustration with Washington over its Iran policy," and the [New York Daily News](#) (5/11, Edelman, 3.79M) portrays the decision as "a sign that relations between the two historical allies had frayed amid ongoing negotiations between

the US and Iran.”

A [New York Times](#) (5/11, Hubbard, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) analysis casts Salman’s decision not to attend the summit as part of his effort to “reshape foreign and domestic policies,” noting that since becoming king, Salman “has rattled alliances with the United States and regional powers that for decades have been the bedrock of stability for his kingdom.” This “new direction,” the Times adds, “poses stark challenges to the United States as Saudi Arabia rallies its Sunni allies to press Washington for a firmer commitment to their security,” while the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/11, Solomon, Lee, Omran, Arabia, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports that the move appears to be reverberating across the Gulf region as Bahrain announced on Sunday that King Hamad bin Isaa Al Khalifa has decided not to attend the summit, and [Politico](#) (5/10, Toosi, 1.11M) said that while Salman “is not the only head of state sending a substitute, his decision to stay away stands out in part because of Saudi Arabia’s longstanding ties to the US and its leading role in the region.” The [Kuwait News Agency](#) (5/11) also posted a short piece on King Salman’s announcement, citing a press statement from Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir.

[Reuters](#) (5/11, Fahmy) quotes a source who said that during the summit, the President is expected to make another push to help Gulf allies create a region-wide defense system to protect against Iranian missiles, but is likely not to seek a full security treaty with Saudi Arabia or other Gulf states, while the [AP](#) (5/11, Riechmann) reports that Gulf leaders will be looking for “commitments from Obama that the United States has their backs at a time when the region is under siege from Islamic extremists, Syria continues to unravel, Iraq is volatile and Yemen is in chaos.” In addition, Arab nations who “feel threatened by Iran’s rising influence,” fear “a nuclear pact will embolden Tehran” and worry that the deal “would unlock billions of dollars that Iran might decide to use to further intrude in countries or support terrorist proxies.” [Al Arabiya](#) (5/10, 22K) adds that “arms purchases may also be concluded at the summit with Kuwait purportedly seeking the purchase of 28 Boeing Co F/A-18E/F Super Hornet advanced fighter jets, valued at over \$3 billion.”

McCain: Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act To Allow For “Extensive Debate” Of Deal. On [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#) (5/10), Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain commented on the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015, saying, “This was a negotiated compromise between Democrats and Republicans. It gives us the opportunity to judge whether the Congressionally-imposed sanctions – which are strong – will be removed or not. That, of course, could be vetoed by the President if we decide to keep those sanctions in place. But there will be extensive debate and discussion on the floor of the Senate. That’s one of the major steps forward because this agreement so far, as I read it, is a piece of Swiss cheese and that will be revealed in debate and discussion on the floor of the Senate.”

Houthis Agree To Five-Day Cease-Fire. [USA Today](#) (5/11, Onyanga-Omara, 5.01M) reports that King Salman canceled his plans to attend the summit because of a five-day cease-fire set to begin in Yemen on Tuesday.

The [New York Times](#) (5/11, Kalford, Fahim, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that the Houthi rebels said Sunday that they have agreed to the Saudi-proposed cease-fire, but notes that the Saudi-led coalition “has escalated its bombing campaign” ahead of it taking effect, “apparently trying to inflict as much damage as possible on the Houthis and their allies before any pause in the conflict,” and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/11, Fitch, Al-Kibsi, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) also notes intensified coalition strikes over the past week, reporting that on Saturday, coalition planes launched 130 sorties, striking more than 100 targets and targeting 17 Houthi leaders.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “**Transgender At The CIA.**” A [New York Times](#) (5/11, Board, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) editorial examines the case of a transgender employee at the CIA, identified only as “Jenny.”

WASHINGTON POST. “**New Rules For The National Security Agency.**” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/11, 5.03M) writes that with Section 215 of the Patriot Act expiring on June 1 and a US Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit ruling against the NSA’s telephone metadata collection program, Congress “needs to respond.” The Post says that there is a “promising reform proposal readily available: the USA Freedom bill, which enjoys bipartisan support in both chambers as well as broad endorsement from President Obama – and the affected private industries as well.”

“**The Danger Next Door.**” An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (5/11, 5.03M) says that China should use its rising “to curb the expanding nuclear arsenal of its neighbor and longtime client state, North Korea,” noting that “if China possesses about 250 nuclear weapons, then its leaders should be unsettled to hear from their own experts that North Korea is ramping up to 50 or even 100 in the next decade.” The Post argues that China “has the leverage to halt North Korea’s steady climb to becoming a nuclear power.”

“**A Turnaround Plan For Prince George’s Schools.**” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/11, 5.03M) defends efforts by Prince George’s County, Maryland County Executive Rushern L. Baker III (D) to reform the county’s school system. The Post hails his efforts and argues that those opposed to them need to come up with a viable alternative.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “**No-Growth Republicanism.**” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/11, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) says that the Republicans’ Pat Buchanan wing, which is opposed to both trade and immigration, is making a comeback, led by Sen. Jeff Sessions. The Journal says that these Republicans are opposed to globalization, just like many Democrats, and are risking making the US a slow-growth nation economically.

“**ObamaCare’s Big Dig.**” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/11, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) editorializes about the Federal investigation into Massachusetts’ healthcare exchange program. The Journal contends that Massachusetts’ exchange contractor, CGI Corp., short-changed the state in numerous areas and it notes that earlier this year, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker requested and received the resignations of four of the 11 members of the connector board. The Journal contends that these resignations and the Federal probe offer sad commentary on the state of the entire national healthcare debate.

“**The Neverending Campaign.**” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/11, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) says that a new report from the Center for Competitive Politics found that, as many suspect, presidential campaigns are in fact getting longer. The Journal says that the report suggests that the lengthening of campaigns started following the restrictions on campaign contributions in the early 1970s. The Journal says that if Americans want shorter campaigns, campaign finance needs to be deregulated.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:
Obama To Meet With Arab Leaders
[“Urban Light” Creator](#)
[Illegal Racing’s Uneasy Streets](#)
Arming Soldiers’ Minds
Nationalist Scots Invade Parliament

Wall Street Journal:
[China Cuts Interest Rates As Economic Growth Slows](#)
[Rulers Snub Arab Summit Clouding US Bid For Iran Deal](#)
[Mobile-Game Makers Try To Catch ‘Whales’](#)
[It’s Reid Vs. McConnell—Again—As Trade Vote Nears](#)

New York Times:
[The Price Of Nice Nails](#)
[Amid Tensions Saudi King To Skip Meetings With Obama](#)
[Ties Of Hillary Clinton’s Brother Invite Scrutiny](#)
[@ Florida Man Beguiles With Hapless And Harebrained](#)
[A Changing Landscape For Late Night](#)
[King Salman Upends Status Quo In Region And The Royal Family](#)

Washington Post:
[In Wife’s Campaign What Role Fits Bill?](#)
[Va GOP’s Power Broker Unelected But Never Ignored](#)
[A Quiet Nuclear Deal With China](#)
[South Korean Men Deep Into Skin Beauty](#)
[Virtual Reality Adds New Dimension To In-Store Shopping](#)

Financial Times:

[UK Urged Not To Meddle On Migrant Rights](#)
[Top 50 US Hoarders Sit On \\$1Tn In Cash](#)

Washington Times:

[New Joint Chief Will Make Call On Women In Combat](#)
[TSA Whistleblowers Claim Punishment Help Push Federal Cases To Record Levels](#)
[Hopefuls Shake Up Crowded GOP Field](#)
[Obama Backs Away From Clinton Campaign Platform](#)
[Black-On-Black Crime Neglected In Baltimore](#)
[Kosovo's Youths Are Fleeing For Jobs Opportunity](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC Severe Weather; Indian Point Power Plant-Fire; Mississippi Police Shooting-Suspects; President Carter-Health Scare; Georgia High School Principal-Controversial Comments; Service Member-Mother's Day Surprise.

CBS Severe Weather; Colorado Snow; Tropical Storm Ana; Mississippi Police Shooting-Suspects; President Carter-Health Scare; Arab Summit-ISIL; Indian Point Plant-Fire; Cuban President-Vatican; United Airlines-Autistic Passenger Removed; Great White Shark-Cape Cod; Auctioned Painting-Record Sale; Monaco-Royal Twins Baptized.

NBC Preempted by sports.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Weather – 8 minutes, 10 seconds
 Mississippi Police Shooting-Suspects – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
 Indian Point Plant-Transformer Fire – 0 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC Severe Weather; President Carter-Health Scare; Presidential Candidate Ben Carson-Tax Proposal; PTSD Study; Massachusetts-Group Fight.

CBS Severe Weather; Tropical Storm Ana; Baltimore-Tribute Video; President Carter-Health Scare.

NPR German Chancellor-Putin Ukraine Meeting; Mississippi Police Shooting-Suspects; Severe Weather; President Carter-Health Scare; Asian Markets; Indonesia-Migrants Stranded; Artist Chris Burton Death; Box Office.

FOX Severe Weather; Mississippi Police Shooting-Suspects; Indian Point Plant-Transformer Fire.

Washington Schedule:**TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.****White House**

PRES DENT OBAMA — Recognizes Emerging Global Entrepreneurs with Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker.

VICE PRES DENT BIDEN — No scheduled events.

US Senate 3 p.m. — The Senate convenes and begin a period of morning business. At 5p.m., there will be 30 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote on adoption of S.Con.Res.16, stating the policy of the U.S. regarding the release of U.S. citizens in Iran. If all time is used, the vote would occur at approximately 5:30pm

US House The House is not in session.

Other May 11 – 13. METRICSTREAM GRC SUMMIT — The Metric Stream Governance, Risk, Compliance Summit. Theme: "Maximize Business Performance Through GRC Journey." http://www.metricstream.com/pressNews/pr_748_GRC-summit-2015-announcement.htm 2 p.m. National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) Office of Cybersecurity and Communications (CS&C) Technology Officer Chief Peter Fonash will participate in a panel discussion entitled "Cyber Governance: The Future of Cybersecurity." Location: Ritz Carlton, 1250 S. Hayes St., Pentagon City, VA.

BLOOMBERG – AMERICA ON THE MOVE — 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Vice President Joe Biden, Transportation Secretary Foxx, Siemens CEO Eric Spiegel, together with business and labor leaders kick-off Infrastructure Week at Bloomberg Governments "America on the Move briefing on Investment in American Infrastructure." 9:20 a.m. Anthony Foxx, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation. 11:15 a.m. Remarks by Vice President Joe Biden. Location: Bloomberg Government, 1101 K St. NW, Suite 500.

SECRETARY DUNCAN – NIEER — 10 a.m. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will join National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) Director Steven Barnett to unveil NIEER's State of Preschool Yearbook 2014 at CentroNma, an early learning and community center in Takoma Park, Maryland. The annual report, which includes state profiles and rankings covering the 2013-2014 school year, looks at enrollment, funding and quality benchmarks for state-funded preschool nationally and by state. Location: CentroNma, Maryland, 1345 University Boulevard E., Takoma Park, MD.

BPC – SEN. DAINES — 12 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. Next installment of Agenda Setters Series featuring Senator Steve Daines (R-MT), who currently serves on the Senate Committees on Energy and Natural Resources, Commerce, Appropriations and Indian Affairs. Sen. Daines will share perspectives on governance as a former business leader. Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 'Eye' Street NW, Suite 1000.

ICE WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY — 3 p.m. Homeland Security Secretary Johnson, joined by Deputy Secretary Mayorkas and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Director Sarah Saldana, will participate in the ICE Valor Memorial and Wreath Laying Ceremony. Location: National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, 400 Block of E Street NW.

SEN. SANDERS – GOP BUDGET — 6:30 p.m. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), the ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, holds the third in a series of town hall meetings to hear how Republican budget cuts would affect American families, seniors, healthcare and jobs. Sanders will make brief remarks and then hear from three people who live or work in Virginia. Location: Trinity Episcopal Church, 1118 Preston Ave, Charlottesville, VA.

Last Laughs:**LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.**

Jimmy Fallon: " t seems like people are being really, really picky about the upcoming election. In fact, I read that Americans do not want the next person in the White House to be a first-term senator, be over 65, or have a former president in the family. Then the Secret Service said, 'Hey, whoever slips through, slips t

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, May 8, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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- + Interior Uses Drones In Management Of Public Lands.
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- + Additional Coverage: Mountain Towns Want Coal Companies To Pay Royalties.
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- + BIA Proposing New Guidelines For Indian Child Welfare Act.
- + 24th Annual Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service Held.
- + Freedmen Descendants Argue For Class Certification.
- + Court Finds Navajo Attorney Protected By Federal Tort Claims Act In Accident Suit.
- + Op-Ed: Federal Management Of Education Criticized.

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- + Court: NSA's Mass Collection Of Phone Data Is Illegal.
- + Carter, Comey Say ISIL Gaining Influence In US.

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- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

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DOI in the News:

NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION BEING CONSIDERED IN NEVADA. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (5/7, 176K) reports that "President Barack Obama is seriously considering creating another national monument in Nevada — and the congressman whose district it would sit in is not happy about it." Rep. Cresent Hardy's "office obtained a draft of the president's proclamation to set aside more than 700,000 acres of land in Lincoln and Nye counties for protection." The proposal is "being circulated among federal agencies for input before Obama makes a decision on whether to prohibit development and energy exploration there."

INTERIOR USES DRONES IN MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS. [Bloomberg News](#) (5/7, Black, 3.81M) reports that at the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International's Unmanned Systems 2015 conference this week, Brad Koeckeritz, the national unmanned aircraft specialist for the U.S. Interior Department, said that the "agency's use of drones to douse forest fires, save lives and help manage wildlife has helped boost public acceptance."

CLIMATE CHANGE TIED TO GROWTH IN WILDFIRES. [TIME](#) (5/8, 19 57M) reports that "in part because of the increased risk caused by drought, the Forest Service anticipates spending as much as \$1.7 billion and mobilizing more than 10,000 people to fight wildfires this year." U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell told lawmakers this week, "We are seeing wildfires in the United States grow to sizes that were unimaginable just 20 or 30 years ago. We expect 2015 to continue the trend of above average fire activity." The article notes that "climate change, at least in part, lies at the heart of growth in both the frequency and severity of wildfires in recent decades."

GROUP HELPS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FIGHT FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (5/8, 74K) reports that American Stewards of Liberty, a Texas-based nonprofit, "trains local governments to use 'coordination,' an often-overlooked provision in two key environmental laws that govern land management: the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Forest Management Act." The group says "over 100 local governments have invoked coordination to fight land-use restrictions since 2006."

Additional coverage of the fight over public lands was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (5/8, 380K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SECRETARY JEWELL TO ADDRESS HASKELL COMMENCEMENT. Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will "deliver the commencement address Friday at the Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence" was provided by the [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (5/7, 117K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE MOUNTAIN TOWNS WANT COAL COMPANIES TO PAY ROYALTIES. Additional coverage that "11 leaders of Western mountain towns.. signed a letter to U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell calling for the federal government to require coal companies to pay royalties on the true market price of coal mined on public land" was provided by the [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (5/8, 27K).

BI-STATE SAGE GROUSE DECISION CRITICIZED. For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (5/7, Molvar, Contributor, 533K), Erik Molvar, the Sagebrush Sea Campaign Director for WildEarth Guardians, criticizes the decision not to protect the Mono Basin sage grouse. According to Molvar, "the result is a political hijacking of the Endangered Species Act process that is required by law to render decisions based on facts and science." Molvar argues that "science has taken a back seat to a strange political calculus in which tiny and isolated populations on the brink of extinction and facing a multitude of human-caused threats, paired with an absence of legally binding protections, add up to 'no additional protection needed.'"

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT URGED TO MEET OBLIGATIONS ON PILT PAYMENTS. In an op-ed for the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (5/7, 113K), Sen. Mike Crapo writes that "extending Secure Rural Schools and Self Determination Act (SRS) payments and fully funding Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) is not a simple undertaking, especially considering the federal government's overspending problem." However, he asserts that "when the federal government took over millions of acres of lands across our nation, it also took on the responsibility for the impact of federal ownership on local communities." Crapo argues that "the federal government can, and must, meet its responsibility within its budget."

SUPPORT URGED FOR LWCF. In an op-ed for the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (5/7, 80K), Becky Edwards urges support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. She says "it will take vital leadership from our entire Montana congressional delegation to make sure it is reauthorized by its September deadline."

NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION SOUGHT FOR OLD SANTA FE TRAIL BUILDING. In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (5/8, 241K), David Nimkin, senior director of the Southwest Region for the National Parks Conservation Association, writes that the Old Santa Fe Trail Building should be designated a national monument. Nimkin says that "this designation would establish the only National Park System unit in the country dedicated to the CCC and WPA." Furthermore, he notes that "creating it should be as easy as it is appropriate, since no land acquisition would be required." Also, "New Mexico residents have already demonstrated strong support for either a national monument or national historic park designation for this remarkable structure."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

WHITE HOUSE FENCE GETTING ADDITIONAL SPIKES. The [AP](#) (5/8, Caldwell) reports a proposal submitted to the National Capital Planning Commission has the Secret Service adding a second layer of spikes atop the White House fence. The new "pencil point" spikes, which the commission approved, will protrude outward. Additionally, the Secret Service and National Park Service said that "a preliminary review of design concepts for long-term security changes at the fence is being reviewed, and a final design is expected to be selected this summer," with construction expected to start next year.

[Politico](#) (5/8, Wheaton, 1.11M) reports, "It's clear the current fence wasn't keeping intruders out," with "an especially embarrassing breach last September" and another person making it over the fence in April.

Also covering this story are [Reuters](#) (5/7), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/8, Tau, 5 68M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (5/7, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), [NPR](#) (5/7, 1.52M), the [Huffington Post](#) (5/8, 194K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/8, 5.37M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/8, 5.37M), [US News & World Report](#) (5/7, 907K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (5/8, 709K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/7, Alicia A. Caldwell |, Ap, 5.03M), [ABC Otus News](#) (5/8), [TIME](#) (5/8, 19.57M), [Yahoo! News](#) (5/8, Caldwell, 6.18M), [WTVB-TV Raleigh-Durham \(NC\)](#) Raleigh-Durham, NC (5/8, 4K), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (5/8, 433K).

BILL WOULD GIVE INTERIOR POWER TO ALLOW CONSTRUCTION OF PIPELINES NPS LAND WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. [The Hill](#) (5/8, Henry, 533K) reports that Sen. Bill Cassidy "introduced a bill Thursday that would give the Interior Department the power to allow construction of natural gas pipelines on National Park Service lands without needing congressional approval first." Currently, "Congress must sign off on these pipeline projects before the Interior Department can authorize them, even though Interior can approve other infrastructure projects on NPS land on its own." The bill "would take Congress out of the equation and give Interior the whole natural gas pipeline approval process."

XANTERRA DROPS EFFORTS TO TRADEMARK GRAND CANYON NAMES. The [AP](#) (5/8, Fonseca, 2.29M) reports that "a major national parks concessionaire has dropped efforts to trademark names of the Grand Canyon's most popular properties, including a group of rustic cabins, cottonwood trees and cantina on the canyon floor." Xanterra Parks & Resorts "applied for roughly 20 trademarks before its contract to manage hotels, restaurants and mule rides at the Grand Canyon's South Rim expired in December." The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office "now lists some of those applications as 'dead,'" and "Xanterra said it is abandoning others."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/7, Felicia Fonseca |, Ap, 5.03M) and the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/8, Fonseca, 894K).

CRATER LAKE NATIONAL PARK COULD SIGN "SISTER-PARK" AGREEMENT WITH PARK IN CHINA. The [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (5/7, Tribune, 64K) reports that "Crater Lake National Park may soon have a sister-park relationship with a park in the Fujian Province of China." Crater Lake Superintendent Craig Ackerman said, "We're hoping to have a signed agreement by November. We would like them to see our operations and our issues. We can look at where they might collaborate with us."

FREE FERRIES OFFERED THIS SATURDAY TO BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS. The [Boston Globe](#) (5/7, 886K) reports that "a ferry trip to the Boston Harbor Islands will be free Saturday in celebration of the opening of the season at the islands' national and state parks." The Boston Harbor Island Alliance, in partnership with the NPS, "and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, is offering the free ride to let visitors know that the area is more than a place, it's 'a feeling, a state of mind or a sense of American pride.'" The article notes that "the free rides are also a part of the National Park Service's 2015 Find Your Park campaign, according to the DCR."

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK TO CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (5/7, 99K) reports that "Yellowstone National Park and the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 16, with free public programs and a field trip."

NPS CONCERT SERIES KICKS OFF MAY 10. The [Topanga \(CA\) Messenger](#) (5/8) reports that the NPS' "annual Sunday Concerts in the park will kick off at 4 p.m. May 10 at Peter Strauss Ranch featuring local bands the Handymen and the Chance Bands, playing songs from the Eagles, Van Morrison, Bob Dylan the Byrds, Mavericks and others."

NPS PLANS PRESCRIBED FIRES AT THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (5/8, 75K) reports that the NPS says "it plans to conduct prescribed fires in Theodore Roosevelt National Park this month, pending weather conditions." According to the agency, "burns could begin Friday." Acting Superintendent Wendy Ross said that "prescribed fires are also an important tool in vegetation and habitat management."

ADDITIONAL FLAT ROCK STRUCTURES ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Hendersonville \(NC\) Times-News](#) (5/8, 34K) reports that "additional historic structures in Flat Rock have been recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in updated documentation filed through the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources." According to the article, "a total of 610 contributing resources have been added to the National Register, up from 28 properties listed in the original 1973 document."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF TULE ELK DEATHS AT POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE. Additional coverage of the tule elk deaths at Point Reyes National Seashore was provided by [Bay Nature](#) (5/8).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM DIRECTOR BRIEFED AT INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER. The [Rexburg \(D\) Standard Journal](#) reports that BLM Director Neil Kornze was "briefed this week on the severe drought gripping much of the West and preparations for the coming wildfire season at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise." The article notes that "the briefing was his first stop on a tour focused on areas impacted by severe drought conditions and on the coming wildfire season, which peaks nationally from May through July."

National Interagency Fire Center Issues Wildfire Report. The [AP](#) (5/8, Kruesi) reports that "prolonged drought conditions across the West have national wildfire experts expecting a busy and early fire season." According to the latest wildfire report issued by the National Interagency Fire Center, "Idaho is slated to experience above-normal wildfire activity in its southwestern and northern regions starting in July." The report said, "Above normal wildland fire potential will persist across the Pacific Coast states and expand into the northern Great Basin and northern Rocky Mountains during the summer months."

BLM SEEKING HELP ON WILD HORSES. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (5/8, 22K) reports that "although wild horse enthusiasts have been known to lob criticisms to federal stewards, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze says the proof is in the numbers." He said that "horses and burros on the range have thrived...to the point where the agency has incorporated into its management regular attempts to round up the extra horses." However, "the wild horse growth has come to a head with herds able to double every three-and-a-half years, he said," and "in many management areas, horses exceed the BLM-determined population caps." Kornze said the bureau is "seeking help in two areas: developing better contraceptives and increasing adoptions."

BLM PRESENTS AWARDS. [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (5/8, 1K) reports that BLM Deputy Director Linda Lance "presented awards to agency employees and teams for their exceptional service to the nation as public servants." At the 70th Honor Awards Convocation of the Department of the Interior at its headquarters in Washington, D.C., Lance said, "Each of these employees has made a genuine difference to our nation through their dedication and hard work for the BLM. All of us at the BLM are proud of the enormous contributions that these employees have made to their communities to benefit the public lands."

BARE SHOE TREE RAISES QUESTIONS. The [AP](#) (5/8, Fiscaro, 2.29M) reports that "the case of a shoe tree gone bare has become somewhat of a 'whodunit' mystery for Crooked River Ranch residents, who had mixed opinions about the sneaker-bearing juniper to begin with." The tree, which sits on BLM "land at the northeast corner of 43rd Street and Lower Bridge Way, started collecting shoes about a year ago, according to locals and the BLM." A spokeswoman with the BLM Prineville Office, Lisa Clark, said "to her knowledge, BLM employees were not involved in removing the shoes."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE TEEN SOUGHT IN VANDALISM OF BLACKS CLIFF. Additional coverage of the vandalism of Blacks Cliff was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/7, Larimer, 5.03M) and the [New York \(NY\) Daily News](#) (5/8, Moran, 3.79M).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE TESTIFIES AT SENATE HEARING. [KELO-AM](#) Sioux Falls, SD (5/7) reports that Sen. Mike Rounds, "a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, today questioned Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Director Dan Ashe about the agency's aggressive techniques used to intimidate landowners regarding land easements." During the hearing, Rounds "cited a letter he received from a South Dakota farmer who reports encountering an aggressive FWS agent he feels was using intimidation tactics regarding Waterfowl Management Rights despite proactively enacting conservation measures on his land for decades." Rounds said, "I'm particularly troubled that taxpayer dollars are funding this type of truly aggressive approach to citizens who are voluntarily and proactively enacting conservation measures on their own land, as they have been doing for generations."

[KELO-AM](#) Sioux Falls, SD (5/7) reports that "Ashe says the agent must have seen an easement violation on the property." He says "an easement with a landowner means taxpayers have a vested interest in that property and Fish and Wildlife is tasked with making sure laws are followed." Ashe "promised Rounds he would look into the specifics of the case."

Additional coverage of the hearing was provided by [WNAX-AM Yankton \(SD\)](#) Yankton, SD (5/8) and [Western Journalism](#) (5/8, 361K).

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE MAY VISIT AFRICA TO DISCUSS CONSERVATION ISSUES. In its "In The Loop" blog, the [Washington Post](#) (5/7, Kamen, 5.03M) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe, "an expert on wildlife conservation, may be headed to Africa this month to finally look at some government projects in Gabon and east Africa and to meet with African leaders on wildlife trafficking issues." The goal, according to an Interior official, "would be 'to join discussions' with African officials 'related to the conservation of elephants and other wildlife in central Africa."

TENTH ANNUAL ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY TO BE CELEBRATED. The [AmmoLand](#) (5/8, 5K) reports that “the 10th annual national Endangered Species Day will be celebrated May 15, 2015, with special events and programs that recognize our nation’s efforts to conserve and protect America’s most imperiled species.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “For more than 40 years, the Endangered Species Act has played a critical role in protecting and conserving America’s threatened, endangered and at-risk species. Endangered Species Day honors those who uphold the legacy of the Act while inspiring the next generation of conservation leaders.”

NEW MONTANA LAW WILL FUND SAGE GROUSE PRESERVATION. The [AP](#) (5/8, 2 29M) reports that “Gov. Steve Bullock has signed into law a plan to pay for and enact Montana’s strategy to preserve a struggling bird species.” Bullock “signed Senate Bill 261, the Sage Grouse Stewardship Act, during a small ceremony in his office Thursday.” The legislation will “provide millions of dollars for the state to conserve habitat for the chicken-sized birds.” Additional coverage was provided by the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (5/7, 80K).

Also reporting on efforts to preserve the sage grouse was the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (5/7, 44K).

MEETING HELD ON POTENTIAL GRIZZLY BEAR REINTRODUCTION. The [Idaho State Journal](#) (5/8, 59K) reports that “though surveys show public support for efforts to increase the number of grizzly bears in the North Cascades, state Sen. Kirk Pearson is concerned the opinions of those who live in the mountains have yet to be heard.” Pearson “told the Skagit Valley Herald that a meeting Tuesday with representatives from the North Cascades National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was an opportunity to focus on the effects of grizzly bear reintroduction on the mountain communities that would be most affected.” Pearson said, “I know the surveys they’ve done say they favor reintroduction, but I would like to know what my constituents are thinking who live closer to the zone, other than people in Seattle saying this is great when the people in Concrete might have a different opinion.”

ENDANGERED FERRETS TO BE RELEASED AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Denver Post](#) (5/8, Finley, 894K) reports that federal wildlife managers plan to release 30 captive-bred black-footed ferrets in September at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. According to refuge manager Dave Lucas, the ferrets will help control prairie dogs that are threatening newly restored native prairie.

KUSKOKWIM RIVER INTER TRIBAL FISHERIES COMMISSION WANTS BIGGER ROLE. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (5/7, 2K) reports that “the path to unified management of Kuskokwim salmon stocks is uncharted, but along the way, the newly established Kuskokwim River Inter Tribal Fisheries Commission wants involvement at each step.” The article notes that “the million dollar question is what federal and state managers do with a more vocal and organized tribal presence in another critical year.” Geoff Haskett of the FWS said, “This commission is going to have way more ability to influence decisions and discussions. We’ve been working on this for the latest month and a half, working with the state, trying to get as many comments as we possibly can. We’re not going to get everything right. But I need to let you know our intent is to utilize this commission to act upon the things we talk both and have more discussions. We’re trying.”

NISQUALLY WILDLIFE REFUGE COULD BE RENAMED TO HONOR BILLY FRANK JR. The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (5/7, 822K) reports that “the state’s congressional delegation, showing rare bipartisan unity, plans next week to introduce legislation that would rename the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge in honor of Billy Frank Jr., champion of native fishing rights and a Washington civil rights hero.” The legislation would “create a National Historic Site to mark the 1854 Treaty of Medicine Creek, which took land from natives but did guarantee them the right to take fish ‘at all usual and accustomed stations . . . in common with the citizens of the territory.”

WACCAMAW NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE ACQUIRES LAND. The [AP](#) (5/8, 2 29M) reports that “almost 500 acres of forest and wetlands near Conway are being preserved for future generations.” The Nature Conservancy is “buying more than 300 acres while the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge is acquiring the rest of the land.”

LUMBER LIQUIDATORS RECALL CHINESE-MADE LAMINATE FLOORING. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7, Dulaney, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports Lumber Liquidators is pulling all of its laminate floors made in China over safety concerns. Lumber Liquidators had previously characterized its flooring made in China as “completely safe,” but the company announced that it is reviewing its supplier’s labeling and certification process. The company has also asked Freeh Group International Solutions, which was founded by former FBI director Louis J. Freeh, to review its sourcing practices.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/8, Masunaga, 4.03M) reports that “in an SEC filing last week, the company said searches were conducted in September 2013 at its corporate offices by the Department of Homeland Security’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

PROFESSOR ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY SMUGGLING IVORY. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/8, 1 29M) reports that on Tuesday morning, St. Cloud State University professor Yiwei Zheng was “arrested at a St. Cloud restaurant by agents from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, accused of smuggling elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn out of the United States and into China from 2006 through at least 2011.”

US Geological Survey:

STUDY FINDS 150 MILLION IN US THREATENED BY QUAKES. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/8, Lin, 4.03M) reports that a new study “found that close to half of all Americans — nearly 150 million people — are threatened by shaking from earthquakes strong enough to cause damage.” The article notes that “that figure is a sharp jump from the figure in 1994, when the Federal Emergency Management Agency estimated that just 75 million Americans were at risk from earthquakes.” According to William Leith, a co-author and USGS senior science advisor for earthquake and geologic hazards, “one reason for the sharp increase in exposure to quake damage is population increases in areas prone to earthquakes, especially California.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM LEASE AUCTION IN WYOMING SEES DAMPENED DEMAND. The [AP](#) (5/7, Gruver, 2 29M) reports that “low prices for oil and natural gas have dampened the enthusiasm of petroleum companies to lease public land in Wyoming for oil and gas drilling.” The article notes that “a recent federal oil and gas lease sale in Cheyenne netted the least amount of revenue of any sale since the aftermath of the Great Recession in 2009.” Tuesday’s BLM “auction of the right to drill on BLM land brought in just \$688,000.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (5/8, 99K).

BLM POSTS PROPOSED LIST OF PARCELS FOR SALE. [KTWO-AM](#) Casper, WY (5/8, 576) reports that the BLM Wyoming State Office has “posted its proposed list of parcels for the quarterly competitive oil and gas lease sale scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2015, at the Holiday Inn in Cheyenne, Wyo.” The article notes that “the posted list, which identifies 72 proposed parcels totaling 70,035.50 acres, initiates a 30-day public protest period.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE GAO SLAMS BLM OVER NATURAL GAS FLARING ON FEDERAL LANDS. Additional coverage of the report on natural gas flaring was provided by [UPI](#) (5/7), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (5/8, Subscription Publication), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (5/8, 94K), and the [Columbus \(MS\) Commercial Dispatch](#) (5/8, 2K).

EXPERT CHANGES IN OIL PRODUCTION NOT ALWAYS REFLECTIVE OF POLICIES. Robert Rapier, chief technology officer and executive VP at Merica International, a forestry and renewable energy company, writes for The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/7, 5.68M) in “The Experts” blog about different perspectives on whether the Obama Administration has been friendly to the energy industry. He notes that while there has been an uptick in oil production, this does not mean it is thanks to Obama, but is a reflection of the development of the fracking industry, which started during the Bush era. Rapier points out that many developments in the energy industry are delayed, as is often the case with projects or bills that get approved during one term but for which results are not perceived until the following one.

Offshore Energy Development:

BSEE ANNOUNCES 100% SEMS COMPLIANCE AFTER FIRST CYCLE. The [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (5/8, 1K) reports that BSEE representatives from “assessed the progress of the agency’s Safety and Environmental Management System (SEMS) initiative at an Offshore Technology Conference breakfast in Houston on May 7.” The article notes that “after the program’s first cycle requiring SEMS implementation and a subsequent audit, 96% of operators were in compliance,” and “three of the 86 participating operators failed to meet the first-cycle requirements and were assessed a civil penalty.” Susan Dwarnick, head of BSEE’s Offshore Safety Improvement branch, said that “those three are now in compliance.”

In a piece for [Offshore Magazine](#) (5/8, 129K), Douglas Morris, Chief of Offshore Regulatory Programs, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, writes that “it has been over four years since the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued the Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) regulations, which provide the cornerstone of our hybrid regulatory approach.” He notes that “our review of the first round of SEMS audit reports revealed that there is a wide range of comfort and experience levels among operators with respect to using management systems to identify and reduce process safety and environmental risks on the outer continental shelf.” According to Morris, “while the overall compliance for this first round of audits was excellent, there is a need for more detailed information in each of the submitted audits to demonstrate that an operator’s SEMS plan is comprehensively being implemented in the field.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Platts](#) (5/7, 4K).

BSEE Considering New Safety Measures. The [FuelFix](#) (5/7, 7K) reports that “offshore drilling regulators want oil and gas companies to bolster the way they manage safety offshore — and they’re asking the industry for advice.” The BSEE will “hold a workshop on July 29 in Houston aimed at getting ideas for strengthening the safety and environmental management systems required of companies operating offshore.” The BSEE “disclosed it was considering writing a new safety management systems rule as part of a federal regulatory update.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/8, Dlouhy, 2 29M).

Technology Could Increase Security Risks. The [FuelFix](#) (5/7, 7K) reports that “the oil and gas industry needs to stitch up safety vulnerabilities created by its increasing use of automated equipment at offshore wells and production facilities, top maritime and drilling regulators said Thursday.” U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. Paul Thomas said, “Machines are talking to machines and making decisions and doing things that aren’t humanly possible, and that’s why we’re able to get higher pressures. All of these are amazing technologies, but they bring with them vulnerabilities that I don’t think we’ve figured out how to manage.”

DELAWARE OPPOSES SEISMIC SURVEYS OFF COAST. The [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (5/7, 2K) reports that “last summer the federal government announced Maryland and Delaware, areas which asked to be removed from possible drilling, would still be open to geological and geophysical surveying, pending a long line of state and federal approval.” In a letter dated April 21, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Secretary David Small said “surveying off Delaware would contradict the state’s position.” Small said, “The extent of proposed surveys into waters offshore of Delaware does not correlate to the leasing program areas and we do not see the need for surveys in areas that are not currently subject to leasing.”

BOEM PROVIDES SAND FOR BEACHFILL CONSTRUCTION. The [Dredging Today](#) (5/7) reports that “beachfill construction to complete the remaining sections of the Storm Damage Reduction Project on Long Beach Island, New Jersey, began this week.” The BOEM is “making available up to seven million cubic yards of sand from federal waters under an agreement announced last July between BOEM, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District, and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).”

KAYACTIVISTS, SEATTLE MAYOR CAUSE UNCERTAINTY FOR SHELL ARCTIC DRILLING PLANS. The [AP](#) (5/7, Le) reports on the impending confrontation between Royal Dutch Shell and environmentalists on their kayaks in Seattle, aided by the mayor’s recent backing of their cause. Seattle Mayor Ed Murray announced that the Port of Seattle should obtain a new permit in order to host Shell’s drilling fleet, a move that can block the company’s plans.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (5/8, 970K). and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (5/7, 2.93M).

BP OIL SPILL CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR GRANTED SUBPOENA POWER TO AVERT FRAUD. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (5/7, Larino, 733K) reports that US District Judge Carl Barbier on May 6 “granted BP oil spill claims administrator Patrick Juneau the ability to subpoena records to investigate fraudulent claims.” The decision will allow Juneau to “conduct investigations and ‘maintain the integrity’ of the multibillion-dollar settlement agreement” of the Gulf Deepwater Spill, the article reports, adding that “Juneau will maintain the records for continuity of the project,” per the court order.

SHELL EXECUTIVE SUPPORTS INTERIOR OPENING ATLANTIC DRILLING. In a piece for the [FuelFix](#) (5/7, 7K), Mark Shuster is the executive vice president of upstream Americas exploration for Shell, writes that “when Secretary Jewel announced that acreage off the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) would be included in future offshore lease sales, it sent a strong signal that the U.S. is prepared to further capitalize on its geologic good fortune by way of exploration that could lead to new domestic supplies of oil and gas.” He argues that “much like the shale revolution credited with jump-starting the economy and driving down consumer prices, increased access to offshore acreage could add yet another chapter to an energy future that is enviable among nations.” Shuster also says that “while disappointing the potentially oil-rich Eastern Gulf of Mexico was left out of the Secretary’s plan, it’s not a stretch to predict that jobs, billions in tax revenues and increased energy security could follow if the Atlantic OCS is blessed with oil and gas resources of its domestic brethren.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

WATER TO BE SAMPLED FOR MUSSEL INFESTATION. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (5/8, 538K) reports that the Utah Department of Natural Resources and the BOR are “embarking on an aggressive three-year round of water sampling to determine if the invasive quagga mussel has infested Deer Creek Reservoir.” According to the article, “on Thursday, the agencies demonstrated those water sampling techniques as well as boat decontamination procedures in a public outreach campaign aimed at increasing awareness over the severity of the problem.”

REPAIR WORK ON LEWIS WASTE-WAY STRUCTURE CONTINUES. The [Nevada Appeal](#) (5/8, 48K) reports that “as of Wednesday, the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s repair work on the Lewis waste-way structure was at about 20 percent, according to TCID’s website.” The project “stems from a failure of the embankment adjacent to the structure on April 30.”

CALIFORNIA IMPLEMENTS REQUIREMENTS FOR DESALINATION PLANTS. The [Greenwire](#) (5/7) reports that “future desalination plants in California must follow new rules governing how they extract water from the ocean and how they discard leftover salt, following state action yesterday.” The California Water Resources Control Board “passed its first-ever requirements for plants that turn seawater into drinking water.” The board “approved the measure as an amendment to its Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters, saying it wanted to ensure there were uniform standards as interest in the facilities grows.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN REVISED. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/8, Board, 4.03M) editorializes that last week, “a scaled-back version” of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was introduced. The paper argues that “the factions that keep rejecting delta plans, or else damming them with faint praise, owe California some workable alternatives that address all of the state’s needs, not just their own.” It suggests that “any viable plan must include two interrelated ingredients: science-based management of the delta, with biologists and hydrologists rather than water contractors or politicians deciding how much water is needed to preserve species; and increased trust among the factions.”

Additional coverage of the revision to the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (5/8, 74K) and the [Livermore \(CA\) Independent](#) (5/8, 137K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE RESEARCHERS CHALLENGE GILA STUDIES. Additional coverage that University of New Mexico researchers are challenging the Gila studies was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (5/8, Subscription Publication, 2 92M) the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (5/8, 38K), and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/8, 2.29M).

PEORIA PREPARED FOR DROUGHT WITH WATER PLANNING. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (5/7, 1.27M), Peoria Mayor Cathy Carlat writes that “like most of Arizona, Peoria has been in the grip of a serious drought for over 15 years,” but “water continues to flow to Peoria residents, and the city continues to grow economically.” Meanwhile, “California is also experiencing drought, but municipal providers there have been ordered to cut back on water deliveries by 25 percent, and their economy is suffering.” Carlat argues that difference is that “Peoria and Arizona have been planning for drought for years.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

LAND BUY-BACK OFFERS SENT TO 6,500 AT CHEYENNE RIVER. The [AP](#) (5/8, 25K) reports that “the federal government says it has sent offers to more than 6,500 landowners who own parcels on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation as part its effort to help tribal governments consolidate land.” Interior Department Deputy Secretary Michael Connor says “almost \$150 million in purchase offers have been sent to landowners with fractional interests on the reservation.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Mitchell \(SD\) Daily Republic](#) (5/8, 37K) and [KELO-TV Sioux Falls \(SD\)](#) Sioux Falls, SD (5/8, 31K).

BIA PROPOSING NEW GUIDELINES FOR INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/8, 1.29M) reports that the BIA is “proposing new rules that it says will strengthen the Indian Child Welfare Act.” Kevin Washburn, the assistant secretary who leads the BIA, is “touring the country with other agency officials to hear from tribes and the public about the proposals.” At a meeting at Mystic Lake Casino on Wednesday, Washburn said, “Guidelines are great. We need things that are legally enforceable.”

24TH ANNUAL INDIAN COUNTRY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD. The [Artesia \(NM\) News](#) (5/8, 10K) shows a picture of a BIA officer placing “a flower at the base of the Indian Law Enforcement Officer’s Memorial this morning during the 24th Annual Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.” According to the paper, “members of the BIA, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the FLETC gathered to honor tribal, state, local and federal law enforcement officers who gave their lives in the line of duty.”

FREEDMEN DESCENDANTS ARGUE FOR CLASS CERTIFICATION. The [Law 360](#) (5/8, 15K) reports that “a descendant of the freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes urged a D.C. federal court Wednesday to sign off on the descendants’ bid for class status in a dispute with the U.S. Department of the Interior over the accounting of revenue from land granted to their ancestors.” Leatrice Tanner-Brown and the Harvest Institute Freedmen Federation argued that the Interior Department “owes a fiduciary duty to freedmen descendants over land allotted from the Five Civilized Tribes — the Seminole, Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek and Chickasaw — under the Act.”

COURT FINDS NAVAJO ATTORNEY PROTECTED BY FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS ACT IN ACCIDENT SUIT. The [Law 360](#) (5/8, 15K) reports that “a Navajo Nation attorney working under a self-determination contract between the tribe and the federal government on a child adoption case can be afforded protection against a personal injury suit under the Federal Tort Claims Act as a government employee, the Eleventh Circuit affirmed Thursday. The appeals court held that “Kandis Martine had been correctly deemed an employee of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs for her involvement in the Navajo Nation Child & Family Services Program’s efforts to oppose the adoption of a Navajo child.”

OP-ED FEDERAL MANAGEMENT OF EDUCATION CRITICIZED. In an op-ed critiquing Common Core for the [Wilkes-Barre \(PA\) Times Leader](#) (5/8, 115K), Michael A. MacDowell, president emeritus of Misericordia University, writes that “one needs to only examine the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education to see how federal management of education can be harmful.” He notes that “the bureau spends nearly 56 percent more per student than the average American public school, yet facilities and student achievement lag far behind other schools.”

[Top National News:](#)

SENATE APPROVES IRAN LEGISLATION BY 98-1 MARGIN. The Senate vote on a bill allowing for Congressional review of a potential nuclear deal with Iran was not noted on the network newscasts, but is generating extensive, largely positive print coverage, much of which hails the measure’s bipartisan nature. The coverage also casts the White House as reluctantly backing the bill – even as it warns that further changes to it could lead to a presidential veto. Moreover, though the [AP](#) (5/8, Riechmann) says the Senate “muscle its way into President...Obama’s talks to curb Iran’s nuclear program,” a number of reports indicate that the measure is unlikely to empower the legislative branch to scuttle a deal.

As the [Blaze](#) (5/7, Kasperowicz, 1.87M) reported, “under the bill, Congress will be able to pass a resolution of disapproval if it decides the final Iran deal is no good,” but that resolution “can still be vetoed,” and it “seems doubtful” that both chambers would be able to muster “a two-thirds majority...to override.” The [Jerusalem Post](#) (5/7, Wilner, 94K), meanwhile, says “a binding resolution of disapproval would require a two-thirds majority in Congress, which appeared unlikely on Thursday, as 150 House Democrats signed a letter endorsing the progress of the nuclear talks.” In addition, says the [AP](#) (5/8, Riechmann), “even if Congress rejects his final nuclear deal with Tehran...Obama could use his executive pen to offer a hefty portion of sanctions relief on his own.” He could also take other “unilateral actions that – when coupled with European and UN sanctions relief – would allow a deal to be implemented.”

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (5/8, A1, Kane, Debonis, 5.03M) says the “98-to-1 vote...lent a bipartisan boost to the measure – which the House is likely to approve next week.” [NPR](#) (5/7, Neuman, 1.52M) reported that the White House “says...Obama will sign the legislation,” though [USA Today](#) (5/8, Kelly, 5.01M) notes it also “has warned that it could withdraw its support” if the bill “is changed significantly.”

As [TIME](#) (5/7, Rhodan, 19.57M) recounted on its website, the legislation initially “faced backlash from the White House,” but “in mid April White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said the President would be open to signing” it. Or as [Newsweek](#) (5/8, Cadel, 1.75K) put it, “After resisting various attempts by Congress to insert itself in the talks, the White House finally backed off last month, clearing the way for Democrats to support a bill.” Obama, says the [Washington Times](#) (5/8, Dinan, 641K), “had resisted having to accept congressional involvement, but relented once he saw he was likely to lose the fight.”

[Reuters](#) (5/8, Zengerle) remarks on the difficulties faced by the bill’s supporters in coming months, including controversy over Speaker Boehner’s invitation to Israel’s Benjamin Netanyahu and Sen. Robert Menendez’s indictment. After being indicted, notes the [New Jersey Local News](#) (5/7, Salant, 871K), Menendez “temporarily gave up his position as ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee April 1.” Yesterday, in a floor speech, “Menendez, who previously has criticized Obama over the Iran talks, raised some further concerns.” Said the senator, “I increasingly get alarmed that there is a suggestion that there will be greater upfront sanctions relief. ... I don’t believe that Iran should get a signing bonus.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/8, A1, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 12 24M) reports on its front page that Menendez’s resignation from the committee left Sen. Benjamin Cardin, “who is far less hawkish, in charge of the Democrats’ role in the bill.” [Voice of America](#) (5/7, Bowman, 63K) quotes Cardin, “the bill’s co-author,” as saying yesterday, “Our goal is to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear weapon state, pure and simple.”

[McClatchy](#) (5/8, Hotakainen, 32K) says “the vote marked a victory for Tennessee Republican Sen. Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who called it ‘a big achievement’ for the Senate.” The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (5/8, Collins, 332K) highlights Corker’s role in crafting the bill, which passed after “some lawmakers” who had “expressed serious misgivings about” it “conceded it would provide the only opportunity for congressional review of any nuclear deal with Iran.” Corker said yesterday, “Without this bill, there is no review of what happens relative to Iran.”

[Politico](#) (5/7, Everett, 1.11M) reports that “though an internal GOP dispute threatened to drag out final passage until next week, all 100 senators reached an agreement to pass the bill on Thursday afternoon,” even as Senate Majority Leader McConnell “eyes finishing a package of trade bills and extend expiring highway and surveillance laws – all before the Memorial Day recess.” [McClatchy](#) (5/8, Hotakainen, 32K) notes that the bill “even” got “support from Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, who still said he was ‘deeply disappointed by the direction this has taken,’” and “could not convince his colleagues to vote on an amendment that would have required Iran to recognize Israel’s right to exist.”

On its website, [Roll Call](#) (5/7, Lesniewski, 99K) said “the lopsided final vote won cheers from across the political spectrum, as well as on both sides of the Rotunda, with...Boehner looking ahead to consideration of the bill in his chamber.” Said Boehner, “I applaud the Senate for passing this bill, and thank Sen. Corker and others for their hard work. I look forward to House passage of this bill to hold President Obama’s administration accountable.”

The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (5/8, 342K) notes that the lone Senate vote against the bill came from Sen. Tom Cotton. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/8, Hunter, 161K) notes that the Senate “didn’t allow a vote on a proposal by” the Arkansas senator, “who drew criticism from Democrats for writing an open letter to Iran’s leaders – signed by 46 other Republicans – saying any deal with Obama couldn’t be counted on because a future president or Congress could overturn it.” Cotton said after the vote, “I will work with Republicans and Democrats to stop a dangerous deal that would put Iran on the path to obtaining a nuclear weapon.” [The Hill](#) (5/7, Carney, 533K), [Huffington Post](#) (5/7, Schulberg, 194K), [Daily Caller](#) (5/7, Wenig, 366K), and [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/8, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.68M), among other news outlets, run similar reports on yesterday’s vote.

Iran Releases Impounded Ship. The [New York Times](#) (5/8, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 12 24M) reports Iran on Thursday released the Maersk Line cargo vessel “impounded” more than a week ago in the Strait of Hormuz. According to the Times, the ship’s release, coupled with the US announcement that it will no longer accompany ships into the strait, is “an apparent stand-down” that “reflected what political analysts called a wish by both Iran and the United States to avert an escalation of tensions” that could scuttle nuclear talks.

NYTimes Analysis: North Korea Serves As “Rallying Call For Both Sides” Of Iran Nuclear Debate. The [New York Times](#) (5/8, Sanger, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that while the Administration focused on reaching a deal with Iran over its nuclear program, “North Korea went on an atomic spending spree” resulting in “an expansion” that South Korean “officials” believe the US “has little hope of stopping.” According to the Times, “the apparent buildup in nuclear bombs...has become a rallying call for both sides debating the agreement with Iran.” Republicans and Israel “cite the trail of broken agreements with the North as a warning” for what will occur once a deal is brokered with Iran, while the White House’s supporters say North Korea provides a “lesson...that an enforceable, verifiable deal” is necessary.

Tehran Mayor Fills City’s Billboards With Art. The [New York Times](#) (5/8, Erdbrink, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports Tehran Mayor Mohammad Baqer Ghalibaf “directed all of the city’s 1,500 billboards fitted out with copies of famous works of art, including many by prominent Western artists.” According to the Times, “analysts” in Iran “were quick to detect an ulterior motive” in the move, saying Ghalibaf “might be trying to position himself as the right man for the times” as the country’s 2016 presidential elections near and there is “a possible warming of relations” with the US.

COURT NSA’S MASS COLLECTION OF PHONE DATA IS ILLEGAL. Yesterday’s court ruling on a controversial NSA surveillance program generated reports on two network newscasts and extensive analysis elsewhere. The coverage highlights the decision’s impact on the renewal of the Patriot Act, and some reports cast it as somewhat of a vindication for Edward Snowden – who first called public attention to the program’s existence. Other stories, however, indicate that the ruling will have a limited legal effect. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/7, story 5, 1:00, Crawford, 5.08M), for example, said that “as a legal matter” the ruling is “largely symbolic.” While the Appeals Court “said the telephone data collection program was not authorized by Congress under the Patriot Act...that law is going to expire in three weeks anyway.” Moreover, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/8, Van Voris, 161K) notes, the court “didn’t rule on arguments raised” by the ACLU “that the program violates constitutional free-speech guarantees and protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.”

The [Washington Times](#) (5/8, Dinan, 641K) similarly notes that “the case didn’t reach big constitutional questions that the plaintiffs...had raised,” and the [New York Daily News](#) (5/8, Brown, 3.79M) reports that “while issuing a strong rebuke against the mass collection of telephone metadata, the US Second Circuit Court of Appeals declined to stop the program outright.” In a brief report, however, [ABC World News](#) (5/7, story 7, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) called the ruling “a big legal blow... to the government’s domestic spy program,” and [McClatchy](#) (5/8, Doyle, 32K) described it as “a blow to the Obama administration’s surveillance operations” and “a victory for the” ACLU.

The [New York Times](#) (5/8, Savage, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) reports that “the data collection had repeatedly been approved in secret by judges serving on” the FISA court, who “were willing to accept an interpretation of Section 215 that the appeals court on Thursday rejected.” The Times adds that “the court, in a unanimous ruling written by Judge Gerard E. Lynch, held that Section 215 ‘cannot bear the weight the government asks us to assign to it, and that it does not authorize the telephone metadata program.’”

[USA Today](#) (5/8, Heath, Wolf, 5.01M) says “the phone surveillance program, which was among those Snowden disclosed in 2013, already is on life support,” and the President “has asked Congress for changes that would leave the data in the hands of private phone companies, not the government.” Moreover, “the House Judiciary Committee voted last week to end the NSA phone surveillance program.” [Vox](#) (5/7, Lee, 839K) noted that Sens. Patrick Leahy and Mike Lee are co-sponsors of companion Senate legislation. Known as the USA FREEDOM Act, their bill “would end the NSA’s bulk phone surveillance program and replace it with a system that allows narrower information requests with greater judicial oversight” The senators said yesterday in a joint statement, “The dragnet collection of Americans’ phone records is unnecessary and ineffective. ... Congress should not reauthorize a bulk collection program that the court has found to violate the law.”

[Wired](#) (5/7, Greenberg, 4.16M) described the ruling as a “surprise development” with “real significance for Congress’s upcoming decision as to whether and how to reform the Patriot Act,” while [Politico](#) (5/7, Tummarello, 1.11M) reports that Senate Minority Leader Reid yesterday called “called for an immediate vote on the USA Freedom Act,” telling the Senate, “It would be the height of irresponsibility to extend these illegal spying powers when we could pass bipartisan reform into law instead.” On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (5/8, A1, Nakashima, 5 03M) says that “Administration officials have indicated that they are likely to endorse the bipartisan reform legislation.”

[USA Today](#) (5/8, Kelly, 5.01M) notes that Senate Majority Leader McConnell “has introduced a competing measure that would simply renew the Patriot Act through 2020.” McConnell said yesterday, “The USA Freedom Act would replace Section 215 with an untested, untried and more cumbersome system. It would not end bulk collection of call data. Instead, it would have untrained corporate (phone company) employees with uncertain supervision and protocols do the collecting.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/8, Lauter, Cloud, 4.03M) reports that the White House “said in a statement that it was studying the appeals court ruling.” Said NSC spokesman Ned Price, “We are in the process of evaluating the decision handed down this morning. ... The president has been clear that he believes we should end [the bulk collection program] as it currently exists by creating an alternative mechanism to preserve the program’s essential capabilities without the government holding the bulk data.” [Politico](#) (5/7, Gerstein, 1.11M) notes that White House spokesman Eric Schultz, meanwhile, “reiterated that...Obama supports legislation in Congress that would reform the metadata collection process so that phone companies, not the government, store the data.” Said Schultz, “Our team is still reviewing the details of the ruling, but we believe that regardless of the fine print of that ruling, that legislation is the way to go.”

[Reuters](#) (5/8, Stempel) reports that Attorney General Lynch, at a Senate budget hearing yesterday, called the NSA data a “vital tool in our national security arsenal.” [Politico](#) (5/7, Gerstein, 1.11M) reports, however, that “the usefulness of the phone metadata has been the subject of considerable controversy,” as “a review panel set up by Obama in the wake of the program’s disclosure by Snowden concluded that the program had not been critical to disrupting any terrorist plot in the US.”

The [National Journal](#) (5/7, Volz, Subscription Publication, 156K) quoted Lynch as further saying, “We are reviewing that decision, but given the time issues we are also working with this body and others to look for ways to reauthorize Section 215.” The [AP](#) (5/8, Neumeister, Dilanian) notes that Lynch also said that “the June 1 expiration of the Patriot Act provisions provides opportunities to reauthorize the program ‘in a way that does preserve its efficacy and protect privacy.’”

On its website, the [New York Times](#) (5/8, Peters, Subscription Publication, 12 24M) indicated that GOP presidential hopefuls “lined up on different sides of the debate” after the ruling. While Sen. Rand Paul called the ruling “a monumental decision for all lovers of liberty,” Sen. Marco Rubio “accused the NSA’s critics of spreading misinformation,” and called on Congress to “reauthorize” the programs “immediately or risk putting the country in harm’s way.” Sen. Ted Cruz “took the middle ground,” expressing support for “a more limited reauthorization of the Patriot Act that would rein in certain aspects of how the NSA can gather intelligence.” [Roll Call](#) (5/7, Lesniewski, 99K) reported that “in a series of tweets,” Paul “declared he would do what was in his power to preclude reauthorization of expiring National Security Agency surveillance powers under the Patriot Act.” Said Paul, “I will fight tooth-and-nail to stop a blanket reauthorization of this attack on our freedoms.”

[The Hill](#) (5/7, Hattem, 533K), [Roll Call](#) (5/7, Ruger, 99K), [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/7, Richey, 539K) and [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/8, Barrett, Paletta, Subscription Publication, 5.68M), among other news outlets, run similar stories on the court ruling. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/8, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) criticizes it as both misguided and dangerous for the country, and urges the Administration to appeal it to the Supreme Court. The [New York Times](#) (5/8, Subscription Publication, 12 24M) praises the ruling in its own editorial page, calling it “powerful,” and arguing that its “most important message...is a simple one: Congress could not have intended to approve a program whose true scope almost no one outside the National Security Agency fully comprehended – that is, until...Snowden leaked its details to the world.”

Clinton Says She Backs USA Freedom Act. [The Hill](#) (5/7, Hattem, 533K) reported that Hillary Clinton on Thursday took “her clearest stand yet on government surveillance,” expressing “firm support” for “legislation to reform America’s spying powers.” Via Twitter, Clinton said, “Congress should move ahead now with the USA Freedom Act – a good step forward in ongoing efforts to protect our security & civil liberties.” The Hill added that in offering her stance, Clinton ended “a long pattern of dodging questions about how – or whether – the NSA’s practices should be reformed.”

Snowden’s Attorney Hails Ruling. As [Politico](#) (5/7, Gerstein, 1.11M) puts it, meanwhile, “Snowden hasn’t had his day in court, but he’s already finding some vindication in the US judicial system.” On its website, [US News & World Report](#) (5/7, Nelson, 907K) noted that Snowden attorney Jesselyn Radack said “this historic ruling against mass surveillance was only possible because of” her client, who “should be allowed to return to the United States without fear of criminal prosecution.” [Politico](#) (5/7, Gerstein, 1.11M) indicates, however, that “there was no hint Thursday that the Obama administration had softened its stance toward Snowden.” Said Price, “Mr. Snowden is accused of leaking classified information and faces felony charges here in the United States. ... He should return to the US as soon as possible, where he will be accorded full due process and protections.”

[Fusion](#) (5/7, Rivero), meanwhile, said the “landmark decision...clears the path to a full legal challenge against” the NSA program. Yesterday, “reactions from the anti-surveillance community were positive,” with “Glenn Greenwald, the journalist who first published the Snowden documents,” calling the court’s decision “a vehement rejection of the Obama Admin’s attempt to interpret Patriot Act for mass surveillance.”

CARTER, COMEY SAY ISIL GAINING INFLUENCE IN US. Defense Secretary Carter, FBI Director Comey and Sen. Tom Cotton each expressed their views that ISIL is gaining influence in the US, with Carter and Cotton connecting that sway to the Texas shooting at a Prophet Mohammed cartoon contest. The [Washington Times](#) (5/8, Klimas, 641K) reports Carter “said Thursday that the shooting was inspired by – but not directed by – the Islamic State.” Carter said, “Still, in all, it’s concerning that there are individuals like this who draw their inspiration from IS L.” The Times notes that ISIL “penned a letter threatening a six-month terror campaign in five states.” Carter said Americans should take the threats “seriously” and law enforcement and homeland security “have been saying the same.”

Jim Sciutto reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/7, 554K) that the Texas shooter, Elton Simpson, “had deeper ties to terror groups like ISIS than officials previously knew...investigators now suspect that the ISIS and al Shabaab members had a more direct role in Sunday’s shooting, pushing Simpson to carry out an attack, though there is no evidence yet that the men had operational control, such as choosing the Texas target or the timing.”

The [Washington Times](#) (5/8, Ybarra, 641K) reports analysts believe IS L “is sufficiently wealthy and has enough social media savvy that, if unchecked,” could help the group “execute a 9/11-scale attack in the US a few years from now.” Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (5/8, Johnson, 5.01M) reports Comey on Thursday offered “a dramatic assessment of the domestic threat posed” by ISIL. Comey told reporters there are “hundreds, maybe thousands” of people across the country who are receiving recruitment overtures from the terrorist group or directives to attack the US.” Comey said, “It’s like the devil sitting on their shoulders, saying ‘kill, kill, kill.’”

Pierre Thomas reported in the lead story for [ABC World News](#) (5/7, lead story, 3:05, Muir, 5.84M) that Comey said ISIL “has launched an unprecedented social media campaign aimed at hundreds if not more than a thousand followers here in the United States.” Similarly, on [Fox News’ Special Report with Bret Baier](#) (5/7, 1.53M), Catherine Herridge reported that Comey “told reporters that there has been a dramatic change in the way terrorists are recruited,” and Jeff Pagues said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/7, story 4, 1:45, Pelley, 5.08M) that Comey said IS L “reaches out through Twitter, identifies followers and sends them to encrypted web sites that are difficult track. Comey says the message is, ‘Go kill people,’ sometimes supplying them with hit lists, sometimes suggesting particular targets.”

Evan Perez reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/7, 554K) that Comey said that “the way ISIS recruitment is changing online.. it’s getting harder and harder to figure out who is going to move from just being talked to online and communication with ISIS recruiters and actually carrying out an attack.” Comey indicated “there are other Elton Simpsons out there and he knows it. He is monitoring hundreds of investigations around the country and it’s harder every day to find these people.”

inspire attacks" in the US, adding that "There's no doubt if we just looked on social media" that the shooting in Texas was "an Islamic State-inspired attack." Cotton said IS L "seems to be winning right now, so they are appealing to disaffected, alienated youth all around the country who want to be with what they see is the winning force."

FBI Warned Garland Police About Simpson Hours Before Attack. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/7, story 3, 2:10, Holt, 7.86M), Lestor Holt reported that in a "stunning" revelation, FBI Director Comey says "the Feds sent a bulletin to local police about one of the men that would open fire hours later" in Garland, Texas. Pete Williams added that "the FBI says it sent police...a secure electronic message with Elton Simpson's picture and car license number. The FBI says it acted as soon as they developed information that he was interested in going there."

Evan Perez reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/7, 554K) that the FBI sent a "generalized warning...to the Garland police. It didn't have any specific information, per se. t only said that he had expressed interest in some of his social media activities about this Mohammed cartoon contest event. The FBI did not know that he was planning to attack. They did not know he was actually on route to Garland, Texas." Similarly, Jeff Pegues reported on the

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 08 2015 05:00:42 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: Re: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, May 8, 2015

I am currently out of the office until Monday, May 11. If you need immediate assistance, please contact stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov. Thank you.

--
Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

Conversation Contents

Stonewall Monument

"Atterbury, Robert" <Robert.Atterbury@mail.house.gov>

From: "Atterbury, Robert" <Robert.Atterbury@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tue May 05 2015 14:59:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Stonewall Monument

Jeremy,

Thank you and John for speaking with me earlier! I really appreciate it.

It would be great if you could send any particularly good examples of legislation. We would sincerely appreciate any and all technical assistance the Department can provide in drafting a bill for a new National Monument at the Stonewall Inn.

All best,

Robert Atterbury

Special Assistant & Community Liaison

Congressman Jerrold Nadler

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robert.atterbury@mail.house.gov

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Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed May 06 2015 08:49:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Pamela Barkin <Pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fw: Stonewall Monument

Pam, do you have any examples of legislation to designate a national park or historic site that are a good example of what Congress usually includes in its Findings at the top of the legislation? Nadler's office would like our assistance in drafting the bill and I told them that I think typically the findings would be drafted by the bill sponsor, and not by us...is that true?

From: Atterbury, Robert <Robert.Atterbury@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2015 4:59 PM
To: Bratt, Jeremy
Reply To: Atterbury, Robert
Subject: Stonewall Monument

Jeremy,

Thank you and John for speaking with me earlier! I really appreciate it.

It would be great if you could send any particularly good examples of legislation. We would sincerely appreciate any and all technical assistance the Department can provide in drafting a bill for a new National Monument at the Stonewall Inn.

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Twitter: @RepJerryNadler

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed May 06 2015 14:18:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Atterbury, Robert" <Robert.Atterbury@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Stonewall Monument

Thanks for your email, Robert. We will get to work on the technical assistance for the draft, and I will also look for some good examples of legislation that included historical information in the findings section.
Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Tue, May 5, 2015 at 4:59 PM, Atterbury, Robert <Robert.Atterbury@mail.house.gov> wrote:

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, May 4, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Mon May 04 2015 05:00:29 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, May 4, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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WATCHDOG RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT SECURITY AT INTERIOR HEADQUARTERS. [Politico](#) (5/1, Dixon, 1.11M) reports that “the Interior Department’s headquarters at the Stuart Lee Udall Building just blocks from the White House has several security issues with vehicle and pedestrian entrances, a new inspector general report says.” According to the article, “the IG’s biggest complaint was about retractable ‘vehicle-restraint bollards’ — those posts that sink into the ground so a car can pass — ‘that continually malfunction’ and are backed up by unarmed security guards with plastic traffic cones who don’t always check IDs.” The report also cited “pedestrian entrances, where guards once again weren’t properly checking IDs.”

INTERIOR BETA TESTS PERISCOPE. The [FedScoop](#) (5/3) reports that when the Interior Department “gave its audience a live glimpse of Everglades National Park’s alligators this Earth Day, what stood out was how they did it: using a new, much-hyped live streaming platform called Periscope.” Interior’s Director of Digital Strategy Tim Fullerton said that “he’d reached out to Twitter, which recently acquired Periscope, about being a beta tester for the app before it launched last month.” He said, “We’re always finding new ways to engage with the public and using different tools. The live-streaming capability through Periscope provides us a new way to open up a window to our work.” The article also notes that “next week, Fullerton plans leave Interior to take a new post at the advocacy group Everytown for Gun Safety in New York.”

LAWMAKERS PUSH FOR NATIONAL WOLF DELISTING. The [AP](#) (5/1, Neary, 2.29M) reports that Rep. Cynthia Lummis and “others in Congress are pushing the U.S. Department of Interior to end federal protections for wolves nationwide.” Lummis and “more than 30 other members of Congress this week wrote to U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Dan Ashe, head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, calling on them to implement a stalled 2013 federal plan to end protections for wolves under the federal Endangered Species Act.” They “claim healthy wolf populations justify ending protections.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Milwaukee \(WI\) Journal Sentinel](#) (5/3, 784K), the [Scottsbluff \(NE\) Star-Herald](#) (5/3, 36K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (5/3, 99K), the [Daily Astorian \(OR\)](#) (5/3, 23K), the [Lewiston \(ID\) Tribune](#) (5/3, 44K), and [KIFI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (5/3, 3K).

RANCHERS OPPOSE GRAND CANYON WATERSHED NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (5/2, 3K) reports that “ranchers and representatives from agencies like the Arizona Farm Bureau and the Arizona Game and Fish Department gathered” at a community park in Moccasin, Arizona, Friday to oppose the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. They claim “the generations-old practice of grazing cattle and ranching on the Arizona Strip is currently being threatened by a proposal that would designate 1.7 million acres of Arizona land as a national monument.”

TRAVEL DESTINATIONS BEING IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE. [USA Today](#) (5/2, Villano, 5.01M) reported that across America “the phenomenon of climate change” is “wreaking havoc on some of the most beautiful destinations in the country” and “there has been no recent evidence that the trend will slow or stop any time soon.” Among the examples the article cites are shrinking lakes, rising seas and melting glaciers.

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION CRITICIZED FOR OPENING UP LANDS TO FOSSIL FUEL PRODUCTION. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (5/1, Siegel, 194K), Kassie Siegel writes that “even as President Obama rightly deplores global warming’s threats to human well-being and our planet’s web of life, his administration is opening up more public lands for dirty fossil fuel production and weakening international efforts to cut planet-warming pollution.” She notes that “hundreds of thousands of acres of federal land have been leased for coal mining” and “the administration even allocated 810,000 acres of U.S. public land for oil shale and tar sands leasing in the Colorado River Basin – a grave blow to the climate, since these are among the dirtiest, most carbon-intensive fuels on earth.” Furthermore, the Interior Department has “put Arctic drilling back on the table, backed oil exploration along the Atlantic coast, and is opening up tens of millions of acres in the Gulf of Mexico for new drilling and offshore fracking.”

[America’s Great Outdoors:](#)

National Park Service:

PHILANTHROPIST'S GIFTS BENEFIT NPS SITES. On 60 Minutes on [CBS](#) (5/3), NPS Director Jon Jarvis discussed philanthropist David Rubenstein's gifts benefiting NPS sites, including his most recent donation to restore the Marine Corps War Memorial.

SPRINGFIELD RE-ENACTS LINCOLN'S FUNERAL. The [AP](#) (5/2, John O'Connor |, Ap, 5.03M) reports on 150th anniversary funeral procession that Springfield presented Saturday to commemorate Abraham Lincoln's death. According to the article, "the re-enactment brought onlookers from far and wide, including many men donning top hats and women in hoop skirts carrying parasols. Even a century-and-a-half later, some felt compelled to attend."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/4, O'Connor, 894K) and the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (5/3, Reports, 2.74M).

PROSECUTORS DROP CHARGES AGAINST HUNTER IN RIM FIRE. The [AP](#) (5/1, Smith, Thanawala, 2.29M) reports that "criminal charges were dropped against a bow hunter accused of starting one of California's largest wildfires, a blaze that burned parts of Yosemite National Park, federal prosecutors said Friday." According to the article, "the decision came after two key witnesses unexpectedly died within months of an indictment that was handed down last year against Matthew Emerald." Prosecutors said that "without testimony from the two witnesses, they did not believe they could prove the allegations to jurors beyond a reasonable doubt."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (5/1, Rocha, 4.03M) and the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (5/1, Reports, 2.74M).

MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL PARK TO REMAIN NEUTRAL. The [Japan Times](#) (5/2, 6K) reports that "promoting specific views on the history of U.S. atomic bomb development is not the intention of a national park to be built to commemorate facilities related to the Manhattan Project, the secret U.S. wartime atomic bomb program, the head of a body cooperating with the U.S. government on the plan indicated Friday." According to the article, "during a meeting with the mayors of the two Japanese cities that suffered atomic bombings during World War II, Cynthia Kelly, president of the Atomic Heritage Foundation, said she hopes the planned park exhibits will offer "an open-ended interpretation" and will let visitors decide for themselves what was right or wrong." Kelly "made the remarks as Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue said he is paying attention to whether the park will convey 'all the facts in a fair manner' over the development of atomic bombs and their use, as well as the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons."

PROPOSED TRIBAL NATIONAL PARK STALLED. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (5/3, 108K) reports that "after years of work and even a signed agreement, the once-collaborative dream of having the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation be home to the nation's first tribal national park has degenerated into a bureaucratic standoff." The Oglala Sioux Tribe has "passed a resolution halting its participation in the project. Badlands National Park, meanwhile, is withholding \$442,000 of the tribe's share of park gate receipts because of the tribe's failure to produce required annual financial reports."

NPS RECOMMENDS STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF CHAUTAUQUA INSTITUTION'S HISTORIC AMPHITHEATER. The [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (5/3, Pitz, 621K) reports that a NPS architect "who toured Chautauqua Institution's historic amphitheater last month has urged the nonprofit's leaders to have a structural analysis done of the 121-year-old landmark." Bonnie Halda, chief of the preservation assistance division for the NPS, toured Chautauqua March 9 and 10. In an April 14 letter to Chautauqua's president, Thomas M. Becker, Halda "suggested the nonprofit hire a professional engineer with expertise in historic buildings who can provide 'recommendations regarding the long-term stability of the structure.'"

NPS BACKS OUT OF PLAN TO BRING CAPITAL BIKESHARE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKWAY. [WAMU-FM](#) Washington (5/4, 35K) reports that "plans to install Capital B keshare stations along George Washington Memorial Parkway may be hitting a snag." In 2013 the NPS and Arlington County "received a federal grant of close to \$300,000 to install eight Capital Bikeshare stations along the George Washington Memorial Parkway." But now, "sources inside Arlington County government say the National Park Service wants out." The NPS is "asking Arlington to find other places to put the Bikeshare stations because it no longer wants them."

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK'S ENCHANTED VALLEY CLOSED TO CAMPING. The [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (5/2, 242K) reports that "Olympic National Park managers have closed a portion of the Enchanted Valley to camping because black bears...were seen eating human food." When it "reopens to camping, visitors will be required to use bear canisters, thick containers designed to keep food and scented items safe from bears, rodents, raccoons and other animals." Olympic National Park superintendent Sarah Creachbaum said, "Bears that eat human food come to consider people as a food source and are extremely dangerous. Sadly, bears have gotten into and consumed human food this spring in Enchanted Valley, and we have closed the area to camping."

NPS PROPOSES OPTIONS TO RELIEVE GLACIER'S CONGESTED SUN ROAD. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (5/1, 15K) reports that amid "increased visitation and congestion along" Going-to-the-Sun Road at Glacier National Park, "park officials are proposing several changes that could impact how visitors travel throughout Glacier." The article notes that "the list of options includes expanded parking, a larger fleet of free shuttles, an added emphasis on biking opportunities and controlled vehicle entry through a reservation system."

VANDALS HIT OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS. The [AP](#) (5/1, 2.29M) reports that the NPS is "looking for people

who defaced a cliff in the Ozarks National Scenic Riverways along the Jacks Fork River near Eminence.” According to the article, “the graffiti on a 45- to 50-foot cliff known as Cha k Bluff was discovered last weekend.” Dennis Weiland, chief ranger at the park, says the NPS “should be able to remove the graffiti but it will have to find workers able to rappel down the cliff.”

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK ACCPETING BIDS TO OPERATE SOL DUC HOT SPRINGS RESORT. The [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (5/2, 242K) reports that “Olympic National Park is seeking proposals from companies interested in operating Sol Duc Hot Springs Resort.”

NPS HOLDING RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR MEETINGS. The [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) News](#) (5/3, 431) reports that the NPS “released its study earlier this month on the Rim of the Valley Corridor and is holding a meeting in Newhall for Santa Clarita, Agua Dulce, Castaic and Acton residents on May 5 in Hart Hall at Hart Park from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.”

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION SOUGHT FOR PAOLI BATTLEFIELD. The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (5/4, 617K) reports on the effort to designate Paoli Battlefield a national historic landmark. In March, advocates “submitted an application to the landmark committee” and “they should hear in July whether they can proceed with their bid.”

ST. CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY SUPERINTENDENT INTERVIEWED. In an interview with the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/3, Giles, 1.29M), Chris Stein, superintendent of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, discussed the “opportunities and threats in the pristine 250-mile riverway.”

NPS RELEASES ANNUAL PARK RANKING FOR RECREATION VISITORS FOR 2014. [KSDK-TV](#) St. Louis (5/3, 263K) reports on the NPS' Annual Park Ranking for Recreation Visitors for 2014. The article has a gallery of “the 50 national parks visited most, from smallest to largest numbers of visitors.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NPS SITES. Additional coverage of the economic impact of NPS sites was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/3, 2.29M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS SIGNS MARKETING DEAL WITH ANHEUSER-BUSCH. Additional coverage that the NPS has entered into a marketing deal with Anheuser-Busch was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/3, Blevins, 894K) and [WSB-TV Atlanta \(GA\)](#) Atlanta (5/3, 167K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIONAL PARK PHOTO CONTEST. Additional coverage of the Share the Experience photo contest was provided by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (5/1, Molina, 2.29M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (5/1, Forgione, 4.03M), the [Imperial Valley \(CA\) News](#) (5/3, 1K), and the [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (5/3).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: MAN FALLS TO DEATH AT GRAND CANYON. Additional coverage of the man who fell to his death at the Grand Canyon was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/1, Press, 5.03M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/1, Press, 5.03M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/30, 2.29M), the [Huffington Post](#) (5/1, 194K), [Reuters](#) (5/1), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/3, 5.37M), and the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/3, 5.37M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF LAVA LAKE ON HAWAII'S VOLCANO. Additional coverage of the lava lake on Hawaii's volcano was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/1, 2.29M).

Bureau of Land Management:

TWO CONVICTED IN ATV PROTEST RIDE. The [AP](#) (5/1, Mccombs, 2.29M) reports that “a jury convicted a southern Utah county commissioner and a blogger and acquitted two others accused of knowingly breaking the law during an ATV protest ride last year through a canyon home to Native American cliff dwellings.” The jury on Friday found San Juan County Commissioner Phil Lyman and blogger Monte Wells guilty, and it acquitted Shane Marian and Franklin “Trent” Holliday. Lyman and Wells were “found guilty of misdemeanor charges of illegal use of ATVs and conspiracy.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (5/2, 83K), the [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (5/3, 23K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (5/4, 22K), the [Oklahoman](#) (5/3, 506K), and [WRAL-TV Raleigh \(NC\)](#) Raleigh, NC (5/3, 117K).

LAWMAKERS URGE QUICK RELEASE OF SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS PAYMENTS. [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (5/3, 1K) reports that Reps. Greg Walden, Peter DeFazio, Earl Blumenauer, Kurt Schrader and Suzanne Bonamici on Friday urged the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service “to swiftly release Secure Rural Schools payments to struggling Oregon counties.” the lawmakers wrote in a letter to BLM Director Neil Kornze and Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, “Despite efforts in Congress and in Oregon to reform federal forest management and provide greater stability for our forested communities, county governments in Oregon continue to struggle to balance their budgets. Some are even teetering on the brink of bankruptcy.”

BLM TO START ADMINISTERING CONTRACEPTIVES INTO UTAH HORSES WITH DART GUNS. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/3, 470K) reports that later this month, the BLM will “begin administering contraceptives to free-roaming mares in Tooele County, this time using dart guns to avoid rounding up these wild horses.” In a decision released Friday, BLM's Utah office will “administer the contraceptive Porcine Zona Pellucida, or PZP, with darts to mares roaming the Onaqui Mountain Herd Management Area, a 207,000-acre patch of public land 60 miles southwest of Tooele.”

DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST BLM PLAN THAT WOULD CLOSE SOME ROADS TO MOTORIZED VEHICLES. The

[Grand Junction \(CO\) Dails Sentinel](#) (5/3, 73K) reports that “some 250 people demonstrated Saturday against a Bureau of Land Management plan that would close some roads to motorized vehicles.” According to the article, “as the gathering made plain, people with disabilities enjoy camping, fishing and hunting as much as anyone, but the travel management section of the BLM’s resource management plan for the area seems not to notice, protesters said.”

Also reporting on the story is [KJCT-TV Grand Junction \(CO\)](#) Grand Junction, CO (5/3, 1K).

SCIENTISTS STUDY RED GULCH DINOSAUR TRACK SITE. The [AP](#) (5/3, French, 2.29M) report on “the discovery of the Red Gulch Dinosaur Track Site in 1997.” A small group came “upon what is now considered one of the best preserved dinosaur tracksites in the world.” According to the article, “originally the group thought they were on private land, but after contacting the Bureau of Land Management, which conducted a survey, they found out the site was on BLM property, Cliff Manuel said.” For nearly a year the bureau “kept the discovery under wraps as scientists studied the site,” and “since its discovery, scientists have documented 125 track ways with an estimated 1,100 different individuals leaving marks in what was once the beach of the ancient sea.”

ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS PREPARES TO CELEBRATE FIRST ANNIVERSARY. The [Alamogordo \(NM\) Daily News](#) (5/3, 19K) reports that “from May 15 to 22, elk tacos, hikes, talks, tribal blessings, interfaith services and a fiesta on the Mesilla Plaza will mark the first anniversary of the official designation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SAGE GROUSE PROVISION A CONTENTIOUS POINT IN DEFENSE BILL. [The Hill](#) (5/3, Matishak, 533K) reports on the \$612 billion defense bill approved by the House Armed Services Committee. The article notes that “a provision that blocks the Interior Department from putting the greater sage-grouse on the endangered species list nearly brought the panel’s mark-up process to a halt.”

Additional coverage of the sage grouse was provided by the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/3, 73K) and the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (5/3, 22K).

No Sage Grouse Hunting In North Dakota In 2015. The [AP](#) (5/1, Nicholson, 2.29M) reports that “North Dakota will not have a sage grouse hunting season in 2015 for the eighth straight year due to low numbers of the birds that are a candidate for the endangered list.”

FWS TO CHANGE IVORY RULE ENFORCEMENT AFTER BAGPIPES SEIZED. The [AP](#) (5/3, 5.37M) reports that the FWS is “looking for a little harmony over rules used to enforce a ban on ivory that ended up snagging a pair of teenage bagpipers at the Canadian border.” Craig Hoover, chief of the wildlife trade and conservation branch in the FWS’ division of management authority and international affairs, said “this week that the ivory ban will remain in place but the new rule will make accommodations for things like musical instruments.” Hoover said, “The criteria caused some concern. We met with the League of American Orchestras and based on those concerns, we made some changes.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/1, Stevens, 2.29M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/1, Rik Stevens |, Ap, 5.03M), and the [South Bend \(IN\) Tribune](#) (5/3, 188K).

FEDERAL AGENCIES RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT PESTICIDE USE IN WASHINGTON OYSTER BEDS. The [AP](#) (5/3, 709K) reports that “for decades, oyster growers in southwest Washington have battled to control native shrimp that burrow in the mudflats and make it hard for oysters to grow,” but “now, after getting state approval, a group of shellfish farmers plan to spray a widely-used neurotoxic pesticide on up to 2,000 acres of commercial shellfish beds in Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay.” They claim “it’s a safe way to keep in check a threat to the area’s multimillion-dollar shellfish industry.” However, critics, including the FWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, “worry about unintended harm to other species.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (5/3, 4.03M), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (5/3, 153K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (5/2, 109K), the [Oregonian](#) (5/3, 1M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/3, 5.37M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/3, Le, 2.29M), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (5/3, 94K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/2, Phuong Le |, Ap, 5.03M), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (5/3, 1.07M).

The [AP](#) (5/3, 5.37M) reports that “Washington state’s largest shellfish producer says it is bowing to public pressure and will not use a pesticide recently approved to control a native burrowing shrimp that makes it hard for oysters to grow.” Taylor Shellfish Farms “decided not to spray its oyster beds after getting a stream of calls from customers and the public concerned about the spraying plan, company spokesman Bill Dewey said Friday.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/1, Press, 5.03M) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/1, 2.29M).

The [AP](#) (5/4, 3.69M) reports that “Washington’s Department of Ecology has canceled a permit to spray pesticides over shellfish beds in two areas, officials said Sunday.” The department “reported hearing from residents across Washington state that the practice did not meet their expectations.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (5/4, 5.37M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/4, 2.29M), the [Oregonian](#)

(5/4, 1M), and the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (5/4, 970K).

FEDERAL AGENCIES CONSIDERING PROTECTIONS FOR GREEN SEA TURTLES. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (5/3, 61K) reports that the “federal government is considering placing even more restrictions on the green sea turtle, by listing it as an ‘endangered’ species as opposed to a ‘threatened’ species for this part of the Pacific, including Guam.” According to the proposal by the FWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, “if the designation for the green sea turtle is changed, one possible result could be the designation of critical habitat ‘if prudent and determinable’ and the implementation of recovery plans for the green sea turtle.”

ALASKA MARITIME NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE MULLING FATE OF ALASKA ISLAND FERAL CATTLE. The [AP](#) (5/1, D'oro, 2.29M) reports that “federal wildlife managers are still trying to determine the fate of hundreds of feral cattle that have long gone without caretakers on a remote, uninhabited Alaska island.” The article notes that “an aerial survey last fall counted 2,024 cattle on Chirikof Island, more than double an earlier estimate of 800.” The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge has “long planned to remove the non-native herds, which are battering the habitat of native wildlife such as seabirds and salmon,” and “now refuge officials are working on a draft environmental impact statement to explore all options, including leaving at least some of the animals in place.”

NEW REFUGE VISITOR CENTER AT KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE OPENS. The [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (5/2, 17K) reports that “Kenai National Wildlife Refuge staff said that their new visitor center, which began construction in 2013 and opened to the public for the first time on Friday, is not only larger than their previous center but more interactive.” The article notes that “the new visitor center contains a walk-through exhibit called ‘From Icefields to Oceans,’ which depicts the variety of habitats found on the Kenai Peninsula, including wetlands, tundra, and streams.”

SAMMAMISH RESIDENTS OPPOSE DEVELOPMENT. The [Seattle Times](#) (5/3, 970K) reports that “one year ago, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and King County Executive Dow Constantine knelt with schoolchildren to release kokanee salmon fry into a Sammamish creek and celebrate a \$300,000 habitat-restoration project.” However, “at the top of the creek’s steep ravine, where it rises to the Sammamish Plateau, a developer has proposed a 30-home subdivision on 85 acres with a bridge spanning the creek.” Wally Pereyra, a fish biologist, said, “If we don’t protect the watershed, we lose the capacity to support a spawning population of fish. The creek dies by a thousand cuts.”

BOATERS RESCUED FROM RIVER DURING WYOMING ANTLER HUNT. The [AP](#) (5/3, 5.37M) reports that “rangers and law enforcement officers carried out a daring moonlight rescue after a boat full of people capsized in a rushing river and two other boats were swept downstream during a popular antler-hunting event in Wyoming.” According to the article, “a crowd of people was trying to cross the Gros Ventre River in boats and on horseback after midnight Friday, in an annual rush to find antlers shed by elk in the Bridger-Teton National Forest.” FWS officer David Bonham said that “a boat carrying five people started taking on water and then capsized.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/2, Press, 5.03M) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/3, 2.29M).

STUDY: CLIMATE CHANGE COULD FORCE ONE IN SIX SPECIES TO GO EXTINCT. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/1, Kaplan, 4.03M) provided additional reporting on a study by University of Connecticut ecologist Mark Urban suggesting that “one in six species now alive on the planet could become extinct as a result of climate change.” The 131 studies from which estimates were derived did not consider whether or how climate change may prompt species adaptation, but University of Washington biologist Janneke Hille Ris Lambers said “climate change will have enormous impacts on the organisms.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT LISTING. Additional coverage of the listing of the northern long-eared bat as a threatened species was provided by the [Perry County \(MO\) Republic Monitor](#) (5/3, 14K) and [Pallet Enterprise](#) (5/3).

US Geological Survey:

GREEN GROUPS, LAWMAKERS HIGHLIGHT LINKS BETWEEN QUAKES, DRILLING. [The Hill](#) (5/3, Henry, 533K) reports that “green groups and lawmakers are seizing” on new USGS research released last month that links earthquakes to oil and gas drilling, arguing that it shows the “need for tougher federal regulations” instead of continue to place primary responsibility on states. While the new research is linked to “traditional” drilling, it “raised a red flag for those opposed to fracking.” However, it doesn’t appear that the EPA is likely to act in near future.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Native American Times](#) (5/3, 337).

SCIENTISTS RELEASE NEW STUDY ON AFTERSHOCKS. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/2, 539K) reports that “a new study finds that the biggest aftershocks tend to strike at the edge of the original earthquake.” Study author Nicholas van der Elst, a seismologist with the USGS, said, “We’re very concerned about large aftershocks. We really want to know where to expect that magnitude 6 if it’s in a major metropolitan area.” According to the article, “by analyzing thousands of quake records, Van der Elst has shown that location is as important as earthquake size in forecasting large aftershocks.”

USGS NATIONAL SEISMIC MODELING PROJECT CHIEF PETERSEN INTERVIEWED. Mark Petersen, chief of the United States Geological Survey’s National Seismic Modeling Project, was interviewed by the [New York Times](#) (5/3, Murphy, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) on his interests.

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DROUGHT IMPACTING HOOVER DAM POWER CAPACITY. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (5/3, 241K) takes a look at the power capacity at Hoover Dam, which “has dropped nearly 25 percent since 2000.” The ongoing drought “has put a serious crimp in the hydroelectric line at Hoover Dam and other power plants across the West, limiting an inexpensive and pollution-free energy source that once was considered endless.” Mike Connor, deputy secretary of the Interior Department, said, “The drought is taking a toll on power generation.”

BLM ACCEPTING COMMENTS ON WYOMING-TO-CALIFORNIA LINES FOR WIND POWER. The [AP](#) (5/1, Gruver, 2.29M) reports that “a planned 730-mile power line project to export Wyoming wind power to southern California has passed a significant regulatory milestone with the release of a federal environmental study.” The BLM “on Friday opened a 30-day period in which it will accept any protests against land-use changes for the TransWest Express project in the works since 2007.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (5/2, 83K) and the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (5/4, 99K).

SCIENTISTS STUDYING WHERE BIRD MIGRATION PATHS COULD CROSS OFFSHORE WIND ZONE. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (5/2, 802K) reports that “teams have spent three years in waters from Long Island to the Carolinas in search of surf scoters and two other types of sea birds, capturing them and releasing them with tracking devices.” Researchers “finished their tagging last month and have begun collecting data on their movement patterns, planning to continue following the birds as long as possible.” According to the article, “the study aims to more clearly map the routes the birds take between seasons, and to learn whether they cross a 125-square-mile zone established for possible wind farms.”

EDITORIAL: STUDY ON BIRD DEATHS SHOWS OFFICIALS SHOULD REVIEW DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN . The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (5/3, 85K) editorializes that “a new report shines a bright light on unintended consequences accompanying the state’s headlong rush into green energy.” The report “estimating that more than 3,500 birds died during the 377-megawatt Ivanpah solar project’s first year of operation is the latest sign state and federal officials should take a fresh look at California’s entire renewable energy sector as they work on long-term planning for the desert’s development as a solar power mecca.” The paper says that “state and federal officials working on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan — an overall blueprint for renewable energy development across 22.5 million acres of California desert — should also see the bird deaths report as yet another reason to take a new look at their efforts.”

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR FINALIZES TRIBAL ROYALTIES RULE. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (5/1, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that “American Indian tribes are set to see a boost in revenue from oil production on their lands under a new Interior Department rule that changes how royalties are calculated. “Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue has “released the final version of the Indian Oil Valuation Amendments, regulations that adjust royalty calculations to ensure fair payment to tribes hosting oil and gas drilling.” According to the article, “tribes will receive payments based on the operator’s gross proceeds or an index of area oil prices – whichever is higher.”

SENATE PANEL HOLDS HEARING ON BLM FRACKING RULES. The [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (5/3) reports that “Senate subcommittee members on Thursday took turns criticizing the federal Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) new rule for hydraulic fracturing (fracking) on federal and tribal lands as unnecessary and an example of federal government overreach during a hearing in Washington, DC.” BLM Director Neil Kornze was “on the hot seat for more than an hour as part of a panel that included two critics of the new federal fracking rules: Wyoming Oil/Gas Supervisor Mark Watson and the Western Energy Alliance’s (WEA) Kathleen Sgamma.” Subcommittee Chair John Barrasso and other members “kept raising questions about why BLM concluded a federal fracking rule is needed when states with substantial oil/gas production already have regulations in place.”

WESTERN TOWNS CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE TARGET COAL FOR FUNDS. The [Denver Post](#) (5/4, Finley, 894K) reports that ten Western mountain towns concerned about climate change are launching a campaign that targets the coal industry, seeking hundreds of millions of dollars a year from companies to help communities adapt. In a letter being sent this week to Tuesday to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, top federal land and budget managers, 11 lawmakers and two White House officials, Mountain Pact towns seek changes in the federal government’s system for collecting royalties from coal companies.

OSMRE REPORT BACKS NAVAJO MINE EXPANSION PLAN. The [Law 360](#) (5/3, 15K) reports that “a U.S. Department of the Interior agency has determined that not signing off on a Navajo Nation-owned company’s coal mine expansion plans would create major adverse economic impacts on the local economy, according to a final environmental report released Friday.” The OSMRE’s “final environmental impact assessment for the Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Transitional Energy Co. LLC coal mine expansion project identified several alternatives to the tribe’s proposed plans to increase the amount of coal mined at the site.”

US TO FUND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST FOR ABANDONED URANIUM MINES IN NAVAJO NATION. The [Kansas City \(MO\) infoZine](#) (5/3, 175) reports that as the result of a settlement, “the U.S. will place \$13.2 million into an environmental

response trust to pay for the evaluations of 16 priority abandoned uranium mines located across Navajo lands.” Any cleanup work must be approved by both the Navajo Nation and the Environmental Protection Agency. The story notes that “the last uranium mine on the Navajo Nation shut down in 1986.” It also explains that “federal agencies including EPA, the Department of Energy, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Department of the Interior, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Indian Health Service have been collaborating to address uranium contamination” at and around the sites.

Also reporting on the story is [Reuters](#) (5/1).

SEISMOLOGISTS SAY EARTHQUAKES NEAR BALDWIN HILLS NOT RELATED TO OIL OPERATIONS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/4, Torres, Nelson, 4.03M) reports that earthquakes centered in the Baldwin Hills area – including a 3.8 magnitude quake that occurred on Sunday morning – “do not appear to be connected to drilling operations at nearby oil fields.” According to seismologists, “the earthquakes were far enough below the surface that drilling at the Inglewood Oil Field was not the cause.” The article also discusses previous claims from residents near the Inglewood field that “something is going on” near the Inglewood Oil Field “that causes it to rise in some places and sink in others.” However, a 2012 study commissioned by the owner and operator of the field “found that ground movements were not related to company’s operations.” Instead, the report attributed property damage claims to “natural slope instability, which was induced by rainfall.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/3, Quakebot, 4.03M) reports that in response to some residents who asked whether oil production in the Baldwin Hills/Inglewood area might have been a factor in the two recent earthquakes, Caltech scientist Lucky Jones “wrote on Twitter that it was unlikely because the depth of the quake was so far below oil production facilities.”

MICHIGAN EARTHQUAKE NOT LINKED TO FRACKING. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (5/3, Sappenfield, 539K) reports on a 4.2-magnitude earthquake that hit near Kalamazoo, Michigan on May 2. “Reports have suggested that the Michigan quake was not the result of fracking and put its depth at only 3.7 miles,” the article reports.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSED RULES ON FEDERAL COAL ROYALTIES. Additional coverage of the new proposed rules from the Interior Department on how federal coal royalties are calculated was provided by the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (5/3, 118K) and [KAJ-TV](#) Kalispell, MT (5/3, 909).

EDITORIAL: CONCERNS ABOUT EARTHQUAKES ON THE RISE. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (5/3, 2.29M) editorialized that with two recent studies identifying fracking wastewater disposal sites as the reason behind increased seismic activity, more needs to be done to stop the trend. The Southern Methodist University research, along with findings from the US Geologist Survey in Oklahoma, confirmed the 600-fold increase is “very likely” related to the “disposal of underground water in the fracking process.” The Chronicle called on “lawmakers, regulators and the industry itself to take stock of the earthquake/fracking fluid connection and its numerous implications for the environment, public safety and other concerns.”

Offshore Energy Development:

FLORIDA SENATOR AIMS TO BLOCK SEISMIC TESTING OFF ATLANTIC COAST OF STATE. The “Morning Energy” blog of [Politico](#) (5/1, Dixon, 1.11M) reports, “Florida Sen. Bill Nelson is browbeating the Obama White House over the administration’s plans to let oil and gas exploration teams conduct seismic testing off the coast of his state.” On Friday, Nelson offered “legislation to block such work.” Currently, a ban “exists for putting drilling rigs off Florida’s Gulf Coast until 2022 but that doesn’t apply to the Atlantic-facing side of the state.” His “office says that 18 coastal communities in the Sunshine State have passed resolutions in opposition to seismic testing and that the senator is concerned about the impact on marine life.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (5/1, 776K) and the [Daytona Beach \(FL\) News-Journal](#) (5/2, 176K).

BOEM SIGNS AGREEMENT TO RENOURISH NAPLES SHORELINE. The [Marine Technology](#) (5/3) reports that “an agreement signed between the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and Collier County, Fla. will see the use of up to 500,000 cubic yards of sand from the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to renourish four segments of shoreline near Naples, Florida.” According to the article, “the sand will assist Collier County Parks and Recreation Department in reducing coastal storm flooding and erosion and provide recreational and environmental habitat benefits along the county’s shoreline.” BOEM Director Abigail Ross Hopper said, “Under this agreement, BOEM is continuing its commitment to work with Florida’s coastal communities to enhance resilience efforts for the future. We are committed to continuing our collaborative efforts to help local communities withstand damage from future storms and address the effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels, which challenge coastal areas.”

NORTH CAROLINA APPROVES REQUESTS FOR SEISMIC SURVEYING. The [Island Gazette \(NC\)](#) (5/3, 23K) reports that “the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM) received consistency review submissions for offshore seismic survey activities for oil and gas exploration in January of this year.” On April 24th, it “announced approval of those requests.”

BP 2010 SPILL CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR SEEKS SUBPOENA POWER TO UNCOVER FRAUDULENT CLAIMS. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (5/3, LaRose, 733K) reported, “The claims administrator for the multibillion-dollar BP oil spill settlement is asking the federal judge overseeing the case to grant him subpoena power to investigate fraudulent claims.” Patrick Juneau requested that US District Judge Carl Barbier allow him “the ability to issue subpoenas that was granted in 2013 to Louis Freeh, the former FBI director who was appointed special master over the claims process,” the article reports. The filing also said, “The Claims Administrator will... need to obtain pertinent documents to corroborate claimant information in the course of his investigations.” It added, “Further, the financial dealings of claimants will more than likely be relevant to this inquiry. Evidence

relevant to these issues is held by third parties, who, upon information and belief, will provide the complete, relevant and necessary information in a timely manner only upon receipt of a subpoena.”

OFFSHORE DRILLING BUFFER SUPPORTED. The [Wilmington \(NC\) Star News](#) (5/2, 108K) editorializes that “Gov. Pat McCrory is urging the federal government not to impose a 50-nautical-mile buffer between our beaches and any offshore drilling for oil and gas.” However, the paper is “skeptical that the gains of tapping those offshore reserves will be worth the risk to our water quality, the coastal tourism economy, and our area’s ability to attract affluent retirees who add more to the tax base than they require in services.” According to the paper, “in defending the proposed 50-nautical mile buffer for the Southeast – that’s 57.5 regular miles – Abigail Ross Hopper of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management said the buffer fits in with Defense Department needs, commercial fishing and environmental concerns, and would accommodate offshore wind farms.” It concludes that “a 50-nautical-mile buffer between our beaches and oil drilling makes good policy.”

OFFSHORE DRILLING CRITICIZED. In his column for the [Miami Herald](#) (5/3, 676K), Carl Hiaasen writes that BP has “spent a fortune cleaning up its image and the mess in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida, including \$13.7 billion in claims and settlements.” However, “the truth is that terrible damage was done by that 87-day flood of oil into the Gulf, and many communities suffered immensely.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF DELTA TUNNELS. The [Greenwire](#) (5/1) reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown “announced major changes yesterday to his contentious plan to revamp the crumbling Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, reducing habitat restoration that had been seen as key for building giant tunnels under the delta.”

The [Pleasant Hill Patch](#) (5/3) reports that “some conservationists who protested outside of the event said the new plan doesn’t do enough to restore the habitat of the Delta.” Brown “admitted that fish populations there are at an all-time low, but said the plan he is putting forward is the best option.”

In a column ran in the [Chicago Tribune](#) (5/1, Fox, News, 2.74M), Justin Fox writes that “for a time the hope was that the state could get the Fish and Wildlife and Marine Fisheries services to sign off on a 50- year plan to restore delta habits while guaranteeing certain flows through the tunnels.” He notes that “in 2012 both agencies issued ‘red flag’ memos indicating that this would be a problem, and with Friday’s announcement Brown formally gave up on that.” Brown “still wants the tunnels, though, which have been redesigned a couple of times to be less burdensome to people and fish in and around the town of Hood just south of Sacramento, where they would take in their water.” But “the problem is that the water districts south of the delta that would pay for the tunnel might back without a commitment from the fisheries agencies to back off on their frequent orders to shut off the flow of water.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (4/30, 313K), the [Davis \(CA\) Enterprise](#) (5/3, 17K), [KQED-FM San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (4/30, 40K), and the [Bay Area \(CA\) Indymedia](#) (5/1, 2K).

IRRIGATORS SUE BOR OVER COLUMBIA RIVER WATER CONTRACT. The [AP](#) (5/3, 2.29M) reports that “a group of agricultural operators who farm near the Columbia River have filed suit against the federal government over an irrigation water contract.” The suit was filed earlier this week by the Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association against the BOR. The association claims “the government is holding up construction of an irrigation pipeline by delaying the issuing of a water service contract.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (5/1, 113K).

SACRAMENTO OFFICIALS WANT TO AVOID “DEAD POOL” AT FOLSOM DAM. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (5/3, 551K) reports that “faced with the prospect of drier winters ahead, Sacramento officials are proposing changing the way” Folsom Dam is “operated to keep more water behind its wall each year as drought insurance.” They want the federal government to “alter monthly releases from the dam so that an extra cushion of water remains stored each December to guard against a ‘dead pool’ scenario come summer and fall.”

BOR RELEASES FINAL DOCUMENTS ON TEHAMA-COLUSA WATER TRANSFERS. The [Red Bluff \(CA\) Daily News](#) (5/2, 578) reports that the BOR on Friday “released the final environmental documents for the transfer of Central Valley Project water by CVP contractors located north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.”

HUNGRY HORSE DAM VISITOR CENTER OPENS MAY 17. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (5/3, 118K) reports that the BOR “announces the opening of the Hungry Horse Dam Visitor Center for the 2015 summer season beginning Sunday, May 17.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF WATER RESOURCES REFORM DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2014. Additional coverage of the Water Resources Reform Development Act of 2014 was provided by the [Star of Grand Coulee \(WA\)](#) (4/29, 41) and the [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (5/3, 86K).

LAKE MEAD WATER LEVEL FALLS TO A HISTORIC LOW. Additional coverage that Lake Mead has hit a historic low level was provided by the [New York Times](#) (5/4, Rojas, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) and the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (5/3, Glionna, 1.29M).

SENATORS HEAR ABOUT WORK AT LAKE NIGHTHORSE. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (5/1, 28K) reports that at Lake

Nighthorse on Friday, Sens. Cory Gardner and Michael Bennet “heard about the work required to establish recreation at the reservoir.” They “heard about the progress toward recreation and the challenges that remain to be solved.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN TESTIFIES ON TRIBAL RECOGNITION RULE CHANGES. The [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (5/3, 71K) reports that “North Stonington First Selectman Nick Mullane and U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal said last week that an April 22 hearing in Washington about proposed federal tribal recognition rule changes seems to have gone in their favor.” At the hearing, BIA Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn addressed members of the House Natural Resources Committee panel on Indian affairs. According to the article, “after Washburn outlined the new set of rules — which he sent to the Office of Management and Budget for final review before sharing with panel members — those in attendance challenged him with questions of legality.”

REP BISHOP CRITICIZES INTERIOR FOR FORWARDING NEW FEDERAL RECOGNITION RULES TO OMB. The [Thibodaux \(LA\) Daily Comet](#) (5/2, 38K) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop is “demanding the Obama administration hold off on new rules that could make it easier for Indian groups to win federal recognition as tribes.” He says “he’s prepared to use every tool at his disposal to block enactment of the regulations.” Bishop “criticized the Interior Department for forwarding the regulations to the Office of Management and Budget for final approval last week.”

LEGISLATORS TARGET INDIAN CASINO IN SOUTH BEND. The [South Bend \(IN\) Tribune](#) (5/3, 188K) reports that “as the Indiana General Assembly wrapped up its 2015 session Wednesday, it took two parting shots at the Pokagon Band’s plans to build a casino in South Bend.” According to the article, “tacked on to a gambling bill that would allow riverboat casinos to be land-based, and let an Anderson horse track add casino gambling, was a last-minute amendment requiring any gaming compact the governor reaches with an Indian tribe also to require approval by the Legislature.” The House and Senate also “passed a joint resolution, on voice vote, asking Congress to change federal law to prohibit Indian tribes from opening casinos in the state.”

CASINO PROPOSALS FACE CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN MASSACHUSETTS. The [Boston Globe](#) (5/3, 886K) reports that “the state’s efforts to fulfill its promise to bring a resort casino to economically stressed Southeastern Massachusetts will undergo two critical tests in the next nine days, beginning Monday, when two would-be casino developers must submit detailed financing plans to the state Gaming Commission by 5 p.m. or face elimination.” Supporters of “those two proposals, one envisioned for New Bedford and the other in Somerset, need to show they have adequate financing to remain in the competition for the state’s third and final resort casino license.”

BIA DELAYS ACTION ON GOLF COURSE. The [Kendall \(FL\) Gazette](#) (5/3, 738) reports that “the decision to extend land trust status to the Miccosukee Golf and Country Club in Kendale Lakes has been delayed by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs following new and detailed objections lodged by Miami-Dade County on Mar. 20.”

OKLAHOMA CIVIL APPEALS COURT HOLDS JUDGE CAN DEVIATE FROM INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (5/3, 456K) reports that “disregarding new Bureau of Indian Affairs guidelines, the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals ruled Friday that a judge can deviate from child-placement preferences in the federal Indian Child Welfare Act when such action is in the best interest of a child.”

MONTANA OFFERS SUPPORT TO NATIVE LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAMS. [NPR](#) (5/2, 1.52M) reports that “a new Montana state bill, expected to be signed into law this week,” will subsidize “Native American language immersion programs in public schools.” Under the legislation, “schools that are interested in creating immersion programs must apply to receive funding that will help compensate native language instructors.”

COMMISSION FINDS NATIVE AMERICAN KIDS MORE LIKELY TO BE PLACED IN FOSTER CARE IN MAINE. [Al Jazeera America](#) (5/3, 133K) reports that “a commission has found that Native American children in Maine are five times as likely to be placed in foster care as non-Native children.” The Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission “presented its preliminary findings and recommendations on Thursday at the first in a series of public forums in Maine.”

NEW BUDGET WOULD MEAN SPENDING CUTS FOR FEDERAL INDIAN PROGRAMS. In a piece for the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (5/2, 28K), Mark Trahan writes that “House and Senate negotiators have reached a deal on a budget resolution,” which would “require deep spending cuts in federal Indian programs.” According to the piece, “in past budget years, American Indian and Alaska Native programs have been able to get support from the appropriations committees, but in this cycle there will be less flexibility because of the instructions in the budget.”

MODERN APPROACH TO INDIAN COUNTRY URGED. In an op-ed for the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (5/4, 42K), Jenny Bell-Jones, an assistant professor in the department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, writes that “making sure we all have accurate information regarding the decision in *Akiachak v the Department of the Interior* is important as the deadline approaches for the state to proceed with its appeal against the decision in the case.” She argues for “a modern approach to Indian country instead of spending our dwindling funds on expensive appeals that only serve to perpetuate political discrimination.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

GUAM URGED TO EXERCISE SELF-DETERMINATION. In a piece for the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (5/3, 61K), Madeleine Z. Bordallo, the Guam delegate to the House, writes that “we must exercise self-determination and decide for ourselves what will be our political affiliation with the U.S.” Bordallo “authored legislation in 2010 that authorized the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs to use technical assistance grants for political status education, and during a recent hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee, Assistant Secretary Esther Kia’aina committed to making funds available for this purpose.” Bordallo says she “will work with Kia’aina to live up to this commitment, and ensure that federal resources help to support our efforts to resolve our political status.”

Top National News:

AS BALTIMORE CURFEW ENDS, OFFICIALS WEIGH IN ON CAUSES, LESSONS. The unrest in Baltimore continued to dominate the news cycle, leading all three network newscasts and generating extensive discussion on the Sunday morning shows. After days of fear and uncertainty, reports last night and this morning offered a glimmer of hope that tensions may be easing, and officials took to the airways to weigh in on the larger lessons from the violence. Generally, the media’s narrative blamed the violence on long-standing grievances stemming from economic inequality and a pattern of police abuse against minorities.

Typical of the tenor of the coverage was [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/3, lead story, 3:30, Allen, 7.86M), which indicated that “officials” said “Baltimore has turned a very positive corner.” Baltimore’s mayor, for example, was “at a mall that re-opened” Sunday, “where, last week, high school students clashed with police,” and she “said she’s convinced the unrest is behind her city.” Stephanie Rawlings-Blake was shown calling for “improving our police department, reforming our police department, and putting in place things that will eliminate this type of incident, you know, from ever happening again.” NBC added that “in recent years, Baltimore has paid millions of dollars to settle police misconduct cases, and called in the Justice Department to help stop alleged police brutality – some cases similar to Freddie Gray’s.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/4, Harris, Zauzmer, Bui, 5.03M) alludes to “the rhythms of recovery” emerging “as people headed to church,” while [ABC World News](#) (5/3, lead story, 2:30, Avila, 5.84M) referred to “a day of prayer and reconciliation after a week of protests and violence ignited by what the Baltimore city prosecutor says was the illegal arrest of Freddie Gray and his death.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/3, lead story, 2:20, Albert, 5.08M) showed Gov. Larry Hogan saying, “We’re going to get back to normal as quickly as we can.” Rawlings-Blake, meanwhile, said on [NBC’s Meet the Press](#) (5/3, Todd, 3.08M), “Everyone wants to have that sense of peace and calm back in our city. So we can begin to heal. That’s going to be my focus this week.”

Also yesterday, the [Baltimore Sun](#) (5/4, Dance, 802K) reports, Rawlings-Blake “lifted the curfew that has been in place across the city for five nights.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/4, Tau, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) quotes the mayor as saying, “My number one priority in instituting a curfew was to ensure the public peace, safety, health and welfare of Baltimore citizens. It was not an easy decision, but one I felt was necessary to help our city restore calm. ... I want to thank the people of Baltimore for their patience during this difficult time as we continue to come together to heal and restore our city.” The curfew had proved controversial over the last week, says the [New York Times](#) (5/4, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), noting that “in addition to the concerns about” its “economic impact...many demonstrators accused the police and the National Guard of rigorously enforcing it in predominantly black neighborhoods while white residents were allowed to flout it without fear of arrest for a misdemeanor.”

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (5/4, Dance, 802K) notes that a spokesman for Hogan, meanwhile, “said the Maryland National Guard will gradually draw down its presence in the city over the coming days.” [USA Today](#) (5/4, Jansen, 5.01M) notes that Hogan “agreed Sunday with the mayor in lifting the curfew,” but he also “told a news conference after a prayer service in Baltimore that 200 businesses were destroyed in rioting Monday, mostly minority owned and many without insurance, and that others struggled in the week under curfew.” Said Hogan, “It’s going to be devastating. ... Hundreds of millions of dollars have been lost. People had their homes burned down.” [The Hill](#) (5/3, Balluck, 533K) notes that Rawlings-Blake also “said on Sunday that the rioters in her city would face justice.” The mayor told Chuck Todd on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” “I don’t condone it and I will make sure those individuals are held accountable.”

[USA Today](#) (5/4, Jansen, 5.01M) reports that Hogan also “said the National Guard is pulling out, but that thousands of extra workers won’t be removed immediately.” The [Huffington Post](#) (5/3, Bellware, 194K) quoted Hogan as saying, “We’ve already started withdrawal of the Guard. ... The trucks are pulling out this morning. It’s going to take a little bit of a while.” [Reuters](#) (5/4, Malone, Simpson) also reports on the Guard’s gradual withdrawal.

[The Hill](#) (5/3, Lillis, 533K) reports, meanwhile, that “Democrats on and off Capitol Hill are linking the recent violence in Baltimore to a dearth of government programs aimed at elevating poverty,” and are “calling for broader government commitments to education, workforce training, summer jobs programs and other initiatives aimed at fighting unemployment, while hammering the Republicans’ new budget proposal for cutting those same measures.” In a panel segment that featured Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and Birmingham Mayor William Bell, Rep. Chris Van Hollen talked about the situation in Baltimore on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (5/3, Smerconish, 420K), stating, “I think there are a whole constellation of problems here. There are systematic, underlying problems that should be addressed by government at the local, state, and federal levels.”

Van Hollen later added on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (5/3, Smerconish, 420K), “We need to do a lot more. ... There are specific proposals now in Congress that can make things better in places like Baltimore and around the country.” Van Hollen, notes [The Hill](#) (5/3, Lillis, 533K), also said the current GOP budget “will make poverty worse in places like Baltimore.” The [Washington Times](#) (5/4, Wolfgang, 641K) reports that “though Baltimore has long been governed by Democrats,” Van Hollen “says Republicans and their budget priorities are to blame for the economic woes in the city and elsewhere across the country.” Said

Van Hollen, "There are specific proposals right now in Congress that can make things better in places like Baltimore and around the country. And instead what we passed in Congress, the Republicans, \$10 million estates get no estate tax."

[Politico](#) (5/3, Schreckinger, 1.11M) reports that, on ABC's "This Week," Rep. Elijah Cummings "praised Baltimore's response to the death of Freddie Gray and the state's attorney who charged six police officers in the incident," saying, "We did pretty good. ...
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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, April 29, 2015

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL SAYS COLLABORATION CAN ACHIEVE POSITIVE OUTCOME ON GREATER SAGE GROUSE.

In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (4/29, 178K), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell writes that "across 11 states in the West, including Montana, there is an unprecedented effort under way to protect the closely related greater sage grouse as the Fish and Wildlife Service prepares to make a final determination later this year on whether the bird needs to be protected under the Endangered Species Act." Efforts so far "show conservation and economic activity can and do go hand in hand." Jewell says that "with additional elbow grease, thoughtful planning and commitment, I am optimistic that – in partnership with states, industry, sportsmen, ranchers, scientists and other stakeholders – we can achieve the same outcome as we did on the bi-state sage grouse."

Wyoming Delegation Supports Bills Against Grouse Protections. The [AP](#) Raleigh, NC (4/29, 117K) reports that "Wyoming's congressional delegation is supporting a legislative effort to block federal protection of the greater sage grouse." Sens. Mike Enzi and John Barrasso are "co-sponsoring a bill by Sen. Cory Gardner of Colorado that would retain state oversight of the species for six years — regardless of an upcoming decision on whether the birds warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act." Rep. Cynthia Lummis is co-sponsoring a similar bill in the House by Rep. Chris Stewart.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/29, Gruver, 2.29M), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (4/29, 99K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (4/29, 670K), the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (4/29, 75K), and [KIFI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (4/29, 3K).

Lawmakers Warn Listing Grouse Could Impact Military Readiness. The [Stars And Stripes \(DC\)](#) (4/29, 19K) reports that

“on Tuesday, Republican lawmakers in the House said listing the bird could hurt military readiness.” Rep. Rob Wittman said, “Listing the sage-grouse could have serious repercussions for many critical DOD training facilities in the western United States. We should not further threaten our military’s readiness when it is already in such a precarious state.” Also, Rep. Rob Bishop said “environmental laws designed to protect animal species are threatening to undermine the military.”

Sage Grouse Seem To Be Doing Well In Utah. The [Price \(UT\) Sun Advocate](#) (4/29, 19K) reports that “all indications are Greater sage-grouse are doing well in Utah,” according to Terry Messmer, Wildlife Biologist with Utah State University. At a meeting of the Carbon Sage-grouse Management Area working group, Messmer said “all indications point to an increase in the overall number of sage-grouse in Utah. “

Bi-State Sage Grouse Decision Lauded. The [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (4/29) reports that “Western governors lauded a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) decision on the bi-state sage grouse population as an indication that the bird can be protected more widely while oil/gas development is still encouraged.” The Western Governors’ Association “praised a recent announcement by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell that the USFWS has determined that the bi-state population in California and Nevada no longer needs to be labeled as endangered.”

[KXLO-FM](#) Lewiston, MT (4/29) reports that “the United States Cattlemen’s Association (USCA) applauds last week’s announcement by the Department of Interior on the decision to not list the Bi-State Greater Sage Grouse under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in California and Nevada.” USCA Public Lands Committee Chair Bert Paris said, “USCA applauds Secretary Jewell’s decision regarding the bi-state grouse. USCA is pleased that the work done by ranchers, land managers, wildlife and state officials has been recognized by the DOI. It is our hope that DOI will expand the territory of non-listing to include all eleven western states. The efforts currently employed by public-private partnerships across these states must be acknowledged and we will work with invested stakeholders to take this decision further.”

In his column for the [Daily Sparks Tribune \(NV\)](#) (4/28, 15K), Thomas Mitchell writes that “the latest ray of hope comes from a decision by the Interior and Agriculture departments this past week to withdraw a proposal to list the bi-state sage grouse under ESA.” He notes that “efforts are being made across the West to fight the encroachment on sagebrush range by pinyon and juniper, which should require little more than a herd of goats, a few chainsaws or brush hogs.” Mitchell is hopeful that these “coordinated efforts will sway Interior to give conservation efforts a chance.”

SECRETARY JEWELL TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY’S SPRING COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY. The [Native News Online](#) (4/29) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will be the Keynote Speaker at Haskell Indian Nations University’s Spring 2015 Commencement Ceremony.

SECRETARY JEWELL APPLAUDS CHAUDHURI CONFIRMATION AS NIGC CHAIR. The [Cherokee \(OK\) Phoenix](#) (4/29, 442) reports that on April 16, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “applauded the Senate’s confirmation of Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri to be the chair of the National Indian Gaming Commission, the federal agency tasked with collaborating with tribes and states to regulate Indian gaming. The President nominated Chaudhuri in July 2014.” Jewell said, “Jonodev will be an outstanding chair of the National Indian Gaming Commission. Having served on the Commission, in tribal government and private practice Indian law, his experience and expertise will enable him to provide strong strategic leadership as the commission tackles the complex issues associated with supporting economic opportunities for Indian nations.”

OUTDOOR INDUSTRY A RISING POLITICAL FORCE. [Outside](#) (4/29, 234K) reports that “outdoor companies and their employees are flexing their political muscles in novel and creative ways all across the country.” The article notes that “on April 16, Count My Job sponsored a gathering on Capitol Hill that featured a very supportive” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. Discussing “the need for better government data and more industry input on policy,” Jewell said, “If you are not at the table, you are on the menu, and I think about that a lot. Because if we value public lands and they are important to our businesses and they are important to the things we care about, then we have got to be at the table.”

PRESIDENT OBAMA WARNS WORLD CAN NO LONGER DELAY CLIMATE ACTION. President Obama writes in a [Miami Herald](#) (4/29, 676K) op-ed this morning that climate change is “real as are its effects: stronger storms, deeper droughts, longer wildfire seasons and public-health risks.” Those who “choose to deny science,” he writes, “need only to travel to the Everglades where you can actually see the effects of a changing climate.” While he pledged to “continue doing everything [he] can to prepare and protect America from the worst effects of a changing climate,” the President said, “Now it’s up to all of us to ensure that our country’s beautiful God-given landscapes remain the birthright of all Americans for generations to come.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS DEFENDS STUN GUN USE ON VISITOR RECORDING HAWAII LAVA LAKE WITH DRONE. The [AP](#) (4/29, Kelleher, 1.29M) reports that “a park ranger used a Taser on a man flying a drone over a lake of lava at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, then arrested the man in front of several hundred people after telling him that flying an unmanned aircraft at a national park is prohibited.” Travis Ray Sanders was “arrested and cited with interfering with agency functions and operating an aircraft on undesignated land.” Park spokeswoman Jessica Ferracane said, “He was described as being very unpredictable, belligerent. The ranger felt he needed to be stopped for the safety of himself and others.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (4/29, 75K), the [Huffington Post](#) (4/29, |, Kelleher, 194K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (4/29, 709K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/29, Kelleher, 2.29M), the [US News & World Report](#) (4/28,

907K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/29, Jennifer Sinco Kelleher |, Ap), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (4/29, 5.37M), [Forbes](#) (4/28, 6.84M), the [Inquisitr](#) (4/29, 369K), and [Mashable](#) (4/28, 2.3M).

GRANTS ANNOUNCED FOR MARITIME PRESERVATION PROJECTS. The [AP](#) (4/29) reports that this week, the Maritime Administration and the NPS announced \$2.6 million in grants for maritime preservation projects across the nation. The Mariners Museum in Newport News, Virginia will be awarded a nearly \$100,000 Federal grant to “conserve and restore the USS Monitor’s turret and other large artifacts from the Civil War ironclad,” according to the article.

Maine Groups To Receive Federal Grants To Help Preserve Maritime History. The [AP](#) (4/29) reports that two organizations in Maine will receive almost \$250,000 “to support maritime history preservation projects.” According to the article, Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King announced the National Park Service, “partnering with the Maritime Administration, has granted the Wood Island Life Saving Station Association...\$200,000 to repair and preserve the Life Saving Station.” Additionally, the AP notes that the Penobscot Maritime Museum will also receive almost \$50,000 to “help provide online access to the National Fisherman Collection, which showcases” the post-WWII “technological changes made to the nation’s commercial fishery.”

TOUR BUS COMPANY SUES NPS OVER \$80 MILLION NATIONAL MALL CONTRACT. In its “Top Shelf” blog, the [Washington Business Journal](#) (4/29, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 119K) reports that “a tour bus company is suing the National Park Service over an \$80 million contract to provide tours of the National Mall, reigniting a tour bus saga that dates to 2011.” National Mall Tours of Washington Inc., “a subsidiary of the company that runs bus tours of Arlington National Cemetery, claims the Park Service improperly awarded the contract to City Sightseeing Washington D.C. Inc. in March.” The lawsuit, “filed April 10 in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, says the award was improper because Big Bus Tours changed ownership during the contract process.”

HOUSE PASSES LEGISLATION TO FACILITATE SEARCH-AND-RESCUE EFFORTS. In its “Floor Action” blog, [The Hill](#) (4/29, Marcos, 533K) reports that “the House passed legislation on Tuesday to facilitate access to federal lands for search and recovery missions.” The legislation would “require permits for accessing federal land to be approved within 48 hours to individuals or organizations for ‘good Samaritan’ search missions for people believed to be deceased.” Under the measure, “search mission groups can obtain permits for accessing federal lands without an insurance policy if they agree to free the federal government from all liability.”

NEW DC MUSIC FESTIVAL TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR NATIONAL MALL RESTORATION. The [AP](#) (4/28, Brett Zongker |, Ap, 5.03M) reports that “a group working to raise money to improve the National Mall plans to launch a new music festival this year in Washington to help raise funds for the restoration effort.” According to the article, “Drake, The Strokes and British rock band Alt-J will headline the two-day Landmark Music Festival on Sept. 26 and 27.” Karen Cucurullo, the acting superintendent of the National Mall, says the NPS “wants to engage a younger generation as the agency approaches its 100th anniversary.”

Also providing coverage is [Bil board Magazine](#) (4/28, 560K).

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP STATE PARK MAY BECOME NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (4/29, 94K) reports that First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park is on track to become a National Historic Landmark. In February, the National Historic Landmark Review Committee “approved nomination of First Peoples Buffalo Jump for landmark status.” A National Park Service committee is scheduled to meet in May to consider the nomination. If approved, the nomination would be sent to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell for approval.

NPS STUDY FINDS DECLINE IN DENALI NATIONAL PARK WOLF POPULATION. The [AP](#) (4/29, 2.29M) reports that “Denali National Park and Preserve’s wolf numbers have reached a new low this spring with an estimated population of just 48, according to a National Park Service study.” The NPS has “estimated the wolf population twice each year since 1986 using radio collared wolves and analysis of a few un-collared wolves.” The article notes that “this spring’s count is the lowest since an estimate of 46 wolves in fall 1986 and is the lowest on record for any spring count.”

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK CLOSES AREAS AROUND EAGLE NESTING SITES. [KBJR-TV](#) Duluth, MN (4/29, 1K) reports that “biologists have decided to close off several areas in Voyageurs National Park due to bald eagle nesting sites.” Park managers are “asking both motorized and non-motorized watercraft users to not travel within 200 meters of nests where bald eagles are actively nesting during the closure period, which will last from early May through mid-August.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NPS SITES. Additional coverage of the economic impact of NPS sites was provided by the [Greenville \(SC\) News](#) (4/28, 164K), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (4/28, 28K), and [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (4/28, 30K).

Bureau of Land Management:

INTERIOR URGED TO TAKE ACTION ON CEMEX ISSUE. The [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) Signal](#) (4/29, 30K) reports that Rep. Steve Knight “sent a letter on Tuesday to Department of Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Conner urging him to take action in the immediate future that would prevent a large mining project in Soledad Canyon.” Knight said, “Preventing Cemex from mining in Soledad Canyon is a long-standing and complicated issue, and I understand that resolving it can’t happen overnight. But time is running out and we must act now to ensure we reach a solution.” His “letter comes after the California State Director of the Bureau of Land Management corresponded with Cemex and stated that the company’s lack of diligence in obtaining necessary

permits and authorizations makes cancellation of the mining development legally viable.”

REPS. BISHOP, STEWART LAUNCH ACTION GROUP FOR STATES TO TAKE OVER FEDERAL LANDS. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (4/29, 470K) reports that “two Utah congressmen are launching a “Federal Land Action Group” to identify ways Congress could push a transfer of federal lands to state and local governments.” Reps. Chris Stewart and Rob Bishop “announced the new working group on Tuesday and said that it would hold a series of forums with experts on public lands policy with the end goal of introducing legislation to move the federal lands into state and local control.” Stewart said, “The federal government has been a lousy landlord for Western states and we simply think the states can do it better. If we want healthier forests, better access to public lands, more consistent funding for public education and more reliable energy development, it makes sense to have local control.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (4/29, 538K).

ATTORNEYS WANT MENTION OF GUNS, MILITIAS OUT OF RECAPTURE CANYON TRIAL. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (4/29, 470K) reports that as Phil Lyman’s “trial opens this week in Salt Lake City, his lawyers are trying to keep federal prosecutors from mentioning firearms and militias when they present their case to a jury.” Defense attorneys claim “such terms are misleading, confusing and prejudicial.” Attorney Jared Stubbs wrote, “Nor do they have anything to do with whether or not the defendants illegally rode ATVs on closed government land. Mention of guns and militias paint a picture of a violent and confrontational protest ... [and] imply that part of the alleged unlawful acts of the defendants were an armed conflict with the government.”

USAGE OF ANTIQUITIES ACT IN UTAH WOULD BE CONTROVERSIAL. In a piece for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (4/29, 74K), Andy Gulliford writes that “before he leaves office, President Barack Obama has the chance to significantly alter the landscape of Utah by using his ace in the hole, the Antiquities Act.” Obama “could set aside thousands of acres in southern Utah as a new national monument managed by the Bureau of Land Management,” but “like anything to do with public land in this state, a new monument is controversial.” Gulliford notes “some of the caveats: National monument status will only increase tourism, and more tourists will only mar delicate landscapes. And some folks prefer plain-old vanilla BLM lands without any special designation, though that leaves a large window open for oil and gas drilling, potential mining and, inevitably, more roads.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CRAIGSLIST PROHIBITS IVORY SALES. The [Greenwire](#) (4/28) reports that “in response to an investigation by wildlife advocacy groups made public today that estimates the annual value of ivory and related wildlife products for sale on Craigslist at well over \$15 million, the popular classified advertising website has added ivory to its list of prohibited items.” The International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Wildlife Conservation Society lauded “the move, which was quietly made earlier this month.” However, “given the scale of the poaching threat facing elephants and Craigslist’s role in facilitating the illicit trade, they called for further action from the website.”

FWS APPROVES TRANSFER OF ORPHANED POLAR BEAR TO ST. LOUIS ZOO . [KTVI-TV](#) St. Louis (4/28, 328K) reports that a young polar bear named Kali is headed to the St. Louis Zoo. The FWS approved Kali’s transfer Monday night. The bear will “soon be transferred from Buffalo to the brand new McDonnell Polar Bear Point in St. Louis.” According to the article, “inside the new Polar Bear Point, it will just be Kali for now, but the exhibit was built for a family, up to 5 polar bears.”

STREAMFLOW DROPPED AT MERWIN DAM TO PRESERVE WATER FOR CHINOOK SPAWNING PERIOD. The [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (4/28, 109K) reports that “state and federal officials have agreed to allow PacifiCorp to reduce streamflows in the North Fork of the Lewis River at Merwin Dam this spring in order to preserve water for the important fall chinook spawning period.” The committee includes NOAA Fisheries, the FWS, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife among others.

RESEARCHERS PLACE TRANSMITTERS ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER PADDLEFISH. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/29, 1.29M) reports that researchers are putting ultrasonic transmitters on paddlefish in the Mississippi River. The goal is to “collect information on the native fish in case invasive Asian carp arrive in large numbers, changing the ecosystem and potentially harming paddlefish.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY SHOWS SIZE OF A PYTHON’S HOME RANGE IN EVERGLADES. The [AP](#) (4/29, 2.29M) reports that “new research is revealing how far invasive Burmese pythons are slithering through the Everglades.” The USGS “published Tuesday the results of a 14-year study tracking 19 pythons through Everglades National Park.” The study “showed that a python’s home range covers an area roughly 8.5 square miles.”

Also providing coverage is [CBS News](#) (4/29, 8.2M).

USGS CREATING MODEL FOR INDUCED EARTHQUAKES. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (4/29, 108K) reports that “a new report by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) begins to address how to incorporate induced earthquakes into the seismic hazard maps.” The USGS “identified 17 areas in eight states (Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas) that have experienced substantial increases in earthquakes since 2009.” Mark Petersen, chief of the USGS National Seismic Hazard Modeling Project, said, “This new report describes for the first time how injection-induced earthquakes can be incorporated into U.S. seismic hazard maps. These earthquakes are occurring at a higher rate than ever before and pose a

much greater risk to people living nearby. The USGS is developing methods that overcome the challenges in assessing seismic hazards in these regions in order to support decisions that help keep communities safe from ground shaking.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DROUGHT WEAKENS HYDROPOWER OUTPUT ACROSS WEST. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (4/28, Frankel, 2.93M) reports on declining hydropower output from dams in areas affected by drought. “The 53 hydropower facilities run by the US Bureau of Reclamation across the west are producing 10% less power than a few years ago, despite rising demand.” The Guardian reports particular concern over Hoover Dam which is being retrofitted to handle lower reservoir levels below which, “a structure hailed as an engineering marvel...would cease to perform one of its primary functions.”

Onshore Energy Development:

INDUSTRY-BACKED REPORT CRITICIZES ROYALTY OVERHAUL. The [Greenwire](#) (4/28) reports that “an Obama administration proposal to improve how the Interior Department determines the value of federal coal would give the agency ‘unparalleled and unrestricted power,’ said an industry-backed report released today.” At issue is the Office Of Natural Resources Revenue’s proposal “to make sure taxpayers are getting their due in royalties from companies mining federally owned tracts of coal, particularly amid increased exports.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (4/28, Dixon, 1.11M).

QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT COMPANIES’ ABILITY TO FUND MINE CLEANUPS.. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (4/29, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that “environmental advocates and states are scrutinizing coal mining company financial reports to determine whether they have enough money to cover the cost of returning sites to pre-mining conditions.” According to the article, “states like Wyoming and West Virginia allow companies to self-bond, as long as they meet certain requirements,” but “the coal mining downturn is raising questions about the ability of companies to make good on their promises.” The article notes that “advocates say Wyoming, the nation’s top coal mining state, is central to the discussion because companies have about \$2 billion in self bonding, mostly Alpha Natural Resources Inc., Arch Coal Inc., Cloud Peak Energy Inc. and Peabody Energy Corp.”

GROUPS PROTEST NEW OIL AND GAS DRILLING PLAN FOR COLORADO’S PICEANCE BASIN. The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (4/28, 506) reports that “conservation and wildlife advocacy groups are protesting a new federal plan that covers oil and gas drilling and fracking in the northwestern Corner of Colorado.” In their formal April 27 protest letter, the groups argued that “the recently published resource management plan amendment for Bureau of Land Management’s White River Field Office failed to meet legal requirements because it didn’t consider special areas of environmental concern.” Also, the groups claim that the BLM “didn’t consider the cumulative effects of new fossil fuel development, all while claiming it can meet state-set standards for wildlife populations.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW FRACKING RULE. Additional coverage of the new fracking rule was provided by [R&D Magazine](#) (4/29, 234K) and [Phys](#) (4/29, 530).

WTIMES ANALYSIS: STATISTICS, STUDIES MISUSED IN FRACKING DEBATE. The [Washington Times](#) (4/29, Richardson, 641K) reports that the “old saw” that statistics “can be used to support anything” is “being increasingly applied to science, especially, critics say, when it comes to the fight” over fracking. The Times says that determining who conducted a fracking study, along with who funded it, “has become as important as the results of the research itself as the powerful fossil fuel industry and media-savvy environmental movement spar to claim the scientific high ground.”

Offshore Energy Development:

ENVIRONMENTALISTS WANT SEC REVIEW OF SHELL’S ARCTIC REGULATORY FILINGS. The [AP](#) (4/28, Joling) reports that Oceana and the Abrams Environmental Law Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School on April 27 petitioned the US SEC “for an investigation of Royal Dutch Shell PLC and what the groups call misstatements in regulatory filings regarding the risk of a catastrophic oil spill from Arctic offshore drilling.” Mike LeVine, an attorney for Oceana, said, “Shell asserts that it has thorough response capabilities and does not explain that the techniques on which it proposed to rely on are unlikely to be effective in the Arctic, or haven’t been tested in the Arctic Ocean.”

[Reuters](#) (4/28, Gardner) reports that Andrew Sharpless, CEO of Oceana, said, “There is no proven way to clean up a spill in the icy Arctic conditions and Shell has an obligation to make investors aware of that.”

Additional coverage was provided by [FuelFix](#) (4/28, Dlouhy, 7K) and the [Longview \(TX\) News-Journal](#) (4/28, 64K).

IN EFFORT TO SWAY PRESIDENT OBAMA, GREEN GROUPS TAKE OUT AD AGAINST ARCTIC DRILLING. [The Hill](#) (4/28, Henry, 533K) reports that “more than a dozen conservation and environmental groups” took out an advertisement in USA Today on Tuesday arguing that drilling in the Arctic is “not worth the risk” of potential environmental damage. The Hill interprets that ad as an effort to push the President Obama to bar Arctic drilling, which Shell is looking to begin.

BOEM HOLDS OPEN HOUSE ON SEISMIC TESTING. The [Outer Banks \(NC\) Sentinel](#) (4/29, 25K) reports that “a number of

local residents who attended the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) open house at the Ramada Plaza in Kill Devil Hills on April 27 were there to register their opposition to seismic surveying — and, more broadly, energy drilling — off the North Carolina coast." BOEM G&G Permitting Supervisory Geologist John Johnson said that "the application permitting process for seismic surveying is very lengthy and thorough. Ten applications have been filed by eight data acquisition companies, which sell their data to oil companies." BOEM Division of Environmental Sciences Marine Acoustician Stan Labak noted that "monitoring and mitigation measures are used to assess the impact on marine life and protect it during the surveying."

BOEM REASSERTS FACTS ON SAFE SEISMIC TESTING. [Breaking Energy](#) (4/28) reports that "last month BOEM reasserted the facts on safe seismic in its online 'Science Notes' feature." BOEM Chief Environmental Officer William Y. Brown notes that "to date, there has been no documented scientific evidence of noise from air guns used in geological and geophysical (G&G) seismic activities adversely affecting marine animal populations or coastal communities." Brown also "points out that the surveys characterize sub-seabed geology for energy development purposes but also are used for the government's marine minerals program and renewable energy."

US OFFICIALS HAVE HAD CONCERNS ABOUT CANADA'S RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS FOR YEARS. The [Toronto \(CAN\) Globe and Mail](#) (4/29, Tromp, 1.1M) reports that "American authorities are nervously eyeing Canadian proposals to triple the number of oil tanker voyages through the shared waters off B.C.'s coast, saying among themselves that Canadian standards to clean up a major spill are decades behind those of the U.S. and leave states vulnerable to environmental damage and costs." In one instance, Washington State officials declared to the *Globe and Mail* that their "oil-spill response regime was far advanced" from Canada's.

SHELL, GREENPEACE DISPUTE HEADS TO COURT AGAIN. The [AP](#) (4/29, Joling) reports, "Attorneys for Royal Dutch Shell PLC presented testimony to a federal court judge Tuesday that the company needs safety zones around its Arctic drill fleet to prevent Greenpeace USA activists from endangering company workers and themselves." A Greenpeace attorney retorted that Shell's request would impede free speech.

BP'S CLAIMS OF GULF RECOVERY CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (4/29, 495K), David Yarnold, president and CEO of National Audubon Society, writes that "just in time for the fifth anniversary of the worst oil spill in U.S. maritime history, BP declared all's well on the Gulf Coast." But "what BP doesn't want you to know," according to Yarnold, is that "its crews had been on the scene of that massive cleanup for the three weeks leading up to the release of the report that claimed all cleanup operations had been long finished." Yarnold emphasizes that "in sharp contrast to BP's claims of a recovered Gulf Coast, much of the erosion and land loss caused by the oil damage won't be corrected in our lifetimes — if ever." He argues that BP "continues to be far more concerned about its bottom line than repairing the damage it inflicted on the Gulf Coast."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

LAKE MEAD'S WATER LEVEL DROPS TO HISTORIC LOW. The [Independent \(UK\)](#) (4/29, Guion, 1.01M) reports that "the historic drought plaguing the western US has claimed another casualty, as Lake Mead — the vast Nevada reservoir that provides water to some 40 million people in the US Southwest — has dropped to its lowest water level since it first was filled, in 1937." According to the article, "the record-low water level was 1,080.18 feet (329.24 metres) above sea level, but by Monday afternoon, the water level had fallen to 1,080 feet."

BROWN SEEKS FINES OF UP TO \$10K PER DAY FOR THOSE WASTING WATER. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/29, Megerian, 4.03M) reports that on Tuesday, California Gov. Jerry Brown (D) announced new legislation that would increase the maximum fines for "water wasters" to \$10,000 per day, from the current \$500, and "allow local governments to issue the penalties." In addition, Brown proposed legislation to "streamline environmental reviews for some water supply projects, such as recycling facilities."

Empowering Native American Communities:

CHIPPEWA-CREE TRIBE ORDERED TO PAY ST. MARKS. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (4/28, 80K) reports that "federal investigators have ordered Montana's Chippewa Cree Tribe to pay its chairman, Ken St. Marks, nearly \$650,000 in compensation for 'prohibited reprisal(s)' taken against him dating back to March 2013." On April 24, the U.S. Office of the Inspector General "issued a final report, finding that St. Marks' removal from office was motivated by his disclosures to authorities from the Inspector General's Office and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation." The Inspector General's Office's report concludes, "(The) Chippewa Cree Tribe acted wrongfully toward St. Marks. Moreover, the numerous criminal indictments and convictions of Chippewa Cree Tribe employees and officials create significant concern for the Department about the welfare of the Chippewa Cree Tribe's government and its members."

MACKINAC TRIBE APPEALING RULING IN FEDERAL RECOGNITION CASE. The [Law 360](#) (4/29, 15K) reports that "the Mackinac Tribe said Monday that it would take its fight for federal recognition to the D.C. Circuit, appealing a late March ruling finding the tribe did not exhaust available administrative processes before filing suit against the U.S. Department of the Interior." The tribe's "notice of appeal follows U.S. District Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's March 31 ruling granting summary judgment to the DOI, concurring with its argument that the Mackinac Tribe failed to seek formal federal recognition and reorganization through the department's prescribed process."

Office of Insular Affairs:

INTERIOR FUNDS TO BE USED TO REPAIR SCHOOLS. The [Pacific News Center](#) (4/29) reports that “Department of Education Superintendent Jon Fernandez says the funds they will be getting from the Department of Interior will be used to take care of health and safety concerns at the schools.” Fernandez says, “I think what they want to do is have an embedded team of people, two or three experts, that will work with our local employees to develop and support a maintenance plan that will address those critical health and safety issues and to be able to execute that plan in the next five years. Let’s do it so that in the end of five years, when OIA leaves, there’s confidence that DOE has that experience, expertise and a plan to take care and ensure that the work done won’t be undone.”

Top National News:

OBAMA CALLS RIOTERS “CRIMINALS” AND “THUGS,” BUT SAYS CRISIS IN BALTIMORE LONG IN COMING. Much of the coverage of the situation in Baltimore focuses on the sense of shock and fear in the streets of the city the day after the violent riots. Encapsulating much of the reporting was a morning report on the website of the [Baltimore City Paper](#) (4/28, Ericson, 214K), which said, “It is not clear yet whether Tuesday is the day after, or Day Two.” On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (4/29, A1, Cox, Jouvenal, 5.03M) says “a pallor reminiscent of an earlier desperate era hung over [the] city Tuesday,” while in its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/28, lead story, 3:15, Holt, 7.86M) reported on the “still-smoldering” Baltimore, where, “as you can imagine...tensions are high.” [WJZ-TV](#) Baltimore (4/28, 4:14 p.m. EDT, 69K) noted that “the violence...has resulted in more than 200 arrests, including 34 juveniles, at least 19 structure fires.”

President Obama’s [comments](#) were noted on all three network newscasts, which led with the aftermath of the violence and devoted a combined 30 minutes and 35 seconds to the story. Both on TV and print, Obama’s comments are receiving generally positive media reviews. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (4/28, Dorning, Sink, 161K), for example, says his remarks “harkened back to the promise of social change that helped propel” his “barrier-breaking 2008 candidacy.” The [New York Times](#) (4/29, Davis, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) remarks on the President’s “passion and frustration,” and [Politico](#) (4/28, Gass, 1.11M) on his “stern tone” as he urged America “to get serious about lifting up impoverished communities.” [USA Today](#) (4/29, Jackson, 5.01M) describes Obama as “at times emotional” as he “sought to balance his support of the police with criticism for the actions of some individuals,” and A.B. Stoddard said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (4/28, 1.53M) that the President “was very good today.”

Not everyone agreed: Tavis Smiley, host and managing editor of Tavis Smiley on PBS, writes in [USA Today](#) (4/29, 5.01M) that “Obama is right to urge the nation to do some ‘soul searching,’ but we also need moral leadership,” as “these national crises such as Ferguson and Baltimore show the limits of the president’s ‘hands off’ approach to a ‘hands up’ crisis. We have to be intentional; we have to be engaged. We don’t need another commission or task force.” And Chuck Todd said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/28, story 4, 1:10, Holt, 7.86M), “It will be interesting to see if the President does something he hasn’t done before. He never walked the streets of Ferguson, didn’t go to Sanford, Florida, didn’t go to North Charleston. Is Baltimore different? Does he come and walk the streets? Does he smell the burning ground that we smell and the smoldering?” Does he use “the symbolic bully pulpit? There’s been some critiques that he hasn’t done it enough.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/28, story 4, 1:00, Pelley, 5.08M) noted that Obama “called the rioters ‘criminals’ and ‘thugs,’” but also “said the nation has a lot of soul-searching to do to solve urban violence.” Obama was shown saying, “In communities where there are no fathers who can provide guidance to young men, communities that where there’s no investment, and manufacturing’s been stripped away, and drugs have flooded the community and the drug industry ends up being the primary employer for a whole lot of folks, in those environments, if we think that we’re just going to send the police to do the dirty work of containing the problems that arise there without, as a nation and as a society, saying what can we do to change those communities, to help lift up those communities and give those kids opportunity, then we’re not going to solve this problem.”

On [CNN’s The Lead](#) (4/28, 320K), former Federal prosecutor Sunny Hostin took issue with the President’s use of the word “thugs,” saying, “It’s not a word certainly that I am comfortable with. It’s not a word that I use. I think we can all agree that that word, that term has been racialized and I think what I saw during the riots was...a lot of crimes being committed. I saw assault. I saw theft and arson. Those are crimes. Should we call them criminals? Yes. Thugs? I’m not comfortable with that. There’s not a place for name calling, especially racialized name calling.”

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/29, Fritze, 802K) notes that Obama also said of the violence, “That is not a protest. That is not a statement. ... It’s a handful of people taking advantage of the situation. They need to be treated as criminals.” In its lead story, [ABC World News](#) (4/28, lead story, 4:45, Muir, 5.84M) showed Obama saying, “When individuals get crowbars and start prying open doors to loot, they’re not protesting. They’re not making a statement. They’re stealing.” [WJZ-TV](#) Baltimore (4/28, 5:45 p.m. EDT, 69K) showed Obama adding, “When they burn down a building, they’re committing arson and they’re destroying and undermining businesses and opportunities in their own communities.”

[Politico](#) (4/28, Dove, 1.11M) reports that “the president offered not one, not two, but six points on the Baltimore riots – carefully outlined in notes he’d made ahead of a press conference on Tuesday with the Japanese prime minister.” But “really, the six points boiled down to one point: ‘This has been a slow-rolling crisis. This has been going on a long time.’” [ABC World News](#) (4/28, story 3, 1:50, Avila, 5.84M) showed Obama saying that “what’s happening in this city is a slow-rolling crisis.” Said the President, “This has been going on a long time. This is not new. And we shouldn’t pretend that it’s new.” [WBFF-TV](#) Baltimore (4/28, 5:13 p.m. EDT, 3K) reported that the President said that “if this is examined and looked at purely from a law enforcement standpoint...we are going to find ourselves back in the same situation again, because there are deeper issues that clearly need to be discussed and examined.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/28, story 3, 1:30, Holt, 7.86M) reported that the President continued, “I think there are police departments that have to do some soul searching. I think there’s some communities that have to do some soul searching. But I think we as a

country have to do some soul searching. And that we don't just pay attention to these communities when a CVS burns and we don't just pay attention when a young man gets shot or has his spine snapped." The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/28, story 2, 2:35, Pegues, 5.08M), for example, noted that "according to a Baltimore Sun investigation, the city has paid about 100 people more than \$5 million to settle police brutality cases."

[Vox](#) (4/28, Prokop, 839K) noted that Obama "called for more attention to the systemic problems that plague low-income communities," a point also highlighted by [Slate](#) (4/28, Mathis-Lilley, 1.31M), which reported that "Obama pivoted to a broader discussion of the backlash against police violence, and his tone became sharper." On its website, [TIME](#) (4/28, Rhoda, 19.57M) put Obama's words in the context of "a series of moments where the nation's first black president has been called to address violence and distrust between communities of color and law-enforcement."

[NPR](#) (4/28, Calamur, 1.52M) noted that Obama "said he'd spoken to Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan on Monday about the steps they have taken to try to stop what the president called 'senseless violence and destruction.'" Running similar accounts of the President's comments this morning, among other news outlets, are the [AP](#) (4/29, Pickler), [AFP](#) (4/29), [Huffington Post](#) (4/28, Reilly, 194K), [New York Daily News](#) (4/29, Sandoval, 3.79M), [Washington Times](#) (4/29, Boyer, 641K), [Roll Call](#) (4/28, Dennis, 99K), [The Hill](#) (4/28, Fabian, 533K), [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/29, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.68M), [Reuters](#) (4/29), the [Blaze](#) (4/28, Morgenstern, 1.87M), and the [National Journal](#) (4/28, Kelly, Alvarez, Subscription Publication, 156K).

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/28, story 2, 3:30, Holt, 7.86M) interviewed Kweisi Mfume, who said of the looting, "Violence, burning, looting has absolutely nothing to do with the cry for justice, the investigation or to find out what caused this death." But tensions, he added, have "been simmering for 40, 50 years, since 1968." NBC Nightly News added, "African-American men [are] vanishing from daily life in places like west Baltimore because of premature deaths and soaring incarceration rates."

The [New York Times](#) (4/29, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) writes in an editorial that Obama "implied that the Baltimore Police Department had 'to do some soul-searching.'" Adds the Times, "Indeed it does: A well-documented history of extreme brutality and misconduct set the stage for just this kind of unrest." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/29, 5.03M) similarly describes Baltimore as a city "where police have earned notoriety for abusive, vicious and brutal community interactions," and "where homicide, drug crimes, teenage pregnancy, high school truancy, poverty and joblessness are endemic in some inner-city neighborhoods." As a result, "it's not hard to fathom how Baltimore has succumbed to rioting, or why other cities might do likewise." As Obama "aptly put it on Tuesday: 'This is not new.'"

The [New York Times](#) (4/29, Shane, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says Baltimore's "population – which peaked at nearly one million in the early 1950s – has sunk to about 622,000, a result of both white and black flight to the suburbs." That "drop slowed in recent years and now may be turning around, as several gentrifying neighborhoods draw young professionals," but "heroin and cocaine addiction, and the violence that accompanies the street drug trade, remain a scourge," while "the homicide rate...has stayed stubbornly high – at 34 per 100,000 people last year," or "about eight times New York City's."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/29, Subscription Publication, 5.68M), meanwhile, editorializes that the rioting came after 40 years of uninterrupted Democratic control of the city – which came along with what it casts as misguided liberal policies. The Journal goes on to contrast the deterioration of Baltimore and other cities with changes in New York City under Rudy Giuliani. Jason L. Riley, an author and a Manhattan Institute senior fellow, argues in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/29, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) that race issues are not the primary consideration in Baltimore, but rather what he sees as an ingrained culture of crime that has been allowed to grow unchecked.

In his "Talking Points Memo" segment on [Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor](#) (4/28, 767K), Bill O'Reilly similarly argued that "despite African-Americans controlling Baltimore, the city is not prospering. The facts then dictate that racial persecution really isn't the problem in Baltimore. Something else is in play. That something else is personal behavior." [Later](#) (4/28, 767K) in the segment, O'Reilly said that while it is "long past time for police agencies in America to have a no tolerance policy towards brutality on the part of officers," it is "also long past time for African-American communities across America to begin to police themselves. Criminal activity, drug use, child abandonment, disrespect, general chaos all on display every single day in many places. ... No government is going to stop that."

Earlier Tuesday, Earnest Called Policing Debate "Fundamentally A Local Issue." The [Washington Post](#) (4/29, Eilperin, Mufson, 5.03M) says the President's "outpouring contrasted with his silence Monday afternoon and evening as violence spread through Baltimore." In fact, "earlier that day press secretary Josh Earnest had called tension between police and communities across the country 'fundamentally a local issue' and not a problem the federal government could solve."

Trump On Twitter: "Our Great African American President" Had Little Impact On Baltimore "Thugs." [USA Today](#) (4/29, Durando, 5.01M) reports that on Twitter, Donald Trump "slammed...Obama" yesterday, writing, "Our great African American President hasn't exactly had a positive impact on the thugs who are...destroying Baltimore." [E! Entertainment](#) (4/28, Harrison, 5.57M) noted on its website that Trump also said, "President Obama, you have a big job to do. Go to Baltimore and bring both sides together. With proper leadership, it can be done! Do it."

OBAMA TOUTS TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AFTER MEETING WITH JAPANESE PM. With the media's attention firmly fixed on the situation in Baltimore, the President's comments on trade following his meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe were ignored by all three network newscasts and were not a significant subject of discussion on the cable news shows. Print and online outlets, meanwhile, note the remaining differences between the two nations on the TPP and the President's acknowledgment of a potentially difficult fight ahead on Capitol Hill. The President, says the [AP](#) (4/29, Kuhnhen),

also “acknowledged...the challenge he faces winning congressional support for” the deal, which “has become a cornerstone of his second term agenda.” Said Obama, “It’s never fun passing a trade bill in this town.” [Voice of America](#) (4/28, 63K) notes that the deal, “and a companion one with European nations, has drawn opposition in the US from labor unions and Democratic lawmakers,” while “business-oriented Republicans in Congress who often oppose Obama on a wide range of issues generally support the pending trade agreements.” The President said yesterday, “I’m confident we will end up getting the votes in Congress.”

In a post for [Foreign Policy](#) (4/28, 449K), however, David Francis writes that Obama and Abe “appear to remain far apart” on trade, as the two nations have yet “to close significant gaps to get the deal done by the end of Obama’s term,” or else “wait until the next US president takes office.” Mireya Solís, “a senior fellow and Japan expert at the Brookings Institute, said the remaining points of contention – rice and cars – would be the most difficult areas for diplomats to find agreement.” In fact, [The Hill](#) (4/28, Fabian, 533K) says the President “hinted that Japanese automobile trade barriers remain an issue.” Said Obama, “There are many Japanese cars in America. ... I want to see more American cars in Japan, as well.”

The [Washington Times](#) (4/29, Boyer, 641K) also refers to the two leaders “facing unresolved issues on free trade,” but in a separate [report](#) says that they “emerged from a meeting in the Oval Office expressing a commitment to work together on the” trade deal. Said Obama, “I know that the politics around trade can be hard in both our countries, but I know that Prime Minister Abe, like me, is deeply committed to getting this done. ... And I’m confident we will.”

The [National Journal](#) (4/28, Condon, Subscription Publication, 156K) reports that Obama “is likely to be smiling when Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe goes to Capitol Hill on Wednesday – something he definitely didn’t do one of the last times a foreign leader spoke before Congress.” The President “sees Abe’s visit – and his intervention with Congress – as coming at a key moment, even as the United States and Japan struggle to wrap up their parts in the negotiations.”

David Ignatius, in the [Washington Post](#) (4/29, 5.03M), says that “for both Abe and Obama, the pact will come with a severe short-term political cost.” For Abe, the deal “will require compromises from big power blocs that support the ruling Liberal Democratic Party,” and in the US “liberal Democrats are in open revolt against” Obama’s trade agenda.

Obama: TPP Good For US Workers “Regardless Of What China’s Doing.” A day after telling the [Wall Street Journal](#) that the treaty was necessary to curb China’s influence in the region, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (4/28, Keane, Dougherty, 161K) notes that Obama said yesterday that “the trade pact ‘is good for Americans and American workers regardless of what China’s doing,’” adding that it is “not simply a defensive agreement.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/29, Lee, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.68M), meanwhile, quotes Obama as saying, “We don’t think that a strong US-Japan alliance should be seen as a provocation. ... But I think we have to do it in a way that brings China and other countries into a common effort to maintain order and peace in the region.”

In fact, says the [New York Times](#) (4/29, Bradsher, Subscription Publication, 12.24M), China, “the main country worried about an American-led trade deal,” in recent times “has gone nearly silent.” While “two years ago, the prospect of the deal...evoked fears in China of commercial encirclement...the Chinese government has changed its view,” and “some of China’s leading trade policy intellectuals now say that they have few concerns about the agreement.” These analysts “also say that the pact could even help China, by making it easier for Beijing to pursue its own regional agreements.”

Business Roundtable To Launch Campaign Ad In Favor Of Trade Pact. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (4/28, Keane, Dougherty, 161K) reports that the Business Roundtable “said Tuesday it’s made a ‘six-figure’ purchase of advertising to run across the US, pressuring Congress to pass fast-track authority.”

Obama: US “Commitment To Japan’s Security Is Absolute.” Another strong Obama message reflected in today’s coverage is his assertion that “our treaty commitment to Japan’s security is absolute,” as [Reuters](#) (4/29, Spetalnick, Layne) notes. Obama had just charged that China has been “flexing its muscles” to further its South China Sea territorial claims. [AFP](#) (4/29) reports that the President hailed “the alliance” between US and Japan “as the ‘cornerstone of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region,’” and “the two countries vowed to counter new threats and increase military deterrence.” [McClatchy](#) (4/29, Clark, 32K) indicates that Obama also called Japan “one of the US’s ‘closest allies in the world.’”

The [Japan Times](#) (4/29, 6K), meanwhile, notes that Abe told reporters, “The Japan-US alliance, based on an unwavering bond, is essential to the peace and stability of the world.”

The [New York Times](#) (4/29, Davis, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) calls “Abe’s visit...an opportunity for Mr. Obama to spotlight his pivot toward Asia and strengthen military and economic ties between the United States and Japan at a time when both countries are concerned with the rising influence of China.” He and Abe “cemented new military guidelines that will allow Japan’s military” a more active role in the world, and “both...pointed to Mr. Abe’s state visit – the first by a Japanese prime minister in nine years – as a historical milestone that reflected the power of reconciliation decades after a painful era of hostility in a year that marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.”

Abe “Deeply Pained” About Comfort Women. [Politico](#) (4/28, Toosi, 1.11M) reports that during the news conference, Abe “was asked whether he’d be willing to apologize for Japan’s World War II practice of providing so-called ‘comfort women’ – who were by and large non-Japanese sex slaves – to Japanese soldiers.” The Prime Minister “sidestepped an apology,” and said instead, “I am deeply pained to think about the comfort women who experienced immeasurable pain and suffering as a result of victimization due to human trafficking. ... This is a feeling that I share equally with my predecessors.”

The [Washington Times](#) (4/29, Richardson, 641K) reports on Yong Soo Lee, age 85, who is among “the last of the surviving ‘comfort women’” and “a living testament to a disgraceful and contentious episode in Japanese history, one that Mr. Abe has been accused of trying to downplay.” Lee “plans to attend a rally outside the Capitol and then watch Mr. Abe’s speech” to Congress “from the gallery as the guest of Rep. Michael M. Honda, California Democrat, a Japanese-American and advocate for the comfort women.”

The [AP](#) (4/29, Har), meanwhile, reports that “hundreds of people who protested outside the Japanese Consulate in San Francisco are calling on...Abe to apologize for his country’s treatment of people from other Asian countries during World War II.” Abe “plans to travel to San Francisco and Silicon Valley on Thursday.”

Hundreds Invited To Abe’s Arrival Turned Away After Long Wait. [McClatchy](#) (4/29, Kumar, 32K) reports that “hundreds of people who were invited to the White House to watch the arrival ceremony Tuesday morning for the visit of...Abe” were “turned away at the gates after waiting in line for more than an hour on a cool morning.” McClatchy adds that “White House staffers did not provide a reason for closing the gates, though they did thank people for visiting the White House. (Of course, none of them had actually gotten into White House grounds).”

First Lady, Akie Abe Visit Virginia School. The [Washington Post](#) (4/29, C1, Shapiro, 5.03M) reports that the First Lady and “Akie Abe, the Japanese prime minister’s wife, visited a Virginia elementary school Tuesday and spoke to students “about the two countries’ diplomatic ties, a mutual appreciation for organic food and even sake.” Mrs. Obama told the students that “Japan is among the nation’s ‘best friends in the world,’ and that “while there may be some differences between our countries – maybe we speak different languages and eat different foods...we have so much in common.”

First Lady Wore Gown By Japanese-Born Designer To State Dinner. [Washington Post](#) (4/29, C1, Givhan, 5.03M) Style writer Robin Givhan says that the First Lady’s gown for Tuesday’s state dinner was “a beautiful example of fashion diplomacy.” The dress was designed by Tadashi Shoji, “who was born in Japan and came to the United States in the 1970s when he was headed to college.”

Japan Probing Possible Attempted Attack On US Army Camp. The [Washington Times](#) (4/29, Ernst, 641K) reports that authorities in Japan “are investigating a possible attempted rocket attack at the US Army’s Camp Zama in Japan early Tuesday morning.”

MEDIA ANALYSES: KENNEDY THE LIKELY SWING VOTE IN SCOTUS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE CASE. While the continuing unrest in Baltimore dominated the network news broadcasts, the networks spent a combined seven minutes and 10 seconds on Tuesday’s oral arguments before the Supreme Court on same-sex marriage. Print coverage this morning is also heavy. Almost universally, reports describe the justices as divided over the issue, and most reports cast Justice Anthony Kennedy as the pivotal vote in the case. Stories indicate that while he expressed reservations about changing the longstanding definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman, he appeared to be leaning toward supporting gay marriage. For example, the [New York Times](#) (4/29, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) says that Tuesday’s questions “suggested” that the justices “were divided along the usual lines...with Justice...Kennedy holding the controlling vote,” while the [Washington Post](#) (4/29, Barnes, Barbash, 5.03M) casts Kennedy “in a familiar role as the apparent decider.”

While Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (4/28, 1.53M) that the question of whether same-sex marriage is a right “hinges on Kennedy and what side of the bed he gets out of,” [Reuters](#) (4/29, Hurley) says the Justice appeared to be moving cautiously toward backing gay unions. However, both the [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/29, Savage, Phelps, 4.03M) and the [AP](#) (4/29, Sherman) say Kennedy “did not tip his hand.”

Jonathan Karl also reported on [ABC World News](#) (4/28, story 6, 2:00, Muir, 5.84M) that “all eyes are on” Kennedy, who at first “seemed skeptical about the Court changing the long-standing view that marriage is between a man and a woman,” but was “also critical of the opponents’ argument that marriage is primarily about having children,” and Pete Williams noted on [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/28, story 7, 2:55, Holt, 7.86M) that while Kennedy, who is “likely the deciding vote,” said that “the traditional definition has been around for millennia, he also said allowing gay couples to marry gives them respect,” adding that Kennedy’s comments indicated “there’s a bare 5-4 majority in favor of same-sex marriage.”

Steve Hayes said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (4/28, 1.53M) that while Kennedy “has been a strong supporter of gay rights on the court,” he “has also been a strong proponent of state autonomy. In a sense what we could be looking at is this fight between two of the things that Anthony Kennedy has been the most outspoken about in the past decade,” and [McClatchy](#) (4/29, Doyle, 32K) says that while Kennedy “hinted at sympathy for same-sex marriage,” he “underscored lingering uncertainties...when he cautioned that the definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman ‘has been with us for millennia, and it’s very difficult for the court to say, “Oh, well, we know better.”” Chief Justice John Roberts expressed similar concern, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (4/28, Drajem, McLaughlin, Stohr, 161K) reports. Noting that the “‘basic definition’ of marriage is between a man and woman,” Roberts said that although “acceptance of same-sex marriage has occurred relatively quickly, people feel ‘very differently’ about issues they have an opportunity to vote on rather than having a policy imposed by a court.” Addressing a lawyer for gay marriage advocates, Roberts said, “You’re seeking to change what the institution is. ... If you prevail here, there will be no more debate.”

[Politico](#) (4/28, Gerstein, 1.11M) says the arguments “left both sides with something...to worry about.” Fears of gay marriage backers “were stoked” by Kennedy, “who came out of the gate early with questions about the dangers of upending the long tradition of limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples,” while the “scare for opponents of gay marriage” came from Roberts, “who suggested the case might be resolved as a simple matter of sex discrimination – without even having to wade into the issue of

how laws that affect gays should be treated by the courts." [The Hill](#) (4/28, Wheeler, 533K) called Roberts and Kennedy "the most likely swing votes," adding that their "tough questions to lawyers for both sides" left "uncertainty about where they would ultimately land."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/29, Meckler, Kendall, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 5.68M) reports that while the plaintiffs, 16 gay and lesbian couples who have been forbidden by states to marry, contend that they have a constitutional right to the same unions as heterosexual couples and the states are violating that right, the states of Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee argue that the decision of whether to recognize same-sex unions should be left to state legislatures, and [McClatchy](#) (4/29, Doyle, 32K) says the "two fundamental questions" being addressed by the Court are "whether the Constitution's 14th Amendment, which guarantees due process and equal protection of the law, compels states to license same-sex marriages," and "whether the same constitutional protections require states to recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere."

A [New York Times](#) (4/29, Baker, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) analysis says the fact that for "thousands of years, in societies around the globe, marriage has meant" a union between a man and a woman "weighed heavily" on the justices during Tuesday's arguments, which "challenged the justices to decide whether they are ready or willing to overturn not just legal doctrine but also embedded traditions in the name of equal rights." The Times describes the issue as a "collision of ancient understandings and modern sensibilities" that has "put the court right in the middle of one of the most defining social issues confronting 21st-century America." However, A.B. Stoddard said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/28, 1.53M) that this is "not a question for this Court whether or not gay marriage is right or fair. It's a question of whether it's a constitutional right and whether they are going to overturn the rights of states to ban it. And that's a higher threshold than is it okay with you because you feel like it's the right thing to do," while the [Huffington Post](#) (4/28, Reilly, 194K) reported that the Court "seemed to be debating how – not if – same-sex marriage should become legal in every state in the country," adding that the justices "weighed whether now is the right time to force states to let same-sex couples marry." Jan Crawford noted on the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/28, story 7, 2:15, Pelley, 5.08M) that the Court "could take a more incremental step...and say if a state is only going to allow traditional marriage, it still must recognize same-sex marriages that are performed in other states, where it's legal."

The [Washington Times](#) (4/29, Wetzstein, 641K) says Kennedy and other justices "asked attorney Mary L. Bonauto, who argued for the gay couples, about why they should conclude that states had no rational basis to define marriage as it always has been defined," adding that it was "mostly the female justices, as well as Justice Stephen Breyer, who questioned the states' lawyer, John Bursch," with Justice Elena Kagan asking "how same-sex marriage would alter heterosexual marriage," Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg noting that "including gay couples in marriage 'is not taking away anything,'" and Justice Sonia Sotomayor questioning "why marriage doesn't bind gay parents to their children like it does with biological parents." Bursch stuck "to his argument that states and the people have the right, through the democratic process, to determine marriage laws, and the high court should not intervene."

Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said on [MSNBC's Now With Alex Wagner](#) (4/28, 213K) that gay marriage opponents were unable to answer the question of "what harm is done? What harm is done to that straight couple that's been married for ten or 20 years, when John and Joe or Jane and Jill next door get married," adding that they must "show what harm could possibly be caused by allowing gay marriage. Otherwise, there's no legitimate reason to discriminate against our fellow gay and lesbian citizens."

A number of editorial pages voice support for same-sex unions this morning. For example, an editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (4/29, 5.03M) says the "main lesson" from Tuesday's arguments is "how little remains of the argument against recognizing a right to same-sex marriage under the Constitution," while a [New York Times](#) (4/29, Subscription Publication, 12.24M) editorial cites an outburst during the arguments by a man in the gallery who shouted that "same-sex marriage violates the teachings of the Bible, and that its supporters will burn in hell," as a "bracing reminder" of "the depth of the discrimination that gays and lesbians continue to face across America," and "one of the major reasons the court needs to resolve, finally, the question it has been dodging for more than four decades: Is there a constitutional right to same-sex marriage?"

A [USA Today](#) (4/29, 5.01M) editorial also supports same-sex marriage, arguing that "the 14th Amendment safeguards individual rights by barring any state from making a law that denies citizens equal prote

Conversation Contents

Organ Mountain Statements

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Sent: Mon May 19 2014 11:34:02 GMT-0600 (MDT)
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To:
Subject: Organ Mountain Statements

Team: Steve Avila on Team OIEA is collecting any public statements on the Organ Mountains. If you receive any please send them his way.

Thanks! jb

John Blair

Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

W: 202-208-1923 | C: 202-412-3486 | john_blair@ios.doi.gov

"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon May 19 2014 13:44:18 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Organ Mountain Statements

Here's the release issued with statements from both Senators:

<http://www.heinrich.senate.gov/newsroom/statements-and-speeches/udall-heinrich-welcome-white-house-announcement-to-designate-organ-mountains-desert-peaks-a-national-monument>

On Mon, May 19, 2014 at 1:34 PM, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Team: Steve Avila on Team OIEA is collecting any public statements on the Organ Mountains. If you receive any please send them his way.

Thanks! jb

John Blair

Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

W: 202-208-1923 | C: 202-412-3486 | john_blair@ios.doi.gov

--

Jessica Kershaw
Press Secretary, U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
O: 202-208-6416
C: 202-669-0968

Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>

From: Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue May 20 2014 14:36:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)
John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Tim Fullerton <tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren Bogard <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: RE: Organ Mountain Statements

Team,

Please continue to send me statements as you receive them.

Thanks!

Steven

From: John Blair [mailto:john_blair@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 1:34 PM

To: Kate Kelly; Blake Androff; Jessica Kershaw; Emily Beyer; Tim Fullerton; Sarah Neimeyer; Stephenne Harding; Jeremy Bratt; Lauren Bogard; Tommy Beaudreau; Nicole Buffa; Ben Milakofsky; Francisco Carrillo (francisco_carillo@ios.doi.gov); Maria Najera; Steven Avila; Terri Johnson

Cc: Neil Kornze; Janet Lin; Cynthia Moses-Nedd

Subject: Organ Mountain Statements

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Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

W: 202-208-1923 | C: 202-412-3486 | john_blair@ios.doi.gov

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Apr 22 2015 09:43:06 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Organ Mountain Statements

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Blair** <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Mon, May 19, 2014 at 1:34 PM

Subject: Organ Mountain Statements

To: Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Tim Fullerton <tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren Bogard <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Ben Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, "Francisco Carrillo (francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov)" <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Janet Lin <jlhlin@blm.gov>, Cynthia Moses-Nedd <cnedd@blm.gov>

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Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

W: 202-208-1923 | C: 202-412-3486 | john_blair@ios.doi.gov

Conversation Contents

8:30 PM Deadline - Organ Mountains Event with President Obama & Secretary Jewell

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

From: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue May 20 2014 17:04:26 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:
Subject: 8:30 PM Deadline - Organ Mountains Event with President Obama & Secretary Jewell

Colleagues: we have learned that additional space is available for DOI staff to attend the event tomorrow where President Obama will sign the proclamation establishing the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. The doors for the event will open at 2:30 pm.

We will be taking additional staff on a first come, first served basis. If you have not been invited and you would like to attend, please email me back by 8:30 pm tonight. If you know of any other DOI team members who would like to be invited, please email me their names and email addresses too.

Again, this is first come, first served and the deadline to respond is 8:30 pm tonight. I apologize for the short turnaround.

After 8:30 pm I will send an email either confirming your participation or letting you know you are on a waiting list.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Many thanks! John Blair

John Blair

Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

W: 202-208-1923 | C: 202-412-3486 | john_blair@ios.doi.gov

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Apr 22 2015 09:42:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: 8:30 PM Deadline - Organ Mountains Event with President Obama & Secretary Jewell

for printing

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Blair** <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, May 20, 2014 at 7:04 PM
Subject: 8:30 PM Deadline - Organ Mountains Event with President Obama & Secretary Jewell
To:

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John Blair

Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

W: 202-208-1923 | C: 202-412-3486 | john_blair@ios.doi.gov

Conversation Contents

DRAFT: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks press release for Friday

"Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue May 20 2014 17:46:04 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <Nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Washburn <elizabeth_washburn@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Klein <Elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <Sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <Sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren Bogard <Lauren_Bogard@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <Francisco_Carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <Terri_Johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>, Steven Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>, Janet Lin <jhlin@blm.gov>, Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Craig S Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Laurie Sedlmayr <lsedlmay@blm.gov>, Hilary Tompkins <hilary.tompkins@sol.doi.gov>, Bret Birdsong <bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov>, Edward Boling <ted.boling@sol.doi.gov>, dailybriefingbinder OS <dailybriefingbinder@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: DRAFT: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks press release for Friday

Attached and copied below is a draft press release that the Department will issue on Friday afternoon in conjunction with the Secretary's trip to the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

Please let me know if you have any suggested edits.

Thanks!

Best,

Blake

--

Blake Androff
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435



Date: May 23, 2014

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Jewell Joins Community to Celebrate Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Designation

President's Proclamation Honors Community's Vision to Protect, Promote Public Lands in Doña Ana County and to Boost Tourism, Outdoor Recreation Economy

LAS CRUCES, NM - Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today joined hundreds of community members to celebrate President Obama's designation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in south-central New Mexico. The President's action supports the locally driven effort to conserve, protect and enhance some of the public lands in Doña Ana County.

The celebration took place at the XXXX. Secretary Jewell was joined by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Neil Kornze, White House Council on Environmental Quality Acting Chair Mike Boots, U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, and local community and business leaders.

"Today is the culmination of a community-led effort to conserve, protect and promote these public lands, but it's the beginning of a new chapter for the businesses that will benefit from the tourism and recreation, and the wildlife that rely on this unique habitat," said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. "The Organ Mountains and surrounding Desert Peaks are steeped in culture, history, wildlife and opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors – from hunting to hiking to gazing at ancient petroglyphs and fossils – and the President's action ensures that these cherished landscapes are celebrated and passed on to the generations of New Mexicans and Americans to come."

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks will join other popular national monuments in the Land of Enchantment, including Aztec Ruins, Bandalier, Petroglyph, Rio Grande del Norte, White Sands and others. Following the President's designation of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in March 2013, the BLM reported a 40% increase in visitors to the area in less than one year. A recent independent study by BBC Research & Consulting estimates that the new national monument designation could generate \$7.4 million in new economic activity annually from new visitors and business opportunities.

“,” Udall said. “”

“,” said Heinrich. “.”

Jewell in January participated in a meeting with senior officials at the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Border Patrol to underscore Interior's continued commitment to cooperate in providing law enforcement and border security in the area. The proclamation supports the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding "Cooperative National Security and Counterterrorism Efforts on Federal Lands along the United States' Borders."

The proclamation also allows watershed restoration and small-scale flood prevention projects if they are consistent with the care and management of the monument's resources.

“,” BLM Director Neil Kornze said. “.”

The BLM currently manages all of the public lands within this new national monument for a range of multiple uses which will continue, including grazing, conservation of natural and archeological resources and outdoor recreation, such as hunting, hiking, biking, and camping. Statewide, BLM-New Mexico hosted 2.9 million visitors at 28 recreation sites in fiscal year 2013. Recreation on BLM-managed lands and waters in New Mexico supported more than 1,900 jobs and contributed more than \$172 million to the state's economy in fiscal year 2012.

The Organ Mountains provide a spectacular backdrop for the City of Las Cruces, with steep, angular rock outcroppings reminiscent of organ pipes rising to nearly 9,000 feet in elevation and extending for 20 miles, running generally north and south. This high-desert landscape within the Chihuahuan Desert contains a multitude of biological zones – mixed desert shrubs and grasslands in the lowlands ascending to piñon and juniper woodlands, and finally to ponderosa pines at the highest elevations.

The area is home to a high diversity of animal life, including deer, pronghorn antelope, mountain lions, peregrine falcons and other raptors as well as rare plants, some found nowhere else in the world, such as the Organ Mountains pincushion cactus. Hundreds of archeologically and culturally significant sites are found within the new monument, including some limited Paleo-Indian artifacts, extensive rock art sites and the ruins of a ten room pueblo, among other ancient dwellings. More recent history is memorialized with Geronimo's Cave, Billy the Kid's Outlaw Rock, and sites related to early Spanish explorers. The Organ and Doña Ana Mountains are popular recreation areas, with multiple hiking trails, a popular campground, and opportunities for hunting, mountain biking, rock climbing, and other recreation.

On the west side of Las Cruces, the Desert Peaks area contains mountain ranges and peaks of the Robledo Mountains and the Sierra de las Uvas. These landscapes contain mesas and buttes interspersed with deep canyons and arroyos. Significant cultural sites of the Mogollon, Mimbres, and Jornada cultures are located throughout this region along with historic sites associated with more recent settlements, including the Butterfield Overland Stagecoach Trail. This area is also home to the unusual Night-blooming Cereus, with a one-night-a-year bloom.

To the southwest of Las Cruces is the Potrillo Mountains Complex, characterized by cinder cones, volcanic craters, and basalt lava flows in the open desert landscape. There too is abundant wildlife, and significant scientific finds including an 11,000-year old skeleton of an extinct ground sloth. In more modern times, the Apollo astronauts

trained in a section of the Potrillos because of its resemblance to a moonscape. Today it serves as a popular destination for outdoor recreation.

The Bureau of Land Management's [National Conservation Lands](#) contain some of the West's most spectacular landscapes. They include more than 875 federally recognized areas comprising more than 27 million acres of National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and Conservation Lands of the California Desert.

Information about the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument can be found at www.blm.gov/nm/omdp

###

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Apr 22 2015 09:41:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: DRAFT: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks press release for Friday

for printing

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Androff, Blake** <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Tue, May 20, 2014 at 7:46 PM
Subject: DRAFT: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks press release for Friday
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <Nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Washburn <elizabeth_washburn@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Klein <Elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <Sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <Sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren Bogard <Lauren_Bogard@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <Francisco_Carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <Terri_Johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>, Steven Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>, Janet Lin <jhlin@blm.gov>, Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Craig S Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Laurie Sedlmayr <lsedlmay@blm.gov>, Hilary Tompkins <hilary.tompkins@sol.doi.gov>, Bret Birdsong <bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov>, Edward Boling <ted.boling@sol.doi.gov>, dailybriefingbinder OS <dailybriefingbinder@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Katherine Kelly <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica L Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <Emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Tim Fullerton <tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby

<Frank_Quimby@ios.doi.gov>

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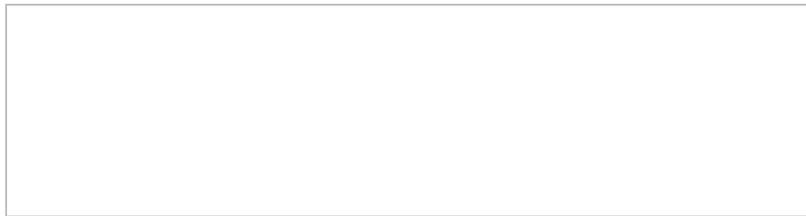
Best,

Blake

--

Blake Androff

Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435



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Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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Conversation Contents

Organ Mountain National Monument Cookies & Haiku

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

From: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed May 21 2014 07:36:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Tim Fullerton <tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren Bogard <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>, Carlos Uriarte <carlos_uriarte@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov>, Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Marquez <laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Ben Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Liz Klein <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Barrows <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>, "Francisco Carrillo (francisco_carillo@ios.doi.gov)" <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Valerie Smith <valerie_v_smith@ios.doi.gov>, Vicki Dixon <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Organ Mountain National Monument Cookies & Haiku

Cookies on the table in my office. Help yourselves. First come, first served.

And a Haiku in celebration:

Organ Mountains Pride

Pres. Obama Signs Today

Tarantula NO!

Big day today. Thanks to everyone for the support and good luck!!!

John Blair

Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

W: 202-208-1923 | C: 202-412-3486 | john_blair@ios.doi.gov

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed May 21 2014 09:53:38 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Organ Mountain National Monument Cookies & Haiku

Thank you so much, John and team. You guys have worked so hard and have done a tremendous job. Today will be spectacular in every way. Thank you!

On May 21, 2014, at 9:36 AM, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Cookies on the table in my office. Help yourselves. First come, first served.

And a Haiku in celebration:

Organ Mountains Pride

Pres. Obama Signs Today

Tarantula NO!

Big day today. Thanks to everyone for the support and good luck!!!

John Blair

Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

W: 202-208-1923 | C: 202-412-3486 | john_blair@ios.doi.gov

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Sent: Wed Apr 22 2015 09:41:07 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Organ Mountain National Monument Cookies & Haiku

For printing

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From: **John Blair** <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Wed, May 21, 2014 at 9:36 AM

Subject: Organ Mountain National Monument Cookies & Haiku

To: Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Tim Fullerton <tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren Bogard <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>, Carlos Uriarte <carlos_uriarte@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_ossowski@ios.doi.gov>, Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>, Laura Marquez <laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Ben Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Liz Klein <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <katherine_rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Walls <erin_walls@ios.doi.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Erin Barrows <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>, "Francisco Carrillo" <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Valerie Smith <valerie_v_smith@ios.doi.gov>, Vicki Dixon <vicki_dixon@ios.doi.gov>

Cookies on the table in my office. Help yourselves. First come, first served.

And a Haiku in celebration:

Organ Mountains Pride

Pres. Obama Signs Today

Tarantula NO!

Big day today. Thanks to everyone for the support and good luck!!!

John Blair

Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

Conversation Contents

Fwd: President Obama Designates Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

Laura Marquez <laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov>

From: Laura Marquez <laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed May 21 2014 14:45:03 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: DOI Politicals List <doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: President Obama Designates Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

Begin forwarded message:

From: White House Press Office <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>
Date: May 21, 2014 at 4:26:35 PM EDT
To: <laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: **President Obama Designates Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument**
Reply-To: <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2014

President Obama Designates Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

WASHINGTON, DC — As part of his commitment to make 2014 a year of action using his pen and phone, President Obama will sign a proclamation today to establish the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in south-central New Mexico, an action that, according to independent analysis, could generate \$7.4 million in new economic activity each year. Using his authorities under the Antiquities Act, the President's action will permanently preserve approximately 496,000 acres to ensure that the prehistoric, historic, and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans while preserving access for sportsmen, ranchers, and recreational users. The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument joins the ten other national monuments President Obama has designated across the country to permanently protect sites that are significant to our nation's rich history and natural heritage.

“Whether they’re hiking or camping or fishing, visitors to our parks and public lands are not only enjoying the bounty of our natural resources, but also promoting jobs and growth. And continuing to set aside federal land for outdoor recreation will drive critical revenue for those local communities, and preserve our pristine land for generations to come,” said **President Obama**.

“Today is the culmination of a community-led effort to preserve, protect and promote these public lands, but it’s the beginning of a new chapter for the businesses that will benefit from the tourism and recreation, and the wildlife that rely on this unique habitat,” said **Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell**. “The Organ Mountains and surrounding Desert Peaks are steeped in culture, history, wildlife and opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors – from hunting to hiking to gazing at ancient petroglyphs and fossils – and the President’s action ensures that these cherished landscapes are celebrated and passed on to the generations of New Mexicans and Americans to come.”

The President’s proclamation honors years of work by the local community and businesses seeking increased protection and recognition for the area. Senators Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall have championed legislation to protect and preserve the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region. Conservation groups and sportsmen’s organizations, local tribal governments, veterans and ranchers, faith leaders and Latino leaders, historic preservationists, the nearby cities of Las Cruces and El Paso, and over two hundred local businesses have also expressed support for permanent protection.

The area is home to a high diversity of animal life, including deer, pronghorn antelope, mountain lions, peregrine falcons and other raptors as well as rare plants, some found nowhere else in the world, such as the Organ Mountains pincushion cactus. Hundreds of archeologically and culturally significant sites are found within the new monument, including some limited Paleo-Indian artifacts, extensive rock art sites and the ruins of a ten room pueblo, among other ancient dwellings. More recent history is memorialized with Geronimo’s Cave, Billy the Kid’s Outlaw Rock, and sites related to early Spanish explorers. The Organ and Doña Ana Mountains are popular recreation areas, with multiple hiking trails, a popular campground, and opportunities for hunting, mountain biking, rock climbing, and other recreation.

Today’s action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the past five years as part of the America’s Great Outdoors initiative, which fosters a 21st century approach to conservation that responds to the priorities of the American people. When he signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, President Obama marked the most extensive expansion of land and water conservation in more than a generation, designating more than 2 million acres of federal wilderness, thousands of miles of trails, and protecting more than 1,000 miles of rivers.

Wilderness, parks, forests, monuments, and other public lands help support local economies through tourism. Recent estimates also show that over \$50 billion were added to the economy from visits to public lands in 2012 alone. In fact, a recent study says that this national monument could double the number of visitors to the region and help grow the local economy by more than 70%. Protected public lands also attract businesses interested in relocating to areas with beautiful scenery, outdoor opportunities, and a high quality of life. These businesses can bring high paying jobs, which helps explain why, on average, western non-metro counties’ per capita income increases when there is more protected public land in the area. The outdoor recreation industry supports 6.1 million jobs nationwide.

First exercised by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming, the authority of the Antiquities Act has been used by 16 presidents since 1906 to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

The monument will continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management as part of the system of National Conservation Lands. The Bureau of Land Management currently manages the federal land within the national monument for multiple uses, including conservation of natural and archeological resources and outdoor recreation, such as hiking, biking, camping and hunting. Recreation on BLM-managed lands and waters in New Mexico supported more than 1,900 jobs and contributed more than \$170 million to the state's economy in fiscal year 2012.

###

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"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Apr 22 2015 09:40:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: President Obama Designates Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

For printing

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Marquez** <laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wed, May 21, 2014 at 4:45 PM
Subject: Fwd: President Obama Designates Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument
To: DOI Politicals List <doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov>

Begin forwarded message:

From: White House Press Office <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>
Date: May 21, 2014 at 4:26:35 PM EDT
To: <laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: **President Obama Designates Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument**
Reply-To: <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2014

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“Whether they're hiking or camping or fishing, visitors to our parks and public lands are not only enjoying the bounty of our natural resources, but also promoting jobs and growth. And continuing to set aside federal land for outdoor recreation will drive critical revenue for those local communities, and preserve our pristine land for generations to come,” said **President Obama**.

“Today is the culmination of a community-led effort to preserve, protect and promote these public lands, but it's the beginning of a new chapter for the businesses that will benefit from the tourism and recreation, and the wildlife that rely on this unique habitat,” said **Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell**. “The Organ Mountains and surrounding Desert Peaks are steeped in culture, history, wildlife and opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors – from hunting to hiking to gazing at ancient petroglyphs and fossils – and the President's action ensures that these cherished landscapes are celebrated and passed on to the generations of New Mexicans and Americans to come.”

The President's proclamation honors years of work by the local community and businesses seeking increased protection and recognition for the area. Senators Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall have championed legislation to protect and preserve the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region. Conservation groups and sportsmen's organizations, local tribal governments, veterans and ranchers, faith leaders and Latino leaders, historic preservationists, the nearby cities of Las Cruces and El Paso, and over two hundred local businesses have also expressed support for permanent protection.

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Conversation Contents

FW: Remarks by the President Designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

Laura Marquez <laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov>

From: Laura Marquez <laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed May 21 2014 15:48:09 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: DOI Politicals List <doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: FW: Remarks by the President Designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

From: White House Press Office [mailto:noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2014 5:05 PM
To: laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Remarks by the President Designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 21, 2014

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

DESIGNATING THE ORGAN MOUNTAINS-DESERT PEAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C.

4:25 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. (Applause.) Everybody, please have a seat. Thank you so much. Thank you. Well, good afternoon, everybody. As somebody who lives in the neighborhood, I thought I might just drop by and see what all the fuss is about. (Laughter.) I want to thank Sally for hosting me here today.

And I am thrilled to be with all of you because of your work -- not to mention some of the art on the walls reminds me that one of the great

blessings of being an American is that we are blessed with some of the most beautiful landscapes and real estate on Earth. I think about the awe that I felt as a little boy the first time I saw the Grand Canyon. I think about the pride that I felt when I took my daughters to see Yellowstone. I think about the memories of what it's like to go on a hike without a security detail behind me. (Laughter.) It's a wistful feeling. (Laughter.)

But most of all, I think about our obligation to be good stewards to the next generation -- to make sure that our children's children get the same chance to experience all of these natural wonders. So today, I'm here to announce that I am using my executive authority to protect more of our pristine landscapes by designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region a National Monument. (Applause.) I am grateful for the incredible partnership of so many residents of this region -- including ranchers and tribal leaders and hunters -- and many of you here today, especially Senators Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall and former Senator Jeff Bingaman, who were instrumental in helping preserve this treasured landscape. (Applause.)

Anyone who's ever seen the Organ Mountains that overlook Las Cruces, New Mexico will tell you that they are a spectacular sight. Secretary Jewell told me as much after her visit there. You got massive rocks that jut up 9,000 feet in the air and stretch for 20 miles, like the organ pipes of a giant. And they're home to many of God's smaller creatures, as well -- deer and antelope roam; falcons, mountain lions. There are even plant species that don't grow anywhere else in the world.

But it's not just the natural beauty of this region that makes it invaluable to future generations. Its caves and peaks and cliffs bear the marks of millennia of history. From the rock art of some of the first Native peoples living on the land to the trail traveled by some of the first overland mail carriers. Some of the most notorious adventures of the Wild West were written in the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks region.

More than 130 years ago, Billy the Kid took cover in the Robledo Mountains and literally left his mark -- inscribing his name into what we now know as "Outlaw Rock." You can see it today, and I want to make sure that future generations can see it as well. Legend has it that Apache chief Geronimo hid in these same mountains and staged a miraculous escape from what is now called "Geronimo's Cave."

Every year, tens of thousands of Americans visit the region to discover what still remains of these landmarks, and to explore what lies along its beautiful trails. Families go on vacation. Tribes return to uphold rich traditions. Archeologists dig for ancient artifacts. Scientists study a thriving environment. And all of it supports the local economy and jobs in the region.

So, we're not just preserving history. Outdoor recreation at parks and forests and other public lands brings in tourism dollars -- attracting new businesses and encouraging spending at lodgings and food establishments and, of course, park souvenirs. One recent study says that the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks designation alone could double the number of visitors to the area and help grow the local economy by more than 70 percent.

It's impossible to put a price on towering peaks and pristine forests and America's cultural history, but we know that our national parks have an economic impact that extends beyond their boundaries. In 2012, hundreds of millions of recreational visits to public lands and waters generated over \$50 billion for local communities, and supported nearly 900,000 jobs. So whether they're hiking or camping or fishing, visitors to our parks and public lands are not only enjoying the bounty of our natural resources, but also they're promoting jobs and they're promoting growth. And continuing to set aside federal land for outdoor recreation will drive critical revenue for those local communities, and preserve our pristine lands for generations to come.

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument is the second national monument I've designated this year, the 11th overall. I've preserved more than 3 million acres of public lands for future generations. And I am not finished. (Applause.)

As I said in my State of the Union address, I'm searching for more opportunities to preserve federal lands where communities are speaking up. Because wherever I see an opening to get things done for the American people, I'm going to take it. I've said before: I want to work with anyone in Congress who is ready to get to work and shares those goals, but recently they haven't gotten the job done.

Congress is sitting on dozens of bills that would help protect our precious land and wildlife. And by one count, there's a set of 10 land conservation bills that have been introduced a combined 52 times over the past 30 years, and they are still stuck. So I'm here to pick up a little bit of the slack. (Laughter and applause.) Because there is no time to waste to preserve our precious resources and give a shot in the arm to local economies, like Las Cruces.

So I want to thank everybody, again, not just here on stage but all of those at the Department of the Interior who worked so hard on this project. And I want to thank all the public servants around the country for everything that you do to guide Americans through God-given wonders, and keep our national landscapes pristine -- not only today, but for many years to come.

Thanks, everybody. And now I'm going to sign this proclamation.

(Proclamation is signed.)

END

4:35 P.M. EDT

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The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington DC 20500 202-456-1111

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Apr 22 2015 09:40:31 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FW: Remarks by the President Designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

For printing

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Laura Marquez** <laura_marquez@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Wed, May 21, 2014 at 5:48 PM
Subject: FW: Remarks by the President Designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument
To: DOI Politicals List <doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov>

From: White House Press Office [mailto:noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov]
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END

4:35 P.M. EDT

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Conversation Contents

Fwd: FW: Organ Mts DHS - CBP quote

/408. Fwd: FW: Organ Mts DHS - CBP quote/2.1 MOU-2006.pdf

"Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu May 22 2014 07:58:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Martin, Kenneth (Indian Affairs)" <Kenneth_Martin@indian.senate.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren Bogard <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FW: Organ Mts DHS - CBP quote

Here is a little bit to start. There is also a 2007 MOU I can send you which manages the boarder and doesn't change anything on how we manage boarder security.

DHS says Organ Mountains designation won't impede border security

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, May 21, 2014

President Obama's plan to designate a 500,000-acre national monument in southern New Mexico today will not impede the government's ability to secure the Mexican border, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The CBP statement refutes claims by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) and a local New Mexican sheriff that the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument would restrict land access and impede the U.S. Border Patrol from cracking down on illegal drug and human trafficking.

"This designation will in no way limit our ability to perform our important border security mission, and in fact provides important flexibility as we work to meet this ongoing priority," CBP spokeswoman Jenny Burke said in an email. "CBP is committed to continuing to work closely with the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service to maintain border security while ensuring the protection of the environment along the border."

Obama's plans and previous legislative proposals to protect five mountain ranges above the Chihuahan Desert grasslands surrounding Las Cruces have sparked debate for years over whether they would slow officers' pursuit of illegal drug smugglers.

Bishop, the chairman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, sent a [letter](#) to Obama this week saying it would be "irresponsible" to designate a monument before finding solutions to "existing criminal activities plaguing the border."

"Restrictive environmental laws within these federal corridors limit Border Patrol access and, as a result, make it easier for drug smugglers and human traffickers to move their drugs and people in and out of the United States unnoticed," he said.

In addition, Doña Ana County Sheriff Todd Garrison was quoted this week in the Las Cruces *Sun-News* warning that the designation would shut down access for his deputies, allowing border crossers to treat the land as they wish.

"The lands they're trying to promote will be torn up and misused by people that don't give a flip about them anyway," Garrison said.

In reality, the monument's specific boundaries and management prescriptions will not be known until later this afternoon when Obama signs the proclamation. The White House has said the monument will be based on [S. 1805](#) by New Mexico Democratic Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich.

That bill would tighten motorized restrictions in the monument area by also designating 240,000 acres of wilderness. But it also would drop wilderness protections from within 5 miles of the border and keep a major east-west route through the wilderness open to law enforcement officials.

CBP backed the bill in a [letter](#) to Heinrich last January, stating it would "significantly enhance the flexibility" of Border Patrol by specifying that agents would have unfettered access in a 5-mile border zone currently protected as a wilderness study area.

While the Obama monument will be modeled after the bill, presidents can neither declare wilderness nor release wilderness study areas from the roadless protection they were granted by Congress. Both would require passage of the Udall-Heinrich bill.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in January met with senior officials at the Bureau of Land Management and Border Patrol in southern New Mexico to pledge her cooperation in policing the area, according to an Interior Department official.

Today's proclamation will also allow watershed restoration and small-scale flood prevention projects that support the monument's purpose, activities that may not have been possible in wilderness areas.

Monument supporters said the president is mindful of the security threat.

"The current wild character of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks has led to extremely low rates of illegal border crossing activity," said Garrett Reppenhagen, regional coordinator for Vet Voice Foundation, a Portland, Ore.-based nonprofit that advocates for veterans on issues including clean energy and the protection of public lands.

Peter Ossorio, a Las Cruces resident and retired Army intelligence officer who prosecuted drug smugglers in southern New Mexico as an assistant U.S. attorney, said current Border Patrol measures make the area "nearly impenetrable."

Organ Mountains will be more than twice as big as Obama's largest designation to date, the 243,000-acre Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in northern New Mexico ([E&ENews PM](#), May 19).

The move comes months after Obama pledged in his State of the Union address to use executive powers to set aside public lands that Congress fails to protect.

The move is backed strongly by conservation, sportsmen's, tribal, county and national security leaders, as well as local businesses that cite an independent report that found the designation would contribute about \$7.4 million to the local economy each year.

It is opposed by Bishop and Rep. Steven Pearce (R-N.M.), who represents the area. Both say Obama is abusing the Antiquities Act and circumventing Congress.

Some ranchers also worry that the monument will lead to new land restrictions, though administration officials insist that will not be the case.

--

Stephene Harding
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior

Stephene_Harding@ios.doi.gov

202-208-6174 (desk)

202-341-8080 (cell)

"Bogard, Lauren" <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bogard, Lauren" <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu May 22 2014 08:09:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Harding, Stephenne" <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: Organ Mts DHS - CBP quote
Attachments: MOU-2006.pdf

Here is a copy of the 2006 MOU between DHS/CBP, DOI and USDA (attached).

Lauren Bogard
Special Assistant
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: (202) 208-5954

On Thu, May 22, 2014 at 9:58 AM, Harding, Stephenne <stephene_harding@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Here is a little bit to start. There is also a 2007 MOU I can send you which manages the boarder and doesn't change anything on how we manage boarder security.

DHS says Organ Mountains designation won't impede border security

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, May 21, 2014

President Obama's plan to designate a 500,000-acre national monument in southern New Mexico today will not impede the government's ability to secure the Mexican border, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The CBP statement refutes claims by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) and a local New Mexican sheriff that the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument would restrict land access and impede the U.S. Border Patrol from cracking down on illegal drug and human trafficking.

"This designation will in no way limit our ability to perform our important border security mission, and in fact provides important flexibility as we work to meet this ongoing priority," CBP spokeswoman Jenny Burke said in an email. "CBP is committed to continuing to work closely with the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service to maintain border security while ensuring the protection of the environment along the border."

Obama's plans and previous legislative proposals to protect five mountain ranges above the Chihuahan Desert grasslands surrounding Las Cruces have sparked debate for years over whether they would slow officers' pursuit of illegal drug smugglers.

Bishop, the chairman of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation, sent a [letter](#) to Obama this week saying it would be "irresponsible" to designate a monument before finding solutions to "existing criminal activities plaguing the border."

"Restrictive environmental laws within these federal corridors limit Border Patrol access and, as a result, make it easier for drug smugglers and human traffickers to move their drugs and people in and out of the United States unnoticed," he said.

In addition, Doña Ana County Sheriff Todd Garrison was quoted this week in the Las Cruces *Sun-News* warning that the designation would shut down access for his deputies, allowing border crossers to treat the land as they wish.

"The lands they're trying to promote will be torn up and misused by people that don't give a flip about them anyway," Garrison said.

In reality, the monument's specific boundaries and management prescriptions will not be known until later this afternoon when Obama signs the proclamation. The White House has said the monument will be based on [S. 1805](#) by New Mexico Democratic Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich.

That bill would tighten motorized restrictions in the monument area by also designating 240,000 acres of wilderness. But it also would drop wilderness protections from within 5 miles of the border and keep a major east-west route through the wilderness open to law enforcement officials.

CBP backed the bill in a [letter](#) to Heinrich last January, stating it would "significantly enhance the flexibility" of Border Patrol by specifying that agents would have unfettered access in a 5-mile border zone currently protected as a wilderness study area.

While the Obama monument will be modeled after the bill, presidents can neither declare wilderness nor release wilderness study areas from the roadless protection they were granted by Congress. Both would require passage of the Udall-Heinrich bill.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in January met with senior officials at the Bureau of Land Management and Border Patrol in southern New Mexico to pledge her cooperation in policing the area, according to an Interior Department official.

Today's proclamation will also allow watershed restoration and small-scale flood prevention projects that support the monument's purpose, activities that may not have been possible in wilderness areas.

Monument supporters said the president is mindful of the security threat.

"The current wild character of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks has led to extremely low rates of illegal border crossing activity," said Garrett Reppenhagen, regional coordinator for Vet Voice Foundation, a Portland, Ore.-based nonprofit that advocates for veterans on issues including clean energy and the protection of public lands.

Peter Ossorio, a Las Cruces resident and retired Army intelligence officer who prosecuted drug smugglers in southern New Mexico as an assistant U.S. attorney, said current Border Patrol measures make the area "nearly impenetrable."

Organ Mountains will be more than twice as big as Obama's largest designation to date, the 243,000-acre Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in northern New Mexico ([E&ENews PM](#), May 19).

The move comes months after Obama pledged in his State of the Union address to use executive powers to set aside public lands that Congress fails to protect.

The move is backed strongly by conservation, sportsmen's, tribal, county and national security leaders, as well as local businesses that cite an independent report that found the designation would contribute about \$7.4 million to the local economy each year.

It is opposed by Bishop and Rep. Steven Pearce (R-N.M.), who represents the area. Both say Obama is abusing the Antiquities Act and circumventing Congress.

Some ranchers also worry that the monument will lead to new land restrictions, though administration officials insist that will not be the case.

--

Stephenne Harding
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Stephenne_Harding@ios.doi.gov
202-208-6174 (desk)
202-341-8080 (cell)

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Apr 22 2015 09:40:19 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: FW: Organ Mts DHS - CBP quote

For printing

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Harding, Stephenne** <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, May 22, 2014 at 9:58 AM
Subject: Fwd: FW: Organ Mts DHS - CBP quote
To: "Martin, Kenneth (Indian Affairs)" <Kenneth_Martin@indian.senate.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren Bogard <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>

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Stephene Harding
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Stephene_Harding@ios.doi.gov
202-208-6174 (desk)
202-341-8080 (cell)

**Memorandum of Understanding
Among
U. S. Department of Homeland Security
and
U. S. Department of the Interior
and
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Regarding
Cooperative National Security and Counterterrorism
Efforts on Federal Lands along the United States' Borders**

I. Purpose and Scope

A. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including and on behalf of its constituent bureau U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the CBP Office of Border Patrol (CBP-BP); the Department of the Interior (DOI), including and on behalf of its constituent bureaus, the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR); and the Department of Agriculture (USDA), including and on behalf of its constituent agency the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Throughout this MOU, these three Departments, including their constituent agencies, may be referred to as "the Parties." Any reference to a bureau, agency, or constituent component of a Party shall not be deemed to exclude application to any appropriate bureau or constituent component of that Party. DHS recognizes that the BIA enters into this agreement only on its own behalf and not on behalf of any Indian tribe.

B. The geographic and jurisdictional scope of this MOU is nationwide. The Parties recognize the national security and counterterrorism significance of preventing illegal entry into the United States by cross-border violators (CBVs), including but not limited to the following: drug and human smugglers and smuggling organizations, foreign nationals, and terrorists and terrorist organizations. The Parties further recognize that damage to DOI and USDA-managed lands and natural and cultural resources is often a significant consequence of such illegal entry. The Parties are committed to preventing illegal entry into the United States, protecting Federal lands and natural and cultural resources, and - where possible - preventing adverse impacts associated with illegal entry by CBVs.

C. This MOU is intended to provide consistent goals, principles, and guidance related to border security, such as law enforcement operations; tactical infrastructure installation; utilization of roads; minimization and/or prevention of significant impact on or impairment of natural and cultural resources; implementation of the Wilderness Act, Endangered Species Act, and other related environmental law, regulation, and policy across land management agencies; and provide for coordination and sharing information

on threat assessments and other risks, plans for infrastructure and technology improvements on Federal lands, and operational and law enforcement staffing changes. This MOU provides guidance in the development of individual agreements, where appropriate, between CBP and land management agencies to further the provisions contained herein.

D. This MOU is entered into pursuant to the governing statutory authorities of each of the Parties.

E. The Parties acknowledge that CBP operation and construction within the sixty-foot "Roosevelt Reservation" of May 27, 1907 (along the US-Mexico border) and the sixty-foot "Taft Reservation" of May 3, 1912 (along the US-Canada border) is consistent with the purpose of those reservations and that any CBP activity (including, but not limited to, operations and construction) within the sixty-foot reservations is outside the oversight or control of Federal land managers.

F. This MOU supersedes any conflicting provision of any prior MOU or Memorandum of Agreement between the Parties or their subordinate bureaus or components.

II. Background

A. DHS, through its constituent bureaus (including CBP and its CBP-BP), is statutorily mandated to control and guard the Nation's borders and boundaries, including the entirety of the northern and southern land and water borders of the United States.

B. DOI and USDA, through their constituent bureaus, are statutorily charged as managers of Federal lands throughout the United States, including DOI and USDA lands in the vicinity of international borders that are administered as wilderness areas, conservation areas, national forests, wildlife refuges, units/irrigation projects of the Bureau of Reclamation, and/or units of the national park system. Tribal governments have primary management roles over tribal lands; however, the United States, through the BIA, may also have a stewardship or law enforcement responsibility over these lands. Many of these Federal and tribal lands contain natural and cultural resources that are being degraded by activities related to illegal cross-border movements.

C. The volume of CBVs can and has, in certain areas, overwhelmed the law enforcement and administrative resources of Federal land managers. In order to more effectively protect national security, respond to terrorist threats, safeguard human life, and stop the degradation of the natural and cultural resources on those lands, DOI and USDA land managers will work cooperatively with CBP to benefit from the enforcement presence, terrorist and CBV interdiction, and rescue operations of CBP.

III. Common Findings and Affirmation of the Parties

A. The Parties to this MOU recognize that CBP-BP access to Federal lands can facilitate rescue of CBVs on Federal lands, protect those lands from environmental damage, have a role in protecting the wilderness and cultural values and wildlife resources of these lands, and is necessary for the security of the United States. Accordingly, the Parties understand that CBP-BP, consistent with applicable Federal laws and regulations, may access public lands and waterways, including access for purposes of tracking, surveillance, interdiction, establishment of observation points, and installation of remote detection systems.

B. The Parties recognize that DOI and USDA have responsibility for enforcing Federal laws relating to land management, resource protection, and other such functions on Federal lands under their jurisdiction.

IV. Responsibilities and Terms of Agreement

A. The Parties Agree to the Following Common Goals, Policies, and Principles:

1. The Parties enter into this MOU in a cooperative spirit with the goals of securing the borders of the United States, addressing emergencies involving human health and safety, and preventing or minimizing environmental damage arising from CBV illegal entry on public lands;
2. The Parties will strive to both resolve conflicts at and delegate resolution authority to the lowest field operational level possible while applying the principles of this MOU in such manner as will be consistent with the spirit and intent of this MOU;
3. The Parties will develop and consistently utilize an efficient communication protocol respecting the chain of command for each of the Parties that will result in the consistent application of the goals, policies, and principles articulated in this MOU, and provide a mechanism that will, if necessary, facilitate the resolution of any conflicts among the Parties. If resolution of conflict does not occur at the local level, then the issue will be elevated first to the regional/sector office; if not resolved at the regional/sector level, then the issue will be elevated to the headquarters level for resolution;
4. The Parties will cooperate with each other to complete, in an expedited manner, all compliance that is required by applicable Federal laws not otherwise waived in furtherance of this MOU. If such activities are authorized by a local agreement as described in sub-article IV.B below, then the DOI, USDA, and CBP will complete the required compliance before executing the agreement;

5. The Parties will cooperate with each other to identify methods, routes, and locations for CBP-BP operations that will minimize impacts to natural, cultural, and wilderness resources resulting from CBP-BP operations while facilitating needed CBP-BP access;
6. The Parties will, as necessary, plan and conduct joint local law enforcement operations consistent with all Parties' legal authorities;
7. The Parties will establish a framework by which threat assessments and other intelligence information may be exchanged, including intelligence training to be conducted by all parties so that the intelligence requirements of each may be identified and facilitated;
8. The Parties will establish forums and meet as needed at the local, regional, and national levels to facilitate working relationships and communication between all Parties;
9. The Parties will develop and share joint operational strategies at the local, regional, and national levels, including joint requests for infrastructure and other shared areas of responsibility;
10. The Parties will share the cost of environmental and cultural awareness training unless otherwise agreed; and
11. The Parties will, as appropriate, enter into specific reimbursable agreements pursuant to the Economy Act, 31 U.S.C. §1535 when one party is to furnish materials or perform work or provide a service on behalf of another party.

B. Responsibilities and Terms Specific to DOI and USDA. The DOI and the USDA hereby recognize that, pursuant to applicable law, CBP-BP is authorized to access the Federal lands under DOI and USDA administrative jurisdiction, including areas designated by Congress as wilderness, recommended as wilderness, and/or wilderness study areas, and will do so in accordance with the following conditions and existing authorities:

1. CBP-BP agents on foot or on horseback may patrol, or pursue, or apprehend suspected CBVs off-road at any time on any Federal lands administered by the Parties;
2. CBP-BP may operate motor vehicles on existing public and administrative roads and/or trails and in areas previously designated by the land management agency for off-road vehicle use at any time, provided that such use is consistent with presently authorized public or administrative use. At CBP-BP's request, the DOI and the USDA will provide CBP-BP with keys, combinations, or other means necessary to

access secured administrative roads/trails. CBP-BP may drag existing public and administrative roads that are unpaved for the purpose of cutting sign, subject to compliance with conditions that are mutually agreed upon by the local Federal land manager and the CBP-BP Sector Chief. For purposes of this MOU, "existing public roads/trails" are those existing roads/trails, paved or unpaved, on which the land management agency allows members of the general public to operate motor vehicles, and "existing administrative roads/trails" are those existing roads/trails, paved or unpaved, on which the land management agency allows persons specially authorized by the agency, but not members of the general public, to operate motor vehicles;

3. CBP-BP may request, in writing, that the land management agency grant additional access to Federal lands (for example, to areas not previously designated by the land management agency for off-road use) administered by the DOI or the USDA for such purposes as routine patrols, non-emergency operational access, and establishment of temporary camps or other operational activities. The request will describe the specific lands and/or routes that the CBP-BP wishes to access and the specific means of access desired. After receiving a written request, the local Federal land manager will meet promptly with the CBP-BP Sector Chief to begin discussing the request and negotiating the terms and conditions of an agreement with the local land management agency that authorizes access to the extent permitted by the laws applicable to the particular Federal lands. In each agreement between CBP-BP and the local land management agency, the CBP-BP should be required to use the lowest impact mode of travel and operational setup reasonable and practicable to accomplish its mission. The CBP-BP should also be required to operate all motorized vehicles and temporary operational activities in such a manner as will minimize the adverse impacts on threatened or endangered species and on the resources and values of the particular Federal lands. However, at no time should officer safety be compromised when selecting the least impactful conveyance or operational activity. Recognizing the importance of this matter to the Nation's security, the CBP-BP Sector Chief and the local Federal land manager will devote to this endeavor the resources necessary to complete required compliance measures in order to execute the local agreement within ninety (90) days after the Federal land manager has received the written request for access. Nothing in this paragraph is intended to limit the exercise of applicable emergency authorities for access prior to the execution of the local agreement. The Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and Homeland Security expect that, absent compelling justification, each local agreement will be executed within that time frame and provide the maximum amount of access requested by the CBP-BP and allowed by law;

4. Nothing in this MOU is intended to prevent CBP-BP agents from exercising existing exigent/emergency authorities to access lands, including authority to conduct motorized off-road pursuit of suspected CBVs at any time, including in areas designated or recommended as wilderness, or in wilderness study areas when, in their professional judgment based on articulated facts, there is a specific exigency/emergency involving human life, health, safety of persons within the area, or posing a threat to national security, and they conclude that such motorized off-road pursuit is reasonably expected to result in the apprehension of the suspected CBVs. Articulated facts include, but are not limited to, visual observation; information received from a remote sensor, video camera, scope, or other technological source; fresh "sign" or other physical indication; canine alert; or classified or unclassified intelligence. For each such motorized off-road pursuit, CBP-BP will use the least intrusive or damaging motorized vehicle readily available, without compromising agent or officer safety. In accordance with paragraph IV.C.4, as soon as practicable after each such motorized off-road pursuit, CBP-BP will provide the local Federal land manager with a brief report;
5. If motorized pursuits in wilderness areas, areas recommended for wilderness designation, wilderness study areas, or off-road in an area not designated for such use are causing significant impact on the resources, or if other significant issues warrant consultation, then the Federal land manager and the CBP-BP will immediately meet to resolve the issues subject to paragraphs IV.A.2 and IV.A.3 of this MOU;
6. CBP may request, in writing, that the land management agency authorize installation or construction of tactical infrastructure for detection of CBVs (including, but not limited to, observation points, remote video surveillance systems, motion sensors, vehicle barriers, fences, roads, and detection devices) on land under the local land management agency's administrative jurisdiction. In areas not designated as wilderness, the local Federal land manager will expeditiously authorize CBP to install such infrastructure subject to such terms and conditions that are mutually developed and articulated in the authorization issued by the land management agency. In areas designated or managed as wilderness, the local Federal land manager, in consultation with CBP, will promptly conduct a "minimum requirement," "minimum tool," or other appropriate analysis. If supported by such analysis, the local Federal land manager will expeditiously authorize CBP to install such infrastructure subject to such terms and conditions that are mutually developed and articulated in the authorization issued by the land management agency;

7. The DOI and USDA will provide CBP-BP agents with appropriate environmental and cultural awareness training formatted to meet CBP-BP operational constraints. The DOI and USDA will work with CBP-BP in the development and production of maps for use or reference by CBP-BP agents including, as appropriate, site-specific and resource-specific maps that will identify specific wildlife and environmentally or culturally sensitive areas;
8. The DOI and USDA will, as applicable, provide CBP-BP with all assessments and studies done by or on behalf of DOI or USDA on the effects of CBVs on Federal lands and native species to better analyze the value of preventative enforcement actions;
9. The DOI and USDA will assist CBP-BP in search and rescue operations on lands within the respective land managers' administration when requested;
10. The CBP-BP and land management agencies may cross-deputize or cross-designate their agents as law enforcement officers under each other agency's statutory authority. Such cross-deputation or cross-designation agreements entered into by the local land management agency and the field operations manager for the CBP-BP shall be pursuant to the policies and procedures of each agency; and
11. DOI and USDA will work at the field operations level with affected local CBP-BP stations to establish protocols for notifying CBP-BP agents when DOI or USDA law enforcement personnel are conducting law enforcement operations in an area where CBP-BP and DOI/USDA operations can or will overlap.

C. Responsibilities and Terms Specific to the CBP. DHS hereby agrees as follows:

1. Consistent with the Border Patrol Strategic Plan, CBP-BP will strive to interdict CBVs as close to the United States' international borders as is operationally practical, with the long-term goal of establishing operational control along the immediate borders;
2. If the CBP-BP drag any unpaved roads for the purpose of cutting sign under provision IV.B.2 above, then CBP-BP will maintain or repair such roads to the extent that they are damaged by CBP-BP's use or activities;
3. If CBP-BP agents pursue or apprehend suspected CBVs in wilderness areas or off-road in an area not designated for such use under

paragraph IV.B.5, then the CBP-BP will use the lowest impact mode of travel practicable to accomplish its mission and operate all motorized vehicles in such a manner as will minimize the adverse impacts on threatened or endangered species and on the resources and values of the particular Federal lands, provided officer safety is not compromised by the type of conveyance selected;

4. CBP-BP will notify the local Federal land manager of any motorized emergency pursuit, apprehension, or incursion in a wilderness area or off-road in an area not designated for such use as soon as is practicable. A verbal report is sufficient unless either CBP-BP or the land managing agency determines that significant impacts resulted, in which case a written report will be necessary;
5. If motorized pursuits in wilderness areas, areas recommended for wilderness designation, wilderness study areas, or off-road in an area not designated for such use are causing significant impact on the resources as determined by a land manager, or if other significant issues warrant consultation, then the CBP-BP and Federal land manager will immediately meet to resolve the issues subject to paragraphs IV.A.2 and IV.A.3 of this MOU;
6. CBP will consult with land managers to coordinate the placement and maintenance of tactical infrastructure, permanent and temporary video, seismic and other remote sensing sites in order to limit resource damage while maintaining operational efficiency;
7. CBP-BP will ensure that current and incoming CBP-BP agents attend environmental and cultural awareness training to be provided by the land management agencies;
8. CBP-BP will provide land management agencies with appropriate and relevant releasable statistics of monthly CBV apprehensions, search and rescue actions, casualties, vehicles seized, drug seizures and arrests, weapons seizures and arrests, and other significant statistics regarding occurrences on the lands managed by the land manager;
9. CBP-BP will consult with land managers in the development of CBP-BP's annual Operational-Requirements Based Budgeting Program to ensure affected land managers can provide input and are, in the early stages of planning, made aware what personnel, infrastructure, and technology the CBP-BP would like to deploy along the border within their area of operation; and
10. CBP-BP will work at the field operations manager level with affected local land management agencies to establish protocols for notifying

land management agency law enforcement officers when BP is conducting special operations or non-routine activities in a particular area.

V. Miscellaneous Provisions

A. Nothing in this MOU may be construed to obligate the agencies or the United States to any current or future expenditure of funds in advance of the availability of appropriations, nor does this MOU obligate the agencies or the United States to spend funds for any particular project or purpose, even if funds are available.

B. Nothing in this MOU will be construed as affecting the authority of the Parties in carrying out their statutory responsibilities.

C. This MOU may be modified or amended in writing upon consent of all Parties, and other affected Federal agencies may seek to become a Party to this MOU.

D. The Parties shall retain all applicable legal responsibility for their respective personnel working pursuant to this MOU with respect to, *inter alia*, pay, personnel benefits, injuries, accidents, losses, damages, and civil liability. This MOU is not intended to change in any way the individual employee status or the liability or responsibility of any Party under Federal law.

E. The Parties agree to participate in this MOU until its termination. Any Party wishing to terminate its participation in this MOU shall provide sixty (60) days written notice to all other Parties.

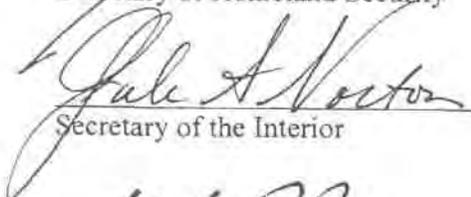
F. This document is an intra-governmental agreement among the Parties and does not create or confer any rights, privileges, or benefits upon any person, party, or entity. This MOU is not and shall not be construed as a rule or regulation.

In witness whereof, the Parties hereto have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be executed and effective as of the date of the last signature below.

Date: 3/24/06


Secretary of Homeland Security

Date: 3/31/06


Secretary of the Interior

Date: 3/29/06


Secretary of Agriculture

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Invite: Celebration of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument - Friday, May 23, 2014

"Bogard, Lauren" <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bogard, Lauren" <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu May 22 2014 09:58:31 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:
Subject: Fwd: Invite: Celebration of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument - Friday, May 23, 2014

Good afternoon,

In case you have not already received it, please see the below invitation to join Secretary Jewell, Senator Tom Udall, Senator Heinrich, and other elected officials and stakeholders for the celebration of the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument in Las Cruces, NM tomorrow.

Thank you,

Lauren Bogard
Special Assistant
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: (202) 208-5954

Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze, White House Council on Environmental Quality Acting Chair Mike Boots, and Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, and other local officials and businesses, on Friday, May 23, 2014 at 2:00pm (MDT) for a celebration of the designation of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

President Obama today established the national monument using his authority under the Antiquities Act – preserving the scenic, historic and culturally rich landscapes of this region in New Mexico. The area provides great opportunities for tourism, outdoor recreation and important wildlife habitat. The lands will continue to be managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

We hope you are able to join us on **Friday, May 23rd**, and ask that you RSVP by clicking [HERE](#).

Celebration of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

Friday, May 23, 2014

1:30pm– Check-In*
2:00pm – Celebration

Ocate High School
5700 Mesa Grande Drive, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Limited parking will be available – carpooling is encouraged.

* Please note that the school does not release until 12:30pm so we ask that you not arrive prior to

1:00pm.

Thank you,

*Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923*

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Apr 22 2015 09:39:46 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Invite: Celebration of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument - Friday, May 23, 2014

For printing

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bogard, Lauren** <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, May 22, 2014 at 11:58 AM
Subject: Fwd: Invite: Celebration of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument - Friday, May 23, 2014
To:
Cc: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>

Good afternoon,

In case you have not already received it, please see the below invitation to join Secretary Jewell, Senator Tom Udall, Senator Heinrich, and other elected officials and stakeholders for the celebration of the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument in Las Cruces, NM tomorrow.

Thank you,

Lauren Bogard
Special Assistant
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: (202) 208-5954

Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze, White House Council on Environmental Quality Acting Chair Mike Boots, and Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, and other local officials and businesses, on Friday, May 23, 2014 at 2:00pm (MDT) for a celebration of the designation of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

President Obama today established the national monument using his authority under the Antiquities Act – preserving the scenic, historic and culturally rich landscapes of this region in New Mexico. The area provides great opportunities for tourism, outdoor recreation and important wildlife habitat. The lands will continue to be managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management.

We hope you are able to join us on **Friday, May 23rd**, and ask that you RSVP by clicking [HERE](#).

Celebration of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument

Friday, May 23, 2014

1:30pm– Check-In*
2:00pm – Celebration

Ocate High School
5700 Mesa Grande Drive, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Limited parking will be available – carpooling is encouraged.

* Please note that the school does not release until 12:30pm so we ask that you not arrive prior to 1:00pm.

Thank you,

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923

Conversation Contents

PROPOSED FINAL: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks press release for Friday

Attachments:

/411. PROPOSED FINAL: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks press release for Friday/1.1 05-23-14
NM Monument Press Release - DRAFT v5.docx

/411. PROPOSED FINAL: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks press release for Friday/4.1 05-23-14
NM Monument Press Release - DRAFT v5.docx

"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu May 22 2014 17:44:53 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: PROPOSED FINAL: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks press release for Friday
Attachments: 05-23-14 NM Monument Press Release - DRAFT v5.docx

Hi all,

Below and attached is the proposed final version of tomorrow's press release.

BLM - Can you please confirm the highlighted stats in the second to last paragraph?

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Thanks,

Emily

Date: May 23, 2014

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Jewell Joins Community to Celebrate Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Designation

President's Proclamation Honors Community's Vision to Protect, Promote Public Lands in Doña Ana County and to Boost Tourism, Outdoor Recreation Economy

LAS CRUCES, NM - Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today joined hundreds of community members to celebrate President Obama's designation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in south-central New Mexico. The President's action supports the locally driven effort to conserve, protect and enhance some of the public lands in Doña Ana County.

The celebration took place at the Oñate High School in Las Cruces. Secretary Jewell was joined by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Neil Kornze, White House Council on Environmental Quality Acting Chair Mike Boots, U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, and local community and business leaders.

“Today is the culmination of a community-led effort to conserve, protect and promote these public lands, but it’s the beginning of a new chapter for the businesses that will benefit from the tourism and recreation, and the wildlife that rely on this unique habitat,” said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. “The Organ Mountains and surrounding Desert Peaks are steeped in culture, history, wildlife and opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors – from hunting to hiking to gazing at ancient petroglyphs and fossils – and the President’s action ensures that these cherished landscapes are celebrated and passed on to the generations of New Mexicans and Americans to come.”

The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks will join other popular national monuments in the Land of Enchantment, including Aztec Ruins, Bandalier, Petroglyph, Rio Grande del Norte, White Sands and others. Following the President’s designation of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in March 2013, the BLM reported a 40% increase in visitors to the area in less than one year. A recent independent study by BBC Research & Consulting estimates that the new national monument designation could generate \$7.4 million in new economic activity annually from new visitors and business opportunities.

“This is a great day for New Mexico – thanks to so many New Mexicans who spoke up and worked hard, we have a new national monument. It will put the unique and spectacular desert landscapes of Doña Ana County on recreation maps around the world, creating jobs and bringing in millions of dollars in revenue," Udall said. "I'm proud to join Senator Bingaman, Senator Heinrich, Secretary Jewell – and especially the many people of Doña Ana County who love Las Cruces's beautiful backdrop and wanted it protected for generations to come. Today we celebrate them.”

“This celebration and tremendous accomplishment would not be possible without the community’s strong support,” said Heinrich. “I give my heartfelt gratitude to the diverse coalitions and stakeholders from southern New Mexico who worked tirelessly to make today a reality, and I thank Senator Jeff Bingaman who helped push this effort many years ago. The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument will help preserve our cultural identity, promote tourism in the region, boost the local economy, and foster recreational opportunities like hunting, hiking, and camping. I also thank President Obama and Secretary Jewell for recognizing how special this land is for all of us. I will continue to work to ensure we preserve New Mexico’s treasured landscapes for future generations to enjoy.”

Jewell in January participated in a meeting with senior officials at the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Border Patrol to underscore Interior’s continued commitment to cooperate in providing law enforcement and border security in the area. The proclamation supports the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture regarding “Cooperative National Security and Counterterrorism Efforts on Federal Lands along the United States’ Borders.”

The proclamation also allows watershed restoration and small-scale flood prevention projects if they are consistent with the care and management of the monument’s resources.

“The creation of New Mexico's Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument helps celebrate the nation's newest and most exciting conservation system, the National Conservation Lands,” BLM Director Neil Kornze said. “This system, which is managed by the BLM, includes incredible like public lands like the the Rio Grande del Norte, the San Juan Islands along Washington’s coast, and California’s Fort Ord. Each of these areas has been protected by President Obama as testament to the BLM's important conservation work.”

The BLM currently manages all of the public lands within this new national monument for a range of multiple uses which will continue, including grazing, conservation of natural and archeological resources and outdoor recreation, such as hunting, hiking, biking, and camping. Statewide, BLM-New Mexico hosted 2.9 million visitors at 28 recreation sites in fiscal year 2013. Recreation on BLM-managed lands and waters in New Mexico supported more than 1,900 jobs and contributed more than \$172 million to the state’s economy in fiscal year 2012.

The Organ Mountains provide a spectacular backdrop for the City of Las Cruces, with steep, angular rock outcroppings reminiscent of organ pipes rising to nearly 9,000 feet in elevation and extending for 20 miles, running generally north and south. This high-desert landscape within the Chihuahuan Desert contains a multitude of biological zones – mixed desert shrubs and grasslands in the lowlands ascending to piñon and juniper woodlands, and finally to ponderosa pines at the highest elevations.

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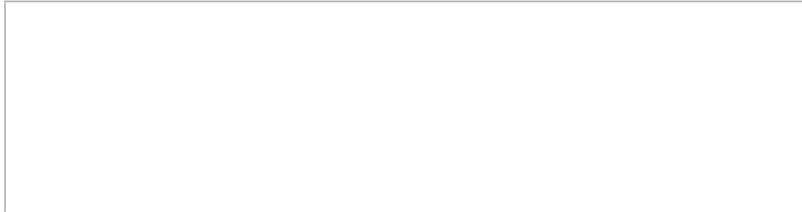
Thanks!

Best,

Blake

--

Blake Androff
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435



Date: May 23, 2014

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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###

Emily Beyer
Press Assistant
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5205 | Cell: (202) 568-0168
emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov

Laurie Sedlmayr <lsedlmay@blm.gov>

From: Laurie Sedlmayr <lsedlmay@blm.gov>
Sent: Thu May 22 2014 20:17:18 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov, Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: PROPOSED FINAL: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks press release for Friday

Highlighted stats on nlcs are correct. Thanks
Laurie.

From: Beyer, Emily [mailto:emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 04:44 PM
To: Androff, Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>; Nicole Buffa <Nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>; Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>; Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>; Elizabeth Washburn <elizabeth_washburn@ios.doi.gov>; Elizabeth Klein <Elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>; Sarah Greenberger <Sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>; Sarah Neimeyer <Sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>; Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>; Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>; Lauren Bogard <Lauren_Bogard@ios.doi.gov>; John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>; Francisco Carrillo <Francisco_Carrillo@ios.doi.gov>; Terri Johnson <Terri_Johnson@ios.doi.gov>; Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>; Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>; Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>; Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>; Steven Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>; Janet Lin <jhlin@blm.gov>; Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>; Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>; Craig S Leff <cleff@blm.gov>; Laurie Sedlmayr <lsedlmay@blm.gov>; Hilary Tompkins <hilary.tompkins@sol.doi.gov>; Bret Birdsong <bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov>; Edward Boling <ted.boling@sol.doi.gov>; dailybriefingbinder OS <dailybriefingbinder@ios.doi.gov>; Katherine Kelly <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>; Jessica L Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>; Tim Fullerton <tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov>; Frank Quimby <Frank_Quimby@ios.doi.gov>
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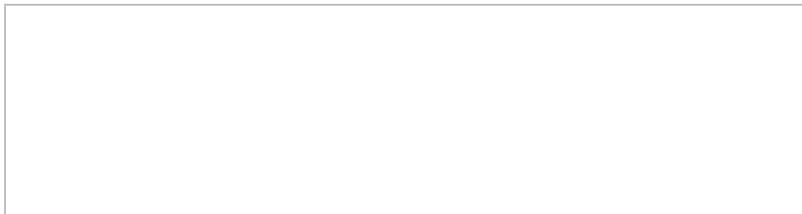
Thanks!

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--

Blake Androff
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435



Date: May 23, 2014

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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Press Assistant
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Office: (202) 208-5205 | Cell: (202) 568-0168
emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov

Hilary Tompkins <hilary.tompkins@sol.doi.gov>

From: Hilary Tompkins <hilary.tompkins@sol.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 23 2014 05:13:09 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: PROPOSED FINAL: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks press release for Friday

A word or two is missing in Neil's quote second sentence. HT

On May 22, 2014, at 7:44 PM, "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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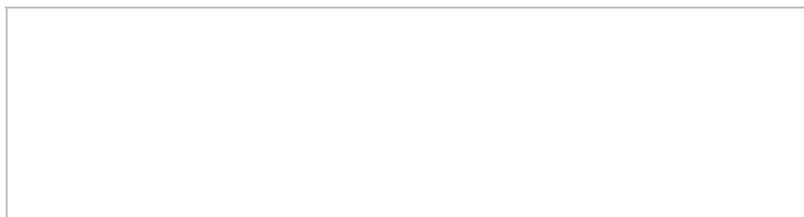
Thanks!

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Blake

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Blake Androff
Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435



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Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov

<05-23-14 NM Monument Press Release - DRAFT v5.docx>

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Apr 22 2015 09:39:34 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: PROPOSED FINAL: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks press release for Friday
Attachments: 05-23-14 NM Monument Press Release - DRAFT v5.docx

for printing

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Beyer, Emily** <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thu, May 22, 2014 at 7:44 PM
Subject: PROPOSED FINAL: Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks press release for Friday
To: "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <Nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Washburn <elizabeth_washburn@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Klein <Elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <Sarah_greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <Sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren Bogard <Lauren_Bogard@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <Francisco_Carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <Terri_Johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>, Steven Ellis <sellis@blm.gov>, Janet Lin <jhlin@blm.gov>, Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Jeff

Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Craig S Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Laurie Sedlmayr <lsedlmay@blm.gov>, Hilary Tompkins <hilary.tompkins@sol.doi.gov>, Bret Birdsong <bret.birdsong@sol.doi.gov>, Edward Boling <ted.boling@sol.doi.gov>, dailybriefingbinder OS <dailybriefingbinder@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Kelly <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica L Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Tim Fullerton <tim_fullerton@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <Frank_Quimby@ios.doi.gov>

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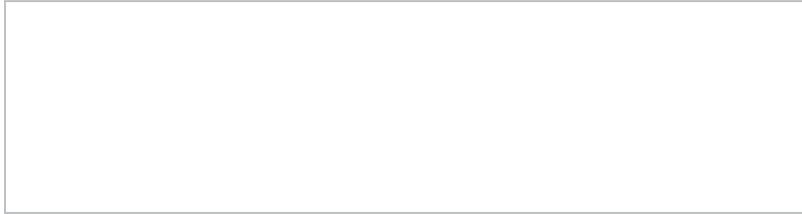
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Deputy Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435



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Emily Beyer
Press Assistant
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5205 | Cell: (202) 568-0168
emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: May 23, 2014

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Jewell Joins Community to Celebrate Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Designation

President's Proclamation Honors Community's Vision to Protect, Promote Public Lands in Doña Ana County and to Boost Tourism, Outdoor Recreation Economy

LAS CRUCES, NM - Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today joined hundreds of community members to celebrate President Obama's designation of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in south-central New Mexico. The President's action supports the locally driven effort to conserve, protect and enhance some of the public lands in Doña Ana County.

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The Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks will join other popular national monuments in the Land of Enchantment, including Aztec Ruins, Bandalier, Petroglyph, Rio Grande del Norte, White Sands and others. Following the President's designation of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in March 2013, the BLM reported a 40% increase in visitors to the area in less than one year. A recent independent study by BBC Research & Consulting estimates that the new national monument designation could generate \$7.4 million in new economic activity annually from new visitors and business opportunities.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
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Conversation Contents

VIDEO: President Obama designates new national monument and more This Week at Interior

DOI Announcement <doi_announcement@ios.doi.gov>

From: DOI Announcement <doi_announcement@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 23 2014 10:02:29 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:
Subject: VIDEO: President Obama designates new national monument and more This Week at Interior

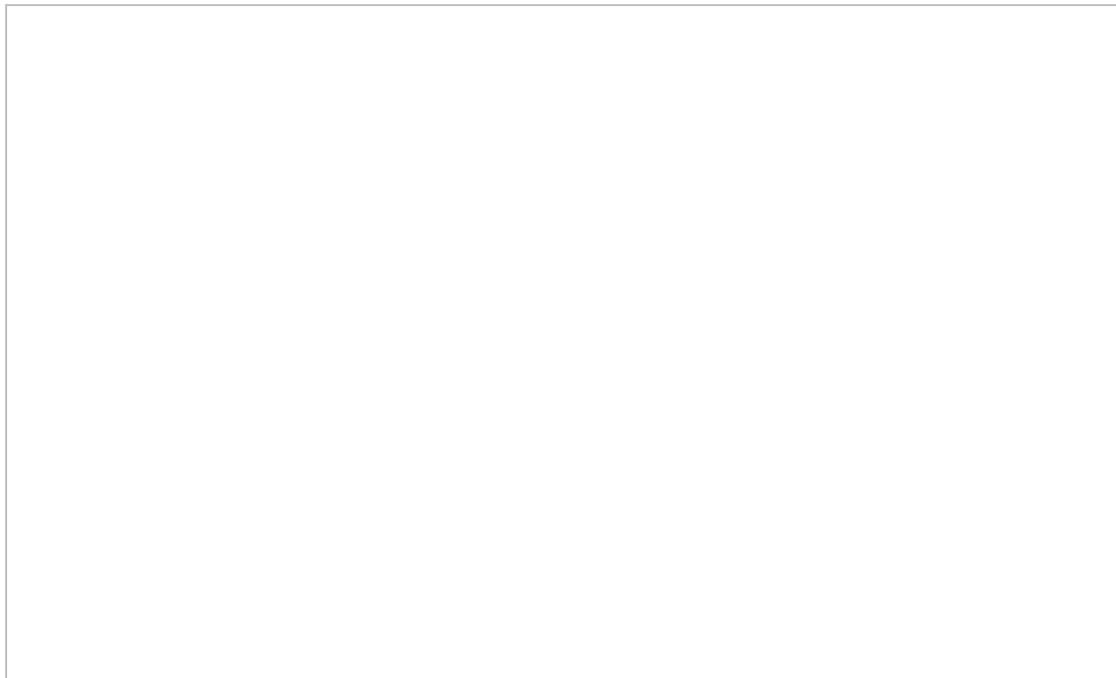
TO: All Department of the Interior Employees

FROM: Tim Fullerton, Director of Digital Strategy

RE: President Obama designates new national monument and more This Week at Interior

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[Click here to watch this week's episode.](#)



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Visit oneINTERIOR for employee news and events - <http://oneinterior.doi.net>.

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"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Apr 22 2015 09:39:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: VIDEO: President Obama designates new national monument and more This Week at Interior

For printing

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **DOI Announcement** <doi_announcement@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, May 23, 2014 at 12:02 PM
Subject: VIDEO: President Obama designates new national monument and more This Week at Interior
To:

TO: All Department of the Interior Employees

FROM: Tim Fullerton, Director of Digital Strategy

RE: President Obama designates new national monument and more This Week at Interior

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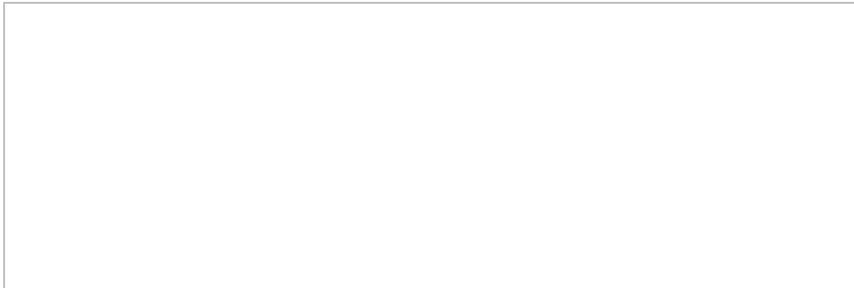
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Conversation Contents

News Release: Secretary Jewell Joins Community to Celebrate Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Designation

"Bogard, Lauren" <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bogard, Lauren" <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 23 2014 13:43:04 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:
Subject: News Release: Secretary Jewell Joins Community to Celebrate Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Designation



Date: May 23, 2014
Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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“This is an exciting day for New Mexico and the entire country. Hundreds of Americans from diverse backgrounds came together to protect this treasured piece of land, which will now be preserved for future generations” said Acting Chair Boots. “When the President signed the proclamation on Wednesday, he made it clear that he’s not finished. He’s going to continue to get things done for the American people wherever he can, and that includes protecting lands where communities like Las Cruces are speaking up.”

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Special Assistant
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: (202) 208-5954

Lauren Bogard <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>

From: Lauren Bogard <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon May 26 2014 19:17:09 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: aaron.cutler@mail.house.gov
Subject: Re: News Release: Secretary Jewell Joins Community to Celebrate Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Designation

Hi Aaron,

If it isn't urgent, one of us would be happy to call you from the office tomorrow. Does that work for you? Thanks.

From: Cutler, Aaron [mailto:aaron.cutler@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Sunday, May 25, 2014 04:47 PM
To: 'lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov' <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: News Release: Secretary Jewell Joins Community to Celebrate Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Designation

Can you give me a call on my cell phone? (b) (6)

From: Bogard, Lauren [mailto:lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 03:43 PM
Cc: Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>; Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: News Release: Secretary Jewell Joins Community to Celebrate Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Designation

Date: May 23, 2014
Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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Lauren Bogard
Special Assistant
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U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: (202) 208-5954

"Cutler, Aaron" <aaron.cutler@mail.house.gov>

From: "Cutler, Aaron" <aaron.cutler@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Mon May 26 2014 19:23:44 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov" <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: News Release: Secretary Jewell Joins Community to Celebrate Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Designation

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From: Lauren Bogard [mailto:lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2014 09:17 PM
To: Cutler, Aaron
Cc: stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>; jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
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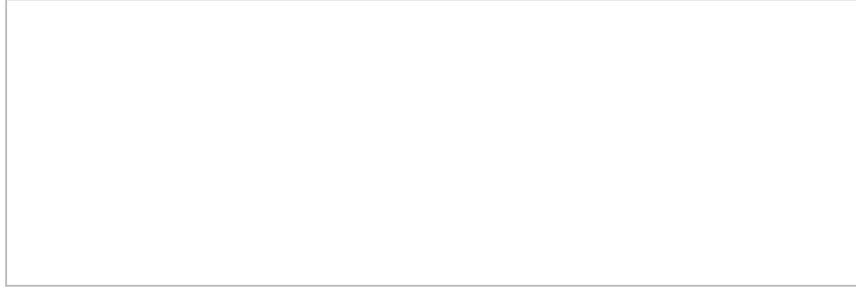
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Date: May 23, 2014

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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From: Lauren Bogard <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon May 26 2014 19:34:31 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: aaron.cutler@mail.house.gov

Subject: Re: News Release: Secretary Jewell Joins Community to Celebrate Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Designation

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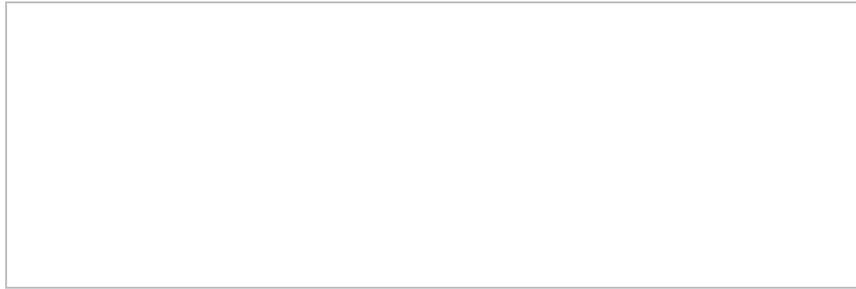
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"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Apr 22 2015 09:39:09 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: News Release: Secretary Jewell Joins Community to Celebrate Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Designation

----- Forwarded message -----

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Date: Fri, May 23, 2014 at 3:43 PM
Subject: News Release: Secretary Jewell Joins Community to Celebrate Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Designation
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"The creation of New Mexico's Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument helps celebrate the nation's newest and most exciting conservation system, the National Conservation Lands," BLM Director Neil Kornze said. "This system, which is managed by the BLM, includes incredible public lands like the Rio Grande del Norte, the San Juan Islands in Washington, and California's Fort Ord. Each of

these areas has been protected by President Obama as testament to the BLM's important conservation work.”

The BLM currently manages all of the public lands within this new national monument for a range of multiple uses which will continue, including grazing, conservation of natural and archeological resources and outdoor recreation, such as hunting, hiking, biking, and camping. Statewide, BLM-New Mexico hosted 2.9 million visitors at 28 recreation sites in fiscal year 2013. Recreation on BLM-managed lands and waters in New Mexico supported more than 1,900 jobs and contributed more than \$172 million to the state's economy in fiscal year 2012.

“This is an exciting day for New Mexico and the entire country. Hundreds of Americans from diverse backgrounds came together to protect this treasured piece of land, which will now be preserved for future generations” said Acting Chair Boots. “When the President signed the proclamation on Wednesday, he made it clear that he's not finished. He's going to continue to get things done for the American people wherever he can, and that includes protecting lands where communities like Las Cruces are speaking up.”

The Organ Mountains provide a spectacular backdrop for the City of Las Cruces, with steep, angular rock outcroppings reminiscent of organ pipes rising to nearly 9,000 feet in elevation and extending for 20 miles, running generally north and south. This high-desert landscape within the Chihuahuan Desert contains a multitude of biological zones – mixed desert shrubs and grasslands in the lowlands ascending to piñon and juniper woodlands, and finally to ponderosa pines at the highest elevations.

The area is home to a high diversity of animal life, including deer, pronghorn antelope, mountain lions, peregrine falcons and other raptors as well as rare plants, some found nowhere else in the world, such as the Organ Mountains pincushion cactus. Hundreds of archeologically and culturally significant sites are found within the new monument, including some limited Paleo-Indian artifacts, extensive rock art sites and the ruins of a ten room pueblo, among other ancient dwellings. More recent history is memorialized with Geronimo's Cave, Billy the Kid's Outlaw Rock, and sites related to early Spanish explorers. The Organ and Doña Ana Mountains are popular recreation areas, with multiple hiking trails, a popular campground, and opportunities for hunting, mountain biking, rock climbing, and other recreation.

On the west side of Las Cruces, the Desert Peaks area contains mountain ranges and peaks of the Robledo Mountains and the Sierra de las Uvas. These landscapes contain mesas and buttes interspersed with deep canyons and arroyos. Significant cultural sites of the Mogollon, Mimbres, and Jornada cultures are located throughout this region along with historic sites associated with more recent settlements, including the Butterfield Overland Stagecoach Trail. This area is also home to the unusual Night-blooming Cereus, with a one-night-a-year bloom.

To the southwest of Las Cruces is the Potrillo Mountains Complex, characterized by cinder cones, volcanic craters, and basalt lava flows in the open desert landscape. There too is abundant wildlife, and significant scientific finds including an 11,000-year old skeleton of an extinct ground sloth. In more modern times, the Apollo astronauts trained in a section of the Potrillos because of its resemblance to a moonscape. Today it serves as a popular destination for outdoor recreation.

The Bureau of Land Management's [National Conservation Lands](#) contain some of the West's most spectacular landscapes. They include more than 875 federally recognized areas comprising more than 27 million acres of National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and Conservation Lands of the California Desert.

Information about the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument can be found at www.blm.gov/nm/omdp

Lauren Bogard
Special Assistant
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: (202) 208-5954

Conversation Contents

VIDEO: New National Park Service LGBT Theme Study and more This Week at Interior

DOI Announcement <doi_announcement@ios.doi.gov>

From: DOI Announcement <doi_announcement@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri May 30 2014 09:52:27 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:
Subject: VIDEO: New National Park Service LGBT Theme Study and more This Week at Interior

TO: All Department of the Interior Employees

FROM: Tim Fullerton, Director of Digital Strategy

RE: New National Park Service LGBT Theme Study and more This Week at Interior

Here's what happened this week at Interior: Secretary Jewell at New York City's Stonewall Inn, to announce the launch of a National Park Service theme study on LGBT historic sites; Secretary Jewell joins Dr. Jill Biden in Seattle for a panel on 21st century workplaces and their effects on working families and the economy; with hurricane season approaching the USGS launches a new app that shows coastal erosion from extreme storms; and new images of the celebration last week at the new Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

[Click here to watch this week's episode.](#)

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Please do not reply to this e-mail. This mailbox is not monitored. Use the contact information located in the message to get more information or provide comments.

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Apr 22 2015 09:38:26 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: VIDEO: New National Park Service LGBT Theme Study and more This Week at Interior

for printing

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **DOI Announcement** <doi_announcement@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, May 30, 2014 at 11:52 AM
Subject: VIDEO: New National Park Service LGBT Theme Study and more This Week at Interior
To:

TO: All Department of the Interior Employees

FROM: Tim Fullerton, Director of Digital Strategy

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Conversation Contents

Fwd: Western Governors' correspondence

Attachments:

/415. Fwd: Western Governors' correspondence/1.1 WGA Correspondence list.xlsx
/415. Fwd: Western Governors' correspondence/1.2 2014 WGA Correspondence & Responses.pdf
/415. Fwd: Western Governors' correspondence/1.3 GOM Proclamations.pdf
/415. Fwd: Western Governors' correspondence/2.1 WGA Correspondence list.xlsx
/415. Fwd: Western Governors' correspondence/2.2 2014 WGA Correspondence & Responses.pdf
/415. Fwd: Western Governors' correspondence/2.3 GOM Proclamations.pdf

Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>

From: Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Jun 06 2014 19:35:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Western Governors' correspondence
Attachments: WGA Correspondence list.xlsx 2014 WGA Correspondence & Responses.pdf GOM Proclamations.pdf

FYI

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Carrillo, Francisco" <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>
To: "SRJ2@ios.doi.gov" <SRJ2@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <Sarah_Greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <Francis_Iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <Katherine_Rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_Ossowski@ios.doi.gov>, Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <Terri_Johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Vicki Dixon <Vicki_Dixon@ios.doi.gov>, Fay Iudicello <fay_iudicello@ios.doi.gov>, Robert Howarth <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: **Western Governors' correspondence**

Hi Secretary,

I'm attaching a list and PDF of all the correspondence we've received and responded to from the Western Governors. We will upload these for you but I wanted to be sure you received them prior to WGA, per your request. Many thanks to Fav and Rob in Exec Sec for helping us compile these letters.

In addition, please find a PDF of the President's and Western Gov's proclamations for Great Outdoors Month that Vicki Dixon in our office compiled for you.

Thank you and see you in CO.

Francisco Carrillo
Deputy Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Immediate Office of the Secretary
(202) 208-5541 w (202) 412-8846 c

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for printing

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Francisco Carrillo** <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 6, 2014 at 9:35 PM
Subject: Fwd: Western Governors' correspondence
To: Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

FYI

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From: "Carrillo, Francisco" <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>
To: "SRJ2@ios.doi.gov" <SRJ2@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Greenberger <Sarah_Greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <Francis_Iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Katherine Rupp <Katherine_Rupp@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Ossowski <elizabeth_Ossowski@ios.doi.gov>, Zaina Javaid <zaina_javaid@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <Terri_Johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Vicki Dixon <Vicki_Dixon@ios.doi.gov>, Fay Iudicello <fay_iudicello@ios.doi.gov>, Robert Howarth <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>
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Francisco Carrillo
Deputy Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
Immediate Office of the Secretary
(202) 208-5541 w (202) 412-8846 c

WESTERN GOVERNORS CORRESPONDENCE

2014

Date received	From (Author)	To (Recipient)	Subject	Response letter
6/2/2014	Brownback (KS)	Jewell and Vilsack	Listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken will create hardships and unintended consequences	FWS drafting response
5/30/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Request information regarding how DOI will operationalize the Mitigation Order and engage with the state agencies	BLM drafting response
5/30/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Regarding Federal Seeding Practices and Coordination	YOU sent response letters on 6/6/14
5/19/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Recommends FWS delist the Grizzly Bears	FWS drafting response
5/8/2014	Brownback (KS)	Secretary Jewell	Opposition to the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken	FWS drafting response
5/6/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Seeks review and reversal of OSM decision of Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding to Wyoming	PMB working with OMB on response
5/1/2014	Bullock (MT)	Secretary Jewell and Assistant Secretary Washburn	Revising Federal Acknowledgment Regulations and the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Kevin Washburn sent response letter on 6/2/14
4/22/2014	Martinez (NM)	Jewell and Hagel	Concerns about proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project and White Sands Missile Range	BLM drafting response
4/14/2014	Hickenlooper (CO)	Secretary Jewell	Supportive of \$1 million funding for connecting youth to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge	Dan Ashe sent response letter on 6/6/14
4/10/2014	Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	BLM Impoundment of cattle in Nevada	YOU sent response letter on 4/11/14
4/9/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Proposed Resource Management Plan for the Lander Field Office in Wyoming	YOU sent response letter on 6/4/14

WESTERN GOVERNORS CORRESPONDENCE

2014

Date received	From (Author)	To (Recipient)	Subject	Response letter
4/9/2014	Moliga (AS)	Secretary Jewell	Seeks legal review of American Samoa's legislature resolution re: "Override of Executive Vetoes without action by the Sec. of the Interior"	SOL drafting response
4/4/2014	Jim Ogsbury, WGA Executive Director	Rhea Suh	Questions regarding U.S. EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group and the proposed use of state data, and proposing a formal opt-in process for interested states	Rhea Suh sent response letter on 4/17/14
4/3/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Request reauthorization of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project	YOU sent response letters on 4/17/14
3/24/2014	Martinez (NM)	Secretary Jewell	Supports Representative Pearce's H.R. 995 on Organ Mountains National Monument Establishment Act, not Senators Heinrich and Udall's broader proposal.	YOU sent response letter on 5/14/14
3/17/2014	Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Support for nomination of Nevada State Prison as National Historic Landmark	Stephanie Toothman, NPS Associate Director, sent response letter on 4/9/14
3/11/2014	Dalrymple (ND)	Mike Connor	Red River Valley Water Supply Project	Response with DOI for surname
2/23/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Western Governors Greater Sage Grouse conservation initiatives	YOU sent response letters on 4/10/14
2/18/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Sweetwater River Conservancy	YOU sent response letter on 3/25/14
2/18/2014	Jim Ogsbury, WGA Executive Director	Secretary Jewell	National Invasive Species Council (NISC) and Management Plan	Lori Williams, Director NISC, sent response letter on 4/1/14

WESTERN GOVERNORS CORRESPONDENCE

2014

Date received	From (Author)	To (Recipient)	Subject	Response letter
1/28/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Thank you letter to Secretary Jewell for her commitment to work with Wyoming and western states on management for public land	No response necessary
1/27/2014	Insee (WA)	Kevin Washburn	Yakama Nation Retrocession Petition	<i>Response with SOL for surname</i>
1/22/2014	Herbert (UT)	Secretary Jewell	Request extension of public comment period for UT Greater Sage Grouse Draft Plan	Neil Kornze sent response letter on 2/18/14
1/21/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Initial views and questions regarding Mitigation Order	YOU sent response letters on 3/16/14
1/17/2014	Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Request extension of public comment period for NV Greater Sage Grouse draft plan	Steve Ellis, BLM Deputy Director, sent response letter on 2/19/14

June 2, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretaries Jewell and Vilsack:

The listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species has created significant and wide-ranging impacts on Kansans. This listing will create hardships and unintended consequences for our citizens, with little long-range improvement to the population of the Lesser Prairie Chicken because of the listing.

Historical studies have shown annual population fluctuation of the Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) and the strong correlation between drought and declining LPC numbers. At least three consecutive years of drought have exacerbated regional populations of LPC, along with other wildlife, and domestic livestock herds.

Kansans and wildlife/range management specialists working in Kansas in partnership with other states have developed appropriate plans that were being implemented prior to the listing. The USFWS decision to promote the NRCS Conservation Plan and the WAFWA Range-Wide Conservation Plan without adequate consideration of other quality, regional and statewide plans is short-sighted and damaging. There are reasonable alternatives, and other proposed conservation plans submitted by other state and regional conservation groups that should be fully considered. In the wake of the listing, Kansans should not be asked to enter any agreements until all conservation plans can be appropriately considered.

The "threatened" listing of the LPC has jeopardized the strongest habitat tool available in the occupied range. The voluntary incentive-based Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has provided significant acreage of habitat for the Lesser Prairie Chicken and other wildlife species.

I am calling on USDA to pursue enhanced Incentives for voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) measures in the LPC habitat areas. Since 2008, total CRP acreage in Kansas has declined by 25%, thus reducing habitat for the LPC and other wildlife species.

The agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to allow voluntary practices designed to protect and increase LPC populations overlaps regulatory controls with voluntary incentive based programs. Guidelines developed for USDA voluntary programs should not be used as the only standard. The USFWS should recognize all science-based practice standards, in addition to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

Mandatory mitigation plans like the Range-Wide Plan add significant cost to any new development. A farmer wanting to establish a new five acre farmstead could see mitigation costs approaching or exceeding \$200,000. The installation of an oil well on range land could cost the oil producer as much as \$100,000. A single wind turbine could require a mitigation cost of \$1,000,000, and transmission lines almost \$200,000 per mile. The bottom line is that mandatory mitigation could slow or halt capital and energy development in many areas of Western Kansas, in addition to creating disincentives for growth in agriculture, the combination of which will significantly impact the Kansas economy

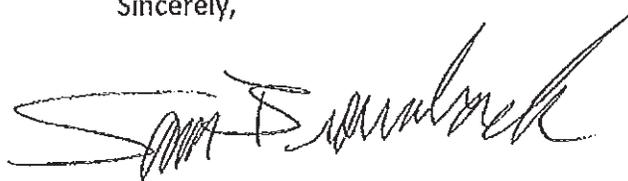
Creating additional rules, regulations and financial hardships for landowners and energy producers will not have a positive response or improve the habitat for the LPC. We do not believe it will efficiently and effectively increase the population of the LPC in Kansas, the state with the single largest occupied range. We already have appropriate tools, and this issue is best addressed at the state and regional level as opposed to a federally directed initiative.

In summary, action is needed in these areas:

1. Suspend current regulatory actions concerning the LPC until all proposed plans have been reviewed and thoughtfully considered for their attributes of species recovery.
2. Challenge USFWS to reconvene with USDA/NRCS to address the current program opportunities through CRP or Environmental Quality Incentives Program to show good faith that species recovery is the mission.
3. USFWS and all applicable federal agencies must recognize the significance of drought as the greatest limiting factor on the effectiveness of all protection efforts and persistent drought conditions must be understood as limiting the ability of any efforts to increase LPC populations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Brownback". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas

cc: Daniel M. Ashe, USFWS Director



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

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www.westgov.org

May 30, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Shortly after its release Western Governors received a copy of the report, *A Strategy for Improving the Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of Interior* (the Report) produced by members of Department of Interior's (DOI) Energy and Climate Change Task Force. The Report outlines challenges and opportunities that may arise with respect to implementation of your Secretarial Order 3330: *Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior* (the Order). The Report identifies specific guiding principles to be considered by DOI and its agencies in reaching landscape-scale mitigation decisions, along with strategies and tools DOI will employ in this effort.

As discussed at the Western Governors' Association (WGA) Winter Meeting in December 2013, the landscape-scale approach described in the Order presents certain legal and regulatory complexities for both federal and state agencies. Recognizing this, on January 21, 2014, the WGA submitted to you a letter and list of questions regarding the Order. For your reference we have attached to this letter both the January 21 letter and list of questions that accompanied that letter.

Since submission of the letter and questions, WGA staff has had several discussions with DOI representatives regarding the Order. Those conversations, however, have not yielded sufficient and direct responses -- from either DOI or BLM -- to the many questions raised in our January letter.

Governors remain unclear on exactly how DOI will seek to engage our states in the development and implementation of this new landscape-scale mitigation regime. We would appreciate a detailed and expedited response to our questions regarding how the Order will be operationalized.

The Report reflects DOI's appreciation for the need to collaborate with state agencies and the expertise states can add to the landscape-scale mitigation discussion. Indeed, such collaboration is listed as a *guiding principle* in the Report's Executive Summary.

Honorable Sally Jewell
May 30, 2014
Page 2

Western Governors share the responsibility of properly managing land and resources within their state borders and recognize that landscape-scale mitigation efforts can play an important role in project development, resource conservation, and land use planning. State agencies house a wealth of knowledge and scientific expertise that would be beneficial -- indeed vital -- to DOI in achieving the goals and deliverables set forth in the Report.

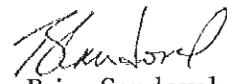
To achieve a mutually beneficial level of collaboration, we respectfully request that DOI and its representatives actively engage with state agencies now -- while the landscape-scale mitigation plan is being developed -- so that the goals set forth in the Report may be achievable in the near-term and our partnership durable in the long-term.

One point of clarification: among the tools discussed in the Report are geospatial assessments, including WGA's Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT). DOI's enthusiasm for CHAT is greatly appreciated and we are confident in CHAT's value for project pre-planning. Western Governors, however, continue to underscore that CHAT is a non-regulatory tool intended to give project planners -- be they public or private -- a "30,000-foot" view of states' wildlife assets. That "first look" then can guide project planners to relevant state agencies for a deeper dive. While CHAT can be extremely helpful for project-specific pre-planning, it is not intended to be a landscape-based regulatory planning tool.

We look forward to your expedited response to the questions we have posed.

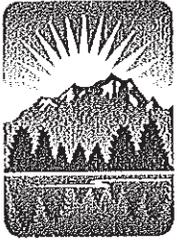
Sincerely,


John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
WGA Chairman


Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
WGA Vice Chairman

cc: Neil Kornze, BLM

Attachments



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www.westgov.org

May 30, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Western Governors are dedicated to ensuring the health of our grasslands and forests. When there is damage to a natural area in the West -- whether caused by wildfire, invasive species, flooding, or other factors -- federal agencies often play an important role in the area's stabilization and rehabilitation. It appears, however, that there is a lack of consensus among federal agencies about how to best balance competing missions and effectively implement important restoration functions, such as reseeded, in a timely fashion. We urge federal agencies to develop shared criteria for selection of seed mixes to improve response times, limit further damage (such as that caused by encroachment of non-native species), and help build a basis for a stable seed production and storage system.

To our knowledge, there are divergent policies among federal agencies regarding such issues as: use of native seed; permissible seed sourcing; what seed mixes are deemed acceptable for use; responsibility among federal agencies for seed banking, etc. These inconsistencies make it difficult for seed suppliers to effectively meet federal needs. In addition, overly restrictive sourcing criteria can substantially increase costs, a critically important issue in these times of constrained budgets.

Western states intend to do their part and want to improve coordination with federal agencies. Proactive landscape-scale land management necessitates shared and targeted management planning for fire, drought, flooding, and other threats to grasslands and forests.

Accordingly, we would like to work with federal agencies to establish clear and consistent disaster rehabilitation approaches that restore landscapes without creating monocultures or checkerboards. Increased state-federal collaboration on long-term restoration and research would be mutually beneficial.

Western Governors would appreciate answers from your Department to the following questions, which are offered in a spirit of cooperation:

Honorable Sally Jewell

May 30, 2014

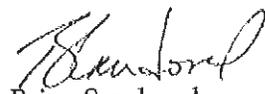
Page 2

1. How do the federal agencies under the Department of Interior (DOI) establish seeding goals and objectives? To what extent are your agencies working together to set shared goals and objectives? How are you coordinating with USDA, NRCS and other departments and agencies?
2. How are DOI agencies planning for natural disasters or other circumstances that could lead to spikes in seed demand, decreasing supply and increasing cost?
3. Is the policy guidance of DOI agencies on the use of local and native seed backed up by best available science? If local and native seed are required by DOI policies, what are your agencies doing to ensure adequate supply?
4. How does DOI acquire input on seeding practices from the states?
5. How does DOI acquire input from external stakeholders such as the seed industry, private landowners, sportsman groups, conservation groups, etc.?
6. What monitoring and evaluation do DOI agencies perform to verify achievement of goals and objectives and to refine and improve seeding practices?

Western Governors acknowledge that harmonizing seeding policies and approaches will take time and effort, but we stand ready to work with you to achieve that goal. We believe doing so will help realize our shared objective of ensuring that we are equipped to expeditiously and effectively restore the Western landscapes we all depend upon and cherish.

Sincerely,


John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
Chairman, WGA


Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
Vice Chairman, WGA

cc: Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michael Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Jonathan Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Suzette Kimball, Director, U.S. Geological Survey
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 06 2014

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your letter dated May 30, 2014, regarding the role Federal land management agencies play in re-seeding damaged landscapes from events such as wildfires, flooding, invasive species, and other factors.

The Department of the Interior's focus on landscape scale conservation and restoration makes coordination on re-seeding efforts crucial to those efforts. We agree that coordination among Federal agencies and with states is vitally important. To that end, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze is convening a seed meeting of Federal agencies and the WGA to develop a strategy that will address many of the points you raise in your letter. The questions you raise will provide an excellent starting point to begin discussions in this area. By working together, we can improve on the success of our restoration efforts and decrease the time needed to reach our restoration goals.

Thank you for your interest in this issue. If you would like additional information regarding the Department's progress in this area, please contact Director Kornze at (202) 208-3801. A similar letter is being sent to Governor Brian Sandoval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Jewell".
Sally Jewell



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 06 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Vice Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

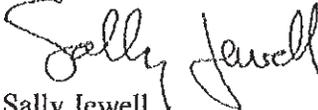
Dear Governor Sandoval:

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The Department of the Interior's focus on landscape scale conservation and restoration makes coordination on re-seeding efforts crucial to those efforts. We agree that coordination among Federal agencies and with states is vitally important. To that end, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze is convening a seed meeting of Federal agencies and the WGA to develop a strategy that will address many of the points you raise in your letter. The questions you raise will provide an excellent starting point to begin discussions in this area. By working together, we can improve on the success of our restoration efforts and decrease the time needed to reach our restoration goals.

Thank you for your interest in this issue. If you would like additional information regarding the Department's progress in this area, please contact Director Kornze at (202) 208-3801. A similar letter is being sent to Governor John Hickenlooper.

Sincerely,


Sally Jewell

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

May 19, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary
Department of the Interior
Main Interior Building
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

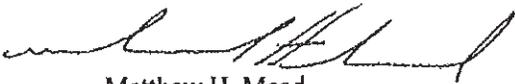
Dear Secretary Jewell:

The recovery of grizzly bears in the Yellowstone Ecosystem is a conservation success story of our time. Wyoming has worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and other state and federal agencies to compile and evaluate food sources data and the effect of those food sources on grizzly bear populations in the Yellowstone Ecosystem. This work substantiates that grizzly bears forage on a broad variety of food. Science demonstrates grizzly bears are expanding – in population and geography – beyond recovery criteria established by FWS and the State of Wyoming.

Both the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee and the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee have reviewed the data and both recommend FWS delist the grizzly bears. All regulatory requirements and biological objectives have been met or exceeded. It is appropriate to publish a delisting proposal and return management of the grizzly bear to the State of Wyoming and other states in the Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Based on your September 2013 letter, I had expected to see a delisting decision in early 2014. There is no reason to wait. I encourage the FWS to work with Wyoming Game and Fish Department to develop and publish a proposed delisting rule expeditiously.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:mdm

cc: The Honorable Steve Bullock, Governor of Montana
The Honorable Butch Otter, Governor of Idaho
Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

55431 ✓

Capitol Building
Room 241-South
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612



RECEIVED
Phone: (785) 296-3232
Fax: (785) 368-8788
governor.ks.gov

643698
May 8, 2014

2014 MAY -9 AM 11:00
Sally Jewell, Governor

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

The State of Kansas previously has expressed opposition to the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as a threatened species. Since the March 27 announcement by the Fish & Wildlife Service that the listing would occur, Kansans have been dealing with the implications of that decision and the impending deadlines for participation in the Range-Wide Conservation Plan.

Kansas continues to maintain that the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken was not justified, and that the listing will negatively impact the state's agriculture and energy sectors in ways that can be avoided consistent with the interests of conservation and protection of the species. As a consequence, Kansas has filed a legal action to seek judicial review of the listing decision.

In the meantime, however, I am concerned that Kansans have not been allowed sufficient time to evaluate their options and prepare applications under the Range-Wide Conservation Plan. In particular, the Kansas oil & gas industry has a large proportion of small independent producers - unlike other states in the range of the Lesser Prairie Chicken, where larger producers are more dominant and have the resources to respond more rapidly. Those affected parties require more time than the standard thirty days to review their options and make vital economic decisions relating to their participation in the Range-Wide Plan. Accordingly, I am requesting that you take the necessary steps to allow an additional ninety days for those affected by the listing to opt-in to the protections provided by the federal rule.

Finally, I must note my concern that insufficient attention is being given to the important role of the Conservation Reserve Program in connection with the Lesser Prairie Chicken, and I urge greater inter-agency cooperation toward that end. The listing explicitly states that: "Lands enrolled in CRP encompass a significant portion of estimated occupied range in several lesser prairie-chicken states, but particularly in Kansas where an increase in the lesser prairie-chicken population is directly related to the amount of land that was enrolled in the CRP and planted to mixtures of native grasses." 79 Fed. Reg. 20027 (Apr. 10, 2014). I am particularly concerned that federal policies regarding expiration and/or re-enrollment of CRP land could work against the goals embodied in the listing, thereby creating conflicting federal policies that further exacerbate the effect of the listing on Kansans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas

cc: Dan Ashe, Director of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF WYOMING 649590



RECEIVED
STATE CAPITAL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002
2014 MAY -7 AM 9:

Office of the Governor

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

May 6, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 5665
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

In a letter dated March 11, 2014, Director Joe Pizarchek of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) informed the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that \$21.2 million of Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funds – approved by Congress under the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 (the Act) – would not be sent to Wyoming. The Act directed \$75 million of AML funds to Wyoming in FY 2015. OSM has interpreted, or misinterpreted, the Act as restricting Wyoming to only an estimated \$53.8 million. The OSM determination is incorrect and I ask that you review and reverse this determination.

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), as amended in 2006, requires eligible States and Indian tribes receive AML funding in two ways. First, eligible states and Indian tribes receive 50% of funds collected on state or tribal lands for reclamation (as a certified program, Wyoming does not receive the actual 50% state share but instead receives an equivalent share as in lieu Treasury funds). Second, funds known as "prior balance funds" are paid. Prior to 2007, States and Tribes did not receive a full 50% share of SMCRA funds. Amendments in 2006 corrected this underfunding, requiring "*the Secretary . . . make payments to States or Indian tribes for the amount due for the aggregate unappropriated amount allocated to the State or Indian tribe . . .*" These amendments were passed to ensure that Wyoming (and other eligible states) were paid amounts allocated and due to them under SMCRA prior to 2007.

In 2012, the Transportation Bill amended SMCRA adding a provision limiting the "*total annual payment*" (emphasis added) to \$15 million. While the payment was modified, the balance due to Wyoming was not modified by the Transportation Bill. SMCRA also required the prior balance be repaid "*in 7 equal annual installments, beginning with fiscal year 2008.*" Wyoming is owed \$165.4 million in prior balance funds.

The Wyoming Congressional delegation worked to ensure that Wyoming was paid. The Helium Stewardship Act raised Wyoming's cap to \$28 million for FY 2014 and \$75 million for FY 2015. It clearly states these funds first be applied to in lieu payments (traditional reclamation) and funds over the in lieu payments be applied to the remaining prior balance funding owed to Wyoming.

OSM released a new table titled "*Hypothetical AML Funding Projections from FY 2014 through FY 2024*". This table reflects Wyoming will receive \$53.8 million instead of the \$75 million set forth in the

Secretary Sally Jewell
May 6, 2014
Page 2

Act. Wyoming DEQ Director Todd Parfitt wrote to Director Pizarchek and requested the table be corrected. (DEQ letter attached.) Director Pizarchek did not honor this request. (March 11, 2014 letter attached.)

Director Pizarchek's interpretation is inconsistent with the Act on prior balance payments. SMCRA clearly delineates that Wyoming is still owed \$165.4 million (stipulated in the 2006 Amendments). Under Helium Stewardship Act, Wyoming should receive the \$21.2 million prior balance funds (\$75 million minus the estimated \$53.8 million in lieu payment). When this payment is made, Wyoming will still be owed a substantial prior balance amount (\$165.4 million minus \$21.2 million). If a debtor can avoid his debt by missing a payment – every lender in the country would be broke. I am sure that OSM did not intend to suggest this was the position of the United States.

Please review this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:mdm

Attachments

cc: The Honorable Mike Enzi, U.S. Senate
The Honorable John Barrasso, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Cynthia Lummis, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Eli Bebout, Chairman, Wyoming Senate Appropriations
The Honorable Steve Harshman, Chairman, Wyoming House Appropriations
Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Peter Michael, Wyoming Attorney General
Joe Pizarchek, Director, Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Department of the Interior



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240

MAR 11 2014



DEPARTMENT
OF

MAR 17 2014

ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

Mr. Todd Parfitt
Director
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mr. Parfitt:

Thank you for your letter dated February 4, 2014, which expressed concern that a mistake may have been made in the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding projections prepared by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). In response to your letter, we have reviewed our projections and have determined that they are correct and consistent with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), as amended.

As you note, the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, which was signed into law on October 2, 2013, contained an amendment to SMCRA that increased the cap for two years on annual AML distributions provided to certified states and tribes. In summary, the law raised the cap from \$15 million to \$28 million for Fiscal Year 2014 and to \$75 million in Fiscal Year 2015. This amendment also specified that if the cap were reached, OSMRE should distribute a state's or tribe's certified in lieu funds under section 411(h)(2) of SMCRA first, then distribute state or tribal prior balance replacement funds under section 411(h)(1) of SMCRA.

In calculating the AML funding projections, we first determined a state's or tribe's certified in lieu funds by multiplying the annual coal production estimates provided by the Department of Energy with the reclamation fee rate set forth in section 402(a) of SMCRA. Using this methodology, we estimate that just over \$107.6 million in reclamation fees will be collected in Wyoming in Fiscal Year 2014. Pursuant to section 411(h)(2) of SMCRA, certified in lieu funds are normally distributed in an amount equivalent to 50 percent of the reclamation fees collected in their states. In Wyoming's case, that would amount to approximately \$53.8 million. As you may be aware, prior balance replacement funds were authorized for seven fiscal years only, from Fiscal Year 2008 to Fiscal Year 2014 pursuant to section 411(h)(1)(C) of SMCRA. Therefore, prior balance replacement funds will not be included in AML funding provided to states and tribes for Fiscal Year 2015 and thereafter. Since certified states such as Wyoming will receive certified in lieu funds only in Fiscal Year 2015, our projection that Wyoming's distribution will be \$53.8 million is accurate.

Please note that the \$53.8 million projection is only an estimate. Once we finalize actual fee collections received during Fiscal Year 2014 and make any required reductions due to sequestration, the actual AML funding distributed to Wyoming may be different.

Please let us know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph G. Pizarchik".

Joseph G. Pizarchik
Director

Hypothetical AML Funding Projections from FY 2014 through FY 2024

1/31/2013

State	AML Inventory Unf. FY12	Actual Funding 2013	2014-2024										Total to be Distributed 2014-24	
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12
Alabama	152.4	8.6	8.0	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.5	5.6	5.5	6.5	5.2	6.0	4.0	61.9
Alaska	52.4	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.0	33.3
Arizona	14.6	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	18.0
Arkansas	22.5	8.2	7.9	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.9	4.0	2.0	4.7	1.6	-	-	35.3
Colorado	-	1.7	1.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.2	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	-	-	6.5
Crow Tribe	-	1.3	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.3	-	-	4.7
Hopi Tribe	97.4	22.8	21.4	16.9	17.1	16.7	18.0	18.4	18.2	18.2	2.7	-	-	135.6
Indiana	56.1	15.1	14.9	8.2	8.2	7.8	8.4	8.5	8.7	9.8	7.3	-	-	81.8
Iowa	44.6	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	33.0
Kansas	273.1	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	33.0
Kentucky	346.4	42.5	39.4	20.3	20.5	19.7	21.2	21.7	21.6	25.2	20.1	26.1	14.5	250.3
Louisiana	-	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	-	-	2.1
Maryland	30.9	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.0	33.4
Massachusetts	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	-	-	2.0
Missouri	46.3	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	33.1
Montana	3.5	12.4	12.6	4.4	4.5	4.1	8.4	8.5	4.5	4.6	3.5	-	-	55.1
Nevada	-	6.8	6.9	1.8	1.9	1.7	3.6	3.7	1.9	1.9	1.4	-	-	24.8
New Mexico	5.7	5.1	4.8	3.0	3.0	2.8	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.2	-	-	21.0
North Dakota	34.5	3.7	3.6	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.3	3.0	34.9
Ohio	124.5	15.2	14.0	10.5	10.5	10.2	11.0	11.3	11.2	13.4	10.8	11.6	9.1	123.6
Oklahoma	83.5	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.0	33.2
Pennsylvania	1,645.1	61.8	56.4	47.8	48.1	46.6	51.1	52.1	51.5	63.0	51.0	52.9	47.8	568.3
Tennessee	8.6	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	13.0
Texas	0.0	5.0	5.1	2.4	2.2	2.3	3.6	3.7	2.4	2.5	1.9	-	-	26.1
Utah	6.2	4.6	4.5	3.0	3.0	2.6	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9	-	-	26.1
Virginia	94.4	10.4	9.7	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.8	6.0	5.9	7.0	5.5	6.5	4.4	67.3
West Virginia	841.0	59.7	55.7	34.8	35.1	33.9	36.7	37.5	37.2	43.9	35.2	42.3	27.5	419.8
Wyoming	18.3	14.2	28.0	53.8	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	-	-	186.8
National Total	\$ 4,002.0	\$ 322.2	\$ 320.4	\$ 249.8	\$ 212.0	\$ 205.6	\$ 221.8	\$ 225.1	\$ 210.6	\$ 228.7	\$ 185.3	\$ 168.7	\$ 128.3	\$ 2,356.3
Source of Total Grant Payments:														
AML Fund:														
State Share	\$ 45.0	\$ 39.1	\$ 40.3	\$ 40.8	\$ 36.2	\$ 37.2	\$ 38.0	\$ 36.8	\$ 33.6	\$ 22.2	\$ 40.4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 364.6
Historic Coal-fee offset	69.8	87.7	62.4	101.9	94.7	95.9	99.0	100.9	110.7	80.5	112.7	-	-	1,059.1
Federal Coal-transfer CIL	71.3	36.9	63.6	24.8	26.7	36.2	36.0	29.8	33.7	32.2	-	-	-	319.9
Fed Expense-Min Prog	13.3	15.5	19.7	19.7	18.4	16.3	16.1	13.3	11.8	13.9	15.6	-	-	175.9
Total AML Fund Payments	\$ 199.4	\$ 179.2	\$ 186.0	\$ 187.2	\$ 176.0	\$ 185.6	\$ 189.1	\$ 180.8	\$ 189.8	\$ 148.8	\$ 168.7	\$ 128.3	\$ -	\$ 1,919.5
Treasury funds:														
Prior balance funds:	\$ 99.0	\$ 104.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 104.3
Certified in lieu funds:	23.8	36.9	63.8	24.8	29.6	26.2	36.0	29.8	38.9	36.5	-	-	-	332.5
Total Treasury payments:	\$ 122.8	\$ 141.2	\$ 63.8	\$ 24.8	\$ 29.6	\$ 36.2	\$ 36.0	\$ 29.8	\$ 38.9	\$ 36.5	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 436.8

Numbers uncerified States use funding for high priority coal reclamation

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



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ANGELA McLEAN
LT. GOVERNOR

2014 MAY 12 PM 4:08

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Kevin Washburn
Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
MS-3701-MIB
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: 25 C.F.R. § 83 Rulemaking and the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Dear Secretary Jewell & Assistant Secretary Washburn:

I support the Department of the Interior's ("Department") rulemaking to revise 25 C.F.R. § 83, "Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group exists as an Indian Tribe" ("Part 83 Process"). I urge you to continue forward with this work and publish the proposed rule as soon as possible.

This rule revision is important because I believe that the Part 83 Process was not properly administered when the Department of the Interior issued a Final Determination against the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana ("Little Shell Tribe") in November of 2009. This Final Determination overturned the Proposed Finding in Favor of Acknowledging the Little Shell Tribe. The Part 83 Process should have determined that the Little Shell Tribe is an Indian tribe of Montana—a designation which is more than 100 years overdue.

Montanans, Montana tribes and the State of Montana all recognize that the Little Shell Tribe is a part of our state's rich culture and history. I support their efforts to become federally recognized and it is time for the Federal Government to finally grant the Little Shell Tribe the recognition they are owed. Federal recognition will enhance their ability to provide additional services to tribal members and strengthen their tribal government. I am encouraged that the Department has seen the need to fix this issue through the Part 83 rulemaking process.

I trust the Department will move swiftly to publish its proposed Part 83 rule and complete the rulemaking process. The Department has my full support in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock".

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JUN 02 2014

The Honorable Steve Bullock
Governor of Montana
Helena, Montana 59620

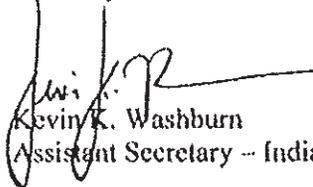
Dear Governor Bullock:

Thank you for your letter of May 1, 2014, urging completion of the rulemaking process for Federal acknowledgment of Indian tribes.

We have announced availability of the proposed rule for public comment, and the Federal Register published the proposed rule on May 29, 2014 (79 FR 30766). I am enclosing a copy of the press release, which contains additional information.

Thank you for your support of our efforts as we work toward a proposed rule that improves the transparency, efficiency, timeliness, flexibility, and integrity of the Federal acknowledgment process.

Sincerely,



Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary -- Indian Affairs

Enclosure



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2014

CONTACT: Nedra Darling
202-219-4152

Interior Proposes Reform of Federal Acknowledgment Regulations *Proposed rule would address "broken" process*

Washington, D.C. — Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn today announced publication of proposed regulations that would reform the 35-year old process by which the Department of the Interior officially recognizes Indian tribes. Federal acknowledgment establishes the U.S. Government as the trustee for Tribal lands and resources and makes Tribal members and governments eligible for federal budget assistance and program services.

"President Obama believes that reforming the federal acknowledgment process will strengthen our important trust relationship with Indian tribes. Acknowledgment by the Department of the Interior confirms the existence of a nation-to-nation relationship between an Indian Tribe and the United States," said Secretary Jewell. "Through this Administration's outreach initiatives, tribal leaders have told us that the current process can be inconsistent, cost millions of dollars and take decades to complete. Our proposed rule maintains the rigorous integrity needed, but allows that process to be conducted in a timely, efficient and transparent manner."

The existing regulations, known as "the Part 83 process", were originally adopted in 1978 and were updated only once 20 years ago. Prior to that, Interior had addressed requests for Tribal acknowledgment on a case-by-case basis. While the 1978 regulations established a structured process for federal acknowledgment, these regulations have been widely criticized as being too time-consuming, sometimes arbitrary and generally "broken."

"Reform of the process is long-overdue," said Assistant Secretary Washburn. "One of my first assignments at the Department was to search for ways to improve the federal recognition process and address long-standing criticisms of those regulations. This initiative is the product of substantial Tribal consultation and public comment and we are grateful for the broad public interest in this reform effort and the helpful guidance we have received from Tribes and the public."

-Continued-

Page 2 - Reform of Federal Acknowledgment Regulations

Key features of the proposed rule would promote transparency by updating the Part 83 criteria to include objective standards; promote efficiency by requiring a petitioner to show community and political influence/authority from 1934 to the present rather than from as early as 1789; and eliminate the need for a petitioner to demonstrate that third parties identified the petitioner as a tribe from 1900 to the present. The proposed rule would make changes to the petitioning process that facilitate the timely issuance of proposed findings and final determinations. It would also allow an administrative judge to conduct a comprehensive hearing and review of a negative proposed finding.

In recognition of the high level of interest in the acknowledgement process, the Department used a transparent approach and significant outreach effort. Before beginning the formal rulemaking initiative, Interior issued a discussion draft last summer to facilitate public input on how to improve the process. Through the discussion draft and ensuing tribal consultations and public meetings, the Department obtained substantial feedback. In total, more than 2,800 commenters providing input on the discussion draft.

The proposed rule reflects current federal policy embodied in the Indian Reorganization Act and seeks to codify the Department's past practice under the Part 83 process to promote consistency and transparency. With the issuance of this proposed rule, the Department is again seeking input from tribes, petitioners seeking acknowledgment, and interested members of the public so that any reforms to the process are fair, timely and transparent.

Of the 566 federally recognized tribes, 17 have been recognized through the Part 83 process under Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, *Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe*. Though far more tribes have been recognized through Congressional action, the Part 83 process is an important mechanism because it allows deliberative consideration of petitions by a staff of federal experts in anthropology, genealogy and history and ultimately allows for a decision by an objective decision-maker. When petitioning groups that meet the several criteria are officially "acknowledged" as Indian tribes, the U.S. Government accepts trusteeship of Tribal lands and natural resources and Tribal governments and members become eligible to receive federal health, education, housing and other program and technical assistance services.

Interior will be conducting tribal consultations and public meetings on the proposed rule in July 2014. Tribal consultations are generally open only to representatives of federally recognized Indian tribes. Public meetings are open to everyone. The tribal consultations will be held on the following dates and locations:

-Continued-

Page 3 - Reform of Federal Acknowledgment Regulations

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 7/1/2014	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Paragon Casino & Resort, 711 Paragon Pl, Marksville, LA 71351
Tuesday 7/15/2014	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	BIA Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Ave, Portland, OR 97232*
Thursday 7/17/2014	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Menominee Casino Resort, N277 Hwy. 47/55, P.O. Box 760, Keshena, WI 54135
Tuesday 7/22/2014	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Cache Creek Casino Resort, 14455 California 16, Brooks, CA 95606
Thursday 7/24/2014	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Crowne Plaza Billings, 27 N 27th St, Billings, MT 59101
Tuesday 7/29/14	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community & Government Center Gymnasium, 483 Great Neck Road - South, Mashpee, MA 02649

Public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 7/1/2014	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Paragon Casino & Resort, 711 Paragon Pl, Marksville, LA 71351
Tuesday 7/15/2014	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	BIA Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Ave, Portland, OR 97232*
Thursday 7/17/2014	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Menominee Casino Resort, N277 Hwy. 47/55, P.O. Box 760, Keshena, WI 54135
Tuesday 7/22/2014	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Cache Creek Casino Resort, 14455 California 16, Brooks, CA 95606
Thursday 7/24/2014	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Crowne Plaza Billings, 27 N 27th St, Billings, MT 59101
Tuesday 7/29/14	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community & Government Center Gymnasium, 483 Great Neck Road - South, Mashpee, MA 02649

*Please RSVP for the Portland consultation to consultation@bia.gov, bring photo identification, and arrive early to allow for time to get through security, as this is a Federal building. No RSVP is necessary for the other consultation locations.

The proposed rule, frequently asked questions, and other information are online at: <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/ORM/8}revise/index.htm>. Comments on the proposed rule are due August 1, 2014, to consultation@bia.gov.

###

55046 ✓



643222

State of New Mexico

RECEIVED

2014 APR 25 AM 9:38

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Susana Martinez
Governor

April 22, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Hagel:

I am writing to you concerning the Department of Interior (DOI) and the Department of Defense (DOD) review of the proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. As you are aware, this project has been under consideration by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for several years, and they completed their Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in June, 2013. Prior to the publication of the FEIS, there had been several multi-agency meetings regarding proposed routing for the transmission lines (two AC lines, or one AC line and one DC line), though the meetings seemed to fall short of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements pertaining to cooperating agency involvement.

The objective of the project is to pull wind energy from Central New Mexico and move the energy to a site in Arizona. The BLM Preferred Alternate Route is planned across the Northern Extension Area of White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). This planned route poses an unacceptable negative impact to critical test and evaluation missions at WSMR. As I understand it, there are two good alternatives which would both support the project's objectives and WSMR's mission—the DOD preferred route north of the Northern Extension Area, or burying the line for approximately 35 miles along the BLM preferred route. I strongly support either one of these alternatives.

The Honorable Sally Jewell and the Honorable Chuck Hagel
April 22, 2014
Page 2

I was briefed recently on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory Review of the BLM Preferred Alternative Route, and I understand the review validates DOD concerns. My Administration fully supports our national goals regarding development of renewable energy, but not at the expense of military missions. We have followed closely the evolution of our National Security Strategy—White Sands Missile Range will continue to play a significant role as the Defense Department continues development of long-range capability against emerging threats, particularly those that might arise in the Asia-Pacific Theater.

With respect to the FEIS, and as provided for in 43 CFR 1610, I provided a Consistency Review statement to BLM on August 16, 2013. I have not received a response. This statement fully described several inconsistencies between the FEIS and our state's plans, policies, and programs with regards to our support for military missions in New Mexico.

Secretary Jewell, I urgently ask for your support of an alternative which avoids a negative impact to WSMR. Secretary Hagel, please let me know how we can further demonstrate our support for WSMR—it is an invaluable resource to our nation and to our great State of New Mexico.

My staff point of contact for this issue is Hanson Scott, hanson.scott@state.nm.us. Please let us know if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Susana Martinez
Governor

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone (303) 866-2471
Fax (303) 866-2003

643184

RECEIVED

2014 APR 23 AM

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

April 14, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

We are writing today to offer my support of the proposal to provide \$1 million per year of funding to connect urban youth with the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge ("Refuge") and fulfill our mutual goal of exposing the future stewards of our natural resources to the environment and wildlife.

Located in a fast growing urban area, part of which is economically disadvantaged, use of the Refuge exploded in 2013 to over 300,000 visitors, from 23,000 visitors in the prior year, and is expected to increase each year. In addition to its ideal location in close proximity to over 141,000 school children, the Refuge boasts a 16,000-acre reserve including bison, eagles and a restored native prairie ecosystem.

This proposal will allow for immediate implementation of the following:

- Removal of physical barriers from residential areas to the Refuge.
- Investment into partnerships, initially with Environmental Learning for Kids, a non-profit organization focused on providing outdoor education and experiences to underserved youth. In addition, the Refuge will continue to expand partnerships with local school districts, the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association and a new and emerging metropolitan green space alliance.
- Increased investment into youth employment opportunities with Mile High Youth Corps and Ground Work Denver to create a future conservation constituency.
- Finance one special project each year in support of the National Wildlife Refuge System's urban refuge initiative. This will allow the Refuge to support and encourage further innovation and local grassroots efforts as they develop across the region.

We share your commitment to youth in the outdoors and hope you will agree with me that the Refuge is best positioned to bridge many of the existing divides between youth and nature.

Sincerely,

John W. Hickenlooper

cc: Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jim Kurth, Assistant Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Noreen Walsh, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
David Lucas, Refuge Manager, Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR Complex



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



JUN 06 2014

The Honorable John W. Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your April 14, 2014 letter of support of the proposal to provide \$1 million per year of funding for connecting urban youth to Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Your support for this effort harmonizes with the Secretary's recently announced Secretarial Order to significantly expand recreational, educational, volunteer and career opportunities for millions of youth and veterans on the nation's public lands, including partnerships with businesses and youth organizations, in an effort to bridge the growing disconnect between young citizens and the great outdoors.

At this time, the proposal selected to receive these funds has not been determined. An announcement of the selectee is anticipated for July, 2014.

Thank you for your active engagement and commitment to bridging the growing gap between youth and nature.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR

ONE HUNDRED ONE NORTH CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701
OFFICE: (775) 684-5670
FAX NO.: (775) 684-5683



54582 ✓
555 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 5100
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
OFFICE: (702) 486-2500
FAX NO.: (702) 486-2505

Office of the Governor

April 10, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am deeply concerned by the actions of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials engaged in the impoundment of livestock in Clark County, Nevada. The conduct of BLM officials, including use of aggressive canines, SWAT teams and equipment, snipers with long rifles, a military helicopter, and over 200 heavily-armed law enforcement officials, has the appearance of a paramilitary operation rather than a round-up of cattle.

As a result, there is a toxic atmosphere of intimidation, turbulence, and anxiety in this quiet community that has left many locals in fear of even leaving their homes. To complicate matters more, the Clark County Fair, which is scheduled to begin today in Logandale, Nevada and close on Sunday, will bring thousands of children, families and exhibitors to the area.

Based on the aggressive behavior that has been displayed already, which is well documented in the mainstream media and social media sites, I am concerned that this matter may continue to escalate to a tragic and unnecessary outcome.

Indeed, so-called militias from other states have raised a call to arms to come to Nevada to confront federal authorities. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=e8O-o5OPsA&feature=youtu.be>

To further exacerbate the situation, the BLM has closed important public roads and established "First Amendment Zones" to limit where members of the public can express their views of this event. Moreover, the BLM has limited media access and required private landowners and right-of-way holders to obtain prior approval before accessing their lands or visiting their utility lines.

Over the past week, my office has received hundreds of phone calls and emails, overwhelmingly decrying the actions of BLM officials. I have met with state and local government officials, who fear tragedy is imminent. I have spoken with BLM Director Neil Kornze to insist that he take action, including dismantling the offensive "First Amendment Zones." To date, the only response I have received from federal officials is that there is no consideration for suspending or changing the character of the operation.

Arrests, public road-closures, the creation of an overly-restrictive "First Amendment Zone," use of tasers and police dogs, and generally heavy-handed behavior have created a dangerous situation in this community and our state. Local residents are living in fear and are upset and frustrated by BLM's actions. National militia groups are descending upon Clark County.

As Governor of the State of Nevada, I respectfully call on you, as Secretary of the United State Department of Interior, to suspend this enforcement activity immediately and order the BLM and all involved federal agencies to stand down. It is not my intent to question the Orders of the court or the merits of the legal dispute. I ask you to withdraw from this poorly planned and executed endeavor and put an end to this now to avoid what could become a horrible tragedy.

I look forward to speaking with you today and implore you to give this matter your utmost attention.

Sincere regards,



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

CC: The White House

545827



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 11 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval:

I am in receipt of your letter expressing concern about the cattle impoundment being undertaken by the Bureau of Land Management in Clark County, Nevada. As I assured you in our conversation of yesterday, our highest priority is the safety of the public, as well as the local, State, and Federal employees and contractors who are involved in carrying out and supporting this lawful impoundment in furtherance of two recent Federal court orders. I ask that you join with us to publicly emphasize the need for demonstrators to remain lawful, peaceful, and not to place themselves or others in danger by impeding the Federal employees and contractors conducting the impoundment.

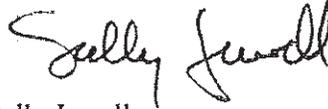
I am dismayed by the tone of your letter and by the factual misstatements it contains. Rest assured that there are no military helicopters, no Federal snipers, no paramilitary operation by the Federal Government, and no curtailment of First Amendment rights of those who disagree with our decision to implement Federal court orders to remove trespassing cattle. The BLM is conducting this operation consistent with established procedures and protocols.

The reported presence of out-of-state militia members underscores the need for your support and for the involvement of State law enforcement personnel to maintain public safety during this impoundment. The public statements of the protest participants, while showing flagrant disregard for Federal authority, indicate that they respect the exercise of State police powers. As public officials, we share the responsibility to ensure compliance with all laws without exception. In your role as Governor, you can reinforce that message.

Our goal in this action is to remove trespassing cattle that unlawfully remain on public lands, including lands managed by the National Park Service, as a result of their owner's refusal to comply with Federal law and three Federal court orders. He has also rejected our many efforts over the years to resolve this situation. For more than 20 years, the owner of these cattle has been trespassing on publicly owned resources for his own use and profit, unfairly impacting other potential uses of these public lands and without complying with the same laws as 16,000 law-abiding public lands ranchers nationwide. To allow this illegal activity to continue is unfair to lawful users of the public lands.

As we discussed yesterday and as I also relayed to Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie, I ask you to stand with us and to commit the resources to help us resolve this trespass situation peacefully.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Jewell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sally Jewell

54559 ↓

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

642771

April 9, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary
U. S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I performed a consistency review of the Proposed Resource Management Plan for the Lander Field Office (Lander RMP) in April 2013. Nearly a year later, there is still no Record of Decision (ROD). This delay has consequences. Please help bring the Lander RMP to finality.

RECEIVED
2014 APR 10 PM 3:08
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE SECRET

The Lander RMP covers a total of 6.6 million acres in five counties. For more than seven years, dozens of cooperators reviewed and commented on thousands of pages of data and information while maintaining a tight schedule for the Lander RMP process outlined by the BLM. In addition to the cooperators, there was a high degree of public participation. The participation reflects the plan's importance to the lives of people who live, work, and visit the five counties covered by the planning area. The public process for developing resource management plans is as important as the final product. The citizenry has done its job; it is now up the Department of Interior to do its part.

The Lander RMP will guide land use decisions for 20 years—including grazing, habitat protection, mineral development, recreation and other uses. The uncertainty of the Lander RMP's ROD affects the private sector's ability to plan and to make long term business decisions. This jeopardizes economic prosperity and creates unnecessary tension and uncertainty. It prevents implementation of conservation initiatives and actions addressing natural resource issues such as trails, recreation, energy development, wildlife, not to mention public health and safety.

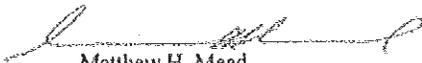
In its March 2010 status determination for the Greater Sage-Grouse, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endorsed Wyoming's strategy, stating: "the core area strategy...if implemented by all landowners via regulatory mechanisms, *would* provide adequate protection for sage-grouse and their habitats in the State." [Emphasis added.] Wyoming's strategy is being implemented on non-federal lands. Without a final Lander RMP, Wyoming's ability to demonstrate and document Greater Sage-Grouse conservation efforts is curtailed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife

The Honorable Sally Jewell
April 9, 2014
Page 2

Services' decision on the listing is less than 18 months away. Wyoming and its partners have expended considerable resources to develop an effective, enduring model for sage-grouse conservation that will be implemented through the Lander RMP. The Lander RMP will serve as a template for other resource management plans revision efforts in Wyoming and across the west—but only after it is signed.

Please help resolve the delay of the Lander RMP. I hope you will be able to sign the decision at your earliest convenience. It would be wonderful if the signing would take place in Wyoming, but that is secondary to the real need to have the Lander RMP signed expeditiously.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:mdm

cc: The Honorable Michael B. Enzi, U. S. Senate
The Honorable John Barrasso, U. S. Senate
The Honorable Cynthia Lummis, U. S. House of Representatives
Jim Lyons, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Dan Ashe, Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Don Simpson, Wyoming State Director, Bureau of Land Management
Rick VanderVoet, Lander Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 04 2014

The Honorable Matthew H. Mead
Governor of Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Governor Mead:

Thank you for your letter of April 9, 2014, regarding your interest in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issuing the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Lander Resource Management Plan (RMP). I share your desire to provide the public with management certainty to this area.

The Department must balance releasing the Lander ROD with a landscape approach to Greater sage-grouse conservation. While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has expressed its support of the Wyoming strategy, the Lander RMP is only one component of the larger, multi-state planning initiative with broad national implications. I recognize the years of effort by the State of Wyoming and members of the public working with the BLM to arrive at fair and balanced management for the Lander area. I appreciate your leadership and that of your predecessor, Governor Freudenthal, in developing a plan to both conserve the Greater sage-grouse and sustain responsible natural resource development. As your letter indicates, the Lander RMP will guide the use of public lands for at least the next two decades.

The Department is on target to complete its review of the proposed plan amendments and revisions. This has required extensive coordination with the USDA Forest Service as well as states throughout the West in what has been one of the most extensive land-use planning efforts ever, all within a very short timeframe. As you can appreciate, the first Greater sage-grouse plan needs to be fully vetted as it will set the stage for all the plans that follow. We have nearly completed our review of the Lander plan and are very close to finalizing our decision.

Thank you for your leadership in Wyoming and as co-chair of the Sage-grouse Task Force in advancing the State-Federal collaboration that is critical to our success in conserving the sage-grouse. I look forward to seeing you at the Western Governors' Association's meeting and our continued work together on this pioneering effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Jewell".

Sally Jewell

54828 ✓



LOLO M. MOLIGA
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT
Telephone: (684) 633-4116 Fax: (684) 633-2269

LEMANU P. MAUGA
LEUTENANT GOVERNOR

April 9, 2014

Serial: 300

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
United States Government
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Madams Secretary;

The Legislature of American Samoa has transmitted to me, the approved Senate Joint Resolution No. 33-3 amending Article II, Section 9 and Article II Section 19 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa to provide for a "Legislative Override of Executive Varies without action by the Secretary of the Interior". Moreover, it has been decreed by the Legislature of American Samoa, to place this resolution on the ballot for the next election on November 4, 2014 to be voted on by the people of American Samoa.

While I don't object to the subject of the resolution, I am very concerned that legal issues connected with the Presidential Delegated Oversight Authority to DOI over the Territory of American Samoa, along with former Congressman Fofu Sumia 1984 amendment shifting the review of amendments of our Constitution to the Congress of the United States have not been clearly addressed. These legal issues might invalidate the proposed Constitutional amendment as prescribed by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33-3.

Based on the foregoing, I am requesting your assistance if it would be possible to have the Solicitor General review the referenced resolution and determine if there are legal impediments which require resolution before the matter is placed in a referendum in the next general election. It is important for me to ensure that the people of American Samoa are well informed of all the issues associated with the proposed constitutional amendments.

As time is of the essence, your usual prompt attention is appreciated and humbly requested to ensure that sufficient time is spent to create full awareness among the people of American Samoa so they can make informed choices. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Lolo M. Moliga
Governor of American Samoa

Cc: Honorable Lemanu P. Mauga, Lieutenant Governor
Mr. Nikolao Pula, Director, Office of Insular Affairs



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

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1600 Broadway
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Denver, CO 80202

303-623-9378
Fax 303-534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 376
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

April 4, 2014

Rhea Suh
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Suh:

It has come to my attention that the U.S. application for candidacy in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) was approved by the EITI Board at its March 18-19 meeting in Oslo, Norway. I understand and appreciate that the application included an opt-in provision for states, as requested in WGA's letter to you last July. I further understand that the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) that is providing input to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative plans to gather, collate, and analyze publicly available state revenue data for inclusion in the U.S. EITI report, regardless of whether a state has opted in.

I strongly recommend that the MSG and the Interior Department (as the primary federal government representative to EITI) clarify the proposed use of state data and propose a formal opt-in process for interested states. To better inform state consideration of EITI participation, WGA recommends that our federal partners develop and distribute an explanation of the initiative that describes:

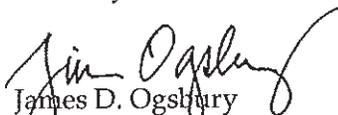
- the rationale for state participation and identifies the costs and benefits for a state opting in to EITI reporting;
- the process by which a state can opt-in to formally participate in U.S. EITI reporting; and
- how state data will be gathered and used for states which do not opt in.

While Governors support the goal of revenue transparency and recognize that the U.S. system of transparency can be a model for the rest of the world, they will react unfavorably to efforts by EITI that create an unfunded federal mandate. Unless states have opted in, DOI, EITI or the "Independent Administrator" contracted to gather and "repackage" existing state data should not expect state agency staff to take time away from their duties to help gather, collect, analyze or interpret data requested by EITI.

Rhea Suh
April 4, 2014
Page Two

We look forward to receiving more information about the proposed use of state data and a formal opt-in process for interested states.

Sincerely,


James D. Ogshury
Executive Director

cc: Multi-Stakeholder Group, U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

APR 17 2014

Mr. James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director
Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Ogsbury:

Thank you for your letter dated April 4, 2014, on behalf of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) concerning U.S implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (USEITI). You requested further clarification of how extractive revenues collected by states may be affected as USEITI implementation continues, and I appreciate the opportunity to share this information with you.

As you know, the USEITI candidacy application was approved at the March 2014 EITI International Board Meeting. Consistent with our previous communications, the candidacy application sought and successfully obtained a waiver of the EITI requirement to include reconciliation of state extractive revenues in EITI reporting. Publicly available information about state extractive revenues will be in the USEITI Report as part of the contextual data describing the U.S. extractive sector.

Moving forward, a working group will be formed to engage states in the joint design of a state "opt-in" procedure for USEITI reporting. The USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), which includes representatives from the States of California and Wyoming, will lead this effort. The rationale for seeking the waiver and proposing to instead develop an "opt-in" procedure recognizes not only the complex and varied nature of the state extractive landscape, but also the need to first obtain meaningful guidance from states on an approach that will be mutually beneficial. As a result, the approval of the USEITI candidacy application marks a starting point for more detailed discussion, not a destination with defined outcomes for state participation.

We welcome the opportunity for more active WGA involvement in designing a state "opt-in" procedure and identifying the benefits to state residents, especially in those areas where substantial energy development occurs. We would like to invite WGA representatives to begin attending the USEITI MSG open meetings, starting with the next one on April 23rd, and/or to

participate in the state "opt-in" working group. We will continue to keep you informed and seek your input as the state "opt-in" procedure is designed, and look forward to WGA's continued engagement on behalf of states.

Please let me know if there is any additional information that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhea Suh".

Rhea Suh
Assistant Secretary
Policy, Management and Budget

Cc: The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado and
Chairman, Western Governors' Association



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

Headquarters:
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Washington, D.C. Office:
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
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Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

April 3, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-10148

Dear Secretary Jewell,

Thank you for your continued engagement with Western Governors and the Western Governors' Association. We are writing to ask the Department of Interior's support for reauthorization of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project (Pilot Project).

In accordance with Section 365 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, then-Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton structured the Pilot Project through a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Agriculture, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Pilot Project established seven regional Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices as Pilot Project offices for a period of 10 years. The Western states where these offices are located collectively process the vast majority of the applications for permit to drill (APD) filed with the BLM.

A key aspect of the Pilot Project is that these offices are eligible to receive a portion of rental fees paid by oil and gas development companies in connection with their leases on BLM land. The Pilot Project offices utilize the additional funding to add staff and other resources to increase office efficiency and streamline processing of APDs. Further, this additional funding has been used by the Pilot Project offices to support BLM resource conservation efforts.

Since enactment of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, demand for natural gas has increased dramatically. In order to continue the development of domestic resources, efficient and streamlined regulatory permitting processes are ever more important. The Pilot Project is an important tool in this regard.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 dictates that the Pilot Project's 10-year term will expire in 2015. Given its success, we support reauthorization of the Pilot Project.

Honorable Sally Jewell

April 3, 2014

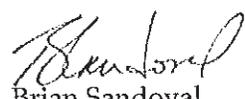
Page 2

Bipartisan support for the Pilot Project was seen when, in Dec. 2013, Congress passed and the President signed H.R. 767, expanding the scope of the Pilot Project and providing additional discretion to BLM. Ongoing bipartisan support is further evidenced by the Feb. 5, 2014 letter sent to you by Senator Tom Udall and Congressman Rob Bishop.

We join interested Members of Congress in asking the Department of Interior to support extension of the Pilot Project. We look forward to working collaboratively with you to ensure the continued success of this program, so important to a number of Western states.

Respectfully,


John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
WGA Chairman


Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
WGA Vice Chairman

cc: Senator Tom Udall, New Mexico
Congressman Rob Bishop, Utah



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 17 2014

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 2014, regarding the expiration of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project (Pilot Project) authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct), and your desire to seek its reauthorization. I appreciate your sharing your views on this matter. The Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also consider the 10-year Pilot Project to be a success, and it has allowed the BLM and its Pilot Project partner bureaus and agencies to efficiently process oil and gas drilling permits and administer the Federal mineral estate.

The additional resources devoted to processing oil and gas use authorizations through the EPAct have enhanced the BLM's capabilities to coordinate across the relevant agencies, increasing the pace of permitting and streamlining associated environmental reviews. In addition, the Pilot Project has provided the BLM's oil and gas inspection and enforcement program with resources necessary to allow for more thorough oversight of authorized oil and gas operations.

Recently, legislative authority was granted to expand the Pilot Project in the Miles City (MT) Field Office to include all field offices within the jurisdiction of the BLM's Montana/Dakotas State Office. Similarly, the Pilot Project in the Buffalo (WY) Field Office was legislatively expanded to include the Casper Field Office. We would like to work with Congress to provide additional flexibility nationwide to utilize the pilot office authority to respond accordingly as industry's geographical interests and permitting demands shift over time.

We look forward to working with you to develop solutions that will allow us to extend the success of these pilot offices and to provide for environmentally responsible energy development on the public lands. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me. A similar letter has been sent to Governor Brian Sandoval.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewel



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 17 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Vice Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Sandoval:

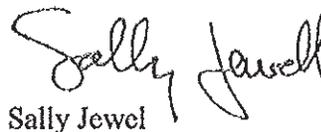
Thank you for your letter of April 3, 2014, regarding the expiration of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project (Pilot Project) authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct), and your desire to seek its reauthorization. I appreciate your sharing your views on this matter. The Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also consider the 10-year Pilot Project to be a success, and it has allowed the BLM and its Pilot Project partner bureaus and agencies to efficiently process oil and gas drilling permits and administer the Federal mineral estate.

The additional resources devoted to processing oil and gas use authorizations through the EPAct have enhanced the BLM's capabilities to coordinate across the relevant agencies, increasing the pace of permitting and streamlining associated environmental reviews. In addition, the Pilot Project has provided the BLM's oil and gas inspection and enforcement program with resources necessary to allow for more thorough oversight of authorized oil and gas operations.

Recently, legislative authority was granted to expand the Pilot Project in the Miles City (MT) Field Office to include all field offices within the jurisdiction of the BLM's Montana/Dakotas State Office. Similarly, the Pilot Project in the Buffalo (WY) Field Office was legislatively expanded to include the Casper Field Office. We would like to work with Congress to provide additional flexibility nationwide to utilize the pilot office authority to respond accordingly as industry's geographical interests and permitting demands shift over time.

We look forward to working with you to develop solutions that will allow us to extend the success of these pilot offices and to provide for environmentally responsible energy development on the public lands. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me. A similar letter has been sent to Governor John Hickenlooper.

Sincerely,


Sally Jewel

54382 ✓



642428
State of New Mexico - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RECEIVED

2014 APR -2 PM 4: 18

Susana Martinez
Governor

March 24, 2014

The Honorable Secretary Sally Jewell
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am writing in support of the creation of a national monument covering lands in the Organ Mountains, Organ Needles, and Pena Blanca WSA, as set forth in H.R. 995, The Organ Mountains National Monument Establishment Act sponsored by Congressman Steve Pearce. New Mexico is blessed with thousands of miles of remarkable lands preserved not only for our citizens' enjoyment, but for countless visitors from around the world. This establishment of roughly 50,000 acres would protect and conserve these lands for future generations to enjoy the beauty of our rich terrain.

While H.R. 995 ensures that this effort is not overzealous in scope and breadth, I am concerned that a similar proposal brought forth by Senators Heinrich and Udall allocates too much land. This proposal appropriates roughly five times the acreage of HR995 and could threaten border security as well as water and grazing rights if it were adopted.

I stand with members of our delegation in wanting to ensure that our beautiful state is protected for future generations. However, the approach favored by Senators Heinrich and Udall is simply too broad. I strongly encourage your support of Congressman Pearce's approach, and look forward to working with members of our delegation to ensure its success.

*The Honorable Secretary Jewell
Organ Mountains National Monument
March 24, 2014*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susana Martinez".

Susana Martinez
Governor

*Cc: President Barack Obama
Senator Martin Heinrich
Senator Tom Udall
Representative Steve Pearce
Principle Deputy Director Neil Komze, Bureau of Land Management*

54382 →



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAY 14 2014

The Honorable Susana Martinez
Governor of New Mexico
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor Martinez:

Thank you for your letters of March 24, 2014, to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Neil Kornze and me regarding proposed legislation to designate a national monument consisting of public lands managed by the BLM in Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

Your input on these pending bills is very much appreciated. We constantly work to take into account the interests of a wide range of stakeholders to protect America's public lands and provide for economic development in a manner that is consistent with law and sound public policy.

This area is not only a treasure for the State of New Mexico, but one of national significance to be managed for, and cherished by, all the people of the United States. The Department of the Interior and the BLM welcome opportunities to engage in important discussions such as this regarding the protection of some of America's most compelling landscapes.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, the sponsors of these bills, and other stakeholders to appropriately manage this important area for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Jewell".

Sally Jewell

54092

ONE HUNDRED ONE NORTH CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701
OFFICE: (775) 684-5670
FAX NO.: (775) 684-5683



555 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 5100
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
OFFICE: (702) 486-2500
FAX-NO.: (702) 486-2505

64206



2014

Office of the Governor

March 17, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: National Historic Landmark Designation of Nevada State Prison

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Please accept this letter expressing my support for the nomination of Nevada State Prison as a National Historic Landmark. Nevada State Prison has played a prominent role in shaping the rich history of the State of Nevada, a history we are now celebrating as we enter our 150th year of statehood. The historical, cultural, architectural and geological significance of this unique site cannot be overstated, and its profound impact on Nevada's legacy should be preserved for the benefit of future generations of Americans.

One of the oldest prisons in the Western United States, Nevada State Prison operated from 1862 until its closure in 2012. It was originally housed in the Warm Springs Hotel in Carson City. In 1867, the facility was reconstructed out of sandstone which was quarried at the site. Since its reconstruction, the prison has played a role in defining some of the most quintessential cultural, political, and social events in Nevada's history.

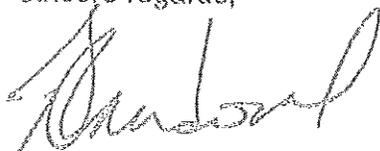
Nevada State Prison's first warden, Abraham Curry, who is considered the founding father of Carson City, donated the land upon which Nevada's State Capitol building stands today. The State Capitol was constructed using the sandstone quarried at Nevada State Prison. The Capitol's timeless architecture and sandstone exterior continue to embody the strength and unbreakable resolve that have defined Nevada throughout its rugged history. Nevada has evolved from its early days as an untamed frontier into a premiere international destination that today is at the forefront of some of America's most dynamic industries and emerging technologies. Like the Capitol's sandstone exterior that

has withstood the test of time, the State of Nevada, too, has weathered its own tempests and has emerged strong, unwavering, and ready for the opportunities that lie ahead. Thus, Nevada State Prison's early role in the construction of some of Nevada's most cherished landmarks is also an essential chapter in the ongoing story of the Silver State.

Nevada State Prison is also renowned for its geological treasures, linking modern-day Nevada to its rich early heritages. As far back as 1882, fossilized footprints were discovered at the site, and fossils from a variety of species are still being uncovered there to this day. These types of invaluable discoveries at the site of Nevada State Prison spur research and scientific interest that help to answer important questions about our past. They are also a reflection of Nevada's unrivaled contributions in the field of anthropology, which include North America's oldest known petroglyphs, recently discovered in northern Nevada, as well as the Tule Springs fossil bed outside of Las Vegas, which is home to thousands of fossils of Ice Age mammoths, bison and American lions.

As an iconic and historic institution, Nevada State Prison is so much more than a building. It truly is a landmark that embodies much of what Nevada has to offer its citizens, as well as the millions of visitors that travel to Nevada every year. The site is emblematic of ideas that continue to inform the history of this great State, as well as the ideas that will inspire its future. It has played a pivotal role in the development of Nevada from its earliest days as an unchartered territory, and has endured the ups and downs of its 150-year history. I therefore wish to convey my enthusiastic support for the designation of Nevada State Prison as a National Historic Landmark. I firmly believe that such a designation would greatly enhance Nevada's cultural and historical vitality, and I hope you will also carefully consider supporting the nomination of this inimitable treasure of Nevada's past.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Sandoval", written in a cursive style.

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

54092 →



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

H34(2280)

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you very much for your letter of support for the National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation of the Nevada State Prison in Carson City. From your letter, the history of the prison sounds impressive. The NHL staff will evaluate the prison's eligibility for designation if they receive a request for nomination. To date, they have not received any information about the prison, nor a request that the site be considered for NHL designation.

Rebecca Palmer, the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, informed the NHL staff that a National Register of Historic Places nomination is being prepared for the Nevada State Prison. Preparation of the nomination is funded, in part, by a Certified Local Government grant from the National Park Service to Carson City. We look forward to receiving the National Register nomination.

National Historic Landmark designation is quite different from National Register listing. The NHL program recognizes properties of exceptional national significance that exhibit a very high degree of integrity. National Register listing is available for historic properties that are significant from a local, state, or national perspective. Each program has distinct criteria for evaluating eligibility.

As the Nevada State Prison nomination is being prepared, the National Register and NHL staff will assist the preparers as needed. The staff will hold your letter of endorsement until a nomination has been received. Thank you very much for your interest in the National Historic Landmark program and for your support in recognizing Nevada's rich heritage.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Toothman, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Partnerships
and Science



State of
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

March 11, 2014

*EX-101 Sec
MAR 24 2014
Rec'd*

Mike Connor
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Deputy Secretary Connor:

I am pleased to congratulate you on your appointment as Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior. I did ask for quick approval of your nomination but am not sure I caused the 2-day response. I have enjoyed working with you in the past, and I look forward to working with you in the future on projects that are critical to North Dakota.

In particular, I look forward to continued discussions with you regarding the Red River Valley Water Supply project. A study on the project is currently underway; I will provide you with an update on the proposed route once the study is completed early this summer.

I also again want to request your support to obtain funding for a Plan of Study to identify potential improvements to the river operating plans implemented in both the United States and Canada with regard to the Souris River. It is very important that this Plan of Study is completed, as it will be of great importance in helping the United States and Canada to provide long-term flood protection for our citizens in the Souris River Valley.

Congratulations on your new position; I look forward to continuing to work with you on issues important to our state and our nation.

Sincerely,

Jack Dalrymple
Jack Dalrymple
Governor

37:68:56



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

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Washington, D.C. Office:
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Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

February 23, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Western Governors and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) share a commitment to conserve the greater sage-grouse. As we have repeatedly stated, Western Governors support all reasonable management efforts necessary to support a not-warranted decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the greater sage-grouse. We thank you and your agency directors for your cooperation with our states in the development of sound conservation measures.

Western Governors are pleased to share our most recent *Inventory of State and Local Governments' Conservation Initiatives for Sage-Grouse: 2013 Update*. This third annual inventory illustrates the many ways that states and counties are taking proactive, voluntary steps to conserve the species – steps which are consistent with the Conservation Objectives Team report, and other conservation requirements, issued by the Service. These steps preclude the need to include the greater sage-grouse on the federal endangered species list.

An accurate evaluation of the effect of state measures upon overall population trends for greater sage-grouse requires DOI and its agencies to take into account the full spectrum of state activities, be they legislative, regulatory, administrative or voluntary, and adequately acknowledge the associated benefits.

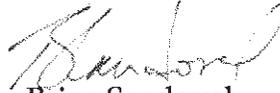
Western Governors pledge to continue working with DOI, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management to comprehensively document all greater sage-grouse conservation actions in order to ensure that greater sage-grouse conservation plans and policies are fully accounted for at the time of a final listing proposal.

Honorable Sally Jewell
February 23, 2014
Page Two

Sincerely,



John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
Chairman, WGA



Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
Vice Chairman, WGA

Attachments:

Resolution 11-09 Sage-grouse and Sagebrush Conservation

Resolution 13-04 Conserving Wildlife and Crucial Habitat in the West

cc: Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 10 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Vice Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you for your letter dated February 23, 2014, regarding conservation of the greater sage-grouse. I appreciate receiving a copy of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) *Inventory of State and Local Governments' Conservation Initiatives for Sage-Grouse: 2013 Update* and *WGA's Conserving Wildlife and Crucial Habitat in the West*.

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with the U.S. Forest Service, are continuing to work collaboratively with affected states to conserve the greater sage-grouse and its habitat and potentially avoid the need to list the species under the Endangered Species Act. These collaborative efforts play an important role in conserving and improving sage brush habitats across the range of the greater sage-grouse. We appreciate WGA's commitment to greater sage-grouse conservation and the proactive steps being taken across local and state lands.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the greater sage-grouse on our Nation's public lands. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue. A similar letter is being sent to Governor John Hickenlooper.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 10 2014

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

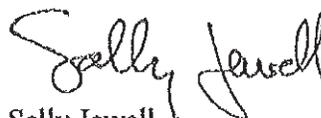
Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your letter dated February 23, 2014, regarding conservation of the greater sage-grouse. I appreciate receiving a copy of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) *Inventory of State and Local Governments' Conservation Initiatives for Sage-Grouse: 2013 Update* and *WGA's Conserving Wildlife and Crucial Habitat in the West*.

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with the U.S. Forest Service, are continuing to work collaboratively with affected states to conserve the greater sage-grouse and its habitat and potentially avoid the need to list the species under the Endangered Species Act. These collaborative efforts play an important role in conserving and improving sage brush habitats across the range of the greater sage-grouse. We appreciate WGA's commitment to greater sage-grouse conservation and the proactive steps being taken across local and state lands.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the greater sage-grouse on our Nation's public lands. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue. A similar letter is being sent to Governor Brian Sandoval.

Sincerely,



Sally Jewell

53360 ↙

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

641022

February 18, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I support the work of the Sweetwater River Conservancy (Conservancy) in Wyoming. The Conservancy finalized a Wetland Mitigation Bank with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to safeguard important wetland habitat in perpetuity and unlock other areas for development. Now the Conservancy is working to secure habitat for the sage-grouse using a Habitat Conservation Bank permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Conservancy's Habitat Conservation Bank builds on principles in my sage-grouse core area conservation strategy. It will protect over 700,000 acres of sage-grouse habitat. This landscape-scale habitat bank will be larger than all other nationwide Service-approved habitat banks combined. While sage-grouse are the focus of the Conservancy's work, benefits extend to mule deer, water quality and quantity, livestock production and other natural resources. I look forward to final approval of the proposed Bank by the Service. I commend Mark Sattelberg, Ecological Services Field Supervisor for Wyoming, for his efforts to achieve these goals.

The Conservancy also maintains habitat for bald and golden eagles, other raptors and migratory birds. These avian species have been a focus of wind industry guidelines, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Proactive habitat banking concepts for bald and golden eagles, migratory birds and other raptor management would benefit from matching proven science, federal land use and wildlife protection laws. I would appreciate your assistance in applying habitat banking to avian species.

Thank you for your upcoming meeting with the Conservancy. Working with the Sweetwater River Conservancy and similar groups encourages private efforts and results in long term benefits to sage-grouse, wildlife, water, open space, hunting and ranching. Wyoming continues to be a leading force in sage-grouse protection. The Conservancy's work is another important extension of that effort.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Mead
Governor

*Secretary,
look forward to seeing
you soon.*

53360 →



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAR 25 2014

The Honorable Matthew H. Mead
Governor of Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Governor Mead:

Thank you for your letter of February 18, 2014, supporting the efforts of the Sweetwater River Conservancy (Conservancy) to conserve natural resources in Wyoming. The Department of the Interior also supports these important conservation efforts because of the great potential to protect essential natural resources. I appreciate your support and the backing of State agencies on these projects as well.

The Conservancy's habitat conservation bank is an ambitious undertaking. I am excited that the habitat conservation bank is designed on a landscape scale and builds on your sage-grouse core area conservation strategy, something that is required for the continued protection of greater sage-grouse. I commit the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to diligently work on the establishment of the habitat conservation bank.

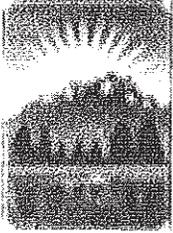
Regarding your comments about using conservation banks for avian species, we have initiated discussions at the national level on this complicated issue. At this time, we are exploring whether it is possible to utilize a traditional conservation banking approach to address impacts to eagles, given our current regulations governing take of eagles. We will continue to assess the degree to which it is possible to do as you suggest and apply these habitat banking concepts to eagles. Although the regulations implementing the MBTA do not currently address conservation banking when activities affect birds covered by that Act, the FWS supports and encourages voluntary banking efforts for this purpose.

It was a pleasure to meet with former-Governor Freudenthal and the Conservancy recently, and I look forward to learning more about their innovative efforts. I also commend your leadership in sage-grouse protection and natural resource issues in Wyoming.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

53359 ✓



**WESTERN
GOVERNORS'
ASSOCIATION**

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

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February 18, 2014

641017

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, D.C. 20240

RECEIVED

2014 FEB 19 AM 6:41

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Dear Secretary Jewell:

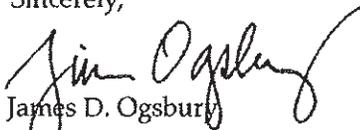
On behalf of the Western Governors' Association (WGA), I am writing to communicate Western Governors' concerns regarding invasive species. The problem of invasive species is one of the most complex environmental issues facing our nation, growing and creating economic and ecological damage across our western landscapes and Pacific Islands.

The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) was created to provide high-level interdepartmental coordination of federal invasive species actions, as well as to promote coordination with states and local entities to address cross-boundary invasive species concerns. Executive Order 13112, which established NISC in 1999, provides for biennial updates of the National Invasive Species Management Plan by NISC. The most recent Management Plan, released in August 2008, covered the period from 2008-2012.

Western Governors understand that a new Management Plan is currently being drafted under the auspices of NISC. WGA strongly urges NISC to engage and cooperate with states during the drafting process. Such coordination will ensure that federal priorities and actions align with the efforts of states, localities, nonprofit entities, and other stakeholders.

Western Governors welcome the opportunity to work with you on development and implementation of a new National Invasive Species Management Plan that can achieve measurable progress on invasive species. I look forward to learning from you how WGA can most constructively participate in the process of developing the management plan.

Sincerely,


James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

Honorable Sally Jewell
February 18, 2014
Page Two

Related WGA Policy Resolutions:
Resolution 13-02 *Combating Invasive Species*

cc: Lori Williams, Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council
Steve Ryder, Chair, Western Weed Coordinating Committee

Identical letter sent to Honorable Tom Vilsack, USDA and Honorable Penny Pritzker, USDOC

533597



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

APR 01 2014

Mr. James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director
Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. Ogsbury,

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about invasive species causing extensive environmental and economic harm across western landscapes and in the Pacific Islands. I agree that invasive species do not respect jurisdictional boundaries and are best addressed by coordinated efforts and through close collaboration with states, localities, nonprofit entities, and other stakeholders.

I appreciate your interest in contributing to the development and implementation of the National Invasive Species Management Plan (Management Plan), currently being updated and revised by the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). As Co-Chair of the National Invasive Species Council, I welcome the opportunity to work closely with the Western Governors' Association (WGA) to design the best strategy possible for addressing invasive species and protecting our vital natural resources. The WGA plays a critical role in invasive species prevention and control efforts throughout the western United States.

NISC recognizes the importance of engagement and cooperation with the states and tribes in gathering valuable input for the Management Plan, and improving our collective efforts to minimize the impacts of invasive species over the next few years. We look forward to working with WGA in our planning process as the 13 NISC member departments and agencies identify key priorities.

The revised plan will also be extensively reviewed by the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC). Mandated by Executive Order 13112, ISAC consists of 30 of nonfederal individuals, representing industry, universities, states, and other stakeholders who provide advice and recommendations to NISC on invasive species issues. ISAC's comments will be carefully considered for incorporation in the revised Management Plan.

Again, thank you for your interest in the development and implementation of the new National Invasive Species Management Plan. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 202-354-1881, or by e-mail at Lori_Williams@ios.doi.gov, if you have any additional questions about how the Western Governors' Association can most constructively participate in this effort.

Sincerely,

Lori C. Williams, Esq.
Director, National Invasive Species Council



53144 ✓

THE STATE OF WYOMING



RECEIVED

640669

2014 FEB -4 PM 3: 14

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

January 28, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

Thank you for your commitment to work with Wyoming and all western states on balanced and cooperative management of public land. Ensuring there is no need to list the sage grouse is a focused objective and illustrates the power of a cooperative approach.

I appreciate your note.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:md

P.S. Yes, to the climb -- I'm working on the date.

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

January 27, 2014

The Honorable Kevin Washburn
Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of Interior
MS-4141 -MIB
1849 C. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Yakama Nation Retrocession Petition

Dear Assistant Secretary Washburn:

Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. §1323 and Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 37.12, I have included the attached proclamation, signed by me on January 17, 2014. The proclamation addresses a retrocession petition submitted by the Confederate Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation in Washington State.

On March 19, 2012, former Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire signed Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2233. This important piece of legislation created a process by which the state of Washington may retrocede to the United States civil and criminal jurisdiction previously acquired by the State over a federally recognized Indian tribe under federal Public Law 280 in 1953. The bill gives the Governor of the state of Washington the authority to approve, in whole or in part, a retrocession petition submitted by a Washington State Indian tribe. Final approval rests with the U.S. Department of the Interior.

On July 17, 2012, the Yakama Nation filed a retrocession petition with the Office of the Governor requesting full civil and criminal jurisdiction on all of Yakama Nation Indian country in five specific areas of RCW 37.12.010. I believe that the enclosed Proclamation is a great first step towards strengthening the sovereignty and independence of the Yakama Nation.

In paragraph one of the proclamation, the State grants exclusive civil and criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation in four subject areas of RCW 37.12.010: Compulsory School Attendance; Public Assistance; Domestic Relations; and Juvenile Delinquency.

In paragraph two, the proclamation also grants to the Yakama Nation civil and criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of the reservation in Operation of Motor Vehicles on Public Streets, Alleys, Roads, and Highways cases which do not involve non-Indian plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants, or non-Indian victims. I would note that the proclamation itself states that the State will retain jurisdiction in these cases over civil causes of action involving "non-Indian



The Honorable Kevin Washburn
January 27, 2014
Page Two

plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants, *and* non-Indian victims,” as well as in criminal cases involving “non-Indian defendants *and* non-Indian victims.” The intent set forth in paragraph two, however, is for the State to retain jurisdiction in this area where *any* party is non-Indian, and therefore may be more properly read in both instances as the State retaining jurisdiction in those cases involving “non-Indian plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants *and/or* non-Indian victims.” I respectfully request that the Department make this clear in the notice accepting the retrocession Proclamation.

Finally, in paragraph three of the proclamation, the State is also retroceding criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of the reservation over all offenses not specifically addressed in paragraphs one and two, which do not involve non-Indian defendants or non-Indian victims. Again, I would note that in this paragraph the proclamation states that the State retains jurisdiction over criminal offenses involving “non-Indian defendants *and* non-Indian victims,” but the intent is for the State to retain such jurisdiction in those cases involving non-Indian defendants *and/or* non-Indian victims.”

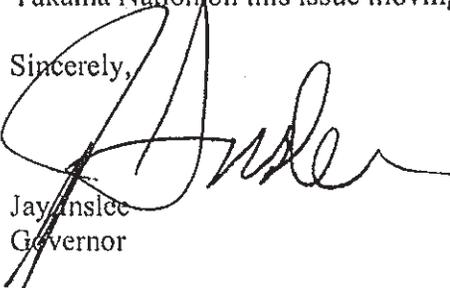
The proclamation does deny part of the petition by the Yakama Nation, and allow the State to retain existing civil and criminal jurisdiction in a limited number of areas. First and foremost, the State is retaining its existing jurisdiction outside of the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation, including all trust and fee lands. Moreover, consistent with the description above, the State is retaining civil and criminal jurisdiction in Operation of Motor Vehicle cases that involve non-Indian plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants, and/or non-Indian victims.

It is important to note that nothing in the proclamation changes the existing jurisdiction the Yakama Nation has over Indian child custody proceedings under RCW 37.12.010(3) and Adoption proceedings and Dependent Children pursuant to RCW 37.12.010(6) and (7). The Yakama Nation reassumed jurisdiction over these subjects in 1980 under the Indian Child Welfare Act, and shall remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Yakama Nation.

Similarly, nothing in the proclamation shall affect the State’s civil jurisdiction over the civil commitment of sexually violent predators pursuant to chapter 71.09 RCW and the State must retain such jurisdiction notwithstanding the completion of the retrocession process authorized under RCW 37.12.160.

Thank you for accepting this proclamation on behalf of the state of Washington and for working to bring the retrocession petition to fruition. I look forward to continue working with you and the Yakama Nation on this issue moving forward.

Sincerely,



Jay Inslie
Governor

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 902-4111 • www.governor.wa.gov

**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
14-01**

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2012, Governor Christine Gregoire signed Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2233, "Creating a procedure for the state's retrocession of civil and criminal jurisdiction over Indian tribes and Indian country"; and

WHEREAS, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2233, which became Chapter 48, Laws of 2012, creates a process by which the state of Washington (hereafter, "the State") may retrocede to the United States all or part of the civil and criminal jurisdiction previously acquired by the State over a federally recognized Indian tribe, and the Indian country of such tribe, under federal Public Law 280, Act of August 15, 1953; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 1963, in accordance with federal Public Law 280, Act of August 15, 1953, the State assumed partial civil and criminal jurisdiction, subject to the limitations in RCW 37.12.021 and RCW 37.12.060, within the Indian country of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (hereafter, "Yakama Nation") pursuant to Chapter 36, Laws of 1963; and

WHEREAS, after March 13, 1963, the Yakama Nation did not invoke with the State the provision of RCW 37.12.021 but chose to rely upon the rights and remedies of its Treaty of 1855 with the United States, 12 Stat. 951 and federal laws; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 1980, the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior, approved the Yakama Nation's petition for re-assumption of jurisdiction over Indian child custody proceedings under the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978. Effective March 28, 1980, the Yakama Nation reassumed jurisdiction over Yakama Indian child custody proceedings; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2012, the Yakama Nation filed a retrocession petition with the Office of the Governor. The retrocession petition by the Yakama Nation requests full retrocession of civil and criminal jurisdiction on all of Yakama Nation Indian country and in five areas of RCW 37.12.010, including: Compulsory School Attendance; Public Assistance; Domestic Relations; Juvenile Delinquency; and Operation of Motor Vehicles on Public Streets, Alleys, Roads, and Highways; and

WHEREAS, Governor Gregoire convened government-to-government meetings with the Yakama Nation to discuss the Nation's retrocession petition. In the course of those meetings, the Yakama Nation and Governor Gregoire confirmed that the Yakama Nation asks the State to retrocede all jurisdiction assumed pursuant to RCW 37.12.010 in 1963 over the Indian country of the Yakama Nation, both within and without the external boundaries of the Yakama Reservation. However, the Yakama Nation requests that the State retain jurisdiction over mental illness as provided in RCW 37.12.010(4), and jurisdiction over civil commitment of sexually violent predators under RCW 71.09, and acknowledges that the State would retain criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian defendants; and

WHEREAS, Governor Jay Inslee convened further government-to-government meetings between the State and Yakama Nation. The Governor's Office has also consulted with elected officials from the jurisdictions proximately located to the Yakama Nation's Indian country; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2013, Governor Inslee exercised the six-month extension provision for issuing a proclamation, pursuant to RCW 37.12.160; and

WHEREAS, strengthening the sovereignty and independence of the federally recognized Indian tribes within Washington State is an important priority for the State; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Section 37.12.160 of the Revised Code of Washington, do hereby grant in part, and deny in part, the retrocession petition submitted by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, according to the following provisions:

1. Within the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation, the State shall retrocede full civil and criminal jurisdiction in the following subject areas of RCW 37.12.010: Compulsory School Attendance; Public Assistance; Domestic Relations; and Juvenile Delinquency.
2. Within the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation, the State shall retrocede, in part, civil and criminal jurisdiction in Operation of Motor Vehicles on Public Streets, Alleys, Roads, and Highways cases in the following manner: Pursuant to RCW 37.12.010(8), the State shall retain jurisdiction over civil causes of action involving non-Indian plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants, and non-Indian victims; the State shall retain jurisdiction over criminal offenses involving non-Indian defendants and non-Indian victims.
3. Within the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation, the State shall retrocede, in part, criminal jurisdiction over all offenses not addressed by Paragraphs 1 and 2. The State retains jurisdiction over criminal offenses involving non-Indian defendants and non-Indian victims.



52720 ↙

STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

January 22, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Request for a 60-day Extension for the Public Comment Period for the Utah Greater Sage Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I respectfully request the Bureau of Land Management grant a 60-day extension of the public comment period for the Utah Greater Sage Grouse Draft Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Utah is a public lands state, and decisions on land use made by our federal agency affect our state, residents, and economy significantly. The DEIS contains many proposed changes, with multiple options for each change, and affects the management of millions of acres in Utah. Many of these changes are complicated and technical, necessitating careful review.

Utah has already devoted time and resources to prepare an aggressive Sage Grouse Conservation Plan, which we have been implementing over the last year. Many of the same state and local agencies implementing the plan have been involved reviewing the hundreds of pages of information and numerous maps contained in the DEIS. Despite the great effort we have made, we have not had adequate time to complete the thorough review necessitated by these monumental changes, thus resulting in this request.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have questions about this request, please contact Kathleen Clarke, director of the Governor's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, at (801) 537-9083.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary R. Herbert".

Gary R. Herbert
Governor

cc: Neil Kornze
Juan Palma

52720 27



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



FEB 18 2014

The Honorable Gary R. Herbert
Governor
State of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Governor Herbert:

Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 2014, to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell requesting an extension of the comment period for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Utah Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendment(LUP)/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Secretary Jewell asked the BLM to respond to your letter.

Since the BLM announced the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy in 2011, we have experienced unprecedented levels of state-Federal cooperation on planning efforts and landscape-level strategies to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse and sagebrush habitat across the West. However, work remains in advance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's September 2015 court-ordered deadline to determine if the species warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The BLM anticipates that the draft changes to the resource management plans covering the 68 Greater Sage-Grouse planning areas will be finalized in late 2014. Unfortunately, the existing court-ordered deadline does not allow for the flexibility to extend the comment period for the Utah Greater Sage-Grouse LUP/DEIS. In the coming months, the BLM will continue to address the volume and scope of comments we will be receiving on the LUP/DEIS, working closely with cooperating agencies, the state, other Federal agencies, Tribes and other stakeholders. The proposed plan and Final EIS needs to be released in time to allow for the Governor's consistency review, protest period, and protest resolution in order to issue a Record of Decision by Fall 2014.

Thank you for your interest in the BLM's planning efforts for the Greater-Sage Grouse and BLM public lands.

Sincerely,

Neil Kornze
Principal Deputy Director



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

Headquarters:
1600 Broadway
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Denver, CO 80202

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Fax 303-534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:
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Suite 376
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

January 21, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Thank you for briefing Western Governors last month on your recently finalized Secretarial Order 3330: *Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior*. Though Secretarial Order 3330 went final last week, this letter communicates our initial views, and the attachment propounds questions regarding the Order.

The landscape-based approach envisioned in Secretarial Order 3330 – and increasingly embodied in new federal regulations from the Department of Interior (DOI) and other federal land management agencies – presents certain legal and regulatory complexities. Such a management philosophy must be implemented in a way that clearly recognizes the legal rights and responsibilities of states and private landowners adjacent to federal lands or within shared watersheds and air sheds.

Western Governors share the responsibility – with each other, with federal partners and with private landowners – of managing land within their state's borders. The Governors agree that mitigation for impacts to natural resources is an appropriate element of project development and land use plans.

Governors, however, also bear the responsibility to manage state property interests and preserve private property rights within state boundaries. DOI mitigation requirements and processes that may affect state and private land should be:

- Developed in cooperation with the Governors in whose states DOI lands are situated; and
- Be clearly defined and predictably implemented so proper and reasonable mitigation can be included in project planning.

Honorable Sally Jewell

January 21, 2014

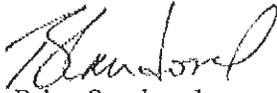
Page 2

While individual governors are likely to provide their own comments, attached please find our initial joint comments and questions concerning Order 3330. Western Governors are committed to the protection of Western landscapes. We welcome the opportunity to continue to partner with DOI and other federal land management agencies to ensure effective and conscientious land management and project impact mitigation strategies in the West.

To that end, we respectfully request that DOI share with Western Governors feedback it received from BLM field offices in anticipation of the Jan. 17, 2014 deadline set forth in the Instruction Memorandum appurtenant to the Regional Mitigation Manual and provide Western Governors with an opportunity to comment on the recently finalized Mitigation Policy.

Sincerely,


John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
WGA Chairman


Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
WGA Vice Chairman

cc: Neil Kornze, BLM

Attachment

Western Governors' Association – Version 2
Initial Questions and Comments on Secretarial Order 3330
January 21, 2014

While the below list is not intended to represent the entirety of the Western states' input, Secretarial Order 3330 and the accompanying Draft Regional Mitigation Manual Section 1794 (hereafter "Mitigation Policy") leave a number of critical questions unresolved. Among them:

Science:

- The Mitigation Policy indicates it is being developed based on science-based methodologies. By whom are these methodologies being developed? Has state-generated data been taken into account? Will those methodologies be shared with states?
- What is the relationship and interaction between the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and this Mitigation Policy? Will NEPA reviews occur at the landscape, resource management plan and/or specific project levels? How will NEPA be implicated where mitigation occurs off-site?
- The Mitigation Policy calls for DOI to incorporate climate change strategies into mitigation plans. What type or types of climate change modelling will DOI use to estimate the potential future effects of climate change in determining its acceptable form or level of mitigation?
- Under Secretarial Order 3330, the DOI's Energy and Climate Change Task Force is tasked with reviewing existing mitigation practices. Will state strategies inform this review?
- When DOI's Energy and Climate Change Task Force assesses the role of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), how will DOI ensure that the LCCs' role is limited to providing scientific and technical expertise, as distinct from discharging management responsibilities?

Landscape Planning – Cooperation:

- How will DOI coordinate and integrate this planning effort with other federal land management departments/agencies?
- As BLM elevates the role of landscape-scale planning in its mitigation-related decisions, will the agency engage state and private stakeholders early in the planning process?

- What role will states have in determining the location and breadth of specific off-site mitigation?
- Will BLM seek to participate in state-run mitigation programs and, if so, to what extent?
- How will BLM ensure consistency and transparency of mitigation decisions?
- How will this Mitigation Policy be implemented in the field, where BLM field managers exert substantial autonomy? Will staff be trained on how to implement the proposed mitigation strategies? Will local field managers be held accountable for enforcing approved mitigation plans?

Project-Level Application:

- The Mitigation Policy appears to authorize BLM to approve or deny project permit applications based on whether mitigation measures could take place on state-owned or privately-owned lands. Is that a feasible outcome of the Policy?
- In the event a state or private landowner refuses to consent to mitigation plans acceptable to BLM, will project plans still be conditionally approved?
- Large-scale projects and linear development projects such as energy transmission lines are likely to impact a wide array of lands and resources. For such projects, are there any institutional mechanisms to assist in project planning and does BLM plan to take into account state-generated data and research?
- How will this Mitigation Policy be informed by, and reconciled with, President Obama's various Presidential Memoranda and Executive Orders seeking to modernize and streamline federal infrastructure reviews, siting and permitting regulations, policies and procedures?
- In what ways will project proponents be required to incorporate into mitigation proposals requirements of federal land management and environmental statutes including, but not limited to, the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Endangered Species Act, and the Federal Land Management and Policy Act? Will project proponents be provided with specific federal requirements to be taken into account in mitigation proposals?
- Consistency and predictability are essential for project planning and development, particularly with respect to large-scale, long-term projects such as electric transmission lines. How will this effort improve regulatory certainty and minimize financial risks in order to encourage project proponents to pursue important energy infrastructure projects?

- Section 4(a) of the Order states that the DOI Energy and Climate Change Task Force will focus on offsetting the impact of "large development projects." How will the Task Force define what constitutes a "large development project" and identify the types of projects that are excluded? Will "large development projects" include non-energy-related infrastructure? If so, what kinds?

Water

- How will the Mitigation Policy apply to existing facilities and existing rights-of-way on BLM land that are needed to exercise state-issued water rights? How will it apply to efforts to repair, maintain or enlarge existing water facilities on BLM land? How will it apply to efforts to renew or amend an existing right-of-way?
- How will the Mitigation Policy ensure that it does not impair the reasonable exercise of state-issued water rights?
- With specific regard to the CWA, will a project proponent be required to identify a "point source" at the project pre-planning stage and if so, with what level of specificity?



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

MAR 26 2014

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your letter of January 21, 2014, regarding my Secretarial Order (SO) 3330: *Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior*. Effective engagement with state government is critical to the work of the Department of the Interior (Department), and I appreciate your personal interest, as well as that of the other Western Governors.

As you note in your letter, protection of Western landscapes is a goal we all share and one that demands strong partnerships and collaborative land management. Large landscape impacts such as wildland fire, invasive species, transmission lines, and highways do not stop at state borders, and Governors from across the West have partnered to address these common challenges. For example, our experience permitting solar development in the desert Southwest has shown that planning and close coordination among states and Federal agencies can produce faster and smarter permitting that result in more efficient energy development and better environmental outcomes. The Western Governors' Association (WGA) is also leading in this regard with development of its Critical Habitat Assessment Tool, a key aggregator of state wildlife data that Federal managers currently use.

This approach is not without challenges, and my team and I are committed to working closely with Governors, tribes, local officials, and other stakeholders to craft solutions that can achieve broad and durable results. As part of SO 3330, I commissioned a task force to examine the Department's existing mitigation practices and to develop a science-based strategy for landscape-scale planning. The task force is to identify new or revised policies or practices, including any regulatory changes that would be needed, and draft a strategy for how we should address them. I anticipate that report will be completed in the near future. I also have directed my staff to reach out to the staff at WGA to discuss the issues raised in your letter in depth, including your inquiry about the Bureau of Land Management's Regional Mitigation Manual. I understand that productive discussions have already taken place. Our outreach will continue as our work in this area progresses, both with WGA and with individual Governors and state agencies.

I value the strong working relationship the Department has with WGA, and I personally appreciate my partnership with you and your fellow Governors. Should your staff have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Letty Belin, Counselor to the Deputy Secretary (202-208-6291), Jim Lyons, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (202-208-6734), or Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director of the Bureau of Land Management (202-208-3801). A similar letter is being sent to Governor Brian Sandoval.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAR 26 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Vice Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you for your letter of January 21, 2014, regarding my Secretarial Order (SO) 3330: Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior. Effective engagement with state government is critical to the work of the Department of the Interior (Department), and I appreciate your personal interest, as well as that of the other Western Governors.

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Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sally Jewell in cursive script.
Sally Jewell

53362 ✓

ONE HUNDRED ONE NORTH CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701
OFFICE: (775) 684-5670
FAX NO.: (775) 684-5683



555 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 5100
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
OFFICE: (702) 486-2500
FAX NO.: (702) 486-2505

Office of the Governor

January 17, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, DC 20240

***Re: Request for extension of Public Comment Period for the Nevada and
Northeastern California Sub-region Greater Sage-grouse Draft Land Use
Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement***

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I respectfully request that the Bureau of Land Management grant a 60-day extension of the public comment period for the Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-region Greater Sage-grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Land management decisions made under the final version of this document will have significant impacts on our economy, custom and culture for decades. The highly-technical DEIS is more than 1,600 pages, including appendices. It is critical to our collective success that all parties – private citizens, local governments, non-governmental organizations, industry and states – have sufficient time to review and provide meaningful comments on this substantial document.

As you know, Nevada and many other states have been working fervently to address the critical issues presented by the potential listing of the Greater Sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act. Nevada has undertaken substantial initiatives to protect the Greater Sage-grouse and the sagebrush ecosystem, including efforts that are outlined in the State's alternative submittal (Alternative E) as part of the BLM's planning process for the DEIS. We continue to develop and review comments in consultation with our Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, state agencies, the scientific community, and stakeholders across the state.

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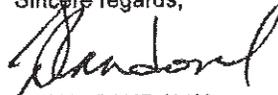
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RECEIVED

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Chief of Staff, Mr. Gerald Gardner, at (775) 684-5670.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request and for your continued attention to this critical issue.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandoval", written in a cursive style.

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

CC: Nevada Congressional Delegation
Nevada County Commissions
Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, BLM
Amy Lueders, State Director - Nevada, BLM

53362 →



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



FEB 19 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor
State of Nevada
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you for your letter dated January 17, 2014, to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell requesting an extension of the comment period for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-region Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Secretary Jewell asked the BLM to respond to your letter.

Since the BLM announced the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy in 2011, we have experienced unprecedented levels of state-Federal cooperation on planning efforts and landscape-level strategies to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse and sagebrush habitat across the West. However, work remains in advance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's September 2015 court-ordered deadline to determine if the species warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act. The BLM anticipates that the draft resource management plans covering the 68 Greater Sage-Grouse planning areas will be finalized in late 2014.

Unfortunately, the existing court-ordered deadline does not allow for the flexibility to extend the comment period for the Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-region Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/DEIS. In the coming months, the BLM will be addressing comments on the Draft Land Use Plan/DEIS, working closely with cooperating agencies, the state, other Federal agencies, Tribes and other stakeholders. The proposed plan and Final EIS needs to be released in time to allow for the Governor's consistency review, protest period, and protest resolution in order to issue a Record of Decision by fall 2014.

Thank you for your interest in the BLM's planning efforts for the Greater-Sage Grouse and BLM public lands.

Sincerely,

Steve Ellis
Deputy Director for Operations



GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH, 2014

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

On windswept coastlines, in lush forests, and atop striking mountain peaks, Americans take in sights that have inspired generations. Our natural landscapes provide refuge for those seeking solitude. They attract tourism, create jobs, and honor our history and cultural heritage. They are family campgrounds, arenas for recreation, and backdrops for countless adventures. During Great Outdoors Month, we celebrate the rugged beauty that echoes the independence at the heart of the American spirit, and we rededicate ourselves to protecting these open spaces for tomorrow's explorers, athletes, and lovers of nature.

America's conservation legacy is rooted not only in its forward-thinking leaders like Presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt -- but also in all the Americans who did their part to safeguard a small slice of the land they love. It falls to each of us to advance their legacy in our time. That is why I have permanently protected more than 3 million acres of public land -- including 11 new National Monuments established through the Antiquities Act and new wilderness areas in nine States across the country -- and designated more than a thousand miles of wild and scenic rivers. In my first term, I was proud to launch the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, which increases access to public lands and empowers Americans to better care for the parks, waterways, and natural treasures in their own communities.

My Administration remains committed to developing the next generation of environmental stewards. We created the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, which provides quality jobs, career pathways, and service opportunities for young people and veterans. We are working to bring public lands into the classroom and to extend educational opportunities to millions of children. And through First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move Outside!* initiative, we are encouraging children to get active while getting to know the great outdoors.

This month, as we enjoy the natural splendor of our Nation, let us stay true to a uniquely American idea -- that each of us has an equal stake in the land around us, and an equal responsibility to protect it. Together, let us ensure our children and grandchildren will be able to look upon our lands with the same sense of wonder as all the generations that came before.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2014 as Great Outdoors Month. I urge all Americans to explore the great outdoors and to uphold our Nation's legacy of conserving our lands and waters.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

BARACK OBAMA

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation *by* *Governor Sean Parnell*

WHEREAS, Alaska is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the great outdoors. Every summer, residents and visitors alike enjoy time spent outside in our state's spectacular wilderness; and

WHEREAS, biking, swimming, hiking, climbing, fishing, paddling, hunting, boating, and many more activities help us experience the physical and mental health benefits of outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month is an opportunity to celebrate Alaska's natural treasures and cherish the memorable experiences of being outdoors with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans play an important role in caring for and utilizing our natural spaces. Across our state, Alaskans have demonstrated dedication to maintaining our wilderness spaces for future generations, using our natural resources in a responsible manner, and educating our youth on the amazing wonders that surround us; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation is vital to Alaska's economy, with annual spending on outdoor recreation at \$9.5 billion, creating 92,000 Alaska jobs; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month is an opportunity to recognize the importance of Alaska's majestic mountains, pristine waters, and vast landscapes as Alaskans enjoy the opportunities that abound.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim June 2013 as:

Great Outdoors Month

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to take advantage of opportunities to enjoy the great outdoor activities provided by Alaska's majestic wilderness.

Dated: May 30, 2014



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Parnell".

Sean Parnell, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Office of the Governor

*** GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH ***

WHEREAS, Arizona is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the Great Outdoors enjoying our natural splendors in the company of family and friends; and

WHEREAS, through biking, swimming, hiking, climbing, paddling, fishing, hunting, boating, OHV riding and many other activities, we are able to enjoy the physically and mentally healthful benefits of outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of the Great Outdoors allows us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserve and protect our air, water, wildlife and lands and contribute to conservation efforts through various licenses, taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS, recreationists are among the most active volunteers in Arizona, working on trails and in visitor centers and campgrounds, on ski slopes and removing invasive species, organizing outdoor programs and events and restoring habitat; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month connects all of us to the outdoors, and especially our children, through diverse events including National Trails Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, National Marina Day, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great American Backyard Campout and more; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of outdoor recreation is both large and growing nationally, exceeding \$850 billion in annual expenditures; and

WHEREAS, many of our important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places in Arizona which are parts of national, state and local park systems; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the partnership of federal, state and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries and recreationists which make outdoor recreation opportunities available, and add new and needed features such as improved trails through the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim June 2014 as

*** GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH ***

and, I further urge all citizens and visitors from other states and other lands to explore and enjoy, protect and conserve Arizona's Great Outdoors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

Janice K. Brewer
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this eighth day of April in the year Two Thousand and Fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-eighth.

ATTEST:

Kim Blum
Secretary of State





WHEREAS, Colorado boasts a multitude of natural wonders, including our Rocky Mountains, the Colorado River, the Great Sand Dunes, many state parks throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the abundance of opportunities to swim, fish, hike, bike, ski, run, kayak, and explore Colorado presents visitors and residents the chance to enjoy the environment and experience our vast outdoors; and

WHEREAS, those who take advantage of the opportunities afforded them in the outdoors generally live longer, healthier, fuller lives than those who do not; and

WHEREAS, Colorado receives over 300 days of sunlight, making almost any day a perfect day to be outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado encourages its citizens and visitors to take advantage of the beauty and cleanliness of our state by participating in outdoor activities and leading healthier, fuller lives;

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim June, 2014,

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of June, 2014

John W. Hickenlooper
John W. Hickenlooper
Governor



Proclamation *Presented*

In Recognition of Great Outdoors Month

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month reminds us that Hawai'i provides outstanding opportunities to enjoy the Great Outdoors and experience unique landscapes, ocean waters, and flora and fauna existing nowhere else in the world; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month highlights that year-round outdoor recreation such as swimming, hiking, biking, paddling, surfing, fishing, hunting, boating and jogging provide physical and mental health benefits for our people; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserve and protect our 'aina, including the water, air, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month celebrates those recreational users who are among the most active volunteers in Hawai'i, maintaining trails, restoring native forests and wildlife habitat, revitalizing near shore reef habitat and marine life, caring for our cultural and historical sites, and organizing programs to share the Great Outdoors; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month recognizes the economic impact in Hawai'i where it is estimated that we spend \$8.5 billion on outdoor recreation which supports 65,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month celebrates the partnership of federal, state and local agencies, and the recreation and tourism industries to promote recreational opportunities and make them available to all residents and visitors;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim June, 2014, as

"GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing our State's commitments to protecting our outdoor spaces and celebrating all that they have to offer.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this thirtieth day of May, 2013.


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor

State Capitol
Boise

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Idaho is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the great outdoors, enjoying our natural splendors in the company of family and friends old and new; and

WHEREAS, biking, swimming, hiking, climbing, paddling, fishing, hunting, boating and many more activities help us enjoy the physically and mentally healthful benefits of outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of the great outdoors enables us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserving and protecting our air, water, wildlife and lands, and contributing to conservation efforts through various licenses, taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS, recreationists are among the most active volunteers in Idaho, working on trails and in visitor centers and campgrounds, on ski slopes and removing invasive species, organizing outdoor programs and events and restoring habitat; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month includes diverse events designed to connect all of us to the outdoors, and especially our children and youth, including National Trails Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, Welcome to the Water on National Marina Day, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great American Backyard Campout and more; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of outdoor recreation is large and growing, exceeding \$650 billion in annual expenditures nationally and estimated at \$6.3 billion in Idaho, supporting some 65,000 jobs here; and

WHEREAS, many of our important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places in our state which are parts of national, state and local park systems; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the partnership of federal, state and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries and recreationists making outdoor recreation opportunities available, and adds such new and needed features as improved trails through the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim June 2014 to be

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

in Idaho, and urge all citizens and visitors from other states and other lands to explore and enjoy, protect and conserve Idaho's great outdoors.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 1st day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-eight and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-fourth.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN YSURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



ANGELA McLEAN
LT. GOVERNOR

May 12, 2014

American Recreation Coalition
1200 G Street, NW, Suite 650
Washington DC 20005

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to recognize June 2014 as "Great Outdoors Month" and June 14th as "National Get Outdoors Day" in the State of Montana.

I support your efforts to educate the public about the value and importance of outdoor recreation and preserving our natural surroundings.

Montana's outdoor heritage is an important part of our cultural legacy. Many Montanans volunteer their time and energy to preserving and protecting our natural surroundings and this builds stronger communities and healthier citizens. As Governor, I am proud of the efforts we have made to protect our clean air and water for future generations.

I encourage Montanans to acknowledge June 2014 as "Great Outdoors Month" and to plan a trip to one of our national forests, state parks, or other public lands on June 14th for "National Get Outdoors Day."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Steve Bullock".

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor



A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS, Nevada is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the great outdoors enjoying our natural splendors in the company of family and in the company of old and new friends; and

WHEREAS, biking, swimming, hiking, climbing, paddling, fishing, hunting, boating and many more activities help us enjoy the physical and mental benefits of outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of the great outdoors allows us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserve and protect our air, our water, our wildlife and our lands and contribute to conservation efforts through various licenses, taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS, recreationists are among the most active volunteers in Nevada, working on trails and in visitor centers and campgrounds, on ski slopes and removing invasive species, organizing outdoor programs and events and restoring habitat; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month includes diverse events designed to connect all of us to the outdoors, and especially our children and youth, including National Trails Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, Welcome to the Water on National Marina Day, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great American Backyard Campout and more; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of outdoor recreation is both large and growing nationally, exceeding \$650 billion in annual expenditures; and

WHEREAS, many of our important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places in our state which are parts of national, state and local park systems; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the partnership of federal, state and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries and recreationists which makes outdoor recreation opportunities available, and adds new and needed features such as improved trails through the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SANDOVAL, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim June 2014 as

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH IN NEVADA



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 30th day of April, 2014.

By the Governor:

Governor

Brian Sandoval

Secretary of State

By _____

Deputy



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, NEW MEXICO IS BLESSED WITH OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SAFE AND HEALTHY FUN IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS, SUCH AS ENJOYING OUR NATURAL SPLENDORS IN THE COMPANY OF FAMILY FRIENDS; AND

WHEREAS, BIKING, SWIMMING, HIKING, CLIMBING, PADDLING, FISHING, HUNTING, BOATING, AND MANY MORE ACTIVITIES HELP US ENJOY THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION; AND

WHEREAS, ENJOYMENT OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS ALLOWS US TO CELEBRATE THE COMMITMENT OF OUR STATE TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT OUR AIR, WATER, WILDLIFE, AND LANDS, AND CONTRIBUTE TO CONSERVATION EFFORTS; AND

WHEREAS, RECREATIONISTS ARE AMONG THE MOST ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS IN NEW MEXICO, WORKING ON TRAILS, IN VISITOR CENTERS, CAMPGROUNDS, AND SKI SLOPES, REMOVING INVASIVE SPECIES, ORGANIZING OUTDOOR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS, AND RESTORING HABITAT; AND

WHEREAS, GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH CONNECTS ALL OF US TO THE OUTDOORS THROUGH DIVERSE EVENTS, INCLUDING NATIONAL TRAILS DAY, NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK, NATIONAL MARINA DAY, NATIONAL GET OUTDOORS DAY, THE GREAT AMERICAN BACKYARD CAMPOUT, AND MORE; AND

WHEREAS, THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OUTDOOR RECREATION IS LARGE, EXCEEDING \$650 BILLION NATIONALLY, AND IN NEW MEXICO, IT IS ESTIMATED AT \$8 BILLION, SUPPORTING NEARLY 100,000 IN JOBS; AND

WHEREAS, MANY OF OUR IMPORTANT CULTURAL AND HISTORIC EVENTS AND TRADITIONS ARE LINKED TO PLACES IN OUR STATE WHICH ARE PARTS OF NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PARK SYSTEMS; AND

WHEREAS, GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH ALLOWS US TO CELEBRATE THE PARTNERSHIP OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES, THE RECREATION AND TOURISM INDUSTRIES, AND RECREATIONISTS WHO MAKE OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE, AND ADDS NEW AND NEEDED FEATURES SUCH AS IMPROVED TRAILS THROUGH THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM AND THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND;

NOW, THEREFORE I, SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF JUNE, 2014 AS

“GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH”

THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO, AND I URGE ALL NEW MEXICANS AND VISITORS TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, PROTECT, AND CONSERVE NEW MEXICO’S GREAT OUTDOORS.

SIGNED AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 28TH DAY OF APRIL 2014.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Susana Martinez
SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR



ATTEST:

Dianna J. Duran

DIANNA J. DURAN
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF OREGON

PROCLAMATION

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

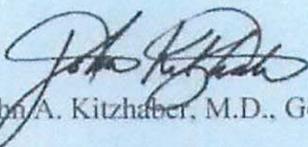
- WHEREAS:** Our great Northwest provides numerous opportunities for fun outdoor activities through shared resources of our parks, forests, refuges, and other public lands and waters; and
- WHEREAS:** June is an especially active time for recreation and many summertime activities that range from enjoyment of wildlife viewing to adventure sports like rock climbing; and
- WHEREAS:** Outdoor recreation is enjoyed by nearly every one and plays an important positive role in providing numerous mental, physical, economic and social benefits; and
- WHEREAS:** Countless citizens volunteer their time and talents to protect our natural resources to help ensure that great outdoor places remain where families and friends can learn, exercise, and create meaningful memories; and
- WHEREAS:** Recreation is a valuable means for education to reach America's youth with the message that outdoor recreation is a fun, healthy use of leisure time.
- NOW,**
THEREFORE: I, John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **June 2014** to be

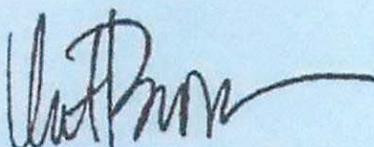
GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, April 16, 2014.




John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor


Kate Brown, Secretary of State



Gary Richard Herbert

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, Utah provides outstanding adventures for families and individuals in the great outdoors amid the natural splendors of our Mighty 5th national parks, national monuments and forests, 43 state parks, and other public lands;

Whereas, hiking, biking, climbing, skiing, horseback riding, ATV driving, hunting, fishing, camping, swimming, boating, river running, and many other activities and sports allow Utah residents and visitors to enjoy the physical and mental benefits of outdoor recreation;

Whereas, enjoyment of the great outdoors not only lets us acclaim Utah's commitment to conserve and protect our air, water, wildlife, landscapes, and lands, but also contributes significantly to conservation efforts through the collection of user fees, licenses, and taxes;

Whereas, recreational users of the great outdoors are among the most active volunteers in Utah, removing invasive species and restoring habitat along waterways, trails, and ski slopes, staffing visitors centers and campgrounds, and organizing outdoor programs and events;

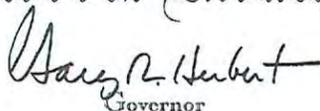
Whereas, many of Utah's important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places that belong to national, state, and local park systems, and Great Outdoors Month connects all of us, particularly our children, to the outdoors through diverse events, including National Trails Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, National Marina Day, National Get Outdoors Day, and the Great American Backyard Campout;

Whereas, the economic impact of the outdoor recreation industry is significant and is growing both locally—being an estimated \$7 billion a year and supporting about 124,000 jobs in Utah—and nationally, exceeding \$650 billion in annual expenditures; and

Whereas, we wish to recognize the partnership of federal, state, and local agencies, as well as Utah's recreation and tourism industries, which make outdoor recreation opportunities in our state available for all to enjoy;

Now, therefore, I, Gary R. Herbert, Governor of the State of Utah, do hereby declare June 2014 as

Great Outdoors Month in Utah


Governor

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington State residents have a proud tradition of both safeguarding the environment and enjoying the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, a clean and sustainable environment contributes to our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation promotes health, fitness, and environmental awareness; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation is an ideal way to exercise, appreciate nature, and enjoy memorable experiences with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, it is up to all of us to maintain and enhance our legacy of environmental stewardship and appreciation of the great outdoors; and

WHEREAS, it is our duty to leave a well-tended legacy to those who will follow;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim June 2014 as

Great Outdoors Month

in Washington, and I urge all people to take the time to enjoy our state's various outdoor activities, to share them with family and friends, and to make outdoor activities a regular part of their lives.



Signed this 1st day of April, 2014

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month celebrates open spaces; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming residents stay healthy and enjoy the outdoors in a variety of ways including biking and hiking, paddling and swimming, fishing and hunting; and

WHEREAS, volunteers help others enjoy the outdoors by organizing recreational programs and events, restoring habitat and through work on trails and ski slopes and in visitor centers and campgrounds; and

WHEREAS, one link to Wyoming's outdoor culture, history and traditions is the national, state and local park system; and

WHEREAS, "WY Outside," a coalition of public, private and nonprofit organizations, was established to encourage children and families to enjoy the outdoors throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, the Wyoming Department of State Parks will hold its 6th annual "Summer Outdoor Slam" at Curt Gowdy State Park on June 7 in honor of National Great Outdoors Day, offering a variety of recreational opportunities for children and families; and

WHEREAS, other events such as National Trails Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, National Marina Day and the Great American Backyard Campout also encourage people to get outside; and

WHEREAS, all of those who work and volunteer to make outdoor activities available hope that everyone can enjoy the outdoors.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW H. MEAD, Governor of the State of Wyoming, do hereby proclaim June, 2014 as

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

in Wyoming.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 22 day of May, 2014.




Matthew H. Mead
Governor

WESTERN GOVERNORS CORRESPONDENCE

2014

Date received	From (Author)	To (Recipient)	Subject	Response letter
6/2/2014	Brownback (KS)	Jewell and Vilsack	Listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken will create hardships and unintended consequences	FWS drafting response
5/30/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Request information regarding how DOI will operationalize the Mitigation Order and engage with the state agencies	BLM drafting response
5/30/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Regarding Federal Seeding Practices and Coordination	YOU sent response letters on 6/6/14
5/19/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Recommends FWS delist the Grizzly Bears	FWS drafting response
5/8/2014	Brownback (KS)	Secretary Jewell	Opposition to the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken	FWS drafting response
5/6/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Seeks review and reversal of OSM decision of Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding to Wyoming	PMB working with OMB on response
5/1/2014	Bullock (MT)	Secretary Jewell and Assistant Secretary Washburn	Revising Federal Acknowledgment Regulations and the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians	Kevin Washburn sent response letter on 6/2/14
4/22/2014	Martinez (NM)	Jewell and Hagel	Concerns about proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project and White Sands Missile Range	BLM drafting response
4/14/2014	Hickenlooper (CO)	Secretary Jewell	Supportive of \$1 million funding for connecting youth to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge	Dan Ashe sent response letter on 6/6/14
4/10/2014	Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	BLM Impoundment of cattle in Nevada	YOU sent response letter on 4/11/14
4/9/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Proposed Resource Management Plan for the Lander Field Office in Wyoming	YOU sent response letter on 6/4/14

WESTERN GOVERNORS CORRESPONDENCE

2014

Date received	From (Author)	To (Recipient)	Subject	Response letter
4/9/2014	Moliga (AS)	Secretary Jewell	Seeks legal review of American Samoa's legislature resolution re: "Override of Executive Vetoes without action by the Sec. of the Interior"	SOL drafting response
4/4/2014	Jim Ogsbury, WGA Executive Director	Rhea Suh	Questions regarding U.S. EITI Multi-Stakeholder Group and the proposed use of state data, and proposing a formal opt-in process for interested states	Rhea Suh sent response letter on 4/17/14
4/3/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Request reauthorization of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project	YOU sent response letters on 4/17/14
3/24/2014	Martinez (NM)	Secretary Jewell	Supports Representative Pearce's H.R. 995 on Organ Mountains National Monument Establishment Act, not Senators Heinrich and Udall's broader proposal.	YOU sent response letter on 5/14/14
3/17/2014	Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Support for nomination of Nevada State Prison as National Historic Landmark	Stephanie Toothman, NPS Associate Director, sent response letter on 4/9/14
3/11/2014	Dalrymple (ND)	Mike Connor	Red River Valley Water Supply Project	Response with DOI for surname
2/23/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Western Governors Greater Sage Grouse conservation initiatives	YOU sent response letters on 4/10/14
2/18/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Sweetwater River Conservancy	YOU sent response letter on 3/25/14
2/18/2014	Jim Ogsbury, WGA Executive Director	Secretary Jewell	National Invasive Species Council (NISC) and Management Plan	Lori Williams, Director NISC, sent response letter on 4/1/14

WESTERN GOVERNORS CORRESPONDENCE

2014

Date received	From (Author)	To (Recipient)	Subject	Response letter
1/28/2014	Mead (WY)	Secretary Jewell	Thank you letter to Secretary Jewell for her commitment to work with Wyoming and western states on management for public land	No response necessary
1/27/2014	Insee (WA)	Kevin Washburn	Yakama Nation Retrocession Petition	<i>Response with SOL for surname</i>
1/22/2014	Herbert (UT)	Secretary Jewell	Request extension of public comment period for UT Greater Sage Grouse Draft Plan	Neil Kornze sent response letter on 2/18/14
1/21/2014	Hickenlooper (CO) and Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Initial views and questions regarding Mitigation Order	YOU sent response letters on 3/16/14
1/17/2014	Sandoval (NV)	Secretary Jewell	Request extension of public comment period for NV Greater Sage Grouse draft plan	Steve Ellis, BLM Deputy Director, sent response letter on 2/19/14

June 2, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretaries Jewell and Vilsack:

The listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a threatened species has created significant and wide-ranging impacts on Kansans. This listing will create hardships and unintended consequences for our citizens, with little long-range improvement to the population of the Lesser Prairie Chicken because of the listing.

Historical studies have shown annual population fluctuation of the Lesser Prairie Chicken (LPC) and the strong correlation between drought and declining LPC numbers. At least three consecutive years of drought have exacerbated regional populations of LPC, along with other wildlife, and domestic livestock herds.

Kansans and wildlife/range management specialists working in Kansas in partnership with other states have developed appropriate plans that were being implemented prior to the listing. The USFWS decision to promote the NRCS Conservation Plan and the WAFWA Range-Wide Conservation Plan without adequate consideration of other quality, regional and statewide plans is short-sighted and damaging. There are reasonable alternatives, and other proposed conservation plans submitted by other state and regional conservation groups that should be fully considered. In the wake of the listing, Kansans should not be asked to enter any agreements until all conservation plans can be appropriately considered.

The "threatened" listing of the LPC has jeopardized the strongest habitat tool available in the occupied range. The voluntary incentive-based Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) has provided significant acreage of habitat for the Lesser Prairie Chicken and other wildlife species.

I am calling on USDA to pursue enhanced Incentives for voluntary Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) measures in the LPC habitat areas. Since 2008, total CRP acreage in Kansas has declined by 25%, thus reducing habitat for the LPC and other wildlife species.

The agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture to allow voluntary practices designed to protect and increase LPC populations overlaps regulatory controls with voluntary incentive based programs. Guidelines developed for USDA voluntary programs should not be used as the only standard. The USFWS should recognize all science-based practice standards, in addition to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

Mandatory mitigation plans like the Range-Wide Plan add significant cost to any new development. A farmer wanting to establish a new five acre farmstead could see mitigation costs approaching or exceeding \$200,000. The installation of an oil well on range land could cost the oil producer as much as \$100,000. A single wind turbine could require a mitigation cost of \$1,000,000, and transmission lines almost \$200,000 per mile. The bottom line is that mandatory mitigation could slow or halt capital and energy development in many areas of Western Kansas, in addition to creating disincentives for growth in agriculture, the combination of which will significantly impact the Kansas economy

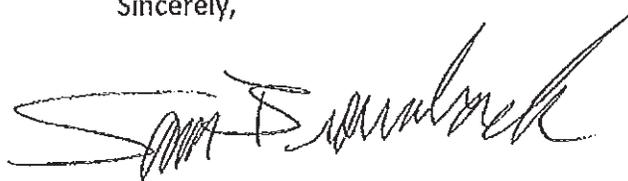
Creating additional rules, regulations and financial hardships for landowners and energy producers will not have a positive response or improve the habitat for the LPC. We do not believe it will efficiently and effectively increase the population of the LPC in Kansas, the state with the single largest occupied range. We already have appropriate tools, and this issue is best addressed at the state and regional level as opposed to a federally directed initiative.

In summary, action is needed in these areas:

1. Suspend current regulatory actions concerning the LPC until all proposed plans have been reviewed and thoughtfully considered for their attributes of species recovery.
2. Challenge USFWS to reconvene with USDA/NRCS to address the current program opportunities through CRP or Environmental Quality Incentives Program to show good faith that species recovery is the mission.
3. USFWS and all applicable federal agencies must recognize the significance of drought as the greatest limiting factor on the effectiveness of all protection efforts and persistent drought conditions must be understood as limiting the ability of any efforts to increase LPC populations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Brownback". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas

cc: Daniel M. Ashe, USFWS Director



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

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Executive Director

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202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

May 30, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Shortly after its release Western Governors received a copy of the report, *A Strategy for Improving the Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of Interior* (the Report) produced by members of Department of Interior's (DOI) Energy and Climate Change Task Force. The Report outlines challenges and opportunities that may arise with respect to implementation of your Secretarial Order 3330: *Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior* (the Order). The Report identifies specific guiding principles to be considered by DOI and its agencies in reaching landscape-scale mitigation decisions, along with strategies and tools DOI will employ in this effort.

As discussed at the Western Governors' Association (WGA) Winter Meeting in December 2013, the landscape-scale approach described in the Order presents certain legal and regulatory complexities for both federal and state agencies. Recognizing this, on January 21, 2014, the WGA submitted to you a letter and list of questions regarding the Order. For your reference we have attached to this letter both the January 21 letter and list of questions that accompanied that letter.

Since submission of the letter and questions, WGA staff has had several discussions with DOI representatives regarding the Order. Those conversations, however, have not yielded sufficient and direct responses -- from either DOI or BLM -- to the many questions raised in our January letter.

Governors remain unclear on exactly how DOI will seek to engage our states in the development and implementation of this new landscape-scale mitigation regime. We would appreciate a detailed and expedited response to our questions regarding how the Order will be operationalized.

The Report reflects DOI's appreciation for the need to collaborate with state agencies and the expertise states can add to the landscape-scale mitigation discussion. Indeed, such collaboration is listed as a *guiding principle* in the Report's Executive Summary.

Honorable Sally Jewell
May 30, 2014
Page 2

Western Governors share the responsibility of properly managing land and resources within their state borders and recognize that landscape-scale mitigation efforts can play an important role in project development, resource conservation, and land use planning. State agencies house a wealth of knowledge and scientific expertise that would be beneficial -- indeed vital -- to DOI in achieving the goals and deliverables set forth in the Report.

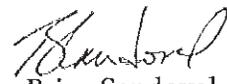
To achieve a mutually beneficial level of collaboration, we respectfully request that DOI and its representatives actively engage with state agencies now -- while the landscape-scale mitigation plan is being developed -- so that the goals set forth in the Report may be achievable in the near-term and our partnership durable in the long-term.

One point of clarification: among the tools discussed in the Report are geospatial assessments, including WGA's Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool (CHAT). DOI's enthusiasm for CHAT is greatly appreciated and we are confident in CHAT's value for project pre-planning. Western Governors, however, continue to underscore that CHAT is a non-regulatory tool intended to give project planners -- be they public or private -- a "30,000-foot" view of states' wildlife assets. That "first look" then can guide project planners to relevant state agencies for a deeper dive. While CHAT can be extremely helpful for project-specific pre-planning, it is not intended to be a landscape-based regulatory planning tool.

We look forward to your expedited response to the questions we have posed.

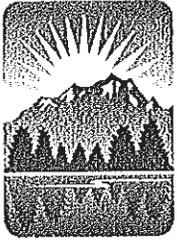
Sincerely,


John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
WGA Chairman


Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
WGA Vice Chairman

cc: Neil Kornze, BLM

Attachments



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

Headquarters:
1600 Broadway
Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

303-623-9378
Fax 303-534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 376
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

May 30, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Western Governors are dedicated to ensuring the health of our grasslands and forests. When there is damage to a natural area in the West -- whether caused by wildfire, invasive species, flooding, or other factors -- federal agencies often play an important role in the area's stabilization and rehabilitation. It appears, however, that there is a lack of consensus among federal agencies about how to best balance competing missions and effectively implement important restoration functions, such as reseeded, in a timely fashion. We urge federal agencies to develop shared criteria for selection of seed mixes to improve response times, limit further damage (such as that caused by encroachment of non-native species), and help build a basis for a stable seed production and storage system.

To our knowledge, there are divergent policies among federal agencies regarding such issues as: use of native seed; permissible seed sourcing; what seed mixes are deemed acceptable for use; responsibility among federal agencies for seed banking, etc. These inconsistencies make it difficult for seed suppliers to effectively meet federal needs. In addition, overly restrictive sourcing criteria can substantially increase costs, a critically important issue in these times of constrained budgets.

Western states intend to do their part and want to improve coordination with federal agencies. Proactive landscape-scale land management necessitates shared and targeted management planning for fire, drought, flooding, and other threats to grasslands and forests.

Accordingly, we would like to work with federal agencies to establish clear and consistent disaster rehabilitation approaches that restore landscapes without creating monocultures or checkerboards. Increased state-federal collaboration on long-term restoration and research would be mutually beneficial.

Western Governors would appreciate answers from your Department to the following questions, which are offered in a spirit of cooperation:

Honorable Sally Jewell

May 30, 2014

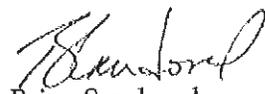
Page 2

1. How do the federal agencies under the Department of Interior (DOI) establish seeding goals and objectives? To what extent are your agencies working together to set shared goals and objectives? How are you coordinating with USDA, NRCS and other departments and agencies?
2. How are DOI agencies planning for natural disasters or other circumstances that could lead to spikes in seed demand, decreasing supply and increasing cost?
3. Is the policy guidance of DOI agencies on the use of local and native seed backed up by best available science? If local and native seed are required by DOI policies, what are your agencies doing to ensure adequate supply?
4. How does DOI acquire input on seeding practices from the states?
5. How does DOI acquire input from external stakeholders such as the seed industry, private landowners, sportsman groups, conservation groups, etc.?
6. What monitoring and evaluation do DOI agencies perform to verify achievement of goals and objectives and to refine and improve seeding practices?

Western Governors acknowledge that harmonizing seeding policies and approaches will take time and effort, but we stand ready to work with you to achieve that goal. We believe doing so will help realize our shared objective of ensuring that we are equipped to expeditiously and effectively restore the Western landscapes we all depend upon and cherish.

Sincerely,


John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
Chairman, WGA


Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
Vice Chairman, WGA

cc: Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michael Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Jonathan Jarvis, Director, National Park Service
Suzette Kimball, Director, U.S. Geological Survey
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 06 2014

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

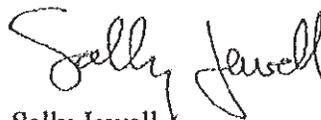
Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your letter dated May 30, 2014, regarding the role Federal land management agencies play in re-seeding damaged landscapes from events such as wildfires, flooding, invasive species, and other factors.

The Department of the Interior's focus on landscape scale conservation and restoration makes coordination on re-seeding efforts crucial to those efforts. We agree that coordination among Federal agencies and with states is vitally important. To that end, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze is convening a seed meeting of Federal agencies and the WGA to develop a strategy that will address many of the points you raise in your letter. The questions you raise will provide an excellent starting point to begin discussions in this area. By working together, we can improve on the success of our restoration efforts and decrease the time needed to reach our restoration goals.

Thank you for your interest in this issue. If you would like additional information regarding the Department's progress in this area, please contact Director Kornze at (202) 208-3801. A similar letter is being sent to Governor Brian Sandoval.

Sincerely,


Sally Jewell



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 06 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Vice Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

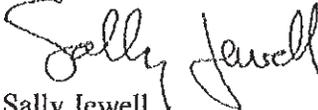
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Sincerely,


Sally Jewell

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

May 19, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary
Department of the Interior
Main Interior Building
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

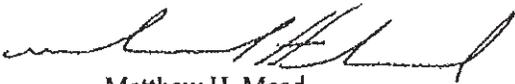
Dear Secretary Jewell:

The recovery of grizzly bears in the Yellowstone Ecosystem is a conservation success story of our time. Wyoming has worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and other state and federal agencies to compile and evaluate food sources data and the effect of those food sources on grizzly bear populations in the Yellowstone Ecosystem. This work substantiates that grizzly bears forage on a broad variety of food. Science demonstrates grizzly bears are expanding – in population and geography – beyond recovery criteria established by FWS and the State of Wyoming.

Both the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee and the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee have reviewed the data and both recommend FWS delist the grizzly bears. All regulatory requirements and biological objectives have been met or exceeded. It is appropriate to publish a delisting proposal and return management of the grizzly bear to the State of Wyoming and other states in the Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Based on your September 2013 letter, I had expected to see a delisting decision in early 2014. There is no reason to wait. I encourage the FWS to work with Wyoming Game and Fish Department to develop and publish a proposed delisting rule expeditiously.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:mdm

cc: The Honorable Steve Bullock, Governor of Montana
The Honorable Butch Otter, Governor of Idaho
Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

55431 ✓

Capitol Building
Room 241-South
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612



RECEIVED
Phone: (785) 296-3232
Fax: (785) 368-8788
governor.ks.gov

643698
May 8, 2014

2014 MAY -9 AM 11:00
Sally Jewell, Governor

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

The State of Kansas previously has expressed opposition to the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as a threatened species. Since the March 27 announcement by the Fish & Wildlife Service that the listing would occur, Kansans have been dealing with the implications of that decision and the impending deadlines for participation in the Range-Wide Conservation Plan.

Kansas continues to maintain that the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken was not justified, and that the listing will negatively impact the state's agriculture and energy sectors in ways that can be avoided consistent with the interests of conservation and protection of the species. As a consequence, Kansas has filed a legal action to seek judicial review of the listing decision.

In the meantime, however, I am concerned that Kansans have not been allowed sufficient time to evaluate their options and prepare applications under the Range-Wide Conservation Plan. In particular, the Kansas oil & gas industry has a large proportion of small independent producers - unlike other states in the range of the Lesser Prairie Chicken, where larger producers are more dominant and have the resources to respond more rapidly. Those affected parties require more time than the standard thirty days to review their options and make vital economic decisions relating to their participation in the Range-Wide Plan. Accordingly, I am requesting that you take the necessary steps to allow an additional ninety days for those affected by the listing to opt-in to the protections provided by the federal rule.

Finally, I must note my concern that insufficient attention is being given to the important role of the Conservation Reserve Program in connection with the Lesser Prairie Chicken, and I urge greater inter-agency cooperation toward that end. The listing explicitly states that: "Lands enrolled in CRP encompass a significant portion of estimated occupied range in several lesser prairie-chicken states, but particularly in Kansas where an increase in the lesser prairie-chicken population is directly related to the amount of land that was enrolled in the CRP and planted to mixtures of native grasses." 79 Fed. Reg. 20027 (Apr. 10, 2014). I am particularly concerned that federal policies regarding expiration and/or re-enrollment of CRP land could work against the goals embodied in the listing, thereby creating conflicting federal policies that further exacerbate the effect of the listing on Kansans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas

cc: Dan Ashe, Director of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR

THE STATE OF WYOMING 643590



RECEIVED
STATE CAPITAL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002
2014 MAY -7 AM 9:

Office of the Governor

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

May 6, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Room 5665
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

In a letter dated March 11, 2014, Director Joe Pizarchek of the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) informed the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that \$21.2 million of Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funds – approved by Congress under the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013 (the Act) – would not be sent to Wyoming. The Act directed \$75 million of AML funds to Wyoming in FY 2015. OSM has interpreted, or misinterpreted, the Act as restricting Wyoming to only an estimated \$53.8 million. The OSM determination is incorrect and I ask that you review and reverse this determination.

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA), as amended in 2006, requires eligible States and Indian tribes receive AML funding in two ways. First, eligible states and Indian tribes receive 50% of funds collected on state or tribal lands for reclamation (as a certified program, Wyoming does not receive the actual 50% state share but instead receives an equivalent share as in lieu Treasury funds). Second, funds known as "prior balance funds" are paid. Prior to 2007, States and Tribes did not receive a full 50% share of SMCRA funds. Amendments in 2006 corrected this underfunding, requiring "*the Secretary . . . make payments to States or Indian tribes for the amount due for the aggregate unappropriated amount allocated to the State or Indian tribe . . .*" These amendments were passed to ensure that Wyoming (and other eligible states) were paid amounts allocated and due to them under SMCRA prior to 2007.

In 2012, the Transportation Bill amended SMCRA adding a provision limiting the "*total annual payment*" (emphasis added) to \$15 million. While the payment was modified, the balance due to Wyoming was not modified by the Transportation Bill. SMCRA also required the prior balance be repaid "*in 7 equal annual installments, beginning with fiscal year 2008.*" Wyoming is owed \$165.4 million in prior balance funds.

The Wyoming Congressional delegation worked to ensure that Wyoming was paid. The Helium Stewardship Act raised Wyoming's cap to \$28 million for FY 2014 and \$75 million for FY 2015. It clearly states these funds first be applied to in lieu payments (traditional reclamation) and funds over the in lieu payments be applied to the remaining prior balance funding owed to Wyoming.

OSM released a new table titled "*Hypothetical AML Funding Projections from FY 2014 through FY 2024*". This table reflects Wyoming will receive \$53.8 million instead of the \$75 million set forth in the

Secretary Sally Jewell
May 6, 2014
Page 2

Act. Wyoming DEQ Director Todd Parfitt wrote to Director Pizarchek and requested the table be corrected. (DEQ letter attached.) Director Pizarchek did not honor this request. (March 11, 2014 letter attached.)

Director Pizarchek's interpretation is inconsistent with the Act on prior balance payments. SMCRA clearly delineates that Wyoming is still owed \$165.4 million (stipulated in the 2006 Amendments). Under Helium Stewardship Act, Wyoming should receive the \$21.2 million prior balance funds (\$75 million minus the estimated \$53.8 million in lieu payment). When this payment is made, Wyoming will still be owed a substantial prior balance amount (\$165.4 million minus \$21.2 million). If a debtor can avoid his debt by missing a payment – every lender in the country would be broke. I am sure that OSM did not intend to suggest this was the position of the United States.

Please review this matter at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:mdm

Attachments

cc: The Honorable Mike Enzi, U.S. Senate
The Honorable John Barrasso, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Cynthia Lummis, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Eli Bebout, Chairman, Wyoming Senate Appropriations
The Honorable Steve Harshman, Chairman, Wyoming House Appropriations
Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
Peter Michael, Wyoming Attorney General
Joe Pizarchek, Director, Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Department of the Interior



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240

MAR 11 2014



DEPARTMENT
OF

MAR 17 2014

ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

Mr. Todd Parfitt
Director
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
122 West 25th Street
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Dear Mr. Parfitt:

Thank you for your letter dated February 4, 2014, which expressed concern that a mistake may have been made in the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) funding projections prepared by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE). In response to your letter, we have reviewed our projections and have determined that they are correct and consistent with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA), as amended.

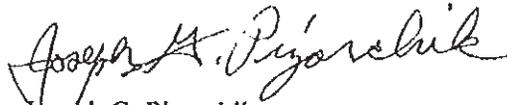
As you note, the Helium Stewardship Act of 2013, which was signed into law on October 2, 2013, contained an amendment to SMCRA that increased the cap for two years on annual AML distributions provided to certified states and tribes. In summary, the law raised the cap from \$15 million to \$28 million for Fiscal Year 2014 and to \$75 million in Fiscal Year 2015. This amendment also specified that if the cap were reached, OSMRE should distribute a state's or tribe's certified in lieu funds under section 411(h)(2) of SMCRA first, then distribute state or tribal prior balance replacement funds under section 411(h)(1) of SMCRA.

In calculating the AML funding projections, we first determined a state's or tribe's certified in lieu funds by multiplying the annual coal production estimates provided by the Department of Energy with the reclamation fee rate set forth in section 402(a) of SMCRA. Using this methodology, we estimate that just over \$107.6 million in reclamation fees will be collected in Wyoming in Fiscal Year 2014. Pursuant to section 411(h)(2) of SMCRA, certified in lieu funds are normally distributed in an amount equivalent to 50 percent of the reclamation fees collected in their states. In Wyoming's case, that would amount to approximately \$53.8 million. As you may be aware, prior balance replacement funds were authorized for seven fiscal years only, from Fiscal Year 2008 to Fiscal Year 2014 pursuant to section 411(h)(1)(C) of SMCRA. Therefore, prior balance replacement funds will not be included in AML funding provided to states and tribes for Fiscal Year 2015 and thereafter. Since certified states such as Wyoming will receive certified in lieu funds only in Fiscal Year 2015, our projection that Wyoming's distribution will be \$53.8 million is accurate.

Please note that the \$53.8 million projection is only an estimate. Once we finalize actual fee collections received during Fiscal Year 2014 and make any required reductions due to sequestration, the actual AML funding distributed to Wyoming may be different.

Please let us know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph G. Pizarchik". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" being the most prominent.

Joseph G. Pizarchik
Director

Hypothetical AML Funding Projections from FY 2014 through FY 2024

1/31/2013

State	AML Inventory Unf. FY12	Actual Funding 2013	2014-2024										Total to be Distributed 2014-24	
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		12
Alabama	152.4	8.6	8.0	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.5	5.6	5.5	6.5	5.2	6.0	4.0	61.9
Alaska	52.4	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.0	33.3
Arizona	14.6	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	18.0
Arkansas	22.5	8.2	7.9	3.8	3.8	3.6	3.9	4.0	2.0	4.7	1.6	-	-	35.3
Colorado	-	1.7	1.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.2	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	-	-	6.5
Crow Tribe	-	1.3	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4	0.3	-	-	4.7
Hopi Tribe	97.4	22.8	21.4	16.9	17.1	16.7	18.0	18.4	18.2	18.2	2.7	-	-	136.6
Indiana	56.1	15.1	14.9	8.2	8.2	7.8	8.4	8.5	8.7	9.8	7.3	-	-	81.8
Iowa	44.6	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	33.0
Kansas	273.1	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	33.0
Kentucky	346.4	42.5	39.4	20.3	20.5	19.7	21.2	21.7	21.6	25.2	20.1	26.1	14.5	250.3
Louisiana	-	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	-	-	2.1
Maryland	30.9	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.0	33.4
Massachusetts	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	-	-	2.0
Missouri	46.3	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	33.1
Montana	3.5	12.4	12.6	4.4	4.5	4.1	8.4	8.5	4.5	4.6	3.5	-	-	55.1
Nevada	-	6.8	6.9	1.8	1.9	1.7	3.6	3.7	1.9	1.9	1.4	-	-	24.8
New Mexico	5.7	5.1	4.8	3.0	3.0	2.8	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.2	-	-	21.0
North Dakota	34.5	3.7	3.6	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.3	3.0	34.9
Ohio	124.5	15.2	14.0	10.5	10.5	10.2	11.0	11.3	11.2	13.4	10.8	11.6	9.1	123.6
Oklahoma	83.5	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.0	33.2
Pennsylvania	1,645.1	61.8	56.4	47.8	48.1	46.6	51.1	52.1	51.5	63.0	51.0	52.9	47.8	568.3
Tennessee	8.6	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	13.0
Texas	0.0	5.0	5.1	2.4	2.2	2.3	3.6	3.7	2.4	2.5	1.9	-	-	26.1
Utah	6.2	4.6	4.5	3.0	3.0	2.6	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.9	-	-	26.1
Virginia	94.4	10.4	9.7	5.5	5.6	5.4	5.8	6.0	5.9	7.0	5.5	6.5	4.4	67.3
West Virginia	841.0	59.7	55.7	34.8	35.1	33.9	36.7	37.5	37.2	43.9	35.2	42.3	27.5	419.8
Wyoming	18.3	14.2	28.0	53.8	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	-	-	186.8
National Total	\$ 4,002.0	\$ 322.2	\$ 320.4	\$ 249.8	\$ 212.0	\$ 205.6	\$ 221.8	\$ 225.1	\$ 210.6	\$ 228.7	\$ 185.3	\$ 168.7	\$ 128.3	\$ 2,356.3
Source of Total Grant Payments:														
AML Fund:														
State Share	\$ 45.0	\$ 39.1	\$ 40.3	\$ 40.8	\$ 36.2	\$ 37.2	\$ 38.0	\$ 36.8	\$ 33.6	\$ 22.2	\$ 40.4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 364.6
Historic Coal-fee offset	69.8	87.7	62.4	101.9	94.7	95.9	99.0	100.9	110.7	80.5	112.7	112.7	-	1,059.1
Fed Expense-Transfer CIL	71.3	36.9	63.6	24.8	26.7	36.2	36.0	29.8	33.7	32.2	-	-	-	319.9
Fed Expense-Min Prog	13.3	15.5	19.7	19.7	18.4	16.3	16.1	13.3	11.8	13.9	15.6	15.6	-	175.9
Total AML Fund Payments	\$ 199.4	\$ 179.2	\$ 186.0	\$ 187.2	\$ 176.0	\$ 185.6	\$ 189.1	\$ 180.8	\$ 189.8	\$ 148.8	\$ 168.7	\$ 128.3	\$ -	\$ 1,919.5
Treasury funds:	\$ 99.0	\$ 104.3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 104.3
Prior balance funds:	23.8	36.9	63.8	24.8	29.6	26.2	36.0	29.8	38.9	36.5	-	-	-	332.5
Certified in lieu funds:	\$ 122.8	\$ 141.2	\$ 63.8	\$ 24.8	\$ 29.6	\$ 36.2	\$ 36.0	\$ 29.8	\$ 38.9	\$ 36.5	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 436.8
Total Treasury payments:	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Maximum unencumbered States use funding for high priority coal reclamation

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



643

RECEIVED
ANGELA McLEAN
LT. GOVERNOR

2014 MAY 12 PM 4:08

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Kevin Washburn
Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
MS-3701-MIB
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: 25 C.F.R. § 83 Rulemaking and the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Dear Secretary Jewell & Assistant Secretary Washburn:

I support the Department of the Interior's ("Department") rulemaking to revise 25 C.F.R. § 83, "Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group exists as an Indian Tribe" ("Part 83 Process"). I urge you to continue forward with this work and publish the proposed rule as soon as possible.

This rule revision is important because I believe that the Part 83 Process was not properly administered when the Department of the Interior issued a Final Determination against the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana ("Little Shell Tribe") in November of 2009. This Final Determination overturned the Proposed Finding in Favor of Acknowledging the Little Shell Tribe. The Part 83 Process should have determined that the Little Shell Tribe is an Indian tribe of Montana—a designation which is more than 100 years overdue.

Montanans, Montana tribes and the State of Montana all recognize that the Little Shell Tribe is a part of our state's rich culture and history. I support their efforts to become federally recognized and it is time for the Federal Government to finally grant the Little Shell Tribe the recognition they are owed. Federal recognition will enhance their ability to provide additional services to tribal members and strengthen their tribal government. I am encouraged that the Department has seen the need to fix this issue through the Part 83 rulemaking process.

I trust the Department will move swiftly to publish its proposed Part 83 rule and complete the rulemaking process. The Department has my full support in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock", written over a horizontal line.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JUN 02 2014

The Honorable Steve Bullock
Governor of Montana
Helena, Montana 59620

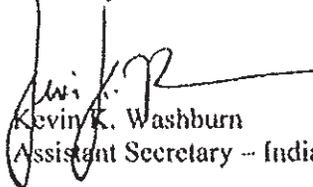
Dear Governor Bullock:

Thank you for your letter of May 1, 2014, urging completion of the rulemaking process for Federal acknowledgment of Indian tribes.

We have announced availability of the proposed rule for public comment, and the Federal Register published the proposed rule on May 29, 2014 (79 FR 30766). I am enclosing a copy of the press release, which contains additional information.

Thank you for your support of our efforts as we work toward a proposed rule that improves the transparency, efficiency, timeliness, flexibility, and integrity of the Federal acknowledgment process.

Sincerely,



Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary -- Indian Affairs

Enclosure



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 22, 2014

CONTACT: Nedra Darling
202-219-4152

Interior Proposes Reform of Federal Acknowledgment Regulations *Proposed rule would address "broken" process*

Washington, D.C. --- Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn today announced publication of proposed regulations that would reform the 35-year old process by which the Department of the Interior officially recognizes Indian tribes. Federal acknowledgment establishes the U.S. Government as the trustee for Tribal lands and resources and makes Tribal members and governments eligible for federal budget assistance and program services.

"President Obama believes that reforming the federal acknowledgment process will strengthen our important trust relationship with Indian tribes. Acknowledgment by the Department of the Interior confirms the existence of a nation-to-nation relationship between an Indian Tribe and the United States," said Secretary Jewell. "Through this Administration's outreach initiatives, tribal leaders have told us that the current process can be inconsistent, cost millions of dollars and take decades to complete. Our proposed rule maintains the rigorous integrity needed, but allows that process to be conducted in a timely, efficient and transparent manner."

The existing regulations, known as "the Part 83 process", were originally adopted in 1978 and were updated only once 20 years ago. Prior to that, Interior had addressed requests for Tribal acknowledgment on a case-by-case basis. While the 1978 regulations established a structured process for federal acknowledgment, these regulations have been widely criticized as being too time-consuming, sometimes arbitrary and generally "broken."

"Reform of the process is long-overdue," said Assistant Secretary Washburn. "One of my first assignments at the Department was to search for ways to improve the federal recognition process and address long-standing criticisms of those regulations. This initiative is the product of substantial Tribal consultation and public comment and we are grateful for the broad public interest in this reform effort and the helpful guidance we have received from Tribes and the public."

-Continued-

Page 2 - Reform of Federal Acknowledgment Regulations

Key features of the proposed rule would promote transparency by updating the Part 83 criteria to include objective standards; promote efficiency by requiring a petitioner to show community and political influence/authority from 1934 to the present rather than from as early as 1789; and eliminate the need for a petitioner to demonstrate that third parties identified the petitioner as a tribe from 1900 to the present. The proposed rule would make changes to the petitioning process that facilitate the timely issuance of proposed findings and final determinations. It would also allow an administrative judge to conduct a comprehensive hearing and review of a negative proposed finding.

In recognition of the high level of interest in the acknowledgement process, the Department used a transparent approach and significant outreach effort. Before beginning the formal rulemaking initiative, Interior issued a discussion draft last summer to facilitate public input on how to improve the process. Through the discussion draft and ensuing tribal consultations and public meetings, the Department obtained substantial feedback. In total, more than 2,800 commenters providing input on the discussion draft.

The proposed rule reflects current federal policy embodied in the Indian Reorganization Act and seeks to codify the Department's past practice under the Part 83 process to promote consistency and transparency. With the issuance of this proposed rule, the Department is again seeking input from tribes, petitioners seeking acknowledgment, and interested members of the public so that any reforms to the process are fair, timely and transparent.

Of the 566 federally recognized tribes, 17 have been recognized through the Part 83 process under Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, *Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group Exists as an Indian Tribe*. Though far more tribes have been recognized through Congressional action, the Part 83 process is an important mechanism because it allows deliberative consideration of petitions by a staff of federal experts in anthropology, genealogy and history and ultimately allows for a decision by an objective decision-maker. When petitioning groups that meet the several criteria are officially "acknowledged" as Indian tribes, the U.S. Government accepts trusteeship of Tribal lands and natural resources and Tribal governments and members become eligible to receive federal health, education, housing and other program and technical assistance services.

Interior will be conducting tribal consultations and public meetings on the proposed rule in July 2014. Tribal consultations are generally open only to representatives of federally recognized Indian tribes. Public meetings are open to everyone. The tribal consultations will be held on the following dates and locations:

-Continued-

Page 3 - Reform of Federal Acknowledgment Regulations

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday 7/1/2014	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Paragon Casino & Resort, 711 Paragon Pl, Marksville, LA 71351
Tuesday 7/15/2014	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	BIA Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Ave, Portland, OR 97232*
Thursday 7/17/2014	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Menominee Casino Resort, N277 Hwy. 47/55, P.O. Box 760, Keshena, WI 54135
Tuesday 7/22/2014	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Cache Creek Casino Resort, 14455 California 16, Brooks, CA 95606
Thursday 7/24/2014	8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Crowne Plaza Billings, 27 N 27th St, Billings, MT 59101
Tuesday 7/29/14	1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Community & Government Center Gymnasium, 483 Great Neck Road - South, Mashpee, MA 02649

Public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

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*Please RSVP for the Portland consultation to consultation@bia.gov, bring photo identification, and arrive early to allow for time to get through security, as this is a Federal building. No RSVP is necessary for the other consultation locations.

The proposed rule, frequently asked questions, and other information are online at: <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/ORM/8}revise/index.htm>. Comments on the proposed rule are due August 1, 2014, to consultation@bia.gov.

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55046 ✓



643222

State of New Mexico

RECEIVED

2014 APR 25 AM 9:38

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Susana Martinez
Governor

April 22, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Hagel:

I am writing to you concerning the Department of Interior (DOI) and the Department of Defense (DOD) review of the proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. As you are aware, this project has been under consideration by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for several years, and they completed their Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in June, 2013. Prior to the publication of the FEIS, there had been several multi-agency meetings regarding proposed routing for the transmission lines (two AC lines, or one AC line and one DC line), though the meetings seemed to fall short of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements pertaining to cooperating agency involvement.

The objective of the project is to pull wind energy from Central New Mexico and move the energy to a site in Arizona. The BLM Preferred Alternate Route is planned across the Northern Extension Area of White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). This planned route poses an unacceptable negative impact to critical test and evaluation missions at WSMR. As I understand it, there are two good alternatives which would both support the project's objectives and WSMR's mission—the DOD preferred route north of the Northern Extension Area, or burying the line for approximately 35 miles along the BLM preferred route. I strongly support either one of these alternatives.

The Honorable Sally Jewell and the Honorable Chuck Hagel
April 22, 2014
Page 2

I was briefed recently on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory Review of the BLM Preferred Alternative Route, and I understand the review validates DOD concerns. My Administration fully supports our national goals regarding development of renewable energy, but not at the expense of military missions. We have followed closely the evolution of our National Security Strategy—White Sands Missile Range will continue to play a significant role as the Defense Department continues development of long-range capability against emerging threats, particularly those that might arise in the Asia-Pacific Theater.

With respect to the FEIS, and as provided for in 43 CFR 1610, I provided a Consistency Review statement to BLM on August 16, 2013. I have not received a response. This statement fully described several inconsistencies between the FEIS and our state's plans, policies, and programs with regards to our support for military missions in New Mexico.

Secretary Jewell, I urgently ask for your support of an alternative which avoids a negative impact to WSMR. Secretary Hagel, please let me know how we can further demonstrate our support for WSMR—it is an invaluable resource to our nation and to our great State of New Mexico.

My staff point of contact for this issue is Hanson Scott, hanson.scott@state.nm.us. Please let us know if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Susana Martinez
Governor

STATE OF COLORADO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone (303) 866-2471
Fax (303) 866-2003

643184

RECEIVED

2014 APR 23 AM

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

April 14, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

We are writing today to offer my support of the proposal to provide \$1 million per year of funding to connect urban youth with the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge ("Refuge") and fulfill our mutual goal of exposing the future stewards of our natural resources to the environment and wildlife.

Located in a fast growing urban area, part of which is economically disadvantaged, use of the Refuge exploded in 2013 to over 300,000 visitors, from 23,000 visitors in the prior year, and is expected to increase each year. In addition to its ideal location in close proximity to over 141,000 school children, the Refuge boasts a 16,000-acre reserve including bison, eagles and a restored native prairie ecosystem.

This proposal will allow for immediate implementation of the following:

- Removal of physical barriers from residential areas to the Refuge.
- Investment into partnerships, initially with Environmental Learning for Kids, a non-profit organization focused on providing outdoor education and experiences to underserved youth. In addition, the Refuge will continue to expand partnerships with local school districts, the Colorado Parks and Recreation Association and a new and emerging metropolitan green space alliance.
- Increased investment into youth employment opportunities with Mile High Youth Corps and Ground Work Denver to create a future conservation constituency.
- Finance one special project each year in support of the National Wildlife Refuge System's urban refuge initiative. This will allow the Refuge to support and encourage further innovation and local grassroots efforts as they develop across the region.

We share your commitment to youth in the outdoors and hope you will agree with me that the Refuge is best positioned to bridge many of the existing divides between youth and nature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper".

John W. Hickenlooper

cc: Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jim Kurth, Assistant Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Noreen Walsh, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
David Lucas, Refuge Manager, Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR Complex



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



JUN 06 2014

The Honorable John W. Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
136 State Capitol
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your April 14, 2014 letter of support of the proposal to provide \$1 million per year of funding for connecting urban youth to Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. Your support for this effort harmonizes with the Secretary's recently announced Secretarial Order to significantly expand recreational, educational, volunteer and career opportunities for millions of youth and veterans on the nation's public lands, including partnerships with businesses and youth organizations, in an effort to bridge the growing disconnect between young citizens and the great outdoors.

At this time, the proposal selected to receive these funds has not been determined. An announcement of the selectee is anticipated for July, 2014.

Thank you for your active engagement and commitment to bridging the growing gap between youth and nature.

Sincerely,

DIRECTOR

ONE HUNDRED ONE NORTH CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701
OFFICE: (775) 684-5670
FAX NO.: (775) 684-5683



54582 ✓
555 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 5100
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
OFFICE: (702) 486-2500
FAX NO.: (702) 486-2505

Office of the Governor

April 10, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am deeply concerned by the actions of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials engaged in the impoundment of livestock in Clark County, Nevada. The conduct of BLM officials, including use of aggressive canines, SWAT teams and equipment, snipers with long rifles, a military helicopter, and over 200 heavily-armed law enforcement officials, has the appearance of a paramilitary operation rather than a round-up of cattle.

As a result, there is a toxic atmosphere of intimidation, turbulence, and anxiety in this quiet community that has left many locals in fear of even leaving their homes. To complicate matters more, the Clark County Fair, which is scheduled to begin today in Logandale, Nevada and close on Sunday, will bring thousands of children, families and exhibitors to the area.

Based on the aggressive behavior that has been displayed already, which is well documented in the mainstream media and social media sites, I am concerned that this matter may continue to escalate to a tragic and unnecessary outcome.

Indeed, so-called militias from other states have raised a call to arms to come to Nevada to confront federal authorities. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=e8O-o5OPsA&feature=youtu.be>

To further exacerbate the situation, the BLM has closed important public roads and established "First Amendment Zones" to limit where members of the public can express their views of this event. Moreover, the BLM has limited media access and required private landowners and right-of-way holders to obtain prior approval before accessing their lands or visiting their utility lines.

Over the past week, my office has received hundreds of phone calls and emails, overwhelmingly decrying the actions of BLM officials. I have met with state and local government officials, who fear tragedy is imminent. I have spoken with BLM Director Neil Kornze to insist that he take action, including dismantling the offensive "First Amendment Zones." To date, the only response I have received from federal officials is that there is no consideration for suspending or changing the character of the operation.

Arrests, public road-closures, the creation of an overly-restrictive "First Amendment Zone," use of tasers and police dogs, and generally heavy-handed behavior have created a dangerous situation in this community and our state. Local residents are living in fear and are upset and frustrated by BLM's actions. National militia groups are descending upon Clark County.

As Governor of the State of Nevada, I respectfully call on you, as Secretary of the United State Department of Interior, to suspend this enforcement activity immediately and order the BLM and all involved federal agencies to stand down. It is not my intent to question the Orders of the court or the merits of the legal dispute. I ask you to withdraw from this poorly planned and executed endeavor and put an end to this now to avoid what could become a horrible tragedy.

I look forward to speaking with you today and implore you to give this matter your utmost attention.

Sincere regards,



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

CC: The White House

545827



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 11 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval:

I am in receipt of your letter expressing concern about the cattle impoundment being undertaken by the Bureau of Land Management in Clark County, Nevada. As I assured you in our conversation of yesterday, our highest priority is the safety of the public, as well as the local, State, and Federal employees and contractors who are involved in carrying out and supporting this lawful impoundment in furtherance of two recent Federal court orders. I ask that you join with us to publicly emphasize the need for demonstrators to remain lawful, peaceful, and not to place themselves or others in danger by impeding the Federal employees and contractors conducting the impoundment.

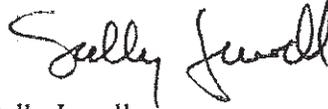
I am dismayed by the tone of your letter and by the factual misstatements it contains. Rest assured that there are no military helicopters, no Federal snipers, no paramilitary operation by the Federal Government, and no curtailment of First Amendment rights of those who disagree with our decision to implement Federal court orders to remove trespassing cattle. The BLM is conducting this operation consistent with established procedures and protocols.

The reported presence of out-of-state militia members underscores the need for your support and for the involvement of State law enforcement personnel to maintain public safety during this impoundment. The public statements of the protest participants, while showing flagrant disregard for Federal authority, indicate that they respect the exercise of State police powers. As public officials, we share the responsibility to ensure compliance with all laws without exception. In your role as Governor, you can reinforce that message.

Our goal in this action is to remove trespassing cattle that unlawfully remain on public lands, including lands managed by the National Park Service, as a result of their owner's refusal to comply with Federal law and three Federal court orders. He has also rejected our many efforts over the years to resolve this situation. For more than 20 years, the owner of these cattle has been trespassing on publicly owned resources for his own use and profit, unfairly impacting other potential uses of these public lands and without complying with the same laws as 16,000 law-abiding public lands ranchers nationwide. To allow this illegal activity to continue is unfair to lawful users of the public lands.

As we discussed yesterday and as I also relayed to Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie, I ask you to stand with us and to commit the resources to help us resolve this trespass situation peacefully.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Jewell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sally Jewell

54559 ↓

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

642771

April 9, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell, Secretary
U. S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I performed a consistency review of the Proposed Resource Management Plan for the Lander Field Office (Lander RMP) in April 2013. Nearly a year later, there is still no Record of Decision (ROD). This delay has consequences. Please help bring the Lander RMP to finality.

The Lander RMP covers a total of 6.6 million acres in five counties. For more than seven years, dozens of cooperators reviewed and commented on thousands of pages of data and information while maintaining a tight schedule for the Lander RMP process outlined by the BLM. In addition to the cooperators, there was a high degree of public participation. The participation reflects the plan's importance to the lives of people who live, work, and visit the five counties covered by the planning area. The public process for developing resource management plans is as important as the final product. The citizenry has done its job; it is now up the Department of Interior to do its part.

The Lander RMP will guide land use decisions for 20 years—including grazing, habitat protection, mineral development, recreation and other uses. The uncertainty of the Lander RMP's ROD affects the private sector's ability to plan and to make long term business decisions. This jeopardizes economic prosperity and creates unnecessary tension and uncertainty. It prevents implementation of conservation initiatives and actions addressing natural resource issues such as trails, recreation, energy development, wildlife, not to mention public health and safety.

In its March 2010 status determination for the Greater Sage-Grouse, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service endorsed Wyoming's strategy, stating: "the core area strategy...if implemented by all landowners via regulatory mechanisms, *would* provide adequate protection for sage-grouse and their habitats in the State." [Emphasis added.] Wyoming's strategy is being implemented on non-federal lands. Without a final Lander RMP, Wyoming's ability to demonstrate and document Greater Sage-Grouse conservation efforts is curtailed. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife

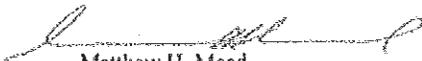
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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE SECRET

The Honorable Sally Jewell
April 9, 2014
Page 2

Services' decision on the listing is less than 18 months away. Wyoming and its partners have expended considerable resources to develop an effective, enduring model for sage-grouse conservation that will be implemented through the Lander RMP. The Lander RMP will serve as a template for other resource management plans revision efforts in Wyoming and across the west—but only after it is signed.

Please help resolve the delay of the Lander RMP. I hope you will be able to sign the decision at your earliest convenience. It would be wonderful if the signing would take place in Wyoming, but that is secondary to the real need to have the Lander RMP signed expeditiously.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:mdm

cc: The Honorable Michael B. Enzi, U. S. Senate
The Honorable John Barrasso, U. S. Senate
The Honorable Cynthia Lummis, U. S. House of Representatives
Jim Lyons, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Dan Ashe, Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Don Simpson, Wyoming State Director, Bureau of Land Management
Rick VanderVoet, Lander Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

JUN 04 2014

The Honorable Matthew H. Mead
Governor of Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Governor Mead:

Thank you for your letter of April 9, 2014, regarding your interest in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issuing the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Lander Resource Management Plan (RMP). I share your desire to provide the public with management certainty to this area.

The Department must balance releasing the Lander ROD with a landscape approach to Greater sage-grouse conservation. While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has expressed its support of the Wyoming strategy, the Lander RMP is only one component of the larger, multi-state planning initiative with broad national implications. I recognize the years of effort by the State of Wyoming and members of the public working with the BLM to arrive at fair and balanced management for the Lander area. I appreciate your leadership and that of your predecessor, Governor Freudenthal, in developing a plan to both conserve the Greater sage-grouse and sustain responsible natural resource development. As your letter indicates, the Lander RMP will guide the use of public lands for at least the next two decades.

The Department is on target to complete its review of the proposed plan amendments and revisions. This has required extensive coordination with the USDA Forest Service as well as states throughout the West in what has been one of the most extensive land-use planning efforts ever, all within a very short timeframe. As you can appreciate, the first Greater sage-grouse plan needs to be fully vetted as it will set the stage for all the plans that follow. We have nearly completed our review of the Lander plan and are very close to finalizing our decision.

Thank you for your leadership in Wyoming and as co-chair of the Sage-grouse Task Force in advancing the State-Federal collaboration that is critical to our success in conserving the sage-grouse. I look forward to seeing you at the Western Governors' Association's meeting and our continued work together on this pioneering effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Jewell".

Sally Jewell

54828 ✓



LOLO M. MOLIGA
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT
Telephone: (684) 633-4116 Fax: (684) 633-2269

LEMANU P. MAUGA
LEUTENANT GOVERNOR

April 9, 2014

Serial: 300

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
United States Government
Washington D.C. 20240

Dear Madams Secretary;

The Legislature of American Samoa has transmitted to me, the approved Senate Joint Resolution No. 33-3 amending Article II, Section 9 and Article II Section 19 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa to provide for a "Legislative Override of Executive Varies without action by the Secretary of the Interior". Moreover, it has been decreed by the Legislature of American Samoa, to place this resolution on the ballot for the next election on November 4, 2014 to be voted on by the people of American Samoa.

While I don't object to the subject of the resolution, I am very concerned that legal issues connected with the Presidential Delegated Oversight Authority to DOI over the Territory of American Samoa, along with former Congressman Fofu Sumia 1984 amendment shifting the review of amendments of our Constitution to the Congress of the United States have not been clearly addressed. These legal issues might invalidate the proposed Constitutional amendment as prescribed by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33-3.

Based on the foregoing, I am requesting your assistance if it would be possible to have the Solicitor General review the referenced resolution and determine if there are legal impediments which require resolution before the matter is placed in a referendum in the next general election. It is important for me to ensure that the people of American Samoa are well informed of all the issues associated with the proposed constitutional amendments.

As time is of the essence, your usual prompt attention is appreciated and humbly requested to ensure that sufficient time is spent to create full awareness among the people of American Samoa so they can make informed choices. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Lolo M. Moliga
Governor of American Samoa

Cc: Honorable Lemanu P. Mauga, Lieutenant Governor
Mr. Nikolao Pula, Director, Office of Insular Affairs



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

Headquarters:
1600 Broadway
Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

303-623-9378
Fax 303-534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 376
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

April 4, 2014

Rhea Suh
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Assistant Secretary Suh:

It has come to my attention that the U.S. application for candidacy in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) was approved by the EITI Board at its March 18-19 meeting in Oslo, Norway. I understand and appreciate that the application included an opt-in provision for states, as requested in WGA's letter to you last July. I further understand that the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) that is providing input to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative plans to gather, collate, and analyze publicly available state revenue data for inclusion in the U.S. EITI report, regardless of whether a state has opted in.

I strongly recommend that the MSG and the Interior Department (as the primary federal government representative to EITI) clarify the proposed use of state data and propose a formal opt-in process for interested states. To better inform state consideration of EITI participation, WGA recommends that our federal partners develop and distribute an explanation of the initiative that describes:

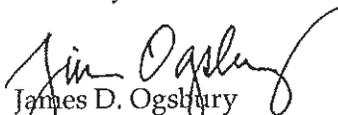
- the rationale for state participation and identifies the costs and benefits for a state opting in to EITI reporting;
- the process by which a state can opt-in to formally participate in U.S. EITI reporting; and
- how state data will be gathered and used for states which do not opt in.

While Governors support the goal of revenue transparency and recognize that the U.S. system of transparency can be a model for the rest of the world, they will react unfavorably to efforts by EITI that create an unfunded federal mandate. Unless states have opted in, DOI, EITI or the "Independent Administrator" contracted to gather and "repackage" existing state data should not expect state agency staff to take time away from their duties to help gather, collect, analyze or interpret data requested by EITI.

Rhea Suh
April 4, 2014
Page Two

We look forward to receiving more information about the proposed use of state data and a formal opt-in process for interested states.

Sincerely,


James D. Ogshury
Executive Director

cc: Multi-Stakeholder Group, U.S. Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

APR 17 2014

Mr. James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director
Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Mr. Ogsbury:

Thank you for your letter dated April 4, 2014, on behalf of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) concerning U.S implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (USEITI). You requested further clarification of how extractive revenues collected by states may be affected as USEITI implementation continues, and I appreciate the opportunity to share this information with you.

As you know, the USEITI candidacy application was approved at the March 2014 EITI International Board Meeting. Consistent with our previous communications, the candidacy application sought and successfully obtained a waiver of the EITI requirement to include reconciliation of state extractive revenues in EITI reporting. Publicly available information about state extractive revenues will be in the USEITI Report as part of the contextual data describing the U.S. extractive sector.

Moving forward, a working group will be formed to engage states in the joint design of a state "opt-in" procedure for USEITI reporting. The USEITI Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), which includes representatives from the States of California and Wyoming, will lead this effort. The rationale for seeking the waiver and proposing to instead develop an "opt-in" procedure recognizes not only the complex and varied nature of the state extractive landscape, but also the need to first obtain meaningful guidance from states on an approach that will be mutually beneficial. As a result, the approval of the USEITI candidacy application marks a starting point for more detailed discussion, not a destination with defined outcomes for state participation.

We welcome the opportunity for more active WGA involvement in designing a state "opt-in" procedure and identifying the benefits to state residents, especially in those areas where substantial energy development occurs. We would like to invite WGA representatives to begin attending the USEITI MSG open meetings, starting with the next one on April 23rd, and/or to

participate in the state "opt-in" working group. We will continue to keep you informed and seek your input as the state "opt-in" procedure is designed, and look forward to WGA's continued engagement on behalf of states.

Please let me know if there is any additional information that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhea Suh".

Rhea Suh
Assistant Secretary
Policy, Management and Budget

Cc: The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado and
Chairman, Western Governors' Association



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

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Fax 303-534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 376
Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

April 3, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240-10148

Dear Secretary Jewell,

Thank you for your continued engagement with Western Governors and the Western Governors' Association. We are writing to ask the Department of Interior's support for reauthorization of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project (Pilot Project).

In accordance with Section 365 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, then-Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton structured the Pilot Project through a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Agriculture, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Pilot Project established seven regional Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices as Pilot Project offices for a period of 10 years. The Western states where these offices are located collectively process the vast majority of the applications for permit to drill (APD) filed with the BLM.

A key aspect of the Pilot Project is that these offices are eligible to receive a portion of rental fees paid by oil and gas development companies in connection with their leases on BLM land. The Pilot Project offices utilize the additional funding to add staff and other resources to increase office efficiency and streamline processing of APDs. Further, this additional funding has been used by the Pilot Project offices to support BLM resource conservation efforts.

Since enactment of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, demand for natural gas has increased dramatically. In order to continue the development of domestic resources, efficient and streamlined regulatory permitting processes are ever more important. The Pilot Project is an important tool in this regard.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 dictates that the Pilot Project's 10-year term will expire in 2015. Given its success, we support reauthorization of the Pilot Project.

Honorable Sally Jewell

April 3, 2014

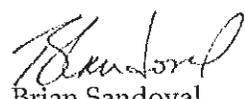
Page 2

Bipartisan support for the Pilot Project was seen when, in Dec. 2013, Congress passed and the President signed H.R. 767, expanding the scope of the Pilot Project and providing additional discretion to BLM. Ongoing bipartisan support is further evidenced by the Feb. 5, 2014 letter sent to you by Senator Tom Udall and Congressman Rob Bishop.

We join interested Members of Congress in asking the Department of Interior to support extension of the Pilot Project. We look forward to working collaboratively with you to ensure the continued success of this program, so important to a number of Western states.

Respectfully,


John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
WGA Chairman


Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
WGA Vice Chairman

cc: Senator Tom Udall, New Mexico
Congressman Rob Bishop, Utah



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 17 2014

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 2014, regarding the expiration of the Federal Permit Streamlining Pilot Project (Pilot Project) authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA Act), and your desire to seek its reauthorization. I appreciate your sharing your views on this matter. The Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also consider the 10-year Pilot Project to be a success, and it has allowed the BLM and its Pilot Project partner bureaus and agencies to efficiently process oil and gas drilling permits and administer the Federal mineral estate.

The additional resources devoted to processing oil and gas use authorizations through the EPA Act have enhanced the BLM's capabilities to coordinate across the relevant agencies, increasing the pace of permitting and streamlining associated environmental reviews. In addition, the Pilot Project has provided the BLM's oil and gas inspection and enforcement program with resources necessary to allow for more thorough oversight of authorized oil and gas operations.

Recently, legislative authority was granted to expand the Pilot Project in the Miles City (MT) Field Office to include all field offices within the jurisdiction of the BLM's Montana/Dakotas State Office. Similarly, the Pilot Project in the Buffalo (WY) Field Office was legislatively expanded to include the Casper Field Office. We would like to work with Congress to provide additional flexibility nationwide to utilize the pilot office authority to respond accordingly as industry's geographical interests and permitting demands shift over time.

We look forward to working with you to develop solutions that will allow us to extend the success of these pilot offices and to provide for environmentally responsible energy development on the public lands. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me. A similar letter has been sent to Governor Brian Sandoval.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewel



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 17 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Vice Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Sandoval:

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Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sally Jewel in blue ink.
Sally Jewel

54382 ✓



642428
State of New Mexico - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RECEIVED
2014 APR -2 PM 4:18

Susana Martinez
Governor

March 24, 2014

The Honorable Secretary Sally Jewell
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I am writing in support of the creation of a national monument covering lands in the Organ Mountains, Organ Needles, and Pena Blanca WSA, as set forth in H.R. 995, The Organ Mountains National Monument Establishment Act sponsored by Congressman Steve Pearce. New Mexico is blessed with thousands of miles of remarkable lands preserved not only for our citizens' enjoyment, but for countless visitors from around the world. This establishment of roughly 50,000 acres would protect and conserve these lands for future generations to enjoy the beauty of our rich terrain.

While H.R. 995 ensures that this effort is not overzealous in scope and breadth, I am concerned that a similar proposal brought forth by Senators Heinrich and Udall allocates too much land. This proposal appropriates roughly five times the acreage of HR995 and could threaten border security as well as water and grazing rights if it were adopted.

I stand with members of our delegation in wanting to ensure that our beautiful state is protected for future generations. However, the approach favored by Senators Heinrich and Udall is simply too broad. I strongly encourage your support of Congressman Pearce's approach, and look forward to working with members of our delegation to ensure its success.

*The Honorable Secretary Jewell
Organ Mountains National Monument
March 24, 2014*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susana Martinez".

Susana Martinez
Governor

*Cc: President Barack Obama
Senator Martin Heinrich
Senator Tom Udall
Representative Steve Pearce
Principle Deputy Director Neil Komze, Bureau of Land Management*

54382 →



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAY 14 2014

The Honorable Susana Martinez
Governor of New Mexico
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Governor Martinez:

Thank you for your letters of March 24, 2014, to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Neil Kornze and me regarding proposed legislation to designate a national monument consisting of public lands managed by the BLM in Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

Your input on these pending bills is very much appreciated. We constantly work to take into account the interests of a wide range of stakeholders to protect America's public lands and provide for economic development in a manner that is consistent with law and sound public policy.

This area is not only a treasure for the State of New Mexico, but one of national significance to be managed for, and cherished by, all the people of the United States. The Department of the Interior and the BLM welcome opportunities to engage in important discussions such as this regarding the protection of some of America's most compelling landscapes.

We look forward to continuing to work with you, the sponsors of these bills, and other stakeholders to appropriately manage this important area for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Jewell".

Sally Jewell

54092

ONE HUNDRED ONE NORTH CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701
OFFICE: (775) 684-5670
FAX NO.: (775) 684-5683



555 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 5100
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
OFFICE: (702) 486-2500
FAX-NO.: (702) 486-2505

64206



2014

Office of the Governor

March 17, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: National Historic Landmark Designation of Nevada State Prison

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Please accept this letter expressing my support for the nomination of Nevada State Prison as a National Historic Landmark. Nevada State Prison has played a prominent role in shaping the rich history of the State of Nevada, a history we are now celebrating as we enter our 150th year of statehood. The historical, cultural, architectural and geological significance of this unique site cannot be overstated, and its profound impact on Nevada's legacy should be preserved for the benefit of future generations of Americans.

One of the oldest prisons in the Western United States, Nevada State Prison operated from 1862 until its closure in 2012. It was originally housed in the Warm Springs Hotel in Carson City. In 1867, the facility was reconstructed out of sandstone which was quarried at the site. Since its reconstruction, the prison has played a role in defining some of the most quintessential cultural, political, and social events in Nevada's history.

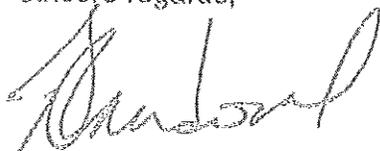
Nevada State Prison's first warden, Abraham Curry, who is considered the founding father of Carson City, donated the land upon which Nevada's State Capitol building stands today. The State Capitol was constructed using the sandstone quarried at Nevada State Prison. The Capitol's timeless architecture and sandstone exterior continue to embody the strength and unbreakable resolve that have defined Nevada throughout its rugged history. Nevada has evolved from its early days as an untamed frontier into a premiere international destination that today is at the forefront of some of America's most dynamic industries and emerging technologies. Like the Capitol's sandstone exterior that

has withstood the test of time, the State of Nevada, too, has weathered its own tempests and has emerged strong, unwavering, and ready for the opportunities that lie ahead. Thus, Nevada State Prison's early role in the construction of some of Nevada's most cherished landmarks is also an essential chapter in the ongoing story of the Silver State.

Nevada State Prison is also renowned for its geological treasures, linking modern-day Nevada to its rich early heritages. As far back as 1882, fossilized footprints were discovered at the site, and fossils from a variety of species are still being uncovered there to this day. These types of invaluable discoveries at the site of Nevada State Prison spur research and scientific interest that help to answer important questions about our past. They are also a reflection of Nevada's unrivaled contributions in the field of anthropology, which include North America's oldest known petroglyphs, recently discovered in northern Nevada, as well as the Tule Springs fossil bed outside of Las Vegas, which is home to thousands of fossils of Ice Age mammoths, bison and American lions.

As an iconic and historic institution, Nevada State Prison is so much more than a building. It truly is a landmark that embodies much of what Nevada has to offer its citizens, as well as the millions of visitors that travel to Nevada every year. The site is emblematic of ideas that continue to inform the history of this great State, as well as the ideas that will inspire its future. It has played a pivotal role in the development of Nevada from its earliest days as an unchartered territory, and has endured the ups and downs of its 150-year history. I therefore wish to convey my enthusiastic support for the designation of Nevada State Prison as a National Historic Landmark. I firmly believe that such a designation would greatly enhance Nevada's cultural and historical vitality, and I hope you will also carefully consider supporting the nomination of this inimitable treasure of Nevada's past.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Sandoval", written in a cursive style.

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

54092 →



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

H34(2280)

APR - 9 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you very much for your letter of support for the National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation of the Nevada State Prison in Carson City. From your letter, the history of the prison sounds impressive. The NHL staff will evaluate the prison's eligibility for designation if they receive a request for nomination. To date, they have not received any information about the prison, nor a request that the site be considered for NHL designation.

Rebecca Palmer, the Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, informed the NHL staff that a National Register of Historic Places nomination is being prepared for the Nevada State Prison. Preparation of the nomination is funded, in part, by a Certified Local Government grant from the National Park Service to Carson City. We look forward to receiving the National Register nomination.

National Historic Landmark designation is quite different from National Register listing. The NHL program recognizes properties of exceptional national significance that exhibit a very high degree of integrity. National Register listing is available for historic properties that are significant from a local, state, or national perspective. Each program has distinct criteria for evaluating eligibility.

As the Nevada State Prison nomination is being prepared, the National Register and NHL staff will assist the preparers as needed. The staff will hold your letter of endorsement until a nomination has been received. Thank you very much for your interest in the National Historic Landmark program and for your support in recognizing Nevada's rich heritage.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Toothman, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Cultural Resources, Partnerships
and Science



State of
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

March 11, 2014

*EX-101 Sec
MAR 24 2014
Rec'd*

Mike Connor
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Deputy Secretary Connor:

I am pleased to congratulate you on your appointment as Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior. I did ask for quick approval of your nomination but am not sure I caused the 2-day response. I have enjoyed working with you in the past, and I look forward to working with you in the future on projects that are critical to North Dakota.

In particular, I look forward to continued discussions with you regarding the Red River Valley Water Supply project. A study on the project is currently underway; I will provide you with an update on the proposed route once the study is completed early this summer.

I also again want to request your support to obtain funding for a Plan of Study to identify potential improvements to the river operating plans implemented in both the United States and Canada with regard to the Souris River. It is very important that this Plan of Study is completed, as it will be of great importance in helping the United States and Canada to provide long-term flood protection for our citizens in the Souris River Valley.

Congratulations on your new position; I look forward to continuing to work with you on issues important to our state and our nation.

Sincerely,

Jack Dalrymple
Jack Dalrymple
Governor

37:68:56



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

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www.westgov.org

February 23, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Western Governors and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) share a commitment to conserve the greater sage-grouse. As we have repeatedly stated, Western Governors support all reasonable management efforts necessary to support a not-warranted decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the greater sage-grouse. We thank you and your agency directors for your cooperation with our states in the development of sound conservation measures.

Western Governors are pleased to share our most recent *Inventory of State and Local Governments' Conservation Initiatives for Sage-Grouse: 2013 Update*. This third annual inventory illustrates the many ways that states and counties are taking proactive, voluntary steps to conserve the species – steps which are consistent with the Conservation Objectives Team report, and other conservation requirements, issued by the Service. These steps preclude the need to include the greater sage-grouse on the federal endangered species list.

An accurate evaluation of the effect of state measures upon overall population trends for greater sage-grouse requires DOI and its agencies to take into account the full spectrum of state activities, be they legislative, regulatory, administrative or voluntary, and adequately acknowledge the associated benefits.

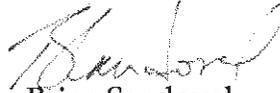
Western Governors pledge to continue working with DOI, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management to comprehensively document all greater sage-grouse conservation actions in order to ensure that greater sage-grouse conservation plans and policies are fully accounted for at the time of a final listing proposal.

Honorable Sally Jewell
February 23, 2014
Page Two

Sincerely,



John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
Chairman, WGA



Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
Vice Chairman, WGA

Attachments:

Resolution 11-09 Sage-grouse and Sagebrush Conservation

Resolution 13-04 Conserving Wildlife and Crucial Habitat in the West

cc: Dan Ashe, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 10 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Vice Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you for your letter dated February 23, 2014, regarding conservation of the greater sage-grouse. I appreciate receiving a copy of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) *Inventory of State and Local Governments' Conservation Initiatives for Sage-Grouse: 2013 Update* and *WGA's Conserving Wildlife and Crucial Habitat in the West*.

The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with the U.S. Forest Service, are continuing to work collaboratively with affected states to conserve the greater sage-grouse and its habitat and potentially avoid the need to list the species under the Endangered Species Act. These collaborative efforts play an important role in conserving and improving sage brush habitats across the range of the greater sage-grouse. We appreciate WGA's commitment to greater sage-grouse conservation and the proactive steps being taken across local and state lands.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the greater sage-grouse on our Nation's public lands. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue. A similar letter is being sent to Governor John Hickenlooper.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 10 2014

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

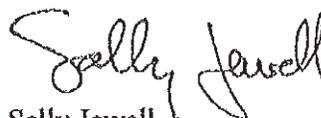
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Thank you for your interest in the management of the greater sage-grouse on our Nation's public lands. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this issue. A similar letter is being sent to Governor Brian Sandoval.

Sincerely,



Sally Jewell

53360 ↙

MATTHEW H. MEAD
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

Office of the Governor

641022

February 18, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I support the work of the Sweetwater River Conservancy (Conservancy) in Wyoming. The Conservancy finalized a Wetland Mitigation Bank with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to safeguard important wetland habitat in perpetuity and unlock other areas for development. Now the Conservancy is working to secure habitat for the sage-grouse using a Habitat Conservation Bank permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Conservancy's Habitat Conservation Bank builds on principles in my sage-grouse core area conservation strategy. It will protect over 700,000 acres of sage-grouse habitat. This landscape-scale habitat bank will be larger than all other nationwide Service-approved habitat banks combined. While sage-grouse are the focus of the Conservancy's work, benefits extend to mule deer, water quality and quantity, livestock production and other natural resources. I look forward to final approval of the proposed Bank by the Service. I commend Mark Sattelberg, Ecological Services Field Supervisor for Wyoming, for his efforts to achieve these goals.

The Conservancy also maintains habitat for bald and golden eagles, other raptors and migratory birds. These avian species have been a focus of wind industry guidelines, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Proactive habitat banking concepts for bald and golden eagles, migratory birds and other raptor management would benefit from matching proven science, federal land use and wildlife protection laws. I would appreciate your assistance in applying habitat banking to avian species.

Thank you for your upcoming meeting with the Conservancy. Working with the Sweetwater River Conservancy and similar groups encourages private efforts and results in long term benefits to sage-grouse, wildlife, water, open space, hunting and ranching. Wyoming continues to be a leading force in sage-grouse protection. The Conservancy's work is another important extension of that effort.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Mead
Governor

*Secretary,
look forward to seeing
you soon.*



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAR 25 2014

53360 →

The Honorable Matthew H. Mead
Governor of Wyoming
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Governor Mead:

Thank you for your letter of February 18, 2014, supporting the efforts of the Sweetwater River Conservancy (Conservancy) to conserve natural resources in Wyoming. The Department of the Interior also supports these important conservation efforts because of the great potential to protect essential natural resources. I appreciate your support and the backing of State agencies on these projects as well.

The Conservancy's habitat conservation bank is an ambitious undertaking. I am excited that the habitat conservation bank is designed on a landscape scale and builds on your sage-grouse core area conservation strategy, something that is required for the continued protection of greater sage-grouse. I commit the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to diligently work on the establishment of the habitat conservation bank.

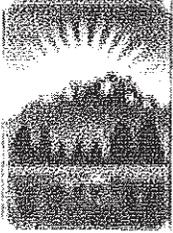
Regarding your comments about using conservation banks for avian species, we have initiated discussions at the national level on this complicated issue. At this time, we are exploring whether it is possible to utilize a traditional conservation banking approach to address impacts to eagles, given our current regulations governing take of eagles. We will continue to assess the degree to which it is possible to do as you suggest and apply these habitat banking concepts to eagles. Although the regulations implementing the MBTA do not currently address conservation banking when activities affect birds covered by that Act, the FWS supports and encourages voluntary banking efforts for this purpose.

It was a pleasure to meet with former-Governor Freudenthal and the Conservancy recently, and I look forward to learning more about their innovative efforts. I also commend your leadership in sage-grouse protection and natural resource issues in Wyoming.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

53359 ✓



**WESTERN
GOVERNORS'
ASSOCIATION**

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

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www.westgov.org

February 18, 2014

641017

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, D.C. 20240

RECEIVED

2014 FEB 19 AM 6:41

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Dear Secretary Jewell:

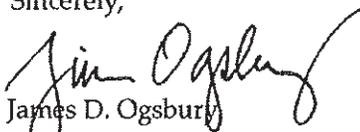
On behalf of the Western Governors' Association (WGA), I am writing to communicate Western Governors' concerns regarding invasive species. The problem of invasive species is one of the most complex environmental issues facing our nation, growing and creating economic and ecological damage across our western landscapes and Pacific Islands.

The National Invasive Species Council (NISC) was created to provide high-level interdepartmental coordination of federal invasive species actions, as well as to promote coordination with states and local entities to address cross-boundary invasive species concerns. Executive Order 13112, which established NISC in 1999, provides for biennial updates of the National Invasive Species Management Plan by NISC. The most recent Management Plan, released in August 2008, covered the period from 2008-2012.

Western Governors understand that a new Management Plan is currently being drafted under the auspices of NISC. WGA strongly urges NISC to engage and cooperate with states during the drafting process. Such coordination will ensure that federal priorities and actions align with the efforts of states, localities, nonprofit entities, and other stakeholders.

Western Governors welcome the opportunity to work with you on development and implementation of a new National Invasive Species Management Plan that can achieve measurable progress on invasive species. I look forward to learning from you how WGA can most constructively participate in the process of developing the management plan.

Sincerely,


James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

Honorable Sally Jewell
February 18, 2014
Page Two

Related WGA Policy Resolutions:
Resolution 13-02 *Combating Invasive Species*

cc: Lori Williams, Executive Director, National Invasive Species Council
Steve Ryder, Chair, Western Weed Coordinating Committee

Identical letter sent to Honorable Tom Vilsack, USDA and Honorable Penny Pritzker, USDOC

533597



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

APR 01 2014

Mr. James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director
Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

Dear Mr. Ogsbury,

Thank you for your letter expressing concern about invasive species causing extensive environmental and economic harm across western landscapes and in the Pacific Islands. I agree that invasive species do not respect jurisdictional boundaries and are best addressed by coordinated efforts and through close collaboration with states, localities, nonprofit entities, and other stakeholders.

I appreciate your interest in contributing to the development and implementation of the National Invasive Species Management Plan (Management Plan), currently being updated and revised by the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). As Co-Chair of the National Invasive Species Council, I welcome the opportunity to work closely with the Western Governors' Association (WGA) to design the best strategy possible for addressing invasive species and protecting our vital natural resources. The WGA plays a critical role in invasive species prevention and control efforts throughout the western United States.

NISC recognizes the importance of engagement and cooperation with the states and tribes in gathering valuable input for the Management Plan, and improving our collective efforts to minimize the impacts of invasive species over the next few years. We look forward to working with WGA in our planning process as the 13 NISC member departments and agencies identify key priorities.

The revised plan will also be extensively reviewed by the Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC). Mandated by Executive Order 13112, ISAC consists of 30 of nonfederal individuals, representing industry, universities, states, and other stakeholders who provide advice and recommendations to NISC on invasive species issues. ISAC's comments will be carefully considered for incorporation in the revised Management Plan.

Again, thank you for your interest in the development and implementation of the new National Invasive Species Management Plan. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 202-354-1881, or by e-mail at Lori_Williams@ios.doi.gov, if you have any additional questions about how the Western Governors' Association can most constructively participate in this effort.

Sincerely,

Lori C. Williams, Esq.
Director, National Invasive Species Council



53144 ✓

THE STATE OF WYOMING



RECEIVED

640669

2014 FEB -4 PM 3: 14

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

January 28, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary of Interior
U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

Thank you for your commitment to work with Wyoming and all western states on balanced and cooperative management of public land. Ensuring there is no need to list the sage grouse is a focused objective and illustrates the power of a cooperative approach.

I appreciate your note.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Mead
Governor

MHM:md

P.S. Yes, to the climb -- I'm working on the date.

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

January 27, 2014

The Honorable Kevin Washburn
Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of Interior
MS-4141 -MIB
1849 C. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Yakama Nation Retrocession Petition

Dear Assistant Secretary Washburn:

Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. §1323 and Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 37.12, I have included the attached proclamation, signed by me on January 17, 2014. The proclamation addresses a retrocession petition submitted by the Confederate Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation in Washington State.

On March 19, 2012, former Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire signed Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2233. This important piece of legislation created a process by which the state of Washington may retrocede to the United States civil and criminal jurisdiction previously acquired by the State over a federally recognized Indian tribe under federal Public Law 280 in 1953. The bill gives the Governor of the state of Washington the authority to approve, in whole or in part, a retrocession petition submitted by a Washington State Indian tribe. Final approval rests with the U.S. Department of the Interior.

On July 17, 2012, the Yakama Nation filed a retrocession petition with the Office of the Governor requesting full civil and criminal jurisdiction on all of Yakama Nation Indian country in five specific areas of RCW 37.12.010. I believe that the enclosed Proclamation is a great first step towards strengthening the sovereignty and independence of the Yakama Nation.

In paragraph one of the proclamation, the State grants exclusive civil and criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation in four subject areas of RCW 37.12.010: Compulsory School Attendance; Public Assistance; Domestic Relations; and Juvenile Delinquency.

In paragraph two, the proclamation also grants to the Yakama Nation civil and criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of the reservation in Operation of Motor Vehicles on Public Streets, Alleys, Roads, and Highways cases which do not involve non-Indian plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants, or non-Indian victims. I would note that the proclamation itself states that the State will retain jurisdiction in these cases over civil causes of action involving "non-Indian



The Honorable Kevin Washburn
January 27, 2014
Page Two

plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants, *and* non-Indian victims,” as well as in criminal cases involving “non-Indian defendants *and* non-Indian victims.” The intent set forth in paragraph two, however, is for the State to retain jurisdiction in this area where *any* party is non-Indian, and therefore may be more properly read in both instances as the State retaining jurisdiction in those cases involving “non-Indian plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants *and/or* non-Indian victims.” I respectfully request that the Department make this clear in the notice accepting the retrocession Proclamation.

Finally, in paragraph three of the proclamation, the State is also retroceding criminal jurisdiction within the exterior boundaries of the reservation over all offenses not specifically addressed in paragraphs one and two, which do not involve non-Indian defendants or non-Indian victims. Again, I would note that in this paragraph the proclamation states that the State retains jurisdiction over criminal offenses involving “non-Indian defendants *and* non-Indian victims,” but the intent is for the State to retain such jurisdiction in those cases involving non-Indian defendants *and/or* non-Indian victims.”

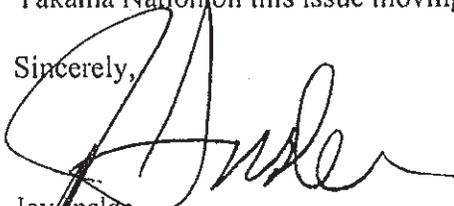
The proclamation does deny part of the petition by the Yakama Nation, and allow the State to retain existing civil and criminal jurisdiction in a limited number of areas. First and foremost, the State is retaining its existing jurisdiction outside of the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation, including all trust and fee lands. Moreover, consistent with the description above, the State is retaining civil and criminal jurisdiction in Operation of Motor Vehicle cases that involve non-Indian plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants, and/or non-Indian victims.

It is important to note that nothing in the proclamation changes the existing jurisdiction the Yakama Nation has over Indian child custody proceedings under RCW 37.12.010(3) and Adoption proceedings and Dependent Children pursuant to RCW 37.12.010(6) and (7). The Yakama Nation reassumed jurisdiction over these subjects in 1980 under the Indian Child Welfare Act, and shall remain under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Yakama Nation.

Similarly, nothing in the proclamation shall affect the State’s civil jurisdiction over the civil commitment of sexually violent predators pursuant to chapter 71.09 RCW and the State must retain such jurisdiction notwithstanding the completion of the retrocession process authorized under RCW 37.12.160.

Thank you for accepting this proclamation on behalf of the state of Washington and for working to bring the retrocession petition to fruition. I look forward to continue working with you and the Yakama Nation on this issue moving forward.

Sincerely,



Jay Inslie
Governor

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 902-4111 • www.governor.wa.gov

**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
14-01**

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2012, Governor Christine Gregoire signed Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2233, "Creating a procedure for the state's retrocession of civil and criminal jurisdiction over Indian tribes and Indian country"; and

WHEREAS, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2233, which became Chapter 48, Laws of 2012, creates a process by which the state of Washington (hereafter, "the State") may retrocede to the United States all or part of the civil and criminal jurisdiction previously acquired by the State over a federally recognized Indian tribe, and the Indian country of such tribe, under federal Public Law 280, Act of August 15, 1953; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 1963, in accordance with federal Public Law 280, Act of August 15, 1953, the State assumed partial civil and criminal jurisdiction, subject to the limitations in RCW 37.12.021 and RCW 37.12.060, within the Indian country of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (hereafter, "Yakama Nation") pursuant to Chapter 36, Laws of 1963; and

WHEREAS, after March 13, 1963, the Yakama Nation did not invoke with the State the provision of RCW 37.12.021 but chose to rely upon the rights and remedies of its Treaty of 1855 with the United States, 12 Stat. 951 and federal laws; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 1980, the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior, approved the Yakama Nation's petition for re-assumption of jurisdiction over Indian child custody proceedings under the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978. Effective March 28, 1980, the Yakama Nation reassumed jurisdiction over Yakama Indian child custody proceedings; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2012, the Yakama Nation filed a retrocession petition with the Office of the Governor. The retrocession petition by the Yakama Nation requests full retrocession of civil and criminal jurisdiction on all of Yakama Nation Indian country and in five areas of RCW 37.12.010, including: Compulsory School Attendance; Public Assistance; Domestic Relations; Juvenile Delinquency; and Operation of Motor Vehicles on Public Streets, Alleys, Roads, and Highways; and

WHEREAS, Governor Gregoire convened government-to-government meetings with the Yakama Nation to discuss the Nation's retrocession petition. In the course of those meetings, the Yakama Nation and Governor Gregoire confirmed that the Yakama Nation asks the State to retrocede all jurisdiction assumed pursuant to RCW 37.12.010 in 1963 over the Indian country of the Yakama Nation, both within and without the external boundaries of the Yakama Reservation. However, the Yakama Nation requests that the State retain jurisdiction over mental illness as provided in RCW 37.12.010(4), and jurisdiction over civil commitment of sexually violent predators under RCW 71.09, and acknowledges that the State would retain criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian defendants; and

WHEREAS, Governor Jay Inslee convened further government-to-government meetings between the State and Yakama Nation. The Governor's Office has also consulted with elected officials from the jurisdictions proximately located to the Yakama Nation's Indian country; and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2013, Governor Inslee exercised the six-month extension provision for issuing a proclamation, pursuant to RCW 37.12.160; and

WHEREAS, strengthening the sovereignty and independence of the federally recognized Indian tribes within Washington State is an important priority for the State; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, by virtue of the authority vested in me by Section 37.12.160 of the Revised Code of Washington, do hereby grant in part, and deny in part, the retrocession petition submitted by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, according to the following provisions:

1. Within the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation, the State shall retrocede full civil and criminal jurisdiction in the following subject areas of RCW 37.12.010: Compulsory School Attendance; Public Assistance; Domestic Relations; and Juvenile Delinquency.
2. Within the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation, the State shall retrocede, in part, civil and criminal jurisdiction in Operation of Motor Vehicles on Public Streets, Alleys, Roads, and Highways cases in the following manner: Pursuant to RCW 37.12.010(8), the State shall retain jurisdiction over civil causes of action involving non-Indian plaintiffs, non-Indian defendants, and non-Indian victims; the State shall retain jurisdiction over criminal offenses involving non-Indian defendants and non-Indian victims.
3. Within the exterior boundaries of the Yakama Reservation, the State shall retrocede, in part, criminal jurisdiction over all offenses not addressed by Paragraphs 1 and 2. The State retains jurisdiction over criminal offenses involving non-Indian defendants and non-Indian victims.



52720 ↙

STATE OF UTAH

GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
84114-2220

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

January 22, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Request for a 60-day Extension for the Public Comment Period for the Utah Greater Sage Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I respectfully request the Bureau of Land Management grant a 60-day extension of the public comment period for the Utah Greater Sage Grouse Draft Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Utah is a public lands state, and decisions on land use made by our federal agency affect our state, residents, and economy significantly. The DEIS contains many proposed changes, with multiple options for each change, and affects the management of millions of acres in Utah. Many of these changes are complicated and technical, necessitating careful review.

Utah has already devoted time and resources to prepare an aggressive Sage Grouse Conservation Plan, which we have been implementing over the last year. Many of the same state and local agencies implementing the plan have been involved reviewing the hundreds of pages of information and numerous maps contained in the DEIS. Despite the great effort we have made, we have not had adequate time to complete the thorough review necessitated by these monumental changes, thus resulting in this request.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have questions about this request, please contact Kathleen Clarke, director of the Governor's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, at (801) 537-9083.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary R. Herbert".

Gary R. Herbert
Governor

cc: Neil Kornze
Juan Palma

52720 27



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



FEB 18 2014

The Honorable Gary R. Herbert
Governor
State of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

Dear Governor Herbert:

Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 2014, to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell requesting an extension of the comment period for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Utah Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendment(LUP)/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Secretary Jewell asked the BLM to respond to your letter.

Since the BLM announced the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy in 2011, we have experienced unprecedented levels of state-Federal cooperation on planning efforts and landscape-level strategies to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse and sagebrush habitat across the West. However, work remains in advance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's September 2015 court-ordered deadline to determine if the species warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act.

The BLM anticipates that the draft changes to the resource management plans covering the 68 Greater Sage-Grouse planning areas will be finalized in late 2014. Unfortunately, the existing court-ordered deadline does not allow for the flexibility to extend the comment period for the Utah Greater Sage-Grouse LUP/DEIS. In the coming months, the BLM will continue to address the volume and scope of comments we will be receiving on the LUP/DEIS, working closely with cooperating agencies, the state, other Federal agencies, Tribes and other stakeholders. The proposed plan and Final EIS needs to be released in time to allow for the Governor's consistency review, protest period, and protest resolution in order to issue a Record of Decision by Fall 2014.

Thank you for your interest in the BLM's planning efforts for the Greater-Sage Grouse and BLM public lands.

Sincerely,

Neil Kornze
Principal Deputy Director



WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Chairman

Brian Sandoval
Governor of Nevada
Vice Chairman

James D. Ogsbury
Executive Director

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1600 Broadway
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Denver, CO 80202

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Fax 303-534-7309

Washington, D.C. Office:
400 N. Capitol Street, N.W.
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Washington, D.C. 20001

202-624-5402
Fax 202-624-7707

www.westgov.org

January 21, 2014

Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
United States Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Thank you for briefing Western Governors last month on your recently finalized Secretarial Order 3330: *Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior*. Though Secretarial Order 3330 went final last week, this letter communicates our initial views, and the attachment propounds questions regarding the Order.

The landscape-based approach envisioned in Secretarial Order 3330 – and increasingly embodied in new federal regulations from the Department of Interior (DOI) and other federal land management agencies – presents certain legal and regulatory complexities. Such a management philosophy must be implemented in a way that clearly recognizes the legal rights and responsibilities of states and private landowners adjacent to federal lands or within shared watersheds and air sheds.

Western Governors share the responsibility – with each other, with federal partners and with private landowners – of managing land within their state's borders. The Governors agree that mitigation for impacts to natural resources is an appropriate element of project development and land use plans.

Governors, however, also bear the responsibility to manage state property interests and preserve private property rights within state boundaries. DOI mitigation requirements and processes that may affect state and private land should be:

- Developed in cooperation with the Governors in whose states DOI lands are situated; and
- Be clearly defined and predictably implemented so proper and reasonable mitigation can be included in project planning.

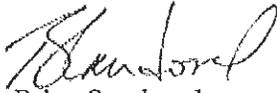
Honorable Sally Jewell
January 21, 2014
Page 2

While individual governors are likely to provide their own comments, attached please find our initial joint comments and questions concerning Order 3330. Western Governors are committed to the protection of Western landscapes. We welcome the opportunity to continue to partner with DOI and other federal land management agencies to ensure effective and conscientious land management and project impact mitigation strategies in the West.

To that end, we respectfully request that DOI share with Western Governors feedback it received from BLM field offices in anticipation of the Jan. 17, 2014 deadline set forth in the Instruction Memorandum appurtenant to the Regional Mitigation Manual and provide Western Governors with an opportunity to comment on the recently finalized Mitigation Policy.

Sincerely,


John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
WGA Chairman


Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
WGA Vice Chairman

cc: Neil Kornze, BLM

Attachment

Western Governors' Association – Version 2
Initial Questions and Comments on Secretarial Order 3330
January 21, 2014

While the below list is not intended to represent the entirety of the Western states' input, Secretarial Order 3330 and the accompanying Draft Regional Mitigation Manual Section 1794 (hereafter "Mitigation Policy") leave a number of critical questions unresolved. Among them:

Science:

- The Mitigation Policy indicates it is being developed based on science-based methodologies. By whom are these methodologies being developed? Has state-generated data been taken into account? Will those methodologies be shared with states?
- What is the relationship and interaction between the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and this Mitigation Policy? Will NEPA reviews occur at the landscape, resource management plan and/or specific project levels? How will NEPA be implicated where mitigation occurs off-site?
- The Mitigation Policy calls for DOI to incorporate climate change strategies into mitigation plans. What type or types of climate change modelling will DOI use to estimate the potential future effects of climate change in determining its acceptable form or level of mitigation?
- Under Secretarial Order 3330, the DOI's Energy and Climate Change Task Force is tasked with reviewing existing mitigation practices. Will state strategies inform this review?
- When DOI's Energy and Climate Change Task Force assesses the role of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), how will DOI ensure that the LCCs' role is limited to providing scientific and technical expertise, as distinct from discharging management responsibilities?

Landscape Planning – Cooperation:

- How will DOI coordinate and integrate this planning effort with other federal land management departments/agencies?
- As BLM elevates the role of landscape-scale planning in its mitigation-related decisions, will the agency engage state and private stakeholders early in the planning process?

- What role will states have in determining the location and breadth of specific off-site mitigation?
- Will BLM seek to participate in state-run mitigation programs and, if so, to what extent?
- How will BLM ensure consistency and transparency of mitigation decisions?
- How will this Mitigation Policy be implemented in the field, where BLM field managers exert substantial autonomy? Will staff be trained on how to implement the proposed mitigation strategies? Will local field managers be held accountable for enforcing approved mitigation plans?

Project-Level Application:

- The Mitigation Policy appears to authorize BLM to approve or deny project permit applications based on whether mitigation measures could take place on state-owned or privately-owned lands. Is that a feasible outcome of the Policy?
- In the event a state or private landowner refuses to consent to mitigation plans acceptable to BLM, will project plans still be conditionally approved?
- Large-scale projects and linear development projects such as energy transmission lines are likely to impact a wide array of lands and resources. For such projects, are there any institutional mechanisms to assist in project planning and does BLM plan to take into account state-generated data and research?
- How will this Mitigation Policy be informed by, and reconciled with, President Obama's various Presidential Memoranda and Executive Orders seeking to modernize and streamline federal infrastructure reviews, siting and permitting regulations, policies and procedures?
- In what ways will project proponents be required to incorporate into mitigation proposals requirements of federal land management and environmental statutes including, but not limited to, the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Endangered Species Act, and the Federal Land Management and Policy Act? Will project proponents be provided with specific federal requirements to be taken into account in mitigation proposals?
- Consistency and predictability are essential for project planning and development, particularly with respect to large-scale, long-term projects such as electric transmission lines. How will this effort improve regulatory certainty and minimize financial risks in order to encourage project proponents to pursue important energy infrastructure projects?

- Section 4(a) of the Order states that the DOI Energy and Climate Change Task Force will focus on offsetting the impact of "large development projects." How will the Task Force define what constitutes a "large development project" and identify the types of projects that are excluded? Will "large development projects" include non-energy-related infrastructure? If so, what kinds?

Water

- How will the Mitigation Policy apply to existing facilities and existing rights-of-way on BLM land that are needed to exercise state-issued water rights? How will it apply to efforts to repair, maintain or enlarge existing water facilities on BLM land? How will it apply to efforts to renew or amend an existing right-of-way?
- How will the Mitigation Policy ensure that it does not impair the reasonable exercise of state-issued water rights?
- With specific regard to the CWA, will a project proponent be required to identify a "point source" at the project pre-planning stage and if so, with what level of specificity?



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

MAR 26 2014

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Thank you for your letter of January 21, 2014, regarding my Secretarial Order (SO) 3330: *Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior*. Effective engagement with state government is critical to the work of the Department of the Interior (Department), and I appreciate your personal interest, as well as that of the other Western Governors.

As you note in your letter, protection of Western landscapes is a goal we all share and one that demands strong partnerships and collaborative land management. Large landscape impacts such as wildland fire, invasive species, transmission lines, and highways do not stop at state borders, and Governors from across the West have partnered to address these common challenges. For example, our experience permitting solar development in the desert Southwest has shown that planning and close coordination among states and Federal agencies can produce faster and smarter permitting that result in more efficient energy development and better environmental outcomes. The Western Governors' Association (WGA) is also leading in this regard with development of its Critical Habitat Assessment Tool, a key aggregator of state wildlife data that Federal managers currently use.

This approach is not without challenges, and my team and I are committed to working closely with Governors, tribes, local officials, and other stakeholders to craft solutions that can achieve broad and durable results. As part of SO 3330, I commissioned a task force to examine the Department's existing mitigation practices and to develop a science-based strategy for landscape-scale planning. The task force is to identify new or revised policies or practices, including any regulatory changes that would be needed, and draft a strategy for how we should address them. I anticipate that report will be completed in the near future. I also have directed my staff to reach out to the staff at WGA to discuss the issues raised in your letter in depth, including your inquiry about the Bureau of Land Management's Regional Mitigation Manual. I understand that productive discussions have already taken place. Our outreach will continue as our work in this area progresses, both with WGA and with individual Governors and state agencies.

I value the strong working relationship the Department has with WGA, and I personally appreciate my partnership with you and your fellow Governors. Should your staff have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Letty Belin, Counselor to the Deputy Secretary (202-208-6291), Jim Lyons, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (202-208-6734), or Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director of the Bureau of Land Management (202-208-3801). A similar letter is being sent to Governor Brian Sandoval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Jewell".

Sally Jewell



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MAR 26 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Vice Chairman, Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, Colorado 80202

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you for your letter of January 21, 2014, regarding my Secretarial Order (SO) 3330: Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior. Effective engagement with state government is critical to the work of the Department of the Interior (Department), and I appreciate your personal interest, as well as that of the other Western Governors.

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Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sally Jewell in cursive script.
Sally Jewell

53362 ✓

ONE HUNDRED ONE NORTH CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701
OFFICE: (775) 684-5670
FAX NO.: (775) 684-5683



555 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE, SUITE 5100
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
OFFICE: (702) 486-2500
FAX NO.: (702) 486-2505

Office of the Governor

January 17, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, DC 20240

***Re: Request for extension of Public Comment Period for the Nevada and
Northeastern California Sub-region Greater Sage-grouse Draft Land Use
Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement***

Dear Secretary Jewell:

I respectfully request that the Bureau of Land Management grant a 60-day extension of the public comment period for the Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-region Greater Sage-grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Land management decisions made under the final version of this document will have significant impacts on our economy, custom and culture for decades. The highly-technical DEIS is more than 1,600 pages, including appendices. It is critical to our collective success that all parties – private citizens, local governments, non-governmental organizations, industry and states – have sufficient time to review and provide meaningful comments on this substantial document.

As you know, Nevada and many other states have been working fervently to address the critical issues presented by the potential listing of the Greater Sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act. Nevada has undertaken substantial initiatives to protect the Greater Sage-grouse and the sagebrush ecosystem, including efforts that are outlined in the State's alternative submittal (Alternative E) as part of the BLM's planning process for the DEIS. We continue to develop and review comments in consultation with our Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, state agencies, the scientific community, and stakeholders across the state.

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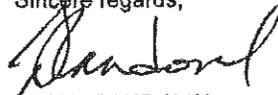
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Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me or my Chief of Staff, Mr. Gerald Gardner, at (775) 684-5670.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request and for your continued attention to this critical issue.

Sincere regards,



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

CC: Nevada Congressional Delegation
Nevada County Commissions
Neil Kornze, Principal Deputy Director, BLM
Amy Lueders, State Director - Nevada, BLM

53362 →



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>



FEB 19 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor
State of Nevada
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Thank you for your letter dated January 17, 2014, to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell requesting an extension of the comment period for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-region Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Secretary Jewell asked the BLM to respond to your letter.

Since the BLM announced the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy in 2011, we have experienced unprecedented levels of state-Federal cooperation on planning efforts and landscape-level strategies to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse and sagebrush habitat across the West. However, work remains in advance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's September 2015 court-ordered deadline to determine if the species warrants protection under the Endangered Species Act. The BLM anticipates that the draft resource management plans covering the 68 Greater Sage-Grouse planning areas will be finalized in late 2014.

Unfortunately, the existing court-ordered deadline does not allow for the flexibility to extend the comment period for the Nevada and Northeastern California Sub-region Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendments/DEIS. In the coming months, the BLM will be addressing comments on the Draft Land Use Plan/DEIS, working closely with cooperating agencies, the state, other Federal agencies, Tribes and other stakeholders. The proposed plan and Final EIS needs to be released in time to allow for the Governor's consistency review, protest period, and protest resolution in order to issue a Record of Decision by fall 2014.

Thank you for your interest in the BLM's planning efforts for the Greater-Sage Grouse and BLM public lands.

Sincerely,

Steve Ellis
Deputy Director for Operations



GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH, 2014

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

On windswept coastlines, in lush forests, and atop striking mountain peaks, Americans take in sights that have inspired generations. Our natural landscapes provide refuge for those seeking solitude. They attract tourism, create jobs, and honor our history and cultural heritage. They are family campgrounds, arenas for recreation, and backdrops for countless adventures. During Great Outdoors Month, we celebrate the rugged beauty that echoes the independence at the heart of the American spirit, and we rededicate ourselves to protecting these open spaces for tomorrow's explorers, athletes, and lovers of nature.

America's conservation legacy is rooted not only in its forward-thinking leaders like Presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt -- but also in all the Americans who did their part to safeguard a small slice of the land they love. It falls to each of us to advance their legacy in our time. That is why I have permanently protected more than 3 million acres of public land -- including 11 new National Monuments established through the Antiquities Act and new wilderness areas in nine States across the country -- and designated more than a thousand miles of wild and scenic rivers. In my first term, I was proud to launch the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, which increases access to public lands and empowers Americans to better care for the parks, waterways, and natural treasures in their own communities.

My Administration remains committed to developing the next generation of environmental stewards. We created the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, which provides quality jobs, career pathways, and service opportunities for young people and veterans. We are working to bring public lands into the classroom and to extend educational opportunities to millions of children. And through First Lady Michelle Obama's *Let's Move Outside!* initiative, we are encouraging children to get active while getting to know the great outdoors.

This month, as we enjoy the natural splendor of our Nation, let us stay true to a uniquely American idea -- that each of us has an equal stake in the land around us, and an equal responsibility to protect it. Together, let us ensure our children and grandchildren will be able to look upon our lands with the same sense of wonder as all the generations that came before.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2014 as Great Outdoors Month. I urge all Americans to explore the great outdoors and to uphold our Nation's legacy of conserving our lands and waters.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

BARACK OBAMA

STATE OF ALASKA



Executive Proclamation by *Governor Sean Parnell*

WHEREAS, Alaska is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the great outdoors. Every summer, residents and visitors alike enjoy time spent outside in our state's spectacular wilderness; and

WHEREAS, biking, swimming, hiking, climbing, fishing, paddling, hunting, boating, and many more activities help us experience the physical and mental health benefits of outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month is an opportunity to celebrate Alaska's natural treasures and cherish the memorable experiences of being outdoors with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans play an important role in caring for and utilizing our natural spaces. Across our state, Alaskans have demonstrated dedication to maintaining our wilderness spaces for future generations, using our natural resources in a responsible manner, and educating our youth on the amazing wonders that surround us; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation is vital to Alaska's economy, with annual spending on outdoor recreation at \$9.5 billion, creating 92,000 Alaska jobs; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month is an opportunity to recognize the importance of Alaska's majestic mountains, pristine waters, and vast landscapes as Alaskans enjoy the opportunities that abound.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim June 2013 as:

Great Outdoors Month

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to take advantage of opportunities to enjoy the great outdoor activities provided by Alaska's majestic wilderness.

Dated: May 30, 2014



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Parnell".

Sean Parnell, Governor
who has also authorized the
seal of the State of Alaska to
be affixed to this proclamation.

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Office of the Governor

*** GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH ***

WHEREAS, Arizona is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the Great Outdoors enjoying our natural splendors in the company of family and friends; and

WHEREAS, through biking, swimming, hiking, climbing, paddling, fishing, hunting, boating, OHV riding and many other activities, we are able to enjoy the physically and mentally healthful benefits of outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of the Great Outdoors allows us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserve and protect our air, water, wildlife and lands and contribute to conservation efforts through various licenses, taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS, recreationists are among the most active volunteers in Arizona, working on trails and in visitor centers and campgrounds, on ski slopes and removing invasive species, organizing outdoor programs and events and restoring habitat; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month connects all of us to the outdoors, and especially our children, through diverse events including National Trails Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, National Marina Day, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great American Backyard Campout and more; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of outdoor recreation is both large and growing nationally, exceeding \$850 billion in annual expenditures; and

WHEREAS, many of our important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places in Arizona which are parts of national, state and local park systems; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the partnership of federal, state and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries and recreationists which make outdoor recreation opportunities available, and add new and needed features such as improved trails through the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janice K. Brewer, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim June 2014 as

*** GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH ***

and, I further urge all citizens and visitors from other states and other lands to explore and enjoy, protect and conserve Arizona's Great Outdoors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

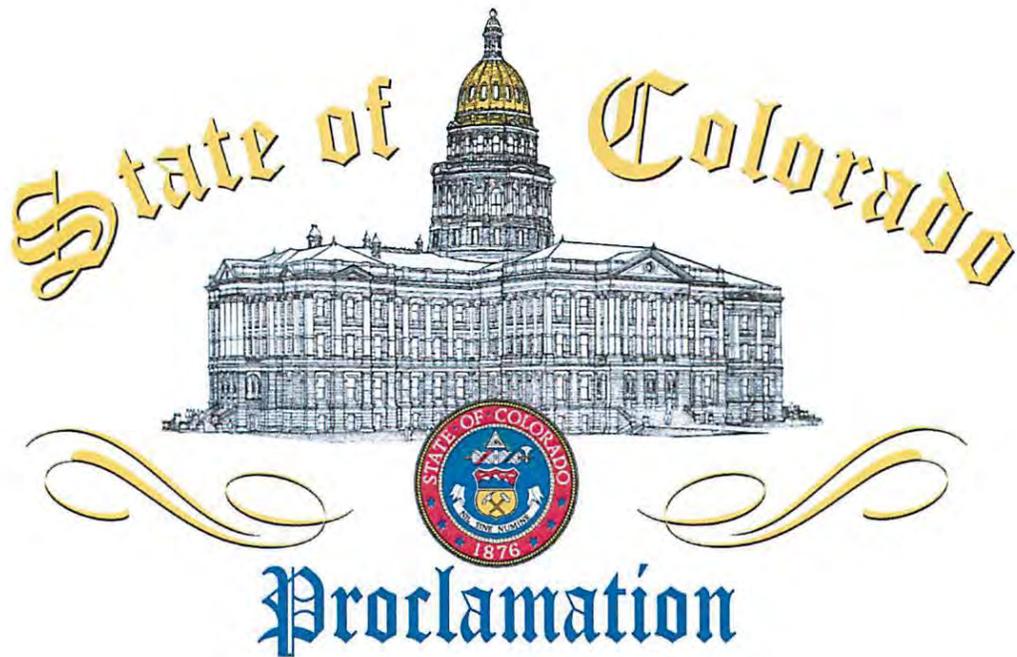


Janice K. Brewer
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this eighth day of April in the year Two Thousand and Fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-eighth.

ATTEST:

Kim Blumh
Secretary of State



WHEREAS, Colorado boasts a multitude of natural wonders, including our Rocky Mountains, the Colorado River, the Great Sand Dunes, many state parks throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the abundance of opportunities to swim, fish, hike, bike, ski, run, kayak, and explore Colorado presents visitors and residents the chance to enjoy the environment and experience our vast outdoors; and

WHEREAS, those who take advantage of the opportunities afforded them in the outdoors generally live longer, healthier, fuller lives than those who do not; and

WHEREAS, Colorado receives over 300 days of sunlight, making almost any day a perfect day to be outdoors; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado encourages its citizens and visitors to take advantage of the beauty and cleanliness of our state by participating in outdoor activities and leading healthier, fuller lives;

Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim June, 2014,

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this first day of June, 2014

John W. Hickenlooper
John W. Hickenlooper
Governor



Proclamation *Presented*

In Recognition of Great Outdoors Month

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month reminds us that Hawai'i provides outstanding opportunities to enjoy the Great Outdoors and experience unique landscapes, ocean waters, and flora and fauna existing nowhere else in the world; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month highlights that year-round outdoor recreation such as swimming, hiking, biking, paddling, surfing, fishing, hunting, boating and jogging provide physical and mental health benefits for our people; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserve and protect our 'aina, including the water, air, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month celebrates those recreational users who are among the most active volunteers in Hawai'i, maintaining trails, restoring native forests and wildlife habitat, revitalizing near shore reef habitat and marine life, caring for our cultural and historical sites, and organizing programs to share the Great Outdoors; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month recognizes the economic impact in Hawai'i where it is estimated that we spend \$8.5 billion on outdoor recreation which supports 65,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month celebrates the partnership of federal, state and local agencies, and the recreation and tourism industries to promote recreational opportunities and make them available to all residents and visitors;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, SHAN S. TSUTSUI, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim June, 2014, as

"GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing our State's commitments to protecting our outdoor spaces and celebrating all that they have to offer.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this thirtieth day of May, 2013.


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i


SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor

State Capitol

Proclamation

Boise

WHEREAS, Idaho is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the great outdoors, enjoying our natural splendors in the company of family and friends old and new; and

WHEREAS, biking, swimming, hiking, climbing, paddling, fishing, hunting, boating and many more activities help us enjoy the physically and mentally healthful benefits of outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of the great outdoors enables us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserving and protecting our air, water, wildlife and lands, and contributing to conservation efforts through various licenses, taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS, recreationists are among the most active volunteers in Idaho, working on trails and in visitor centers and campgrounds, on ski slopes and removing invasive species, organizing outdoor programs and events and restoring habitat; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month includes diverse events designed to connect all of us to the outdoors, and especially our children and youth, including National Trails Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, Welcome to the Water on National Marina Day, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great American Backyard Campout and more; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of outdoor recreation is large and growing, exceeding \$650 billion in annual expenditures nationally and estimated at \$6.3 billion in Idaho, supporting some 65,000 jobs here; and

WHEREAS, many of our important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places in our state which are parts of national, state and local park systems; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the partnership of federal, state and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries and recreationists making outdoor recreation opportunities available, and adds such new and needed features as improved trails through the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim June 2014 to be

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

in Idaho, and urge all citizens and visitors from other states and other lands to explore and enjoy, protect and conserve Idaho's great outdoors.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 1st day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-eight and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-fourth.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

BEN YSURSA
SECRETARY OF STATE

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



ANGELA McLEAN
LT. GOVERNOR

May 12, 2014

American Recreation Coalition
1200 G Street, NW, Suite 650
Washington DC 20005

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to recognize June 2014 as "Great Outdoors Month" and June 14th as "National Get Outdoors Day" in the State of Montana.

I support your efforts to educate the public about the value and importance of outdoor recreation and preserving our natural surroundings.

Montana's outdoor heritage is an important part of our cultural legacy. Many Montanans volunteer their time and energy to preserving and protecting our natural surroundings and this builds stronger communities and healthier citizens. As Governor, I am proud of the efforts we have made to protect our clean air and water for future generations.

I encourage Montanans to acknowledge June 2014 as "Great Outdoors Month" and to plan a trip to one of our national forests, state parks, or other public lands on June 14th for "National Get Outdoors Day."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Steve Bullock".

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor



A Proclamation by the Governor

WHEREAS, Nevada is blessed with outstanding opportunities for safe and healthy fun in the great outdoors enjoying our natural splendors in the company of family and in the company of old and new friends; and

WHEREAS, biking, swimming, hiking, climbing, paddling, fishing, hunting, boating and many more activities help us enjoy the physical and mental benefits of outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, enjoyment of the great outdoors allows us to celebrate the commitment of our state to conserve and protect our air, our water, our wildlife and our lands and contribute to conservation efforts through various licenses, taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS, recreationists are among the most active volunteers in Nevada, working on trails and in visitor centers and campgrounds, on ski slopes and removing invasive species, organizing outdoor programs and events and restoring habitat; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month includes diverse events designed to connect all of us to the outdoors, and especially our children and youth, including National Trails Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, Welcome to the Water on National Marina Day, National Get Outdoors Day, the Great American Backyard Campout and more; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of outdoor recreation is both large and growing nationally, exceeding \$650 billion in annual expenditures; and

WHEREAS, many of our important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places in our state which are parts of national, state and local park systems; and

WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month allows us to celebrate the partnership of federal, state and local agencies, the recreation and tourism industries and recreationists which makes outdoor recreation opportunities available, and adds new and needed features such as improved trails through the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SANDOVAL, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, do hereby proclaim June 2014 as

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH IN NEVADA



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 30th day of April, 2014.

By the Governor:

Governor

Brian Sandoval

Secretary of State

By _____

Deputy



STATE OF NEW MEXICO EXECUTIVE OFFICE SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

WHEREAS, NEW MEXICO IS BLESSED WITH OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SAFE AND HEALTHY FUN IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS, SUCH AS ENJOYING OUR NATURAL SPLENDORS IN THE COMPANY OF FAMILY FRIENDS; AND

WHEREAS, BIKING, SWIMMING, HIKING, CLIMBING, PADDLING, FISHING, HUNTING, BOATING, AND MANY MORE ACTIVITIES HELP US ENJOY THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION; AND

WHEREAS, ENJOYMENT OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS ALLOWS US TO CELEBRATE THE COMMITMENT OF OUR STATE TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT OUR AIR, WATER, WILDLIFE, AND LANDS, AND CONTRIBUTE TO CONSERVATION EFFORTS; AND

WHEREAS, RECREATIONISTS ARE AMONG THE MOST ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS IN NEW MEXICO, WORKING ON TRAILS, IN VISITOR CENTERS, CAMPGROUNDS, AND SKI SLOPES, REMOVING INVASIVE SPECIES, ORGANIZING OUTDOOR PROGRAMS AND EVENTS, AND RESTORING HABITAT; AND

WHEREAS, GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH CONNECTS ALL OF US TO THE OUTDOORS THROUGH DIVERSE EVENTS, INCLUDING NATIONAL TRAILS DAY, NATIONAL FISHING AND BOATING WEEK, NATIONAL MARINA DAY, NATIONAL GET OUTDOORS DAY, THE GREAT AMERICAN BACKYARD CAMPOUT, AND MORE; AND

WHEREAS, THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OUTDOOR RECREATION IS LARGE, EXCEEDING \$650 BILLION NATIONALLY, AND IN NEW MEXICO, IT IS ESTIMATED AT \$8 BILLION, SUPPORTING NEARLY 100,000 IN JOBS; AND

WHEREAS, MANY OF OUR IMPORTANT CULTURAL AND HISTORIC EVENTS AND TRADITIONS ARE LINKED TO PLACES IN OUR STATE WHICH ARE PARTS OF NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PARK SYSTEMS; AND

WHEREAS, GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH ALLOWS US TO CELEBRATE THE PARTNERSHIP OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES, THE RECREATION AND TOURISM INDUSTRIES, AND RECREATIONISTS WHO MAKE OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE, AND ADDS NEW AND NEEDED FEATURES SUCH AS IMPROVED TRAILS THROUGH THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM AND THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND;

NOW, THEREFORE I, SUSANA MARTINEZ, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF JUNE, 2014 AS

“GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH”

THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO, AND I URGE ALL NEW MEXICANS AND VISITORS TO EXPLORE, ENJOY, PROTECT, AND CONSERVE NEW MEXICO’S GREAT OUTDOORS.

SIGNED AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 28TH DAY OF APRIL 2014.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Susana Martinez
SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR



ATTEST:

Dianna J. Duran
DIANNA J. DURAN
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF OREGON

PROCLAMATION

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

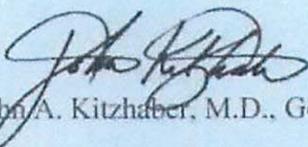
- WHEREAS:** Our great Northwest provides numerous opportunities for fun outdoor activities through shared resources of our parks, forests, refuges, and other public lands and waters; and
- WHEREAS:** June is an especially active time for recreation and many summertime activities that range from enjoyment of wildlife viewing to adventure sports like rock climbing; and
- WHEREAS:** Outdoor recreation is enjoyed by nearly every one and plays an important positive role in providing numerous mental, physical, economic and social benefits; and
- WHEREAS:** Countless citizens volunteer their time and talents to protect our natural resources to help ensure that great outdoor places remain where families and friends can learn, exercise, and create meaningful memories; and
- WHEREAS:** Recreation is a valuable means for education to reach America's youth with the message that outdoor recreation is a fun, healthy use of leisure time.
- NOW,**
THEREFORE: I, John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **June 2014** to be

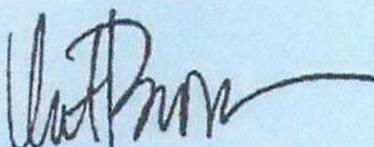
GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, April 16, 2014.




John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor


Kate Brown, Secretary of State



Gary Richard Herbert

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, Utah provides outstanding adventures for families and individuals in the great outdoors amid the natural splendors of our Mighty 5th national parks, national monuments and forests, 43 state parks, and other public lands;

Whereas, hiking, biking, climbing, skiing, horseback riding, ATV driving, hunting, fishing, camping, swimming, boating, river running, and many other activities and sports allow Utah residents and visitors to enjoy the physical and mental benefits of outdoor recreation;

Whereas, enjoyment of the great outdoors not only lets us acclaim Utah's commitment to conserve and protect our air, water, wildlife, landscapes, and lands, but also contributes significantly to conservation efforts through the collection of user fees, licenses, and taxes;

Whereas, recreational users of the great outdoors are among the most active volunteers in Utah, removing invasive species and restoring habitat along waterways, trails, and ski slopes, staffing visitors centers and campgrounds, and organizing outdoor programs and events;

Whereas, many of Utah's important cultural and historic events and traditions are linked to places that belong to national, state, and local park systems, and Great Outdoors Month connects all of us, particularly our children, to the outdoors through diverse events, including National Trails Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, National Marina Day, National Get Outdoors Day, and the Great American Backyard Campout;

Whereas, the economic impact of the outdoor recreation industry is significant and is growing both locally—being an estimated \$7 billion a year and supporting about 124,000 jobs in Utah—and nationally, exceeding \$650 billion in annual expenditures; and

Whereas, we wish to recognize the partnership of federal, state, and local agencies, as well as Utah's recreation and tourism industries, which make outdoor recreation opportunities in our state available for all to enjoy;

Now, therefore, I, Gary R. Herbert, Governor of the State of Utah, do hereby declare June 2014 as

Great Outdoors Month in Utah

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary R. Herbert".
Governor

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington State residents have a proud tradition of both safeguarding the environment and enjoying the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, a clean and sustainable environment contributes to our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation promotes health, fitness, and environmental awareness; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation is an ideal way to exercise, appreciate nature, and enjoy memorable experiences with family and friends; and

WHEREAS, it is up to all of us to maintain and enhance our legacy of environmental stewardship and appreciation of the great outdoors; and

WHEREAS, it is our duty to leave a well-tended legacy to those who will follow;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim June 2014 as

Great Outdoors Month

in Washington, and I urge all people to take the time to enjoy our state's various outdoor activities, to share them with family and friends, and to make outdoor activities a regular part of their lives.



Signed this 1st day of April, 2014

A blue ink signature of Jay Inslee, the Governor of Washington, written in a cursive style.

Governor Jay Inslee

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, Great Outdoors Month celebrates open spaces; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming residents stay healthy and enjoy the outdoors in a variety of ways including biking and hiking, paddling and swimming, fishing and hunting; and

WHEREAS, volunteers help others enjoy the outdoors by organizing recreational programs and events, restoring habitat and through work on trails and ski slopes and in visitor centers and campgrounds; and

WHEREAS, one link to Wyoming's outdoor culture, history and traditions is the national, state and local park system; and

WHEREAS, "WY Outside," a coalition of public, private and nonprofit organizations, was established to encourage children and families to enjoy the outdoors throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, the Wyoming Department of State Parks will hold its 6th annual "Summer Outdoor Slam" at Curt Gowdy State Park on June 7 in honor of National Great Outdoors Day, offering a variety of recreational opportunities for children and families; and

WHEREAS, other events such as National Trails Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, National Marina Day and the Great American Backyard Campout also encourage people to get outside; and

WHEREAS, all of those who work and volunteer to make outdoor activities available hope that everyone can enjoy the outdoors.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MATTHEW H. MEAD, Governor of the State of Wyoming, do hereby proclaim June, 2014 as

GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH

in Wyoming.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Executive Seal of the Governor of Wyoming to be affixed this 22 day of May, 2014.




Matthew H. Mead
Governor

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Wed Apr 22 2015 05:02:48 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, April 22, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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+ Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE

+ Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

+ Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS

+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

INTERIOR TO WITHDRAW LISTING FOR BISTATE SAGE GROUSE. The [AP](#) (4/22, Sonner) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "reversed the government's proposed federal protection for a type of sage grouse specific to California and Nevada on Tuesday, and said it shows it's still possible to head off a bigger, looming listing decision for the greater sage grouse across 11 western states." Jewell "joined Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval and others in announcing she's withdrawing the government's 2013 proposal to declare the bistate, Mono Basin sage grouse a threatened species along the California-Nevada line." Jewell said, "What this has shown is that despite the stresses we feel on the landscape here — particularly around drought and wildfire and other stresses that impact this part of the world — we can still create and find habitat that supports sage grouse."

The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (4/21, 506) reports that "the decision is another step in piece-mealing greater sage-grouse toward extinction, according to conservation advocates and biologists." They claim that "the voluntary conservation measures touted by the federal agency won't do much to protect the so-called bi-state greater sage-grouse population from threats like hardrock mining, exurban development and livestock grazing."

The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (4/21, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "the Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to withdraw its October 2013 proposal to list the bi-state population of greater sage grouse as "threatened" signals that the Obama administration may be able to reach a similar species-listing determination in September for the greater sage grouse, which roams 11 Western states."

Additional coverage provided by [The New York Times](#) (4/22, Press, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), [KHQ](#) Spokane, WA (4/22, 77K), [KOLO](#) Reno, NV (4/22, 3K), [WSB-TV Atlanta \(GA\)](#) Atlanta (4/22, 167K), [KTVN-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (4/22, 2K), [KRNVT-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (4/22, 2K), [KOLO-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (4/22, 3K), [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (4/22, 4K), and [KRNVT](#) Reno, NV (4/22, 2K).

Also reporting on the story are the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/22, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), the [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (4/22, Subscription Publication, 705), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/21, Scott Sonner], Ap, 5.17M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/21, Fears, 5.17M) the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (4/22, Richardson, 644K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/21, Sonner), the [Gardnerville \(NV\) Record Courier](#) (4/22, 20K), the [Oregonian](#) (4/22, 950K), the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (4/21, 168K), the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (4/22, 56K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (4/22, 167K), [Reuters](#) (4/22), the [US News & World Report](#) (4/21, 685K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/21, 380K), the [National Journal](#) (4/22, Subscription Publication, 111K), the [Law 360](#) (4/22, 9K), [Yahoo! News](#) (4/22, Sonner, 5 81M), [EIN News](#) (4/22, 1K), the [National Journal](#) (4/22, Subscription Publication, 111K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (4/22, 405K), the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (4/21, 168K), the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (4/22, 398K), and the [Nevada Appeal](#) (4/22, 49K).

Earlier coverage was provided by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/22, 2.21M), [Kitsap Sun](#) (4/22, 61K), [The Montana Standard](#) (4/21, 39K), [WAFS](#) (4/22), and [Fox Business](#) (4/20, 408K).

EIGHT CITIES AWARDED FEDERAL PARK GRANTS. The [E&E Daily](#) (4/21) reports that "the Obama administration today announced the awarding of \$3 million in federal grants to eight cities to help establish or restore parks and other outdoor recreation facilities in largely low-income, disadvantaged neighborhoods nationwide." The article notes that "the grants, awarded under the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership established last year, are possible due to royalties collected from offshore oil and gas exploration through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)."

The [Neighbor Newspapers Atlanta](#) (4/22) reports that cities receiving grants are Alata, Geo.' Mobile, Ala.; Denver; Bridgeport, Conn.; Detroit; Minneapolis, Minn.; Portland, Ore.; and Madison, Wis. Jewell said, "These eight projects are models of what we have been able to accomplish through the Land and Water Conservation Fund over the past half century. We are reinvesting revenues from offshore oil and gas development into parks and open spaces, giving back a portion of what we have taken from our lands and waters. These investments will bring badly needed outdoor spaces and recreational opportunities to urban areas where people — especially young people — will benefit from improved places for healthy outdoor activities."

Coverage was also provided by the [Connecticut Post](#) (4/22, 299K), [The San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/22, 2 21M), [Crain's Detroit Business](#) (4/21, 2K), [Fox 28](#) South Bend, IN (4/22, 3K), and [Click on Detroit](#) Detroit (4/22, 219K).

Also providing coverage are the [Alabama Live](#) (4/22, 502K), the [Connecticut News](#) (4/21), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/22, Brandt, 1.37M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (4/22, Brandt, 1.37M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (4/22, Brandt, 1.37M), the [Madison \(WI\) Capital Times](#) (4/22, 160K), the [Wisconsin State Journal](#) (4/22, 264K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (4/22, Finley, 804K), [Crain's Detroit \(MI\) Business](#) (4/21, 2K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/22, 2.28M), the [Oregonian](#) (4/22, 950K), [My Central Oregon](#) (4/21), the [Oregonian](#) (4/22, 950K), [WCCO-AM](#) Minneapolis (4/21, 70K), [WXYZ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (4/22, 101K), [WCCO-AM Minneapolis \(MN\)](#) Minneapolis (4/21, 70K), [WTOL-TV Toledo \(OH\)](#) Toledo, OH (4/22, 453), [WBRC-TV Birmingham \(AL\)](#) Birmingham, AL (4/22, 42K), [WSFA-TV Montgomery \(AL\)](#) Montgomery, AL (4/22, 30K), [WDIV-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (4/22, 219K), [KMGH-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (4/22, 136K), [WVIT-TV New Haven \(CT\)](#) New Haven, CT (4/22, 56K), and [WKOW-TV](#) Madison, WI (4/21, 3K).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES RESILIENT LANDS AND WATERS INITIATIVE. The [E&E Daily](#) (4/21) reports that "the Obama administration announced plans today to boost federal cooperation with local partners to prepare four major landscapes for sea-level rise, drought, wildfires, invasive species and other effects of climate

change." The article notes that "the focus regions – southwest Florida, Hawaii, Washington's Puget Sound watershed and the Great Lakes – are areas where the federal government already has major environmental efforts underway." The new Resilient Lands and Waters Initiative will "have federal agencies working with state, local and tribal partners 'to develop more explicit strategies and maps' relating to changes related to climate change, the administration said."

[KGMB-TV](#) Honolulu (4/22, 63K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "Climate change is impacting every corner of the nation – from the Everglades to the Arctic – which has ramifications for our natural and cultural heritage, public health and economic activity. Through increased collaboration, we can pool resources and bring the best available science to bear as we take a landscape-level approach to make these treasured lands and waters more resilient to the impacts of climate change."

Also reporting on the story are the [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (4/22, 1.01M), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (4/22, 1.05M), the [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (4/22, 253K), (4/21) the [Big Island \(HI\) Video News](#) (4/21), [Southeast AgNet](#) (4/21), and [KMGH-TV](#) Denver (4/22, 136K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF IHS CERAWEEK CONFERENCE. The [E&E Daily](#) (4/21) reports that "thousands of executives have gathered in Houston for the IHS CERAWEEK conference, founded by Cambridge Energy Research Associates."

[Splash 24/7](#) (4/22) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "suggested on Monday that the administration's five-year plan for offshore oil and gas exploration could be scaled back." Speaking at the annual IHS CERAWEEK energy industry conference in Houston as it opened, Jewell said "the plan may change before it is proposed and finalized by 2016, but those changes would only be reductions in lease sales, not increases." Additional coverage of the offshore plan was provided by [Bloomberg BNA](#) (4/22, 8K).

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/22, 2.28M) reports that "the CEO of ConocoPhillips and the U.S. interior secretary offer different views on the role of government in regulating drilling on public lands."

Additional coverage was provided by [FuelFix](#) (4/21, 7K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEWEST NATIONAL LANDMARKS. Additional coverage of the newest National Historic Landmarks was provided by the [Indianapolis Star](#) (4/21, 593K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE INTERIOR CONSIDERS HIKE IN OIL AND GAS ROYALTY RATES. Additional coverage that "the Department of Interior is considering updating rules governing royalties and other costs companies pay for producing oil and gas on federal lands that have not been changed in decades" was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (4/22, 74K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF STATE EFFORTS TO TAKE CONTROL OF FEDERAL LANDS. Additional coverage of state efforts to take control of federal lands was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (4/22, 398K).

INTERIOR ACCUSED OF CONTRIBUTING TO POLLUTION PROBLEM. In an op-ed for the [Panam Post](#) (4/21), Nick Zaiac, a public-policy researcher, writes that "the US federal government is one of the largest, if not the largest, polluter on the planet." As an example, he points to the Interior Department, "an agency designed to manage federal lands, which has provoked regular environmental scandals for more than 100 years." Zaiac claims that "the agency has long been protected by little other the fact that it appears to be one of the most dull, uninteresting parts of the federal bureaucracy."

POLICY ANALYST SAYS OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PLANNING TO CREATE MASSIVE "CLIMATE CHANGE INDUSTRY." Paul Driessen, senior policy analyst for the Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow, writes in a [Washington Times](#) (4/22, 644K) op-ed that the Obama Administration "plans to make the climate crisis industry so enormous that no one will be able to dismantle it, even as computer models and disaster claims totally lose credibility," even if the GOP controls both Congress and the presidency after President Obama leaves office. The White House is "pursuing this agenda even though global warming is dead-last in the latest Gallup poll of 15 issues" and is rooted in "deceitful claims [that] are consistently contradicted by real-world data." Driessen calls for congressional hearings on agency expenditures and actions regarding climate science.

[America's Great Outdoors:](#)

National Park Service:

OBAMA TO TRAVEL TO EVERGLADES TO TALK CLIMATE CHANGE. [The Hill](#) (4/22, Cama, Henry, 224K) reports President Obama will travel today "to the Everglades in Florida to deliver a speech about Earth Day." He is expected "to speak extensively about national parks and other valuable land assets and the threats that climate change poses to them." During his weekly address, Obama said, "Climate change can no longer be denied or ignored. ... The world is looking to the United States, to us, to lead. And that's what we're doing."

The [AP](#) (4/22, 2 28M) reports that "Everglades National Park will be closing its main road and some buildings near its main entrance because President Barack Obama is visiting."

[The Hill](#) (4/22, Cama, 224K) reports President Obama was "sharply criticized" by Florida Gov. Rick Scott "for a backlog in federal funding for restoration of the Everglades." The governor's statement yesterday "came a day before Obama plans to use the Everglades as a backdrop for an Earth Day speech where he'll highlight the impact that he says climate change has on national parks and the economy." Scott said, "President Obama needs to live up to his commitment on the Everglades and find a way to fund the \$58 million in backlog funding Everglades National Park hasn't received from the federal government."

The "Inside The Beltway" column of the [Washington Times](#) (4/22, Harper, 644K) reports, "President Obama will journey aboard Air Force to visit the Everglades on Wednesday, burning jet fuel and taxpayer funds as he goes. Well, at least it's not as far as Tokyo, which was his Earth Day destination last year." That trip "prompted the London Daily Mail to do the math and reveal that magnificent but pricey aircraft consumes 5 gallons of jet fuel for every mile it flies — emitting over 21 pounds of dreaded CO₂ per gallon."

Additional coverage of President Obama's planned trip to the Everglades on Earth Day was provided by the [Grist](#) (4/22, 9K).

MAMMOTH SITE NEARS FEDERAL ADOPTION AFTER COUNCIL RESOLUTION. The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (4/22, 111K) reports that "the Waco City Council unanimously agreed Tuesday to relinquish the core of the Waco Mammoth Site to the federal government, contingent on President Barack Obama making it a national monument." The measure "grants the 5-acre dig site and all excavated bones to the National Park Service and allows an adjacent 108 acres to be part of the national park system while remaining under city ownership."

SENATORS WANT NATIONAL PARK PASSES TO BE SOLD ONLINE. The [AP](#) (4/22, 2.28M) reports that "Sens. Angus King and Susan Collins are urging federal officials to make it possible for National Park passes to be purchased online or through a phone app." In a letter to the Interior Department and the NPS on Tuesday, King and Collins "suggest that a pilot program could be set up at Maine's Acadia National Park to test the electronic sale of passes."

SEN. THUNE TO INTRODUCE BILL ON PRESCRIBED BURNS. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (4/22, 101K) reports that Sen. John Thune said Monday that "he will introduce a bill to establish new standards for prescribed burns like the one that escaped this month at Wind Cave National Park." Thune's office said the legislation was "still being worked on and could be introduced Wednesday." Thune said, "We're not trying to impede their ability to do prescribed burns. Obviously, they can work as a tool in some circumstances. But when they go about it this way, they're just asking for trouble. So we think there ought to be at least some conditions that they have to give consideration to before they do it."

APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE OFFICIALS CALL VISITOR FEE A SUCCESS. The [AP](#) (4/21, Press, 5.17M) reports that "the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore plans to use thousands of dollars generated through a new fee for visiting the ice caves this winter to cover the cost of additional staff and equipment." The article notes that "officials are calling the fee sustainable after it brought \$140,000 in revenue, a portion of which was shared with the National Park Service." However, "the Apostle Islands were left with \$134,700 and will use the money to hire temporary employees to prepare for next season and for other visitor services."

Also providing coverage is the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/22, Louwagie, 1.37M).

STUDENTS HONORED WITH NPS' HARTZOG VOLUNTEER YOUTH GROUP AWARD. The [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (4/22, 203K) reports that "students in Buena High School's Environmental Club and their advisers were honored today with the National Park Service's Hartzog Volunteer Youth Group Award." The article notes that "for more than 17 years, the 1,000 Ventura students and teachers have volunteered to restore native plant communities on Anacapa Island." Yvonne Menard, spokeswoman for

Channel Islands National Park, said, "These teachers and student volunteers have consistently and enthusiastically traveled to the island by boat one day a month, month after month, to work to remove nonnative iceplant and plant native plants on Anacapa Island."

Additional coverage was provided by [KEYT-TV](#) Santa Barbara, CA (4/22, 2K).

CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK RECOGNIZED FOR DARK SKIES. The [AP](#) (4/22, 2.28M) reports that "Capitol Reef National Park has joined a handful of sites designated as having the highest quality night skies." The international Dark Skies Association has named Capitol Reef a Gold Tier International Dark Sky Park.

CONSERVATORS RESTORE GRAFFITI-SCARRED BARKER DAM IN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (4/22, 2.28M) reports that "painstaking work by conservators has restored the appearance of Joshua Tree National Park's historic Barker Dam, which became scarred with scratched graffiti as California's drought caused water levels to fall." The NPS says "conservators from the University of New Mexico spent a year and a half developing a process to deal with the scratches and then worked last month to conceal the graffiti."

RESEARCHERS SAY ARTIFACT SHOWS PREHISTORIC ALASKA, ASIA TRADE. The [AP](#) (4/22, 2.28M) reports that "researchers at the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve have confirmed a second piece of evidence in four years that points to Northwest Alaska's trade with Asia dating back 1,000 years." According to the article, "University of Colorado researchers have spent the last year tracing a flake of obsidian found at the site to the Chukotka peninsula in Russia." NPS archaeologist Jeff Rasco said "the thumbnail-sized piece of rock is likely the remnant of a tool that was sharpened at the site hundreds of years ago."

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON HOG FARM'S REQUEST TO MODIFY OPERATING PERMIT. The [Baxter \(AR\) Bulletin](#) (4/21, 28K) reports that "a request to modify C&H Hog Farm's permit drew about 50 people to the Jasper School Cafeterium for a public hearing by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality." According to the article, "there were comments opposing the request as well as asking ADEQ to allow the modification." The article notes that "no action was taken on the request at Monday night's hearing, and Ryan Benefield, ADEQ deputy director, said it will be a few weeks before the agency announces a decision."

DEAD HUMPBACK WHALE WASHES ONTO EAST END OF FIRE ISLAND. [Newsday](#) (4/22, 1.41M) reports that "a dead humpback whale washed up Tuesday afternoon near the east end of Fire Island, according to the Fire Island National Seashore." According to seashore park ranger Elizabeth Rogers, "the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research & Preservation was working with the National Park Service to respond."

PEARL HARBOR CENTER SUPERINTENDENT LEAVING FOR NEW JOB IN MASSACHUSETTS. The [AP](#) (4/22) reports that the NPS superintendent "who was at the helm of the Pearl Harbor visitors' center when four companies allegedly sold tickets to the site is taking a job in Massachusetts." Paul DePrey said Tuesday "he will leave Hawaii in June to be superintendent of the Salem Maritime Center and Saugus Ironworks national historic sites."

NEW SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCED FOR COLONIAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. The [Virginia Gazette](#) (4/22, 43K) reports that NPS Northeast Regional Director Mike Caldwell announced Monday that Kym Hall has been named the new superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park. Caldwell said, "We're very excited about the tremendous experience and leadership skills that Kym brings to Colonial National Historical Park. Her extensive background and passion for working collaboratively will serve her well as she energizes and expands the park's partnerships. At Glacier, she successfully tackled a wide range of issues; from highway and road operations, to concessions and partner management. As acting superintendent, she also spent considerable time working with park staff, leading planning efforts, and building teamwork and organizational effectiveness."

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POT FARM IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (4/22, 2.28M) reports that "a 29-year-old Mexican man has pleaded guilty to charges connected with an elaborate marijuana growing operation at Sequoia National Park that caused significant damage to the park's spring wildflower display." Toribio Cruz-Galvan "entered guilty pleas Monday to conspiring to grow and sell the product." The article notes that "investigators found more than 1,000 marijuana plants — more than 50 pounds worth — growing in the Yucca Mountain area of the park."

PARK LOOP ROAD AT ACADIA NATIONAL PARK OPENS TO VEHICLES. The [AP](#) (4/21, Press, 5.17M) reports that the NPS says that "all vehicles are now welcome back on Park Loop Road in Acadia National Park."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "FIND YOUR PARK" CAMPAIGN. Additional coverage of the "Find Your Park" campaign was provided by the [ActionHub](#) (4/21), [KOCO-TV Oklahoma City \(OK\)](#) Oklahoma City (4/22, 114K), and [AM New York](#) (4/22, 719K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF LINCOLN'S FUNERAL TRAIN. Additional coverage of the Lincoln funeral train was provided by [WBUR-FM](#) Boston (4/21, 95K).

TSONGAS SAYS NPS MODEL CAN BE FOLLOWED IN COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE. Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-MA), ranking Democrat on the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands, writes in a [Roll Call](#) (4/22, Tsongas, Subscription Publication, 102K) op-ed that the National Park Service "is falling behind," with its budget reduced by 22% over the past decade, resulting in "a burgeoning backlog of maintenance projects." These reductions "are exacerbated by dramatic changes in our climate, which are having a visible impact on iconic national parks." Tsongas links the NPS to the climate crisis, writing, "When it was created, the NPS was called 'America's best idea.' As we look to the future, we need to apply a similar visionary approach to address the emerging threats of a changing climate."

Bureau of Land Management:

JUDGE DISMISSES WYOMING LAWSUIT SEEKING MORE HORSE ROUNDUPS. The [AP](#) (4/22, Gruver) reports that "a federal judge Tuesday dismissed a lawsuit filed by Wyoming officials that sought to compel the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to promptly round up several overpopulated wild horse herds in the western part of the state." The bureau isn't "required by law to round up horses merely because it has determined the animals are overpopulated, U.S. District Judge Nancy Freudenthal ruled in granting requests to dismiss filed by the Interior Department and wild horse advocacy groups."

RANCHERS SEEKS ELIMINATION OF WILD MUSTANGS IN UTAH. The [Daily Beast](#) (4/21, 937K) reports that "earlier this month, U.S. District Court Judge Dee Benson ruled that a case brought by the ranchers seeking to eliminate around 1,350 protected wild mustangs, which they claim have become a nuisance, can go forward." They claim that the BLM hasn't "properly kept the population under control." According to the article, "should the suit prevail, the animals will face an uncertain future."

BLM TAKING PUBLIC INPUT ON WESTERN WYOMING GAS PLANT. The [AP](#) (4/22, 2.28M) reports that "federal officials are taking public comments on a proposed gas processing plant near LaBarge in western Wyoming." The QEP Resources, Inc., facility would "process gas from 10 nearby gas wells." The BLM is taking public comments until May 20.

NEW DOG LEASH POLICY AT FORT ORD TRAILS PROTESTED. [KSBW-TV](#) Monterey, CA (4/22, 32K) reports that "a new dog leash law at Fort Ord National Monument has pet owners upset and taking action." The BLM "put an emergency interim leash requirement in effect on April 8 and posted signs alerting the public." But "a grassroots movement to get Fort Ord back to being leash-free popped up online with a petition soon after."

Additional coverage was provided by [KION-TV](#) Monterey, CA (4/22).

FURTHER FUTURE FESTIVAL REJECTED BY FEDERAL AGENCIES. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (4/22, 398K) reports that organizers of the Further Future music festival have dropped plans to hold their inaugural event at an old mine near Lake Mead. Early this month, the NPS and the BLM denied the festival a commercial use permit. Now, the festival will be held May 1-3 on the Moapa River Indian Reservation.

BILL BACKED BY BUNDY FALLS IN NEVADA LEGISLATURE. The [AP](#) (4/22, 2.28M) reports that "Nevada lawmakers have rejected a public lands bill championed by southern Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy." Assembly members voted 8-34 to reject AB 408 on Tuesday night.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION FOR PORTLAND AREA WILDLIFE REFUGES. The [Oregonian](#) (4/22, 950K) reports that "four Portland area national wildlife refuges will split \$1 million this year to teach city kids about nature." The FWS announced the grant money Tuesday. The article notes that "the Portland area Tualatin River, Ridgefield, Steigerwald Lake and Wapato Lake refuges competed for the cash against other refuges nationwide."

FWS Director Ashe Interviewed At Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. [KATU-TV](#) Portland, OR (4/22, 192K) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe was interviewed at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge "to discuss the importance of connecting an urban audience to their natural environment; particularly through their Urban Refuges (like Tualatin River NWR)." Ashe "spoke about the changing demographics of our society and the implications for a public that doesn't connect or value the natural world. He explained that the Service wants natural resources, wildlife and their habitats to remain, gain and retain relevance for the benefit of the American people and the environment we share with wildlife." He "also announced exciting news that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is making a commitment of \$1 million to the Tualatin River National Wildlife

Refuge this year and for years to come.”

LEGISLATION WOULD BAR LISTING OF GREATER SAGE GROUSE. The [Denver Post](#) (4/22, Finley, 804K) reports that Sen. Cory Gardner will introduce legislation in Congress on Wednesday that would block the federal government from listing greater sage grouse as endangered and give western states six more years to revive grouse populations on their own. Gardner said, “When it comes to the environment in our own backyard, we understand it far better than anybody in Washington D.C. This would give us the ability to manage our most important resources at the local level.” He added, “We have an obligation to future generations to conserve and recover this species. But we can do it on our terms. Let’s put Coloradans in charge, let’s put Westerners in charge of the West.”

INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HELP BUST WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING RINGS. [NBC News](#) (4/21, Roach, 2.71M) reports that “the top spy agencies in the U.S. are sharing intelligence and personnel to bust international wildlife trafficking rings, which rake in more than \$20 billion a year in the trade of everything from elephant ivory and rhino horn to the bladders of a Mexican fish.” Edward Grace, the deputy chief of law enforcement for the FWS, said, “We didn’t have the same resources to fight this trade that other agencies had. That is a gap we are filling in now.” The move “comes with a top-down executive order from the Obama administration that frames wildlife trafficking as a threat to national security and calls for a coordinated, whole-government approach to thwart it.”

FWS WILL HUNT INVASIVE CARIBOU ON KAGALASKA ISLAND. The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (4/22, 4.78M) reports that “hunters from a federal agency will travel to a remote island in the Aleutians to kill caribou, an invasive species that threatens wilderness vegetation.” The FWS is “moving forward with plans to protect Kagalaska Island, part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/22, Joling, 2.28M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (4/22, Press, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/21, Dan Joling |, Ap, 5.17M), and the [US News & World Report](#) (4/21, 685K).

MOUNTAIN BOGS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TO RECEIVE FIRST ACREAGE ON EARTH DAY. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (4/22, 584K) reports that “Mountain Bogs National Wildlife Refuge will get its first acreage this Earth Day.” The Nature Conservancy will “formally donate an easement Wednesday to 39-acre Ida’s Bog in Ashe County.”

ARIZONA FILES MOTIONS TO PROTECT INTEREST IN MEXICAN WOLF RECOVERY. The [Grand Canyon News](#) (4/22) reports that “the state of Arizona, on behalf of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, filed two motions, April 15, aimed at protecting the state’s interest in the Mexican wolf reintroduction program and recovery of the endangered wolf in east-central Arizona and New Mexico.” Arizona filed a motion to intervene in a lawsuit “which concerns the recently-revised 10(j) rule that governs the management of Mexican wolves in Arizona and New Mexico.”

NATIONAL ZOO TRANSPORTS FROZEN GIANT PANDA SEMEN FROM CHINA TO IAD. [WRC-TV](#) Washington (4/22, Lylo, 613K) reports online that the National Zoo has “transported frozen giant panda semen from China to” Washington, DC “for breeding.” Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) research scientist Caitlin Burrell arrived at Dulles International Airport on Monday with the semen sample. WRC notes that the “frozen semen the flew from Chengdu, China” to IAD “at minus 196 degrees Celsius in liquid nitrogen.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE GROUPS SUE TO BLOCK PLANS TO KILL CORMORANTS TO SAVE SALMON. Additional coverage of the lawsuit to stop the killing of cormorants to save salmon was provided by [Reuters](#) (4/21).

US Geological Survey:

USGS SAYS WASTEWATER DISPOSAL LEADING TO MORE OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKES. [CNBC](#) (4/21, Brennan, 2.42M) reports on its website that the US Geological Survey says Oklahoma has gone from two magnitude 3.0 earthquakes per year to two per day as oil production has more than doubled. The USGS “sees a connection: specifically, a link to underground disposal of wastewater generated by oil and gas production.”

The [AP](#) (4/22, Talley) reports the Oklahoma Geological Survey said Tuesday that it is “‘very likely’ that most of the state’s recent earthquakes were triggered by the subsurface injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas drilling operations.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/22, Molinski, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports Gov. Mary Fallin (R) said the findings were significant. She said in a statement, “State agencies are already taking action to address this issue and protect homeowners.”

USGS CELEBRATES EARTH DAY. The [Water Technology Online](#) (4/22) reports that the USGS is “joining the global celebration of Earth Day on April 22.” According to the article, “to build environmental awareness, USGS has outlined some of the significant challenges facing the world and various science projects underway to help address these issues.”

USGS UPDATES FRAMEWORK FOR HYDROGEOLOGY OF FLORIDA AQUIFER. The [WaterWorld](#) (4/22, 96) reports that scientists at the USGS have “updated the hydrogeologic framework for the Floridan aquifer system that underlies the state of Florida and parts of Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina.” According to the article, “by describing the hydrologic and geologic setting of an aquifer, a hydrogeologic framework enables appropriate authorities and resource managers to monitor an aquifer more accurately, improving their ability to protect these critical resources and determine the near- and long-term availability of groundwater.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

OFFSHORE WIND, OIL AND GAS LEASES ON THE HORIZON FOR NORTH CAROLINA. The [Greensboro-Winston-Salem \(NC\) Business Journal](#) (4/22, Downey, Subscription Publication, 20K) reports that “as many as three offshore wind-power lease sites will be approved for North Carolina next year, Abby Hopper, director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, told a conference in Raleigh on Tuesday.” However, “she says most of the offshore interest in North Carolina has been generated by the possibility of an offshore oil and gas lease by 2021.” Hopper was the keynote speaker for the 2015 State Energy Conference hosted by N.C. State University and its N.C. Clean Energy Center at the McKimmon Center.

Onshore Energy Development:

BILL REINTRODUCED TO STOP FRACKING ON PUBLIC LAND. The [E&E Daily](#) (4/21) reports that “two Democratic House members want to stop hydraulic fracturing and some other drilling activities on federal land.” Reps. Jan Schakowsky of Illinois and Mark Pocan of Wisconsin are “holding a press conference tomorrow to introduce a bill to ban fracking on future leases.”

BLACKFEET TRIBAL LEADERS SEEK CANCELLATION OF LEASES IN BADGER-TWO MEDICINE. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (4/22, 113K) reports that “Blackfeet tribal leaders are asking the Obama administration to intervene in canceling the last remaining energy leases in the Badger-Two Medicine country they consider sacred.” According to the article, “a panel of Blackfeet leaders will gather Wednesday to demand protection for the 165,588-acre territory bounded by the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Glacier National Park, the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex and the Rocky Mountain Front.”

STUDY LINKS TEXAS EARTHQUAKES TO NATURAL GAS DRILLING. The [AP](#) (4/21, 777K) reports “scientists have linked a swarm of small earthquakes west of Fort Worth, Texas, to nearby natural gas wells and wastewater injection.” Scientists with the US Geological Survey and Southern Methodist University monitored 27 earthquakes of magnitude 2.0 or higher near Azle, Texas between November 2013 and January 2014. The area “had no recorded quakes for 150 years on faults that “have been inactive for hundreds of millions of years,” said SMU geophysicist Matthew Hornbach.”

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/22, Kuchment, 1.13M) says “experts have not yet determined what’s causing the shaking,” and “the new findings contradict statements by the Railroad Commission of Texas that there are no definitive links between oil and gas activity and earthquakes in the state.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/22, Borenstein, 2.28M) says that “unlike other research that linked quakes to the injection of wastewater, the SMU study also sees a secondary link in another part of the drilling process, when massive amounts of brine is taken out of the ground with the gas.” [Reuters](#) (4/22, Richter) also has a report.

OKLAHOMA RECOGNIZES DRILLING CONTRIBUTING TO QUAKES. The [New York Times](#) (4/22, Wines, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that “abandoning years of official skepticism,” Oklahoma’s energy and environment cabinet “embraced a scientific consensus that earthquakes rocking the state are largely caused by the underground disposal of billions of barrels of wastewater from oil and gas wells.” The government “introduced a website detailing the evidence behind that conclusion Tuesday, including links to expert studies of Oklahoma’s quakes.”

GREEN GROUPS STUDY ARGUES CUTTING METHANE COULD BE COST-EFFECTIVE. The [New York Times](#) (4/22, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports

that a study commissioned by the Environmental Defense Fund argues that reducing methane leaks “from oil and gas operations around the world could provide a relatively inexpensive way to fight climate change.” The report, written by the Rhodium Group, found that in 2012, 3.6 billion cubic feet of gas escaped worldwide and “would have been worth \$30 million on the market.”

SMITH CONDEMNNS “MISINFORMATION” CAMPAIGN AGAINST FRACKING. House Science, Space, and Technology Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) writes in a [Roll Call](#) (4/22, Smith, Subscription Publication, 102K) op-ed that “natural gas provides affordable, clean and abundant energy,” and the US “is now the world’s largest oil and natural gas producer.” But as Earth Day approaches, we are “unlikely to hear from the vocal minority who refuse to acknowledge this great success story.” Smith says hydraulic fracturing has been hit with “unfounded attacks, misinformation and biased media coverage” rooted in “fringe environmental politics instead of fact-based evidence.”

Offshore Energy Development:

ACTIVISTS SEEK STRICTER OFFSHORE DRILLING REGULATIONS FIVE YEARS AFTER DEEPWATER HORIZON. [TIME](#) (4/21, Worland, 19.19M) reports on its website that five years after the Deepwater Horizon explosion, “offshore oil drilling is more frequent and is done to even greater depth.” Since that time, the Federal government “has approved more than 20 ultra-deepwater drilling expeditions,” though the government has also tightened “standards for the design and casing of deep-sea oil wells and nearly doubling the number of inspectors.” Still, environmental activists “say the changes aren’t enough,” since “the number of offshore incidents including fires, oil spills and explosions, among other things, has remained high over the past five years.”

The [AP](#) (4/20, Amy, McConnaughey) reports Federal and state officials overseeing the \$1 billion provided by BP for recovery projects “said Monday that they’re proposing another 10 projects totaling \$134 million.” If approved, \$832 million of the money would have been used.

Charlie Williams of the “industry-led” Center for Offshore Safety writes in [The Hill](#) (4/22, Williams, 224K) “Congress Blog” that following the Deepwater Horizon incident, “industry and regulators have worked relentlessly to improve the safety of offshore oil and natural gas development,” and since 2012, “the industry has stepped up to address” concerns.

BSEE Director Salerno To Testify Before House Committee. [The Hill](#) (4/22, Cama, Henry, 224K) reports that on Wednesday, the House Natural Resources Committee will hold “a hearing on safety changes since the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil disaster at BP’s well in the Gulf of Mexico.” BSEE Director Brian Salerno will testify.

Commentary. A [New York Times](#) (4/22, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) editorial says that five years after the BP oil blowout in the Gulf of Mexico, “BP has been suggesting in its reports and advertising that recovery of the entire ecosystem is just around the corner,” but “it is not.” The Times says that while BP “has already shelled out just over \$30 billion.. more will be arriving,” and the “task for federal and state officials will be to make sure that these funds are applied to replenishment of beaches, dunes, wetlands, oyster beds and the like, and not diverted to politically inspired development projects that have little connection to environmental needs.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the spill was provided by [CNN](#) (4/21, Crandall, 2 05M).

BOEM DIRECTOR HOPPER DEFENDS 50-MILE OFFSHORE BUFFER. The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (4/22, 395K) reports that “North Carolina’s annual State Energy Conference kicked off Tuesday with a federal official’s defense of a controversial proposal not to allow offshore drilling closer than 50 nautical miles of the state’s coastline.” BOEM Director Abigail Ross Hopper “expounded on her agency’s proposed safety buffer just a week after Gov. Pat McCrory warned a congressional committee in Washington, D.C., that such a distance ‘unnecessarily puts much of North Carolina’s most accessible undiscovered resources under lock and key.’” Hopper said that “the proposed drilling buffer for the Southeast – which is equivalent to 57.5 standard miles – would be by far the widest off-limits exclusion zone in the country.”

ROCKVILLE JOINS COASTAL TOWNS OPPOSING OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [AP](#) Savannah, GA (4/22, 19K) reports that “the small coastal hamlet of Rockville in Charleston County is the latest coastal community in the Carolinas to go on record opposing offshore drilling.” The town council on Monday passed “a resolution saying that offshore drilling would threaten the economy of coastal communities as well as fish and marine mammals.” The article notes that “Rockville is the 21st community in the Carolinas to go on record opposed to offshore drilling or exploration for fossil fuels.”

FLORIDA NELSON WANTS DATA REGARDING 11-YEAR-OLD OIL LEAK. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (4/22, 621K) reports that US Sen. Bill Nelson has asked DHS to release “all videos and photographs” of what he terms “an 11-year-old leak from a Taylor Energy Co. platform downed by Hurricane Ivan in 2004.” The Times-Picayune cites AP reporting from last week saying “the leak is 20 times more substantial than previously reported.” Nelson is quoted saying, “oil infrastructure in the gulf – this is just unbelievable – operated by the Taylor Energy Company continues to leak crude oil since one of the hurricanes years ago.” An Interior Department official is cited saying “a United Command is operating daily overflights of the oil sheen” and the department “is working to garner a response to Sen. Nelson’s report.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

BOR RESPONDS TO WORSENING YAKIMA BASIN DROUGHT. The [AP](#) (4/22, 2.28M) reports that the BOR has “had to start using stored reservoir water to supplement natural flows early because of a worsening drought in central Washington’s Yakima Basin.” According to the BOR, “some Yakima Basin water users may only get 54 percent of their supply.” Chuck Garner, the BOR’s Yakima Project River Operations supervisor, said that “weather conditions forced them to use stored reservoir water starting April 15.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (4/22, 86K), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (4/21, 113K), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (4/21, 113K), the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (4/21, 100K), and the [Ellensburg \(WA\) Daily Record](#) (4/22, 16K).

LAKE MEAD’S WATER LEVEL DROPS TO NEAR-RECORD LOW. [KLAS-TV](#) Las Vegas (4/22, 114K) reports that “Lake Mead has nearly set a new record when its water level measured at 1081.10 feet, according to the Bureau of Reclamation.” The article notes that “it’s the lowest level since the lake was filled in the 1930s and 148 feet below capacity.” According to the article, “it’s predicted the lake will hit 1075 feet on May 31 and then begin to fill back up in September when there are water releases.”

Additional coverage of Lake Mead was provided by the [Arizona State University Cronkite News](#) (4/22).

CONTINUING COMMENTARY ON BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (4/20, 323K) editorializes that “as Gov. Jerry Brown tries to salvage the \$25 billion project to build twin tunnels through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, he should keep in mind that it won’t be acceptable to give up its environmental goals.” The paper notes that “restoring the delta has been a critical selling point to many Northern Californians, who helped defeat a 1982 plan to build a peripheral canal there.” The editorial concludes that “it should be a non-starter to proceed with the tunnels and expect environmental restoration to come at some later date.”

The [Modesto \(CA\) Bee](#) (4/22, 163K) editorializes that “if the governor truly wants to save the Delta, he should prioritize that portion of the plan and drop the part about ‘more reliable’ water deliveries until he knows how much water will be required to save the Delta.”

Additional commentary was provided by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/22, 2.21M).

TORRES SAYS REST OF US SHOULD TAKE CLIMATE WARNING FROM CALIFORNIA. Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA) writes in a [Roll Call](#) (4/22, Torres, Subscription Publication, 102K) op-ed that her state, suffering through a long-term drought, “is already facing the effects of climate change,” but the rest of the country should be concerned as well. She writes, “In California, we allowed this problem to reach a critical point, but the rest of the country should learn from our mistakes and begin taking the necessary steps to prepare for the effects of environmental changes.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

FEDERAL AGENCIES MEET WITH TRIBES AT PORTLAND CONFERENCE ON INDIAN CHILD WELFARE. The [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (4/22, 3K) reports that “three federal agencies met Tuesday with tribes at a Portland conference on Native American child welfare.” The Interior, Justice, and Health and Human Services departments are hearing testimony on rules to implement the Indian Child Welfare Act. BIA Director Kevin Washburn said, “Places like Oregon, and Minnesota, and Washington state say, ‘Oh, we’re progressive, this can’t be a problem here.. But actually it is, it’s a problem anywhere there are large numbers of Indian communities, honestly, and anywhere there’s Indian poverty.’”

CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES WATER COMPACT FACES HURDLES. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (4/21, 15K) reports that “after hours of debate, the state House of Representatives on April 15 endorsed the water-rights compact between Montana and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the next day gave final approval to Senate Bill 262, the only water compact involving a Montana reservation that remains un-ratified.” The article notes that “it’s been at the center of a tumultuous and hard-won political battle over a complex issue, the intricacies of which were further drawn out by a House rules tug-of-war narrowly won by a ‘working majority’ of legislators, including all 41 Democrats and a dozen moderate Republicans.” That battle, “which occurred in committees and on the House floor, mirrored the political

maneuvering that ushered Medicaid expansion through the state Legislature, and while it offered a revealing glimpse at the bare-knuckle brand of politics that has characterized the session, it cleared the way for a future beset with other complicated delays and potential stumbling blocks.”

QUICK VOTE URGED ON BLACKFEET WATER COMPACT. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (4/21, 76K) reports that Rep. Ryan Zinke is “urging the Obama administration to implement procedural changes meant to expedite a final congressional vote on the pending Blackfeet Water Compact.” In a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, “Zinke called on the agencies to work together to advance the compact.”

TRIBAL BUSINESSMAN UPSETS FORMER NAVAJO PRESIDENT IN ELECTION. The [Washington Post](#) (4/21, Felicia Fonseca |, Ap, 5.17M) reports that “Russell Begaye easily beat a former two-term Navajo Nation president Tuesday for the top post on the country’s largest American Indian reservation, ending a tumultuous election season that was extended by nearly five months amid a heated court fight over a candidate’s ability to speak fluent Navajo.” according to unofficial results, “Begaye led Joe Shirley Jr. by about 10,000 votes with all precincts reporting.”

Top National News:

OBAMA DEFENDS TPP AS GOOD FOR MIDDLE CLASS, SAYS DEMOCRATIC CRITICS ARE WRONG. Coverage of the President’s defense of his trade policies on MSNBC largely cast him in a favorable light, taking on leading members of his own party – including Sen. Elizabeth Warren – as he touted what he claimed would be a boost to the US economy and its middle class. While the story was not mentioned on the network newscasts, it is receiving widespread attention in print and online media, much of which highlights the challenges the President faces to enact his agenda in the face of Democratic opposition.

The [New York Times](#) (4/22, B3, Weisman, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), for example, refers to “an energetic case for free trade” by the President, while the [AP](#) (4/21, Babington) highlights his “blunt words,” which “came as liberals, labor unions and others stepped up efforts to block his trade proposals.” More negative was the analysis in the [Huffington Post](#) (4/21, Levine, 281K), which stated that “while Obama criticized Warren for being wrong on the facts of the deal, it’s difficult to know exactly what the deal contains because his administration has deemed the negotiations to be classified.”

During the roundtable discussion, which aired on [MSNBC’s Hardball with Chris Matthews](#) (4/21, 713K), the President was asked about criticism of the TPP from Democrats, including Warren. The President said, “I love Elizabeth. We’re allies on a whole host of issues, but she’s wrong on this.” The President said that “ultimately I would not be putting this forward if I was not absolutely certain that this was going to be good for American workers,” adding that critics should “wait and see what we actually have in this deal before you make those judgments.”

[Later](#) in the discussion, the President said, “I’ve spent the last six and a half years yanking this economy out of the worst recession since the great depression. Every single thing I’ve done from the Affordable Care Act to pushing to raise the minimum wage, to making sure that young people can go to college and get good job training, to what we’re pushing now in terms of sick paid leave, everything I do has been focused on how do we make sure the middle class is getting a fair deal. Now, I would not be doing this trade deal if I did not think it was good for the middle class, and when you hear folks make a lot of suggestions about how bad this trade deal is when you dig into the facts, they are wrong.”

On its front page, meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (4/22, A1, Nakamura, Gearan, 5.17M) reports that “top Democrats began feuding over...Obama’s trade initiative Tuesday as his bid for a major late-term win began tearing at the party’s unity and threatened to expose old divisions ahead of the 2016 presidential election.” [Politico](#) (4/21, Nather, 669K) notes that Warren “has been challenging the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership that’s at the heart of Obama’s trade agenda, saying it would ‘help the rich get richer and leave everyone else behind.’” Warren “has also said the trade deal would give special protections to multinational corporations.”

At the White House, noted [The Hill](#) (4/21, Fabian, 224K) on its website yesterday, press secretary Josh Earnest said “the measure is ‘the most progressive, far-reaching trade promotion authority bill in history,’” adding, “It has enforceable labor provisions, enforceable environmental provisions, and it includes provisions related to human rights. ... I don’t think it is common for trade promotion bills to even include references to human rights.”

[USA Today](#) (4/22, Jackson, 4.95M) notes Obama “and his aides are also lobbying for Democratic congressional votes in favor of Trade Promotion Authority,” which “would enable the administration to put together a final agreement for an up-or-down vote in Congress with no amendments.” The [Washington Post](#) (4/21, Nakamura, 5.17M) reported on its website that “big business and organized labor squared off Tuesday over...Obama’s trade agenda, as a key Senate committee prepared to vote” on TPA legislation. The AFL-CIO’s Richard Trumka told the Senate Finance Committee, “The livelihoods of workers are at stake here. ... We need a different deal.” Thomas Donohue, president of the US Chamber of Commerce, disagreed, imploring “lawmakers to support the fast-track bill.”

[Politico](#) (4/21, Behsudi, Palmer, 669K) notes that “so far, only 13 Democrats have indicated they could support the legislation, well short of the 66 who voted for trade deals with South Korea and Panama in 2011 or even the 31 who backed the Colombia pact.” Meanwhile, “a solid 14 Democrats in the House have confirmed they are voting against the measure, while another 119 seem unlikely to support it based on previous statements.” The White House “is targeting more than 40 Democrats who voted for at least the South Korea and Panama agreements in 2011, as well as a dozen or so newer members of Congress who come from districts that depend on trade for economic growth. Those include Texas Rep. Joaquin Castro, whose twin brother, Julian, serves in the Obama administration.”

Obama: China Can’t Be Allowed To Set Trade Rules For Asia-Pacific Region. The President also argued on [MSNBC’s Hardball with Chris Matthews](#) (4/21, 713K) that the “big 800-pound gorilla” in the Asia-Pacific region is China, and while it is “not a signatory to this deal” its “gravitational pull in that region is powerful. They don’t play by the same rules. They are coercing a lot of these smaller countries to enter into trade deals that exclude or disadvantage US companies, exclude or disadvantage US workers that take our intellectual property. They don’t have high standards in terms of labor or environmental protections, and if we don’t get this done, if we’re not the ones engaged out there writing the rules and China’s writing the rules in the fastest growing market, the most populace region of the world, we’re going to be locked out.”

Lew: Enforceable Currency Provisions Would Endanger Trade Deal. [Reuters](#) (4/22, Lange) reports that Treasury Secretary Lew yesterday told members of Congress that the Administration will oppose requiring enforceable currency provisions as part of trade deals. Wrote Lew, “Our partners fear that a trade agreement with an enforceable currency discipline could constrain the ability of their monetary authorities to conduct appropriate macroeconomic policies, and that is a risk they are unwilling to take.”

The [AP](#) (4/22, 405K) reports that Sen. Charles Schumer “said the administration must press China to stop manipulating its currency, even though China isn’t a party to the Pacific-rim negotiations.” Said Schumer, speaking at a Senate Finance Committee hearing, “We need to do more against China.”

In an editorial, meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/22, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) denounces the focus on currency manipulation as a cover for protectionists who would oppose the TPP at any rate.

Japanese Ambassador: Trade Deal With US Could Be Announced Next Week. [Bloomberg News](#) (4/21, Keane, 2.94M) reports that Japan’s ambassador to the US, Kenichiro Sasae, appeared yesterday at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, where he announced that Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe “may be able to declare next week that the US and Japan have all but completed their part of negotiations on a Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement.” Said Sasae, “All the gaps are substantially narrowed. ... We are in the final stage.” [Reuters](#) (4/22, Stephenson), meanwhile, notes that Secretary of State Kerry will host Abe in Boston on the 26th of this month.

Reid On Fast Track: “I’m Not Only No, I’m Hell No.” The [AP](#) (4/21, Babington) reports that asked about his stance on the fast-track debate, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid told reporters yesterday, “I’m not only no, I’m hell no.” [Roll Call](#) (4/21, Dennis, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 102K) noted that Reid added, “Ron Wyden knows how I feel. Everyone in my caucus knows how I feel, and the president knows how I feel. That’s why we didn’t bring it up last Congress.” The [Daily Caller](#) (4/21, Ross, 318K) recounted that Schumer, “who...stood next to Reid as he fielded reporters’ questions,” retorted, “How do you really feel?”

Other Democrats expressed their concerns about fast-track legislation in less emphatic manners. Sen. Debbie Stabenow said on [MSNBC’s Hardball with Chris Matthews](#) (4/21, 713K) that the “language in fast track just isn’t strong enough and I should start by saying we know we’re in a global economy. I want to make sure we’re exporting products, not jobs, and when you talk about currency manipulation, right now we’ve seen when Japan was manipulating their currency that the Japanese auto companies actually were making more profit by that artificial discount in their price than they were on anything else. They sell to us, we can’t sell to them. They manipulated their currency, so we’re going to have to do fast track authority on trade then we better have tough enforcement to make sure we can’t have countries manipulating their currency.”

Sens. Paul Ryan and Ted Cruz come out in favor of fast-track legislation in an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/22, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), while Rep. Steve King links his support for it to Obama’s immigration actions. King writes in the [Washington Times](#) (4/22, 644K), “It must be said, free trade agreements are not the avenue for the president to complete his objective to ‘fundamentally transform America,’” as “trade deals should be about trade, not avenues to change American domestic, let alone foreign, policy.” In the debate over fast track, adds King, Obama “can demonstrate a willingness to act within his own constitutional boundaries by agreeing to defund his illegal and unconstitutional actions on immigration.” In fact, “both transparency and humility are required steps for this president as Congress considers fast track.”

OFA Email Defends Fast Track. [The Intercept](#) (4/21) reports that in an email to members last Friday, OFA addressed the Trade Promotion Authority bill. OFA "did not ask members to take action supporting fast track; instead, it appears to be an attempt to mollify them enough so they don't take action opposing it." The Intercept went on to state "the email is filled with assertions clearly crafted to mislead OFA members," such as this assertion, "The good news is that this bill ensures that the entire process is transparent." To The Intercept, "this is perhaps the most deceptive sentence of the email."

Nelson "Pretty Sure" He'll Back TPP. The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (4/22, Leary, 828K) reported on its website that "Sen. Bill Nelson is likely to support a Trans-Pacific trade deal President Obama wants over objections from fellow Democrats." A spokesman told the Times, "Pretty sure he's going to support it."

Clinton Sidesteps Question On Whether She'll Back Obama's Trans-Pacific Deal. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (4/21, Epstein, 169K) reports Hillary Clinton "wouldn't say Tuesday whether she supports the trade measure working its way through Congress but did offer some criteria she'd use to judge it." Bloomberg adds that "Clinton and her team have in recent weeks been cautious in weighing in on TPP, aware that they're balancing the competing views of business and labor."

Yesterday, says [Politico](#) (4/21, Debenedetti, 669K), Clinton "walked the tightrope of praising...Obama, while distancing herself from his all-out push for a Trans-Pacific trade deal." Said Clinton, "Any trade deal has to produce jobs and raise wages and increase prosperity and protect our security." Clinton, however, "has not come out against the deal, unlike her potential primary challengers includ

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL ATTENDS IHS CERAWEEK CONFERENCE. [Politico Pro](#) (4/21, Subscription Publication) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has "delicately stepped into enemy territory at a conference attended by many critics of her department's policies — even if she didn't quite see it that way." Jewell didn't consider the IHS CERAWeek conference "a lion's den," although she is "still trying to sell herself as someone who knows the energy industry well, even though more people may think of her as a longtime conservationist and as the former CEO of outdoor retailer REI than as the first Interior secretary to have actually fracked an oil well." She told reporters, "If there's one thing I want to express, [it] is that I understand this industry. I came from this industry. I'm an engineer by training. I've worked in oil and gas. I've worked in finance of oil and gas and natural resources. I'm also a person that appreciates the planet that we've been given and that what we need to do is strike the right balance on areas that we can and should develop and areas that are too special to develop."

The [FuelFix](#) (4/20, 7K) reports that Jewell is "going before a crowd of wary energy industry executives Monday afternoon to make the case that federal regulations are essential to reassure people worried about environmental damage from oil and gas development." Jewell noted, "Even here in Texas you have had a community that has banned fracking — in the state of Texas where the oil and gas industry has been so prevalent for so long. And that's because people are afraid. We felt it was our job as a federal regulator to reassure the public we were putting rules in place that are consistent with the common standards." Jewell said she is seeking "to reassure folks here that the oil and gas industry is a very important part of our future."

[Platts](#) (4/21, 3K) reports that Jewell "indicated Monday that the Obama administration's five-year plan for offshore oil and gas leasing could include fewer lease sales and fewer offshore plays before it is finalized, despite an industry push for the plan to include more sales in additional offshore areas." The article notes that "the plan, which Interior unveiled in January, calls for 14 potential lease sales in eight of the 26 possible offshore planning areas from 2017 to 2022, including a possible sale off the US East Coast." According to the article, "during a news conference at the annual IHS CERAWeek conference in Houston, Jewell indicated the plan may change before it is proposed and finalized by 2016, but those changes would only be reductions in lease sales."

[Reuters](#) (4/20) reports that the Interior Department will assess whether it should take a more flexible approach to establishing the rates for royalties it collects from oil and natural gas wells on federal land, Jewell said. She said, "We don't have any flexibility onshore, so this is an opportunity for us to take a look at that. We do find circumstances where there are pioneering (shale) plays where there should be royalty relief."

[Bloomberg News](#) (4/20, Weber, 2 94M) reports that "Royal Dutch Shell Plc learned 'some very painful and expensive lessons about contractors' from its mishaps drilling in the Arctic in 2012, U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said." She told reporters that "Shell learned how to better manage companies it relies on for critical aspects of its offshore drilling programs." Jewell added that "the U.S. government has 'raised the bar' on safety in terms of offshore drilling in recent years."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/21, Tomlinson, 2.28M), the [FuelFix](#) (4/20, 7K), and [Bloomberg News](#) (4/20, Davis, 2 94M).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ANNOUNCE DECISION FOR NEVADA, CALIFORNIA SAGE GROUSE ON TUESDAY. The [AP](#) (4/21, 39K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "plans to announce Tuesday whether she will move forward with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's earlier proposal to order federal protection for a type of sage grouse found only in California and Nevada." Jewell "plans a formal announcement on a listing decision for the bistate sage grouse in Reno on Tuesday afternoon."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (4/21, Press, 1.37M), the [Nevada Appeal](#) (4/21, 49K), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (4/21, 22K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/21, 2.28M), the [Porterville \(CA\) Recorder](#) (4/21, 26K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/20, Press, 5.17M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (4/21, 4.78M), and the [Huffington Post](#) (4/20, 281K).

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION TOUTED AT CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS EVENT. [Inside Tucson Business \(AZ\)](#) (4/21, 12K) reports that "consumers spend \$646 billion annually on outdoor recreation, said advocates, who called on the government Thursday to do a better job tracking the worth of what they called an undervalued industry." In addition, speakers at the Center for American Progress event said that the figures "demonstrated the value of the nation's parks and open spaces, which the outdoor industry depends on." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "These are legitimate jobs." She added that "national parks saw more visitors last year than ever before."

INTERIOR SOLICITOR TOMPKINS VISITS UNM LAW SCHOOL. [UNM School of Law News](#) (4/21) reports that "during a two-day visit to the UNM Law School, Solicitor Hillary Tompkins was interviewed by consultant and former journalist Conroy Chino." Tompkins was "invited by the Law and Indigenous Peoples Program to return to the Law school, where she taught as an adjunct professor before being appointed Solicitor." She also "met with students for a lunch and learn on one day and met with high school students from the Native American Community Academy (NACA) the next day."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SECRETARY JEWELL DEFENDS NEW RULES FOR FRACKING ON PUBLIC LANDS. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary's defense of fracking rules on public lands in comments Thursday to the Center for American Progress was provided by the [AllGov](#) (4/21, 1K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION CONSIDERS DRILLING FEE HIKE ON FEDERAL LANDS. Additional coverage that "the federal government wants to update rules governing oil and gas royalty rates" was provided by [The Hill](#) (4/21, Devaney, 224K) and the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (4/20, 506).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT THE NATIONAL MALL. Additional coverage of Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day on the National Mall was provided by the [Environment News Service](#) (4/20, 149) and the [Marquette \(MI\) Mining Journal](#) (4/21, 1K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEWEST NATIONAL HISTORICAL LANDMARKS. Additional coverage that the Powder Works Bridge is now a national historical landmark was provided by the [Watsonville \(CA\) Patch](#) (4/21, 1K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

OBAMA TO HIGHLIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE THREAT TO EVERGLADES ON EARTH DAY. The [Washington Post](#) (4/21, Nakamura, 5.17M) reports in its "Post Politics" blog that the President will travel to the Everglades on Wednesday to "tout his administration's efforts to protect the environment," as "the White House presses its go-it-alone

climate-change agenda." The Earth Day trip is "aimed at highlighting a region that the administration said is threatened by global warming." In the White House blog, Obama senior adviser Brian Deese wrote, "The Everglades are flat, and they border a rising ocean. As the sea levels rise, the shorelines erode, and that salty water travels inland, threatening the aquifers supplying fresh drinking water to Floridians."

[The Hill](#) (4/21, Cama, 224K) reports Deese wrote in a public email, "This Earth Day, we're far beyond a debate about climate change's existence. ... We're focused on mitigating its very real effects here at home, preparing our communities where its impacts are already being felt, and leading an international effort for action."

[USA Today](#) (4/21, Jackson, 4.95M) predicts "push back from Republicans who say...Obama's climate change and pollution control plans are expensive, unnecessary, and harmful to businesses, especially in the energy industry."

On "The Insiders" blog of the [Washington Post](#) (4/20, 5.17M) Ed Rogers writes "President Obama is living in a world of denial" and that "he uses global warming as a distraction to dodge the real problems we face and avoid critiques of his performance. If he did face reality, there is a lot he could do to try and juice economic growth." Meanwhile, Chris Mooney of the [Washington Post](#) (4/21, Mooney, 5.17M) says the president's visit to Everglades National Park "could take on new significance as a politically potent case study of how global warming directly impacts people living" in the US.

NPS PROPOSES TO ALLOW TRIBES TO GATHER PLANTS IN NATIONAL PARKS. The [AP](#) (4/20, 28K) reports that the NPS on Monday "proposed allowing Native American tribes around the country to collect and remove plants from national parks, such as Mesa Verde National Park, for traditional uses." Under the proposal, "tribal members would have to prove a traditional association to the land and describe the plants they want to take and how the material will be used." Park officials would "then conduct an environmental assessment before granting a permit, generally within three to six months."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/21, Fonseca, 2.28M), the [US News & World Report](#) (4/20, 685K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/20, Felicia Fonseca |, Ap, 5.17M), and the [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (4/21, 301K).

OLDEST ACTIVE PARK RANGER TO BE FEATURED ON "TODAY" SHOW. The [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (4/21, Group, 310K) reports that "Betty Reid Soskin, at 93 a well-known figure as the oldest active ranger with the National Park Service, will get national attention in a profile that was taped last week for the 'Today' show on NBC." The segment is set "to air during the 8 to 9 a.m. period on April 26." According to the article, "last week, Soskin spent a day being trailed by an NBC crew as she conducted her monthly interpretive bus tour that takes visitors to see a Victory ship that was built in the Richmond yards; the Rosie the Riveter monument; Atchison Village, built to house workers; and the former Ford Assembly plant."

COUNCIL SET TO CEDE FIVE ACRES OF MAMMOTH SITE TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR MONUMENT. The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (4/21, 111K) reports that "the Waco City Council on Tuesday is set to pave the way for a Waco Mammoth Site national monument by relinquishing five acres of the site along with all excavated remains to the federal government." The article notes that "as part of the transfer, the city is also spending \$17,602 for a survey, updated environmental study and closing costs."

SECRET SERVICE SUCCESSFULLY INTERCEPTS WHITE HOUSE FENCE JUMPER. The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/20, story 4, 0:25, Pelley, 5 08M) reported, "Well, this time the Secret Service got their man. A fence-climber at the White House was intercepted last night shortly after he dropped to the lawn. Today, a judge ordered 54-year-old Jerome Hunt of California to stay away from the White House. He pleaded not guilty to unlawful entry. He has to wear an electronic monitor."

MARIJUANA ACTIVISTS LIGHT UP ON THE NATIONAL MALL. The [Washington Post](#) (4/21, Stein, 5.17M) reports that "D.C. marijuana activists decided to possess and smoke marijuana on the National Mall" at 4:20 p.m. Monday afternoon. The article notes that "despite the conspicuously illegal acts, no one was arrested or reprimanded by U.S. Park Police." NPS spokesman Mike Litterst said, "United States Park Police report that no smoking took place when they were present, and that they received no complaints about any such activity."

THE GRAND CANYON COULD BE GETTING A MALL AND CONFERENCE ROOMS. The [Independent \(UK\)](#) (4/21, Hooton, 853K) reports that the Grand Canyon "could soon be getting a \$1 billion entertainment complex encompassing a mall, hotel, restaurants, meeting rooms and an IMAX cinema." The Grand Canyon Escalade would be "built on the east rim and take visitors down to an elevated riverwalk on the Canyon floor via a gondola tramway." The article notes that "the proposal has some support from members of the Navajo tribe, albeit ones tied up in corruption and judicial misconduct charges, but a tide of people opposing it."

SCIENTIST SAYS FLORIDA PYTHON HUNT DIDN'T HELP CONTROL THREAT. The [AP](#) (4/21, Kay, 2.28M) reports that "as Florida prepares to unleash the public in another hunt for Burmese pythons in the Everglades, an analysis of data from the first Python Challenge shows that the 2013 spectacle didn't do anything to curb the invasive snake's population in the wetlands, a scientist said Monday." According to F rank Mazzotti, a University of Florida scientist, "the contest gave them incentives to capture more pythons in a month than any previous study, but it did nothing to control Florida's python population." Mazzotti "presented his findings at an invasive species workshop opening the annual Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration conference in Coral Springs."

MEDWAY RESIDENTS TO VOTE ON MAINE NATIONAL PARK PLAN. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (4/20, 166K) reports that "residents will decide whether they support a proposed 150,000-acre national park and recreation area in a nonbinding referendum on June 23, officials said Monday." According to town Administrative Assistant Kathy Lee, "the question on the ballot, which has yet to be written, will be something simple, such as 'Do you favor the national park and recreation area?'"

GROUP WANTS HATTERAS TO SHRINK BUFFER ON BEACH. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (4/21, 405K) reports that "a buffer from the beach to the sound is protecting Hatteras Island's first oystercatcher nest of the season, blocking traffic to Cape Point, one of the best fishing spots on the East Coast." But "if beach driving advocates get their way, that won't be the case much longer." According to the article, "an alliance of groups sent a letter last week to Cape Hatteras National Seashore Superintendent Dave Hallac saying park staff must shrink the area surrounding sea turtle and shorebird nests and shorten the buffer's duration."

CHARLES TOWN'S JOHN BROWN TOURS TO RESUME MAY 23. The [AP](#) (4/21, 2.28M) reports that "guided tours of Charles Town sites related to abolitionist John Brown will resume in May with an increased effort to attract youths." The tours are conducted by NPS rangers from Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. They will resume on May 23 and will be offered on weekends until June 7.

NPS TO CELEBRATE JUNIOR RANGER DAY. The [Clarksville \(TN\) Leaf Chronicle](#) (4/20, 43K) reports that "Fort Donelson National Battlefield will celebrate the National Junior Ranger Day with children's activities, stream cleanups and other environmental programs on Saturday."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE NPS PREPARES FOR CENTENNIAL. Additional coverage of the preparations for the NPS centennial was provided by the [Beaumont \(TX\) Enterprise](#) (4/21, 168K), [KECI-TV](#), Missoula, MT (4/21, 744), and [WLUC-TV](#), Marquette, MI (4/21, 4K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DEATH OF ELKS AT POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE. Additional coverage of the deaths of elks at Point Reyes National Seashore was provided by [Reuters](#) (4/20).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF P-22 MOUNTAIN LION. Additional coverage of the mountain lion known as P-22 was provided by the [New Yorker](#) (4/21, 4.4M).

PRESCRIBED BURN AT WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK CRITICIZED. The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (4/21, 32K) editorializes that "it is hard to understand why Wind Cave National Park officials gave the green light last week to igniting a prescribed burn in an area that is about as combustible as a match tip." The paper says it "seems disingenuous...to lay the blame on Mother Nature." It adds that "while we understand that prescribed burns can be useful tools in suppressing fires and that risk is inherent in the process, it does not excuse the poor judgment in this case." The editorial concludes that "the superintendent and the Park Service deserve to feel the heat for starting a fire in tinderbox conditions that puts firefighters at risk, threatens private property and will no doubt cost taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars."

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM PUBLISHES FINAL PLAN FOR SOUTHWEST IDAHO WILDERNESS AREAS. The [AP](#) (4/21, Ridler, 2.28M) reports that "federal authorities have made public the final management plan for six wilderness areas and 16 wild and scenic river segments in southwestern Idaho, starting a 30-day appeals process." The BLM "on Monday published on the Federal Register the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers Management Plan." MJ Byrne, spokeswoman for the BLM's Boise District, said, "The purpose is not to have improvements. The purpose is to keep its wild, wilderness character."

NAME OF PROPOSED NATIONAL MONUMENT IN COAST DAIRIES UNDER DEBATE. The [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (4/20, 70K) reports that "Coast Dairies, the oceanfront property near Davenport that could become a national monument, is a 5,843-acre expanse with a long list of bucolic features, including rolling hills, sensitive streams, scenic trails, unique wildlife and stands of redwood." However, "redwood forest only makes up about 500 acres, about 8 percent, of the property, leaving some scratching their heads as to why Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument is the proposed name for the land and why its name would even change." According to the article, "many North Coast residents have said that a name referencing California's iconic trees doesn't fit prompting Santa Cruz County Supervisor Ryan Coonerty to suggest calling

it something different but familiar: Coast Dairies National Monument.”

JUDGE REFUSES TO BLOCK WILD-HORSE LAWSUIT. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/21, Whitehurst, 2.28M) reports that “a federal judge in Utah has refused to block a lawsuit filed by a group of ranchers demanding the U.S. government remove wild horses from land they say is overpopulated.” U.S. District Judge Dee Benson held “earlier this month that the ranchers can move forward with their claim that the Bureau of Land Management hasn’t kept the number of mustangs under control in south-central Utah.”

SENATE APPROVES PUBLIC LAND TASK FORCE. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (4/20, 76K) reports that “the Senate on Monday narrowly approved a task force that would study federal land management in Montana.” According to the article, “a separate six-person task force to study public land management would be created, and focus on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management land.”

Sale Of Public Lands Criticized. For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (4/21, Molvar, Contributor, 224K), Erik Molvar, the Sagebrush Sea Campaign Director for WildEarth Guardians, writes that “from Western state legislatures to the halls of the U.S. Senate, there is a movement afoot to sell off our Western public lands.” Molvar argues that “state governments are in no position to manage such vast quantities of real estate.” He claims that “most lack laws and regulations that require public input, the weighing of environmentally responsible alternatives or a ‘look before you leap’ approach that is graven in federal law.”

BLM REVIEWING PLAN TO CLOSE POPULAR CENTRAL OREGON ROAD. The [Oregonian](#) (4/21, 950K) reports that “a granddaughter of Oregon tire magnate Les Schwab proposes to close a gravel road that central Oregon hunters have used for decades to get to elk hunting grounds described as some of the best in the West.” The BLM has “provided access to Teaters Road for decades, said Lisa Clark, a spokeswoman.” The BLM rejected Julie “Waibel’s request a year ago that it close the road, saying that wouldn’t be in the public interest, Clark said.” However, “she said, a representative for Waibel recently found that the agency’s right of way didn’t cover the entire length of the private road, so Waibel could move forward on her own to close the road.” The bureau “still wants to see the road open, and its workers will review archives this week to see whether they support Waibel’s position, she said.”

BLM POSTS STUNNING NIGHT-SKY IMAGES FROM DESERT. The [LiveScience](#) (4/21, 396K) reports that “some of the most beautiful night skies in the United States can be found on public lands managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior.” The article notes that “in honor of International Dark Sky Week, BLM posted this stunning series of images captured on our public lands by their photographer, Bob Wick.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SUGAR PINE MINE DISPUTE. Additional coverage of the Sugar Pine Mine dispute was provided by [Reuters](#) (4/21).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

ILLEGAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED WILDLIFE THRIVES ONLINE. [Yale University \(CT\) Environment 360](#) (4/21, 3K) reports that “illegal online trafficking in imperiled wildlife is rampant, and attempted controls are few and largely ineffective.” The article notes that “ivory products are the most popular wildlife items on Internet markets, despite a global ban on ivory sales imposed by the 180-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).” According to the article, “the world’s largest online marketplace by far, eBay, is one of the few that makes a serious effort to control wildlife smuggling by deleting ads for illegal products — but only the few it notices or hears about.”

COURT CLEARS TOLL ROAD THROUGH ROCKY FLATS WILDLIFE REFUGE. The [Courthouse News](#) (4/20, 7K) reports that “despite objections from environmentalists, the 10th Circuit on Friday cleared construction of a parkway along the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.” The court found that “the proposed Jefferson Parkway does not violate the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Act, the National Environment Policy Act, or the Endangered Species Act.”

GROUPS SUE TO BLOCK PLANS TO KILL CORMORANTS TO SAVE SALMON. The [AP](#) (4/21, 2.28M) reports that “conservation groups have filed a lawsuit to stop plans to shoot more than 10,000 double-crested cormorants in the Columbia River Estuary.” Bob Salinger of Audubon Society of Portland claim “killing the birds to stop them from eating millions of baby salmon is a diversion from the real threat — the hydroelectric dams that kill adult fish on their way to spawning grounds, and juveniles migrating to the ocean.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Chinook \(WA\) Observer](#) (4/20, 19K).

WYOMING WOLF PACK IS LARGEST IN THE WEST. The [AP](#) (4/21, 2.28M) reports that “the West’s largest known wolf pack roams in northwest Wyoming, federal wildlife officials say.” The article notes that “the 24 wolves in the Lava Mountain Pack is nine more than any other pack surveyed this year in Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington or Oregon, state and federal reports indicate.” Mike Jimenez, the FWS’ Northern Rocky Mountain wolf coordinator, said, “That’s a very large pack. They actually had a double litter a year ago, and that’s uncommon.”

ONE OF KAUAI’S OLDEST NENE DEAD AFTER BEING HIT BY VEHICLE. The [AP](#) (4/21, 2.28M) reports that “one of Kauai’s oldest nene has died after being struck by a vehicle.” According to the article, “the nene named Black XL was brought to the island in 2000 as part of a re-population effort for the endangered Hawaiian geese.” Kim Uyehara, biologist for the Kauai National Wildlife Complex, said, “She was an older bird and a successful breeder for many years.”

PROJECT STREAMS SAGE GROUSE STRUT DANCE ONLINE. [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (4/21, 4K) reports that a “new live-streaming video project supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy is offering the public a chance to see” the greater sage- grouse’s strutting dance

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF LAWSUIT OVER RHINO TROPHY PERMITS. Additional coverage of the lawsuit filed over the granting of permits by the FWS allowing hunters to import “carcasses of black rhinoceroses killed in Africa” was provided by the [Courthouse News](#) (4/20, 7K).

ALASKA NATIVE SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PROGRAM TOUTED. In a piece for the [Scientific American](#) (4/20, 2.83M), Dr. Herb Schroeder, Vice Provost and Founder of the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) and Professor of Engineering at the University of Alaska Anchorage, and Beth Spangler, an ichthyologist and the National Partnership Director for the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP), write about the Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program. They say that “the objective of the ANSEP Summer Bridge is to provide recent high school graduates with real-world professional experiences doing science and engineering projects with practicing professionals.” The authors focus on the work of ANSEP Summer Bridge student Randall Friendly, who is “getting hands-on field experience working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a brown bear researcher on Kodiak Island.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

COALITION URGES BLM TO REJECT SODA MOUNTAIN SOLAR PROJECT. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (4/21, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that “a group of former Interior Department officials, conservationists, scientists, and local business and government leaders is asking the Bureau of Land Management to reject a controversial proposed solar power project near the Mojave National Preserve in the Southern California desert.” According to the article, “instead, the diverse group wrote in a petition letter delivered late Friday to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell that they want BLM to permanently protect the area where the agency is considering approval of the 358-megawatt Soda Mountain Solar Project, which would sit on 2,500 acres of federal land in San Bernardino County.” The letter “asks that BLM designate the proposed site of the solar plant, as well as additional areas among the North and South Soda Mountains, as a formal area of critical environmental concern (ACEC).”

Onshore Energy Development:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE POLICYMAKERS USE COMPANY’S LANGUAGE IN LETTERS TO INTERIOR. Additional coverage that “coal mining company Cloudpeak Energy ghost wrote protest letters to the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) on behalf of allied policymakers and business groups” was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (4/21, Horn, 281K).

OFFICIALS TOO SOON TO LINK LOWER NUMBER OF QUAKES TO FRACKING LIMITS. The [AP](#) (4/21) reports, “Earthquakes appear to be striking Kansas less frequently but officials say it’s too early to say whether new rules are the reason.” According to the Hutchinson News, the Kansas Corporation Commission on March 20 capped the daily amount of waste saltwater injection in Harper and Sumner counties and limited disposal levels in five specific areas of “seismic concern.”

Offshore Energy Development:

AFTER FIVE YEARS, DEEPWATER HORIZON DAMAGE LINGERS. [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/20, story 7, 2:15, Holt, 7.86M) reported that Monday marked the five-year anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon explosion, “one of the worst environmental disasters” in the US. NBC (Thompson) reports that some industries that were impacted haven’t recovered, focusing on an oyster business that has seen its harvests decline sharply. BP America’s Geoff Morrell was shown saying, “Is the Gulf entirely back? We

have never said so, but we believe the Gulf has made a strong recovery.”

Fifth Anniversary Of Deepwater Horizon Disaster Marked. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (4/21, 621K) reports that “remembrances of those who lost their lives, an advertisement from a liberal advocacy group warning that oil and gas development is still dangerous and a discussion on possible new federal regulations are marking the 5th anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon disaster.” Sen. Bill Cassidy “gave an emotional speech on the Senate floor.” Cassidy said, “We pray their families find peace in the memory of their sons, husbands and fathers. The Macondo oil spill was the worst in our nation’s history. While the consequences of this spill are still seen, it is our task to live forward and in so doing honor the memory of these men and provide a better future for their families.”

Oil Spill Effects Linger Five Years After Explosion. [NPR](#) (4/20, Elliott, 1 58M) reports on the effects of BP’s Gulf of Mexico explosion. The effects of the spill are still seen on the beaches in the form of tar balls and mats, wildlife die-offs affecting dolphins and other species. In addition, “Louisiana was already losing land at an alarming rate, but scientists confirm that the oil spill accelerated the pace,” the article reports. BP senior VP Geoff Morrell says, “The Gulf has not been damaged anywhere near the degree some people feared it would have in the midst of the spill.” But local business owners disagree. “Our business is still struggling here at Bon Secour Fisheries because of the lack of oyster production,” Oysterman Chris Nelson says. “BP has done a lot to bring us back. But again the commitment by both the Administration and by BP was to get us back better than we were before. I don’t think we’re better than we were before.”

[Reuters](#) (4/20, Kaminsky) also reports on the continued struggle of oystermen following the oil spill.

Oil Spills Still Occurring Daily. The [Earth Island Journal](#) (4/21, 213) reports that “five years after the BP Deepwater Horizon blowout in the Gulf of Mexico sparked national outrage, oil spills remain a routine occurrence across the United States.” According to the article, “oil spills and pipeline ruptures occur daily – as they have nearly every day since the Deepwater Horizon exploded on April 20, 2010.”

Some Gulf Oystermen Are Losing Hope. [Business Insider](#) (4/21, 2.26M) reports that five years after the largest oil spill in U.S. history spewed millions of gallons of crude into the Gulf of Mexico, many Louisiana oystermen are losing hope that the population of the mollusks may never recover. The decline began after the spill, but its cause is unclear. Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (4/19, 605K) and the [Gulf Times](#) (4/21, 2K).

[NPR](#) (4/20, Kaplan-Levenson, 1.58M) reports in its “The Salt” food blog that seafood restaurants are facing a supply issue and need to pull dishes from menus “when orders fall through.” Many fishermen agree with the positive messages spouted by the Louisiana Seafood and Marketing Board and believe “oysters and crab populations are dwindling” likely due to the aftermath of the BP oil well spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Al Sunseri, owner of the 135-year old P+J Oyster Co. in New Orleans’ French Quarter said the downturn is attributed “all to the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, and I’ll never say it’s anything but a disaster.” The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries said in 2009, a year prior to the spill, “the average commercial blue crab landings in Louisiana totaled 53.1 million pounds. In 2013, the average landings were 38.8 million pounds.”

BP Oil Spill To Leave Mark On Law. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (4/20, Larino, 621K) reports that some aspects of the litigation that followed the BP Deepwater Horizon spill will forever affect the law. “In November 2012, BP agreed to pay the federal government a record \$4.5 billion in criminal penalties over the spill,” the article reports, adding that the agreement included \$525 million to settle SEC penalties. The federal government’s civil case against BP Exploration & Production was split into three phases, amounting to \$13.7 billion in environmental fines for the company. BP then appealed the ruling but lost, while Halliburton Energy Services in September 2014 agreed to pay \$1.1 billion to settle claims with local businesses and property owners. BP also had to pay for medical expenses incurred by cleanup crews after they became ill following their exposure to oil and cleaning chemicals. More claims await and BP is expected to pay as much as \$20 billion to pay for environmental damage it has caused.

Oil Spills Still Occurring Daily. The [Earth Island Journal](#) (4/21, 213) reports that “five years after the BP Deepwater Horizon blowout in the Gulf of Mexico sparked national outrage, oil spills remain a routine occurrence across the United States.” According to the article, “oil spills and pipeline ruptures occur daily – as they have nearly every day since the Deepwater Horizon exploded on April 20, 2010.”

Post-BP Spill Drilling Regulations Discussed. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/20, Muskal, 3.49M) reports, while many say offshore drilling has become safer since the Deepwater Horizon Explosion five years ago, there is still debate over whether the practice should be expanded. “The Obama Administration has proposed a series of regulations to prevent a repeat of the disaster, or at least to mitigate the worst of the effects,” the article reports, those measures include “improved technology to better seal well ruptures” and “added safety tests by more inspectors” at the tune of 92 instead of just 55 before. “Our goal will always be zero accidents and zero spills,” said Charlie Williams, Center for Offshore Safety’s executive director. Environmentalists still don’t think it’s enough. “Yes there have been improvements that Obama and others have put in place, but we still see spills,” said Raleigh Hoke, communications director for the Gulf Restoration Network. “For those living in Alaska and want to see what lies ahead, take a serious look at what is happening in the gulf.”

Ex-NOAA Director Calls For New Spill Contingency Plan. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (4/20, Schleifstein, 621K) reports, “Five years after the BP oil spill, the National Contingency Plan used by federal agencies to respond to major environmental threats still needs to be revamped to adjust to the lessons from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico disaster, said Jane Lubchenco, a marine biologist who ran the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration during the spill.” She called for a new plan to fight oil spills based on the takeaway from the 2010 disaster, noting that the response strategy used to deal with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill was conceived after the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska, a plan that Federal officials found to be “outdated” as it only aimed to “fight a limited source of oil, rather than the seemingly never-ending flow of oil from the Macondo well, Lubchenco said,” according to the article. She urged for a thorough study into “the impacts of dispersants,” adding that “going forward, we need more information.”

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Victims Remembered. The [AP](#) (4/20, Breed) gives a detailed overview of the 11 men who died in the Deepwater Horizon oil explosion, with background information about them and their surviving families as they commemorate the fifth anniversary of the blowout.

Commentary. The [Aiken \(SC\) Standard](#) (4/20, 42K) editorializes that “near the time of the fifth anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, President Barack Obama and his administration have wisely proposed new regulations aimed at strengthening oversight of offshore oil drilling equipment and ensuring that out-of-control wells can be sealed in an emergency.” The paper argues that “although industry officials anticipate the new regulations are estimated to cost about \$880 million over 10 years, strengthening blowout preventers just make sense.” It concludes that “tight regulations related to offshore drilling should be a deal breaker for any effort to move forward with exploration off South Carolina’s coast.”

Environmental Attorney Stuart H. Smith writes for The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/20, Smith, 3.49M) that a recent fire at an oil rig operated by Mexico’s Pemex oil in the Gulf of Mexico, which did not result in an oil spill, was a reminder of the five-year-old BP Deepwater Horizon rig explosion. He adds that while the Obama Administration “has been a lot more aggressive about awarding new leases than developing stricter regulations for blowout preventers similar to the one that failed aboard the Deepwater Horizon,” it wasn’t until this month that new rules were proposed to “upgrade oil-rig technology.” But environmentalists don’t think those new rules are enough as “lax government standards for highly toxic dispersants are yet another problem,” which causes significant health damage to the wildlife, the article reports.

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Associated Press](#) (4/21), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (4/21, Press, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), the [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (4/21, 621K), the [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (4/21, 621K), the [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (4/21, 38K), the [Hattiesburg \(MS\) American](#) (4/20, 35K), the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (4/19, 100K), the [Anderson \(SC\) Independent-Mail](#) (4/21, 90K), the [Amsterdam \(NY\) Recorder](#) (4/21), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (4/21, 2.21M), [Al Jazeera America](#) (4/21, 189K), [Reuters](#) (4/20, Kaminsky), [ABC News](#) (4/21, 3.41M), the [Huffington Post](#) (4/21, Cavnar, 281K), [USA Today](#) (4/20, StickneyThe (shreveportLa.), Times, 4.95M), [Government Executive](#) (4/21, 4K), [Business Insider](#) (4/21, 2.26M), [Newsweek](#) (4/21, 118K), [International Business Times](#) (4/21, 1.19M), the [National Geographic](#) (4/21, 32.58M), [WWNO-FM New Orleans \(LA\)](#) New Orleans (4/21, 5K), [WLOX-TV Biloxi \(MS\)](#) Biloxi, MS (4/21, 53K), [KLFY-TV Lafayette \(LA\)](#) Lafayette, LA (4/20, 2K), [WVKG-TV Mobile \(AL\)](#) Mobile, AL (4/21, 61K), [WTSP-TV St. Petersburg \(FL\)](#) St. Petersburg, FL (4/20, 69K), [WWL-TV New Orleans \(LA\)](#) New Orleans (4/20, 107K), [WWL-TV New Orleans \(LA\)](#) New Orleans (4/20, 107K), [WVUE-TV New Orleans \(LA\)](#) New Orleans (4/21, 32K), [KNOE-TV Monroe \(LA\)](#) Monroe, LA (4/21, 2K), and [WCTV-TV Tallahassee \(FL\)](#) Tallahassee, FL (4/21, 96K).

TWO DEMOCRATIC LAWMAKERS AIM TO BAN OFFSHORE DRILLING IN ATLANTIC OCEAN. [The Hill](#) (4/21, Cama, 224K) reports two Democratic legislators from New Jersey, Sen. Robert Menendez and Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., “said Monday they would sponsor legislation to ban offshore oil and natural gas drilling in the Atlantic Ocean.” The lawmakers “timed their announcement for the fifth anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill at a BP well in the Gulf of Mexico.” The announcement “comes as the Obama administration is considering auctioning some drilling rights in the Atlantic, somewhere between Virginia and Georgia.” In a statement Menendez said, “I am looking forward to re-introducing this Senate bill to ban Atlantic offshore drilling in an effort to not only protect the Garden State’s economy, but to guarantee a healthier and happier future for all East Coast citizens.”

The [Camden \(NJ\) Courier Post](#) (4/20, 133K) reports that Menendez said, “We cannot stand by and allow our coastline and our marine life to be endangered in order to inflate Big Oil’s already inflated profits.” Pallone said “the Deepwater Horizon spill is a reminder of the lasting environmental and economic damage that oil spills can cause.”

OFFSHORE DRILLING’S CYBERSECURITY CONCERNS DISCUSSED. [Reuters](#) (4/20) notes that April 20 marked the fifth anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon disaster, and adds that off-shore drilling comes with new potential cybersecurity concerns on top of environmental risks. A report last year from Willis Group said that too much of the energy sector is uninsured against major cyber attacks which may threaten “a major energy catastrophe — on the same scale — as” Exxon Valdez or Deepwater Horizon.

DHS data is cited saying 32 percent of critical national infrastructure attacks targeted energy firms in fiscal year 2014, which Willis Group views as a "time bomb."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA COURT STRIKES DOWN CITY'S WATER PRICING PLAN. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/21, Stevens, 3.49M) reports that a California appeals court on Monday, in a decision that has "major implications for California's water conservation campaign," ruled "that a tiered water rate structure used by the city of San Juan Capistrano to encourage conservation was unconstitutional." The city "used a rate structure that charged customers who used small amounts of water a lower rate than customers who used larger amounts," but the 4th District Court of Appeal "struck down San Juan Capistrano's fee plan, saying it violated voter-approved Proposition 218, which prohibits government agencies from charging more for a service than it costs to provide it. 'We do hold that above-cost-of-service pricing for tiers of water service is not allowed by Proposition 218 and in this case, [the city] did not carry its burden of proving its higher tiers reflected its costs of service,' the court said in its ruling."

The [New York Times](#) (4/21, Nagourney, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that the ruling "dealt a setback" to "one of the main tools drought regulators want to use to force reductions in urban water use." The court "said that San Juan Capistrano had failed to show a connection between the cost it was charging consumers and how much it paid to obtain and distribute the water," but the court also "sent the case back to the Orange County Superior Court judge, saying that this kind of pricing structure – known as conservation pricing – was acceptable if the water agency can show such a connection."

GROUPS BLAST PLAN TO CUT HABITAT AID FROM DELTA TUNNEL PROJECT. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/21, 2.21M) reports that "environmental groups Monday blasted a proposal by the state to jettison the habitat restoration portion of the massive delta water tunnel project as an ill-conceived "bait and switch" that will only make California's water woes worse." The article notes that "the idea of separating habitat restoration and tunnel construction came about because one of the primary tenets of the plan over the past eight years — 50-year water guarantees to the contractors paying for the project — appears to be falling apart."

Gov. Brown Urged To Set Aside Tunnel Project. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (4/21, 936K) editorializes that "California needs Gov. Jerry Brown's leadership to deal with the worst drought in state history." It notes that "the state has to reset its water priorities to match both current and worst-case long-term needs," and argues that "Brown can't make that happen as long as he clings to his \$25 billion, twin-tunnel proposal to carry Delta water south." According to the paper, "with the tunnels set aside, Brown could focus his political clout on developing and implementing cheaper, quicker, more efficient ways to conserve water – that's the main thing now – and offer long-term solutions to water-starved Central Valley farmers and urban Southern California areas."

AGENCIES HOST EMERGENCY DRILL ON SNAKE RIVER OIL SPILL. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (4/20, 113K) reports on an April 16 training exercise, "which simulated how agencies would tackle a hypothetical Snake River oil spill." The drill, "hosted at the Red Lion Hotel by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Homeland Security, involved six federal agencies, three regional hazardous materials teams, nine state agencies, a tribal nation and four county entities." Also, "from the private sector, Union Pacific Railroad, Idaho Power and three irrigation districts participated."

BOR TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON YAKIMA BASIN WATER FORECAST. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (4/20, 113K) reports that "with the drought outlook worsening, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is expected Tuesday to update two weeks earlier than scheduled its forecast for Yakima Basin water supplies."

Empowering Native American Communities:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION NEARS ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW TRIBAL RECOGNITION RULES. The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (4/20) reports that "the Obama administration is on the brink of making new federal tribal recognition rules – a move that could be a boon to several Connecticut tribes — and opponents are making 11th-hour attempts to stop or slow the process." The BIA said "late Monday that its long rule-making process is nearly over." According to the article, "the new regulations are on their way to the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs for final review 'after...numerous tribal consultations and as part of President Obama's commitment to strengthen the nation-to-nation relationship with Native Americans.'" BIA spokeswoman Nedra Darling said, "This rule is the culmination of a multi-year effort by the department to reform the federal government's tribal recognition process by making that process more transparent, efficient, timely, and flexible, while at the same time maintaining the integrity of the acknowledgement process."

In an op-ed for the [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (4/20, 557K) , Robert Steele, who was a Republican U.S. congressman from eastern Connecticut from 1970 to 1974, and State Sen. Tony Hwang criticize proposals that "could dramatically expand legalized gambling in Connecticut."

Additional coverage of federal recognition efforts was provided by [WTVF-AM](#) Blacksburg, VA (4/21).

INTERIOR, NAVAJOS PARTNER FOR LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. The [AP](#) (4/21) reports that "the Navajo Nation is partnering with the federal government to educate tribal members about the U.S. Interior Department's land buy-back program". The department and tribe "entered a cooperative agreement Monday." The agreement "outlines the resources that will be provided to the tribe to reach out to the owners of fractionated interested in reservation land."

Also providing coverage is the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (4/21, 644K).

FLATHEAD WATER COMPACT'S ROAD STILL FACES HURDLES. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (4/19, 113K) reports that "after more than 30 years of negotiations, and two contentious battles in back-to-back Montana legislative sessions, it may feel like the Flathead water rights compact reached the finish line Thursday when the Montana House gave final approval to Senate Bill 262." But "in reality, it was more of a starting point in a state and federal legislative process that could drag out many more years." The article notes that "the compact with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes must also gain congressional approval, and there are no guarantees about what may happen to it when the compact moves on to Washington, D.C."

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES ADDITIONAL US SHIPS ON YEMENI COAST A WARNING TO IRAN. The Administration's announcement that it is sending the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt and a guided missile cruiser to the waters off Yemen is being cast as a show force amid fears that Iran is sending arms to Houthi rebels. The move was reported on two of last night's network news broadcasts and is widely reported this morning on print media. [ABC World News](#) (4/20, story 6, 0:15, Muir, 5.84M) called the move a "show of force," and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/21, Nissenbaum, Subscription Publication, 5 67M) says it is meant to serve as a deterrent to Iran.

According to [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/20, story 2, 1:55, Holt, 7 86M), the US ships are "positioned to intercept a convoy of Iranian freighters suspected of carrying weapons bound for Yemen. ... Senior defense officials tell NBC News that a convoy of freighters suspected of carrying weapons" appears to be headed from Iran to Yemen, and, "in addition to the US, a coalition of war ships from Egypt, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates have a blockade in place to interdict any arms shipments." NBC warned that "a military confrontation between the US and Iran could not come at a worse time," but US officials "suspect, or at least hope, the Iranians are playing game of cat and mouse."

In a report titled "Warning Iran, US Sends Two More Ships To Yemen," the [New York Times](#) (4/21, Shear, Rosenberg, Subscription Publication, 9 97M) says the deployment of US ships serves as "a warning to Iran about its shipments of weapons" to Houthi rebels. While the Administration "cast the deployment primarily as a show of force," it "acknowledged that the flotilla could be used to interdict" any arms shipments. An unnamed US official is quoted as saying, "This is really about sending a message. It is a message to our partners that we are in this and willing to support. It is a message to the Iranians that we're watching."

[USA Today](#) (4/21, Brook, 4.95M) similarly reports that US defense officials said the Roosevelt is "tracking a convoy of Iranian ships headed to the Gulf of Aden," carrying suspected arms for the Houthis, but Kevin Corke reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/20, 1 53M) that the Defense Department has confirmed the Roosevelt was sent "to intercept any ships that may be carrying weapons to assist the Houthi rebels." [Reuters](#) (4/21, Alexander, Stewart), however, reports Pentagon spokesman Army Col. Steve Warren denied that the ships were deployed to intercept Iranian arms shipments to the Houthis. Additionally, [AFP](#) (4/21) quotes an unnamed official as saying, "To speculate on boardings would be premature." The [Washington Times](#) (4/21, Klimas, 644K), [Newsweek](#) (4/20, Mosendz, 118K), and [The Hill](#) (4/20, Wong, 224K) also report the Pentagon's denial that the ships plan to intercept the Iranian convoy, while Jim Sciutto reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/20, 554K) that the US ships are there to "keep the Straits [of Hormuz] open," because the US is worried the Houthis may close off the strategic waterway.

The [AP](#) (4/21, Baldor) reports White House spokesman Josh Earnest "would not comment specifically on any Navy movements in Yemeni waters, but said the US has concerns" about what he called Iran's "continued support for the Houthis." Said Earnest, "We have seen evidence that the Iranians are supplying weapons and other armed support to the Houthis in Yemen. That support will only contribute to greater violence in that country. These are exactly the kind of destabilizing activities that we have in mind when we raise concerns about Iran's destabilizing activities in the Middle East."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/20, 554K), Sen. John McCain said the Roosevelt's presence to potentially intercept Iranian warships is "a bit ominous," describing it as "a very serious, serious situation," and [Voice of America](#) (4/20, Seldin, 70K) says the "rising tensions" over Yemen "appear to be pitting the United States against Iran in a sensitive

showdown in the Gulf of Aden." The [Daily Caller](#) (4/20, Wenig, 318K) notes that "US officials have expressed concern over Iran covertly supplying Houthi rebels with weaponry, saying it could ignite direct conflict with Saudi Arabia."

Meanwhile, according to a report by the [Huffington Post](#) (4/20, Watkins, 281K), Iranian "representatives discouraged Houthi rebels from taking" Sana'a last year, US officials say. The "newly disclosed information," it says, "casts further doubt on claims that the rebels are a proxy group fighting on behalf of Iran, suggesting that the link between" Tehran and the Houthis may not be as strong as some have asserted.

The announcement of the deployment came as Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote in an op-ed in Monday's [New York Times](#) that a nuclear deal between Tehran and the West could lead to regional cooperation, beginning with the crisis in Yemen. Asked about Zarif's proposal, [Reuters](#) (4/21, Mohammed) reports the State Department said Monday that it could consider talking with Iran about regional stability, but made a distinction between talking with Iran and working with it. Spokeswoman Marie Harf said, "We've always said we won't be coordinating or working with the Iranians, and there's a difference between discussing and working with." At the White House, [AFP](#) (4/21) reports, Earnest said it was "a little ironic" for Zarif to be calling for a diplomatic resolution in Yemen "while at the same time his country continues to supply arms to one party." The [Washington Times](#) (4/21, Taylor, 644K) also reports on Zarif's op-ed.

Michael Crowley writes for [Politico](#) (4/20, Crowley, 669K) that the crisis in Yemen has "emerged as a surprise complication for US-Iranian relations" as the Administration seeks to conclude a nuclear deal with Tehran. But "for now, administration officials and outside experts say, tensions over Yemen don't threaten to derail a nuclear deal."

More Than Two Dozen Killed In Airstrike On Yemeni Capital. In what "appeared to be the deadliest airstrike in Sana'a since a military alliance led by Saudi Arabia began its air campaign" against the Shiite Houthi rebels more than three weeks ago, the [Washington Post](#) (4/21, Al-Mujahed, Naylor, 5.17M) reports that at least 25 people were killed and more than 250 were wounded Monday in a strike on the Yemeni capital. The airstrike, which "targeted a weapons depot," came "a day after rebel leader Abdul-Malek al-Houthi pledged to press ahead with his campaign despite the coalition strikes." [Reuters](#) (4/21) posted a similar report on the airstrike.

The [New York Times](#) (4/21, Kalford, Fahim, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that the airstrike "set off a huge explosion...flattening homes close to the site and shaking buildings as far away as the outskirts of the city." While the residents of Sana'a "have been caught in the rhythms of an insistent and repetitive war," Monday's explosion "was different, dealing a new psychological blow as its shock wave knocked residents from their chairs and beds and shattered windows more than a mile away."

Obama, UAE Crown Prince Discuss Regional Security. The [AP](#) (4/21) reports that regional insecurity and the Iran nuclear talks "topped the agenda" during the President's meeting Monday with UAE Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the White House said. The two did not make any public remarks after the meeting, but [Reuters](#) (4/21, Rampton) quotes a White House statement as saying they "reaffirmed their mutual commitment to close defense and security cooperation." Reuters also notes that the President will meet with the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council at the White House next month.

Moniz: Inspectors Need Full Access. [Bloomberg News](#) (4/21, Snyder, Lakshmanan, 2.94M) reports that in an interview Monday with Bloomberg TV, Energy Secretary Moniz said inspectors will need full access as part of any nuclear deal with Tehran. "We expect to have anywhere, anytime access," Moniz said. Inspections, he added, would be part of "a well-defined process with a well-defined end time for access to places that are suspected of out-of-bounds activities." According to Bloomberg News, Moniz "said he thought it would take Iran at least six months to meet the terms of a deal sufficient to warrant relief from the sanctions."

Iran Charges Washington Post Reporter With Espionage. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/20, story 8, 2:00, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported that Iran has charged Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian "with espionage and writing stories critical of the government." White House press secretary Josh Earnest called the charges "absurd," and called for them to be "immediately dismissed." Nancy Cordes added that "Secretary of State John Kerry raised Rezaian's case with Iranian leaders during their last round of nuclear negotiations. And it is sure to come up again...when those talks resume in Vienna tomorrow."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/21, Morello, 5.17M) reports that according to Rezaian's lawyer, an indictment alleges that he gathered information "about internal and foreign policy" and provided it to "individuals with hostile intent," but included "no evidence to justify the accusations." The [New York Times](#) (4/21, Gladstone, Erdbrink, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) notes that "one of the counts...accused Mr. Rezaian of having broken the law by writing a letter to President Obama." Earnest said that while the Administration has not seen the actual charges, "if the reports are true these charges are absurd, should be immediately dismissed, and Jason should be freed immediately."

According to [USA Today](#) (4/21, Yu, 4.95M), Rezaian was informed of his charges after his lawyer "visited him Monday for 90 minutes, his first consultation with a lawyer since the arrest" on July 22. [The Hill](#) (4/20, Carney, 224K), meanwhile, reports in its "Floor Action" blog that Sens. Marco Rubio and Mark Kirk "doubled down Monday on a push to get President Obama to tie" Rezaian's release to the ongoing Iran nuclear talks, calling the charges against him "the latest example of the true nature of the Iran regime."

OBAMA SIGNALS HE IS OPEN TO SUPPORTING MEDICAL MARIJUANA. [The Hill](#) (4/21, Fabian, 224K) reports that President Obama "signaled he is open to supporting medical marijuana, saying 'we should follow the science as opposed to ideology' on the issue." In an interview with CNN that aired on Sunday, Dr. Sanjay Gupta "asked the president whether he would support a Senate bill that would roll back federal restrictions on medical marijuana." Obama "stopped short of backing the legislation," but "he said: 'I think carefully prescribed medical use of marijuana may in fact be appropriate and we should follow the science as opposed to ideology on this issue.'" The president "has long faced pressure from marijuana legalization advocates to remove it from the federal government's list of most dangerous drugs, a step that could lead to sweeping changes to the nation's drug laws," but he has "not endorsed such a move."

Legalized DC Pot Adds Potential Spice To White House Correspondents Dinner. The [Washington Post](#) (4/21, 5.17M) reports in its "Reliable Source" blog that as "the various celebrities who will be decorating the ballroom of the Washington Hilton on Saturday" for the White House Correspondents Dinner "descend on the city, entourages in tow, they'll have another option to add to their lists of party favors." Kimball Stroud, "a consultant who's known as one of the city's most experienced 'celebrity wranglers,'" says "she 'expects the availability of legal weed' in DC 'to add a little something to the weekend's festivities.' 'D.C.'s new law is well known, and the new environment should make for interesting interactions on outdoor patios and terraces at private parties,' she says." DC-area marijuana activist Adam Eiding "notes that it would be perfectly fine to carry less than two ounces into the dinner itself," and he said the Secret Service "shouldn't hassle your stash."

Marijuana Enthusiasts In Colorado Celebrate Unofficial "Pot Holiday." [USA Today](#) (4/21, Hughes, 4.95M) reports from Denver that the "smell of marijuana hung heavy over the city this weekend as partiers began celebrating the '4/20' pot holiday." April 20 "has long been an important date within the marijuana community, and Denver for several years has hosted a massive marijuana festival to mark the day." USA notes that "marijuana enthusiasts often use the '420' phrase as a signal to others, a code born largely from a community used to operating in secret." On Monday, "smokers" were "expected to gather at 4:20 p.m. MT downtown to light up publicly as a show of civil disobedience on what some jokingly call their 'high holiday.'" USA adds that while "marijuana possession and use is legal in Colorado, public use is not."

MEDIA ANALYSIS CLINTON "ON THE DEFENSIVE" OVER FOREIGN DONATIONS TO FOUNDATION. On [ABC World News](#) (4/20, story 11, 1:25, Muir, 5.84M), Cecilia Vega reported that Hillary Clinton, making her first visit to New Hampshire since announcing her 2016 White House run, on Monday "was on the defensive about a bombshell new book" that "accuses the former secretary of state of handing out favors to foreign donors who gave big money to the Clinton Foundation and to Bill Clinton." Vega added that she asked Hillary Clinton, "Did foreign entities receive any special treatment for making any kind of donations to the foundation of your husband?" Hillary Clinton was shown responding, "Well, we're back into the political season and therefore we will be subjected to all kinds of distraction and attacks and I'm ready for that."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/20, story 6, 1:50, Holt, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell reported that Clinton "ran into a political storm" on Monday over "questions about foreign donations to the Clinton Foundation in a new book, 'Clinton Cash,' by a conservative author." Mitchell noted that the New York Times on Monday reported on Peter Schweizer's upcoming book claiming foreign entities hired Bill Clinton to speak and donated to the family foundation to get favorable treatment from Hillary Clinton's State Department. In New Hampshire, "Hillary Clinton 'tried to brush it off.'"

The [AP](#) (4/21, Lerer) reports that Clinton "pushed back against" the claims in Schweizer's book, saying, "We will be subjected to all kinds of distractions and attacks. I'm ready for that. I know that that comes, unfortunately, with the territory." The AP adds that Team Clinton "moved quickly to discredit Schweizer," portraying "him as a Republican operative working to defeat her. Schweizer is president of the Government Accountability Institute, a conservative organization, and has advised Republican politicians on foreign policy."

White House Dismisses Questions On Donations. The [Washington Times](#) (4/21, Wolfgang, 644K) reports that the White House on Monday "refused to even acknowledge accusations that donors to the Clinton Foundation received preferential treatment from the Obama administration" during Clinton's tenure as secretary of state. White House press secretary Josh Earnest said that "the proper steps were taken to ensure all ethical guidelines were followed with regard to Mrs. Clinton and her family foundation." The Times misquotes Earnest as saying, "There have been a lot of accusations that have been lobbed in the context of a just-starting presidential campaign and those accusations have been accompanied by much evidence. I'm not going to stand here and respond to accusations."

However, on its website, [CNN](#) (4/20, Jaffe, Merica, 2.05M) accurately quoted Earnest as saying that "while there have been 'a lot of accusations made about this,' there's 'not a lot of evidence.'"

Clinton Indicates She Wants To Tighten Rules On Wall Street Traders. Meanwhile [Bloomberg Poli](#)

Conversation Contents

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Attachments:

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"Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Apr 20 2015 11:41:19 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Joseph Nevils <joseph_nevils@ios.doi.gov>, Joshua Mahan <Joshua_Mahan@ios.doi.gov>, Pamela Barkin <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>, Dominic Maione <Dominic_Maione@ios.doi.gov>, "Quinn, Matthew" <Matthew_Quinn@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: leg summary edits for tomorrow ...
Attachments: Legislative Summary-04-21-15 cps.doc

are attached.

Chris

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Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: 202.208.1403

Legislative Summary
from
the Legislative Counsel
Monday ~~Tuesday~~, April ~~2021~~, 2015
To: All Interested Interior Offices

Attached for your information is today's Legislative Summary.

In order to keep the Summary as up-to-date as possible, we request that any bureau or office contacted directly regarding hearings or markups notify this office immediately.

New information about scheduled hearings and business meetings appears shaded in yellow. Hearings printed in *bold italic* type indicate DOI involvement.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Joseph Nevils on (202) 208-4580, or via E-Mail (Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov).

2015 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
		No Votes April 17-20
		No Votes April 27
		District Work Week May 4-11
		No Votes May 22
State Work Period May 25-29	Memorial Day May 25	District Work Week May 25-29
		No Votes June 5-8
		No Votes June 19-22
State Work Period June 29 – July 6	Independence Day July 4	District Work Week June 29 – July 6
		No Votes July 17-20
State Work Period August 10 – September 7	Labor Day September 7	District Work Period July 31 – September 7
September 14		No Votes September 14-15
		District Work Week September 21-25
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Scheduled Floor Action

Senate

Monday, April 20, 2 p.m.

~~The Senate reconvenes at 2 p.m. and resumes consideration of the human trafficking measure (S 178). At 5 p.m. the Senate is expected to move into executive session to consider a judicial nomination, with a vote to confirm expected around 5:30 p.m.~~

Agenda

~~S 178—Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act~~

Nominations

~~George C. Hanks, Jr., of Texas, to be U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Texas~~

Recent Legislative Activity of Interest

Senate:

~~—By Mr. **TOOMEY** (for himself and Mr. **BENNET**):~~

~~—S. 969. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from the tax on early distributions for certain Federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, and air traffic controllers who retire before age 55, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.~~

~~—By Mr. **GARDNER**:~~

~~—S. 972. A bill to clarify the effect of designating a National Monument on certain land in Chafee County, Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.~~

~~—By Mr. **PAUL** (for himself, Mr. **CRUZ**, Mr. **MCCONNELL**, Mr. **RUBIO**, Mr. **HATCH**, and Mr. **LEE**):~~

~~—S. 980. A bill to clarify the definition of navigable waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.~~

~~—By Mr. **BARRASSO** (for himself, Mr. **RISCH**, Mr. **FLAKE**, Mr. **GARDNER**, Mr. **HELLER**, Mr. **CRAPO**, Mr. **ENZI**, Mr. **HATCH**, and Mrs. **FISCHER**):~~

~~—S. 982. A bill to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and to require the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to develop water planning instruments consistent with State law; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.~~

~~—By Mr. **UDALL** (for himself and Mr. **HEINRICH**):~~

~~—S. 986. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.~~

~~—By Mrs. **CAPITO**:~~

~~—S. 992. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.~~

House:

~~By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BUCK, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. REED, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. STEWART, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):~~

~~—H.R. 1830. A bill to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and to require the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to develop water planning instruments consistent with State law; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.~~

~~By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Ms. NORTON):~~

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~~By Mr. FARR (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. DENHAM):~~

~~—H.R. 1838. A bill to establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties, California, to designate the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness in such counties, to designate additional components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.~~

~~By Mr. RIGELL (for himself, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. HURT of Virginia, and Mr. WITTMAN):~~

~~—H.R. 1840. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct offshore oil and gas Lease Sale 220 as soon as practicable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.~~

~~By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. FARR, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):~~

~~—H.R. 1865. A bill to designate certain Federal lands in California as wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.~~

~~Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. ZINKE, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. BLUM):~~

~~—H.R. 1869. A bill to provide for transparency and reporting related to direct and indirect costs incurred by the Bonneville Power Administration, the Western Area Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, and the Southeastern Power Administration related to compliance with any Federal environmental laws impacting the conservation of fish and wildlife, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.~~

~~By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico):~~

~~—H.R. 1880. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Natural Resources.~~

Mr. **NOLAN**, Mr. **FITZPATRICK**, Mr. **RIGELL**, and Mr. **FATTAH**):

~~—H. Res. 207. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding establishing a National Strategic Agenda; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.~~

The Department has been Invited to the Following Hearings:

Wed., Apr. 22 Oil Spill Safety Improvements

House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Innovations in Safety Since the 2010 Macondo Incident

9:30 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth

Notice Received 4.13.15

Witness: Brian Salerno, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

(Testimony Received)

Wed., Apr. 22 Land and Water Conservation Fund

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)

Full Committee oversight hearing on The Reauthorization of and Potential Reforms to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 4.6.15

Witness: Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary

(Testimony Received)

Wed., Apr. 22 Transportation and Indian Issues

Senate Indian Affairs Committee (Barrasso)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Tribal Transportation: Pathways to Safer Roads in Indian Country

2:30 p.m.; Room SD-628 Dirksen

Notice Not Yet Received

Witness: Mike Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

(Testimony Received)

Wed., Apr. 22 Poaching National Security Issues

House Foreign Affairs S/C on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade (Poe)
 Subcommittee oversight hearing on *Poaching and Terrorism: A National Security Challenge*

3:00 p.m.; Room 2172 Rayburn

Invitation Received 4.17.15

Witness: *Robert Dreher, Associate Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
(Testimony Received)

Wed., Apr. 22 Interior Tribal Recognition Process Issues

House Natural Resources S/C on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs
 (Young)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on *The Obama Administration's Part 83 Revisions and How They May Allow the Interior Department to Create Tribes, Not Recognize Them*

4:00 p.m.; Room 1324 Longworth

Hearing Noticed 4.14.15

Witness: *Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs*
 (Testimony Received)

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 Thurs., Apr. 30 Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
 (Rescheduled)

Senate Energy and Natural Resources S/C on Public Lands, Forests and
 Mining (Barrasso)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on *the Bureau of Land Management's Final Hydraulic Fracturing Rule*

2:30 p.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 3.27.15

Witness: *Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management*

Tentative Hearings:

Wed., May 6 BIE Blueprint

**Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (Barrasso)
Full Committee oversight hearing on BIE Blueprint for
Reform/Reorganization**

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Potential Witness: Charles Roessel, Director, Bureau of Indian Education

POSTPONEMENTS

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Hearings of Interest:

Tues., Apr. 21 Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee (Shelby)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Building on the Successes of MAP-21 to Deliver Safe, Efficient and Effective Public Transportation Services and Projects

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-538 Dirksen
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Weather Impact on Commerce and Safety

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee (Thune)

Full Committee hearing on Weathering the Storm: How Can We Better Communicate Weather to Enhance Commerce and Safety?

10:00 a.m.; Room SR-253 Russell
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Native American Schools

House Education and the Workforce S/C on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education (Rokita)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Examining the Challenges Facing Native American Schools

10:00 a.m.; Room 2175 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Excess Uranium Management

House Oversight and Government Reform S/C on Interior (Lummis)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Examining the Department of Energy's Excess Uranium Management Plan

10:00 a.m.; Room 2154 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Cybersecurity and Small Business

Full Committee Hearing (Chabot)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Small Business, Big Threat: Protecting Small Businesses from Cyber Attacks

11:00 a.m.; Room 2360 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Human Trafficking Issues**House Foreign Affairs S/C on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations (Smith)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Accountability and Transformation: Tier Rankings in the Fight Against Human Trafficking

1:30 p.m.; Room 2200 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Government Contractor Cybersecurity Issues**House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (Chaffetz)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Enhancing Cybersecurity of Third-Party Contractors and Vendors

2:00 p.m.; Room 2154 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Thurs., Apr. 23 Forest Fire Management Issues**House Natural Resources S/C on Federal Lands (McClintock)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on The Devastating Impacts of Wildland Fires and the Need to Better Manage Our Overgrown, Fire-Prone National Forests

9:00 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth
No request for DOI witness

Thurs., Apr. 23 Hydraulic Fracturing Issues**House Science, Space and Technology Committee (Smith)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Hydraulic Fracturing: Banning Proven Technologies on Possibilities Instead of Probabilities

9:00 a.m.; Room 2318 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Thurs., Apr. 23 Surface Transportation Reauthorization**Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee (Shelby)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Building on the Successes of MAP-21 to Deliver Safe, Efficient and Effective Public Transportation Services and Projects

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-538 Dirksen
No request for DOI witness

Tues., Apr. 28 Quadrennial Energy Review**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review

9:30 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 29 Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act**Senate Indian Affairs Committee (Barrasso)****Full Committee oversight hearing on the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015****2:30 p.m.; Room SD-628 Dirksen****No request for DOI witness****Thurs., Apr. 30 Energy Efficiency Legislation****Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)**

Full Committee hearing on

S. 703 (Coons), Weatherization Enhancement and Local Energy Efficiency Investment and Accountability Act**S. 720 (Portman)**, Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2015**S. 858 (Gardner)**, A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

No Request for DOI witness

Status of DOI Testimony
 April 13, 2016

<u>Bureau/Preparer</u>	<u>Witness</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor</u>	<u>OCL Attorney</u>	<u>Date of Hearing</u>	<u>Date CLC Notified</u>	<u>Due to OMB</u>	<u>Bureau Notified</u>	<u>Date Due to CLC</u>	<u>Date Rec'd in CLC</u>
BLM		S-ENR	Hydraulic Fracturing Rule	Quinn	4/30/15	3/25/15	--	BLM	--	--

**The following requests for comments have been received
Thursday, April 17, 2015**

- HRG #50** **INTERIOR (FWS) Proposed Testimony 4/22/15**
Re: Poaching and Terrorism: A National Security Challenge
(7 pages)
DUE 4/17/15 Atty: Dominic Maione
- HRG #51** **OMB Oversight Testimony 4/22/15**
Re: Enhancing Cybersecurity of Third-Party Contractors and Vendors
(3 pages)
DUE 4/20/15 Atty: Pam Barkin
- H.R. 427** **OMB Request for Views**
Re: Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015
(25 pages)
DUE 4/23/15 Atty: Josh Mahan
- H.R. 1759** **OMB Request for Views**
Re: ALERT Act of 2015
(7 pages)
DUE 4/23/15 Atty: Josh Mahan
- MISC #46** **OMB Quarterly Report on Information Technology Oversight and Reform**
(89 pages)
DUE 4/23/15 Atty: Pam Barkin

- HRG \$49** **INTERIOR (BIA) Proposed Testimony 4/22/15**
Re: Tribal Transportation: Pathways to Safer Roads in Indian Country
(4 pages)
DUE 4/17/15 Atty: Chris Salotti
- HRG #26** **INTERIOR (BOR) Questions for the Record from 3/24/15 Hearing**
Re: Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Bureau of
Reclamation, the Power Marketing Administrations and USGS Water
Divisions in the President's FY 2016 Budget Proposal
(9 pages)
DUE 4/20/15 Atty: Josh Mahan
- H.R. 1562** **OMB Request for Views**
Re: Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2015
(7 pages)
DUE 4/20/15 Atty: Josh Mahan

Conversation Contents

Legislative Summary, Monday, April 20, 2015

Attachments:

/426. Legislative Summary, Monday, April 20, 2015/1.1 Legislative Summary-04-20-15.doc

"Nevils, Joseph" <joseph_nevils@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Nevils, Joseph" <joseph_nevils@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Fri Apr 17 2015 14:27:07 GMT-0600 (MDT)

Legs Summary Group <Allyson.Anderson@bsee.gov>, Legs Summary Group <mareid@blm.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Martin_Kodis@fws.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Chastity_Bedonie@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Jim_Gasser@nps.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Kaiini_Kaloi@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Congressional@usbr.gov>, Legs Summary Group <jctaylor@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <jason_powell@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <tracy_goodluck@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Duane_Galloway@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Tom.Bovard@sol.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Matthew_Quinn@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <steve_black@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Abigail_D_Miller@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Susan_Hatton@doioig.gov>, Legs Summary Group <ariana.wisniewski@sol.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <tbukaweski@osmre.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Lori_Faeth@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group 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Summary Group <L_berty.Metcalf@bia.gov>, Legs Summary Group <kgohn@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Donna_Deen@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Stephen_Sander@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Robert_Howarth@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Shirley_Lewis@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <hflower@usgs.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Dominic_Maione@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <christine_wiley@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <craig_dorsett@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Pat_Pourchot@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <betsy_hildebrandt@fws.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Richard_Cardinale@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <esther_kiaaina@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Jonathan_Andrew@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <lesli_gray@fws.gov>, Legs Summary Group <harry_humbert@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Sarah_E_Peterson@ios.doi.gov>, Legs Summary Group <RFulkerson@usbr.gov>, Legs Summary Group <Matthew_Huggler@fws.gov>, Legs Summary Group 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Subject: Legislative Summary, Monday, April 20, 2015

Attachments: Legislative Summary-04-20-15.doc

Legislative Summary, Monday, April 20, 2015

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Joseph Nevils
Legislative Assistant

Department of the Interior
1849 C St, NW 20240
(202) 208-4580 (O)
(202) 208-7619 (F)

Legislative Summary
from
the Legislative Counsel
Monday, April 20, 2015
To: All Interested Interior Offices

Attached for your information is today's Legislative Summary.

In order to keep the Summary as up-to-date as possible, we request that any bureau or office contacted directly regarding hearings or markups notify this office immediately.

New information about scheduled hearings and business meetings appears shaded in yellow. Hearings printed in *bold italic* type indicate DOI involvement.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Joseph Nevils on (202) 208-4580, or via E-Mail (Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov).

2015 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
		No Votes April 17-20
		No Votes April 27
		District Work Week May 4-11
		No Votes May 22
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By Mr. **FARR** (for himself, Mr. **VALADAO**, and Mr. **DENHAM**):

H.R. 1838. A bill to establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties, California, to designate the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness in such counties, to designate additional components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. **RIGELL** (for himself, Mrs. **COMSTOCK**, Mr. **GRIFFITH**, Mr. **HURT** of Virginia, and Mr. **WITTMAN**):

H.R. 1840. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct offshore oil and gas Lease Sale 220 as soon as practicable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. **CAPPS** (for herself, Mr. **FARR**, and Ms. **BROWNLEY** of California):

H.R. 1865. A bill to designate certain Federal lands in California as wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. **LAMBORN**, Mr. **LUETKEMEYER**, Mrs. **LUMMIS**, Mr. **MCCLINTOCK**, Mr. **NEUGEBAUER**, Mr. **PEARCE**, Mr. **STEWART**, Mr. **ZINKE**, Mrs. **LOVE**, Mr. **NEWHOUSE**, and Mr. **BLUM**):

H.R. 1869. A bill to provide for transparency and reporting related to direct and indirect costs incurred by the Bonneville Power Administration, the Western Area Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, and the Southeastern Power Administration related to compliance with any Federal environmental laws impacting the conservation of fish and wildlife, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. **MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM** of New Mexico (for herself and Mr. **BEN RAY LUJÁN** of New Mexico):

H.R. 1880. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. **NOLAN**, Mr. **FITZPATRICK**, Mr. **RIGELL**, and Mr. **FATTAH**):

H. Res. 207. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding establishing a National Strategic Agenda; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

The Department has been Invited to the Following Hearings:

Wed., Apr. 22 Oil Spill Safety Improvements

House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Innovations in Safety Since the 2010 Macondo Incident

9:30 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth

Notice Received 4.13.15

Witness: Brian Salerno, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

(Testimony Received)

Wed., Apr. 22 Land and Water Conservation Fund

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)

Full Committee oversight hearing on The Reauthorization of and Potential Reforms to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 4.6.15

Witness: Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary

(Testimony Received)

Wed., Apr. 22 Transportation and Indian Issues

Senate Indian Affairs Committee (Barrasso)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Tribal Transportation: Pathways to Safer Roads in Indian Country

2:30 p.m.; Room SD-628 Dirksen

Notice Not Yet Received

Witness: Mike Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

(Testimony Received)

Wed., Apr. 22 Poaching National Security Issues

House Foreign Affairs S/C on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade (Poe)
 Subcommittee oversight hearing on *Poaching and Terrorism: A National Security Challenge*

3:00 p.m.; Room 2172 Rayburn

Invitation Received 4.17.15

Witness: *Robert Dreher, Associate Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
(Testimony Received)

Wed., Apr. 22 Interior Tribal Recognition Process Issues

House Natural Resources S/C on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs
 (Young)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on *The Obama Administration's Part 83 Revisions and How They May Allow the Interior Department to Create Tribes, Not Recognize Them*

4:00 p.m.; Room 1324 Longworth

Hearing Noticed 4.14.15

Witness: *Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs*
 (Testimony Received)

.....
 Thurs., Apr. 30 Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
 (Rescheduled)

Senate Energy and Natural Resources S/C on Public Lands, Forests and
Mining (Barrasso)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on *the Bureau of Land Management's Final Hydraulic Fracturing Rule*

2:30 p.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 3.27.15

Witness: *Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management*

Tentative Hearings:

Wed., May 6 BIE Blueprint

**Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (Barrasso)
Full Committee oversight hearing on BIE Blueprint for
Reform/Reorganization**

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Potential Witness: Charles Roessel, Director, Bureau of Indian Education

POSTPONEMENTS



Hearings of Interest:

Tues., Apr. 21 Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee (Shelby)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Building on the Successes of MAP-21 to Deliver Safe, Efficient and Effective Public Transportation Services and Projects

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-538 Dirksen
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Weather Impact on Commerce and Safety

Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee (Thune)

Full Committee hearing on Weathering the Storm: How Can We Better Communicate Weather to Enhance Commerce and Safety?

10:00 a.m.; Room SR-253 Russell
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Native American Schools

House Education and the Workforce S/C on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education (Rokita)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Examining the Challenges Facing Native American Schools

10:00 a.m.; Room 2175 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Excess Uranium Management

House Oversight and Government Reform S/C on Interior (Lummis)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Examining the Department of Energy's Excess Uranium Management Plan

10:00 a.m.; Room 2154 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Cybersecurity and Small Business

Full Committee Hearing (Chabot)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Small Business, Big Threat: Protecting Small Businesses from Cyber Attacks

11:00 a.m.; Room 2360 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Human Trafficking Issues**House Foreign Affairs S/C on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations (Smith)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Accountability and Transformation: Tier Rankings in the Fight Against Human Trafficking

1:30 p.m.; Room 2200 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Government Contractor Cybersecurity Issues**House Oversight and Government Reform Committee (Chaffetz)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Enhancing Cybersecurity of Third-Party Contractors and Vendors

2:00 p.m.; Room 2154 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Thurs., Apr. 23 Forest Fire Management Issues**House Natural Resources S/C on Federal Lands (McClintock)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on The Devastating Impacts of Wildland Fires and the Need to Better Manage Our Overgrown, Fire-Prone National Forests

9:00 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth
No request for DOI witness

Thurs., Apr. 23 Hydraulic Fracturing Issues**House Science, Space and Technology Committee (Smith)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Hydraulic Fracturing: Banning Proven Technologies on Possibilities Instead of Probabilities

9:00 a.m.; Room 2318 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Thurs., Apr. 23 Surface Transportation Reauthorization**Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee (Shelby)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Building on the Successes of MAP-21 to Deliver Safe, Efficient and Effective Public Transportation Services and Projects

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-538 Dirksen
No request for DOI witness

Tues., Apr. 28 Quadrennial Energy Review**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review

9:30 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 29 Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act**Senate Indian Affairs Committee (Barrasso)****Full Committee oversight hearing on the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015****2:30 p.m.; Room SD-628 Dirksen****No request for DOI witness****Thurs., Apr. 30 Energy Efficiency Legislation****Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)**

Full Committee hearing on

S. 703 (Coons), Weatherization Enhancement and Local Energy Efficiency Investment and Accountability Act**S. 720 (Portman)**, Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2015**S. 858 (Gardner)**, A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

No Request for DOI witness

Status of DOI Testimony
 April 18, 2016

<u>Bureau/Preparer</u>	<u>Witness</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor</u>	<u>OCL Attorney</u>	<u>Date of Hearing</u>	<u>Date CLC Notified</u>	<u>Due to OMB</u>	<u>Bureau Notified</u>	<u>Date Due to CLC</u>	<u>Date Rec'd in CLC</u>
BLM		S-ENR	Hydraulic Fracturing Rule	Quinn	4/30/15	3/25/15	--	BLM	--	--

**The following requests for comments have been received
Thursday, April 17, 2015**

- HRG #50** **INTERIOR (FWS) Proposed Testimony 4/22/15**
Re: Poaching and Terrorism: A National Security Challenge
(7 pages)
DUE 4/17/15 Atty: Dominic Maione
- HRG #51** **OMB Oversight Testimony 4/22/15**
Re: Enhancing Cybersecurity of Third-Party Contractors and Vendors
(3 pages)
DUE 4/20/15 Atty: Pam Barkin
- H.R. 427** **OMB Request for Views**
Re: Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2015
(25 pages)
DUE 4/23/15 Atty: Josh Mahan
- H.R. 1759** **OMB Request for Views**
Re: ALERT Act of 2015
(7 pages)
DUE 4/23/15 Atty: Josh Mahan
- MISC #46** **OMB Quarterly Report on Information Technology Oversight and Reform**
(89 pages)
DUE 4/23/15 Atty: Pam Barkin

- HRG \$49** **INTERIOR (BIA) Proposed Testimony 4/22/15**
Re: Tribal Transportation: Pathways to Safer Roads in Indian Country
(4 pages)
DUE 4/17/15 Atty: Chris Salotti
- HRG #26** **INTERIOR (BOR) Questions for the Record from 3/24/15 Hearing**
Re: Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Bureau of
Reclamation, the Power Marketing Administrations and USGS Water
Divisions in the President's FY 2016 Budget Proposal
(9 pages)
DUE 4/20/15 Atty: Josh Mahan
- H.R. 1562** **OMB Request for Views**
Re: Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2015
(7 pages)
DUE 4/20/15 Atty: Josh Mahan

Conversation Contents

edits to summary for Monday ...

Attachments:

/427. edits to summary for Monday .../1.1 Legislative Summary-04-20-15 cps.doc

"Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Salotti, Christopher" <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Apr 17 2015 13:27:59 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Joseph Nevils <joseph_nevils@ios.doi.gov>, Pamela Barkin <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>, Dominic Maione <Dominic_Maione@ios.doi.gov>, Joshua Mahan <Joshua_Mahan@ios.doi.gov>, "Quinn, Matthew" <Matthew_Quinn@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Ayesha Giles <ayesha_r_giles@ios.doi.gov>, Duane Galloway <duane_galloway@ios.doi.gov>, Jason Powell <jason_powell@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: edits to summary for Monday ...
Attachments: Legislative Summary-04-20-15 cps.doc

are attached.

--
Christopher P. Salotti
Legislative Counsel
U.S. Department of the Interior
Phone: 202.208.1403

Legislative Summary
from
the Legislative Counsel
Friday ~~Monday~~, April 17~~20~~, 2015
To: All Interested Interior Offices

Attached for your information is today's Legislative Summary.

In order to keep the Summary as up-to-date as possible, we request that any bureau or office contacted directly regarding hearings or markups notify this office immediately.

New information about scheduled hearings and business meetings appears shaded in yellow. Hearings printed in *bold italic* type indicate DOI involvement.

If you have any questions or corrections, please contact Joseph Nevils on (202) 208-4580, or via E-Mail (Joseph_Nevils@ios.doi.gov).

2015 Congressional Recess Schedule

<i>Senate</i>	<i>Holidays & Special Days</i>	<i>House</i>
		No Votes April 17-20
		No Votes April 27
		District Work Week May 4-11
		No Votes May 22
State Work Period May 25-29	Memorial Day May 25	District Work Week May 25-29
		No Votes June 5-8
		No Votes June 19-22
State Work Period June 29 – July 6	Independence Day July 4	District Work Week June 29 – July 6
		No Votes July 17-20
State Work Period August 10 – September 7	Labor Day September 7	District Work Period July 31 – September 7
September 14		No Votes September 14-15
		District Work Week September 21-25
		No Votes October 2-5
State Work Period October 12-26	Columbus Day October 12	District Work Period October 12-19
		No Votes October 30
November 11	Veterans Day November 11	District Work Week November 6-13
State Work Period November 23-27	Thanksgiving Day November 26	District Work Week November 20-27
		No Votes December 4

		No Votes December 11-14
State Work Period December 21-31		
TBD	Target Adjournment	December 18

Scheduled Floor Action

House

~~Friday, April 17
No votes are expected.~~

Senate

~~The Senate is adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday April 20 when the Senate will resume consideration of S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.~~

~~**Deyo and Chaudhuri Nominations Agreement:** A unanimous consent agreement was reached Wednesday providing that at 2 p.m., on Thursday, April 16, 2015, Senate begin consideration of the nominations of Russell C. Deyo, of New Jersey, to be Under Secretary for Management, Department of Homeland Security, and Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years; Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations, without intervening action or debate; and that no further motions be in order.~~

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Recent Legislative Activity of Interest

Senate:

By Mr. **TOOMEY** (for himself and Mr. **BENNET**):

S. 969. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from the tax on early distributions for certain Federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, and air traffic controllers who retire before age 55, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. **GARDNER**:

S. 972. A bill to clarify the effect of designating a National Monument on certain land in Chafee County, Colorado; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. **PAUL** (for himself, Mr. **CRUZ**, Mr. **MCCONNELL**, Mr. **RUBIO**, Mr. **HATCH**, and Mr. **LEE**):

S. 980. A bill to clarify the definition of navigable waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. **BARRASSO** (for himself, Mr. **RISCH**, Mr. **FLAKE**, Mr. **GARDNER**, Mr. **HELLER**, Mr. **CRAPO**, Mr. **ENZI**, Mr. **HATCH**, and Mrs. **FISCHER**):

S. 982. A bill to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and to require the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to develop water planning instruments consistent with State law; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. **UDALL** (for himself and Mr. **HEINRICH**):

S. 986. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mrs. **CAPITO**:

S. 992. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act of facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. **CARPER** (for himself, Mr. **COONS**, Mr. **BOOKER**, Mr. **MENENDEZ**, Mr. **CASEY**, Mr. **SCHUMER**, and Mrs. **GILLIBRAND**):

S. 921. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a nonregulatory program to build on and help coordinate funding for restoration and protection efforts of the 4 State Delaware River Basin region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

~~By Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):~~

~~—S. 934. A bill to amend the renewable fuel program under section 211(e) of the Clean Air Act to require the cellulosic biofuel requirement to be based on actual production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.~~

~~By Mr. BROWN:~~

~~—S. 936. A bill to amend the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Canalway Act of 1996 to repeal the funding limitation; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.~~

~~By Mr. HATCH:~~

~~—S. 937. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with States to provide for State management of grazing permits and leases; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.~~

House:

By Mr. TIPTON (for himself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. BUCK, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LABRADOR, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. REED, Mr. RIBBLE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. STEWART, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. ZINKE, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona):

H.R. 1830. A bill to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and to require the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to develop water planning instruments consistent with State law; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1836. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with State and local governments to provide for the continued operation of public land, open air monuments and memorials, units of the National Park System, units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and units of the National Forest System during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FARR (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. DENHAM):

H.R. 1838. A bill to establish the Clear Creek National Recreation Area in San Benito and Fresno Counties, California, to designate the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness in such counties, to designate additional components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. ZINKE, Mrs. LOVE, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. BLUM):

H.R. 1869. A bill to provide for transparency and reporting related to direct and indirect costs incurred by the Bonneville Power Administration, the Western Area Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, and the Southeastern Power Administration related to compliance with any Federal environmental laws impacting the conservation of fish and wildlife, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico):

H.R. 1880. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. NOLAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RIGELL, and Mr. FATTAH):

H. Res. 207. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding establishing a National Strategic Agenda; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

~~—By Mr. CARNEY (for himself, Mr. GIBSON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DENT, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MACARTHUR):~~

~~—H.R. 1772. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a nonregulatory program to build on and help coordinate funding for restoration and protection efforts of the 4 State-Delaware River Basin region, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.~~

~~—By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:~~

~~—H.R. 1783. A bill to establish the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area in the State of Texas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.~~

~~—By Mr. STEWART:~~

~~—H.R. 1792. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with States to provide for State management of grazing permits and leases; to the Committee on Natural Resources.~~

~~—By Mr. STEWART:~~

~~—H.R. 1793. A bill to provide a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to allow the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the Chief of the Forest Service to remove Pinyon-Juniper trees to conserve and restore the habitat of the greater sage grouse and the mule deer; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.~~

~~—By Ms. MCCOLLUM:~~

~~—H.R. 1796. A bill to withdraw all Federal land located within the Rainy River Drainage Basin in Minnesota from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws, location, entry, and patent under the mining laws and operation under the mineral leasing laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.~~

~~—By Mr. **MCDERMOTT** (for himself, Ms. **MATSUI**, Mr. **KIND**, Mrs. **LOWEY**, and Mr. **THOMPSON** of California):~~

~~—H.R. 1804. A bill to protect the public, communities across America, and the environment by increasing the safety of crude oil transportation by railroad, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.~~

~~—By Ms. **JACKSON-LEE** (for herself and Mr. **CONYERS**):~~

~~—H.R. 1810. A bill to revise the Uniform Crime Reports, and the National Incident Based Reporting System, to direct the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to include information in those reports pertaining to law enforcement involved justifiable homicides, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.~~

~~—By Mr. **GRIJALVA** (for himself, Mrs. **DINGELL**, Mr. **POLIS**, Mr. **HUFFMAN**, Mr. **THOMPSON** of California, Mr. **RUIZ**, Mr. **TAKAI**, Ms. **KUSTER**, Mr. **CARTWRIGHT**, Ms. **TSONGAS**, Mr. **FITZPATRICK**, Mr. **MEEHAN**, Mr. **GUINTA**, Mr. **GIBSON**, Mr. **COSTELLO** of Pennsylvania, Mr. **DOLD**, Mr. **REICHERT**, Mr. **LOBIONDO**, and Mr. **KING** of New York):~~

~~—H.R. 1814. A bill to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund; to the Committee on Natural Resources.~~

~~—By Mr. **HARDY** (for himself, Mr. **AMODEI**, Mr. **HECK** of Nevada, and Ms. **TITUS**):~~

~~—H.R. 1815. A bill to facilitate certain pinyon-juniper related projects in Lincoln County, Nevada, to modify the boundaries of certain wilderness areas in the State of Nevada, and to provide for the implementation of a conservation plan for the Virgin River, Nevada; to the Committee on Natural Resources.~~

~~—By Mr. **BEN RAY LUJÁN** of New Mexico (for himself and Mrs. **LUMMIS**):~~

~~—H.R. 1820. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to retire coal preference right lease applications for which the Secretary has made an affirmative commercial quantities determination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.~~

~~—By Mr. **PIERLUISI** (for himself, Ms. **PLASKETT**, Ms. **BORDALLO**, Mrs. **RADEWAGEN**, and Mr. **SABLAN**):~~

~~—H.R. 1822. A bill to extend the supplemental security income program to Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.~~

~~—By Mr. **SABLAN** (for himself and Mr. **HUFFMAN**):~~

~~—H.R. 1826. A bill to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.~~

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

~~H.R. 373, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search and recovery missions, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114-75, Part 1);~~

~~H.R. 404, to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska (H. Rept. 114-76);~~

~~H.R. 533, to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114-77);~~

~~H.R. 984, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114-78);~~

~~H.R. 1168, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings, and for other purposes (H. Rept.~~

~~414-79);~~

~~H.R. 1324, to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 414-80);~~

~~H.R. 979, to designate a mountain in the John Muir Wilderness of the Sierra National Forest as "Sky Point" (H. Rept. 414-81); and~~

~~Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; Oversight Plans for all House Committees (H. Rept. 414-82).~~

The Department has been Invited to the Following Hearings:

Wed., Apr. 22 Oil Spill Safety Improvements

House Natural Resources Committee (Bishop)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Innovations in Safety Since the 2010 Macondo Incident

9:30 a.m.; Room 1324 Longworth

Notice Received 4.13.15

Witness: Brian Salerno, Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

(Testimony Received)

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Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)

Full Committee oversight hearing on The Reauthorization of and Potential Reforms to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 4.6.15

Witness: Mike Connor, Deputy Secretary

(Testimony Received)

Wed., Apr. 22 Transportation and Indian Issues

Senate Indian Affairs Committee (Barrasso)

Full Committee oversight hearing on Tribal Transportation: Pathways to Safer Roads in Indian Country

2:30 p.m.; Room SD-628 Dirksen

Notice Not Yet Received

Witness: Mike Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

(Testimony Received)

Wed., Apr. 22 Poaching National Security Issues

House Foreign Affairs S/C on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade (Poe)

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Poaching and Terrorism: A National Security Challenge

3:00 p.m.; Room 2172 Rayburn

Notice Not Yet Received

Witness: Robert Dreher, Associate Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Wed., Apr. 22 Interior Tribal Recognition Process Issues

**House Natural Resources S/C on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs
(Young)**

***Subcommittee oversight hearing on The Obama Administration's Part 83
Revisions and How They May Allow the Interior Department to Create
Tribes, Not Recognize Them***

4:00 p.m.; Room 1324 Longworth

Hearing Noticed 4.14.15

***Witness: Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
(Testimony Received)***

Thurs., Apr. 30 Hydraulic Fracturing Rule
(Rescheduled)

**Senate Energy and Natural Resources S/C on Public Lands, Forests and
Mining (Barrasso)**

***Subcommittee oversight hearing on the Bureau of Land Management's Final
Hydraulic Fracturing Rule***

2:30 p.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

Hearing Noticed 3.27.15

Witness: Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management

Tentative Hearings:

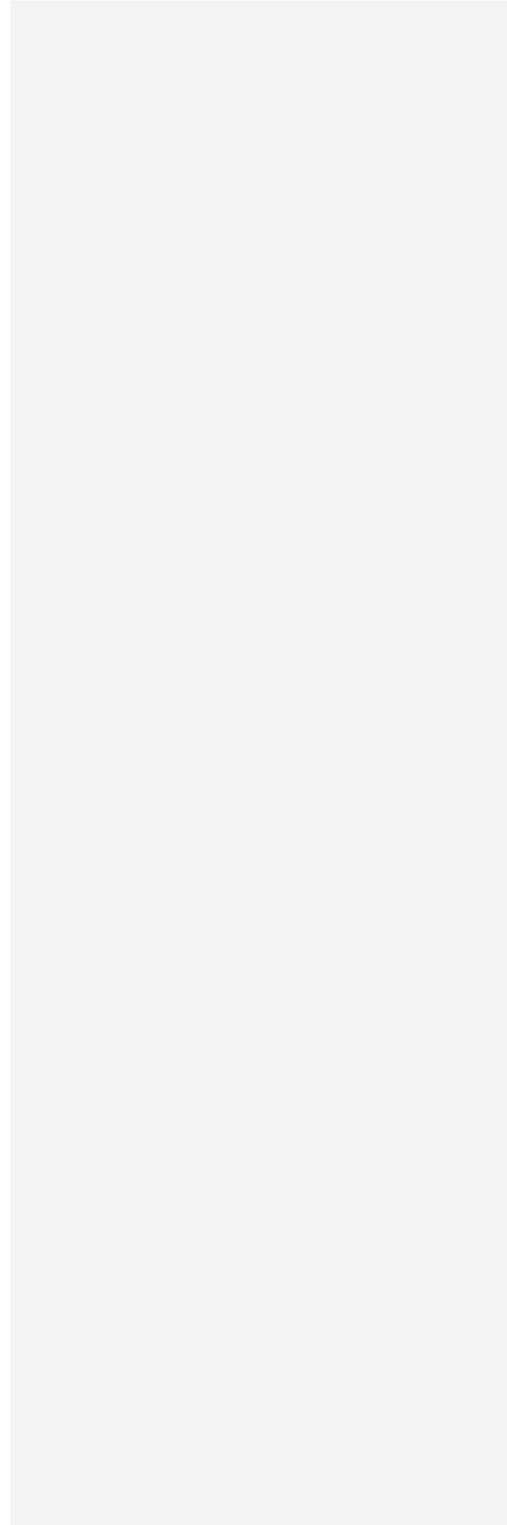
Wed., May 6 BIE Blueprint

***Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (Barrasso)*
***Full Committee oversight hearing on BIE Blueprint for
Reform/Reorganization*****

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Potential Witness: Charles Roessel, Director, Bureau of Indian Education

POSTPONEMENTS



Hearings of Interest:**Tues., Apr. 21 Surface Transportation Reauthorization****Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee (Shelby)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Building on the Successes of MAP-21 to Deliver Safe, Efficient and Effective Public Transportation Services and Projects

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-538 Dirksen
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Weather Impact on Commerce and Safety**Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee (Thune)**

Full Committee hearing on Weathering the Storm: How Can We Better Communicate Weather to Enhance Commerce and Safety?

10:00 a.m.; Room SR-253 Russell
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Native American Schools**House Education and the Workforce S/C on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education (Rokita)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Examining the Challenges Facing Native American Schools

10:00 a.m.; Room 2175 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Cybersecurity and Small Business**Full Committee Hearing (Chabot)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on Small Business, Big Threat: Protecting Small Businesses from Cyber Attacks

11:00 a.m.; Room 2360 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Wed., Apr. 22 Human Trafficking Issues**House Foreign Affairs S/C on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations (Smith)**

Subcommittee oversight hearing on Accountability and Transformation: Tier Rankings in the Fight Against Human Trafficking

1:30 p.m.; Room 2200 Rayburn
No request for DOI witness

Tues., Apr. 28 Quadrennial Energy Review**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)**

Full Committee oversight hearing on the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review

9:30 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

No request for DOI witness

Thurs., Apr. 30 Energy Efficiency Legislation**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Murkowski)**

Full Committee hearing on

S. 703 (Coons), Weatherization Enhancement and Local Energy Efficiency Investment and Accountability Act**S. 720 (Portman)**, Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2015**S. 858 (Gardner)**, A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to encourage the increased use of performance contracting in Federal facilities

10:00 a.m.; Room SD-366 Dirksen

No Request for DOI witness

Status of DOI Testimony
 April 18, 2016

Bureau/Preparer Witness Committee Subject/Bill Number/Sponsor OCL Attorney Date of Hearing Date CLC Notified Due to OMB Bureau Notified Date Due to CLC Date Rec'd in CLC

BLM S-ENR Hydraulic Fracturing Rule Quim 4/30/15 3/25/15 -- BLM -- --

**The following requests for comments have been received
Thursday, April 16, 2015**

- HRG #47** **TRANSPORTATION Oversight Testimony 4/21/15**
Re: Surface Transportation Reauthorization: Building on the Successes of
MAP-21 to Deliver Safe, Efficient and Effective Public Transportation
Services and Projects
(9 pages)
DUE 4/16/15 Atty: Dominic Maione
- HRG #18** **COMMERCE (Swenson) Oversight Testimony 3/11/15**
Re: Three Years Later: Are We Any Closer To A Nationwide Public
Safety Wireless Broadband Network?
(7 pages)
DUE 4/17/15 Atty: Pam Barkin
- HRG #3** **ARMY CORPS ENG Questions for the Record from 2/4/15 Hearing**
Re: Impacts of the Proposed Waters of the United States Rule on State
and Local Governments
(9 pages)
DUE 4/17/15 Atty: Josh Mahan
- H.R. 944** **OMB Request for Views**
Re: To reauthorize the National Estuary Program
(4 pages)
DUE 4/17/15 Atty: Dominic Maione
- MISC #16** **REVISED ONDCP Draft Bill on Drug-Free Communities Support**
Program Reauthorization Act of 2015
(17 pages)
DUE 4/17/15 Atty: Chris Salotti
- HRG #48** **INTERIOR (A/S-IA) Proposed Testimony 4/22/15**
Re: The Obama Administration's Part 83 Revisions and How They May
Allow the Interior Department to Create Tribes, not Recognize Them
(5 pages)
DUE 4/17/15 Atty: Chris Salotti

- HRG \$49** **INTERIOR (BIA) Proposed Testimony 4/22/15**
Re: Tribal Transportation: Pathways to Safer Roads in Indian Country
(4 pages)
DUE 4/17/15 Atty: Chris Salotti
- HRG #26** **INTERIOR (BOR) Questions for the Record from 3/24/15 Hearing**
Re: Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the Bureau of
Reclamation, the Power Marketing Administrations and USGS Water
Divisions in the President's FY 2016 Budget Proposal
(9 pages)
DUE 4/20/15 Atty: Josh Mahan
- H.R. 1562** **OMB Request for Views**
Re: Contracting and Tax Accountability Act of 2015
(7 pages)
DUE 4/20/15 Atty: Josh Mahan

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Wed Apr 15 2015 05:01:39 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, April 15, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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- + Secretary Jewell, Froman To Brief House Democrats On Trans-Pacific Partnership.
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- + Indonesian Park Managers Tour Sites In US.
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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL PARKS DISCUSSION ON TWITTER. The [National Geographic](#) (4/14, 32.58M) announces that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will participate in a Twitter chat on April 17 about national parks.

SECRETARY JEWELL, FROMAN TO BRIEF HOUSE DEMOCRATS ON TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP. The [Politico](#) (4/15, 669K) reports that "U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman will continue a series of briefings for House Democrats on the Trans-Pacific Partnership." According to the article, "Wednesday's 9 a.m. meeting with Froman and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will focus on the pact's environmental provisions."

INTERIOR FACES TOUGH CHALLENGE IN MEETING CLIMATE CHANGE DIRECTIVE. In a piece for the [New Republic](#) (4/15, 165K), Rebecca Leber writes that no other agency in the Obama Administration "will have a tougher time meeting" President Barack Obama's order "to cut greenhouse gas emissions over the next decade by 40 percent from their 2008 levels" than the Interior Department. Leber notes that "the fossil fuel energy that's developed" on federal lands "could be responsible for as much as 24 percent of the U.S.'s climate change emissions; the lands account for 40 percent of the nation's coal production (concentrated in the Wyoming and Montana's Powder River Basin), and 23 percent and 16 percent of oil and natural gas respectively." According to Leber, "this makes the Department of Interior crucial to the future of climate change action, but the agency—the BLM in particular—only haphazardly considers climate change in its everyday decisions."

NRDC President Sets Sights On Climate Change. [The Hill](#) (4/15, Cama, 224K) reports that former Interior Department official Rhea Suh is now tackling climate change as president of the Natural Resources Defense Council. Suh said, "It's one of our biggest priorities, if not the biggest, to ensure that the single most important thing the U.S. federal government can do on climate is done." Suh said her "Interior work is helping her in her new position, even if ethics rules limit her ability to lobby the administration." The article notes that Suh had gone in front of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee three times for nomination hearings for the Interior Department assistant secretary position, possibly "a record for having the most Senate confirmation hearings" without ever receiving a full Senate vote. GOP members "hammered Suh repeatedly" for having done work at various environmental groups. Pushing back against this criticism, Suh believes that the position to which she has been nominated, the Assistant Secretary for fish, wildlife and parks, is all about conservation, perhaps even "the most important conservation job in the federal government."

Interior Retrofit Headquarters Building. The [Energy Manager Today](#) (4/15) reports that the Department has "awarded Ameresco an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) valued at \$77 million over its 20-year term to provide for the implementation of water conservation and energy efficiency measures and ongoing energy management services to the DOI headquarters building in Washington, DC." The article notes that "the energy efficiency project is expected to reduce electricity consumption by 31 percent and to reduce steam utilization by 12 percent."

INTERIOR, AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS HOLD MYAMERICA HACKATHON. The [FedScoop](#) (4/15) reports on the hackathon held by the Interior and Agriculture departments. According to the article, "the myAmerica hackathon comes after several groups criticized the government for not doing enough to promote the use of open data in its plans for Recreation.gov, a site that holds booking information on about 90,000 federal lands reservable sites." The article notes that "when agencies announced the event, they also debuted a new API, or application programming interface, that allows the public to access planning and booking-related recreation data."

Additional coverage was provided by [Wired](#) (4/14, 4.24M).

HOUSE REPUBLICANS UNVEIL BILL FOR ENERGY, WATER PROGRAMS. The [E&E Daily](#) (4/14) reports that "House Republicans today released a spending bill for energy and water programs that would block the Obama administration's controversial water rule for a year while boosting funding for fossil energy programs and a long-stalled effort to reopen the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository site." The legislation, "which would provide fiscal 2016 funding for the Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies, is scheduled to be marked up tomorrow by the House Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee." The bill will "likely be on the House floor in the coming weeks and is expected to pass the lower chamber by the beginning of next month, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) told GOP members last week."

CONSERVATION GROUPS PUSH BACK ON FEDERAL LANDS TRANSFER IDEA. The [AP](#) (4/15, Neary, 1.37M) reports that "stung by a recent vote in Congress, national conservation groups are mustering opposition to the increasing call from many western states to transfer federal lands to state control." The U.S. Senate "last month narrowly approved a budget amendment sponsored by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, that could set the stage for future legislation to sell or transfer federal lands to state or local governments." Kate Zimmerman, "public lands policy director for the National Wildlife Federation in Colorado, said she believes most of the conservation community is concerned about the language in the Murkowski amendment, and that fact the Senate passed it by one vote."

Additional coverage of the push for state takeover of federal lands was provided by the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (4/14, 506).

INDONESIAN PARK MANAGERS TOUR SITES IN US. The [Outer Banks \(NC\) Sentinel](#) (4/15, 25K) reports that "a program co-sponsored by the Department of the Interior and USAID, for the purpose of promoting friendship and strengthening the land and wildlife management of Indonesian National Parks, recently brought a group of Indonesian national park managers and staff to the U.S." According to the article, "they exchanged habitat and wildlife information as they visited a variety of National Parks and Wildlife Refuges."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE ANNIVERSARY OF BORDER OPENING CELEBRATED. Additional coverage of the anniversary of opening of the crossing that links Big Bend National Park in Texas to Boquillas del Carmen, Coahuila was provided by [KNPR-FM Las Vegas](#) (4/15, 3K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ANNIVERSARY EVENTS OF LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION. Additional coverage of the events marking Lincoln's assassination was provided by [PBS](#) (4/15, 1.03M), [CNN](#) (4/13, 2.05M), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/14, Wheeler, 5.17M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF HONOLULI NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION. Additional coverage of the Honoluli National Monument dedication was provided by the [Rafu Shimpo \(CA\)](#) (4/15, 131K).

SUPPORT URGED FOR WILDFIRE DISASTER FUNDING ACT . The [Arizona Republic](#) (4/14, 1.14M) editorializes that "the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act would treat wildfire-fighting funds the same way FEMA uses hurricane disaster funds" The paper asserts that "lawmakers must come to grips with the fact that their votes on behalf of this act literally may make the difference between the continued fragile existence of the great Western forests and their demise." It concludes that "without predictable funds for

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS PREPARES FOR CENTENNIAL. The [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (4/15, 14K) reports that the NPS is "asking for an additional \$2.4 million for Alaska in its 2016 fiscal year budget proposal to increase operational capacity as part of its Centennial Initiative." The celebration "dovetails with President Barack Obama's push to encourage younger park visitors." The article notes that "in February, the White House unveiled its 'Every Kid in a Park' initiative, a plan to get kids to national, state or local parks across the country."

NPS SUGGESTS ADDING 270 SQUARE MILES TO SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA . The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/15, Jablon, 2 28M) reports that the NPS "on Tuesday recommended adding 270 square miles of land around Los Angeles to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in order to protect the vast web of wilderness and recreation areas that lie in the midst of millions of people." The report said "the region contains national historic landmarks, a rich ecosystem and a treasure trove of geological and archaeological resources." However, "the various landscapes are currently isolated from each other and crisscrossed by roads and housing tracts." The study "examined various alternatives and concluded that it wouldn't be feasible to create a new national park — something that critics had dubbed a land-grab and charged was the real purpose behind the study."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (4/15, Jablon, 644K), [KCAL-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (4/14, 163K), and [KFMB-TV San Diego \(CA\)](#) San Diego (4/15, 37K).

NPS DENIES IT IS PLANNING TO CLOSE PARTS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN. The [E&E Daily](#) (4/14) reports that the NPS is "pushing back on recent news stories that claimed it was considering closing parts of Rocky Mountain National Park due to overcrowding." NPS spokesman Kyle Patterson said, "It appears there is some significant misinformation about a recent interview that was conducted pertaining to Rocky Mountain National Park." She said, "Unfortunately, when the information from the original article was condensed in other news outlets, the information was taken out of context. We do not have plans to close areas of Rocky Mountain National Park."

MOUNTAIN LION HIDES UNDER LOS ANGELES HOME. The [AP](#) (4/15, 777K) reports that "a celebrity mountain lion transformed a wealthy hillside neighborhood into a paparazzi-like scene of scrambling photographers before eluding everyone Tuesday and quietly slipping away." On Monday, "a worker installing a home security system at James Archinaco's house found the animal," known as P-22, "lounging in a crawl space." Wildlife officials threw "beanbags and tennis balls" at the animal, "trying to flush him out as TV news photographers jockeyed for position." The lion, meanwhile, "remained indifferent until everyone eventually gave up and left," and "then he did, too."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/15, Board, 3.49M) editorializes that "the resilience and mystique of P-22 is a reminder that one of the unique and wonderful things about living in Los Angeles is its proximity to what remains of the wild." The paper argues that "we should try to protect those creatures by building wildlife crossings and, as much as possible, letting them be."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/14, Izadi, 5.17M), the [Columbus \(GA\) Ledger-Enquirer](#) (4/14, 114K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/15, Dillon, Rogers, 2.28M), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (4/15, 2.21M), the [Detroit \(MI\) Free Press](#) (4/14, 987K), the [New York \(NY\) Daily News](#) (4/15, 3.79M), [NPR](#) (4/14, 1.58M), [TIME](#) (4/15, 19.19M), [USA Today](#) (4/14, Bowerman, Network, 4.95M), [US News & World Report](#) (4/14, 685K), [Gizmodo](#) (4/15, 1.04M), [Yahoo! News](#) (4/15, Dillon, Rogers, 5.81M), and [WJAX-TV Jacksonville \(FL\)](#) Jacksonville, FL (4/15).

PRESCRIBED BURN AT WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK TURNS INTO WILDFIRE. The [AP](#) (4/15, Burbach) reports that "a prescribed burn in the southern portion of Wind Cave National Park that turned into a wildfire had burned more than 7 square miles within the park as of midday Tuesday, park officials said." According to Chief Interpreter Tom Farrell, of the NPS, "more than 100 crew members were fighting the 4,500-acre blaze that began Monday afternoon after strong winds carried some embers across Highway 385 in the park." The article notes that "local, state and federal crews had established a line around 80 percent of the fire by Tuesday morning, but Farrell said officially none of the blaze had been contained."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Pierre \(SD\) Capital Journal](#) (4/15, 620) and the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (4/15, 612K).

NPS PARTNERS WITH PENN STATE ALTOONA TO RESTORE FOREST AT FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL. [Penn State Altoona](#) (4/15) reports that "students and faculty from Penn State Altoona will participate in forest restoration at the Flight 93 Memorial on Thursday, April 16, and Friday, April 17." The article notes that "this is the fourth year that Penn State Altoona has partnered with the National Park Service to help 'heal' the landscape and restore the forest on the abandoned strip mine where Flight 93 crashed on September 11, 2001."

JUDSON RECORD HOUSE ENTERED IN NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Lewiston \(ME\) Sun Journal](#) (4/15, 20K) reports that "the Judson Record House, now Maine's Paper & Heritage Museum, has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places, according to the director of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "FIND YOUR PARK" CAMPAIGN. Additional coverage of the "Find Your Park" campaign was provided by [Patch](#) (4/15).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ANNIVERSARY OF CIVIL WAR'S END. Additional coverage of the anniversary of the end of the Civil War was provided by [Reuters](#) (4/14).

Bureau of Land Management:

TENSION BETWEEN BLM AND MINING OPERATION RISES IN OREGON. The [Raw Story](#) (4/14, 679K) reports that "militia groups are gathering in southern Oregon to back gold miners embroiled in a Bundy-style dispute with the Bureau of Land Management." Federal authorities said "they had notified the miners earlier this month that they were out of compliance with BLM regulations and ordered them and their equipment off the land by April 25." According to the article, "the owners of the Sugar Pine Mining Claim reached out to the Oath Keepers of Josephine County for help, and the pro-gun group issued a nationwide call for assistance that was picked up by websites such as Infowars and Before It's News."

Also providing coverage are [The Inquisitr](#) (4/15, 753K) and [KDRV-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (4/15, 671).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF BUNDY STANDOFF ANNIVERSARY. In a piece for [Forbes](#) (4/14, 6.54M), JJ MacNab writes that it has been one year since "Cliven Bundy sought help in his stand against the federal government." According to MacNab, "the legal repercussions for these acts now depend on the political will of the Department of Justice, an agency that has historically dealt with Bundy-related threats and harassment with all of the backbone and resolve of an over-cooked noodle, leaving twenty years of confrontations and threats against land management employees unpunished." She writes that "if the DOJ acts responsibly, the Bundy standoff should ultimately result in a very long list of criminal indictments," but "if the agency shrugs, as it has too many times in the past twenty years, future confrontations involving the militias, sovereign citizens, and other anti-government extremist groups won't be as 'peaceful' as what happened at Bundy Ranch."

For the "Opinion Blog" of the [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/15, 1.13M), Tod Robberson warns that "the brazen he and his supporters become, the more empowered they are to try other plays."

Additional coverage was provided by [NPR](#) (4/14, 1.58M) and [HotAir](#) (4/14, 86K).

BLM PLANS SUMMER ROUNDUP FOR HORSE RANGE IN PRYOR MOUNTAINS. The [AP](#) (4/15, 2.28M) reports that "federal land managers plan a summer roundup of wild horses from Montana's Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range to curb the size of its herd." The BLM said "the majority of the 170 horses on the range near the Wyoming border would be captured." The bureau's "goal is to remove 30 animals between the ages of 1 and 3 from the population."

ISLAMIC STATE SAID TO BE CONDUCTING RECONNAISSANCE OF BLM LANDS. The [Washington Times](#) (4/15, Chasmar, 644K) reports that "the Islamic State terror group is operating a camp in the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua, just eight miles from the U.S. border, Judicial Watch reported Tuesday." Judicial Watch reported, "The sources also say that ISIS has 'spotters' located in the East Potrillo Mountains of New Mexico (largely managed by the Bureau of Land Management) to assist with terrorist border crossing operations. ISIS is conducting reconnaissance of regional universities; the White Sands Missile Range; government facilities in Alamogordo, NM; Ft. Bliss; and the electrical power facilities near Anapra and Chaparral, NM."

HYUNDAI HELPS DAUGHTER SEND MESSAGE TO ASTRONAUT DAD. [Fox News](#) (4/14, 8.25M) reports that Hyundai "had the daughter of one of the astronauts on the International Space Station (ISS) handwrite a message to her father and then used a fleet of cars to almost perfectly replicate it with tire marks on Delamar Dry Lake in

remnants of the message remain.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

INTERNAL FWS EMAILS REIGNITE DEBATE OVER SWIMMING WITH MANATEES AT THREE SISTER SPRINGS. The [E&E Daily](#) (4/14) reports that emails about manatees at Florida’s Three Sister Springs have “become a pawn in the debate over whether FWS should continue to allow swimming in the springs.” Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) has released the emails “in its latest bid to end swimming in the springs during the winter months.”

BILL INTRODUCED TO PROTECT DELAWARE RIVER. [The Hill](#) (4/15, Henry, 224K) reports that “Democratic senators from New Jersey, Delaware, New York and Pennsylvania and a bipartisan collection of House lawmakers from the region introduced a bill Tuesday that would create a ‘Delaware River Basin Restoration Program’ in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” According to the article, “the program would be charged with identifying and overseeing federal and local efforts to protect the Delaware River basin, similar to programs for the Chesapeake Bay and the Long Island Sound.” The legislation would “also create a grant program to fund up to \$5 million in restoration projects for the river annually.”

Also reporting on the story is the [New Jersey Local News](#) (4/15, 772K).

NEVADA LAWMAKERS TAKE AIM AT RAVENS. The [AP](#) (4/15, Rindels, 2.28M) reports that “Nevada lawmakers hope to prevent sage grouse from landing on the Endangered Species List by taking aim at ravens, which are notorious egg-snatchers.” The Senate Natural Resources Committee “held a meeting Tuesday to discuss AJR2, which would urge Congress to remove or alter protections that the common raven enjoys under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.” The resolution reads, “A known cause of decline in the sage grouse population is egg depredation by the common raven, and research conducted at Idaho State University has suggested that reductions in the raven population significantly increase sage grouse nest success.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (4/14, 168K).

GROUP PLANS LAWSUIT OVER PETRELS. [Reuters](#) (4/14, Liston) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity on Monday announced that it will sue for protection of the black-capped petrel.

FWS OBJECTS TO KENAI RIVER ROAD ACCESS PROPOSAL. The [AP](#) (4/15, 2.28M) reports that “federal wildlife authorities are criticizing a city of Kenai proposal for a road aimed at upgrading access to the southern mouth of the Kenai River.” The FWS is “criticizing the proposed route through a wetland.” The service says “a road in the location would encroach on a rich, ecologically sensitive, wetland that hosts spring and fall migrations of geese, ducks and many species of shorebirds.”

ST. LOUIS ZOO AWAITING APPROVAL BY FWS FOR POLAR BEAR’S TRANSFER. The [AP](#) (4/15, 2.28M) reports that “the St. Louis Zoo is putting the finishing touches on its new Arctic exhibit while it awaits the federal government to greenlight the transfer of an orphaned Alaskan polar bear from the Buffalo Zoo in New York.” According to the article, “construction is nearly finished on the zoo’s new 40,000-square-foot, \$16 million polar bear habitat.” The article notes that “it’s expected to be the new home of Kali the polar bear, but the zoo is still waiting for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to approve his move.”

Also reporting on the story is [WGRZ-TV](#) Buffalo, NY (4/14, 33K).

DUCK AT BOSQUE DEL APACHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TESTS POSITIVE FOR BIRD FLU. The [AP](#) (4/15, Bryan, 2.28M) reports that “a duck at the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in southern New Mexico, one of the nation’s premier birding spots, has tested positive for a highly virulent strain of bird flu, state officials said Tuesday.” The article notes that “the case is the latest in a growing outbreak of bird flu, especially the highly contagious H5N2 strain affecting poultry in multiple states.” According to the article, “the positive test results for the cinnamon teal duck from the wildlife refuge marks the first instance of the strain in New Mexico.”

FALCON, OSPREY EGGS WILL HATCH ON WEBCAMS IN BALTIMORE. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/14, 810K) reports that “two bird nests — that of an osprey in South Baltimore and a falcon downtown — featured on live web cameras welcomed new tenants this past weekend.” According to the article, “a family of ospreys whose nest is in Masonville Cove in South Baltimore laid their first egg, which was caught on the ‘Osprey Cam,’ operated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Chesapeake Bay Field Office.” The service said “the mother hatched the egg between 3 and 5 p.m. Saturday.”

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGALLY SELLING ENDANGERED BIRDS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/15, Perry, 3.49M) reports that “a Vista man was fined \$1,000 and put on a year’s probation after pleading guilty to attempting to sell three protected birds: two Bali Mynas and a Philippine Buff Banded Rail.” Christopher Estep was “charged after attempting to sell the birds to an undercover agent of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” U.S. Magistrate Judge Nita L. Stormes also “ordered Estep to pay \$1,800 restitution to the wildlife service.”

Also reporting on the story are [KSWB-TV San Diego \(CA\)](#) San Diego (4/14, 52K) and [KGTV-TV San Diego \(CA\)](#) San Diego (4/15, 68K).

LISTING OF NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (4/15, 588K), Barry Russell, President and CEO of Independent Petroleum Association of America, writes that the FWS’ decision to list the northern long-eared bat as threatened under the Endangered Species Act “imposes unnecessary and burdensome costs on myriad U.S. businesses, including natural gas development in Pennsylvania.” He claims that “the real threat to the northern long-eared is a fungal disease known as white-nose syndrome — and a listing does absolutely nothing to address this underlying problem.” Russell argues that the FWS “should avoid implementing restrictions that would stifle this economic growth and should instead work to find a solution to this unfortunate disease.”

US Geological Survey:

GEOLOGISTS RELEASE DATA ON GEYSERS. The [Scientific American](#) (4/15, 2.83M) reports that geologists have released the “most detailed data set yet on the explosive choreography between water and steam.” Steven Ingebritsen, a researcher at the USGS, is “intrigued by what this more complete picture of geysers can tell geologists about other geothermal phenomena, such as volcanoes, which operate primarily underground and are incredibly challenging to probe—instruments would melt, for starters.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ADAMS TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS OBJECT TO PROPOSED WIND FARM SITE. [WBUP-TV](#) Marquette, MI (4/15) reports that “residents in Adams Township are taking a stand against a proposed wind farm.” At a public meeting, they “packed the township hall to hear a presentation by representatives from Farm Wind Energy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” The article notes that “at issue was a request by Farm Wind Energy developer Dave Hokens to amend a local ordinance that prohibits wind turbines from being closer than 3,000 feet from any adjacent property lines, roads or houses.”

Onshore Energy Development:

TRIBES URGED OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO REJECT KEYSTONE. [The Hill](#) (4/14, Cama, Wilson, 224K) reports that “Native Americans are pressuring the Obama administration to reject the Keystone XL pipeline, warning the project could infringe on their water rights, harm sacred land and violate America’s treaty obligations.” They “sent more than 100 pages of letters to the Interior Department earlier this year raising concerns about the project, which would carry oil sands from Canada to refineries on the Gulf Coast.” The article notes that “the pleas arrived in the two weeks before the Interior Department was slated to file comments on the proposed pipeline to the State Department, which is currently determining whether Keystone is in the national interest.” Jessica Kershaw, a spokeswoman for Interior, said that the agency “encouraged the State Department to give appropriate consideration to comments previously submitted during the Keystone XL permit review process as well as concerns expressed by some tribes in Indian Country about the project.”

GROUPS INTEND TO SUE OVER OVERSIGHT OF MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL. The [Coal Valley News](#) (4/15, 336) reports that “seven local, regional and national groups filed a formal notice of intent to sue the U.S. Office of Surface Mining for failing to intervene on West Virginia’s lax oversight of mountaintop removal and other destructive surface coal mining.” According to the notice, “a state program has, for decades, allowed the coal industry to ravage the environment, putting people at risk and destroying local communities.” Vernon Haltom, executive director of Coal River Mountain Watch, said, “The state’s chronically poor oversight has included a persistent failure to conduct inspections meant to protect people and the environment from coal companies that operate outside the law. Out-of-control mountaintop removal coal mining is linked to epidemics of cancer, cardiovascular disease and birth defects in affected communities. West Virginia has also failed to undertake required assessments to ensure lakes, rivers and drinking-water wells aren’t harmed by mountaintop-removal mining and other destructive surface coal-mining practices.”

Tester "sent a letter to Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture and Sally Jewell, Secretary of Interior." In the letter, Tester asked the secretaries to "cancel the remaining oil and gas leases pending in the Badger-Two Medicine area." Tester "cites a previous letter sent to the secretaries by the Blackfeet Tribe in which the Blackfeet claim that leases have been canceled 'on Colorado's White River National Forest due to fundamental NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) violations.'"

Offshore Energy Development:

HOUSE PANEL TO HOLD HEARING ON OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN. [The Hill](#) (4/15, Cama, Henry, 224K) reports that "a subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing Wednesday to discuss the Obama administration's draft five-year plan for offshore oil and natural gas drilling." Lawmakers will hear from BOEM Director Abigail Hopper, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory (R) and various private and local representatives.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW OFFSHORE DRILLING RULES. Additional coverage of the new offshore drilling rules was provided by the [Jackson \(MS\) Free Press](#) (4/14, 303), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/14, 380K), [UPI](#) (4/14, Graeber), the [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (4/15, 1K), [Rigzone](#) (4/15, 11K), the [Marine Link](#) (4/15, 1K), [Think Progress](#) (4/14, 331K), [Breaking Energy](#) (4/14), [KXNT-AM Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (4/14, 1K), and [WWJ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (4/14, 34K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

HOUSE REPUBLICANS BLAST BOR COMMISSIONER LÓPEZ FOR SKIPPING HEARING. [The Hill](#) (4/15, Cama, 224K) reports that "House Republicans are accusing the Obama administration of skipping out on a Tuesday hearing by not sending an agency official." The House Natural Resources Committee had invited the BOR "to a hearing and expected Estevan López, the agency's commissioner, to testify at the hearing of the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans." However, "the regulation on which Republicans asked López to testify — the proposed Waters of the United States rule — is being developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers, not Reclamation." The BOR and Democrats said Republicans "had no reason to ask an official to testify." But "that didn't stop Republicans from hitting the administration for skipping the hearing."

CLIMATE CHANGE LINKED TO CALIFORNIA DROUGHT. For the "At The Edge" blog of the [US News & World Report](#) (4/14, 685K), Jeff Nesbit writes that "climate change is linked to California's drought by two mechanisms: rising temperatures and changing atmospheric patterns conducive to diminishing rains." He notes that "one of the hallmarks of climate change is that, on average, wet regions are getting wetter and dry regions are getting drier. The southwestern United States is one such dry region, and the Colorado River (which provides much of the water used in Southern California), is experiencing drought conditions 'nearly unrivaled in 1,250 years.'" In conclusion, Nesbit hopes that climate change "will start to become part of the ongoing narrative" on the drought.

Water 'Too Cheap' In California. In a piece for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/15, Jenkins, Jr., Subscription Publication, 5 67M), Holman W. Jenkins, Jr., argues that Californians would reduce their water use if they were charged realistic prices for water but that this solution is not being discussed due to California's water politics.

Writing for [Forbes](#) (4/14, 6 54M), contributor Michael Kanellos says Brown's cutback plan has been criticized because "it doesn't apply to agriculture," the reductions are "virtually impossible to enforce," and "water is too cheap." He details his family's experience dropped water consumption by 33 percent and only seeing a savings of \$12.99 for the month. Writes Kanellos, "It's not going to encourage savings. Instead, California will need a massive upgrade infrastructure upgrade focused on efficiency, reuse and, possibly, the more expensive option of desalination."

Op-Ed: Response To Drought Should Be Rooted On Fact, Not Spin. In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (4/14, 547K), radio host Bruce Maiman writes about misrepresentations "on all sides" portraying at times farmers, environmentalists or fracking as the culprit for the current drought in California. "Fracking operations across the state used 105 million gallons of water last year, figures show. Nestle used 80 million gallons. On average, the state gets 65 trillion gallons of water a year. Nestle and fracking operations are troubling, but halting them solves nothing." Maiman urges all sides to put their "pet peeves" in perspective. "Otherwise, we'll never be able to ask the hard questions about accountability, who should make hard sacrifices and how much."

Empowering Native American Communities:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO UPDATE 1988 MODEL INDIAN JUVENILE CODE. The [Lake County \(MT\) Leader & Advertiser](#) (4/15, 11K) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn and Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Administrator Robert L. Listenbee have "announced that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Department of Justice are seeking to update the 1988 Model Indian Juvenile Code designed to assist federally recognized tribes in creating individual codes focused on juvenile matters and specifically addressing issues affecting Indian youth arrested for alcohol and/or drug-related offenses in Indian Country." Washburn said, "Like the BIA's guidelines and regulations for state courts and agencies that implement the Indian Child Welfare Act, the Bureau's Model Indian Juvenile Code has long needed updating. Tribes know best what will work in their communities, but the model will be updated to provide better federal guidance to tribes in an effort to insure proper respect for the rights and responsibilities of Indian juveniles arrested for alcohol or drug-related offenses and those of their parents, guardians or custodians. It also will provide tribes and their court systems greater clarity and flexibility in dealing with such cases."

HEARING HELD ON PROPOSED CASINO PROJECT BY POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI. The [South Bend \(IN\) Tribune](#) (4/15, 186K) reports that the BIA "hosted a public meeting at Century Center Tuesday to gather input on" the proposed casino project by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. According to the article, "opponents of a proposed tribal village and casino warned of dire consequences Tuesday if the casino portion of the project is allowed to move forward." But supporters "stressed the potential economic benefits of the project in terms of jobs and community investment."

Also reporting on the story are [WSBT-TV South Bend \(IN\)](#) South Bend, IN (4/15, 21K) and [WNDU-TV South Bend \(IN\)](#) South Bend, IN (4/15, 77K).

DESCENDANTS OF TRIBES MASSACRED IN 1864 SEEK ACCOUNTING OF REPARATIONS. The [Law 360](#) (4/15, 9K) reports that "the descendants of tribes of Native Americans massacred by federal troops in Colorado in 1864 urged the Tenth Circuit on Monday to overturn a lower court ruling denying an accounting of reparation funds they say they are owed, claiming the Bureau of Indian Affairs shirked its trust obligations and stole the money." According to the article, "Homer Flute and other descendants of bands of Arapaho and Cheyenne tribes whose members were killed in the Sand Creek Massacre asked the court to reverse a Colorado federal court's ruling."

Office of Insular Affairs:

UPDATE PROVIDED ON STATUS OF 2014 CNMI PREVAILING WAGE WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT STUDY. The [Marianas Variety](#) (4/15) provides an update on the status of the 2014 CNMI Prevailing Wage Workforce Assessment Study. According to Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division, "the operation in the field for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota data collection has been completed with a 97 percent response rate in March." The article notes that the "survey is made possible through funding from the Office of Insular Affairs."

Top National News:

AMID STRONG CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT, WHITE HOUSE DROPS OBJECTIONS TO IRAN BILL. After the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday unanimously approved a bill giving Congress a say on a nuclear deal with Iran, the White House announced that the President would sign the bill. As a result, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/15, Richter, 3.49M) reports, Congress "is now likely to gain an important role in judging" a potential final deal. Media analyses are casting the development as a retreat by the President, who had previously threatened to veto the measure. In fact, reports note that until just hours before the vote, the Administration continued to press lawmakers not to advance the legislation, with Secretary of State Kerry meeting with members of the Senate. The [AP](#) (4/15, Riechmann, Kellman), for example, says the President "bow[ed] to pressure from Republicans and his own party." House Speaker Boehner, meanwhile, said the White House "saw the handwriting on the wall." The story was not noted on any of the network newscasts Monday night, but it is receiving heavy wire, print, and cable coverage.

The [New York Times](#) (4/15, Weisman, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that White House press secretary Josh Earnest said that while the President was not "particularly thrilled" with the bill, he viewed the compromise as acceptable. In a front-page story, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/15, A1, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5 67M) says that by accepting the compromise, the President avoids the potential embarrassment of the Senate overriding a veto of the bill, which appeared to have more than the 67 votes needed to override a veto. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (4/15, Lerman, Miller, 169K) also says the "turnaround" by the White House "reflected acquiescence in the reality that the legislation could win enough bipartisan support to override a veto."

[Reuters](#) (4/15) notes that Earnest insisted that "the proper role for Congress in this effort is the consideration of the sanctions that Congress put in place themselves," and that "it would not be an up or down vote on the deal." The [Washington Post](#) (4/15, A1, Debonis, 5.17M) also says that the White House "maintained its insistence that Congress has no power to approve or disapprove" the deal. The Post says the "compromise at least kicks the issue down the road, and spares the administration the possibility of a congressional vote against the deal." The measure passed by the panel shortened the review period "from 60 days to 30 days after full details of an agreement are submitted

a United States person anywhere in the world" every 90 days after a deal is ratified.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/14, Stein, 281K) notes that with the full Senate now expected to take up the measure, "it remains to be seen if the final language will remain intact," but according to a report in [Roll Call](#) (4/14, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 102K), the House GOP leadership "is warning the Senate against making any changes."

Sen. Bob Corker said on [Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor](#) (4/14, 767K) that "Secretary Kerry, in a classified setting, was pushing back strongly against this legislation," but the Administration soon "realized what was getting ready to happen. This was a run away train. We had significant support. They released their veto threat once they saw that we were way beyond the number of people it would take override a veto."

[Politico](#) (4/14, Everett, 669K) says that "after months of lobbying against the bill, the administration acknowledged Tuesday it couldn't stop it," while the [Washington Times](#) (4/15, Boyer, Dinan, 644K) calls the White House "chastened." Jim Sciutto reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/14, 554K) that "after months of the White House fighting to keep lawmakers out of the Iran nuclear negotiations, today Congress forc[ed] its way in." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (4/15, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says Congress has "formally muscled its way" into negotiations with Iran, and "has wrongly and inappropriately diminished the president's power to conduct the nation's foreign policy as he was elected to do."

In an analysis piece, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/14, Murphy, 380K) notes efforts to attach additional demands to a possible deal, such as that Iran "must first be deemed to no longer sponsor terrorism, as many Senate Republicans insist." Such moves, the Monitor says, indicate that "hawkish US lawmakers appear ready to torpedo any deal." But a [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/15, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorial says that while the measure guarantees debate and a vote in Congress on a deal, ultimately the President can do what he wants.

The [Washington Times](#) (4/15, Taylor, 644K), however, reports that "there's still a big chance Iranian hard-liners will pressure Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to reject the accord." Jim Sciutto reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/14, 554K) that a "senior Iranian diplomat" reacted to the Senate panel's vote yesterday by saying, "We only deal with the Administration and expect it to deliver by any method it deems appropriate."

Iran Says It Is Ready To Take "Irreversible Steps" On Nuclear Program If Matched By West. [AFP](#) (4/15, Cuenca) reports Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Tuesday that Tehran will resume talks with world powers on a final nuclear agreement on April 21 and is ready to take "irreversible steps" if the West does the same. "My team, the assistant to (EU foreign policy chief Federica) Mogherini and the other representatives of the 5+1 will meet next Tuesday to begin drafting the text," he said, but did not indicate where the talks would take place. He added, "This is the framework under which we will operate with the 5+1 group: (there will be) irreversible steps on the Iranian side as long as their side takes irreversible steps. It is a very balanced approach."

Mukasey, Carroll Criticize Brennan's Comments On Deal. Former Attorney General Michael Mukasey and Kevin Carroll, senior counsel to the House Homeland Security Committee, write in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/15, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) that CIA Director Brennan's claim last week that those saying the framework deal "provides a pathway for Iran to a bomb" are "wholly disingenuous" make it harder for CIA analysts to report their assessments of Iran's nuclear capabilities without fear of retribution and say Congress should ask for outside assessments of the intelligence.

Johns Hopkins' Nasr Urges Saudi, Gulf Leaders To Welcome Deal. Vali R. Nasr of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies writes in the [New York Times](#) (4/15, Nasr, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) that Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neighbors should welcome the framework deal reached with Iran, arguing that it is "much likelier to make the Arab world more secure for a decade or more, by preventing Iran from getting near a 'breakout.'" While it won't "eliminate Iran's nuclear program," it "would allow the rest of the Middle East an opportunity to fortify itself with a new political order."

Russian Decision To Sell Missile System To Iran Criticized By Germany, Israel. [Reuters](#) (4/15, Martin) reports German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Tuesday criticized Russia's decision to deliver missile systems to Iran. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the [New York Times](#) (4/15, Kershner, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports, spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday to express Israel's "grave concerns" about Russia's decision. Netanyahu said he had told Putin that the sale of the S-300 missile system to Iran "will only encourage Iranian aggression in the region and further undermine the stability of the Middle East."

However, Putin, [USA Today](#) (4/15, Lackey, 4.95M) reports, told Netanyahu that the system is "purely defensive" and won't threaten the region. Iran, meanwhile, said Tuesday, that it would be "at least six months" before Russia will be able to deliver the missile system, the [AP](#) (4/15, Berry) reports. The Kremlin, however, "confirmed that a barter deal to supply Russian goods in exchange for Iranian oil was already being implemented."

Meanwhile, at the White House on Tuesday, the [Washington Times](#) (4/15, Boyer, 644K) reports press secretary Josh Earnest said the move by Russia isn't likely to impact nuclear talks with Iran. "All of that is separate from the nuclear agreement," Earnest said. "That's precisely why we're trying to reach a diplomatic agreement" on the nuclear program.

Zarif: Rezaian Faces "Very Serious" Charges. [AFP](#) (4/15) reports Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Tuesday that Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian faces "very serious" charges, but denied reports that he is being mistreated. Earlier on Tuesday, the [AP](#) (4/15, Schreck) reports, the Washington Post said Rezaian has had an "unacceptable lack of access to legal counsel" while jailed for the past nine months. The [New York Times](#) (4/15, Gladstone, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports Post executive editor Martin Baron said Rezaian has been subjected to "Kafkaesque restrictions" that include "only one hour of pretrial time with a defense lawyer – and that meeting has not yet happened."

CLINTON MAKES FIRST CAMPAIGN VISIT TO IOWA. Hillary Clinton made her first campaign stop in Iowa on Tuesday, visiting a community college in Monticello and a coffee shop in Davenport. Media reports pay particular attention to the contrast between Clinton's current campaign launch and the start of her 2008 presidential bid. For example, Lester Holt reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/14, story 7, 2:10, Holt, 7.86M) that this has been "a low key kickoff compared to her last run," and Andrea Mitchell added that Clinton "is sounding more like a populist than the New York senator who used to represent Wall Street."

Likewise, on [ABC World News](#) (4/14, story 9, 1:40, Muir, 5.84M), Cecilia Vega described Clinton as "Hillary Clinton 2.0," noting that "eight years ago, she choppered around Iowa and held her first rally before a crowd of 1,500," but this time "she drove to a community college auto body shop to meet just seven people," and [Politico](#) (4/14, Karni, 669K) reported that Tuesday's event "stood in stark contrast to her first visit to the Hawkeye State in 2007 – an impersonal 1,500-person rally in Des Moines, with 1,000 people crowding into an overflow area," noting that on Tuesday, the "optics...were carefully choreographed to show Iowa voters that her celebrity status and lack of serious primary challengers won't deprive them of the one-on-one interactions with candidates that they have come to expect."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/15, Gearan, Rucker, 5.17M) describes Clinton's "transformation from international jet-setter to American everywoman," noting that there were "no big speeches or rallies, and local organizers were told to keep throngs of supporters away," but, noting the "frenzy" of media attention Clinton attracted, the [New York Times](#) (4/15, Chozick, Gabriel, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says the event "called to mind a head-on collision between a celebrity candidate who desperately wants to present an everywoman's approachability and a news media desperate to cover every aspect of that candidacy exactly as it unfolds."

The [Washington Times](#) (4/15, Miller, 644K) reports that in a "staged-managed" stop at Jones Street Coffee Shop in Davenport, Iowa, Clinton "made the first stop for retail politicking on her newly launched presidential campaign." Clinton spoke "briefly with a couple nearby customers and then join[ed] a table of three for a conversation."

Nancy Cordes reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/14, story 5, 2:05, Pelley, 5.08M) that Clinton "began to lay out a platform, or what she called the four big fights she would take on as president," which the [AP](#) (4/15, Thomas, Lerer) says are "the need to build 'the economy of tomorrow, not yesterday,' strengthen families and communities, fix dysfunctional government while addressing ways of getting 'unaccountable money out of the system,' and protect national security."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/15, Nicholas, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says Clinton sounded a populist tone, that will likely appeal to the liberal Democratic base, saying the "deck is still stacked in favor of those already at the top" and noting that CEOs earn 300 times more than the average worker, however, an editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/15, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) takes issue with Clinton's claim that she is a champion for everyday Americans and her recent email to supporters in which she decied the pay differentials between CEOs and the average worker, citing the fees, amenities, and expenses she receives for delivering speeches.

A [New York Times](#) (4/15, Healy, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) analysis says "the emergence of folksy Hillary and the ready-to-lead Republicans clearly signals the start of the Perception Primary, during which candidates seek to erase their deficits and persuade voters to see them differently," but adds that the candidates face the danger that "they will ultimately be seen as phony, given that voters have plenty of experience sniffing out the truth about politicians."

Several commentary pieces this morning consider the challengers Clinton will face in her 2016 bid, and offer her advice on how to conduct her campaign. In his [Washington Post](#) (4/15, 5.17M) column, David Ignatius calls Clinton's campaign launch video "empty – but in a way that invites the political definition to come: What does Clinton stand for? How does she plan to change an America in which, as she says in the ad, 'the deck is still stacked in favor of those at the top?'" Ignatius argues that the "slow-rolling,

Kathleen Parker writes in her column for the [Washington Post](#) (4/15, Parker, 5.17M) that Clinton "must persuade voters to ignore her association with a time gone by," adding that the "juxtaposition of yesterday and tomorrow was vividly on display as both Clinton and Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) announced their candidacies for president this week." Rubio's "relative youth," Parker adds, "underscores Hillary's yesterdayness."

In her [Washington Post](#) (4/15, 5.17M) column, Ruth Marcus seeks to dispel two myths surrounding Clinton's campaign. First, Marcus takes issue with the idea that Clinton needs a primary challenge to prepare her for the general election, arguing that a primary challenge "would pull Clinton to the left," which is "not where Clinton wants to be in a general-election contest." Marcus also questions the belief that Clinton should focus on motivating the Democratic base, arguing that "the leftiest elements of the Democratic base" and "other traditional Democrats, will turn out for Clinton in November 2016 – if not from overflowing enthusiasm, then out of fear of her Republican opponent." Marcus adds that Clinton must avoid "defensively lashing out" and "running for Obama's third term."

CSMonitor Analysis Considers A Clinton-Castro Ticket. A [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/14, Feldmann, 380K) analysis reported on the prospect of Clinton selecting HUD Secretary Castro as her running mate. According to the Monitor, since Castro's nomination to run HUD, "the move was framed as an effort to position him for the next Democratic ticket," and Clinton "has long had her eye on Castro." The Monitor added that by selecting Castro, Clinton "could address the generational issue that Rubio raised in his announcement speech on Monday."

Issa Asked Clinton About Private Emails In 2012. The [New York Times](#) (4/15, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that congressional investigators asked Clinton in December 2012 if she had used a private email account while she was Secretary of State, but she "did not reply to the letter," and "when the State Department answered in March 2013, nearly two months after she left office, it ignored the question and provided no response for it." In a letter to Clinton in December 2012, Rep. Darrell Issa, who was "leading an investigation into how the Obama administration handled its officials' use of personal email," asked, "Have you or any senior agency official ever used a personal email account to conduct official business?" Clinton, who left the Department seven weeks after the letter was sent, did not respond.

De Blasio Defends Decision Not To Endorse Clinton. The [New York Times](#) (4/15, Flegenheimer, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio praised Clinton on Tuesday but defended "his decision not to bless her presidential candidacy just yet." De Blasio called Clinton "an incredibly capable leader," who has done "some very profoundly progressive things," but "emphasized that withholding his endorsement was a 'normal' impulse, casting it as a function of the campaign calendar – with the election still more than 18 months away – and not about his feelings toward Mrs. Clinton."

Clinton's Father's Gravestone Overturned. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (4/15, Reports, 2.32M) reports that according to police, the gravestone of Clinton's father, Hugh Rodham, was found toppled over in Scranton, Pennsylvania's Washburn Street Cemetery. Police Chief Carl Graziano said "someone at the cemetery reported the stone was tipped over Tuesday, two days after Clinton announced she's running for president." Graziano said it is "unknown how it tipped over but it may have been vandals."

WHITE HOUSE SAYS ADVISERS WOULD RECOMMEND VETO OF ESTATE TAX BILL. [Reuters](#) (4/14) reports that the White House said on Tuesday that the President's advisers would recommend that he veto House legislation that would repeal the estate tax. In a piece titled "Republicans Push \$269 Billion Handout For Millionaire Heirs And Heiresses," the [Huffington Post](#) (4/14, Carter, 281K) reports that the House will vote this week to repeal the estate tax, which currently applies to "individual fortunes worth over \$5.43 million," an amount that "doubles to \$10.86 million for wealthy couples."

In a "Fact Check" piece, the [AP](#) (4/15, Ohlemacher) says that the estate tax "inspires a lot of heated political rhetoric for a tax that very few people actually pay." The AP says that the estate tax "is 40 percent, but big exemptions limit the share of estates that pay it to fewer than 1 percent."

In his column for the [Washington Post](#) (4/15, 5.17M), Dana Milbank writes that Republicans have "discovered, belatedly, that income inequality is a problem, and they're no longer proposing to give tax breaks to the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans." Instead, they are "proposing to give tax breaks to the wealthiest two-tenths of 1 percent of Americans."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "*A Reckless Act In The Senate On Iran.*" In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (4/15, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says Congress has "formally muscled its way" into negotiations with Iran, and "has wrongly and inappropriately diminished the president's power to conduct the nation's foreign policy as he was elected to do."

"Justice For Blackwater Victims." The [New York Times](#) (4/15, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) editorializes that for years, "it seemed inconceivable to Iraqis that the American justice system would ever punish the private security contractors who wantonly opened fire in a busy Baghdad traffic circle in September 2007, killing 17 civilians," and yet on Monday, US District Judge Royce Lamberth in Washington, DC "imposed lengthy sentences on four former employees of the notorious security firm then known as Blackwater." The men, "who came to embody the American government's often heavy-handed and at times careless conduct during the Iraq war, asked for leniency but were defiant in asserting their innocence." The Times adds that the "Nisour Square massacre was among the most abominable abuses committed by Americans during the Iraq war," and that by "bringing some of the Blackwater gunmen to justice, the American government has taken an important, if belated, step toward making amends."

"Senator Jeff Sessions, Straight Up." A [New York Times](#) (4/15, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) editorial criticizes an op-ed in the Washington Post last week by Sen. Jeff Sessions, who "argued the case for letting in fewer foreigners." Sessions, the Times, argues "ignores the truth, proved over centuries, that immigration over all is good for the American economy," and argues that if he really wants to help low-income Americans, "he would be better off supporting labor unions and women's rights, higher minimum wages, tougher wage-and-hour enforcement, more access to child-care and reproductive rights."

WASHINGTON POST. "*Rewarding Egypt's Repression.*" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/15, 5.17M) writes that "just 11 days after President Obama resumed US military aid to Egypt, Mohamed Soltan, a 27-year-old American, was sentenced to life in prison on trumped-up charges." The Post calls Egypt's verdict on Saturday as the "latest of multiple slaps in the face of the Obama administration by the regime of Abdel Fatah al-Sisi." The Post slams Obama for resuming military aid to Egypt without waiting for the release of American political prisoners "or the fulfillment of any of the other human rights criteria for Egypt set by Congress."

"The Outrageous Death Of A Fairfax County Jail Inmate." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/15, 5.17M) decries the death of Natasha McKenna, a "mentally ill woman" who died at Fairfax County, Virginia jail in February after "a lieutenant shot her four times with a Taser, at point-blank range, even as her hands and feet were in restraints." Investigators "are awaiting a ruling on Ms. McKenna's death from the medical examiner. In the meantime, the silence is deafening." The Post calls on local officials to "peak out about what was clearly a bungled intervention by sheriff's deputies that led to an unnecessary death and about the sheriff's unacceptable non-response."

"A 'Free Range' Debacle." The [Washington Post](#) (4/15, 5.17M) runs an editorial on the case of the Montgomery County, Maryland "free-range parents" whose children have twice been picked up by police for being in public unescorted. The Post is skeptical of their parenting style, but writes, "The children were held for 5 1/2 hours, including two hours in the police cruiser, before Child Protective Services returned them to their parents. Why did the agency take so long to decide what steps to take? Why did its officials tell police not to contact the parents, and why did they wait two hours" before telling them "the whereabouts of their children?" Since the agency does not comment on cases, "we are left to wonder whether incompetence or a desire to teach the parents a lesson was responsible for the delay."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "*Obama's One-Man Nuclear Deal.*" A [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/15, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorial says that while the bill requiring a vote on the Iran nuclear deal guarantees debate and a vote in Congress on a deal, ultimately the President can do what he wants.

"The Hillary Pay Ratio." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/15, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) criticizes Clinton's claim that she is a champion for everyday Americans and her recent email to supporters in which she decried the pay differentials between CEOs and the average worker, citing the fees, amenities, and expenses she receives for delivering speeches and noting that because those funds are routed through the Clintons' family foundation, they are untaxed.

"Another Gift For Castro." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/15, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says there was never any doubt the President would remove Cuba from the list since Castro made it a condition for restoring normal diplomatic ties. The Journal cites the decision as another example of the President granting Castro's demands and getting nothing in return.

"Fear And Loathing In Hungary." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/15, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) writes that political extremism is rising in Hungary with the latest development being the election of a candidate from the far-right Jobbik party in a special vote. The Journal characterizes Jobbik as anti-Semitic, warning against the strategic dangers of a party that the paper says has aligned itself with the policies of Russia and Iran.

Big Picture:

Los Angeles Times:

[Smoking Signals](#)

[Senate Panel Adds Hurdle To Iran Deal](#)

[Prison Terms Further Rock Atlanta](#)

[In El Salvador, Women Jailed For Miscarriages](#)

[This Time Clinton Has Hollywood To Herself](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Obama Would Sign New Bill On Iran Deal](#)

[Nokia Buy Of Alcatel-Lucent Would Form Network Giant](#)

[Doctor Linked To Menendez Indicted For Medicare Fraud](#)

[To Get A Job, New Hires Are Put To The Test](#)

New York Times:

[Home Repair Opens A Portal To Italy's Past](#)

[Blackwater's Legacy Goes Beyond Public View](#)

[President Yields, Allowing Congress Say On Iran Deal](#)

[Driver's License Suspensions Create Cycle Of Debt](#)

[In Race For Medicare Dollars, Nursing Home Care May Lag](#)

[Stiff Sentences For 8 Educators In Test Scandal](#)

Washington Post:

[Obama To Take Cuba Off Terrorism-Aid List](#)

[Deal Struck On Iran Oversight](#)

[A New Political Order In Scotland](#)

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[Atlanta Judge Takes Hard Line On Test Fraud](#)

Financial Times:

[Brussels To Hit Google With Market Abuse Charge Sheet](#)

[Change Of Tone: Paris Approves Nokia's Proposed Alcatel Takeover](#)

[India To Outpace China As Lower Energy Price Lifts World Economy, IMF Predicts](#)

Washington Times:

[No DEA Agents Were Fired For Sex Parties In Columbia](#)

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

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DATE TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR TIGHTENS OFFSHORE DRILLING RULES. The [Washington Post](#) (4/14, Warrick, 5.17M) reports that five years after the BP spill, the Obama Administration on Monday moved to "tighten regulations for offshore oil rigs, saying the new measures would help prevent oil-well blowouts and minimize environmental damage from future leaks." The Interior Department announced proposals that would "substantially overhaul the technical guidelines for drilling on the U.S. continental shelf, adding dozens of new requirements aimed mostly at stopping high-pressure undersea wells from blowing their tops."

[McClatchy](#) (4/13, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports the rule "calls for tighter requirements on blowout preventers," among other things. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "These proposed measures are designed to further build on critical lessons learned from the Deepwater Horizon tragedy to ensure that offshore operations are safe."

The [New York Times](#) (4/14, Davenport, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that officials said the new regulations were "developed after consulting industry representatives, environmentalists, academics and others interested in the issue" and Interior estimated that they "would cost about 90 companies a total of \$883 million over 10 years, but officials said many firms were already moving toward compliance on their own and predicted \$656 million in net benefits over the next decade."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Associated Press](#) (4/14, Freking), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/14, Harder, Gilbert, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), [Bloomberg News](#) (4/13, Drajem, 2.94M), the [Huffington Post](#) (4/14, Cohen, 281K), [The Hill](#) (4/14, Cama, 224K), [The Hill](#) (4/14, Cama, 224K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/14, Freking, 2.28M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/14, 2.28M), the [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (4/14, 38K), the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (4/13, 146K), the [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (4/14, 621K), the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Tribune-Review](#) (4/14, 672K), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (4/14, 988K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (4/14, 674K), [US News & World Report](#) (4/13, 685K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (4/14, 4.78M), the [Huffington Post](#) (4/14, J, Freking, 281K), [PBS](#) (4/14, 1.03M), [FuelFix](#) (4/13, 7K), the [International Business Times](#) (4/14, 1.19M), [Marine Link](#) (4/14, 1K), [Offshore Engineer](#) (4/14), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (4/14), [Law 360](#) (4/14, 9K), [Rigzone](#) (4/14, 11K), [MSNBC](#) (4/14, 656K), [Government Security News](#) (4/14, 104K), [Yahoo! News](#) (4/14, Freking, 5.81M), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (4/14, 4.04M), [WJBL-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (4/14, 253K), [WLOX-TV Biloxi \(MS\)](#) Biloxi, MS (4/14, 53K), and [WWL-TV New Orleans \(LA\)](#) New Orleans (4/13, 107K).

SECRETARY JEWELL PLANS OUT SECOND HALF OF TERM. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (4/14, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "two years into her tenure," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "says she's 'conversant' in Interior's portfolio of wildlife protection, energy development, recreation and historical preservation on roughly one-fifth of the nation's land, in addition to improving the quality of life for American Indians." Looking ahead to next two years, Jewell, said "she hopes to make Interior's mission more relevant to young people and connect more Americans with the outdoors." Jewell "plans to implement 'more thoughtful planning, more thoughtful regulation' of energy development on the nation's lands and waters." She said, "I feel really great about where I am right now, and I feel great about what I think we can get accomplished in the coming two years. I feel like I'm beyond the halfway point."

Advice Offered To Secretary Jewell. In the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (4/13, Spivak, 224K), Randi Spivak, public lands program director for the Center for Biological Diversity, writes that Jewell "can begin righting her legacy and our public lands future with four crucial steps." Spivak says Jewell should "keep our remaining federal fossil fuels in the ground," establish "new national wildlife refuges and wildlife corridors to protect declining species before protection under the Endangered Species Act is necessary," restore "the primacy of science in decision-making for endangered wildlife. America's efforts to return wolves to some of their historic homes have been a success," and "protect Native American cultural and other important areas from mineral exploitation."

WASHINGTON MARKS 150 YEARS SINCE LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION. The [Washington Post](#) (4/13, Ruane, 5.17M) reports that "timeless symbols of a fallen leader, the trappings of loss marked the start of Washington's 48-hour commemoration of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, 150 years ago Tuesday." On Wednesday, "a period-music tribute is scheduled to be held outside the Petersen House." The article notes that "at 7:22 a. m. Taps will be sounded, followed by a wreath laying and remarks by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/14, Press, 5.17M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/14, 2.28M), and [WJLA-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (4/14, 12K).

the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/14, Ruane, 2.28M) and the [Examiner](#) (4/14, 1.01M).

NPS Announces Details Of "Lincoln's Journey Home." The [Springfield \(IL\) State Journal-Register](#) (4/13, 129K) reports that "as part of the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's funeral and burial in Springfield, the National Park Service on Monday announced details of 23 Lincoln's Journey Home ceremonies planned in each of the major cities from Washington to Springfield where funerals were held in 1865."

Also providing coverage are the [Lincoln \(IL\) Courier](#) (4/13, 14K), [Broadway World](#) (4/14, 99K), and [Playbill](#) (4/14, 18K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO SPEAK AT EARTH DAY RALLY ON NATIONAL MALL. The [AP](#) (4/14, 2.28M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will be among the speakers at an Earth Day rally and concert on the National Mall on Saturday.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Rock Hill \(SC\) Herald](#) (4/14, 83K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/13, Press, 5.17M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (4/14, 4.78M), and [WTTG-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (4/14, 169K).

GOV. DUCEY VETOES PROPOSALS TO TRANSFER ARIZONA'S FEDERAL LANDS TO STATE BY 2022. The [AP](#) (4/14, 81K) reports that Gov. Doug Ducey "vetoed two bills by fellow Republicans on Monday that asked the federal government turn over public lands to the state." The Republican "lawmakers said they wanted to use Arizona's federal public lands as a new stream of revenue for the state." Ducey said "he shared Republican lawmakers' concerns about Arizona's federal lands, but vetoed the bills anyway." Instead, Ducey "signed House Bill 2658 to establish a study committee to look into the transfer of public lands to the state."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF NPS' MAINTENANCE BACKLOG. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (4/14, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "thanks to the military spending bill signed into law in December 2014, Pershing Park in Washington, D.C., is set to get a major makeover." According to the article, "to advocates of the National Park Service, which is in charge of managing the site, it is a microcosm of the broader funding challenges facing the agency: Congress has grand plans for the revamped memorial but promises no new funding." Meanwhile, "the decaying park is another line item in NPS's yawning \$11.5 billion deferred maintenance backlog."

FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO TOUR HANFORD SITES. The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (4/13, 100K) reports that NPS staff will get their first in-depth look at Hanford this week as part of the planning to make historical areas at Hanford part of the new Manhattan Project National Historical Park. "DOE and park service officials already have toured Oak Ridge historic sites and will tour Los Alamos sites in a few weeks."

NEW WELCOME CENTER TO OPEN AT PATERSON GREAT FALLS NATIONAL PARK. The [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (4/14, 69K) reports that "officials next week will hold a ribbon-cutting for the newly renovated Welcome Center at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park." The article notes that "the 1,000-square-foot center at 65 McBride Avenue will feature exhibits and displays about the Great Falls as well as a gift shop offering specialty items that highlight the history of the Silk City, officials said." The ribbon-cutting is scheduled for 11 am on April 21.

ROCK CREEK PARKWAY VOLUNTEER PLAYERS OPPOSITE NEW POLICY WTOP FUNDING (4/14, 100K) ...

National Park Service has quietly instituted a permit and play process that puts an end to decades of free play on a national park." Under the new policy, "there is nonrefundable fee of \$30 for a two-hour period of use." Mike Litterst, spokesman with the Park Service, for the National Mall and Memorial Parks, said, "The new reservation fees will pay for regular maintenance, new sand, new nets, and trash pickup." He added, "We will also bring in monitors for the permits. Under the old rules there were often abuses with the open courts being monopolized by organized groups or leagues."

Also reporting on the story are [WTTG-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (4/14, 169K) and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (4/14, 613K).

'CITIZEN SCIENTISTS' HELP STUDY MOJAVE DESERT CLIMATE CHANGE. [USA Today](#) (4/14, James, 4.95M) reports that volunteer "citizen scientists" signed up through the Earthwatch Institute to support a week of scientific research of Mojave Desert reptiles. Volunteers conducted scientific surveys of plants and animals "as part of research on the effects of climate change" in Joshua Tree National Park.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "FIND YOUR PARK" CAMPAIGN. Additional coverage of the "Find Your Park" campaign was provided by the [Independent Press \(NJ\)](#) (4/14, 6K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DC CHERRY BLOSSOMS. Additional coverage of the cherry blossoms in DC was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/13, Samenow, 5.17M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS. Additional coverage of the grants awarded to tribes for historic preservation efforts was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (4/14, 90K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/14, 2 28M), the [Madison \(WI\) Capital Times](#) (4/14, 160K), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (4/14, 644K).

Bureau of Land Management:

RANCHER BUNDY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF STANDOFF. [NPR](#) (4/14, 1.58M) reports that "it's been a year since Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and his militia supporters stood down federal agents with the Bureau of Land Management outside Las Vegas." Bundy "owes more than a million dollars in delinquent cattle grazing fees and penalties, but the BLM has stayed quiet in the year since the showdown, and Bundy's supporters marked the anniversary by throwing a party." According to the article, "the event was billed as a 'Liberty Celebration,' with a barbecue featuring Bundy-raised beef, patriotic music, cowboy poetry, off-roading and shooting."

LEGISLATION WOULD FORM TASK FORCE TO STUDY FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT IN MONTANA. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (4/14, 38K) reports that Rep. Kerry White "brought House Bill 496 before the Senate Natural Resources Committee on Monday." The legislation "appropriates \$35,000 to form a task force to study management of U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management administered lands in the state, including economic analysis and identification of pilot projects for state or local assistance in federal projects."

Also reporting on the story is the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (4/13, 76K).

MAN ADMITS DEATH THREAT TO BLM RANGER IN BUNDY STANDOFF. The [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (4/13, 343K) reports that Will Michael "pleaded guilty Monday in Philadelphia before U.S. District Judge Mitchell S. Goldberg to threatening a federal law enforcement officer and interstate communication of threats." A "profanity-laden death threat that Michael left on" Chief Ranger Mike Roop's "office voice mail a year ago will now echo in the 24-year-old's future as a federal felony arrest record."

BLM WORKING ON SAGE-GROUSE EFFORTS. [KOLO-TV](#) Reno, NV (4/14, 3K) reports that the BLM is "conducting training missions this week near Pyramid Lake so employees can look at different ways to ensure the preservation of our land during this drought season." The bureau said "by saving the sage-grouse could be good for the environment as well as the development of Nevada." The article notes that "one solution the agency is working on is to ask ranchers with grazing permits to have their livestock feed more on the cheatgrass."

BLM NAMES THREE TO WILD HORSE ADVISORY BOARD. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (4/14, 538K) reports that the BLM announced will three selections for positions on its nine-member National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board. June Sewing has been re-appointed for the category of wild horse and burro advocacy. The board also will welcome Jennifer Sall for public interest; and Julie M. Weikel for veterinary medicine.

BLM TO REOPEN CLOSED TRAILS IN DURANGO. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (4/13, 28K) reports that the BLM "on Wednesday will reopen several areas around Durango that have been closed to provide winter range for deer and elk that is untraveled by humans." The article notes that "all trails in the Twin Buttes, Grandview Ridge and Animas City Mountain areas will be available again for public use."

BLM IMPLEMENTS FIRE RESTRICTIONS IN THREE WYOMING COUNTIES. The [AP](#) (4/14, 90K) reports that the BLM has "imposed partial fire restrictions in Weston, Crook and Niobrara counties due to dry conditions and high fire danger."

PROPOSED GRAND CANYON WATERSHED NATIONAL MONUMENT OPPOSED. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (4/13, 1.14M), Jim Unmacht, of Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, writes that "the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument is a solution searching for problems." According to Unmacht, "this proposed monument goes too far, adding more rules and regulations to 1.7 million acres that are unnecessary."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS EXTENDS DEADLINE ON PACIFIC FISHER DECISION. [The Hill](#) (4/14, Wheeler, 224K) reports that the FWS is "delaying its decision to list the West Coast population of Fisher as a threatened species." The agency said "it's extending the deadline for its final determination by 6 months, reopening the public comment period on the proposed rule for an additional 30 days."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Chico \(CA\) Enterprise-Record](#) (4/13, 92K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/14, 2.28M), [KGW-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (4/13, 111K), and [KBKW-AM Aberdeen \(WA\)](#) Aberdeen, WA (4/14).

FWS REVIEWING WESTERN POND TURTLES FOR POSSIBLE PROTECTION UNDER ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. The [Oregonian](#) (4/14, 950K) reports that "the western pond turtle, one of two nonmarine turtle species native to Oregon, will undergo a one-year review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine whether the species should be given protection under the Endangered Species Act." The agency "announced April 9 that it would review the species' status in response to a petition submitted in 2012 by the Center for Biological Diversity and several scientists, who are seeking to have the turtle listed under the species act."

Also reporting on the story is the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/14, 2.28M).

FWS TO REVIEW STATUS OF SPOTTED OWL. The [Siskiyou \(CA\) Daily News](#) (4/13, 16K) reports that the FWS has "agreed to initiate a status review of the northern spotted owl based on a 2012 petition from the Environmental Protection Information Center." The group, "in its petition, states that it believes the protections afforded the owl since its listing have not resulted in improved populations, but instead, it appears to have had an accelerated decrease."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Redwood \(CA\) Times](#) (4/13, 57K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EFFORT TO SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES. Additional coverage of the effort to save monarch butterflies was provided by the [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (4/14, 584K).

US Geological Survey:

USGS HIGHLIGHTS GROWING WILDFIRE RISK IN WYOMING. [Fierce Homeland Security](#) (4/14) reports that "scientists predict climate change will make southwestern Wyoming increasingly vulnerable to wildfire and directly impact plant and animal life in the region, finds a new study by the United States Geological Survey." The article notes that "the projections are based on forecasts for warmer temperatures and an increase in winter precipitation falling as rainfall, versus snow."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

"Dong will have until January 2016 to submit a Site Assessment Plan to the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, outlining its plans for assessing the zone's wind resources." Then, "upon approval, Dong would then have four and a half years to submit a Construction and Operations Plan." According to Stromsta, "such things should be all but routine for Dong, although inevitably there will be challenges to working within an entirely new – and still inchoate – system."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLOG STATES AHEAD OF FEDS IN FRACKING REGULATIONS. Kathleen Sgamma, VP of Government and Public Affairs at Western Energy Alliance, writes for [The Hill](#) (4/14, Sgamma, 224K) in its "Congress Blog" that the Department of the Interior's recent announcement about upgrading fracking rules to provide states with an example to follow is useless as "states have not been waiting for the Federal government." She points out that many states have enacted rules to protect the environment and regulate fracking, which Colorado started doing more than a decade ago. Sgamma writes that Colorado and Wyoming are among the strictest states, while North Dakota, Texas, and "all western states with sizable oil and natural gas development.. updated their rules well before the Federal government jumped in." She adds that in addition to belated regulations, "Federal government... inefficiencies have already discouraged development on Federal lands."

Offshore Energy Development:

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE BOEM BEGINS REVIEW OF SHELL'S PLANS IN CHUKCHI SEA. Additional coverage that BOEM has begun its review of Shell's plans in the Chuckchi Sea was provided by the [Offshore Engineer](#) (4/14), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (4/14, 4.04M), [UPI](#) (4/13), and [Vice](#) (4/14, 1.28M).

SHELL GRANTED TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AGAINST GREENPEACE. [FuelFix](#) (4/13, Dlouhy, 7K) reports that Shell won a temporary restraining order blocking Greenpeace activists from "boarding, barricading or interfering with the movement of the drillship Noble Discoverer," which members of the group scaled on April 6. The ruling, however, "stopped short of granting Shell Oil Co.'s request for a broader temporary restraining order that also would bar Greenpeace from encroaching on other support vessels that make up the company's large Arctic drilling fleet."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

REPUBLICANS FIGHT AGAINST BROWN'S WATER-USE RESTRICTIONS. The [Washington Times](#) (4/14, Richardson, 644K) reports that Republicans have begun to push back against California Gov. Jerry Brown's strong water-use restrictions. Republicans argue "the time has come to focus on the real culprit: a state and federal regulatory framework, fueled by environmental litigation, that requires a certain aquatic environment for at-risk fish while making it nearly impossible to build dams and other water-storage projects." Still, "so far," Republicans, farmers and business interests "have been unable to drum up much outrage over the situation, but that may change" as the restrictions take effect.

Empowering Native American Communities:

SEN. KAINE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT MONACAN RECOGNITION. The [Lynchburg \(VA\) News & Advance](#) (4/14, 77K) reports that "the bid to get federal recognition for the Monacan Indians and other Virginia tribes has enough votes to pass the Senate, provided it can make it to the floor for a vote, said U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine, a sponsor of the bill." Kaine said, "If I can get it on the floor for a vote, it's going to pass. I won't lose any Democratic votes on this, and I have a lot of Republicans who will vote for it, and did vote for it in committee."

GOV. MARTINEZ SIGNS NEW STATE-TRIBAL GAMBLING COMPACTS. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (4/14, 238K) reports that "Gov. Susana Martinez today signed a new, 22-year gambling compact between the state and Indian tribes that was approved last month by the Legislature." "It now goes to the U.S. Department of Interior, which must approve it before it can take effect."

SOUTH BEND COUNCIL VOTES TO SUPPORT POKAGON DEVELOPMENT WITH CASINO. [WSJV-TV](#) South Bend, IN (4/13, 3K) reports that the South Bend council has "voted 7-0 to welcome the Pokagon tribe development." The article notes that "it does not tie the council or the city to any negotiations with that development."

Also reporting on the story is [WSBT-TV](#) South Bend, IN (4/14, 21K).

BIA To Hold Meeting Tuesday On Proposed South Bend Casino. [WSJV-TV](#) South Bend, IN (4/13, 3K) reports that the BIA will "hold a public meeting this Tuesday on the proposed casino coming to South Bend." According to the article, "the meeting is set to give feedback on a draft environmental impact statement on the proposed 480 million dollar tribal village and casino."

HASKELL MAKES PROGRESS. In an editorial, the [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (4/14, 37K) says that "Haskell Indian Nations University has faced a number of challenges since it was last accredited in 2005," and "not all of those issues have been resolved, but hopefully the accreditation team from the Higher Learning Commission that arrived on campus Monday will be impressed by recent efforts to identify and address both problems and goals at the American Indian school." It notes that "funding is a big issue for Haskell, one of two colleges in the country operated by the federal Bureau of Indian Education." According to the paper, "being operated by a federal agency also creates extra problems for the school."

Top National News:

ADMINISTRATION LOBBIES FOR IRAN DEAL AS CORKER BILL APPEARS TO GAIN SUPPORT. The Administration made its case for a nuclear deal with Iran on Monday to members of the House. The classified briefing by top Administration officials came as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee debated a bill that would give Congress a say in a possible final deal. None of the networks covered the story, which received extensive wire and print coverage. Reports cast the White House as continuing its push for support for the framework deal earlier this month as lawmakers move closer to approving legislation that could undermine the ongoing talks.

As the White House defended the deal, the [New York Times](#) (4/14, Weisman, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9 97M) reports, leaders of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "negotiated into the night on Monday to soften language and possibly shorten a congressional review period" in a proposed measure that would give Congress a say in a possible nuclear deal with Iran. The measure is expected to "formally go before the committee on Tuesday afternoon." Before that time, Sens. Bob Corker and Ben Cardin are "focused on watering down two provisions" – one that would "require the president to certify every 90 days that Iran is not supporting terrorist attacks against Americans," and another that would "prevent the president from waiving any sanctions until the expiration of a 60-day congressional review period."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/14, Mufson, Jaffe, 5.17M) says today's debate presents "a new test" of the President's "quest to get a deal with Iran." Earnest, however, said Monday that Obama would veto a bill that requires him to send an Iran accord to Congress for approval and require Tehran to renounce terrorism. But Corker, the [Huffington Post](#) (4/13, Schulberg, 281K) reports, "said Monday he's confident" the bill "can survive a threatened presidential veto." Said Corker, "Look, I don't ever want to overcommit and under-deliver," but "we are moving in a very positive direction, and we've worked through some issues that I think have given me a lot of hope." [Politico](#) (4/13, Everett, Bresnahan, 669K) similarly reports Corker's comments.

House Majority Leader McCarthy, [Politico](#) (4/13, Sherman, 669K) reports, also "signaled Monday that" the Senate bill "would have a veto-proof majority in the House" and vowed to "move expeditiously to pass the measure" if it passes in the Senate. The [Huffington Post](#) (4/13, Barron-Lopez, 281K) quotes McCarthy as saying, "If he [Corker] is able to get his agreement and get it out of the Senate, it is my intention to bring it to the floor of the House and move it." The [Washington Times](#) (4/14, Howell, 644K) similarly reports McCarthy's remarks.

Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (4/14, 5.17M) column that while there are "plenty of good reasons to be suspicious" about the deal, the "criticism coming from Republicans and from Benjamin Netanyahu's government in Israel is tangled by inconsistencies and logic discrepancies. The one constant: They are opposed to what Obama is doing – whatever it is."

The [New York Times](#) (4/14, Weisman, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9 97M) reports the President "spent several hours...pitching the nuclear agreement in two private White House meetings as his aides began a furious, two-day lobbying effort on Capitol Hill aimed at heading off what they view as congressional interference." Secretary of State Kerry, Energy Secretary Moniz, and Treasury Secretary Lew briefed House members in a classified session on Monday, and they are scheduled to hold a similar briefing for senators this morning. The three officials, [Reuters](#) (4/14, Mohammed, Zengerle) reports, were expected to lobby lawmakers to not act until negotiators reach a final deal. "The president wants Congress to ensure that our negotiators have the time and space that they need to reach an agreement by the end of June," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said.

Kerry, the [AP](#) (4/14, Riechmann) reports, told reporters, "There have been a lot of representations, misrepresentations" about what's contained in the framework agreement.

will listen carefully and ask the questions that it wants to, but also give us the space and time to be able to complete a very difficult task which has high stakes for our country.”

The White House, [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/13, 1.53M) reported, is “putting tremendous pressure on opponents” of the deal. Kerry was shown saying: “It’s good to have an opportunity to really be able to discuss with people what is really contained within the parameters.” The President, [McClatchy](#) (4/14, Clark, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports, “ramp[ed] up efforts to stop” lawmakers from passing legislation “he said would scuttle the deal.” White House officials have “placed more than 130 phone calls to lawmakers to make their case, Earnest said.”

But [Bloomberg Politics](#) (4/14, Sink, Lerman, House, 169K) reports that “skeptical” lawmakers “said.. Kerry’s plea for more time to complete an agreement did little to dissuade them from insisting that Congress must review any final plan.” Republican Rep. Chris Stewart of Utah, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, “said the briefing didn’t resolve differences between the US and Iran’s interpretations of the framework.” [Voice of America](#) (4/13, Bowman, 70K) similarly says the Administration’s “pleas” for a delay “appear to be falling on mostly deaf ears in the Republican-led Congress.” After Monday’s briefing, Republican Rep. Chris Stewart said, “It serves our security better when Congress is involved, and if they are involved now, I think that is helpful.” Republican Rep. Dana Rohrabacher “was even more outspoken,” saying “what is needed in Iran is ‘regime change’ – a possibility he said the Administration is ‘writing off’ by pursuing nuclear talks.”

National Security Adviser Susan Rice, [USA Today](#) (4/14, Jackson, 4.95M) reports, met Monday with Jewish leaders at the White House about the proposed deal. Earnest said, “We are at the beginning of the process of helping members of Congress understand exactly what commitments Iran has made so far, and how those commitments we hope will be finalized over the course of the next two and a half months.” The [Washington Post](#) (4/14, Mufson, 5.17M) reports the President also attended the meeting with Jewish American leaders, as did “Vice President Biden’s national security adviser, Colin Kahl; and three other senior officials.” One person who attended the meeting called the session “positive” and said Obama was “heartfelt about his connection to Israel. Very moving.” Asked before the meeting whether Obama would ask Jewish leaders to lobby lawmakers, Earnest said, “We certainly would welcome any public expression of support from anybody – certainly these individuals.” And, he added, “we would welcome the expression of that support directly to members of Congress.” The [Washington Times](#) (4/14, Boyer, 644K) and [The Hill](#) (4/14, Fabian, 224K) also have similar reports on the President’s meeting Monday.

Gerald F. Seib, in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/14, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) column, criticizes the framework deal, which he says is based on a hope that the character of Iran will change.

Amir Taheri writes in the [New York Post](#) (4/13, 3.27M) that “Obama’s zeal to make a deal, any deal, may have rendered an agreement more difficult, if not impossible.” Taheri argues that the talks “have focused on how much of the uranium that Iran does not need for peaceful purposes it could enrich,” which he says is “like demanding a bald man be allowed no more than a dozen combs.”

Former assistant secretary of state Kim R. Holmes writes in the [Washington Times](#) (4/14, Holmes, 644K) that the deal is similar to one reached with North Korea in 1994 and argues that “a tougher sanctions approach offers a far better chance of stopping a future Iranian bomb than the current agreement. It also has a better chance of stopping war.”

Walter Pincus, meanwhile, writes in his [Washington Post](#) (4/14, 5.17M) column that it’s important to “remember there is still a long way to go before any final deal is reached on what is a complicated subject.”

Marc Thiessen writes in his [Washington Post](#) (4/14, 5.17M) column that the President appears to be applying the “Gruber Doctrine” – a “lack of transparency” and “basic exploitation of the lack of...understanding of the American voter” that was used to pass healthcare reform – to his foreign policy on Iran and Cuba. With the Iran deal, Thiessen argues he is “once again relying on a ‘lack of transparency’ to ram through its nuclear deal.” On Cuba, he is “also counting on exploiting the ‘lack of understanding of the American voter’ when it comes to his normalization of relations.” Obama and his foreign policy team, he argues, believe they “know what is good for us. And if we’re too ‘stupid’ to catch the deception, that’s our problem, not theirs.”

Cotton: Deal May Lead To Nuclear War. In an interview with Jeffrey Goldberg of [The Atlantic](#) (4/13, 2.09M), Sen. Tom Cotton said the deal with Iran “is not a deal at all, but instead simply a ‘list of concessions.’” Cotton also warned, “If we agreed to the kind of proposal the Obama administration has made, then military confrontation may be further off, but it might also be nuclear.” [Salon](#) (4/13, Newell, 688K) also reports Cotton’s remarks to [The Atlantic](#).

Despite Possible Deal, Many States Expected To Keep Sanctions. [Reuters](#) (4/14, Torbati) reports that even if a nuclear deal is reached with Tehran, many US states are expected to maintain their own sanctions on Iran. In fact, Kansas and Mississippi are even considering new sanctions.

Catholic Bishops Back Deal. The [Religion News Service](#) (4/14, Gibson, 5K) reports that the US Catholic bishops have “welcomed” the framework deal, and “their top spokesman on international affairs bluntly warned Congress against doing anything to undermine it.” The bishops “oppose efforts that seek to undermine the negotiation process or make a responsible multi-party agreement more difficult to achieve and implement,” Bishop Oscar Cantu, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on International Justice and Peace Committee, wrote to House and Senate lawmakers on Monday. “The alternative to an agreement leads toward armed conflict, an outcome of profound concern to the Church,” said Cantu.

Poll: Iowans Support Deal More Than Obama. The [Quad-City \(IA\) Times](#) (4/14, Lynch, 197K) reports that according to a Quinnipiac University Swing State Poll released Monday, Iowa votes, by a 64 percent to 25 percent margin, favor a deal with Iran “in which some sanctions against Iran are lifted if Iran restricts its nuclear program.” While voters are “ambivalent about any proposed nuclear deal with Iran,” Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac poll, said “two-thirds like the idea of an agreement that would restrict Iran’s ability to develop nuclear weapons in exchange for lifting some sanctions.” Meanwhile, Obama’s approval rating has fallen to 40 percent among Iowans.

Russia Lifts Embargo On Sale Of Surface-To-Air Missiles To Iran. [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/13, 1.53M) reported that Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced that “Russia is lifting its embargo on the sale of its highly-sophisticated S-300 surface-to-air missiles to Iran,” a move that caught the Administration “off guard.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/14, A1, Sonne, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), in a front-page story, quotes Lavrov as saying, “At this stage, we believe the need for this kind of embargo, and a separate voluntary Russian embargo, has completely disappeared.” He added that the missile system “is exclusively of a defensive nature” and “doesn’t threaten the security of any governments in the region, including, of course, Israel.”

Jim Sciutto reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/13, 554K) that Secretary of State Kerry raised the issue to Lavrov during a phone call Monday, adding that White House press secretary Josh Earnest said that if the arms sale “were to move forward, it would raise serious concerns and even could potentially raise sanctions concerns.”

Russia’s move, the [Washington Post](#) (4/14, Demirjian, 5.17M) reports, “suggested a significant policy shift by Moscow,” but the State Department insisted Monday that it “will not upset” ongoing nuclear talks with Tehran. “We see this as separate from the negotiations, and we don’t think this will have an impact on our unity,” spokeswoman Marie Harf said. The [Washington Times](#) (4/14, Taylor, 644K), however, reports that the move by Russia brings “new political peril for President Obama’s prospective nuclear deal with Tehran.” The [New York Times](#) (4/14, Macfarquhar, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) too says the move could “undermine the Obama administration’s efforts to sell Congress and foreign allies on the nuclear deal,” and “also reduce the United States’ leverage in the talks by making it much harder for the United States or Israel to mount airstrikes against Iran’s nuclear infrastructure if the country ignored such an agreement.”

The [AP](#) (4/14, Isachenkov) calls the move “a game changer” that would “significantly bolster” Iran’s “military capability and fuel Israel’s concerns.” Iran, however, “hailed” the decision, [AFP](#) (4/14) reports, as a step towards “lasting security” in the region. Similar reports on the move are offered by [Bloomberg News](#) (4/13, Halpin, Sink, 2.94M), [Reuters](#) (4/14, Baczynska), [USA Today](#) (4/14, Dorell, Today, 4.95M), and the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/13, Holtz, 380K), among other outlets.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/14, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says the move by Russia is a sign of what’s to come if a final nuclear deal with Iran is reached.

Miller: Administration Unlikely To Seek Mideast Peace Deal Next. Aaron David Miller writes for the [Daily Beast](#) (4/13, 937K) that with “Obama’s apparent success with Iran,” the Administration could “push full steam ahead” on seeking a Mideast peace deal. But, Miller says, the “odds that the Obama Administration will be able to build on an Iran deal and get to two states are pretty long ones,” noting the deteriorating relations between the President and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

WPost Reporter Likely To Be Put On Trial For Spying. The [New York Times](#) (4/14, Gladstone, Erdbrink, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports an Iranian news report that suggests imprisoned Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian “is a spy who furnished economic and industrial data” to the CIA “was viewed by friends on Monday as a sign that a trial might be held soon.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/14, 5.17M) calls the report “disturbing” and says it is “not a coincidence” that it comes just after Tehran accepted a framework nuclear deal. The Post asks if Iran cannot stop the persecution of Rezaian, “can they be counted on to deliver on the commitments they made in the nuclear talks?”

Iran Suspends Pilgrimages To Mecca Amid Tensions With Saudi Arabia. The [New York Times](#) (4/14, Erdbrink, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that amid

flights transporting pilgrims from Iran to Jeddah have been denied permission to land, Iranian news agencies reported. Culture Minister Ali Jannati told reporters, "Until these guilty people are put on trial and punished, the umrah will be stopped and Iranian flights will be suspended."

OBAMA PROMOTES TAX PLAN IN SERIES OF LOCAL TV INTERVIEWS. On Monday, the President began an effort to highlight his proposed tax cuts, while also contrasting them with the proposals from Congressional Republicans. [USA Today](#) (4/14, Jackson, 4.95M) reports that President is holding a series of events this week to highlight "his proposals for tax breaks devoted to child care, education, and working families, while arguing that a GOP plan to eliminate the estate tax will benefit only wealthy Americans." In contrast, Republicans are portraying the estate tax as "punitive levy that targets farms, ranches, and businesses." As part of the White House effort, on Monday, the Administration released a report "on the impacts of the two tax plans, including state-by-state breakdowns."

The [AP](#) (4/14) reports that the on Monday, the President took his message to different parts of the country with interviews with TV stations "from Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Ohio and Maine." On Tuesday, the President will hold a White House event "promoting equal pay," followed by a trip to Charlotte on Wednesday to "meet with women about budget policies to support families." Finally, on Thursday, the President "plans a White House event on family-friendly workplace policies."

[WMTV-TV](#) Madison, WI (4/13, 6 09 p.m. CDT, 3K) reported that the President discussed "how his tax plan would affect people in the state of Wisconsin," saying that "44 million families a year would save an average of \$600 in tax cuts." WMTV added that the White House is trying to convince Rep. Paul Ryan "to get on their side when it comes to middle class tax relief."

[WGAL-TV](#) Lancaster, PA (4/13, 6 00 p.m. EDT, 98K) reported that President is "calling out Republican tax plans, saying they come at the expense of the middle class." WGAL added that the President highlighted his "middle class economics agenda and tax cuts and to point out how it differs from Republican tax plans." Obama: "There are values involved that have to be examined. I think that the people of Pennsylvania everybody should do their fair share, and nobody is asking for a free lunch, but middle class families need help and that is what we're going to focus on." WGAL added that the President said "his middle class economics agenda would give tax cuts to 44 million middle income families, many of them in Pennsylvania. He would do so through larger tax credits for college costs, child care, two wage-earner families, and low wage workers."

[WCSH-TV](#) Portland, ME (4/13, 6:00 p.m. EDT, 30K) reported that the President highlighted "his tax plan and really contrast it with what the Republicans are proposing," adding, "This is a story that we have heard before, that the Republicans want to help the very wealthy whereas the President's plan would benefit the middle class." WCSH added that the President "wants to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit for workers who don't have children living at home. This would benefit 63,000 Mainers. That is in addition to the 53,000 who already get this. The President's Second Earner Credit for two earner families would give a tax cut up to \$500 to 120 working families in Maine. ... The President's proposal is to triple the maximum childcare credit for young children to \$3,000 per child. ... The President says this would benefit 100,000 households in Maine and that pretty much any household making less than \$200,000 a year would see some benefit."

Obama Discusses His Legacy. [WBNS-TV](#) Columbus, OH (4/13, 6:00 p.m. EDT, 151K) reported asked the President what he wants his legacy to be. Obama: "I hope that when folks look back, and it may require a little historic distance, that they will say I came into office committed to making the economy work better for ordinary families, that we took the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and we were able to right the ship, that we made the economy a little fairer, more inclusive, giving people more opportunity, providing healthcare for folks who didn't have to it before, bringing troops home so they can be with their families after having served us so valiantly." WBNS added that the President said that "if a child has a better chance now than it did when he came into office, he will consider his presidency a success."

RUBIO ENTERS GOP PRESIDENTIAL RACE WITH MIAMI RALLY. Sen. Marco Rubio entered the race for the Republican presidential nomination Monday evening at a Miami rally that emphasized his origin as the son of working-class Cuban immigrants, as well as his youth and energy, in a campaign in which several leading candidates are well into their sixties and are members of political families that have held the presidency in the past. Coverage of the event, which includes reports on all three network newscasts, focuses on Rubio's efforts to contrast himself with Jeb Bush and Hillary Clinton, and concludes that while Rubio has seen low polling numbers so far, he is expected to emerge as a top GOP contender.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/13, story 2, 2:30, Holt, 7.86M) reported that Rubio "made it official in front of a pumped-up hometown crowd." NBC (O'Donnell) added, "Candidates rarely make their announcements in the evening, but Marco Rubio did. He came here at the precise time of 6:03 p.m. to make sure that cable networks like the conservative home of Fox News would carry it live for a friendly audience, and the location was also intentional: the landmark, Miami's Freedom Tower, the Ellis Island for Cuban refugees who fled Fidel Castro's regime a generation ago." The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/13, story 6, 1:40, Pelley, 5 08M) reported that "the son of Cuban immigrants...vowed to protect the American dreams they sought." Rubio: "I live in an exceptional country where the son of a bartender and maid can have the same dreams and the same future as those who come from power and privilege."

The [AP](#) (4/14, Elliott, Farrington) says that "hoping to turn his relative youth into a benefit," Rubio promised "to move politics beyond the past, a job at both Democratic favorite" Clinton, and Bush, "his one-time Republican mentor." The [New York Times](#) (4/14, Parker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) also says "the youngest candidate" in the race "is expected to cast himself as a forward-looking, next-generation leader – and an implicit contrast" with Bush and Clinton. [ABC World News](#) (4/13, story 3, 2:25, Muir, 5.84M) reported that in an interview with George Stephanopoulos just before his announcement, Rubio was asked about Bush. He said, "Jeb is my friend. I have tremendous admiration for him ... I am not running against Jeb Bush. We are competing for the same job."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/13, story 3, 1:25, Holt, 7.86M), Chuck Todd said Clinton is "a Baby Boomer," and Bush, "Rubio's chief primary opponent," is "another Baby Boomer. So he's able to make that point quite a bit, that he's about the future. Five of the last six presidential elections have been won by the younger candidate. Voters instinctively respond to the future sometimes by going with the younger candidate."

Susan Page of [USA Today](#) (4/14, 4.95M) writes that "the conventional wisdom used to be" that if Bush decided to seek the 2016 nomination, Rubio "would demur and wait his turn." But not only did Rubio's entry "prove that assumption wrong," the "generational message the freshman Florida senator delivered and the iconic setting he chose underscores the advantages he has over Bush."

[Bloomberg News](#) (4/13, Bender, 2.94M) says Rubio "enters the race with high expectations, and perhaps even higher hurdles." His political skills "are on par with any Republican in or expected to get into the field," and he is expected to perform well both as a speaker and in retail politicking. But "without help from a key billionaire or two, financial support for his campaign remains questionable," and he may not get much help from Florida Republicans "as long as he's overshadowed" by Bush.

[Reuters](#) (4/14, Holland) says Rubio remains low in early primary polling, but his campaign team expects his numbers to improve as he becomes better known. The [Washington Post](#) (4/14, O'Keefe, Roig-Franzia, 5.17M) says the "dramatic announcement is expected to launch Rubio near the top of a crowded field." Despite his low polling numbers, many analysts have listed Rubio in the GOP top tier.

[Politico](#) (4/14, Isenstadt, 669K) says the "soaring rhetoric and the venue he chose.. underscore the intensely personal nature" of his campaign. But his "decision to emphasize his family's immigrant roots, and therefore immigration, could be a significant drag for him in the GOP primary." The [Miami Herald](#) (4/14, Mazzei, Sherman, 694K) says Rubio "rose from the obscure West Miami City Commission to the US Senate in a mere dozen years."

The [Washington Times](#) (4/14, Sherfinski, 644K) and [The Hill](#) (4/13, Kamisar, 224K) also report on Rubio's announcement.

Cruz Says Rubio Will "Elevate The Debate For All Of Us." [USA Today](#) (4/14, Camia, 4.95M) reports that Sen. Ted Cruz, another Cuban-American Tea Party-backed contender, "welcomed Rubio into the race." Cruz said, "Marco is a friend and colleague whom I greatly respect. He is a strong addition to the Republican field, and he will undoubtedly elevate the debate for all of us."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/14, O'Connor, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that while Rubio faces challenges from both Cruz and Sen. Rand Paul, another first-term Tea Party favorite, Bush is likely to be the bigger obstacle.

WPost Says Rubio's Record "Less Clear-Cut" Than Campaign Themes. The [Washington Post](#) (4/14, 5.17M) says in an editorial that while Rubio is running on "an inspiring personal story and a promise to muscularly advance American values," his record "is less clear-cut than those themes. ... In some cases, Mr. Rubio has pushed his party toward better policy," such as when "he championed a bipartisan compromise immigration bill in 2013." But he has occasionally "ducked when political courage has been needed," such as his Foreign Affairs Committee vote against President Obama's plan to bomb Syria. Still, "his status as a fresh face, relatively unknown to most voters, gives him a chance to define himself with greater focus and clarity."

WSJournal Has Mixed Praise For Rubio. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/14, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says in an editorial that though Rubio was seen as a presidential prospect from the day of his Senate election, he has been a serious legislator, particularly on foreign policy. The Journal also praises his poverty plan as innovative. But the newspaper criticizes Rubio's tax plan as too timid on both corporate and individual marginal tax rates.

Atwater," but his announcement Saturday that he will not run has changed the race. Rep. Tom Rooney, who said two weeks ago that "the race wasn't even on his radar," is now considering a run. Other GOP prospects include Lt. Gov. Carlos López-Cantera, ex-state House Speaker Will Weatherford, and several other sitting House members including Reps. Vern Buchanan, Ron DeSantis, David Jolly, and Dennis Ross. Democrats are rallying around Rep. Patrick Murray, meaning the GOP may face a long primary season that the Democrats avoid.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *"Iraq's Cycles Of Revenge."* The [New York Times](#) (4/14, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), in an editorial, writes that while Iraq and the US have hailed a recent operation to regain control of Tikrit from ISIL, the "picture of what has happened in the wake of American bombing to dislodge ISIS fighters from predominantly Sunni urban areas is hazy and in dispute." According to the Times, "there's growing evidence that Shiite militiamen who operate in concert with Iraqi troops have carried out summary executions, lynchings and widespread looting" in a sign that they are "taking revenge on Sunnis."

"Women Still Earn A Lot Less Than Men." In honor of Equal Pay Day, the [New York Times](#) (4/14, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) editorializes that "while that seems like steady if painfully slow progress, closer inspection shows that progress in closing the gender pay gap has basically stalled over the past decade." Noting that in "2010, 2012 and 2014, congressional Republicans blocked consideration of the Paycheck Fairness Act," the Times argues that this "obstructionism has only made the problem worse, and an even more pressing one for the presidential candidates to address."

"New York's Leaky Public Pension Funds." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (4/14, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reacts to a report from NYC comptroller Scott Stringer, which found that fees and bad decisions by Wall Street firms cost the city's public pension funds \$2.5 billion over the last ten years. The Times says that Stringer needs to keep his promise to expose those firms responsible for the poor returns. The Times adds that the city "should drive a harder bargain with Wall Street, and cultivate in-house investing expertise over high-priced outside management."

WASHINGTON POST. *"Iran's Absurd Persecution Of Post Reporter Jason Rezaian."* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/14, 5.17M) calls an Iranian news report that imprisoned Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian is facing an espionage charge "disturbing" and says it is "not a coincidence" that it comes just after Tehran accepted a framework nuclear deal. The Post asks if Iran cannot stop the persecution of Rezaian, "can they be counted on to deliver on the commitments they made in the nuclear talks?"

"Congress Should Put Trade Atop Its To-Do List." A [Washington Post](#) (4/14, 5.17M) editorial urges Congress to pass trade promotion authority legislation, calling it the most important item on the congressional agenda. Noting that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who supports the TPP, "arrives in Washington for a state visit on April 28," the Post argues that this should be Congress's target date for passing the measure.

"Mr. Rubio's Idealism." The [Washington Post](#) (4/14, 5.17M) says in an editorial that while Sen. Marco Rubio is running on "an inspiring personal story and a promise to muscularly advance American values," his record "is less clear-cut than those themes. ... In some cases, Mr. Rubio has pushed his party toward better policy," such as when "he championed a bipartisan compromise immigration bill in 2013." But he has occasionally "ducked when political courage has been needed," such as his Foreign Affairs Committee vote against President Obama's plan to bomb Syria. Still, "his status as a fresh face, relatively unknown to most voters, gives him a chance to define himself with greater focus and clarity."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. *"The Rubio Run."* The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/14, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says in an editorial that though Sen. Marco Rubio was seen as a presidential prospect from the day of his Senate election, he has been a serious legislator, particularly on foreign policy. The Journal also praises his poverty plan as innovative. But the newspaper criticizes Rubio's tax plan as too timid on both corporate and individual marginal tax rates.

"Do Two Half-Victims Make A Whole Case?" The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/14, Journal, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), more than a year after extracting a \$80 million settlement from Ally Bank for discriminatory treatment of borrowers, has not yet distributed any of those funds to the aggrieved borrowers. The Journal argues that such discrimination charges are manufactured by Federal bureaucrats based on certain assumptions about minority status.

"Russian Missiles For The Ayatollah." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/14, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says Russia's decision to lift the embargo on the sale of surface-to-air missiles to Iran is a sign of what's to come if a final nuclear deal with Iran is reached.

"Snowden And Beijing's Cannon." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/14, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says Edward Snowden may have given China the information it needed to create the so-called Great Cannon, which it can use to censor Internet content around the world. The Journal notes similarities between the Great Cannon and Quantum, a US-developed tool to track potential terrorists and criminals, the existence of which Snowden revealed in 2013.

"Ed Milliband's Old Labour Manifesto." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/14, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) slams the proposed tax policies of Britain's Labour Party leader, Ed Milliband, which includes allocating billions of pounds toward the National Health Service, cutting university tuition costs and increasing the UK's minimum wage. The Journal criticizes Labour's plans to increase corporate taxes, saying its overall economic platform is representative of the failure of all British politicians running in this campaign, including the Tories, adding that there is no economic growth agenda provided by either party.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Near Groundwater Zero](#)

[A Painful Reckoning With Drought](#)

[Mexico Raids Squalid Labor Camps](#)

[Russia Lifts Ban On Sending Iran Missile System](#)

[Candidate Rubio Has Some Catching Up To Do](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Russia Lifts Iran Missile Ban Amid Nuclear Talks](#)

[Rubio Enters Crowded Field](#)

[Mideast Christians Trapped By Extremists](#)

[In Odd European Twist Banks Owe Borrowers](#)

New York Times:

[Ex-Blackwater Guards Sentenced To Long Prison Terms In 2007 Killings Of Iraqi Civilians](#)

[Putin Lifts Ban On Russian Missile Sales To Iran](#)

[Stressing Youth Marco Rubio Joins 2016 Field](#)

[Sex Dementia And A Husband On Trial At Age 78](#)

[New Plan To Shrink Rikers Island Population Tackle Court Delays](#)

[Günter Grass Writer Who Pried Open Germany's Past But Hid His Own Dies At 87](#)

Washington Post:

[Montgomery Clashes With 'Free-Range' Family Again](#)

[Another Huge And Open Iron Mine Is Carved Out Of Brazil's Rain Forest](#)

[Construction Costs Add To Va's Building Troubles](#)

[Prison Terms In Iraq Killings](#)

[Rubio Dismisses Leaders "Of The Past"](#)

[Putin Lifts 5-Year Hold On Missile Sale To Iran](#)

Financial Times:

[Hong Kong Exchange Becomes World's Largest](#)

[Nina Ricci Heir Convicted For Tax Fraud](#)

[Border Children Show Up For Court--This Time For Crimes](#)
[Russia Acts To Shield Iran Against Airstrikes](#)
[Rubio Enters '16 Race With Story Of Ambition](#)
[Republicans Say Drastic Water Rules Not The Answer](#)
[Clinton Triggers GOP Attacks. Cool Reaction From Democrats](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC Tulsa-Accidental Police Shooting; Hillary Clinton-Presidential Campaign; Marco Rubio-Presidential Campaign Announcement; Severe Weather; South Carolina-Police Shooting; Indiana Bus Crash; Alaska Airlines-Worker Trapped; Airline Rating; Blackwater Security Guards-Sentencing; London-Jewel Theft.

CBS Tulsa-Accidental Police Shooting; South Carolina-Police Shooting; Blackwater Security Guards-Sentencing; Russian Fight-US Jet Near Collision; Hillary Clinton-Presidential Campaign; Marco Rubio-Presidential Campaign Announcement; Presidential Campaign Analysis; Airline Ratings; United Airlines-Landing Emergency; Epilepsy Treatment-Marijuana; Beijing Five-Women Released; Astronaut Perspective.

NBC Hillary Clinton-Iowa Campaign Trip; Marco Rubio-Presidential Campaign Announcement; Presidential Campaigns-Analysis; Tulsa-Accidental Police Shooting; South Carolina Police Shooting; Blackwater Security Guards-Sentencing; Severe Weather; Airline Ratings; Commercial Airlines-Plane Retirement; Alaska Airlines-Trapped Worker.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hillary Clinton-Presidential Campaign Announcement – 8 minutes, 10 seconds

Tulsa-Accidental Police Shooting – 7 minutes, 05 seconds

Marco Rubio-Presidential Campaign Announcement – 6 minutes, 35 seconds

South Carolina-Police Shooting – 4 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC Aaron Hernandez Murder Trial-Deliberation; Jodi Arias-Life Prison Sentence; Marco Rubio Presidential Campaign Announcement; Hillary Clinton-Campaign; Tulsa-Accidental Police Shooting; HBO-Television Leak.

CBS Marco Rubio-Presidential Campaign Announcement; Tulsa-Accidental Police Shooting; Blackwater Security Guards-Sentencing; Tennessee Death Penalty-Lethal Injection; Iran Nuclear Deal-Congress.

NPR Marco Rubio-Presidential Campaign Announcement; Blackwater Security Guards-Sentencing; Ukraine-Fighting Resumes; UN Security Council Vote-Yemen Rebel Arms Embargo; Iran Nuclear Deal-Congress; College Basketball Player-Cancer Battle.

FOX Marco Rubio-Presidential Campaign Announcement; Hillary Clinton-Campaign; Jodi Arias-Life Prison Sentence.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Holds a bilateral meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi; hosts "In Performance at the White House" with the first lady.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Delivers remarks to the University of Notre Dame Leaders Symposium at th

Conversation Contents

GREENWIRE: Now 'conversant' in portfolio, Jewell plans out 2nd half of term

"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Apr 13 2015 11:19:08 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: DOI_Politicals <doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: GREENWIRE: Now 'conversant' in portfolio, Jewell plans out 2nd half of term

INTERIOR:

Now 'conversant' in portfolio, Jewell plans out 2nd half of term

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Monday, April 13, 2015

When Sally Jewell was sworn in as secretary of the Interior on April 12, 2013, the Beltway outsider needed daily crash courses in how to run the nation's largest land management agency with its conflicting goals of resource development and conservation.

"It was like studying for a final every night," Jewell said.

But two years into her tenure, Jewell says she's "conversant" in Interior's portfolio of wildlife protection, energy development, recreation and historical preservation on roughly one-fifth of the nation's land, in addition to improving the quality of life for American Indians.

In the next two years, Jewell, 59, said she hopes to make Interior's mission more relevant to young people and connect more Americans with the outdoors. She plans to implement "more thoughtful planning, more thoughtful regulation" of energy development on the nation's lands and waters.

"I feel really great about where I am right now, and I feel great about what I think we can get accomplished in the coming two years," Jewell said in an interview with *Greenwire*. "I feel like I'm beyond the halfway point."

Jewell has a full policy agenda for the remainder of President Obama's second term. She'll be overseeing a Bureau of Land Management rule to reduce methane pollution from oil and gas wells on public lands and making tough decisions on whether to allow future offshore drilling, particularly in the Arctic.

She'll also play a major role in whether the Fish and Wildlife Service deems the greater sage grouse, the bird that has been the subject of much controversy, worthy of federal protections in late September, a decision that could have important ramifications for land use in the West and is almost certain to be challenged in court.

Jewell will also be Obama's emissary to the West as the White House considers which lands to set aside as national monuments.

Since replacing Ken Salazar, Jewell has seen dozens of sage grouse and has watched polar bears meander across a beach in Kaktovik, Alaska, a battleground in Jewell's support of wilderness protections in the oil-rich Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. She has overseen the creation of a handful of new national monuments; crafted and finalized new rules for oil and gas exploration on public lands and in the Arctic; and led a major federal-state partnership to preserve sage grouse.

She has also implemented controversial decisions to protect two iconic wildlife refuges in Alaska and cordon off sensitive Arctic waters from future oil and gas drilling -- taking fire from an Alaska senator with outsized control over Interior's programs and budget.

When Jewell inherited Interior, its finances, like those of other federal agencies, were in disarray.

Congress had failed to reach a deficit deal, which triggered across-the-board sequestration cuts to every Interior program, including operation of its more than 400 national park units and approval of oil and gas leases in the West. Jewell, the former CEO of outdoor retailer REI, said then that "you would never run a business this way."

It got worse several months later, in October, when the government shut down for 16 days, shuttering national parks and placing most of Interior's 70,000 employees on an unwelcome furlough.

"Anything from there is up," Jewell said last month.

Things did improve in late 2013 when then-budget chiefs Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) struck a deal to lift the sequester in 2014 and 2015, helping restore Interior services, Jewell said.

But the sequester is slated to return in fiscal 2016 now that Republicans have taken control of both chambers of Congress, and Jewell is worried.

Barring a deal, Interior's \$13.2 billion request -- which includes Jewell's policy goals to increase conservation funding, boost youth employment and accelerate restoration of sage grouse lands, among others -- is "wishful thinking," according to Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), who controls the agency's budget.

"I'm hopeful Congress will get past sequestration," Jewell said. "For critics and supporters, no one can argue that our economy is in much better shape and that things like the stimulus actually worked."

Fiscal hawks in Congress want to slash Interior's budget, but privately they "also want something from me that costs money from the Interior's budget," Jewell said. "So the irony is palpable."

Achievements and embarrassments

Jewell said she's proud of the Obama administration's work in Indian Country. She touted Obama's visit last June to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota, the creation in summer 2013 of the White House Council on Native American Affairs, and Interior's work on improving the Indian education system.

"We are moving beyond random acts of kindness in disparate parts of the budget to Indian Country, and moving to something that's more focused on supporting what the tribes say they need," Jewell said.

Jewell also touted the Park Service's efforts to "tell the story of America through our assets" as it seeks to become more relevant to youth and minorities in the run-up to its 2016 centennial.

"We're really lining ourselves up well to create an environment where a new generation is going to find the national parks more relevant to them in the future than they have in the past," she said.

Jewell was speaking by telephone from Hawaii, where she had joined Gov. David Ige (D) and Hawaii Democratic Sens. Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono to dedicate Honouliuli National Monument, which Obama designated in February to preserve and interpret Hawaii's largest and longest-used confinement camp for Japanese Americans, immigrants and prisoners of war during World War II.

Jewell's Park Service has elevated the stories of other historically marginalized Americans.

It announced a study last May to identify sites of importance to the civil rights struggle of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans. In February, Obama created a national monument protecting Chicago's Pullman historic district, a site of significance for the nation's labor and civil rights movements that became the first Park Service site in the Windy City.

Obama will continue to use the Antiquities Act in his final years in office, Jewell said.

"We're making progress where Congress has not been able to," Jewell said. "The president has used his pen judiciously but effectively."

When Congress has passed legislation, it has not always been to Jewell's liking.

Jewell last December said she was "profoundly" upset that Congress had tucked a provision into a massive public lands package to facilitate a copper mine in Arizona, which Jewell called an affront to American Indians. Jewell later blasted Congress' decision to block Endangered Species Act protections for sage grouse, assailing members for "political posturing."

Jewell has since brokered major agreements with states, landowners and businesses to preserve the greater sage grouse's 165 million acres of Western habitat and raised awareness of how disappearing sagebrush will affect hundreds of other species.

The job has offered plenty of time in the field, where Jewell, an avid outdoorswoman, feels at home.

Jewell in late March accompanied Oregon Gov. Kate Brown (D) on a pre-dawn visit to a sage grouse breeding ground in central Oregon to view the bird's flamboyant mating ritual. Jewell said she counted 26 grouse.

But Jewell, who has climbed Antarctica's Vinson Massif and made seven successful summits of Mount Rainier in her home state of Washington, said she has "hardly climbed anything" since taking office.

Her tallest conquests were 4,800-foot Mai box Peak, outside her Seattle-area home, during a holiday and Shenandoah National Park's Old Rag Mountain. She said she also takes personal visits to Catoctin Mountain Park in north-central Maryland and hikes around Harper's Ferry National Historic Park, about an hour's drive from Washington, D.C.

"I'm not looking for vertical at this point," she said. "I'm just looking for out -- outside."

She will be camping in a national park later this month with her husband, Warren, but wouldn't say where, "because I don't want company."

Jewell recalled some embarrassing moments while adjusting to the D.C. spotlight.

In April 2013, a couple of weeks into her tenure and "thinking I was less visible than I actually was," a sweaty Jewell hopped on a Metro train in shorts and a T-shirt, "looking like a real grunge," after moving furniture at her new apartment. She was picking up a pair of glasses and a party purse for that night's White House Correspondents' Dinner but was quickly recognized by a man who said he was taking photographs for the Canadian Embassy.

"I learned that in these jobs, you're more on display than you think you are," she said.

Later that day, Jewell was lifting a sofa up the stairs at her apartment with her hair only half done when someone rang her doorbell. It was Rahm Emanuel, the mayor of Chicago and Obama's former chief of staff. He had arrived 30 minutes early.

Cheers and jeers

Interior watchers say Jewell deserves a mixture of praise and criticism for her first two years in office.

"Her grade would be pretty much incomplete at this point, and that's not a bad thing," said Whit Fosburgh, CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, a sportsmen's conservation group.

Fosburgh praised Jewell for advancing protections for sage grouse, modernizing BLM's land-use planning, expanding the use of landscape-scale mitigation, and reforming oil and gas lease sales.

"These are things that are moving in the right direction and could represent a fundamental change in how our public lands are managed," he said. "But they're not across the finish line yet."

Jewell has also done a commendable job marshaling Interior's 70,000 employees around the Obama agenda, prodding some career employees who have been resistant to change, Fosburgh said.

"She's done a nice job keeping various factions within the department moving in the right direction on sage grouse," Fosburgh said. "She's been to a large degree the adult in the room making sure everyone moves toward a common goal."

Jewell has been less successful in nurturing relationships on Capitol Hill, Fosburgh said. Salazar, by contrast, was a seasoned politician and

"Sally by nature is more of an introvert," Fosburgh said.

Jewell has had a particularly rough relationship with Murkowski, who has hounded Jewell ever since the secretary rejected a proposed road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge that Alaskans wanted to improve public safety.

But what Jewell has lacked in political chops, she has made up for with her policy expertise, said Brian Rutledge, vice president of the National Audubon Society.

Rutledge praised Jewell's depth of understanding of sagebrush habitats in the West and said she's done an impressive job keeping states at the bargaining table.

"She didn't just go for a hike with us in the sagebrush," Rutledge said. "She listens, studies and understands the importance."

Others wonder whether Jewell's work is enough to save the sage grouse.

"Interior's sage grouse framework is woefully inadequate to the task of preventing extinction, much less [promoting] recovery, of this icon of the West," said John Horning, executive director of WildEarth Guardians.

Jewell has come up short on climate change by failing to curb extraction of oil, gas and coal from Interior lands, which, when burned, are a major source of domestic global warming emissions, Horning said.

"If Secretary Jewell wanted a real climate legacy -- one to match EPA's -- she'd commit today to keeping some significant percentage of fossil fuels in the ground," Horning said. "Then she'd have the respect of climate activists and the gratitude of countless future generations."

But if she keeps too much of those minerals in the ground, Jewell risks a backlash from fossil fuel groups.

Rebecca Watson, who was Interior assistant secretary for land and minerals management during the George W. Bush administration, said commodities industries -- grazing and oil and gas, in particular -- will "pay the price" for Interior's efforts to conserve BLM lands for sage grouse.

"Secretary Jewell wants to paint a picture of federal and state cooperation to head off a listing by Interior's [Fish and Wildlife Service]," she said. "But meanwhile, BLM is moving ahead without the states, according to the schedule set by the victorious environmental hard-liners in litigation."

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, April 13, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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- + Interior's Principle Deputy CIO Leaving.
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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR TO ANNOUNCE NEW REGULATION ON OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [New York Times](#) (4/11, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports the Interior Department is planning to announce a new regulation on offshore oil and gas drilling as early as Monday. The new rule "is expected to tighten safety requirements on blowout preventers," which "are the last line of protection to stop explosions in undersea oil and gas wells." The move is intended to "prevent the kind of explosions that caused the catastrophic BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico," Obama Administration officials said Friday.

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (4/11, Cama, 224K), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/12, Harder, Gold, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), [Reuters](#) (4/11), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (4/12, 315K), the [International Business Times](#) (4/12, 1.19M), the [Longview \(TX\) News-Journal](#) (4/12, 64K), and [E&P Magazine](#) (4/12).

U.S., MEXICO OFFICIALS SIGN CONSERVATION AGREEMENT. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/10, Aguilar, 2.28M) reports that on Friday, U.S. and Mexican officials "celebrated the cooperation it took to get the crossing" from Big Bend National Park to Boquillas del Carmen, Mexico "back open." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and her Mexican counterpart, Juan José Guerra Abud, Mexico's secretary of the environment and natural resources, "flew in for twin ceremonies on both sides of the border." The article notes that "in addition to improving conditions in Boquillas, the two governments are collaborating on environmental issues in Big Bend and Mexico's adjacent Rio Bravo region." Jewell said, "We have the opportunity with Boquillas to encourage thoughtful ecological tourism."

Additional coverage was provided by [KWES-TV Odessa \(TX\)](#) Odessa, TX (4/12, 5K) and [KWES-TV Odessa \(TX\)](#) Odessa, TX (4/12, 5K).

SECRETARY JEWELL HAS MADE WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE WEST A PRIORITY. The [New York Times](#) (4/13, A1, Wines, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that "from Texas to Arizona to Colorado, the entire West is under siege by changing weather patterns that have shrunk snowpacks, raised temperatures, spurred evaporation and reduced reservoirs to record lows." The article notes that "since coming to office two years ago, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has elevated water management in the West to an agency priority". Michael Connor, the deputy secretary of the interior, said in an interview, "The challenge is systemic and persistent across the West. We need better infrastructure, better operation arrangements, better ways to share water and move water."

Op-Eds Call Attention To Water Issue. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (4/10, 1.14M), author Melissa Seigny argues that the conversation over water should be framed "as an excess of demand, not a shortage of supply." She notes that "even setting aside the stresses of long-term drought and changing weather patterns, quite simply, westerners have divvied up more water than the Colorado River actually carries in normal years."

In an op-ed for the [Denver Post](#) (4/13, Hawes, 804K), Taylor Hawes, Colorado River Program Director for The Nature Conservancy, calls for better water management.

FIGHT OVER KING COVE ROAD CONTINUES. The [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (4/11, 146K) reports that "while the Aleutians East Borough tries again to sell a mothballed hovercraft, a court fight continues over whether a one-lane road through about 10 miles of the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge or a boat trip is the best way to connect the remote towns of King Cove and Cold Bay, 600 miles southwest of Anchorage." The article notes that "the access battle has become one of the perennial flashpoints between the state and the federal government and it threatens to remain so."

INTERIOR'S PRINCIPLE DEPUTY CIO LEAVING. The [Federal News Radio](#) (4/13, 11K) reports that Larry Gross is moving on from the Interior Department. According to the article, "after spending the last almost five years as the principle deputy CIO at Interior, Gross said he'll become the Agriculture Department's Farm Service Agency's top IT guy on April 20."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SECRETARY JEWELL VISITS CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's visit to Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area was provided by the [Neighbor Newspapers Atlanta](#) (4/12).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SENTINEL LANDSCAPES DESIGNATIONS. Additional coverage of the Sentinel Landscapes designations was provided by the [Sierra Vista \(AZ\) Herald](#) (4/8, 3K).

OP-ED CEDAR MESA NEEDS PROTECTIONS. In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (4/12, Roberts, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), David Roberts writes that "administered by the woefully understaffed federal Bureau of Land Management," Cedar Mesa is "hammered every year by rampant looting that a small number of rangers are powerless to stop." He notes that "more ominously, perhaps, the Utah State Legislature has its eye on the roughly 500,000 acres of pinyon and juniper forests and its twisting sandstone canyons." Roberts urges President Obama to "use his authority to set aside Cedar Mesa as a national monument."

National Park Service:

SCHUMER URGES NPS TO MOVE FORWARD IN ESTABLISHING HARRIET TUBMAN PARK IN AUBURN. The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (4/12, 27K) reports that Sen. Chuck Schumer "doesn't want federal government bureaucracy to hold up the formal establishment of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park." At a news conference Friday in Auburn, Schumer, urged the NPS "to finalize land agreements needed to officially establish the Tubman park." He said, "The authorization of the park took us years. We can't wait years again. That's the bottom line. We cannot let the Park Service drag its feet... NPS has to find a way to come to an agreement with local advocates. So I'm here today to tell the Park Service prioritize all of its resources and personnel necessary to get this done in a quick, timely manner in the spirit of Harriet Tubman."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York \(NY\) Daily News](#) (4/12, Friedman, 3.79M) and the [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (4/12, 438K).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK CONSIDERING CROWD MEASURES. The [AP](#) (4/12, 2.28M) reports that "officials at Rocky Mountain National Park are considering closing certain areas of the park on the busiest days if those areas get overcrowded, saying too many people and vehicles are putting a burden on trails, roads and wildlife." The article notes that "the park had a record 3.4 million visitors last year, and officials have begun talking about ways to protect park resources." According to Rick Fedorchak, chief of interpretation and education, "too many people in the park can affect the trails, roads and wildlife, but they also can hinder the natural experience park users are seeking with crowds and noise."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (4/12, Reporter-Herald, 804K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (4/12, 804K), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (4/12, 140K), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/11, Press, 5.17M).

CHERRY BLOSSOMS HIT PEAK BLOOM AHEAD OF PARADE, FESTIVAL. The [AP](#) (4/12, 2.28M) reports that "Washington's famous cherry blossoms have hit peak bloom ahead of this weekend's National Cherry Blossom Festival." The NPS says "the trees reached peak bloom Friday afternoon, a day ahead of what had been forecast. Saturday marks the culmination of the festival, which includes an annual parade and Japanese street festival."

Additional coverage was provided by [NPR](#) (4/13, 1.58M) and the [Washington Post](#) (4/9, Heim, 5.17M).

FIRST ANACOSTIA RIVER FESTIVAL CELEBRATED. [WJLA-TV](#) Washington (4/13, 12K) reports that "thousands packed Anacostia Park on Sunday afternoon for the first Anacostia River Festival." Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles, the spokesperson for the NPS, said, "We've put in a temporary dock where folks can try canoeing or kayaking or dragon boats. We have a fishing workshop for people if they want to learn to fish." She added, "Where we're standing is just steps away from the future 11th Street Bridge Park - it's a perfect location for all of our partners to get together right across from the Navy Yard on the other side of the river and bring these communities together."

NPS AWARDS GRANTS TO TRIBES FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION EFFORTS. The [Riverton \(WY\) Ranger](#) (4/13, 167) reports that the NPS has "announced that \$8.78 million in grants will be allocated to 154 American Indian tribes to 'support their historic preservation offices in order to carry out national historic preservation program responsibilities on tribal lands.'" NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said, "Engaging American Indian tribes in our national historic preservation program is essential to our nationwide effort to preserve significant tribal places, as well as tribal culture and tradition. For many tribes, languages and traditions are threatened with extinction and sacred places are endangered. This grant program provides much needed funding to protect the cultures of America's first people."

HUNTER ASKS HIGH COURT TO LIMIT NPS' POWER. The [Law 360](#) (4/12, 9K) reports that "an Alaska moose hunter has urged the U.S. Supreme Court to review a Ninth Circuit decision permitting the National Park Service to apply federal laws to non-federal lands inside parks, saying the appeals court misinterpreted a statute meant to restrict federal power to actually increase regulation on tribal, state and private lands." John Sturgeon argued that the NPS "wrongly barred him from using a hovercraft to hunt moose within the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve in Alaska."

NPS HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING ON FUTURE OF DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The [Pocono \(PA\) Record](#) (4/12, Writer, 43K) reports that the NPS will "have to sort through some conflicting public priorities as the agency's future visitor use management plan for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area takes shape." The agency held a second public meeting Thursday on the plan at the Holiday Inn in Parsippany, New Jersey.

OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK, LIBRARY PARTNER FOR POETRY WALKS. The [The Olympian \(WA\)](#) (4/11, 76K) reports that "the North Olympic Library System is teaming up with Olympic National Park this spring to offer a second season of poetry walks." According to the article, "this year's program will run through June 14, featuring poetry placed along four trails in the park."

NPS POLICE ON LOOKOUT FOR "TRASHERS" AT FORT MASON . [KGO-TV](#) San Francisco (4/12, 4K) reports that the NPS "police have added extra patrols at San Francisco's Fort Mason this weekend to keep people from trashing the area." The article notes that "the move comes after piles of trash were left strewn across the park during the warm weekend weather last month."

OLIVE SHRUBS THREATENING FLIGHT 93 MEMORIAL PARK. [KDKA-TV](#) Pittsburgh (4/11, 90K) reports that "after a destructive fire wiped out part of the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville, another threat looms over the park: Autumn Olive shrubs." The NPS says "the non-native shrubs are taking over the memorial park and threatening thousands of trees planted there." According to the article, "next week 35 volunteers, with the help of exotic plant management specialists, will remove the plants."

MAN CHARGED WITH ROBERT GOULD SHAW MEMORIAL VANDALISM. The [Boston Globe](#) (4/10, 1.03M) reports that "a 40-year-old Charlestown man was charged with vandalizing the Shaw Memorial on Boston Common on Friday morning, police said." Delvin Dixon "pleaded not guilty to a charge of malicious destruction to a memorial at his arraignment in Boston Municipal Court, Suffolk district attorney's office said."

GRIZZLY BEAR TRAPPING PLANNED IN REMOTE AREAS OF YELLOWSTONE. The [AP](#) (4/10, 2.28M) reports that "wildlife officials say bear researchers will be trapping grizzlies in Yellowstone National Park over the next several months." According to the article, "members of an inter-agency study team will bait and trap the bears at remote sites in the park."

NPS AWARDS FUNDS FOR DATA GATHERING AT ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. The [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (4/13, 51K) reports that the NPS "announced this week it intends to award a \$236,000 cooperative agreement to Colorado State University for an intermountain west data warehouse."

NPS ACCEPTING PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR YELLOWSTONE FIREWOOD COLLECTION PERMITS. The [AP](#) (4/12, 31K) reports that the NPS will be accepting public requests for firewood collection permits to be issued this year at Yellowstone National Park.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "FIND YOUR PARK" CAMPAIGN. Additional coverage of the "Find Your Park" campaign was provided by [Fox News](#) (4/10, 8.25M), the [Lakeland \(FL\) Ledger](#) (4/11, 145K), the [Superior \(WI\) Telegram](#) (4/12, 1K), and [EDGE Boston](#) (4/12, 1K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CIVIL WAR ANNIVERSARY. Additional coverage of the events marking the end of the Civil War was provided by [NPR](#) (4/12, 1.58M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN ASSASSINATION. Additional coverage of the 150th anniversary of assassination of Lincoln was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/10, Ruane, 5.17M), [Forbes](#) (4/10, 6.54M), and the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (4/12, 3.49M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF COMPLAINT BY FEDERAL CONTRACT WORKERS. Additional coverage of the complaint by federal contract workers was provided by the [National Journal](#) (4/12, Subscription Publication, 111K) and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/10, Depillis, 5.17M).

MORE STUDY OF CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL URGED. In an op-ed for the [Idaho Press Tribune](#) (4/12, 6K), Frank Priestley, president of the Idaho Farm Bureau, calls for "a more thorough investigation of the proposal" to "change the name of Craters of the Moon National Monument to National Park." Priestley questions whether "swapping the word 'Monument' for the word 'Park' on a sign really changes anything."

Bureau of Land Management:

BUNDY, SUPPORTERS MARK STANDOFF ANNIVERSARY. The [AP](#) (4/10, Ritter, 2.28M) reports that "a year since a tense standoff between a Nevada rancher's armed supporters and federal land managers, Cliven Bundy's cattle still roam public lands, more than \$1.1 million worth of grazing fees have yet to be paid and Bundy has become a tea party celebrity in the West." On Friday, "campers arrived in motor homes and tents for a three-day event on and around the Bundy melon farm and cattle ranch outside Bunkerville" to mark the anniversary. BLM spokeswoman Celia Boddington released a statement Friday saying "the agency 'remains resolute' in its goal to resolve the Bundy cattle dispute administratively and judicially."

Ap, 5.17M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (4/10, Ritter, 644K), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (4/12, Ritter, 804K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (4/12, Glionna, 3.49M), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (4/12, 398K), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (4/12, 159K), the [Government Executive](#) (4/12, 4K), [WSEE-TV Erie \(PA\)](#) Erie, PA (4/12, 1K), [WJBK-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (4/12, 253K), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (4/10, 166K), and [WGHP-TV High Point \(NC\)](#) High Point, NC (4/10, 389K).

BLM OFFICERS CLEARED IN DEATH OF MAN OUTSIDE VEGAS. The [AP](#) (4/10, 2.28M) reports that two BLM officers have been “cleared in the shooting death of a man who entered a state trooper’s patrol cruiser during a highway confrontation outside Las Vegas in February 2014.” Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson said in a statement Friday that “the actions taken by BLM Ranger Meagen Martin and Agent Brian Loftin in the slaying of D’Andre Berghardt Jr. were reasonable and legally justified.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (4/10, 155K).

BLM TO HOLD MEETING ON SAGE-GROUSE. The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (4/12, 1K) reports that the BLM “wants people who are interested in sage grouse to pack a lunch and bring their best ideas for future sage-grouse mitigations on the Pinedale Anticline, due to 2014 counts that reflect a drop in the number of leks or the number of birds returning to those mating areas.” The article notes that “the number of active leks — areas where birds gather during mating season — has dropped below expected thresholds in the Duke’s Triangle complex, according to the BLM.”

DESPITE PROTESTS, BLM RETURNS WILD HORSES TO RANGE. The [AP](#) (4/13, 22K) reports that “despite the protests of a rural county and rancher, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has returned some 160 wild horses to the range in central Nevada.” The bureau “returned the horses to the Fish Creek Herd Management Area near Eureka on Tuesday after being cleared to do so by the Interior Board of Land Appeals.” The agency “originally had planned to return some 100 mares treated with a fertility control vaccine and 80 studs to the HMA on Feb. 20.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [KTVN-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (4/13, 2K), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (4/13, 1.07M), and [KOLO-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (4/13, 3K).

COLORADO SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS SAN MIGUEL RIVER INSTREAM FLOWS. The [Telluride \(CO\) Daily Planet](#) (4/12, 11K) reports that “the Colorado Supreme Court this week ruled in favor of a Colorado Water Conservation Board decision to protect a minimum instream flow in the San Miguel River in order to ensure the survival of three sensitive fish species as well as to preserve what the agency called “globally imperiled riparian communities.”” Officials at the BLM and the Colorado Department of Wildlife “requested the instream flow protections in 2008.”

INPUT SOUGHT ON MANAGEMENT OF TRINIDAD HEAD LIGHTHOUSE. The [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (4/11, 56K) reports that the BLM “now has the final say on how the Trinidad Head lighthouse.” The U.S. Coast Guard “transferred the 144-year-old lighthouse to public ownership in 2014, with the BLM charged with managing the facility and the surrounding 13 acres.” the article notes that “the comment period for BLM’s management plan opens Wednesday and continues through May 31.”

BLM, TRAILS ASSOCIATION CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL NETWORK. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (4/12, 3K) reports that “crowds of mountain bikers gathered on Saturday at the upper parking lot for the JEM trail just off state Route 59 near Hurricane to celebrate the completion of new single track trails in the Hurricane Cliffs trail network.” The article notes that “the trail completions represent a two-year (and ongoing) collaboration between the Bureau of Land Management St. George Field Office and the Dixie Mountain Bike Trails Association – the Southern Utah chapter of the International Mountain Bicycling Association, whose mission is to create, enhance and preserve trails for mountain bikers around the world.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FEDERAL REVIEW OF CANADA LYNX TO TAKE LONGER THAN EXPECTED. The [AP](#) (4/12, Sharp, 1.37M) reports that the FWS is “applying a new threat assessment for federally protected Canada lynx from Maine to Washington State, delaying completion of the first five-year review.” The article notes that “the structured threat assessment will involve several other agencies, at least 15 states and more than 20 Native American tribes.” According to Jim Zelenak of the FWS in Montana, “the resulting assessment will serve as the basis of a streamlined five-year review, and a recovery plan if one is necessary.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Valley News \(VT\)](#) (4/12, 11K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/12, Sharp, 2.28M), and the [Montana Kairmin](#) (4/12, 11K).

FWS FACES DECISION ON SAGE GROUSE. The [Denver Post](#) (4/12, Finley, 804K) reports that the FWS faces a September 30 deadline on its sage grouse decision. Noreen Walsh, regional director of the FWS, said, “We need to avoid things that carve up habitat. Sage grouse are sensitive to disturbances and fragmentation. We have to have strong and certain measures to show that those biggest threats are reduced.”

Additional coverage of the effort to save the sage grouse was provided by the [Denver Post](#) (4/12, Matthews, 804K) and [Audubon Magazine](#) (4/12, 1.51M).

ARKANSAS FORESTRY ASSOCIATION WON’T OPPOSE BAT RULE. The [Hope \(AR\) Star](#) (4/11, 9K) reports that “the Arkansas Forestry Association says it can live with a recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decision to list the northern long-eared bat as a threatened species while allowing most forest management practices to continue unabated.” Max Braswell, executive vice president of the Arkansas Forestry Association, said, “From our perspective a threatened listing is obviously more palatable than an endangered listing. We don’t think (the listing) will have a significant impact on us, but we will continue to be vigilant.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Arkansas News](#) (4/12, 781).

Additional coverage was provided by [NPR](#) (4/11, 1.58M) and [KPLU-FM Tacoma \(WA\)](#) Tacoma, WA (4/12, 15K).

FWS PROPOSES MEASURES TO FACILITATE RECOVERY OF ENDANGERED BLACK-FOOTED FERRETS IN WYOMING. The [AP](#) (4/10, Gruver, 2.28M) reports that “federal officials have a new plan to encourage more landowners in Wyoming to allow reintroduction of black-footed ferrets on their property.” According to the article, “under the program, people who host black-footed ferrets on their land anywhere in Wyoming would not be held responsible if they ever inadvertently harmed any ferrets.” The FWS is “taking comments on the plan until June 9.”

FWS CONSIDERING REGULATIONS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS. [The Hill](#) (4/10, Wheeler, 224K) reports that the FWS is “considering a rule that would establish annual regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 2015-2016 hunting season.” The article notes that “the rule-making applies to ducks, sea ducks, mergansers, Canadian geese, white-fronted geese, brant, snow and Ross’s geese, swans, sandhill cranes, coots, moorhens and gallinules, rails, snipe, woodcock, band-tailed pigeons, doves and falconry.”

PROVO RIVER DELTA RESTORATION PROJECT WOULD HELP ENDANGERED UTAH FISH. The [AP](#) (4/13, 51K) reports that “the habitat for an endangered fish species found naturally only in Utah Lake and the Provo River would be improved under a plan endorsed by state and federal officials.” According to the article, “the final environmental impact statement for the Provo River Delta Restoration Project, released Friday, evaluates three alternatives for restoring the lower river and creating suitable habitat for the June sucker.” The article notes that “the preferred alternative by the U.S. Interior Department, Central Utah Water Conservancy District and Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission would minimize the amount of private agricultural land acquired by the government while “providing adequate space for a naturally functioning river delta and sufficient habitat enhancement” to save the fish, according to the document.”

NEOSHO HATCHERY JOINS EFFORT TO SAVE TOPEKA SHINERS. The [AP](#) (4/10, Hinga, 2.28M) reports that in the next couple of months, Topeka shiners are “expected to start spawning” at the Neosho National Fish Hatchery. The article notes that “the fish are newcomers.. brought in as part of a partnership among agencies to help build the population of the endangered species back up and help stock the fish to a sustainable level in the wild.” According to the article, “about adult 200 Topeka shiners arrived last month at the Neosho hatchery and were placed in their new habitat.”

FWS WORKING TO CONSERVE LAMPREY POPULATION. The [New York Times](#) (4/13, Brown, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that “once bountiful, the lamprey population has declined significantly throughout Northern California, with the fish now gone from about 55 percent of their original habitat, said Damon H. Goodman, a fish biologist with the federal Fish and Wildlife Service who is working to conserve them.” The article notes that “impassable dams that also affect water levels are a major cause, he said, including six on the main stem of the Klamath.”

STUDY RECOMMENDS PROTECTIONS FOR OZARK CAVEFISH. The [Northwest Arkansas Online](#) (4/12) reports that “a new study says the endangered Ozark cavefish and residential development can co-exist in the Cave Springs area if steps are taken to protect water flowing underground where the fish live.” According to the article, “the new study recommends local cities enact regulations to allow development and protect the spring and cavefish.”

FWS CONSIDERING PROTECTIONS FOR TWO WEST VIRGINIA CRAYFISH SPECIES. The [Charleston \(WV\) Daily Mail](#) (4/12, 53K) reports that the FWS is “considering

River in Wyoming County.”

CONSERVATION GROUP QUESTIONS ACCURACY OF IDAHO WOLF NUMBERS. The [AP](#) (4/12, Ridler, 2.28M) reports that “Idaho officials are overestimating the number of wolves in the state for a number reasons including relying on sightings by hunters rather than using only trained professionals, a conservation group said.” Andrea Santarsiere, an attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, said, “Since 2009 more than 1,300 wolves have been hunted or trapped in Idaho, and another nearly 500 have been lethally removed from Idaho’s landscape. In the face of these astounding numbers, it’s no wonder that Idaho may have experienced a nearly 50 percent drop in breeding pairs.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF EFFORT TO SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLY. The [New Yorker](#) (4/12, 4.4M) reports that “back in February, the Obama Administration committed \$3.2 million toward saving the monarch butterfly.” Also, “last week, the agrochemical giant Monsanto pledged four million dollars to monarch-saving efforts, most of it going to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.” The article also notes that “the totemic orange-and-black North American butterfly is the cause célèbre of Barbara Kingsolver’s 2012 novel, ‘Flight Behavior,’ which happens to feature a tall, thin, Harvard-educated, African-American scientist named Ovid Byron, who bears a striking resemblance to the President, down to his inverted initials.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE FWS CONSIDERING PROTECTIONS FOR YELLOW CEDAR, CLEAR LAKE HITCH. Additional coverage that the FWS is considering protections for the yellow cedar and the Clear Lake hitch was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/10, Ganga, 3.49M) and the [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (4/12, 168K).

US Geological Survey:

USGS STUDY SAYS CLIMATE CHANGE POSES NEW RISK TO SAGE GROUSE IN WYOMING. The [AP](#) (4/13) reports that “government scientists say a warming climate could significantly reduce the amount of greater sage grouse habitat in portions of Wyoming, a key stronghold for the troubled bird species.” USGS scientists said “a warming climate could become an even greater risk, reducing nesting habitat by 12 percent by 2050.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (4/13, 81K) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/13, 2 28M).

APP COULD HELP PREDICT EARTHQUAKES. The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (4/12, 4.78M) reports that “researchers have created an app that uses hundreds of mobile phones to predict earthquakes.” The USGS “hopes to create new types of crowdsourced early warning systems using the technology.” According to the article, “the team tested the system using data from previous earthquakes, and found that it only took a few thousand people in a major city running the app to give accurate predictions.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (4/10), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/10, 380K), and the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (4/11, Netburn, 3.49M).

STUDY SAYS PERMAFROST CARBON RELEASE WILL BE GRADUAL. The [AP](#) (4/10, Joling) says a report in the journal Nature has found that “frozen Arctic and sub-Arctic soil that thaws from global warming will add substantial amounts of carbon to the atmosphere in the form of greenhouse gases, accelerating climate change the rest of the century,” but “it won’t come in a sudden burst.” A review by experts “concludes that harmful carbon dioxide and methane generated by microbes digesting thawed plant and animal material will instead enter the atmosphere gradually.” But according to USGS researcher Dave McGuire, it is a source of carbon source that should not be ignored. McGuire said, “The estimates that we came up in this synthesis suggest that throughout the rest of this century, it could be on the order of the magnitude of what tropical deforestation currently affects the global carbon cycle.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

FWS SAYS LACKS PRIVATE WIND FARM JURISDICTION. [Reuters](#) (4/10) reports that the FWS is claiming it has no authority to regulate a wind farm in Michigan, which a homeowner group argues in a federal lawsuit will kill vulnerable birds and bats. The agency on April 3 asked the U.S. District Court for Western Michigan to dismiss the agency from the lawsuit.

Onshore Energy Development:

FEDERAL JUDGE BLOCKS MINING IN NAVAJO MINE EXPANSION AREA. The [AP](#) (4/12, 81K) reports that “a federal judge has blocked efforts by a Navajo Nation coal mine to expand operations within its permitted area in northwestern New Mexico.” Navajo Transitional Energy Co. LLC is “seeking an emergency stay on the ruling by U.S. District Court Judge John Kane in Colorado.” The firm says “the ruling will not affect supply to the Four Corners Power Plant in the immediate future but jeopardizes its long-term sustainability.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (4/8, 28K), the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (4/12, 49K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (4/12, 238K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/10, Fonseca, 2.28M), and [KOLD-TV Tucson \(AZ\)](#) Tucson, AZ (4/12, 21K).

NEW FRACKING RULE CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (4/13, 90K), Gov. Matt Mead writes that the new fracking rule proposed by the Interior Department not “late, it adopts a one-size-fits-all approach.” He argues that “such an approach coming from Washington, D.C. – thousands of miles from the activity taking place here – does not work for Wyoming.” Mead suggests that “a better course would be for the federal government to defer to states like Wyoming that have assumed leadership and work with those states that might need to strengthen and update rules and regulations.”

Additional coverage of the new fracking rule was provided by the [Oil and Gas Online](#) (4/12) and [Public Radio International](#) (4/12, 3K).

OIL INDUSTRY CRITICIZED FOR COMPLAINING ABOUT SAGE GROUSE SCIENCE. For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (4/11, Molvar, Contributor, 224K), Erik Molvar, who directs the Sagebrush Sea Campaign for WildEarth Guardians, writes that “in the latest salvo in a war against science, the Western Energy Alliance joined other oil industry interests and a smattering of county governments to launch three complaints against scientific reports on sage grouse, claiming they don’t meet scientific standards.” However, “the scientific results are in, and it’s unanimous: Traditional oil and gas development is incompatible with the survival of sage grouse populations.” He says that “now that an overwhelming avalanche of science has demonstrated that the oil and gas industry lies at the root of an ecological collapse across the Rockies (with the sage grouse as Exhibit A), federal laws have been triggered requiring conservation efforts to be based on science, and something has to change.”

RULES TO CUT METHANE RELEASES SUPPORTED. In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (4/12, 238K), Thomas Singer, Senior Policy Adviser, Western Environmental Law Center, writes that “oil and gas operations are responsible for the lion’s share of methane in the Four Corners.” He supports “rules to require the oil and gas industry to remedy leaks in old equipment, use state-of-the-art technologies in new operations and end sloppy practices.” Singer argues that “these new rules will make sure that all oil and gas companies take sensible action to reduce methane waste and pollution.”

BLM URGED TO DO MASTER LEASING PLAN. In an op-ed for the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (4/12, 28K), Shelley Silbert, executive director, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, writes that she was “encouraged to learn that Connie Clementson, Bureau of Land Management’s Tres Rios Field Office manager, recently committed to putting a Master Leasing Plan back on the table for southwest Colorado.” According to Silbert, “if done right, an MLP allows for an in-depth review before issuing new oil and gas leases and stipulations, and leases could be deferred in areas within the MLP boundaries at least until the review is complete.”

Offshore Energy Development:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION MOVES TO FULL REVIEW OF SHELL’S ARCTIC DRILLING PLAN. On Friday, “the Obama administration formally kicked off its full review” of “Shell’s application to restart oil and natural gas drilling in the Arctic Ocean,” [The Hill](#) (4/11, Cama, 224K) reported. The company “hopes to drill an exploratory well this summer in the Chukchi Sea north of Alaska, and it has a lease on the area’s drilling rights.” On Friday, the Interior Department’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) revealed “that it completed its preliminary review of Shell’s March 31 application and determined that it can move on to full review.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/10, Thiessen, 2 28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/10, Mark Thiessen |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Sarasota \(FL\) Herald-Tribune](#) (4/12, 157K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (4/10), the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (4/10, 146K), the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (4/12, 14K), the [FuelFix](#) (4/10, 7K), the [Maritime Executive](#) (4/12, 21), the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (4/12), [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (4/12, 1K), [Reuters](#) (4/10), and [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (4/12, 56K).

HEARING HELD ON SEISMIC TESTING. The [Carteret County \(NC\) News-Times](#) (4/12, 28K) reports that “the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources has

Civic Center to get comments on the proposals to survey filed by Spectrum Geo Inc., GX Technology, CGG Services and TGS." The article notes that "most of the 19 speakers at the hearing were opposed to surveys off the coast, particularly environmentalists, marine scientists and coastal residents."

The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (4/12, 24K) editorializes that "the cities of Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach, the towns of Surfside Beach and Atlantic Beach and Horry County government should have joined 20 communities in the Carolinas, including Charleston, and gone on record against offshore oil production." According to the paper, "it's perfectly obvious to many people that pumping crude oil offshore in the Atlantic Ocean is not a good match for a tourism economy so it's troubling that local governments did not speak out for the environment – and the area economic mainstay – when they had an opportunity." The editorial argues that "potable water and clean electricity from offshore winds, in addition to many valid environmental concerns, should trump discussion of offshore oil."

Additional coverage of offshore drilling was provided by the [Charleston \(SC\) Moultrie News](#) (4/10).

GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS LEAVE SHELL ARCTIC DRILL RIG. The [AP](#) (4/13, Johnson) reported that on Saturday Greenpeace said the six activists who boarded a Shell drilling rig bound for Seattle abandoned it after six days due to rough seas. The protestors first climbed aboard the Transocean-owned Polar Pioneer on Monday about 750 miles to the northwest of Hawaii. The protestors' decision to leave the vessel came as US District Court Judge Sharon Gleason granted Shell a restraining order against them on Saturday. [Reuters](#) (4/12, Dobuzinskis) also covered the story.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

MAJOR CHANGES TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COULD ENDANGER BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. The [Contra Costa \(CA\) Times](#) (4/12, By Paul Rogers Progers@mercurynews.com ©, 2015, Group, 310K) reports that "Gov. Jerry Brown has billed his \$25 billion plan to build two massive tunnels under the Delta as a way to not just make it easier to move water from north to south, but also increase the reliability of water supplies and bring back salmon and other endangered species." However, "now the Brown administration is proposing a major and politically risky change: dropping a 50-year guarantee to restore the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta's environment." The article notes that "the dramatic course correction, whose details have not yet been made public, comes after biologists at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies told the state they won't issue permits for the environmental plan."

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (4/13, 2.21M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/13, 2.28M), and the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (4/13, Press, 936K).

WATER FROM CALIFORNIA DELTA'S MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARING. The [AP](#) (4/12, Smith, 2.28M) reports that "as California struggles with a devastating drought, huge amounts of water are mysteriously vanishing from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta — and the prime suspects are farmers whose families have tilled fertile soil there for generations." According to the article, "a state investigation was launched following complaints from two large agencies that supply water to arid farmland in the Central Valley and to millions of residents as far south as San Diego."

WSJournal: Farmers Receiving Unfair Blame For California's Water Crisis. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/11, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says farmers are unfairly blamed for using too much of California's water supply. According to the Journal, the state's farmers have already been forced to cutback on water use.

OCEAN DESALINATION PLANTS BEING STUDIED, BUILT BY MANY CALIFORNIA COASTAL CITIES. The [New York Times](#) (4/12, Gillis, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on the new push in California for water desalination plants as part of the solution to the state's extreme water drought. The story says a \$1 billion desalination on San Diego County is under construction and due to open as early as Nov. 2015, "providing a major test of whether California cities will be able to resort" to the Pacific Ocean to relieve their water woes. The Times adds that other small ocean desalination plants are already running in a handful of California municipalities and others are planned, including a large plant in Orange County and a possible re-opening of a mothballed plant in Santa Barbara. The story says "more than a dozen communities along the California coast are studying the issue."

IRRIGATION DISTRICTS ANNOUNCE STANISLAUS RIVER DEAL. The [Calaveras \(CA\) Enterprise](#) (4/12, 18K) reports that "the South San Joaquin and Oakdale irrigation districts Thursday afternoon announced they had reached a possible deal with federal and state authorities for managing the remaining water in New Melones Reservoir through the summer." According to the districts, "the deal would set a target of keeping 150,000 acre feet of water in New Melones when the irrigation season ends on Sept. 30."

NORTH DAKOTA OFFICIALS EXPECT NORTHWEST AREA WATER SUPPLY LEGAL BATTLE TO DRAG ON. The [AP](#) (4/10, Nicholson, 2.28M) reports that "North Dakota officials believe a federal study of a large Missouri River water project in the state has adequately addressed fears of environmental harm in the state of Missouri and the Canadian province of Manitoba." However, "they're still resigned to the likely continuation of a drawn-out legal fight that has already delayed the Northwest Area Water Supply project for more than a decade." The final environmental report released by the BOR "this week calls for the addition of filtration to previously recommended river water treatment methods of chlorination and ultraviolet disinfection." It also "concludes NAWS would use less than 1 percent of the storage capacity in the Missouri River basin, and that potential effects of climate change on the river would more than offset project water withdrawals."

Empowering Native American Communities:

STANDING ROCK LANDOWNERS SENT BUY-BACK OFFERS. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (4/12, 101K) reports that "more than 16,000 landowners with fractional interests in land at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota and South Dakota are receiving buy-back offers." The Interior Department says that "nearly \$200 million in purchase offers are in the mail."

Also providing coverage are the [Nation Sun News](#) (4/12) and the [Native News Online](#) (4/12).

INTERIOR TRANSFERS MORE THAN \$12 MILLION TO COBELL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND. The [Native News Today](#) (4/3) reports that the Interior Department announced it has transferred more than \$12 million to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund.

Also providing coverage are [NPR](#) (4/12, 1.58M) and the [Cherokee \(OK\) Phoenix](#) (4/12, 442).

INTERIOR AGENCIES TO HOLD FORUM ON NATIVE TRUST LANDS. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (4/7, 113K) reports that the Interior Department officials, including representatives from the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management and the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, will hold a forum on Thursday, April 16, at the Payne Family Native American Center on the campus of the University of Montana for Native American land owners. According to the article, "the forum is for individual Native Americans property owners whose land is held in trust by the federal government, and is open to anyone who falls into that category, regardless of what tribe they belong to or where their allotment is located."

WATER COMPACT DISCUSSED AT CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES QUARTERLY MEETING. The [Ronan Valley \(MT\) Journal](#) (4/12, 22K) reports that "the Water Compact and methamphetamine abuse cropped up many times at the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes quarterly meeting on April 3." CSKT attorney Rhonda Swaney "updated the membership on the progress of the Water Compact." She said that "it has passed through the Montana Senate and is now in the Montana House of Representatives Judiciary committee."

Top National News:

KERRY MAKES CASE FOR IRAN FRAMEWORK, URGES CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS TO "HOLD THEIR FIRE." Secretary of State Kerry appeared on three Sunday morning talk shows, primarily to discuss the Iran nuclear framework. The 2016 presidential race dominated most of the shows – CNN's State Of The Union, for example, dedicated its entire broadcast to the presidential contest – but Iran was the main foreign policy topic Sunday morning. On [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (4/12, Schieffer, 2.64M), Kerry said he will brief lawmakers this week on the details of the framework, but stressed, "Everything I have laid out is a fact, and I will stand by them. In the end, it is really the final agreement that will determine it. ... It is also important to note that we have two-and-a-half more months to negotiate, so this is not finalized." Kerry similarly said on [NBC's Meet The Press](#) (4/12, Todd, 3.08M), "What we're looking for is not to have Congress interfere with our ability, inappropriately, by stepping on the prerogatives...of the President, and putting in place conditions and terms that are going to get in the way of the implementation of a plan."

Asked on [ABC's This Week](#) (4/12, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M) about discrepancies in public statements by the Administration and Tehran about the framework, Kerry said, "Yesterday, the Russians issued a statement saying... the facts, as expressed by the United States, are reliable and accurate information. You can go back to the interim agreement. We had the same kind of dueling narratives," but "when it came time to implement the agreement, the agreement that was implemented was the agreement we had articulated and it was the agreement that was kept. Iran has lived up to and lived by every requirement in the agreement. I'll let the facts speak for themselves."

The [AP](#) (4/13) reports Kerry is urging congressional opponents of the deal "to 'hold their fire' until they see a final agreement." Kerry will hold private meetings with House members on Monday and senators on Tuesday. [Reuters](#) (4/13, Cornwell) reports that Kerry defended the framework and said sanctions would not be lifted all at once despite Iranian demands. [Politico](#) (4/12, Warmbrodt, 669K) reports Kerry also responded to Sen. John McCain calling him "delusional" about Iran, saying on ABC, "I think President Obama spoke very, very powerfully to Sen. McCain yesterday, and I'll let the President's words stand."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/13, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says in an editorial that the President showed annoyance by his reaction to McCain's remarks, continuing a trend toward unilateral action by the White House in setting foreign policy and a tendency to call critics warmongers.

Jackson Diehl writes in his [Washington Post](#) (4/13, 5.17M) column, "The weakest point in President Obama's defense of his deal with Iran is his claim that 'it is a good deal even if Iran doesn't change at all.' ... By Obama's own account, in 13 or 14 years Iran will reemerge as a threshold nuclear state with a breakout time 'almost down to zero.' It will still seek domination of the Middle East and the elimination of Israel, but with far greater resources and the capability to build a nuclear weapon at any time of its choosing."

Charles Lane said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (4/12, Wallace, 628K), "You can't trust them. The Administration's response is, 'Don't worry, he is a liar. He doesn't really mean what he just said.' And I think the serious point here is that when the Ayatollah does this, what he does is he moves the goal posts back a little bit and he's trying to leverage further concessions from the Administration just to get the Administration back to the point where it thought it already was at the end of the talks in Switzerland."

Peggy Noonan said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (4/12, Schieffer, 2.64M), "All of this is the result of the trust that never developed over six years between the President and the Congress. This is yet another playing out of 'we think we have a good possible deal, frankly we are skeptical of you. We don't think you do good deals, and if they are not good, we feel you would not tell us.' It is the divide that has run for more than six years playing out again."

George Will said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (4/12, Wallace, 628K), "If the Ayatollah means what he says, then the framework agreement is 98% framework and two percent agreement, because the sanctions and the inspections are the heart of the ongoing negotiations between now and the end of June."

Fareed Zakaria said on [CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS](#) (4/12, 410K) that the framework "appears to strike a balance for Iran. There's no guarantee that the Supreme Leader will accept the trade-offs, as his recent tweets remind us, but it forces him to make a rational calculation and live with the consequences."

Moniz Says Agreement "Built For The Long Term." Energy Secretary Moniz writes in a [Washington Post](#) (4/13, 5.17M) op-ed that the "key parameters" for the framework "provide a technically sound path for certifying Iran's nuclear program as peaceful, quickly determining if it is not and providing the breathing room needed to respond appropriately." Moniz says the agreement "is not for 10, 15 or 20 years; it is a phased agreement built for the long term. And if Iran earns the international community's confidence in its peaceful objectives over this extended period, then the constraints will ease in phases."

Corker Bill Expected To Advance This Week. The [New York Times](#) (4/13, Weisman, Steinhauer, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is expected to advance Chairman Bob Corker's legislation to require congressional approval of a final Iran agreement this week. The Times says the Obama Administration, "at the very least, wants Congress to hold off on any legislative action" until the June deadline for a final accord. Committee members "talked throughout the weekend in search of a midpoint between congressional prerogative and executive branch desires for them to stand down, without fundamentally altering the bill."

[Politico](#) (4/12, Everett, 669K) says that while the Corker bill has significant support, it does not seem to have quite enough to overcome a likely Obama veto, so Corker "may make a deal" with Foreign Policy ranking Democrat Sen. Ben Cardin on amendments. Politico says Corker, "who has a penchant for seeking deals across the aisle, must balance Democratic concerns that the bill usurps presidential prerogatives" with GOP demands for a strong bill.

Sen. Robert Menendez said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (4/12, Wallace, 628K), "I do believe that...Congress [has] a rightful role...to have a say on whatever a final agreement is." He later added, "This is simply a review process. ... There may or may not be a vote. But at least, after 2 1/2 years of negotiation, Congress should have 60 days to be able to review probably the most significant nuclear nonproliferation agreement of our times."

Sen. Rand Paul said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (4/12, Schieffer, 2.64M), "The biggest problem we have right now is that every time there is a hint of an agreement the Iranian foreign minister tweets out... that the agreement doesn't mean what our government says it means," which "is very, very damaging to the American public." Asked if he wants a deal, Paul said, "I want a good deal." On [NBC's Meet The Press](#) (4/12, Todd, 3.08M), Paul said, "I think there are good things in it. I'm not one of the Republicans who will say, oh, because the President is a Democrat, I'm never going to say he can't do anything good. But I also realize that negotiations have to be from a position of strength."

Netanyahu Says Sanctions Must Remain In Place. The [AP](#) (4/13) reports Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that sanctions against Iran must remain in place, and that a better nuclear deal "would tie the lifting of all sanctions 'to an end of Iran's aggression in the region, its worldwide terrorism and its threats to annihilate Israel.'"

Iranian Media Says American Reporter Accused Of "Espionage." The [AP](#) (4/13, Dareini) reports Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian, who has been held in Iran since last July, "is accused of 'espionage' and 'acting against national security,' the semiofficial Fars news agency reported Sunday." The report "did not elaborate on the source of the information." Tehran has said previously that Rezaian "is facing 'security' charges and that he will stand trial before the Revolutionary Court – which mainly hears sensitive cases involving national security."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/13, Morello, 5.17M) reports that its executive editor Martin Baron "called the espionage allegation 'absurd.'" Baron said, "Any charges of that sort would be absurd, the product of fertile and twisted imaginations. We are left to repeat our call on the Iranian government to release Jason and, in the meantime, we are counting on his lawyer to mount a vigorous defense."

Saudis Call On Iran To Stop Aiding Houthis In Yemen. The [New York Times](#) (4/13, Fahim, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal accused Iran "of meddling in Yemen" on Sunday and "pointedly dismissed Iranian appeals for the Saudis to end their bombing campaign." [AFP](#) (4/13, Timberlake, 5.81M) reports al-Faisal "urged Tehran not to 'assist the criminal activities'" of Houthi rebels but "insisted 'we are not at war with Iran.'"

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/13, Nissenbaum, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that crew of the USS Sterett boarded the freighter Saisaban in the Red Sea on April 1. The ship was suspected of delivering Iranian weapons to the Houthis, but none were found. US naval officials said such boardings will continue.

REGIONAL LEADERS GIVE OBAMA CREDIT FOR CASTRO MEETING, BUT MAY WANT MORE. [ABC World News](#) (4/12, story 5, 2:10, Llamas, 5.84M) reported that "the first face-to-face meeting between a US president and Cuba's leader in more than 50 years" took place Saturday when President Obama greeted Cuba's Raúl Castro at the Summit of the Americas in Panama. ABC (Avila) added that the "historic handshake" is "sparking reaction from Washington to Miami to Havana," and the Cuban foreign minister is now asking Obama "to bypass Congress and use executive action to lift parts of the embargo and to quickly announce Cuba's removal from the state sponsors of terror list." Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez: "It was unfair. I'm confident that President Obama will take the right and just decision."

Secretary of State Kerry, who appeared on three Sunday morning shows, was asked about the diplomatic thaw. On [ABC's This Week](#) (4/12, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), Kerry said, "The purpose of changing the policy is in fact to encourage change and transformation. We have had this policy in place since the late 1950s," and "it hasn't had the impact that people wanted." The President, he added, "has courageously decided to change a policy that hasn't worked, and to move us down a different path. It will begin slowly. The first thing is diplomatic relations. Then a process of normalization."

On [NBC's Meet The Press](#) (4/12, 3.08M), Chuck Todd asked Kerry about reports from "anonymous sources" that indicate he has recommended taking Cuba off the state sponsor of terrorism list. Kerry answered, "I don't discuss publicly whatever advice or recommendations I make to the President. So the President will make his decision at an appropriate time. We have forwarded the recommendation of the State Department and now is in the inter-agency process. And he will make the decision." Asked on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (4/12, Schieffer, 2.64M) whether he supports removing Cuba from the list, Kerry said, "I will allow the President the latitude.. to be able to make his decision based on the recommendation we made. ... He will make his decision in the next days."

[Reuters](#) (4/13, Trotta, Spetalnick) says Obama and Castro met for about an hour Saturday. Obama said, "The Cold War is over. I think there is a strong majority both in the United States and in Cuba that says our ability to engage, to open up commerce and travel and people-to-people exchanges is ultimately going to be good for the Cuban people." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/13, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) said the meeting was primarily symbolic in nature, but signaled a willingness to continue discussions on a further opening of relations and on issues like human rights.

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/12, Sappenfield, 380K) writes that with the handshake, Obama "was reaching out to more than one man and one nation. He was reaching out to all Latin America." The US has become concerned that its "influence in Latin America has appeared to wane," and "countries that once did as the United States wished

Even so, the [New York Times](#) (4/13, Archibold, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9 97M) reports that Obama “walked away with more salutes than swipes from a regional Summit of the Americas where the United States usually takes a drubbing,” and “the question now is whether Mr. Obama and his successors can capitalize on the new credibility Washington has earned, primarily through his reconciliation with Havana.” The Times notes that in addition to his well-publicized session with Castro, Obama “briefly chatted with President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela,” a leading hemispheric US critic.

Asked if easing sanctions will lead to change in Cuba, former State Department official Anne-Marie Slaughter said on [CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS](#) (4/12, 410K), “I don't think that's what we're betting on. This is not a way of opening to Cuba so we have regime change, this is Obama's initial strategy of engagement. In his inaugural address, he said we will extend our hand if you will unclench your fist. We will not change the regime through the embargo. What we are doing is shooting ourselves in both feet in the world and particularly in Latin America.”

Senators Address Thaw In US-Cuban Relations. A number of lawmakers also weighed in Sunday on US relations with Cuba. Sen. Robert Menendez, for example, said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (4/12, Wallace, 628K), “I think there's a fundamental problem in this process. Number one, if you're going to give the Cubans just about everything they want – international recognition, take them off the list of state sponsors of terrorism and infuse their economy with money at a time in which Venezuela could no longer continue to carry them as the patron and for which there was a real opportunity to create change inside of Cuba – then you should have gotten something significant in return and we got nothing in terms of people of Cuba, in terms of human rights and democracy.”

Sen. Johnny Isakson said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#) (4/12, Bartiromo), “This Administration seemed to be negotiating what the other side wants first and then waiting to see what we need. That's true with the Iranians.. and I think it's true with the Cubans. Whether they should stay on the terrorist watch list or not depends on what.. they're doing in spying and terrorism and things of that nature. ... Cuba needs to right itself before we make it right by some diplomatic move.”

However, Sen. Amy Klobuchar said on

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, April 10, 2015

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

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DOI in the News:

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT DISCUSSED. In separate letters to the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/10, Subscription Publication, 5 67M), William Perry Pendley, President, Mountain States Legal Foundation, Prof. Thomas J. Straka, Clemson University, Jeff Ruch, Executive Director, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, and Will Coggin, Environmental Policy Alliance, discuss federal management of public lands, the topic of Shawn Regan's [op-ed](#) (4/3, Regan, Subscription Publication, 5 67M) on April 3, titled "The U.S. Department of Land-Hogging." Pendley says that Sagebrush Rebellion has returned because of the Obama Administration's policies and cites Interior Secretary Sally Jewell threatening westerners as one example.

Additional coverage of the debate over the management of federal lands was provided by the [Missoula \(MT\) Independent](#) (4/10, 65K) and the [Reno \(NV\) News & Review](#) (4/10, 75K).

INTERIOR'S MOST POPULAR TWEET HIGHLIGHTED. In its "The Fix" blog, the [Washington Post](#) (4/10, Bump, 5.17M) highlights the Interior Department's most popular tweet. On August 21, 2014, the department tweeted: "Monday is @NatlParkService 98th birthday & all entrance fees will be waived. Retweet to spread the word!"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SENTINEL LANDSCAPES DESIGNATIONS. Additional coverage of the Sentinel Landscapes designations was provided by the [Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#) (4/9, 319K).

DESIGNATION OF HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP LAUDED. The [Deming \(NM\) Headlight](#) (4/10, 10K), Stephanie Healani Ho is "grateful that President Obama recently used his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii as a national monument." Ho says that it is important to remember this "dark chapter of American history." She concludes that "we owe it to those who came before us to preserve these kinds of historic places and share the hard lessons from Japanese-American interment, including the racism and discrimination of that time, with our children and grandchildren."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATIONS ARCTIC DECISIONS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for [Roll Call](#) (4/10, 102K), Frank McQueary, vice chair of the Alaska Republican Party, writes that "Alaskans want more access to our federal lands, fewer regulations on small businesses and a strong, secure Arctic, teeming with opportunity." However, "the president and his functionaries seem to want less of all these things." He notes that "all told, the Obama administration has taken 22 million energy-rich acres off the table — 10 million acres in the shallow shelf of the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas and 12 million acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." McQueary wants the Obama Administration to "allow Alaska to responsibly develop the energy resources far beneath the surface of our vast wilderness."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

ANNIVERSARY OF END OF CIVIL WAR COMMEMORATED. The [AP](#) (4/10, Szkotak, 2.28M) reports that "the surrender of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee to Union Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant 150 years ago Thursday effectively ended the Civil War." The article provides "a rolling account of commemorative events that include a re-enactment of Lee's last clash with Grant's troops, and of the Confederate surrender in a Virginia farmhouse on April 9, 1865."

The [New York Times](#) (4/10, Shane, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that "atop the highest hill in Arlington National Cemetery, about 100 people gathered on a chilly spring day to observe the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War." And "at Appomattox, Va., where the April 9 surrender took place, on other battlefields, at museums and in history classrooms, the country on Thursday pondered the meaning of the end of the Civil War." The article notes that "the events were the culmination of countless re-enactments to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the war." In response to a call from the NPS, "bells were rung at a number of locations for four minutes, reflecting the four years of the war, at exactly 3:15 p.m."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (4/9, 1.03M), the [Bristol \(TN/VA\) Herald Courier](#) (4/10, 85K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/10, Baddour, 2.28M), the [US News & World Report](#) (4/9, 685K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (4/9, Rodriguez, 2.32M), [CBS News](#) (4/10, 8.2M), [CBS News](#) (4/10, 8.2M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (4/9, Beckman, 2.32M), the [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (4/10), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (4/10, 4.78M), and [WJBK-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (4/10, 253K).

Civil War Commemoration Signs Stolen From Capitol Square. The [AP](#) (4/10, 2.28M) reports that "Capitol Police say someone stole two signs commemorating the Civil War's sesquicentennial that were posted in Capitol Square." According to the article, "the thefts occurred on April 4 during the 'Future of Richmond's Past' event."

Also providing coverage is the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/9, Press, 5.17M).

Appomattox Program Honoring Hannah Reynolds Delayed By Day. The [AP](#) (4/10, Press, 5.17M) reports that "a program commemorating the death of the lone civilian casualty at the Battle of Appomattox Court House has been pushed back to Saturday." According to the article, "a funeral in honor of Hannah Reynolds had been scheduled Friday at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park as part of the 150th commemoration of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender of his Army of Northern Virginia." But "in delaying the program by one day, the National Park Service cited a forecast of wet weather."

FEDERAL CONTRACT WORKERS FIGHT TO GET BACK WAGES. [The Hill](#) (4/10, Wheeler, 224K) reports that "federally contracted employees in the Department of Education, National Park Service and National Zoo announced plans Thursday to file a complaint over low wages with the Department of Labor." Good Jobs Nation, "which is advocating for the low-wage workers, said these federally contracted employees have been deprived of over \$1.58 million in unpaid wages and benefits." In its report, "The Return of Federal Sweatshops, How America's Broken Contract Wage Laws Fail Workers," the labor group "urged Obama to issue an executive order that would give preference in federal contracting to 'model employers' that pay their workers a living wage of at least \$15 an hour, offer decent benefits and respect their right to bargain collectively."

Also providing coverage are [Fortune](#) (4/9, 2.92M), [CNN Money](#) (4/9, 1.76M), [KSPR-TV Springfield \(MO\)](#) Springfield, MO (4/10, 27K), and [WTVR-TV Richmond \(VA\)](#) Richmond, VA (4/9, 47K).

CHERRY BLOSSOMS HITTING PEAK BLOOM THIS WEEKEND. The [AP](#) (4/9, Press, 5.17M) reports that "Washington's famous cherry blossoms are set to hit peak bloom this weekend as the National Cherry Blossom Festival draws big crowds for its annual parade and Japanese street festival." The NPS says "the trees are predicted to be in peak bloom Saturday through Tuesday." The article notes that "with most trees in bloom this weekend, organizers expect big crowds around the Tidal Basin and National Mall."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/9, 5.17M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/9, Thomson, 5.17M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/10, 5.17M), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (4/10, 613K).

BAYOU TECHE RECEIVES NATIONAL WATER TRAIL DESIGNATION. The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (4/10, 38K) reports that community leaders and elected officials "gathered Thursday in Breaux Bridge to celebrate the National Park Service's selection of" the Bayou Teche as a National Water Trail, "a designation that comes amid efforts to make the bayou just as important to the region as it was decades ago." The article notes that "it is the first waterway in Louisiana to receive the distinction and one of only 18 in the U.S. since the Park Service launched the water trail system in 2012."

MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL RIVER & RECREATION AREA SEEKS TO BUILD PUBLIC AWARENESS. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/10, McCormick, 1.37M) reports that John Anfinson, the superintendent of the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area, is on a mission to educate the public about the area. Anfinson said, "The number one issue we have is getting people to know we actually exist. It's my goal to change that in the coming year before our centennial in 2016." Anfinson noted that "the recreation area's biggest issue is a lack of ownership." He said, "If we owned and managed the approximately 89 state, regional and local parks in our corridor, and each one

STAINS ON THE GATEWAY ARCH WON'T BE CLEANED. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (4/10, 889K) reports that "mysterious stains on the surface of the Gateway Arch are caused from the monument's original construction, residue accumulation and graffiti, according to an engineering report released on Thursday." However, "the dirt and stains on the unofficial symbol of St. Louis" won't "be swept away". A NPS official said on Thursday "an overall cleaning of the monument is 'not feasible.'"

YELLOWSTONE TO SEE MORE FIRE, LESS SNOW. [Reuters](#) (4/10, Zuckerman) reports that more than 20 scientists contributed to a report suggesting that Yellowstone National Park will experience significant wildfires, snow melts, and threats to animal and plant species due to climate change. Such dry conditions, the report finds, have not been seen in the Yellowstone area in 10,000 years.

COMMENTS RECEIVES ON FUTURE OF DELAWARE WATER GAP RECREATION AREA. The [Pocono \(PA\) Record](#) (4/9, Writer, 43K) reports that "dozens of interests were represented at a kickoff forum Tuesday night on visitor-use priorities in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area for the next 50 years." According to the article, "the public meeting at Stroudsmoor Country Inn produced support for everything from hiking, to canoeing and other river sports, better maintenance and use of historic structures, better forest management and more closely engaging the public in park activities and decisions." The NPS "listening session" is "part of a two-year process to encourage access and target limited funding, while protecting the park's natural and cultural resources."

FOUR OF UTAH'S NATIONAL PARKS SEE INCREASE IN VISITORS. The [AP](#) (4/10, 2.28M) reports that "warm weather and a new Utah national parks tourism campaign may be driving a jump in visitors at four of Utah's five national parks this year." The article notes that "Zion National Park has seen about 475,000 more visitors from January through March, up 28 percent from the same months last year." Also, "Bryce Canyon National Park registered a 33 percent increase; Arches National Park a 23 percent increase; and Capitol Reef National Park a 16 percent increase." Meanwhile, "Canyonlands was the only park to receive a drop in visitors, with a 22 percent decrease." However, "Canyonlands acting chief ranger Kevin Moore says that's inaccurate. He says they just found out one traffic counting machine drastically over counted in 2014."

DARKNESS AT DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK RECEIVES RECOGNITION. [KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (4/10, 15K) reports that "this week, the management team of Death Valley National Park were given the Department of Interior Environmental Award for all their hard work." The article notes that in 2013, "the park was designated by the IDSA as a 'Gold Tier' Dark Sky Park."

SHENANDOAH PARK PLANS PRESCRIBED BURN AT BIG MEADOWS. The [AP](#) (4/10, 2.28M) reports that "Shenandoah National Park says a 35-acre section of Big Meadows will be burned to prevent trees and shrubs from encroaching on the area."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF "FIND YOUR PARK" CAMPAIGN. Additional coverage of the "Find Your Park" campaign was provided by the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (4/9, Ogintz, Agency, 2.32M), the [Topanga \(CA\) Messenger](#) (4/10) and the [Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (4/9).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN'S ASSASSINATION. Additional coverage of the events marking the anniversary of Lincoln's assassination was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/9, Hahn, 5.17M) and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/9, Dingfelder, 5.17M).

Bureau of Land Management:

GROUP WANTS TO COURT TO ORDER BLM TO RELEASE BUNDY STANDOFF DOCS. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (4/10, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "a government watchdog group is ramping up its ongoing efforts to compel the Bureau of Land Management to release documents related to its failed roundup of cows owned by Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy." Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility on Thursday "filed a motion for summary judgment in its lawsuit against BLM asking U.S. District Judge Richard Leon to order the agency to turn over documents to the group regarding the April 2014 roundup of cattle illegally grazing on federal lands that was called off after an armed standoff with protesters." PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch said that the bureau, "after telling the group's legal counsel that a release of the requested documents was imminent, has yet to hand over any of the records the group requested." However, Celia Boddington, a BLM spokeswoman, said that "the agency submitted to PEER the information the group had requested."

Bundy Celebrating Anniversary Of Standoff. Meanwhile, the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (4/10, 398K) reports that the Bundy family is extending an invitation for a three-day party this weekend to celebrate the anniversary of their standoff with the federal government. Beginning Friday, the Liberty Celebration will feature live music, cowboy poetry and speeches from the Bundys' sovereign-state supporters.

Panel Passes Gutted Version Of Public Lands Bill Backed By Bundy. The [AP](#) (4/10, Rindels, 2.28M) reports that "a Nevada Assembly committee voted Thursday to pass a gutted version of a public lands bill that was supported by southern Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy but was considered unconstitutional by the Legislature's staff lawyers." According to the article, "the original version of AB408 prohibited the federal government from owning water rights and wide swaths of public land within the state's borders, and it would have allowed county commissions to parcel out the land for commercial use." The article notes that "the rewritten bill clarifies the commonly accepted idea that sheriffs are the primary law enforcement officers in unincorporated areas of counties."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (4/9, 168K) and the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (4/10, 2.21M).

BLM IMPLEMENTS SAFETY MEASURES AT FORT ORD MONUMENT. The [Salinas Californian](#) (4/9, 27K) reports that the BLM is "adding safety protocols to protect people on the Ford Ord National Monument during Army munitions cleanup." The article notes that "the new measures are effective immediately, including an interim dog leash requirement."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS CONSIDERING PROTECTIONS FOR 10 SPECIES. [The Hill](#) (4/10, Wheeler, 224K) reports that the FWS said "it's found reason to review whether 10 species should be listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act." The agency said "it has petitions to list the Clear Lake hitch — a large minnow found in Northern California, the Egyptian tortoise, the long-tailed chinchilla, the Mojave shoulderband snail, the relic dace — a tiny fish native to Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the San Joaquin Valley giant flower-loving fly, the western pond turtle and the yellow-cedar." The service said "its also considering whether to delist the endangered golden parakeet and reclassify the Northern spotted owl."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/10, Joling, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/9, Dan Joling |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (4/9, 89K), the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (4/9, 146K), the [Huffington Post](#) (4/10, |, Joling, 281K), [Fox News](#) (4/9, 8.25M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (4/10, 4.78M), and [KCET-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (4/10, 15K).

FINAL FEDERAL PLAN FOR DEER FLAT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE RECEIVES PRAISE. The [AP](#) (4/10, 56K) reports that a management plan for Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge "that's more accommodating for wave-generating boats used by water skiers is being praised as a good compromise." Refuge manager Annette de Knijf said "the plan took into account local input." She said, "Our final management plan reflects what we heard from you, the public. It reflects our responsibility to protect wildlife with the many recreational activities that we all enjoy here."

MONITORING FOR MOSQUITOES AT BANDON MARSH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SET TO BEGIN. The [Bandon \(OR\) Western World](#) (4/10) reports that "monitoring for mosquito larvae on Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge will begin this month and will continue until October, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." The refuge will also "monitor the effectiveness of the 80,000 linear feet of new tidal channels that were excavated in 2014 to drain mosquito breeding pools that had been inadvertently created during a previous marsh restoration project." The FWS "again provided funding to Coos Health and Wellness and its public health division to monitor larvae and apply larvicide as needed on Bandon Marsh Refuge in 2015."

FEDERAL AGENCIES PARTICIPATING IN BIRD STUDY. The [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (4/9, 3K) reports that the USGS, FWS, BOEM and other non-profit and academic organizations have been "working together to chart the course of migrating diving birds for more than three years now." The article notes that "the goal is to learn about the paths red-throated loons, northern gannets and sea scoters travel, hopefully to better inform the placement of wind farms or other uses off the coast." According to the article, "by tagging birds on Delmarva, the biologists are able to track their movements from the Outer Banks to New England."

US Geological Survey:

RESEARCHERS SAY RISK OF PERMAFROST "CARBON BOMB" MAY BE OVERSTATED. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (4/9, 2.74M) reports that "the 'carbon bomb' stored in the thawing Arctic permafrost may be released in a slow leak as global warming takes hold, rather than an eruption, according to new research." Scientists at the USGS "found previous predictions of a catastrophic release of carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere as permafrost thaws may have been overstated." However, "the impact on the climate of future permafrost emissions remained significant." The article notes that "more than 1,000 bn tonnes of carbon are stored in the soils beneath the Arctic tundra, double humanity's emissions since the industrial revolution."

[Computer News](#) (4/10, 2K) reports that the USGS, "through the National Geospatial Program, announced that more than 18 million US Topo quadrangles and Historic Topographic Maps have been downloaded in the past six years from the USGS Store or The National Map Viewer." The article notes that "the most popular HTMC map is the Half Dome, Calif., quadrangle, which has been downloaded 4,257 times." Also, "the most viewed and downloaded US Topo map is the Washington West, DC, quadrangle, having been downloaded 2,785 times, according to USGS."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

SHELL'S PURCHASE OF BG INCLUDES INTERESTS IN NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE. The [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (4/9, 146K) reports that "Shell's \$69.7 billion acquisition of the BG Group" includes "leases covering a large amount of territory on the North Slope." The article notes that "in the National Petroleum Reserve, BG has interests in active leases covering 566,234 acres, according to data from the Bureau of Land Management, which manages that federal territory."

FRACKING COULD RELEASE RADON, STUDY SAYS. [USA Today](#) (4/9, Szabo, Rice, 4.95M) reports, "Levels of cancer-causing radon gas in Pennsylvania homes have increased as the fracking industry has expanded, a new study shows." The study "doesn't conclusively prove that fracking releases radon from the ground," but "the findings are concerning, says Joan Casey, a researcher at the University of California-Berkeley and University of California-San Francisco." Pennsylvania's "high radon levels stem from the type of bedrock that runs through much of the state, which contains radioactive materials such as uranium and radium, which degrade into radon, an invisible gas, Casey says."

The Marcellus Shale Coalition, Pennsylvania's leading natural gas organization, criticized anti-shale activists' claims regarding fracking, issuing a statement saying, "Thankfully, however, these suggestive scare tactics veiled as 'research' are easily refuted with readily available unbiased, fact-based data and independent scientific findings."

[NPR](#) (4/9, Hurdle, Phillips, 1.58M) also reports on the study, quoting study leader Dr. Brian Schwartz, a professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. "One plausible explanation for elevated radon levels in people's homes is the development of thousands of unconventional natural gas wells in Pennsylvania over the past 10 years," he said. NPR also reports Casey issued a statement warning, "By drilling 7,000 holes in the ground, the fracking industry may have changed the geology and created new pathways for radon to rise to the surface."

[NBC News](#) (4/9, Fox, Naggiar, 2.71M) and [CNBC](#) (4/9, Fox, Naggiar, 2.42M), [The Hill](#) (4/10, Cama, 224K), [The Baltimore Sun](#) (4/8, 810K) and [The Washington Post](#) (4/9, Cha, 5.17M) also provide coverage.

Offshore Energy Development:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION READY TO ISSUE NEW WELL CONTROL AND BLOWOUT PREVENTER MANDATES. The [FuelFix](#) (4/9, 7K) reports that "the Obama administration is poised to detail new requirements for controlling offshore wells, nearly five years after the Gulf of Mexico oil spill vividly illustrated the damage that can be unleashed when they are not kept in check." On Thursday, "the leaders of three major industry trade groups touted the safety improvements the sector has voluntarily made since the spill, with at least one going so far as to endorse more regulation that helps keep oil companies and drilling contractors at the top of their game." According to the article, "the measure expected to be formally unveiled by the Interior Department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement later this month aims to boost the reliability of blowout preventers, which are generally the last line of defense in preventing gas and oil from surging uncontrolled out of a well." Also, it is "set to propose new requirements for ensuring oil companies stay within even slim drilling margins — the difference between the hydrostatic pore pressure exerted by oil, gas and other fluids in the underground formation and the amount of force it can withstand before cracking open." The story also appears at the [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/10, 2.28M).

The [Washington Examiner](#) (4/10, 315K) reports that "the oil and gas industry came out in force Thursday with a message of 'zero accidents and zero spills' ahead of the five-year anniversary of the world's worst offshore oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico that resulted in several deaths." American Petroleum Institute CEO Jack Gerard said, "Our daily commitment is one of constant improvement until that goal becomes reality. The millions of men and women who work in our industry — and all Americans whose lives are powered by oil and natural gas — deserve no less." The article notes that "the second message Gerard and other industry executives attempted to convey is the need for a tempered approach toward new regulation." Gerard noted that "the offshore industry is safer than ever through its own efforts to improve the 'ethic of our industry' of 'safety and responsibility.'"

BOEM HOLDS OPEN HOUSE TO DISCUSS SEISMIC EXPLORATION OFF ATLANTIC COAST. The [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (4/9, 145K) reports that "in an effort to mitigate public concerns about the use of seismic exploration off the Atlantic coast in the search for oil and gas, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management held a pair of open house sessions in Savannah Thursday." According to the article, "subject matter experts on hand took questions from concerned residents about seismic exploration, specifically the use of airguns to produce images of what lies beneath the ocean floor, and the BOEM's permitting process." Michael Celata, the BOEM's region deputy director, said, "We are going to make these decisions based on the best available science. It's a long process. I'm not going to speculate on when permits could be issued. The decisions are being made in collaboration with several federal and state agencies." He added, "We want people to comment; we want input on this process, that helps us to make the most informed decision."

Also providing coverage is [WJCL-TV Savannah \(GA\)](#), Savannah, GA (4/9, 2K).

Marine Scientists Oppose Seismic Testing In The Atlantic. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (4/9, Subscription Publication, 201K) reports that "as the Obama administration considers allowing offshore drilling in the Atlantic from Virginia to Florida, 75 marine scientists issued a letter of concern this week over the possible use of controversial seismic air guns to search for underwater oil and gas reserves." They wrote, "Airgun surveys have an enormous environmental footprint. Opening the U.S. east coast to seismic airgun exploration poses an unacceptable risk of serious harm to marine life at the species and population levels, the full extent of which will not be understood until long after the harm occurs."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

TEAMS SHOW OFF TECHNOLOGY IN DESALINATION COMPETITION. The [AP](#) (4/10, 644K) reports that "with clean water supplies dwindling, federal officials put out a call around the world in hopes of finding innovative technology that could turn brackish water into potable water." According to the article, "five finalist teams will be showing off their desalination systems as part of the international competition beginning Thursday in Alamogordo." The BOR says "the finalists were culled from a list of 68 teams from 29 countries."

Also reporting on the story is [NBC News](#) (4/10, 2.71M).

ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN FOR MIDDLE RIO GRANDE RELEASED. The [AP](#) (4/10, 39K) reports that "cities and farmers that depend on water from the Rio Grande could be in for another tough year." The article notes that "snowpack from the mountains that feed the waterway is halfway gone, and there has been little to no precipitation in the last month," so "that means federal officials will be managing the river for drought for a fifth consecutive year." The BOR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "released the annual operating plan Thursday for the Middle Rio Grande." The BOR said "it is negotiating water leases to supplement river flows through at least June 15," and "after that, the agency can let small stretches of the river south of Albuquerque and above Elephant Butte to run dry, spokeswoman Mary Carlson said."

NATRONA COUNTY SETTLES FRAUD LAWSUIT WITH FORMER ALCOVA SUPERINTENDENT. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (4/10, 90K) reports that "Natrona County paid \$8,500 to settle a lawsuit brought by a former Alcova Reservoir manager who said he was fired for uncovering that the county was defrauding the federal government." According to the article, "Charles Loraas' suit claimed the county submitted false expenses and revenues at Pathfinder, Alcova and Gray Reef reservoirs, repeatedly accepted grant money for projects it should have paid for and used equipment for work other than reservoir maintenance." The article notes that "the county has operated the three reservoirs on behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation since 1991."

CLIMATOLOGIST SAYS CALIFORNIA FACING "DUST-BOWL"-TYPE CONDITIONS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/10, Megerian, 3.49M) reports that on Thursday, California state climatologist Michael Anderson laid out a "slew of statistics" on the state drought and said, "You're looking on numbers that are right on par with what was the Dust Bowl."

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/10, Gerken, 281K) reports that according to a study that examined the drought between 2012 and 2014, California's current situation is "the most severe in at least 1,200 years." The piece looks at a variety of ways in which individuals, businesses and government officials are responding to the crisis.

Empowering Native American Communities:

CONSTRUCTION FUNDING SOUGHT FOR BUG-O-NAY-GE-SHIG SCHOOL. [KBJR-TV](#) Duluth, MN (4/10, 2K) reports that “Congressmen Rick Nolan, Todd Rokita and John Kline are calling for major changes after touring the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig High School on the Leech Lake Reservation.” They “toured the school on Wednesday and said they wouldn’t wish these harsh conditions on their own families.” The lawmakers are “asking congress to increase funding for Bureau of Indian Education (B E) schools by approximately \$60-million.”

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (4/10, Board, 1.37M) editorializes that “the representatives’ visit to the remote northern Minnesota school on the Leech Lake Indian Reservation speaks volumes about their strong commitment to education.” According to the paper, “that the push for new BIE school buildings is now bipartisan is encouraging.” It urges state lawmakers “to continue their strong advocacy for the Bug school, too.”

FLORIDA ADOPTION COUNCIL RAISES CONCERNS WITH NEW INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT GUIDELINES. The [Saint Peters \(FL\) Blog](#) (4/10) reports that “a statewide adoption advocacy group says they are disappointed with a new set of expanded federal guidelines for the Indian Child Welfare Act.” On Thursday, the Florida Adoption Council “released a statement expressing ‘grave concerns’ over amended guidelines of the ICWA from the U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).” According to the article, “while the BIA focuses on expanding the reach of the ICWA, the council says parts of the newly published guidelines entirely disregard the best interest of children.”

Top National News:

IRANIAN LEADERS SANCTIONS MUST BE IMMEDIATELY LIFTED AS PART OF FINAL NUCLEAR DEAL. Both Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei publicly said Thursday that economic sanctions against Iran must be immediately lifted upon the implementation of a final nuclear agreement, a demand that could put negotiations in jeopardy. But media analyses differ over whether the comments are an actual statement of an immovable position or part of a domestic campaign to keep hard-liners in Tehran from rebelling against efforts to reach an accord. However, in the US, reports say the Iranians’ remarks are providing new ammunition for Republican opponents of the framework.

A 20-second [ABC World News](#) (4/9, story 7, 0:20, 5.84M) report was the only mention of Iran on the three broadcast network newscasts. David Muir reported that Rouhani says Iran “will not sign any agreement unless all economic sanctions are lifted on day one of the new deal.” Kevin Corke reported on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (4/9, 1.53M) that Rouhani’s “unflinching declaration” was a “shot at the White House plan to gradually lift sanctions and part of an increasingly aggressive tone taken by the Iranians.” Corke added that Rouhani’s comments are “renewing calls on Capitol Hill for more sanctions.”

Iran, the [AP](#) (4/10, Karimi, Schreck) says, “is staking out a tough bargaining stance for the final phase of nuclear negotiations,” with both Khamenei and the “moderate” Rouhani saying “any deal must include an immediate lifting of withering sanctions.” That position, says the AP, “might be popular domestically,” but “could be setting the bar too high” for what negotiators can achieve.

[Reuters](#) (4/10, Hafezi) reports Khamenei said in a televised speech, “I neither support nor oppose the deal. Everything is in the details, it may be that the deceptive other side wants to restrict us in the details.” The [Washington Post](#) (4/10, Branigin, Deane, 5.17M) reports that while Khamenei “said he had faith” in Iran’s negotiators, he “expressed suspicion of Washington, warning about its ‘devilish’ intentions.” The Post notes that as he spoke, “a crowd chanted, ‘Death to America.’”

The [New York Times](#) (4/10, A1, Erdbrink, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says Khamenei’s comments “could be tactical, intended to give both the negotiators and himself some political space to get hard-liners and others slowly accustomed to the framework,” but they also “illustrated the difficult hurdles that lie ahead.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/10, Mostaghim, 3.49M) says that while some analysts “took Khamenei’s harsh comments as a danger sign for the talks,” others said Khamenei “was again laying down tough terms in hopes of helping Iranian negotiators gain ground in the bargaining.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/10, Fitch, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says the P5+1 group is closely monitoring the reaction among Iranian leaders, and says that while Khamenei’s words were strong, they seemed to be carefully chosen.

The [AP](#) (4/10, Klapper, Lee) says “at present, there’s no firm agreement to how or when to lift the sanctions,” leaving “a major issue that still must be worked out.” [AFP](#) (4/10, Julien) called both leaders’ comments “setback[s] for the deal” that quickly “drew a rebuke” from the US and UK, which said sanction relief will be gradual. [USA Today](#) (4/10, Onyanga-Omara, Welch, 4.95M) quotes State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke saying, “The process of sanctions suspension or relief will only begin after Iran has completed its major nuclear steps and the breakout time has been increased to at least a year.”

[Politico](#) (4/9, Everett, 669K) reports Republican critics of the framework seized on the remarks. Sen. Mark Kirk said, “it’s increasingly clear that Iran, in fact, failed to reach agreement with the United States and its partners on a political framework that addresses all parameters of a comprehensive agreement.” And Sen. Tom Cotton posted a series of tweets highlighting “conflicting messages from Iran and the United States” over how closely Iran’s nuclear program would be monitored. [USA Today](#) (4/10, Page, 4.95M) reports Cotton again said Thursday “that US military strikes on Iran could cripple its nuclear capabilities without leading to a full-scale war.” [Politico](#) (4/10, Gass, 669K) also reports that in an appearance on Hugh Hewitt’s radio show Thursday, Sen. John McCain called Secretary of State Kerry “delusional” and said, “I think you’re going to find out that they had never agreed to the things that John Kerry claimed that they had. So in a way, I can’t blame the Ayatollah, because I don’t think they ever agreed to it, and I think John Kerry tried to come back and sell a bill of goods, hoping maybe that the Iranians wouldn’t say much about it.”

Charles Krauthammer writes in his [Washington Post](#) (4/10, 5.17M) column, “The inspection promises are a farce. We haven’t even held the Iranians to their current obligation to come clean with the International Atomic Energy Agency on their previous nuclear activities.” Krauthammer also says “there’s no way sanctions will be re-imposed once they have been lifted. It took a decade to weave China, Russia and the Europeans into the current sanctions infrastructure. Once gone, it doesn’t snap back.”

Ilan Berman of the American Foreign Policy Council writes in [USA Today](#) (4/10, 4.95M) that the idea of “snap back” is “likely to be little more than a political fiction” because of the difficulties of re-implementation. Berman says “the devil is in the details,” and it is clear that the P5+1 and Iran have very different ideas about the speed of sanctions relief. However, in his [Washington Post](#) (4/10, 5.17M) column, Fareed Zakaria writes that while “there is no guarantee” that Khamenei “will accept the trade-offs” in the framework, “the offer forces him to make a rational calculation and live with the consequences.” The [Washington Times](#) (4/10, Taylor, 644K) also has a report on the Iranian leaders’ comments.

Boxer Urges Corker To Postpone Action On Bill. The [Huffington Post](#) (4/9, Schulberg, 281K) reports Sen. Barbara Boxer has asked Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker to postpone markup of his “controversial Iran legislation,” scheduled for Tuesday, until a final agreement with Iran is reached. In a letter to Corker, Boxer writes, “To force Congress to weigh in now on the Iran nuclear talks before a final deal has been completed would be a reckless rush to judgment. It would undermine negotiations at a critical moment and could derail a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to deal with this looming threat.”

The [AP](#) (4/10, Kellman, Riechmann) has a feature on Foreign Relations Committee ranking Democrat Sen. Ben Cardin’s long career and his role in bridging the divide between the Obama Administration and the Senate on Iran. Kimberley Strassel writes in her [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/10, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) column that the debate over the Corker bill is forcing Democrats to choose sides, noting that about a dozen members of the Senate Democratic caucus have vocally opposed the negotiations over the past year, but are now undecided about how they will vote on the Corker legislation. [Politico](#) (4/10, Everett, Cheney, 669K) says the American Security Initiative PAC has launched a \$650,000 ad campaign to push senators to vote for the bill.

Graham Now Backs 2013 Joint Plan Of Action. [The Hill](#) (4/9, Fabian, 224K) reports that Sen. Lindsey Graham “wants to keep in place an interim nuclear deal with Iran that he harshly criticized when it was unveiled in 2013.” Appearing on CBS last Sunday, Graham said, “That is one way of looking at this program, keeping the interim deal in place that’s been fairly successful and have a new crack at it with a new president that doesn’t have the baggage of Obama.” Two years ago, Graham criticized the interim Joint Plan of Action.

OBAMA SAYS STATE DEPARTMENT HAS COMPLETED REVIEW OF CUBA’S TERRORISM STATUS. Following a meeting with Jamaican Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller in Kingston on Thursday, the President said the State Department’s review of “whether to remove Cuba from its list of nations that sponsor terrorism” is complete, but he has not yet received a final recommendation, the [New York Times](#) (4/10, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports. The President said the Department’s determination is “going through an interagency review that has not yet been finished.”

While [AFP](#) (4/10, Thomet) reports that the President would not disclose whether the State Department recommended removing Cuba from the list, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/10, Holtz, 380K) noted that two unnamed Administration officials told CNN this week that “the State Department report gives the all clear,” and [Politico](#) (4/9, Toosi, 669K) reported that the President is “expected to announce this week that he will remove the communist-led country from the administration’s list of state sponsors of terrorism.” It’s “widely anticipated that Obama will take Cuba off the terrorist list,” [Politico](#) said. Chris Jansing similarly reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/9, story 5, 1:25, Holt,

The [AP](#) (4/10, Kuhnhehn), meanwhile, notes that the President's decision "could come as soon as this week, when Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro are both in Panama to attend the Summit of the Americas." [The Hill](#) (4/9, Fabian, 224K) said that the President and Castro are expected to meet at the summit on Friday or Saturday. According to deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes, the President and Castro will not "have a formal one-on-one meeting but would likely interact" at the summit events and as the leaders gather on the margins of those events." The [Washington Post](#) (4/10, Deyoung, 5.17M) reports that while Administration aides "have strongly hinted that Obama and Castro will meet at the summit," they have not "specified the nature of the encounter."

A separate story from the [AP](#) (4/10, Lederman) describes the President's assessment as "optimistic," adding that he "sought to set the tone for the US and Cuba to come closer to closing the book on more than a half-century of estrangement," when he and Castro meet at the summit. Chris Jansing reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/9, story 5, 1:25, Holt, 7.86M) that Obama and Castro "coming face to face to talk détente after decades of Cold War era animosity will be the most watched part of the summit."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/10, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says taking Cuba off the list would remove a major hurdle that has confronted the US and Cuba since the announcement last December that they will normalize relations. [Xinhua](#) (4/10, 10K), meanwhile, reports that ahead of the summit, there are "promising signs for the two nations to normalize ties," but notes that "there has been more talk than walk in normalizing the bilateral relations, as no concrete achievement has been made yet." In addition to Cuba remaining on the terrorism list, the "longstanding trade embargo against the island country" remains in place and "has been impeding a normal relationship in various fields such as telecommunications, which the two sides have been trying to improve."

The [Miami Herald](#) (4/10, Torres, 694K) quotes Abel Prieto, Cuba's former minister of culture and adviser to Raúl Castro, as saying, "It's a lengthy process [negotiations with the US] it is complex and on the basis of principles that, as we have reiterated, are non-negotiable. Another topic is, we support Venezuela. The fact that they get close to Cuba and say, 'We're going to have diplomatic relations' doesn't mean that the voice of Cuba is going to be silenced. We don't accept interference, we don't accept imperialistic positions. They want to dictate our institutionalism and we're not going to allow it."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/10, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says the President's push to normalize relations with Cuba is an effort to burnish his legacy. The Journal argues that the President is offering Cuba the opportunity for economic improvement and diplomatic recognition but is asking nothing in return, and in response Raúl Castro is demanding more.

Pro-Castro Demonstrators Disrupt Meeting Of Activists Ahead Of Summit. The [AP](#) (4/10, Goodman, Rodriguez) reports that a group of Castro supporters disrupted "a closed-door meeting of grassroots activists" in Panama City on Thursday. The activists were meeting to put together "proposals to present to US President Barack Obama, Cuba's Raúl Castro and some 30 other leaders at the summit starting Friday on topics ranging from protection of the environment to support for democracy in the region," when "some 40 Castro supporters stormed a hotel conference room to protest what they said was the exclusion of government-backed groups from Cuba and the presence of Cuban dissidents they called 'mercenaries' and 'terrorists.'"

[USA Today](#) (4/10, Jervis, 4.95M) reports on Cuban protesters at the summit, noting that in "the most talked-about incident, a group of anti-Castro Cuban demonstrators on Wednesday planned to lay flowers at a bust of Cuban patriarch José Martí near the Cuban embassy...when they were confronted by a group of pro-Castro activists." The incident was denounced by event organizers and the State Department. State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said in a statement, "We are deeply concerned by reports of attacks targeting civil society representatives in Panama for the Summit of the Americas exercising freedom of speech and harassment of those participating" in the forum," adding, "We condemn those who use violence against peaceful protesters."

DASHCAM VIDEO SHOWS TRAFFIC STOP BEFORE SCOTT SHOOTING. While print coverage of the shooting of Walter Scott by North Charleston, South Carolina police officer Michael Slager is somewhat lighter this morning, the story continued to dominate last night's network news broadcasts. All three networks led with the story and spent more than 16 minutes covering it. Much of the coverage focuses on dashcam footage released Thursday by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. Reporting on it, the [New York Times](#) (4/10, Blinder, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says that "in its initial minutes," the encounter "appeared professional and routine," and Steve Osunsami reported in the lead story for [ABC World News](#) (4/9, lead story, 3:45, Muir, 5.84M) that Slager is seen pulling over the vehicle Scott was driving for a broken tail light. Scott "tries to get out" and seconds later "he runs from the car." In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/9, lead story, 2:40, Pelley, 5.08M), Scott Pelley played the dashcam video in its entirety, while Gabe Gutierrez reported in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/9, lead story, 3:55, Holt, 7.86M) that the footage "fills in some of the gaps, but doesn't answer the central question: why the shooting?"

The [Washington Post](#) (4/10, Berman, 5.17M) reports that while the video provides "a new glimpse of the brief moments" before the shooting, it "does not provide another direct view of the shooting," and [USA Today](#) (4/10, Bacon, Welch, 4.95M) says that according to South Carolina Law Enforcement Division spokesman Thom Barry, "none of the cameras mounted on any of the police vehicles that responded to the scene captured the dramatic moments recorded by a passerby with his cellphone." Barry added that "officials are reviewing 'potentially hours of video,' because video from all the cars that responded is being reviewed."

A number of reports continue to focus on the cell phone video of the shooting, with most focusing on whether it agrees with the incident report, and whether what is seen in the video would justify Slager shooting the fleeing suspect. For example, the [New York Times](#) (4/10, Fernandez, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) discusses the factors that must be present for an officer to be justified in shooting a fleeing suspect and notes that law professors, former prosecutors, and police officers who watched Santana's video "said that based on what they saw," Slager "was not legally justified in opening fire," and in a story on the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/9, story 3, 2:45, Pelley, 5.08M), Ron Hosko, former head of the FBI's criminal investigative division, said, "In this piece of video, I don't see the threat. I see a man trying to flee the scene, running away. And if that's the case, to shoot this victim in the back multiple times while he's merely trying to flee from a non-violent crime is deeply troubling, and I think is likely to result in a conviction of the police officer."

Gutierrez also reported in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/9, lead story, 3:55, Holt, 7.86M) that while the incident report on the shooting says that "multiple officers witnessed other officers providing first aid," and one "describes applying pressure to the gunshot wound," while another "assisted with first aid and CPR to the driver and a third reports seeing someone administering chest compressions," in the cell phone video, "officers are seen attending to Scott, but he remains on his stomach and no chest compressions are seen," and it is "unclear how soon that happened after the shooting because of a break in the recording."

Likewise, Osunsami also reported on [ABC World News](#) (4/9, lead story, 3:45, Muir, 5.84M) that Santana told ABC's "Nightline" that "the account Officer Slager gave over the radio – that Scott tried to grab his stun gun – is not what he saw happened," and the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (4/10, Monk, 291K) reports on Santana's decision to give the video, which "contradicted official police versions of the shooting," to Scott's family after he "heard that the police version of events was that Slager had fired in self-defense and that was why he shot Scott." Santana's attorney, Rep. Todd Rutherford, said Santana "remains fearful," noting, "He is extremely concerned about his safety. ... There are a number of people out there including those police officers who lied when they said they gave him (Scott) CPR when they did not and the video reveals they did not – there are people who are affected by this negatively that may seek retribution on him."

In his [Washington Post](#) (4/10, 5.17M) column, Eugene Robinson stresses the importance of Santana's video to the investigation, noting that without it, investigators "would have had the word of a police officer against that of a corpse." Thanks to the video, he writes, "justice has a chance," and in a piece on [TIME's](#) (4/10, 19.19M) website, David Von Drehle wrote that the video "has already put an exclamation point on the assertion made by protesters across the country that the dead are not always to blame," and when "things go wrong – as they do with distressing frequency when white cops stop black suspects – sometimes it is the officer's fault."

Slager Had A Previous Excessive Force Complaint Against Him. The [Washington Post](#) (4/10, Lowery, Berman, 5.17M) reports on an earlier accusation of excessive force against Slager. The complaint, which was filed by "another black man," says Slager "used a stun gun on a man while responding to a reported burglary in 2013." Slager was ultimately exonerated.

Scott's Family Plans To Sue North Charleston Police Department. Vicente Arenas reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/9, story 2, 0:50, Pelley, 5.08M) that Scott's family says "the reason he ran is because he had a warrant out for his arrest, owed child support, and didn't want to go to jail again," and in a separate story, on [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/9, story 2, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M), Craig Melvin reported that Scott's family "announced that they plan to file a civil lawsuit against the North Charleston Police Department."

North Charleston Residents Say Police Have Been Harassing, Racially Profiling For Years. The [New York Times](#) (4/10, Blinder, Fernandez, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that North Charleston "has seen an era of stepped-up enforcement under former Police Chief Jon R. Zumalt, and an effort to improve relations between the police and residents under the current chief, Eddie Driggers." According to "black residents, merchants and former residents" police "have been harassing and racially profiling African-Americans in North Charleston for years, though some of their reports could not be independently verified."

While city officials deny the allegations and "have defended their efforts to lower crime," the [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/10, Zucchino, Queally, 3.49M) says that according to data from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, from July 2007 to February 2015, "North Charleston police pulled over 128,838 black drivers without issuing a citation or recording an arrest." During the same time period and "under the same circumstances," they "pulled over 64,236 white motorists, nearly half as many." Moreover, from 2008

TIME Magazine Features Scott Shooting On Its Cover. The [Huffington Post](#) (4/9, Arana, 281K) reported that the cover of TIME magazine focuses on the Scott shooting, featuring "cell-phone footage of Slager shooting Scott as he flees below the words 'Black Lives Matter.'"

CSMonitor Analysis: Official Reaction To Shooting Shows How Much Has Changed Since Ferguson. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/8, Brunius, 380K) said that while the "compelling nature of the video evidence led to Mr. Slager being arrested, quickly charged by prosecutors, and then fired from the force," the "reaction by local authorities also hints at how much has changed in the seven months since a white police officer fatally shot a black teenager in the streets of Ferguson." The Monitor added that "the wide latitude that society has long given police officers who say their lives are in danger is beginning to change" as the existence of video "is threatening the traditional deference given to police."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Kansas Tries To Stamp Out Abortion." The [New York Times](#) (4/10, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) editorializes that Kansas' anti-abortion legislative efforts are meant "to make an abortion harder to get than at any time since before" Roe v. Wade. The impact is "especially" severe for "lower-income and other vulnerable women, who are often the first to be denied the choice they have under the Constitution."

"Global Threats To Net Neutrality." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (4/10, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) writes that while the FCC "recently adopted strong net neutrality rules," policy makers "in other parts of the world, particularly in Europe and India, are considering very different kinds of rules that could hurt consumers and start-up Internet businesses." The Times argues that "one of the main reasons the Internet has been so successful is that people have generally been able to use it how they wish," and the "worst thing policy makers could do...would be to allow telecom companies to mess with that."

"No Firing Pins, Please, As The NRA Gathers." The [New York Times](#) (4/10, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) writes in an editorial that participants at the NRA's annual convention, which opens today in Tennessee, must remove the firing pins from the weapons, a move it calls "the ultimate in hypocrisy."

WASHINGTON POST. "Passivity In Ukraine." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/10, 5.17M) criticizes President Obama and European leaders for "ignoring the brazen cease-fire violations" of Russia in eastern Ukraine. The Post says that "by remaining passive now," Western leaders "make" an attack by Russia against Mariupol "more likely."

"How Progressives Are Pandering To The Elderly." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/10, 5.17M) accuses Democrats of "pandering to the elderly," particularly with calls for boosts to Social Security benefits. The Post belittles such a strategy as untenable and says that Democrats should instead focus their efforts on reforming the Social Security Disability Insurance program, which is in danger of running out of money.

"Hogan Takes A Stand." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/10, 5.17M) praises Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan for opposing a "raid" by state legislators "on annual contributions to the state's pension fund for current and future retired public workers." Hogan said, "Raiding the pension fund represents the kind of short-term thinking that has put Maryland in the precarious financial position we faced in January, and I simply cannot allow these actions to continue." The Post says that Democrats "may try to push back, but their argument is weak."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "The State Electricity Revolt." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/10, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that the EPA doesn't have the authority to implement all the rules it is proposing to force states to cut carbon emissions, so it is pressuring states to adopt laws to enact them. The Journal says that the most effective way for states to counter the EPA's mandate is to slow-walk the process of complying.

"The Monarch Of Madison." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/10, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that on Tuesday, Wisconsin voters approved an amendment to the state constitution that changes the way the state selects the chief justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. The position has historically been held by the longest service justice, currently Justice Shirley Abrahamson, but under the new method, the chief justice will be selected every two years by the court's sitting justices. Abrahamson has challenged the constitutional amendment in Federal court, claiming the provision "would deny her right to the office of chief justice, an office she intends to continue to hold in accordance with the terms of her most recent reelection until 2019." The Journal argues that a judge has no property right to office, and that Abrahamson's challenge should be dismissed.

"Summitting With Raul." In an editorial the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/10, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says the President's push to normalize relations with Cuba is an effort to burnish his legacy. The Journal argues that the President is offering Cuba the opportunity for economic improvement and diplomatic recognition but is asking nothing in return, and in response Raul Castro is demanding more.

"Russia's Next Target." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/10, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that, unfortunately, the West is unlikely to provide more resistance to Russia aggression against Moldova than it has done in Ukraine.

"Drill, Britannia." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/10, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says British politicians must decide whether to drill for oil in new locations and the decision is a matter of whether they place a greater emphasis on energy security and creating jobs or environmental concerns that result from scare tactics.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[GE Close To Selling Real-Estate Portfolio](#)
[Ayatollah Blasts Accord Terms](#)
[Liberals Try To Push Hillary Clinton Left](#)
[Police Cameras Bring Problems Of Their Own](#)

New York Times:

[Leader Of Iran Challenges US On Pact Details](#)
[2016 Ambitions Make Rivals Of Rubio And Bush](#)
[Residents Trace Police Shooting To A Crime Strategy Gone Awry](#)
[Cypriot Soccer: Bombed Cars 6 The Referees 0](#)
[China Seeks To Host The Winter Games Where Snow Rarely Falls](#)
[Refusing To Fly With A Woman In The Next Seat](#)

Washington Post:

[He Sees A Man, The Army Sees A Woman](#)
[Iran's Leader Says No Deal If Sanctions Stay](#)
[Saudi Air Campaign Struggles In Yemen](#)
['L BERTARIANISH'](#)
[Supply-Side Guru Has The Republican Field's Ear](#)

Financial Times:

[Stuttering Emerging Markets Add To Growth Fears](#)
[Off Air: Chinese TV Anchor Pulled After Private Mao Comments Go Viral](#)
[Volatile Pound Heralds Period Of Turbulence In Run-Up To UK Election](#)

Washington Times:

[Obama-Bloomberg Gun Control Agenda Worries Democrats Heading Into 2016](#)
[Rand Paul Shunned By NRA Over National Association For Gun Rights Ties](#)
[Rand Paul Tries To Balance Iowa's Libertarian Evangelical Ideals](#)
[Oman Uniquely Suited For Middle East Peacemaker Role Amid Rising Tensions](#)
[Hillary Clinton Email Scandal Breeds Voter Distrust Sends Poll Numbers Down](#)

ABC South Carolina-Police Shooting; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; American ISIS Recruit Arrested; Boston-Tsarnaev Trial Verdict; Afghanistan-US Soldiers Ambushed; Iran Nuclear Talks; 2016 Politics-Hillary Clinton; Colorado-Airplane Hit By Lightning; Robert Durst Case; Sandra Bullock-Home Invasion Incident.

CBS South Carolina Police Shooting-Dashcam Video; Police Shooting-Shooting Victim; Police Shooting-Cell Phone Video; Secret Service-Sexual Assault Case; Airport Security Breach Report; PG&E Fined; ISIS-French TV Network Hacked; Darknet Investigation.

NBC South Carolina-Police Shooting; Police Shooting Eyewitness; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Panama-Summit Of The Americas; Secret Service-Sexual Assault Case; Robert Durst Case; Sandra Bullock-Home Invasion Incident; PG&E Find; Airport Security Breach Report; Hummus Recall; UK-Duchess Kate's Impending Birth.

Network TV At A Glance:

South Carolina-Police Shooting – 16 minutes, 15 seconds

Severe Weather – 4 minutes, 30 seconds

Robert Durst Case – 3 minutes, 20 seconds

Sandra Bullock-Home Invasion Incident – 2 minutes, 50 seconds

Airport Security Breach Report – 2 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC Severe Weather; South Carolina-Police Shooting; PG&E Fined.

CBS Severe Weather; South Carolina-Police Shooting; Panama-Summit Of The Americas; American ISIS Recruit Arrested; Airport Security Breach Report.

FOX Census Bureau Shooting; Severe Weather; Los Angeles-Car Falls Into Harbor; Sandra Bullock-Home Invasion Incident; Panama-Summit Of The Americas.

NPR Panama-Summit Of The Americas; Iran Nuclear Talks; UN-Palestinian Crisis; Wall Street; South Carolina-Police Shooting; Severe Weather.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House

PRESIDENT OBAMA — The President attends the Summit of the Americas in Panama.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Bidens travel to Oakland, California to visit a Pacific Gas & Electric center where he will discuss the importance of workforce development and investing in job-training programs across the country. While in California, Dr. Biden will visit De Anza College in Cupertino to highlight the Administration's "commitment to community colleges and their importance to America's future."

US Senate No Scheduled Events.

US House March 31 – April 10. — The House will be in a district work period until Monday, April 13. No votes are expected in the House during the recess.

CONGRESSIONAL INTERNET CAUCUS – CYBER THREAT SHARING — 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. The Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee hosts a luncheon briefing on cybersecurity focusing on the sharing of information on threats and attacks. President Obama has made the public-private sharing of threat information one of the most pressing priorities in his push to protect the nation's cyber infrastructure and legislation on this issue will be first out of the gate this session of Congress. Location: 2226 Rayburn. Contacts: Tim Lordan (tlordan@netcaucus.org), 202-638-4370. Notes: RSVP. Seating limited. Check-in starts at 11:40 a.m.

Other **ASIL ANNUAL MEETING** — April 8 – 11. 109th American Society of International Law (ASIL) Annual meeting – Adapting to a Rapidly Changing World. Participants include Judge Sir Kenneth Keith, with former ICJ President Dame Rosalyn Higgins; US Department of Defense General Counsel Stephen Preston; New America Foundation President Anne-Marie Slaughter; Friday keynote address by Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu; Gala Dinner

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, April 7, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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Sent: Tue Apr 07 2015 04:59:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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- + Bighorn Sheep Reintroduced To Yosemite.
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- + Court Rules Against Wild Horse Advocates In Utah Grazing Suit.

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- + Endangered Status Proposed For Crayfish.
- + FWS Decides Against Protection For Coastal Pacific Marten.
- + Environmentalists Sue Over Grand Teton Grizzly Take Limit.
- + Judge Invalidates "Take" Permits For California Logging Plan.
- + States Seek To Avoid Sage Grouse Listing .
- + Agreement Finalized To Reopen Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery.
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- + New Mexico Oil And Gas Group To Launch Media Campaign.
- + Thompson Divide Region Oil, Gas Leases Swap Envisaged.
- + Recent Earthquake Activity In Oklahoma Noted.
- + Additional Coverage Of New Fracking Regulations.

Offshore Energy Development:

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- + Seismic Testing Permits To Receive Public Hearing.
- + Pemex Searching For Three Missing Workers After Gulf Rig Fire.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES

- + NBC News Analysis: California Drought Could "Spark" Devastating Fire Season.
- + BOR Announces Some Irrigators In Yakima River Basin Will Receive 60% Of Normal Water.
- + New Deputy Power Manager At Grand Coulee Dam Named.
- + Group Releases List Of Endangered Rivers.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

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- + Increased Funding For Bureau Of Indian Education Schools Sought.
- + Interior Seeks To Have Claims Tossed In Navajo Judicial Funding Case.
- + Court To Hear Native's USDA Witness Interference Claims.
- + Man Dies In Crash On Ute Indian Reservation.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS

- + Obama: Linking Iran's Israel Stance To Nuclear Talks "A Fundamental Misjudgment."

+ [Lawmakers, State AGs, Municipalities File Briefs Backing President On Immigration.](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP

+ [New York Times.](#)
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BIG PICTURE

+ [Headlines From Today's Front Pages.](#)

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SECRETARY JEWELL VISITING GEORGIA. [WSB-AM](#) Atlanta (4/7, 63K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was scheduled to visit the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Georgia on Monday. Jewell will visit Apptomattox Courthouse in Virginia Tuesday as she promotes the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The [Neighbor Newspapers Atlanta](#) (4/7) reports that Jewell spoke at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area to highlight the benefits of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to call on Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the measure.

Additional coverage was provided by [Northwest Georgia News](#) (4/7), the [Greenfield \(IN\) Daily Reporter](#) (4/7, 31K), [WDBJ-TV Roanoke \(VA\)](#) Roanoke, VA (4/7, 98K), and [WABE-FM Atlanta \(GA\)](#) Atlanta (4/7, 11K).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PROMOTES BEE POLICY AT WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL. In its "Post Politics" blog, the [Washington Post](#) (4/6, Eilperin, 5.17M) reports that both President Obama and the First Lady have "made pollinators like bees, bats (which also made an appearance at the Egg Roll Monday), birds and butterflies, which have experienced serious declines in recent years a high priority in both national agricultural policy and the operation of the White House itself, which now boasts a beehive as well as a small pollinator's garden." The annual White House Easter Egg Roll "featured an interactive feature with four species of bats, as well as a parting gift of 'Burpee's Bee Garden' seeds, inviting children to 'join the national bee and butterfly brigade!'" The article notes that "the giveaway is part of a new partnership between the Interior Department, Agriculture Department and Burpee aimed at distributing seeds for 1 million bee and butterfly gardens this summer."

ALASKA LAWMAKERS PUSH BILL TO SEIZE FEDERAL LANDS. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (4/6, 2K) reports that Alaska lawmakers are "moving legislation to seize" federal lands. According to the article, "if the bill becomes law, Alaska could lay claim to nearly 170 million acres of federal land within the state." However, "there may be a slight problem: The federal government may not feel legally obligated to comply with the bill."

Also reporting on the story are the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (4/6, 146K) and [KTVA-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (4/7, 1K).

INTERIOR POSTS VIDEO SHOWING TWO BEARS WITH A BASKETBALL IN ALASKA. [USA Today](#) (4/7, 4.95M) highlights a video posted by the Interior Department showing that "two adorable bears tried to play basketball in Alaska."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for [US News & World Report](#) (4/6, 685K), John Horning, executive director of WildEarth Guardians, writes that President Barack Obama's "latest pledge to reduce greenhouse gases seems poised to keep our nation moving backward." According to Horning, "while he committed to reducing greenhouse gases within the federal government by 40 percent over the next decade, he completely ignored one of the most significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions under his control: fossil fuel production from public lands owned by every American." He notes that "a report released by The Wilderness Society and the Center for American Progress on the same day the president issued his newest climate promise found that oil, gas and coal produced from federally managed public lands are responsible for a whopping 21 percent of all U.S. greenhouse gases."

[America's Great Outdoors:](#)

National Park Service:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF "FIND MY PARK" CAMPAIGN. [My Print Resource](#) (4/7) reports that "the out of home (OOH) advertising industry has partnered with the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks, to help launch a nationwide public service campaign celebrating the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service (2016)." According to the article, "part of a multi-faceted two-year public awareness effort encouraging people of all backgrounds, particularly millennials, to discover and reconnect with their public lands, the OOH campaign will help drive awareness and understanding of parks and deepen public engagement." In June, the OOH industry will "launch Phase 2 with equally visually powerful executions that will juxtapose images of a well-known national park with lesser-known national parks and National Park Service programs, further pushing awareness and understanding of all that the National Park Service is and does." In 2016, Phase 3 OOH creative will focus on celebrating the centennial.

Also providing coverage is the [AV Network](#) (4/7).

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS FAVORS RECOMMENDING NATIONAL MONUMENT STATUS FOR WACO MAMMOTH SITE. The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (4/7, 111K) reports that NPS Director Jon Jarvis said "he will recommend national monument status for the Waco Mammoth Site assuming he finds community support for it at a public meeting tonight." Jarvis "took an hour-long tour of the mammoth site Monday afternoon and planned to attend a public meeting on the federal designation Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Mayborn Museum, 1300 University Parks Drive." Jarvis said, "The partnership that's already in place with the city and Baylor and the foundation has done a great job. The facilities are well-designed and efficient parking, access and signage. ... t looks like a park."

Additional coverage was provided by [KXXV-TV Waco \(TX\)](#) Waco, TX (4/7, 1K).

OLD SLAVE QUARTERS AT CLERMONT FARM RECEIVES FUNDING FOR RESTORATION. The [AP](#) (4/7, Press) reports that "a wooden building at Clermont Farm that once served as slave quarters is being restored." James K. Hare with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources said that "Clermont qualified for a \$165,000 grant from the National Park Service to rehabilitate the building."

USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL DEDICATED. The [Arizona Republic](#) (4/6, 1.14M) reports that "a new memorial has been dedicated in Bullhead City honoring those who died on the battleship USS Arizona." According to the article, "officials completed installation of a 7-foot long, 3-foot tall granite sign that now stands at the city's Arizona Veterans Memorial Park." The NPS and the U.S. Navy "refurbished the memorial site at Pearl Harbor, including getting a new granite sign."

BIGHORN SHEEP REINTRODUCED TO YOSEMITE. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/7, 2.21M) reports that the FWS is helping to reintroduce big horn sheep to Yosemite National Park. According to the article, "a herd of sheep was relocated from Inyo and Sequoia national parks to Yosemite." The article notes that "the effort involved moving the animals by helicopter into a remote range of Yosemite, where they were released in March."

NPS TO HOST EVENT AT PEARSON AIR MUSEUM. The [Battle Ground \(WA\) Reflector](#) (4/7) reports that the NPS at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site will "host an evening of events on Sat., April 11, 2015, at the Pearson Air Museum and Jack Murdock Aviation Center tied to the international Yuri's Night World Space Party event." According to the article, "Yuri's Night" will celebrate "the first person to orbit the earth in space: Soviet Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, who was launched into near earth orbit 54 years ago, on April 12, 1961."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EVENTS MARKING ANNIVERSARY OF END OF CIVIL WAR. Additional coverage of the events marking the end of the Civil War was provided by [Reuters](#) (4/6) and the [New Philadelphia \(OH\) Times-Reporter](#) (4/6, 54K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF MAINTENANCE BACKLOG AT NATIONAL PARKS. Additional coverage of the maintenance backlog at national parks was provided by

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE NPS TO MARK 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN FUNERAL TRAIN. Additional coverage that the NPS will mark the 150th anniversary of the Lincoln funeral train was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/6, Press, 5.17M), the [Freeport \(IL\) Journal-Standard](#) (4/6, 25K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (4/6, Reports, 2.32M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Sun-Times](#) (4/7, 1.11M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (4/7, 5.81M).

SUPPORT URGED FOR CRATERS OF THE MOON NATIONAL PARK. In an editorial, the [Idaho Statesman](#) (4/6, 196K) wants to "see the original boundaries of Craters of the Moon National Monument get redesignated as a national park." The paper implores "the Idaho congressional delegation to get behind the idea."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (4/6, 167K).

Bureau of Land Management:

SOCIAL MEDIA SUSPECTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO ROCK ART VANDALISM. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (4/7, 1.07M) reports on the "apparent spike in vandalism" at BLM lands in Utah. Artist Jonathan Bailey connects it to "the increase in blogs that provide descriptions of remote sites and the prevalence of social media posts that offer pictures of prehistoric artwork most people have never seen before."

COURT RULES AGAINST WILD HORSE ADVOCATES IN UTAH GRAZING SUIT. The [Law 360](#) (4/7, 9K) reports that "a Utah federal judge on Friday turned back efforts by nonprofit wild horse advocacy groups to derail a suit brought by Utah ranchers against the U.S. Bureau of Land Management over livestock grazing areas, ruling that the ranchers had met the necessary pleading requirements." U.S. District Judge Dee Benson held "in favor of a coalition of ranchers, local governments and small businesses accusing the BLM of failing to control wild horse populations in livestock grazing areas."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

STATES CONSIDER BANNING TRADE IN IVORY AND RHINO HORN. The [National Geographic](#) (4/7, 32.58M) reports that "25 states have considered or are now considering legislation to restrict ivory and rhino horn sales within their borders." According to the article, "the groundswell of state action shows that an issue long thought of as the responsibility of national governments and international organizations is becoming more grassroots and personal." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "The ivory poaching and trafficking crisis is a complex problem that requires action on multiple levels to ensure that commercial trade doesn't contribute to the slaughter of elephants in the wild." He added, "As we work to make it harder for criminals to launder illegal ivory into international and interstate commercial trade, it's encouraging to see states taking action within their own borders."

ENDANGERED STATUS PROPOSED FOR CRAYFISH. [The Hill](#) (4/7, Devaney, 224K) reports that the FWS is "proposing new protections for certain crayfish." The agency "proposed Monday to list the Big Sandy crayfish found in Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia as an endangered species." The service is "also looking to list the Guyandotte River crayfish found in West Virginia as endangered."

Additional coverage was provided by [McClatchy](#) (4/7, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 17K), the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette](#) (4/6, 13K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/7, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/6, Press, 5.17M), and the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (4/6, 379K).

FWS DECIDES AGAINST PROTECTION FOR COASTAL PACIFIC MARTEN. The [AP](#) (4/7, 2.28M) reports that "federal biologists have decided that no Endangered Species Act protections are warranted for coastal populations of the Pacific marten, a forest predator that is a relative of the weasel." The FWS said Monday that "it looked at the harmful effects of wildfire, climate change, logging, development, trapping and exposure to rat poisons at marijuana plantations, and none of those rose to the level individually, or cumulatively, of warranting a listing." The article notes that "conservation groups sought the listing and say that finding is not supported by the science."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (4/6, 56K) and the [North Coast Journal](#) (4/6).

ENVIRONMENTALISTS SUE OVER GRAND TETON GRIZZLY TAKE LIMIT. The [AP](#) (4/7, Gruver, 644K) reports that "two environmental groups have filed a lawsuit saying Grand Teton National Park and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would allow too many grizzly bears to be killed in confrontations with elk hunters before officials would have to reassess their rules for elk hunting in the park." The Sierra Club and Western Watersheds Project filed suit Friday against the National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. Their lawsuit "claims the higher take limit fails to account for cumulative threats to grizzlies throughout the region."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/7, Gruver, 2.28M), [Reuters \(UK\)](#) (4/6, 5K), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (4/7, 1.07M).

JUDGE INVALIDATES "TAKE" PERMITS FOR CALIFORNIA LOGGING PLAN. The [AP](#) (4/7, 2.28M) reports that "a federal judge in California says wildlife officials were wrong to grant a company permission to harm threatened species while logging private land." U.S. Magistrate Judge Nathanael Cousins "invalidated incidental take permits for the northern spotted owl and a population of coho salmon that federal officials granted to Fruit Growers Supply Company." Cousins said the FWS "wrongly factored conservation efforts by the U.S. Forest Service into Fruit Growers' plan to mitigate its impact on the spotted owl."

STATES SEEK TO AVOID SAGE GROUSE LISTING . The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (4/6, 113K) reports that "with an endangered species decision on the horizon, Western landowners and public agencies seek collaborative ways to conserve or improve greater sage grouse habitat." According to the article, "if greater sage grouse are listed as threatened or endangered later this year, it won't be for lack of expensive conservation efforts in the 11 Western states where the bird lives." The article notes that "all across the West, landowners and management agencies are cutting intrusive conifer trees, marking fences to prevent in-flight collisions and doing other work to protect a bird whose potential Endangered Species Act listing has been described as the 'spotted owl on steroids.'"

AGREEMENT FINALIZED TO REOPEN WILLOW BEACH NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY. The [Arizona State University Cronkite News](#) (4/7) reports that the FWS and Arizona Game and Fish Department "finalized an agreement late last week to reopen Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery, a federal facility that stocked the river below the Hoover Dam." Sen. John McCain said that "the agreement between state and federal agencies will bring back tourism and fishing dollars."

TRIBES OPPOSE DELISTING OF YELLOWSTONE GRIZZLY. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (4/6, 49K) reports that "the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma has joined the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in opposing the delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly from endangered species status, in particular because such a move would allow trophy hunting, leaders say." Meanwhile, "on April 6 a group of conservationists and tribes sued over the hunting of grizzlies that interfere with the sanctioned elk hunt in nearby Grand Teton National Park."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF LISTING OF NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT. Additional coverage of the listing of the northern long-eared bat was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (4/7, 281K), the [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (4/6, 89K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/7, 2.28M), the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (4/7, 395K), the [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (4/6, 343K), and the [Courthouse News](#) (4/6, 7K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR AGENCIES TO HOLD FORUM ON NATIVE TRUST LANDS. [The Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (4/7, 113K) reports that the Interior Department officials, including representatives from the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management and the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians, will hold a forum on Thursday, April 16, at the Payne Family Native American Center on the campus of the University of Montana for Native American land owners. According to the article, "the forum is for individual Native Americans property owners whose land is held in trust by the federal government, and is open to anyone who falls into that category, regardless of what tribe they belong to or where their allotment is located."

The story also appears at the [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (4/7, 19K).

ONRR LAUNCHES INTERACTIVE WEBSITE TRACKING EXTRACTIVE REVENUE. [Government Computer News](#) (4/6, 2K) reports that "the Interior Department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue has launched an open data website tracking revenue the government makes from the coal, natural gas and oil that is extracted from public lands." According to the article, "the new USEITI portal compiles information on how revenue is generated from resources on federal lands and where that money goes." The article notes that "besides the high-level overview, the site also lets users filter and sort by time frame, location, commodity, company and revenue types."

NEW MEXICO OIL AND GAS GROUP TO LAUNCH MEDIA CAMPAIGN. The [AP](#) (4/6, 2.28M) reports that "the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association is hitting back at environmentalists with a new promotional campaign." According to the article, "the organization will debut a 30-second commercial May 1 to spotlight its importance to the state's economy." Spokesman Wally Draper said "the campaign is meant to counter environmental groups who recently got the federal Bureau of Land Management to

Additional coverage was provided by the [Midland \(TX\) Reporter-Telegram](#) (4/7, 43K) and the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (4/7, 2.21M).

THOMPSON DIVIDE REGION OIL, GAS LEASES SWAP ENVISAGED. The [Denver Post](#) (4/6, Stroud, 804K) reports that energy companies SG Interests and Ursa Operating Co are proposing oil and gas leases in the Thompson Divide region in exchange for leases on public lands in other parts of western Colorado, in a bid to resolve a controversy over drilling in the area south of Glenwood Springs. The proposal calls on Colorado Sens. Michael Bennet and Cory Gardner and 3rd District US Rep. Scott Tipton to support a lease exchange. "Both SG and Ursa have approached us about signing a letter of support," Garfield County Commissioner Tom Jankovsky said, adding, "This could be a very positive step on both sides, and hopefully there will be room to negotiate and move this forward."

RECENT EARTHQUAKE ACTIVITY IN OKLAHOMA NOTED. The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/6, story 9, 2:40, Glor, 5.08M) broadcast that Oklahoma, which experienced five earthquakes yesterday, has felt 46 of them "in the past week, and more than 2,400 in the past year." According to CBS, a "2014 study posted online in Science connected thousands of small earthquakes to oil and gas production." However, noted CBS, "Kim Hatfield with the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association says the science to prove a definitive link simply isn't there."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEW FRACKING REGULATIONS. Additional coverage of the new fracking rules was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (4/6, 49K) and [KXMC-TV Minot \(ND\)](#) Minot, ND (4/7, 1K).

Offshore Energy Development:

GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS BOARD SHELL DRILLING PLATFORM IN PACIFIC. [NBC News](#) (4/7, 2.71M) reports that "six Greenpeace activists boarded a Shell oil drilling ship Monday in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and vowed to stay there to protest the company's plans to drill above the Arctic Circle, the environmental organization said." Royal Dutch Shell "confirmed that the protesters 'illegally boarded the Polar Pioneer' about 750 miles northwest of Hawaii on Monday morning." The company "called the protest a 'stunt' that jeopardizes both the crew and the protesters themselves."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (4/6, 612K) and the [Seattle \(WA\) Stranger](#) (4/6, 162K).

SEISMIC TESTING PERMITS TO RECEIVE PUBLIC HEARING. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (4/6, 295K) reports that federal permits for nine companies that "want to use seismic guns to search for oil and natural gas off the South Carolina coast" are up for public hearing Wednesday. The article notes that "the hearing comes amid a swell of opposition that has been mounting since federal regulators last year gave a preliminary nod to the permits, opening an evaluation period by federal and state agencies."

PEMEX SEARCHING FOR THREE MISSING WORKERS AFTER GULF RIG FIRE. [BBC News](#) (4/6, 1.66M) reports that on Monday Pemex said it's still looking for three missing workers following last week's rig fire aboard the Abkatun A-Permanente oil platform in the Campeche Sound of the Gulf of Mexico. So far there have been four fatalities from the blaze, with more than 300 workers evacuated from the rig. Area production after the blaze fell from 650,000 bpd to 430,000 bpd.

[ABC News](#) (4/6, 3.41M) reports that Pemex is expecting to restore 80% of pre-fire production within the week, according to general director of exploration and production Gustavo Hernandez.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

NBC NEWS ANALYSIS CALIFORNIA DROUGHT COULD "SPARK" DEVASTATING FIRE SEASON. [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/6, story 7, 2:20, Holt, 7.86M) reported that scientists are warning that the ongoing drought in California and the West "could spark a fire season even worse than last year's devastation reaching perhaps historic proportions." NBC (Almaguer) adds that "firefighters called it the year of the firestorm. 2014, millions of acres were destroyed as hundreds of homes across the west went up in flames. This year the outlook is even more dire. The forecast calling for bigger, more explosive fires fueled by conditions not seen in decades."

Rain Arrives In California, But Not Sufficient To Ease Drought. [ABC World News](#) (4/6, story 5, 1:10, Muir, 5.84M) reported that tonight, there is "some relief" for the drought in California, "but hardly enough," with the arrival of a "spring storm packing drenching rain, even snow." ABC (Zee) says the storm "is a help," but "we need a major pattern shift to make this drought go away and that's not going to help."

Fiorina: "Liberal Environmentalists" To Blame For California's "Man-Made" Drought. [Politico](#) (4/6, Breitman, 669K) reported that ex-Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, who has said that she's likely to run for president next year, on Monday blamed "liberal environmentalists for what she" called "a 'man-made' drought in California." Commenting on the drought during an appearance on Blaze Radio, Fiorina said, "It is a man-made disaster," adding, "California is a classic case of liberals being willing to sacrifice other people's lives and livelihoods at the altar of their ideology." Fiorina went on to assert that "despite the fact that California has suffered from droughts for millennia, liberal environmentalists have prevented the building of a single new reservoir or a single new water conveyance system over decades during a period in which California's population has doubled."

Additional Coverage Of California Drought. Additional coverage of the drought in California was provided the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (4/5, 28K).

BOR ANNOUNCES SOME IRRIGATORS IN YAKIMA RIVER BASIN WILL RECEIVE 60% OF NORMAL WATER. The [AP](#) (4/7, 2.28M) reports that the BOR announced Monday that holders of junior water rights in the Yakima River basin will "likely get just 60 percent of their normal water." The article notes that "that's significantly worse than the March estimate of 73 percent of normal."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (4/6, 113K), the [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (4/7, 86K), [KAPP-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#) Yakima, WA (4/6, 159), and [KVEW-TV Kennewick \(WA\)](#) Kennewick, WA (4/6, 283).

NEW DEPUTY POWER MANAGER AT GRAND COULEE DAM NAMED. The [Oregonian](#) (4/7, 950K) reports that the BOR's Pacific Northwest Region has selected Tim Koczur as the new deputy power manager at Grand Coulee Dam.

GROUP RELEASES LIST OF ENDANGERED RIVERS. The [Arizona Republic](#) (4/7, 1.14M) reports that "the Grand Canyon stretch of the Colorado tops American Rivers' list of endangered rivers this year because of cumulative threats to scenery and spring water from commercial and residential development plans, and from a push to restart major uranium mining." The article notes that "the designation marks the third year in a row that all or part of the drought-sapped river has been at or near the top of the advocacy group's 32nd annual watch list of rivers it feels face potentially harmful actions or decisions in the coming year."

Also providing coverage is the [National Geographic](#) (4/7, 32.58M).

Empowering Native American Communities:

STANDING ROCK LANDOWNERS SENT BUY-BACK OFFERS. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (4/7, 101K) reports that "more than 16,000 landowners with fractional interests in land at the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota and South Dakota are receiving buy-back offers." The Interior Department says that "nearly \$200 million in purchase offers are in the mail."

INCREASED FUNDING FOR BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION SCHOOLS SOUGHT. The [Wadena \(MN\) Pioneer Journal](#) (4/7, 11K) reports that "increasing funding for Bureau of Indian Education schools is a goal for U.S. Rep. John Kline, R-Minn." Kline, chairman of the House education committee, is "lobbying the Appropriations Committee to increase spending \$60 million." Kline said, "Significant health and safety hazards exist at America Indian education facilities across the country, including the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. The federal government has made a commitment to American Indian students and families to provide educational opportunities in a manner that preserves their culture, language and traditions. Unfortunately, we are failing to meet that commitment."

INTERIOR SEEKS TO HAVE CLAIMS TOSSED IN NAVAJO JUDICIAL FUNDING CASE. The [Law 360](#) (4/7, 9K) reports that the Interior Department "asked a Washington, D.C., federal judge on Friday to toss claims that it missed the deadline on a Navajo Nation \$17 million judicial funding request, saying the clock started later than alleged because of the 2013 government shutdown." The Interior Department "countered claims that the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs missed deadlines and therefore unlawfully denied a \$17 million funding request, more than 13 times its prior year's funding level, saying that its workers were furloughed by the 2013 government shutdown."

COURT TO HEAR NATIVE'S USDA WITNESS INTERFERENCE CLAIMS. The [Law 360](#) (4/7, 9K) reports that "the D.C. Circuit said Friday it would further consider an

MAN DIES IN CRASH ON UTE INDIAN RESERVATION. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (4/7, 1.07M) reports that “one person died and at least two others were hospitalized after the driver of a sport utility vehicle lost control and rolled while fleeing from a Bureau of Indian Affairs police officer Sunday, according to the Utah Highway Patrol.” BIA police are “handling the criminal investigation with assistance from the FBI because the crash happened within the boundaries of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation and involved enrolled tribal members.”

Top National News:

OBAMA LINKING IRAN'S ISRAEL STANCE TO NUCLEAR TALKS “A FUNDAMENTAL MISJUDGMENT.” Coverage of the Iranian nuclear framework follows several tracks. Beyond the coverage of the Administration's ongoing campaign to win support for the agreement, coverage focuses on Capitol Hill dissension, where Senate Foreign Affairs Chairman Bob Corker's bill requiring the Administration to submit a final accord to Congress for consideration is nearing a 67-vote veto-proof majority in the Senate. Sen. Charles Schumer's endorsement of the bill Monday is portrayed as a blow to the Administration, albeit an expected one. The President's interview with NPR will not air until later this morning, but both CBS and NBC, as well as several newspapers, reported on the brief excerpts that have been made available so far. For the second night in a row, ABC was the only broadcast network to not cover the Iran story at all.

On its website, [NPR](#) (4/7, 1.58M) previews Steve Inskeep's interview with the President, who responded to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's argument that the agreement would put Israel at risk, saying, “The notion that we would condition Iran not getting nuclear weapons in a verifiable deal on Iran recognizing Israel is really akin to saying that we won't sign a deal unless the nature of the Iranian regime completely transforms. And that is, I think, a fundamental misjudgment. ... We want Iran not to have nuclear weapons precisely because we can't bank on the nature of the regime changing.”

In a brief report, the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/6, story 5, 1:00, Glor, 5.08M) said the President “kept up his efforts to win support” for the deal, using “strong words” in the NPR interview “to address concerns both here and in Israel.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/6, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) also opened its Iran coverage with the interview, reporting that the President “said it would be a ‘fundamental misjudgment to try and force Iran to recognize Israel as part of a nuclear deal,’ as Israel is demanding.”

In a short item on the interview, the [AP](#) (4/7) reports the President said “it would be ‘a fundamental misjudgment’ to condition a nuclear deal with Iran on the country changing its hostile stance toward Israel,” saying he is “trying to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons ‘precisely because we can't bank on the nature of the regime changing.’” [USA Today](#) (4/7, Jackson, 4.95M) also highlights that comment, noting that the interview “is part of an administration media campaign designed to win support for the idea of an Iranian nuclear agreement.”

[The Hill](#) (4/6, Wong, 224K) says the Administration has been “selling the merits of the deal to the public and skeptical members of Congress.” [TIME](#) (4/7, Rhodan, 19.19M) writes on its website that “the White House has been playing offense on the outline of the deal.” [Reuters](#) (4/7, Mason) and [Politico](#) (4/6, Breitman, 669K) also have brief items about the interview excerpts. In addition, the [Jerusalem Post](#) (4/6, Lazaroff, 31K) reports on the President's weekend interview with Thomas Friedman of the New York Times, writing that “in a calm and measured voice Obama explained that this deal is the best diplomatic option.”

The [Washington Times](#) (4/7, Wolfgang, 644K) reports White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said Iran is insisting that all economic sanctions be lifted immediately after a final agreement is reached, but the US “will not accept such a scenario, Mr. Earnest said, and will only agree to a final deal if sanctions relief is ‘phased in’ over a period of months or years.” [Reuters](#) (4/7, Chiacu, Mason) reports Earnest said Iran will have to show compliance over time before sanctions are lifted.

[Politico](#) (4/6, Toosi, 669K) reports that “a group of 30 US specialists on nuclear security” endorsed the framework Monday, signing a letter urging US policymakers to back the plan. Signatories included former State Department Special Adviser for Nonproliferation and Arms Control Robert Einhorn and ex-UN Ambassador Thomas Pickering.

The [Washington Post](#) (4/7, 5.17M) says in an editorial that Obama's insistence that the framework is the “best bet” to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon may become “self-fulfilling.” The Post says that “by loudly insisting there is no alternative to the terms he has agreed to, Mr. Obama helps ensure that the option of maintaining sanctions while insisting that Iran agree to dismantle more of its nuclear infrastructure – as Israel and some in Congress advocate – is no longer a practical alternative.”

[USA Today](#) (4/7, 4.95M) contributor Jonah Goldberg writes, “Maybe Obama sees something no one else does. At home and abroad, Obama has an invincible confidence that he understands everyone's self-interest better than they do.” But “the players in the region don't think so.” Goldberg says Obama “has calculated that the bloodshed, chaos and frayed alliances are worth it if he can be remembered as the president who opened the door to Iran. Those benefits, if they ever arise, may come at the expense of losing a hell of a lot more.”

Eugene Robinson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (4/7, 5.17M) column, “I believe the change is clearly – perhaps historically – for the better.” Robinson concedes that “the regime in Tehran is an odious theocracy,” but writes that “like most governments it displays an interest in self-perpetuation. With its size, population and oil wealth, Iran does not need nuclear weapons to be a regional superpower.” But it does need “the economic development that will come as sanctions are lifted.”

Moniz Said Plan Based On Requirements, Not “Trust.” The [AP](#) (4/7, Lederman, Cass) reports the White House also “deployed Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz – a nuclear physicist – to offer a scientific defense” of the deal. Moniz said, “This is not built upon trust. This is built upon hard-nosed requirements in terms of limitations on what they do, at various timescales, and on the access and transparency.” [The Hill](#) (4/6, Fabian, 224K) reports that during his appearance before reporters in the White House Briefing Room, Moniz said, “it's not a fixed-year agreement; it's a forever agreement.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/6, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M), Chris Jansing called it a “surprise appearance” by Moniz, saying that his “hair made him an internet sensation, but he's a nuclear physicist who's taking the lead selling the science of the deal now embroiled in politics.”

Schumer Publicly Endorses Corker Bill, Which Is Closing In On 67 Senate Votes. [Politico](#) (4/6, Everett, 669K) reports Senate “Democratic leader-in-waiting” Schumer, “one of Capitol Hill's most influential voices in the Iran nuclear debate, is strongly endorsing passage” of legislation that would let Congress review a final Iran deal, illustrating “the enormity of the task ahead” for the White House. In an emailed statement, Schumer said, “This is a very serious issue that deserves careful consideration and I expect to have a classified briefing in the near future. I strongly believe Congress should have the right to disapprove any agreement and I support the Corker bill which would allow that to occur.” [Politico](#) notes Schumer signed on as a co-sponsor two weeks ago, so the statement was not a surprise, but he had so far not been vocal about his support.

[The Hill](#) (4/6, Carney, 224K) reports in its “Floor Action” blog that Sen. Ben Cardin, now the ranking Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, also said Monday that Congress should have the chance to vote on a deal. [McClatchy](#) (4/6, Wise, Subscription Publication, 17K) writes that Senate Republicans need 13 members of the Democratic caucus to back the bill if they hope to reach the 67 votes needed to overcome a presidential veto, and so far, nine have said they will. Three others have indicated they are likely to support it, which leaves undecided Sen. Claire McCaskill as a possible “pivotal vote.”

[Roll Call](#) (4/6, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 102K) reports Senate Majority Leader McConnell said Monday that the Senate will quickly move Senate Foreign Affairs Chairman Bob Corker's bill, and said, “Iran's support of Hezbollah, the Assad regime, Shia militias in Iraq, Houthi insurgents in Yemen – along with its ongoing nuclear ambitions – reveal an ongoing effort to both expand the Iranian sphere of influence throughout the greater Middle East and undermine America's standing and presence in the region.”

The [New York Times](#) (4/7, Parker, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) runs a sympathetic feature on Corker, saying that while “at the White House, nobody likes his bill,” the President and his advisers “see him as someone who might work with them to revise the legislation and ultimately make a deal.” The Times says Corker “often seems like a senator from another time, an era when reaching out to the other side was more the norm. He sees his mandate as criticizing the president for his failings but searching for a way to forge agreement.”

Israel Asks Tough Questions About Plan, Says Military Action “Still On The Table.” The [AP](#) (4/7, Bernstein) reports Israeli Minister for Strategic Affairs Yuval Steinitz, “a confidant of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu,” warned Monday that Israel reserved the option of military action against Iran. He told reporters, “It was on the table. It's still on the table. It's going to remain on the table. Israel should be able to defend itself, by itself, against any threat. And it's our right and duty to decide how to defend ourselves, especially if our national security and even very existence is under threat.” [AFP](#) (4/7) also reports on Steinitz's comments.

The [Jerusalem Post](#) (4/6, Lazaroff, 31K) reports Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes made similar comments in an interview with Israeli television, saying, “Certainly if Iran violates the agreement all options are on the table related to Iran, including military options.” Steinitz and other Israeli officials offered a policy paper with 10 questions Israel feels must be answered. Among them: “Why are sanctions that took years to put in place being removed immediately (as the Iranians claim)?”; “What will be the fate of Iran's stockpile of enriched uranium?”; and “Why does the framework not address Iran's intercontinental ballistic missile program, whose sole purpose is to carry nuclear payloads?” The Israeli officials also ask how the framework differs from the nuclear agreement with North Korea, which has been ineffective.

"an end to all research and development activity on advanced centrifuges in Iran," a "significant reduction in the number of centrifuges" left open or able to be made operational quickly, and the ability "for inspectors charged with verifying the agreement to go 'anywhere, anytime' in Iran." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/7, Casey, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that Israel probably does not expect the P5+1 powers to press for all the demands, but rather to set a firm line for Israel's push against the deal.

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/6, Gordts, 281K) reports that former Mossad Director Efraim Halevy "harshly critiqued" Netanyahu's rejection of the agreement "in a scathing op-ed" Monday, writing, "For decades, Iran rejected the international community's demand to hold talks of any kind with respect to its nuclear program. The interim agreement reached in Lausanne proves that Tehran capitulated, by agreeing to conduct negotiations about its plans and the nuclear infrastructure it has built up for years, primarily in secret."

But columnist Ben-Dror Yemini of Israel's [YNET News](#) (4/6, 7K) takes a very different position and says comparing the agreement to the 1938 Munich meeting "lets Iran off lightly. Because Germany at the time, despite being a dark country, wasn't calling for 'Death to England' or 'Death to the Jews.' ... The Iran of today, however, has been singing its genocidal mantra for years." He writes that "just recently, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei himself joined the masses in calling for 'Death to America,'" and that Tehran continues to back Hezbollah and other radical groups.

Saudi Arabia Offers "Cautious" Endorsement Of Framework. [Politico](#) (4/6, Lerner, 669K) reports Saudi Arabia "released a cautious statement" Monday endorsing the framework, saying, "The Council of Ministers expressed hope for attaining a binding and definitive agreement that would lead to the strengthening of security and stability in the region and the world." Politico says "the careful Saudi embrace of the Iran deal stands in contrast to that of Israel." In addition, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/7, Hennigan, 3.49M) reports Saudi Ambassador to the US Adel Jubeir, said Monday, "We hope there will be a deal based on the principles that the US government has articulated to us."

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/6, Luck, 380K) writes that Saudi Arabia "has offered cautious praise" for the agreement, but that Riyadh remains concerned about its regional rival's "support for Shiite militant groups across the Middle East." Gerald F. Seib writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/7, Seib, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) column that Iran is the primary concern of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, and that it is not yet clear if their governments trust the US to shield them. Seib says a diplomatic failure could lead the Saudis to pursue their own nuclear weaponry.

Iran Making Investments In Cyberspace Capabilities. The [Washington Post](#) (4/7, Timberg, 5.17M) reports that while the world's focus is on Iran's nuclear program, Tehran "has been bolstering its ambitions in cyberspace." Iran has rolled out 3G and 4G cellular service and "inaugurated a new, high-capacity data link to Europe" in recent years, and has experienced a surge in new IP addresses. Experts "see little evidence that these steps are intended to bolster Iran's already formidable cyberwar capabilities," and instead seem aimed at improving "civilian technology that could help Iran build a more modern, open economy, especially if" sanctions are loosened or lifted.

Supreme Court Seeks DOJ Views On Appeal By Iranian Central Bank. [Reuters](#) (4/7, Hurley) reports the Supreme Court has asked the Justice Department to weigh in on whether the Court should hear the appeal filed by Bank Markazi, Iran's central bank, over whether the bank is liable for \$1.75 billion in payments to the families of US troops killed in the 1983 Beirut Marine Corps barracks bombing. The bank argues that a 2012 law addressing the funds violates the Constitution by telling a court how it must rule in a legal matter.

ADMINISTRATION WORRIED AL SHABAAB WILL STRIKE ON US SOIL. The [New York Times](#) (4/7, Gettleman, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that al Shabaab operates "on a shoestring budget," but last week's attack in Kenya showed that the group has "become proficient in something terrible: mass murder on the cheap." The group has "slaughtered hundreds of people and shaken Kenya" with "just a few men and a handful of light weapons," and its fighters "are proving to be frighteningly resilient." The Times adds that the Administration is "deeply worried" that the group "might strike on American soil."

An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (4/7, 5.17M) says the Kenya attack "highlights the limitations of President Obama's light-footprint counterterrorism model in weak states such as Somalia and Yemen." The Post argues that "missile strikes and small Special Operations advisory teams alone will not deliver security" to such places, adding that they "need more help with governance and development."

Kenya Launches Airstrikes Against Islamic Militants In Somalia. Bret Baier reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/6, 1.53M) that Kenya's president "has vowed harsh measures against al-Shabaab terrorists based in Somalia" in retaliation for last week's attack on a college campus, in which 148 students were killed, and David Muir reported on [ABC World News](#) (4/6, story 8, 0:20, Muir, 5.84M) that Kenya is "dropping bombs on two al-Shabaab camps in Somalia," while the [Washington Post](#) (4/7, Higgins, Branigin, 5.17M) says Kenyan warplanes bombed "al-Shabab positions on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning." Military spokesman Col. David Obonyo said the planes "pounded camps in Gondodowe and Ismail, both in the Gedo region bordering Kenya, news agencies reported."

The [AP](#) (4/7, Torchia, Odula) reports that Obonyo said that while the camps, "which were used to store arms and for logistical support, were destroyed," it was "not possible to determine the number of casualties because of poor visibility." Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (4/7, Jorgic, Honan) says al Shabaab said none of its camps were destroyed and the fighter jets hit farmland.

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/6, story 6, 2:10, Glor, 5.08M), Debora Patta reported on the criticism of Kenya's immediate response to the attack, noting that the Interior Ministry "concede[s] that if they got there sooner, they could have saved lives, but it's complicated. The bomb disposal unit went by road. That's six hours. And the local military is not trained to deal with terror attacks."

Kenya Offers \$200,000 Reward For Attack Mastermind's Capture. Barbara Starr reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/6, 554K) that according to Kenyan authorities, Mohammed Mohamad, masterminded the Kenya university attack. Mohamad is "a regional commander in al-Shabaab," and "commands a militia along the border with Somalia." [USA Today](#) (4/7, Bacon, 4.95M) reports that the Kenyan government "is offering a \$220,000 reward" for his capture.

Kenyan Authorities Try To Trace Son Of Local Chief's Path To Terrorism. The [New York Times](#) (4/7, Kushkush, Gettleman, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that Kenyan authorities are trying to determine how Abdirahim Abdullahi, the son of a local chief, who was one of the gunmen in the university attack, "went from the competitive University of Nairobi law school, where he impressed other students with his quick wit, to being the terrorist the authorities contend he was."

LAWMAKERS, STATE AGS, MUNICIPALITIES FILE BRIEFS BACKING PRESIDENT ON IMMIGRATION. [Roll Call](#) (4/6, Ruger, Subscription Publication, 102K) reported that on Monday, 181 House Democrats filed a brief with the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, arguing that the executive branch "has the authority to make the policy changes that President Barack Obama announced in November." The brief adds that the White House is "often better positioned than Congress to determine how to adjust to laws like immigration."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (4/7, Dinan, 644K) reports that "dozens" of municipalities on Monday filed a brief "demanding a court allow President Obama's deportation amnesty to go into effect immediately, saying they want the tax revenue they think the newly legalized workers would bring." The group, led by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, argued for the court to "overturn the injunction and speed the amnesty into effect."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/7, Weiner, 5.17M) reports that Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring (D) "joined attorneys general for 14 other states and the District of Columbia in filing a brief with a federal appeals court Monday that contends the president's November orders are both legal and beneficial." In a statement, Herring said, "While we're waiting on Congress to enact long overdue comprehensive immigration reform, the President has offered lawful, reasonable steps that will boost our economy, keep families intact, and promote public safety."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Cuban Expectations In A New Era." The [New York Times](#) (4/7, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), in an editorial, says that while change is likely to "unfold slowly" in Cuba, "one change is already clear: the Obama administration's gamble on engaging with Cuba has made it increasingly hard for its leaders to blame their economic problems and isolation on the United States." Noting that approval among Cuban-Americans of the President's move to re-establish ties with Havana is rising, the Times says the Castro government "will have to reckon with the fact that many of the dissidents' aspirations are shared by most Cubans."

"Greece Should Be Wary Of Mr. Putin." The [New York Times](#) (4/7, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) writes in an editorial that as Greece faces "a series of daunting challenges," it "might be tempting — though misguided — for Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to seek financial or other support from President Vladimir Putin" during talks Wednesday. But while Putin "clearly wants to lock arms with any leader who appears at odds" with the EU, the Times says Tsipras "should be careful not to let himself be used to undermine European unity."

WASHINGTON POST. "Obama's Iran Tightrope." The [Washington Post](#) (4/7, 5.17M) says in an editorial that President Obama's insistence that the Iran nuclear agreement framework is the "best bet" to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon may become "self-fulfilling." The Post says that "by loudly insisting there is no alternative to the terms he has agreed to, Mr. Obama helps ensure that the notion of maintaining sanctions while insisting that Iran cease to dismantle more of its nuclear infrastructure — on legal and

"The Massacre In Kenya." An editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (4/7, 5.17M) says the Kenya attack "highlights the limitations of President Obama's light-footprint counterterrorism model in weak states such as Somalia and Yemen." The Post argues that "missile strikes and small Special Operations advisory teams alone will not deliver security" to such places, adding that they "need more help with governance and development."

"Starving Metro To Save It."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. **"Washington's Latest Bank Heist."** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/7, Journal, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) criticizes the Justice Department and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for looking to punish banks for backing loans by car dealers that offer different rates to individuals. The Journal says that the move is underway despite no evidence having been presented that minorities are receiving worse loan rates than whites.

"Harry Reid's Nuclear Taxpayer Waste." An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/7, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says Senate Minority Leader Reid's choice to chair the NRC, Gregory Jaczko, has cost taxpayers billions of dollars as a result of his efforts to block the nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain. Those efforts, the Journal argues, caused the Federal government to be in violation of agreements to accept spent nuclear fuel, prompting lawsuits from utilities, which the Department of Energy has spent more than \$4 billion over the last four years to settle..

"The Libby Injustice." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/7, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that former New York Times reporter Judith Miller's book proves that Lewis "Scooter" Libby's conviction was unjustified, and urges the next Republican president to pardon Libby, as it argues former President George W. Bush should have done.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[MWD Plans Rationing For Urban Users](#)

[Thrown A Curve](#)

[Newsom Taking A Gamble On Pot](#)

[At Next-Door Bars, Distinct Counter Cultures](#)

[Change Is On The Ballot In Ferguson](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Israel Presses Case Against Iran Deal](#)

[In Federal Courts Civil Cases Pile Up](#)

[How Brazil Cracked A Bribery Scandal](#)

[Silicon Valley Firms Plant Roots In Farm Belt](#)

New York Times:

[Shabab Militants Learning To Kill On A Shoestring](#)

[GOP Senator Bob Corker Is Key Player In Iran Accord](#)

[At Success Academy Charter Schools High Scores And Polarizing Tactics](#)

[Waving Cash Putin Sows EU Divisions In An Effort To Break Sanctions](#)

[How Is Scott Walker Like Reagan? He'll Tell You](#)

[Laurence Tribe Fights Climate Case Against Star Pupil From Harvard President Obama](#)

[Duke Defeats Wisconsin To Win NCAA Men's Basketball Championship](#)

Washington Post:

[Black Enrollment Dwindles At Major Florida Colleges](#)

[Iran Boosts Online Access](#)

[Conflict In Yemen May Spark Wide Famine](#)

["I Just Stood Up For Our Marriage"](#)

[Experts Can't Agree On How Much Salt Is Too Much](#)

Financial Times:

[BlackRock Chief Warns On Strong Dollar](#)

[EU Weighs Probe Into Propping Up Of Banks](#)

Washington Times:

[Rand Paul Begins Quest for White House](#)

[Voter Sentiment On Immigration Tears At GOP Hopefuls](#)

[A Decade-Long Pursuit Fulfilled](#)

[Obama Now Says Nuclear Deal With Iran Further Off](#)

[Lone-Wolf Terrorists Scare Officials](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Rolling Stone UVA Article-Retraction; Maryland-Carbon Monoxide Deaths; IS L-American Terror Suspects; California-Mandatory Water Restrictions; Cleveland-Police Officer Trial; Syria-Palestinian Refugees; Kenya-Terror Attack; Texas-Road Rage Case; NCAA Tournament; US Virgin Islands-Family Poisoned; Starbucks-Tuition Cost Coverage; White House-Easter Egg Hunt.

CBS Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Rolling Stone UVA Article-Retraction; Maryland-Carbon Monoxide Deaths; US Virgin Islands-Family Poisoned; Iran Nuclear Deal; Kenya Terror Attacks-Air Strikes; Former NFL Player-Murder Trial; Beijing Five-Release Request; Oklahoma Earthquakes; White House Easter Egg Roll; NCAA Tournament.

NBC Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Rolling Stone UVA Article-Retraction; Maryland-Carbon Monoxide Deaths; New York City-Gas Explosion; Iran Nuclear Deal; Hillary Clinton-Campaign Speculation; California-Mandatory Water Restrictions; Weather Forecast; US Virgin Islands-Vacation Family Poisoned; US Currency-Women; NCAA Tournament; White House Easter Egg Roll.

Network TV At A Glance:

Boston Marathon Bombing Marathon – 7 minutes, 30 seconds

Rolling Stone UVA Article-Retraction– 4 minutes, 50 seconds

US Virgin Islands-Family Poisoned – 4 minutes, 50 seconds

NCAA Tournament – 3 minutes, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC NCAA Tournament-Duke Victory; Rand Paul-Campaign Speculation; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; MLB Opening Day.

CBS NCAA Tournament-Duke Victory; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Former NFL Player-Murder Trial; Rolling Stone UVA Article-Retraction; Nissan-Federal Regulator Inspections;

NPR NCAA Tournament-Duke Victory; Medicare Advantage Plans-Price Increase; President Obama-Iran Nuclear Deal; New Jersey-Oil Refinery Lawsuit; Yemen-Rebel Fighting; Yemen-US Citizen Evacuation Plan; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial.

FOX NCAA Tournament-Duke Victory; US Terror Suspect Arrested; Syria-ISIL Air Strikes; Maryland-Carbon Monoxide Deaths.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Hosts an Easter Prayer Breakfast; receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets the Vice President for lunch; participates in a roundtable discussing

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Delivers remarks at a housing affordability conference hosted by Secretary Julian Castro and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development; meets the President for lunch.

FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA — Attends the United States Postal Service's dedication of the Maya Angelou Forever stamp.

US Senate No scheduled events.

US House March 31 – April 10. — The House will be in a district work period until Monday, April 13. No votes are expected in the House during the recess.

Other U.S. CHAMBER – WORKPLACE WELLNESS — 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce will host an event titled, "Innovations in Workplace and Community Wellness: Bridging Personal and Population Health." Speakers: Randel K. Johnson, Senior Vice President of Labor, Immigration and Employee Benefits, U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Jonathan Ballard, MD, MPH, MPhil, Ambulatory Services Medical Director, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Kentucky College of Medicine; Mark Fendrick, MD, Director, University of Michigan Center for Value-Based Insurance Design; Ron Goetzel, Ph.D., Senior Scientist and Director, Institute for Health and Productivity Studies, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Vice President and Applied Research, Truven Health Analytics; Daniel Stein, MD, Director of Medical and Clinical Services, Walmart. The forum will also address technological advancements and generational perspectives on health. <https://www.uschamber.com/event/innovations-workplace-and-community-wellness-bridging-personal-and-population-health> Location: U.S. Chamber Headquarters, 1615 H St. NW.

REP. LEE – HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY — 1 p.m. Congresswoman Barbara Lee will host a press call to mark National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, which is commemorated on April 10th. Participants: Congresswoman Barbara Lee, co-chair of the Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus; Dr. Nadia Dowshen, Director of Adolescent HIV Services at the Craig-Dalsimer Division of Adolescent Medicine at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; Anndrekia Maha, National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Youth Ambassador; Brandon King, National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Youth Ambassador. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10zzAM19rx5TO5wsHZF-xZSIzmyVRPLLRjUqLdRmKreg/viewform>

NYU – CANTOR, SEBELIUS — 6 p.m. Eric Cantor, former U.S. House majority leader, and Kathleen Sebelius, former secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will be featured panelists in "Perspectives on the Shifting U.S. Health Landscape," to be held at New York University's D.C. Academic Center. Location: Abramson Family Auditorium, 1307 L Street, NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "Of course it's the presidential race for 2016, which continues to heat up. And get this – in a recent interview, Robert De Niro actually said that he hoped Hillary Clinton would be the next president. He gave her a very strong endorsement. He was like, 'She's pretty good.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "But President Obama still has a couple more years left. He's been traveling a lot recently. In fact, I saw that he just made his first presidential trip to the state of Utah. Obama spent his time in Utah just like you'd expect, by telling people, 'Uh, no, I don't play for the Jazz.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Actually, I read that President Obama has now visited every state in the US except for South Dakota. But he's visited Afghanistan four times. Which explains South Dakota's new tourism slogan, 'South Dakota: Not as fun as Afghanistan.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Jeb Bush is facing criticism after it was revealed that he checked off his race as Hispanic on a voter registration form back in 2009. When asked if he regrets it now, Bush was like, 'Si.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush classified his race as Hispanic on the voter form. And if you think that lie is embarrassing, current Florida Governor Rick Scott classified his race as humanoid."

Seth Meyers: "According to 'The New York Times,' Jeb Bush identified himself as Hispanic on his 2009 voter registration form. While Hillary Clinton identified herself as 'President.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Obama said that today's Easter Egg Roll is 'always one of our favorite events,' and then Republicans accused him of not supporting Israel."

Conan O'Brien: "Today was the annual Easter Egg Roll on the White House lawn. Usually when you see something rolling on the White House lawn, it's a drunk Secret Service agent."

Conan O'Brien: "Sort of an embarrassing revelation of Jeb Bush. It's been found out that he listed himself on his voter registration card as Hispanic. When asked why, Jeb said it was the only way he could vote for the Latin Grammys."

Conan O'Brien: "Tea Party Senator Rand Paul revealed that his presidential campaign slogan is 'Defeat the Washington machine, unleash the American Dream.' Let me introduce his speech writer, Eminem."

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, April 6, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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DATE MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

PRESIDENT OBAMA CALLS FOR WIDENING ARCTIC REFUGE PROTECTIONS. [Reuters](#) (4/5, Gardner) reported that President Obama recommended the expansion of protected areas of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, calling on Congress to ban oil and gas drilling in some 12 million acres. "This area is one of the most beautiful, undisturbed places in the world. It is a national treasure and should be permanently protected through legislation for future generations," Obama said in a letter to House Speaker John Boehner. The Interior Department made the same recommendation in January but faced instant resistance from Republicans. Republican Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, the head of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said, "We will continue to fight against the administration's efforts to impose new restrictions on Alaska's lands and resources," adding, "A congressional designation of the Coastal Plain as wilderness will not happen on my watch." Environmental groups for their part hailed the President's move to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (4/5, Cama, 224K), the [Washington Times](#) (4/6, Boyer, 644K) the [Huffington Post](#) (4/3, 281K), the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (4/3, 146K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (4/3, 612K), the [Ketchikan \(AK\) SitNews](#) (4/5), and the [Voice of America](#) (4/5, 70K).

CONSERVATIVES RELIEVED THAT PRESIDENT DIDN'T ANNOUNCE NEW UTAH NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Washington Times](#) (4/6, Boyer, 644K) reports that "property rights advocates and conservatives" are "breathing a sigh of relief" after the President finished his first trip to Utah last week without "turning vast chunks of the state into a new national monument." The Times says that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert (R) "took advantage of a 30-minute motorcade ride with Mr. Obama on Thursday night to lobby the president on the state's public lands initiative," which would give the state more say in land use.

Support Urged For National Monument Designations. In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (4/3, 85K), Pastor Jesse Villarreal writes that "President Obama has used the Antiquities Act several times, particularly to protect cultural resources that represent the diverse faces of our nation." As a pastor, he believes that "the national monument designations made by our current and previous presidents under the Antiquities Act protect beautiful landscapes and historic sites where we can connect with our past and our faith." Villarreal concludes that "Presidents have been using the Antiquities Act effectively for over 100 years, and it is without question that this authority must be defended as a tool for preserving America's remarkable story for all those who come after us."

In an op-ed for the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (4/5, 49K), Peter Ives, a member of the Santa Fe City Council, supports a Civilian Conservation Corps/Works Projects Administration National Monument at the Old Santa Fe Trail Building.

In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (4/5, 1.14M), Thomas Hulen of Tempe, who serves on the boards of the Arizona Heritage Alliance, Friends of the Sonoran Desert and Sierra Club Grand Canyon chapter, supports the creation of the Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (4/5, 547K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO VISIT GEORGIA AND VIRGINIA TO CELEBRATE LWCF. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/6, 2.28M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is traveling to Virginia and Georgia to celebrate the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Jewell is "scheduled to visit Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Georgia on Monday and Appomattox Courthouse National Historical Park in Virginia on Tuesday."

Also providing coverage are the [Macon \(GA\) Telegraph](#) (4/6, 156K) and [WGCL-TV Atlanta \(GA\)](#) Atlanta (4/6, 84K).

PHOTOS FROM INTERIOR'S INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT HIGHLIGHTED. The [Country Living](#) (4/2, 11.41M) highlights "11 Photos That Perfectly Capture the Surreal Beauty of America's Parks" from the Interior Department's Instagram account.

[ABC News](#) (4/2, 3.41M) ran a slideshow of spring pictures from Interior's Instagram account. Additional coverage was provided by ABC News's [Facebook](#) (4/5) and [Twitter](#) (4/5), ABC World News Tonight with David Muir's [Facebook](#) (4/5) and [Twitter](#) (4/5), The View's [Facebook](#) (4/5), and Good Morning America's [Instagram](#) (4/5, 7.73M). Additional coverage was provided on [Facebook](#) (4/5) and [Twitter](#) (4/5).

The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/29, 4.78M) notes that the account has reached 500,000 followers.

The [SB Nation](#) (4/5, 4.9M) features a photo from the Interior Department showing bears at Katmai National Park in Alaska playing with a basketball.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (4/3, Visser, 281K).

CONGRESS MAKES PROGRESS ON WILDFIRE FUNDING REFORMS. The [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (4/4, 36K) reports that Congress is "making progress on two issues of special importance to the West: fighting wildfires and providing funding to counties with large chunks of federally owned land." On wildfires, Sens. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon, and Mike Crapo "joined before the recess to attach a provision to the Senate budget resolution that should ease the way for a new funding mechanism for fighting the most severe wildfires." According to the article, "under the new plan, funding for these fires would be treated the same as other disasters such as hurricanes."

REP. BISHOP PREPARING FOR HEARINGS ON CHALLENGES OF FEDERAL LAND OWNERSHIP. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (4/5, 1.07M) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop said "he wants to use his leadership of the House Committee on Natural Resources to convene a series of hearings this spring and summer on the challenges of federal land ownership in Western states." Bishop said "the idea is to better educate his East Coast colleagues and others on the plight that Western states face when it comes to control of public lands." Bishop is "readying draft legislation and a map that proposes to carve out land uses for some 18 million acres in eastern Utah, designations that would include new wilderness areas, so-called energy development zones and better protections for high-value recreation lands."

CLARIFICATION SOUGHT ON SHEEP GRAZING, MANAGEMENT. The [Agri-View](#) (4/5, 111K) reports that "a congressional letter regarding sheep grazing and bighorn sheep management will be sent to U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell this month." The letter "requests that officials supply answers to questions asked by Congress last year that still require a response." In addition, "the industry is requesting that language reflecting the bighorn concerns be included in appropriations for the Department of Interior for fiscal year 2016 report and bill language."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF HONOLULI NATIONAL MONUMENT CEREMONY. Additional coverage of the ceremony dedicating Honouliuli National Monument was provided by the [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (4/5, 41).

STATE TAKEOVER OF PUBLIC LANDS CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (4/4, 54K), Pete Strom writes that "public lands transfer poses a real threat to Montana's economy." He argues that "protecting our public lands is a value-based priority that crosses party lines, gender, demographics and economic boundaries."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NATIONAL PARKS LAUNCH "FIND YOUR PARK" CAMPAIGN. The [AP](#) (4/5, 28K) reports that "after nearly 100 years, the National Park Service holds some of the country's most beautiful and historic places, but it suffers from an \$11 billion backlog of unfunded maintenance and a visitor base that's aging and mostly white." Now, "with its centennial approaching in 2016, the park service launched a campaign last week to raise support and court a younger, more diverse visitor base," with the "Find Your Park" campaign. Meanwhile, "behind the scenes, officials are seeking to expand fundraising through the National Park Foundation and bolster congressional support to improve the parks."

Additional coverage of the campaign was provided by the [Maryville \(TN\) Daily Times](#) (4/5, 64K), the [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (4/6, 101K), the [Norwalk \(CT\) Hour](#) (4/5, 28K), the [Holland \(MI\) Sentinel](#) (4/5, 42K), the [Sioux City \(IA\) Journal](#) (4/5, 27K), the [Rocky Mount \(NC\) Telegram](#) (4/5, 38K), [Skift](#) (4/3), and [DigitalSignageToday](#) (4/5).

Subaru Of America Announces Support Of National Park Service Centennial. The [Auto Channel](#) (4/3, 5K) reports that Subaru of America, Inc. has "announced its continued commitment to the environment and America's national parks through a multi-year partnership with the National Park Foundation (NPF), the official charity of America's national parks." The article notes that "in addition to supporting the work of NPF and celebrating the 100 year milestone of the National Park Service, Subaru has donated Outback vehicles for use at four of America's national parks."

Glacier National Park Fees To Hold Steady This Summer. The [AP](#) (4/3, Press, 5.17M) reports that "Glacier National Park officials say the price for a park pass and other fees will hold steady this summer." The article notes that "those supporting the increases say they could help fund interpretive programs and trail maintenance that has been cut in recent years."

Also reporting on the story is [The Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (4/5, 113K).

Fee Increase May Not Help Grand Canyon Maintenance Backlog. The [Arizona Republic](#) (4/3, 1.14M) reports that "Grand Canyon National Park officials say even if a proposed visitor fee increase is approved next month, the park will still have a large backlog of maintenance projects totaling in the hundreds of millions of dollars." According to the article, "the money from the proposed increase will only amount to a drop in the bucket compared to the backlog of maintenance projects in the park, which are estimated to cost over \$300 million."

Fees May Rise At Morristown National Historical Park And Thomas Edison National Historical Park. The [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (4/5, 69K) reports that "two of the four New Jersey National Park Service properties are among those that have proposed to increase entry fees after a six-year moratorium." Morristown National Historical Park and Thomas Edison National Historical Park are "two of about a dozen park service sites in the Northeast region that have applied for fee hikes in 2015."

Additional Coverage Of Fee Increases, Maintenance Backlog. Additional coverage of fee increases and the maintenance backlog was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (4/5, 238K), the [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (4/5, 119K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/3, 2.28M), the [Marketplace](#) (4/5, 27K), the [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (4/5, 25K), the [Augusta \(GA\) Chronicle](#) (4/4, 184K), and the [Paris \(TN\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (4/5, 25K).

WHITE HOUSE SEEKS FUNDING FOR CIVIL RIGHTS SITES. [USA Today](#) (4/4, Berry, Today, 4.95M) reports that "communities and historically black colleges that played a key role in the civil rights movement would get millions of dollars under an administration plan to upgrade and preserve the movement's most important sites." Officials "want to spend \$50 million on the initiative as the nation marks the 50th anniversary of key milestones in the civil rights movement." The article notes that "sites in the South, the heart of the civil rights movement, are the most likely candidates".

CIVIL WAR ANNIVERSARY REMEMBERED. The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (4/5, 322K) reports that "a day that focused on freedom more than defeat, on promise more than loss, on blessings more than sorrows, brought an estimated 5,000 people to Capitol Square on Saturday for the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War and slavery." The article notes that "included were illuminated walking tours of the district that burned at the end of the war, real-time tours related to events 150 years ago, speakers, a pop-up interactive museum, living history interpreters, children's games, music, dance, and creation of a temporary heritage trail related to slavery in Shockoe Bottom."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (4/5, Szkotak, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/5, Press, 5.17M), the [Greeneville \(TN\) Sun](#) (4/5, 43K), and the [Huffington Post](#) (4/5, |, Szkotak, 281K).

NPS TO MARK 150 YEARS SINCE LINCOLN FUNERAL. The [AP](#) (4/6, 197K) reports that the NPS "plans to mark the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's funeral procession from Washington, D.C., to Springfield." According to the article, "commemorations starting this month will take place in cities along the looping route Lincoln's funeral train took to carry his body back to his home state, Illinois."

WILDFIRE IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK FULLY CONTAINED. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/5, Gerber, 3.49M) reports that "the wildfire in Sequoia National Park that prompted the evacuation of some campgrounds in the afternoon had been fully contained by Saturday night." Park officials "initially said the blaze had burned 30 acres, but Mike Theune, fire information officer for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, said a closer inspection of the 'rugged terrain' pegged the damage at 20 acres."

Also reporting on the story is the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/5, 2 28M).

LOW SNOWPACK BRINGS SWARM OF HIKERS TO WASHINGTON TRAILS. The [AP](#) (4/5, 2.28M) reports that "federal land managers have been caught unprepared for the rush of visitors after a low winter snowpack cleared Washington's mountain roads and trails weeks earlier than usual." According to the article, "national parks and forests in western Washington typically bring on hundreds of seasonal employees — many of them college students — to handle summer crowds," but "this year the seasonal crews are already needed, and many are still in school."

LOWELL DAM TO GET AUTOMATIC CRESTGATES. The [Nashua \(NH\) Telegraph](#) (4/5, 43K) reports that "after years of debate and legal wrangling that pitted historical accuracy against hydropower and flood control, the Pawtucket Dam in the Lowell National Historical Park will be topped by hydraulic gates similar to the ones placed atop Nashua's Jackson Dam last year." The conflict "ended with a Feb. 12 ruling by a U.S. Court of Appeals in a suit between the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which supported the addition of crest gates, and the Department of the Interior, which includes the National Park Service."

RESTORATION WORK ON BURNSIDE BRIDGE COULD BEGIN IN SUMMER. The [AP](#) (4/5, Greene, 2 28M) reports that "work to restore one of the most well-known bridges from the Civil War and a popular tourist attraction could begin as early as this summer, giving Burnside Bridge its first major restoration work since the 1950s." Antietam National Battlefield officials are "planning to repair long-term damage caused to the bridge by water and general wear and tear, battlefield Superintendent Susan Trail said." The project "which is expected to cost from \$1 million to \$1.5 million, could begin as early as this summer, depending on whether the design contracts and

PARTS OF FIRE ISLAND CLOSED TO FIGHT BEETLE INFESTATION. The [AP](#) (4/3, Press, 5.17M) reports that “more than 600 trees will be cut down on New York’s Fire Island to battle an infestation of southern pine beetles.” According to the article, “parts of Fire Island National Seashore will be closed for two weeks starting Monday.” Members of the NPS’ Arborist Incident Response Team will perform the work.

BENT’S OLD FORT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ACQUIRES TWO DONKEYS. The [La Junta \(CO\) Tribune-Democrat](#) (4/5, 341) reports that “Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site recently welcomed two new ‘staff members’ when the site acquired two donkeys from the Great Escape Mustang Sanctuary in Deer Trail, Colorado.”

THREE BALD EAGLE NESTS SPOTTED IN DC. [WRC-TV](#) Washington (4/5, 613K) reports that “three bald eagle nests have been sighted in the District, indicating that eaglets are inside, or are about to hatch.” The NPS and FWS “conducted a helicopter survey Thursday along the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, although it had to be cut short due to wind.” According to the agencies, “all three of the nests sighted were active, with an adult either brooding (caring for young) or incubating.”

NPS, VILLAGE GREEN CLASH OVER LANDMARK STATUS. The [Southern Pines \(NC\) Pilot](#) (4/5, 2K) reports that the NPS “may have finally drawn a line in the sand, warning Pinehurst that further changes to Village Green could mean losing its designation as a National Historic Landmark.” Turkiya Lowe, the agency’s chief of the cultural resources, research and science branch of the Southeast Region, said “in a letter late last month to Historic Preservation Commission Chairman Jim Lewis that the landmark status ‘is now in a fragile state and future changes that adversely affect its integrity will push the landmark (NHL) to its tipping point.’”

CHAGUI’AN MASSACRE SITE DISPUTED. The [AP](#) (4/5, Cruz, 644K) reports that “the Guam Preservation Trust is determined to put the Chagui’an Massacre site in Yigo into the National Register of Historic Places.” However, “there’s disagreement about the exact location of the site.”

NEW SUPERINTENDENT AT LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK NAMED. The [Plumas County \(CA\) News](#) (4/5, 110) reports that Steve Gibbons has been chosen as the next superintendent at Lassen Volcanic National Park, “after serving as acting superintendent at the park for the past four months.” He will begin his new role in early May. Regional Director Chris Lehnertz said, “Steve has been outstanding as interim superintendent at Lassen Volcanic. Now with him moving into the superintendent position permanently, we all look forward to his continued strong leadership there.”

MAN WHO TOOK SOLO GRAND CANYON TRIP STILL MISSING. The [Arizona Republic](#) (4/3, 1.14M) reports “two months ago, 21-year-old Drake Kramer told his parents he was taking a solo trip to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. He hasn’t been seen since.” According to the article, “three weeks ago, the family received word that someone spotted Drake.” Another search and rescue was launched but crews found nothing.

TRAPPED HIKER RESCUED AT JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (4/3, 2.28M) reports that “a 17-year-old hiker has been rescued with only minor scrapes and bruises after getting wedged between rocks while scrambling in Joshua Tree National Park.”

HIKERS RESCUED IN SMOKIES. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (4/5, 371K) reports that “a father and son were rescued Saturday morning after becoming separated and stranded amid dangerous weather overnight in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, officials said.”

PHOTOGRAPHERS INVITED FOR “PICTURE YOURSELF IN THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK” CONTEST. The [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (4/5, 8K) reports that Theodore Roosevelt National Park “attracts thousands of photographers each year.” The article notes that “the annual ‘Picture Yourself in Theodore Roosevelt National Park’ photo contest invites photographers to show off their skills.”

RECOGNITION FOR RUSHMORE CARVER URGED. In an op-ed for the [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (4/3, 25K), Douglas J. Gladstone calls for recognition of Luigi Del Bianco, the chief carver of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial from 1933 through 1940.

ROADWAYS CONNECTED NATIONAL PARKS FOR VISITORS. In a piece for the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (4/5, 59K), Barbara Fleming recounts how “in 1920, the National Park-to Park Touring Association incorporated in Colorado, developing a route for visiting all 12 parks.”

Bureau of Land Management:

SUNDAY MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF BUNDY STANDOFF. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (4/5, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that “Sunday will mark one year since the BLM and National Park Service began wrangling” Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy’s “bovines from Gold Butte’s expanse of Joshua trees and creosote bushes, where the animals had been grazing illegally for more than two decades.” According to the article, “so far, the folksy rancher has gotten off scot-free after brazenly flouting two federal court orders in 2013 to remove his cattle from federal lands and later mobilizing an armed militia that forced the government to release his cows back onto the lands.” His “cows are back on the southern Nevada range, fattening themselves on taxpayer-owned forage and threatening one of the most arid habitats in North America.”

Additional coverage of the dispute over grazing was provided by the [AP](#) (4/6, Rindels, 2.28M) and the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (4/6, 155K).

NEW BRIDGE OVER BUTTE CREEK CELEBRATED. [KRCR-TV](#) Redding, CA (4/4, 3K) reports that “families in rural areas of Butte County joined officials with the Bureau of Land Management Friday to celebrate the opening of a new bridge over Butte Creek, and the completion of three miles of road work on Doe Mill Road on both sides of the bridge.” The article notes that “the \$3.1 million project replaces the old bridge at Doe Mill Road, which was not sturdy enough to allow fire trucks to cross.”

BLM’S BILLINGS CURATION CENTER TO HOST ARTIFACT ROAD SHOW. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (4/5, 165K) reports that the BLM’s Billings Curation Center will “host the fifth annual Artifact Road Show from 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday during the Montana Archaeological Society’s Archaeology Month.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

SEN. MCCAIN LAUDS TROUT RESTORATION DEAL. The [Arizona State University Cronkite News](#) (4/5) reports that “an agreement formalized Friday to reopen a damaged federal fish hatchery that had stocked rainbow trout below Hoover Dam will bolster the economies of Mohave County and Nevada’s Clark County, U.S. Sen. John McCain said.” According to the article, “in August 2013, a pipeline feeding water to the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery...clogged and cut off the supply to raceways used for rainbow trout, killing tens of thousands of fish,” and “a few months later, the pipe broke, killing more fish and leaving the hatchery unable to stock Lake Mohave with trout.” Under the deal “reached in March, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will split the nearly \$800,000 cost of repairing the pipeline.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/3, 2.28M), the [Payson \(AZ\) Roundup](#) (4/5, 21K), and the [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (4/5, 23K).

WILDLIFE OFFICIALS BATTLE INVASIVE SPECIES. The [New York Times](#) (4/6, Haberman, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that “the United States is awash in invasive species exacting a heavy toll on native wildlife and vegetation.” The article notes that “Florida draws much of the attention because its swamps and tropical climate provide splendid shelter for all sorts of creatures that are not supposed to call this country home.” In South Florida, “wildlife officials have struggled for years with tens of thousands” of Burmese pythons, “an interloper from Southeast Asia that has taken up what looks like permanent residence in Everglades National Park and other areas of the state.”

FWS REPORTS NORTHERN ROCKIES WOLF POPULATION NUMBERS. The [AP](#) (4/3, Brown, 2.28M) reports that “gray wolf numbers rose across most of the Northern Rockies last year but dropped in Montana after a concerted effort by officials there to drive down the population and curb livestock attacks.” The FWS “reported Friday that a minimum of 1,783 wolves in more than 300 packs roamed the six-state region at the end of last year.” The article notes that “that marks a 5 percent increase from 2013 and continues the dramatic expansion of the predator’s population since wolves were reintroduced to parts of Wyoming and Idaho in the mid-1990s.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (4/3, 506).

WYOMING’S SAGE GROUSE STRATEGY QUESTIONED. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (4/5, 90K) reports that “Wyoming’s sage grouse conservation strategy has long been based on a simple premise: protect nesting areas, protect the bird.” However, “a recent review of the state’s core area policy called for by Gov. Matt Mead has reignited a fierce debate over whether that strategy is adequate, with some biologists arguing protections should be extended to areas used by the bird during winter months.” The article notes that “the debate largely centers on a 141,000-acre expanse of sagebrush south of Pinedale known as the Normally Pressurized Lance, or NPL.”

EFFORT SEEKS TO BRING STURGEON TO RIVER IN NORTHWEST OHIO. The [AP](#) (4/5, 2.28M) reports that “work is underway to find spawning habitats for prehistoric fish thought to be all but gone from Lake Erie a few decades ago.” According to the article, “wildlife agencies and an organization dedicated to protecting the lake have started scouting out potential spawning spots for lake sturgeon on the Maumee River near Toledo.”

in October in Madera County." Ron Smith with the FWS says "until the species is fully identified, it will be difficult to predict its invasive potential."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF BAT LISTING. Additional coverage of the listing of the Northern long-eared bat was provided by the [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Post-Gazette](#) (4/6, 588K), the [Marquette \(MI\) Mining Journal](#) (4/5, 1K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/3, 2.28M), and the [Waterbury \(CT\) Republican-American](#) (4/5, 124K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF LAWSUIT FILED OVER WILDFLOWERS. Additional coverage of the lawsuit filed over the Graham's and White River beardtongue was provided by the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (4/4, 506), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/5, 2.28M), and the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (4/5, 405K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING OKLAHOMA QUAKES, FRACKING MOUNTS. The [New York Times](#) (4/4, Opiel, Wines, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on the controversy surrounding the "sharp and steady increase" of earthquakes over the past five years in Oklahoma, which "many scientists" attribute to fracking. While elected leaders in Oklahoma "have been slow to address the problem," regulators "have taken some protective measures." Despite concerns, some "say the political will is missing to confront an earthquake threat tied to Oklahoma's dominant industry."

CHANGE IN ROYALTY CALCULATION FRUSTRATES OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (4/6, 49K) reports that "the federal government is changing the way it calculates royalties owed by gas production companies to recoup lost royalties from previous years, a move that is giving industry officials heartburn." The new process is called "Unbundling Cost Allocations" and it is overseen by the Office of Natural Resources Revenue. The new regulations "seek to clarify what costs can be deducted before calculating the 12.5 percent in royalties that are paid to the federal government."

COMPANIES PROPOSE THOMPSON DIVIDE LEASE EXCHANGE. The [AP](#) (4/6) reports that "environmentalists are waiting to see the details after an exchange of oil and gas leases in the Thompson Divide region for leases on public lands elsewhere in western Colorado was offered as a solution to a longstanding dispute over drilling." The proposal is "being put forward by two energy companies, SG Interests and Ursa Operating Co., which together hold about two dozen undeveloped federal oil and gas leases in the Thompson Divide." The article notes that "those leases are currently being reviewed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management as part of a larger analysis of 65 leases in the southern White River National Forest straddling Garfield, Pitkin and Mesa counties."

STATES ASK FOR MORE INPUT ON STREAM PROTECTION RULE. The [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (4/5, 19K) reports that "officials from Wyoming and 10 other coal mining states have complained about a lack of input on the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's update to a stream-protection rule for mining." The article notes that "Congressmen have taken the complaint a step further, requesting records about those states' involvement."

FRACKING RULES CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (4/6, 90K), Kathleen Sgamma, vice president of government and public affairs at Western Energy Alliance, criticizes the fracking regulations introduced by the Interior Department. She claims that the federal government is "leading from behind" because states have "long acted to strengthen their regulations and ensure fracking is done safely while protecting the environment." She argues that "despite the characterization from the federal government, there is simply no regulatory gap."

EDITORIAL OIL, GAS DRILLERS NEED TO PAY FOR OVERSIGHT. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (4/5, 405K) editorializes that Utah oil and gas drillers often inject fracking wastewater into wells, potentially contaminating water and air. "Making producers cover the cost of more oversight literally would be insignificant compared with their future revenues," according to the editorial.

EDITORIAL TENNESSEE'S SHOULD LEAVE REGULATION OF COAL MINING TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (4/6, 371K) editorializes that "the state of Tennessee would seek to reassume responsibility for regulating coal mining after more than three decades of federal oversight under a bill advancing through the Legislature." It notes that "Tennessee is the only coal-producing state that has surrendered the regulation of coal mining to the U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement." The paper argues that "the proposal is badly flawed" because "the problem with the industry appears to be more a shrinking market for the state's high-sulfur coal than regulatory sluggishness."

Offshore Energy Development:

SHELL EYES ARCTIC DRILLING. The [FuelFix](#) (4/3, 7K) reports that "Shell has successfully deployed its Arctic containment system in waters near Washington state as it prepares for potential drilling in the Chukchi Sea later this year." The firm "didn't officially need the test, which was conducted over several days in Puget Sound" because "its emergency containment system, carried and deployed from the Arctic Challenger barge, already won certification from the American Bureau of Shipping and the U.S. Coast Guard, years ago." However, "the exercises gave Shell Oil Co. a chance to demonstrate the equipment for Coast Guard officials and federal regulators at the Interior Department who will decide whether the company gets critical permits enabling a new round of Chukchi Sea oil exploration this summer."

The [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (4/4, 146K) reports that "Shell, which spent over \$2 billion on Chukchi leases, has already spent about \$6 billion in total on its Alaska program and has ambitions for transforming the remote and undeveloped waters off Northwest Alaska into a major oil-producing region, still must clear several hurdles before it is given permission to sink a drill bit into hydrocarbons lying beneath the seafloor." The firm has "made a clear commitment to drill this year if it is allowed to do so."

Interior Proposes Arctic Drilling Regulations. The [Rigzone](#) (4/5, 11K) reports that "a list of regulations proposed by the US Department of the Interior for Arctic drilling could make exploration financially out of reach." According to the article, the regulations proposed by the BSEE and the BOEM "in February could increase the price tag of a potential discovery by tens, if not hundreds, of millions of dollars."

Commentary. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (4/5, Shogan, 281K), Cindy Shogan, Executive director, Alaska Wilderness League, writes that "on March 24, exactly one week prior to the Lease Sale 193 announcement, we recognized the anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, one of the worst environmental disasters in U.S. history." She asserts that "as we approach another landmark anniversary – April 20 marks the 5th anniversary of Deepwater Horizon – we must continue to stay vigilant and raise our voices alongside those that depend on the Arctic Ocean for their survival, and speak up for the Arctic wildlife that are already feeling the effects of climate change, and would be devastated by an oil spill."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Breaking Energy](#) (4/3), [Rigzone](#) (4/5, 11K) and [AllGov](#) (4/5, 1K).

OFFSHORE DRILLING DEBATE DISCUSSED. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/5, Dlouhy, 2.28M) reports on different views regarding offshore drilling, with activists and residents, mostly from Maryland or northern states, opposed to it, while politicians from the South call for drilling to be allowed, touting economic growth. "The Obama administration is on track to make a final decision next year, after it unveils a formal proposal and conducts environmental analysis," the article reports. Meanwhile, warring viewpoints continue with many coastal communities complaining that offshore drilling would damage their economies, which rely heavily on tourism, boating and fishing.

In an op-ed for the [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (4/6, 295K), Steve Gilbert, special projects manager for the South Carolina Wildlife Federation, opposes offshore drilling. He claims that "in practice, 'responsible' and 'safe' oil and gas exploration and development is oxymoronic." Gilbert asserts that "it is important to do everything in our power to prevent moving forward with the initial seismic testing phase of oil and gas development."

SEN. MURKOWSKI DEMANDS MORE INPUT FROM ALASKA ON OFFSHORE LEASING PROGRAM. The [Alaska Native News](#) (4/5, 245) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski "criticized the Obama administration's lack of consultation with Alaska in developing its draft 2017-2022 outer continental shelf (OCS) oil and natural gas leasing program (DPP) for Alaska in comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)." Murkowski said, "The fact that the president's moratorium withdrawing some 9.8 million acres of waters off Alaska's coast, including the Hanna Shoal, identified in the draft program as a potential deferral, was released to the public the very same day as the DPP illustrates a willful disregard for the public process and undermines public trust in the process." Murkowski "highlighted the importance of energy activities to Alaska, asked BOEM to consider additional lease sales in Alaska, and stressed the importance of consultation with Alaskans in the development of the final leasing program."

MAN CONVICTED OF FRAUD IN COMPENSATION CLAIM FROM OIL SPILL. The [AP](#) (4/3) reports, "A Harrison County man will be sentenced May 14 for lying about his employment to receive \$36,000 in oil-spill recovery money." Gray claimed fraudulently that he lost income from his alleged work on a commercial oyster boat following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (4/5, 621K) ran the same AP story.

MEXICAN OIL PLATFORM FIRE DISCUSSED. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/5, 17M) reports that "a fire on a platform in the Gulf of Mexico killed two workers and destroyed a major oil production facility."

"presented a detailed timeline of their response to the massive fire that ignited in the early morning hours Wednesday and killed at least four people, injured 45 more, and forced the evacuation of more than 300," the article reports. They said their "response contained the blaze to one part of the shallow-water platform complex, prevented oil from spilling into the ocean and will allow production to return to pre-fire levels soon," the Post reports. "It will be possible to reach in the next week 80 percent of the production that there was before the accident," said Gustavo Hernandez, Pemex's director general of exploration and production.

[AFP](#) (4/6) also reports on the blaze, adding that Mexico's oil production dropped "from 650,000 barrels per day to 430,000 in the Campeche Sound region of the Gulf of Mexico."

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND TO MONITOR RESTORE ACT PROJECTS. [WWNO-FM](#) New Orleans (4/6, 5K) reports that "as the five-year anniversary approaches later this month of the BP oil spill, the Environmental Defense Fund is gearing up for monitoring how restoration money is used to repair damage."

[WWL-TV](#) New Orleans (4/1, 107K) reports that "what was once an archipelago of three lush mangrove islands in the entrance to Barataria Bay has been reduced to two lifeless sandbars five years after BP's killer oil spill."

Additional coverage was provided by [WWNO-FM](#) New Orleans (4/6, 5K) and the [Miami Herald](#) (4/6, 694K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BROWN DEFENDS WATER USE LIMITATION PLAN. On [ABC's This Week](#) (4/5, Raddatz, 2.73M), California Gov. Jerry Brown talked about the historic drought impacting the state, saying: "[The 25% water reductions] should be a wake up call for everyone. This executive order is done under emergency power. It has the force of law. Very unusual. It's requiring action and changes in behavior from the Oregon border all the way to the Mexican border." In a piece based heavily on the Raddatz interview, [ABC World News](#) (4/5, story 3, 1:50, Llamas, 5.84M) reported that the "epic drought" in California is "turning more of the state into browned out acres." ABC (Gibson) adds that Brown warned that his state's problem may soon be one for other states as well. Brown said, "I can tell you from California, climate change is not a hoax. We're dealing with it, and it's damn serious."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/6, Reyes, 3.49M) notes that on "This Week," Brown "defended his decision to largely target urban areas rather than agricultural users with his historic order to curb water use." Brown warned that cutting off water allocations to agriculture was not necessary and could displace "hundreds of thousands of people," at a time when "there are people in agriculture areas that are really suffering." The Times says that critics of the governor's move, which "focused on urban areas," argue that it is "ineffective to largely ignore agriculture – the biggest water user in the state."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/5, story 5, 1:55, Pelley, 5.08M) reported that when Brown announced the water restrictions, "people started making plans to remove their lawns but in some wealthy neighbors the grass is still green and growing." CBS (Villafranca) adds that a UCLA study "finds wealthy neighbors use three times more water than other Southern California cities." However, that is set to change in some areas, such as Beverly Hills, which is set to "cut private consumption through strict enforcement."

In a piece picked up by USA Today, the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (4/6, James, 85K) reports that in desert communities like Palm Springs, the mandatory cut in water use "are putting growing pressures on resorts, homeowner associations and golf courses to pitch in and do their part to save more water." However, "doing that on a large scale" is "likely to be costly and challenging because many homeowners on the fringes of grassy landscapes aren't interested in seeing brown turf or dry lakes outside their windows."

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (4/6, Gillis, Richtel, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that California farmers have been keeping up crop yields by "drilling wells at a feverish pace and pumping billions of gallons of water from the ground, depleting a resource that was critically endangered even before the drought, now in its fourth year, began." Scientists "warn that improving its management of precious groundwater supplies will shape whether it can continue to supply more than half the nation's fruits and vegetables on a hotter planet."

Storm Expected To "Drench" California This Week. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/6, Hamilton, 3.49M) reports that forecasters predict that a "low-pressure storm system is expected to drench California through the first half of this week," bringing with it "much-needed rain." According to the National Weather Service, "the Central Coast and Central Valley will see up to 1 inch of rain, while Los Angeles and Ventura counties will see up to half an inch."

WSJournal Says State Policies Exacerbate Drought's Impact. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/6, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) argues that policies advanced by California's liberals have compounded the negative effects of the water shortage. The Journal says that instead of banking water during good years, California is using vast amounts for ecological purposes. In addition, the Journal says that the state has failed to develop sufficient water storage capacity to most effectively use available water, instead steering funds meant for water improvements into environmental projects.

AMID RECORD DROUGHT, CALIFORNIA ADAPTS TO WATER RESTRICTIONS. The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/4, story 4, 2:10, Axelrod, 5.08M) reported on "California's historic drought," noting that Gov. Jerry Brown "ordered the first mandatory water restrictions in the state's history" this past week. However, the "new rules do not apply to farmers." As a result, [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/4, story 4, 2:30, Alexander, 7.86M) reported that water agencies in southern California are "offering to buy water from farmers in the northern part of the state." The situation is presenting farmers "with a unique dilemma, should they keep growing their crops or cash in?"

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (4/5, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) addresses the lack of regulations on farmers' water use, saying "innovation and efficiency will be required of agriculture businesses and of ordinary Californians" due to the state's drought. The Times suggests that "farmers can switch from flood irrigation or inefficient sprinklers to drip or microspray systems" and "invest in irrigation controllers."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/5, Fears, 5.17M) also reports on the water restrictions in California, noting that "Brown ordered California's 400 water agencies to cut their output by 25 percent or face fines of up to \$10,000 per month," a penalty that can be "passed to homeowners who fail to comply." Although surveys show that "Californians realize they are running out of water," the restrictions have "created a divide by targeting urban residents but not farmers, who use 80 percent of the state's water."

The [New York Times](#) (4/5, Nagourney, Healy, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that the water restrictions raise "fundamental questions about what life in California will be like in the years ahead." Residents and officials are "wondering if the severity of this drought, now in its fourth year, is going to force a change in the way the state does business."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/5, Fears, 5.17M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/3, Brian Melley |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/3, Wilson, 5.17M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/4, Mooney, 5.17M), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (4/4, 3.49M), the [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (4/5, 46K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/3, Elliott, 2.28M), the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (4/5, 79K), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (4/5, 547K), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (4/5, 547K), the [Chico \(CA\) Enterprise-Record](#) (4/5, 92K), and [KCAL-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (4/4, 163K).

WPost: California Must Make Adjustments To Combat Current, Future Droughts. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/4, Board, 5.17M) says California's "waste" of water, which was "enabled by the state, the federal government and consumer expectations," must stop. According to the Post, while "conservation efforts" are important, they "should be only the beginning" as "water storage" and "more effective transportation of water" is necessary.

BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN TUNNEL PROJECT REEXAMINED. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/5, Boxall, 3.49M) reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown's administration is "overhauling its proposal for a controversial tunnel project in the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta in the wake of doubts about whether water exporters can meet stringent federal conditions for operating the system over a 50-year period." The article notes that a major goal of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan is "to gain a 50-year environmental permit for delta exports that would ease the endangered species restrictions that have cut delta deliveries to San Joaquin Valley growers and the urban Southland." However, "state water officials have concluded that the federal requirements for such long-term approvals are too onerous for the water exporters to meet."

QUESTIONS SURROUNDING LAKE NIGHTHORSE REMAIN . The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (4/3, 28K) reports that "on paper, the boat dock, trails and other amenities that would fulfill common dreams for Lake Nighthorse have support from all the groups that govern the area." However, "questions about maintaining water quality and protecting archaeological sites remain to be solved."

PLANET RANCH ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELEASED. The [Havasup \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (4/5, 27K) reports that "a proposed land and water transfer at Planet Ranch would maintain water flows into the Bill Williams River Wildlife Refuge and benefit restoration of native riparian habitat along the river, according to a draft environmental assessment released Wednesday." The article notes that "the assessment evaluated the deal negotiated between mining company Freeport Minerals and the Arizona and federal governments and codified into law last year." The agreement would "transfer just over 3,400 acres of Planet Ranch owned by Freeport to the Arizona

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR TRANSFERS MORE THAN \$12 MILLION TO COBELL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND. The [Native American Times](#) (4/3, 337) reports that the Interior Department "announced it has transferred more than \$12 million to the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund, bringing the total amount transferred so far to \$17 million." Interior Deputy Secretary Michael L. Connor said, "With every transfer to the Scholarship Fund, we are making valuable investments in the training and education that Native students need to succeed in today's world. This program is a lasting tribute to Elouise Cobell, whose vision, leadership and concern for tribal students and their families has created a living legacy for future generations of tribal leaders."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Nation Sun News](#) (4/5), the [Law 360](#) (4/5, 9K), the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (4/3, 49K), and the [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (4/5, 101K).

NAVAJO NATION CONSIDERS LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM. The [Arizona Daily Independent](#) (4/2) reports that the Interior Department "met with President Ben Shelly this week to discuss benefits of the Navajo Nation's participation in the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations." According to the article, "representatives from the Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Land Department, Navajo Department of Justice, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Interior Department met at tribal headquarters for the two-hour presentation."

The [Navajo Post \(AZ\)](#) (3/29) reports that "the Naabik'iyáti' Committee received a report from federal officials with the Land Buy-Back Program, regarding a potential cooperative agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Navajo Nation." Land Buy-Back Program manager John H. McClanahan and Senior Advisor on Tribal Relations Santee Lewis, "presented to Naabik'iyáti' Committee members on Thursday."

The [Navajo Nation](#) (3/30) reports that President Shelly said, "The cooperative agreement is a product of significant planning and coordination with the Navajo Nation since 2013."

Also reporting on the story are the [Nation Sun News](#) (3/30)

WARM SPRINGS FIRES SUPPAH. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (4/5, 94K) reports that "the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs has fired its secretary-treasurer, Jake Suppah." The tribes are "under federal investigation of alleged financial irregularities discovered by Suppah."

Also reporting on the story is [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (4/5, 4K).

COURT UPHOLDS DECISION TO ESTABLISH COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE RESERVATION. In a piece for the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (4/3, 49K), Christine Dupres writes that "on March 9, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Director Stanley Speaks signed the final documents to establish the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's Reservation, to an audience of Cowlitz elders and tribal leaders." She notes that "a court decision issued by United States District Court Judge Barbara Rothstein on December 12, 2014 dismissed the appeal by the Cowlitz Indian Tribe's opponent's and reaffirmed the Federal Government's decision to take 152 acres in Clark County into trust for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe." According to Dupres, "this decision has positive implications for other tribes recognized by the federal government after 1934."

CASES ON TAXATION ON INDIAN COUNTRY EXAMINED. In a piece for the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (4/5, 49K), Jay Daniels writes that "recently, King County Superior Court Judge Mary Roberts ruled in favor of the city of Snoqualmie against the Washington Department of Revenue and repealed ESHB 1287 on March 4, 2015." The legislation would have "given property tax exemptions to tribes on non-reservation lands purchased before March 1, 2014, and subsequently shifted the tax burden to residents." He notes that "at issue before the Court was 'does the Payment in Lieu of tax, or P LT, violate the uniformity requirements in Article VII of the Washington Constitution' because it is not imposed at an equal tax rate and does not produce equality in valuing the property taxed." Daniels goes through the case law "applied by the Courts to make determinations on taxation."

Office of Insular Affairs:

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS TO RECEIVE \$670,000 FROM INTERIOR. The [Marianas Variety](#) (4/5) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina on Friday "announced \$670,000 in Technical Assistance Program grant funding from the Office of Insular Affairs to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to support priority needs identified by Gov. Eloy Inos." Kia'aina said, "I am confident that these initial projects will provide timely and critical information, analyses, and data for CNMI decision-makers," said Assistant Secretary Esther Kia'aina. "These funds will help them make informed decisions on the proposed military activities, assess their economic development and self-sufficiency needs, and build capacity needed to strengthen governance and accountability."

Also reporting on the story is the [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (4/6, 641).

Top National News:

OBAMA IRAN AGREEMENT A "ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY." The Iranian nuclear framework was the main political topic on the Sunday morning talk shows. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu appeared on three of the five major shows and harshly criticized the agreement as potentially putting his country at risk, while Energy Secretary Moniz and Deputy National Security Adviser Benjamin Rhodes were the main Administration defenders of the deal. But coverage of their comments, and those of several members of Congress on both sides of the issue, is eclipsed by President Obama's Saturday interview with Thomas Friedman of the New York Times, which was devoted to Iran.

In addition to a news item on the interview, the Times gave Friedman more than 5,000 words for his column recounting the session. The [New York Times](#) (4/6, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9 97M) reports that in the interview, the President "strongly defended last week's preliminary agreement with Iran as a 'once in a lifetime opportunity,'" and assured critics "that he would keep all options available if Tehran ultimately cheated." The President said, "This is our best bet by far to make sure Iran doesn't get a nuclear weapon. What we will be doing even as we enter into this deal is sending a very clear message to the Iranians and to the entire region that if anybody messes with Israel, America will be there." Obama said sanctions would only be lifted after Iran meets its commitments. The [AP](#) (4/6, Pace) says that in the Saturday interview, Obama "insisted the US would stand by Israel if it were to come under attack, but acknowledged that his pursuit of diplomacy with Tehran has caused strain" with Israel.

Friedman writes in his [New York Times](#) (4/6, Subscription Publication, 9 97M) column that "what struck me most was what I'd call an 'Obama doctrine' embedded in the president's remarks," noting that Obama has broken "from longstanding United States policies isolating Burma, Cuba and now Iran." The President "said his view was that 'engagement,' combined with meeting core strategic needs, could serve American interests" better than isolation and sanctions. Regarding concerns about verification that Iran is not violating the emerging agreement, Obama said, "We're not just going to have a bunch of folks posted at two or three or five sites. We are going to be able to see what they're doing across the board, and in fact, if they now wanted to initiate a covert program that was designed to produce a nuclear weapon, they'd have to create a whole different supply chain."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/6, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says the next challenge for Obama is to neutralize opposition from both Republicans and some Democrats on Capitol Hill in order to achieve one of the cornerstones of his second-term foreign policy. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/5, LaFranchi, 380K) notes that "nuclear security and nonproliferation" has been a key Obama agenda item since as early as 2010, when he convened a global nuclear security summit.

[Politico](#) (4/5, Shutt, 669K) calls Obama's outreach to such rogue states as "his 'let's try' philosophy." The [AP](#) (4/6, Perry) says in an analysis that beyond the central issue of Iranian nuclear capability, "a more immediate issue is the projection of Western power." The US is concerned about the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict; the civil war in Syria; unrest in Iraq, Libya, and Yemen; a return to strongman rule in Egypt; and ISIL.

The two broadcast networks that aired newscasts Sunday evening both opened with the presidential interview and the Sunday show debate. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/5, lead story, 2:50, Pelley, 5.08M), Julianna Goldman reported that Netanyahu "said he's urging Congress to either change the nuclear deal with Iran or gut it." Netanyahu: "Iran will have billions of dollars flowing to its coffers, not for schools or hospitals or roads, but to pump up its worldwide terror machine and its military machine which is busy conquering the Middle East as we speak." Goldman also reported on Obama's remarks to Friedman, saying that Obama "said the deal is far from finished and cited political difficulties in Congress. The White House is furiously working behind the scenes to sell this deal to Congress."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/5, lead story, 3:15, Guthrie, 7.86M) opened by saying the President "is putting it on the line for that deal to halt Iran's nuclear ambitions in an interview published today calling it a once in a lifetime opportunity to resolve the issue peacefully. But if getting to an agreement was hard what is coming now may be harder." Obama

today came out swinging against the deal in a Sunday PR blitz.”

Administration Officials Defend Deal On TV Interviews. [USA Today](#) (4/6, Jackson, 4.95M) says that with an initial framework now agreed to, the Administration has launched a campaign to win over public and congressional support. But critics are doing the same. Both sides dominated the Sunday morning political talk shows. The [Washington Post](#) (4/6, Eilperin, Lee, 5.17M) reports top Administration officials “launched a major sales pitch Sunday aimed at marshaling public support for the new framework agreement,” while Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu appeared on ABC, CNN, and NBC to voice his opposition.

The chief Administration spokesperson on the Sunday shows was Energy Secretary Moniz, who, along with Secretary of State Kerry, led the US delegation. [The Hill](#) (4/5, Hensch, 224K) reports in its “Blog Briefing Room” blog that Moniz “trumpeted the framework’s ‘unprecedented’ access and transparency towards Iran’s nuclear energy program. But he added that it did not resolve other concerns America had with Iranian leadership.”

When asked about Netanyahu’s stance on the nuclear deal, Moniz said on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (4/5, O’Donnell, 2.64M), “We certainly have very different view of the facts. First of all, today, the break-out time is two months. This deal will immediately get us over a year. It will get us there with almost instantaneous recognition of any attempts to evade the deal and it will give us plenty of time to respond diplomatically or otherwise. We have blocked all of these pathways to a bomb. We should also emphasize this is not a 10-year deal. This is a long-term arrangement.”

When asked about the discrepancies between “fact sheets” put out by the US and Iran, Moniz said on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (4/5, O’Donnell, 2.64M), “My understanding is that, in most dimensions, the Iranian fact sheet is consistent [with the US fact sheet], but it clearly emphasizes different parts of the agreement and tends to omit certain parts of the agreement.”

Regarding the concessions that the US made to secure the nuclear framework, Deputy National Security Adviser Rhodes said on [CNN’s Fareed Zakaria GPS](#) (4/5, 410K), “We’ve always said that Iran would be able to access peaceful nuclear energy. The question is: Can we design a program with the Iranians and the P5+1 that could meet our bottom lines? That’s what the program does. ... It meets our needs because there’s a robust inspections regime to verify they’re meeting commitments.”

Former National Security Adviser Samuel Berger writes in [Politico Magazine](#) (4/5) that “the notion of a better deal is unachievable” because “it is highly unlikely that even our allies in Europe would join us in further sanctions against Iran in the wake of a nuclear agreement they believe is sensible and positive,” and “if a deal falls through, it is likely that the existing multilateral sanctions regime will begin to crumble.”

Netanyahu Offers Strong Criticism Of Agreement. The [Huffington Post](#) (4/5, R

Conversation Contents

Find Your Park, polar bear diets and more This Week at Interior

"Announcement, DOI" <doi_announcement@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Announcement, DOI" <doi_announcement@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Apr 03 2015 10:56:04 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:
Subject: Find Your Park, polar bear diets and more This Week at Interior

To: All Department of the Interior Employees

From: Tim Fullerton, Director of Digital Strategy

Subject: Find Your Park, polar bear diets and more -- This Week at Interior

This week, Secretary Jewell was in New York City to help launch the Find Your Park campaign -- a national effort to get Americans to celebrate and connect with our amazing public lands. The Secretary was also in Hawaii this week to dedicate the new Honouliuli National Monument. A new study by USGS finds that polar bears may be eating more land-based foods like berries, birds and eggs because sea-ice loss is making it harder to consume their traditional food source, ice seals. Plus more -- this week at Interior.

[Watch this week's episode.](#)

ThisWeek040315

Conversation Contents

Honouliuli schedule & logistics

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 26 2015 11:05:59 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Lin, Betsy (Hirono)" <Betsy_Lin@hirono.senate.gov>, "Winer, Andrew (Schatz)" <andrew_winer@schatz.senate.gov>, "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>, sarah_kaopu_ki@schatz.senate.gov, "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>, "Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Hello,

I wanted to share with you the latest on the schedule and logistics for the Honouliuli event on 3/31 and the latest RSVPs from the delegation. If you have any corrections to your boss's attendance, please let me know.

In particular, I wanted to flag for you that due to space constraints on the shuttle bus and in the Honouliuli Gulch, the plan is for Members of Congress attending the Gulch ceremony to have one staffer accompany them, (ie., no staffers at the Gulch without their Member present). Please let me know if that is an issue for your boss.

9:15 am - Gather at Monsanto Assembly Zone

9:30 am - Last shuttle bus departs Monsanto

10:00-10:30am - Honouliuli Gulch Dedication Ceremony and Program.

Members attending: Senator Schatz, Senator Hirono

Event will be open press.

Participants will be asked to join in the blessing ceremony, which involves untying a bow and ribbon at the site.

There will be informal remarks by some participants (ie., Secretary Jewell will speak for approx. 2-3 minutes). Members may speak if they like.

10:30-11:00am - Tours of Honouliuli Gulch

11:05 - Shuttle buses depart en route Monsanto Assembly Zone

12:00-1:30pm - Welcome Reception and Celebration of the New Honouliuli National Monument

Location: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2454 S Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96826

Members attending: Senator Schatz, Senator Hirono, Rep. Gabbard

Event will be open press.

There will be a 30 minute program and Members are welcome to speak.

I have copied my colleague, Erin Frautschy Barrows, on this email. She will be doing advance for the Secretary for this portion of the trip and will be our point of contact on the ground for any last minute issues that arise.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Jeremy Bratt

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Mar 27 2015 12:36:13 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: ryan_martel@schatz.senate.gov
Subject: Fw: Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Hello Ryan,

My colleague Jon Burpee at NPS said you were looking for more information about the 3/31 event in Hawaii with Secretary Jewell.

Below is some information about how we expect the day to go. Note that there are two opportunities for Sen. Schatz to speak if he wishes. The first is at the small group event in the Gulch at the memorial site. There will be a short commemorative ceremony where a ribbon is cut, and the Secretary will speak briefly (ie., about 2 minutes). Others may speak then if they like.

I am not as familiar with the program, but I do know that there will be an opportunity for Members to speak then, as well.

I have copied my colleague, Erin Frautschy Barrows, on this email. She is doing advance work for this trip and will be your best point of contact for any questions that arise the day of the event.

Please let me know if we can get you any additional information.

Thanks,
Jeremy Bratt

From Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent Thursday, March 26, 2015 1:05 PM
To Lin, Betsy (Hirono); Winer, Andrew (Schatz); Paul, Malia (Schatz); sarah_kaopuiki@schatz.senate.gov; James, Rachel; Tanonaka, Rod
Reply To Bratt, Jeremy
Cc Gabriella (Janou) Gordon; Erin Frautschy Barrows
Subject Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Hello,

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Thanks,
Jeremy Bratt

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Deputy Director
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Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

"Martel, Ryan (Schatz)" <Ryan_Martel@schatz.senate.gov>

From: "Martel, Ryan (Schatz)" <Ryan_Martel@schatz.senate.gov>
Sent: Fri Mar 27 2015 12:43:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Dear Jeremy,

Thanks so much – just to make sure everyone is connected, I am going to copy a few folks on this email. I believe they may have already been in touch with you, so I apologize for any overlap with this request.

We'll be sure to be in touch soon if it looks like the Senator would be interested in making remarks.

From: Jeremy Bratt [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Martel, Ryan (Schatz)
Cc: Jonathon Burpee; Erin Frautschy Barrows
Subject: Fw: Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Hello Ryan,

My colleague Jon Burpee at NPS said you were looking for more information about the 3/31 event in Hawaii with Secretary Jewell.

Below is some information about how we expect the day to go. Note that there are two opportunities for Sen. Schatz to speak if he wishes. The first is at the small group event in the Gulch at the memorial site. There will be a short commemorative ceremony where a ribbon is cut, and the Secretary will speak briefly (ie., about 2 minutes). Others may speak then if they like.

The second opportunity is at the larger community celebration event hosted by the Japanese Cultural Center. They are running that event and so I am not as familiar with the program, but I do know that there will be an opportunity for Members to speak then, as well.

I have copied my colleague, Erin Frautschy Barrows, on this email. She is doing advance work for this trip and will be your best point of contact for any questions that arise the day of the event.

Please let me know if we can get you any additional information.

Thanks,

Jeremy Bratt

From Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

Sent Thursday, March 26, 2015 1:05 PM

To Lin, Betsy (Hirono); Winer, Andrew (Schatz); Paul, Malia (Schatz); sarah_kaopuiki@schatz.senate.gov; James, Rachel; Tanonaka, Rod

Reply To Bratt, Jeremy

Cc Gabriella (Janou) Gordon; Erin Frautschy Barrows

Subject Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Hello,

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Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Jeremy Bratt

Jeremy Bratt

Deputy Director

Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of the Interior

Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov

202-208-7696 (desk)

"Martel, Ryan (Schatz)" <Ryan_Martel@schatz.senate.gov>

From: "Martel, Ryan (Schatz)" <Ryan_Martel@schatz.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 16:09:49 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Jeremy,

Apologies for the second email, I neglected to loop in our comms team, copied here.

From: Jeremy Bratt [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 02:36 PM
To: Martel, Ryan (Schatz)
Cc: Jonathon Burpee <jon_burpee@nps.gov>; Erin Frautschy Barrows <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fw: Honouliuli schedule & logistics

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Sent Thursday, March 26, 2015 1:05 PM
To Lin, Betsy (Hirono); Winer, Andrew (Schatz); Paul, Malia (Schatz); sarah_kaopuiki@schatz.senate.gov; James, Rachel; Tanonaka, Rod
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Thanks,
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Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

"Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>

From: "Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 30 2015 12:42:17 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Aloha Jeremy,

Thank you for the email and for all of your efforts towards planning this event.

To clarify, as my Congressman is not able to attend, I will not be able to participate on his behalf at the ceremony held at the Gulch—am I reading the instructions correctly? Please let me know.

Thank you,

Rod

Rod Tanonaka

Chief of Staff

Office of Congressman Mark Takai

300 Ala Moana Blvd , Rm 4-104 | Honolulu, HI 96850

808-541-2570 (office) | 808-533-0133 (fax)

takai.house.gov

If you will be in Washington, D.C., please join us at "Aloha on the Hill" with Congressman Mark Takai. Call us at 202-225-2726 for more information.

Connect with us on:



From Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]

Sent Thursday, March 26, 2015 7:06 AM

To Lin, Betsy (Hirono); Winer, Andrew (Schatz); Paul, Mallia (Schatz); sarah_kaopuiki@schatz.senate.gov; James, Rachel; Tanonaka, Rod

Cc Gabriella (Janou) Gordon; Erin Frautschy Barrows

Subject Honouliuli schedule & logistics

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Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Jeremy Bratt

Jeremy Bratt

Deputy Director

Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of the Interior

Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov

202-208-7696 (desk)

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 30 2015 13:58:48 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Hello Rod,

Initially, I know the organizers were concerned about the space at the Gulch site, but I'm certain it won't be a problem if you wished to attend. We would be pleased to have you there to represent the Congressman's office.

I will forward to you in a moment the invitation with the link to RSVP.

Thanks,

Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt

Deputy Director

Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of the Interior

Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov

202-208-7696 (desk)

On Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 2:42 PM, Tanonaka, Rod <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Aloha Jeremy,

Thank you for the email and for all of your efforts towards planning this event.

To clarify, as my Congressman is not able to attend, I will not be able to participate on his behalf at the ceremony held at the Gulch—am I reading the instructions correctly? Please let me know.

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Rod Tanonaka

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To Lin, Betsy (Hirono); Winer, Andrew (Schatz); Paul, Malia (Schatz); sarah_kaopuiki@schatz.senate.gov; James, Rachel; Tanonaka, Rod

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Thanks,

Jeremy Bratt

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Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of the Interior

Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov

202-208-7696 (desk)

"Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>

From: "Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 30 2015 15:06:42 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Thank you Jeremy!

Rod Tanonaka

Chief of Staff

Office of Congressman Mark Takai

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From Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent Monday, March 30, 2015 9:59 AM
To Tanonaka, Rod
Subject Re: Honouliuli schedule & logistics

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Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of the Interior

Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov

202-208-7696 (desk)

"James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>

From: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Thu Apr 02 2015 19:55:23 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Thank you for your efforts, Jeremy! The Congresswoman was able to enjoy a bit of the ceremony and share in the celebration. Hats off to you all for the great collaborative effort~

Enjoy your Easter weekend!

Rachel

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 7:06 AM
To: Lin, Betsy (Hirono); Winer, Andrew (Schatz); Paul, Malia (Schatz); sarah_kaopuiki@schatz.senate.gov; James, Rachel; Tanonaka, Rod
Cc: Gabriella (Janou) Gordon; Erin Frautschy Barrows
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Deputy Director

Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of the Interior

Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov

202-208-7696 (desk)

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Apr 03 2015 10:15:14 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Thanks so much for your nice note, Rachel. I'm glad the Congresswoman was able to attend! Have a great weekend!
Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director

Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Thu, Apr 2, 2015 at 9:55 PM, James, Rachel <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov> wrote:

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, April 2, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Thu Apr 02 2015 04:58:25 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, April 2, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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- + Interior Grounded T-Hawk Drones After Frequency Interference Issues Were Discovered.
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- + Legislation Would Mitigate Impact Of Increase In Unimpaired Flows From Merced, Stanislaus Or Tuolumne Rivers.
- + Additional Coverage Of Partnership With Crow Tribe On Yellowtail Afterbay Hydropower.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

- + Pamunkey Indians Face More Hurdles To Recognition

- + BIA Official Who Was Stabbed Released From Hospital.
- + Emails Protest Tribal Trust Miccosukee Golf And Country Club.
- + Tribes Prevail In Landmark Child Welfare Case.
- + Tribes Consider Impact Of Climate Change.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS

- + White House Under Pressure As Iran Talks Continue Into Thursday.
- + Menendez Indicted On Fraud, Bribery Charges.
- + In Reversal, Arkansas Governor Says He Won't Sign "Religious Freedom" Bill.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP

- + New York Times.
- + Washington Post.
- + Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE

- + Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE

- + Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS

- + Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

INTERIOR AFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO ENERGY DEVELOPMENT. The [Penn Energy](#) (4/2, 128) reports that the Interior Department is "committed to developing federal oil and gas resources and wants to engage producers more aggressively to determine the best ways to do this, Asst. Sec. for Land and Minerals Management Janice Schneider said on Mar. 31." Speaking to the American Gas Association's Natural Gas Roundtable, Schneider said, "We're working hard to improve access with reforms like master leasing plans which help reduce post-sale conflicts." She also said that the Interior Department is "preparing a notice of possible rulemaking on modernizing outdated royalty and bonding regulations."

Geoscientist Discusses New Fracking Rules In Interview. [Science Magazine](#) (4/2, 390K) reports that "new federal rules aimed at making a controversial oil and gas drilling technique safer and more transparent reflect numerous suggestions from technical experts, says a geoscientist involved in the process." The article notes that the "ideas were among the many recommendations made in 2011 by a high-level advisory panel created by then-Secretary of Energy Steven Chu to examine whether the United States could develop its natural gas resources while protecting public health and the environment." One member of the panel was Mark Zoback, a professor of geophysics at Stanford University in California, who discussed "the background and implications of the new rules" in an interview.

States Urged To Focus On Safety. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (4/2, 90K), Gary Wilmot, the executive director of the Wyoming Outdoor Council, writes that "on the heels of last week's announcement of the Interior Department's new fracking rule, the state of Wyoming followed the lead of the Independent Petroleum Association of America and the Western Energy Alliance and filed a lawsuit opposing it." Wilmot says that the focus should not be on "federal overreach" but on "safeguarding public health and our shared natural resources." He notes that "Wyoming has been a leader in requiring that companies publicly disclose chemicals used in fracking," but "not all states share Wyoming's foresight on fracking."

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (4/2, 90K) editorializes that "the Obama administration is right to require companies to disclose the chemicals in hydraulic fracturing fluid when on federal land." According to the paper, "Wyoming has been fortunate to work with companies and interests in forming regulations that take into account development and public safety and were the model for the federal rule." Now, "other states must get in line" and "Wyoming should do its part to stay at the front."

INTERIOR GROUNDED T-HAWK DRONES AFTER FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE ISSUES WERE DISCOVERED. [Bloomberg BNA](#) (4/2, 8K) reports that "the Interior Department grounded for months 22 unmanned aircraft systems that were being used to research, monitor and inspect the environment, according to e-mails obtained by Bloomberg BNA through the Freedom of Information Act." The article notes that "the systems, which had been in use since late 2011, were grounded in February 2014 after it was discovered that the radios were set to the wrong frequency bands." According to Brad Koeckeritz, an unmanned aircraft system specialist for the Interior's Office of Aviation Services, "there was 'negligible' impact on the department's operations, and no penalties were imposed on Interior for the frequency issues."

PHOTOS FROM INTERIOR'S INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT HIGHLIGHTED. The [Country Living](#) (4/2, 11.41M) highlights "11 Photos That Perfectly Capture the Surreal Beauty of America's Parks" from the Interior Department's Instagram account.

[ABC News](#) (4/2, 3.41M) ran a slideshow of spring pictures from Interior's Instagram account.

The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/29, 4.78M) notes that the account has reached 500,000 followers.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF HONOLULI NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION. Additional coverage of the dedication of Honouliuli National Monument was provided by [ABC News](#) (4/2, 3.41M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/1, Press, 5.17M), the [Maui \(HI\) Now](#) (4/1), and [Yahoo! News](#) (4/2, 5.81M).

CONGRESS URGED TO SUPPORT PUBLIC LANDS. In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (4/2, Rogers, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), Will Rogers, the president of the Trust for Public Land., urges Congress to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund. He notes that "public lands provide enormous economic benefits." Rogers argues that "rather than selling off the lands we all own, or looking for other uses for the money approved at the ballot box for conservation, our leaders should listen to voters and find ways to protect more of the places that make America special."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS LAUNCHES "FIND YOUR PARK" CAMPAIGN. The [AP](#) (4/2, 167K) reports that "with its centennial approaching in 2016," the NPS is "launching a campaign today to raise support and court a younger, more diverse visitor base." The article notes that "first lady Michelle Obama and former first lady Laura Bush will co-chair the campaign, calling on Americans to 'Find Your Park.'" Meanwhile, "behind the scenes, officials are seeking to expand fundraising through the National Park Foundation and bolster congressional support to improve the parks."

The [New York Daily News](#) (4/2, Confidential, 3.79M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis will "be at the kickoff at North Flatiron Plaza at 1:30 p.m."

Grey New York Launches Campaign For National Parks. The [AdWeek](#) (4/2, 231K) reports that as the NPS "prepares to celebrate its centennial in 2016," Grey New York is "using the milestone event to reacquaint Americans with the historical gems in their own backyards." In a new campaign, Grey "showcases sites like the Statue of Liberty, Alcatraz and Little Rock Central High School."

Also reporting on the story is the [AdWeek](#) (4/2, 231K).

ENTRANCE FEES INCREASING IN SOME NATIONAL PARKS. The [AP](#) (4/2, 4.78M) reports that "after a six-year moratorium, the federal government is increasing the price of admission at some of its public lands and raising the fees charged for camping, boating, cave tours and other activities." The NPS says "the money expected to be raised is just a fraction of the \$11.5 billion needed to repair and maintain roads, trails and park buildings." The article notes that "some members of Congress have expressed concern about the fee increases, but National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis said at a March congressional hearing that visitors are still getting an incredible deal when compared to other recreational pursuits."

[Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (4/2, 2.21M), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (4/2, 391K), the [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (4/2, 87K), the [US News & World Report](#) (4/1, 685K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/2, 5.17M), the [Arizona Republic](#) (4/1, 1.14M), [WJBK-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (4/2, 253K), and [KQVR-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (4/1, 70K).

Additional coverage of the maintenance backlog at national parks was provided by the [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (4/1, 193K), the [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (4/1, 116K), and the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (4/1, 76K).

NPS TO DISBURSE HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS TO TRIBES. [KCBY-TV](#) Coos Bay, OR (4/2, 671) reports that the NPS “announced in March how they will disperse nearly \$9 million in historic preservation grants to American Indians tribes.” The article notes that “the Confederated Tribes were awarded nearly \$49,000, while the Coquille Tribe was given just over \$43,000.”

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS TO VISIT WACO MAMMOTH SITE. The [Waco \(TX\) Tribune-Herald](#) (4/2, 111K) reports that NPS Director Jon Jarvis will visit the Waco Mammoth Site. Jarvis will “tour the site Monday, then attend a public meeting to gauge the community’s support for the federal designation.”

RESOLUTION CALLS FOR TURNING CRATERS OF THE MOON INTO NATIONAL PARK. The [Idaho Statesman](#) (4/1, 196K) reports that “the Idaho Senate has approved a resolution calling for turning the original Craters of the Moon National Monument into a national park without changing how it is managed.” The resolution “calls for turning the 54,000 acres of the national monument’s original area — created in 1924 by Calvin Coolidge — into a national park.”

NEW YORK LT. GOV. HOCHUL MEETS WITH NPS REPRESENTATIVES AT TUBMAN SITE. The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (4/2, 27K) reports that New York Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul “made a brief stop in Auburn Tuesday to tour the Harriet Tubman Home and meet with National Park Service representatives who were visiting the historic site.” Hochul said, “Harriet Tubman is a trailblazer and national icon who dedicated her life to helping others achieve the freedom they so desperately yearned. We remain committed to enriching this historical site so that future generations can learn about this true American hero and the lessons Harriet Tubman continues to teach us.”

BI-COUNTY PARKWAY OPPONENTS BELIEVE PROJECT WON’T BE BUILT. The [Washington Post](#) (4/2, Aratani, 5.17M) reports that “Northern Virginia legislators who have long opposed plans to build the Bi-County Parkway stood on the steps of the historic Sudley Church in Prince William County on Wednesday and expressed confidence that the controversial road project will not be built.” Del. Timothy D. Hugo referred “to a letter he received from state transportation officials saying they have put off plans to pursue an agreement with several federal agencies and the environmental approvals needed to move the project forward.” According to the article, “because the project cannot be built without those elements in place, Hugo told a crowd that he didn’t think the project would happen.”

VIRGINIA CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELDS TO UNDERGO CONTROLLED BURNS. The [AP](#) (4/2, Press, 5.17M) reports that controlled burns are planned at two Richmond-area battlefields in the coming weeks. The NPS says “the burns are conducted every two to three years to maintain the landscape as it appeared when the opposing armies fought here during the summers of 1862 and 1864.” The article notes that “the burns will occur on 60 acres near Malvern Hill in Henrico County and 20 acres at Cold Harbor in Hanover County.”

NPS RELEASES NEW BROCHURE FOR HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT OF AMERICA. [KNDY-FM](#) Marysville, KS (4/2) reports that “Homestead National Monument of America has developed a new brochure.” The brochure will be placed into use as part of the NPS’ “Find Your Park” Campaign.

NPS OPENS HURRICANE HOLE REGISTRATION. The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (4/2, 333) reports that the NPS has “announced procedures for mariners wishing to register their vessels for a mooring in Hurricane Hole on St. John for the 2015 hurricane season.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EFFORT TO PUT WRIGLEY FIELD ON NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. Additional coverage of the effort to add Wrigley Field to the National Register of Historic Places was provided by [Bloomberg News](#) (4/1, 2.94M).

Bureau of Land Management:

JUDGE REFUSES TO TOSS CHARGES IN ATV PROTEST RIDE CASE. The [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (4/1, 81K) reports that “four Utah men accused of riding ATVs through a closed southern Utah canyon to protest what they call federal government overreach are expected to ask a judge to toss criminal charges filed against them at a hearing Wednesday.” The four argue “in court documents the protest was legal because the U.S. Bureau of Land Management didn’t follow the proper steps to close Recapture Canyon back in 2007, and charging them with two misdemeanors violates their right to free speech.”

The [AP](#) reports that “following a 90-minute hearing, U.S. District Judge Robert Shelby ruled against the protest riders and scheduled the case for a jury trial later this month.”

Also providing coverage are the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (4/2, 405K) and the [Cache Valley \(UT\) Daily](#) (4/2, 639).

CEMEX “DISAPPOINTED” IN BLM QUESTIONS ABOUT MINING PLAN. The [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) Signal](#) (4/2, 30K) reports that “two weeks after the Bureau of Land Management issued a letter declaring itself able to cancel Cemex mine contracts in Soledad Canyon, the mining firm released its own letter expressing bewilderment at the federal agency’s move.” The letter from a Cemex official dated March 27 stated, “It appears that the BLM, for reasons we cannot fathom, may now be intent on directly and materially damaging Cemex by negatively impacting its interests in the contracts and in the project.” Cliff Kirkmyer, the firm’s executive vice president of aggregates and mining resources, wrote that Cemex “was both surprised and disappointed” by the BLM letter.

Also reporting on the story is the [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) News](#) (4/1, 431).

BLM PLANNING MOVE FROM HOLLISTER TO MARINA. The [Monterey County \(CA\) Weekly](#) (4/2, 95K) reports that “a new regional headquarters for the Bureau of Land Management will also serve as the offices for the Fort Ord and California Coastal National Monuments.” The article notes that “the planned building will be bigger than both of those combined and will bring all of BLM’s local employees under one roof.” However, “plans have been slowed by a requirement district officials had been unaware of: a disabled access-compliant sidewalk to Imjin Parkway.”

BLM TO HOLD MEETING ON BURRO MANAGEMENT. The [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (4/2, 23K) reports that the BLM will “hold a public meeting tonight to discuss management of burros in what it calls the Black Mountain Herd Management Area.” According to the article, “the meeting will be 6 to 8 p.m. in the Suddenlink Community Center, 2380 Third St., Bullhead City.”

DAN BILZERIAN’S PSA RELEASED. [Business Insider](#) (4/2, 2.26M) reports that “as part of a deal cut with prosecutors for an explosives charge, Dan Bilzerian (aka the ‘King of Instagram’) had to film a PSA for the Bureau of Land Management about shooting guns responsibly.” Now, “six weeks later, the PSA has finally been released.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF STUDY ON FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT. Additional coverage of the study by the Property and Environment Research Center on federal land management was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (4/2, Bastasch, 318K).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS LISTS NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT AS “THREATENED”. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (4/2, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that the FWS announced Wednesday that “it will list the northern long-eared bat as ‘threatened’ under the Endangered Species Act, a lower level of protection than it originally proposed for the imperiled species.” The service also “approved a rule to provide flexibility for forest managers and landowners by allowing for the incidental killing or harming of long-eared bats during the course of forest management activities, known as a 4(d) rule.” The decision was “panned by environmentalists, who favored listing the bat as endangered and are likely to challenge the decision in court,” and “it received mixed reviews from industry groups.”

[The Hill](#) (4/2, Cama, 224K) reports that FWS Director Dan Ashe said in a statement, “Bats are a critical component of our nation’s ecology and economy, maintaining a fragile insect predator-prey balance; we lose them at our peril.” He added, “Without bats, insect populations can rise dramatically, with the potential for devastating losses for our crop farmers and foresters. The alternative to bats is greater pesticide use, which brings with it another set of ecological concerns.”

Also providing coverage are the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (4/2, Press, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), [The Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (4/1, 196K), the [Columbia \(MO\) Missourian](#) (4/2, 21K), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (4/2, 777K), the [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (4/1, 83K), the [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (4/1, 196K), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (4/1, Goodman, 2.32M), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (4/2, 77K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (4/2, 4.78M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/2, Goodman, 2.28M), the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (4/2, 129K), the [Detroit \(MI\) Free Press](#) (4/1, 987K), the [Brainerd \(MN\) Daily Dispatch](#) (4/2, 2K), the [Lehigh Valley \(PA\) Express Times](#) (4/2, 223K), the [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (4/2, 524K), the [Portage \(WI\) Daily Register](#) (4/2, 14K), [IIS News & World Report](#) (4/1, 685K), [Fox Business](#) (4/1, 408K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (4/2, 5.17M), [Yahoo!](#)

Survey Shows Impact Of Disease On Bats In Smokies. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (4/2, 371K) reports that "a fungal disease that has killed hibernating bats by the millions in the northeastern U.S. is having a deadly impact on the Great Smoky Mountains National Park." According to the article, "a survey of bat populations this winter revealed sharp declines in nearly all of the park's cave-dwelling bats, including some of the most common species found in the Smokies."

WESTERN GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION TOUTS SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION EFFORTS. The [AP](#) (4/2) reports that "a group of Western-state governors has released a report on voluntary efforts in 11 states to conserve the habitat of sage grouse as part of an effort to avoid a federal listing of the bird under the federal Endangered Species Act." The "2014 Sage-Grouse Inventory" was released Thursday by the Western Governors' Association and "identifies conservation work during the year" as well "efforts since 2011." The Western Governors' Association said "a listing will reduce voluntary conservation work and harm states' economies."

FWS AWARDS TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS. The [Alaska Native News](#) (4/2, 245) reports that the FWS has "awarded \$200,000 each for conservation work to the Native Village of Tyonek and Telida Village Council under the Tribal Wildlife Grant program." According to the article, "the Native Village of Tyonek, in partnership with Tyonek Tribal Conservation District, will be using funds to remove a barrier to fish passage on Old Tyonek Creek, opening up 8 miles of river to Chinook and coho salmon." Also, "the Telida Village Council will be checking for up to 24 metals in the moose of the upper Kuskokwim River, working with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the communities of McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai and Telida."

FWS SETS HEARINGS ON UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE AND FISH REFUGE. The [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (4/2, 87K) reports that the FWS has "released for public review and comment on a draft Prospectus and Invitation for Applications to Conduct Commercial Waterfowl Hunting Guide Services on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge."

MAN FACES CHARGES FOR PICKING UP WOUNDED OWL. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (4/1, 660K) reports that "a 28-year-old West Palm Beach man will face federal charges for picking up an injured owl and taking it on a joy ride, officials said." Stevenson Benjamin has been "charged with violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act for capturing, possessing and transporting the great horned owl — a federally protected species — on March 16."

REHABILITATED HAWAIIAN MONK SEALS RETURNED TO NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS. The [West Hawaii Today](#) (4/2, 32K) reports that "two critically endangered Hawaiian monk seals were recently returned to Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument after being rehabilitated at The Marine Mammal Center's Ke Kai Ola Hawaiian Monk Seal Hospital in Kailua-Kona." The seals were "rescued last year in an emaciated state, one on Kure Atoll and another on Laysan Island, during NOAA Fisheries Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program's field camp season."

GENOA FISH HATCHERY BIOLOGIST RECOGNIZED. [WXOW-TV](#) LaCrosse, WI (4/1, 2K) reports that Rep. Ron Kind "presented a statement for the Congressional Record to honor mussel researcher and Genoa Fish Hatchery biologist Nathan Eckert Wednesday." Eckert "received the 2014 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Rachel Carson Individual Award." Kind said, "Nathan's dedication and leadership has proved critical to protecting and sustaining the rich biodiversity of the Mississippi River. I want to sincerely thank him and the Genoa Fish Hatchery for building a legacy of conservation for generations to come."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF EFFORT TO SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES. Additional coverage of the effort to save monarch butterflies was provided by the [Logan \(UT\) Herald Journal](#) (4/2, 47K).

US Geological Survey:

RESEARCHERS SAY POLAR BEARS WON'T THRIVE ON LAND FOOD. The [AP](#) (4/2, Joling, 2.28M) reports that "a group of researchers say polar bears forced off melting sea ice will not find enough food to replace their current diet of fat-laden marine mammals such as seals, a conclusion that contradicts studies indicating that bears may be benefiting from bird eggs, berries and other land food sources." The article notes that "few bears are using land food and what they find can't replace lipid-rich ringed or bearded seals, said Karyn Rode, a U.S. Geological Survey research wildlife biologist and lead author of the review paper published Wednesday in the journal, *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*." The paper is "aimed at recent research documenting bears feeding on land and suggestions that those foods are becoming more important for them, which could increase their chance for survival as summer sea ice recedes, preventing seal hunting."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DELAY FOR DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN CRITICIZED. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/2, Board, 3.49M) editorializes that "federal and state officials have spent six years examining how best to allocate land in the Mojave Desert to satisfy two disparate environmental imperatives: renewable energy to reduce Californians' thirst for gas and oil, and conservation to preserve unique places and protect wildlife in the desert's fragile habitat." However, "while the officials were hammering out their 8,000-page Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, they failed to consider how the seven counties of the Mojave would view all of this," and "as a result, the grand design for the desert has been delayed." The paper says that "the counties should have been fully involved in the planning from the get-go" and "the failure to include them has needlessly delayed matters."

SODA MOUNTAIN SOLAR PROJECT CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (4/2, 547K), Mark Butler, who recently retired as superintendent of Joshua Tree National Park, writes that "the Interior Department has made missteps in proposing and approving industrialized renewable energy development on some of California's most impressive desert landscapes, forever harming the same lands it is entrusted to protect." He asserts that "there is no clearer example of this than the proposed Soda Mountain Solar project, which would be built only a stone's throw from the Mojave National Preserve." Butler says that "the solution is simple: Move this misguided project to already identified areas without such varied and drastic conflicts."

Onshore Energy Development:

THINK TANK PROPOSES CARBON TAX ON COAL FROM PUBLIC LANDS. The [Penn Energy](#) (4/2, 128) reports that "a just-released discussion paper from Resources for the Future, a Washington, D.C. think tank, floats the idea of imposing a carbon charge on coal extracted on federally-managed lands." The authors says that "our legal analysis concludes that BLM has the statutory and regulatory authority to impose such a charge and that it would be best to add it to the royalty rate." However, "a large fee that would dramatically reduce revenues could invite legal challenges, the RFF report acknowledges." The paper "suggests that the best approach would be a 'comprehensive set of charges on royalties for all fossil fuels, irrespective of ownership.'"

Offshore Energy Development:

APPROVAL OF ARCTIC EXPLORATION REFLECTS PRESIDENT'S BALANCED APPROACH. [Reuters](#) (4/1, Gardner) reports that the Administration's decision to approve Royal Dutch Shell's return to Arctic oil and gas exploration reflects a strategy that balances progress in renewable energy with the economic benefits of the oil and gas boom. Reuters reports that oil and gas discoveries in the Arctic may offset eventual declines in supplies from shale sources.

Additional coverage of the decision on the Chukchi Sea petroleum lease was provided by the [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (4/2, Subscription Publication, 705), the [Washington Examiner](#) (4/2, 315K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/2, 2.28M), the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (4/2, 39K), the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (4/2, 14K), the [Alaska Native News](#) (4/2, 245), [The Arctic Journal \(GRL\)](#) (4/2), the [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (4/2, 1K), [UPI](#) (4/1), [HotAir](#) (4/1, 86K), [Grist](#) (4/2, 9K), and [Common Dreams](#) (4/1, 10K).

Sen. Murkowski Demands Inclusion Of More Alaska Drilling Options. The [Law 360](#) (4/2, 9K) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski has "asked that more potential oil and natural gas reserves off the coast of Alaska be included in a five-year leasing plan, including one 9.8 million-acre area President Barack Obama has designated as off-limits for future drilling." In a Monday letter to the BOEM, Murkowski said that "the president's action undermined the public's trust in a process that was supposed to include robust public discourse."

BP INSISTS ALL IS WELL IN THE GULF. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/31, Moskowitz, 2.74M) reports that BP is increasing its PR effort to "convince consumers that life is returning to normal on the Gulf coast." Evidence however "is mounting that five years after millions of gallons of oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico, wildlife is still struggling to rebound," the article reports. A National Wildlife Federation (NWF) report says that "over 20 species are still affected by the spill." "This report... shows that science is certain that this is a long-term problem," according to Ryan Fikes, a scientist with NWF. "But it's going to take even more time to understand the true magnitude of this." The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) says that BP "misinterprets and misapplies" data to obscure the truth. Activists and locals "say that in addition to having to deal with economic hardships and environmental damage, BP's insistence that everything is getting better merely acts as salt on a not-yet-healed wound," according to the article.

2.28M), and [Think Progress](#) (3/30, 331K).

BP Says Oil Spill Fine Above \$2.3 Billion Would Be Detrimental To Business. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (4/2, Larino, 621K) reports, "BP says an oil spill fine any larger than \$2.3 billion would drain its US unit of cash and threaten its future operations in the Gulf of Mexico. BP faces up to \$13.7 billion in fines for pollution caused by the 2010 disaster." As BP seeks to reduce the fine it will face in court, the British oil giant "said its US unit, BP XP, is 'limited' in its ability to pay the fines. A larger fine would drain the subsidiary of cash for 2015 and push it to the brink of insolvency," the article reports. US District Judge Carl Barbier said during trial that a large fine could be paid out over time in the form of smaller payments.

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL. The [Cape May County \(NJ\) Herald](#) (4/2, 6K) reports that "Assemblymen Vince Mazzeo and Bob Andrzejczak have introduced legislation opposing a proposal to open portions of Atlantic Coast for oil and natural gas drilling." Mazzeo said, "Offshore drilling threatens the economy and the environment of New Jersey and other coastal states." Andrzejczak added, "The administration should take into account lessons from disasters such as the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill and take steps to protect people and the environment from the hazards associated with offshore drilling."

Meanwhile, the [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (4/1, 24K) reports that "Grand Strand elected officials at Wednesday's Coastal Alliance meeting said they think it's best to take a wait-and-see approach instead of immediately taking a position against seismic testing and offshore drilling." North Myrtle Beach Mayor Marilyn Hatley, Surfside Beach Mayor Doug Samples and Horry County Council Chairman Mark Lazarus said "they will continue to listen to the debate on seismic testing along the Atlantic coast."

In an editorial, the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (4/2, 405K) urges Virginia Beach to join other communities in "opposing offshore drilling or seismic testing." The paper says "the risk of damage to the environment and to one of the city's greatest economic engines – tourism – in the event of a spill" outweigh the benefits.

FATALITIES REPORTED AFTER PEMEX GULF RIG BLAZE. The [AP](#) (4/2) reports that early Wednesday a fire erupted at a shallow water crude platform in the Gulf of Mexico. Pemex's Abkatun Permanete platform in the Campeche Sound had 300 workers aboard, who were evacuated.

[Bloomberg News](#) (4/2, Navarro, 2.94M) reports that two injured workers were said to be in serious condition, while Pemex reported four worker fatalities and 16 injuries.

[USA Today](#) (4/2, Stanglin, 4.95M) reports that in a statement, Pemex said eight firefighting vessels were helping to battle the fire.

[Reuters](#) (4/2, Martinez, Stargardter) reports that there may have been as many as 45 injured in the fire, and at least one worker was seriously injured. The blaze started in the dehydration and pumping section of the platform, though Pemex said it remained unclear what caused the fire.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/2, Harrup, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) notes one worker who died was an employee of Pemex contractor Cotemar.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (4/2, 2.74M) notes that the Abkatun platform has been used "to separate gas from crude oil and is not a drilling rig, so there is no open well or danger of a major ongoing oil leak," according to a Pemex spokeswoman.

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS. Media coverage of Gov. Jerry Brown's announcement, which included reports on all three network newscasts, highlighted the seriousness of California's water crisis. [ABC World News](#) (4/1, story 4, 1:45, Marciano, 5.84M) showed Brown saying, "We're in a historic drought and that demands unprecedented action," and noted that he ordered "all cities and towns to cut water usage immediately by 25 percent. ... The new mandate could possibly see further restrictions on homeowners who were already urged to reduce water by 20 percent, facing fines for things like washing off sidewalks." [USA Today](#) (4/2, Cava, 4.95M) notes that other "measures Brown will have the California Water Resources Control Board oversee" include: "water reduction on the part of golf courses, cemeteries and other large landscaped spaces; the replacement of 50 million square feet of lawn statewide with drought-tolerant landscaping; a rebate program to encourage the purchase of water-saving appliances; and requiring new homes to use drip irrigation."

As he made the announcement, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/2, Megerian, Stevens, 3.49M) reports, Brown was "standing on a patch of brown grass in the Sierra Nevada that is usually covered with several feet of snow at this time of year." Said the governor, "it's a different world. ... We have to act differently." The [New York Times](#) (4/2, Nagourney, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), meanwhile, quotes Brown as saying, "This is the new normal. ... We will learn how to cope with this." The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/1, story 4, 2:10, Villafranca, 5.08M) reported that "several of the state's reservoirs are at a third of capacity, and the underground water supply is rapidly being depleted." In fact, "researchers say California will need 11 trillion gallons of water to recover." The [Washington Post](#) (4/2, Wilson, 5.17M), meanwhile, says "data suggests the drought will only get worse," spreading "across every western state."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/1, story 2, 3:05, Almaguer, 7.86M) featured footage from a "drone video documenting bone-dry record breaking conditions," and noted that "NASA says this epic drought now affects 64 million Americans across the west." Benjamin Cook of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies was shown saying, "Very likely the single worst drought of the last 150 years and possibly approaching the worst drought of the last 500 to 1,000 years." [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/1, story 3, 1:15, Rascon, 7.86M) went on to report that "many California farmers are in crisis mode" and "losing billions of dollars every year that we have this drought." With "many of them... surviving thanks to groundwater...they're pumping so much of it so fast that the ground in some areas is literally sinking."

[Bloomberg News](#) (4/2, Marois, 2.94M) says "Brown's order isn't a burden for homebuilders who already face strict building codes that limit water use." Instead, "the bigger impact will be on older homes, especially the 7.5 million residences built before codes enacted after the 1970s drought." Yesterday's order "proposed a statewide consumer rebate program to replace old appliances with water-saving and energy-efficient models." "Conserving water in California isn't just a suggestion anymore," said the [Huffington Post](#) (4/2, O'Connor, 281K). The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/2, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), among other news outlets, also reports on Brown's order.

In an editorial, the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (4/2, 547K) writes, "After three grinding years of drought, Brown has taken serious action. To which we say: Finally." While "Brown is to be commended for heeding the alarm bells...California's response to this slow-motion natural disaster has been nerve-rackingly tentative until now." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/2, 3.49M), meanwhile, editorializes that "in the short term...the most effective projects may come in the form of software to better manage home water use, landscape design to better capture rainwater, and a greater respect for the value of the state's most precious resource."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (4/2, 1.05M), [KPBS-TV San Diego \(CA\)](#) San Diego (4/1, 6K), [WTTW-TV](#) (4/2) and [KUTV-TV](#) (4/2).

Scientists: Climate Change Aggravating Drought. The [New York Times](#) (4/2, Fountain, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that according to scientists, "the severe California drought that has led the state to order cutbacks in water use may not have been set off by climate change...but global warming is making the situation worse." Princeton's Michael Oppenheimer, for example, said, "The drought is made of two components: not enough rain and too much heat. ... The rain deficit isn't clearly connected to climate change, but the planetary warming has made it more likely that the weather would be hotter in California."

California Rainy Season Ends. [Bloomberg News](#) (4/1, 2.94M) reports that "California is entering its fourth year of drought as its rainy season ends with blue skies and brown hillsides from San Francisco to Los Angeles, threatening crops and livestock in the most productive agricultural region." The article notes that "hopes for a wetter-than-usual winter to replenish reservoirs drained by three years of drought subsided with the end of March, as a dry spring left San Francisco with 89 percent of its usual rainfall and Los Angeles with 64 percent, according to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration."

FORMER INTERIOR OFFICIAL SAYS DROUGHT WILL FORCE TOUGH CHOICES. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (4/2, 538K) reports that at the annual spring runoff conference Wednesday at Utah State University, Anne Castle, a former assistant for water and science at the Interior Department, a featured speaker at the event, stressed that "in water-challenged times like these, tough decisions will have to be made." Castle said, "This is where the rubber meets the road. It would be easy if we had enough water to meet all the needs, but we don't, particularly now when we are experiencing climate change impacts. We have historic drought in the Colorado River system, California is undergoing unprecedented drought, so this is where we need to come up with policies that will guide us in balancing all those needs."

LEGISLATION WOULD MITIGATE IMPACT OF INCREASE IN UNIMPAIRED FLOWS FROM MERCED, STANISLAUS OR TUOLUMNE RIVERS. In an op-ed for the [Modesto \(CA\) Bee](#) (4/2, 163K), Assemblyman Adam Gray writes that "the state of California has proposed a staggering increase in the unimpaired flows from the Tuolumne, Merced and Stanislaus rivers." He has "introduced AB 1242, which would require the State Water Resources Control Board to fully mitigate the impact of any increase in unimpaired flows from the Merced, Stanislaus or Tuolumne rivers."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PARTNERSHIP WITH CROW TRIBE ON YELLOWTAIL AFTERBAY HYDROPOWER. Additional coverage of the plans to partner with the Crow Tribe on hydropower was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (4/1, 49K), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (4/2, 165K), and the [Native American Times](#) (4/2,

Empowering Native American Communities:

PAMUNKEY INDIANS FACE MORE HURDLES TO RECOGNITION. The [Washington Post](#) (3/31, Heim, 5.17M) reports that Kevin Washburn, the Interior Department's assistant secretary for Indian affairs, says "he will not make a final decision on the Pamunkey case until the end of July, a delay that has given critics hope that they will succeed in derailing the Pamunkey application." According to the article, "the tribe's powerful foes, which include casino giant MGM and a growing number of lawmakers, have taken different, seemingly contradictory tacks." Kevin Brown, "the elected chief of the 208-member Pamunkey, rejected the latest blast of criticism."

CONFERENCE HELD ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (4/2, 101K) reports that a Rapid City conference on Tuesday reviewed the steps Native American tribes will have to take to apply the federal Violence Against Women Act, which was reauthorized in 2013." However, "Kevin Washburn, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs with the Department of Interior, acknowledged the act isn't going to be easy to put into practice." The article notes that "paying for the necessary legal system will be expensive because the act requires tribes to have courts with law-trained judges and attorneys."

BIA OFFICIAL WHO WAS STABBED RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL. The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (4/2, 637K) reports that BIA superintendent on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation "who was stabbed last week has been released from the hospital." According to Interior Department spokeswoman Nedra Darling, "Patrick Duffy was released Wednesday and is expected to fully recover."

EMAILS PROTEST TRIBAL TRUST MICCOSUKEE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB. The [Kendall \(FL\) Gazette](#) (4/2, 738) reports that "a massive email drive has begun in an effort to flood a U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs office with Kendale Lakes residents' objections to a tribal trust designation for the Miccosukee Golf and Country Club." According to the article, "a group working with Miles Moss, former president of the Kendall Federation of Homeowner Associations, is circulating wording of two documents to protest an action indicated in a Jan. 15 letter sent to Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez from Randall Trickey, acting director of the Bureau's Eastern Region in Nashville, TN."

TRIBES PREVAIL IN LANDMARK CHILD WELFARE CASE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (4/1, 49K) reports that "on Monday, March 30 a federal judge issued a landmark decision affirming that officials in South Dakota violated numerous provisions in the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and denied Indian parents their rights under the Due Process Clause of the Constitution." Judge Jeffrey Viken "issued a partial summary judgment in favor of the plaintiffs in Oglala Sioux Tribe v. Luann Van Hunnik on seven issues before the court regarding emergency removal hearings, also known as '48-hour hearings,' in Pennington County, South Dakota."

TRIBES CONSIDER IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (4/1, 49K) reports that "Quinault Nation President Fawn Sharp appeared before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee in Washington, D.C. on March 24 to request federal funding to support the relocation of homes, public buildings and schools out of a tsunami zone in the coastal village of Taholah." The article notes that "Sharp's testimony came a week after the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, of which she is president, hosted a summit, 'Asserting Native Resilience – Protecting and Enhancing Tribal Resources and Sovereignty in the face of Climate Change.'"

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE UNDER PRESSURE AS IRAN TALKS CONTINUE INTO THURSDAY. With few new details to report, coverage of the ongoing talks over Iran's nuclear program focuses on the extension of the talks through Thursday morning, and on remarks from several negotiators and governments that some preliminary agreement is expected to be reached. The three broadcast networks combined for less than two minutes of coverage, with NBC running a one-minute report and ABC and CBS just brief updates, none of them near the top of their broadcasts.

A number of analyses say the extension of the talks creates difficulties for the President, who is described as reticent to give up on a major part of his second term foreign policy agenda, but also as aware that the longer the talks continue after the deadline, the more difficult it will be for the Administration to hold off Congressional calls for additional sanctions.

The [AP](#) (4/2, Pace), for example, says that Obama's willingness to extend the talks "has laid bare the dilemma he faces." An exit "would strip" him "of a legacy-shaping deal, deeply complicate international efforts to stop Iran's suspected pursuit of a bomb, and perhaps raise the specter of U.S. military action against Tehran's nuclear installations," but by "blowing through self-imposed deadlines," the President could anger impatient lawmakers from both parties who seek a tougher line against Iran. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/2, Solomon, Norman, Switzerland, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports on its front page that the White House is now discussing options in the event that talks fail, with options including an extension of the current interim agreement, stiffer sanctions, and military action.

In a front-page analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (4/2, A1, Jaffe, 5.17M) writes that Obama's "desire to keep negotiating reflects both the importance he has placed on the talks and his particular view of how American leadership, persistence and engagement with determined enemies can change the world." The issue has also focused on diplomacy, not military action, and deals with nuclear proliferation, an issue "that has been a major focus for Obama since he first arrived in Washington" as a senator a decade ago. The Post says "the negotiations are also personal" for Obama, who "was dismissed as dangerously naive" in his 2008 campaign against then-Sen. Hillary Clinton for suggesting engagement with Iran, and has faced the same charge from Republicans and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

[USA Today](#) (4/2, Dorell, 4.95M) says leaders of both parties "have pledged to push for a vote on two bills that would increase pressure on Iran," with Sens. Bob Corker and Robert Menendez pushing a measure that "would give a skeptical Congress authority to approve any deal," and the other setting an increase in sanctions to take effect after June 30 if no comprehensive agreement is reached by then. Obama has said he would veto both bills.

[The Hill](#) (4/1, Wong, 224K) reports Republican calls for sanctions "got louder Wednesday," with Reps. Bradley Byrne (R-AL) and Vicky Hartzler (R-MO) among those joining Sen. Tom Cotton in his call for an immediate vote. [Politico](#) (4/2, Everett, 669K) says GOP senators said Wednesday that any deal "will only get worse as negotiations drag on" past the original deadline. The [Daily Caller](#) (4/2, Griswold, 318K) reports that "even Howard Dean," the former Democratic National Committee chairman, while not calling for new sanctions, said the US should exit the talks. He said on MSNBC, "I think the United States is negotiating from a much stronger position than we were four years ago. And the reason for that is, these guys are desperate to get rid of the sanctions."

Cotton said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/1, 554K), "Any kind of agreement, based on the reports we have seen out of Switzerland, is going to kick the can down the road on all the major details. Unfortunately, the Administration's already made very dangerous concessions. ... What I have supported in the United States Senate and what many Democrats as well as Republicans have supported is future prospective sanctions. Not immediate sanctions but sanctions that would go into effect if Iran walked away from the table."

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (4/1, 554K), "The question is, is there going to be enough meat on the bones to justify going until June 30 and enough to hold off Congress from enacting sanctions? I think all of us are waiting to see what materializes in the next 24 hours." Asked if "a framework to continue the discussions," would be enough to keep lawmakers from imposing new sanctions, Schiff said, "I don't think so. I think they will have to produce something very tangible."

In a brief story on [ABC World News](#) (4/1, story 11, 0:20, 5.84M), David Muir reported that while the deadline has passed, Secretary of State Kerry said negotiators have "made enough progress to keep going forward," and James Rosen reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (4/1, Baier, 1.53M) that aides to Kerry "confirmed that he would be staying on" in Switzerland for more talks through Thursday morning. Meanwhile, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest "sought to find firmness and the willingness of the US to walk away from the negotiating table...even as he admitted, for the first time that the Administration is willing to extend the talks beyond their hard deadline of June 30."

Lester Holt reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/1, story 7, 1:00, 7.86M) that there is "still no deal tonight in the high stakes negotiations," and Ann Curry added that the "final roadblocks now are few but very tough to get around." Kerry "met repeatedly" with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif throughout the day Wednesday. Scott Pelley reported in a brief story on the [CBS Evening News](#) (4/1, story 8, 0:25, 5.08M) that while the State Department "says progress has been made," one "sticking point" is that the Iranians "want crippling economic sanctions lifted now" while the US and other nations "want to keep some in place so the Iranians don't cheat."

The [AP](#) (4/2) says the negotiations "are heading into double overtime," with Kerry planning to stay until at least Thursday. The AP says "significant gaps" remain to be worked out, with officials now seeking "to produce a joint statement outlining general political commitments to resolving concerns" about Iran's nuclear program.

[Reuters](#) (4/2, Charbonneau) says French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius left the talks early Wednesday, saying no "immediate deal" was likely, but [AFP](#) (4/2) reports that Germany's Frank-Walter Steinmeier said Fabius planned to return. Reuters said Russian and Iranian diplomats expressed confidence that an initial agreement was within sight. The [Washington Post](#) (4/2, Morello, 5.17M) reports negotiators from those two countries said a preliminary agreement could be coming "within hours."

The [New York Times](#) (4/2, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) also says "an initial accord was potentially within reach" Wednesday, "but there was still much to work out." British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said, "I think we have a broad framework of understanding, but there are still some key issues that have to be worked through. Some of them are quite detailed and technical, so there is still quite a lot of work to do; but we are on it now and we'll keep going at it." The Times says the Obama

made. The talks continue to be productive.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/2, Norman, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) also says there were indications of progress emerging from the talks, with negotiators saying proposals would be aired Wednesday night. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Tehran is no longer insisting that all sanctions be dropped immediately, though Iran’s demand that economic sanctions be lifted at once remained unchanged.

[Politico](#) (4/2, Wheaton, 669K) writes that the talks “haven’t collapsed yet, but the pre-emptive blame game has already begun.” Both the US and Iran “want to be very clear: If there’s a stalemate, it’s the other side’s fault.” The concern is not just political; both nations are also concerned that any “perception that they caused the breakdown could put them in a worse position on the world stage than they were in before the talks started 18 months ago.” Earnest said Wednesday, “What is clear is that Iran now, and over the course of talks that have lasted over a year, has had every opportunity to make the kinds of commitments that the international community expects.”

US, Israel Say Israeli Missile Shield Tests Successful. [Reuters](#) (4/2, Williams, Shalal) reports US and Israeli officials said the new David’s Sling air defense system, which the two countries are developing together, met all objectives in a series of recent tests and could be deployed by 2016. The missile shield shot down targets simulating missiles that could be fired from Syria or Lebanon.

Milbank: For Bolton, “War Is The Answer.” Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (4/2, Milbank, 5.17M) column that Bush Administration UN ambassador John Bolton, a “champion of the Iraq war,” has been calling for the “immediate bombing” of Iran. Milbank writes, “For the mustachioed man of war, force is the option of first resort. The military option isn’t just on the table – it’s the only thing on the menu.” Milbank concludes, “For Bolton, war is the answer.”

Commenting On Iran Talks, Bachmann Likens Obama To Germanwings Pilot. The [Daily Caller](#) (4/2, Pappas, 318K) reported that former Rep. Michele Bachmann “is comparing...Obama to the Germanwings co-pilot who officials believe killed 149 people by intentionally crashing his airliner into the French Alps last week.” Said Bachmann, “With his Iran deal, Barack Obama is for the 300 million souls of the United States what Andreas Lubitz was for the 150 souls on the Germanwings flight – a deranged pilot flying his entire nation into the rocks. ... After the fact, among the smoldering remains of American cities, the shocked survivors will ask, why did he do it?”

More Commentary. Nicholas Kristof argues in his [New York Times](#) (4/2, Kristof, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) column that “as the Iranian nuclear talks creep on into double overtime, let’s remember that this isn’t just about centrifuges but also about creating some chance over time of realigning the Middle East and bringing Iran out of the cold.” Kristof writes that with tougher sanctions or military action, “Iran probably ends up with a nuclear capability within a decade,” but with a policy that undermines Iran’s extreme and unpopular government, the US could set the stage for better future relations.

In his [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/2, Henninger, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) column, Daniel Henninger looks at the long history of international talks with North Korea over its nuclear program, saying Iran can take the lesson that without a credible threat of action, rogue nations can act with impunity.

Veteran US Middle East negotiator Dennis Ross writes in [Politico Magazine](#) (4/2, Ross) that while the framework that could emerge “would represent progress toward constraining the Iranian nuclear program,” the Obama Administration’s claim “that any eventual agreement will block all pathways toward an Iranian nuclear weapon.. is surely an overstatement.” A deal could “create impediments for the life of the agreement but offer little afterward. At that point, the administration and its successors would need to make clear that should Iran seek to break out to the production of weapons-grade enriched uranium – or the preparation of nuclear weapons – it would trigger the use of force by us.”

MENENDEZ INDICTED ON FRAUD, BRIBERY CHARGES. Media coverage of Sen. Bob Menendez’s [indictment](#), which includes reports on all three network newscasts, highlights both the seriousness of the charges and Menendez’s emphatic protestations of innocence. In print media, Menendez is being described as a leading lawmaker and an opponent of the President’s policies in Cuba and Iran, and some reports indicate he faces a daunting task in getting out from under the charges. [Politico](#) (4/1, Bresnahan, 669K), for example, reports that “privately, many Senate Democrats and their top aides are convinced Menendez is in serious legal jeopardy, including a potentially long prison sentence if convicted.”

[ABC World News](#) (4/1, story 10, 1 00, Wright, 5.84M) noted that Menendez was hit with “14 counts of corruption and bribery charges,” accused of accepting “hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign funds and political perks from” Dr. Salomon Melgen, “a Florida ophthalmologist, in exchange for political favors.” The [National Journal](#) (4/2, Fox, Berman, Subscription Publication, 111K) reports that according to the DOJ report, “Menendez also aided Melgen with getting visas for ‘several of Melgen’s girlfriends.’” The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/1, story 3, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) briefly mentioned the story, noting that “Menendez, who often seems to relish a fight, says he’s innocent.”

The [Washington Post](#) (4/2, Kane, Debonis, 5.17M) reports Menendez was “defiant” last night “before a boisterous crowd of supporters, saying that Melgen’s gifts were a result of friendship dating to the early 1990s and not in exchange for political favors.” Said Menendez, “I’m angry and ready to fight.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/2, Serrano, Phelps, Mascaro, 3.49M) notes Menendez also “dismissed the indictment as a political maneuver,” saying, “I’m outraged that prosecutors at the Justice Department were tricked into starting this investigation three years ago with false allegations by those who have a political motive to silence me, but I will not be silenced. ... I’m confident – at the end of the day – I will be vindicated and they will be exposed.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (4/1, story 8, 1:25, Williams, 7.86M) reported that “Menendez says Melgen is a close friend, not just a political donor and a former Federal prosecutor says that may be a big issue.” Former Federal prosecutor Adam Lurie was shown saying, “It’s just not illegal for a friend to help a friend. It could be bad government, it could be a political issue, but that’s going to be a challenge for government here because this relationship, as I understand it, it goes back a long way.” The [Miami Herald](#) (4/2, Weaver, 694K), however, reports Assistant Attorney General Leslie Caldwell said in a statement, “Government corruption – at any level of elected office – corrodes the public trust and weakens our democratic system.”

Focusing on the policy implications of the indictment, [Politico](#) (4/2, Kim, 669K) reports that despite the indictment, Menendez’s office said last night the senator “plans to support [Loretta] Lynch’s confirmation when it comes to the Senate floor in the coming weeks.” [Politico](#) (4/1, Bresnahan, 669K) reports in a separate story that Menendez yesterday “wrote a letter to Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid...saying he is voluntarily stepping down from his post as top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee,” though he “will keep his seniority on the panel, and he will get his position back if he’s cleared of the charges.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (4/2, Voreacos, Wilber, Hunter, 2 94M) notes that Menendez has “emerged as a leading critic of...Obama’s efforts to forge a nuclear deal with Iran and restore relations with Cuba,” while the [New York Times](#) (4/1, Apuzzo, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) describes Menendez as “a crafty politician who...seems to relish a fight, whether with members of his own party in New Jersey or with” the President “over relations with Iran and Cuba.” [USA Today](#) (4/2, Gaudiano, Johnson, 4.95M) also reports that Menendez “has been a vocal critic of the Obama administration’s efforts to normalize relations with the Castro regime, saying the president struck a ‘bad deal for the Cuban people,’” and has “accused administration officials of using talking points ‘straight out of Tehran’ in their negotiations with Iran over the country’s nuclear program.” The [AP](#) (4/2, Tucker, Carlin) also says the senator “has played a leading role on Capitol Hill on” the Iran and Cuba issues.

[McClatchy](#) (4/2, Doyle, Subscription Publication, 17K) says the New Jersey lawmaker is “one of the least wealthy senators currently serving, with his most recent financial disclosure statement showing he is among the Senate’s relatively few non-millionaires.” [Reuters](#) (4/2, Edwards) describes the senator as one of the best known Hispanic officials in the country, and the [Washington Times](#) (4/2, Dinan, 644K) notes he is “the only Hispanic Democrat in the Senate” and “has made immigration a particular cause during his time in Washington.” The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (4/2, Tamari, 617K), [Huffington Post](#) (4/1, Reilly, 281K), [Roll Call](#) (4/1, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 102K), [The Hill](#) (4/1, McCabe, Kamisar, 224K), and the [Daily Caller](#) (4/2, Ross, 318K) run similar stories.

Reporting on the possibility that Menendez may be forced to leave his Senate seat, the [Asbury Park \(NJ\) Press](#) (4/2, Jordan, 371K) says that if it “becomes vacant, Republican Gov. Chris Christie is in charge of choosing a temporary replacement and scheduling a special election.” Potential replacements include former US Sen. Jeffrey Chiesa, Rep. Frank Pallone, Rep. Rush Holt, Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, and “the wildcard: Assemblywoman Alison Littell McHose.” Asked about Menendez’s future, and the possibility of a special election to replace him, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/2, Grossman, Dawsey, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) quotes Christie as saying, “Everybody deserves the presumption of innocence and there’s no reason for me or anybody else to get out ahead of themselves.”

[USA Today](#) (4/2, Gaudiano, 4.95M), meanwhile, reports that “New Jersey Democrats lined up behind...Menendez on Wednesday,” with “the state’s Democratic committee” releasing “statements from several New Jersey lawmakers and officials,” and starting “a Twitter account – @IStandWithBob – and an identical hashtag to highlight support for Menendez.”

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, April 1, 2015

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+ [Late Night Political Humor](#).

DOI in the News:

INTERIOR AFFIRMS REVISED REVIEW OF CHUKCHI SEA LEASE. The [AP](#) (4/1, 3.41M) reports that the Interior Department said Tuesday that "it has affirmed corrections to an environmental analysis of a 2008 Arctic Ocean petroleum lease sale that brought in \$2.7 billion for the federal government." The article notes that "the expected decision regarding the lease in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's northwest coast opens the door for the department to review a 2015 Chukchi exploration plan by Royal Dutch Shell PLC." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said "in the announcement that the analysis was thorough with substantial opportunity for public comment."

The [FuelFix](#) (3/31, 7K) reports that Jewell stressed that the Arctic "is an important component of the administration's national energy strategy." She added, "We remain committed to taking a thoughtful and balanced approach to oil and gas leasing and exploration offshore Alaska. This unique, sensitive and often challenging environment requires effective oversight to ensure all activities are conducted safely and responsibly."

[The Hill](#) (4/1, Cama, 224K) reports that "the affirmation of the Bush administration's lease by the Interior Department came over the objection of environmentalists and wildlife advocates who say that any drilling in the delicate Arctic Ocean would hurt the environment and ecosystems." Susan Murray, a vice president at Oceana, said in a statement, "Today's announcement is both expected and disappointing. The Obama administration has steadfastly refused to fully and fairly evaluate the risks of selling leases in the Chukchi Sea and, instead, treats the leases sold in 2008 as if they're set in stone." Erik Grafe, an attorney with Earthjustice, said in a statement, "We are disappointed in Interior's rushed lease sale decision. Interior still has time to make a better decision when evaluating Shell's drilling plan, and we sincerely hope it says no to Shell's louder, bigger, and dirtier tactics, loaded with potential environmental harm."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Cordova \(AK\) Times](#) (4/1, 2K), the [Chippewa \(WI\) Herald](#) (4/1, 17K), the [St. Joseph \(MI\) Herald Palladium](#) (4/1, 43K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/31, Dan Joling I, Ap, 5.17M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/1, Joling, 2.28M), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (4/1, 77K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (3/31, 612K), the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (3/31, 146K), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (4/1, 2.21M), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (4/1, 405K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Stranger](#) (3/31, 162K), [The Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (4/1, 807K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (4/1, 4.78M), [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/31, 2K), [Reuters](#) (3/31), [Take Part](#) (3/31, 217K), [Yahoo! Finance](#) (4/1, 4.04M), [The Arctic Journal \(GRL\)](#) (4/1), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (4/1), and [Maritime Executive](#) (4/1, 21).

Gov. Inslee Opposes New Oil Leases In Arctic Waters. The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (3/31, 612K) reports that "Gov. Jay Inslee believes oil drilling in the Arctic is too risky and that the U.S. should not 'further entrench our use of fossil fuels,' views conveyed Tuesday in a letter to U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell." Inslee asked Jewell to "withhold from issuing any further lease sales for drilling operations" along the Arctic coastline of Alaska.

HAWAII INTERNMENT CAMP DEDICATED AS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [AP](#) (4/1) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "joined Hawaii Gov. David Ige, Hawaii's congressional delegation and other officials for a dedication ceremony Tuesday of the Honouliuli National Monument." Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell said "preservation of the camp as a national monument is a proud but bittersweet moment." He added that "it's an important part of history that should be remembered and learned from."

[KGMB-TV](#) Honolulu (4/1, 63K) reports that "tears flowed as a new chapter began for the site of Hawaii's largest internment camp during World War II. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell joined local leaders at a dedication for the Honouliuli National Monument on Tuesday." Jewell said, "As I get emotional along with a few of you, it's because this story is so important and it's because the shame can be put to rest." She also said, "If we don't tell stories like the one that happened here in Honouliuli, we're going to repeat the mistakes of the past."

[KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (3/30, 73K) reports that Jewell said "as one of the newest units of the National Park System, Honouliuli National Monument speaks of a painful but important chapter in our involvement in World War II – the unjust internment of Japanese Americans and other citizens whose civil rights were trampled by the prejudice and fear of the time. I applaud President Obama for establishing this monument and all of those in Hawai'i who worked so hard to ensure this place is preserved and the story is told for future generations." She added, "I think for a land that probably felt for some as it was cursed, it is now blessed."

The [PharmiWeb](#) (4/1) notes that Monsanto "recently donated land used by the government for the Honouliuli Internment Camp Site."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/1, 2.28M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (4/1, 644K), [West Hawaii Today](#) (4/1, 32K), [KITV-TV Honolulu \(HI\)](#) Honolulu (4/1, 21K), [KFVE-TV Honolulu \(HI\)](#) Honolulu (4/1), [Honolulu \(HI\) Magazine](#) (4/1, 2K), and [Newsroom America](#) (4/1).

INTERIOR FOCUSING ON SAVING PRIME SAGE GROUSE HABITAT. The [Idaho Statesman](#) (3/31, 196K) reports that "after gathering scientists in Boise in November," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "issued a secretarial order in January requiring Interior officials to make stopping fire in critical sagebrush habitat the top resource priority for the Bureau of Land Management." The order "requires the BLM to send firefighting money, equipment and personnel to 15 districts in five states that have 38 million acres of critical sagebrush habitat, even at the expense of other parts of BLM's 262 million acres in 11 states." Mike Courtney, who gave Jewell "a tutorial on sage grouse, cheatgrass and fire last October," is now "overseeing efforts" in the Twin Falls District.

BISHOP PLANS PUBLIC LANDS HEARINGS ON FEDERAL OWNERSHIP. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (4/1, 538K) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop said "he wants to use his leadership of the House Committee on Natural Resources to convene a series of hearings this spring and summer on the challenges of federal land ownership in Western states." Bishop said "the idea is to better educate his East Coast colleagues and others on the plight that Western states face when it comes to control of public lands." Bishop is also "readying draft legislation and a map that proposes to carve out land uses for some 18 million acres in eastern Utah, designations that would include new wilderness areas, so-called energy development zones and better protections for high-value recreation lands."

INTERIOR'S BURNS RECOGNIZED ON LIST OF D.C.'S TOP 50 WOMEN IN TECH 2015. The [FedScoop](#) (4/1) picked Sylvia Burns, Chief Information Officer, Department of the Interior, to be on its list of D.C.'s Top 50 Women in Technology 2015. Burns "oversees the \$1 billion IT portfolio for the Interior Department and a range of its shared services, including email and telecommunications, for outside agencies." The article notes that "currently, one big project she's working on is consolidating Interior's internal data centers."

INTERIOR PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON "BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE" POLICY. The [Federal Times](#) (3/31, 119K) reports that "the Interior Department included brief guidance on the use of personally-owned equipment in its 2012 Telework Handbook." According to the article, "the handbook leaves it to the individual bureaus to decide whether to allow BYOD, telling employees to check with their respective IT helpdesks for authorization and instruction."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS BEGINS PREPARATIONS FOR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. The [Puget Sound \(WA\) Business Journal](#) (4/1, Parkhurst, Subscription Publication, 48K) reports that "Seattle outdoor retailer REI has begun a partnership with the National Park Service as part of the 100-year anniversary of the U.S. park system." The company will "be the 'Official Outdoor Retailer' of the National Park Centennial celebration and will expand its travel adventure series to include five new trips to National Parks."

The [Huffington Post](#) (4/1, Visser, 281K) reports that Bill Nye was "recently appointed as a centennial ambassador for the National Park Service ahead of the agency's 100th birthday next year in hopes of inspiring the next generation of park-goers to fall in love with the natural world." Nye, "often attached to his 'Science Guy' moniker, said an appreciation of nature and preservation goes hand in hand with scientific awareness, including politically charged issues like climate change."

Also providing coverage is the [Poughkeepsie \(NY\) Journal](#) (3/31, 116K).

secure airspace in the nation, helps lead presidential motorcades – should have been grounded two years ago, according to an internal study by the Park Police and the U.S. Department of Interior.” According to the article, “a 2012 analysis recommended replacing Park Police aircraft after 5,000 hours of operation.” However, “Eagle 2 has flown more than 9,300 hours and is about 26 years old.”

OFFICIALS DIFFER OVER FUTURE OF THE BI-COUNTY PARKWAY. The [Washington Post](#) (3/31, Aratani, 5.17M) reports that “Virginia’s Secretary of Transportation said Tuesday that plans to build the controversial Bi-County Parkway have not been shelved, despite assertions from a top official in Prince William County that the project is ‘all but dead.’” According to the article, “supporters say the highway would relieve congestion in Washington’s outer suburbs, while critics say it would increase suburban sprawl.” The article notes that “the road also includes another controversial caveat: Route 234 through the Manassas National Battlefield Park would also be closed.” NPS officials, “who must sign off on the project because of its proximity to the Manassas battlefield, have said that the popular cut-through for commuters from across the region must be shut down for the parkway to move forward.”

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK BRACES FOR DRY YEAR. The [AP](#) Detroit (4/1, 101K) reports that Yosemite National Park is “bracing for its driest year on record, with visitor bureaus downplaying the allure of the park’s most famous waterfall and instead touting the park as a destination for hiking, bicycling and photography.” The article notes that “with the drought enabling western pine bark beetles to kill large areas of forest, the park is preparing for a bad fire season.”

ALCATRAZ FERRY TERMINAL COULD MOVE TO FORT MASON. [KGO-TV](#) San Francisco (4/1, 4K) reports that “a public meeting was underway Tuesday in San Francisco to decide the future location of the Alcatraz ferry.” The article notes that “currently, the ferries take off from Pier 33 along the Embarcadero, but the National Park Service, which operates Alcatraz, has not been able to reach a new lease agreement with the Port of San Francisco.” The agency is “considering moving the ferry terminal to land it already owns at Fort Mason,” but “that has residents there worried about an invasion of tourists.”

Also reporting on the story is the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/1, 2.21M).

JOSHUA TREE CLIMBING AREA SHUT DOWN WHILE RAPTORS NEST. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/1, 2.28M) reports that “a rock climbing area at Joshua Tree National Park has been temporarily closed because two nesting raptors have made it their home.” The “climbing area known as the ‘Towers of Uncertainty’ has been shut down and the closure may last until June.”

WOMAN HURT IN FALL AT ICY WALL IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. The [Denver Post](#) (4/1, Draper, 804K) reports that a woman was injured in a roped fall Tuesday morning on a climbing route called Deep Freeze above The Loch in Rocky Mountain National Park, rangers reported.

Bureau of Land Management:

NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY, SUPPORTERS RALLY FOR NEVADA LAND BILL. The [AP](#) (3/31, Rindels Riley Snyder |, Ap, 5.17M) reports that “Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, who garnered national attention a year ago when he and armed supporters engaged in a showdown with federal authorities, came to Carson City Tuesday with scores of allies to rally behind a bill seeking to reclaim land from the federal government.” The legislation, Assembly Bill 408, is “sponsored by Republican Assemblywoman Michele Fiore and would require the federal government to obtain permission to use land within the state’s borders.” The measure “also strips the federal government of state water rights and would allow county commissions to parcel out state land for commercial use.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (4/1), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (4/1, 398K), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (4/1, Glionna, 3.49M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (4/1, Rindels, Snyder, 2.28M), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (4/1, 2.21M), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (4/1, 405K), the [US News & World Report](#) (3/31, 685K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (4/1, 4.78M), [WJBK-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (4/1, 253K), and [WKRG-TV Mobile \(AL\)](#) Mobile, AL (4/1, 61K).

WILDFIRE PREVENTION SHEEP RETURN TO FORT ORD. The [Salinas Californian](#) (3/31, 27K) reports that “more than 1,300 ewes and their lambs are back at work on the Bureau of Land Management’s Fort Ord National Monument in Monterey County.” The animals have become “quite an attraction for many visitors to the Fort Ord National Monument, and the BLM is hosting a special event for sheep fans called ‘Sheep Appreciation Day.’” The article notes that “the grazing program is part of a cooperative strategy to improve rangeland conditions in this ecologically unique area.” Eric Morgan, BLM’s Fort Ord Monument manager, said, “The sheep grazing program at Fort Ord National Monument has a proven track record at reducing wildfire hazards and stimulating native plant regeneration. The sheep have also been effective in controlling invasive thistle populations.”

Also reporting on the story is [KION-TV Monterey \(CA\)](#) Monterey, CA (4/1).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

GREAT LAKES STATES RECEIVE MORE THAN \$10 MILLION FROM FWS. The [Great Lakes Echo](#) (4/1, 441) reports that “Great Lakes states received more than \$10 million in federal funding to protect species and habitats, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” They “received around 22 percent of the \$45 million given through the State Wildlife Grant Program.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “The State Wildlife Grant Program has made a significant impact by preventing the need to list species under the Endangered Species Act. The program identifies the highest priorities in each state to effectively conserve and protect species on a large landscape scale.”

FWS WITHDRAWS \$300K SUMMER’S END MARINA GRANT. The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (4/1, 333) reports that the FWS has “withdrawn grant funding earmarked for the Summer’s End 145-slip marina and additional facilities development in Coral Bay, St. John.” The agency “had awarded grant funding for the marina under the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program in December 2013.”

FEDERAL AGENCIES UNVEIL PLAN TO HELP SMALL BIRD, OTHER SPECIES. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (4/1, 538K) reports that “two federal agencies unveiled a plan to further hone conservation efforts across six states by working with ranchers and other landowners to restore habitat for a small bird that nests along river corridors.” According to the article, “by taking an ecosystem-wide approach to help the southwestern willow flycatcher in Utah and surrounding states, the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will boost living conditions for 83 other species that occupy the same riparian system.” FWS Director Dan Ashe said, “These efforts will help ensure not only the long-term health of ecosystems and countless species vital to the West, but they will assist rural landowners and provide tangible benefits to local economies.”

MONSANTO PLEDGES \$4 MILLION TO EFFORT TO SAVE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES. The [AP](#) (4/1, Suhr, 2.28M) reports that Monsanto Co., “whose popular weed killer Roundup has been partly blamed by critics for knocking out monarch butterflies’ habitat, said Tuesday it is committing \$4 million to efforts to stem the worrisome decline of the black-and-orange insects.” The firm said that “of \$3.6 million it is donating to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund, one-third of that money matches what the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is contributing.” The rest of the “funds will be set aside to mirror what other federal agencies plan to offer over the next three years.” Monsanto also “intends to contribute \$400,000 to experts and groups working on behalf of the butterfly, which is being considered for federal protection because its numbers have plunged by more than 90 percent in the past two decades.”

FEDERAL AGENCIES PREVAIL IN LAWSUIT FILED BY ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (4/1, 38K) reports that “federal agencies won a pair of lawsuits filed by the Alliance for the Wild Rockies on Monday.” In February, the group sued the FWS and the Forest Service “over the 40,700-acre Blankenship Vegetation Treatment Project located in the Little Belt Mountains just east of Monarch.” U.S. District Judge Brian Morris dismissed the group’s “claims Monday, writing in part that lynx surveying was hampered by weather, but did ‘comply substantially’ with accepted protocols, and that no lynx were found.” The “decision further dismissed alleged violations for effects on wolverine, goshawk and mule deer.”

FWS WAREHOUSE STORES CONTRABAND FROM ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE. The [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#) (4/1, 46K) reports that the FWS “runs the Property Repository 30km outside Denver.” According to the article, “about 1.5 million animals, or parts of animals, are here — lions, tigers, rhinos and elephants.” Authorities “want the warehouse and its contents to stand as reminders of the vastness and vulgarness of the trade.”

MINNESOTA PROFESSOR CHARGED WITH SMUGGLING IVORY, RHINOCEROS HORNS. The [AP](#) (4/1, Baenen, 2.28M) reports that “a St. Cloud State University philosophy professor was arrested Tuesday on charges of conspiring to smuggle rhinoceros horns and elephant ivory out of the United States and into China.” Yiwei Zheng, “who appeared in U.S. District Court Tuesday, faces a federal indictment accusing him of conspiracy, smuggling and making a false statement to agents.” Zheng is also “charged with violating the federal Lacey Act, which bans trade in wildlife, fish and plants that have been illegally taken, transported or sold.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/31, Jeff Baenen |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (4/1, Baenen, 644K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (4/1, Baenen, 1.37M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/31, Mckenroe, 1.37M), [The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (4/1, 8K), and [WCCO-AM Minneapolis \(MN\)](#) Minneapolis (3/31, 70K).

Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust, and the FWS are "offering a reward of up to \$7,500 for information leading to a conviction of the person or persons responsible for the shooting, which is unlawful."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTAL-TV Shreveport \(LA\)](#) Shreveport, LA (4/1, 711), [KTAL-TV Shreveport \(LA\)](#) Shreveport, LA (4/1, 711), and [KTBS-TV Shreveport \(LA\)](#) Shreveport, LA (4/1, 67K).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION FIGHTING ANIMAL TRAFFICKING. In an interview with the [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (4/1, 3K), Ken Goddard, the director of an animal forensics lab located in Ashland, Oregon, and Gary Young, Special Agent for the FWS, discusses the Obama Administration's "new initiative to stop illegal wildlife trafficking."

US Geological Survey:

WEST COAST LAWMAKERS SEEK FUNDING FOR EARTHQUAKE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM. The [Oregonian](#) (4/1, 950K) reports that "Democratic lawmakers from Oregon, Washington and California are asking their colleagues in the House of Representatives for cash to fund the region's earthquake early warning system."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

NORTH DAKOTA TO JOIN WYOMING LAWSUIT OVER NEW FRACKING RULE. The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (4/1, 32K) reports that North Dakota "officials took action Tuesday to pursue a lawsuit over new federal hydraulic fracturing rules being instituted by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management." Gov. Jack Dalrymple and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, "two of three members of the North Dakota Industrial Commission, voted to approve having the attorney general's office participate in a lawsuit filed last week against BLM by the state of Wyoming." The pair said "the fracking rules are an overreach into regulation already overseen by state agencies."

Also providing coverage are the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (4/1, Macpherson, 1.37M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/31, MacPherson), [The Olympian \(WA\)](#) (3/31, 76K), [The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (4/1, 8K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/31, James Macpherson |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (4/1, 4.78M), the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (4/1, 82K), [KFYR-TV Bismarck \(ND\)](#) Bismarck, ND (4/1, 1K), and [WDAZ-TV Grand Forks \(ND\)](#) Grand Forks, ND (4/1, 1K).

BLM Director Kornze Questioned On Fracking Rule. The [Sidney \(MT\) Roundup](#) (4/1, 25K) reports that Committee on Natural Resources Vice Chairman Cynthia Lummis "questioned BLM Director Neil Kornze on how the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between BLM and the states will operate." Lummis asked, "Who will approve well bore integrity issues? Will you approve those? Who will do the inspections? Will [states] be brought in? Who is going to be brought in to inspect that – [states] or you?" Kornze responded, "Because the Bureau of Land Management manages such a scattered land pattern across the country, it's very important to work efficiently with state regulators, we can more or less cross-deputize state inspectors to do that work."

New Fracking Rule Called "Redundant." The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (4/1, 32K) editorializes that the new rule is "a classic example of federal overreach" because "states and industry has already figured out a way to monitor the process." The paper notes that "the rule requires companies drilling for oil and gas to use FracFocus.org to disclose chemicals used when hydraulic fracturing takes place on public land." But "the website is already being used by at least 16 oil and gas producing states."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSED DRILLING RULES IN COLORADO. Additional coverage of the proposed drilling rules in Colorado was provided by the [Denver Post](#) (4/1, Finley, 804K).

Offshore Energy Development:

SAFETY REGULATIONS UPDATED FOR NEWLY CONSTRUCTED OFFSHORE FACILITIES. The [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (4/1) reports that "updated safety standards for newly constructed facilities that work on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), the result of a lengthy investigation into the aftermath of the Macondo well blowout five years ago, were unveiled Monday by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)." The rules, "published in the Federal Register, follow an investigation into the causes of the fire and explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon production facility, which sank, killing 11 men."

OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (3/31, 295K), Chip Campsen, who represents District 43 in the S.C. Senate, writes in opposition to "drilling for oil and gas off South Carolina's coast." He shares "the concern most often raised, namely the risk of damage to the environment and our vibrant tourism industry in the event of a spill." Furthermore, Campsen suspects "much of the support for offshore oil would fade away if citizens were confronted with the realities of the coastal industrialization necessary to support offshore oil."

In an editorial, the [Frederick \(MD\) News-Post](#) (4/1, 74K) warns "what an oil spill the scope of 2010's Deepwater Horizon could do to the fragile ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay or to Eastern Shore tourism or delicate state treasures like Assateague Island. Imagine the devastation to the economy." For this reason, the paper is "opposed to the Obama administration's plan to open up the mid- and southern Atlantic coast to offshore oil and gas drilling."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

INTERIOR ANNOUNCES PLANS TO PARTNER WITH CROW TRIBE ON YELLOWTAIL AFTERBAY HYDROPOWER. The [Hydroworld](#) (4/1, 151) reports that the Interior Department and the Crow Tribe have "announced an agreement to develop an 8 MW hydropower project at the Yellowtail Afterbay Dam on Montana's Bighorn River." Deputy Secretary Michael L. Connor said, "This is an excellent opportunity for development of new hydropower capacity on existing infrastructure. Working through the Bureau of Reclamation, Interior is pleased to assist the Crow Tribe on its Yellowtail Afterbay hydro development, resulting in clean, renewable energy, and creating vital jobs in the process."

Empowering Native American Communities:

NORTH STONINGTON LEADER WELCOMES CALL FOR REVIEW OF CHANGES TO TRIBAL RECOGNITION RULES . The [AP](#) (4/1, 2.28M) reports that "the first selectman of North Stonington says he is relieved to see several Congress members are calling for a review of the rule changes for federal recognition of American Indian tribes." The article notes that "five Congress members including chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee last week asked the U.S. Interior Department to slow down an overhaul that could make it easier for tribes to gain acknowledgment and qualify for new benefits." North Stonington First Selectman Nicholas Mullane II said that "few understand the magnitude of the new regulations."

MAN CHARGED IN STABBING OF BIA OFFICIAL. The [AP](#) (4/1, Nicholson, 2 28M) reports that "federal authorities have charged a man in the stabbing of the Bureau of Indian Affairs superintendent on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation in central South Dakota." Brian Iron Boulder is accused of stabbing "Patrick F. Duffy in the back with a knife on March 25, penetrating Duffy's chest wall."

JUDGE DISMISSES DULUTH'S CHALLENGE TO CASINO RULING. The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (4/1, 129K) reports that "a federal judge has dismissed the city of Duluth's challenge to a National Indian Gaming Commission ruling that declared the city's downtown casino profit-sharing agreement illegal." U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on Tuesday "upheld a 'notice of violation' issued by the NIGC in 2011."

INTERIOR PANEL SIDES WITH BIA ON OSAGE MINERAL RIGHTS DISPUTE. The [Law 360](#) (4/1, 9K) reports that "a U.S. Department of the Interior panel has upheld a Bureau of Indian Affairs decision denying a bid by Osage Nation members for an election to restore the tribe's former governing council in a dispute over mineral rights, ruling the BIA wasn't required to conduct the election." Charles O. Tillman and "six other tribe members who possess rights in oil, gas, coal and other minerals on the tribe's reservation land asked the panel to overturn a 2012 decision by the BIA's eastern Oklahoma acting regional director."

INTERIOR PANEL UPHOLDS BIA'S DECISION ON NAVAJO LAND LEASE . The [Law 360](#) (4/1, 9K) reports that "a U.S. Department of the Interior panel on Monday upheld a Bureau of Indian Affairs decision to cancel a businessman's lease on Navajo Nation trust land in New Mexico, ruling the agency didn't have to give him more time to pay rent to the nation or otherwise help fix the lease violations that led to the cancellation." Jimmie Garnenez Sr. "asked the panel to overturn a 2012 ruling by the agency's Navajo acting regional director to cancel the lease."

Office of Insular Affairs:

Gordon of Next Generation writes that Puerto Rico and 15 other US island territories, with more than four million people total, are particularly exposed to the effects of climate change on their infrastructure and industrial sectors.

Top National News:

OBAMA POCKET-VEToes GOP ATTEMPT TO OVERTURN UNION RULES. Media coverage of the President's second veto of the year notes labor unions' praise for the move and GOP derision of it, and puts the action in the context of what's expected to be a protracted fight between the White House and Hill Republicans on a variety of fronts. The [New York Times](#) (4/1, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), for example, refers to yesterday's pocket-veto as Obama's "latest confrontation with Congress," opening a "new front in the larger battle...over the scope of his executive power," while [USA Today](#) (4/1, Korte, 4.95M) predicts "more vetoes are sure to come," as "the White House has issued 17 specific veto threats."

With the media's attention firmly fixed on stories such as the Indiana controversy, the Iran talks, and the Germanwings crash, the President's action received no coverage from the network newscasts. Print and online coverage, meanwhile, generally reflected favorably on the President's veto, with [USA Today](#) (4/1, Korte, 4.95M), for instance, saying it will keep "in place procedures that will allow a more streamlined process for workers to vote to unionize," and the [AP](#) (4/1, Superville) reporting in its lead sentence that Obama said "government should not make it harder for workers to be heard in the workplace."

The vetoed measure, the [New York Times](#) (4/1, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports along similar lines, "would have reversed" NLRB "rules to speed up and streamline union elections." Republicans, however, "referred to it as the 'ambush election' rule and argued that it would be unfair to businesses." [The Blaze](#) (3/31, Karpetowicz, 2.17M) noted the rule "could force companies to allow union elections just 11 days after they're notified that an election was called," which the GOP considers "way too fast," arguing "that current rules already allow for reasonably quick votes." Republicans reacted to the veto by calling it "a political move that was a favor to Obama's political allies, at the expense of companies around the country."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/1, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) criticizes the low volume of media coverage of the veto, and expresses outrage over what it considers an Obama favor to his labor allies. To the Journal, which says the NLRB only passed the rule in a 3-2 party-line vote, Republicans had justly attempted to overturn a regulation that is biased against businesses and essentially unfair.

[The Hill](#) (3/31, Fabian, 224K), however, notes that Obama "said that the Republican resolution would reverse 'common-sense, modest changes to streamline' the union voting process," adding, "I think that's a bad idea. ... One of the freedoms of folks who live in the United States is if they choose to join a union they should be able to do so. ... We shouldn't be making it impossible for that to happen." The [AP](#) (4/1, Superville) calls the veto "a victory for unions," and notes that AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, "using language similar to Obama, has said that the board's 'modest but important reforms' will help reduce delays and make it easier for workers to vote on forming a union."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/1, A4, Trotman, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that in remarks yesterday, Obama also announced that he would hold a White House labor summit in the fall, focused "on increasing the voice" of US workers.

[Reuters](#) (4/1, Wiessner) notes, meanwhile, that the rule still faces legal challenges in Washington, DC and Texas.

OBAMA RELEASES PLAN TO CUT EMISSIONS BY 28% OVER 10 YEARS. The President's blueprint to fight climate change in the US was ignored by the network newscasts and received very little notice on the major cable news shows. Print and online coverage this morning, meanwhile, generally cast the plan in a favorable light, describing it as ambitious and wide-ranging and, as the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/31, Gilmour, 380K) puts it, "the latest in a series of executive-led efforts to bolster US climate policy ahead of this December's international talks in Paris – widely seen as a last-ditch opportunity to foster unified global action to curb.. emissions." Analysts also note the swift GOP criticism of the plan, and put the debate in the context of Obama's ongoing fight with Hill Republicans over his authority to act unilaterally.

The [New York Times](#) (4/1, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), for example, reports that the blueprint's "reliance on executive" action "is an acknowledgment that any proposal to pass climate change legislation would be blocked by...Congress." [The Blaze](#) (3/31, Lucas, 2.17M), meanwhile, noted that the Administration "says it won't need Congress' help in its goals set for an international climate agreement," and the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (4/1, Raasch, 889K) indicates that "the politics in the climate debate are similar to ongoing battles between Obama and Senate Republicans over nuclear arms talks with Iran." In both matters, Obama "has said he has acted within clear legal and constitutional authority granted to presidents, while Senate Republicans say that any major agreements on issues like climate or nuclear arms require Senate approval."

The President, said the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (3/31, Fuller, 583K), "seems determined to make this happen, especially since environmental policy is one of the few arenas where he is able to act alone." The [Washington Times](#) (4/1, Wolfgang, 644K), meanwhile, reports that the Administration "has given no indication it will submit the plan to the Senate for formal approval, meaning the US plan will not be a binding international treaty and theoretically could be rolled back relatively easily by the next president." The Times adds that "leading Republicans say they expect the White House to seek a congressional green light," and "they're also stressing the plan, if submitted to Congress, will die on Capitol Hill."

[Politico](#) (3/31, Restuccia, 669K) notes that Senate Majority Leader McConnell "immediately warned international negotiators to 'proceed with caution' before trusting Obama's promise – the continuation of the GOP's attempt to undermine the administration's climate strategy at every turn." [The Hill](#) (3/31, Cama, 224K), meanwhile, reports that Sen. Jim Inhofe said Senate approval for a climate deal "will not happen in the current Senate." Said Inhofe, "As the Obama administration continues to pursue a radical agenda on global warming, it's clear Americans are beginning to question if the cost of billions of dollars to our economy and tens of thousands of lost job opportunities is really worth it for potentially no gain."

[US News & World Report](#) (3/31, Neuhauser, 685K) said "the plan the US submitted is not legally binding," adding that "partisan intransigence and GOP opposition" led Obama to make "robust use of his executive authority," and the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/31, Gilmour, 380K) cautioned that the partisan debate "leaves some in the international community wondering if they can rely on a ten-year commitment from an executive who will be in power for less than two of those years." On its website, the [New Republic](#) (3/31, Leber, 165K) similarly reported that a "successful" international "deal rests in part on how well the White House can assure the rest of the world that the Obama administration can overcome political (conservative) intransigence."

The plan, says [USA Today](#) (4/1, Jackson, 4.95M), would "cut US greenhouse gases by up to 28% over the next decade, a formal proposal to the United Nations designed to be part of a global agreement on climate change." White House senior adviser Brian Deese called "this submission...ambitious and achievable," and argued it "can be done 'using laws that are already on the books.'" [Bloomberg News](#) (3/31, Roston, 2.94M) notes that "just six governments have submitted plans so far: the US, Russia, the EU, Switzerland, Mexico, and Norway." While "ideally, all the policies together will add up to an agreement at talks in Paris at the end of the year to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius...the talks are likely to come nowhere near that figure."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/1, Warrick, 5.17M) notes "Administration officials said most of the reductions would come from regulations already approved or proposed, including tougher fuel-economy standards for vehicles and a proposed curb on carbon emissions from coal-fired power plants." The Post adds that "the details of the U.S. commitments come less than a week after Mexico vowed to cut its greenhouse gases by 22 percent, becoming the first emerging-market country to announce a commitment leading up to the Paris talks." The [AP](#) (4/1, Lederman), [Reuters](#) (4/1, Volcovic), and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/1, Mauldin, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) run similar reports this morning, while [Politico](#) (3/31, Restuccia, 669K) notes "Green groups praised the administration's move" and [TIME](#) (3/31, Worland, 19.19M), on its website, quoted Natural Resources Defense Council president Rhea Suh as saying that "she believes the plan can be 'met' and 'even exceeded.'"

[Mother Jones](#) (3/31, McDonnell, 719K) also said "environmental groups' immediate reactions to the US submission were mostly positive," but the [Huffington Post](#) (3/31, Sheppard, 281K) noted that some "were...critical of the submission, arguing that the US could make a more ambitious commitment." Greenpeace legislative representative Kyle Ash, for example, "said in a statement that the pledge 'begins to treat the wound, but does not stop the bleeding.'"

[Vice](#) (3/31, Dattaro, 1.28M) says the document submitted to the UN, "known as an Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), formalizes a commitment made by Obama in November as part of a joint US-China pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." [The Hill](#) (3/31, Cama, 224K) notes, however, Deese "said the UN submission goes beyond the China deal by detailing how the United States would achieve the reduction." [The Blaze](#) (3/31, Lucas, 2.17M) quoted State Department special envoy for climate change Todd Stern as telling reporters, "This puts the US in a leadership position going into the climate negotiations."

The [National Journal](#) (3/31, Plautz, Subscription Publication, 111K) notes that "in a letter supporting the pledge, more than 100 Democrats from both chambers emphasized the country's 'responsibility to lead.'" Wrote the Democrats, "One of the three pillars of the Climate Action Plan is to lead international efforts to address global climate change. ... As we have seen time and time again, other countries will join us, if America leads the way."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/1, 5.17M) calls yesterday's blueprint "an important step that should prod other nations to follow suit." The Post adds that "there is plenty

Republican strategist Lisa Boothe said on [Fox News Your World with Neil Cavuto](#) (3/31, 1.04M), "This isn't what's in the best interests for the country. What this is about is...Obama looking to cement his legacy on climate change." China "is going to emit more emissions in one month than we're going to be reducing in an entire year, and what this is is hundreds of billions of dollars in regulation and we're going to send job overseas. It's a job killer."

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (4/1, 4.95M) describes the GOP's "actions on climate change" as ranging "from oblivious to laughable to reckless." Inhofe, cited in the editorial for his snowball stunt earlier this year, responds in an [op-ed](#) (4/1, Inhofe, 4.95M) in which he argues that "the debate on man-driven climate change is not over," and that "alarmists are distracting Americans from the pain the Obama administration's regulations will inflict on our economy while failing to make a significant impact on climate change."

OBAMA COMMUTES SENTENCES OF 22 FEDERAL DRUG OFFENDERS. [USA Today](#) (4/1, Korte, 4.95M) reports that President Obama "commuted the sentences of 22 convicted federal prisoners" on Tuesday, "shortening their sentences for drug-related crimes." Eight of those prisoners were serving life sentences, and all but one of the 22 "will be released on July 28." The White House said President Obama "made the move in order to grant to older prisoners the same leniency that would be given to people convicted of the same crimes today. 'Had they been sentenced under current laws and policies, many of these individuals would have already served their time and paid their debt to society,' White House Counsel Neil Eggleston said in a statement. 'Because many were convicted under an outdated sentencing regime, they served years – in some cases more than a decade – longer than individuals convicted today of the same crime.'" USA notes that by issuing the commutations on Tuesday, Obama "has more than doubled the number he's granted in his presidency."

The [AP](#) (4/1, Superville) reports that the White House said the commutations continue the President's "push to make the justice system fairer by reducing harsh sentences that were handed down under outdated guidelines." In December, Obama "issued his first round of commutations under new guidelines that were put in place to cut costs by reducing the growing prison population and grant leniency to nonviolent drug offenders sentenced to yearslong terms of confinement away from society." Obama "has now approved a total of 43 commutations." Eggleston "noted that Obama's predecessor, George W. Bush, had commuted 11 sentences during his two terms."

The [Huffington Post](#) (3/31, Stein, 281K) reports that the "men and women granted the reprieves had been imprisoned under an 'outdated sentencing regime,' the administration concluded." Leading up to Tuesday's announcement, President Obama "has tried to revamp his administration's approach to clemency, telling The Huffington Post in a recent interview that he felt recipients should more broadly reflect the entire applicant pool and not lean toward well-connected white-collar criminals." Obama "sent a letter to each of the commutation recipients encouraging them to take advantage of their post-prison opportunity."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "*The French Surveillance State.*" In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (4/1, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) criticizes the latest anti-terrorism bill sent to the French Parliament by Prime Minister Manuel Valls, writing that while "the French are understandably jittery after the Paris and Tunis attacks, and they are alarmed by the radicalization of some in France who have fallen prey to jihadist recruitment on the Internet," the government "has a duty to protect citizens' democratic rights from unduly expansive and intrusive government surveillance. French lawmakers should not approve the bill unless judges are given a proper role in authorizing government surveillance, vague definitions of what constitutes a terrorist threat are struck from the bill and freedom of the press is protected."

"*Saudi Arabia's Ominous Reach Into Yemen.*" The [New York Times](#) (4/1, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says in an editorial that "the Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen threatens to turn what has been a civil war between competing branches of Islam into a wider regional struggle involving Iran. It could also destroy any hope of stability in Yemen. ... It would be a catastrophic mistake for Saudi Arabia and other Arab states to allow the Yemen civil war to become the catalyst for a larger sectarian Shiite-Sunni war with Iran." The Times urges President Obama to make this case to the Saudi government.

WASHINGTON POST. "*Egypt's 'Meaningless' Rule Of Law.*" The [Washington Post](#) (4/1, 5.17M) in an editorial is highly critical of the President's decision to lift the freeze on military aid to Egypt, describing the case of Shaimaa al-Sabbagh who in attempting to memorialize the dead of the 2011 protests in Cairo's Tahrir Square by laying flowers there, was killed, according to witnesses, by "masked police" who "fired birdshot into the group from behind at close range." Now prosecutors are charging fellow members of her political party, and witnesses, "with participating in an unauthorized protest." An unnamed policeman is also being charged with the shooting, but no date has been set for trial. The Post concludes by stating that the President did not say "what U.S. interest is served by backing a regime that engages in the brutal and lawless oppression of women."

"*An Official Emissions Plan.*" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (4/1, 5.17M) calls the President's climate change blueprint "an important step that should prod other nations to follow suit." The Post adds that "there is plenty of room for responsible criticism of the president's plan," such as Sen. Lamar Alexander's complaint that "it puts too much emphasis on wind power and too little on nuclear." However, "Alexander properly did not counter with inaction as a viable plan," and "his fellow Republicans could learn something from his example."

"*Gas Station Law Need Fixing.*" The [Washington Post](#) (4/1, 5.17M) says in an editorial that District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser should seek the repeal of a District law prohibiting the sale or conversion of land with a gas station on it "without prior approval from something called the Gas Station Advisory Board," saying that the measure, intended to protect local businesses, "creates a powerful web of restrictions on property rights for no clear public purpose."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "*Hillary Obstructs Congress.*" In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/1, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that if Hillary Clinton wiped her email server clean after the State Department asked her to return her public records to the Department, it was obstruction of Congress, and a violation of her promise to work with Congress on the Benghazi probe and make the process as "transparent as possible."

"*Obama's Quickie Union Favor.*" In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/1, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) criticizes the low volume of media coverage of the President's veto of legislation to overturn an NLRB rule, and expresses outrage over what it considers an Obama favor to his labor allies. To the Journal, which says the NLRB only passed the rule in a 3-2 party-line vote, Republicans had justly attempted to overturn a regulation that is biased against businesses and essentially unfair.

"*Close Encounters Of The Medicaid Kind.*" An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/1, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) praises the Supreme Court's decision in *Armstrong v. Exceptional Child Care Center*, in which a group of in-home care companies sued the state of Idaho for setting Medicaid reimbursement rates too low. The Journal notes that the Medicaid law provides a remedy under which HHS can punish states that fail to comply with Federal standards, and with its decision, the Court declined to turn the entitlement into a private right.

"*Europe's Digital Single Mistake.*" The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/1, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes on the European Commission's plan to develop a so-called digital single market (DSM), ostensibly in order to prevent companies from setting different prices for consumers in different regions, a practice known as "geo-blocking." The Journal says that while regulations can make online commerce difficult in Europe, the plan for a DSM is an attempt to over-regulate companies into forming a uniform market that it could not previously and will only hamper online commerce. The editorial adds that this could prevent those companies from organically creating such a market.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Indiana Uproar Reflects Cultural Change](#)

[A Most Rare Couch Find](#)

[County Wads Into Fray On Wages](#)

[Fathoming A Deep Mystery](#)

[Islamic State May Be Expanding, But Ties Are Deceptive](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Iran Nuclear Talks Miss Deadline](#)

[Lufthansa Finds Co-Pilot's 2009 Email On His Depression](#)

[Ex-Dictator Buhari Defeats Incumbent In Nigeria Vote](#)

[Wal-Mart Presses Suppliers To Cut Prices](#)

New York Times:

[Nigeria Elects Ex-Military Ruler In Bid To Bolster Its Democracy](#)
[Lufthansa Says Pilot Reported Deep Depression](#)
[Governor Allergic To Dogs May Run Against Political History](#)
[Fleeting Stability For A Woman Charged With Killing Her Son](#)

Washington Post:

[Ex-Dictator Wins Nigerian Election](#)
[A Debate The GOP Wanted To Avoid](#)
[Group With Secret Donors Will Aid Bush On Policy](#)
[Iran Talks Miss Cutoff](#)
[For Benched Va. Teen It's Not Just A Game](#)

Financial Times:

[Emerging Market Forex Fall Threatens West's Growth](#)
[Nigerian Electorate Makes History By Handing Victory To Challenger Buhari](#)
[Hewlett-Packard Files London Lawsuit Seeking \\$5bn From Autonomy Founder](#)

Washington Times:

[Date Of Japanese Speech Angers Veterans](#)
[Supporters Of Religious Freedom Law Dig In](#)
[Declaration Of Tikrit Victory Over Islamic State May Be Premature](#)
[Benghazi Panel Asks For Clinton Interview](#)
[China's Cyberwarfare Abilities Gaining On US](#)
[Obama's Climate Deal Faces Senate Roadblock](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; Washington Fugitive Escape; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; California Wildfire; Washington Landslide; Severe Weather; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; Iran Nuclear Talks-Deadline Extension; Yemen-Saudi Airstrikes; Former NFL Player-Murder Trial; Kidnapping Hoax.
CBS Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; JetBlue Pilot Mental Health-Lawsuit; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; Indiana-Religious Freedom Restoration Act; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Washington Fugitive Escape; Iran Nuclear Talks-Deadline Extension; Pharmacist Group-Execution Drug Sale; Department Of Education-College Watch List; Severe Weather-NASA Saucer Test.
NBC Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; Washington Fugitive Escape; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Iran Nuclear Talks-Deadline Extension; ISIL-Iraqi Forces; Hillary Clinton-Benghazi Committee Request; Daily Show Host Replacement; Health-Back Pain.

Network TV At A Glance:

Indiana-Religious Freedom Act – 8 minutes, 20 seconds
Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health – 7 minutes, 5 seconds
Boston Marathon Bombing Trial – 5 minutes, 5 seconds
Washington Fugitive Escape – 4 minutes, 30 seconds
Iran Nuclear Talks-Deadline Extension – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Severe Weather – 1 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC Arkansas-Religious Freedom Bill; Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; Iran Nuclear Talks-Deadline Extension; Singer Joni Mitchell Hospitalized.
CBS Iran Nuclear Talks-Deadline Extension; Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; Arkansas-Religious Freedom Bill; Los Angeles-Getty Oil Heir Found Dead.
FOX Iran Nuclear Talks-Deadline Extension; Iran Nuclear Talks-Netanyahu; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; Arkansas-Religious Freedom Bill; Germanwings Crash-Video Discovered; Tikrit Battle; Los Angeles-Getty Oil Heir Found Dead; Asian Stock Market.
NPR Iran Nuclear Talks-Deadline Extension; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Tikrit Battle; Spain-ISIL Recruiters Arrested; Thailand-Marshall Law Lifted; Los Angeles-Getty Oil Heir Found Dead; Singer Joni Mitchell Hospitalized.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets the Vice President for lunch.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets the President for lunch.

US Senate No scheduled events.

US House March 31 – April 10. — The House will be in a district work period until Monday, April 13. No votes are expected in the House during the recess.

Other GW – AMERICAN DIPLOMACY AT RISK — 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Speakers: Ambassador Thomas Pickering, Chairman, American Academy of Diplomacy; Ambassador Marc Grossman, Vice Chairman, American Academy of Diplomacy. <http://elliott.gwu.edu/events-calendar?trumbaEmbedview%3Devent%26eventid%3D114140608> Location: Lindner Family Commons, Room 602, Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E Street, NW.

CSIS – TOMORROW'S ARMY — 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Conversation with Under Secretary Carson to discuss the Army's vision for the role of landpower in future operations. Secretary Carson will also discuss the Army's approach to innovation, technological and otherwise. <http://csis.org/event/tomorrows-army> Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, Room 212-A, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue, NW.

'COOL STAMPS' — 1 p.m. The US Postal Service kicks off National Card and Letter Writing Month with the First-Day-of-Issue stamp dedication ceremony for the From Me to You Forever stamps. The event is free and open to the public. With Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC); Sr. Dir., Scholastic Family and Community Group Dominique Young; US Postal Service Judicial Officer William Campbell; Founder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Friendship Public Charter Schools Donald Hense. Location: Friendship Public Charter Schools-Woodbridge Campus (Gymnasium), 2959 Carlton Ave., NE.

EESI – PREPARING FOR NATURAL DISASTERS — 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. White House Task Force Resiliency Recommendations on How Can the Federal Government Help Prepare Local Communities for Natural Disasters? Speakers: Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director, Environmental Planning & Community Resilience, Broward County, FL; Sam Ricketts, Director, Washington DC Office of Governor Jay Inslee (D-WA); Carolyn Berndt, Program Director for Sustainability, Federal Advocacy, National League of Cities. RSVP at: www.eesi.org/briefings/view/040115resiliencersvp Location: 485 Russell.

SYSTEM OF A DOWN – ARMENIAN GENOCIDE — 2:30 p.m. The Grammy-winning alternative rock band System Of A Down will join Rep. Adam Schiff (D-California), Turkish historian Taner Akcam, and the Armenian National Committee of America in a telephone press call to discuss the upcoming 100 year anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and efforts to push the Obama Administration and the Turkish government to recognize the genocide. Dial-in Number: 785-424-1052 or 800-894-5910, Conference ID is "SOAD."

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "The White House just announced that President Obama will attend a summit in Kenya this July. When asked if he's ever been to Kenya, Obama was like, 'Of course, I was bor – I was bored.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "In fact, yesterday, former New Hampshire Governor John Sununu said that President Obama is just asking for criticism by going to Kenya. Then Obama was like 'Oh nunu you didn't.'"

when they go through the front, Biden always gets stuck in the revolving door.”

Seth Meyers: “There’s been a lot of talk about gay rights and gay issues this week, and Senator Rand Paul told BuzzFeed this week, ‘I don’t think I’ve ever used the phrase ‘gay rights.’ So, it sounds like he’s also never going to use the phrase, ‘I’m president.’”

Seth Meyers: “President Obama has announced new plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 28 percent. That plan, just so you know what that means, the plan would make it illegal to film anymore ‘Fast and the Furious’ movies.”

Conan O’Brien: “A lot of anger over Indiana’s law that many say discriminates against gay people. Earlier today, NASCAR’s chief communications officer said that NASCAR is disappointed in Indiana’s religious freedom law. So, do you hear that Indiana – you’re not progressive enough for NASCAR.”

Conan O’Brien: “Indiana’s Governor Mike Pence said the new law is not a license to discriminate against gays. He said think of it as more of a learner’s permit.”

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Conversation Contents

Sec. Jewell, Gov. Ige, Senators Schatz and Hirono Join Community Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument

"Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>
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To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Sec. Jewell, Gov. Ige, Senators Schatz and Hirono Join Community Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument

March 31, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
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Sec. Jewell, Gov. Ige, Senators Schatz and Hirono Join Community Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument

National Park Service will now undertake collaborative public planning process to establish, interpret monument site

O'AHU, HI – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today joined Hawai'i Governor David Ige, U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, National Park Service (NPS) Deputy Director Peggy O'Dell, state and local officials, and community leaders to dedicate Honouliuli National Monument, the site of the largest and longest-used confinement site in Hawai'i for Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants and prisoners of war during World War II.

In February, [President Obama used the Antiquities Act to establish the new national monument](#), which is now the fifth site in the park system associated with the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

"As one of the newest units of the National Park System, Honouliuli National Monument speaks of a painful but important chapter in our involvement in World War II – the unjust internment of Japanese Americans and other citizens whose civil rights were trampled by the prejudice and fear of the time," Jewell said. "I applaud President Obama for establishing this monument and all of those in Hawai'i who worked so hard to ensure this place is preserved and the story is told for future generations."

The site is managed by the National Park Service, which will conduct a management planning process with full public involvement. The NPS in March signed a cooperative agreement with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i to help provide educational and interpretive opportunities of the site and to promote awareness of Japanese American internment experiences during the Pacific War.

"The National Park Service is proud to have Honouliuli National Monument among our sites that share important lessons from America's history," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "In dedicating this new national monument, we are recommitting ourselves to share the difficult stories of this place so that they are never forgotten and so future generations can learn from past mistakes."

"Today, we are proud to be among many friends and supporters to welcome U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to Honolulu and to thank her for supporting the preservation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp," said Carole Hayashino, president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i. "This day honors our past – the memories of the former internees – and celebrates the future. The Honouliuli National Monument is a gift to future generations who will now have the opportunity to visit the former internment camp site and learn about the unique World War II experience of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i and lessons of civil liberties and the U.S. Constitution. Honouliuli was lost and forgotten for many years. The new Honouliuli National Monument will ensure that people will never forget."

Monsanto Company donated the land for the new monument. The University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu is actively involved in research and interpretation of the site and has signed an agreement with the NPS to assure public access over its lands adjacent to the site.

"We're honored to participate in the celebration of the new Honouliuli National Monument and reach this historic milestone in the community's efforts to preserve the Honouliuli Internment Camp as part of the U.S. National Park System," said Alan Takemoto, Monsanto's Community Affairs Manager for Hawaii.

collaboration, from donating 123 acres for establishment of the National Monument, to working on site preparations with distinctive organizations like the National Park Service, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and the University of Hawaii.”

The 155-acre site, located at the bottom of a deep gulch not far from Pearl Harbor, opened in March 1943, and interned Japanese and European Americans and resident aliens, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. After the war, it was largely forgotten and overgrown with vegetation until it was identified in 2002.

Japanese American organizations and elected leaders in Hawai‘i have strongly supported preserving and interpreting the camp. In 2010, Congress authorized the Department of the Interior to conduct a study of the site for possible inclusion in the National Park System.

More information about the new monument is available at www.nps.gov/hono.

The Antiquities Act was first exercised by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

President Obama has used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 16 national monuments. Altogether, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as César E. Chávez National Monument in California, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

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Conversation Contents

For Review: Hawaii press release

Attachments:

/463. For Review: Hawaii press release/1.1 03-30-15 Honolulu Internment Dedication NR DRAFT v4.doc

/463. For Review: Hawaii press release/5.1 03-30-15 Honolulu Internment Dedication NR Final.doc

"Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

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Subject: For Review: Hawaii press release
Attachments: 03-30-15 Honolulu Internment Dedication NR DRAFT v4.doc

Attached is an updated press release for tomorrow. Please send edits directly to Emily Beyer. We are shooting to get this out around 4:00 PM EDT on Tuesday.

FYI -- This version has been approved by the Secretary. Losing wifi in a few minutes but will check when we land in Hawaii in 6+ hours.

NPS -- let me know if you want a Jarvis / O'Dell quote. If so, please send over and I'd be happy to include it. We are using quotes from Monsanto and JCCH so I tried to keep our voice with just the Secretary but happy to add another one if you would like.

Thanks!

Best,

Blake

--

Blake Androff
Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 31 2015 09:22:48 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: For Review: Hawaii press release

Good here.

On Mar 30, 2015, at 10:48 PM, "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Attached is an updated press release for tomorrow. Please send edits directly to Emily Beyer. We are shooting to get this out around 4:00 PM EDT on Tuesday.

FYI -- This version has been approved by the Secretary. Losing wifi in a few minutes but will check when we land in Hawaii in 6+ hours.

NPS -- let me know if you want a Jarvis / O'Dell quote. If so, please send over and I'd be happy to include it. We are using quotes from Monsanto and JCCH so I tried to keep our voice with just the Secretary but happy to add another one if you would like.

Thanks!

Best,

Blake

--

Blake Androff
Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

"Slayton, April" <april_slayton@nps.gov>

From: "Slayton, April" <april_slayton@nps.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 31 2015 12:59:58 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Androff, Blake" <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: For Review: Hawaii press release

Can we please add the following quote from Director Jarvis to the press release? Apologies for the late notice - I was just able to hear from the Director.

"The National Park Service is proud to have Honouliuli National Monument among our sites that share important lessons from America's history," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "In dedicating this new national monument, we are recommitting ourselves to share the difficult stories of this place so that they are never forgotten and so future generations can learn from past mistakes."

--
April Slayton
Chief Spokesperson and Chief of Public Affairs
National Park Service
(202) 208-6843
Visit us at www.nps.gov

Inline image 1

The National Park Service's Centennial goal: To connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates. Find Your Park with us!

On Mon, Mar 30, 2015 at 10:47 PM, Androff, Blake <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>

From: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 31 2015 13:02:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Slayton, April" <april_slayton@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: For Review: Hawaii press release

Absolutely. Thanks.

Blake Androff
Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: [\(202\) 208-6416](tel:2022086416) | Cell: [\(202\) 725-7435](tel:2027257435)

On Mar 31, 2015, at 9:00 AM, Slayton, April <april_slayton@nps.gov> wrote:

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<image.png>

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Blake Androff
Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 31 2015 13:39:54 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: For Review: Hawaii press release
Attachments: 03-30-15 Honolulu Internment Dedication NR Final.doc

Hi all,

Attached is the final version of this release. We'll now aim to send at 4:30pm ET to allow for notifications, etc.

Thanks,

Emily

On Tue, Mar 31, 2015 at 3:02 PM, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Absolutely. Thanks.

Blake Androff
Director of Communications
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: [\(202\) 208-6416](tel:202-208-6416) | Cell: [\(202\) 725-7435](tel:202-725-7435)

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April Slayton
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<image.png>

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Office: (202) 208-6416 | Cell: (202) 725-7435

--

Emily Beyer
Deputy Press Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5205 | Cell: (202) 568-0168
emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

March 31, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Monica L. Ivey (Monsanto), mlivey@monsanto.com
Denise Park (JCCH), park@jcch.com

Sec. Jewell, Gov. Ige, Senators Schatz and Hirono Join Community Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument *National Park Service will now undertake collaborative public planning process to establish, interpret monument site*

O‘AHU, HI – Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell today joined Hawai‘i Governor David Ige, U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, National Park Service (NPS) Deputy Director Peggy O‘Dell, state and local officials, and community leaders to dedicate Honouliuli National Monument, the site of the largest and longest-used confinement site in Hawai‘i for Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants and prisoners of war during World War II.

In February, [President Obama used the Antiquities Act to establish the new national monument](#), which is now the fifth site in the park system associated with the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

“As one of the newest units of the National Park System, Honouliuli National Monument speaks of a painful but important chapter in our involvement in World War II – the unjust internment of Japanese Americans and other citizens whose civil rights were trampled by the prejudice and fear of the time,” Jewell said. “I applaud President Obama for establishing this monument and all of those in Hawai‘i who worked so hard to ensure this place is preserved and the story is told for future generations.”

The site is managed by the National Park Service, which will conduct a management planning process with full public involvement. The NPS in March signed a cooperative agreement with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i to help provide educational and interpretive opportunities of the site and to promote awareness of Japanese American internment experiences during the Pacific War.

[quote from JCCH]

Monsanto Company donated the land for the new monument. The University of Hawai‘i -West O‘ahu is actively involved in research and interpretation of the site and has signed an agreement with the NPS to assure public access over its lands adjacent to the site.

“We’re honored to participate in the celebration of the new Honouliuli National Monument and reach this historic milestone in the community’s efforts to preserve the Honouliuli Internment Camp as part of the U.S. National Park System,” said Alan Takemoto, Monsanto’s Community Affairs Manager for Hawaii. “Transferring ownership of this land to the Federal Government is the result of years of planning and coordination. We’re very proud to be part of this collaboration, from donating 123 acres for establishment of the National Monument, to working on site preparations with distinctive organizations like the National Park Service, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and the University of Hawaii.”

The 155-acre site, located at the bottom of a deep gulch not far from Pearl Harbor, opened in March 1943, and interned Japanese and European Americans and resident aliens, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. After the war, it was largely forgotten and overgrown with vegetation until it was identified in 2002.

Japanese American organizations and elected leaders in Hawai‘i have strongly supported preserving and interpreting the camp. In 2010, Congress authorized the Department of the Interior to conduct a study of the site for possible inclusion in the National Park System.

More information about the new monument is available at www.nps.gov/hono.

The Antiquities Act was first exercised by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 to designate Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. Since then, 16 presidents have used this authority to protect unique natural and historic features in America, such as the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty, and Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients.

President Obama has used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand 16 national monuments. Altogether, he has protected more than 260 million acres of public lands and waters – more than any other President – as well as preserved sites that help tell the story of significant people or extraordinary events in American history, such as César E. Chávez National Monument in California, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland, and Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

March 31, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw (Interior), Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Monica L. Ivey (Monsanto), mlivey@monsanto.com
Denise Park (JCCH), park@jcch.com

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"The National Park Service is proud to have Honouliuli National Monument among our sites that share important lessons from America's history," said National Park Service

Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "In dedicating this new national monument, we are recommitting ourselves to share the difficult stories of this place so that they are never forgotten and so future generations can learn from past mistakes."

"Today, we are proud to be among many friends and supporters to welcome U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to Honolulu and to thank her for supporting the preservation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp," said Carole Hayashino, president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i. "This day honors our past – the memories of the former internees – and celebrates the future. The Honouliuli National Monument is a gift to future generations who will now have the opportunity to visit the former internment camp site and learn about the unique World War II experience of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i and lessons of civil liberties and the U.S. Constitution. Honouliuli was lost and forgotten for many years. The new Honouliuli National Monument will ensure that people will never forget."

Monsanto Company donated the land for the new monument. The University of Hawai'i -West O'ahu is actively involved in research and interpretation of the site and has signed an agreement with the NPS to assure public access over its lands adjacent to the site.

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####

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 31, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Tue Mar 31 2015 04:59:34 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, March 31, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR OFFICIALS TO ATTEND CEREMONY DEDICATING HONOULIULI AS NATIONAL MONUMENT. [KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (3/30, 73K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Director of the NPS Peggy O'Dell will be in Hawaii on Tuesday for a private ceremony to dedicate Honouliuli National Monument. Meanwhile, Monsanto Hawaii is "working to donate an additional 22 acres to the site."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Pacific Business News](#) (3/31, Shimogawa, Subscription Publication, 45K) and [Garden News](#) (3/31).

SECRETARY JEWELL HEADLINES 2015 ALBRIGHT LECTURE. [UC Berkeley](#) (3/30) says that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "appeared in conversation with UC President Janet Napolitano, historian and author Douglas Brinkley and UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks for the campus's 2015 Horace M. Albright Lecture in Conservation." The Albright Lecture was "one of the highlights of 'Parks for Science, Science for Parks: The Next Century,' a conference celebrating the National Parks' centennial, and UC Berkeley's role in the parks' establishment, on campus last week."

FEDERAL AGENCIES MOVING FORWARD WITH NEW HYDROPOWER RULES. [The Hill](#) (3/31, Devaney, 224K) reports the Obama Administration is "moving forward with new rules for conducting hydropower license hearings." The Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior and Department of Commerce announced Monday that "they are issuing a joint rule that revises the procedures for holding expedited hearings to resolve disputes over hydropower licenses."

REPORTERS: FEDERAL OFFICIALS BECOMING INACCESSIBLE. In a piece running nearly 1,900 words, the [Washington Post](#) (3/31, Farhi, 5.17M) writes that reporters covering many Federal agencies are experiencing frustration with the lack of responsiveness from officials. They "recite tales with similar outlines: An agency spokesman – frequently a political appointee – rejects the reporter's request for interviews, offers partial or nonresponsive replies, or delays responding at all until after the journalist's deadline has passed." Those requests that are granted "are closely monitored, reporters say, with a press 'minder' sitting in," or are conducted via email so that officials can "carefully craft and vet their replies." A coalition of media organizations asked the White House to let Federal workers know they can and should answer media queries. The President "hasn't acted on the suggestion," but Press Secretary Josh Earnest "defended the president's record." Earnest wrote in reply, "While there is more work to do, the White House and federal agencies are far more accessible and accountable than ever before."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION DEAL WITH OREGON RANCHERS CELEBRATED. Additional coverage of the sage grouse conservation agreement with Oregon ranchers was provided by the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (3/31, 56K),

the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (3/31, 172K), and the [KLIX-AM Twin Falls \(ID\)](#) Twin Falls, ID (3/31, 492).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: AMERICAN EXPRESS PLEDGES \$5 MILLION TO BOOST VOLUNTEERISM ON PUBLIC LANDS.

Additional coverage that “the American Express Foundation has committed to donating \$5 million over the next three years to boost volunteerism on public lands” was provided by [Inside Philanthropy](#) (3/31).

RECREATION EXERTING POLITICAL CLOUT. In a piece for the [Idaho Statesman](#) (3/30, 196K), Roger Phillips writes that recreation’s political clout is increasing, according to a report in the Outdoor Alliance. The Alliance “points out that the appointment of Sally Jewell, former CEO of REI, as the Department of Interior Secretary, was a landmark shift in the clout of recreation at a federal level, and ‘like a snowball rolling downhill, a clear signal of gathering momentum for outdoor recreation.’”

HISTORY OF DINOSAUR SKELETON RECOUNTED. In his column for [The Robesonian \(NC\)](#) (3/31, 43K), Jaymie Baxley writes about “Sue,” the “largest, most complete Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton ever discovered.” The fossil was “found beneath a slice of Cheyenne River Indian Reservation owned by Maurice Williams, a member of the Sioux tribe,” but since the Interior Department “held the land in trust, Sue was considered property of the U.S. government.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

YOSEMITE BIGHORN SHEEP RELOCATED. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/30, 323K) reports that “the next chapter in the restoration of the iconic bighorn sheep was played out over the last several days as two herds were moved into Yosemite and Sequoia national parks, federal officials announced Monday.” According to the article, “twelve animals — nine females and three males — were moved from Inyo National Forest and Sequoia National Park into the Cathedral Range in Yosemite.” Also, “seven females were relocated in Sequoia to the Laurel Creek area.”

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (3/31, 3.41M) and the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (3/31, 694K).

SUPPORTERS OF PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK TO HOST TELEPHONE TOWN HALL EVENT. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/30, 166K) reports that “Lucas St. Clair and the president of the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a telephone town hall event on Wednesday showcasing the proposed national park and recreation area in the region, St. Clair’s spokesman said Monday.” David Farmer, a former spokesman for Gov. John Baldacci and St. Clair’s spokesman, said, “It could be a couple thousand people who call in. We see some momentum building, but there is some confusion about what the park and recreation area would and would not do that we want to clear up if we can.”

DIG PLANNED AT REVOLUTIONARY SITE IN NEW JERSEY. The [AP](#) (3/31) reports that “researchers are digging into the New Jersey site of a major Revolutionary War battle.” According to the article, “officials are planning an archaeological dig for June at the site now known as Red Bank Battlefield Park in the southern New Jersey town of National Park.” The NPS is “contributing \$46,000 in a grant to help fund the first such undertaking ever at the site.”

PLAN FOR METRO STATION AT POTOMAC YARD IN ALEXANDRIA ADVANCES. The [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Lazo, 5.17M) reports that “a new Metro station in Alexandria’s growing Potomac Yard community is a step closer to reality with the release of a federal environmental impact study that says the project would spur economic development and boost transit.” The report, “released last week by the Federal Transit Administration, details the station’s potential impact on the community, overall development, wetlands and views from the George Washington Memorial Parkway.” The article notes that “the proposal that some have called the preferred option would intrude on the parkway’s scenic easement and require the purchase of 0.16 acres of parkway property from the National Park Service, the report said.” However, “in a letter to the city, the Park Service says it would support the construction of the station pending a negotiation of a benefits agreement.”

NPS REVISES THOUGHTS ON TRANSMISSION OF DISEASE BY PACK ANIMAL IN ALASKA’S NATIONAL PARKS. The [Huffington Post](#) (3/31, News, 281K) reports that “in January, the National Park Service proposed a ban on domesticated sheep, goats, alpacas and llamas in Alaska’s national parks after someone tried to take a pet goat into Denali National Park’s Savage Alpine Trail, an area utilized by Dall sheep, according to Denali National Park and Preserve public affairs officer Kris Fister.” However, “in a Park Service compendium published in mid-March, officials wrote that the transmission of disease from llamas or alpacas to wild sheep or mountain goats has not been documented, and the likelihood is ‘probably low, although still possible.’” NPS regional communications officer John Quinley said the service “doesn’t have a ‘hard number’ on the amount of pack animals traveling through national parks, but it estimates ‘very few.’”

HUMORIST BOMBECK’S OHIO HOME ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (3/30, 605K) reports that “the suburban ranch-style home where humor writer Erma Bombeck launched her nationally syndicated column has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF “FIND YOUR PARK” CAMPAIGN. Additional coverage of the “Find Your Park” campaign was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/30, Brett Zongker |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/31, Zongker, 2.28M), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/31, Press, 804K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/31, Zongker, 1.37M), the [Lowell \(MA\) Sun](#) (3/31, 77K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/31, 405K), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/31, Prettyman, 405K), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/31, 538K), the [Baltimore \(MD\) Sun](#) (3/30, 810K), [Bloomberg](#) (3/31, 2.94M), [ABC News](#) (3/31, 3.41M), [Voice of America](#) (3/31, 70K), [WJLA-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (3/31, 12K), [KSBW-TV Monterey \(CA\)](#) Monterey, CA (3/31, 32K), and [KNXV-TV Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (3/31, 130K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BILL INTRODUCED TO ALLOW PADDLING ON NATIONAL PARK RIVERS. Additional coverage of H.R. 974, “a bill that would allow paddling on rivers in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks,” was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/30, 49K).

Bureau of Land Management:

PROPOSED GRAND CANYON WATERSHED NATIONAL MONUMENT DRAWS MIXED REACTION. The [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (3/31, 23K) reports that “a proposal to designate a vast, sparsely populated area surrounding the Grand Canyon as a national monument is getting mixed reactions.” According to the article, “about 100 people gathered in Flagstaff to weigh in on the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument” at a meeting hosted by Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick. Kirkpatrick “heard from environmental groups that want to protect the region’s water, large-diameter trees and wildlife corridors” as well as “from the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and sportsmen’s groups that oppose the effort to sidestep Congress and questioned the expense of running a national monument.”

BLM INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE VIOLATION AGAINST DEVELOPER JIM RHODES. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (3/31, 1.07M) reports that “a proposed land exchange in the Red Lake area between Las Vegas developer Jim Rhodes and the Bureau of Land Management may be in trouble.” The BLM is “investigating a possible trespassing violation against Rhodes.” The article notes that “while federal violations could throw a wrench in Rhodes’ proposed land exchange, officials say it won’t stop him from drilling more wells and plowing land being blamed for massive dust storms in Red Lake, Valle Vista and Golden Valley.”

BLM SEEKS TRAIL INVENTORY IN COLORADO. The [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (3/31, 1K) reports that the BLM “seeks the public’s help in reviewing its road and trail inventory for lands managed by the White River Field Office in northwestern Colorado.” White River Field Manager Kent Walter said, “If you use the roads and trails within the White River Field Office, we would like to hear from you.” According to the article, “over the next several years, the field office will undertake a comprehensive travel-management planning process looking at the roads and trails — collectively called routes — that it manages.”

NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY TO ATTEND HEARING ON FIGHT OVER FEDERAL LAND HEADS. [KNPR-FM](#) Las Vegas (3/31, 3K) reports that “nearly a year after the very public fight between Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and the Bureau of Land Management, Bundy will be going to Carson City to talk to the Legislature about federal control of land in Nevada.” According to the article, “Bundy and his family are going to be at a hearing Tuesday concerning Assembly Bill 408, which would prohibit the federal government from owning or managing lands it did not acquire without the consent of the Legislature.”

FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT CRITICIZED. In commentary for the [Daily Signal](#) (3/30), Marshal Wilson, a member of the Young Leaders Program at The Heritage Foundation, writes that “the federal government is ill-suited to manage vast amounts of land in the West,” according to a study released by the Property and Environment Research Center. The study found that “the federal government loses money managing valuable natural resources on federal lands, while states generate significant financial returns from state trust lands.”

SUPPORT URGED FOR NORTH CAROLINA’S PLAN TO MIX MUSTANG POPULATIONS. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Ferguson, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), Russ Ferguson writes that development has separated Spanish Mustangs on the Outer Banks in North Carolina and they are now isolated in two different areas, and as a result, each population has become severely inbred. Ferguson criticizes the Interior Department for opposing a plan by North Carolina to mix the two populations.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FEDERAL, STATE OFFICIALS HOPE TO SAVE GRIZZLIES IN NORTH CASCADES. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that “federal and state agencies in Washington state’s rugged North Cascades are racing to save the iconic grizzly bear before the 600-pound behemoths disappear.” The NPS and FWS are “leading an effort that both agencies concede is long overdue to develop a formal plan to restore grizzlies in 9,800 square miles on the U.S. side of the North Cascades ecosystem.” The agencies “last month formally launched an environmental impact statement (EIS) to study a host of alternatives to restore grizzly populations across one of the largest contiguous swaths of undeveloped land in the Lower 48 states.”

ABUSED BEAR FINDS NEW HOME IN COLORADO. [NPR](#) (3/30, 1.58M) reports that “a badly abused Peruvian bear named Cholita is coming to a sanctuary in Colorado.” Animal Defenders International announced that the FWS “expedited the request and she will be on her way next month.”

WILDLIFE OFFICERS INVESTIGATING OSPREY NEST REMOVAL. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (3/30, 295K) reports that state and federal regulators are investigating whether an osprey nest with eggs has been disturbed. The nest had been removed for the Wando River bridge project. FWS spokeswoman Jennifer Koches “confirmed the investigation and said the S.C. Department of Natural Resources is handling it, but said she could not comment on an investigation underway.”

US Geological Survey:

RESEARCHERS LINK PYTHONS TO DECREASE IN MAMMALS IN EVERGLADES. The [AP](#) (3/30, 157K) reports that “researchers have linked invasive Burmese pythons to the severe drop in the population of small mammals in the Florida Everglades.” A University of Florida research team “outfitted 30 marsh rabbits with radio collars and set them free,” and “when they later tracked the signals they found mostly pythons.” USGS herpetologist Bob Reed says “the study is the first hard evidence of invader pythons causing mammal declines in Everglades National Park.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/31, 2.28M).

SURVEY FINDS BIRTH CONTROL PILLS AFFECT FISH. The [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Fears, 5.17M) reports that a recent survey by the USGS “found that fish exposed to a synthetic hormone called 17a-ethinylestradiol, or EE2, produced offspring that struggled to fertilize eggs.” Ramji Bhandari, a University of Missouri assistant research professor and a visiting scientist at USGS, said, “If those trends continued, the potential for declines in overall population numbers might be expected in future generations. These adverse outcomes, if shown in natural populations, could have negative impacts on fish inhabiting contaminated aquatic environments.” According to the article, the chemical is released “when some women simply pour unused” birth control pills “down the drain.”

USGS AWARDING GRANTS FOR EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS RESEARCH. The [Science 2.0](#) (3/31, 2K) reports that the USGS “wants

to award up to \$7 million in grants for earthquake hazards research in 2016, specifically for improving our understanding of earthquake processes, hazards and risks that will lead to reduced losses from earthquakes, more accurate and timely earthquake information and forecasts and better inform the public about earthquake safety.”

USGS STUDYING CHROMIUM 6 IN HINKLEY. The [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (3/30, 2K) editorializes “chromium 6 remains an issue in Hinkley for many of the few remaining residents.” PG&E has “taken steps to clean up the chromium 6 still in the groundwater — enough that much of Hinkley’s water now has chromium 6 levels below the state limit.” However, “there is disagreement of how much of the remaining chromium was the result of PG&E’s practices and how much belongs to nature.” As a result, the USGS “recently embarked on a five-year, \$5.4 million study to settle the issue.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS RAISE CONCERNS OVER DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN. The [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (3/30, 101K) reports that “leaders of several major environmental groups say they are uneasy about a decision this month to separate federal and state parts” of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. They are concerned that the BLM will “feel pressured to take large-scale renewable energy projects on their properties.”

BLM Urged To Stick To Its Goals For Renewable Energy, Conservation. In an op-ed for the [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (3/30, CASTRO, DASHIELL, 2K), Linda Castro, the DRECP organizer for the California Wilderness Coalition, and Stephanie Dashiell, the California Desert representative for Defenders of Wildlife, write that “the BLM recently announced that planning will proceed on our desert’s public lands, but the part of the DRECP that deals with privately-owned lands will be delayed.” The authors “do not want to see the BLM change its goals for either renewable energy development or conservation.” They write that “the BLM should not increase renewable energy development on public lands to ‘make up’ for the lack of private land designations, even in the short term,” and “similarly, conservation efforts on both public and private lands should proceed, whether or not they are part of the DRECP.”

Onshore Energy Development:

WASTEWATER INJECTION WELLS CREDITED WITH CAUSING SOME EARTHQUAKES. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Gilbert, 5.67M) reports in its “short answer” blog that the possibility of causing an earthquake by such means has been known for about 50 years, and that the effect is related to the depth of the well and the pressure of the injection. Fracking itself is regarded as less likely to cause an earthquake because of the location of the shale, though an Ohio report found that fracking was probably responsible for some smaller earthquakes last year. It also points out that in the Bakken Shale there has not been a large increase in seismic activity.

Oklahoma Supreme Court Hears Case Alleging Oil And Gas Companies Caused Earthquake. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Bustillo, Gilbert, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports on a suit being heard by Oklahoma’s supreme court alleging that oil and gas companies caused earthquakes by their wastewater injections. The oil and gas industry is said to be concerned about the possibility of liability suits in these cases though the earthquakes in question are generally quite small. Oklahoma and Kansas are developing regulations to lessen the possibility of earthquakes, while Arkansas and Ohio have prohibited injection wells in some areas. Some companies have settled cases. Some in the industry are skeptical that injection wells are to blame. Meanwhile, Oklahoma’s insurance commissioner John Doak is considering investigating insurance companies for denying earthquake claims.

Oklahoma Geological Survey Said To Be Pressured On Linking Fracking To Seismic Activity. [Bloomberg News](#) (3/30, Elgin, Philips, 2.94M) reports on what is interpreted as “pressure” applied to the Oklahoma Geological Survey to avoid coming to the conclusion that increased seismic activity in the state is due to fracking, specifically waste water injection wells. It describes a meeting called by University of Oklahoma president David Boren with Austin Holland, the state seismologist, an employee of the university, and Harold Hamm, founder of Continental Resources, a major oil and gas business and a major donor to the university. This is presented as part of “a steady stream of industry pressure” on OGS. All parties to the meeting deny that there was any “pressure” and Holland “bristles” at the suggestion that the OGS research was affected by it. Holland points out that “there have been large spikes of natural earthquakes in the past.” He has now concluded that much of the increased seismic activity in the state is due to waste water injection wells.

BILL WOULD BLOCK MOUNTAINTOP MINING RULE. [The Hill](#) (3/30, Cama, 224K) reports that Rep. Alex Mooney “introduced a bill Monday that would block the Obama administration’s efforts to restrict the controversial mountaintop removal coal mining process.” The Interior Department is “planning to propose soon a regulation to restrict mountaintop removal mining near streams in an effort to protect streams in Appalachia from the mining waste.” Mooney’s legislation would “stop Interior’s Office of Surface Mining from going forward with the rule for at least a year, stop it from using the Clean Water Act to justify the rule and require the agency to conduct a study into the industry impacts of the regulation.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Charleston \(WV\) State Journal](#) (3/31, 1K).

FORMER BLM EMPLOYEE IDENTIFIES OLD UNPLUGGED WELLS IN UTAH. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/31, 405K) reports that “in defiance of Bureau of Land Management policy, several Hot Rod wells remain unplugged and unreclaimed along with hundreds of other nonproducing wells on federal lands in Utah, according to a new analysis by a retired BLM official who conducted well inspections for the agency’s Vernal field office.” The article notes that “such ‘orphaned’ wells unnecessarily enlarge the oil and gas industry’s footprint on Utah’s landscape, according to Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, which released the analysis Monday.” Stan Olmstead’s “analysis identified 557 unplugged wells that haven’t produced for the past 10 years.”

BLM UPDATES OIL AND GAS DRILLING PLAN FOR PICEANCE BASIN. The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (3/30, 506) reports that “a new master leasing plan proposed by the Bureau of Land Management for public lands surrounding northwestern Colorado’s Dinosaur National Monument aims to reduce oil and gas drilling impacts to wildlife, archaeological treasures and other resources in the region.” The plan “could work if it’s implemented effectively, according to some public land watchdog groups, but doesn’t do much to address the larger issue of trying to move away from fossil fuels.”

WPOST FACT CHECKER FAULTS BOTH WEA AND BLM ON ESTIMATING COST OF FRACKING REGS. The [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Lee, 5.17M) reports in its “Fact Checker” blog on Western Energy Alliance estimates that Interior Department rules for fracking on public lands could cost \$97,000 per well, in contrast to the department’s own estimate of \$11,400 to \$11,800 per well. The difference in estimate is attributed to the Bureau of Land Management’s belief that the new regulations incorporate current practice, and so do not expect much additional expense. The Fact Checker is unable to conclude which estimate is “more realistic,” says that neither the WEA nor the BLM “really know” and so assigns “Two Pinocchios” each.

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM RECEIVES THOUSANDS OF COMMENTS ON OFFSHORE DRILLING. The [AP](#) (3/31, Smith) reports, “Thousands of opinions poured in Monday” which was the last day the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management was accepting public comment on “what should be studied in an environmental impact statement of offshore drilling.” Over 3,700 comments were submitted on Monday of a total of nearly 15,000. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/31, Dlouhy, 2.28M) reports on a “deluge of comments” received, explaining that those comments will be used “to shape the government’s schedule for selling drilling rights along the nation’s coastlines from 2017 to 2022.” The draft proposes one sale in the Atlantic “near Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.” In their comments, “eight industry trade groups,” said that the draft was “overly conservative” in allowing just one Atlantic lease. They are hoping for a second Atlantic sale.

Also providing coverage are the [FuelFix](#) (3/30) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/31, Smith, 2.28M).

Maryland AG Joins Opponents Of Offshore Oil Exploration. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/29, Wheeler, 810K) reports that Maryland State Attorney General Brian Frosh, has joined Maryland Sens. Barbara A. Mikulski and Ben Cardin, “in objecting to the Obama administration’s proposal” to allow oil exploration off the Atlantic coast. While the Administration is not proposing opening up the Maryland coast, Frosh argued that spills could have an impact on Maryland, noting that the Deepwater Horizon spill extended “hundreds of miles.”

Also providing coverage are the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/30, Press, 5.17M) and the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/31, 2.28M).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [FuelFix](#) (3/30, 7K), the [Longview \(TX\) News-Journal](#) (3/30, 64K), the [Lewes \(DE\) Cape Gazette](#) (3/31, 42K), and the [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (3/31, 295K).

PAPP: ROYAL DUTCH SHELL TO RESUME OFFSHORE DRILLING IN ALASKA. [Reuters](#) (3/30) reports that Royal Dutch Shell intends to resume offshore drilling in Alaska after operations were suspended for two years in the wake of rig grounding, according to Adm. Robert Papp, special US envoy to the Arctic. Papp is quoted saying in an interview that “clearly Shell and others will resume drilling and exploration up off the North Slope of Alaska,” though he gave no indication as to when. Papp added, “I think Shell is putting significant resources into this to make sure they have enough people, equipment, resources, redundancy. They should be OK.”

Additional coverage of Arctic drilling was provided by [Rigzone](#) (3/30, 11K) and [Vox](#) (3/31, 737K).

BP SAYS FINES COULD RENDER US BUSINESS UNPROFITABLE. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/31, Eaton, 2.28M) reports that BP in papers filed with the court on Friday argued that “even a fraction of the \$13.7 billion in fines it could face for the Deepwater Horizon disaster” might lead to bankruptcy for its US branch. Given current oil prices, BP estimates its US business is worth about \$5 billion and it may have about \$2.3 billion in “available cash” in 2015. US District Judge Carl Barbier could fine BP up to \$13.7 billion and over \$1 billion for Anadarko. BP argues that the money it has already spent “to stem the environmental impact” should reduce the penalty. BP contends that the legal liability extends only to its US subsidiary. Prosecutors argued that BP’s US branch would have access to funds from the BP group and that it could take time to pay the fines.

NWF REPORT WARNS SPECIES STILL SUFFERING FROM DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (3/30, Schleifstein, 621K) reports that the National Wildlife Federation released a report warning that oil spilled by the BP Deepwater Horizon well “continues to pose a significant threat to wildlife.” The report identifies 20 species as being of particular concern, but points out that it would be “decades” before any final estimate could be made of the effects of the spill. BP Senior Vice President Geoff Morrell said that the NWF report is “a work of political advocacy.” BP had issued a report March 17 finding that “wildlife and ecosystems in the Gulf were rebounding.” Others are cited suggesting the reports are “premature” given the lack of peer-reviewed research.

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

DROUGHT IMPACTING LAKE POWELL. The [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Kirkpatrick, 5.17M) reports that “Lake Powell, one of the nation’s largest reservoirs, is now below 45 percent of its capacity.” Jonathan Waterman wrote in National Geographic, “Many climate scientists think the Southwest is again due for a megadrought. The Bureau of Reclamation’s analysis of over a hundred climate projections suggests the Colorado River Basin will be much drier by the end of this century than it was in the past one, with the median projection showing 45 percent less runoff into the river.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

NEW INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT GUIDELINES GENERATE CONTROVERSY. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/30, 49K) reports that “last month, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn announced the release of new guidelines in the Federal Register to ensure that state and federal courts comply with the statutes set forth in the Indian Child Welfare Act.” On March 12, the American Academy of Adoption Attorneys (AAAA) “fired back with its own press release expressing its outrage that the BIA had published the guidelines without input from its membership.” The article notes that “many Indian child welfare advocates across the country, however, say that the organization’s emotionally-charged response was ill-considered, considering that the BIA went out of its way to seek input in meetings that were promoted and open to the public.”

In a piece for the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/30, 49K), Patricia Paul (Inupiaqis an appellate judge for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, writes about her experience being adopted.

TRIBAL LEADERS ATTEND CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/30, 49K) reports that American Indian leaders “gathered, spoke and strategized at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Tribal Leaders Summit on Climate Change on March 10 and 11 in Portland, Oregon.” The meeting was sponsored by the Institute for Tribal Government at Portland State University and the Department of Interior-Northwest Climate Science Center, and “brought together tribal, federal, regional and state agencies and leaders to discuss the climate change crisis facing our world.”

IRON BOULDER ACCUSED OF STABBING BIA’S DUFFY AT CROW CREEK. The [Pierre \(SD\) Capital Journal](#) (3/31, 620) reports that “federal prosecutors say Brian Iron Boulder stabbed Patrick Duffy in the back with a knife that penetrated his ‘chest wall,’ as the two were leaving the Bureau of Indian Affairs superintendent’s office in Fort Thompson on March 25.” Iron Boulder “appeared in federal court in Pierre on Friday on a charge of ‘assaulting, resisting and impeding a federal employee’ which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison followed by three years of supervised probation.”

BUSINESSES IN PALM SPRINGS EVICTED ON SHORT NOTICE BY TRIBAL LAND OWNERS. [KESQ-TV](#) Palm Springs, CA (3/31, 2K) reports that last Friday, “nearly a dozen other tenants at Indian Canyon and Ramon Road were slapped with an eviction notice.” The property “sits on Indian land owned by members of various tribes.”

Top National News:

OBAMA URGES RETURN TO “CAMARADERIE AND COLLEGIALLY” IN US POLITICS. Coverage of the President’s [remarks](#) at the dedication of the new Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, which included reports on all three network newscasts, cast a very favorable light on the late senator’s legacy with a heavy focus on his outreach across the aisle, a point Obama took pains to highlight and set up as an antidote to today’s partisan acrimony. The President used “the dedication...to call for a new era of consensus-building,” says the [New York Times](#) (3/31, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), for example, noting that he “condemned the demise of bipartisan compromise in American politics.” The [Boston Globe](#) (3/31, Miller, 1.03M) reports that Obama “gave a speech anchored by a somber take on today’s politics, but optimistic that it can improve.” [USA Today](#) (3/31, Korte, 4.95M) quotes him as saying, “Ted understood the only point of running for office is getting something done. Not to posture. Not to sit there worried about the next election, or the polls. ... Ted grieved the loss of camaraderie and collegiality, the face-to-face interaction. I think he regretted the arguments made to cameras instead of colleagues, directed at a narrow base instead of the body politic as a whole.”

Obama, [ABC World News](#) (3/30, story 9, 0:25, Muir, 5.84M) reported, praised “Kennedy as someone who bridged the partisan divide over and over again,” while the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/30, story 9, 2:25, Reid, 5.08M) noted Kennedy was “one of the most productive senators in US history because he knew his bills wouldn’t pass without Republican support.” In fact, “some of his former Republican partners were” in Boston yesterday, “including John McCain and Trent Lott.” The [AP](#) (3/31, Espo, Pickler) reports that Obama also asked, “What if we carried ourselves more like Ted Kennedy? What if we were to follow his example a little bit harder? ... To his harshest critics who saw him as nothing more than a partisan lightning rod, that might sound foolish. ... But there are Republicans here for a reason.” [Reuters](#) (3/31, Valdmanis, 281K) also highlights those Obama comments, while the [Washington Post](#) (3/31, Eilperin, Kane, 5.17M) notes that “speaking of Kennedy’s long friendship and legislative partnership with Sen. Orrin G. Hatch,” Obama said, “The point is we can fight on almost everything. But we can come together on some things. And those ‘somethings’ can mean everything to a whole lot of people.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/30, story 10, 0:25, Holt, 7.86M) briefly noted the event – and the President’s presence at the dedication – at the end of its broadcast, and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/31, Memoli, 3.49M), along the lines of much of the coverage, says yesterday’s tributes to Kennedy “often doubled as commentaries on...today’s broken political system.”

[The Blaze](#) (3/30, 2.17M) noted that in his remarks, Obama “invoked President John F. Kennedy’s words about negotiation,” just as the Administration works to finalize a nuclear agreement with Iran. Said the President, “As many of you know, John is in Europe with our allies and partners leading the negotiations with Iran and the world community and standing up for the principle that Ted and his brother, President Kennedy, believed in so strongly.”

[McClatchy](#) (3/30, Kumar, Subscription Publication, 17K) quotes McCain as saying, “I miss my friend. I miss him a lot. ... I knew I would when I said six years ago the Senate wouldn’t be the same without him. And it hasn’t been. That’s mostly for reasons unrelated to losing Ted, but I have no doubt the place would be a little more productive and a lot more fun if he were there.” [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/30, Keane, 169K) reports that “other speakers included U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, a potential 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, Vice President Joe Biden and Patrick and Ted Kennedy Jr., two of the late senator’s sons.”

In fact, the [Boston Globe](#) (3/31, Miller, 1.03M) notes that “in one of the lighter moments of the day, Biden told the story of Kennedy taking him, as a new US senator, to the Senate gymnasium and introducing him to his colleagues – some of whom were in the nude. The audience roared.” [Politico](#) (3/30, Dove, 669K) notes that Biden said, “Oh God, was I embarrassed.”

[TIME](#) (3/30, Rhodan, 19.19M) reported on its website that Warren, “a champion of progressive policies to benefit the working and middle class, shared a story of how...Kennedy’s fight for bankruptcy reform inspired her to enter politics.” Said Warren, “Senator Kennedy changed my life. ... And he changed what I understood about public service.” Also reporting on yesterday’s event are, among other news outlets, [The Hill](#) (3/30, Kamisar, 224K), the [Washington Times](#) (3/31, Boyer, 644K), [Roll Call](#) (3/30, Lesniewski, Subscription Publication, 102K), and the conservative [Daily Caller](#) (3/30, Ross, 318K), which reported that the Kennedy Institute cost taxpayers “\$38 million.”

Obama Attends DNC Fundraiser In Boston. The [Boston Globe](#) (3/30, Annear, 1.03M) reports Obama “attended a fund-raiser at the” Area Four pizza restaurant “following the dedication of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute,” part of the DNC’s “‘roundtable’ fund-raiser at the restaurant, according to his White House schedule.” Obama “arrived just before 2 p.m., and left roughly an hour-and-a-half later,” after meeting with “thirty supporters who contributed up to \$33,400.”

INDIANA GOP LAWMAKERS SAYS THEY WILL AMEND CONTROVERSIAL LEGISLATION. The controversy over Indiana’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act continued to generate heated media attention, including reports on all three network newscasts and editorial pieces in the nation’s major dailies. Most stories describe the Indiana law as potentially making discrimination against gay Americans legal, and paints the picture of a wide-ranging coalition of activists and business leaders working to amend it. On Monday, Indiana officials – widely cast as acting under great pressure – appeared to move in the direction of the law’s critics. [ABC World News](#)

(3/30, story 4, 2:20, Benitez, 5.84M) reported that “Indiana’s Speaker of the House” is “saying a fix is on the way,” hopefully “this week.” Speaker Brian Bosma was shown saying, “It’s our intent to make crystal clear in language that that type of discrimination is not allowed.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/31, Pérez-Peña, Southall, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) notes that David C. Long, president pro tempore of the state Senate, said at a press conference with Bosma, “It is not the intent of the law to discriminate against anyone, and it will not be allowed to discriminate against anyone. ... We hope to have a fix very soon.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Peters, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) quotes Bosma as saying, “There is clearly unsettled waters right now, and that could have far-ranging impact. We determined we needed to step in and be sure that those waters are calm, and that the misconceptions about the bill are settled.” Bosma, writing in [USA Today](#) (3/31, 4.95M), says the bill “does not provide for discrimination. We will clarify this even further to assure the public that our state’s Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) is a protection rather than an infringement.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (3/30, Terkel, 281K) reported that while Bosma and Long “said they were shocked, confused and completely caught off-guard by the backlash to their new ‘religious freedom’ law,” their protestations are “hard to believe,” given the example of last year’s debate in Arizona and the fact that “there were...people in Indiana warning of the consequences before the legislation became law.”

Yesterday, the [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/31, Swiatek, Evans, 4.95M) reports, “a Who’s Who of central Indiana corporate leaders called on Gov. Mike Pence and legislative leaders to reform the newly passed Religious Freedom Restoration Act so it can’t be used to ‘justify discrimination based upon sexual orientation or gender identity.’” They did so in the form of a letter, “released Monday afternoon after being hand-delivered to Pence,” Bosma and Long, “all Republicans.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/30, story 3, 2:20, Diaz, 5.08M) similarly reported that “Indiana Republican leaders were in damage control mode...after a weekend of protests against the state’s religious freedom law.” The mayors of Seattle and San Francisco and the governor of Connecticut “have banned state employee business travel to Indiana,” while Apple CEO Tim Cook “called the law part of a dangerous trend.” In addition, “just days before the Final Four here, the Indianapolis-based NCAA said it’s concerned about how the law could affect student athletes.” In fact, [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/30, story 3, 2:25, Gutierrez, 7.86M) reported, NCAA president Mark Emmert “wants the law to be clarified ahead of the Final Four here this weekend.” Emmert was shown saying, “This bill is fundamentally at odds with some of the core principles of higher education and of intercollegiate athletics. So it’s very disappointing.”

The [Washington Times](#) (3/31, Richardson, 644K), meanwhile, notes that “Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has engaged in some interstate payback by attempting to lure Indiana companies over the state’s newly signed religious-freedom bill, but what he doesn’t mention is that Illinois already has a similar law.” Also weighing in, the [Washington Post](#) (3/31, 5.17M) reports, was Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who “is putting out the welcome mat for Indiana business leaders who might be troubled by that state’s new ‘religious freedom’ law.”

Pence, in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), accuses critics of the law of mischaracterizing its contents and intent, and argues it will not serve to discriminate against anyone. [USA Today](#) (3/31, 4.95M) editorializes that Pence has “been doing more to undermine his case than to bolster it,” because, “appearing Sunday on ABC’s This Week,” he “couldn’t answer a basic question: Would the law allow businesses to invoke religious beliefs to discriminate against gays? If the governor can’t answer that question with a resolute ‘no,’ then the law has big problems.”

The [Washington Post](#) (3/31, 5.17M) editorializes, “We won’t pretend that it’s easy sorting out disputes between devout Christian bakers and the gay couple that is refused a wedding cake,” but “red states are capable of having a productive discussion about this.” For example, “Utah just granted anti-discrimination protections in employment and housing to its LGBT citizens. ... That’s a much better example than the one Indiana has set over the past week.” In an editorial, meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) turns the debate around, arguing the Indiana law does not foster discrimination. Rather, says the Journal, opponents are in fact discriminating against religion and religious Americans.

The [New York Times](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says in an editorial, “It is true that the law does not, as some opponents claim, specifically permit businesses to refuse to serve gays and lesbians. ... But nobody is fooled as to the law’s underlying purpose. As its most prominent backers have said quite clearly, it is meant to protect ‘Christian businesses and churches from those supporting homosexual marriages.’ In other words, it should allow them to refuse service to gay couples.” The Times writes, “Religion should not be allowed to serve as a cover for discrimination in the public sphere.”

Stephen Prothero, an author and professor of religion at Boston University, asks in [USA Today](#) (3/31, Prothero, 4.95M), “Is it really necessary to pin a scarlet letter on those who believe the Bible prohibits gay marriage? Or might we learn to be satisfied with preserving liberty for ourselves without imposing our ideals (on sex or religion) on others? ... Let’s not let culture warriors, on either side, sacrifice our freedoms on the altar of the culture wars.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/31, Eckholm, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that “when the federal government adopted a religious protection act in 1993, same-sex marriage was not on the horizon.” Back then, “an informal coalition of liberals and conservatives endorsed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act because it seemed to protect members of vulnerable religious minorities from punishment for the exercise of their beliefs.” However, “over time, court decisions and conservative legal initiatives started to change the meaning of those laws, according to liberal activists,” and “the state laws were not used to protect minorities, these critics say, but to allow some religious groups to undermine the rights of women, gays and lesbians or other groups.”

The [Washington Post](#) (3/31, A1, Somashekhar, Berman, 5.17M) similarly indicates that “the new laws are...fundamentally different.” While the Federal law “protects only individuals seeking relief from government intrusions on their religious beliefs,” the Indiana law “and others like it also apply to disputes between private parties.”

The [Washington Times](#) (3/31, Wetzstein, 644K) similarly reports that while “traditional values groups defended...the religious-freedom laws...gay-rights groups and their allies have recast” them “as ‘religious bigotry.’” [Reuters](#) (3/31, Ortiz) notes, however, that despite the controversy Arkansas lawmakers indicated yesterday they would move forward with a similar law, even as legislative efforts appeared to stall in Georgia and North Carolina.

[KTHV-TV](#) (3/31, 4.95M) reported on its website that “the Arkansas House Judiciary Committee concurred with the state Senate on amendments to its ‘religious freedom’ bill Monday, despite protests at the Capitol.” The bill “is now headed for the full House, where it

could be voted on Tuesday afternoon. If passed there, Gov. Asa Hutchinson has said he will sign it into law." On its front page, meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (3/31, A1, Somashekhar, Berman, 5.17M) reports that Georgia "lawmakers canceled a hearing set for Monday morning on their version of the bill."

According to "some Democrats and political analysts," says the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/30, Suhay, 380K), the push for such bills "is not originating with voters, but rather conservative 'bill mills' that finance state legislators to attend educational conferences that may provide both unified ideas and prefabricated bills to take home." The Monitor adds that "specifically, they see The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) as the primary driver of conservative state laws."

Indianapolis Star Runs A1 Editorial Denouncing Law. In a front-page editorial this morning, titled "Gov. Pence, Fix 'Religious Freedom' Law Now," the [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/31, A1, 593K) writes, "We are at a critical moment in Indiana's history. And much is at stake. Our image. Our reputation as a state that embraces people of diverse backgrounds and makes them feel welcome." Gov. Mike Pence and the General Assembly "need to enact a state law to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, education and public accommodations on the basis of a person's sexual orientation or gender identity," provisions which "can co-exist" with the religious rights law.

Wilco Cancels Indianapolis Concert. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (3/31, Firozi, 2.32M) reports "Chicago-based band Wilco canceled its upcoming concert in Indianapolis after Indiana enacted a controversial religious freedom law last week."

GOP Presidential Hopefuls Come To Pence's Defense. The [Washington Times](#) (3/31, Richardson, 644K) reports "a throng of likely Republican presidential contenders came to" Pence's defense Monday, including Jeb Bush, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Bobby Jindal, Marco Rubio and Rick Santorum.

ONE DEAD AFTER SHOOTING AT NSA COMPOUND. [ABC World News](#) (3/30, lead story, 1:50, Muir, 5.84M) reported on the "deadly scene playing outside the gates of one of the most heavily guarded sites in the country, the NSA." According to authorities, "this was no terrorism, but it was worrying and deadly." ABC (Avila) described the "wild scene, played out in broad daylight," as "two men driving this stolen dark-colored SUV approached the main NSA entrance" and drove "past the first gate." At the point "NSA police in a patrol truck opened fire, killing one of the men, and critically injuring the second." The two had apparently "been on a joyride after allegedly stealing a car following a night of partying." The [Washington Post](#) (3/31, A1, Hedgpeth, Horwitz, Nakashima, 5.17M) notes "an NSA police officer also was hurt in the incident."

The [New York Times](#) (3/31, Shane, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that "a law enforcement official said both men were dressed as women, and identified the survivor as Kevin Fleming of nearby Baltimore." [AFP](#) (3/31) quotes NSA's director for strategic communications Jonathan Freed as saying, "The incident was contained to the vehicle control point." Amy Thoreson, a spokeswoman for the FBI's Baltimore office, stated, "The shooting scene is contained and we do not believe it is related to terrorism." The [Washington Times](#) (3/31, Noble, 644K) notes Thoreson added that "the FBI is working with the US Attorney's Office in Maryland to determine whether federal charges may be filed."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/30, story 2, 1:40, Mikaszewski, 7.86M) noted that "any attack on the NSA puts everyone on high alert," because "it's America's top spy agency, eavesdropping on potential enemies around the world." Running similar accounts of the incident this morning, among other news outlets, are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/31, Mai-Duc, 3.49M), [Reuters](#) (3/31, Hosenball), [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Calvert, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) and [Huffington Post](#) (3/30, Jauregui, 281K).

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "*In Indiana, Using Religion As A Cover For Bigotry.*" The [New York Times](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says in an editorial, "It is true that the law does not, as some opponents claim, specifically permit businesses to refuse to serve gays and lesbians. ... But nobody is fooled as to the law's underlying purpose. As its most prominent backers have said quite clearly, it is meant to protect 'Christian businesses and churches from those supporting homosexual marriages.' In other words, it should allow them to refuse service to gay couples." The Times writes, "Religion should not be allowed to serve as a cover for discrimination in the public sphere."

"Missing From New York's Budget." The [New York Times](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says in an editorial that "a lot of important items were missing" from the New York budget framework agreed to by Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D) and legislative leaders, such as a higher minimum wage, immigration reform, mayoral control of New York City schools, and campaign finance reform.

WASHINGTON POST. "*An Arab Military Force.*" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/31, 5.17M) writes that the new Arab military force initiative is "as likely to compound as resolve the region's wars, and they ultimately may undermine U.S. interests." The Post notes that the force is "problematic" due to the fact that "Arab states are currently backing opposite sides. Egypt and the United Arab Emirates are supporting one of Libya's rival governments, while Qatar and non-Arab Turkey aid the other." The Post further warns of a "a regional war between Iran and Saudi Arabia and their allies — a conflict that flourishes in the vacuum created by U.S. retreat."

"Making Discrimination Easier." The [Washington Post](#) (3/31, 5.17M) editorializes, "We won't pretend that it's easy sorting out disputes between devout Christian bakers and the gay couple that is refused a wedding cake," but "red states are capable of having a productive discussion about this." For example, "Utah just granted anti-discrimination protections in employment and housing to its LGBT citizens. ... That's a much better example than the one Indiana has set over the past week."

"Strengthening Ethics Reform." The [Washington Post](#) (3/31, 5.17M) says in an editorial that Virginia legislators should accept amendments offered by Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) to weak ethics reform legislation passed last month. The Post says McAuliffe's changes "do not go as far as we — or, for that matter, he — would like," but they are better than what the General Assembly has so far approved.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "*The New Intolerance.*" In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) turns the debate around, arguing the Indiana law does not foster discrimination. Rather, says the Journal, opponents are in fact discriminating against religion and religious Americans.

“The Little Bank That Could.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Journal, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says in an editorial that just one new bank has opened in the US since the Dodd-Frank law took effect five years ago, a small rural Pennsylvania bank that has one employee devoted entirely to compliance. The Journal says the costs of Dodd-Frank are killing the community banking sector, and are ironically creating less competition for major financial institutions.

“Checking The IRS Overseas.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) backs Sen. Rand Paul's efforts to repeal the 2010 Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, which was intended to root out tax evaders hiding assets abroad, but which has resulted in complications for the 7.5 million Americans who live abroad. The law is also facing a court challenge over its constitutionality.

“Erdogan's Assault On Freedom.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/31, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) criticizes new restrictions on assembly and speech passed by Turkish lawmakers on Friday, which allow police greater freedom in firing on and detaining protesters. The Journal says that despite Turkey's claim that such laws are necessary to prevent violence, they are deliberately crafted to allow even nonviolent protesters to be targeted. The editorial says that the new law, as well as a proposed bill to block certain websites for political views, are evidence that Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and his Justice and Development Party are running a country that is a democracy in name only.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Los Angeles Times:

[Pan-Arab Force Could Add To Chaos](#)

[Snapping Up Office Space](#)

[“Daily Show” Plays Its Wildcard](#)

[Back-Seat Driven](#)

[Famed For Copter Reports, She Plots New Life Course](#)

Wall Street Journal:

[Iran's Supreme Leader Holds Key To Nuclear Deal](#)

[Regulators Intensify Scrutiny Of Bank Boards](#)

[A Shrewd Oil Call Reverses Fortunes For Lucky Few](#)

[As China Expands Its Navy, US Grows Wary](#)

New York Times:

[Germanwings Co-Pilot Was Treated For 'Suicidal Tendencies,' Authorities Say](#)

[Role Of Illness In Germanwings Crash Raises Worry About Stigma](#)

[As US And Iran Seek Nuclear Deal, Saudi Arabia Makes Its Own Moves](#)

[Driver Killed As Stolen Car Enters NSA Campus](#)

[Indiana Races To Fight HIV Surge Tied To Drug Abuse](#)

[Rahm Emanuel, Chicago's Rough-Edged Mayor, Tries The Sandpaper](#)

Washington Post:

[Maryland Clinic To Offer Abortion, Without Shame](#)

[Co-Pilot Had Been Treated For Suicidal Tendencies](#)

[Ind Legislators To Clarify Religious Freedom Law](#)

[Fatal Wrong Turn Suspected At NSA](#)

[Airstrike At Refugee Camp In Yemen Kills Dozens](#)

Financial Times:

[Dealmakers Have Fastest Start Since 2007](#)

[Nigeria Election Count Shows Signs Of Tampering, Say Kerry And Hammond](#)

Washington Times:

[US May Have Lost Leverage In Talks By Easing Iran Sanctions](#)

[Iowans Eager To Hear From Elusive Clinton](#)

[GOP Looks At Zero-Based Budgeting](#)

[Losses, Frustration With Democrats Rile Immigrant Activists](#)

[Military Aspires To Launch Drones From Ocean Floor](#)

[Dubai Sheikh Rides A Horse Race To Sell UAE Image](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: NSA-Shooting; Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; Air Canada-Emergency Landing; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; California-Firefighter Saved; Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Yemen-Rebel Fighting; Spring Break-Police Control; Edward Kennedy Tr bute; Robin Williams-Family Court.

CBS: Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; NSA-Shooting; California-Firefighter Saved; Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Hillary Clinton-Server Wiped; Breast Cancer-Risk; Daily Show Host Replacement; Edward Kennedy Tr bute.

NBC: Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; NSA-Shooting; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; California-Firefighter Saved; New York Gas Explosion-Bodies Found; Florida-Fatal Highway Accident; Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Iran Nuclear Agreement-Negotiators; Parenting Study; Edward Kennedy Tr bute; NCAA Tournament; Daily Show Host Replacement.

Network TV At A Glance:

Germanwings Flight Crash – 8 minutes, 20 seconds
Indiana-Religious Freedom Act – 7 minutes, 05 seconds
Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline – 5 minutes, 45 seconds
Boston Marathon Bombing Trial – 5 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; California Firefighter-Saved; Honolulu VA Hospital-Investigation; Ebola-US Healthcare Worker Condition Improved; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act.

CBS: Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; Asian Markets.

NPR: Germanwings Crash-Copilot Health; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Syria-AI Qaeda Strategy; Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; FBI-NSA Shooting.

FOX: Iran Nuclear Agreement-Deadline; Indiana-Religious Freedom Act; NCAA Tournament.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; meets with Secretary of Defense Carter.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — No scheduled events.

US Senate: No scheduled events.

US House: REP. AARON SCHOCK LAST DAY — Rep. Schock's resignation becomes effective today.

March 31 – April 10. — The House will be in a district work period until Monday, April 13th. No votes are expected in the House during the recess.

Other: SANDY HOOK RIDE ON WASHINGTON ARRIVAL — The Sandy Hook Ride on Washington is scheduled to arrive in Washington, DC today. <http://www.sandyhookrideonwashington.com/support/styled/index.html> 9:30 a.m. College Park meet and Greet. Location: Proteus Bike Shop, 9217 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, Md. 11 a.m. Washington National Cathedral meet and greet. Location: Washington National Cathedral. 12 p.m. Southeast D.C. Rally. Nardyne Jones will welcome Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and Monte Frank (Team 26) and other community leaders. Location: Faith Presbyterian Church, 4161 South Capitol St, SW, Washington, DC. 2 p.m. Capitol Hill press Conference. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) will welcome Monte Frank (Team 26), Congressman Chris Van Hollen (MD-8), and Patrick Carolan (Franciscan Action Network). Location: House Triangle (West Side of US Capitol). Rain Location: HVC 215. 6:30 p.m. Team 26 hosts night of short films and discussion. Location: Busboys and Poets – 14th & V – Washington DC.

NIH FEDERAL FUNDING – SEN. MIKULSKI — 11:15 a.m. US Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, will tour the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), and call for increased support and investment in the physical and human infrastructure of NIH. Senator Mikulski will announce that she is requesting a major increase in NIH federal funding for fiscal year (FY) 2016 to combat sequester cuts. Senator Mikulski will be joined by NIH Director Dr. Francis S. Collins and NCATS Director Dr. Christopher P. Austin in touring the NCATS translational research facility. NIH Director Dr. Francis S. Collins will announce a new discovery in Alzheimer's disease research resulting from an NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences drug repurposing program. Speakers: Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee; Dr. Francis S. Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health; Dr. Christopher P. Austin, Director of NCATS. Location: National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), 9800 Medical Center Drive, Rockville, MD.

ANTIQUITIES ACT BRIEFING — 12 p.m. The Hispanic Federation and Coalition of National Park Service Retirees will participate in a briefing on the economic, community, and conservation benefits of the Antiquities Act, with Senator Tom Udall, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, and Congressman Chris Gibson. Location: Mott House, 122 Maryland Ave NE.

NATURAL GAS ROUNDTABLE – OFFSHORE ENERGY — 12 p.m. Janice Schneider, Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management at the US Department of the Interior (DOI), will be the featured guest speaker at the Natural Gas Roundtable luncheon where she will discuss the current offshore energy production landscape. Location: The University Club, 1135 16th Street NW.

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "There are reports that President Obama and his family may move to New York City after his term is over. Unfortunately, the city is so expensive, he's looking for another ex-president to be roommates with."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Obama and his family may move to New York City after his term is over. Apparently, they chose New York because they've gotten so used to people trying to break into their house."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that last week, Chris Christie defended his stance against legalizing marijuana, saying that any tax revenue generated from pot sales would be 'blood money.' Then, businessmen in New Jersey were like, 'Yeah, and we can't have that sort of thing here in New Jersey.'"

Seth Meyers: "You guys – during a speech on Friday, Senator Ted Cruz said that if you walk up to someone and say, 'Joe Biden,' the person will crack up laughing. Which is the same reaction you get if you say, 'President Ted Cruz.'"

Seth Meyers: "Congress has officially started their two-week spring recess. So, in a couple weeks they'll be rested, relaxed and ready to suck."

David Letterman: "I'm told now that we are very close to having a deal with Iran on its nuclear program. Iran will give all their nuclear materials to Vladimir Putin for safekeeping. What could possibly go wrong?"

Conan O'Brien: "The ex-governor of Maryland, Martin O'Malley, said, quote, 'The presidency of the United States is not some crown to be passed between two families.' Jeb Bush said, 'That's true. It should really just belong to one family. I think we should just keep it.'"

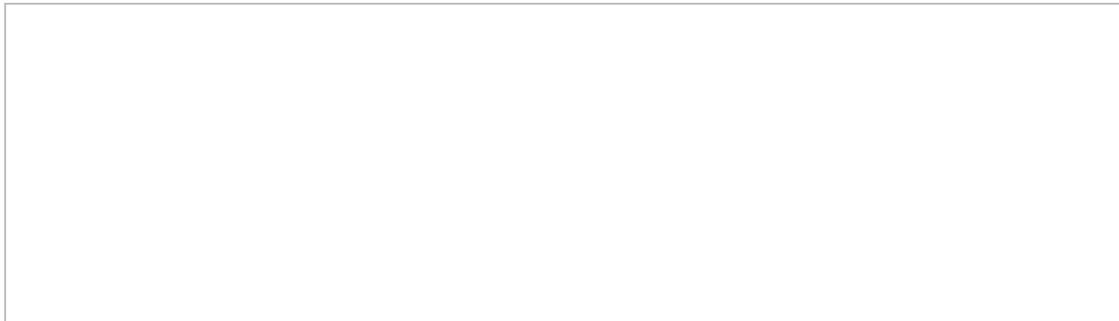
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Conversation Contents

Secretary Jewell, Governor Ige, Senators Schatz and Hirono to Dedicate Honouliuli National Monument

"Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 30 2015 13:06:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Secretary Jewell, Governor Ige, Senators Schatz and Hirono to Dedicate Honouliuli National Monument



Date: March 30, 2015
Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Jewell, Governor Ige, Senators Schatz and Hirono to Dedicate Honouliuli National Monument

O‘AHU, HI – On Tuesday, March 31, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will join Hawaii Governor David Ige, U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, state and local officials, Monsanto representatives and community leaders to dedicate the Honouliuli National Monument, the site of the largest internment camp in Hawai‘i for Japanese and European Americans and others during World War II.

President Obama [established the new monument](#), now a part of the National Park System, in February. Secretary Jewell visited the area in September 2013 to see the confinement site firsthand. She also heard from members of the community about how the National Park Service could play a role in preserving this difficult chapter in our nation’s history and sharing the importance of protecting civil liberties.

The program will feature remarks, traditional blessings, and an opportunity for a media interviews.

Event #1 – Dedication Ceremony

WHO:

Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
David Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii
Brian Schatz, U.S. Senator
Mazie Hirono, U.S. Senator
Peggy O’Dell, Deputy Director for Operations, National Park Service
Carole Hayashino, President & Executive Director, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
John Purcell, Hawaii Business and Technology Lead and Vice President, Monsanto

WHAT:

Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument

WHERE:

Royal Kunia Park and Ride lot
94-640 Kupuohi St
Waipahu, HI 96797

WHEN:

Tuesday, March 31, 2015
9:00 a.m. HST – Reporter check-in
9:15 a.m. HST – Reporter shuttle departs
11:30 a.m. HST – Reporter shuttle returns

MEDIA:

Due to space limitations, credentialed members of the media are required to [RSVP HERE](#) no later than 4:00 p.m. HST on Monday, March 30, 2015, in order to secure a seat on the press shuttle bus.

Event #2 – Community Celebration

WHO:

Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
David Ige, Governor of Hawaii
Brian Schatz, U.S. Senator for Hawaii
Mazie Hirono, U.S. Senator for Hawaii
Peggy O'Dell, Deputy Director, National Park Service
Carole Hayashino, President & Executive Director, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
John Purcell, Hawaii Business and Technology Lead and Vice President, Monsanto
Local community members

WHAT:

Community Celebration of Honouliuli National Monument

WHERE:

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
Manoa Grand Ballroom (5th floor)
2454 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

WHEN:

Tuesday, March 31, 2015
11:45 a.m. HST – Reporter check-in
12:00 p.m. HST – Community celebration

MEDIA:

Credentialed members of the media are encouraged to [RSVP HERE](#) no later than 4:00 p.m. HST on Monday, March 30, 2015.

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Janou Gordon
Special Assistant
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
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Washington, DC 20240
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Cell: 202.368.8445

Conversation Contents

For review: Honouliuli Advisory

Attachments:

/470. For review: Honouliuli Advisory/1.1 03-25-2015 Honouliuli NM advisory v2.doc

/470. For review: Honouliuli Advisory/2.1 03-25-2015 Honouliuli NM advisory Final.doc

"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Mar 27 2015 14:52:24 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Margaret O'Dell <Peggy_O'Dell@nps.gov>, Michael Bean <Michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Israporn Pananon <israporn_pananon@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: For review: Honouliuli Advisory
Attachments: 03-25-2015 Honouliuli NM advisory v2.doc

Hi all,

We plan to issue the following advisory at 3pm ET on Monday. Please send any edits or questions by Monday at 12pm ET.

Thanks, and have a great weekend!

Emily

Date: March 30, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Jewell to Join Senators Schatz, Hirano to Dedicate Honouliuli National Monument

O'HAU, HI – On Tuesday, March 31, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will join U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, state and local officials, and community leaders to hold a dedication ceremony for Honouliuli National Monument, the site of the largest internment camp in Hawai'i for Japanese and European Americans and others during World War II.

President Obama [established the new monument](#), which will be part of the National Park System, in February under the Antiquities Act.

Who: Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz

U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono

What: Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument

When: Tuesday March 31, 2015, at 10 a.m. HST

Where: Monsanto Parking Lot
94-520 Kunia Road
Waipahu, HI 96759

Media: Credentialed members of the media are encouraged to RSVP [HERE](#) by XXXX.

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Emily Beyer
Deputy Press Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5205 | Cell: (202) 568-0168
emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov

"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 30 2015 12:18:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)
Press_Review <press_review@ios.doi.gov>, Hugh Vickery <hugh_vickery@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, April Slayton <april_slayton@nps.gov>, Jonathan Jarvis <jon_jarvis@nps.gov>, Margaret O'Dell <Peggy_O'Dell@nps.gov>, Michael Bean <Michael_bean@ios.doi.gov>, Israporn Pananon <israporn_pananon@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Re: For review: Honouliuli Advisory
Attachments: 03-25-2015 Honolulu NM advisory Final.doc

Below and attached is the final version of this, good for notifications. We're still set to send at 3pm ET.

Thanks, all.

Emily

Date: March 30, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

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U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, state and local officials, Monsanto representatives and community leaders to dedicate the Honouliuli National Monument, the site of the largest internment camp in Hawai'i for Japanese and European Americans and others during World War II.

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The program will feature remarks, traditional blessings, and an opportunity for a media interviews after the event.

Event #1 – Dedication Ceremony

Who: **Sally Jewell**, Secretary of the Interior
David Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii
Brian Schatz, U.S. Senator
Mazie Hirono, U.S. Senator

Peggy O'Dell, Deputy Director for Operations, National Park Service
Carole Hayashino, President & Executive Director, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii
John Purcell, Hawaii Business and Technology Lead and Vice President, Monsanto

What: Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument

When: Tuesday, March 31, 2015
9:00 a.m. HST – Reporter check-in
9:15 a.m. HST – Reporter shuttle departs
11:30 a.m. HST – Reporter shuttle returns

Where: Royal Kunia Park and Ride lot
94-640 Kupuohi St
Waipahu, HI 96797

Media: Due to space limitations, credentialed members of the media are required to [RSVP HERE](#) no later than 4:00 p.m. HST on Monday, March 30, 2015, in order to secure a seat on the press shuttle bus.

Event #2 – Community Celebration

Who: **Sally Jewell**, Secretary of the Interior
David Ige, Governor of Hawaii

Brian Schatz, U.S. Senator for Hawaii
Mazie Hirono, U.S. Senator for Hawaii
Peggy O'Dell, Deputy Director, National Park Service
Carole Hayashino, President & Executive Director, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii

Alan Takemoto, Monsanto
Local community members

What: Community Celebration of Honouliuli National Monument

When: Tuesday, March 31, 2015
11:45 a.m. HST – Reporter check-in
12:00 p.m. HST – Community celebration

Where: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii

Manoa Grand Ballroom (5th floor)
2454 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

Media: Credentialed members of the media are encouraged to [RSVP HERE](#) no later than 9:00 a.m. HST on Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

###

On Fri, Mar 27, 2015 at 4:52 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi all,

We plan to issue the following advisory at 3pm ET on Monday. Please send any edits or questions by Monday at 12pm ET.

Thanks, and have a great weekend!

Emily

Date: March 30, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Jewell to Join Senators Schatz, Hirono to Dedicate Honouliuli National Monument

O’HAU, HI – On Tuesday, March 31, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will join U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, state and local officials, and community leaders to hold a dedication ceremony for Honouliuli National Monument, the site of the largest internment camp in Hawai’i for Japanese and European Americans and others during World War II.

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Who: **Sally Jewell**, Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Senator Brian Schatz

U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono

What: Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument

When: Tuesday March 31, 2015, at 10 a.m. HST

Where: Monsanto Parking Lot
94-520 Kunia Road
Waipahu, HI 96759

Media: Credentialed members of the media are encouraged to RSVP HERE by XXXX.

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**U.S. Department
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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 30, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Mon Mar 30 2015 04:58:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 30, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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- + Senate Votes On Federal Land Transfer Amendment.
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- + Additional Coverage Of Secretary's Jewell's Pending Decision On Shell's Drilling In Arctic.
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DOI in the News:

SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION DEAL WITH OREGON RANCHERS CELEBRATED. The [AP](#) (3/29) reports that "the Obama administration and Gov. Kate Brown joined with Oregon ranchers to celebrate agreements they all hope will help keep the sage grouse off the endangered species list." The deals "announced Friday in Bend, Oregon, give ranchers incentives to protect sage grouse and their habitat on 5,500 square miles of private land in central and southeastern Oregon." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, the governor, and Agriculture Deputy Undersecretary Ann Mills "praised the spirit of cooperation the agreements represent, and expressed their hopes that both sage grouse and family ranches would thrive."

The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (3/29, 506) reports that Jewell said, "These voluntary agreements establish a collaborative

partnership to ensure the conservation of the greater sage-grouse and sustain working western rangelands. The agreements in Oregon are more evidence that we can work together to provide regulatory certainty for ranchers and other westerners who rely on sagebrush habitat for their livelihoods, and also take important steps to protect the hundreds of species that rely on these landscapes.” The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/29, 94K) reports that Jewell said, “I want to thank Oregon for being a leader.”

Also providing coverage are the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/29, 90K), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (3/27, 110K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (3/27, 36K), the [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (3/29, 86K), [Reuters](#) (3/27), [My Central Oregon](#) (3/27), the [EIN News](#) (3/29, 1K), and [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (3/29, 4K).

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF NEW FRACKING RULE. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/29, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that “an anticipated cascade of litigation targeting the Obama administration’s new drilling rule gained speed yesterday as a Wyoming lawsuit became the second legal challenge on court dockets so far.” Wyoming’s suit accuses the BLM of “abusing its power in crafting new requirements for fracking and drilling on public and American Indian lands.” The action “joins an industry lawsuit filed minutes after the rule’s unveiling in kicking off what is likely to be a protracted legal battle over the controversial regulatory scheme.”

In an op-ed for the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (3/29, 32K), Jillian Melchior, an energy fellow at the Independent Women’s Forum, writes that the “redundant rules leave American Indians at a competitive disadvantage, quashing a huge opportunity for economic growth.” She claims that the “new fracking regulations make it harder for American Indians to compete and to have their shot at the American dream.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/27, Copyright 2015:, Chronicle, 2.28M) editorializes that “the real appeal is demonstrating to the greater public that fracking can and will be done safely.” BLM Director Neil Kornze has said that “these rules are intended to provide ‘greater confidence that we are, in fact, protecting groundwater.’” The paper asserts that “we have to make sure that confidence doesn’t end at our borders.”

Also providing coverage are [The Hill](#) (3/28, Cama, 224K), the [Fort Smith \(AR\) Times Record](#) (3/29, 105K) and the [Huffington Post](#) (3/27, |, Levitan, 281K)

SECRETARY JEWELL TO SPEAK ON NATIONAL PARKS AT BERKELEY. The [Imperial Valley \(CA\) News](#) (3/30, 1K) reports that “on Thursday, March 26, the Horace M. Albright Lecture on Conservation will feature U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, UC President Janet Napolitano, historian and author Douglas Brinkley and Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks.”

TESTER URGES CANCELLATION OF OIL, GAS LEASES NEAR BLACKFEET RESERVATION. The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (3/29, 15K) reports that Sen. Jon Tester “joined the Blackfeet Nation Friday in calling on the federal government to protect the Badger-Two Medicine area from private industrialization, adding his voice to an unprecedented alliance of American Indian tribal nations urging the government to cancel existing oil and gas leases in the pristine region.” Tester “sent a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack urging them to rescind the energy leases in the Badger-Two Medicine, which is sacred to the Blackfeet Tribe and one of the Montana’s most pristine outdoor areas.” He wrote, “This area has unique cultural, historical, spiritual, and recreational significance to the people of the Blackfeet Nation and Montana. I request that the remaining oil and gas leases in the Badger-Two Medicine be cancelled to prevent adverse effects to the land or the people of the region.”

Also reporting on the story is [The Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (3/29, 113K).

SENATE VOTES ON FEDERAL LAND TRANSFER AMENDMENT. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (3/29, 38K) reports that Sen. Steve Daines “came under fire from conservation groups and outdoor-related business interests Friday after his vote for an amendment critics say is a first step to federal land transfer or sale.” The amendment, brought by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, “to the U.S. Senate budget resolution, authorizes the Senate to create a fund relating to any legislative action that results in transfers, sales or exchanges of federal lands with states or local governments.”

INTERIOR’S INSTAGRAM PHOTOS HIGHLIGHTED. The [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/29, 4.78M) highlights photos shared by the Interior Department on Instagram.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF HONOLULI NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION. Additional coverage of the designation of the Honouliuli National Monument was provided by the [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (3/29, 360K) and the [4-Traders](#) (3/29, 6K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF SECRETARY’S JEWELL’S PENDING DECISION ON SHELL’S DRILLING IN ARCTIC. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s pending decision on Shell’s drilling in the Arctic was provided by [The Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (3/29, 807K), the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (3/27, 612K), the [Arctic Journal \(GRL\)](#) (3/29), the [Seattle Stranger](#) (3/27, 162K) [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (3/30, 14K), and the [Puget Sound \(WA\) Business Journal](#) (3/26, Aitchison, Subscription Publication, 48K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FEDERAL AGENCIES RENEW FIVE-YEAR PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE HYDROPOWER. Additional coverage that “the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of the Army for Civil Works...have extended their partnership to advance hydropower development for an additional five year” was provided by the [Breaking Energy](#) (3/27).

PROPOSAL TO REFORM COAL LEASING SUPPORTED. In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/29, 405K), Jack Thomas, mayor of Park City, writes that “Interior has put forth a proposal to address some of these loopholes and begin reforming the federal coal program.” He supports Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s statement that “now is the ‘time for an honest and open conversation’ about reforming the federal coal program and ensuring the correct royalty rate is given to taxpayers.” Thomas writes that “mountain communities across the West are looking to the future with trepidation, yet Interior has the power to ease the economic and environmental burden facing towns like Park City.”

MONTANA’S SENATORS URGED TO SUPPORT LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND . In an op-ed for the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (3/28, 54K), Becky Edwards urges Montana’s Senators to support the Land and Water Conservation Fund

NYTIMES: DENIAL OF CLIMATE CHANGE HAMPERS DISASTER PLANNING. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/29, Board,

Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says planning for natural disasters “is hampered by politicians who deny the every existence of changes in the climate.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS LAUNCHING “FIND YOUR PARK” CAMPAIGN. The [AP](#) (3/30, Zongker) reports “after nearly 100 years, the National Park Service holds some of the most beautiful and historic places in the country, though there’s also an \$11 billion backlog of unfunded maintenance and a visitor base that’s aging and mostly white.” Now, “with its centennial approaching in 2016, the park service will launch a major campaign Thursday in New York City to raise support and introduce a new, more diverse generation of millennials and children to ‘America’s best idea’ the national parks.” The article notes that “First lady Michelle Obama and former first lady Laura Bush will co-chair the campaign, calling on Americans to ‘Find Your Park’ to enjoy their public lands.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/30, Zongker, 2.28M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/30, 4.78M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/30, Brett Zongker |, Ap, 5.17M), the [U-T San Diego \(CA\)](#) (3/30, 580K), the [US News & World Report](#) (3/30, 685K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/30, Zongker, 1.37M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/30, Zongker, 5.81M).

GREATER NAPLES YMCA CREATES CAMP WYHOWAY WITH BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE. [WINK-TV](#) Fort Myers, FL (3/27, 4K) reports that “the Greater Naples YMCA is embracing a new youth program focused around Florida’s national parks.” YMCA has “partnered with the Big Cypress National Preserve to create Camp Wyhoway.” J.D. Lee with the Big Cypress National Preserve said, “Some of the activities that we offer are educational walks, canoeing, we offer swamp buggy rides, we offer airboat rides.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Naples Herald](#) (3/28).

SECRET SERVICE TESTING WHITE HOUSE FENCE MODIFICATIONS. The [New York Times](#) (3/29, Schmidt, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on how recent security breaches at the White House have prompted the Secret Service to look for a fence that is relatively “foolproof,” yet retains “curb appeal.” The agency “has conducted dozens of tests on possible modifications to the White House fence.” The effort includes the recruitment of “some of the agency’s best athletes — including tall, short, hefty and thin volunteers — to serve as pretend fence jumpers at a rural training ground outside Washington.”

TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT TO BE TRANSFERRED TO NPS. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/29, 398K) reports that Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument’s first superintendent is Vincent Santucci, but his assignment is slated to last just 90 days. During that time, Santucci hopes to oversee the transfer of the property from the BLM to the NPS.

STUDY ANALYZES ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NEW NATIONAL PARK IN MAINE. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/27, 166K) reports that “Bangor has entered the debate over a new national park in Maine’s North Woods and, from the economic analyses, it’s a no-brainer for the city.” However, “the upside is not so clear for other cities and towns that don’t have Bangor’s economic base, rooted in growing health care employment.” The article notes that “in a review of past research from a range of Maine economists, a 2013 two-part study by Headwaters Economics, and commissioned by Roxanne Quimby’s land-holdings company Elliottsville Plantation Inc., posited the economic benefits of a national park, which it noted would come most immediately for Bangor.”

Millinocket Council Rejects Holding Public Vote On National Park. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/27, 166K) reports that Millinocket “voters won’t get the chance to tell the Town Council in June whether they support the proposed 150,000-acre North Woods national park and recreation area.” According to the article, “councilors on Thursday debated placing on a ballot for the annual school budget referendum in June a question asking voters whether they support Lucas St. Clair’s proposed gift to the National Park Service.” The council “voted 6-1 against the notion as suggested by Councilor Michael Madore, an outspoken park critic.”

EVENTS SET TO MARK THE 1865 FALL OF RICHMOND. The [AP](#) (3/28, Press, 5.17M) reports that “events are scheduled for April to commemorate the 1865 fall of Richmond.” According to officials, “the four-day commemoration beginning Wednesday will feature special illuminations, programs and tours of the city’s historic areas.” The article notes that “the events are being sponsored by a collaborative effort of historical societies, museums, national parks, tourism offices, commissions and cultural organizations.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/29, 322K), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/29, 322K), and the [Washington Post](#) (3/27, Kennicott, 5.17M).

YOSEMITE’S GLACIER POINT ROAD OPENS EARLY IN SEASON. The [AP](#) (3/29, 2.28M) reports that “a road leading to spectacular views of California’s Yosemite National Park opened to drivers on Saturday, marking the earliest date for the occasion in at least 20 years.” Glacier Point Road “takes drivers to a lookout perched at 3, 214 feet above the valley floor, where visitors can view spectacles such as the Half Dome rock, Yosemite Falls and Yosemite’s high country.” The article notes that “this year’s March 28 opening is the earliest listed in records dating back to 1995 published on the park’s website.”

The [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (3/29, Sahagun, 3.49M) reports that “Yosemite National Park is bracing for its driest year on record, with visitor bureaus downplaying the allure of the park’s most famous waterfall and instead touting the park as a destination for hiking, bicycling and photography.” According to park officials, “Yosemite Falls will probably go dry in June — two months earlier than usual.” The article also notes that “with the drought enabling western pine bark beetles to kill large swaths of forest, the park is preparing for a bad fire season.”

Also providing coverage are the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (3/29, Forgione, 3.49M).

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK TO ALLOW MOUNTAIN BIKES. The [AP](#) (3/29, 2.28M) reports that “mountain biking in Rocky Mountain National Park is close to reality.” The NPS has “finalized a report that allows mountain biking on a 2-mile stretch of trail on the park’s west side near Grand Lake.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (3/29, Press, 804K) and [The Greeley \(CO\) Tribune](#) (3/29, 76K).

NPS SURVEYS NASHVILLE TOLL BRIDGE. The [Tennessean](#) (3/28, 406K) reports that “continued interest in the history of the Nashville Toll Bridge, built in 1823, brought a team from the National Park Service to do a photographic survey, which was completed Saturday.” The article notes that “the bridge was recently designated as a certified site on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail used by the Cherokee.” Also, there is “interest in the bridge’s relevance to early American engineering and bridge building and its designer Lewis Wernwag, known for a number of important bridges during the time period.”

NPS TO PLANT CHERRY TREES FOR ANACOSTIA FESTIVAL. The [Washington Post](#) (3/29, Polus, 5.17M) reports that “in keeping with this year’s theme of ‘celebrating the natural world,’ the National Cherry Blossom Festival is teaming with the National Park Service to host an event in Anacostia Park that will show off the park’s assets.” The NPS will “plant a small grove of cherry trees for the Anacostia festival, with the goal of extending the cherry blossoms farther beyond the Tidal Basin and raising awareness of a threatened but critical local waterway.” The article notes that “the river festival marks the official closing of this year’s Cherry Blossom Festival.”

JOSHUA TREE’S BARKER DAM RESTORED AFTER YEARS OF GRAFFITI. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/29, 85K) reports that “restoration experts from New Mexico and Vermont took paintbrushes to the concrete face of Barker Dam in Joshua Tree National Park last week, giving the historical landmark a facelift after years of vandalism.” The article notes that “their goal wasn’t to obliterate the scratched graffiti entirely” because “that would have involved damaging Barker Dam’s intricate texture, which still shows imprints of wood grain and corrugated metal from its construction, as well as old water lines.” Instead, according to the article, “the conservators settled on a different strategy: ‘inpainting,’ which involves dabbing the scratched areas with paint in an effort to recreate the natural color and texture of the dam.”

BILL WOULD RENAME WILDERNESS AREA IN LAKE CLARK NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE . The [AP](#) (3/27, 2.28M) reports that “Alaska’s U.S. senators have introduced legislation to rename a wilderness area after the late former Gov. Jay Hammond.” The legislation, from Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, would “name 2.6 million acres of wilderness in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve as the Jay S. Hammond Wilderness Area.”

RESTAURANT AT BIG ISLAND’S VOLCANO HOUSE TO REOPEN IN STAGES AFTER FIRE. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/27, Jones, 3.49M) reports that “the main restaurant at a historic Big Island hotel in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park is expected to reopen in stages after a fire Tuesday that injured an employee.”

YELLOWSTONE SPOKESMAN LEAVING AFTER NINE YEARS. The [Yellowstone \(WY\) Gate](#) (3/30) reports that “Al Nash has left the National Park Service after 9 years as the spokesman for Yellowstone National Park.” Nash, “the chief of public affairs for Yellowstone since 2006, reflected on nearly a decade in that role just before his last day on the job March 18.” The article notes that “the last nine years have seen sweeping changes in how the public finds and shares information about everything, including national parks.”

NEW YORK OFFICIALS MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [New York Times](#) (3/30, Foderaro, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that New York officials have recommended the addition of the Skinny House, “along with 21 other properties and districts, to the National Register of Historic Places.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSAL TO DEPLOY BORDER COLLIES AT NATIONAL MALL. Additional coverage of the proposal to deploy Border collies at the National Mall was provided by the [National Review](#) (3/29, 633K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL PARK. Additional coverage of the planning for the Manhattan Project National Park was provided by the [Oak Ridge \(TN\) Today](#) (3/27).

REPAIRS AT NATIONAL PARKS URGED. The [Arizona Republic](#) (3/27, 1.14M) editorializes that “there is a \$11.5 billion backlog of deferred maintenance at our parks.” The paper asserts that “we have a responsibility to take care of the parks so the next generation can also enjoy and be inspired by them.”

In an editorial, the [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (3/30, 51K) argues that “the national debt means we cannot merely borrow our way out of this problem.” It says that “a good chunk of the solution will have to come from users.”

NPS URGED TO LET ARIZONA HUNTERS DEAL WITH BISON PROBLEM. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (3/29, 1.14M), Sen. John McCain and Rep. Paul Gosar note that “nearly 600 unwanted bison have migrated into Grand Canyon National Park, causing environmental damage.” The NPS “plans to hire sharpshooters to cull the herd.” Instead, they argue that “Arizona hunters should be allowed to take bison and keep the meat.”

Bureau of Land Management:

KINGMAN FARMS OWNER FACING PROBE AMID BLM LAND SWAP DEAL. The [AP](#) (3/30) reports that “a proposed land exchange in the Red Lake area between Las Vegas developer Jim Rhodes and the Bureau of Land Management may be in trouble.” The BLM is “investigating a possible trespassing violation against Rhodes.”

DEADLINE FOR AGUA CALIENTE TRIBAL LAND SWAP COMMENTS APPROACHING. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/27, 85K) reports that the comments on a possible land exchange between the federal government and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is will be accepted until the end of Sunday.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

TRIBES RECEIVE GRANTS FOR CONSERVATION WORK. The [AP](#) (3/29, 81K) reports that the FWS has “awarded \$4.2 million in grants to Native American tribes in 13 states for conservation projects.” The funds will “support 22 projects benefiting wildlife and habitat.” The article notes that “projects are in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington and Wisconsin.”

Also providing coverage are the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/29, 51K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/29, 2.28M), and the [Hendersonville \(NC\) Times-News](#) (3/27, 34K).

FEDERAL STUDY LISTS SPECIES TO BE IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE. The [AP](#) (3/30) reported that a Federal study concluded that some species of birds in northwest Alaska “could benefit from climate change but increased temperatures could harm populations of several mammals.”

FWS REVIEWING APPLICATION TO BRING RESCUED BEAR TO US. [NPR](#) (3/27, 1.58M) reports that Cholita, an Andean bespectacled bear, was “rescued from a circus in Peru after suffering from abuse. Animal Defenders International is now attempting to take Cholita to the U.S.” but “it is still waiting for approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” FWS authorities said that “they received the application and are processing it in order to expedite the request.”

PLANS TO STOCK ATLANTIC SALMON IN LAKE OAHE DELAYED. The [AP](#) (3/27, 2.28M) reports that “anglers will have to wait a little longer for a chance to catch Atlantic salmon in Lake Oahe.” South Dakota wildlife officials had “wanted to stock the first batch of the new species in the Missouri River reservoir in the Dakotas in the spring of 2016, but a deal to get eggs from a federal hatchery in New Hampshire has fallen through.” The FWS “facility in New Hampshire was working on a contract with an electric company that was restoring an Atlantic salmon population decimated by a hydroelectric dam, and that contract wasn’t renewed, said Will Saylor, administrator of the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department’s fisheries program.”

FWS PLANS STURGEON SPAWNING SITES. The [New Jersey Herald](#) (3/29, 39K) reports that “since 2003, the federal government has spent \$10 million to create six sturgeon spawning sites in the Detroit and St. Clair rivers, and two more are planned.” The FWS has “taken the lead with help from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Toledo Zoo and nonprofit conservation organization Lake Erie Waterkeeper.”

MAN FACING TRIAL OVER CLAIM HE PULLED PISTOL ON FEDERAL AGENT. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/29, 547K) reports that Andrew Watkins has been “charged with assaulting a federal officer with a deadly weapon, a felony that could net him 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.” The officer was FWS Special Agent Sean Mann, “who was investigating reports of vernal pool damage in violation of the federal Endangered Species Act.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS APPROVES APPLICATION TO IMPORT ENDANGERED RHINO’S HEAD. Additional coverage of the approval to import rhino trophies was provided by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/27, Copyright 2015., Chronicle, 2.28M) the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (3/26, 1.13M), the [National Geographic](#) (3/29, 32.58M) , [US News & World Report](#) (3/27, 685K), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/27, 5.81M), [BBC News](#) (3/29, 1.66M), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 2.74M), and [The Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (3/29, 807K)

MICHIGAN POLICYMAKERS CRITICIZED ON WOLF ISSUE. In an op-ed for the [Macomb County \(MI\) Advisor and Source Newspapers](#) (3/29, 155K), Jill Fritz, the director of Keep Michigan Wolves Protected, writes that “after being given a do-over on managing the state’s small wolf population, Michigan politicians and bureaucrats are following a familiar path of reckless behavior with their effort to restore trophy hunting of the now-endangered animals.” She offers “a pathway forward and a middle-ground on this controversial issue.” Fritz notes that “The Humane Society of the United States and 21 other animal protection and conservation groups, including the Detroit Zoo and Detroit Audubon Society, have petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ‘downlist’ gray wolves from endangered to threatened.” According to Fritz, “this would retain federal protections for wolves, but also provide more flexible management so wildlife officials could kill or remove the occasional problem wolf.”

OP-ED TOUTS REMOVAL OF DAMS WEST FORK RIVER. In an op-ed for the [Clarksburg \(WV\) Exponent-Telegram](#) (3/29, 42K) , John Schmidt, a project leader with the FWS, and Frank Jernejcic, a retired fishery biologist with West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, write that “the Clarksburg Water Board’s approval Monday to remove three dams in the West Fork River is a decision that will benefit both people and wildlife in the river’s surrounding communities of Harrison County, West Virginia.” They write that “our goal in removing the dams is to preserve our national heritage and legacy of abundant fish and wildlife, with places for families to experience nature, enjoy waterways and go fishing.”

US Geological Survey:

RESEARCHERS EXAMINE STRESSES AT SAN ANDREAS FAULT. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (3/29, 936K) reports that “by studying quartz samples collected a mile-and-a-half beneath the San Andreas Fault, a small team at Lawrence Berkeley Lab is examining earthquake-causing stresses at a nearly atomic level, allowing scientists a closer look at the process behind quakes than ever before.” The article notes that “the findings are of interest to the U.S. Geological Survey, which recently raised the odds of a 7.0 magnitude or higher quake hitting the Bay Area to 51 percent in the next 30 years, with San Andreas branches, the Hayward and Calaveras faults overdue for a major quake.” Pasadena USGS research geologist Kate Scharer said, “The hazard posed by the San Andreas is very high for the simple fact that it’s the fastest-moving fault we have, so it has the best odds of producing the next quake. The faults (cause) a magnitude 6.5 or higher earthquake every 100 or so years. We’ve come to the average interval.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

WIND POWER ADVOCATES QUESTION NEW JERSEY’S COMMITMENT TO WIND POWER. The [Washington Post](#) (3/30, A1, Warrick, 5.17M) reports that New Jersey’s lack of progress on wind energy development is “the subject of intense debate here.” According to the article, “some blame the governor, whose enthusiasm for wind energy appeared to flag around the time he began exploring a run for the Republican presidential nomination.” Political opponents claim “the turning point was a series of meetings in 2011 and 2012 with key Republican donors, including billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch, oil-industry magnates who have bankrolled campaigns against renewable energy.” Meanwhile, the Obama Administration has “aggressively promoted wind and solar energy as part of its larger effort to reduce carbon emissions.” Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in an interview, “The technology is proven, and the economics will prove themselves over time.”

SMALL PILOT WIND PROJECTS TO IMPROVE ACCEPTANCE. Derrick Jackson wrote in his [Boston Globe](#) (3/28, Jackson, 1.03M) column that the failed Cape Wind project was “paralyzed by selfish and powerful people who feared the views from their seaside mansions would be ruined.” However, several nascent efforts are now underway to help offshore wind to gain broad-based acceptance. Deepwater Wind recently secured financing for a 5-turbine, 30-megawatt pilot project will allow people to “see it, feel it, touch it, and take offshore wind from theory to reality.” The Administration supports similarly sized pilot projects. Jackson is optimistic about recent cooperation between Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island.

Onshore Energy Development:

COLORADO DRILLING PLAN RELEASED. The [AP](#) (3/27, Elliott, 2.28M) reports that “a federal government plan for drilling in energy-rich northwestern Colorado released Friday includes stepped-up protections for public land near Dinosaur National Monument.” The article notes that “the proposal would also ease limits on what time of year drilling rigs can operate if energy companies consolidate well sites to minimize environmental disruptions.” The proposal “covers nearly 2,700 square miles of federal land in Rio Blanco County and parts of Moffat and Garfield counties” in the BLM’s White River district.

Also providing coverage are the [Denver Post](#) (3/29, Elliott, 804K) and the [Longview \(TX\) News-Journal](#) (3/29, 64K).

Offshore Energy Development:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (3/29, 405K) reports that the Virginia Beach Restaurant Association has “come out against drilling for oil and gas off the coast, joining what appears to be a growing opposition in Atlantic coastal communities.” In a recent letter to the BOEM, it argued that “an oil spill could jeopardize the city’s tourism industry”.

In an op-ed for the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (3/29, 405K), Cynthia Sarthou, executive director of the Gulf Restoration Network, warns about “the devastation a massive offshore oil spill can cause to coastal environments and communities.” She also writes that “while people on the Atlantic should be worried about a major catastrophe like the BP spill, the effects of drilling will be felt even if everything proceeds according to the oil and gas industry’s plans.” Sarthou adds that “residents of the Atlantic coast should likewise be aware of the industry’s terrible track record of cleanup and safety procedures.”

In an op-ed for the [Annapolis \(MD\) Capital Gazette](#) (3/29, 5K), Matt Rutherford, the founder and executive director of the Ocean Research Project, opposes offshore drilling. He argues that “moving forward with this plan would threaten our region’s natural beauty and marine life.” He also warns that “an oil spill off the coast of Virginia and near the mouth of the Chesapeake could potentially throw off the entire migration of these marine species, disturbing the balance of the bay.”

The [Carteret County \(NC\) News-Times](#) (3/30, 28K) editorializes that “offshore seismic testing for oil and gas, and if anything is found, possible drilling, is a scary prospect we should avoid.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/29, 291K), the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/29, 291K), the [Surf City \(NJ\) Sandpaper](#) (3/29) and [Offshore Magazine](#) (3/29, 129K).

US URGED TO PURSUE ARCTIC DEVELOPMENT. The [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (3/27, 146K) reports that “the United States should move swiftly to harness the tremendous oil and gas reserves locked under its Arctic waters while the industry improves the equipment used to drill wells and sop up spills, according to a government advisory committee report released Friday.” The report, “conducted by the National Petroleum Council at the request of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, makes the case for the United States to aggressively develop Arctic oil and gas that can help supply the country with energy long after production tails off from onshore fields.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Argus Media](#) (3/29).

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

FEDERAL FUNDING LACKING FOR RURAL WATER PROJECTS. The [AP](#) (3/30, 988K) reports that “during the widespread drought, officials are struggling to finish large-scale water infrastructure projects while populations are growing, drinking water resources are dwindling, and federal dollars are diminishing.” The article notes that “the federal government is responsible for paying about \$3 billion to complete several rural water projects around the country,” but “the amount — expected to grow by the time the work is done — represents a fraction of the more than \$600 billion needed to address the nation’s water and wastewater needs over the next 20 years.” The BOR has “about \$36 million for rural water projects for the next fiscal year,” and “in its most recent analysis, the agency estimates the projects could be completed by 2029 with a total federal investment of about \$3 billion.”

The [AP](#) (3/30, 3.41M) reports that the BOR has “\$36 million to spend on projects during the next fiscal year — a fraction of the funds needed for the work.” The article provides “a look at the projects and current allocations.”

LAWMAKERS WANT MORE WATER TO NEW MELONES RESERVOIR. The [Turlock \(CA\) City News](#) (3/29) reports that “U.S. Representatives Jeff Denham (R-Turlock) and Tom McClintock (R-Elk Grove) released a letter to key regional federal regulators calling on them to revise plans and take actions to prevent water releases that threaten to leave New Melones reservoir dry this coming summer.” Recently, the BOR “announced initial 2015 water supply allocations for the Central Valley Project (CVP) based on a ‘conservative estimate’ of the amount of water that will be available for delivery to CVP water users; these allocations will be re-examined on a monthly basis, taking into consideration a variety of factors, according to the Bureau.” The article notes that “the letter regarding the matter from Denham and McClintock was addressed to senior officials at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, requested that the agencies meet immediately and enter emergency consultation proceedings.”

BOR PROVIDES UPDATED WATER SUPPLY INFORMATION. The [Red Bluff \(CA\) Daily News](#) (3/28, 578) reports that the BOR says

that, “due to continued dry conditions, the initial 2015 water supply allocation released on Feb. 27 for Central Valley Project agricultural contractors and municipal and industrial contractors remains unchanged.” Mid-Pacific Regional Director David Murillo said, “When we announced the initial allocation, we committed to providing regular water supply updates, recognizing the severe impacts of this fourth year of drought on our water users. We continue to work closely with our customers, contractors and federal and state partners to do everything possible to deliver the maximum amount of CVP water, including the 3.1 million acre-feet of CVP water already announced for allocation to our senior water contractors and urban water users last month.”

CALIFORNIA GOV. BROWN SIGNS \$1 BILLION EMERGENCY DROUGHT PACKAGE. [Reuters](#) (3/27) reports that California Governor Jerry Brown signed emergency legislation on Friday that fast-tracks over \$1 billion in funding for drought relief and water infrastructure. Brown said, “This funding is just one piece of a much larger effort to help those most impacted by the drought and prepare the state for an uncertain future. Rain is not in the forecast and every Californian must be doing their utmost to conserve water.”

DROUGHT THREATENS AMERICAN RIVER FISH. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/29, 547K) reports that “endangered steelhead about to hatch in the American River could soon be killed by low flows and warm temperatures caused by the drought, a sign of the ongoing struggle over scarce water supplies.” The BOR, “which operates Folsom and Nimbus dams on the American River, dropped water flows in the river to 500 cubic feet per second on Thursday.” BOR spokesman Louis Moore said, “That was primarily an effort to help conserve water based on the persistent drought conditions. Everything is being done to make sure the water supply we have is being used to the best of our ability, and we’re working with others to stretch it.”

BOR ACCEPTING LEASE LAND BIDS. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/29, 45K) reports that the BOR “announced that sealed bids for agricultural leasing of 24 parcels of federal lease lands, totaling 3,597 acres, can be received until 10 a.m. Wednesday, April 8, at the Klamath Basin Area Office.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FORMER BOR COMMISSIONER SUGGESTS ABOLISHMENT OF AGENCY . Additional coverage of former BOR’s commissioner Daniel Beard’s book “Deadbeat Dams: Why We Should Abolish the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Tear Down Glen Canyon Dam” was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/29, 405K).

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR SENDS SECOND ROUND OF LAND BUY-BACK OFFERS ON ROSEBUD SIOUX RESERVATION. The [Nation Sun News](#) (3/29) reports that the Interior Department has “sent another \$34 million in offers to nearly 11,000 landowners on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota.” Michael Connor, the deputy secretary at Interior said, “The success of this program is a vital component of this Administration’s commitment to restoring tribal homelands and remedying the harms caused by the repudiated allotment policy. Consolidating and returning these lands to tribes in trust have enormous potential to improve tribal community resources by increasing home site locations, improving transportation routes, spurring tribal economic development, and preserving traditional cultural or ceremonial sites.”

Also reporting on the story are [KSFY-TV](#) Sioux Falls, SD (3/29, 3K) and the [Native American Times](#) (3/26, 337).

COBELL SCHOLARSHIPS BEING PREPARED. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/24, 49K) (3/24, 49K) reports that the Interior Department has “transferred \$5 million to the Scholarship Fund for American Indian/Alaska Native students authorized by the Cobell settlement.” In an interview, Turk Cobell and Alex Pearl, members of the Board of Trustees for the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund, discussed “the status of the scholarship program recently.” Pearl said, “This is meant to be a perpetual fund so that Indian students can be going to college and receiving Cobell Scholarship Funds well after we’re long gone. It operates like any other Scholarship Funds where you restrict a portion of it so that the fund can continue for years and years and years.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Nation Sun News](#) (3/29).

INTERIOR HOSTS LAND BUY-BACK PROGRAM 2015 LISTENING SESSION AT GILA RIVER. The [Native News Online](#) (3/29) reports that “more than 150 tribal leaders and individual landowners joined Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor and Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn at the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Buy-Back Program) 2015 Listening Session last Thursday.” The meeting, “held on the Gila River Indian Community, allowed Interior officials to share updates and hear directly from tribal communities about how the Program can best be implemented across Indian Country.” Connor said, “We must do all we can to give landowners a meaningful chance to participate in the Program and receive compensation for their fractional interests, many of which are simply unusable because of the degree of fractionation. We are focused on ensuring that landowners are aware of the Program and are given every opportunity to make informed decisions about the potential sale of their land at fair market value.”

PRESENTATION MADE ON LAND BUY BACK PROGRAM. [The Navajo Post \(AZ\)](#) (3/29) reports that “Land Buy-Back Program manager John H. McClanahan and Senior Advisor on Tribal Relations Santee Lewis, presented to Naabik’iyáti’ Committee members on Thursday.” The article notes that “on March 17, the Land Buy-Back Program issued a letter to President Ben Shelly formally offering the cooperative agreement which would provide funding to support land consolidation activities.”

INTERIOR TO HOLD MEETING ON MINERALS AND ROYALTIES. The [Riverton \(WY\) Ranger](#) (3/24, 167) reports that “the Department of the Interior’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue will hold a mineral and royalty question and answer session April 9 at the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Fort Washakie.” The event will “help American Indian mineral interest owners with questions or concerns about minerals or royalty payments from oil, gas, sand or gravel production that occurs on their land.” The article notes that “a popular subject this year will be how the falling oil prices are affecting the royalties rendered to enrolled tribal members, said Thomas Piccirilli of the ONRR.”

DECISION DELAYED ON FEDERAL RECOGNITION FOR PAMUNKEY INDIANS. The [Washington Post](#) (3/27, Heim, 5.17M) reports that “the Pamunkey Indians — best known as the tribe of Pocahontas — will have to wait four more months to find out if its 35-year quest to become the first tribe in Virginia to be recognized by the federal government will be successful.” Kevin Brown, “the chief of the 208-member Pamunkeys, was notified of the delay in a letter sent to him on Friday by the Interior Department.” According to the article, “the letter said only that the office of the assistant secretary for Indian affairs needs additional time to issue a final determination.”

BIA SUPERINTENDENT WHO WAS STABBED NOW IN STABLE CONDITION. The [Black Hills \(SD\) Pioneer](#) (3/29, 11K) reports that the BIA superintendent who was “stabbed Wednesday is in stable condition.” According to Interior Department spokeswoman Nedra Darling, “Patrick F. Duffy is looking forward to a full recovery.”

SEN. BLUMENTHAL NOW OPPOSES FEDERAL RECOGNITION THIRD PARTY VETO. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/27, 49K) reports that Sen. Richard Blumenthal “now says that a third party veto provision he helped insert into the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ proposed revisions of the federal recognition rules is unconstitutional.” Blumenthal said, “I’ve argued, and so have other parties, that [the third party veto] raises very severe constitutional questions.” He recommend “instead that ‘Congress should have sole authority to approve post-1934 tribal trust land requests.’”

EASTERN PEQUOT TRIBAL NATION CHAIRMAN WANTS ANSWERS ON PROPOSED CASINOS. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/27, 49K) reports that “a proposal for one to two new casinos within the state of Connecticut has raised multiple questions for one tribal chairman.” The article posts a letter by Dennis Jenkins, chairman of the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, who “wants answers while also wondering where’s the outcry like his tribe saw in seeking federal recognition.”

PROPOSED SOUTH BEND CASINO COULD BE “GAME-CHANGER”. The [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (3/29, 283K) reports that “the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians’ plan to bring a Four Winds Casino and Hotel to South Bend could include a casino larger than Horseshoe in Hammond and a hotel with more rooms than Blue Chip’s tower in Michigan City.” The proposal, “which describes the largest development the Pokagon Band might pursue, is part of a draft Environmental Impact Statement issued by the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs earlier this month.” According to an industry analyst, “for Indiana’s existing commercial casinos, it would be a ‘game-changer’ that would have a ‘significant impact on all (casino) properties in the state.’”

BIE APPROVES CONVERSION OF ISLETA ELEMENTARY MOVES. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/29, 238K) reports that “the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education has officially authorized the conversion of Isleta Elementary School from a BIE school – a government operation since the 1890s – into a tribally controlled Grant School effective July 1.” BIE administrator Casey Sovo “handed the approval notification to Isleta Pueblo Gov. E. Paul Torres last Thursday at Isleta Pueblo.”

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES SAY OREGON MAP OFFENSIVE. The [New York Times](#) (3/29, Pérez-Peña, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on a controversy in Grant County, Oregon regarding names on a map that local Native American tribes call offensive and have asked to be changed. However, the Times says the “simple matter has turned into dispute” with white county leaders and has lasted for years and may not be resolved for several more years. The story asserts that “Oregon and many other states have learned the hard way that erasing objectionable place names is slow and difficult at best,” can open old wounds, and pit people along racial lines over “what is offensive and whose history the names should reflect.”

Top National News:

AS DEADLINE LOOMS, OUTCOME OF IRAN TALKS REMAINS UNCERTAIN. Coverage of the ongoing Iranian nuclear talks in Lausanne cast the parties as frantically seeking a deal before Thursday’s self-imposed deadline, but points to significant obstacles still standing in the path to an agreement. The [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Morello, Booth, 5.17M) notes that the negotiations “are growing more intensive, starting early in the morning and continuing until almost midnight,” and “a US official familiar with the negotiations said it would not be surprising if the talks come down to the wire, continuing through deadline day.” Said the unnamed official, “A lot of other pieces of the puzzle that sit on the table are not yet resolved. ... But they are the kind of puzzle pieces that most of us think will fall into place more likely than not if we get through some of these really tough, tough issues.” The [AP](#) (3/30, Jahn, Lee) says the “substantial differences between the sides may prove too difficult to bridge before Tuesday’s deadline for a preliminary agreement,” and cites Iranian push-back “on how long it must limit technology it could use to make atomic arms” as the most significant impediment to a deal.

Terry Moran reported on [ABC World News](#) (3/29, story 3, 1:55, Llamas, 5.84M) that the main “sticking points” are: “How fast will sanctions on Iran be lifted? And what kinds of nuclear programs will Iran be allowed after the deal?” According to unnamed “negotiators,” Iran “has agreed to tougher inspections,” but in exchange, “wants to keep a lot of their nuclear infrastructure intact.” The US “is saying no to that, for now.” [Bloomberg News](#) (3/29, Meyer, Foroohar, Tirone, 2.94M), meanwhile, sees “Iran’s insistence on an immediate lifting of United Nations sanctions” as the “main obstacle to securing a framework agreement.” As the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Mufson, 5.17M) reports, “the Iranian economy is still a shadow of what it could be if international sanctions were lifted.”

White House spokesman Josh Earnest addressed the Iran nuclear negotiations on [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), stating, “The President has been very clear that the best way for us to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons is by pursuing diplomacy to get Iran to take steps voluntarily to shut down the path to nuclear weapons. We want them to comply with stringent inspections. That is the best way for us to resolve our concerns about Iran’s nuclear program and to definitively prevent them from obtaining a nuclear weapon. At the same time, this requires Iran to make commitments. We have been negotiating about this for more than a year. The President believes we should be able to reach an agreement by the end of March, if one is doable. But there are still significant gaps that remain.”

[Politico](#) (3/29, Wheaton, Toosi, 669K) reports Earnest also “reiterated that the White House is not looking to extend beyond Tuesday the talks in...Lausanne, where both sides in recent days have suggested the other should soften its stance.” Another [Politico](#) (3/29, Crowley, 669K) story, however, says “there’s no practical reason the United States and its partners couldn’t keep negotiating” beyond Tuesday, as “the real deadline of concern for the Obama White House is April 13, when the Senate is scheduled to return from its Easter recess – and will likely take up legislation cracking down on Iran if a framework is not in hand.”

The [AP](#) (3/30, Jahn, Lee) reports that as the talks continue, Secretary of State Kerry “canceled plans Sunday to return to the United States for an event honoring the late US Sen. Edward Kennedy,” while “French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and Frank-Walter Steinmeier, his German counterpart, scratched planned trips to Kazakhstan.” [Politico](#) (3/29, Wheaton, Toosi, 669K) sees Kerry’s decision not to attend the Kennedy event as “a sign that the talks were intensifying,” while the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Morello, Booth, 5.17M) notes “the British foreign secretary,” Philip Hammond, “was expected to arrive later Sunday, creating a joint front in the final push to settle unresolved issues.” [AFP](#) (3/30) notes that Hammond “said late Sunday he believed a nuclear deal with Iran could be reached, but insisted

it must put an atomic bomb 'beyond reach.'" [Bloomberg News](#) (3/29, Meyer, Foroohar, Tirone, 2.94M), meanwhile, reports "the Chinese foreign minister, Wang Yi," was also "expected to offer fresh proposals." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/29, story 6, 1:15, Quintanilla, 7.86M), Andrea Mitchell described the latest round of talks as "grueling," and cautioned that even if Kerry manages to get a deal, "Congress may try to scuttle it when he gets home."

[AFP](#) (3/30, Biddle), meanwhile, indicates that according to "diplomats...key parts of an outline had been tentatively agreed" for a "framework" accord, which is "meant to be fleshed out into a comprehensive agreement by June 30." The key tenets of the deal would include, "a 'one-year breakout time'; Iran slashing "the total number of its centrifuges by about two-thirds, to about 6,000"; "staggered" sanctions relief, "linked to certain 'milestones';" the "virtually impregnable underground Fordo facility near the holy city of Qom would cease uranium enrichment"; and "the US bottom line," which is that "Iran must agree to unprecedented inspections of both nuclear and production facilities as well as uranium mines and mills."

Asked if a deal will be reached, House Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Ed Royce said on [ABC's This Week](#) (3/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "A lot depends on whether Iran backs down on a couple of points. One is they want this deal lifted after ten years. They want the caps lifted after ten years. The second point, they don't want inspections of some of their military facilities where they have done this research. And, lastly, the international inspectors have a list of 12 questions they want Iran to answer on nuclear modeling and explosive tests. So far, Iran has only agreed to answer half of the first question. ... There are very real concerns about why Iran won't come clean with this evidence to the IAEA inspectors."

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/29, Schieffer, 2.64M) that he has "just got bits and pieces [about the negotiation process] from Administration and other sources that are familiar with the negotiations," and "it doesn't seem to be headed in the right direction. Clearly, with the deadline of Tuesday, I'm concerned with what we might give away. Iranians don't seem to want to conclude this. ... I would encourage the Administration to take more time."

Iran No Longer Willing To Ship Uranium Stockpiles Abroad. [The Hill](#) (3/29, Byrnes, 224K) quotes "Iran's lead negotiator," Abbas Araqchi, as saying yesterday, "Getting to an accord is doable. Solutions have been found for numerous questions. We are still working on two or three issues... The talks are in their final phase and are very difficult." [Reuters](#) (3/30, Charbonneau), however, notes that Araqchi also told reporters that the idea of sending stockpiles abroad is "not on Iran's agenda." That position, says the [New York Times](#) (3/30, Sanger, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), marks a shift "from a critical element of a proposed nuclear agreement" and could create "a potential roadblock at a critical time in the talks." The Times adds that "for months, Iran tentatively agreed that it would send a large portion of its stockpile of uranium to Russia, where it would not be accessible for use in any future weapons program." While "Western officials confirmed that Iran was backing at shipping the fuel out," they "insisted that there were other ways of dealing with the material."

McConnell In Israel As Netanyahu Derides "Iran-Lausanne-Yemen Axis." The [AP](#) (3/30, Jahn, Lee) reports that Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu "renewed strong criticism of what he brands a bad deal," linking "Iran's alleged proxy grab for influence in the Middle East with what he sees as victory by Tehran at the negotiations in the Swiss city of Lausanne." Said Netanyahu, "The Iran-Lausanne-Yemen axis is very dangerous for humanity and must be stopped." The AP notes that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, "heading a delegation of American senators visiting Israel, said the lawmakers supported legislation to require Congress to approve any agreement on Iran's nuclear program, or to increase penalties against Iran if no deal is reached." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, Norman, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) notes that McConnell, appearing alongside Netanyahu, said yesterday that "if there's no deal, then the view of this group...is that ratcheting up sanctions might be the best direction to take." [Politico](#) (3/29, Everett, 669K) says McConnell's trip to Israel had not been "previously announced." Speaker John Boehner is also "set to visit Israel over the two-week Easter recess for Congress."

On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/29, Bash, 420K) yesterday, Boehner defended his upcoming trip to Israel, which has been criticized as a "victory lap" after Netanyahu spoke before Congress, saying, "My visit there was planned months ago before the Prime Minister came to Washington and before his re-election, so it's not quite what I would describe as a 'victory lap.' There are serious issues and activities going on in the Middle East. I think it's critically important for members of Congress to hear from foreign leaders, other governments, and other parts of their government in order to get a real handle on the challenges we face there." Boehner also [stated](#) (3/29, Bash, 420K), "I think the animosity exhibited by our Administration toward the Prime Minister of Israel is reprehensible. I think that the pressure they've put on him over the last four or five years have, frankly, pushed him to the point where he had to speak up. I don't blame him at all for speaking up."

[AFP](#) (3/30) quotes Netanyahu as saying yesterday, "The dangerous accord which is being negotiated in Lausanne...confirms our concerns and even worse." Deputy Foreign Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, "who is close to Netanyahu," told "public radio that Israel 'will not be bound by an accord concluded by others and will know how to defend itself.'"

Saudi Ambassador Points To Kerry Assurances About Talks, Eventual Deal. Saudi Ambassador to the US Adel al-Jubeir said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/29, Schieffer, 2.64M), "I believe everybody wants a deal. But everybody wants a good deal. We have been assured by...Kerry that the United States intends to prevent Iran from acquiring an atomic bomb, close all paths leading to an atomic bomb, substantially limit Iran's ability to do research and enrich, and impose intrusive and continuous inspections on Iran. We hope this will be the case. But we really will not know until we see the details. I don't believe the details have been worked out yet. We expect there will be a framework agreement with the details to be negotiated over next two or three months. So the key will be in those details." In a report this morning, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/30, Hennigan, 3.49M) highlights that "Jubeir expressed hope that a deal would be reached that would ensure regional stability."

Former Obama Intel Official: Administration Showing "Willful Ignorance." The [Daily Caller](#) (3/29, Griswold, 318K) reported that "Obama's former director of the Defense Intelligence Agency Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn said on 'Fox News Sunday' he believes the White House is acting with 'willful ignorance'" in its dealings with Iran. Said Flynn, "To me, we have some major problems that we are dealing with and here we are talking to Iran about a nuclear deal with this almost complete breakdown of order in the Middle East. One of the things that we have to keep in mind on Iran is Iran is also a country with ballistic missiles, cyber capabilities, they are also still a state-sponsor of terrorism. And here we are dealing with them as though we're going to give them a carte blanche – I know it will be some number of years to have a nuclear capability. Give me a break!"

White House Steps Up Efforts To Build Support For Iran Nuclear Deal. A front-page story in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/30, A1, Lee, Solomon, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that with the deadline for a nuclear deal with Iran looming, the White House is stepping up its efforts to build legislative and public support for an agreement. The Journal adds that White House officials have privately expressed an openness to accept legislation to give Congress some oversight should the talks yield the main outlines of a deal.

Kasich: For Obama To Sidestep Congress Would Be “A Bad, Bad Idea.” Ohio Gov. John Kasich said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo](#) (3/29), “Any agreement with Iran should be taken to Congress and should be closely reviewed. ... The idea that the President may go to the United Nations and skirt Congress is a bad, bad idea.”

Alfoneh, Gerecht Alarmed Over Possible North Korea-Iran Cooperation. Ali Alfoneh and Reuel Marc Gerecht, senior fellows at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, write in the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Alfoneh, Gerecht, 5.17M) that the Administration “has shied away from a potentially paralyzing issue: the ‘possible military dimensions’ – the PMDs – of the regime’s program,” with “one of the most important issues – probable North Korean nuclear cooperation with the Islamic Republic,” deserving “special scrutiny.” Such a “disturbing partnership casts serious doubt on the Obama administration’s hope that President Hassan Rouhani and his team have any intention of limiting Iran’s nuclear ambitions.” The authors go on to denounce contacts between the two nations and indicate that US intelligence doesn’t seem to know “how long...this nefarious partnership” continued and what came of it.

PENCE DEFENDS INDIANA LAW, SAYS OBAMA AND BILL CLINTON BACKED SIMILAR MEASURES. Media coverage of Indiana’s “Religious Freedom Restoration Act” generally cast it as a vehicle that could potentially lead to discrimination against gay Americans, and describes a growing chorus of opposition from the business community, hurting the state’s reputation. The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/30, Mack, 593K), for example, notes that the bill has earned “national criticism from people who think the bill could lead to discrimination from business owners or religious leaders who don’t want to serve gays or same-sex customers.” The Star adds “business leaders also have criticized” it, “saying that it gives the state a bad image and will make it harder to recruit top talent to Indiana.” [USA Today](#) (3/30, Wolf, 4.95M) similarly describes Indiana as “facing a rising tide of criticism and business boycotts,” and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/29, Lerman, Schoenberger, 169K) reports that “Angie’s List Inc., the consumer-review website, on Saturday withdrew a proposal to expand its Indianapolis headquarters, a planned \$40 million investment, days before it was to break ground,” and that “technology-industry leaders including Apple Inc. Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook and Salesforce.com Inc. CEO Marc Benioff have also spoken out.”

Cook, in the [Washington Post](#) (3/30, Cook, 5.17M), warns that “a wave of legislation, introduced in more than two dozen states, would allow people to discriminate against their neighbors,” and says “America’s business community recognized a long time ago that discrimination, in all its forms, is bad for business.”

Gov. Mike Pence’s arguments in defense of the law were also given plenty of play in most reports. On [ABC’s This Week](#) (3/29, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), Pence said “the Religious Freedom Restoration Act was signed into Federal law by Bill Clinton more than 20 years ago,” and “after that, some 19 states adopted it. After last year’s Hobby Lobby case, Indiana properly brought the same version that then-state Sen. Barack Obama voted for in Illinois,” and “I was proud to sign it into law last week.” Pence also derided the “tremendous amount of misinformation around this bill,” and pledged that Indiana is “not going to change” it, because it is “about protecting the liberty of every Hoosier of every faith.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/30, Southall, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) notes “critics, however, say the Indiana law includes different wording that could open the door to wider discrimination.” Moreover, “critics...note that in many of the states with similar laws, including Illinois, sexual orientation is protected under civil rights law. In Indiana, gays and lesbians are not a protected class.”

Conversation Contents

RE: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender)
Honouliuli schedule & logistics

"Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>

From: "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>
Sent: Sun Mar 29 2015 15:01:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender) Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Hi Jeremy and Erin,

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Senator Schatz will be happy to give brief remarks at the Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony. He will also give brief remarks at the Reception (confirmed with Carole Hayashino from JCCH).

Please let me know if you need anything from us.

Best,

Malia

Malia Paul

Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of Senator Brian Schatz

300 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 7-212

Honolulu, HI 96850

(808)523-2061

www.schatz.senate.gov

Follow Senator Schatz on Twitter & Facebook



From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 7:06 AM

To: Lin, Betsy (Hirono); Winer, Andrew (Schatz); Paul, Malia (Schatz); Kaopuiki, Sarah (Schatz); James, Rachel; Tanonaka, Rod

Cc: Gabriella (Janou) Gordon; Erin Frautschy Barrows

Subject: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender) Honouliuli schedule & logistics

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Members attending: Senator Schatz, Senator Hirono

Event will be open press.

Participants will be asked to join in the blessing ceremony, which involves untying a bow and ribbon at the site.

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10:30-11:00am - Tours of Honouliuli Gulch

11:05 - Shuttle buses depart en route Monsanto Assembly Zone

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Location: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2454 S Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96826

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Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Jeremy Bratt

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Deputy Director

Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of the Interior

Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov

202-208-7696 (desk)

"Frautschy Barrows, Erin" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Frautschy Barrows, Erin" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Sun Mar 29 2015 15:33:26 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender) Honouliuli schedule & logistics

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202-208-7696 (desk)

--

Erin Frautschy Barrows
Deputy Director for Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5078 (direct)
202.341.0273 (cell)

"Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>

From: "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>
Sent: Sun Mar 29 2015 15:34:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Frautschy Barrows, Erin" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: (SENDER VALIDATION FAILED --- May not have originated from apparent sender) Honouliuli schedule & logistics

Hi Erin,

No problem. Senator will be happy to participate in the blessing ceremony.

Thanks,

Malia

Malia Paul

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To: Paul, Malia (Schatz)
Cc: Bratt, Jeremy; Gabriella (Janou) Gordon
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Department of the Interior
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202.341.0273 (cell)

Conversation Contents

Fwd: For review: Honouliuli Advisory

"Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Sat Mar 28 2015 07:06:10 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: For review: Honouliuli Advisory

Do we also want Rep . Gabbard in the headline?

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Date: March 27, 2015 at 10:10:57 PM EDT
To: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: **Re: For review: Honouliuli Advisory**

EB - I think Hironos name is misspelled in the headline:

Hirano vs Hirono (correct spelling)

On Friday, March 27, 2015, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hi all,

We plan to issue the following advisory at 3pm ET on Monday. Please send any edits or questions by Monday at 12pm ET.

Thanks, and have a great weekend!

Emily

Date: March 30, 2015

Contact: Jessica Kershaw, <Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov>

Secretary Jewell to Join Senators Schatz, Hirano to Dedicate Honouliuli National Monument

O'HAU, HI – On Tuesday, March 31, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will join U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, state and local officials, and community leaders to hold a dedication ceremony for Honouliuli National Monument, the site of the largest internment camp in Hawai'i for Japanese and European Americans and others during World War II.

President Obama [established the new monument](#), which will be part of the National Park System, in February under the Antiquities Act.

Who: Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz
U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono

What: Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument

When: Tuesday March 31, 2015, at 10 a.m. HST

Where: Monsanto Parking Lot

94-520 Kunia Road

Waipahu, HI 96759

Media: Credentialed members of the media are encouraged to RSVP HERE by XXXX.

###

--

Emily Beyer
Deputy Press Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5205 | Cell: (202) 568-0168
emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov

--

Jessica Kershaw
Press Secretary, U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
O: 202-208-6416
C: 202-669-0968

Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Sat Mar 28 2015 07:07:10 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: For review: Honouliuli Advisory

Well, she won't be at the ceremony itself, just the celebration after, so I think it's ok to leave her out.

From: Gabriella (Janou) Gordon
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2015 9:06 AM
To: Jeremy Bratt
Reply To: Gabriella (Janou) Gordon
Subject: Fwd: For review: Honouliuli Advisory

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Contact: Jessica Kershaw, <a>Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Jewell to Join Senators Schatz, Hirano to Dedicate Honouliuli National Monument

O’HAU, HI – On Tuesday, March 31, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell will join U.S. Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, state and local officials, and community leaders to hold a dedication ceremony for Honouliuli National Monument, the site of the largest internment camp in Hawai’i for Japanese and European Americans and others during World War II.

President Obama [established the new monument](#), which will be part of the National Park System, in February under the Antiquities Act.

Who: Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz
U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono

What: Dedication of Honouliuli National Monument

When: Tuesday March 31, 2015, at 10 a m. HST

Where: Monsanto Parking Lot

94-520 Kunia Road

Waipahu, HI 96759

Media: Credentialed members of the media are encouraged to RSVP HERE by
XXXX.

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Emily Beyer
Deputy Press Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5205 | Cell: (202) 568-0168
emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov

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Jessica Kershaw
Press Secretary, U.S. Dept of the Interior
[@DOIPressSec](https://twitter.com/DOIPressSec)
O: 202-208-6416
C: 202-669-0968

Conversation Contents

Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 24 2015 09:07:32 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

Hello Rachel,

We'd like to send out an invitation to interested stakeholders for the upcoming Honouliuli event and were wondering if it is ok to include the Congresswoman's name (please see below) as a confirmed attendee. We will most likely send this out around 3 p.m. this afternoon.

Thank you,
Jeremy

Dear Friends,

Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Deputy Director of the National Park Service Peggy O'Dell, Governor David Ige, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, President of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Carole Hayashino, University of Hawaii President David Lassner other community leaders on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at a dedication ceremony for the newly designated Honouliuli National Monument.

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

9:15 a.m. – Check-in for shuttle to dedication site
9:30am - Final shuttle leaves for dedication site
10:00 a.m. – Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony

Monsanto Parking Lot *
94-520 Kunia Road
Waipahu, HI 96759

*Access to the dedication site is only possible via shuttle service. Shuttles will depart the parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

We hope you are able to join us and ask that you RSVP at your earliest convenience by clicking [HERE](#) (link).

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

"James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>

From: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 24 2015 17:04:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

Aloha Jeremy,

I thank you for checking first. Unfortunately, the Congresswoman will not be available to attend the site dedication at 10am. I hope that the information has not been sent out already, the time difference here can be so challenging with communication at times, I assume you meant 3pEST, not HST, right?

Are you all still planning on a community event hosted by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii in Honolulu around noon? Thank you.

Rachel

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 5:08 AM
To: James, Rachel
Subject: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

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"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 25 2015 12:28:17 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

Hello Rachel,

Thanks for your email. We did not include the Congresswoman's name on the invite, so no worries in that regard.

We are still planning a welcome reception and community event from 12-1:30 at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (2454 S Beretania Street, Honolulu). Will the Congresswoman be able to attend that portion of the day?

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Congressional and Legislative Affairs
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202-208-7696 (desk)

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"James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>

From: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 25 2015 13:18:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

Aloha Jeremy,

Yes, the Congresswoman can attend and deliver brief remarks/congratulations at noon. She will need to depart no later than 1230p however. Will that be possible given the schedule of events for the reception? If you have any guidance regarding the tentative schedule for the reception ad community event portion, it would be most helpful. We've been asked to confirm it on her calendar by COB (HST) today. The Congresswoman would like to participate, but has a short window of opportunity to do so. We are hopeful the schedule will allow her to participate. Thank you.

Rachel

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2015 8:28 AM
To: James, Rachel
Subject: Re: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

Hello Rachel,

Thanks for your email. We did not include the Congresswoman's name on the invite, so no worries in that regard.

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"James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>

From: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 25 2015 15:33:48 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

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"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 26 2015 10:05:50 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

Hello,
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"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 26 2015 14:02:59 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

Hello Rachel,

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I'm copying Erin Frautschy Barrows from our office, who will be doing advance on this trip, who can also be your point of contact for the day of the event.

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"Frautschy Barrows, Erin" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Frautschy Barrows, Erin" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 26 2015 14:06:31 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

Hi all,

I'm so sorry - Jeremy, there has been an update on this. It does look like the Secretary is planning to present the Declaration to a few key members, although we haven't yet worked out who and when this would happen. I can stay in touch as this develops.

Thanks,
Erin

On Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 4:02 PM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Erin Frautschy Barrows
Deputy Director for Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5078 (direct)
202.341.0273 (cell)

Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 26 2015 14:17:00 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Re: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

-Rachel.

Doh! Oh well. That's what I get for not confirming with you first. thanks for flagging this.

From: Frautschy Barrows, Erin
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 4:06 PM
To: Bratt, Jeremy
Reply To: Frautschy Barrows, Erin
Cc: James, Rachel
Subject: Re: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

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Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

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Department of the Interior
202.208.5078 (direct)
202.341.0273 (cell)

"Frautschy Barrows, Erin" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

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Sent: Thu Mar 26 2015 14:36:17 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Include Congresswoman's name on Honouliuli invitation?

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On Thu, Mar 26, 2015 at 4:17 PM, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

-Rachel.

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202.341.0273 (cell)

Conversation Contents

REMINDER: Join Secretary Sally Jewell on Tuesday, March 31 at a Dedication Ceremony for the Newly Designated Honouliuli National Monument

"OS, Office of the Secretary" <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>

From: "OS, Office of the Secretary" <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Mar 27 2015 13:06:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:
Subject: REMINDER: Join Secretary Sally Jewell on Tuesday, March 31 at a Dedication Ceremony for the Newly Designated Honouliuli National Monument

If you have not already done so, please RSVP using the [link](#) provided in the invitation below. Thank you.

Inline image 2



Dear Friends,

Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Deputy Director of the National Park Service Peggy O'Dell, Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, Governor David Ige, President of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Carole Hayashino, the Monsanto Company, University of Hawaii President David Lassner and other community leaders on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at a dedication ceremony for the newly designated Honouliuli National Monument.

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

9:15 a.m. – Check-in for shuttle to dedication site
9:30 a.m. – Final shuttle leaves for dedication site
10:00 a.m. – Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony

Monsanto Parking Lot *
94-520 Kunia Road
Waipahu, HI 96759

Directions to Monsanto Parking Lot: From Honolulu, head west on H-1 Freeway. Take Kunia Rd. off ramp (Exit 5b) and head north on Kunia Rd. In about 1 mile and after passing 3 intersections, take an immediate left onto a gravel road. You will see signs for turn. Follow the road to the parking lot.

*Access to the dedication site is only possible via shuttle service. Shuttles will depart the parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

We hope you are able to join us and ask that you RSVP by Friday, March 27 by clicking [HERE](#). This invitation is non-transferable. Casual attire is appropriate.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior

Conversation Contents

Updated Invitation: Meeting with NPCA @ Fri Mar 27, 2015 11am - 11:30am
(jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov)

Attachments:

/477. Updated Invitation: Meeting with NPCA @ Fri Mar 27, 2015 11am - 11:30am
(jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov)/1.1 invite.ics

Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>

From: Gisella Ojeda-dodds <gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Mar 27 2015 08:33:51 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Chad Lord <clord@npca.org>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Updated Invitation: Meeting with NPCA @ Fri Mar 27, 2015 11am - 11:30am (jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov)
Attachments: invite.ics

This event has been changed.

Meeting with NPCA

[more details »](#)

Changed: Agenda:

To talk about the creation of a national monument honoring the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights story, beginning with Stonewall.

From NPCA:

Chad Lord, NPCA
Cortney Worrall, NPCA
David Carter, historian and author of "Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution"
Ken Lustbader, Historic Preservation Program Officer, J.M. Kaplan Fund
Janet Weinberg, former COO, Gay Men's Health Crisis
David Ehrich, Advisor, former McKinsey consultant
Richard Burns, former director NYC LGBT Community Center; former COO, Arcus Foundation
Andrea Levario, Senior Public Policy Advocate, Human Rights Campaign
New York State Senator Brad Hoylman
Peter Ajemian, Chief of Staff, Sen. Brady Hoylman
Robert Atterbury, Special Assistant, Rep. Jerrold Nadler

From DOI:

Nikki Buffa, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary
John Blair, Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Maureen Foster, Chief of Staff National Park Service
Jeremy Bratt, Deputy Director, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs

When Fri Mar 27, 2015 11am – 11:30am Eastern Time

Where Room 6641, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. ([map](#))

Video call (b) (5)

Calendar jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov

Who

- Nicole Buffa - organizer
- Gisella Ojeda-dodds - creator
- John Blair
- Maureen Foster
- Jeremy Bratt

- Sarah Weimeyer
- Chad Lord
- Audrey Haskins - optional
- Valerie Smith - optional

Attachments [NPCA Magazine Untold Stories 2014 Summer.3.27.15.pdf](#)
[NPCA Stonewall Fact Sheet.3.27.15.pdf](#)

Going? [Yes](#) - [Maybe](#) - [No](#) [more options »](#)

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this email at the account jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov because you are subscribed for updated invitations on calendar jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov.

To stop receiving these emails, please log in to <https://www.google.com/calendar/> and change your notification settings for this calendar.

Conversation Contents

Invitation: Meeting with NPCA @ Fri Mar 27, 2015 11am - 11:30am (jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov)

Attachments:

/478. Invitation: Meeting with NPCA @ Fri Mar 27, 2015 11am - 11:30am (jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov)/1.1 invite.ics

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Mar 27 2015 08:31:11 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Chad Lord <clord@npca.org>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Maureen Foster <maureen_foster@nps.gov>
Subject: Invitation: Meeting with NPCA @ Fri Mar 27, 2015 11am - 11:30am (jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov)
Attachments: invite.ics

Meeting with NPCA

[more details »](#)

Agenda:

To talk about the creation of a national monument honoring the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender civil rights story, beginning with Stonewall.

From NPCA:

Chad Lord, NPCA
Cortney Worrall, NPCA
David Carter, historian and author of "Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution"
Ken Lustbader, historic preservationist
Janet Weinberg, former COO, Gay Men's Health Crisis
David Ehrich, Advisor, former McKinsey consultant
New York State Senator Brad Hoylman
Andrea Levario, Senior Public Policy Advocate, Human Rights Campaign
Cory Johnson, New York City Council Member (invited)

From DOI:

Nikki Buffa, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary
John Blair, Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

When Fri Mar 27, 2015 11am – 11:30am Eastern Time

Where Room 6641, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. ([map](#))

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- Valerie Smith - optional

Attachments [NPCA_Magazine_Untold Stories_2014 Summer.3.27.15.pdf](#)
[NPCA_Stonewall Fact Sheet.3.27.15.pdf](#)

Going: [Yes](#) - [maybe](#) - [No](#) [more options »](#)

Invitation from [Google Calendar](#)

You are receiving this email at the account jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov because you are subscribed for invitations on calendar jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov.

To stop receiving these emails, please log in to <https://www.google.com/calendar/> and change your notification settings for this calendar.

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 27, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Fri Mar 27 2015 04:59:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 27, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

LAWMAKERS CRITICIZE NEW FEDERAL FRACKING RULES. The [AP](#) (3/27) reports that Republican and Democratic lawmakers in the House "have issues with the Obama administration's new regulations requiring companies that drill for oil and natural gas to disclose chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing." While Republicans oppose the new rules due to the delays they can incur in new drilling projects, Democrats say the regulations do not go far enough. "Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., said the regulation was so lax it was like requiring the auto industry to ensure that every car has a steering wheel and a brake pedal," the article reports. But according to Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colo., delays caused by the new requirements could discourage energy companies from drilling on Federal lands, causing job losses and driving away revenue.

Coverage was also provided by the [FuelFix](#) (3/26, 7K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/26, Fraking), the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (3/27, 32K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Fraking, 1.37M), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/27, 238K), the [Beaumont \(TX\) Enterprise](#) (3/27, 168K), the [Seymour \(IN\) Times Tribune](#) (3/27, 29K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/26, Fraking, 5.17M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (3/27, 988K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (3/27, 77K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), the [US News & World Report](#) (3/26, 685K), [Yahoo! \(CAN\)](#) (3/27, 85K), an [KATU-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (3/27, 192K)

Wyoming Files Lawsuit Over Fracking Rules. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/27, Gruver, 2.28M) reports that "Wyoming filed a lawsuit Thursday contesting new federal rules for oil and gas drilling on public land, alleging in part that they interfere with Wyoming's state rules." The action also claims the BLM "overstepped its statutory jurisdiction with the rules and that they conflict with the Safe Drinking Water Act." Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw "cited agency policy not to comment on pending litigation and declined to comment on the lawsuit," but she added that "states and tribes will be able to request variances from the rules, and Interior might grant them if they met or exceeded federal standards."

Coverage was also provided by the [Akron \(OH\) Beacon Journal](#) (3/27, 293K), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (3/27, 694K), the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (3/27, 32K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/27, 90K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (3/27, Gruver, 644K), the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/27), the [Law 360](#) (3/27, 9K), Additional coverage was provided by the [A bany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (3/27, 379K) and the [Daily Signal](#) (3/26).

SAGE GROUSE PROTECTION AGREEMENT SIGNED IN NEVADA. The [AP](#) (3/27, Sonner) reports that "an unprecedented attempt to

protect sage grouse habitat across parts of more than 500 square miles of privately owned land in Nevada will begin under a deal Thursday involving the federal government, an environmental group and the world's largest gold mining company." The deal comes as the FWS "approaches a fall deadline for a decision on whether to protect the greater sage grouse, a bird roughly the size of a chicken that ranges across the West, under the Endangered Species Act." The agreement involves Barrick Gold Corp., The Nature Conservancy, the BLM, and FWS. The deal "establishes a 'conservation bank,' providing the mining firm credit for enhancing critical habitat, in exchange for flexibility in future operations."

[NPR](#) (3/26, 1.58M) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "This is the kind of creative, voluntary partnership that we need to help conserve the greater sage grouse, while sustaining important economic activities on western rangelands."

Coverage was also provided by the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (3/27, Press, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), the [Oregonian](#) (3/27, 950K), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (3/26, 36K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/27, 90K), the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/27, 291K), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (3/27, 612K), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Sonner, 1.37M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/26, Scott Sonner |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Nevada Appeal](#) (3/27, 49K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/27, Sonner, Press, 5.81M), [ABC Otus News](#) (3/27), and [KOLO-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (3/27, 3K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ANNOUNCE SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION DEAL WITH OREGON RANCHERS. The [AP](#) (3/27) reports that "the Obama administration has reached an agreement with Oregon ranchers to protect sage grouse that the ranchers hope will help avoid having the bird listed by the federal government as an endangered species." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Gov. Kate Brown are "expected to be in Bend, Oregon, on Friday afternoon to announce the agreements covering 5,500 square miles of private land in central and southeastern Oregon." The FWS says "the agreements signed last week with soil and water conservation districts covering Crook, Deschutes, Lake, Union, Grant, Baker, Harney and Malheur counties are the first for such a wide area."

Also providing coverage are the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, 2.21M), [The East Oregonian](#) (3/27, 24K), the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/27, 51K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, Barnard, 2.28M), and the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (3/27, 612K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO ATTEND HONOULIULI DEDICATION. The [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (3/27, 360K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will be "in Hawaii next week to help dedicate the newly designated Honouliuli National Monument in Kunia." Jewell will be joined at the Tuesday ceremony by Deputy Director of the National Park Service Peggy O'Dell, U.S. Sens. Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, president of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Carole Hayashino, the Monsanto Company, University of Hawaii President David Lassner, and other community leaders."

FEDERAL AGENCIES RENEW COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE HYDROPOWER. [Argus Media](#) (3/26) reports that "the US Departments of Energy and the Interior and the US Army yesterday renewed a commitment to cooperate on supporting hydro development for another five-year term." The article notes that "the goals of the partnership include increasing power output of existing plants with better water flow measurement tools and testing superconducting technology that could make existing plants more efficient."

REPUBLICAN SENATORS OBJECT TO CLIMATE PLANNING DIRECTIVE FOR FEDERAL AGENCIES. [The Hill](#) (3/26, Cama, 224K) reports that "six Senate Republicans blasted the Obama administration's proposal to change how federal agencies consider climate change in environmental impact reviews." They "argued Thursday that the draft guidance from the White House is an illegal expansion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)" Urging the White House's Council on Environmental Quality to withdraw the proposal, they said, "We are deeply disappointed that the administration is continuing down a path that is both illegitimate and irresponsible."

SENATE COMMITTEE CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS OF IGS FOR 10 AGENCY VACANCIES. [Fierce Government](#) (3/27, 224) reports that "all 16 members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee sent a letter Monday to President Obama urging him to nominate permanent inspectors general at the 10 agencies who currently have vacancies." The Interior Department is among the 10 vacant inspectors general positions. Sen. Ron Johnson noted that "the DOI has gone without a permanent IG for 2,216 days."

HEARING HELD ON SUPREME COURT BUDGET. On [C-SPAN](#) (3/27, 38K), coverage of the testimony on the Supreme Court fiscal year 2016 budget and the federal judiciary system included comments by Rep. Sanford Bishop Jr., who said, "I applaud the court's ability to find savings in its budget. Your total FY16 request with salaries and expenses and buildings and grounds does represent a discretionary decrease of 1.1% from FY 15. It looks like this is a combination of the construction work being completed and savings from nonrecurring costs that are associated with implementation of your new financial system. Are there program increases that you are delaying but you still feel would be beneficial at some point? And with regard to implementation of your new financial system, which I understand you're leveraging resources from the executive branch, probably the Interior, specifically in the area of payroll and financial tracking. And I understand that this move has reduced your reliance on contract employees. And it seems to be a great step towards efficiency. Do you find that you're getting the same level, an improved level of service? And would you recommend this to other agencies that are looking to reduce their costs?" Justice Anthony Kennedy responded, "Well, I'm not enough of an expert to recommend it to other agencies but our staff tells us it's working very, very well. They like it. They like it better than the outside contractors and it's much cheaper. We are in partnership with an agency in the department of interior. And it has some similarities to us. And it's been the source of most of the savings we've had over the last few years."

INTERIOR BETA TESTED PERISCOPE. Covering the app Periscope, [CNN Money](#) (3/26, 1.76M) notes that the Interior Department was a beta tester.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INITIATIVE TO INCREASE VOLUNTEERISM. Additional coverage of the initiative to increase volunteerism at public lands was provided by the [Customs Today \(PAK\)](#) (3/27).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INTERIOR'S NEW YOUTH INITIATIVE. Additional coverage of the Interior Department's new youth initiative was provided by [WABE-FM](#) Atlanta (3/27, 11K).

[America's Great Outdoors:](#)

National Park Service:

NPS DIRECTOR JARVIS DISCUSSES FUTURE OF NATIONAL PARKS. [KQED-FM](#) San Francisco (3/27, 40K) reports that in anticipation of the NPS' 100-year anniversary next summer, the agency has "set lofty goals for its future: increase the diversity of visitors to include more youth and people of color, partner with health providers and ramp up collaborations with scientists, which is the focus of a summit this week at UC Berkeley." NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis, "in town for the summit," discussed his agency's future.

MAINE BUSINESSES ENDORSE PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/26, 166K) reports that "more than 200 businesses from around the state endorsed a proposed 150,000-acre national park and recreation area in the Katahdin region Thursday." The article notes that "the endorsement, which included a letter signed by all the businesses to Maine's congressional delegation urging the creation of the park, is the latest public approval of the controversial gift to the nation first proposed by entrepreneur Roxanne Quimby in 2011."

Additional coverage was provided by [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (3/26, 30K), [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (3/26, 30K), and [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (3/26, 30K).

NEW LIMITS ON DOGS AT GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA GENERATES OUTRAGE. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/26, 2.21M) reports that "Rep. Jackie Speier vowed Wednesday to unleash the forces of Washington against efforts to ban unleashed dogs from most of the Bay Area's string of federal parkland." According to the article, "the decadelong dogfight is reaching a crescendo as the National Park Service moves to issue a draft rule in the summer based on a 1,504-page Dog Management Plan that has canine fanciers howling." The proposal would "limit free-ranging dogs 'under voice control' to seven spots in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, an 80,000-acre federal park that stretches from Tomales Bay in Marin County to Rancho Corral de Tierra in San Mateo County and attracts more than 15 million visitors a year."

CANYONLANDS NATIONAL PARK SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED PERMITS. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/27, 538K) reports that the NPS is "seeking public comment on a proposal to require permits for all motor vehicle and bicycle day use on the White Rim and Elephant Hill roads in Canyonlands National Park." According to the agency, "requiring permits for day use on the roads will help the park better protect resources and the visitor experience."

MAN COMMITS SUICIDE IN GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. The [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (3/27, 19K) reports that "a Virginia man apparently shot himself to death on Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park on Tuesday morning."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PLANNING FOR MANHATTAN PROJECT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK. Additional coverage of the planning for the Manhattan Project National Historical Park was provided by the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/27, Fowler, 371K).

SUPPORT URGED FOR NPS BUDGET REQUEST. The [Montana Standard](#) (3/27, 39K) reprints an editorial by The Missoulian, which urged support for President Obama's federal budget request. It notes that "the budget request contains a total of \$11.49 billion for the National Park Service to finally begin crossing items off its long list of deferred maintenance projects." The paper also notes that "next year – 2016 – marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service," so "the president's budget request is timely."

EDITORIAL: NATIONAL PARK VISITORS SHOULD PAY FOR MAINTENANCE. In an editorial, the [Denver Post](#) (3/27, Board, 804K) supports the increase in entrance fees proposed by the NPS. The paper argues that park visitors should shoulder more of the burden, rather than all taxpayers at large.

EDITORIAL: NPS MUST JUSTIFY ANY CHANGES TO PERRY'S MEMORIAL MANAGEMENT AT PUT-IN-BAY.. The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (3/27, 1.01M) editorializes that "friends of Perry's Memorial and advocates for Put-in-Bay merchants are worried the National Park Service is preparing to give the site short shrift." The agency is "studying a possible consolidation of management between Perry's Memorial and the much newer, much-less-visited River Raisin National Battlefield Site in the marshy southeast corner of Michigan, where British forces and American Indians associated with Shawnee leader Tecumseh routed U.S. soldiers in bloody, merciless fighting during the War of 1812." It says that "the park service also needs to explain the thinking behind any decision to favor the River Raisin site, especially if a "shared" superintendent would be based there, and not at the Perry monument." The paper concludes that "downgrading the Perry monument, its oversight and upkeep is not an acceptable option."

NONPROFIT GROUP PREPARES STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN OUTDOORS. In a piece for the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/27, 322K), Tee Clarkson writes that Groundwork RVA, "a local nonprofit, has taken an unusual approach to teaching Richmond students about local ecology and urban conservation." Giles Harnsberger, executive director for Groundwork RVA, said, "We teach neighborhood ecology. We want students to treat their community as if it's as special as a national park." She notes that "the program is designed to teach students not only about conservation and ecology, but also to prepare them for jobs in the National Park Service, as landscape architects, or for work in urban ecology."

Bureau of Land Management:

"GRAND BARGAIN" BEING FINALIZED IN UTAH. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that under proposed legislation called the "Grand Bargain," San Juan and some other counties in Utah would agree to wilderness and other restrictions on public lands in return for getting other areas designated for energy and other uses. Rep. Jason Chaffetz, who is co-sponsoring the legislation with Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, said, "We're doing something of great significance and hopefully it will bring people's blood pressure down." After the draft legislation goes through more public vetting, a final bill is expected to be introduced in Congress by late spring.

BLM OFFICIAL GUILTY IN FRAUD CASE. The [AP](#) (3/27) reports that "a senior official in the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has been convicted on criminal charges that he covered up for an employee who left the agency for a job in Montana but kept drawing government pay." John Grimson Lyon of Clifton, Virginia, was "convicted of wire fraud, false claims and theft of government property following a three-day jury trial that ended Wednesday night in Great Falls." Lyon, the former state director for the BLM's 31-state Eastern

States Region, could face 30 years in prison, \$750,000 in fines and the forfeiture of \$112,000.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Brown, 1.37M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/26, Matthew Brown |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, Brown, 2.28M), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (3/26, 15K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (3/27, 77K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), [ABC Otus News](#) (3/27), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/27, Brown, 5.81M), [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (3/27, 1K), [KTVQ-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (3/27, 4K), and [KBZK-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (3/27, 785).

JUDGE UPHOLDS BLM'S OWNERSHIP OF WISTERIA REMAINS. The [Florida Keys Citizen](#) (3/27, 33K) reports that "development will not come to Wisteria Island soon, if ever, because a federal judge has dismissed F.E.B. Corp's lawsuit asking to be ruled the owner of the 22 acre island." Judge Jose E. Martinez "issued a ruling Wednesday in favor of the Bureau of Land Management, which claimed government ownership of the roughly 22-acre island in Key West Harbor in 2011."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC'S HELP TO CURB VANDALISM. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (3/27, 165K) reports that "vandalism to facilities managed by the Bureau of Land Management's Billings Field Office is mounting, and land managers are seeking the public's help to bring it to an end." The bureau "recently cited several people for vandalism at the Acton Recreation Area, 18 miles north of Billings," and "on top of that, what the agency calls 'nonstop vandalism' at the popular Shepherd Ah Nei Recreation Area has led the BLM to cancel any further plans to repair or replace vandalized property."

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON CHANGE TO BISON GRAZING AT ALLOTMENT. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (3/26, 76K) reports that the American Prairie Reserve, "run by the not-for-profit American Prairie Foundation, has applied to change the class of livestock from cattle to indigenous bison on its permit to graze lands on the Flat Creek Allotment." The BLM still must approve the livestock change. The bureau announced Thursday that "it is seeking public input for an environmental analysis on the change in classification from cattle to indigenous bison."

RANCHERS ASSISTED BY PUBLIC SUBSIDIES. [Salon](#) (3/27, 688K) reports on the "welfare ranchers subsidized by US taxpayers." The article says that "the biggest welfare ranchers of all, grazing livestock on the hundreds of millions of acres of public grass and forest land, all assisted by public subsidies paid for by US taxpayers" are the "billionaires that populate Forbes rich lists."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS APPROVES APPLICATION TO IMPORT ENDANGERED RHINO'S HEAD. The [Washington Post](#) (3/26, Fears, 5.17M) reports that "big game hunter Corey Knowlton's long wait to kill an endangered black rhinoceros in Africa is finally over." In a decision Thursday, the FWS "removed the last hurdle in the way of Knowlton's quest." According to the article, "more than a year after the wealthy Texan submitted the winning \$350,000 bid for a Namibian government permit at a Dallas auction to shoot the animal, the agency announced that it approved his application for a separate U.S. permit to import the animal's carcass back home as a trophy."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dallas \(TX\) Observer](#) (3/27, 186K), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (3/26, 1.13M), the [AP](#) (3/26, Press), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, 2.28M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), [Newsday](#) (3/27, 1.41M), [Reuters](#) (3/26), and [KTVT-TV Dallas \(TX\)](#) Dallas (3/26, 101K).

MEASURE WOULD PREVENT FWS FROM PROHIBITING TRADE OF ANTIQUE GUNS CONTAINING IVORY. [The Hill](#) (3/26, Devaney, 224K) reports that "Sens. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) and Steve Daines (R-Mont.) are offering an amendment that would stop the Fish and Wildlife Service from cracking down on antique guns containing ivory." According to the article, "the federal government prohibits the trade of fresh ivory from endangered African elephants and rhinos, but the lawmakers argue that antique ivory used in handguns should be exempt from the rules."

LAWSUIT SEEKS TO PROTECT WILDFLOWERS THREATENED BY MINING. [KUSA-TV](#) Denver (3/26, 386K) reports that "conservation groups on Thursday filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the name of protecting two wildflowers whose habitat coincides with oil shale formations in Colorado and Utah." The service "last August denied Endangered Species Act protection to the two wildflowers — White River beardtongue and Graham beardtongue — one year after it proposed protecting the plants and nearly 76,000 acres of their habitat."

Also reporting on the story is the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (3/27, 73K).

CO-OPS HOPEFUL THAT LISTING OF NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT WILL INCLUDE MAINTENANCE, RIGHT OF WAY PROVISION. [Electric Co-op Today](#) (3/26, Cash) reports the US Fish & Wildlife Service plans to announce a protection plan for the northern long-eared bat, which has been plagued by the fungal disease white-nose syndrome, on April 2. The service has "proposed a provision that would enable co-ops to carry out right-of-way and maintenance work if it lists the bat as 'threatened' under the Endangered Species Act." NRECA CEO Jo Ann Emerson said, "We have been encouraged by the willingness of Fish and Wildlife Service staff to listen to our concerns. America's electric cooperatives need a final rule that will allow for hazardous tree removal in emergency situations and allow the expansion of existing rights of way needed to provide service to new members."

DESERT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE UNDERGOING ROAD WORK. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/27, 398K) reports that the Desert National Wildlife Refuge is undergoing road work. According to the article, a 4-mile stretch of Corn Creek Road is being paved from the highway to Desert's \$12 million visitor center that opened at the end of 2013. The project began March 18 and is scheduled for completion by the end of July.

CLEANUP OF NEASE CHEMICAL SITE PLANNED. [WYTV-TV](#) Youngstown, OH (3/26, 1K) reports that "the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are working on a plan to clean up the former Nease Chemical site on Route 14 in Salem." According to the article, "a meeting is scheduled for April 9 at 6 p.m. at the Salem Public Library to discuss how best to proceed with the cleanup." The article notes that "the restoration plan will address damaged natural resources from the release of hazardous substances from the now-closed facility."

NTSB RELEASES REPORT ON WEST BOYNTON, FLORIDA PLANE CRASH. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (3/26, Jacobson,

county reports that on Tuesday, the NTSB released a report on the Sunday plane crash in west Boynton, Florida. The plane crashed in the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, killing pilot David Whitney and student pilot William Mahn. Citing the NTSB's report, the Sun Sentinel notes that the plane flew over the refuge for roughly "25 minutes before it crashed, and there was no flight plan for the trip."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

USGS DATA SHOWS WATER USE FOR FRACKING HAS JUMPED IN THE LAST DECADE. The [National Geographic](#) (3/27, 32.58M) reports that "the evolution of hydraulic fracturing—and its demand on water supplies—can be seen in historical data covering nearly one million wells drilled over 63 years." An analysis from the USGS, "released in late January, notes that water-intensive horizontal or directional drilling increased dramatically between 2000 and 2010."

Offshore Energy Development:

SHELL CONDUCTS TESTING WITH ARCTIC OIL SPILL RESPONSE SYSTEM. The [FuelFix](#) (3/26, 7K) reports that "Shell's Arctic oil spill response system is undergoing drills in waters near Bellingham, Washington, with government officials observing the exercises." The company is "conducting the testing as it plans a new round of exploratory drilling in the Chukchi Sea north of Alaska later this year." BSEE Director Brian Salerno and Assistant Interior Secretary Janice Schneider are "among the officials set to watch as the containment system is deployed, at Shell's invitation."

Also providing coverage is the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (3/26, 146K).

NATIONAL PETROLEUM COUNCIL: DRILLING IN ARCTIC NEEDED NOW BECAUSE SHALE WON'T LAST. The [AP](#) (3/27, Fahey, 5.17M) reports the National Petroleum Council says in a study to be released today that the United States "should immediately begin a push to exploit its enormous trove of oil in the Arctic waters off of Alaska, or risk a renewed reliance on imported oil in the future." The US has dramatically "cut imports and transformed itself into the world's biggest producer of oil and natural gas by tapping huge reserves in shale rock formations" however "the government predicts that the shale boom won't last much beyond the next decade." An executive summary of a draft obtained by the AP says that "in order for the U.S. to keep domestic production high and imports low, oil companies should start probing the Arctic now because it takes 10 to 30 years of preparation and drilling to bring oil to market." The study was produced at Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz's request.

BILL TO PROPOSE USING OIL SPILL MONEY FOR LOUISIANA COLLEGES. The [AP](#) (3/26) reports that the Louisiana Board of Regents on Wednesday supported a proposal to steer money from the Gulf oil spill to public colleges. The bill would be sponsored by Rep. Walt Leger, D-New Orleans, who would call for placing extra moneys into a fund with interest being directed to help colleges. "Those dollars are separate from other civil penalties from violations of environmental laws, money that's required to be set aside for coastal restoration and protection projects," the article reports. The first \$1 billion in economic damages money has already been earmarked "to repay Louisiana's 'rainy day' fund and an elderly trust fund that have been used to plug budget gaps in recent years," the article reports. The proposal will be considered by lawmakers on April 13.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL. Additional coverage of the meetings being held on offshore drilling in the Atlantic was provided by the [South Strand News \(SC\)](#) (3/26) and the [Coastal \(GA\) Courier](#) (3/27, 16K)

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR TO BEGIN NEW MELONES RESERVOIR RELEASES. The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (3/27, 27K) reports that the BOR will "release more than 4 billion gallons of water from New Melones Reservoir into the Stanislaus River over the next couple of weeks for 'pulse flows' intended to push salmon smolts out to sea." According to BOR spokeswoman Erin Curtis, "the releases will reduce the amount of water stored in New Melones by about 15,000 acre-feet." According to Curtis, "the idea is to push the smolts into the Delta earlier because the river temperatures will likely warm to lethal levels prior to normal pulse flows in April."

BOR SEEKS NEW MANAGER FOR KLAMATH BASIN AREA OFFICE. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/27, 45K) reports that "a new manager for the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Klamath Basin Area Office is expected to arrive in May." According to acting area manager Brian Person, Sheryl Franklin is not returning. Franklin, "who joined the office in mid-May, was the KBAO area manager for seven months."

BOR AWARDS CONTRACT TO REPAIR COLORADO-BIG THOMPSON FLOOD DAMAGE. The [Sky-Hi Daily News \(CO\)](#) (3/27, 728) reports that the BOR has "awarded a contract totaling nearly \$1.5 million to Lillard and Clark Construction Company Inc., Denver, for repair to the Big Thompson Diversion Structure, an element of the Colorado-Big Thompson project that was damaged during the September 2013 flood." The work "to repair the Big Thompson Diversion Structure, located 8.5 miles west of Loveland, requires removal and restoration of flood-damaged concrete areas, installation of a precast concrete building, repair and replacement of electrical systems, gates, gear boxes, electric motors and other rehabilitation tasks." The project is expected to begin in April 2015.

Empowering Native American Communities:

LAWMAKERS WANT MORE STUDY OF TRIBAL RECOGNITION CHANGES. The [AP](#) (3/27, Melia) reports that "several congressional members called on the U.S. Interior Department Thursday to slow down an overhaul of the rules for granting federal recognition to American Indian tribes, saying more study is needed of problems that could result from lowering the bar for the coveted status." Rep. Rob Bishop "sent a letter with four other lawmakers outlining their concerns to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell." They wrote, "We are concerned that the Department's proposed rules fail to address many of the issues that have been identified and could create new problems that lead to unintended and unjustifiable outcomes."

Coverage was also provided by the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (3/27, Press, 500K), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, Media, 2.20M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (3/26, Michael Melia |, Ap, 5.17M), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Media, 1.37M), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (3/27, Press, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (3/27, 81K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (3/27, 77K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/27, 4.78M), [Yahoo! News](#) (3/27, Media, 5.81M), and [WBNS-TV Columbus \(OH\)](#) Columbus, OH (3/26, 151K).

BIA SUPERINTENDENT WHO WAS STABBED IN STABLE CONDITION, SUSPECT IN CUSTODY. The [AP](#) (3/27) reports that the BIA superintendent who was “stabbed Wednesday is in stable condition.” According to Interior Department spokeswoman Nedra Darling, “Patrick F. Duffy is looking forward to a full recovery.” The BIA says “its Office of Justice Services is continuing to investigate the attack,” and. “it said on Wednesday evening a suspect was in custody.”

Coverage was also provided by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (3/27, 2.28M), the [Pierre \(SD\) Capital Journal](#) (3/27, 620), [KELO-TV Sioux Falls \(SD\)](#) Sioux Falls, SD (3/27, 18K), and [KSFY-TV Sioux Falls \(SD\)](#) Sioux Falls, SD (3/27, 3K).

JUDGE REJECTS CHALLENGE TO INTERIOR'S DECISION ON ONEIDAS. The [AP](#) (3/27, Virtanen) reports that “a federal judge on Thursday rejected a challenge to the U.S. Interior Department’s decision to put more than 13,000 acres in trust for the Oneida Indian Nation and exempt the property from state and local taxes.” Judge Lawrence Kahn held that “the decision in 2008 to put in trust most of roughly 17,000 acres proposed by the Oneida Indian Nation in Madison and Oneida counties didn’t exceed the department’s authority under the federal law intended to enable tribes to adapt to modern society.” Kahn “noted that the land around the Oneidas’ Turning Stone Casino, including gas stations and golf courses, were re-acquired by the tribe two centuries after they last possessed it.”

Additional coverage was also provided by the [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (3/27, 438K), the [New York \(NY\) Law Journal](#) (3/27, 33K), the [Utica \(NY\) Observer Dispatch](#) (3/26, Cooper, 3K), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (3/27, 674K), and [WNYW-TV New York \(NY\)](#) New York (3/27, 68K).

SYMPOSIUM TO DISCUSS SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE IN INDIAN COUNTRY. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/26, 49K) reports that “the Arizona State University Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law will hold a symposium and town hall meeting tomorrow, March 27, to discuss the ‘School-to-Prison Pipeline in Indian Country.’” The article notes that a “keynote address will be presented after lunch by Charles Roessel, director of the Bureau of Indian Education.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL SIDES WITH DEFENDANT IN EAGLE FEATHERS CASE . The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/26, 49K) reports that “after the federal government returned ceremonial eagle feathers earlier this month to pastor Robert Soto in the wake of a nine-year legal battle, the episode received scant media attention.” However, “the incident caught the eye of the editorial board of The Wall Street Journal, which saw fit to run an editorial on the absurdity of persecuting and prosecuting the longstanding spiritual practices of this member of the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas and leader of the McAllen Grace Brethren Church.”

BIPARTISAN PUSH TO FIX INDIAN SCHOOLS LAUDED. In an editorial, the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/27, Board, 1.37M) reports that this week in Washington, D.C., “bipartisan members of Minnesota’s congressional delegation wielded their collective clout on a critical education issue: obtaining adequate funding for the nation’s broken-down federally funded Bureau of Indian Education school system.” According to the paper, “with Congress in the midst of the 2016 appropriations process, this is an opportune time for Minnesota’s delegation, as well as other states’ representatives, to make it clear that years of declining or minimal funding for school construction must end.” It urges “follow-up work by all of them...to ensure that Congress acts.”

OPPOSITION TO PAMUNKEY’S RECOGNITION CRITICIZED. The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (3/27, 322K) editorializes that “Virginia’s Pamunkey Indian tribe will soon learn whether it will receive federal recognition, which would make it eligible for various benefits.” The paper asserts that “there’s no doubt the tribe, which dates back centuries, deserves to be recognized.” But it notes that “outside interests want to deny the Pamunkey tribe what it rightfully deserves in order to continue lining their own pockets.”

[Office of Insular Affairs:](#)

GUAM'S CALVO, BORDALLO SEEK DETERMINATION OF POLITICAL STATUS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (3/27) reports that “Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo in February asked the Department of the Interior for a quarter of a million dollars to jumpstart the educational campaign to determine the island’s political status.” Also, “U.S. Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo last week said that the federal government had monies available for the education campaign regarding Guam’s political status, all island leaders needed to do was ask.”

[Top National News:](#)

OBAMA DEFENDS CFPB, PAYDAY LOAN REGULATIONS IN VISIT TO ALABAMA. Overshadowed by the Germanwings tragedy and the conflict in Yemen, the President’s trip to Alabama was not mentioned on the network newscasts, and was largely ignored by commentators on cable news shows. Local TV, print, and online coverage, meanwhile, cast a favorable light on plans to issue Federal payday loan rules, and put Obama’s comments – on both the regulations and the agency that will issue them, the CFPB – in the context of efforts to boost the middle class. By all appearances, that may have been the White House’s intention yesterday. In fact, [McClatchy](#) (3/27, Wise, Clark, Subscription Publication, 17K) notes that the bleachers at the Lawson State Community College gym where the President spoke “were festooned with a large blue sign reading, ‘Middle Class Economics.’” The [Birmingham \(AL\) Business Journal](#) (3/27, Phillips, Subscription Publication, 35K) says “the speech focused on progress made in making the American financial system stronger to prevent lending practices that caused the recession.” Obama also “focused on protecting families and students from shady borrowing practices, mentioning that four times as many payday loan establishments exist than McDonald’s restaurants.”

As [American Banker](#) (3/26, McKendry, Subscription Publication, 26K) puts it, “the creation of” the CFPB “has become a key part of” Obama’s “legacy,” and [USA Today](#) (3/26, Korte, 4.95M) notes that he denounced GOP “efforts to defund” it. [The Hill](#) (3/27, Fabian, 224K) quotes him as saying, “If Republicans in Congress send me a bill to unravel Wall Street reform, I will veto it.” In his remarks, says the [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#) (3/27, Taylor, 13K), Obama also tied the agency’s workings to his overall economic theme, saying, “I’m pushing for what I call middle-class economics – the idea that this country does best when everyone gets their fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same set of rules.” [WHNT-TV](#) Huntsville, AL (3/26, 5:36 p.m. CDT, 76K) showed Obama

saying, 'we've got to make sure working families feel more secure, that their paychecks can go a little further, that they are getting things like paid leave and child care not because they are luxuries, but because they support families.'

[Alabama Live](#) (3/27, Garrison, 502K) reports the Rev. Shannon Webster, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, has been "one of Alabama's most outspoken opponents of payday lenders," and Obama yesterday "praised" his "work and singled him out." Said the President, "Pastor Webster's one of the pastors leading the effort to protect consumers here in Alabama. ... At a public hearing a few years ago, he explained why he decided to work on this issue. 'When our people are trapped in debt,' he said, 'they cannot escape, and we're all hurt.' We're all hurt. And that's a simple statement but it captures so much of what it means to be an American." The [AP](#) (3/27, Pickler) notes that Obama also said, "You have some very conservative folks here in Alabama who...are reading their Bible, they're saying, 'Well, that ain't right.'"

[WSFA-TV](#) Montgomery, AL (3/26, 6:02 p.m. CDT, 30K) noted that the President "talked about a scenario where someone borrows \$500, but ends up, because of high interest rates, paying \$1000 in fees and interest." Obama was shown saying, "The idea is pretty common sense. If you lend out money you have to first make sure that the borrower can afford to pay it back. Don't lend somebody money if you know they can't pay it back. As Americans, we don't mind seeing folks make a profit, and if somebody lends you money, we expect you to charge interest on that loan, but if you're making that profit by trapping hard working Americans in a vicious cycle of debt, you've got to find a new business model."

[WPMI-TV](#) Mobile, AL (3/26, 5:05 p.m. CDT, 4K) also focused on the President's economic message, reporting that he spent "the majority of his speech focusing on White House policies he says will benefit the middle class in the final two years and beyond of his presidency." He also "took the opportunity to address the budget introduced this week by House Republicans." Obama was shown saying, "In Alabama, this new tax cut they're proposing, I have got to laugh because it would average \$2 million dollars per person in tax cuts, and it would apply to less than 50 people per year here in Alabama."

The [AP](#) (3/27, Pickler) reports that "before his remarks, Obama met with community leaders working on lending protections and later praised bipartisan efforts to address potentially catastrophic debt loads on families." During his visit, noted [WSFA-TV](#) Montgomery, AL (3/27, Robinson, 30K), the President also "supported the political efforts in Alabama to fight this predatory lending."

Around the rest of the country, local TV coverage of the CFPB's proposed rules and the President's endorsement of them was relatively light and most reports were brief. Typical of much of the local TV coverage were the stories on [WAND-TV](#) Champaign, IL (3/26, 5:25 p.m. CDT, 2K), [WSLS-TV](#) Roanoke, VA (3/26, 5:53 p.m. EDT, 17K), and [WCNC-TV](#) Charlotte, NC (3/26, 4:24 p.m. EDT, 77K).

On its website, the [New York Times](#) (3/27, Silver-Greenberg, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports the rules "could sharply reduce the number of unaffordable loans that lenders can make each year to Americans desperate for cash." Yesterday's "proposal covers a wide swath of credit, including certain loans backed by car titles and some installment loans that stretch longer than 45 days." CFPB Director Richard Cordray said in a statement, "We are taking an important step toward ending the debt traps that are so pervasive in both the short-term and longer-term credit markets." [Reuters](#) (3/27, Stephenson, Edwards) notes that following yesterday's announcement of a framework for the new regulations, a CFPB spokesman indicated the formal payday rules proposal will be unveiled later this year.

The [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (3/27, Gelles, 617K) reports that "a White House fact sheet called" the agency's "rule-making plan 'an important first step toward writing rules to help prevent abuses in payday lending and protect consumers from getting trapped in expensive cycles of debt and fees.'" White House press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters in a conference call that the CFPB "is uniquely positioned to take this action," adding that "Republican efforts to undermine the CFPB are nothing more than attempts to undermine middle-class families all around the country."

In a blog post titled "Not Just Whistling Dixie," [US News & World Report](#) (3/27, Williams, 685K) reported that while studies find payday loans are particularly prevalent in the "Heart of Dixie," the profit "flows straight to Wall Street – one key reason industry lobbyists are continuing to fight the new regulations," including "defeating a cap on astronomical interest rates, described as the Holy Grail of consumer protection advocates." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) notes that Dennis Shaul of the Community Financial Services Association of America (representing payday lenders) warned that the rules would curtail credit availability, and accused the CFPB of "listening to...critics" and producing research that is "neither extensive or thorough." The [AP](#) (3/27, Boak) quotes Shaul as saying, "The bureau is looking at things through the lens of one-size-fits-all."

SENATE CONSIDERS DOZENS OF AMENDMENTS ON WAY TO PASSING BUDGET PROPOSAL. In what is known as the "vote-a-rama," which accompanies the Senate's consideration of a budget, the upper chamber worked its way through dozens of amendments Thursday on the way to passing its budget blueprint. If Senators pass a plan on Friday, as expected, efforts to reconcile it with the proposal passed by the House earlier this week will begin when lawmakers return from a two-week recess. [The Hill](#) (3/26, Shabad, Carney, 224K) reported in its "Floor Action" blog that the amendment votes are expected to end Friday morning and Republican leaders are confident "their blueprint will be approved, though they have a tight margin." The [AP](#) (3/27, Espo, Werner) says Republicans "could afford three defections and still be assured a majority for the budget," but that "presented a challenge" as four Republican members "are likely or announced presidential contenders, and several more face potentially difficult 2016 re-election tests in swing states."

The [New York Times](#) (3/27, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) describes the process as "one of those dubious traditions of Congress's upper chamber," in which the Senate opens "its well to an unlimited number of amendments to the budget blueprint for the coming fiscal year," adding that none of the amendments "are binding." However, the [AP](#) (3/27, Werner) says it is an "opportunity to score points or showcase one stance or another." For example, "likely GOP presidential candidates, Marco Rubio of Florida and Rand Paul of Kentucky, laid down markers with amendments boosting defense spending by \$76 billion in the budget," and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that Democrats offered amendments aimed at forcing Republicans into difficult votes that can be used against them in future campaigns.

The [Washington Times](#) (3/27, Dinan, 644K) reports that Democrats "walked away with dozens of votes they think can be used against the GOP in upcoming elections," while Republican leaders "said this year's budget includes instructions under a process known as 'budget reconciliation' that could pave the way for a major tax overhaul and, most politically charged, for a last major assault on Obamacare."

[Politico](#) (3/26, Raju, 669K) reported that the race for the 2016 Republican nomination was on display in the Senate Thursday as competition between Sens. Rubio, Paul, Ted Cruz and Lindsey Graham “was on vivid display as the Senate took up a Rubio plan to pump tens of billions of dollars more into the Pentagon budget.” Paul “blasted the idea because the new spending wasn’t offset by other cuts.” Cruz, “who’s pitching himself as a fiscal conservative who can appeal to the hawkish and libertarian wings of the GOP” was “caught in the middle,” but “ultimately sided with Rubio and Graham.”

Groups Push Pro-Gun Amendments. [The Hill](#) (3/26, Devaney, 224K) reported that Republicans and gun rights groups “are pushing for a number of amendments that would expand concealed-carry laws and block the Obama administration from issuing what opponents call a ‘backdoor’ ban on guns.” The Times reviews the various pro-gun amendments under consideration that “would expand concealed carry laws and block future gun control initiatives.”

AMERICAN COUSINS ACCUSED OF PLOTTING TERROR ATTACK, TRYING TO JOIN ISIL. Pierre Thomas reported on [ABC World News](#) (3/26, story 7, 1:25, Muir, 5.84M) that according to the FBI, “Army National Guardsman Hasan Edmonds had mass murder on his mind, hatching a sinister plot to kill his fellow soldiers. He was arrested at Chicago’s Midway Airport yesterday, allegedly en route to join and fight with ISIS.” The FBI also said that Edmonds “planned to give his cousin, Jonas Edmonds, his uniform...so he could wear it to get inside a nearby base. The likely target: Joliet Armory, where Hasan had trained. And the plan, to massacre soldiers there with a body count as high as 150.”

David Martin reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/26, story 6, 1:50, Pelley, 5.08M) that “Hasan and Jonas wanted to join ISIS, taking the southern route to Syria through Egypt. If they couldn’t do that, Hasan told the informant, ‘I am content to fight and die here. Honestly, we would love to do something like the brothers in Paris did.’” The [New York Times](#) (3/27, Schmidt, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), however, reports the two sought to join ISIL in Libya, not Syria, which it says makes their case “unique compared with the others the Justice Department has brought against Americans accused of trying to join the Islamic State.” According to the Times, the cousins “planned to travel to Derna, Libya, a city that is controlled by” ISIL.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/26, story 7, 0:30, Holt, 7.86M), Lester Holt reported briefly on the arrests as did Chris Wallace on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (3/26, 1.53M). The [Chicago Tribune](#) (3/27, Meisner, 2.32M) reports that Lt. Col. Brad Leighton, a spokesman for the Illinois National Guard, said “Federal authorities recently informed the guard that Edmonds was under investigation, leading them to take ‘discrete but concrete steps’ to ensure he didn’t have access to equipment or computers.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. “A Dangerous Escalation In Iraq.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says President Obama “has escalated America’s involvement in the fight” against ISIL “without providing a shred of evidence showing how it could advance American interests, or what happens” when the airstrikes are done. The Times says if ISIL “is expelled from Tikrit, the Americans and Iraqis will need to bring security and govern in a way that respects the rights of all citizens.”

“Reducing Risks After the Germanwings Crash.” A [New York Times](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) editorial says a requirement that two people must be in the cockpit “makes sense and all airlines should adopt it.” The Times says this is “a sensible step to reduce the risk that comes with leaving the lives of dozens or hundreds of people in the hands of just one pilot.”

“No Need To Prosecute Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl.” An editorial in the [New York Times](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) that in prosecuting Bowe Bergdahl, military lawyers will have a difficult time “explaining why it’s worthwhile to prosecute a soldier the Army recruited despite significant concerns about his psychological state and who endured years of torture and privation during his captivity.” The Times adds that while “the American military has good reason to punish service members who desert.” it should “exercise discretion in extraordinary cases,” and “Bergdahl’s is certainly one.”

WASHINGTON POST. “The Mideast Breakdown.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/27, 5.17M) says while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “is hardly blameless for the Mideast impasse” it “makes no sense” for the Administration to “portray” him as “a single-handed spoiler.” The Post notes the “framework” for a Palestinian state “was also spurned by Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas” and the peace process has lacked momentum since that time. The Post says withdrawing US support for Israel in the Security Council “wouldn’t improve the regrettable status quo.”

“Protection From Gay Marriage.” The [Washington Post](#) (3/27, 5.17M) in an editorial says that while there may be “legitimate debate on the balance between religious liberty and laws intended to prohibit discrimination” with respect to same-sex marriage, state legislatures have been considering laws that “would go much further” even allowing “religious justification” for businesses’ “refusal to hire, employ or serve gay men or lesbians, or members of virtually any minority group.” The Post worries that some might use religion to justify discrimination against “lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people,” or “Jews or Muslims.” It is particularly concerned by state legislative efforts “to roll back local ordinances that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation,” urging governments to be “wary of embracing intolerance under the guise of protecting people of faith.”

“A ‘More Delightful’ Library.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/27, 5.17M) says that the question of “what to do with the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library has vexed the District for a decade.” Now, there is an “exciting plan developed by library officials that we hope will have better success than the unrealized ideas of the past.” While “obstacles” to the remake “still exist,” library officials “seem to be well on their way, having hired architects and worked closely with the federal planning agency that will have to sign off on the design.”

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Obama’s Mideast Vacuum.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that Saudi Arabia would not have engaged in its risky intervention in Yemen if it trusted that the US could remain a stabilizing force in the region. The Journal says the US must send a clear message about its willingness to help the Saudis.

“Tim Robbins, Capitalist Tool.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) praises liberal actor Tim Robbins, who has come out against an effort by the Actors’ Equity Association to impose a minimum wage for smaller theater workers.

The Spitzer-Schneiderman Rules. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) in an editorial says that New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman appears to have followed what it describes as the practice of former state AG Eliot Spitzer in disregarding or hiding evidence that would undermine the state's case against former AIG CEO Hank Greenberg. The paper argues that such was the case regarding testimony by Richard Napier, who served as a top witness for the state against Greenberg, and says that the US Justice Department had itself withheld notes regarding an interview with Napier at which staff from the New York AG's office were also present. The paper argues that the case against Greenberg should be dropped.

"Iran Keeps Its Nuclear Secrets." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that Iran's refusal to cooperate with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors should prevent any nuclear agreement from moving forward.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Co-Pilot Appears To Have Deliberately Crashed Plane](#)
[Yemen Devolves Into Proxy War](#)
[Obama Struggles With A Messy Mideast](#)
[Regional Banks Fill Industrial Niche](#)

New York Times:

[Fatal Descent Of Plane Was A 'Deliberate Act,' French Authorities Say](#)
[A Man Who Loved To Fly. Set On A Mysterious And Deadly Course](#)
[Policy Puzzle In The Mideast](#)
[On Second Try. A Kingly Burial For Richard III](#)
[East Village Blast And Fire Fell Buildings And Hurt At Least 19](#)
[In Evolving Role \(And In Song\), City's First Lady Finds Her Voice](#)

Washington Post:

[Focus On Pilot Screenings And Cockpit Doors Grows](#)
[Official: Crash Was Not An Accident](#)
[Egypt Poised To Join Offensive](#)
[Saudi Strikes Used US Intelligence US Assisted Saudi Strikes In Yemen](#)
[Iraqi Militias Balk At US Strikes In Tikrit](#)
[DC Soccer Fans Carry On A Joyful, Messi Love Affair](#)

Financial Times:

[Co-Pilot's Fatal Actions Spur Cockpit Review](#)
[Oil Price Jumps After Saudi-Led Air Strikes On Targets In Yemen](#)
[Microsoft Joins Wage Inequality Debate Urging Paid Leave For Suppliers' US Staff](#)

Washington Times:

[Germanwings Crash Sparks Rush To Embrace US 2 Pilots In Cockpit Rule](#)
[Yemen Crisis Threatens Obama Iran Nuclear Talks, Further Clouds Middle East Policy](#)
[DHS Secretary Says Mayorkas Will Keep His Job Amid Immigration Flap](#)
[House Passes Medicare Payment Overhaul In Rare Spark Of Bipartisanship](#)
[DEA Agents Hired Prostitutes Paid For By Drug Cartels](#)
[Marco Rubio Takes Aim At Restrictive DC Gun Control Laws](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Germanwings Plane Crash; Germanwings Plane Crash-Co-Pilot; Germanwings Plane Crash-Cockpit Door; Germanwings Plane Crash-Analysis; New York-Building Explosion; Severe Weather-Oklahoma; FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled; Congressman Schock Resigns; Texas-Bridge Collapse; California-Missing Woman Case; Pope Francis-Upcoming White House Visit.

CBS: Germanwings Plane Crash; Germanwings Plane Crash-Co-Pilot; US-Pilot Screening Procedure; Germanwings Plane Crash-Analysis; Airline Disasters Unsolved; FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled; Bashar al-Assad Interview; Yemen-Saudi Arabia Airstrikes; New York-Building Explosion; Severe Weather-Oklahoma; DEA Misconduct Report; Hillary Clinton-CBS News Poll; Germanwings Plane Crash.

NBC: Germanwings Plane Crash; Germanwings Plane Crash-Co-Pilot; Germanwings Plane Crash-Cockpit Door; New York-Building Explosion; Severe Weather-Oklahoma; Yemen Conflict; FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Texas-Bridge Collapse.

Network TV At A Glance:

Germanwings Plane Crash – 24 minutes, 40 seconds
Severe Weather-Oklahoma – 5 minutes, 15 seconds
New York-Building Explosion – 4 minutes
FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled – 3 minutes, 45 seconds
Yemen Conflict – 2 minutes, 25 seconds
Texas-Bridge Collapse – 1 minute, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Germanwings Plane Crash; FBI-Homegrown Terror Plot Foiled; Alabama-Obama Economy Speech; Wall Street.

CBS: Germanwings Plane Crash; House-Budget Legislation; GOP-Obama Foreign Policy; DEA Misconduct Report; Pennsylvania-Faculty Restroom Dispute; Wall Street.

FOX: Germanwings Plane Crash; House-Budget Legislation; Alabama-Obama Economy Speech; California-Missing Woman Case;

NCAA Basketball Tournament Results, Yemen Conflict, New York-Building Explosion, Iran-U.S. Talks Filed.

NPR: Germanwings Plane Crash; Severe Weather-Oklahoma; Yemen Conflict; Pay Day Loan Regulations; Ebola Study; Iranian Nuclear Talks; New York-Building Explosion.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Unavailable.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — The Vice President will be in Wilmington, Delaware. There are no public events scheduled.

US Senate: No Scheduled Events.

US House: No votes are expected in the House.

Other: UN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ERITREA — March 23 – 27. The United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea will visit the United States of America (23-27 March) to hear firsthand testimonies from Eritrean refugees and migrants there. During its visit, the Commission will be based in Washington D.C. For media requests, please contact the Secretariat of the Commission of Inquiry by email: coieritrea@ohchr.org. Contacts: coieritrea@ohchr.org. On the Net: <http://www.ohchr.org/COIEritrea>.

AIR FORCE BREAKFAST – BELL — Breakfast speaker: Robert Bell: “Senior Civilian Representative in Europe of the Secretary of Defense: “EPAA and ballistic Missile Defense in Europe. <http://www.afa.org/informationfor/corporate/huessybreakfastseries>. Location: Capitol Hill Club. Contacts: Peter Huessy phuessy@afa.org. Notes: Invitation only.

MARINE CORPS MUSEUM — Museum Groundbreaking: 10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Timothy T. Day Overlook Dedication: 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Onsite media interviews can be arranged with advance request beginning at 9:30 a.m. Speakers include: Gen. James F. Amos, USMC (Ret), 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps; Lt. Gen. Robert R. Blackman Jr., USMC (Ret), President & CEO, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation; Lin Ezell, Director, National Museum of the Marine Corps; Timothy T. Day, Chairman and CEO, Bar-S Foods, Co. Media contact Dan Gregory at 202.414.0785 or dgregory@susandavis.com. Location: National Museum of the Marine Corps, 18900 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Triangle, VA 22172.

BPC – ELECTION ADMINISTRATION — 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. White House Counsel W. Neil Eggleston will discuss electi

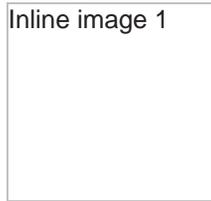
CONVERSATION CONTENTS

INVITATION: Join Secretary Sally Jewell on Tuesday, March 31 at a Dedication Ceremony for the Newly Designated Honouliuli National Monument

"OS, Office of the Secretary" <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>

From: "OS, Office of the Secretary" <officeoftheseecretary@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 24 2015 16:07:41 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To:
Subject: INVITATION: Join Secretary Sally Jewell on Tuesday, March 31 at a Dedication Ceremony for the Newly Designated Honouliuli National Monument

Inline image 1



Dear Friends,

Please join U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Deputy Director of the National Park Service Peggy O'Dell, Senators Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono, President of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii Carole Hayashino, the Monsanto Company, University of Hawaii President David Lassner and other community leaders on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at a dedication ceremony for the newly designated Honouliuli National Monument.

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

9:15 a.m. – Check-in for shuttle to dedication site
9:30 a.m. – Final shuttle leaves for dedication site
10:00 a.m. – Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony

Monsanto Parking Lot *
94-520 Kunia Road
Waipahu, HI 96759

*Access to the dedication site is only possible via shuttle service. Shuttles will depart the parking lot at 9:30 a.m.

Directions to Monsanto Parking Lot: From Honolulu, head west on H-1 Freeway. Take Kunia Rd. off ramp (Exit 5b) and head north on Kunia Rd. In about 1 mile and after passing 3 intersections, take an immediate left onto a gravel road. You will see signs for turn. Follow the road to the parking lot.

We hope you are able to join us and ask that you RSVP by Friday, March 27 by clicking [HERE](#). This invitation is non-transferable. Casual attire is appropriate.

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923

Conversation Contents

Do you have the most recent schedule for Hawaii that I can share with the Hill?

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 24 2015 14:30:23 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Erin Frautschy Barrows <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Do you have the most recent schedule for Hawaii that I can share with the Hill?

Gracias!

"Frautschy Barrows, Erin" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Frautschy Barrows, Erin" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 24 2015 15:32:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Do you have the most recent schedule for Hawaii that I can share with the Hill?

9:15 am - Gather at Monsanto Assembly Zone

9:30 am - Last shuttle bus departs Monsanto

10:00-10:30am - Honouliuli Gulch Dedication Ceremony and Program

10:30-11:00am - Tours of Honouliuli Gulch

11:05 - Shuttle buses depart en route Monsanto Assembly Zone

12:00-1:30pm - Welcome Reception and Celebration of the New Honouliuli National Monument
Location: Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2454 S Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96826

Let me know if you need more info!

Thanks,
Erin

On Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 4:30 PM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
Gracias!

--

Erin Frautschy Barrows
Deputy Director for Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5078 (direct)

Conversation Contents

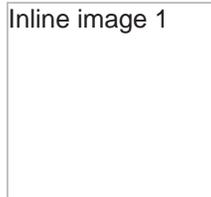
Hawaii invitation

"Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 24 2015 15:25:19 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Hawaii invitation

FYI - I'm getting ready to send this out. I'll include you on the email and you can forward to your folks. Cool?

Inline image 1



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Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary

"Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 24 2015 15:25:44 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Hawaii invitation

Sounds good! I'll send to the whole delegation.

On Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 5:25 PM, Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

FYI - I'm getting ready to send this out. I'll include you on the email and you can forward to your folks. Cool?

Inline image 1



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Office of the Secretary
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202-208-1923

--

Janou Gordon
Special Assistant
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240
Office: 202.208.5348
Cell: 202.368.8445

Conversation Contents

Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

"Maria Najera (via Google Sheets)" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Maria Najera (via Google Sheets)" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 23 2015 12:37:20 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

maria_najera@ios.doi.gov has invited you to **edit** the following spreadsheet:

== [Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15](#)

 Would you guys add Congressional fo ks? I'm planning to send to ethics/GL shortly.

[Open in Sheets](#)

Google Sheets: Create and edit spreadsheets online.

[Logo for Google Sheets](#)

"Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 23 2015 12:38:43 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Maria Najera (via Google Sheets)" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

Yup!

Jeremy, do you want me to add the whole delegation or just Schatz, Hirono and Gabbard?

On Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 2:37 PM, Maria Najera (via Google Sheets) <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

maria_najera@ios.doi.gov has invited you to **edit** the following spreadsheet:

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Special Assistant
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
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Washington, DC 20240
Office: 202.208.5348
Cell: 202.368.8445

Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 23 2015 12:42:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov, "Maria Najera (via Google Sheets)" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

Please add everybody and we can always pare down later.

From: Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 2:38 PM
To: Maria Najera (via Google Sheets)
Reply To: Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)
Cc: Jeremy Bratt
Subject: Re: Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

Yup!

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Cell: 202.368.8445

"Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 23 2015 14:44:09 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

Have any moc confirmed? I'd like to send the invite out tomorrow and was wondering if I needed to add anyone to the invitations.

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Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923

Maria Nájera

Special Assistant | Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs | Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 6225 | Washington, DC 20240
(202.513.0888 (desk) | 202.215.5668 (cell)
maria_najera@ios.doi.gov

On Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 2:42 PM, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Please add everybody and we can always pare down later.

From: Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 2:38 PM
To: Maria Najera (via Google Sheets)
Reply To: Gordon, Gabriella (Janou)
Cc: Jeremy Bratt
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Office: 202.208.5348
Cell: 202.368.8445

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 23 2015 14:44:55 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

We have tentative confirmations but nothing solid. What time are you sending tomorrow?

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 4:44 PM, Najera, Maria <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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--

Janou Gordon
Special Assistant
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Cell: 202.368.8445

"Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 23 2015 14:45:20 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

between 3-4 pm.

Maria Najera
Special Assistant | Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs | Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior | 1849 C Street NW | Room 6225 | Washington, DC 20240
(202.513.0888 (desk) | 202.215.5668 (cell)
maria_najera@ios.doi.gov

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Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

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Dear Friends,

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9:15 a.m. – Check-in for shuttle to dedication site
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*Access to the dedication site is only possible via shuttle service. Shuttles will depart the parking lot at

We hope you are able to join us and ask that you RSVP at your earliest convenience by clicking [HERE](#) (link).

Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions.

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-1923

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Google Sheets: Create and edit spreadsheets online.

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"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Mar 23 2015 14:48:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

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Sent: Tue Mar 24 2015 09:18:25 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

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"Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Najera, Maria" <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 24 2015 09:21:08 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli Dedication Ceremony in HI 03 31 15 - Invitation to edit

Great! Thanks. And so you know, only members are invited. There is no room for staff at this time. Thanks again.

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Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Mon, Mar 23, 2015 at 4:48 PM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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CONVERSATION CONTENTS

Include Sen. Schatz's name on Honouliuli invitation?

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 24 2015 08:50:25 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>, "Winer, Andrew (Schatz)" <andrew_winer@schatz.senate.gov>
Subject: Include Sen. Schatz's name on Honouliuli invitation?

Hello Malia and Andrew,

We'd like to send out an invitation to interested stakeholders for the upcoming Honouliuli event and were wondering if it is ok to include Sen. Schatz's name (please see below) as a confirmed attendee.

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From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 24 2015 09:11:33 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>, "Winer, Andrew (Schatz)" <andrew_winer@schatz.senate.gov>, sarah_kaopuiki@schatz.senate.gov

Subject:

RE: Include Sen. Schatz's name on Honouliuli invitation:

I got Malia's out of office reply, so resending with Sarah on this email.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
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On Tue, Mar 24, 2015 at 10:50 AM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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"Winer, Andrew (Schatz)" <Andrew_Winer@schatz.senate.gov>

From: "Winer, Andrew (Schatz)" <Andrew_Winer@schatz.senate.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 24 2015 09:16:37 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: Include Sen. Schatz's name on Honouliuli invitation?

Andy

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2015 10:50 AM
To: Paul, Malia (Schatz); Winer, Andrew (Schatz)
Subject: Include Sen. Schatz's name on Honouliuli invitation?

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 20, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Fri Mar 20 2015 05:02:38 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 20, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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- + UC Berkeley Alumni Have History Of Supporting National Parks.
- + Land Deal Appraised By Tax Assessor Barber Under Investigation.
- + Additional Coverage: Atlanta Selected For Interior Youth Initiative.
- + Measures Urged To Avoid Sage Grouse Listing.
- + Pullman Designation Lauded.

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- + NPS Faces Youth Challenge.
- + NPS Kicks Off Selma-to-Montgomery March.
- + Boston Still Trying To Get JEDD Payments From Cuyahoga Valley National Park Employees.
- + Bill Revived To Manage Grand Canyon Bison.
- + Zion National Park Confirms Employee Has Tuberculosis.
- + Grand Canyon Railroad Tracks To Be Sprayed With Herbicide.
- + Lost Family Of Tourists Found In Yosemite National Park.
- + Plans By Polygamist Group Raises Concerns.
- + NPS Urged To Release The Rim Of The Valley Report .
- + Protection Of Biscayne National Park Urged.

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- + Rep. McCollum Wants Nevada Rancher Bundy Brought To Justice.
- + BLM Working To Restore Gold Butte.
- + Bill Introduced To Spur Geothermal Energy.
- + BLM Sets Public Hearing For Carson City District Draft Resource Management Plan.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

- + GOP Lawmakers Says Protecting Coal Plants Will Help Manatees.
- + Alaska To Receive More Than \$2 Million In Grants For Wildlife.
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- + Experts Express Doubts About Bushmeat Guide.

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DOI in the News:

INTERIOR TO ISSUE FEDERAL FRACKING REGULATIONS FRIDAY. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Harder, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that the Obama Administration will issue new regulations aimed at creating a national standard for hydraulic fracturing on Friday. According to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, the rules will set standards for the construction of wells and wastewater disposal, and require companies to disclose the chemicals they use. A government proposal from May 2013 estimated that the rules will cost the oil and gas industry between \$12 and \$20 million a year. In anticipation of the new regulations, Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK), chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, introduced legislation on Thursday to prohibit federal regulation of fracking and instead give regulatory responsibility to states. According to the article, the bill has support from all Senate Republicans, but it not expected to become law.

[Politico](#) (3/19, 669K) reports the regulations will "offer oil and gas supporters new room to accuse President Barack Obama of seeking to throttle fossil-fuel production, despite his repeated boasts about the nation's booming energy supplies." The new regulations, Politico says, also "fall short of environmentalists' biggest demands for oversight of fracking operations — let alone some groups' calls for an all-out ban."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/20, Dlouhy, 2.28M), the [FuelFix](#) (3/19, 7K), the [San Antonio Express-News](#) (3/20, 674K), and the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (3/19, 2.21M) also provide coverage of this story.

SECRETARY JEWELL TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT LEAHY CENTER ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT. The [AP](#) (3/20, 299K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "going to be in Vermont where she will speak at an environmental summit on the Lake Champlain waterfront in Burlington." She is "scheduled to give the keynote address Friday at the Leahy Center Environmental Summit."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/20, 51K), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (3/20, 81K), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/20, 2.28M), and the [Washington Times](#) (3/20, 644K).

SECRETARY JEWELL DISCUSSES ENERGY POLICY. On the [Diane Rehm Show](#) (3/19), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell talked “about the Obama administration’s energy priorities and why she wants tougher pollution rules for federal land, incentives for wind and solar and a focus on cutting carbon pollution.”

JUDGE TO HEAR ARGUMENTS IN KING COVE ROAD LAWSUIT. The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (3/20, 14K) reports that Alaska’s “lawsuit to force Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to rethink her denial of a road out of King Cove is approaching its crescendo.” According to the article, “a motion for summary judgment and opposition to the state’s motion was filed March 9 by the Interior Department in the Alaska U.S. District Court on behalf of Jewell.”

UC BERKELEY ALUMNI HAVE HISTORY OF SUPPORTING NATIONAL PARKS. The [California Magazine](#) (3/19) reports that UC Berkeley alumni have had “a major influence on both launching and maintaining the National Park system,” according to Steven Beissinger, professor of wildlife ecology at Cal. The article notes that Berkeley alums “convened a conference at UC Berkeley on March 15, 1915, attended by 75 scientists, conservationists, politicians, park administrators and resource managers.” Now, “the university will commemorate this month’s centennial of the 1915 Berkeley conference on national parks with two events.” The article notes that “the spring 2015 Horace M. Albright Lecture in Conservation, America’s Two Best Ideas – Public Education and Public Lands, will be held on March 26, featuring a conversation with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, University of California President Janet Napolitano, historian and author Douglas Brinkley, and UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks.”

LAND DEAL APPRAISED BY TAX ASSESSOR BARBER UNDER INVESTIGATION. The [Jackson \(MS\) Clarion Ledger](#) (3/19, 222K) reports that “federal authorities have been looking into Madison County Tax Assessor Gerald Barber and his role in a Louisiana land deal that scored almost \$3 million in profits for private citizens and a conservation group.” According to the article, “the lynchpin for the deal may have been an apparent inflated appraisal done by Barber’s firm, Barber & Mann Inc., that the U.S. inspector general called ‘noncompliant’ and unreasonably priced in an audit.” The article notes that “the appraisal of a tract of Louisiana swampland, which swiftly changed hands from two private owners to an environmental group to the government over the course of a few months in early 2011, is described as not complying with federal appraisal guidelines, misleading parish and government officials, and appearing ‘to contain an unreasonable price per acre.’”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: ATLANTA SELECTED FOR INTERIOR YOUTH INITIATIVE. Additional coverage that Atlanta is “among first 11 cities chosen for the Interior Department’s new youth initiative” was provided by the [Atlanta Daily World](#) (3/19, 1K) and the [South Dade \(FL\) News Leader](#) (3/20).

MEASURES URGED TO AVOID SAGE GROUSE LISTING. In an editorial, the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (3/20, 172K) notes that “the Interior Department’s Bureau of Land Management and its U.S. Department of Agriculture counterpart, the U.S. Forest Service, manage most of the 67 million acres of sage grouse habitat,” and “these two agencies are preparing dozens of regional plans to protect the bird, supplemented by state-led efforts.” Averting a listing “depends on the strength of federal and state habitat conservation plans.” according to the editorial, “depending on the region, the sage grouse needs buffers around nesting sites, effective fire control strategies, limits on motorized vehicles during nesting and fire seasons, corridors to maintain or create contact among bird populations, siting rules for energy projects and campaigns to stop the spread of invasive species.”

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/20, 94K) welcomes measures to protect the sage grouse. It notes that FWS “officials from five soil and water conservation districts, including those in Crook and Deschutes counties, signed what are known as Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances on Wednesday in Juntura.” Also, “in Wyoming, Gov. Matt Mead and Dan Ashe, head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have agreed to open the country’s first conservation bank for sage grouse.”

Additional Coverage: Wyoming Sage Grouse Conservation Bank System Announced. Additional coverage of the conservation bank for sage grouse established in Wyoming was provided by the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/20), the [North American Windpower](#) (3/20, 43K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/20, 90K), the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (3/19, 506), the [Casper \(WY\) Journal](#) (3/20, 80K), and [Eagle Ford Texas](#) (3/20).

PULLMAN DESIGNATION LAUDED. For the “Congress Blog” of [The Hill](#) (3/20, Hunter, Sr., 224K), Bishop Louis Hunter, Sr. celebrates President Obama’s “recent protection of the historic Pullman neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago as a National Monument.” He says that “this is an appropriate commemoration of a site significant to our history and heritage, and demonstrates the president’s commitment to ensuring all of our children can find their history in our parks and monuments.” According to Hunter, “Pullman’s designation as a National Monument demonstrates President Obama’s commitment to protect places that tell the stories of all Americans.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS PROPOSES ESTABLISHMENT OF ENDOWMENT. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that “lawmakers appear to be leaving the drafting of legislation to establish a National Park Service endowment up to the agency officials, according to interviews with House and Senate natural resources leaders yesterday.” House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop said that “he hadn’t yet met personally” with NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis “since taking over the committee, which has jurisdiction over parks legislation, at the start of this year,” and noted that “it was probably more my fault than his.” The article notes that “in a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing earlier this week, Jarvis revealed that his nearly 100-year-old agency is planning to propose the establishment of an endowment that could raise money and help address some lingering problems as NPS enters its second century.”

NPS FACES YOUTH CHALLENGE. [CNN](#) (3/19, Bergeron, Redlitz, 2.05M) reports that “America’s national parks attracted a record-setting 292.8 million visits, but the typical visitor to the country’s biggest parks is edging closer to retirement age.” Also, “according to the

2016, which could lead to even more understaffing for the national parks.”

Also reporting on the story is [KDVR-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (3/19, 180K).

NPS KICKS OFF SELMA-TO-MONTGOMERY MARCH. The [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#) (3/19, 13K) reports that the NPS will “kick off its Selma-to-Montgomery march this evening at the Lowndes Interpretive Center at 8 p.m. with a talk from Stan Austin, the regional director of National Park Services and James Walker, the mayor of White Hall.” The article notes that “roughly 300 people coming from 26 different states went through the application process to take part in the march.”

BOSTON STILL TRYING TO GET JEDD PAYMENTS FROM CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK EMPLOYEES. The [West Side \(OH\) Leader](#) (3/20, 33K) reports that “the Boston Township Board of Trustees discussed the income tax collection from Cuyahoga Valley National Park employees as part of the Boston-Peninsula Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) at the March 11 meeting.”

BILL REVIVED TO MANAGE GRAND CANYON BISON. The [AP](#) (3/20, Fonseca, 2.28M) reports that Sen. John McCain and “some of his colleagues in the Arizona delegation have revived a proposal to reduce the number of bison at the Grand Canyon and let authorized hunters keep the meat from the animals they kill.” The bill “comes as the Grand Canyon is developing a management plan for the bison that roam the northern reaches of Arizona, trampling vegetation, grazing in pristine meadows and polluting water resources.” If passed, “the legislation would require a management plan to be published within 180 days.”

ZION NATIONAL PARK CONFIRMS EMPLOYEE HAS TUBERCULOSIS. The [AP](#) (3/20, 2.28M) reports that “Zion National Park officials are telling the public not to worry after an employee there was diagnosed with tuberculosis.” In a statement, the park said “the employee worked in concessions and was diagnosed with the respiratory disease last week.” Spokesman David Eaker said “there was little, if any, risk to the public.”

Also reporting on the story are the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/20, 405K) and the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (3/20, 398K).

GRAND CANYON RAILROAD TRACKS TO BE SPRAYED WITH HERBICIDE. The [AP](#) (3/20, 2.28M) reports that “Grand Canyon rail officials say railroad tracks inside the park will be sprayed later this month to prevent the growth of invasive plant life.” The Grand Canyon Railway says it is working with the NPS “to apply herbicide March 25-26 along several tracks.” According to park officials, “the herbicide will inhibit growth of vegetation, lowering the risk of train wheels igniting a fire.”

LOST FAMILY OF TOURISTS FOUND IN YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (3/20, 547K) reports that “authorities say deputies found a family of four that spent nearly 24 hours lost in a forested area of Yosemite National Park thanks to their GPS and texted photographs of their location.” According to the Mariposa County Sheriff’s Department, “deputies and a U.S. park ranger tracked the family Wednesday afternoon to a dirt road in an area known as Chowchilla Mountain thanks to pings from their GPS and pictures of their location the family sent by text message.”

PLANS BY POLYGAMIST GROUP RAISES CONCERNS. The [AP](#) (3/19, Press, 5.17M) reports that “the brother of an imprisoned leader of a polygamist sect wants to double the amount of water available to the group’s compound in South Dakota, prompting concern by neighbors and law enforcement about a possible influx of members being displaced from an enclave on the Utah-Arizona border.” Seth Jeffs, “who originally sought to triple the amount of water the South Dakota ranch could draw, recently told the state he was scaling back his request to relieve the ‘fears and concerns’ of the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service.” William Hansen, chief of the Water Rights Branch of the NPS, said “its main concern is the effect an additional well, without stricter limitations on usage, could have on Wind Cave National Park, since the FLDS draws from the same aquifer that has been forming the cave for millennia.”

NPS URGED TO RELEASE THE RIM OF THE VALLEY REPORT . The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (3/19, 317K) editorializes that Rep. Adam Schiff is “certainly not exaggerating when he terms ‘bureaucratic neglect’ the failure of the National Park Service to release a report, already delayed three times, on his proposal to create a Rim of the Valley National Recreation Area on wildlands stretching from the Santa Monica Mountains to the Angeles National Forest above Pasadena.” The paper also has “concerns about combining its management with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, big enough already, and with including El Pueblo de Los Angeles, an urban area.”

The piece also appears at the [Long Beach \(CA\) Press-Telegram](#) (3/19, 163K).

PROTECTION OF BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK URGED. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (3/20, Pierno, 281K), Theresa Pierno, Chief Operating Officer of the National Parks Conservation Association, writes that in recognition of World Water Day on March 22, Point Reyes National Seashore, “our first marine wilderness on the west coast at Drakes Estero, comes to mind along with opportunities that exist to protect invaluable national park resources across the country like Biscayne National Park along on the opposite coast in South Florida.” She says that “with great progress made at Point Reyes National Seashore with the recent marine wilderness designation, let’s do all we can now to protect Biscayne National Park by creating a marine reserve to protect its magnificent coral reefs, replenish native fish to the park, and bring Biscayne back to its historic status as a world class national park.”

Bureau of Land Management:

REP. MCCOLLUM WANTS NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY BROUGHT TO JUSTICE. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that “Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and his armed supporters who protested the Bureau of Land Management’s roundup of Bundy’s cattle last April broke the law and should be brought to justice, a Minnesota congresswoman said this morning.” Rep. Betty McCollum “pressed BLM Director Neil Kornze on what the government has done to deter illegal grazing on public lands and to protect agency employees who have been threatened by anti-government violence.” But the questioning “put Kornze in a bind, as Interior Department officials for several months have been deferring to the FBI and Justice Department to handle the government’s response to the Bundy standoff.”

BLM WORKING TO RESTORE GOLD BUTTE. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (3/19, 46K) reports that “JJ Smith, restoration project

species and plants at the Friends of Gold Butte Education Series Wednesday at the Community Theatre.” Smith said “he and his restoration crew do quite a few restoration projects in desert environments.” He added, “They’re very difficult and it takes a lot of time and money. The chances of success are sometimes very low. Mainly because there’s not much water, that makes restoration here more difficult than anywhere else I’ve worked. And because we have pre-major challenges like red brome grass.”

BILL INTRODUCED TO SPUR GEOTHERMAL ENERGY. [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (3/20, 4K) reports that Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley “introduced legislation Thursday to encourage geothermal energy production on public lands.” The Geothermal Production Expansion Act “prevents speculative bidders from driving up the price of leases for developers seeking to use the land for geothermal projects.” The legislation “streamlines the federal geothermal leasing program by allowing for the non-competitive leasing of a limited amount of federal land at fair market value to spur the expansion of geothermal energy on already identified ‘hot spots.’”

BLM SETS PUBLIC HEARING FOR CARSON CITY DISTRICT DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (3/19, 168K) reports that “after open houses were conducted around the district in January, the Bureau of Land Management Carson City District announced an upcoming public hearing on the Carson City District Draft Resource Management Plan concerning land issues.” The hearing will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. March 19 at the Churchill County Commission Chambers, 155 N. Taylor St. in Fallon.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

GOP LAWMAKERS SAYS PROTECTING COAL PLANTS WILL HELP MANATEES. [McClatchy](#) (3/20, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that the fact that “some two-thirds of Florida’s endangered manatees rely on discharge waters from power plants for winter warmth” is being used by congressional Republicans “to challenge the centerpiece of President Barack Obama’s agenda to fight climate change, a plan to slash carbon emissions that could force large-scale closures of coal plants.” The chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources confronted FWS Director Dan Ashe “on the issue at a budget hearing Thursday.” Rep. Rob Bishop said the FWS is “required to formally consult on any plan that could pose problems for an endangered species.” According to the article, “after Ashe acknowledged under questioning that the Fish and Wildlife Service did not consult with the EPA on the power plant rules, Bishop displayed in the committee room a photo of manatees in the Big Bend discharge canal, and he noted it is ‘considered a primary warm-water site for the manatees.’”

Coverage by McClatchy was also picked up by the [Miami Herald](#) (3/20, 694K).

ALASKA TO RECEIVE MORE THAN \$2 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR WILDLIFE. The [Alaska Native News](#) (3/20, 245) reports that the FWS “recently announced that more than \$2.0 million in new funding will be available to the State of Alaska through the State Wildlife Grant program in fiscal year 2015.” The grants “provide funds for conservation work across the state, including more than \$680,000 for work to reintroduce the endangered wood bison to Alaska after having been wiped out for more than a century.”

SCIENTISTS HUNTING FOR THE NEXT EBOLA OUTBREAK. The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, A1, Sieff, 5.17M) reports in a front-page article that a team of US-funded researchers is “hunting deep in a remote rain forest” in Congo, looking for an answer about where the Ebola virus hides between human epidemics. The paper notes that the answer appears to lie in the vast “African jungle where gorillas, bats and other animals suspected of spreading the virus share a shrinking ecosystem.” The article notes that if “scientists can pinpoint the carriers, and how Ebola is transmitted between them, future epidemics will be easier to anticipate, or even prevent.”

EXPERTS EXPRESS DOUBTS ABOUT BUSHMEAT GUIDE. The [AllAfrica](#) (3/20, 7K) reports that “conservation biologists studying the effects of bushmeat hunting in Africa have criticised a UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report for making unrealistic claims about the chances of protecting wildlife from commercial hunters.” The Bushmeat sourcebook, launched to mark World Wildlife Day on 3 March, “does little to create the “enlightened self-interest” among policymakers and the game industry that is vital to maintain a viable population of bushmeat species, including bats, monkeys and wild pigs,” according to experts. Responding to the online guide, Richard Ruggiero, head of international conservation at the FWS, says “he doubts it will lead to the tougher regulation needed to prevent commercial operations from taking over from subsistence hunting and wiping out the most valuable food sources.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS FINDS DROP IN SEABIRD POPULATION IN NORTH PACIFIC WATERS. The [AP](#) (3/20, Joling, 2.28M) reports that “the number of seabirds, including gulls, puffins and auklets, has dropped significantly in the Gulf of Alaska and northeast Bering Sea, a possible consequence of warmer waters, according to a preliminary federal analysis of nearly 40 years of surveys.” USGS experts “found the seabird population density declined 2 percent annually from 1975 to 2012 in the northeast North Pacific, said John Piatt, research wildlife biologist at the USGS Alaska Science Center.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Post](#) (3/19, Press, 5.17M), the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (3/19, 146K), and the [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (3/19, 18K).

USGS TO RELEASE NEW EARTHQUAKE HAZARD MAPS IN OKLAHOMA. The [AP](#) (3/20, 81K) reports that the USGS is “expected to release a new hazard map for earthquakes in Oklahoma.” According to the article, “data collection has continued with the help of the Oklahoma Geological Survey after the state recorded more earthquakes of a magnitude of 3.0 and higher last year than California.” Dan McNamara, USGS research geophysicist and lead author of the paper, said in a news release, “By identifying the faults, we are providing some guidance about where major earthquakes can happen.”

SCIENTISTS STUDYING DEADLIEST US LANDSLIDE. The [AP](#) (3/20, 685K) reports that “the deadliest landslide in U.S. history,” is “significantly enhancing scientists’ understanding,” according to Jonathan Godt, coordinator for the USGS’ landslide hazard program. He said, “The key research goal is to identify the basic reasons of why the landslide traveled so far and so fast.” Godt said the USGS “hopes that over the next eight years it will be able to chart geologic hazards across the country using advanced technology, but the plan is only partially funded.”

Renewable Energy:

MEETING HELD ON SUNZIA PROJECT. The [El Defensor Chieftain \(NM\)](#) (3/19, 10K) reports that many questions surround the SunZia Transmission Line, and “more than 150 people attended a meeting March 11 with State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn, SunZia representatives, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials, the New Mexico Renewable Transmission Authority (RETA) and more.” For supporters, “it’s a way to create jobs, increase property tax revenue on the state trust lands and other designated plots, as well as increase renewable energy.” However, “for the opposition, it’s a threat to national security, Socorro County infrastructure, possible species’ migratory patterns, health and wellness and private land entitlement.”

Onshore Energy Development:

CONGRESSMEN RAISE QUESTIONS STREAM BUFFER ZONE RULE. The [Harlan \(KY\) Daily Enterprise](#) (3/20, 19K) reports that Rep. Harold “Hal” Rogers “continued questions on the Obama Administration’s anti-coal policies and job-killing regulations this week on Capitol Hill.” In a joint-letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Rogers and Rep. Evan Jenkins “expressed concerns about the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement’s (OSM) efforts to develop a sweeping and unnecessary revised stream buffer zone rule.” The letter cites “mismanagement within the agency and a lack of transparency with coal producing states during the stream buffer zone rulemaking process.”

The piece also appears at the [Middlesboro \(KY\) Daily News](#) (3/20, 433).

LAWSUIT TARGETS APPROVAL OF WISHBONE HILL COAL MINE PERMITS. The [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (3/19, 146K) reports that “a coalition of environmental groups this week sued the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, saying the agency erroneously supported invalid state permits for the Wishbone Hill coal mine near Sutton”. According to the article, “the Alaska Department of Natural Resources’ mining division last October approved Usibelli’s request for five-year permit renewals.” However, “the groups argue the permits actually expired in 1996 and the Office of Surface Mining violated federal laws by not forcing the state to require a new permit process.”

BLM ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF ELKO OIL, GAS LEASE SALE. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (3/19, 168K) reports that the BLM “generated \$55,383 during its quarterly oil and gas competitive lease sale on March 10 in Reno, selling 13 parcels comprising about 15,244 acres in Elko and Eureka counties.” The bureau “offered 24 parcels totaling 25,882.47 acres.”

SEN. WYDEN ASKS BLM TO EXTEND COMMENT PERIOD FOR BOARDMAN-TO-HEMINGWAY POWER LINE. The [Baker City \(OR\) Herald](#) (3/20, 8K) reports that Sen. Ron Wyden has “asked the BLM to extend the comment period, which is scheduled to end today, for the proposed Boardman-to-Hemingway power line.” Wyden, “who had town hall meetings in several Eastern Oregon locations recently, including Baker City, wants the BLM to extend the comment period for 60 days.”

MCCONNELL URGES STATES TO OPPOSE OBAMA’S “WAR ON COAL.” The [New York Times](#) (3/19, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports Senate Majority Leader McConnell has begun “an aggressive campaign to block President Obama’s climate change agenda in statehouses and courtrooms across the country, arenas far beyond Mr. McConnell’s official reach and authority.” His campaign is aimed at stopping a set of EPA regulations requiring states to reduce carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants, but since he is “limited in how he can use his role in the Senate to block regulations, he has taken the unusual step of reaching out to governors.”

US APPELLATE COURT RULES DOCTOR LACKS STANDING IN FRACKING DISCLOSURE CASE. [Reuters](#) (3/20, Rascoe) reports that an appellate court dismissed a case that challenges a Pennsylvania law limiting the disclosure of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing by healthcare professionals. The court ruling is characterized as a victory for oil and gas companies.

The [Scranton \(PA\) Times Tribune](#) (3/20, 181K) reports that the dismissed lawsuit argued that a Pennsylvania doctor “had an ethical obligation to share information regarding fracking fluid ingredients with his patients, other medical professionals and the general public ‘to advance scientific knowledge.’” The appellate court concurred with a lower court’s ruling that Dr. Alfonso Rodriguez lacked legal standing to bring the lawsuit, noting that “federal law requires a plaintiff show he or she suffered an actual injury.”

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM EXPECTS TO ISSUE KEY DECISION ON CHUKCHI SEA BY END OF MARCH. The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (3/20, 14K) reports the BOEM “expects to issue a final decision by March 31 on a revised environmental impact statement of the Chukchi Sea 2008 Outer Continental Shelf lease sale that has been contested in court by environmental groups, the director of the agency said March 13.” BOEM Director Abigail Hopper also said that “Shell will likely not have to submit a revised oil spill containment and cleanup plan developed in 2012 and approved by the BOEM.”

BP CLASHES WITH STATES, FEDS OVER GULF OF MEXICO HEALTH. The [Washington Examiner](#) (3/20, 315K) reports that “sniping between BP and the governments affected by the oil giant’s Gulf of Mexico 2010 oil spill is reaching a fever pitch as the five-year anniversary of the largest spill in U.S. history approaches.” The article notes that “the latest episode in the fallout from the April 2010 incident revolves around a report BP released this week that said the data that has been collected ‘do not indicate a significant long-term impact to the population of any Gulf species.’” But “trustees for the Natural Resource Damage Assessment, a body established by a 1990 law to investigate the damage to natural resources from oil spills, slammed the report as being premature and disingenuous.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF GULF OF MEXICO LEASE SALE. Additional coverage of the latest central US Gulf of Mexico lease sale was provided by [Politico](#) (3/19, 669K), the [Houston Business Journal](#) (3/20, Blum, Subscription Publication, 65K), the [Energy Business Review](#) (3/20) the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/20), and [E&P Magazine](#) (3/20).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF MEETINGS ON OFFSHORE DRILLING. Additional coverage of the meetings being held on offshore drilling was provided by the [Island Free Press \(NC\)](#) (3/20), the [Coastal \(GA\) Courier](#) (3/20, 16K), the [Vineland \(NJ\) Daily Journal](#) (3/19,

PUBLIC URGED TO COMMENT ON OFFSHORE DRILLING. In an editorial, the [Hilton Head \(SC\) Island Packet](#) (3/19, 81K) notes that “the Town of Hilton Head Island this week joined the parade of coastal South Carolina governments opposing offshore drilling for gas and oil, and the window for the public to take a stand is about to close.” The paper urges “everyone to ask questions, keep an open mind, form an opinion and take a stand.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

FORMER BOR COMMISSIONER CALLS FOR AGENCY’S ABOLISHMENT. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/20, 74K) reports that “last month, Clinton-era Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Daniel Beard published a book calling for the abolishment of his own former agency.” The article notes that “dam removal and the obliteration of a longstanding federal agency are only two of Beard’s many suggestions for dealing with persistent drought.” In an interview, Beard discussed “his book and how water policy should evolve in anticipation of climate change.”

GOV. BROWN ANNOUNCES \$1 BILLION EMERGENCY DROUGHT PLAN. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (3/19, 113K) reports that “farm groups offered tepid praise for a \$1 billion drought relief package Gov. Jerry Brown and top California lawmakers unveiled March 19 to speed up delivery of voter-approved bond money for such projects as flood control and securing safe drinking water.” The article notes that “the plan details conservation, water recycling, expanded storage and other efforts to secure California’s water future.”

PROJECT FOR LAKE CLE ELUM SOCKEYE AWAITS FUNDING. The [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (3/19, 86K) reports that to improve passage for young sockeye salmon in Lake Cle Elum, the BOR “designed a first-of-its-kind \$100 million system to let fish swim downstream safely despite variations in the lake levels.” However, “the project, included in the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan for water management, awaits congressional authorization and funding.”

SUPPORT FOR BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN URGED. In an op-ed for the [Woodland \(CA\) Daily Democrat](#) (3/19, 27K), Ron Miller, the executive secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, writes that California’s “system of aging levees, aqueducts and pipes — that supplies water to 25 million Californians and 3 million acres of farmland — is outdated and at risk of collapse in the event of a major earthquake or flood.” Miller argues that the Bay Delta Conservation Plan would “address the most severe vulnerabilities of California’s water delivery system.” He claims that “the BDCP will improve the safety of our water system by fixing aging and outdated infrastructure, relying on the most innovative technologies and engineering practices.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA PROPOSES NEW REGULATIONS TO IMPROVE CHILD WELFARE PRACTICES. [The Hill](#) (3/20, Devaney, 224K) reports that the BIA is “proposing new regulations to improve child welfare practices for Indian children.” The proposed regulations would “advise state courts on how to handle Indian child custody proceedings, such as providing notice to the parents involved, terminating parental rights and adoptions.” The rules would also “address how the courts should respond to requests to transfer the cases to tribal courts and placement preferences.”

BILL WOULD AMEND CARCIERI RULING. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/19, 49K) reports that “on March 12, Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) introduced S. 732, ‘A bill to amend the [Indian Reorganization] Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes.’” The legislation “aims to repair the US Supreme Court’s ruling in *Carcieri v. Salazar*, an anti-Indian sovereignty decision that curbed the Interior Secretary’s authority to take land into trust for tribes recognized after 1934 when the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) was passed.” According to the article, “Tester’s bill ‘cleanly’ fixes the Carcieri ruling by striking ‘any recognized Indian tribe now under Federal jurisdiction’ and inserting ‘any federally recognized Indian tribe’ – without conditions or exceptions.”

STANDING ROCK TRIBE CONSIDERS LAND BUY BACK. The [Aberdeen \(SD\) News](#) (3/20, 47K) reports that “because the landowner pool on American Indian reservations has grown diluted through the years, tribes are attempting to buy back swaths of property in an effort to enhance development opportunities.” Michelle LeBeau of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, who is a representative of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations, “stopped in Aberdeen and other towns around the state on Tuesday to answer questions about the effort.” During a meeting Tuesday, LeBeau said, “There are a lot of people who don’t realize they have land. There are also people who are non-enrolled members who own land. What we’re trying to do is to combat fractionation, which is a big issue in tribal communities.”

NEW MEXICO HOUSE APPROVES GAMBLING COMPACT AS DEADLINE DRAWS NEAR. The [AP](#) (3/20) reports that “the New Mexico House of Representatives has approved a gambling compact negotiated by American Indian tribes and Gov. Susana Martinez’s office.” The compact still needs the approval of the Interior Department.

Also reporting on the story is the [A buquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (3/20, 238K).

TRIBE WITHDRAWS FROM PROPOSED CASINO IN SOUTHEAST KANSAS. The [AP](#) (3/20, 299K) reports that “an American Indian tribe based in Oklahoma is pulling out of a partnership seeking to build a casino in southeast Kansas because of hostility from Gov. Sam Brownback’s administration, the tribe’s chairman said.” John Berrey, chairman of the Quapaw Tribe, said Wednesday that “the tribe will not be partners with developer Phil Ruffin in a proposed Emerald City Casino & Resort north of Pittsburg.” Berrey said “the withdrawal is in response to a federal lawsuit filed by Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt seeking to stop the tribe from expanding its Downstream Casino facility in Oklahoma onto land the tribe owns in Kansas.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

REP. TAKAI SEEKS \$185M SOUGHT FOR MIGRANTS. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (3/20, 61K) reports that Rep. Mark Takai is “leading new efforts in Congress to increase annual funding for regional migrant costs from \$30 million to \$185 million.” Takai’s legislation states, “Insufficient sums have been appropriated to cover the costs incurred by Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana

from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.”

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE DISMISSES NETANYAHU’S ATTEMPTS TO BACKTRACK ON PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu’s comments yesterday on Palestinian statehood are being cast by media outlets as backtracking on statements he made ahead of Tuesday’s election. At the same time, reports universally say the White House dismissed the Israeli leader’s comments as it suggested that the US may no longer block a UN vote on Palestinian statehood. The developments were reported on all three network newscasts last night, which devoted a total of just over five-and-a-half minutes to the story, and are also generating front-page headlines this morning.

For example, [ABC World News](#) (3/19, story 8, 0:25, Robach, 5.84M) said Netanyahu seemed to backtrack on his “last-minute campaign promise,” while [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/19, lead story, 3:20, Holt, 7.86M) reports that just “days after his stunning 11th hour campaign declaration that there would not be a Palestinian state on his watch...Netanyahu did an equally stunning turn-about” during an interview with Andrea Mitchell. Netanyahu said in the interview, “I haven’t changed my policy. I don’t want a one-state solution. I want a sustainable peaceful two-state solution. But for that, circumstances have to change.” Mitchell said “the White House wasn’t buying his explanation.”

White House officials, says the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/20, Lauter, 3.49M), “made it clear that the president is not forgetting Netanyahu’s” remarks earlier this week. “We take him at his word,” press secretary Josh Earnest said. The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/19, story 4, 1:55, Pelley, 5.08M) similarly said that despite Netanyahu’s assurance that his comment was purely “campaign rhetoric,” the Administration, “frustrated by Netanyahu’s decision to play politics with the peace process, remained wary.” The President called Netanyahu to congratulate him on his election victory, but he told Netanyahu “nothing he said today changed [his] mind about reassessing how to achieve a two-state solution.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, A1, Rudoren, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says Netanyahu’s “new assertions appeared to do nothing to assuage an infuriated Obama administration.” According to “a White House official who spoke without authorization to detail the private conversation,” Obama told Netanyahu “directly that the United States would have to ‘re-assess our options’ after the prime minister’s ‘new positions and comments’ on the two-state solution.” The Times notes that the “formal White House account of the call made no mention of the criticism.” [Reuters](#) (3/20, Spetalnick, Chiacu) also reports the comments by the unnamed White House official.

On [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (3/19, 5:02 p.m. ET, 554K), Jim Acosta added, “Simply put, the White House is not buying what...Netanyahu is selling today.” In fact, White House officials “are suggesting they may allow votes at the United Nations in favor of a Palestinian state. As you know, that is a measure the US has blocked before.” [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (3/19, 6:00 p.m. ET, 1.53M) also noted the “speculation the US might try to pressure Israel into a peace deal with the Palestinians by reevaluating its support for the Jewish state at the United Nations.” Earnest is quoted as saying, “Because of his indication he’s prepared to withdrawal from previous commitments to a two-state solution that does and has prompted us to reevaluate our approach to that matter.”

Although Netanyahu, the [AP](#) (3/20, Deitch) reports, “backtracked,” Earnest “reiterated the White House view that Netanyahu’s pre-election comments...would mean the US would have to reconsider its approach to Israel,” but he “did not go into specifics.” [USA Today](#) (3/20, Chabin, 4.95M), however, quotes Earnest as saying, “I’m not suggesting that any policy decision has been made at this point.” The [Washington Post](#) (3/20, A1, Murphy, 5.17M) too says Netanyahu “backtracked,” but the “head-spinning pivot did not convince White House officials, who suggested Thursday that Netanyahu’s maneuvers could prompt a shift in US policy toward Israel, particularly in the United Nations.” In a “sign of the Obama administration’s extreme frustration,” Earnest “denounced Netanyahu’s actions as ‘cynical, divisive election-day tactics’ that are unworthy of the values” that the two nations share.

[McClatchy](#) (3/20, Greenberg, Subscription Publication, 17K) says yesterday marked “the second day in a row in which Earnest used intentionally undiplomatic wording to describe Netanyahu’s actions.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, A1, Casey, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that Administration officials said yesterday that Netanyahu’s comments have made it difficult for the White House to accept Netanyahu’s attempt to clarify his remarks. “If he had consistently stated that he remained in favor of a two-state solution, we’d be having a different conversation,” State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said.

The [Huffington Post](#) (3/20, Spetalnick, Chiacu, 281K), under the banner “White House Not Buying It,” similarly reports on yesterday’s events, as does [Politico](#) (3/19, Wheaton, 669K), [AFP](#) (3/20, Biddle, Beatty, Ward), and [The Hill](#) (3/19, Fabian, 224K), among other outlets.

David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 5.17M) column that any moves by the Administration at the UN “would open a wide and potentially destabilizing breach between the two allies, and the administration’s consideration of them now is probably partly tactical.”

Charles Krauthammer, meanwhile, writes in his [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 5.17M) column that “of all the idiocies uttered in reaction to...Netanyahu’s stunning election victory, none is more ubiquitous than the idea that peace prospects are now dead because Netanyahu has declared that there will be no Palestinian state while he is Israel’s prime minister.” While Krauthammer says he “understand[s] the crushing disappointment of the Obama administration...blaming Netanyahu for banishing peace, however, is mindless.”

Fareed Zakaria writes in his [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 5.17M) column that Israel’s great vulnerability is its Arab population, not Iran, and says rejecting a two-state solution will not serve its best interests in the long run.

Erekat: Netanyahu Never Really Believed In Two-State Solution. Calling into [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (3/19, 7:09 p.m. ET, 554K), Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said, “As Netanyahu is concerned – I don’t think he was ever a two-stater. I think it was one of the rare honest moments when he...was saying the truth. This man since he came to office in 1996 and 2009 to now he did nothing but undermine a two-state solution. I take this very, very seriously. I think his election is very, very dangerous. ... And he needs to be held accountable.”

that the leaders of Israel's "newly united, newly empowered Arab political faction," who won 13 seats in Tuesday's election, want "seats on the interior, finance, education, legal, employment and social-affairs committees" in the Knesset, and they "hope to gain influence over the curriculum in Arab-sector schools and increase the budgets for Arab towns."

McDonough To Address J Street Conference. [Politico](#) (3/20, Lerner, 669K) reports White House chief of staff Denis McDonough will deliver the keynote address at J Street's national conference on Monday. [The Hill](#) (3/19, Hensch, 224K) also reported on McDonough's speech.

Boehner To Visit Israel. [Ha'aretz](#) (3/20, Ravid, 235K) reports Speaker Boehner is expected to visit Israel "in about a week." According to the newspaper, the trip was arranged before this week's election in Israel, but it "is likely to be a 'victory celebration'" for Netanyahu and Boehner.

NYTimes A1 Analysis: Netanyahu's Reelection "Complicates Life" For Clinton. The [New York Times](#) (3/20, A1, Horowitz, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on its front page that while Netanyahu's reelection "has reverberated through American politics...mostly it has complicated the life" of Hillary Clinton as she "moves closer to making her campaign for president official." Clinton, says the Times, "now faces a deepening polarization among Jewish Democrats" over Netanyahu and how the US "should deal with his government."

HOUSE, SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEES PASS GOP SPENDING PLAN. The House Budget Committee advanced the GOP 2016 budget on a party-line vote early Thursday morning, but internal sparring among Republicans over defense spending has complicated the situation. The Senate Budget Committee similarly passed its spending plan, with full Senate consideration to start next week.

The [AP](#) (3/20, Espo, Taylor) reports that on Thursday, Congressional Republicans "advanced balanced-budget plans bristling with cuts in Medicaid and other benefit programs," looking to "make good" on campaign promises to balance the budget. However, "last-minute maneuvering" to determine defense spending levels "consumed GOP lawmakers in both the House Budget Committee and the counterpart Senate panel."

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that the House Budget Committee "voted out an otherwise austere spending plan, promising to add \$2 billion in additional 'emergency' war funding to a budget that already raised combat funds by \$38 billion." Those funds "will be added Monday as the full House prepares to debate the tax-and-spending blueprint." Similarly, the Senate Budget Committee added \$38 billion in military spending for combat operations after a "revolt by defense advocates."

Boehner Says House To Consider Further Defense Increases Next Week. [Reuters](#) (3/20, Cowan, Lawder) reports that Speaker Boehner announced on Thursday that defense hawks will be allowed to push for further increases in defense funding next week, setting off a potential battle as the House sets its budget priorities. Boehner said, "There is overwhelming support in our conference for providing additional resources to protect our national security." [Politico](#) (3/19, Bresnahan, Sherman, 669K) reported that Boehner told reporters that the leadership "would add the additional \$20 billion in defense funding in Rules."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Peterson, Timiraos, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that Boehner's move comes after House GOP leaders failed to convince the House Budget Committee on Wednesday night to further increase defense spending, and is necessary to ensure sufficient defense hawk support for the overall budget. [The Hill](#) (3/19, Becker, Needham, Matishak, 224K) reported that Rep. Mike Turner, "who led a group of 70 House Republicans seeking more robust defense spending in the budget, signaled Thursday that he could back the latest compromise, and that the GOP had finally found the way out of its problem."

[Roll Call](#) (3/20, Dumain, Subscription Publication, 102K) covers the action, and says that going forward, the "whip operation to secure support for the budget" in the full House "will be a challenge, with Republican leaders well aware that they aren't going to get any Democrats to help make up for a big shortfall."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Howell, 644K) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi "wondered aloud Thursday if the GOP had the votes to pass the 'same old warmed-over stew.'"

In a piece for the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 5.17M), Brookings fellow and contributing columnist Robert Kagan writes that Republicans have been touting their "hawkishness" in recent months, but "have not been very clear about what they would do differently" than the Administration and have "not talked much about the possible costs of an alternative approach." He says that the ability of the GOP to provide sufficient defense funding will be a test to see if they can back up their talk.

Senate To Start Budget Work On Monday. [The Hill](#) (3/20, Carney, 224K) reports in its "Floor Action" blog that Senate Majority Leader McConnell said Thursday that the "full Senate will start its work on the Republican budget Monday," and that there will be at least one vote. Senate Republicans "released their budget Wednesday, and the resolution passed through the Senate Budget Committee on Thursday evening." Once the Senate passes a budget resolution, McConnell said that the chamber will return to the human trafficking legislation, which has been held up by a battle of abortion legislation.

OBAMA ORDERS CUTS IN FEDERAL GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS. The President's signing of an executive order Thursday reducing Federal greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent was not covered on any of last night's network newscasts, but is generating reports in the nation's major dailies and wires. Reports note that the move represents the latest in a string of executive actions by the President and fulfills a commitment he made last year as part of a climate deal with China.

The executive order, the [New York Times](#) (3/20, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports, "set new goals for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of federal agencies," but notes that the Federal government's "share of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States is minuscule — less than 1 percent in 2013." But the goals are "in line with a commitment" the US made as part of a climate deal with China.

The [AP](#) (3/20, Lederman) says that by reducing pollution "within the US government, Obama sought to increase political pressure on

for us to lead by example. These are ambitious goals, but we know they're achievable goals."

[USA Today](#) (3/20, Jackson, 4.95M) notes the executive order "also directed the government to increase its use of renewable resources to 30% of energy use," and the White House announced that "several major federal suppliers — including IBM, General Electric, Northrop Grumman and Honeywell — have committed to their own reductions in greenhouse gas emissions."

White House senior adviser Brian Deese, the [Washington Post](#) (3/19, Eilperin, 5.17M) reports, "estimated the new measures will save \$18 billion." [Reuters](#) (3/20, Walsh, Edwards) quotes Deese as saying that while the Federal government's share of greenhouse gas emissions is "modest," the "potential from this announcement, however, is significant both because we can drive substantial reductions across the entire federal footprint and because our efforts to do that leverage both innovation and investment in the private sector." [McClatchy](#) (3/20, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 17K) also reports the remarks by Deese.

The [Detroit News](#) (3/20, Shepardson, 577K) notes the order includes reducing emissions from the Federal government's "655,000 vehicles by 30 percent by 2025." Also running similar reporting on the move this morning are [Vox](#) (3/20, Plumer, 737K), the [Washington Times](#) (3/20, Sherfinski, Wolfgang, Wolfgang, 644K), and [The Hill](#) (3/20, Cama, 224K), among others.

But [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/20, Olorunnipa, 169K) reports Chris Warren, a spokesman for the Institute for Energy Research, said Obama's move "will have no impact on global temperatures," and accused the President of "trying to boost his climate credentials to appease the national environmental lobby, regardless of what it means for the average American."

McConnell Urges States To Help Resist Obama's "War On Coal." The [New York Times](#) (3/19, Davenport, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on its front page that Senate Majority Leader McConnell has begun "an aggressive campaign to block President Obama's climate change agenda in statehouses and courtrooms across the country, arenas far beyond Mr. McConnell's official reach and authority." His campaign is aimed at stopping a set of EPA regulations requiring states to reduce carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants, but since he is "limited in how he can use his role in the Senate to block regulations, he has taken the unusual step of reaching out to governors."

Interior To Issue Fracking Regulations Today. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Harder, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that the Interior Department today is expected to announce long-awaited regulations for hydraulic fracturing in the oil and natural-gas industries. Interior Secretary Jewell said Tuesday, "The rule will include measures to protect our nation's groundwater—requiring operators to construct sound wells, to disclose the chemicals they use, and to safely recover and handle fluids used in the process."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Bloodshed In Tunisia." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says the attack on the National Bardo Museum in Tunis "lays bare the extent to which extremists...now threaten Tunisia, the only success story of the Arab Spring." According to the Times, the country "will need substantial international help" to remain "an example of sanity in a region consumed by chaos and dominated by authoritarian governments."

U.S. Allies, Lured By China's Bank. The [New York Times](#) (3/20, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) editorializes that President Obama "has mishandled the issue" of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The Times says the Administration should have "worked with its allies to produce a set of common principles that could then be negotiated with the Chinese," but "Instead, it seems to have no coherent plan for dealing with the new bank."

The Schneiderman Remedy For Sleaze. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/20, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says New York state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's "ethics proposals" are "a challenge to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's promised reforms." The Times says Schneiderman's "rare blast is a reminder to Mr. Cuomo that while legislatures are whining about having to change the status quo, others are pushing for a real cleanup of Albany."

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "An ObamaCare Plan Beats No Plan." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that if the Supreme Court strikes down ACA subsidies, the GOP needs to be ready with an alternative. The Journal predicts that Democrats will use the political crisis to call for restoring the subsidies, and having no response would lead to political defeat for Republicans.

"The IRS Gets Out The Vote." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) writes that the President wants to require mandatory voting, but it wouldn't counteract money in politics. The Journal suggests the President over-imposes legal mandates, linking the comments to the attempts to fine Hobby Lobby for violating the contraceptive mandate and the tax penalty for not having health insurance.

"China Trounces US 'Smart Power.'" In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says the success of China in enticing countries to join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) makes the Asia-Pacific trade agreement even more important.

"Islamic State Threatens Tunisia." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) editorializes that the US and France must follow through on vows to assist Tunisia's counter-terrorism efforts in order to ensure the country's status a success from the Arab Spring.

WASHINGTON POST. "An Electoral College Tilt." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 5.17M) criticizes "a Michigan Republican's proposal to apportion the state's electoral votes by congressional district." Using such a system would only increase the chances of candidates winning the popular vote but losing in the electoral college. The Post credits the plan to "raw partisanship," as "the only rationale for the new method" is its "persistent and significant pro-GOP bias."

"Avoiding A Budget Sinkhole." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/20, 5.17M) calls on Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan to "keep a stiff

concludes that either budget cuts or new taxes will restore health to the fund and admonishes Hogan that his victories in addressing the state's long-term structural deficit "will be Pyrrhic" if the fund is raided again.

"Poisonous Interference."

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Currencies Go On Wild Ride, Fueled By Fed](#)
[Key FTC Staff Sought Google Antitrust Suit](#)
[Netanyahu Reverses On Palestinian State Again](#)
[Clinton Charity Tapped Foreign Friends](#)

New York Times:

[McConnell Wants States' Help Against Obama "War On Coal"](#)
[Scientists Seek Ban On Method Of Editing The Human Genome](#)
[Israel Results Reverberates For Clinton](#)
[Israel Leader Backs Off Stand On 2-State Option](#)
[Huge Day Of NCAA Upsets Not To Be Taken Sitting Down](#)
[In Murder Intrigue, A Chechen Strongman Fiercely Loyal To Putin](#)

Washington Post:

[Arrest Of Black U-Va. Student Spurs Look At Alcohol Agency](#)
[Netanyahu Backtracks On Election Eve Pledge](#)
[Tracking Down Ebola's Hiding Places](#)
[Islamic State Claims Attack In Tunisia That Killed 20 Tourists](#)
[For Generations Of DC Kids, Miss McAbee Has Made It All Better](#)

Financial Times:

[Not Happy: Pharrell Williams Speaks On Over Copyright Ruling](#)
[Fed's Mixed Signals Expose Gulf With Markets Over Rate Cut Expectations](#)
[Mutiny Stirs As Bounty's Descendants Draw Swords Over Who Rules Their Island](#)

Washington Times:

[Intelligence Community Softens Iran Threat Rhetoric Amid Obama Nuclear Talks](#)
[Forest Service Workers Told To Test Own 'Unconscious Bias' On Race, Sexuality](#)
[Iowa Mennonite Pastor Faces Deportation In First Big Test Case For Obama Amnesty](#)
[Republican Budget Proposals A Tough Sell Within Increasingly Polarized GOP](#)
[Melo Trimble Exceeds Expectations, Ignites Terrapins](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: UVA-Police Brutality Investigation; Weather Forecast; Robert Durst-Murder Charge; Caroline Kennedy-Death Threats; Tunisia-Terror Attack; NFL Domestic Abuse Case; Seattle-Drone Incident; Netanyahu-Palestine Statehood Comments; Target-Data Breach Settlement; Recall Vehicles Investigation; California-Wine Lawsuit; Music Copyright Case-Pharrell Comments.

CBS: Tunisia-Terror Attack; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Weather Forecast; Netanyahu-Palestine Statehood Comments; UVA-Police Brutality Investigation; State Of Black American Report; Syria-Chemical Attack Victims; Denver-Craigslist Murder; Florida-Craigslist Safety; California-Police Chase Video; Obama-Prince Charles Visit.

NBC: Netanyahu-Palestine Statehood Comments; UVA-Police Brutality Investigation; Boston Marathon Bomber Trial; Tunisia-Terror Attack; Caroline Kennedy-Death Threats; Robert Durst-Murder Charge; California-Drought Relief Fund Proposal; Weather Forecast; Wi-Fi Warning; Obama-Prince Charles Visit; \$20 Bill Petition.

Network TV At A Glance:

UVA-Police Brutality Investigation – 6 minutes, 55 seconds
Tunisia-Terror Attack – 6 minutes
Netanyahu-Palestine Statehood Comments – 5 minutes, 40 seconds
Robert Durst-Murder Charge – 3 minutes, 45 seconds
Boston Marathon Bombing Trial – 3 minutes, 5 seconds
Weather Forecast – 2 minutes, 55 seconds
Caroline Kennedy-Death Threats – 40 seconds
Obama-Prince Charles Visit – 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Obama-Video Message To Iran; UVA-Police Brutality Investigation; Mississippi-Murder Investigation; NFL-Domestic Violence Case.

CBS: Obama-Video Message To Iran; GOP-Iranian Nuclear Deal; Obama-Netanyahu Phone Call; Netanyahu-Palestine Statehood Comments; Congress-Budget Debate; Secret Service Misconduct Investigation; Weather Forecast.

FOX: Iran-Nuclear Talks; Obama-Video Message To Iran; Netanyahu-Proposed Iranian Nuclear Deal; EU-Russia Sanctions; Russia-War Games Expanded; NCAA Basketball Tournament; Boston Marathon Bombing Trial; Mississippi-Murder Investigation; UVA-Police Brutality Investigation; Wall Street.

NPR: Obama-Video Message To Iran; Iran-Nuclear Talks; Mississippi-Murder Investigation; Obama-SNAP Reform Grants; Lufthansa Pilot Strike; IEP-Mexican Drug War Cost; EU-Russia Sanctions; Wall Street.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — With the Vice President, receive the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; President Obama will host the second-annual White House Student Film Festival, East Room, open press. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Vice President Biden delivers remarks at the Futures Without Violence seventh biennial National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence.

MICHELLE OBAMA — Obama will travel to Japan and Cambodia from March 18-22, 2015. She will visit Tokyo on March 18-19, Kyoto on March 20, and Siem Reap on March 21-22.

US Senate: No Scheduled Events.

US House: The House is not in session.

Other: **THE PRINCE OF WALES** — March 17 – 20. Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall will make a four day visit to the United States of America from 17th – 19th March 2015 in Washington, DC then in Kentucky on the 20th. Media wishing to accredit for HRH The Prince of Wales engagement at the National Archives, please complete the online form at the following link: www.sa-meetings.com/SpringRoyalUSAVisit For more information about The Prince of Wales visit www.princeofwales.gov.uk Contacts: British embassy (202) 588-6500. Notes: Contact the British Embassy for credentials and coverage details springroyalusavisit@gmail.com (202) 588-6500. <http://www.princeofwales.gov.uk/media/press-releases/further-details-released-the-prince-of-wales-and-the-duchess-of-cornwalls-visit>.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTH AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE — March 19 – 21. The 7th Biennial National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence aims to advance the healthcare system's response to domestic and sexual violence. Media Contacts: Marsha Robertson, mrobertson@futureswithoutviolence.org, 415.828.4520; Lauren Brisbo, Lbrisbo@futureswithoutviolence.org, 206.931.3284. <https://www.creativegroupinc.com/nchdv/Public/ShowPage.aspx?PageId=170551>. Highlights: Scheduled remarks by Vice President Biden. Locati

for the weekly

"Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 19 2015 11:00:52 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Gabiella (Janou) Gordon" <gabiella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>, Erin F <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: for the weekly

Can you guys please let me know who will be at the HI event with SJ? This is all I have right now:

On March 31, Secretary Jewell will attend a dedication ceremony and community celebration for the newly established Honouliuli National Monument in Oahu, HI.

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Nikki Buffa
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202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 19 2015 11:24:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: for the weekly

Although I don't think we have official RSVPs because we haven't extended official invites yet (Booch and EFB, correct me if I'm wrong about that), we have heard that Sens. Schatz and Hirono will be at both events and Rep. Gabbard will be at the public event at the cultural center.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 1:00 PM, Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Can you guys please let me know who will be at the HI event with SJ? This is all I have right now:

On March 31, Secretary Jewell will attend a dedication ceremony and community celebration for the newly established Honouliuli National Monument in Oahu, HI.

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

"Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 19 2015 11:33:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: for the weekly

Great. Thanks!

On Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 1:24 PM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Although I don't think we have official RSVPs because we haven't extended official invites yet (Booch and EFB, correct me if I'm wrong about that), we have heard that Sens. Schatz and Hirono will be at both events and Rep. Gabbard will be at the public event at the cultural center.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

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Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

--

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

Tentative plan for Honouliuli event 3/31

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 17 2015 13:31:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>, "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>, "Lin, Betsy (Hirono)" <Betsy_Lin@hirono.senate.gov>, "Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Tentative plan for Honouliuli event 3/31

Hello Team Hawaii,

Below is a draft schedule for the Honouliuli event on 3/31 with Secretary Jewell. This is still tentative and subject to change as details get firmed up, but I wanted to share this with you as soon as I received it from the Secretary's scheduling team.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I will continue to share information as I get it.

Thanks,
Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

10:00am - Dedication Ceremony and tour at Honouliuli
Invitations to be handled by Interior

Guests will meet at Monsanto and take buses down; we will need a tight RSVP count for this as only two buses can make it down to the site. Consequently, space for staff will be very difficult to accommodate.

12:00-1:30pm - Community Reception at Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i
Invitations to be handled by JCCH

THE JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I, PACIFIC HISTORIC PARKS, JA CL HONOLULU CHAPTER, and MONSANTO HAWAI'I

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A WELCOME RECEPTION FOR U.S. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR SALLY JEWELL AND A CELEBRATION OF THE NEW HONOULIULI NATIONAL MONUMENT

AT

MANOA GRAND BALLROOM
JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I
2454 S. BERETANIA STREET, 5TH FLOOR
HONOLULU

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015
12 NOON TO 1:30 PM

RSVP: SPECIALEVENTSCOORD@JCCH.COM
OR CALL (808) 218-6747

From: "Paul, Malia (Schatz)" <Malia_Paul@schatz.senate.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 17 2015 13:48:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Tentative plan for Honouliuli event 3/31

Thank you Jeremy.

Malia Oshima Paul

Deputy Chief of Staff

Office of Senator Brian Schatz

300 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 7-212

Honolulu, HI 96850

(808)523-2061

www.schatz.senate.gov

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 3:31 PM
To: Paul, Malia (Schatz); James, Rachel; Lin, Betsy (Hirono); Tanonaka, Rod
Subject: Tentative plan for Honouliuli event 3/31

Hello Team Hawaii,

Below is a draft schedule for the Honouliuli event on 3/31 with Secretary Jewell. This is still tentative and subject to change as details get firmed up, but I wanted to share this with you as soon as I received it from the Secretary's scheduling team.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I will continue to share information as I get it.

Thanks,

Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt

Deputy Director

Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of the Interior

Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov

202-208-7696 (desk)

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12 NOON TO 1:30 PM

RSVP: SPECIALEVENTSCOORD@JCCH.COM

OR CALL (808) 218-6747



"James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>

From: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 17 2015 17:20:32 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Tentative plan for Honouliuli event 3/31

it is in your mind as things progress: 1. Will there be a formal reception for Secretary Jewell in the first part of the hour (i.e. 12-1230?) followed by the community reception? 2. Are each of the Hawaii Delegates being asked to speak? If they are not present themselves, will their staff be asked to share the message on their behalf?

Just food for thought as be proceed. Thank you again, Jeremy. Take care

Rachel

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:31 AM
To: Paul, Malia (Schatz); James, Rachel; Lin, Betsy (Hirono); Tanonaka, Rod
Subject: Tentative plan for Honouliuli event 3/31

Hello Team Hawaii,

Below is a draft schedule for the Honouliuli event on 3/31 with Secretary Jewell. This is still tentative and subject to change as details get firmed up, but I wanted to share this with you as soon as I received it from the Secretary's scheduling team.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I will continue to share information as I get it.

Thanks,

Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt

Deputy Director

Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of the Interior

Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov

202-208-7696 (desk)

10:00am - Dedication Ceremony and tour at Honouliuli

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OR CALL (808) 218-6747



"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 18 2015 08:36:54 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "James, Rachel" <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Tentative plan for Honouliuli event 3/31

Hello,
Good questions - I will ask our scheduling team and try to find out!
Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 7:20 PM, James, Rachel <Rachel.James@mail.house.gov> wrote:

Thank you for the information, Jeremy! Although you may not have this info yet, I just wanted to make mention of it so

hour (i.e. 12-1230?) followed by the community reception? 2. Are each of the Hawaii Delegates being asked to speak? If they are not present themselves, will their staff be asked to share the message on their behalf?

Just food for thought as we proceed. Thank you again, Jeremy. Take care

Rachel

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 9:31 AM

To: Paul, Malia (Schatz); James, Rachel; Lin, Betsy (Hirono); Tanonaka, Rod

Subject: Tentative plan for Honouliuli event 3/31

Hello Team Hawaii,

Below is a draft schedule for the Honouliuli event on 3/31 with Secretary Jewell. This is still tentative and subject to change as details get firmed up, but I wanted to share this with you as soon as I received it from the Secretary's scheduling team.

Please let me know if you have any questions and I will continue to share information as I get it.

Thanks,

Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt

Deputy Director

Congressional and Legislative Affairs

Department of the Interior

Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov

202-208-7696 (desk)

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HI event

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Mar 13 2015 09:46:20 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: HI event

When you've got more details on timing/location/etc for the Honoululi event, can you let me know? The Congressional offices are eager to learn more about the day. Gracias.

"Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Mar 13 2015 09:57:01 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: HI event

+ EFB

On Fri, Mar 13, 2015 at 11:46 AM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

When you've got more details on timing/location/etc for the Honoululi event, can you let me know? The Congressional offices are eager to learn more about the day. Gracias.

--

Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling and Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5723 (direct)
202.304.4166 (cell)

"Frautschy Barrows, Erin" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Frautschy Barrows, Erin" <erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 17 2015 10:33:36 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Iacobucci, Francis" <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: HI event

Hi Jeremy,

Here's what we're looking at:

10:00am - Dedication Ceremony and tour at Honouliuli (we are sending out invites for this piece)
Guests will have to meet at Monsanto and take buses down; we will need a tight RSVP count for this as only two buses can make it down to the site. (read= no staff if possible)

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Here's the info on that (we aren't sending out those invites)

THE JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

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On Fri, Mar 13, 2015 at 11:57 AM, Iacobucci, Francis <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

+ EFB

On Fri, Mar 13, 2015 at 11:46 AM, Bratt, Jeremy <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

When you've got more details on timing/location/etc for the Honoululi event, can you let me know? The Congressional offices are eager to learn more about the day. Gracias.

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Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling and Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5723 (direct)
202.304.4166 (cell)

--

Deputy Director for Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5078 (direct)
202.341.0273 (cell)

Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 17 2015 11:38:26 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: erin_frautschybarrows@ios.doi.gov, "Iacobucci, Francis"
<francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: HI event

Thank you! Ok if I share this with Hill folks and say it's tentative and subject to change?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Frautschy Barrows, Erin
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 12:33 PM
To: Iacobucci, Francis
Reply To: Frautschy Barrows, Erin
Cc: Bratt, Jeremy
Subject: Re: HI event

Hi Jeremy,

Here's what we're looking at:

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Erin Frautschy Barrows
Deputy Director for Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5078 (direct)
202.341.0273 (cell)

Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>

From: Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 17 2015 11:44:59 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: HI event

Yes

Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling & Advance
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-7551

On Mar 17, 2015, at 13:38, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Thank you! Ok if I share this with Hill folks and say it's tentative and subject to change?

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

From: Frautschy Barrows, Erin
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 12:33 PM
To: Iacobucci, Francis
Reply To: Frautschy Barrows, Erin
Cc: Bratt, Jeremy
Subject: Re: HI event

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202.208.5723 (direct)
202.304.4166 (cell)

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Erin Frautschy Barrows
Deputy Director for Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5078 (direct)
202.341.0273 (cell)

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 17 2015 13:31:28 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: HI event

done.

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 1:44 PM, Francis Iacobucci <francis_iacobucci@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Yes

Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling & Advance
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-7551

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Francis Iacobucci
Director | Scheduling and Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5723 (direct)
202.304.4166 (cell)

--

Erin Frautschy Barrows
Deputy Director for Advance
Department of the Interior
202.208.5078 (direct)
202.341.0273 (cell)

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Fri Mar 13 2015 05:00:15 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 13, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015 7:00 AM EDT

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- + USGS Reviewing Report On Sustainability Of San Pedro National Conservation Area, Sierra Vista Sub-watershed.

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+ DOE Report: Wind Energy Could Supply One Third Of Power In US By 2050.

Onshore Energy Development:

+ Alaska Estimates Opening Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Could Be Worth \$150 Billion.
+ BLM Announces New Oil And Gas Leases In NPR-A.
+ Additional Coverage: Groups Sue Over Drilling In Northwest New Mexico.

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+ Forum On Offshore Drilling Held In NC.
+ Shell Expects To Drill Offshore Alaska This Year.
+ Arctic Exploration Facing Hurdles.
+ Court Dismisses Manslaughter Charges Against BP Employees.
+ Support For Offshore Drilling Urged.

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

+ Improvements At Horsetooth Reservoir On The Way.
+ BOR Schedules Flushing Flow In Wind/Bighorn River Flow Downstream Of Boysen Dam..
+ Boise River Levels To Increase Friday.

EMPOWERING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:

+ Native American Students Learning In Crumbling Buildings.
+ Plans For South Bend Casino Moves Forward.
+ Former Tribal Councilman Says Interior Wrongly Upheld His Removal.
+ Alaska Lawmakers Want Federal Government To Clean Up Contaminated Sites.
+ Medford Officials Cite "Conflict Of Interest" In Casino Study.
+ Additional Coverage: BIA Signs Land Into Trust For Cowlitz.
+ Additional Coverage Of Revised Guidelines For Indian Child Welfare Act.

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

+ Holder: "Damn Punk" Responsible For "Repugnant" Ferguson Shootings.
+ Amid Probe Of Senior Agents, Obama Stands By Secret Service Director.
+ Economists Predict US Growth To Slow On Stronger Dollar.

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

+ New York Times.
+ Washington Post.
+ Wall Street Journal.

BIG PICTURE:

+ Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

WASHINGTON SCHEDULE:

+ Today's Events In Washington.

LAST LAUGHS:

+ Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

AMERICAN EXPRESS PROMISES \$5 MILLION TO INCREASE PARK VOLUNTEERS. The [E&E Daily](#) (3/12) reports that "American Express Co. today committed to spend \$5 million over the next two years supporting the Interior Department's youth initiative and its goal to triple the number of public lands volunteers." The funds "American Express has promised will be provided to local branches of the YMCA in 50 major cities across the country and fund the creation of community coordinator positions dedicated to increasing awareness, support and participation in outdoor programs." According to the article, "each coordinator is expected to engage between 10,000 and 20,000 volunteers in his or her city, with a special emphasis on attracting young adults and veterans." The article notes that "if the coordinators succeed in hitting the lower end of that range, they would help Interior reach at least half of the goal of 1 million volunteers Secretary Sally Jewell wants the agency to achieve by 2017, up from around 333,000 when the target was announced."

[The Hill](#) (3/13, Cama, 224K) reports that Jewell said, "Magnificent landscapes and our strong volunteer ethic are part of what make America so special and unique." She added, "This partnership with American Express will be a huge boost as we create a movement to foster the next generation of leaders and outdoor stewards while helping people connect to the public lands in their community — particularly in urban areas."

The [AM New York](#) (3/13, 719K) reports that Jewell said, "When we think back to our childhood, it's the outdoor places that are so special to us. Kids now seem to be disconnected to nature, so we will be reaching out to school groups and youth groups with a focus particularly on kids who might not have these opportunities otherwise."

The [Financial](#) (3/13, 11K) reports that Timothy J. McClimon, president, American Express Foundation, said, "Community service and historic preservation have had a long heritage at American Express. Since our founding more than 160 years ago, American Express has seen how America's parks and public lands contribute to our sense of national and local identity. We are proud to lead an effort to

Additional coverage was picked up by the [Business Wire](#) (3/13), the [MarketWatch](#) (3/13, 962K), the [Benzinga](#) (3/13, 9K), and the [Financial Content](#) (3/13, 7K).

“Work Camping” Offers Benefits For Volunteers In Parks. [Yahoo! Finance](#) (3/13, 4.04M) reports that there are “hundreds of volunteer opportunities that come with some sort of lodging via the National Park Service this year.” According to the article, “often referred to as ‘work camping,’ thousands of volunteer opportunities with amenities that you might find amenable also are available through federal agencies, including the Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Army Corps of Engineers.”

SCIENTISTS QUESTION FEDERAL PLANS TO PROTECT GREATER SAGE GROUSE. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/13, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that “leading experts on the greater sage grouse warned the Obama administration today that it must take stronger, more scientifically sound steps to protect the imperiled bird and avoid the need to place it on the endangered species list.” The letter from 11 scientists who have studied the sage grouse urged the BLM and Forest Service “to finalize amendments that would add grouse conservation measures to as many as 98 BLM resource management plans (RMPs) and Forest Service land-use plans covering millions of acres of public lands across the sage grouse’s 11-state Western range.” However, “the scientists cautioned that the 14 draft plans unveiled in late 2013, and the one completed RMP amendment finalized last year in Lander, Wyo., don’t adopt all the necessary sage grouse conservation measures highlighted by the best available science, particularly as it relates to allowable surface disturbance activity in sage grouse habitat.”

The [AP](#) (3/13, Gruver) reports that the letter addressed to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said, “We strongly encourage you to direct federal planners to finalize conservation plans that prescribe objective, measureable and robust conservation measures based on the best available science.” Interior spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said, “Interior believes strong protections in the BLM management plan are an important part of successful conservation of the greater sage grouse, and the Fish and Wildlife Service is working in close collaboration with them to ensure the best outcome for both the bird and the Western landscape it embodies.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (3/13, 81K), the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (3/13, 38K), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/13, 90K), [KOLO-TV](#) Reno, NV (3/13, 3K), and [KIFI-TV](#) Idaho Falls, ID (3/13, 1K).

Also reporting on the story is [The Oregonian](#) (3/13, 950K).

PEOPLE HAVE MIXED REACTIONS ABOUT PROPOSED GRAND CANYON WATERSHED NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (3/13, 538K) reports that “a proposal to designate a vast, sparsely populated area surrounding the Grand Canyon as a national monument is getting mixed reactions.” According to the article, “about 100 people gathered in Flagstaff to weigh in on the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument.” Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, “who hosted the meeting, has said she’s hopeful President Barack Obama will designate the 1.7-million-acre area as a national monument before he leaves office.”

PUBLIC LANDS COULD HELP IN FIGHT AGAINST IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE. The [Scientific American](#) (3/12, 2.83M) reports on the importance of public lands in the fight against climate change. According to the article, public lands “protect forests, wildlife and biodiversity, as well as provide space for renewable energy development.”

INTERIOR LIVESTREAMS USING MEERKAT APP. [The Hill](#) (3/13, Cama, 224K) reports that the Interior Department “used the app Meerkat Thursday to briefly livestream footage from the roof of its headquarters building, including the view of the Washington Monument.” Tim Fullerton, director of digital strategy at Interior, noted “on Twitter that it was the first use of Meerkat by a federal agency.”

FEDERAL AGENCIES HOLDING HACKATHON. In an interview with the [Federal News Radio](#) (3/13, 11K), Tim Fullerton, the director of digital strategy at Interior, discussed the hackathon that will be hosted by the Interior Department and the Agriculture Department in April.

PROPOSAL TO ACQUIRE LAND FOR WILDLIFE IN SOUTH DAKOTA STALLED. The [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (3/12, 116K) reports that “a proposal by two federal agencies to lease or purchase thousands of acres of southeastern South Dakota land for wildlife protection has drawn the ire of the state’s congressional delegation, county commissioners and some Missouri River conservationists.” If the FWS and NPS “agree to put the plan into action, the move to protect habitat would obtain 220 square miles of mostly agricultural land along the Missouri River from willing landowners, creating the Ponca Bluff and Niobrara conservation areas.” The article notes that “the federal agencies have seen serious pushback since the idea emerged in 2011, however, and the project has stalled since the public comment period ended last year.” In fact, “no money has been allocated for land acquisition, no plan has been finalized, and no landowners have been approached.”

PROTESTERS PUSH FLORIDA TO BUY US SUGAR LAND. The [Miami Herald](#) (3/13, 694K) reports that “a growing divide between environmentalists and scientists and the state’s politicians took center stage during a rowdy South Florida Water Management District meeting Thursday morning.” The issue was “whether the state should purchase thousands of acres of US Sugar land that’s part of a contract hammered out by former Gov. Charlie Crist and the district in 2010 and set to expire in October.” However, “despite heavy backing from environmentalists, including a petition submitted Thursday and signed by 207 scientists, the district board, lawmakers and Gov. Rick Scott have so far failed to act.” The article notes that “the petition included signatures from dozens of scientists, mostly from Florida universities, but also from Duke, Columbia, Penn State and Smith College as well as the US Geological Survey and National Park Service.”

2015 KIDS’ ICE FISHING DAY HELD. The [Havre \(MT\) Daily News](#) (3/12, 11K) reports that “bitter temperatures and numbing winds did not stop smiling students from enjoying a day on the ice during the annual Nelson Reservoir Kids’ Ice Fishing Day held Feb. 10.” According to the article, “students and teachers from Hays Lodgepole, Malta, Saco and Whitewater, joined members of the Malta Chapter of Walleyes Unlimited, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to learn how to fish on a frozen lake.” The article notes that “engaging youth in public land stewardship is one of Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell’s and BLM Montana/Dakotas State Director Jamie Connell’s top initiatives.”

says he is heading to Washington, D.C. to meet with federal officials on issues of water, climate change and health care.” According to spokesman Evan Westrup, “Brown will meet with federal officials from the White House, the State Department, Department of Interior and Department of Health and Human Services.”

Also reporting on the story is the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/13, 547K).

ANTARCTIC WEDDELL SEAL PUP'S KISS GOES VIRAL ON INSTAGRAM. [ABC News](#) (3/13, 3.41M) reports that “a photo of a Weddell seal pup kissing the cheek of its mom in Erebus Bay, Antarctica, is going viral on Instagram.” The article notes that “the baby seal’s smooch was caught by US Geological Survey scientist William Link, and the image was shared on the Instagram accounts of the USGS and the US Department of Interior.”

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S ENERGY POLICY CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (3/13, 621K), Charlotte Randolph, the president of Lafourche Parish writes that “if the Obama administration wishes to grow the economy, create jobs, and enhance national security in an environmentally friendly way, all it has to do is make decisions based on facts, not hyperbole.” But according to Randolph, “the president has not done this yet, evidenced by a recent executive order creating a steering committee on US arctic policy that suspiciously excludes state officials and natives of Alaska – those who are most involved and, therefore, will be most impacted.” Randolph urges Obama “to make a positive impact on the nation by authorizing policies that support domestic energy exploration and production.”

KERRY BLASTS CLIMATE CHANGE SKEPTICS. In what [Politico](#) (3/12, Guillén, 669K) called “the latest warning from the administration about the threat of carbon pollution from fossil fuels and the need to reach a strong long-term international pact to combat global warming at the upcoming UN summit in Paris in December,” Secretary of State Kerry on Thursday “railed against climate change skeptics...saying that ‘future generations will not and should not forgive those who ignore this moment, no matter their reasoning.’” In remarks to The Atlantic Council, Kerry said it is time for a “real cost accounting,” adding that “we can’t only factor in the price of immediate energy needs. We have to include the long-term cost of carbon pollution. We have to factor in the cost of survival. And if we do, we will find that pursuing clean energy now is far more affordable than paying for the consequences of climate change later.” Kerry did not indicate whether he would support the Keystone XL pipeline.

The [AP](#) (3/13, Capiello) reports that in a “not-so-subtle dig at Florida Gov. Rick Scott’s administration,” Kerry said that “elected officials who ban the words ‘climate change’ are unwilling to face the facts.” Kerry said that “we literally do not have the time to waste debating whether we can say ‘climate change,’” adding, “Because no matter how much people want to bury their heads in the sand, it will not alter the fact that 97 percent of peer-reviewed climate studies confirm that climate change is happening and that human activity is largely responsible.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

LEGISLATION CALLS FOR EXPANSION OF CASA GRANDE RUINS NATIONAL MONUMENT. The [Casa Grande \(AZ\) Dispatch](#) (3/12, 24K) reports that Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick is “optimistic that her legislation calling for the expansion of Casa Grande Ruins National Monument will have more success than a similar bill she introduced in 2013.” Kirkpatrick “introduced HR 1077 to the House Committee on Natural Resources on March 4.” The measure would “expand the boundaries of the Casa Grande Ruins around the Great House and its Hohokam village, which would add about 10 acres to the monument, according to Jennifer Johnson, Kirkpatrick’s communications director.”

NPS PROVIDES FUNDING FOR HURRICANE SANDY-DAMAGED HISTORIC PROPERTIES. The [Staten Island \(NY\) Live](#) (3/13, 100K) reports that “almost \$5 million in federal grant money is available for Hurricane Sandy-damaged historic structures on Staten Island and in 12 other counties in New York state, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Thursday.” The article notes that “properties are eligible for grants if they are listed on – or eligible for listing on – the National Register of Historic Places, or contribute to a listed or eligible historic district.” The funds provided by the NPS are “available for nonprofit organizations, municipalities and state agencies, who must apply to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.”

INTERIOR SEEKS TO RECOVER COSTS INCURRED FROM FIRES AT INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE. [Reuters](#) (3/13, Rascoe) reports that the Interior Department is seeking to recover costs it incurred from fires that burned 391 acres of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The US government has filed a lawsuit against an Indiana railroad, saying the company was responsible.

PREDICTIONS OFFERED FOR CHERRY BLOSSOM PEAK BLOOM. In its “Capital Weather Gang” blog, the [Washington Post](#) (3/12, Samenow, 5.17M) predicts a peak cherry blossom bloom forecast of April 9-13 this year. It notes that the prediction is “very similar to the National Park Service’s call for April 11-14.”

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK TEMPORARILY CLOSES LAUREL FALLS TRAIL. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/12, 371K) reports that “the winter mix of wind, ice and rain has left its mark on area parks, especially those located on the Cumberland Plateau.” In Great Smoky Mountains National Park, “officials have temporarily closed the popular Laurel Falls Trail due to storm damage.” According to the article, “the park will announce an expected reopening date of the Laurel Falls Trail once trail crews assess the damage.”

STREET ARTIST MR. ANDRÉ THREATENS LAWSUIT OVER STORY ON JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK VANDALISM. [KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (3/13, 15K) reports that “in a celebrity-driven incident of vandalism in our national parks, the internet exploded with reports that famed French street artist Mr. André (born André Saraiva) defaced the geology of Joshua Tree.” Now, “Mr. André has threatened legal action against L.A.-based hiking blog Modern Hiker, who first reported the appearance of his potentially illegal art.”

In an editorial, the [Twentynine Palms \(CA\) The Desert Trail](#) (3/13, 10K) urges park visitors to report vandalism. It wants visitors to “take

ZION NATIONAL PARK ARCHAEOLOGISTS USING 3D LASER TECHNOLOGY TO MAP ARTIFACTS. [KSTU-TV](#) Salt Lake City (3/12, 166K) reports that “archeologists at Zion National Park use 3D laser technology to document artifacts found inside the park, and now they’re using it map one of the park’s largest artifacts.” According to the article, “the lasers will take a three dimensional picture of the mile-long Zion-Mount Carmel Tunnel.”

FORECASTERS PREDICT ANOTHER DOWN YEAR FOR LAKE MEAD. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/13, 398K) reports that Lake Mead is expected to drop to a new record low next month and also fall a total of about 20 feet through June 2016, according to the latest federal forecast released Wednesday.

METRO TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED POTOMAC YARD STATION. [WRC-TV](#) Washington (3/13, Ward, 613K) reports online that Metro is considering four different sites for the proposed Potomac Yard station in Alexandria. The article says that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority board “agreed to hold public hearings about the proposals, which could start as early as late April.” According to WRC, the proposed Potomac Yard station would be located on the Yellow and Blue lines, “between the existing Braddock Road and Reagan National Airport stations.”

The [Washington Business Journal](#) (3/13, Hansen, Subscription Publication, 119K) reports that the draft environmental impact statement for the proposed station is “currently under review by” the FTA and the National Park Service, “which are partnering on the project.”

Bureau of Land Management:

JUDGE TOSSES NEVADA’S BID TO DISPOSE OF EXCESS MUSTANGS. The [AP](#) (3/13, Sonner) reports that “a federal judge has thrown out a lawsuit filed by a coalition of rural Nevada counties that wanted to force the government to sell or otherwise dispose of tens of thousands of mustangs in US holding facilities.” US District Judge Miranda Du held Thursday “in favor of wild horse advocates who said the effort backed by the Nevada Farm Bureau was led by ranchers who want a bigger share of forage for their livestock.” Du “dismissed the suit as a broad attack on the Bureau of Land Management’s overall wild horse policy in 10 western states.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [US News & World Report](#) (3/12, 685K), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/13, Sonner, 2.28M), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/13, Sonner, 1.37M), the [Washington Post](#) (3/12, 5.17M), and the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/13, 4.78M).

BLM’S WILD HORSE GATHER AWAITS RULING. The [E ko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (3/13, 22K) reports that “ranchers and horse advocates continue to await a judge’s decision whether 186 wild horses – which were penned amid a roundup that stirred tensions – are to be released back onto the range.” The BLM “gathered more than 420 horses last month from the Fish Creek Herd Management Area southwest of Eureka.”

MINERAL RIDGE TRAIL TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE FOR HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (3/12, 167K) reports that “the Mineral Ridge Scenic Area off the northeast portion of Lake Coeur d’Alene, including the popular Mineral Ridge Trail, will be temporarily closed next week for hazardous tree removal, US Bureau of Land Management officials say.” The closure is scheduled for Monday, March 16, through Thursday, March 19.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

WILDLIFE CONFERENCE DISCUSSES PRESERVING SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (3/12, 28K) reports that “one hundred years of conservation are being celebrated this week at a major wildlife conference in Nebraska, and Colorado successes are among the topics.” The article notes that preserving sage-grouse habitat is “a major topic at the event, as Colorado and the US Interior Department continue their plans to protect habitat on privately owned land as well as public land.”

RESEARCHERS FIND WISCONSIN STOCKED CHINOOK SALMON OUTPERFORM AVERAGE. The [Appleton \(WI\) Post-Crescent](#) (3/12, 92K) reports that “chinook salmon stocked by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources survive very well and contribute substantially to the state’s strong Lake Michigan fishery, new research from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and DNR shows.” According to the article, “the ongoing three-year cooperative research project shows Wisconsin stocked fish have an above average likelihood of surviving to harvest and are being caught in comparatively large numbers in an area stretching from Door to Kenosha counties.”

BUTTERFLY EXTINCTION ATTRIBUTED TO CLIMATE CHANGE. The [Indianapolis Star](#) (3/13, Sabalow, 593K) reports that researchers in Indiana have attributed the local extinction of a butterfly species to “man-made” climate change. The “fatal blow” may have been a single year of drought and serves as a “cautionary example” of which the Kameron blue butterfly “certainly won’t be the last.”

FWS OFFICIAL SPEAKS TO ROTARY. The [Troy \(NY\) Daily News](#) (3/13) reports that Donnie Knight of the FWS at the Newark Office of Private Lands Division “shared information on the programs and projects that private landowners across Ohio can use to improve wildlife and fish on their properties during Troy Rotary’s weekly meeting March 3.”

ASSISTANT HUNTING GUIDE SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN MAIMING MOUNTAIN LIONS, BOBCATS. [KSTU-TV](#) Salt Lake City (3/12, 166K) reports that “a man who was involved in a conspiracy to injure or trap bobcats and mountain lions in order to make them easier prey for hunters on guided trips has been sentenced for his role in the illegal acts, which included facilitating the transport of unlawfully killed animals across state lines.” According to a press release from the FWS, “Nicholaus Rodgers has been sentenced to six months of home confinement, a \$5,000 fine, 50 hours of community service and three years of probation for violations of the Lacey Act—a federal law protecting wildlife.”

Also reporting on the story is [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (3/13, 1.07M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: FWS TO CONSIDER REMOVING FOXES ON CALIFORNIA ISLANDS FROM ENDANGERED LIST. Additional coverage that Santa Catalina subspecies of Channel Islands fox may be removed from the list of endangered species was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/13, Sahagun, Hubbard, 3.49M) and the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/12, 380K).

5.67M) editorializes on an operation by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 2005-2006, which targeted Robert Soto and the Lipan Apache tribe for using eagle feathers in traditional Native American worship. The Journal outlines the legal trouble and bureaucratic difficulties faced by Soto as a result of the feathers, noting that although he won a civil suit against Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to reclaim the feathers, he still faces penalties for giving them to others. The editorial concludes by suggesting that there are better uses of time for Fish and Wildlife regulators than pursuing this case.

FEDERAL MANAGEMENT OF WOLVES SUPPORTED. In an op-ed for the [St. Cloud \(MN\) Times](#) (3/12, 66K), Christine Coughlin, the Minnesota director for The Humane Society of the United States, writes that “allowing the indiscriminate hunting of wolves actually leads to increased livestock depredation, according to a 25-year study from Washington State University.” Coughlin argues that “rather than backpedaling toward the same irresponsible state management programs that led to wolves needing to be listed in the first place, wolves should remain under federal oversight.” She concludes that “this balanced approach would keep much-needed protections for wolves, while allowing wildlife officials to responsibly manage problem wolves.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS REPORT NOTES IMPACT OF EXCESSIVE USE OF CHICKEN MANURE ON CHESAPEAKE WATERSHED. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (3/12, 810K) reports that “Eastern Shore rivers and the Chesapeake Bay are being degraded by spreading too much fertilizer and manure on the Delmarva Peninsula’s farm fields, a new federal report concludes.” The report, released Thursday by the USGS, says “the rural region’s soils get nearly twice as much bay-fouling nitrogen and phosphorus per square mile as other parts of the six-state Chesapeake watershed.” Also, “it notes in particular that the majority of phosphorus comes from overfertilizing farm crops with animal manure, mainly from the nearly 600 million chickens raised there annually.”

USGS REVIEWING REPORT ON SUSTAINABILITY OF SAN PEDRO NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA, SIERRA VISTA SUB-WATERSHED. The [Sierra Vista \(AZ\) Herald](#) (3/11, 3K) reports that “a new report on the sustainability of the San Pedro National Conservation Area and Sierra Vista Sub-watershed has finally reached the review process within the US Geological Survey (USGS).” The report, “embargoed from public dissemination by USGS, will maintain the level of data achieved by the efforts of the various government agencies involved in the previously mandated 321 reports as ordered by the US Congress, said Bruce Gungle, USGS hydrologist.” Gungle “gave an overview of what he and other committee members set as possible goals during a meeting Wednesday with members of the Upper San Pedro Partnership’s technical committee.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

DOE REPORT: WIND ENERGY COULD SUPPLY ONE THIRD OF POWER IN US BY 2050. The [AP](#) (3/13, Martin, 1.03M) reports that a new study by the Energy Department has determined that “wind power will be cheaper than electricity generated by natural gas within a decade, even without a federal tax incentive.” Wind energy being increased “to 35 percent of US electricity supplies by 2050 will cause national power prices to decline 2.2 percent and result in \$400 billion in benefits related to reduced emissions of greenhouse gases.” Improvements in technology and cost reductions “will reduce the price of wind power to below that of fossil-fuel generation, even after a \$23 per megawatt-hour subsidy provided now to wind farm owners ends, according to a report released Thursday.”

The [Washington Post](#) (3/13, Warrick, 5.17M) reports the DOE analysis, called “Wind Vision: A New Era for Wind Power in the United States,” found “that consistent government policies were critical to avoiding ‘boom and bust’ cycles for investment in wind energy. Congress must keep wind-friendly tax policies in place to minimize market uncertainty about future returns on investments in wind turbines, Energy Department officials said.” Lynn Orr, DOE’s undersecretary for technology and energy, said, “With continued commitment, wind can be the cheapest, cleanest option in all 50 states by 2050.”

[USA Today](#) (3/13, Jackson, 4.95M) reports that in the Obama Administration said in a summary of the report, “Wind energy continues to be one of America’s best choices for low-cost, zero-pollution renewable energy, and in an increasing number of markets, may be the cheapest source of new energy available.” The report “replaces a 2008 document produced during the George W. Bush administration called ‘20% Wind Energy by 2030.’”

[The Hill](#) (3/13, Cama, 224K) says the report praises “the federal government’s efforts to deploy wind, saying the United States ranks first in the world in utility-scale wind, and notes wind power has tripled during the Obama administration.” Wind currently “accounts for 4.5 percent of the country’s electricity capacity.”

The [Washington Times](#) (3/13, 644K) notes that “much of the growth in the wind industry has been fueled by federal investments and tax credits that offer 2.3 cents for each kilowatt hour of power generated by wind. That tax credit recently expired and it is unclear whether it will be reinstated this year.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (3/13, Martin, Doom, 2.94M) reports Dan Utech, an adviser for energy and climate change to President Barack Obama, said, “Every year, wind becomes cost competitive in more states. ... As states design plans to reduce carbon pollution from power plants under the Environmental Protection Agency’s clean-power plan, wind energy is going to play an important role.”

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/13, Gilmour, 380K), [FuelFix](#) (3/13, Holeywell, 7K) and [CBS News](#) (3/13, Casey, 8.2M) also provide coverage of this story.

Onshore Energy Development:

ALASKA ESTIMATES OPENING ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COULD BE WORTH \$150 BILLION. The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (3/13, 14K) reports that “Alaska officials told legislators in February the revenue to the state treasury could total more than \$150 billion over 50 years” if the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge were to be opened. According to the article, “in mid-February, the House

to the committee on Feb. 12.

BLM ANNOUNCES NEW OIL AND GAS LEASES IN NPR-A. The [Delta \(AK\) News Web](#) (3/12) reports that the BLM is “announcing seven new oil and gas leases within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A).” The article notes that “the leases are the result of a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oil and gas lease sale held Nov. 19 which generated \$658,978 in bids.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: GROUPS SUE OVER DRILLING IN NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO. Additional coverage that “environmental groups including the Navajo organization Diné CARE filed suit against two federal agencies on March 11 in an attempt to keep fracking from harming the ancient astronomical site of Chaco Canyon” was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/12, 49K), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (3/13, English), and [Reuters](#) (3/13, Rascoe).

Offshore Energy Development:

FORUM ON OFFSHORE DRILLING HELD IN NC. The [AP](#) (3/12, 584K) reports that the Southern Environmental Law Center and other conservation groups on March 12 held a forum on drilling for oil and gas off the North Carolina coast at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Scientific experts were invited and a discussion was held to discuss the impact of drilling. The Federal Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management is accepting public comments on oil and gas exploration off the NC state shore.

Additional Coverage Of Offshore Drilling Meetings. Additional coverage of the meetings held to discuss offshore drilling in the Atlantic was provided by the [Charleston \(SC\) Moultrie News](#) (3/12), the [South Strand News \(SC\)](#) (3/13), and the [Maryland Coast Dispatch](#) (3/12, 52K).

SHELL EXPECTS TO DRILL OFFSHORE ALASKA THIS YEAR. The [UPI](#) (3/12) reports that “drilling in the arctic waters of Alaska should proceed this year assuming timely approval from the US federal government, Royal Dutch Shell said Thursday.” Shell Chief Executive Ben van Beurden said “in an annual report, published Thursday, the Interior Department was reviewing a supplementary environmental impact statement on operations in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas.” He said in the report, “We anticipate that the Department of Interior will continue to work in accordance with their proposed timeline to complete the [impact statement] in sufficient time to allow us to pursue our plans to drill in 2015.”

ARCTIC EXPLORATION FACING HURDLES. [BBC News](#) (3/13, 1.66M) reports on the growing risk of Arctic investment due to rising costs and tensions with Russia. However, some oil and gas operators are continuing to forge ahead with planned exploration. DNV Oil and Gas director Liv Hovern suggested the area is diverse and includes places similar to those where drilling has already occurred. However, she noted oil spill and emergency evacuation plans are key to navigating challenging terrain in the area.

[Reuters](#) (3/13, Doyle) also reports speculation on the future of drilling in the Arctic due to lower oil prices.

COURT DISMISSES MANSLAUGHTER CHARGES AGAINST BP EMPLOYEES. [Reuters](#) (3/12, S kka, Kurane) reports that a Federal appeals court dropped manslaughter charges against the two highest-ranking BP supervisors on board the Deepwater Horizon rig in 2010. A district judge had already ruled in favor of Robert Kaluza and Donald Vidrine when he dismissed 11 counts of seaman’s manslaughter charges against them. A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on March 11 upheld the 2013 ruling, saying their responsibilities on the rig did not constitute the “marine operations, maintenance, and navigation” of a ship and so the Federal law did not apply to them. Kaluza and Vidrine were accused of “negligent and grossly negligent” supervision of testing at the well in the run-up to the explosion.

SUPPORT FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING URGED. In [The Hill](#) (3/12, Luthi, 224K) “Congress Blog,” the president of the National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA), Randall Luthi, said the US should support “an all-of-the-above energy strategy.” Luthi said this includes “safely and responsibly explor[ing] our own offshore energy resources.”

In an op-ed for the [Charleston \(SC\) Moultrie News](#) (3/12), Brydon Ross, the Southeast Director of the Consumer Energy Alliance, writes that “the decision to open up parts of the Atlantic, coupled with the go-ahead to continue production in the Western and Central portions of the Gulf of Mexico, is expected to bring forth an avalanche of economic benefits for Americans, especially South Carolinians, 71 percent of which support offshore drilling.” He claims that “increases in offshore production will spur high-wage job growth all across our economy, increase tax revenue, and supply revenue needed to fund badly needed infrastructure improvements throughout the US and especially in South Carolina and its adjacent Atlantic states.”

In an op-ed for the [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (3/13, 295K), William Schachte Jr., South Carolina chairman for Vets4Energy, claims that “current and safe technology will permit extracting natural gas or oil in a manner which could not be seen from our coastal beaches.” He also notes that “BOEM has built into the plan a mandatory 50 mile barrier off the Atlantic.” Schachte argues that “expanded access to the potential resources off of our coasts is critical to ensuring that our new status as an energy superpower isn’t fleeting.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

IMPROVEMENTS AT HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR ON THE WAY. The [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (3/12, 59K) reports on the new headquarters and information center that will “cap off a decade of improvements to Horsetooth Reservoir.” The article notes that “the improvements have been paid for with grants from the US Bureau of Reclamation, which owns the reservoir itself, the state lottery and Great Outdoors Colorado and fees from visitors.”

BOR SCHEDULES FLUSHING FLOW IN WIND/BIGHORN RIVER FLOW DOWNSTREAM OF BOYSEN DAM.. The [County 10](#) (3/12) reports that the BOR, “at the request of, and in collaboration with, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGF), has scheduled a flushing flow in the Wind/Big Horn River downstream of Boysen Dam, according to Wyoming Area Manager, Carlie Ronca.” Ronca said, “The purpose of the flushing flow is to improve trout reproduction by flushing fine sediments from spawning gravels in the river. The flushing flow also improves insect production in the stream by opening up interstitial spaces between gravels and cobbles. The flushing

BOISE RIVER LEVELS TO INCREASE FRIDAY. The [Boise State \(ID\) Public Radio](#) (3/13) reports that “federal agencies will release more water to flow on the Boise River Friday.” The BOR and the Army Corps of Engineers will “increase flow from 240 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 750 cfs through the city of Boise.”

Empowering Native American Communities:

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS LEARNING IN CRUMBLING BUILDINGS. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/12, 49K) reports that “thousands of American Indian children” are going to school “in buildings that are an immediate and serious threat to their health and safety.” According to the article, “mold, structurally-unsound buildings, overflowing toilets in disgusting restrooms, unreliable water supplies, freezing or blazing hot temperatures and overcrowding are just some of the conditions these children must contend with every day.”

PLANS FOR SOUTH BEND CASINO MOVES FORWARD. The [Law 360](#) (3/13, 9K) reports that the BIA and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians are “moving forward with the preliminary environmental review process for a proposed casino and tribal housing project in South Bend, Indiana, according to a notice filed Thursday.” The bureau and tribe said “in a Federal Register notice that they intend to submit a draft environmental impact statement with the US Environmental Protection Agency, as part of the tribe’s application for a fee-to-trust transfer of land.”

Also reporting on the story are the [South Bend \(IN\) Tribune](#) (3/13, 186K), the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/13, 51K), [WSJV-TV](#) South Bend, IN (3/12, 3K), [WNDU-TV](#) South Bend, IN (3/13, 77K), [WSJV-TV](#) South Bend, IN (3/12, 3K), and [WSBT-TV](#) South Bend, IN (3/13, 21K).

FORMER TRIBAL COUNCILMAN SAYS INTERIOR WRONGLY UPHELD HIS REMOVAL. The [Law 360](#) (3/13, 9K) reports that “a former councilman for the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians hit the US Department of the Interior with a complaint in California federal court Wednesday, alleging the federal government unconstitutionally upheld his removal from the council amid a battle for control between factions of the tribe.” Patrick Hammond III, “who served on the tribal council from 2008 until his removal in June 2011, asked to be reinstated to that role.”

ALASKA LAWMAKERS WANT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CLEAN UP CONTAMINATED SITES. The [Alaska Native News](#) (3/13, 245) reports that “the Alaska House of Representatives Wednesday unanimously approved a resolution calling on the federal government to pay for the cleanup of hundreds of contaminated sites its agencies left on lands conveyed through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.” House Joint Resolution 6 “encourages the United States Congress to pass legislation holding the federal government responsible for the remediation of over 600 contaminated sites.” Also, “the resolution calls on the Department of the Interior to fully implement the six recommendations made in its 1998 report to the United States Congress.”

MEDFORD OFFICIALS CITE “CONFLICT OF INTEREST” IN CASINO STUDY. The [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (3/12, Mann, 65K) reports that “Medford officials fired off a 15-page letter this week to the US Bureau of Indian Affairs that claims a ‘conflict of interest’ in a federal process over the Coquille Indian Tribe’s proposed casino in south Medford.” The letter, written by Mayor Gary Wheeler, shares “concerns over the contractor hired by the BIA to conduct the environmental analysis.” the letter states, “It appears that the environmental contractor that the Department has selected and/or approved to prepare the EIS in this case is the same contractor that is used for virtually all gaming-related trust acquisitions and many other tribal projects — Analytical Environmental Services (‘AES’).”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: BIA SIGNS LAND INTO TRUST FOR COWLITZ. Additional coverage that the BIA has moved land into trust for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe was provided by the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/12, 49K) and [KOIN-TV](#) Portland, OR (3/12, 50K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF REVISED GUIDELINES FOR INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT. Additional coverage of the revised guidelines for the Indian Child Welfare Act was provided by the [Cherokee \(OK\) Phoenix](#) (3/13, 442).

Top National News:

HOLDER: “DAMN PUNK” RESPONSIBLE FOR “REPUGNANT” FERGUSON SHOOTINGS. Much of the print and online coverage of the shootings in Ferguson highlights Attorney General Holder’s use of strong language to denounce the latest violence in the St. Louis suburb. Yet while all three network newscasts led with the story last night, only the [CBS Evening News](#) report featured his comments. Overall, most news reports focus on the manhunt for the shooters and on efforts to keep the tense situation from sparking further violence. Most news analyses also avoid casting blame for last night’s near-tragedy while the investigation continues. Capturing the tone of concern in much of the coverage, for example, the [New York Times](#) (3/13, A1, Eligon, Yokley, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports in a front-page analysis that “just as Ferguson seemed to be moving past the stunning abuses detailed by the federal authorities, having shed its city manager, police chief, municipal judge and other officials accused of running a racially biased legal system, those four gunshots threatened to reopen the well of anger, unrest and racial tension.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/13, Pearce, 3.49M) similarly indicates that “the largely African American city seemed poised for change” when “violence struck again.” Now, “officials are struggling to pull the community back from the precipice of social mayhem.” Online outlets, meanwhile, report some angry comments yesterday in response to the shootings, including remarks on Fox News by a St. Louis police union official and a tweet by the same Fox show which appeared to link the violence to actions by Holder’s DOJ.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/12, lead story, 3:30, Reynolds, 5.08M) noted “the family of Michael Brown, the teenager whose death at the hand of a white cop set off months of protests here, condemned this escalation of violence, and in Washington,” Holder “was blunt.” Holder was shown saying, “This was not someone trying to bring healing to Ferguson. This was a damn punk.” CBS also noted that President Obama “took to Twitter...to say, ‘Violence against police is unacceptable. Our prayers are with the officers in Missouri. Path to justice...is one all of us must travel.’” The [Blaze](#) (3/13, Kasperowicz, 2.17M) noted that “earlier in the day,” Holder “said in a press release that the shooting of the two police officers was ‘inexcusable and repugnant.’”

“the killing of an officer in Philadelphia last week while he was buying a game for his son” and “the tragic loss of a Deputy US Marshal in the line of duty in Louisiana earlier this week.” To the [Washington Post](#) (3/13, Berman, 5.17M), Holder’s characterization of “the attack as ‘cowardly’ is particularly noteworthy, because intentionally or not, it evokes language he gave in one of his first speeches in the position,” when he called the US “a ‘nation of cowards’ because of how it failed to appropriately reckon with the country’s problematic racial history.”

[Politico](#) (3/12, Gass, 669K) says “Holder echoed remarks from St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar that the shooting was ‘an ambush,’ adding once again that the department stands ready to offer its full resources” to find the shooters. [USA Today](#) (3/13), [Reuters](#) (3/13), [Politico](#) (3/12, Gass, 669K), the [AP](#) (3/13), and the [Daily Caller](#) (3/13, Ross, 318K), among other news outlets, also run stories highlighting Holder’s comments.

[ABC World News](#) (3/12, lead story, 2:45, Perez, 5.84M) focused on “the all-out manhunt for the gunmen,” and noted that the officers’ “injuries were not life-threatening” and that “both...have been released from the hospital.” The [Huffington Post](#) (3/12, Reilly, 281K) noted that Holder yesterday “wished the officers ‘a full and speedy recovery’ and said the Justice Department would offer to help with the investigation.” [The Hill](#) (3/12, Kamisar, 224K) notes that Holder said, “The Department of Justice will never accept any threats or violence directed at those who served and protect our communities.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/12, lead story, 3:20, Allen, 7.86M) showed Belmar saying, “We’re lucky, by God’s grace, we didn’t lose two officers last night.” NBC went on to report from Ferguson, “A lot of tension, a lot of emotion here. We’re hearing there will be a candle light vigil here in the next few hours. But a lot of people will join that gathering, no doubt with a lot of different agendas. We also understand the county police and Missouri Highway Patrol will be here in charge of security, the way it was during the states of emergency during the worst of times in Ferguson.” The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/13, 889K) notes that Ferguson police “will continue to handle routine policing services in the city.”

“Seven witnesses” told the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/13, Pearce, 3.49M) that “the shots did not come from a group of several dozen demonstrators who were standing in parking lots near police headquarters,” but “from an unknown shooter or shooters on a hill overlooking the station where police had gathered.” While the area had seen many protests since last November, says the [Washington Post](#) (3/13, Lowery, Somashekhar, Fahrenthold, 5.17M), “witnesses” indicate Wednesday’s gathering was “different”: “the crowd was bigger, swelled by some out-of-town protesters who’d come after the news” of Police Chief Thomas Jackson’s resignation earlier in the day. In addition, “the police seemed more aggressive, and there was infighting between protesters.”

The [AP](#) (3/13, Salter) reports “authorities believe the shots came from a handgun fired about 120 yards away, a long distance for most pistols.” At the time of the shootings, “many officers were lined up outside the [police] building, meaning the shooter did not have to be particularly accurate to hit two of them.” Similar accounts of last night’s events appear in the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/13, Jonsson, 380K), [Huffington Post](#) (3/12, Reilly, 281K), [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/13, Peters, Kesling, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), [AFP](#) (3/13, Thomas), [Washington Times](#) (3/13, Richardson, 644K), [TIME](#) (3/13, Rayman, 19.19M), and [Reuters](#) (3/13, Munsch), among other news outlets.

Adolphus Pruitt, president of the St. Louis NAACP, was asked on [CNN – Wolf](#) (3/12) about the presence of outside agitators among the protesters. Pruitt said, “They’re here, we just need to recognize the fact that we need to be vigilant, make sure that we watch out for everybody’s best interest and not get caught up in what’s going on and let it derail the process going on here in Ferguson. At the end of the day, we still have to move the ball forward. We still have to create the changes that need to happen. And we’re not going to let anybody on the outside or inside derail us from that goal or mission.”

On [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (3/12, 554K), national NAACP President Cornell William Brooks said of Wednesday night’s shootings, “Certainly, this is a tragedy. But I cannot believe that one thuggish opportunist can set back a movement. We are concerned about these officers who have been shot while protecting a community, not their own, not as a part of their police department or force. ... They were going the extra mile, if you will, to protect these protesters and the Ferguson community. I cannot believe that one thug, one criminal opportunist can set back all of these young people who have been standing for social justice, standing for community policing.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/13, Eligon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that “community organizers extended sympathy to the officers who were shot, while trying to keep the focus on their own longstanding complaints.” The Rev. Traci Blackmon of Christ the King United Church of Christ “in nearby Florissant,” said, “As frequent victims of violence, we certainly understand the pain of these senseless acts.” National Urban League President Marc Morial said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (3/12, 554K) that “the underlying issue is that the Ferguson leadership still remains in denial, refuses to accept the idea that this Department needs to be changed. That’s why I think disbanding it and starting over or disbanding it and finding another law enforcement agency is, indeed, what is necessary.”

Trymaine Lee said on [MSNBC’s The Ed Show](#) (3/12, 444K) that activists and demonstrators say the protests are only beginning and, “One, two, three, four, five resignations does not shake up and shape the culture. They are asking for an entire reconstruction of local law enforcement, especially given the revelations in the Department of Justice’s report last week, such wide disparities in the way black folks are treated.” They say that “they are going to keep pushing until there is justice broadly in this community and that starts replacing the top with new folks.”

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (3/13, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says “police officials should not use the shootings as an excuse to clamp down on legal, peaceful demonstrations,” a step that “would only inflame tensions, making the climate worse.” The Times also writes that “the illegal and discriminatory measures uncovered by” DOJ “are not limited to that troubled municipality.” Instead, “the evidence strongly suggests that Ferguson is not even the worst civil rights offender” in the area, and “cleaning up that one town won’t necessarily help its residents if they continue to be ensnared in the deplorable justice systems operating elsewhere in St. Louis County.”

[USA Today](#) (3/13, Hampson, Bello, Johnson, 4.95M) asked “past and present public officials...around the country” to weigh in on the road ahead for Ferguson. Ray Kelly, New York City police commissioner from 1992-94 and 2002-13, urges “a serious look at government consolidation,” which would produce “economies of scale, and...would address the racial disparities on the police department.” The new police chief, meanwhile, should “probably” be “someone of color.” Former Philadelphia mayor Ed Rendell would “add African Americans

Obama Decries Shootings, Says “Oppressive And Objectionable” Policing “Worthy Of Protest.” The [Chicago Tribune](#) (3/13, Finnegan, Decker, 2.42M) reports that appearing on “Jimmy Kimmel Live,” the President “called years of racial targeting in Ferguson...’oppressive and objectionable and worthy of protest’ but decried the gunfire that left two police officers injured there early Thursday.” Said Obama, “There was no excuse for criminal acts. ... And whoever fired those shots shouldn’t detract from the issue. They’re criminals. They need to be arrested. And then, what we need to do is to make sure that like-minded, good-spirited people on both sides – law enforcement who have a terrifically tough job and people who understandably don’t want to be stopped and harassed just because of their race – that we’re able to work together to try to come up with some good answers.”

The [New York Times](#) (3/13, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) notes that those comments “came at a serious moment in an appearance on the late-night comedy show that also included references to Area 51, Hillary Rodham Clinton’s email address and the question of whether Mr. Obama goes in search of late-night White House sandwiches in his underwear. (‘I could. I don’t,’ he said.)”

Clay, Cleaver Offer \$3,000 Reward For Information Leading To Shooters. [Politico](#) (3/12, French, 669K) reported Reps. Lacy Clay and Emanuel Cleaver “are offering a cash reward to anyone with information that leads to the arrest of those responsible for shooting two police officers in Ferguson.” Both [Politico](#) and [The Hill](#) (3/12, Lillis, 224K) note the lawmakers strongly condemned the shootings.

Fox & Friends Tweet: Shooting One Week After Holder Said He Wanted To “Dismantle The City’s PD.” Dylan Byers reported in a post for [Politico](#) (3/12, 669K) that “the Fox News morning program ‘Fox & Friends’ sought to link...Eric Holder to the recent shooting,” in “a move that seemed to reinforce critics’ worst suspicions about the network’s biases.” The show tweeted, “New #Ferguson violence comes just one week after AG Holder vowed to dismantle the city’s PD. Is this what he meant?” Erik Wemple, in his post for the [Washington Post](#) (3/13, 5.17M), lamented the “frequently slanted, cynical and downright awful reporting of ‘Fox & Friends.’”

St. Louis Police Union Official On Fox & Friends: Protesters Want “Dead Cops.” The [Washington Times](#) (3/13, Richardson, 644K) reports that appearing on “Fox & Friends” yesterday, Jeff Roorda, “business manager of the St. Louis Police Officers Association,” said “anti-police protesters aren’t satisfied with reform – what they want is ‘dead cops.’” Said Roorda, “That’s what they want. And let’s not pretend I like they wanted Tom Jackson’s resignation, or that they’re still mad because Mayor [James] Knowles is there. ... They want dead cops and that was their goal all along, and that was their goal last night.” He added, “We’re [sic] perpetuated one lie after another to mollify those who want to see cops dead.”

Roorda On CNN: “Very Upset” With Holder. Later Thursday, Roorda said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (3/12, 320K), “Let’s acknowledge that there are two different groups of very different intent. There is peaceful protesters who are out here that have a message they are trying to share with the world, but then amongst them, there are folks that have some really violent intentions.” Roorda added that he is “very upset with...Holder, the way he rolled out the Department of Justice findings instead of putting this myth that Darren Wilson gunned down Michael Brown in cold blood as he was attempting to surrender to bed finally. He couldn’t quite bring himself to say that.” As a result, “we never really got the closure on the reason these protests began in the first place.”

Giuliani: Wilson Should Be “Commended” For Brown Shooting. The [Huffington Post](#) (3/12, Tani, 281K) reported that in an interview on Fox News, Rudy Giuliani said of former Officer Darren Wilson, “What happened in Ferguson is that a man committed a robbery, attempted to assault a police officer, and the police officer – to save his life – shot him. ... The police officer did his duty. The officer should be commended for what he did.”

[Politico](#) (3/13, Lerner, 669K) noted the former New York City mayor “spoke at length during the interview about his belief that Ferguson had been overtaken by an ‘atmosphere of unbalance’ since Brown’s shooting,” claiming “this atmosphere has been perpetuated by comments from members of the Obama administration, as well as the Justice Department’s scathing report on the Ferguson Police Department, released last week.”

O’Reilly: Shooting “A Calculated Ambush By Anarchists,” Not Protesters. Bill O’Reilly said in his opening monologue on [Fox News’ The O’Reilly Factor](#) (3/12, 767K), “I believe the protesters did not shoot the officers. This was a calculated ambush by anarchists.” The shootings, he added, were “an anti-American play, and it is the job of the press to expose the haters, not lump them in with legitimate protesters. Right now, that job is not being done.”

Missouri State Senator: White Supremacists, ISIL May Be Behind Shooting. The [Daily Caller](#) (3/13, Griswold, 318K) reported that “Democratic Missouri State Senator Jamilah Nasheed opined on MSNBC that the shooting of two Ferguson police officers could have been carried out [by] ISIS operatives or white supremacists who ‘infiltrated’ the ‘peaceful protest.’” Said Nasheed, “I truly believe that someone is trying to incite a race riot. ... We’ve heard throughout the months that the white supremacists were on the ground. We heard that ISIS was doing their recruiting. So who’s to say that is not the case?” The senator went on to call for “a thorough investigation.”

Fiorina, Limbaugh Blame Holder And Obama. [Politico](#) (3/12, Gass, 669K) reported on its website that “at least one Republican presidential hopeful weighed in on the recent developments in Ferguson.” Carly Fiorina said on Laura Ingraham’s radio show, “A very tense and tragic situation in Ferguson has been made far worse by the commentary and the incitement by the people who come into the situation and use it to their own advantage. ... I think, unfortunately...Holder and...Obama have demonstrated their willingness to jump to conclusions and make statements before the facts are known.”

On the [Rush Limbaugh Show](#) (3/13, Limbaugh, 98K), Limbaugh said yesterday, “Well, I guess congratulations are in order. President Obama, Al Sharpton, Attorney General Eric Holder, St. Louis is on fire again. ... The attorney general sends out this report: Ferguson police department filled with prejudice. What did they think was gonna happen? What in the world did they think was gonna happen?”

Fox Commentators Blame Media. Greg Gutfeld said on [Fox News’ The Five](#) (3/12, 408K), “Where is the silent majority of the people that love law enforcement, that respect law enforcement? It’s time for them to speak up and march for these people that are now bull’s eyes. ... We watched an entire nation of law enforcement get smeared over Ferguson. ... We should indict the salivating, race-crazed

Eric Bolling said on [Fox News' The Five](#) (3/12, 408K) that the shooting of police "keeps on happening, even after the Attorney General tells us that they found nothing wrong with Darren Wilson's behavior on the day that Michael Brown was killed. The media loves this stuff" and it is "great for business with people who are in the race business, the Al Sharptons of the world. You listen to Al Sharpton and you don't hear what he should be saying. He should be saying this is ridiculous, enough is enough. We have to stop. ... Is it too harsh to say there's two more cops with their blood on Sharpton's hands in addition to the other ones that happened in the aftermath of Al Sharpton's protest that he called for down here in New York?"

AMID PROBE OF SENIOR AGENTS, OBAMA STANDS BY SECRET SERVICE DIRECTOR. In the wake of the latest Secret Service controversy, the White House is expressing its "full confidence" in Director Joe Clancy. [Reuters](#) (3/13, Mason) notes that White House spokesman Eric Schultz said yesterday on Air Force One, en route to California, "Nobody has higher standards for the Secret Service than Director Clancy." [Politico](#) (3/12, Nather, 669K) reported that Schultz went on to add that Clancy "does have the full confidence of the president to not only institute the structural reforms he believes are needed at the Secret Service, but also the cultural changes that both Director Clancy believes are necessary and the president has talked about."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/12, story 2, 1:50, Garrett, 5.08M) said "top White House officials are irritated they learned about all this for the first time on Monday, four full days after the incident occurred." CBS also "learned that...Clancy...also first learned of this on Monday, a clear indication his agency has several problems to correct." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (3/13, 5.17M) says "this is only the latest in a string of scandals," and "the need for deep change seems more urgent with each mortifying incident," with "the argument for an outside change agent" growing "more persuasive. Why, for example, did the Secret Service not even divulge the latest problem until The Post came calling?"

The [Washington Post](#) (3/13, Leonnig, Hermann, 5.17M), meanwhile, reports that "two senior agents" are under investigation from the DHS IG, "suspected of driving under the influence and striking a White House security barricade," and in doing so disrupting "an active bomb investigation." The two "may have driven over the suspicious package itself, according to current and former government officials familiar with the incident." According to the [Washington Times](#) (3/13, Boyer, 644K), "several Secret Service supervisors attended" a "party with heavy drinking" to honor retiring agency spokesman Ed Donovan. The gathering took place "at a bar several blocks from the White House."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (3/12, story 2, 3:15, Jansing, 7.86M) showed Rep. Jason Chaffetz saying, "Does it really need to be said that you can't show up drunk at work, especially when you're in the Secret Service?" Rep. Elijah Cummings, meanwhile, said, "There's absolutely no doubt that heads need to roll." Chaffetz "says he learned from...four whistleblowers" that "officers on duty wanted to arrest the agents and give them a sobriety test, but a supervisor said to send them home." The [New York Times](#) (3/13, Davis, Schmidt, Parker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that Chaffetz also "said he had spoken with Mr. Clancy on Wednesday," and remarked, "How he handles this is as important as the incident itself."

[ABC World News](#) (3/12, story 2, 2:20, Thomas, 5.84M), meanwhile, cited "sources" who "say one agent" out of the two involved in the incident is "a senior supervisor, and the other, Mark Connolly, is the 2nd ranking agent on the presidential detail" and "has been a constant presence at the President's side in recent years."

ECONOMISTS PREDICT US GROWTH TO SLOW ON STRONGER DOLLAR. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/13, Madigan, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports on the results of its March survey of economists, highlighting the general view that the strength of the dollar and international sluggishness will likely slow US growth through the first six months of the year or longer. The survey's 63 respondents predicts a 2.3% growth rate for this quarter and a 2.9% GDP growth for the year. In a front-page story, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/13, Jervell, Mesco, Chow, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) also reports American corporations could be hurt by the falling euro and rising dollar as they impact overseas competition.

Retail Sales Down For Third Straight Month. The [AP](#) (3/13) reports that Commerce Department announced yesterday that retail sales "fell 0.6 percent last month, a third straight retreat, including a 0.8 percent decline in January." However, "excluding the volatile categories of autos, gas, building materials and restaur

Conversation Contents

Re: Clips: House Natural Resources Budget Hearing

"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 05 2015 08:18:55 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: House Natural Resources Budget Hearing

Politico: Jewell can't guarantee Atlantic lease sales

Inbox x

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard 9:59 AM (14 minutes ago)

to me

3/5/15 10:00 AM EST

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told lawmakers today that she can't promise that the Atlantic will see an oil and gas lease sale as part of the next five-year plan.

Asked by Rep. Doug Lamborn about offshore leases, Jewell noted that the administration's recently released draft proposed plan covering 2017-2022 included parts of the Atlantic outer continental shelf.

"So you guarantee that the Atlantic will be part of final version?" Lamborn asked during a hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee, which went on despite the snow falling on D.C.

"No, I can't guarantee anything," Jewell responded. "We are in the draft proposed plan phase and we are taking public comment as is required of us by law."

Interior is taking public comment on the draft through March 30.

— Alex Guillen

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 7:31 AM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Lawmakers asked to fund Land and Water Conservation Fund

Future of conservation program uncertain

By Andrew Clevenger / The Bulletin / @andclev

Published Mar 5, 2015 at 12:01AM

WASHINGTON — Interior Secretary Sally Jewell pressed Senate appropriators Wednesday to approve the Obama administration's 2016 budget request of \$13.2 billion for the agency, including \$900 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects.

"This is, dollar for dollar, one of the most effective government programs we have," Jewell told members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, including Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.

First enacted in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund uses gas and oil receipts from drilling on the outer continental shelf to conserve national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness and Civil War battlefields, and to develop and support state and local parks.

By law, the fund may receive \$900 million each year, but it rarely receives its full allotment, and \$17 billion has been allocated for other purposes over the last 50 years.

Legislation authorizing the fund to distribute money to various projects will expire at the end of September.

President Obama's 2016 budget calls for funding the program at its maximum of \$900 million, and includes money for several projects in Oregon.

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Posted on **March 4, 2015 at 5:03 pm** by [Jennifer A. Dlouhy](#) in [Arctic](#), [Offshore Politics/Policy](#)

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Read more: [Oil companies want more time for Arctic drilling](#)

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Extensions also could mean taxpayers — who own the oil at issue — are "no longer getting fair value," said Michael LeVine, Pacific senior counsel for the group. "The government sold the rights to public resources under a certain set of circumstances and terms and shouldn't then rule to change those terms."

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<http://www.adn.com/article/20150304/us-decide-soon-shell-request-extra-time-arctic-leases>

U.S. to decide soon on Shell request for extra time on Arctic leases

Jennifer A. Dlouhy | Houston Chronicle March 4, 2015

WASHINGTON -- The Obama administration will decide soon whether to sign off on Shell's request for extra time to hunt for oil in Arctic waters, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Wednesday.

Without action, Shell's oil and gas leases in the Beaufort Sea will begin expiring in 2017, followed by its drilling rights in the neighboring Chukchi Sea two years later.

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[Interior agencies release proposed new Arctic Ocean drilling standards](#)

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<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2015/03/04/murkowski-seeks-lease-extensions-for-shell/>

Murkowski Seeks Lease Extensions for Shell

By Liz Ruskin, APRN | March 4, 2015

Last summer, Shell asked the government to extend its offshore drilling leases in the Arctic. Today, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski pressed Shell's case to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in a Senate hearing. Murkowski says Shell needs certainty to continue to invest billions of dollars in its Arctic operations.

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"Because of this very short window, a 75-day Arctic drilling season, and the difficulties and the delays and the legal challenges that are all out there, that Shell has endured for the past decade, there really are not enough drilling seasons remaining for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Jewell says the clock on Shell's 10-year leases in the Chukchi Sea was stopped for a period when a court ruled the government had to redo its environmental impact statement. Jewell says her department is still considering Shell's request for a five-year suspension of the lease clock.

"We took our resources and focused them, as we were requested to do, on helping Shell move forward for this drilling season. I also know that we are actively working with them on suspensions and I think they can expect any answer in the relatively near future," Jewell said.

Oceana and other environmental groups oppose giving Shell more time on their leases. They say the reasons for Shell's lack of progress were known from outset, like the harsh conditions and the Native whaling season, or were of Shell's own making.

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 7:35 PM, Beyer, Emily <<a>emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2015/03/04/jewell-no-plan-afoot-to-declare-anwr-monument/>

Jewell: No Plan Afoot to Declare ANWR Monument

By Liz Ruskin, APRN | March 4, 2015

President Obama infuriated Alaska's political leaders when he announced in January he would ask Congress to protect more land within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness, forever off-limits to oil drilling. Some, including Sen. Lisa Murkowski, predict Obama will act on his own to bar development, by using the Antiquities Act to declare ANWR a national monument. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said today that's not in the works.

"There's no discussions in the Administration right now about monument status for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," she said. She then repeated it in response to a reporter's question: "There are no plans the Administration has for using the national monument designation or the Antiquities Act for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

Jewell, though, does not agree that the "no more" clause of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act would prohibit the president from declaring new national monuments in Alaska.

"I'm not an expert on the legal status but I believe we could use the Antiquities Act," Jewell said. "But there are no plans to do so in Alaska at this time."

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 7:23 PM, Beyer, Emily <<a>emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

2.

OIL AND GAS:

Murkowski accuses BLM of 'pay to play' in Alaska drilling

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, March 4, 2015

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The Bureau of Land Management's decision to charge an oil company \$8 million for the right to develop its leases in an Alaskan reserve is a slippery slope that could make other companies think twice about developing on federal lands, Alaska's senior senator said today.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) grilled Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on whether her agency has the legal authority to require mitigation fees for energy projects that would otherwise be permissible on public lands.

The senator's concern stems from BLM's decision last month to approve ConocoPhillips Co.'s plan to become the first company to produce oil in the National Petroleum Reserve (NPR-A) in northwest Alaska. BLM is requiring the company to pony up \$8 million for a regional mitigation strategy that will protect lands of environmental, subsistence or cultural significance to local Native Alaskans and potentially remediate legacy wells drilled by other entities.

"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 05 2015 08:57:09 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: House Natural Resources Budget Hearing

Politico: Dem presses Jewell to drop potential Atlantic lease sale

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POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard 10:12 AM (43 minutes ago)

to me

3/5/15 10:12 AM EST

Rep. Niki Tsongas urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell today to drop consideration of an oil and gas lease sale for the Atlantic outer continental shelf in the next five-year plan.

"I take exception to that," said Tsongas, the top Democrat on the Natural Resources Committee's federal lands subcommittee.

The proposed draft plan, covering 2017-2022, included parts of the Atlantic off the coasts of Virginia and the Carolinas for potential lease sales.

"While the plan did not include areas off the coast of my home state, Massachusetts, we can be sure that a spill off the coast of Virginia or North Carolina would have serious consequences for our New England beaches and our commercial fishermen," Tsongas said at a hearing today. "I strongly urge you to seriously consider removing the proposed Atlantic lease sale from the final five-year plan."

— Alex Guillen

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 10:18 AM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico: Jewell can't guarantee Atlantic lease sales

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POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard 9:59 AM (14 minutes ago)

to me

3/5/15 10:00 AM EST

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told lawmakers today that she can't promise that the Atlantic will see an oil and gas lease sale as part of the next five-year plan.

Asked by Rep. Doug Lamborn about offshore leases, Jewell noted that the administration's recently released draft proposed plan covering 2017-2022 included parts of the Atlantic outer continental shelf.

"So you guarantee that the Atlantic will be part of final version?" Lamborn asked during a hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee, which went on despite the snow falling on D.C.

"No, I can't guarantee anything," Jewell responded. "We are in the draft proposed plan phase and we are taking public comment as is required of us by law."

Interior is taking public comment on the draft through March 30.

— Alex Guillen

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 7:31 AM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Lawmakers asked to fund Land and Water Conservation Fund

Future of conservation program uncertain

By Andrew Clevenger / The Bulletin / @andclev

Published Mar 5, 2015 at 12:01AM

WASHINGTON — Interior Secretary Sally Jewell pressed Senate appropriators Wednesday to approve the Obama administration's 2016 budget request of \$13.2 billion for the agency, including \$900 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects.

"This is, dollar for dollar, one of the most effective government programs we have," Jewell told members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, including Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.

First enacted in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund uses gas and oil receipts from drilling on the outer continental shelf to conserve national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness and Civil War battlefields, and to develop and support state and local parks.

By law, the fund may receive \$900 million each year, but it rarely receives its full allotment, and \$17 billion has been allocated for other purposes over the last 50 years.

Legislation authorizing the fund to distribute money to various projects will expire at the end of September.

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Without action, Shell's oil and gas leases in the Beaufort Sea will begin expiring in 2017, followed by its drilling rights in the neighboring Chukchi Sea two years later.

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[Environmentalists sue Port of Seattle over Shell's Arctic drilling fleet](#)

[Interior agencies release proposed new Arctic Ocean drilling standards](#)

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The companies' bids for "suspensions of operation" would effectively stop the clock ticking on their 10-year leases. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is considering requests from Shell and Statoil filed in July 2014; it previously rejected ConocoPhillips' November 2013 bid for at least three more years. ConocoPhillips appealed the decision to an Interior Department appeals board, and settlement talks are under way.

Neither Statoil nor ConocoPhillips is actively pursuing drilling in U.S. Arctic waters, but Shell is preparing to resume exploration in the Chukchi Sea this summer, three years after its last try in 2012 resulted in two half-completed wells.

"This is good news for us, particularly at a time when the price of oil is causing many companies to really scrutinize their investment decisions on very large-scale projects," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. "It makes it all the more important that Shell have the certainty it needs before it proceeds to spend even yet more billions of dollars. It needs to retain its existing lease portfolio to warrant this enormous investment."

She cited the limited 75-day window for drilling in the Arctic, when waters are free of ice, unlike year-round activity allowed in the Gulf of Mexico.

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Most recently, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management completed a new environmental analysis of that seven-year-old sale in a bid to satisfy a 2014 federal court ruling that the first version was inadequate. The decision to affirm, change or vacate that sale rests with Jewell, who could issue a "record of decision" on the auction as soon as March 25.

In the meantime, the Chukchi Sea leases are under a suspension of operation tied to the ruling.

Jewell stressed that Interior Department regulators are dedicated to completing that essential environmental analysis. "We took our resources and focused them — as we were requested to do — on helping Shell move forward with this drilling season," she said.

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"We get that it's complicated to do work up there," she added. "We want to make sure it's done safely and responsibly, and we want to be responsive to the companies."

Conservationists argue that Shell and other oil companies knew what they were getting into when they bought Chukchi Sea leases in 2008. Any Interior Department decision to give the company more time would be unwarranted "special treatment" said Oceana Deputy Vice President Susan Murray.

"Operating in the Arctic Ocean is dangerous, controversial, and logistically challenging," Murray said. "Those facts, however, do not allow BSEE to bend its rules to grant Shell an unjustified extension of its leases."

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<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2015/03/04/murkowski-seeks-lease-extensions-for-shell/>

Murkowski Seeks Lease Extensions for Shell

By [Liz Ruskin, APRN](#) | March 4, 2015

Last summer, Shell asked the government to extend its offshore drilling leases in the Arctic. Today, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski pressed Shell's case to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in a Senate hearing. Murkowski says Shell needs certainty to continue to invest billions of dollars in its Arctic operations.

Vm|P

"Because of this very short window, a 75-day Arctic drilling season, and the difficulties and the delays and the legal challenges that are all out there, that Shell has endured for the past decade, there really are not enough drilling seasons remaining for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Jewell says the clock on Shell's 10-year leases in the Chukchi Sea was stopped for a period when a court ruled the government had to redo its environmental impact statement. Jewell says her department is still considering Shell's request for a five-year suspension of the lease clock.

"We took our resources and focused them, as we were requested to do, on helping Shell move forward for this drilling season. I also know that we are actively working with them on suspensions and I think they can expect any answer in the relatively near future," Jewell said.

Oceana and other environmental groups oppose giving Shell more time on their leases. They say the reasons for Shell's lack of progress

were known from outset, like the harsh conditions and the Native whaling season, or were of Shell's own making.

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 7:35 PM, Beyer, Emily <<a>emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2015/03/04/jewell-no-plan-afoot-to-declare-anwr-monument/>

Jewell: No Plan Afoot to Declare ANWR Monument

By Liz Ruskin, APRN | March 4, 2015

President Obama infuriated Alaska's political leaders when he announced in January he would ask Congress to protect more land within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness, forever off-limits to oil drilling. Some, including Sen. Lisa Murkowski, predict Obama will act on his own to bar development, by using the Antiquities Act to declare ANWR a national monument. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said today that's not in the works.

"There's no discussions in the Administration right now about monument status for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," she said. She then repeated it in response to a reporter's question: "There are no plans the Administration has for using the national monument designation or the Antiquities Act for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

Jewell, though, does not agree that the "no more" clause of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act would prohibit the president from declaring new national monuments in Alaska.

"I'm not an expert on the legal status but I believe we could use the Antiquities Act," Jewell said. "But there are no plans to do so in Alaska at this time."

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 7:23 PM, Beyer, Emily <<a>emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

2.

OIL AND GAS:

Murkowski accuses BLM of 'pay to play' in Alaska drilling

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, March 4, 2015

RES RESIZE TEXT

"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 05 2015 12:43:42 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: House Natural Resources Budget Hearing

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/234735-gop-chairman-slams-underimpressive-interior-budget-plan>

GOP chairman slams 'underimpressive' Interior budget plan

By Timothy Cama - 03/05/15 12:32 PM EST

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Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) on Thursday blasted the Interior Department's budget request, arguing it avoided confronting major problems while creating expensive, unnecessary programs.

Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said the plan was "really underimpressive" and that he "found no idea in there that I consider creative or different or unusual."

He criticized what he saw as "just the same old, same old, raise taxes, raise fees, write more regulations and then throw money at a problem" in the \$13.2 billion budget request, including money to acquire new federal land while current property needs maintenance.

Bishop made the comments at a hearing with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. It was the sole hearing in the House on a day in which both chambers of Congress canceled their sessions because of a winter storm.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) welcomed the budget, pointing out that Interior, which leases land to energy production, proposes to bring more money in than it will spend.

"If Congress simply enacted your budget, we could reduce the deficit by more than half a million dollars," he said. "Unfortunately, that's not likely to happen."

Jewell said the proposal is "is a forward-looking budget that provides targeted investments to grow our domestic energy portfolio, creating jobs here at home, building communities resilience and revitalizing our national parks as they approach their 100th anniversary."

While Republicans were highly critical of Interior policies such as those for endangered species and offshore oil and gas drilling, lawmakers said they were thankful to Jewell and Deputy Interior Secretary Mike Connor for venturing through the poor weather to come to the hearing.

"Secretary Jewell, thank you for being here today despite the fact that the federal government is shut down," said Del. Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam). "I'm very impressed that our secretary is here."

1

Bishop asked that members of the panel submit any opening remarks for the hearing's record by 5 p.m. "or whenever this building crushes under a blanket of snow ... whichever occurs faster."

Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) said he was thankful for the "Alaskan weather," and jokingly proposed moving Alaska's Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race to the streets surrounding the Capitol, because a lack of snow has made planning for the race difficult.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 10:57 AM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico: Dem presses Jewell to drop potential Atlantic lease sale

Inbox x

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard

10:12 AM (43 minutes ago)

to me

3/5/15 10:12 AM EST

Rep. Niki Tsongas urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell today to drop consideration of an oil and gas lease sale for the Atlantic outer continental shelf in the next five-year plan.

"I take exception to that," said Tsongas, the top Democrat on the Natural Resources Committee's federal lands subcommittee.

The proposed draft plan, covering 2017-2022, included parts of the Atlantic off the coasts of Virginia and the Carolinas for potential lease sales.

"While the plan did not include areas off the coast of my home state, Massachusetts, we can be sure that a spill off the coast of Virginia or North Carolina would have serious consequences for our New England beaches and our commercial fishermen," Tsongas said at a hearing today. "I strongly urge you to seriously consider removing the proposed Atlantic lease sale from the final five-year plan."

— Alex Guillen

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 10:18 AM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico: Jewell can't guarantee Atlantic lease sales

Inbox x

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard

9:59 AM (14 minutes ago)

to me

3/5/15 10:00 AM EST

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told lawmakers today that she can't promise that the Atlantic will see an oil and gas lease sale as part of the next five-year plan.

Asked by Rep. Doug Lamborn about offshore leases, Jewell noted that the administration's recently released draft proposed plan covering 2017-2022 included parts of the Atlantic outer continental shelf.

"So you guarantee that the Atlantic will be part of final version?" Lamborn asked during a hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee, which went on despite the snow falling on D.C.

"No, I can't guarantee anything," Jewell responded. "We are in the draft proposed plan phase and we are taking public comment as is required of us by law."

Interior is taking public comment on the draft through March 30.

— Alex Guillen

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 7:31 AM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Lawmakers asked to fund Land and Water Conservation Fund

Future of conservation program uncertain

By [Andrew Clevenger](#) / The Bulletin / @andclev

Published Mar 5, 2015 at 12:01AM

WASHINGTON — Interior Secretary Sally Jewell pressed Senate appropriators Wednesday to approve the Obama administration's 2016 budget request of \$13.2 billion for the agency, including \$900 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects.

"This is, dollar for dollar, one of the most effective government programs we have," Jewell told members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, including Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.

First enacted in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund uses gas and oil receipts from drilling on the outer continental shelf to conserve national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness and Civil War battlefields, and to develop and support state and local parks.

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Federal grants will boost Central Oregon parks, rec site

07/24/2014

Senators hope to extend

By law, the fund may receive \$900 million each year, but it rarely receives its full allotment, and \$17 billion has been allocated for other purposes over the last 50 years.

Legislation authorizing the fund to distribute money to various projects will expire at the end of September.

President Obama's 2016 budget calls for funding the program at its maximum of \$900 million, and includes money for several projects in Oregon.

The biggest project for Oregon is the Pathways to the Pacific, which would receive \$14 million to stabilize fish runs and improve public access with acquisitions in the Oregon National Historic Trail, the John Day Wild and Scenic River, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, and Willapa and Ridgefield national wildlife refuges.

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument would receive a \$2.6 million grant to acquire almost 2,300 acres, with an additional \$3 million stated for land acquisition on Wassen Creek in Suislaw National Forest.

Kelley Beamer, the executive director of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts said in a prepared statement that LWCF funding has helped preserve many places that Oregonians hold dear.

"It has helped protect working farms, forests and ranches, including most recently the Gilchrist Forest outside Bend. Without the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Oregon would not be what it is today," Beamer said.

Late last year, Congress approved \$306 million for LWCF projects, meaning many projects that had been vetted and approved did not receive funding.

"Without full funding, some critical projects in Oregon like protecting the east moraine of Wallowa Lake, will never get completed and instead be lost to development or other threats," Beamer said.

In November, a bipartisan group of 40 senators, including Merkley and fellow Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden, wrote to Senate leadership, urging them to help pass a reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Act during the lame duck session. That didn't happen, and the program will expire at the end of September if Congress doesn't act.

Merkley said Wednesday that he will use his seat on the Appropriations Committee to keep fighting for full funding for LWCF.

"Oregon's outdoor spaces are a crucial part of our heritage and what makes our region unique. It's important that we preserve these special places for our children and grandchildren, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a critical tool for creating and preserving public lands," he said.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 6:45 AM, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico Morning Energy Tip Sheet; MURKOWSKI CHARGES 'PAY TO PLAY' ON ALASKAN PROJECT: Sen. Lisa Murkowski said an \$8 million mitigation payment ConocoPhillips will be required to make in order to move forward with its Greater Mooses Tooth project in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve verges on "pay to play." Companies "that have deep pockets and pretty considerable investments" could be needed by the Interior Department into paying large sums for mitigation efforts in order to get a permit, Murkowski said yesterday. "Mitigation is not new," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, arguing that requiring off-site mitigation efforts allows for landscape-level planning — like with solar farms in the California desert that were required to pay for desert tortoise habitat preservation elsewhere. Jewell and her No. 2, Mike Connor, explained that Interior hashed out the figure with ConocoPhillips after reviewing the project's impacts on local subsistence resources. But Murkowski wasn't convinced. "The fear is that, rather than creating efficiencies, that what we may have developing here is additional unpredictability, lack of clarity in terms of where you're going with a project that deters investment that really can derail a project," she said.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 4, 2015, at 10:48 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Fuel Fix: [Feds weighing Shell bid for more time in Arctic](#)

Posted on **March 4, 2015 at 5:03 pm** by [Jennifer A. Dlouhy](#) in [Arctic, Offshore, Politics/Policy](#)

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Read more: [Oil companies want more time for Arctic drilling](#)

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The companies' bids for "suspensions of operation" would effectively stop the clock ticking on their 10-year leases. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is actively considering the requests from Shell and Statoil that were filed in July 2014; it previously rejected ConocoPhillips' November 2013 bid for at least three more years. ConocoPhillips appealed the decision to an Interior Department appeals board, and settlement talks are now under way.

Shell used the drillship Noble Discoverer for its 2012 drilling in the Chukchi Sea north of Alaska. (Jennifer A. Dlouhy / The Houston Chronicle)

Neither Statoil nor ConocoPhillips has active plans to drill in U.S. Arctic waters, but Shell is preparing to resume exploration in the Chukchi Sea this summer, three years after its last try in 2012 resulted in two half-completed wells that stopped short of penetrating potential oil-bearing zones.

"This is good news for us, particularly at a time when the price of oil is causing many companies to really scrutinize their investment decisions on very large-scale projects," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. "It makes it all the more important that Shell have the certainty it needs before it proceeds to spend even yet more billions of dollars. (Shell) needs to retain its existing lease portfolio to warrant this enormous investment."

Limited window

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In the meantime, the Chukchi Sea leases are under a suspension of operation tied to the ruling.

'Helping Shell'

Jewell stressed that Interior Department regulators were focused on completing that essential environmental analysis. "We took our resources and focused them — as we were requested to do — on helping Shell move forward with this drilling season," Jewell said.

Jewell also made a nod to the mishaps that marred Shell's 2012 Arctic operation, including the grounding of its non-propelled Kulluk drilling rig during an ill-fated tow across the Gulf of Alaska and the company's difficulty certifying and readying a unique emergency oil spill containment system so it could safeguard drilling. Shell halted its planned 2013 drilling in response, as it repaired one rig and searched for another to replace the Kulluk.

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'Special treatment'

Conservationists argue that Shell and other oil companies knew what they were getting into when they bought Chukchi Sea leases in 2008. Any Interior Department decision to give the company more time amounts to unwarranted "special treatment" said Oceana Deputy Vice President Susan Murray in [a Feb. 27 letter to the safety bureau](#).

"Operating in the Arctic Ocean is dangerous, controversial, and logistically challenging," Murray said. "Those facts, however, do not allow BSEE to bend its rules to grant Shell an unjustified extension of its leases."

Extensions also could mean taxpayers — who own the oil at issue — are "no longer getting fair value," said Michael LeVine, Pacific senior counsel for the group. "The government sold the rights to public resources under a certain set of circumstances and terms and shouldn't then rule to change those terms."

In general, leases expire at the end of their terms unless operators are "conducting operations" on the lease, such as drilling, reworking wells or producing oil and gas.

"Suspension of operation" requests are relatively common in the Gulf of Mexico, where they often are filed right before leases are set to expire, unlike the Arctic requests now pending before the safety bureau.

Safety bureau spokesman Nicholas Pardi said the agency "evaluates suspension requests on a case-by-case basis."

Federal regulations give the agency relatively little authority to grant the suspensions, including to allow compliance with judicial decrees, when activities pose a threat of harm or damage, when they are needed to install safety equipment or conduct environmental analysis and to allow for "inordinate delays" in obtaining permits.

The oil companies' requests may lay the groundwork for bigger changes, including potential action by Congress and the Obama administration to rewrite the terms of oil and gas leases in isolated Arctic waters.

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Tags: [Alaska](#)

[OCS](#), [Arctic](#), [Arctic drilling](#), [Beaufort Sea](#), [BOEM](#), [BSEE](#), [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#), [Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#), [Chukchi Sea](#), [ConocoPhillips](#), [doi](#), [hearing](#), [interior department lease terms](#), [Lisa Murkowski](#), [Mark Fesmire](#), [Michael LeVine](#), [Nicholas Pardi](#), [offshore](#), [offshore drilling](#), [Sally Jewell](#), [shell](#), [SOQ](#), [Statoil](#), [Susan Murray](#), [Suspension of operations](#)

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<http://www.adn.com/article/20150304/us-decide-soon-shell-request-extra-time-arctic-leases>

U.S. to decide soon on Shell request for extra time on Arctic leases

Jennifer A. Dlouhy | Houston Chronicle March 4, 2015

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Subject: Re: Clips: House Natural Resources Budget Hearing

<http://www.agri-pulse.com/Interior-secretary-under-fire-on-gray-wolf-03052015.asp>

Interior secretary under fire on wolf protection

By [Philip Brasher](#)

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WASHINGTON, March 5, 2015 - Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is standing by a proposal to de-list the gray wolf as an endangered species, but she stops short of endorsing legislation to overturn court orders that are keeping the animal under protection.

Jewell is coming under pressure from House Democrats to heed the courts and at least protect the wolf under a downgraded, threatened status.

The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed in 2013 to de-list the gray wolf in most of the continental United States but courts have blocked the action in Wyoming and the western Great Lakes region.

Legislation was recently introduced to finalize the de-listing. Under questioning by one of the bill's cosponsors, Rep. Dan Benishek, R-Mich., at a House Natural Resources Committee hearing Thursday, Jewell didn't endorse the measure ([HR 884](#)), but she said the administration would follow its directive if enacted.

"Clearly we will uphold whatever laws are passed by Congress," she told the committee. "My preference is certainly not to legislate the Endangered Species Act (ESA). But if Congress passed legislation certainly we will uphold the law."

But a letter to Jewell signed by 79 House members, mostly Democrats, and delivered to Jewell ahead of the hearing proposes to list the gray wolf as threatened, rather than endangered.

"Scientific experts have shown, and courts have confirmed, that the best available science does not justify the removal of all ESA protections for gray wolves at this time," the letter says, calling the de-listing bill an "extreme proposal."

Downgrading the wolf to threatened status would "allow states significantly increased certainty and flexibility" in managing the animals, the letter said. Jewell said the department would see "what we're permitted to do under the law."

At one point in the hearing, Rep. Don Young, D-Alaska, lashed out at the signers of the letter, which included the committee's top Democrat, Raul Grijalva of Arizona. The 79 lawmakers, Young said, "haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district."

Young, directing his remarks to the letter signers, went on, "I'd like to introduce them (gray wolves) in your district. If I introduced them in your district you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

The Fish and Wildlife Services believes "their science was sound, but we want to work with the best available science, so I'm sure they will be taking a look at the recommendation," she said.

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By Timothy Cama - 03/05/15 12:32 PM EST

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While Republicans were highly critical of Interior policies such as those for endangered species and offshore oil and gas drilling, lawmakers said they were thankful to Jewell and Deputy Interior Secretary Mike Connor for venturing through the poor weather to come to the hearing.

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"No, I can't guarantee anything," Jewell responded. "We are in the draft proposed plan phase and we are taking public comment as is required of us by law."

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Lawmakers asked to fund Land and Water Conservation Fund

Future of conservation program uncertain

By **Andrew Clevenger** / The Bulletin / @andclev

Published Mar 5, 2015 at 12:01AM

WASHINGTON — Interior Secretary Sally Jewell pressed Senate appropriators Wednesday to approve the Obama administration's 2016 budget request of \$13.2 billion for the agency, including \$900 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects.

"This is, dollar for dollar, one of the most effective government programs we have," Jewell told members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, including Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.

First enacted in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund uses gas and oil receipts from drilling on

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the outer continental shelf to conserve national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness and Civil War battlefields, and to develop and support state and local parks.

07/24/2014

By law, the fund may receive \$900 million each year, but it rarely receives its full allotment, and \$17 billion has been allocated for other purposes over the last 50 years.

Legislation authorizing the fund to distribute money to various projects will expire at the end of September.

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11/26/2014

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The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument would receive a \$2.6 million grant to acquire almost 2,300 acres, with an additional \$3 million slated for land acquisition on Wassen Creek in Suislaw National Forest.

Kelley Beamer, the executive director of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts said in a prepared statement that LWCF funding has helped preserve many places that Oregonians hold dear.

"It has helped protect working farms, forests and ranches, including most recently the Gilchrist Forest outside Bend. Without the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Oregon would not be what it is today," Beamer said.

Late last year, Congress approved \$306 million for LWCF projects, meaning many projects that had been vetted and approved did not receive funding.

"Without full funding, some critical projects in Oregon like protecting the east moraine of Wallowa Lake, will never get completed and instead be lost to development or other threats," Beamer said.

In November, a bipartisan group of 40 senators, including Merkley and fellow Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden, wrote to Senate leadership, urging them to help pass a reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Act during the lame duck session. That didn't happen, and the program will expire at the end of September if Congress doesn't act.

Merkley said Wednesday that he will use his seat on the Appropriations Committee to keep fighting for full funding for LWCF.

"Oregon's outdoor spaces are a crucial part of our heritage and what makes our region unique. It's important that we preserve these special places for our children and grandchildren, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a critical tool for creating and preserving public lands," he said.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 6:45 AM, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico Morning Energy Tip Sheet: MURKOWSKI CHARGES 'PAY TO PLAY' ON ALASKAN PROJECT: Sen. Lisa Murkowski said an \$8 million mitigation payment ConocoPhillips will be required to make in order to move forward with its Greater Mooses Tooth project in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve verges on "pay to play." Companies "that have deep pockets and pretty considerable investments" could be needed by the Interior Department into paying large sums for mitigation efforts in order to get a permit, Murkowski said yesterday. "Mitigation is not new," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, arguing that requiring off-site mitigation efforts allows for landscape-level planning — like with solar farms in the California desert that were required to pay for desert tortoise habitat preservation elsewhere. Jewell and her No. 2, Mike Connor, explained that Interior hashed out the figure with ConocoPhillips after reviewing the project's impacts on local subsistence resources. But Murkowski wasn't convinced. "The fear is that, rather than creating efficiencies, that what we may have developing here is additional unpredictability, lack of clarity in terms of where you're going with a project that deters investment that really can derail a project," she said.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 4, 2015, at 10:48 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Fuel Fix: [Feds weighing Shell bid for more time in Arctic](#)

Posted on **March 4, 2015 at 5:03 pm** by [Jennifer A. Dlouhy](#) in [Arctic](#), [Offshore Politics/Policy](#)

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Obama administration will decide soon whether to give in to [Shell's request for extra time to hunt for oil in Arctic waters](#), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Wednesday.

Without action, Shell's oil and gas leases in the Beaufort Sea will begin expiring in 2017, followed by its drilling rights in the neighboring Chukchi Sea two years later.

The same fate awaits Chukchi Sea leases sold in 2008 to Statoil and ConocoPhillips, which have made similar appeals for more time, citing regulatory uncertainty, legal challenges and other obstacles.

Read more: [Oil companies want more time for Arctic drilling](#)

"We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their request for suspensions," Jewell said during a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing. "We will be resolving that relatively soon."

Shell used the drillship Noble Discoverer for its 2012 drilling in the Chukchi Sea north of Alaska. (Jennifer A. Dlouhy / The Houston Chronicle)

The companies' bids for "suspensions of operation" would effectively stop the clock ticking on their 10-year leases. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is actively considering the requests from Shell and Statoil that were filed in July 2014; it previously rejected ConocoPhillips' November 2013 bid for at least three more years. ConocoPhillips appealed the decision to an Interior Department appeals board, and settlement talks are now under way.

Neither Statoil nor ConocoPhillips has active plans to drill in U.S. Arctic waters, but Shell is preparing to resume exploration in the Chukchi Sea this summer, three years after its last try in 2012 resulted in two half-completed wells that stopped short of penetrating potential oil-bearing zones.

"This is good news for us, particularly at a time when the price of oil is causing many companies to really scrutinize their investment decisions on very large-scale projects," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. "It makes it all the more important that Shell have the certainty it needs before it proceeds to spend even yet more billions of dollars. (Shell) needs to retain its existing lease portfolio to warrant this enormous investment."

Limited window

Murkowski cited the limited 75-day window for drilling in the Arctic, when waters are free of ice — as opposed to the year-round activity allowed in the Gulf of Mexico.

"There really are not enough drilling seasons (left) for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi Sea lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Legal uncertainties surrounding the government's 2008 auction of Chukchi Sea oil leases have delayed work in the area, though the Interior Department has already granted Shell, Statoil and ConocoPhillips additional time to compensate for some of those legal delays.

Most recently, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management [completed a new environmental analysis](#) of that seven-year-old sale in a bid to satisfy a 2014 federal court ruling that the first version was inadequate. But the final decision on whether to affirm, modify or vacate that sale rests with Jewell, who could issue a "record of decision" on the auction as soon as March 25.

In the meantime, the Chukchi Sea leases are under a suspension of operation tied to the ruling.

'Helping Shell'

Jewell stressed that Interior Department regulators were focused on completing that essential environmental analysis. "We took our resources and focused them — as we were requested to do — on helping Shell move forward with this drilling season," Jewell said.

Jewell also made a nod to the mishaps that marred Shell's 2012 Arctic operation, including the grounding of its non-propelled Kulluk drilling rig during an ill-fated tow across the Gulf of Alaska and the company's difficulty certifying and readying a unique emergency oil spill containment system so it could safeguard drilling. Shell halted its planned 2013 drilling in response, as it repaired one rig and searched for another to replace the Kulluk.

"We understand the circumstances that companies have," Jewell told Murkowski. "We also understand the circumstances that Shell had in 2012."

"We get that it's complicated to do work up there," she added. "We want to make sure it's done safely and responsively, and we want to be responsive to the companies."

'Special treatment'

Conservationists argue that Shell and other oil companies knew what they were getting into when they bought Chukchi Sea leases in 2008. Any Interior Department decision to give the company more time amounts to unwarranted "special treatment" said Oceana Deputy Vice President Susan Murray in [a Feb. 27 letter to the safety bureau](#).

"Operating in the Arctic Ocean is dangerous, controversial, and logistically challenging," Murray said. "Those facts, however, do not allow BSEE to bend its rules to grant Shell an unjustified extension of its leases."

Extensions also could mean taxpayers — who own the oil at issue — are "no longer getting fair value," said Michael LeVine, Pacific senior counsel for the group. "The government sold the rights to public resources under a certain set of circumstances and terms and shouldn't then rule to change those terms."

In general, leases expire at the end of their terms unless operators are "conducting operations" on the lease, such as drilling, reworking wells or producing oil and gas.

"Suspension of operation" requests are relatively common in the Gulf of Mexico, where they often are filed right before leases are set to expire, unlike the Arctic requests now pending before the safety bureau.

Safety bureau spokesman Nicholas Pardi said the agency "evaluates suspension requests on a case-by-case basis."

Federal regulations give the agency relatively little authority to grant the suspensions, including to allow compliance with judicial decrees, when activities pose a threat of harm or damage, when they are needed to install safety equipment or conduct environmental analysis and to allow for "inordinate delays" in obtaining permits.

The oil companies' requests may lay the groundwork for bigger changes, including potential action by Congress and the Obama administration to rewrite the terms of oil and gas leases in isolated Arctic waters.

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<http://www.adn.com/article/20150304/us-decide-soon-shell-request-extra-time-arctic-leases>

U.S. to decide soon on Shell request for extra time on Arctic leases

Jennifer A. Dlouhy | Houston Chronicle March 4, 2015

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RELATED:

[Environmentalists sue Port of Seattle over Shell's Arctic drilling fleet](#)

[Interior agencies release proposed new Arctic Ocean drilling standards](#)

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"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From:

"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

Sent: Thu Mar 05 2015 13:57:25 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: House Natural Resources Budget Hearing

DEM PRESSES JEWELL TO DROP ATLANTIC LEASE SALE Rep. Niki Tsongas urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell today to drop consideration of an oil and gas lease sale for the Atlantic outer continental shelf in the next five-year plan. "While the plan did not include areas off the coast of my home state, Massachusetts, we can be sure that a spill off the coast of Virginia or North Carolina would have serious consequences for our New England beaches and our commercial fishermen," Tsongas said at a hearing today. "I strongly urge you to seriously consider removing the proposed Atlantic lease sale from the final five-year plan." <http://politico.pro/1aN7iRt>

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LUMMIS ESA MAKES A SUCKER OUT OF US Wyoming Rep. Cynthia Lummis took aim at a potentially anachronistic requirement of the Endangered Species Act this morning that has delayed a delisting. The law requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to place a notice in local newspapers that it is delisting a species, including the Modoc sucker, a small fish native to California and Oregon. But FWS failed to run the classified ad until recently, delaying the delisting of the fish. "This is just the latest example about how the ESA perpetuates form over substance, in this case doing nothing to benefit the Modoc sucker and only delaying relief for the people impacted by the listing," Lummis said at a Natural Resources Committee hearing. "It is as if the Endangered Species Act is stuck in 1973 while the rest of us have moved on." Greenwire wrote earlier this week about the classified ad mix-up: <http://bit.ly/1GnXc6F>

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 3:42 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.agri-pulse.com/Interior-secretary-under-fire-on-gray-wolf-03052015.asp>

Interior secretary under fire on wolf protection

By [Philip Brasher](#)

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WASHINGTON, March 5, 2015 - Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is standing by a proposal to de-list the gray wolf as an endangered species, but she stops short of endorsing legislation to overturn court orders that are keeping the animal under protection.

Jewell is coming under pressure from House Democrats to heed the courts and at least protect the wolf under a downgraded, threatened status.

The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed in 2013 to de-list the [gray wolf](#) in most of the continental United States but courts have blocked the action in Wyoming and the western Great Lakes region.

Legislation was recently introduced to finalize the de-listing. Under questioning by one of the bill's cosponsors, Rep. Dan Benishek, R-Mich., at a House Natural Resources Committee hearing Thursday, Jewell didn't endorse the measure ([HR 884](#)), but she said the administration would follow its directive if enacted.

"Clearly we will uphold whatever laws are passed by Congress," she told the committee. "My preference is certainly not to legislate the Endangered Species Act (ESA). But if Congress passed legislation certainly we will uphold the law."

But a letter to Jewell signed by 79 House members, mostly Democrats, and delivered to Jewell ahead of the hearing proposes to list the gray wolf as threatened, rather than endangered.

"Scientific experts have shown, and courts have confirmed, that the best available science does not justify the removal of all ESA protections for gray wolves at this time," the letter says, calling the de-listing bill an "extreme proposal."

Downgrading the wolf to threatened status would "allow states significantly increased certainty and flexibility" in managing the animals, the letter said. Jewell said the department would see "what we're permitted to do under the law."

At one point in the hearing, Rep. Don Young, D-Alaska, lashed out at the signers of the letter, which included the committee's top Democrat, Raul Grijalva of Arizona. The 79 lawmakers, Young said, "haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district."

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By Timothy Cama - 03/05/15 12:32 PM EST

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Future of conservation program uncertain

By [Andrew Clevenger](#) / The Bulletin / @andclev

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Kelley Beamer, the executive director of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts said in a prepared statement that LWCF funding has helped preserve many places that Oregonians hold dear.

"It has helped protect working farms, forests and ranches, including most recently the Gilchrist Forest outside Bend. Without the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Oregon would not be what it is today," Beamer said.

Late last year, Congress approved \$306 million for LWCF projects, meaning many projects that had been vetted and approved did not receive funding.

"Without full funding, some critical projects in Oregon like protecting the east moraine of Wallowa Lake, will never get completed and instead be lost to development or other threats," Beamer said.

In November, a bipartisan group of 40 senators, including Merkley and fellow Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden, wrote to Senate leadership, urging them to help pass a reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Act during the lame duck session. That didn't happen, and the program will expire at the end of September if Congress doesn't act.

Merkley said Wednesday that he will use his seat on the Appropriations Committee to keep fighting for full funding for LWCF.

"Oregon's outdoor spaces are a crucial part of our heritage and what makes our region unique. It's important that we preserve these special places for our children and grandchildren, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a critical tool for creating and preserving public lands," he said.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 6:45 AM, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico Morning Energy Tip Sheet; MURKOWSKI CHARGES 'PAY TO PLAY' ON ALASKAN PROJECT: Sen. Lisa Murkowski said an \$8 million mitigation payment ConocoPhillips will be required to make in order to move forward with its Greater Mooses Tooth project in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve verges on "pay to play." Companies "that have deep pockets and pretty considerable investments" could be needed by the Interior Department into paying large sums for mitigation efforts in order to get a permit, Murkowski said yesterday. "Mitigation is not new," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, arguing that requiring off-site mitigation efforts allows for landscape-level planning — like with solar farms in the California desert that were required to pay for desert tortoise habitat preservation elsewhere. Jewell and her No. 2, Mike Connor, explained that Interior hashed out the figure with ConocoPhillips after reviewing the project's impacts on local subsistence resources. But Murkowski wasn't convinced. "The fear is that, rather than creating efficiencies, that what we may have developing here is additional unpredictability, lack of clarity in terms of where you're going with a project that deters investment that really can derail a project," she said.

Related articles:



Federal grants will boost Central Oregon parks, rec site

07/24/2014



Senators hope to extend Land and Water Conservation Fund

11/26/2014

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 4, 2015, at 10:48 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Fuel Fix: [Feds weighing Shell bid for more time in Arctic](#)

Posted on **March 4, 2015 at 5:03 pm** by [Jennifer A. Dlouhy](#) in [Arctic, Offshore, Politics/Policy](#)

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WASHINGTON _ The Obama administration will decide soon whether to give in to [Shell's request for extra time to hunt for oil in Arctic waters](#). Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Wednesday.

Without action, Shell's oil and gas leases in the Beaufort Sea will begin expiring in 2017, followed by its drilling rights in the neighboring Chukchi Sea two years later.

The same fate awaits Chukchi Sea leases sold in 2008 to Statoil and ConocoPhillips, which have made similar appeals for more time, citing regulatory uncertainty, legal challenges and other obstacles.

Read more: [Oil companies want more time for Arctic drilling](#)

"We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their request for suspensions," Jewell said during a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing. "We will be resolving that relatively soon."

The companies' bids for "suspensions of operation" would effectively stop the clock ticking on their 10-year leases. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is actively considering the requests from Shell and Statoil that were filed in July 2014; it previously rejected ConocoPhillips' November 2013 bid for at least three more years. ConocoPhillips appealed the decision to an Interior Department appeals board, and settlement talks are now under way.

Neither Statoil nor ConocoPhillips has active plans to drill in U.S. Arctic waters, but Shell is preparing to resume exploration in the Chukchi Sea this summer, three years after its last try in 2012 resulted in two half-completed wells that stopped short of penetrating potential oil-bearing zones.

"This is good news for us, particularly at a time when the price of oil is causing many companies to really scrutinize their investment decisions on very large-scale projects," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. "It makes it all the more important that Shell have the certainty it needs before it proceeds to spend even yet more billions of dollars. (Shell) needs to retain its existing lease portfolio to warrant this enormous investment."

Limited window

Murkowski cited the limited 75-day window for drilling in the Arctic, when waters are free of ice — as opposed to the year-round activity allowed in the Gulf of Mexico.

"There really are not enough drilling seasons (left) for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi Sea lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Legal uncertainties surrounding the government's 2008 auction of Chukchi Sea oil leases have delayed work in the area, though the Interior Department has already granted Shell, Statoil and ConocoPhillips additional time to compensate for some of those legal delays.

Most recently, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management [completed a new environmental analysis](#) of that seven-year-old sale in a bid to satisfy a 2014 federal court ruling that the first version was inadequate. But the final decision on whether to affirm, modify or vacate that sale rests with Jewell, who could issue a "record of decision" on the auction as soon as March 25.

In the meantime, the Chukchi Sea leases are under a suspension of operation tied to the ruling.

'Helping Shell'

Jewell stressed that Interior Department regulators were focused on completing that essential environmental analysis. "We took our resources and focused them — as we were requested to do — on helping Shell move forward with this drilling season," Jewell said.

Jewell also made a nod to the mishaps that marred Shell's 2012 Arctic operation, including the grounding of its non-propelled Kulluk drilling rig during an ill-fated tow across the Gulf of Alaska and the company's difficulty certifying and readying a unique emergency oil spill containment system so it could safeguard drilling. Shell halted its planned 2013 drilling in response, as it repaired one rig and searched for another to replace the Kulluk.

"We understand the circumstances that companies have," Jewell told Murkowski. "We also understand the circumstances that Shell had in 2012."

"We get that it's complicated to do work up there," she added. "We want to make sure it's done safely and responsibly,



Shell used the drillship Noble Discoverer for its 2012 drilling in the Chukchi Sea north of Alaska. (Jennifer A. Dlouhy / The Houston Chronicle)

and we want to be responsive to the companies.”

‘Special treatment’

Conservationists argue that Shell and other oil companies knew what they were getting into when they bought Chukchi Sea leases in 2008. Any Interior Department decision to give the company more time amounts to unwarranted “special treatment” said Oceana Deputy Vice President Susan Murray in a [Feb. 27 letter to the safety bureau](#).

“Operating in the Arctic Ocean is dangerous, controversial, and logistically challenging,” Murray said. “Those facts, however, do not allow BSEE to bend its rules to grant Shell an unjustified extension of its leases.”

Extensions also could mean taxpayers — who own the oil at issue — are “no longer getting fair value,” said Michael LeVine, Pacific senior counsel for the group. “The government sold the rights to public resources under a certain set of circumstances and terms and shouldn’t then rule to change those terms.”

In general, leases expire at the end of their terms unless operators are “conducting operations” on the lease, such as drilling, reworking wells or producing oil and gas.

“Suspension of operation” requests are relatively common in the Gulf of Mexico, where they often are filed right before leases are set to expire, unlike the Arctic requests now pending before the safety bureau.

Safety bureau spokesman Nicholas Pardi said the agency “evaluates suspension requests on a case-by-case basis.”

Federal regulations give the agency relatively little authority to grant the suspensions, including to allow compliance with judicial decrees, when activities pose a threat of harm or damage, when they are needed to install safety equipment or conduct environmental analysis and to allow for “inordinate delays” in obtaining permits.

The oil companies’ requests may lay the groundwork for bigger changes, including potential action by Congress and the Obama administration to rewrite the terms of oil and gas leases in isolated Arctic waters.

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Tags: [Alaska](#)

[OCS](#), [Arctic](#), [Arctic](#)

[drilling](#), [Beaufort Sea](#), [BOEM](#), [BSEE](#), [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#), [Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#), [Chukchi Sea](#), [ConocoPhillips](#), [doi](#), [hearing](#), [interior department](#), [lease terms](#), [Lisa Murkowski](#), [Mark Fesmire](#), [Michael LeVine](#), [Nicholas Pardi](#), [offshore](#), [offshore drilling](#), [Sally Jewell](#), [shell](#), [SOO](#), [Statoil](#), [Susan Murray](#), [Suspension of operations](#)

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On Wednesday, March 4, 2015, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

<http://www.adn.com/article/20150304/us-decide-soon-shell-request-extra-time-arctic-leases>

U.S. to decide soon on Shell request for extra time on Arctic leases

Jennifer A. Dlouhy | Houston Chronicle March 4, 2015

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WASHINGTON — The Obama administration will decide soon whether to sign off on Shell’s request for extra time to hunt for oil in Arctic waters, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Wednesday.

Without action, Shell’s oil and gas leases in the Beaufort Sea will begin expiring in 2017, followed by its drilling rights in the neighboring Chukchi Sea two years later.

RELATED:

[Environmentalists sue Port of Seattle over Shell’s Arctic drilling fleet](#)

[Interior agencies release proposed new Arctic Ocean drilling standards](#)

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November 2013 bid for at least three more years. ConocoPhillips appealed the decision to an Interior Department appeals board, and settlement talks are under way.

Neither Statoil nor ConocoPhillips is actively pursuing drilling in U.S. Arctic waters, but Shell is preparing to resume exploration in the Chukchi Sea this summer, three years after its last try in 2012 resulted in two half-completed wells.

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"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 05 2015 14:24:41 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: House Natural Resources Budget Hearing

PUBLIC LANDS:

Bishop proposes axing BLM conservation office

Phil Taylor and Manuel Quiñones, E&E reporters
Published: Thursday, March 5, 2015

RE RESIZE TEXT *EM* EMAIL *PR* PRINT

Congress should eliminate a Bureau of Land Management office that oversees national monuments, wilderness and conservation sites, according to House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop.

The Utah Republican's recommendation is part of a committee policy briefing on President Obama's fiscal 2016 budget, which it submitted to the House Budget Committee, as required by House rules.

The [briefing](#), which was obtained by *E&ENews PM*, claims that BLM's National Landscape Conservation System is redundant and antithetical to BLM's multiple-use mission.

"As well as eroding the mission of BLM, NLCS has also become a duplicative office that imposes another layer of bureaucratic, centralized, and unnecessary management," the briefing says. "The committee recommends eliminating the office of the NLCS and restoring management of 'units' to BLM state offices."

It also recommends that the federal government convey lands "without strings" to state, local and tribal governments. It urges the Budget Committee to "eliminate barriers" for those conveyances in its budget resolution and build in \$50 million to offset potential losses to the U.S. Treasury.

The briefing makes a set of other Interior Department budget recommendations, including to redirect land acquisition funds to address park maintenance; eliminate funds that would be paid to environmental groups that successfully sue the government; find a solution to the "quagmire" of Forest Service wildfire funding; and address proposed changes to mine-land cleanup funding.

Bishop's proposal to ax BLM's conservation office drew fire from outdoor outfitters and conservationists.

NLCS includes more than 30 million acres of the nation's "most prized public lands," including more than 40 national monuments and national conservation areas and hundreds of wilderness areas, said the Conservation Lands Foundation, a national group based in Durango, Colo.

NLCS -- also known as BLM's National Conservation Lands -- is currently funded at \$31.8 million, but BLM's 2016 budget requests upping that to \$48.5 million.

"Gutting the budget for the National Conservation Lands would put local economies at risk, threaten nationally significant natural and cultural resources, and deny Americans access to their public lands," the Conservation Lands Foundation says.

The group warns that dozens of BLM-managed conservation areas -- such as the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area outside Las Vegas -- would have to close under Bishop's proposal.

But Bishop's camp said BLM will continue to manage the NLCS lands regardless of whether there is a separate conservation office. NLCS "does nothing to improve the recreation, conservation or wilderness value of these BLM lands," Bishop spokeswoman Julia Bell said. NLCS takes up a significant chunk of funding that would otherwise go to land management, she said.

"Our committee recommends eliminating the NLCS office -- not funding for public lands managed under NLCS -- so the claim that national monuments would have to close their doors is false," she said. "We recommend they be managed by state BLM offices like all other BLM lands rather than an unnecessary, bureaucratic, centralized NLCS office in Washington, D.C."

It's not the first time Bishop has proposed closing the office.

He made a similar proposal in 2011, calling NLCS a "double administration" that adds unnecessary costs and bureaucracy, but he eventually withdrew his proposal.

NLCS was sustained thanks in part to Democrats controlling the Senate. But Bishop is now working with like-minded GOP colleagues leading the upper chamber.

NLCS was established administratively by President Clinton and became law in March 2009 when President Obama signed a massive omnibus public lands package. Republicans have been highly critical of the system. A report from the Interior inspector general in 2009 found that NLCS managers had a too-cozy relationship with environmental groups ([Greenwire](#), Oct. 5, 2009).

Bishop critiques Obama mining policy

When it comes to mining and coal, Bishop is taking issue with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's continued spending on developing the forthcoming stream protection rule. It has been a target of Natural Resources panel Republicans for years.

They are now also questioning OSMRE's decision to develop regulations for strip mine blasting. The agency's actions follow a petition from the group WildEarth Guardians.

"OSM continues to be extorted by environmental special interest groups attempting to advance their war on coal," Bishop's briefing said.

The Obama administration proposed spending \$1 billion from an OSMRE-administered fund for reclaiming abandoned coal mines to help stimulate the economy in Appalachian communities hit by the mining downturn (*E&E Daily*, Feb. 3).

But Bishop warned the panel wouldn't support spending the money "to plant orchards on reclaimed coal mines." Instead, he called for funding priority cleanups.

The administration made only rough proposals for spending the \$1 billion. Lawmakers would have to work out the details by amending the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. And states are already expressing concerns that changes will jeopardize a 2006 compromise.

Separately, Bishop expressed concerns about an Office of Natural Resources Revenue proposal on mineral valuations and complained that maintenance fee increases on non-coal mining claims had resulted in a loss of almost \$50,000 in claims and an \$8.3 million revenue drop between fiscal 2013 and 2014.

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NATIONAL MONUMENTS:

Interior chief, House Republican clash over Colo. designation

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, March 5, 2015

[RESIZE TEXT](#) [EM EMAIL](#) [PR PRINT](#)

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.) was wrong to suggest that the Obama administration failed to seek public input before declaring a 21,000-acre national monument protecting Browns Canyon, according to a Colorado conservationist, a mayor and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

At a budget hearing today before the House Natural Resources Committee, Lamborn claimed President Obama last month designated the canyon in central Colorado without "any solicitation of public input."

The claim was patently false, Jewell said.

"There was public input, congressman, and we are committed to continuing to get public input," Jewell said. "I value public input."

In fact, Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and Bureau of Land Management Deputy Director Steve Ellis came to Salida, Colo., in early December to take the public's pulse on a monument. They heard strong support from residents, business owners and conservation groups (*Greenwire*, Dec. 8, 2014).

The meeting was hosted by then-Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.), whose bill -- on which the monument proclamation was based -- received a hearing last July before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Keith Baker, who leads Friends of Browns Canyon, and Joel Benson, mayor of Buena Vista, Colo., which is north of the monument, also challenged Lamborn's claim.

"I am disappointed that Representative Lamborn continues to be out of touch with his district and insists on making false claims about the long history of community input into the Browns Canyon National Monument," Baker said in a statement. "Chaffee County residents have had dozens of public comment opportunities on Browns Canyon, including most recently in a public hearing in December, and have expressed overwhelming support time and time again."

Baker said the public has had ample opportunities to weigh in on the monument, as evidenced by a [timeline](#) of events compiled by *The Chaffee County Times*.

In addition, there was a 2012 meeting at Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort that included elected and appointed officials, motorized recreationists, rafters, ranchers and hikers, and an April 2013 public hearing hosted by Udall and attended by Lamborn at Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting in Nathrop, he said.

Buena Vista and Salida, which bookend the monument to the north and south, unanimously approved resolutions supporting the designation prior to its being declared.

Lamborn, whose 5th District encompasses the Browns Canyon area, warned last month that presidentially designated monuments don't receive adequate funding and are generally viewed as "orphans" in the nation's vast public lands system.

"This is because they are created outside the normal congressional process and without local consensus, robbing the people of fair and open input," Lamborn said then. "Browns Canyon does not deserve this kind of second-class status."

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 3:57 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

DEM PRESSES JEWELL TO DROP ATLANTIC LEASE SALE Rep. Niki Tsongas urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell today to drop consideration of an oil and gas lease sale for the Atlantic outer continental shelf in the next five-year plan. "While the plan did not include areas off the coast of my home state, Massachusetts, we can be sure that a spill off the coast of Virginia or North Carolina would have serious consequences for our New England beaches and our commercial fishermen," Tsongas said at a hearing today. "I strongly urge you to seriously consider removing the proposed Atlantic lease sale from the final five-year plan." <http://politico.pro/1aN7iRt>

— **No guarantee** Jewell told lawmakers today that she can't promise that the Atlantic will see an oil and gas lease sale as part of the next five-year plan. Asked by Rep. Doug Lamborn about offshore leases, Jewell noted that the administration's recently released draft proposed plan covering 2017-2022 included parts of the Atlantic outer continental shelf <http://politico.pro/1EicEQJ>

LUMMIS ESA MAKES A SUCKER OUT OF US Wyoming Rep. Cynthia Lummis took aim at a potentially anachronistic requirement of the Endangered Species Act this morning

that has delayed a delisting. The law requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to place a notice in local newspapers that it is delisting a species, including the Modoc sucker, a small fish native to California and Oregon. But FWS failed to run the classified ad until recently, delaying the delisting of the fish. "This is just the latest example about how the ESA perpetuates form over substance, in this case doing nothing to benefit the Modoc sucker and only delaying relief for the people impacted by the listing," Lummis said at a Natural Resources Committee hearing. "It is as if the Endangered Species Act is stuck in 1973 while the rest of us have moved on." Greenwire wrote earlier this week about the classified ad mix-up: <http://bit.ly/1GnXc6F>

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 3:42 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.agri-pulse.com/Interior-secretary-under-fire-on-gray-wolf-03052015.asp>

Interior secretary under fire on wolf protection

By [Philip Brasher](#)

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WASHINGTON, March 5, 2015 - Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is standing by a proposal to de-list the gray wolf as an endangered species, but she stops short of endorsing legislation to overturn court orders that are keeping the animal under protection.

Jewell is coming under pressure from House Democrats to heed the courts and at least protect the wolf under a downgraded, threatened status.

The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed in 2013 to de-list the [gray wolf](#) in most of the continental United States but courts have blocked the action in Wyoming and the western Great Lakes region.

Legislation was recently introduced to finalize the de-listing. Under questioning by one of the bill's cosponsors, Rep. Dan Benishek, R-Mich., at a House Natural Resources Committee hearing Thursday, Jewell didn't endorse the measure ([HR 884](#)), but she said the administration would follow its directive if enacted.

"Clearly we will uphold whatever laws are passed by Congress," she told the committee. "My preference is certainly not to legislate the Endangered Species Act (ESA). But if Congress passed legislation certainly we will uphold the law."

But a letter to Jewell signed by 79 House members, mostly Democrats, and delivered to Jewell ahead of the hearing proposes to list the gray wolf as threatened, rather than endangered.

"Scientific experts have shown, and courts have confirmed, that the best available science does not justify the removal of all ESA protections for gray wolves at this time," the letter says, calling the de-listing bill an "extreme proposal."

Downgrading the wolf to threatened status would "allow states significantly increased certainty and flexibility" in managing the animals, the letter said. Jewell said the department would see "what we're permitted to do under the law."

At one point in the hearing, Rep. Don Young, D-Alaska, lashed out at the signers of the letter, which included the committee's top Democrat, Raul Grijalva of Arizona. The 79 lawmakers, Young said, "haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district."

Young, directing his remarks to the letter signers, went on, "I'd like to introduce them (gray wolves) in your district. If I introduced them in your district you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

The Fish and Wildlife Services believes "their science was sound, but we want to work with the best available science, so I'm sure they will be taking a look at the recommendation," she said.

Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn., the ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee and another cosponsor of the delisting legislation, wrote to Jewell in January, asking her to appeal the court decision that reinstated protections for the wolf in his home state. Peterson said reversing the court ruling would return management of the animal back to the state and help farmers and rancher facing a difficult decision between protecting their livestock and complying with another difficult federal court decision.

On a separate issue, Jewell assured the committee the department would heed a policy rider in the fiscal 2015 omnibus spending bill that would prevent the Fish and Wildlife Service from finalizing rules to protect sage grouse habitat under the Endangered Species Act.

But she said the department would still meet a court-ordered deadline in September for determining whether the bird merits protection under the law. "The rider prevents us from writing any regulations. However, it doesn't prevent the service from coming to a determination on a listing decision."

For example, the policy rider would prevent the service from specifically implementing rules worked out with farmers and ranchers for protecting habitat of the Gunnison sage grouse, she said.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 2:43 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/234735-gop-chairman-slams-underimpressive-interior-budget-plan>

GOP chairman slams 'underimpressive' Interior budget plan

By Timothy Cama - 03/05/15 12:32 PM EST

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Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) on Thursday blasted the Interior Department's budget request, arguing it avoided confronting major problems while creating expensive, unnecessary programs.

Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said the plan was "really underimpressive"

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and that he "found no idea in there that I consider creative or different or unusual."

He criticized what he saw as "just the same old, same old, raise taxes, raise fees, write more regulations and then throw money at a problem" in the \$13.2 billion budget request, including money to acquire new federal land while current property needs maintenance.

Bishop made the comments at a hearing with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. It was the sole hearing in the House on a day in which both chambers of Congress canceled their sessions because of a winter storm.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) welcomed the budget, pointing out that Interior, which leases land to energy production, proposes to bring more money in than it will spend.

"If Congress simply enacted your budget, we could reduce the deficit by more than half a million dollars," he said. "Unfortunately, that's not likely to happen."

Jewell said the proposal is "is a forward-looking budget that provides targeted investments to grow our domestic energy portfolio, creating jobs here at home, building communities resilience and revitalizing our national parks as they approach their 100th anniversary."

While Republicans were highly critical of Interior policies such as those for endangered species and offshore oil and gas drilling, lawmakers said they were thankful to Jewell and Deputy Interior Secretary Mike Connor for venturing through the poor weather to come to the hearing.

"Secretary Jewell, thank you for being here today despite the fact that the federal government is shut down," said Del. Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam). "I'm very impressed that our secretary is here."

Bishop asked that members of the panel submit any opening remarks for the hearing's record by 5 p.m. "or whenever this building crushes under a blanket of snow ... whichever occurs faster."

Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) said he was thankful for the "Alaskan weather," and jokingly proposed moving Alaska's Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race to the streets surrounding the Capitol, because a lack of snow has made planning for the race difficult.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 10:57 AM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico: Dem presses Jewell to drop potential Atlantic lease sale

Inbox x

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard

10:12 AM (43 minutes ago)

to me

3/5/15 10:12 AM EST

Rep. Niki Tsongas urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell today to drop consideration of an oil and gas lease sale for the Atlantic outer continental shelf in the next five-year plan.

"I take exception to that," said Tsongas, the top Democrat on the Natural Resources Committee's federal lands subcommittee.

The proposed draft plan, covering 2017-2022, included parts of the Atlantic off the coasts of Virginia and the Carolinas for potential lease sales.

"While the plan did not include areas off the coast of my home state, Massachusetts, we can be sure that a spill off the coast of Virginia or North Carolina would have serious consequences for our New England beaches and our commercial fishermen," Tsongas said at a hearing today. "I strongly urge you to seriously consider removing the proposed Atlantic lease sale from the final five-year plan."

— Alex Guillen

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 10:18 AM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico: Jewell can't guarantee Atlantic lease sales

Inbox x

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard

9:59 AM (14 minutes ago)

to me

3/5/15 10:00 AM EST

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told lawmakers today that she can't promise that the Atlantic will see an oil and gas lease sale as part of the next five-year plan.

Asked by Rep. Doug Lamborn about offshore leases, Jewell noted that the administration's recently released draft proposed plan covering 2017-2022 included parts of the Atlantic outer continental shelf.

"So you guarantee that the Atlantic will be part of final version?" Lamborn asked during a hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee, which went on despite the snow falling on D.C.

"No, I can't guarantee anything," Jewell responded. "We are in the draft proposed plan phase and we are taking public comment as is required of us by law."

Interior is taking public comment on the draft through March 30.

— Alex Guillen

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 7:31 AM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Lawmakers asked to fund Land and Water Conservation Fund

Future of conservation program uncertain

By [Andrew Clevenger / The Bulletin / @andclev](#)

Published Mar 5, 2015 at 12:01AM

WASHINGTON — Interior Secretary Sally Jewell pressed Senate appropriators Wednesday to approve the Obama administration's 2016 budget request of \$13.2 billion for the agency, including \$900 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects.

"This is, dollar for dollar, one of the most effective government programs we have," Jewell told members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, including Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.

First enacted in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund uses gas and oil receipts from drilling on the outer continental shelf to conserve national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness and Civil War battlefields, and to develop and support state and local parks.

By law, the fund may receive \$900 million each year, but it rarely receives its full allotment, and \$17 billion has been allocated for other purposes over the last 50 years.

Legislation authorizing the fund to distribute money to various projects will expire at the end of September.

President Obama's 2016 budget calls for funding the program at its maximum of \$900 million, and includes money for several projects in Oregon.

The biggest project for Oregon is the Pathways to the Pacific, which would receive \$14 million to stabilize fish runs and improve public access with acquisitions in the Oregon National Historic Trail, the John Day Wild and Scenic River, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, and Willapa and Ridgefield national wildlife refuges.

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In November, a bipartisan group of 40 senators, including Merkley and fellow Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden, wrote to Senate leadership, urging them to help pass a reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Act during the lame duck session. That didn't happen, and the program will expire at the end of September if Congress doesn't act.

Merkley said Wednesday that he will use his seat on the Appropriations Committee to keep fighting for full funding for LWCF.

"Oregon's outdoor spaces are a crucial part of our heritage and what makes our region unique. It's important that we preserve these special places for our children and grandchildren, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a critical tool for creating and preserving public lands," he said.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 6:45 AM, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico Morning Energy Tip Sheet; MURKOWSKI CHARGES 'PAY TO PLAY' ON ALASKAN PROJECT: Sen. Lisa Murkowski said an \$8 million mitigation payment ConocoPhillips will be required to make in order to move forward with its Greater Mooses Tooth project in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve verges on "pay to play." Companies "that have deep pockets and pretty considerable investments" could be needed by the Interior Department into paying large sums for mitigation efforts in order to get a permit, Murkowski said yesterday. "Mitigation is not new," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, arguing that requiring off-site mitigation efforts allows for landscape-level planning — like with solar farms in the California desert that were required to pay for desert tortoise habitat preservation elsewhere. Jewell and her No. 2, Mike Connor, explained that Interior hashed out the figure with ConocoPhillips after reviewing the project's impacts on local subsistence resources. But Murkowski wasn't convinced. "The fear is that, rather than creating efficiencies, that what we may have developing here is additional unpredictability, lack of clarity in terms of where you're going with a project that deters investment that really can derail a project," she said.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 4, 2015, at 10:48 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Fuel Fix: [Feds weighing Shell bid for more time in Arctic](#)

Posted on **March 4, 2015 at 5:03 pm** by [Jennifer A. Dlouhy](#) in [Arctic, Offshore, Politics/Policy](#)

Related articles:



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07/24/2014



Senators hope to extend Land and Water Conservation Fund

11/26/2014

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WASHINGTON _ The Obama administration will decide soon whether to give in to [Shell's request for extra time to hunt for oil in Arctic waters](#). Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Wednesday.

Without action, Shell's oil and gas leases in the Beaufort Sea will begin expiring in 2017, followed by its drilling rights in the neighboring Chukchi Sea two years later.

The same fate awaits Chukchi Sea leases sold in 2008 to Statoil and ConocoPhillips, which have made similar appeals for more time, citing regulatory uncertainty, legal challenges and other obstacles.

Read more: [Oil companies want more time for Arctic drilling](#)

"We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their request for suspensions," Jewell said during a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing. "We will be resolving that relatively soon."

The companies' bids for "suspensions of operation" would effectively stop the clock ticking on their 10-year leases. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is actively considering the requests from Shell and Statoil that were filed in July 2014; it previously rejected ConocoPhillips' November 2013 bid for at least three more years. ConocoPhillips appealed the decision to an Interior Department appeals board, and settlement talks are now under way.

Neither Statoil nor ConocoPhillips has active plans to drill in U.S. Arctic waters, but Shell is preparing to resume exploration in the Chukchi Sea this summer, three years after its last try in 2012 resulted in two half-completed wells that stopped short of penetrating potential oil-bearing zones.

"This is good news for us, particularly at a time when the price of oil is causing many companies to really scrutinize their investment decisions on very large-scale projects," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. "It makes it all the more important that Shell have the certainty it needs before it proceeds to spend even yet more billions of dollars. (Shell) needs to retain its existing lease portfolio to warrant this enormous investment."

Limited window

Murkowski cited the limited 75-day window for drilling in the Arctic, when waters are free of ice — as opposed to the year-round activity allowed in the Gulf of Mexico.

"There really are not enough drilling seasons (left) for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi Sea lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Legal uncertainties surrounding the government's 2008 auction of Chukchi Sea oil leases have delayed work in the area, though the Interior Department has already granted Shell, Statoil and ConocoPhillips additional time to compensate for some of those legal delays.

Most recently, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management [completed a new environmental analysis](#) of that seven-year-old sale in a bid to satisfy a 2014 federal court ruling that the first version was inadequate. But the final decision on whether to affirm, modify or vacate that sale rests with Jewell, who could issue a "record of decision" on the auction as soon as March 25.

In the meantime, the Chukchi Sea leases are under a suspension of operation tied to the ruling.

'Helping Shell'

Jewell stressed that Interior Department regulators were focused on completing that essential environmental analysis. "We took our resources and focused them — as we were requested to do — on helping Shell move forward with this drilling season," Jewell said.

Jewell also made a nod to the mishaps that marred Shell's 2012 Arctic operation, including the grounding of its non-propelled Kulluk drilling rig during an ill-fated tow across the Gulf of Alaska and the company's difficulty certifying and readying a unique emergency oil spill containment system so it could safeguard drilling. Shell halted its planned 2013 drilling in response, as it repaired one rig and searched for another to replace the Kulluk.

"We understand the circumstances that companies have," Jewell told Murkowski. "We also understand the circumstances that Shell had in 2012."

"We get that it's complicated to do work up there," she added. "We want to make sure it's done safely and responsively, and we want to be responsive to the companies."

'Special treatment'

Conservationists argue that Shell and other oil companies knew what they were getting into when they bought Chukchi Sea leases in 2008. Any Interior Department decision to give the company more time amounts to unwarranted "special treatment" said Oceana Deputy Vice President Susan Murray in [a Feb. 27 letter to the safety bureau](#).

"Operating in the Arctic Ocean is dangerous, controversial, and logistically challenging," Murray said. "Those facts, however, do not allow BSEE to bend its rules to grant Shell an unjustified extension of its leases."

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Shell used the drillship Noble Discoverer for its 2012 drilling in the Chukchi Sea north of Alaska. (Jennifer A. Dlouhy / The Houston Chronicle)

Extensions also could mean taxpayers — who own the oil at issue — are “no longer getting fair value,” said Michael LeVine, Pacific senior counsel for the group. “The government sold the rights to public resources under a certain set of circumstances and terms and shouldn’t then rule to change those terms.”

In general, leases expire at the end of their terms unless operators are “conducting operations” on the lease, such as drilling, reworking wells or producing oil and gas.

“Suspension of operation” requests are relatively common in the Gulf of Mexico, where they often are filed right before leases are set to expire, unlike the Arctic requests now pending before the safety bureau.

Safety bureau spokesman Nicholas Pardi said the agency “evaluates suspension requests on a case-by-case basis.”

Federal regulations give the agency relatively little authority to grant the suspensions, including to allow compliance with judicial decrees, when activities pose a threat of harm or damage, when they are needed to install safety equipment or conduct environmental analysis and to allow for “inordinate delays” in obtaining permits.

The oil companies’ requests may lay the groundwork for bigger changes, including potential action by Congress and the Obama administration to rewrite the terms of oil and gas leases in isolated Arctic waters.

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[OCS](#), [Arctic](#), [Arctic drilling](#), [Beaufort Sea](#), [BOEM](#), [BSEE](#), [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#), [Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#), [Chukchi Sea](#), [ConocoPhillips](#), [doi](#), [hearing](#), [interior department](#), [lease terms](#), [Lisa Murkowski](#), [Mark Fesmire](#), [Michael LeVine](#), [Nicholas Pardi](#), [offshore](#), [offshore drilling](#), [Sally Jewell](#), [shell](#), [SOC](#),

"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 05 2015 14:26:41 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: House Natural Resources Budget Hearing

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/in-the-loop/wp/2015/03/05/rep-don-young-wolves-would-solve-homelessness/>

Rep. Don Young: Wolves would solve homelessness

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Resize Text | Print Article | Comments 15

By [Colby Itkowitz](#) March 5 at 3:17 PM

Rep. Young: Wolves would solve homelessness (0:59)

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 4:24 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

PUBLIC LANDS:

Bishop proposes axing BLM conservation office

Phil Taylor and Manuel Quiñones, E&E reporters
Published: Thursday, March 5, 2015

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Congress should eliminate a Bureau of Land Management office that oversees national monuments, wilderness and conservation sites, according to House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop.

The Utah Republican's recommendation is part of a committee policy briefing on President Obama's fiscal 2016 budget, which it submitted to the House Budget Committee, as required by House rules.

The [briefing](#), which was obtained by *E&ENews PM*, claims that BLM's National Landscape Conservation System is redundant and

Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) famous for his salty tongue and brusque demeanor, suggested Thursday that if he let loose wolves in some congressional districts, they "wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore." (House Committee on Natural Resources)

Alaska Republican Rep. Don Young, famous for his salty tongue and brusque demeanor, suggested Thursday that if he let loose wolves in some congressional districts, they "wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

The strange comment was made during a halting five-minute exchange with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing on her agency's budget. He accused her and her department of making decisions without consulting the states they'd effect.

Young, who supports taking gray wolves off the endangered species list, mocked a letter 79 members of Congress sent urging Jewell to protect the gray wolf population. (In Alaska, for what it's worth, you can hunt wolves.)

"How many of you have got wolves in your district?" he asked. "None. None. Not one."

"They haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district," Young continued. "I'd like to introduce them in your district. If I introduced them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

We sought clarification to ensure we heard correctly. A spokesman for Young said the "analogy was purposely hyperbolic to stress the point that these predators pose serious threats to wildlife management and their listing has damaging impacts to local communities."

This post has been updated.

NLCS office -- not funding for public lands managed under NLCS -- so the claim that national monuments would have to close their doors is false," she said. "We recommend they be managed by state BLM offices like all other BLM lands rather than an unnecessary, bureaucratic, centralized NLCS office in Washington, D.C."

It's not the first time Bishop has proposed closing the office.

He made a similar proposal in 2011, calling NLCS a "double administration" that adds unnecessary costs and bureaucracy, but he eventually withdrew his proposal.

NLCS was sustained thanks in part to Democrats controlling the Senate. But Bishop is now working with like-minded GOP colleagues leading the upper chamber.

NLCS was established administratively by President Clinton and became law in March 2009 when President Obama signed a massive omnibus public lands package. Republicans have been highly critical of the system. A report from the Interior inspector general in 2009 found that NLCS managers had a too-cozy relationship with environmental groups ([Greenwire](#), Oct. 5, 2009).

antithetical to BLM's multiple-use mission.

"As well as eroding the mission of BLM, NLCS has also become a duplicative office that imposes another layer of bureaucratic, centralized, and unnecessary management," the briefing says. "The committee recommends eliminating the office of the NLCS and restoring management of 'units' to BLM state offices."

It also recommends that the federal government convey lands "without strings" to state, local and tribal governments. It urges the Budget Committee to "eliminate barriers" for those conveyances in its budget resolution and build in \$50 million to offset potential losses to the U.S. Treasury.

The briefing makes a set of other Interior Department budget recommendations, including to redirect land acquisition funds to address park maintenance; eliminate funds that would be paid to environmental groups that successfully sue the government; find a solution to the "quagmire" of Forest Service wildfire funding; and address proposed changes to mine-land cleanup funding.

Bishop's proposal to ax BLM's conservation office drew fire from outdoor outfitters and conservationists.

NLCS includes more than 30 million acres of the nation's "most prized public lands," including more than 40 national monuments and national conservation areas and hundreds of wilderness areas, said the Conservation Lands Foundation, a national group based in Durango, Colo.

NLCS -- also known as BLM's National Conservation Lands -- is currently funded at \$31.8 million, but BLM's 2016 budget requests upping that to \$48.5 million.

"Cutting the budget for the National Conservation Lands would put local economies at risk, threaten nationally significant natural and cultural resources, and deny Americans access to their public lands," the Conservation Lands Foundation says.

The group warns that dozens of BLM-managed conservation areas -- such as the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area outside Las Vegas -- would have to close under Bishop's proposal.

But Bishop's camp said BLM will continue to manage the NLCS lands regardless of whether there is a separate conservation office. NLCS "does nothing to improve the recreation, conservation or wilderness value of these BLM lands," Bishop spokeswoman Julia Bell said. NLCS takes up a significant chunk of funding that would otherwise go to land management, she said.

"Our committee recommends eliminating the

Bishop critiques Obama mining policy

When it comes to mining and coal, Bishop is taking issue with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's continued spending on developing the forthcoming stream protection rule. It has been a target of Natural Resources panel Republicans for years.

They are now also questioning OSMRE's decision to develop regulations for strip mine blasting. The agency's actions follow a petition from the group WildEarth Guardians.

"OSM continues to be extorted by environmental special interest groups attempting to advance their war on coal," Bishop's briefing said.

The Obama administration proposed spending \$1 billion from an OSMRE-administered fund for reclaiming abandoned coal mines to help stimulate the economy in Appalachian communities hit by the mining downturn ([E&E Daily](#), Feb. 3).

But Bishop warned the panel wouldn't support spending the money "to plant orchards on reclaimed coal mines." Instead, he called for funding priority cleanups.

The administration made only rough proposals for spending the \$1 billion. Lawmakers would have to work out the details by amending the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. And states are already expressing concerns that changes will jeopardize a 2006 compromise.

Separately, Bishop expressed concerns about an Office of Natural Resources Revenue proposal on mineral valuations and complained that maintenance fee increases on non-coal mining claims had resulted in a loss of almost \$50,000 in claims and an \$8.3 million revenue drop between fiscal 2013 and 2014.

2.

NATIONAL MONUMENTS:

Interior chief, House Republican clash over Colo. designation

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, March 5, 2015

[RESIZE TEXT](#) [EMAIL](#) [PRINT](#)

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.) was wrong to suggest that the Obama administration failed to seek public input before declaring a 21,000-acre national monument protecting Browns Canyon, according to a Colorado conservationist, a mayor and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

At a budget hearing today before the House Natural Resources Committee, Lamborn claimed President Obama last month designated the canyon in central Colorado without "any solicitation of public input."

The claim was patently false, Jewell said.

"There was public input, congressman, and we are committed to continuing to get public input," Jewell said. "I value public input."

In fact, Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and Bureau of Land Management Deputy Director Steve Ellis came to Salida, Colo., in early December to take the public's pulse on a monument. They heard strong support from residents, business owners and conservation groups ([Greenwire](#), Dec. 8, 2014).

The meeting was hosted by then-Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.), whose bill -- on which the monument proclamation was based -- received a hearing last July before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Keith Baker, who leads Friends of Browns Canyon, and Joel Benson, mayor of Buena Vista, Colo., which is north of the monument, also challenged Lamborn's claim.

"I am disappointed that Representative Lamborn continues to be out of touch with his district and insists on making false claims about the long history of community input into the Browns Canyon National Monument," Baker said in a statement. "Chaffee County residents have had dozens of public comment opportunities on Browns Canyon, including most recently in a public hearing in December, and have expressed overwhelming support time and time again."

Baker said the public has had ample opportunities to weigh in on the monument, as evidenced by a [timeline](#) of events compiled by *The Chaffee County Times*.

In addition, there was a 2012 meeting at Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort that included elected and appointed officials, motorized recreationists, rafters, ranchers and hikers, and an April 2013 public hearing hosted by Udall and attended by Lamborn at Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting in Nathrop, he said.

Buena Vista and Salida, which bookend the monument to the north and south, unanimously approved resolutions supporting the designation prior to its being declared.

Lamborn, whose 5th District encompasses the Browns Canyon area, warned last month that presidentially designated monuments don't receive adequate funding and are generally viewed as "orphans" in the nation's vast public lands system.

"This is because they are created outside the normal congressional process and without local consensus, robbing the people of fair and open input," Lamborn said then. "Browns Canyon does not deserve this kind of second-class status."

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 3:57 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

DEM PRESSES JEWELL TO DROP ATLANTIC LEASE SALE Rep. Niki Tsongas urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell today to drop consideration of an oil and gas lease sale for the Atlantic outer continental shelf in the next five-year plan. "While the plan did not include areas off the coast of my home state, Massachusetts, we can be sure that a spill off the coast of Virginia or North Carolina would have serious consequences for our New England beaches and our commercial fishermen," Tsongas said at a hearing today. "I strongly urge you to seriously consider removing the proposed Atlantic lease sale from the final five-year plan." <http://politico.pro/1aN7IRt>

— **No guarantee** Jewell told lawmakers today that she can't promise that the Atlantic will see an oil and gas lease sale as part of the next five-year plan. Asked by Rep. Doug Lamborn about offshore leases, Jewell noted that the administration's recently released draft proposed plan covering 2017-2022 included parts of the Atlantic outer continental shelf <http://politico.pro/1EicEQJ>

LUMMIS ESA MAKES A SUCKER OUT OF US Wyoming Rep. Cynthia Lummis took aim at a potentially anachronistic requirement of the Endangered Species Act this

morning that has delayed a delisting. The law requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to place a notice in local newspapers that it is delisting a species, including the Modoc sucker, a small fish native to California and Oregon. But FWS failed to run the classified ad until recently, delaying the delisting of the fish. "This is just the latest example about how the ESA perpetuates form over substance, in this case doing nothing to benefit the Modoc sucker and only delaying relief for the people impacted by the listing," Lummis said at a Natural Resources Committee hearing. "It is as if the Endangered Species Act is stuck in 1973 while the rest of us have moved on." Greenwire wrote earlier this week about the classified ad mix-up: <http://bit.ly/1GnXc6F>

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 3:42 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.agri-pulse.com/Interior-secretary-under-fire-on-gray-wolf-03052015.asp>

Interior secretary under fire on wolf protection

By [Philip Brasher](#)

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WASHINGTON, March 5, 2015 - Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is standing by a proposal to de-list the gray wolf as an endangered species, but she stops short of endorsing legislation to overturn court orders that are keeping the animal under protection.

Jewell is coming under pressure from House Democrats to heed the courts and at least protect the wolf under a downgraded, threatened status.

The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed in 2013 to de-list the [gray wolf](#) in most of the continental United States but courts have blocked the action in Wyoming and the western Great Lakes region.

Legislation was recently introduced to finalize the de-listing. Under questioning by one of the bill's cosponsors, Rep. Dan Benishek, R-Mich., at a House Natural Resources Committee hearing Thursday, Jewell didn't endorse the measure ([HR 884](#)), but she said the administration would follow its directive if enacted.

"Clearly we will uphold whatever laws are passed by Congress," she told the committee. "My preference is certainly not to legislate the Endangered Species Act (ESA). But if Congress passed legislation certainly we will uphold the law."

But a letter to Jewell signed by 79 House members, mostly Democrats, and delivered to Jewell ahead of the hearing proposes to list the gray wolf as threatened, rather than endangered.

"Scientific experts have shown, and courts have confirmed, that the best available science does not justify the removal of all ESA protections for gray wolves at this time," the letter says, calling the de-listing bill an "extreme proposal."

Downgrading the wolf to threatened status would "allow states significantly increased certainty and flexibility" in managing the animals, the letter said. Jewell said the department would see "what we're permitted to do under the law."

At one point in the hearing, Rep. Don Young, D-Alaska, lashed out at the signers of the letter, which included the committee's top Democrat, Raul Grijalva of Arizona. The 79 lawmakers, Young said, "haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district."

Young, directing his remarks to the letter signers, went on, "I'd like to introduce them (gray wolves) in your district. If I introduced them in your district you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

The Fish and Wildlife Services believes "their science was sound, but we want to work with the best available science, so I'm sure they will be taking a look at the recommendation," she said.

Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn., the ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee and another cosponsor of the delisting legislation, wrote to Jewel in January, asking her to appeal the court decision that reinstated protections for the wolf in his home state. Peterson said reversing the court ruling would return management of the animal back to the state and help farmers and rancher facing a difficult decision between protecting their livestock and complying with another difficult federal court decision.

On a separate issue, Jewell assured the committee the department would heed a policy rider in the fiscal 2015 omnibus spending bill that would prevent the Fish and Wildlife Service from finalizing rules to protect sage grouse habitat under the Endangered Species Act.

But she said the department would still meet a court-ordered deadline in September for determining whether the bird merits protection under the law. "The rider prevents us from writing any regulations .. however, it doesn't prevent the service from coming to a determination on a listing decision."

For example, the policy rider would prevent the service would specifically implementing rules worked out with farmers and ranchers for protecting habitat of the Gunnison sage grouse, she said.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 2:43 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/234735-gop-chairman-slams-underimpressive-interior-budget-plan>

GOP chairman slams 'underimpressive' Interior budget plan

By Timothy Cama - 03/05/15 12:32 PM EST

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Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) on Thursday blasted the Interior Department's budget request, arguing it avoided confronting major problems while creating expensive, unnecessary programs.

Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said the plan was "really

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underimpressive" and that he "found no idea in there that I consider creative or different or unusual."

He criticized what he saw as "just the same old, same old, raise taxes, raise fees, write more regulations and then throw money at a problem" in the \$13.2 billion budget request, including money to acquire new federal land while current property needs maintenance.

Bishop made the comments at a hearing with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. It was the sole hearing in the House on a day in which both chambers of Congress canceled their sessions because of a winter storm.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) welcomed the budget, pointing out that Interior, which leases land to energy production, proposes to bring more money in than it will spend.

"If Congress simply enacted your budget, we could reduce the deficit by more than half a million dollars," he said. "Unfortunately, that's not likely to happen."

Jewell said the proposal is "is a forward-looking budget that provides targeted investments to grow our domestic energy portfolio, creating jobs here at home, building communities resilience and revitalizing our national parks as they approach their 100th anniversary."

While Republicans were highly critical of Interior policies such as those for endangered species and offshore oil and gas drilling, lawmakers said they were thankful to Jewell and Deputy Interior Secretary Mike Connor for venturing through the poor weather to come to the hearing.

"Secretary Jewell, thank you for being here today despite the fact that the federal government is shut down," said Del. Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam). "I'm very impressed that our secretary is here."

Bishop asked that members of the panel submit any opening remarks for the hearing's record by 5 p.m. "or whenever this building crushes under a blanket of snow ... whichever occurs faster."

Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) said he was thankful for the "Alaskan weather," and jokingly proposed moving Alaska's Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race to the streets surrounding the Capitol, because a lack of snow has made planning for the race difficult.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 10:57 AM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico: Dem presses Jewell to drop potential Atlantic lease sale

Inbox x

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard 10:12 AM (43 minutes ago)

to me

3/5/15 10:12 AM EST

Rep. Niki Tsongas urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell today to drop consideration of an oil and gas lease sale for the Atlantic outer continental shelf in the next five-year plan.

"I take exception to that," said Tsongas, the top Democrat on the Natural Resources Committee's federal lands subcommittee.

The proposed draft plan, covering 2017-2022, included parts of the Atlantic off the coasts of Virginia and the Carolinas for potential lease sales.

"While the plan did not include areas off the coast of my home state, Massachusetts, we can be sure that a spill off the coast of Virginia or North Carolina would have serious consequences for our New England beaches and our commercial fishermen," Tsongas said at a hearing today. "I strongly urge you to seriously consider removing the proposed Atlantic lease sale from the final five-year plan."

— Alex Guillen

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 10:18 AM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico: Jewell can't guarantee Atlantic lease sales

Inbox x

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard 9:59 AM (14 minutes ago)

to me

3/5/15 10:00 AM EST

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told lawmakers today that she can't promise that the Atlantic will see an oil and gas lease sale as part of the next five-year plan.

Asked by Rep. Doug Lamborn about offshore leases, Jewell noted that the administration's recently released draft proposed plan covering 2017-2022 included parts of the Atlantic outer continental shelf.

"So you guarantee that the Atlantic will be part of final version?" Lamborn asked during a hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee, which went on despite the snow falling on D.C.

"No, I can't guarantee anything," Jewell responded. "We are in the draft proposed plan phase and we are taking public comment as is required of us by law."

Interior is taking public comment on the draft through March 30.

— Alex Guillen

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 7:31 AM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Lawmakers asked to fund Land and Water Conservation Fund

Future of conservation program uncertain

By **Andrew Clevenger / The Bulletin / @andclev**

Published Mar 5, 2015 at 12:01AM

WASHINGTON — Interior Secretary Sally Jewell pressed Senate appropriators Wednesday to approve the Obama administration's 2016 budget request of \$13.2 billion for the agency, including \$900 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects.

"This is, dollar for dollar, one of the most effective government programs we have," Jewell told members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, including Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.

First enacted in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund uses gas and oil receipts from drilling on the outer continental shelf to conserve national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness and Civil War battlefields, and to develop and support state and local parks.

By law, the fund may receive \$900 million each year, but it rarely receives its full allotment, and \$17 billion has been allocated for other purposes over the last 50 years.

Legislation authorizing the fund to distribute money to various projects will expire at the end of September.

President Obama's 2016 budget calls for funding the program at its maximum of \$900 million, and includes money for several projects in Oregon.

The biggest project for Oregon is the Pathways to the Pacific, which would receive \$14 million to stabilize fish runs and improve public access with acquisitions in the Oregon National Historic Trail, the John Day Wild and Scenic River, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, and Willapa and Ridgefield national wildlife refuges.

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument would receive a \$2.6 million grant to acquire almost 2,300 acres, with an additional \$3 million slated for land acquisition on Wassen Creek in Suislaw National Forest.

Kelley Beamer, the executive director of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts said in a prepared statement that LWCF funding has helped preserve many places that Oregonians hold dear.

"It has helped protect working farms, forests and ranches, including most recently the Gilchrist Forest outside Bend. Without the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Oregon would not be what it is today," Beamer said.

Late last year, Congress approved \$306 million for LWCF projects, meaning many projects that had been vetted and approved did not receive funding.

"Without full funding, some critical projects in Oregon like protecting the east moraine of Wallowa Lake, will never get completed and instead be lost to development or other threats," Beamer said.

In November, a bipartisan group of 40 senators, including Merkley and fellow Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden, wrote to Senate leadership, urging them to help pass a reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Act during the lame duck session. That didn't happen, and the program will expire at the end of September if Congress doesn't act.

Merkley said Wednesday that he will use his seat on the Appropriations Committee to keep fighting for full funding for LWCF.

"Oregon's outdoor spaces are a crucial part of our heritage and what makes our region unique. It's important that we preserve these special places for our children and grandchildren, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a critical tool for creating and preserving public lands," he said.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 6:45 AM, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico Morning Energy Tip Sheet; MURKOWSKI CHARGES 'PAY TO PLAY' ON ALASKAN PROJECT: Sen. Lisa Murkowski said an \$8 million mitigation payment ConocoPhillips will be required to make in order to move forward with its Greater Mooses Tooth project in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve verges on "pay to play." Companies "that have deep pockets and pretty considerable investments" could be needed by the Interior Department into paying large sums for mitigation efforts in order to get a permit, Murkowski said yesterday. "Mitigation is not new," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, arguing that requiring off-site mitigation efforts allows for landscape-level planning — like with solar farms in the California desert that were required to pay for desert tortoise habitat preservation elsewhere. Jewell and her No. 2, Mike Connor, explained that Interior hashed out the figure with ConocoPhillips after reviewing the project's impacts on local subsistence resources. But Murkowski wasn't convinced. "The fear is that, rather than creating efficiencies, that what we may have developing here is additional unpredictability, lack of clarity in terms of where you're going with a project that deters investment that really can derail a project," she said.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 4, 2015, at 10:48 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Fuel Fix: [Feds weighing Shell bid for more time in Arctic](#)

Posted on **March 4, 2015 at 5:03 pm** by [Jennifer A. Dlouhy](#) in [Arctic, Offshore, Politics/Policy](#)

Related articles:



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07/24/2014



Senators hope to extend Land and Water Conservation Fund

11/26/2014

WASHINGTON _ The Obama administration will decide soon whether to give in to [Shell's request for extra time to hunt for oil in Arctic waters](#), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Wednesday.

Without action, Shell's oil and gas leases in the Beaufort Sea will begin expiring in 2017, followed by its drilling rights in the neighboring Chukchi Sea two years later.

The same fate awaits Chukchi Sea leases sold in 2008 to Statoil and ConocoPhillips, which have made similar appeals for more time, citing regulatory uncertainty, legal challenges and other obstacles.

Read more: [Oil companies want more time for Arctic drilling](#)

"We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their request for suspensions," Jewell said during a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing. "We will be resolving that relatively soon."

The companies' bids for "suspensions of operation" would effectively stop the clock ticking on their 10-year leases. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is actively considering the requests from Shell and Statoil that were filed in July 2014; it previously rejected ConocoPhillips' November 2013 bid for at least three more years. ConocoPhillips appealed the decision to an Interior Department appeals board, and settlement talks are now under way.

Neither Statoil nor ConocoPhillips has active plans to drill in U.S. Arctic waters, but Shell is preparing to resume exploration in the Chukchi Sea this summer, three years after its last try in 2012 resulted in two half-completed wells that stopped short of penetrating potential oil-bearing zones.

"This is good news for us, particularly at a time when the price of oil is causing many companies to really scrutinize their investment decisions on very large-scale projects," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. "It makes it all the more important that Shell have the certainty it needs before it proceeds to spend even yet more billions of dollars. (Shell) needs to retain its existing lease portfolio to warrant this enormous investment."

Limited window

Murkowski cited the limited 75-day window for drilling in the Arctic, when waters are free of ice — as opposed to the year-round activity allowed in the Gulf of Mexico.

"There really are not enough drilling seasons (left) for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi Sea lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Legal uncertainties surrounding the government's 2008 auction of Chukchi Sea oil leases have delayed work in the area, though the Interior Department has already granted Shell, Statoil and ConocoPhillips additional time to compensate for some of those legal delays.

Most recently, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management [completed a new environmental analysis](#) of that seven-year-old sale in a bid to satisfy a 2014 federal court ruling that the first version was inadequate. But the final decision on whether to affirm, modify or vacate that sale rests with Jewell, who could issue a "record of decision" on the auction as soon as March 25.

In the meantime, the Chukchi Sea leases are under a suspension of operation tied to the ruling.

'Helping Shell'

Jewell stressed that Interior Department regulators were focused on completing that essential environmental analysis. "We took our resources and focused them — as we were requested to do — on helping Shell move forward with this drilling season," Jewell said.

Jewell also made a nod to the mishaps that marred Shell's 2012 Arctic operation, including the grounding of its non-propelled Kulluk drilling rig during an ill-fated tow across the Gulf of Alaska and the company's difficulty certifying and readying a unique emergency oil spill containment system so it could safeguard drilling. Shell halted its planned 2013 drilling in response, as it repaired one rig and searched for another to replace the Kulluk.

"We understand the circumstances that companies have," Jewell told Murkowski. "We also understand the circumstances that Shell had in 2012."

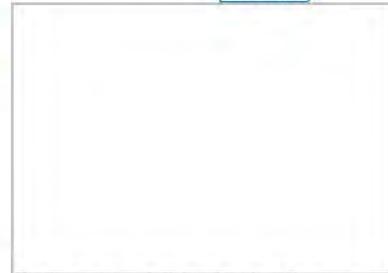
"We get that it's complicated to do work up there," she added. "We want to make sure it's done safely and responsively, and we want to be responsive to the companies."

'Special treatment'

Conservationists argue that Shell and other oil companies knew what they were getting into when they bought Chukchi Sea leases in 2008. Any Interior Department decision to give the company more time amounts to unwarranted "special treatment" said Oceana Deputy Vice President Susan Murray in [a Feb. 27 letter to the safety bureau](#).

"Operating in the Arctic Ocean is dangerous, controversial, and logistically challenging," Murray said. "Those facts, however, do not allow BSEE to bend its rules to grant Shell an unjustified extension of its leases."

Shell used the drillship Noble Discoverer for its 2012 drilling in the Chukchi Sea north of Alaska. (Jennifer A. Dlouhy / The Houston Chronicle)



Extensions also could mean taxpayers — who own the oil at issue — are “no longer getting fair value,” said Michael LeVine, Pacific senior counsel for the group. “The government sold the rights to public resources under a certain set of circumstances and terms and shouldn’t then rule to change those terms.”

In general, leases expire at the end of their terms unless operators are “conducting operations” on the lease, such as drilling, reworking wells or producing oil and gas.

“Suspension of operation” requests are relatively common in the Gulf of Mexico, where they often are filed right before leases are set to expire, unlike the Arctic requests now pending before the safety bureau.

Safety bureau spokesman Nicholas Pardi said the agency “evaluates suspension requests on a case-by-case basis.”

Federal regulations give the agency relatively little authority to grant the suspensions, including to allow compliance with judicial decrees, when activities pose a threat of harm or damage, when they are needed to install safety equipment or conduct environmental analysis and to allow for “inordinate delays” in obtaining permits.

The oil companies’ requests may lay the groundwork for bigger changes, including potential action by Congress and the Obama administration to rewrite the terms of oil and gas leases in isolated Arctic waters.

"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 05 2015 15:57:35 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: House Natural Resources Budget Hearing

CBS News: Rep. Don Young's solution for the "homeless problem": wolves

□ In this Oct. 20, 2011 file photo, Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska speaks in Anchorage, Alaska. FILE,AP PHOTO/DAN JOLING

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Alaska Rep. Don Young has settled on a novel solution to the problem of homelessness: wolves.

Young, a long-serving Republican with a history of odd commentary, discussed the idea during an exchange on Thursday with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who was testifying before the House Natural Resources Committee about her department’s budget.

Young has been pushing for the Interior Department to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list, and during the hearing, he ridiculed a letter sent by 79 lawmakers to Jewell urging her to protect the gray wolf population.

"How many of you have got wolves in your district?" Young asked the other lawmakers on the panel. "None. Not one."

"They haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district," he added. "I'd like to introduce them in your district. If I introduced them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

Alaska Rep. Don Young apologizes for comments about suicide

□
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It's not clear whether Young was suggesting the wolves could eat the homeless population -- perhaps he expects the homeless to make tents out of wolf hides.

Young has a reputation for off-color remarks. Last October, he [told students at an Alaska high school that some suicides are due to a lack of support from friends and family](#). The remark, which came just days after a student at the school took his own life, was met with outrage from students and faculty, and Young was quickly forced to apologize.

And in 2013, [Young reminisced in a radio interview about the "50 to 60 wetbacks" who picked tomatoes at his father's ranch](#) when he was younger. He apologized for that remark as well, saying the term was "commonly used" during his childhood and that he "meant no disrespect."

Huffington Post: Don Young Suggests Wolves Could Help Get Rid Of Homeless People

The Huffington Post | By Paige Lavender Email | Posted: 03/05/2015 5:33 pm EST | Updated: 7 minutes ago

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Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) suggested Thursday that the solution to homelessness is wolves.

Young made the comment during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing during an exchange with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He was arguing that gray wolves should be taken off the endangered species list, criticizing the National Park Service and his congressional colleagues who seek to protect the animals.

"How many of you have got wolves in your district? None. None. Not one," Young said, calling the gray wolf "a predator."

"We've got 79 congressmen sending you a letter, they haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district," Young added. "I'd like to introduce them in your district. If I introduced them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

Watch Young make the comments above.

A spokesman for Young told [The Washington Post](#) that the statement was meant to emphasize that "these predators pose serious threats to wildlife management and their listing has damaging impacts to local communities."

Young is no stranger to controversial statements. In October 2014, he used profane language and made highly insensitive remarks about [gay marriage and suicide](#) at a high school. One of the school's students had taken his own life days before Young made the remarks.

Young also reportedly "[freaked out](#)" on his 2014 Democratic challenger ahead of a debate that same month.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 4:26 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/in-the-loop/wp/2015/03/05/rep-don-young-wolves-would-solve-homelessness/>

Rep. Don Young: Wolves would solve homelessness

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By [Colby Itkowitz](#) March 5 at 3:17 PM

Rep. Young: Wolves would solve

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 4:24 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

PUBLIC LANDS:
Bishop proposes axing BLM conservation office

Phil Taylor and Manuel Quiñones, E&E reporters
Published: Thursday, March 5, 2015

[RF](#) [RESIZE TEXT](#) [FN](#) [EMAIL](#) [PR](#)

Congress should eliminate a Bureau of Land Management office that oversees national monuments, wilderness and conservation sites, according to House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop.

The Utah Republican's recommendation is part of a committee policy briefing on President Obama's fiscal 2016 budget, which it submitted to the House Budget Committee, as required by House rules.

The **briefing**, which was obtained by *E&ENews PM*, claims that BLM's National Landscape Conservation System is redundant and antithetical to BLM's multiple-use mission.

"As well as eroding the mission of BLM, NLCS has also become a duplicative office that imposes another layer of bureaucratic, centralized, and unnecessary management," the briefing says. "The committee recommends eliminating the office of the NLCS and restoring management of 'units' to BLM state offices."

It also recommends that the federal government convey lands "without strings" to state, local and tribal governments. It urges the Budget Committee to "eliminate barriers" for those conveyances in its budget resolution and build in \$50 million to offset potential losses to the U.S. Treasury.

The briefing makes a set of other Interior Department budget recommendations, including to redirect land acquisition funds to address park maintenance; eliminate funds that would be paid to environmental groups that successfully sue the government; find a solution to the "quagmire" of Forest Service wildfire funding; and address proposed changes to mine-land cleanup funding.

Bishop's proposal to ax BLM's conservation office drew fire from outdoor outfitters and conservationists.

NLCS includes more than 30 million acres of the nation's "most prized public lands," including more than 40 national monuments and national conservation areas and hundreds of wilderness areas, said the Conservation Lands Foundation, a national group based in Durango, Colo.

NLCS -- also known as BLM's National Conservation Lands -- is currently funded at \$31.8 million, but BLM's 2016 budget requests upping that to \$48.5 million.

"Gutting the budget for the National Conservation Lands would put local economies at risk, threaten nationally significant natural and cultural resources, and deny Americans access to their public lands," the Conservation Lands Foundation says.

The group warns that dozens of BLM-managed conservation areas -- such as the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area outside Las Vegas -- would have to close under Bishop's proposal.

But Bishop's camp said BLM will continue to manage the NLCS lands regardless of whether there is a separate conservation office. NLCS "does nothing to improve the recreation, conservation or wilderness value of these BLM lands," Bishop spokeswoman Julia Bell said. NLCS takes up a significant chunk of funding that would otherwise go to land management,

Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) famous for his salty tongue and brusque demeanor, suggested Thursday that if he let loose wolves in some congressional districts, they "wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore." (House Committee on Natural Resources)

Alaska Republican Rep. Don Young, famous for his salty tongue and brusque demeanor, suggested Thursday that if he let loose wolves in some congressional districts, they "wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

The strange comment was made during a halting five-minute exchange with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing on her agency's budget. He accused her and her department of making decisions without consulting the states they'd effect.

Young, who supports taking gray wolves off the endangered species list, mocked a letter 79 members of Congress sent urging Jewell to protect the gray wolf population. (In Alaska, for what it's worth, you can hunt wolves.)

"How many of you have got wolves in your district?" he asked. "None. None. Not one."

"They haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district," Young continued. "I'd like to introduce them in your district. If I introduced them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

We sought clarification to ensure we heard correctly. A spokesman for Young said the "analogy was purposely hyperbolic to stress the point that these predators pose serious threats to wildlife management and their listing has damaging impacts to local communities."

This post has been updated.

she said.

"Our committee recommends eliminating the NLCS office -- not funding for public lands managed under NLCS -- so the claim that national monuments would have to close their doors is false," she said. "We recommend they be managed by state BLM offices like all other BLM lands rather than an unnecessary, bureaucratic, centralized NLCS office in Washington, D.C."

It's not the first time Bishop has proposed closing the office.

He made a similar proposal in 2011, calling NLCS a "double administration" that adds unnecessary costs and bureaucracy, but he eventually withdrew his proposal.

NLCS was sustained thanks in part to Democrats controlling the Senate. But Bishop is now working with like-minded GOP colleagues leading the upper chamber.

NLCS was established administratively by President Clinton and became law in March 2009 when President Obama signed a massive omnibus public lands package. Republicans have been highly critical of the system. A report from the Interior inspector general in 2009 found that NLCS managers had a too-cozy relationship with environmental groups ([Greenwire](#), Oct. 5, 2009).

Bishop critiques Obama mining policy

When it comes to mining and coal, Bishop is taking issue with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's continued spending on developing the forthcoming stream protection rule. It has been a target of Natural Resources panel Republicans for years.

They are now also questioning OSMRE's decision to develop regulations for strip mine blasting. The agency's actions follow a petition from the group WildEarth Guardians.

"OSM continues to be extorted by environmental special interest groups attempting to advance their war on coal," Bishop's briefing said.

The Obama administration proposed spending \$1 billion from an OSMRE-administered fund for reclaiming abandoned coal mines to help stimulate the economy in Appalachian communities hit by the mining downturn ([E&E Daily](#), Feb. 3).

But Bishop warned the panel wouldn't support spending the money "to plant orchards on reclaimed coal mines." Instead, he called for funding priority cleanups.

The administration made only rough proposals for spending the \$1 billion. Lawmakers would have to work out the details by amending the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. And states are already expressing concerns that changes will jeopardize a 2006 compromise.

Separately, Bishop expressed concerns about an Office of Natural Resources Revenue proposal on mineral valuations and complained that maintenance fee increases on non-coal mining claims had resulted in a loss of almost \$50,000 in claims and an \$8.3 million revenue drop between fiscal 2013 and 2014.

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NATIONAL MONUMENTS:

Interior chief, House Republican clash over Colo. designation

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, March 5, 2015

[RESIZE TEXT](#) [EM](#) [EMAIL](#) [PR](#) [PRINT](#)

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.) was wrong to suggest that the Obama administration failed to seek public input before declaring a 21,000-acre national monument protecting Browns Canyon, according to a Colorado conservationist, a mayor and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

At a budget hearing today before the House Natural Resources Committee, Lamborn claimed President Obama last month designated the canyon in central Colorado without "any solicitation of public input."

The claim was patently false, Jewell said.

"There was public input, congressman, and we are committed to continuing to get public input," Jewell said. "I value public input."

In fact, Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and Bureau of Land Management Deputy Director Steve Ellis came to Salida, Colo., in early December to take the public's pulse on a monument. They heard strong support from residents, business owners and conservation groups ([Greenwire](#), Dec. 8, 2014).

The meeting was hosted by then-Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.), whose bill -- on which the monument proclamation was based -- received a hearing last July before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Keith Baker, who leads Friends of Browns Canyon, and Joel Benson, mayor of Buena Vista, Colo., which is north of the monument, also challenged Lamborn's claim.

"I am disappointed that Representative Lamborn continues to be out of touch with his district and insists on making false claims about the long history of community input into the Browns Canyon National Monument," Baker said in a statement. "Chaffee County residents have had dozens of public comment opportunities on Browns Canyon, including most recently in a public hearing in December, and have expressed overwhelming support time and time again."

Baker said the public has had ample opportunities to weigh in on the monument, as evidenced by a [timeline](#) of events compiled by *The Chaffee County Times*.

In addition, there was a 2012 meeting at Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort that included elected and appointed officials, motorized recreationists, rafters, ranchers and hikers, and an April 2013 public hearing hosted by Udall and attended by Lamborn at Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting in Nathrop, he said.

Buena Vista and Salida, which bookend the monument to the north and south, unanimously approved resolutions supporting the designation prior to its being declared.

Lamborn, whose 5th District encompasses the Browns Canyon area, warned last month that presidentially designated monuments don't receive adequate funding and are generally viewed as "orphans" in the nation's vast public lands system.

"This is because they are created outside the normal congressional process and without local consensus, robbing the people of fair and open input," Lamborn said then. "Browns Canyon does not deserve this kind of second-class status."

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 3:57 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

DEM PRESSES JEWELL TO DROP ATLANTIC LEASE SALE Rep. Niki Tsongas urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell today to drop consideration of an oil and gas lease sale for the Atlantic outer continental shelf in the next five-year plan. "While the plan did not include areas off the coast of my home state, Massachusetts, we can be sure that a spill off the coast of Virginia or North Carolina would have serious consequences for our New England beaches and our commercial fishermen," Tsongas said at a hearing today. "I strongly urge you to seriously consider removing the proposed Atlantic lease sale from the final five-year plan." <http://politico.pro/1aN7iRT>

— **No guarantee** Jewell told lawmakers today that she can't promise that the Atlantic will see an oil and gas lease sale as part of the next five-year plan. Asked by Rep. Doug Lamborn about offshore leases, Jewell noted that the administration's recently released draft proposed plan covering 2017-2022 included parts of the Atlantic outer continental shelf. <http://politico.pro/1EicEQJ>

LUMMIS ESA MAKES A SUCKER OUT OF US Wyoming Rep. Cynthia Lummis took aim at a potentially anachronistic requirement of the Endangered Species Act this morning that has delayed a delisting. The law requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to place a notice in local newspapers that it is delisting a species, including the Modoc sucker, a small fish native to California and Oregon. But FWS failed to run the classified ad until recently, delaying the delisting of the fish. "This is just the latest example about how the ESA perpetuates form over substance, in this case doing nothing to benefit the Modoc sucker and only delaying relief for the people impacted by the listing," Lummis said at a Natural Resources Committee hearing. "It is as if the Endangered Species Act is stuck in 1973 while the rest of us have moved on." Greenwire wrote earlier this week about the classified ad mix-up: <http://bit.ly/1GnXc6F>

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 3:42 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

<http://www.agri-pulse.com/interior-secretary-under-fire-on-gray-wolf-03052015.asp>

Interior secretary under fire on wolf protection

By [Philip Brasher](#)

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WASHINGTON, March 5, 2015 - Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is standing by a proposal to de-list the gray wolf as an endangered species, but she stops short of endorsing legislation to overturn court orders that are keeping the animal under protection.

Jewell is coming under pressure from House Democrats to heed the courts and at least protect the wolf under a downgraded, threatened status.

The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed in 2013 to de-list the [gray wolf](#) in most of the continental United States but courts have blocked the action in Wyoming and the western Great Lakes region.

Legislation was recently introduced to finalize the de-listing. Under questioning by one of the bill's cosponsors, Rep. Dan Benishek, R-Mich., at a House Natural Resources Committee hearing Thursday, Jewell didn't endorse the measure ([HR 884](#)), but she said the administration would follow its directive if enacted.

"Clearly we will uphold whatever laws are passed by Congress," she told the committee. "My preference is certainly not to legislate the Endangered Species Act (ESA). But if Congress passed legislation certainly we will uphold the law."

But a letter to Jewell signed by 79 House members, mostly Democrats, and delivered to Jewell ahead of the hearing proposes to list the gray wolf as threatened, rather than endangered.

"Scientific experts have shown, and courts have confirmed, that the best available science does not justify the removal of all ESA protections for gray wolves at this time," the letter says, calling the de-listing bill an "extreme proposal."

Downgrading the wolf to threatened status would "allow states significantly increased certainty and flexibility" in managing the animals, the letter said. Jewell said the department would see "what we're permitted to do under the law."

At one point in the hearing, Rep. Don Young, D-Alaska, lashed out at the signers of the letter, which included the committee's top Democrat, Raul Grijalva of Arizona. The 79 lawmakers, Young said, "haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district."

Young, directing his remarks to the letter signers, went on, "I'd like to introduce them (gray wolves) in your district. If I introduced them in your district you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

The Fish and Wildlife Services believes "their science was sound, but we want to work with the best available science, so I'm sure they will be taking a look at the recommendation," she said.

Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn., the ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee and another cosponsor of the delisting legislation, wrote to Jewell in January, asking her to appeal the court decision that reinstated protections for the wolf in his home state. Peterson said reversing the court ruling would return management of the animal back to the state and help farmers and rancher facing a difficult decision between protecting their livestock and complying with another difficult federal court decision.

On a separate issue, Jewell assured the committee the department would heed a policy rider in the fiscal 2015 omnibus spending bill that would prevent the Fish and Wildlife Service from finalizing rules to protect sage grouse habitat under the Endangered Species Act.

But she said the department would still meet a court-ordered deadline in September for determining whether the bird merits protection under the law. "The rider prevents us from writing any regulations .. however, it doesn't prevent the service from coming to a determination on a listing decision."

For example, the policy rider would prevent the service would specifically implementing rules worked out with farmers and ranchers for protecting habitat of the Gunnison sage grouse, she said.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 2:43 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/234735-gop-chairman-slams-underimpressive-interior-budget-plan>

GOP chairman slams 'underimpressive' Interior budget plan

By Timothy Cama - 03/05/15 12:32 PM EST

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Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) on Thursday blasted the Interior Department's budget request, arguing it avoided confronting major problems while creating expensive, unnecessary programs.

Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said the plan was "really underimpressive" and that he "found no idea in there that I consider creative or different or unusual."

He criticized what he saw as "just the same old, same old, raise taxes, raise fees, write more regulations and then throw money at a problem" in the \$13.2 billion budget request, including money to acquire new federal land while current property needs maintenance.

Bishop made the comments at a hearing with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. It was the sole hearing in the House on a day in which both chambers of Congress canceled their sessions because of a winter storm.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz) welcomed the budget, pointing out that Interior, which leases land to energy production, proposes to bring more money in than it will spend.

"If Congress simply enacted your budget, we could reduce the deficit by more than half a million dollars," he said. "Unfortunately, that's not likely to happen."

Jewell said the proposal is "is a forward-looking budget that provides targeted investments to grow our domestic energy portfolio, creating jobs here at home, building communities resilience and revitalizing our national parks as they approach their 100th anniversary."

While Republicans were highly critical of Interior policies such as those for endangered species and offshore oil and gas drilling, lawmakers said they were thankful to Jewell and Deputy Interior Secretary Mike Connor for venturing through the poor weather to come to the hearing.

"Secretary Jewell, thank you for being here today despite the fact that the federal government is shut down," said Del. Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam). "I'm very impressed that our secretary is here."

Bishop asked that members of the panel submit any opening remarks for the hearing's record by 5 p.m. "or whenever this building crushes under a blanket of snow ... whichever occurs faster."

Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) said he was thankful for the "Alaskan weather," and jokingly proposed moving Alaska's Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race to the streets surrounding the Capitol, because a lack of snow has made planning for the race difficult.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 10:57 AM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico: Dem presses Jewell to drop potential Atlantic lease sale

Inbox x

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard 10:12 AM (43 minutes ago)

to me

3/5/15 10:12 AM EST

Rep. Niki Tsongas urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell today to drop consideration of an oil and gas lease sale for the Atlantic outer continental shelf in the next five-year plan.

"I take exception to that," said Tsongas, the top Democrat on the Natural Resources Committee's federal lands subcommittee.

The proposed draft plan, covering 2017-2022, included parts of the Atlantic off the coasts of Virginia and the Carolinas for potential lease sales.

"While the plan did not include areas off the coast of my home state, Massachusetts, we can be sure that a spill off the coast of Virginia or North Carolina would have serious consequences for our New England beaches and our commercial fishermen," Tsongas said at a hearing today. "I strongly urge you to seriously consider removing the proposed Atlantic lease sale from the final five-year plan."

— Alex Guillen

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 10:18 AM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico: Jewell can't guarantee Atlantic lease sales

Inbox x

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard 9:59 AM (14 minutes ago)

to me

3/5/15 10:00 AM EST

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told lawmakers today that she can't promise that the Atlantic will see an oil and gas lease sale as part of the next five-year plan.

Asked by Rep. Doug Lamborn about offshore leases, Jewell noted that the administration's recently released draft proposed plan covering 2017-2022 included parts of the Atlantic outer continental shelf.

"So you guarantee that the Atlantic will be part of final version?" Lamborn asked during a hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee, which went on despite the snow falling on D.C.

"No, I can't guarantee anything," Jewell responded. "We are in the draft proposed plan phase and we are taking public comment as is required of us by law."

Interior is taking public comment on the draft through March 30.

— Alex Guillen

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 7:31 AM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Lawmakers asked to fund Land and Water Conservation Fund

Future of conservation program uncertain

By [Andrew Clevenger](#) / [The Bulletin](#) / [@andclev](#)

Published Mar 5, 2015 at 12:01AM

WASHINGTON — Interior Secretary Sally Jewell pressed Senate appropriators Wednesday to approve the Obama administration's 2016 budget request of \$13.2 billion for the agency, including \$900 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects.

"This is, dollar for dollar, one of the most effective government programs we have," Jewell told members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, including Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.

First enacted in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund uses gas and oil receipts from drilling on the outer continental shelf to conserve national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness and Civil War battlefields, and to develop and support state and local parks.

By law, the fund may receive \$900 million each year, but it rarely receives its full allotment, and \$17 billion has been allocated for other purposes over the last 50 years.

Legislation authorizing the fund to distribute money to various projects will expire at the end of September.

President Obama's 2016 budget calls for funding the program at its maximum of \$900 million, and includes money for several projects in Oregon.

The biggest project for Oregon is the Pathways to the Pacific, which would receive \$14 million to stabilize fish runs and improve public access with acquisitions in the Oregon National Historic Trail, the John Day Wild and Scenic River, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, and Willapa and Ridgefield national wildlife refuges.

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument would receive a \$2.6 million grant to acquire almost 2,300 acres, with an additional \$3 million slated for land acquisition on Wassen Creek in Suislaw National Forest.

Kelley Beamer, the executive director of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts said in a prepared statement that LWCF funding has helped preserve many places that Oregonians hold dear.

"It has helped protect working farms, forests and ranches, including most recently the Gilchrist Forest outside Bend. Without the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Oregon would not be what it is today," Beamer said.

Late last year, Congress approved \$306 million for LWCF projects, meaning many projects that had been vetted and approved did not receive funding.

"Without full funding, some critical projects in Oregon like protecting the east moraine of Wallowa Lake, will never get completed and instead be lost to development or other threats," Beamer said.

In November, a bipartisan group of 40 senators, including Merkley and fellow Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden, wrote to Senate leadership, urging them to help pass a reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Act during the lame duck session. That didn't happen, and the program will expire at the end of September if Congress doesn't act.

Merkley said Wednesday that he will use his seat on the Appropriations Committee to keep fighting for full funding for LWCF.

"Oregon's outdoor spaces are a crucial part of our heritage and what makes our region unique. It's important that we preserve these special places for our children and grandchildren, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a critical tool for creating and preserving public lands," he said.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 6:45 AM, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico Morning Energy Tip Sheet; MURKOWSKI CHARGES 'PAY TO PLAY' ON ALASKAN PROJECT: Sen. Lisa Murkowski said an \$8 million mitigation payment ConocoPhillips will be required to make in order to move forward with its Greater Mooses Tooth project in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve verges on "pay to play." Companies "that have deep pockets and pretty considerable investments" could be needed by the Interior Department into paying large sums for

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mitigation efforts in order to get a permit, Murkowski said yesterday. "Mitigation is not new," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, arguing that requiring off-site mitigation efforts allows for landscape-level planning — like with solar farms in the California desert that were required to pay for desert tortoise habitat preservation elsewhere. Jewell and her No. 2, Mike Connor, explained that Interior hashed out the figure with ConocoPhillips after reviewing the project's impacts on local subsistence resources. But Murkowski wasn't convinced. "The fear is that, rather than creating efficiencies, that what we may have developing here is additional unpredictability, lack of clarity in terms of where you're going with a project that deters investment that really can derail a project," she said.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 4, 2015, at 10:48 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Fuel Fix: [Feds wei](#)

"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 05 2015 17:01:47 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: House Natural Resources Budget Hearing

Houston Chronicle: New Natural Resources chairman vows to find solutions to longtime disputes

By Jennifer A Dlouhy March 2, 2015 Updated: March 3, 2015 11:09am

On
Thu,
Mar
5,

2015 at 5:57 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop says he wants to be part of a "paradigm shift" Photo: Rick Bowmer, STF / AP

Photo: Rick Bowmer, STF

Image3of4

Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, former speaker of the house, calls the Utah House of Representatives to order for the start of the 2015 legislative session at the Utah State Capitol Monday, Jan. 26, 2015, in Salt Lake City. Utah lawmakers kick off their legislative session on Monday as they prepared to devote the first week to preliminary budget meetings. Among the items they'll need to consider is a plan to relocate a state prison in Draper, whether or not they'll expand eligibility for Medicaid and a package of reforms to Utah's criminal justice system. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

IMAGE 1 OF 4

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop says he wants to be part of a "paradigm shift."

WASHINGTON - For decades, county commissioners and conservationists in Utah have been battling over land in the eastern part of the state, squaring off over potential protections, oil drilling and potash mining in the territory.

It's almost been a "100 years war," observed Mike Matz, director of public lands for Pew Charitable Trusts.

Enter Republican Rep. Rob Bishop, a seven-term lawmaker who nearly three years ago set out to bring the warring interests together and hammer out a massive land management deal. Through hundreds of meetings with thousands of stakeholders, Bishop has steered the group closer to a plan for divvying up millions of acres - with some land poised to garner new wilderness protections and other tracts set to be earmarked for energy development.

Bishop has urged county commissioners to view potential wilderness designations as a kind of "currency" with value that can be traded for "some specific, tangible benefit," such as special zones for oil drilling and rights of way for roads. Depending on who you ask, it's either a cynical approach to conservation or a pragmatic strategy for dealing with a complex, controversial issue.

It's one indication of how Bishop may approach his new congressional role as chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee.

Bishop sees the chairmanship as a chance to shake up the way the United States manages federal and Indian lands, from protecting treasured areas to permitting drilling in others.

"We haven't had a change in the way people look at the stewardship of the federal government and land in 50 or 60 years," Bishop said. "We are timed for a paradigm

ENERGY

Energy company IDs shippers for planned natural gas pipeline



Report says incentives make going green easier for commercial

shift, and I want to be part of that."

For Bishop, who convenes his first panel hearing Thursday with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, that means giving local, state and tribal governments greater control of federal lands.

It also means undoing legal constraints, including litigation under the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Bishop, a schoolteacher-turned-congressman, is clearly frustrated with the approaches of the past, whether policymakers have been bound by statute, legal precedent or simply decades of "this is how we do things" thinking.

"We have tended to try and find solutions based on the precedents that have been established in the past - especially with interest groups - and that just doesn't work anymore," Bishop said.

"We have to think differently," he added. "The solutions are out there. If you push the envelope, you really can accomplish things that people - especially the trained professionals who have been around here a long time - don't think you can."

In a 40-minute interview, Bishop referenced "solutions" and the importance of thinking "creatively" nearly two dozen times, as he repeatedly stressed his goal is meaningful action.

Bishop tangles with the White House on energy development. He says the oil and gas revolution has unfolded mostly on private and state land - not the territory under the Interior Department's control.

"There has to be an overall approach to increasing production on federal property," Bishop said. "This administration is either slow walking or just stopping that, and that harms the entire country."

More opportunities for oil and gas drilling on federal lands and waters - and speedier permitting - are essential for the United States to expand its role as a global energy leader, break OPEC's domination and spur domestic jobs, Bishop insisted.

It's personal for Bishop, who sees the potential for Utah to direct revenue from oil, gas and other natural resource development to schools.

"People have to realize that the way we handle federal lands has an impact not only on education for us but our energy future and for our leadership in global affairs," he said.

Bishop will continue taking a skeptical view of national monument designations, such as President Barack Obama's decision last month to use his Antiquities Act powers to protect Browns Canyon in Salida, Colo., as well as sites in Chicago and Honolulu. Bishop blasted the move, saying the White House was showing "utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress and the communities most impacted."

Conservationists in Colorado who have been working for decades to protect Browns Canyon said the characterization was off base. Bill Dvorak, a public lands organizer for the National Wildlife Federation, recalled hundreds of people coming to a recent public meeting to support safeguarding the site.

The campaign for protections nearly made it through Congress after winning support from then-Rep. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., in the 1990s.

But as more time passed, "anglers, hunters, rafters, hikers, mountain bikers and veterans alike who were really eager to protect Browns Canyon had run out of patience," said former Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo.

"There was a slow walk that had arguably been occurring recently and over the last 20 plus years."



Oil patch won't flash victory sign for a while



Student teams rev their engines for Shell event in Motor City



Senate fails to override Obama's veto of Keystone XL legislation



Decision 'soon' on Shell plans for Arctic

Udall said he couldn't square Bishop's criticism _ which sounded like "boilerplate talking points to please special interests" _ with the lawmaker's desire for locally driven approaches to conservation, such as his public lands initiative in Utah.

Bishop has been driving a local approach to the issue with his lands initiative in Utah, in the process telling both conservationists and development-minded counties they can't get everything they want.

"Rather than just taking a stand or stating a position," Matz said, "I think he really is interested in rolling up his sleeves and figuring out what it's going to take to put something together where not everyone gets everything they want, but where everybody gets something they want."

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/energy/article/New-Natural-Resources-chairman-vows-to-find-6110870.php>

CBS News: Rep. Don Young's solution for the "homeless problem": wolves

In this Oct. 20, 2011 file photo, Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska speaks in Anchorage, Alaska. FILE,AP PHOTO/DAN JOLING

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Alaska Rep. Don Young has settled on a novel solution to the problem of homelessness: wolves.

Young, a long-serving Republican with a history of odd commentary, discussed the idea during an exchange on Thursday with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who was testifying before the House Natural Resources Committee about her department's budget.

Young has been pushing for the Interior Department to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list, and during the hearing, he ridiculed a letter sent by 79 lawmakers to Jewell urging her to protect the gray wolf population.

"How many of you have got wolves in your district?" Young asked the other lawmakers on the panel. "None. Not one."

"They haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district," he added. "I'd like to introduce them in your district. If I introduced them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

Play VIDEO

Alaska Rep. Don Young apologizes for comments about suicide

It's not clear whether Young was suggesting the wolves could eat the homeless population -- perhaps he expects the homeless to make tents out of wolf hides.

Young has a reputation for off-color remarks. Last October, he **told students at an Alaska high school that some suicides are due to a lack of support from friends and family**. The remark, which came just days after a student at the school took his own life, was met with outrage from students and faculty, and Young was quickly forced to apologize.

And in 2013, **Young reminisced in a radio interview about the "50 to 60 wetbacks" who picked tomatoes at his father's ranch** when he was younger. He apologized for that remark as well, saying the term was "commonly used" during his childhood and that he "meant no disrespect."

Huffington Post: Don Young Suggests Wolves Could Help Get Rid Of Homeless People

The Huffington Post | By Paige Lavender Email | Posted: 03/05/2015 5:33 pm EST | Updated: 7 minutes ago

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 4:26 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/in-the-loop/wp/2015/03/05/rep-don-young-wolves-would-solve-homelessness/>

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Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) suggested Thursday that the solution to homelessness is wolves.

Young made the comment during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing during an exchange with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He was arguing that gray wolves should be taken off the endangered species list, criticizing the National Park Service and his congressional colleagues who seek to protect the animals.

"How many of you have got wolves in your district? None. None. Not one," Young said, calling the gray wolf "a predator."

"We've got 79 congressmen sending you a letter, they haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district," Young added. "I'd like to introduce them in your district. If I introduced them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

Watch Young make the comments above.

A spokesman for Young told [The Washington Post](#) that the statement was meant to emphasize that "these predators pose serious threats to wildlife management and their listing has damaging impacts to local communities."

Young is no stranger to controversial statements. In October 2014, he used profane language and made highly insensitive remarks about [gay marriage and suicide](#) at a high school. One of the school's students had taken his own life days before Young made the remarks.

Young also reportedly "[freaked out](#)" on his 2014 Democratic challenger ahead of a debate that same month.

Rep. Don Young: Wolves would solve homelessness

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Resize Text | Print Article | Comments 15

By [Colby Itkowitz](#) March 5 at 3:17 PM

Rep. Young: Wolves would solve homelessness (0:59)

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 4:24 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

PUBLIC LANDS: Bishop proposes axing BLM conservation office

Phil Taylor and Manuel Quiñones, E&E reporters
Published: Thursday, March 5, 2015

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Congress should eliminate a Bureau of Land Management office that oversees national monuments, wilderness and conservation sites, according to House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop.

The Utah Republican's recommendation is part of a committee policy briefing on President Obama's fiscal 2016 budget, which it submitted to the House Budget Committee, as required by House rules.

The [briefing](#), which was obtained by *E&ENews PM*, claims that BLM's National Landscape Conservation System is redundant

Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) famous for his salty tongue and brusque demeanor, suggested Thursday that if he let loose wolves in some congressional districts, they "wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore." (House Committee on Natural Resources)

Alaska Republican Rep. Don Young, famous for his salty tongue and brusque demeanor, suggested Thursday that if he let loose wolves in some congressional districts, they "wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

The strange comment was made during a halting five-minute exchange with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing on her agency's budget. He accused her and her department of making decisions without consulting the states they'd effect.

Young, who supports taking gray wolves off the endangered species list, mocked a letter 79 members of Congress sent urging Jewell to protect the gray wolf population. (In Alaska, for what it's worth, you can hunt wolves.)

"How many of you have got wolves in your district?" he asked. "None. None. Not one."

"They haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district," Young continued. "I'd like to introduce them in your district. If I introduced them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

We sought clarification to ensure we heard correctly. A spokesman for Young said the "analogy was purposely hyperbolic to stress the point that these predators pose serious threats to wildlife management and their listing has damaging impacts to local communities."

This post has been updated.

she said.

"Our committee recommends eliminating the NLCS office -- not funding for public lands managed under NLCS -- so the claim that national monuments would have to close their doors is false," she said. "We recommend they be managed by state BLM offices like all other BLM lands rather than an unnecessary, bureaucratic, centralized NLCS office in Washington, D.C."

It's not the first time Bishop has proposed closing the office.

He made a similar proposal in 2011, calling NLCS a "double administration" that adds unnecessary costs and bureaucracy, but he eventually withdrew his proposal.

NLCS was sustained thanks in part to Democrats controlling the Senate. But Bishop is now working with like-minded GOP colleagues leading the upper chamber.

NLCS was established administratively by President Clinton and became law in March 2009 when President Obama signed a massive omnibus public lands package. Republicans have been highly critical of the system. A report from the Interior inspector general in 2009

and antithetical to BLM's multiple-use mission.

"As well as eroding the mission of BLM, NLCS has also become a duplicative office that imposes another layer of bureaucratic, centralized, and unnecessary management," the briefing says. "The committee recommends eliminating the office of the NLCS and restoring management of 'units' to BLM state offices."

It also recommends that the federal government convey lands "without strings" to state, local and tribal governments. It urges the Budget Committee to "eliminate barriers" for those conveyances in its budget resolution and build in \$50 million to offset potential losses to the U.S. Treasury.

The briefing makes a set of other Interior Department budget recommendations, including to redirect land acquisition funds to address park maintenance; eliminate funds that would be paid to environmental groups that successfully sue the government; find a solution to the "quagmire" of Forest Service wildfire funding; and address proposed changes to mine-land cleanup funding.

Bishop's proposal to ax BLM's conservation office drew fire from outdoor outfitters and conservationists.

NLCS includes more than 30 million acres of the nation's "most prized public lands," including more than 40 national monuments and national conservation areas and hundreds of wilderness areas, said the Conservation Lands Foundation, a national group based in Durango, Colo.

NLCS -- also known as BLM's National Conservation Lands -- is currently funded at \$31.8 million, but BLM's 2016 budget requests upping that to \$48.5 million.

"Gutting the budget for the National Conservation Lands would put local economies at risk, threaten nationally significant natural and cultural resources, and deny Americans access to their public lands," the Conservation Lands Foundation says.

The group warns that dozens of BLM-managed conservation areas -- such as the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area outside Las Vegas -- would have to close under Bishop's proposal.

But Bishop's camp said BLM will continue to manage the NLCS lands regardless of whether there is a separate conservation office. NLCS "does nothing to improve the recreation, conservation or wilderness value of these BLM lands," Bishop spokeswoman Julia Bell said. NLCS takes up a significant chunk of funding that would otherwise go to land management,

found that NLCS managers had a too-cozy relationship with environmental groups ([Greenwire](#), Oct. 5, 2009).

Bishop critiques Obama mining policy

When it comes to mining and coal, Bishop is taking issue with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's continued spending on developing the forthcoming stream protection rule. It has been a target of Natural Resources panel Republicans for years.

They are now also questioning OSMRE's decision to develop regulations for strip mine blasting. The agency's actions follow a petition from the group WildEarth Guardians.

"OSM continues to be extorted by environmental special interest groups attempting to advance their war on coal," Bishop's briefing said.

The Obama administration proposed spending \$1 billion from an OSMRE-administered fund for reclaiming abandoned coal mines to help stimulate the economy in Appalachian communities hit by the mining downturn ([E&E Daily](#), Feb. 3).

But Bishop warned the panel wouldn't support spending the money "to plant orchards on reclaimed coal mines." Instead, he called for funding priority cleanups.

The administration made only rough proposals for spending the \$1 billion. Lawmakers would have to work out the details by amending the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. And states are already expressing concerns that changes will jeopardize a 2006 compromise.

Separately, Bishop expressed concerns about an Office of Natural Resources Revenue proposal on mineral valuations and complained that maintenance fee increases on non-coal mining claims had resulted in a loss of almost \$50,000 in claims and an \$8.3 million revenue drop between fiscal 2013 and 2014.

2.

NATIONAL MONUMENTS:

Interior chief, House Republican clash over Colo. designation

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Thursday, March 5, 2015

[REFRESH TEXT](#) [FM EMAIL](#) [PR PRINT](#)

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-Colo.) was wrong to suggest that the Obama administration failed to seek public input before declaring a 21,000-acre national monument protecting Browns Canyon, according to a Colorado conservationist, a mayor and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

At a budget hearing today before the House Natural Resources Committee, Lamborn claimed President Obama last month designated the canyon in central Colorado without "any solicitation of public input."

The claim was patently false, Jewell said.

"There was public input, congressman, and we are committed to continuing to get public input," Jewell said. "I value public input."

In fact, Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and Bureau of Land Management Deputy Director Steve Ellis came to Salida, Colo., in early December to take the public's pulse on a monument. They heard strong support from residents, business owners and conservation groups ([Greenwire](#), Dec. 8, 2014).

The meeting was hosted by then-Sen. Mark Udall (D-Colo.), whose bill -- on which the monument proclamation was based -- received a hearing last July before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Keith Baker, who leads Friends of Browns Canyon, and Joel Benson, mayor of Buena Vista, Colo., which is north of the monument, also challenged Lamborn's claim.

"I am disappointed that Representative Lamborn continues to be out of touch with his district and insists on making false claims about the long history of community input into the Browns Canyon National Monument," Baker said in a statement. "Chaffee County residents have had dozens of public comment opportunities on Browns Canyon, including most recently in a public hearing in December, and have expressed overwhelming support time and time again."

Baker said the public has had ample opportunities to weigh in on the monument, as evidenced by a [timeline](#) of events compiled by *The Chaffee County Times*.

In addition, there was a 2012 meeting at Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort that included elected and appointed officials, motorized recreationists, rafters, ranchers and hikers, and an April 2013 public hearing hosted by Udall and attended by Lamborn at Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting in Nathrop, he said.

Buena Vista and Salida, which bookend the monument to the north and south, unanimously approved resolutions supporting the designation prior to its being declared.

Lamborn, whose 5th District encompasses the Browns Canyon area, warned last month that presidentially designated monuments don't receive adequate funding and are generally viewed as "orphans" in the nation's vast public lands system.

"This is because they are created outside the normal congressional process and without local consensus, robbing the people of fair and open input," Lamborn said then. "Browns Canyon does not deserve this kind of second-class status."

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 3:57 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

DEM PRESSES JEWELL TO DROP ATLANTIC LEASE SALE Rep. Niki Tsongas urged Interior Secretary Sally Jewell today to drop consideration of an oil and gas lease sale for the Atlantic outer continental shelf in the next five-year plan. "While the plan did not include areas off the coast of my home state, Massachusetts, we can be sure that a spill off the coast of Virginia or North Carolina would have serious consequences for our New England beaches and our commercial fishermen," Tsongas said at a hearing today. "I strongly urge you to seriously consider removing the proposed Atlantic lease sale from the final five-year plan." <http://politico.pro/1aN7iRt>

— **No guarantee** Jewell told lawmakers today that she can't promise that the Atlantic will see an oil and gas lease sale as part of the next five-year plan. Asked by Rep.

Doug Lamborn about offshore leases, Jewell noted that the administration's recently released draft proposed plan covering 2017-2022 included parts of the Atlantic outer continental shelf. <http://politico.pro/1EicEQJ>

LUMMIS ESA MAKES A SUCKER OUT OF US Wyoming Rep. Cynthia Lummis took aim at a potentially anachronistic requirement of the Endangered Species Act this morning that has delayed a delisting. The law requires the Fish and Wildlife Service to place a notice in local newspapers that it is delisting a species, including the Modoc sucker, a small fish native to California and Oregon. But FWS failed to run the classified ad until recently, delaying the delisting of the fish. "This is just the latest example about how the ESA perpetuates form over substance, in this case doing nothing to benefit the Modoc sucker and only delaying relief for the people impacted by the listing," Lummis said at a Natural Resources Committee hearing. "It is as if the Endangered Species Act is stuck in 1973 while the rest of us have moved on." Greenwire wrote earlier this week about the classified ad mix-up: <http://bit.ly/1GnXc6F>

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 3:42 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.agri-pulse.com/Interior-secretary-under-fire-on-gray-wolf-03052015.asp>

Interior secretary under fire on wolf protection

By [Philip Brasher](#)

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From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 05 2015 19:55:47 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: House Natural Resources Budget Hearing

Alaska Public Radio: Rep. Don Young's Homeless Comments Draw Public Ire

By [Liz Ruskin](#), [APRN](#) | March 5, 2015

On the other side of the Capitol, Alaska Congressman Don Young attended the only other congressional hearing on this snowy day in Washington, and he created a stir with a comment about homeless people.



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was defending her budget to the House Natural Resources Committee. Young is no fan of Jewell, but he actually supported her department's 2011 decision to delist the grey wolf from the endangered species list. Instead, Young turned his ire on Congress members who asked Jewell not to delist.

"The grey wolf in fact is a predator that's killing the cloven hoof animals. And we've got 79 Congressmen sending you a letter," Young said. "Haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district. I'd like to introduce them to your district. I introduce them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem any more. I yield back."

In a written statement afterward, Young said he was employing analogy and hyperbole to point out that wolves are a problem for communities that have them. "If you misunderstood my comments," Young said in the statement is office put out, "just imagine the impact a healthy wolf population would have on your own town, community, or congressional district."

The Mountain Mail: Friends, BV mayor respond to Lamborn comment

Story Comments

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Posted: Thursday, March 5, 2015 3:34 pm | Updated: 3:35 pm, Thu Mar 5, 2015.

Paul Goetz Managing Editor | **0 comments**

Responses were quick following a statement Thursday from Rep. Doug Lamborn regarding Browns Canyon.

"Contrary to Secretary (of the Interior Sally) Jewell's claims, there was not a sufficient amount of public input before the president unilaterally claimed it as a national monument," Lamborn (R-Colorado Springs) wrote in a press release.

Friends of Browns Canyon Executive Director Keith Baker said he was "disappointed that Rep. Lamborn continues to be out of touch with his district and insists on making false claims about the long history of community input into the Browns Canyon National Monument."

Baker pointed out that Chaffee County residents expressed "overwhelming" support during "dozens" of public comment opportunities, including a public hearing in December.

In addition Baker credited The Chaffee County Times with compiling and publishing a timeline documenting the lengthy road taken to national monument designation.

"Each major milestone and event reflects numerous coordination meetings and communications for both preparation and follow-up," Baker said.

Baker said that even the Times timeline missed an early 2012 meeting at Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort and an April 2013 public hearing hosted by then-Sen. Mark Udall and attended by Lamborn.

He also noted the Grand Junction Sentinel stated the process had been open and included numerous public forums.

"Friends of Browns Canyon are hopeful, as citizens, patriots and stewards of this land we love, that Rep. Lamborn will adhere to facts in the future. Civil, useful and productive dialogue relies on nothing less," Baker concluded.

Buena Vista Mayor Joel Benson also responded, saying that Lamborn's assertion that there was no public comment prior to designation is "flat wrong."

"The town of Buena Vista and the town of Salida unanimously approved resolutions supporting the designation," Benson said.

"Local communities have been working to protect Browns Canyon over the last two decades," Benson said, "which has included many public meetings and at least one attended by (Lamborn) and another in December about the use of the Antiquities Act."

In addition to his comment about public input, Lamborn stated, "When properties are created in this manner, they often become underfunded, neglected properties.

"This is because they are created without normal Congressional and local consensus, robbing the people of a fair and open process that stifles the input of the community. Then, when the next administration arrives, they become orphans.

"Does Browns Canyon really deserve this kind of second-class status?"

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 7:01 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Houston Chronicle: New Natural Resources chairman vows to find solutions to longtime disputes

By Jennifer A Dlouhy March 2, 2015 Updated: March 3, 2015 11:09am

On

wrote:

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop says he wants to be part of a "paradigm shift " Photo: Rick Bowmer, STF / AP

Photo: Rick Bowmer, STF

Image3of4

Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, former speaker of the house, calls the Utah House of Representatives to order for the start of the 2015 legislative session at the Utah State Capitol Monday, Jan. 26, 2015, in Salt Lake City. Utah lawmakers kick off their legislative session on Monday as they prepared to devote the first week to preliminary budget meetings. Among the items they'll need to consider is a plan to relocate a state prison in Draper, whether or not they'll expand eligibility for Medicaid and a package of reforms to Utah's criminal justice system. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

IMAGE 1 OF 4

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop says he wants to be part of a "paradigm shift."

WASHINGTON - For decades, county commissioners and conservationists in Utah have been battling over land in the eastern part of the state, squaring off over potential protections, oil drilling and potash mining in the territory.

It's almost been a "100 years war," observed Mike Matz, director of public lands for Pew Charitable Trusts.

Enter Republican Rep. Rob Bishop, a seven-term lawmaker who nearly three years ago set out to bring the warring interests together and hammer out a massive land management deal. Through hundreds of meetings with thousands of stakeholders, Bishop has steered the group closer to a plan for divvying up millions of acres - with some land poised to garner new wilderness protections and other tracts set to be earmarked for energy development.

Bishop has urged county commissioners to view potential wilderness designations as a kind of "currency" with value that can be traded for "some specific, tangible benefit," such as special zones for oil drilling and rights of way for roads. Depending on who you ask, it's either a cynical approach to conservation or a pragmatic strategy for dealing with a complex, controversial issue.

It's one indication of how Bishop may approach his new congressional role as chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee.

Bishop sees the chairmanship as a chance to shake up the way the United States manages federal and Indian lands, from protecting treasured areas to permitting drilling in others.

"We haven't had a change in the way people look at the stewardship of the federal government and land in 50 or 60 years," Bishop said. "We are timed for a paradigm

ENERGY

Energy company IDs shippers for planned natural gas pipeline



Report says incentives make going green easier for commercial

shift, and I want to be part of that."

For Bishop, who convenes his first panel hearing Thursday with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, that means giving local, state and tribal governments greater control of federal lands.

It also means undoing legal constraints, including litigation under the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Bishop, a schoolteacher-turned-congressman, is clearly frustrated with the approaches of the past, whether policymakers have been bound by statute, legal precedent or simply decades of "this is how we do things" thinking.

"We have tended to try and find solutions based on the precedents that have been established in the past - especially with interest groups - and that just doesn't work anymore," Bishop said.

"We have to think differently," he added. "The solutions are out there. If you push the envelope, you really can accomplish things that people - especially the trained professionals who have been around here a long time - don't think you can."

In a 40-minute interview, Bishop referenced "solutions" and the importance of thinking "creatively" nearly two dozen times, as he repeatedly stressed his goal is meaningful action.

Bishop tangles with the White House on energy development. He says the oil and gas revolution has unfolded mostly on private and state land - not the territory under the Interior Department's control.

"There has to be an overall approach to increasing production on federal property," Bishop said. "This administration is either slow walking or just stopping that, and that harms the entire country."

More opportunities for oil and gas drilling on federal lands and waters - and speedier permitting - are essential for the United States to expand its role as a global energy leader, break OPEC's domination and spur domestic jobs, Bishop insisted.

It's personal for Bishop, who sees the potential for Utah to direct revenue from oil, gas and other natural resource development to schools.

"People have to realize that the way we handle federal lands has an impact not only on education for us but our energy future and for our leadership in global affairs," he said.

Bishop will continue taking a skeptical view of national monument designations, such as President Barack Obama's decision last month to use his Antiquities Act powers to protect Browns Canyon in Salida, Colo., as well as sites in Chicago and Honolulu. Bishop blasted the move, saying the White House was showing "utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress and the communities most impacted."

Conservationists in Colorado who have been working for decades to protect Browns Canyon said the characterization was off base. Bill Dvorak, a public lands organizer for the National Wildlife Federation, recalled hundreds of people coming to a recent public meeting to support safeguarding the site.

The campaign for protections nearly made it through Congress after winning support from then-Rep. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., in the 1990s.

But as more time passed, "anglers, hunters, rafters, hikers, mountain bikers and veterans alike who were really eager to protect Browns Canyon had run out of patience," said former Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo.

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Udall said he couldn't square Bishop's criticism _ which sounded like "boilerplate talking points to please special interests" _ with the lawmaker's desire for locally driven approaches to conservation, such as his public lands initiative in Utah.

Bishop has been driving a local approach to the issue with his lands initiative in Utah, in the process telling both conservationists and development-minded counties they can't get everything they want.

"Rather than just taking a stand or stating a position," Matz said, "I think he really is interested in rolling up his sleeves and figuring out what it's going to take to put something together where not everyone gets everything they want, but where everybody gets something they want."

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/energy/article/New-Natural-Resources-chairman-vows-to-find-6110870.php>

CBS News: Rep. Don Young's solution for the "homeless problem": wolves

□ In this Oct. 20, 2011 file photo, Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska speaks in Anchorage, Alaska. **FILE, AP PHOTO/DAN JOLING**

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Alaska Rep. Don Young has settled on a novel solution to the problem of homelessness: wolves.

Young, a long-serving Republican with a history of odd commentary, discussed the idea during an exchange on Thursday with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who was testifying before the House Natural Resources Committee about her department's budget.

Young has been pushing for the Interior Department to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list, and during the hearing, he ridiculed a letter sent by 79 lawmakers to Jewell urging her to protect the gray wolf population.

"How many of you have got wolves in your district?" Young asked the other lawmakers on the panel. "None. Not one."

"They haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district," he added. "I'd like to introduce them in your district. If I introduced them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

□ **Alaska Rep. Don Young apologizes for comments about suicide**

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It's not clear whether Young was suggesting the wolves could eat the homeless population -- perhaps he expects the homeless to make tents out of wolf hides.

Young has a reputation for off-color remarks. Last October, he **told students at an Alaska high school that some suicides are due to a lack of support from friends and family**. The remark, which came just days after a student at the school took his own life, was met with outrage from students and faculty, and Young was quickly forced to apologize.

And in 2013, **Young reminisced in a radio interview about the "50 to 60 wetbacks" who picked tomatoes at his father's ranch** when he was younger. He apologized for that remark as well, saying the term was "commonly used" during his childhood and that he "meant no disrespect."

Huffington Post: Don Young Suggests Wolves Could Help Get Rid Of Homeless People

The Huffington Post | By Paige Lavender [Email](#) | Posted: 03/05/2015 5:33 pm EST | Updated: 7 minutes ago

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 4:26 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/in-the-loop/wp/2015/03/05/rep-don-young-wolves-would-solve-homelessness/>

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Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) suggested Thursday that the solution to homelessness is wolves.

Young made the comment during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing during an exchange with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He was arguing that gray wolves should be taken off the endangered species list, criticizing the National Park Service and his congressional colleagues who seek to protect the animals.

"How many of you have got wolves in your district? None. None. Not one," Young said, calling the gray wolf "a predator."

"We've got 79 congressmen sending you a letter, they haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district," Young added. "I'd like to introduce them in your district. If I introduced them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

Watch Young make the comments above.

A spokesman for Young told [The Washington Post](#) that the statement was meant to emphasize that "these predators pose serious threats to wildlife management and their listing has damaging impacts to local communities."

Young is no stranger to controversial statements. In October 2014, he used profane language and made highly insensitive remarks about [gay marriage and suicide](#) at a high school. One of the school's students had taken his own life days before Young made the remarks.

Young also reportedly "[freaked out](#)" on his 2014 Democratic challenger ahead of a debate that same month.

Rep. Don Young: Wolves would solve homelessness

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By [Colby Itkowitz](#) March 5 at 3:17 PM

Rep. Young: Wolves would solve homelessness (0:59)

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 4:24 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

**PUBLIC LANDS:
Bishop proposes axing BLM
conservation office**

Phil Taylor and Manuel Quiñones, E&E reporters

Published: Thursday, March 5, 2015

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Congress should eliminate a Bureau of Land Management office that oversees national monuments, wilderness and conservation sites, according to House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop.

The Utah Republican's recommendation is part of a committee policy briefing on President Obama's fiscal 2016 budget, which it submitted to the House Budget Committee, as required by House rules.

The [briefing](#), which was obtained by [E&ENews PM](#), claims that BLM's

Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) famous for his salty tongue and brusque demeanor, suggested Thursday that if he let loose wolves in some congressional districts, they "wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore." (House Committee on Natural Resources)

Alaska Republican Rep. Don Young, famous for his salty tongue and brusque demeanor, suggested Thursday that if he let loose wolves in some congressional districts, they "wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

The strange comment was made during a halting five-minute exchange with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing on her agency's budget. He accused her and her department of making decisions without consulting the states they'd effect.

Young, who supports taking gray wolves off the endangered species list, mocked a letter 79 members of Congress sent urging Jewell to protect the gray wolf population. (In Alaska, for what it's worth, you can hunt wolves.)

"How many of you have got wolves in your district?" he asked. "None. None. Not one."

"They haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district," Young continued. "I'd like to introduce them in your district. If I introduced them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

We sought clarification to ensure we heard correctly. A spokesman for Young said the "analogy was purposely hyperbolic to stress the point that these predators pose serious threats to wildlife management and their listing has damaging impacts to local communities."

This post has been updated.

Julia Bell said. NLCS takes up a significant chunk of funding that would

National Landscape Conservation System is redundant and antithetical to BLM's multiple-use mission.

"As well as eroding the mission of BLM, NLCS has also become a duplicative office that imposes another layer of bureaucratic, centralized, and unnecessary management," the briefing says. "The committee recommends eliminating the office of the NLCS and restoring management of 'units' to BLM state offices."

It also recommends that the federal government convey lands "without strings" to state, local and tribal governments. It urges the Budget Committee to "eliminate barriers" for those conveyances in its budget resolution and build in \$50 million to offset potential losses to the U.S. Treasury.

The briefing makes a set of other Interior Department budget recommendations, including to redirect land acquisition funds to address park maintenance; eliminate funds that would be paid to environmental groups that successfully sue the government; find a solution to the "quagmire" of Forest Service wildfire funding; and address proposed changes to mine-land cleanup funding.

Bishop's proposal to ax BLM's conservation office drew fire from outdoor outfitters and conservationists.

NLCS includes more than 30 million acres of the nation's "most prized public lands," including more than 40 national monuments and national conservation areas and hundreds of wilderness areas, said the Conservation Lands Foundation, a national group based in Durango, Colo.

NLCS -- also known as BLM's National Conservation Lands -- is currently funded at \$31.8 million, but BLM's 2016 budget requests upping that to \$48.5 million.

"Gutting the budget for the National Conservation Lands would put local economies at risk, threaten nationally significant natural and cultural resources, and deny Americans access to their public lands," the Conservation Lands Foundation says.

The group warns that dozens of BLM-managed conservation areas -- such as the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area outside Las Vegas -- would have to close under Bishop's proposal.

But Bishop's camp said BLM will continue to manage the NLCS lands regardless of whether there is a separate conservation office. NLCS "does nothing to improve the recreation, conservation or wilderness value of these BLM lands," Bishop spokeswoman

"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 11 2015 07:59:16 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: House Natural Resources Budget Hearing

1.
HOUSE:

Bishop brings 'humor and candor' to rancorous resources debate

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, March 11, 2015

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At the end of last week's House Natural Resources Committee hearing on the Interior Department's 2016 budget, Chairman Rob Bishop offered Secretary Sally Jewell a sincere apology.

"In all fairness to you, you've had a lot of times when I've cut you off," the Utah Republican said. "I will give you the right of having the last five minutes if you'd like ... to respond to us."

"Why, thank you," said a startled Jewell, who had been in the hot seat for more than three hours. "I was not expecting that ..."

Bishop interjected, "And it may never happen again!"

The audience in the Longworth House Office Building hearing room laughed, then Bishop sat back and let Jewell continue.

Since taking the Natural Resources gavel two months ago, Bishop, 63, has brought a sense of humor and even humility to a committee that has fought bitter battles with the Obama administration and had more than its share of intramural brawls.

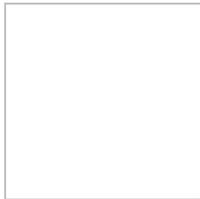
Former Chairman Doc Hastings (R-Wash.) issued a number of subpoenas and accused Interior officials of "stonewalling" his committee's investigations into allegations of misconduct. Another former chairman, Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), berated his Democratic colleagues last week for supporting protections for wolves and proposed using wolves to clean up their "homeless problem."

Bishop, at times, has been merciless, too. A year ago, he criticized a National Park Service official for delivering some of the "dumbest testimony I've ever heard" about a bill to rename a peak in Yosemite National Park.

But while Bishop is likely to fight much -- if not most -- of the administration's energy and resource agenda, his adversaries credit him for opening lines of communication that were all but cemented shut over the past four years of GOP rule.

A constructive dialogue with the administration and its green allies is key if Bishop hopes to advance his policy agenda in the 114th Congress, including his signature public lands initiative in eastern Utah, which seeks to designate new wilderness and open new lands for development ([Greenwire](#), Oct. 22, 2013).

SPECIAL REPORT



News and information about key committees and subcommittees and their members in the 114th Congress. [Click here](#) to view the report.

"Bishop has brought a more personable approach to interactions that his Natural Resources Committee has with top administration officials," said David Hayes, who served four years as Interior deputy secretary and testified several times before the committee. "Making a human connection is a key first step in finding common ground. I hope that his humor and candor rubs off on some of the other members of the committee."

Bishop's views on national monuments, conservation funding, wilderness and endangered species contrast sharply with his Democratic colleagues and conservationists. But even green officials admit that despite Bishop's rhetoric, they really like the guy.

"We're not going to agree with him on everything, or even most things, but we can at least talk to him," said Athan Manuel, director of public lands protection for the Sierra Club in Washington, D.C. "He takes the process seriously, but he doesn't take himself too seriously."

Bishop said he wants the committee to be creative in tackling policy problems.

His plate is full: His committee will be responsible for renewing expired programs that are key to rural counties and conservation interests, including Secure Rural Schools, payment in lieu of taxes (PILT), the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, in addition to conducting rigorous oversight of federal land management.

Baseball talk -- and oddball jokes

The seven-term congressman and former history teacher is seen as affable, approachable and, at times, self-mocking. He insists that some non-members of Congress, including the press, call him "Rob."

Bishop loves talking baseball. He has a painting of New York Yankees legend Mickey Mantle and dirt from the pitcher's mound of the original Yankee Stadium in his Cannon building office. But those who know him say his first allegiance is to the Chicago Cubs. He's also a season-ticket holder to the Salt Lake Bees, a Triple A team, and has coached in multiple leagues, according to his official biography.

Before coming to Congress in 2003, Bishop was active in community theater, which is where he met his wife, Jeralynn Hansen Bishop, with whom he has five kids and six grandkids. Bishop was the prince and Jeralynn the princess in a musical.

"Yes, I sing," Bishop said.

He is said to be well-liked by his personal staff, many of whom have since left to fill higher positions on Capitol Hill and in state government. Bishop participated in the wedding of his former public lands staffer, Fred Ferguson, who is now chief of staff for Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah).

Bishop approaches natural resources issues with intensity, but his dry wit creeps into the hearing room.

In a tense exchange Thursday, Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) grilled Jewell on what she knew about a Fish and Wildlife Service employee Gosar said had violated the Hatch Act by publicly lobbying against a bill in Congress.

"There also is an act," Bishop said as he prepared to turn the questioning over to another member, "that said any criticisms of the budget that is conducted when it is snowing, those criticisms are automatically true -- it's there in statute."

The hearing happened as snow shuttered the federal government and left most of Capitol Hill bereft of people. Bishop asked panel members to submit their written opening statements by 5 p.m., "or whenever this building crushes under a blanket of snow ... whichever occurs faster."

Unlike other committee chairmen, Bishop often departs his prepared opening remarks.

He opened last week's hearing without a gavel: "Assume it's been hit," he said.

And in an improvised statement, he offered a "mea culpa" for criticizing Jewell's nomination as secretary two years ago.

"I repent of that, because you have been very fair and open and friendly with us, and I appreciate that very much," he said. "Your agency is still making dumb decisions, but at least you talk to us before you make those dumb decisions."

His humor can be abstruse.

As Bishop prepared to hand the microphone to committee Vice Chairwoman Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.), he said, "Miss Jewell is salaried, she deals with services, and we'll start our questioning with Dorothy Kilgallen."

It was a reference to the opening line of a popular 1950s and '60s television game show called "What's My Line," where host John Charles Daly tasked a celebrity panel, including newspaper columnist Kilgallen and actress Arlene Francis, to guess a contestant's occupation.

But the hearing room was silent -- the joke was likely lost on anyone born after the Kennedy administration.

"I'm sorry, I had to say that," Bishop said. "And anyone who's old enough to know that reference, I feel even more sorry for you."

'A little outlandish'

While Bishop does not hide his displeasure with Interior's management of public lands -- which represent roughly two-thirds of his Beehive State -- former Obama administration officials say Bishop, unlike other committee members, was a fair interrogator and didn't appear to be trying to garner sound bites.

"What you see in the committee room is the same person you see behind closed doors," said former Bureau of Land Management Director Bob Abbey, who faced fire from committee members on numerous occasions from 2009 to 2012. "I never perceived Congressman Bishop as being a bully."

Abbey said Bishop treated him "fairly" and was well-versed in public lands issues, in contrast with some committee members. Bishop's rhetoric "may be a little outlandish," but his work product as a congressman reflects balance and pragmatism, Abbey said.

"He certainly understands the issues and the concerns of the constituencies he represents," Abbey said. "At the same time, he tries to be fair in giving the witness before him an opportunity to respond to the questions he raises."

In the past two sessions of Congress, Bishop was deferential to then-Chairman Hastings, and the committee majority was "always in full attack mode," said Hayes, who often testified alongside then-Secretary Ken Salazar.

"Rob Bishop was a willing participant in that highly negative atmosphere," Hayes said.

But Hayes recalled one meeting that he and Salazar had with Bishop to clear the air on a contentious issue.

"I was impressed then with how personable Rob Bishop was during that meeting," Hayes said. "Afterward, he was publicly complimentary of the openness and candor that we had taken in the meeting. As I recall, he told the press that we were 'good guys' or something to that effect."

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 9:55 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Alaska Public Radio: Rep. Don Young's Homeless Comments Draw Public Ire

By Liz Ruskin, APRN | March 5, 2015

On the other side of the Capitol, Alaska Congressman Don Young attended the only other congressional hearing on this snowy day in Washington, and he created a stir with a comment about homeless people.



Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was defending her budget to the House Natural Resources Committee. Young is no fan of Jewell, but he actually supported her department's 2011 decision to delist the grey wolf from the endangered species list. Instead, Young turned his ire on Congress members who asked Jewell not to delist.

"The grey wolf in fact is a predator that's killing the cloven hoof animals. And we've got 79 Congressmen sending you a letter," Young said. "Haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district. I'd like to introduce them to your district. I introduce them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem any more. I yield back."

In a written statement afterward, Young said he was employing analogy and hyperbole to point out that wolves are a problem for communities that have them. "If you misunderstood my comments," Young said in the statement is office put out, "just imagine the impact a healthy wolf population would have on your own town, community, or congressional district."

The Mountain Mail: Friends, BV mayor respond to Lamborn comment

Story Comments

Posted: Thursday, March 5, 2015 3:34 pm | Updated: 3:35 pm, Thu Mar 5, 2015.

Paul Goetz Managing Editor | 0 comments

Responses were quick following a statement Thursday from Rep. Doug Lamborn regarding Browns Canyon.

"Contrary to Secretary (of the Interior Sally) Jewell's claims, there was not a sufficient amount of public input before the president unilaterally claimed it as a national monument," Lamborn (R-Colorado Springs) wrote in a press release.

Friends of Browns Canyon Executive Director Keith Baker said he was "disappointed that Rep. Lamborn continues to be out of touch with his district and insists on making false claims about the long history of community input into the Browns Canyon National Monument."

Baker pointed out that Chaffee County residents expressed "overwhelming" support during "dozens" of public comment opportunities, including a public hearing in December.

In addition Baker credited The Chaffee County Times with compiling and publishing a timeline documenting the lengthy road taken to national monument designation.

"Each major milestone and event reflects numerous coordination meetings and communications for both preparation and follow-up," Baker said.

Baker said that even the Times timeline missed an early 2012 meeting at Mount Princeton Hot Springs Resort and an April 2013 public hearing hosted by then-Sen. Mark Udall and attended by Lamborn.

He also noted the Grand Junction Sentinel stated the process had been open and included numerous public forums.

"Friends of Browns Canyon are hopeful, as citizens, patriots and stewards of this land we love, that Rep. Lamborn will adhere to facts in the future. Civil, useful and productive dialogue relies on nothing less," Baker concluded.

Buena Vista Mayor Joel Benson also responded, saying that Lamborn's assertion that there was no public comment prior to designation is "flat wrong."

"The town of Buena Vista and the town of Salida unanimously approved resolutions supporting the designation," Benson said.

"Local communities have been working to protect Browns Canyon over the last two decades," Benson said, "which has included many public meetings and at least one attended by (Lamborn) and another in December about the use of the Antiquities Act."

In addition to his comment about public input, Lamborn stated, "When properties are created in this manner, they often become underfunded, neglected properties.

"This is because they are created without normal Congressional and local consensus, robbing the people of a fair and open process that stifles the input of the community. Then, when the next administration arrives, they become orphans.

"Does Browns Canyon really deserve this kind of second-class status?"

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 7:01 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Houston Chronicle: New Natural Resources chairman vows to find solutions to longtime disputes

By Jennifer A Dlouhy March 2, 2015 Updated: March 3, 2015 11:09am

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House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop says he wants to be part of a "paradigm shift " Photo: Rick Bowmer, STF / AP

Image3of4

Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, former speaker of the house, calls the Utah House of Representatives to order for the start of the 2015 legislative session at the Utah State Capitol Monday, Jan. 26, 2015, in Salt Lake City. Utah lawmakers kick off their legislative session on Monday as they prepared to devote the first week to preliminary budget meetings. Among the items they'll need to consider is a plan to relocate a state prison in Draper, whether or not they'll expand eligibility for Medicaid and a package of reforms to Utah's criminal justice system. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

IMAGE 1 OF 4

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop says he wants to be part of a "paradigm shift."

WASHINGTON - For decades, county commissioners and conservationists in Utah have been battling over land in the eastern part of the state, squaring off over potential protections, oil drilling and potash mining in the territory.

It's almost been a "100 years war," observed Mike Matz, director of public lands for Pew Charitable Trusts.

Enter Republican Rep. Rob Bishop, a seven-term lawmaker who nearly three years ago set out to bring the warring interests together and hammer out a massive land management deal. Through hundreds of meetings with thousands of stakeholders, Bishop has steered the group closer to a plan for divvying up millions of acres - with some land poised to garner new wilderness protections and other tracts set to be earmarked for energy development.

Bishop has urged county commissioners to view potential wilderness designations as a kind of "currency" with value that can be traded for "some specific, tangible benefit," such as special zones for oil drilling and rights of way for roads. Depending on who you ask, it's either a cynical approach to conservation or a pragmatic strategy for dealing with a complex, controversial issue.

It's one indication of how Bishop may approach his new congressional role as chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee.

Bishop sees the chairmanship as a chance to shake up the way the United States manages federal and Indian lands, from protecting treasured areas to permitting drilling in others.

"We haven't had a change in the way people look at the stewardship of the federal government and land in 50 or 60 years," Bishop said. "We are timed for a paradigm shift, and I want to be part of that."

For Bishop, who convenes his first panel hearing Thursday with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, that means giving local, state and tribal governments greater control of federal lands.

It also means undoing legal constraints, including litigation under the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Bishop, a schoolteacher-turned-congressman, is clearly frustrated with the approaches of the past, whether policymakers have been bound by statute, legal precedent or simply decades of "this is how we do things" thinking.

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Decision 'soon' on Shell

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In a 40-minute interview, Bishop referenced "solutions" and the importance of thinking "creatively" nearly two dozen times, as he repeatedly stressed his goal is meaningful action.

Bishop tangles with the White House on energy development. He says the oil and gas revolution has unfolded mostly on private and state land - not the territory under the Interior Department's control.

"There has to be an overall approach to increasing production on federal property," Bishop said. "This administration is either slow walking or just stopping that, and that harms the entire country."

More opportunities for oil and gas drilling on federal lands and waters - and speedier permitting - are essential for the United States to expand its role as a global energy leader, break OPEC's domination and spur domestic jobs, Bishop insisted.

It's personal for Bishop, who sees the potential for Utah to direct revenue from oil, gas and other natural resource development to schools.

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Bishop will continue taking a skeptical view of national monument designations, such as President Barack Obama's decision last month to use his Antiquities Act powers to protect Browns Canyon in Salida, Colo., as well as sites in Chicago and Honolulu. Bishop blasted the move, saying the White House was showing "utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress and the communities most impacted."

Conservationists in Colorado who have been working for decades to protect Browns Canyon said the characterization was off base. Bill Dvorak, a public lands organizer for the National Wildlife Federation, recalled hundreds of people coming to a recent public meeting to support safeguarding the site.

The campaign for protections nearly made it through Congress after winning support from then-Rep. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., in the 1990s.

But as more time passed, "anglers, hunters, rafters, hikers, mountain bikers and veterans alike who were really eager to protect Browns Canyon had run out of patience," said former Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo. "There was a slow walk that had arguably been occurring recently and over the last 20 plus years."

Udall said he couldn't square Bishop's criticism - which sounded like "boilerplate talking points to please special interests" - with the lawmaker's desire for locally driven approaches to conservation, such as his public lands initiative in Utah.

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<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/energy/article/New-Natural-Resources-chairman-vows-to-find-6110870.php>

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▫

Alaska Rep. Don Young apologizes for comments about suicide

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And in 2013, **Young reminisced in a radio interview about the "50 to 60 wetbacks" who picked tomatoes at his father's ranch** when he was younger. He apologized for that remark as well, saying the term was "commonly used" during his childhood and that he "meant no disrespect."

Huffington Post: Don Young Suggests Wolves Could Help Get Rid Of Homeless People

The Huffington Post | By Paige Lavender | Posted: 03/05/2015 5:33 pm EST | Updated: 7 minutes ago

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Comment

0

Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) suggested Thursday that the solution to homelessness is wolves.

Young made the comment during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing during an exchange with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. He was arguing that gray wolves should be taken off the endangered species list, criticizing the National Park Service and his congressional colleagues who seek to protect the animals.

"How many of you have got wolves in your district? None. None. Not one," Young said, calling the gray wolf "a predator."

"We've got 79 congressmen sending you a

letter, they haven't got a damn wolf in their whole district," Young added. "I'd like to introduce them in your district. If I introduced them in your district, you wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore."

Watch Young make the comments above.

A spokesman for Young told [The Washington Post](#) that the statement was meant to emphasize that "these predators pose serious threats to wildlife management

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Wed Mar 11 2015 04:58:53 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, March 11, 2015

[U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING](#)

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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FW: Honouliuli

"Lin, Betsy (Hirono)" <Betsy_Lin@hirono.senate.gov>

From: "Lin, Betsy (Hirono)" <Betsy_Lin@hirono.senate.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 10 2015 14:07:09 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Jeremy Bratt <Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: FW: Honouliuli

Inside info on how long it takes to get to Honouliuli.

BETSY LIN

Chief of Staff

OFFICE OF SENATOR MAZIE K. HIRONO

330 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510 | (202) 224-6361

betsy_lin@hirono.senate.gov

[Keep in touch with Senator Hirono:](#)



From DePrey, Paul [mailto:paul_deprey@nps.gov]
Sent Tuesday, March 10, 2015 9:10 AM
Subject Re: Honouliuli

I ask folks to plan for at least 30 minutes from downtown to Kunia area. Also, it is important to plan for traffic and highway construction along the way.

Expectations for an event include an assembly at Monsanto with subsequent loading onto 25 passenger vehicles.

Paul DePrey

Superintendent

World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument

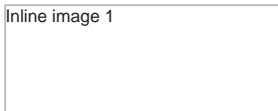
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1845 Wasp Blvd, Bldg #176

Honolulu, HI 96818

808-266-0826

Inline image 1



"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 10 2015 14:11:53 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Lin, Betsy (Hirono)" <Betsy_Lin@hirono.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: FW: Honouliuli

ok, thanks. 30 minutes!

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

On Tue, Mar 10, 2015 at 4:07 PM, Lin, Betsy (Hirono) <Betsy_Lin@hirono.senate.gov> wrote:
Inside info on how long it takes to get to Honouliuli.

BETSY LIN

Chief of Staff

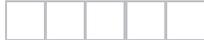
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Washington, DC 20510 | (202) 224-6361

betsy_lin@hirono.senate.gov

[Keep in touch with Senator Hirono:](#)



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Superintendent

World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1845 Wasp Blvd, Bldg #176

Honolulu, HI 96818

808-266-0826

Inline image 1



Conversation Contents

Fwd: Letter opposing monument designations in AZ

Attachments:

/530. Fwd: Letter opposing monument designations in AZ/1.1 McCain Flake letter to POTUS re GC watershed monument.pdf

"Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 10 2015 10:39:11 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nikki_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "Iudicello, Fay" <fay_iudicello@ios.doi.gov>, "Harding, Stephenne" <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabiella (Janou) Gordon" <gabiella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Christopher Salotti <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Letter opposing monument designations in AZ
Attachments: McCain Flake letter to POTUS re GC watershed monument.pdf

Fay -- please enter this letter. Thanks, Sarah

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Matiella, Nick (McCain)** <Nick_Matiella@mccain.senate.gov>

Date: Tue, Mar 10, 2015 at 12:32 PM

Subject: Letter opposing monument designations in AZ

To: **Legislative Correspondence - (b) (6)**, **Legislative Correspondence - (b) (6)**, "Neimeyer, Sarah" <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: "Kiefer, Kris (Flake)" <Kris_Kiefer@flake.senate.gov>, "Jeff Small (Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov)" <Jeff.Small@mail.house.gov>

Attached is a letter from Senator McCain and Senator Flake writing in opposition to the WH designating a proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument and any other national monuments in Arizona. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to dialogue.

Nick Matiella
Legislative Assistant
Office of Senator John McCain

241 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 224-2238

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Sarah C. Neimeyer, Director
Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Office - (202) 208-5557
Fax - (202) 208-5533

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 10, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

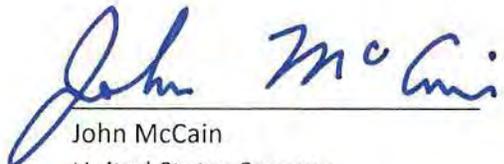
We write in opposition to any unilateral executive action to designate more national monuments in Arizona, and we specifically oppose recent requests that you designate a “Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument” in northern Arizona. Such proposals, without the necessary support from state leaders, congressional delegation, and proper reviews should not advance. This proposal, in particular, extends far afield from the intent of the Antiquities Act by seeking to lock away 1.7 million acres of land in Arizona—an area larger than the State of Delaware—from hunting, livestock, wildfire prevention, mining, and certain forms of outdoor recreation and tourism. What’s more, as noted by Supreme Court precedent, such a designation could also have grave consequences for surface and groundwater rights in Arizona.

Aside from federal overreach, the greatest threat to the watershed of the Grand Canyon is the ongoing 15-year drought in the Southwest. A national monument designation does nothing to address the historically low snowmelt or surface water levels that feed the Colorado River and its tributaries. Arguably, the creation of a new monument might worsen watershed health if land managers and private property owners are restricted from thinning the area’s overgrown forests or if hunters are barred from culling overpopulated wildlife. Arizona cannot afford to have its hands tied when it comes to controlling wildlife populations, enhancing its water supplies, and preventing wildfires.

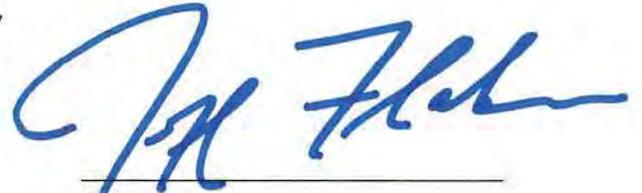
This monument proposal would also further unravel a longstanding agreement made by a number of environmental organizations and relevant stakeholders in support of a multiple-use philosophy across much of this area. As part of a locally driven collaborative process that included local miners and cattle growers, Congress passed the Arizona Wilderness Act of 1984 with the full understanding and intention that federally regulated mining and grazing would continue on much of the Arizona Strip and the Kaibab National Forest.

We of course support preserving the Grand Canyon for the enjoyment of future generations—the existing national park does just that. The Park’s powerful, awe-inspiring landscape attracts over 5 million visitors from across the United States and abroad each year. Ensuring the protection of this crown jewel is the civic duty of every Arizonan and American, and we appreciate the heartfelt motivation by those in Congress who initially backed this concept. However, the current monument proposal is ill-conceived, single-minded, and impractical to implement, and we respectfully urge you to disregard it.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator



Jeff Flake
United States Senator

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 9, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Mon Mar 09 2015 05:00:22 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 9, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015 7 00 AM EDT

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL DOESN'T USE PERSONAL EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL BUSINESS. [TIME](#) (3/7, Rogers, 19.19M) reports that "ten sitting Cabinet members in the Obama administration say that they do not exclusively use a personal email account for official business, as former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton did." Jessica Kershaw, a spokesperson for the Interior Department., said, "The Secretary [Sally Jewell] uses a government email address to conduct official business."

FEDERAL, STATE GOVERNMENTS CONTINUE EFFORTS TO PROTECT SAGE GROUSE. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/8, 74K) reports that with "a rider to this year's massive spending bill that bars the FWS from issuing any grouse-related rules," states are "using the extra time to prove that their plans provide sufficient protection to the grouse (the spending bill also gives the BLM \$15 million to support those state plans)." The article notes that "last week, Idaho announced a major push to protect sage grouse," and earlier this month Utah Gov. Gary Herbert "directed agencies to implement a conservation plan that would protect 10,000 acres of sage grouse habitat yearly, via incentive-based programs, increase total habitat by 50,000 acres, and would aim to keep a breeding population of at least 4,100 males." Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Jewell is "addressing another threat to sage grouse— wildfire." Earlier this year, Jewell "issued a secretarial order calling for a comprehensive strategy to reduce the size and intensity of range fires, improve response to fires, and control cheatgrass and other flammable exotics."

REP. HARDY ASSERTS "EQUAL FOOTING DOCTRINE" OF PUBLIC LANDS. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/9, 398K) reports that at a hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee on Thursday. Rep. Crescent Hardy told Interior Secretary Sally Jewell what he thinks of federal ownership of public land in the state. Hardy said, "Some would have you believe that these public lands are federal lands, and they are at this time. But I believe they are state public lands." Hardy told her Jewell was an supporter of the "equal footing doctrine."

INTERIOR SHARES PHOTO OF MOONRISE OVER YELLOWSTONE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/8, 49K) highlights "breathtaking photos" taken by Jacob Frank in Yellowstone National Park "a good two nights before the moon went full." The pictures were shared by the Interior Department on its Tumblr page, America's Great Outdoors.

The [County 10](#) (3/8) also highlights the photo.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NEWEST NATIONAL MONUMENTS. Additional coverage of the three newest national monuments was provided by the [Examiner](#) (3/8, 1.01M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE REP. YOUNG CRITICIZES PROTECTION OF WOLVES. Additional coverage of Rep. Don Young's comments on wolves and homelessness during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing on the Interior Department's budget was provided by [CNN](#) (3/6, Jaffe, 14.35M), the [US News & World Report](#) (3/6, 685K), the [Huffington Post](#) (3/6, 281K), the [Washington Times](#) (3/6, Howell, 644K), the [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (3/8, 438K), the [New York Daily News](#) (3/8, 3.79M), the [Alaska Native News](#) (3/8, 245), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/8, 4.78M), [Outside](#) (3/8, 385K), [The Inquisitr](#) (3/8, 753K), [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (3/8), and [KXLF-TV](#) Butte, MT (3/8, 2K).

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

OBAMA SAYS "MARCH IS NOT YET FINISHED" DESPITE CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRESS. President Obama joined about 40,000 other people in commemorating the 50-year anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" in Selma, Alabama.

[ABC World News](#) (3/7, lead story, 2:45, Vega, 5.84M) reported Obama "stood" where "more than 80 demonstrators fighting for black voting rights were crushed by the cruel batons of Alabama in 1965," and the [Washington Post](#) (3/8, Holley, Eilperin, 5.17M) notes his speech came "with the nation embroiled in a fresh debate about race." In his speech, Obama said, "There are places, and moments in America where this nation's destiny has been decided" and "Selma is such a place."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/7, lead story, 3:50, Alexander, 7.86M), Kristen Walker reported that "the energy was electric here today" as Obama "retraced those steps" taken by "alongside dozens of others, including former President George W. Bush." Welker said Obama "took a moment to look back and forward enlisting a new generation into the fight."

The [New York Times](#) (3/8, Baker, Fausset, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports Obama "rejected the notion that race relations have not improved since" the events of 50 years ago. Obama said, "What happened in Ferguson may not be unique, but it's no longer endemic. It's no longer sanctioned by law or custom, and before the civil rights movement, it most surely was."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/7, lead story, 3:15, Axelrod, 5.08M) reported Rep. John Lewis, "one of those attacked" in 1965, introduced Obama and said, "If someone had told me.. that one day I would be back here introducing the first African-American president, I would have said you're crazy."

Despite the noted improvements, Obama called for further change and progress. [USA Today](#) (3/8, Madhani, Jackson, Today, 10 32M) reports Obama said, "Fifty years from Bloody Sunday, our march is not yet finished," adding, "But we are getting closer. Two hundred-and thirty-nine years after this nation's founding, our union is not yet perfect. But we are getting closer." Obama also said, according to the [Washington Times](#) (3/8, Boyer, 644K), that it's a "common mistake" for Americans to feel that "racism is banished." Citing the Justice Department's report of racial bias in Ferguson, Obama said, "We just need to open our eyes, and ears, and hearts, to know that this nation's racial history still casts its long shadow upon us."

Against the backdrop of the anniversary, Obama called for the renewal of the Voting Rights Act. [Politico](#) (3/7, Dove, 669K) reported the President indicated that renewing the law is a way to pay the "solemn debt we owe" to the sacrifices of civil rights leaders, meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (3/7, Byrnes, Lillis, 224K) said Obama "called on the dozens of members of Congress in attendance to return to Washington and rally support among their colleagues." [McClatchy](#) (3/8, Parsons, Subscription Publication, 17K) notes that Obama highlighted that "One hundred members of Congress have come here today...If we want to honor this day, let these hundred go back to Washington" and convince others to "pledge to make it their mission to restore the law this year."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/8, Campo-Flores, Subscription Publication, 5 67M) reports Obama criticized efforts to weaken voting rights, including efforts by state legislature to pass legislation requiring photo identification to vote. Obama, according to the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/8, Parsons, 3.49M), said the Voting Rights Act, "the culmination of so much blood and sweat and tears...stands weakened, its future subject to partisan rancor." Obama asked, "How can that be?" noting the legislation "was one of the crowning achievements of our democracy, the result of Republican and Democratic efforts."

Only One Congressional GOP Leader Attends Commemoration. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/7, John, 169K) reports "only one member" of the Congressional GOP "leadership team, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, is in Alabama to mark" the anniversary. Rep. Steve King "declined to say whether it was a mistake for leading Republicans to skip" the event, but indicated that "cultural friction" exists. While being interviewed at the Iowa Agricultural Summit, King said, "If I walk into the Congressional Black Caucus—which I have done by mistake, by the way—and I look around there and, I have friends in there and people I like, but I also know that I'm not welcome in the Congressional Black Caucus." When asked why he would not be welcome, King said, "Well, because I'm not an African American and that's really, that's it."

Krotoszynski: Federal Courts Would Likely Now Bar Selma-Scale Protest. In a [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/8, Krotoszynski, 3.49M) op-ed, Ronald J. Krotoszynski Jr. of the University of Alabama School of Law, says that protesters would probably not be able to recreate the 1965 march from Selma 52 miles to Montgomery. After a four day hearing, US District Judge Frank M. Johnson Jr. ruled that the marchers were exercising their constitutional rights of free assembly, petition, and speech. However, starting in the 1970s, Federal courts rolled back these freedoms through the public forum doctrine, "which lets a city, state or the federal government decide whether public property can be used for 1st Amendment activities." Krotoszynski concludes, "As we remember the epic marches in Selma and the legal reform they accomplished, we should also acknowledge how the courts have since hobbled our right to stage a protest of such magnitude."

Wofford: King Decision To Obey Injunction Set Stage For Successful Third March. In a [Politico](#) (3/7, Wofford, 669K) magazine piece, former Sen. Harris Wofford notes that after the initial attempt to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge led by John Lewis was met with violence, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. decided to obey Judge Johnson's injunction against the march to Montgomery days later at the start of an abbreviated second attempt. At the time, King "knew that if he obeyed the injunction and postponed the march, Judge Johnson could ultimately provide federal protection for a future march." But he also "understood that if we did not march right away, he risked losing control of the impassioned civil rights supporters who had gathered from across the country and were demanding a response to Bloody Sunday's brutality at the bridge." King "skillfully" used the "element of surprise in turning the marchers back" and "succeeded in achieving the hard balance of symbolically protesting while not violating a reasonable federal order."

Selma Participants Nostalgic For Solidarity Of Era. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/8, Zeitchik, 3.49M) reports that many black Selma residents look back on the 50th anniversary of the marches with sadness over the brutality of the period but also a sense of wistfulness about the solidarity they felt at the time. Now, even "those who agree that race relations have improved note that discrimination comes in more subtle forms – especially via a larger sense of economic disenfranchisement."

NPS Selling Merchandise Related To Anniversary. [WBMA-TV](#) Birmingham, AL (3/8, 69K) reports that the NPS will "sell merchandise related to the 50th anniversary of the voting rights march on Saturday and Sunday, officials said."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the anniversary was provided by [USA Today](#) (3/7, Madhani, 10 32M).

HOMESTEAD NATIONAL MONUMENT OF AMERICA SUPERINTENDENT TOUTS IMPACT ON LOCAL ECONOMY. The [Lincoln \(NE\) Journal Star](#) (3/8, 291K) reports that "the Homestead National Monument of America has a monumental impact on the regional economy." Homestead Park Superintendent Mark Engler, "upwards of 70,000 guests visit the Homestead each year, with landmark years – such as the Homestead Act's 150th anniversary in 2012 – clearing 100,000." Engler said, "I think that there is a true economic impact directly tied to the Monument, from our spending and from our employees' spending, but as well there's an economic benefit tied to the visitors. That's a good thing for our economic well-being."

NPS EYES USE RENOVATED WEST VIRGINIA CAMP AS EDUCATIONAL FACILITY. The [AP](#) (3/8) reports that the NPS is "hoping to turn a renovated Camp Brookside in Brooks in a future education institute." The agency "hopes to turn the site into a facility to address community and higher education needs such as a base camp for field research."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette](#) (3/6, 13K) and [WOWK-TV](#) Charleston, WV (3/8, 9K).

NPS FLOATS PLAN TO MOVE ALCATRAZ FERRY TO FT. MASON. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (3/9, 2.21M) reports that "a federal plan that could move the Alcatraz ferry — and its projected 1.7 million annual passengers — from its longtime home on the Embarcadero to Fort Mason is drawing howls of outrage from Marina residents."

NPS CONSIDERING FORT PULASKI BRIDGE CHANGE. The [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (3/8, Quimby, 145K) reports that the NPS is "seeking comments from the public on a proposal to replace the Fort Pulaski Bridge with a new, two-lane bridge upstream." The service on "Wednesday opened a monthlong public comment period on a recently completed environmental assessment for the project."

ALL GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK STREAMS NOW OPEN TO FISHING. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/8, 371K) reports that "as of this week all the streams in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are open to fishing for the first time since the park was established in 1934." The article notes that "the milestone is the result of the park's reopening of 8.5 miles of Lynn Camp Prong, near Tremont, where for the past six years biologists have worked to remove nonnative rainbow trout and re-establish brook trout, the only trout species native to the Southern Appalachians."

NEW NPS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH NAMED. The [Cleveland Jewish News](#) (3/8, 34K) reports that "Public Health Service Capt. Sara B. Newman, a Cleveland native, has been selected as director of the US National Park Service Office of Public Health, effective March 1."

GLEN CARBON SCHOOL ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Edwardsville \(L\) Intelligencer](#) (3/8, 14K) reports that the Glen Carbon School has joined to the National Register of Historic Places.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE STUDY FINDS RARE EVERGLADES PLANTS THREATENED. Additional coverage that "a landmark report — 10 years in the making — looked at critically imperiled plants at Everglades National Park and found that 16 of them may already have vanished from there" was provided by the [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (3/8, 828K).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM'S UTAH CHIEF RETIRING. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/8, 405K) reports that "after five years overseeing nearly 40 percent of Utah's land, Juan Palma retires Friday as the state director for the Bureau of Land Management." Palma is described as "an easygoing leader who was able to navigate the fraught politics of public lands management in Utah," and is "respected by environmentalists and oil and gas developers alike." Rep. Chris Stewart told Interior Secretary Sally Jewell recently, "He has been excellent. He understands the people. He understands the culture. He understands the issues." Stewart added, "I hope your replacement will be nearly as good." The article notes that "Deputy BLM state director Jenna Whitlock will fill Palma's shoes on an acting basis while national BLM Director Neil Kornze finds a permanent replacement for what promises to be one of the toughest jobs in government."

BLM, SEALASKA CELEBRATE LAND TRANSFER. The [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (3/7, 14K) reports that "Sealaska received 70,000 acres of the Tongass National Forest in a land transfer Friday, culminating decades of negotiations." Bud Cribley, director of the Alaska division of the BLM, "attended the ceremony that finalized a 375,000-acre entitlement under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act." Cribley said, "This is important from a historic standpoint of the significance of that act."

Also reporting on the story is [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (3/8).

ENVIRONMENTALISTS WANT ACTION ON NEVADA RANCHER BUNDY. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/8, 74K) provides an update on "rancher scofflaw Cliven Bundy." In the year since his confrontation with the BLM, "Bundy has gone from being just a rancher who wouldn't pay his fees, to a lasting political figure that the far-right anti-federal government set continues to coalesce around." The article notes that "by all accounts, Bundy still has not been charged for the trespassing cattle or the unpaid fines." It adds that "every day that passes without a federal government move to prosecute Bundy is a day that he and his followers are emboldened."

EXPERTS EXPECT TOUGH WILDFIRE SEASON IN OREGON. The [AP](#) (3/8) reports that "fire bosses in Southern Oregon are bracing for a season that could start earlier, last longer and burn hotter than usual in a part of the world known for major summer fires." Allen Mitchell, fire management officer for the Medford District of the BLM, said, "It seems inevitable. It will depend on lightning." The article also notes that "the snowpack in the mountains is at a record low in the southern part of the Cascade Range and the Siskiyou Mountains, and the region is in the second year of drought."

SCENIC DESIGNATION SOUGHT FOR CROOKED RIVER ROAD. The [AP](#) (3/8, Estes) reports that "leaders in Prineville have submitted applications for portions of state Highway 27, which runs through the Crooked River Canyon, to be listed as an Oregon scenic bikeway and scenic driving route." Greg Currie, a land use planner with the BLM and one of the projects' leaders, said, "You look at the scenic bikeway map, and there's a hole in the middle where Prineville and Crook County are. Part of the (reason) for doing this is that a lot of people use (the state's scenic bikeways and scenic byways) when they're exploring. The Crooked River and Highway 27 are incredibly scenic and really fit into that concept."

Also reporting on the story is the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (3/8, 172K).

PINYON TRAIL SET TO OPEN IN NEVADA. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (3/7, 168K) reports that "the grand opening is just days away for the newly built Pinyon Trail near Gardnerville." In an announcement, the BLM said, "The Pinyon Trail is a hand-constructed, non-motorized single track trail open to hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians and dogs." The BLM said that the Pinyon Trail set to officially open March 14.

IDAHO SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES PLAN TO EXCLUDE FEDERAL MINERAL RIGHTS. The [AP](#) (3/8) reports that "an Idaho Senate committee has sent to the full Senate a bill giving state officials the option of excluding the federal government's mineral rights from areas that contain natural gas and oil." The Senate Resources and Environment Committee on Friday passed "the industry-backed bill that has already passed in the House." According to the article, "if it becomes law it will give the five-member Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission the option to exclude federal mineral rights if the federal government fails to grant leases." Supporters "say the state needs that option because the US Bureau of Land Management is halting development by failing to offer leases in western Idaho where the nascent industry is moving forward."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE ARCHAEOLOGISTS DISCOVER ANCIENT STONE TOOL IN OREGON. Additional coverage of the tool discovered by archaeologists in Oregon was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, Larimer, 5.17M), the [Dalles \(OR\) Chronicle](#) (3/7, 14K), and the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/8, 4.78M).

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS BAN IMPORTS OF FOUR SNAKE SPECIES. The [AP](#) (3/8) reports that "four large constrictor snakes will be illegal to import or move across state lines, the federal government said Friday, while stopping short of including the popular boa constrictor among the banned." The FWS "announced the 'injurious wildlife' status of three species of anacondas and one type of python it fears could one day take hold in the Everglades, where giant non-native snakes have overwhelmed the ecosystem, killing and swallowing whole animals as large as deer and alligators. t piggybacks on similar action three years ago for four other types of big snakes." FWS Director Dan Ash said, "We're taking that preventative step to keep another ecological disaster from happening."

[The Hill](#) (3/8, Cama, 224K) reports that Ashe said, "Large constrictor snakes are costing the American public millions of dollars in damage and placing at risk 41 federally and state-listed threatened or endangered species in Florida alone."

The [New York Times](#) (3/6, 9.97M) reports that "the Center for Biological Diversity, a conservation group, expressed disappointment with the decision to drop the boa from the list." Collette Adkins, an attorney and biologist at the center focusing on the protection of reptiles and amphibians, said, "Unfortunately, it appears that the agency caved to pressure from snake breeders in its decision not to restrict trade in the boa constrictor — a snake that is clearly damaging to US wildlife."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/6, Sedensky, 2 28M) and the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, 5.17M).

Also reporting on the story are the [Miami Herald](#) (3/8, 694K), the [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (3/8, 397K), the [Florida Today](#) (3/6, 178K), [Bloomberg](#) (3/8, 2.94M), the [National Monitor](#) (3/8), the [International Business Times](#) (3/8, 1.19M), and the [Tech Times](#) (3/7).

OKANOGAN COUNTY MAY SUE TO STOP GRIZZLY RESTORATION. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (3/6, 113K) reports that "Okanogan County commissioners are exploring the possibility of a lawsuit to prevent the US Department of Interior from restoring grizzly bears to the North Cascades." According to the article, "the county was talking to state legislators in Olympia about its options after the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service held open houses in Winthrop on March 3 and in Okanogan on March 4 to help them determine whether to take an active role in grizzly restoration." Commissioners "strongly oppose restoration and say a majority of county residents do."

DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE EXPANDING. The [AP](#) (3/7) reports that the Tishkof Tract in Berlin Township in Monroe County is "becoming part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge." According to the article, "the property is adjacent to the refuge's Brancheau Unit and was among land deemed highest priority for conservation and inclusion in the refuge." The article notes that "it contains southern hardwood swamp habitat, mixed wet prairie and shrub habitat as well as Great Lakes marsh habitat."

NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FOUNDATION RECEIVES APPROVAL TO ACQUIRE FACILITY. The [AP](#) (3/8) reports that "the National Youth Science Foundation has received federal approval to acquire a research and education center in Tucker County." The FWS also had "proposed acquiring the facility."

FIVE NATIONAL FORESTS IN MONTANA MOVE TO MANAGE HABITAT FOR DELISTED GRIZZLIES. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (3/8, 38K) reports that "to deal with that growing population and territory, as well as the potential that grizzlies could soon be removed from the federal endangered species list," five national forests in the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem are "considering a single habitat management plan that would keep all the US Forest Service folks on the same page, bear-wise." On Friday, officials from the Flathead, Lolo, Bitterroot, Lewis and Clark and Helena National forests "released a draft forest plan amendment that would guide all their staffs on grizzly bear habitat issues."

WYOMING UNDERTAKING NEW STUDIES OF WOLVERINES, BOREAL TOADS. The [AP](#) (3/8) reports that "wildlife species in Wyoming that aren't the target of hunters and anglers will be getting a closer look from researchers, ranging from a wolverine mapping project to a study of grazing impacts on boreal toads." According to the article, "a \$158,000 grant that will go to the Wolverine Initiative will allow biologists to research the distribution of female wolverines in Wyoming." Also, "another \$160,000 will go toward research headed by a University of Wyoming master's student who will be studying boreal toad habitat selection and survival in relation to grazing intensity."

UTAH APPROVES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR UTAH PRAIRIE DOG. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (3/8, 405K) reports that "the Utah Wildlife Board approved the first management plan for the Utah Prairie Dog this week." According to the article, "under pressure from southern Utah towns and a federal court judge, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources was forced to come up with a management plan for dogs found on non-federal lands." Under the plan, "wildlife managers would be able to 'take' or kill a maximum of 6,000 Utah prairie dogs annually to protect 'human safety, development and agricultural/rangelands conflicts.'"

INLAND EMPIRE WATER AGENCIES HOPE TO SAVE SANTA ANA SUCKER. The [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (3/7, 101K) reports on a mission to save the Santa Ana Sucker in order to "help Inland Empire water agencies more easily get federal permits to get water to their customers." According to the article, "the 10 partners in the project, primarily water utilities in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, have teamed up for what is being called the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan, a strategy to protect threatened species so the water needs of people can be met."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE REHABILITATED MANATEE RELEASED. Additional coverage of the release of the rehabilitated manatee named Trinidad was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (3/8, 5.17M).

DEBATE OVER GRAY WOLVES CONTINUES. In an op-ed for the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (3/8, 699K), Elizabeth Huntley, a member of the Sierra Club John Muir Chapter's Protecting Native Forests & Wildlife Subcommittee, writes that "within hours of US Fish & Wildlife's decision to delist the gray wolf from the Endangered Species Act in Wisconsin, legislators and Gov. Scott Walker signed off on one of the most extreme wolf hunting bills ever created by any state, Wisconsin Act 169." She claims that "any congressional rider or bill that promotes the legislative delisting of wolves will place not only wolves, but also the entire Endangered Species Act in jeopardy." Huntley concludes that "this legislation, if passed, would be disastrous for wolves — and betray the American public, which placed its faith on the science-based principles of the Endangered Species Act."

In an op-ed for the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (3/8, 699K), Rep. Reid Ribble writes that "allowing trained professionals to make decisions based on years of research is the best path forward in achieving that goal, and my legislation, HR 884, would do just that."

PROTECTION OF BAT SPECIES URGED. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (3/7, 987K), Amy L. Russell, an associate professor of biology at Grand Valley State University, Allen Kurta, a professor of biology at Eastern Michigan University, Philip Myers, professor emeritus of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Michigan, and Maarten Vonhof, an associate professor of biological sciences and environmental and sustainability studies at Western Michigan University, write that "few species in the United States are facing greater extinction pressure than northern long-eared bats." They say that "after an exhaustive review of the facts, the US Fish and Wildlife Service wisely decided last October to propose designating the northern long-eared bat as endangered." But "following intense criticism from logging and mining industries and state natural resource agencies, the service hit the pause button, postponing until April its final decision on protecting the species."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

NORTH CAROLINA WANT WIND FARMS FARTHER OFFSHORE. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (3/8, Henderson, 584K) reports that "North Carolina's environment secretary has urged a federal agency not to sell wind energy leases within 24 miles of the state's coast, a limit that advocates say would largely block wind farms." The Sierra Club

"circulated the Feb. 23 comments of N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Donald van der Vaart to the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management." Brian O'Hara of the Southeastern Wind Coalition said, "The practical effect would be that North Carolina would not see any offshore wind development for quite a while."

Also providing coverage are the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (3/7, 291K) and the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (3/8, 395K).

OPPOSITION AGAINST SODA MOUNTAIN SOLAR PROJECT BUILDS. [KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (3/8, 15K) reports that "a proposed solar power plant that some opponents are calling 'the worst renewable energy project currently under consideration' in California just found itself some significant opposition, as a public committee charged with advising the Bureau of Land Management on desert issues agreed to oppose the project." The article notes that "in a nearly unanimous vote with just one member abstaining, the BLM's Desert District Advisory Committee agreed at its February 28 meeting to recommend that the BLM say no to the proposed 350-megawatt Soda Mountain Solar project, which would occupy almost 4,200 acres of land adjacent to the Mojave National Preserve near Baker."

EXPERTS SAY HURON TURBINES COULD KILL THOUSANDS OF BATS. The [Huron \(MI\) Daily Tribune](#) (3/8, 19K) reports that "to clear the air on what some county officials called a 'wishy-washy' stance, US Fish and Wildlife biologists visited Huron County on Wednesday to affirm that wind turbines should not be sited within three miles of Great Lakes shorelines." Jeff Gosse and Scott Hicks of the FWS "presented results of a Huron County study funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, conducted in 2011 and 2012, to county commissioners and planners in two separate meetings on Wednesday." According to Gosse, "two theories could be contributing to bat kills at wind parks: direct contact with turbine blades and barotrauma — a pressure drop near the tip of a blade that causes ruptured lungs."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN. In an editorial, the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/7, 85K) urges state and federal officials working on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan "to take their time to get it right." According to the paper, "reaction to the draft has been such that the prudent course would be for the state and federal officials charged with creating such a grand plan to step back and reassess what has been done so they get it right."

In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (3/7, 85K), David Lamfrom, associate director of the California Desert for the National Parks Conservation Association, writes that many of the comments received on the draft plan reflect "the universal agreement that the plan needs improvement and demonstrates the ever-increasing understanding and appreciation of our deserts." He concludes that "now that the public comment period has closed, the opportunity to produce a plan that honors the desert and protects its legacy now rests squarely on the shoulders of the Interior Department and California Energy Commission."

Onshore Energy Development:

OBAMA CRITICIZES KEYSTONE XL, CANADIAN OIL SANDS. [The Hill](#) (3/7, Byrnes, 224K) reports in its "Briefing Room" blog that President Obama "on Friday ratcheted up his criticism of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, days after the Senate failed to override his veto of legislation approving the project." At his town hall meeting at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, Obama said, "The truth is it's Canadian oil that's then going to go to the world market. It will probably create about a couple thousand construction jobs for a year or two, but only create about 300 permanent jobs." The President added environmentalists are concerned about the pipeline because "the way that you get the oil out in Canada is an extraordinarily dirty way of extracting oil. And, obviously, there are always risks in piping a lot of oil through Nebraska farmland and other parts of the country."

[Reuters](#) (3/7, Edwards) reports Obama said he has not yet "made a final determination on it, but what I've said is, 'We're not going to authorize a pipeline that benefits largely a foreign company if it can't be shown that it is safe and if it can't be shown that overall it would not contribute to climate change.'"

Tanker Car Accidents Raising Questions About Safety Of Model. The [AP](#) (3/7) reports that after a BNSF train hauling Bakken crude had 21 of its 105 tanker cars derail with five cars bursting into flames, new questions are being asked about the safety of a newer model of tanker car known as the 1232. The AP says while no one was hurt in Thursday's derailment near Galena, Illinois, the "accident was the latest in a series of failures for the safer tank-car model that has led some people calling for even tougher requirements." The accident comes on the heels of a huge explosion from a derailed oil train in West Virginia in February which also had the upgraded tanker cars. Two other tanker train accidents have happened in 2015 involving the 1232 model cars that have split open.

WSJournal: Keystone Veto Vote Represented Bipartisan Opposition To Obama's Policy. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/7, Subscription Publication, 5 67M) characterizes the Senate's failed attempt to override President Obama's veto of legislation authorizing the Keystone XL pipeline as a bipartisan criticism of the President.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE INTERIOR ORDERED TO REVIEW APPROVAL OF NAVAJO MINE EXPANSION. Additional coverage that "A federal judge in Colorado said the environmental impacts of coal combustion should have been more thoroughly explored in a proposal to expand strip mining at the Navajo Mine" was provided by the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (3/8, 49K) and the [Native American Times](#) (3/8, 337).

Offshore Energy Development:

BIOLOGISTS EXAMINE SAND SHOALS' ROLE IN THE ECOLOGY. [Florida Today](#) (3/9, Waymer, 178K) reports how biologists are examining "how a variety of wildlife — invertebrates to large fish — use offshore sand shoals and how the ecological functions of those shoals might change after dredging." While Bureau of Ocean Energy Management funds research off Cape Canaveral, the article notes that the Kennedy Space Center funding similar research "within KSC's boundaries." Douglas Scheidt, KSC's lead aquatic biologist, was mentioned in the article for his role in the studies.

FORMER USGS SCIENTIST AT CENTER OF URANIUM CONTROVERSY. The [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (3/7, 116K) reports on a presentation by Ray Johnson, a scientist with the USGS "who had been studying the Dewey-Burdock site on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency." According to the article, "Johnson's half-hour presentation left mining opponents questioning whether he and the federal government were on the side of Powertech." Johnson "left the federal government shortly after his study of the Dewey-Burdock site was finished. He now works as a scientist for a company in the uranium industry."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL. The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (3/6, 39K) reports that "local and national groups are coming together to support the expansion of the lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico." The groups are submitting public comments on the 2017-2022 proposed Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The article notes that "the South Central Industrial Association, National Ocean Industries Association and the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association have submitted letters and are calling for other letters of support by March 30 when the public comment period ends."

On the other hand, the [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (3/6, 3K) reports that "with the proposed plan allowing one offshore oil and gas drilling lease in the Atlantic, a local group is taking the chance to protest and get out the message 'Don't BP my Assateague.'" Assateague Coastal Trust is "concerned with the impacts of a potential large oil spill, as well as many other problems it says are associated with offshore drilling, such as damage to marine wildlife from seismic airgun testing, which is used to detect wells, trash from oil rigs and small oil spills."

The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (3/7, 295K), Rep. Jeff Duncan, Bob Coble, the former mayor of Columbia, and James Knapp, Ph.D., a professor of Earth & Ocean sciences at the University of South Carolina, write that "offshore energy exploration and production could be an economic game changer for South Carolina, providing our citizens with the jobs and state revenue we need to prosper and succeed into the future." They say that "South Carolina needs jobs and increased tax revenue to pay for education, infrastructure, and conservation needs."

LAWMAKERS URGE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION TO DROP GULF OF MEXICO ENERGY SECURITY ACT PROPOSAL. The [Opelousas \(LA\) Daily World](#) (3/6, 26K) reports that "Louisiana Sens. David Vitter and Bill Cassidy wrote to President Barack Obama this week urging him not to pursue a plan to steer millions in oil and gas revenue away from Gulf Coast states." In their March 4 letter, Vitter and Cassidy said, "We not only oppose and reject your budget proposal eroding the revenue sharing provisions in GOMESA, but will actively pursue efforts to minimize the disparity by bringing equal treatment in revenue sharing among energy-producing states." Sens. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Jeff Sessions of Alabama and John Cornyn and Ted Cruz of Texas, all Republicans, also signed the letter.

Also providing coverage are the [Shreveport \(LA\) Times](#) (3/6, 110K) and the [Jackson \(MS\) Clarion Ledger](#) (3/6, 222K).

BP HALTS EFFORTS TO OUST DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR. The [AP](#) (3/9) reported that on Friday in a filing with the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals, BP said it has ended its efforts to oust embattled Deepwater Horizon spill claims administrator Patrick Juneau. BP had in court previously alleged that Juneau mismanaged claims and said he "failed to disclose an alleged conflict of interest prior to taking the administrator job."

[Bloomberg News](#) (3/6, Barrett, 2.94M) suggested BP's switch of "legal strategies" in the Deepwater Horizon case is an effort "in part, to mollify a federal judge in New Orleans who could sock BP with an enormous judgment in an environmental suit filed by the U.S. government."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/6, Eaton, 2.28M) noted comment from BP America chair John Mingé, who in a statement said, "This marks the beginning of a new and more productive relationship between BP and the claims program. We appreciate the work that has been done to develop and implement improved processes to, among other things, detect and prevent the payment of fraudulent claims." Mingé added, "We agree with Mr. Juneau and the claims facility the goal of compensating the people and businesses of the Gulf under

the terms of the settlement agreement." [Reuters](#) (3/6, Stempel) and the [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (3/8, Larino, 621K) also covered the story.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE MARINE SCIENTISTS WARN ABOUT SEISMIC TESTING. Additional coverage that "proposed seismic testing for oil and gas beneath the Atlantic Ocean floor is likely to have significant, long-lasting, and widespread impacts on the reproduction and survival of fish and marine mammals, scientists warned last week in a letter to President Barack Obama" was provided by the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (3/8, 506) and [Salon](#) (3/6, 688K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ARCTIC DRILLING ANALYSIS. Additional coverage of the Interior Department's analysis of Arctic drilling released in February was provided by [Salon](#) (3/8, 688K).

[Tackling America's Water Challenges:](#)

NEBRASKA, KANSAS AND COLORADO SIGN WATER AGREEMENT. The [McCook \(NE\) Daily Gazette](#) (3/8, 18K) reports that Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska, along with the BOR, "have reached an agreement that will ensure more certainty to the basin's water users in both Nebraska and Kansas." According to the article, "the agreement, signed through the Republican River Compact Administration (RRCA), was achieved through collaborative negotiations that began in January 2015 and will provide timely access to water for the 2015 irrigation season."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF CALIFORNIA WATER MANAGEMENT. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/7, 323K) reports that "in the withering California drought, 15 water districts will deliver precious irrigation supplies to Kern County growers while 15,000 farmers face summer without their Millerton Lake allotments — a confusing repeat of last year." The article notes that "the Kern growers buy from the State Water Project" while "the east-siders and west-siders buy from the federal Central Valley Project."

[Empowering Native American Communities:](#)

INTERIOR TO HOLD LISTENING SESSION ON BUY BACK PROGRAM IN ARIZONA. The [Nation Sun News](#) (3/3) reports that the Interior Department will "hold a listening session this month on the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations." Deputy Secretary Michael Connor will lead the session, which will take "place March 19 at the Vee Quiva Hotel on the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona." Connor said, "The department is collaborating with tribes through nation-to-nation partnerships built on mutual trust and respect, and that uphold the sovereignty of tribal nations. The Buy-Back Program is an exceptional opportunity that cannot be taken for granted. Together with tribal leaders, we are seeking to constantly improve the program. And, importantly, we are focused on ensuring that landowners are aware of the program and are given every opportunity to make informed decisions about the potential sale of their land at fair market value."

Also providing coverage is a clip on [YouTube](#) (3/8, 46 32M).

TRIBES APPROVE PAY INCREASE FOR LAND BUY BACK PROGRAM. The [Fort Peck \(MT\) Journal](#) (3/4) reports that "the Tribal Executive Board approved of increasing the pay significantly for the Land Buy Back Program." Under a resolution, the council "authorized Human Resources Director Yvonne Bushay to write a prepared resolution that will exempt the temporary Outreach workers from the Tribal Classification System based on the fact that Outreach workers, Lead Outreach worker, and the Outreach Director are temporary one-year employees and the funding for these positions must be spent within a year."

BILL ADDRESSES INDIAN COUNTRY'S AGING IRRIGATION PROJECTS. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/6, 49K) reports that "water projects that have, for too long, lacked adequate funding from the federal government are receiving attention in a bi-partisan bill addressed in a hearing by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on March 4." The Irrigation Rehabilitation and Renovation for Indian Tribal Governments and Their Economies Act (the RRRIGATE Act), S.438, would "hold the federal government accountable for addressing the growing maintenance backlog of aging Indian irrigation projects originally initiated by the government in the late 1800s and early 1900s throughout the west."

[Office of Insular Affairs:](#)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA TO MAKE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO MARSHALLS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (3/8) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina will "visit the Republic of the Marshall Islands or RMI from March 10 to 13, 2015, to meet with Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak, cabinet ministers and other government officials, including the mayors of the four nuclear-affected atolls: Bikini, Rongelap, Enewetak, and Utrik." Kia'aina said, "The Republic of the Marshall Islands is one of the United States' closest allies. The bond we share with the Marshall Islands is demonstrated by the Compact of Free Association and our shared democratic values. We also share commitments to improve effectiveness of Compact health and education grant funding and to address immediate threats from climate change as well as from non-communicable diseases, among other issues."

FUNDS RELEASED FROM OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROGRAM. The [Marianas Variety](#) (3/8) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina "released last week over \$12 million in grant funding under the Office of Insular Affairs capital improvement project program for completion of the power plant oil pipeline and Puerto Rico dump closure infrastructure projects in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands." Kia'aina said, "These funds will help the CNMI address federal environmental and public health compliance issues for two important projects while improving quality of life for the people of the Northern Marianas. Both projects have received prior year monies and we are very pleased that this final round of grants bring both to completion."

[Top National News:](#)

OBAMA US WILL "WALK AWAY" IF IRAN DEAL LACKS ADEQUATE VERIFICATION. Coverage of President Obama's interview on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) generally cast it in the context of his disagreement over Iran with Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu — who in fact followed Obama on the CBS broadcast. Reports featured comments from lawmakers from both parties — though mainly Republicans — who continued to take issue with a potential nuclear deal with Iran and said Congress must have a voice in approving or rejecting it. As the [New York Times](#) (3/9, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9,97M) puts it this morning, "many Republicans and some Democrats share Mr. Netanyahu's concerns and have been crafting legislation intended to give Congress a say in whether an agreement would be satisfactory." ABC World News, the only network newscast that aired last night, did not touch on the story.

In what [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/8, Plante, 2.64M) host described as "his clearest language yet" on the Iran talks, the President said of the talks, "We've made progress in narrowing the gaps, but the gaps still exist. And I would say that over the next month or so we're going to be able to determine whether or not their system is able to accept what would be an extraordinarily reasonable deal if, in fact as they say, they are only interested in peaceful nuclear programs, and if we had unprecedented transparency in that system, if we are able to verify that, in fact, they are not, then there's a deal to be had. But that's going to require them to accept the kind of verification and constraints on their program that so far have not been willing to say yes to." Asked if he's "willing to walk away" if there is no deal, the President said, "Absolutely. No deal, then we walk away."

Appearing on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/8, Schieffer, 2.64M) immediately after the interview with the President was aired, Netanyahu said, "I respect President Obama. ... We share the same goal of preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, but disagree how to do it." Asked if he trusts the President "to make the right decision," Netanyahu said, "I think this is not an issue, a personal issue, not one of trust. It's a matter of survival, really. ... I think there's a better deal. The better deal is to increase the break out time and limit Iran's infrastructure. Secondly, to condition the lifting of restrictions on Iran's nuclear program in the future, to change in Iran's behavior, to have it stopped worldwide terrorism. I think that is a better deal." Netanyahu, the [Washington Times](#) (3/9, Richardson, 644K) reports, also said "that 'troubling questions' are raised if reports are accurate that the White House is offering Arab states a 'nuclear umbrella' to protect them from Iran."

Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer, meanwhile, said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/8, Smerconish, 420K), "We're not in the negotiating room. ... What [Netanyahu] was telling the leading powers of the world" is "the deal that's currently on the table is a very bad deal. In order to make that deal a better deal, you have to extend the break, which is to leave Iran with less infrastructure. The second thing is you have to link the removal of restrictions on Iran's nuclear program to a change in Iran's behavior. They have to stop their aggression in the region, stop terrorism around the world and stop trying to destroy Israel. If you link that together then we can be sure that when those restrictions are removed Iran is a different country and won't be the same country as today."

The [AP](#) (3/9) reports "big gaps remain to bridge if the sides are to reach a deal by the end of [the] March deadline set by negotiators," with "the next round of talks" scheduled for March 15. GOP lawmakers, as well as a couple of significant Democrats, continued to call for a role for Congress in approving or rejecting the eventual agreement. Sen. Chuck Schumer said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/8, Schieffer, 2.64M), "Before there is an agreement, if there is an agreement...Congress has right to weigh in. I support it." Sen. Bill Nelson said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/8, Wallace, 788K) that he supports a congressional vote on a possible deal, but stressed that whether or not he will "vote to override depends on the context of the whole deal, which we don't know until...the Administration...announce[s] if their negotiations are successful or not." But Nelson stressed that the "key" of a potential deal will be what he called "intrusive and unannounced inspections. ... The only way you're going to make sure that they are not developing a bomb, is the intrusive and unexpected inspections. That's what's going to be key."

Senate Majority Leader McConnell said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/8, Schieffer, 2.64M), "The fact that the President doesn't want Congress to participate in this underscores

what a bad deal it is. He's afraid that we might not approve it. So I'm very worried about it. And I hope that the President will not make the bad deal that we anticipate he's going to make." [USA Today](#) (3/9, Kelly, 10 32M) notes McConnell also "said he is working to put together a veto-proof majority to support a measure giving Congress the authority to approve or disapprove of any deal." Said [McConnell](#) (3/8, Schieffer, 2.64M), "The Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee has propos[ed]...for the deal to come before Congress for approval. The President has threatened to veto. He doesn't want us to have any role to play in this. I'm hoping we get 67 senators to assert the historic role of the Senate and the Congress in looking at matters of this magnitude." [Reuters](#) (3/9) notes that McConnell also said Obama "cannot work around Congress forever."

Sen. Lindsey Graham said on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (3/8, Todd, 3 08M), "When they say they're not trying to build a bomb, I think they're lying. So I much rather not have a deal than lock in place what would be a eventually a North Korean outcome. So a bad deal is off the table, no deal is better than a bad deal." Graham added, "The Iranians are a regime that cannot be trusted and at the end of the day, Congress should approve any deal...and I believe there is growing bipartisan support that sanctions should not be lifted unless Congress agrees."

Running similar accounts of yesterday's Obama interview and highlighting the comments by Netanyahu, McConnell, and Graham were [Bloomberg News](#) (3/8, Keane, Sink, 2.94M), [New York Times](#) (3/9, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), [AP](#) (3/9), [Reuters](#) (3/9), [Huffington Post](#) (3/8, Delaney, 281K), [The Hill](#) (3/8, Byrnes, 224K), [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/8, 380K), and [New York Daily News](#) (3/8, Delman, 3.79M), among other news outlets.

Also appearing on television yesterday was Sen. Ron Johnson, who told [Fox News Sunday](#) (3/8, Wallace, 788K) that he hopes Congress will get to vote on any possible deal with Iran. Johnson said, "The Iranian parliament will get to say yes or no on this deal. I think the United States Congress should have that same input into the process." Johnson went on to say that "this deal, as it's being described, with a sunset provision doesn't stop nuclear proliferation. It will probably hasten it. ... So this is a bad deal. I agree with Prime Minister Netanyahu."

Sen. John Barrasso said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#) (3/8, Bartiromo), "I think people all around the world know that a world where Iran has a nuclear weapon is a world that is less safe, less stable and less secure. My concern is the President is so eager for any deal that he will go with a bad deal." He added that if negotiators fail to reach a deal by the March 24 deadline, "We need to put sanctions back. ... Sanctions are what brought Iran to the table in the first place. They need the money for their economy and also for their appetite. They're funding efforts in Yemen, Hezbollah, Hamas. Anything we can do to hold their money I think holds their feet to the fire."

Netanyahu Defends Address To Congress; Feinstein Calls It "Humiliating" And "Very Arrogant." Appearing on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/8, Schieffer, 2.64M), Netanyahu defended his decision to address Congress, saying, "I knew it would be difficult," but I "certainly didn't mean any disrespect to the President or anyone else. But I came because, as prime minister of Israel, I felt obligation to speak before Congress, which may have important role in this deal before the deal is signed. To alert them to what I think are enormous dangers to Israel and the region and to the world with the impending deal."

The [New York Times](#) (3/9, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports "Netanyahu's outspokenness continued to divide Washington." Sen. Dianne Feinstein said on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (3/8, 3.08M), "I think that [what].. Netanyahu did here was something that no ally of the United States would have done. I find it humiliating, embarrassing and very arrogant, because this agreement is not yet finished, to trash it before you have the final period on it, before you know what it is, I think it is a huge error in judgment for our number one ally in that area."

Asked if he wished he had informed the White House of the invitation to Prime Minister Netanyahu, Israeli Ambassador to the US, Ron Dermer said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/8, Smerconish, 420K), "Hindsight is 20/20. We regret partisanship before the speech. That was the last thing we wanted to do was inject Israel into.. partisan debate." Asked if the invitation was Speaker Boehner's idea or his, Dermer said, "Speaker Boehner called me and I assumed that he was going to inform the White House. ... I hope that now we can get beyond the protocol, beyond the politics, and we can talk a little bit about the substance because it's a serious issue."

Senate Majority Leader McConnell said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/8, Schieffer, 2.64M), "I'm glad the Prime Minister came. We needed to hear from somebody to point out the problems with the deal that we anticipate will be made and also point out shouldn't ignore all Iran's other behavior unrelated to the nuclear program. ... This is a very, very dangerous regime."

Fareed Zakaria said on [CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS](#) (3/8, 410K) that Netanyahu's speech "was eloquent, moving, and intelligent in identifying the problems with the potential nuclear deal with Iran, but when describing the alternative to it, he entered never-never land, painting a scenario utterly divorced from reality. Congress joined him on his fantasy ride." Zakaria argued that "the key to any agreement with Iran is to keep the cost of breakout high and the benefits low. This is the most realistic path to keeping Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state."

USA Today Analysis: Like Israel, "Vital" Arab Allies Concerned About US Policies Toward Iran. [USA Today](#) (3/9, Michaels, 10.32M) reports that "Israel is not the only vital American ally in the Middle East increasingly alarmed that the US is working too closely with Iran. So are America's most important Arab partners," including "Saudi Arabia and other moderate Arab states who play vital roles as bulwarks against radical Islamists in the region." USA adds "that mistrust is already complicating Pentagon efforts to develop a moderate opposition in Syria to oust the Islamic State from Syria," and that "may inadvertently help keep Iranian-backed Syrian President Bashar Assad in power."

Kaine: Iran Already Using "Sanctions Relief" To Boost Its Regional Goals. The [Washington Times](#) (3/9, Scarborough, 644K) reports that in addition to being "on the verge" of a nuclear deal, "Iran is.. becoming a dominant military player in Iraq, rescuing the "Assad regime," "bringing down a US ally in Yemen and building its surrogate Hezbollah terrorist army into a political force." The nuclear deal, meanwhile, would lead to "sanctions relief, creating hard cash to fund its military and the foreign exploits of the Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force." According to Sen. Tim Kaine, "Teheran already is capitalizing on limited sanctions relief by the Obama administration that has freed up more than \$2 billion in Iranian assets." Said Kaine, "They use dollars to carry out adventurism. Just from what I've heard, some of the sanctions relief already may have enabled them to invest more heavily in running Syria as a puppet state or invest more heavily in the Quds Force, or other agents that are destabilizing governments outside of their own borders."

ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF "BLOODY SUNDAY" MARCH, HOLDER CALLS FOR NEW VOTING RIGHTS ACT. Attorney General Holder used the 50th anniversary of the "Bloody Sunday" march in Selma to issue a call for a new Voting Rights Act. Coverage of the event this morning and on ABC World News, the one network news broadcast that aired Sunday evening, is universally positive. Print media analyses this morning, meanwhile, indicate Republicans are highly unlikely to agree to calls to update the Voting Rights Act. Moreover, as the [Washington Times](#) (3/9, Hallow, 644K) reports, no "high-profile potential Republican presidential contender" attended Sunday's events in Selma. While Sen. Rand Paul remained in his home state of Kentucky, "Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Rick Perry, Mike Huckabee, Lindsey Graham and Scott Walker congregated in Iowa for the Agricultural Summit in Des Moines." The Times says Paul's absence "is particularly noteworthy because he differs in some basic ways from his potential nomination rivals in his approach to race and ethnic voters."

In an op-ed posted on [Alabama Live](#) (3/8, 502K) Sunday morning, Holder wrote that while the Act "has served as a vital protection for the sacred and unique American right to vote," the Supreme Court two years ago "delivered a major blow to these traditional efforts, and to voting protections generally, when it handed down a closely divided and deeply flawed decision that undermined Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act." Holder argued that since the ruling, his Department has "used the remaining provisions of the Voting Rights Act to fight back against voting restrictions in states throughout the country," but added that nation must honor the sacrifices of those who marched at Selma 50 years ago "by staying true to the principles for which they fought and by passing into law a new, reconstituted Voting Rights Act."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/9, A1, Simmons, 3.49M) reports in a front-page story that during a memorial service on Sunday at Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma, Alabama to mark the 50th anniversary of the "Bloody Sunday" march, Holder "criticized voting restrictions pursued by conservative lawmakers and what he called the 'profoundly flawed' Supreme Court decision in 2013 regarding the Voting Rights Act," and "urged state legislatures to lift restrictions that currently disenfranchise millions of citizens convicted of felonies." [Alabama Live](#) (3/9, Edgemon, 502K) reported that during his remarks, Holder "said the civil rights activists 50 years ago were 'spurred by the murder of Jimmie Lee Jackson — an unarmed young black man,'" repeating "those words 'unarmed black man,' seemingly referring to 18-year-old black man, Michael Brown, who was gunned down by a white police officer in Ferguson, Mo. last year, which spurred protests and calls for change."

A brief report early in the broadcast on [ABC World News](#) (3/8, story 2, 0 25, Llamas, 5.84M) mentioned the weekend's events, and in the final report on the [ABC World News](#) (3/8, story 10, 1:55, Llamas, 5.84M) broadcast, Holder was shown saying, "Still, even now it is clear that we have more work to do, that our beloved community has not yet been formed and that our society is not yet at a just peace. We are no less determined and we will march on." Steve Osunsami reported that Holder was "preaching about the issue that led to that bloody Sunday in 1965. The obstacles that keep black voters from the polls."

[Reuters](#) (3/8) reports that a reenactment of the 1965 march was held on Sunday and some marchers planned to march to Montgomery on Monday along the route taken by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his followers in the wake of the "Bloody Sunday" march, and [USA Today](#) (3/9, Madhani, Jackson, 10.32M) reports that many who gathered to commemorate the march said much remains to be done because a number states "have passed more stringent voter ID rules" in the wake of the 2013 Supreme Court decision. Martin Luther King III told the crowd at Brown Chapel, "I am concerned because our voting rights have been decimated. ... We are a better nation than we are demonstrating."

The [New York Times](#) (3/9, Fausset, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that during his visit to Selma on Saturday, the President said the Voting Rights Act, which was "the culmination of so much blood and sweat and tears, the product of so much sacrifice in the face of wanton violence," now stands "weakened, its future subject to partisan rancor," and called on Congress to "pledge to make it their mission to restore that law this year." A pair of opinion pieces praise the President's speech at Selma. In a piece for [Politico](#)

offered a warm rush of nostalgia for a movement whose teachability only grows as it becomes folded into the big American tent." In his column for the [New York Times](#) (3/9, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), Charles Blow writes that with his remarks in Selma, the President had to "balance celebration and solemnity, to honor the heroes of the past but also to motivate the activists of the moment, to acknowledge how much work had been done but to remind the nation that that work was not complete," and to "a large degree, he accomplished that goal."

However, [The Hill](#) (3/8, Lillis, 224K) reported in its "Floor Action" blog that President "probably shouldn't hold his breath" for Republicans to heed his call, as Republican leaders "have opposed new legislation updating the Voting Rights Act (VRA) in the wake of a Supreme Court ruling that gutted central provisions of the 1965 law." The Hill added that Republicans who attended the events on Selma over the weekend "showed no indication that the silver anniversary festivities had changed their minds."

[Politico](#) (3/8, Dove, 669K) reported that Democrats accused Republicans of hypocrisy on the issue, saying Republicans who went to Selma for the ceremony but "aren't prioritizing action back in Washington are frauds," and Republicans who did not attend the ceremony "like House Speaker John Boehner and most of the rest of the GOP congressional leadership — should be ashamed for not even making the effort." While many Democrats who attended the event "said they were hopeful that new voting legislation might have a chance, that Republicans might feel differently after attending the weekend's events," House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, who was the only House GOP leader to attend, "said that he didn't see acting on the VRA as the right way to move forward from Selma."

Senate Majority Leader McConnell was asked on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/8, Schieffer, 2.64M) if Congress will restore the Voting

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, March 6, 2015

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL APPEARS BEFORE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. [The Hill](#) (3/6, Cama, 224K) reports that during hearing with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Rep. Rob Bishop "on Thursday blasted the Interior Department's budget request, arguing it avoided confronting major problems while creating expensive, unnecessary programs." Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said "the plan was 'really underimpressive' and that he 'found no idea in there that I consider creative or different or unusual.'" Bishop "criticized what he saw as 'just the same old, same old, raise taxes, raise fees, write more regulations and then throw money at a problem' in the \$13.2 billion budget request, including money to acquire new federal land while current property needs maintenance." On the other hand, Rep. Raúl Grijalva "welcomed the budget, pointing out that Interior, which leases land to energy production, proposes to bring more money in than it will spend."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (3/6, Kamisar, 224K).

Secretary Jewell Questioned On Wolf Protection. The [Agri-Pulse](#) (3/6) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "standing by a proposal to de-list the gray wolf as an endangered species, but she stops short of endorsing legislation to overturn court orders that are keeping the animal under protection." The article notes that "legislation was recently introduced to finalize the de-listing." According to the article, "under questioning by one of the bill's cosponsors, Rep. Dan Benishek at a House Natural Resources Committee hearing Thursday, Jewell didn't endorse the measure (HR 884), but she said the administration would follow its directive if enacted." Jewell said, "Clearly we will uphold whatever laws are passed by Congress. My preference is certainly not to legislate the Endangered Species Act (ESA). But if Congress passed legislation certainly we will uphold the law."

Rep. Young Criticizes Protection Of Wolves. In its "In The Loop Blog," the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, tkowitz, 5.17M) reports that "Alaska Republican Rep. Don Young, famous for his salty tongue and brusque demeanor, suggested Thursday that if he let loose wolves in some congressional districts, they 'wouldn't have a homeless problem anymore.'" The article notes that "the strange comment was made during a halting five-minute exchange with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing on her agency's budget." Young "accused her and her department of making decisions without consulting the states they'd affect."

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/5, 2K) reports that "in a written statement afterward, Young said he was employing analogy and hyperbole to point out that wolves are a problem for communities that have them."

Also reporting on the story are the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Kamen, Itkowitz, 5.17M), [CBS News](#) (3/6, 8.2M), the [Huffington Post](#) (3/6, Lavender, 281K), and the [Bayou Buzz](#) (LA) (3/6, 4K).

Secretary Jewell Questioned On Interior's Priorities. [KUAM-TV](#) Dededo, GUM (3/6, 171) reports that "as she did last week during the Interagency Group on Insular Areas Working Group, Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo today during a House Committee on Natural Resources hearing questioned the Department of the Interior's priorities." Bordallo said, "Can you elaborate why the budget adds \$3 million for technical assistance grants and \$7 million for climate change funding yet decreases compact impact discretionary by nearly \$1.5 million over last years enacted level. Would you agree that we should perhaps all take a second look at this?" Jewell responded, "I agree that the relatively small amount in the discretionary part of the budget does not address the challenge but we have also heard from regions in the Pacific that they are really struggling with a number of other issues, struggling with how to deal with climate change, coastal erosion, invasive species so our budget reflects tough choices. And we welcome working with this body and you certainly as the budget goes through the process to assess what other opportunities there might be to address this issue."

CONTINUING COVERAGE SECRETARY JEWELL APPEARS BEFORE INTERIOR AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE. The [Alaska Native News](#) (3/6, 245) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski, Chairman of the Interior Appropriations subcommittee, "criticized the Interior Department's \$12.1 billion budget proposal for programs within the subcommittee's jurisdiction— including the over \$1 billion increase — for ignoring the statutory caps placed on Congress by the Budget Control Act." Murkowski also "pressed Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on a number of issues important to Alaska: Arctic infrastructure, offshore oil development, revenue sharing, tribal courts and the administration's commitment to Alaska's coastal communities."

Additional Coverage: Secretary Jewell: Decision Close On Shell Lease Suspension Request. Additional coverage that the Obama Administration will "decide soon whether to grant Royal Dutch Shell's request for extra time to hunt for oil in Arctic waters" was provided by [Seeking Alpha](#) (3/6, 573K) and the [Petro Global News](#) (3/6).

BROWNS CANYON NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATION COMMEMORATED. The [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (3/6, 9K) reports that Friends of Browns Canyon met with White House officials in celebration last week to recognize the recent designation of Brown Canyon National Monument.

Meanwhile, the [Chaffee County \(CO\) Times](#) (3/6, 9K) reports that "responses were quick following a statement Thursday from Rep. Doug Lamborn regarding Browns Canyon." Lamborn said, "Contrary to Secretary (of the Interior Sally) Jewell's claims, there was not a sufficient amount of public input before the president unilaterally claimed it as a national monument." Friends of Browns Canyon Executive Director Keith Baker said he was "disappointed that Rep. Lamborn continues to be out of touch with his district and insists on making false claims about the long history of community input into the Browns Canyon National Monument."

Also reporting on the story is the [Mountain Mail](#) (3/6, 17K).

Browns Canyon Designation Lauded. For the "Ballot Box" blog of [The Hill](#) (3/6, Miller, 224K), Steve Miller, the owner-operator of New Wave Rafting, lauds the designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument. He says that "protecting Browns Canyon is also good for business, not only for Colorado, but for outdoor outfitters and guide companies throughout the West, including here in northern New Mexico."

Additional Coverage Of Honouliuli Designation. Additional coverage of the Honouliuli designation was provided by [Hawaii Magazine](#) (3/6, 152K).

SEN. WYDEN CONTINUES PUSH FOR KLAMATH WATER SETTLEMENT. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/6, 45K) reports that Sen. Ron Wyden is "continuing to reinforce his commitment to the Klamath water settlements and has asked top resource managers to pledge theirs." During a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on February 25, Wyden "pointed out that resolution to Klamath Basin water conflicts is still a priority for Oregonians." Wyden asked Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, "We'll have to figure out how to ensure fair treatment for the Tribes. The Tribes have really stepped up on this issue. Can we count on your support and continued interest in this?" Jewell responded: "You certainly can. I want to compliment you and members of the Oregon delegation, as well as the unprecedented cooperation between the Tribes and the ranchers and interests that had been on different sides of the table coming together on the Klamath agreements. It would be a real shame if this does not get approved through Congress and done."

SENATE HOLDS HEARING ON OPPORTUNITIES IN US ARCTIC. The "Post Politics" blog of the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, Debonis, 5.17M) reports that on a snowy day in Washington, DC on Thursday, Sen. Lisa Murkowski held a hearing for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on "opportunities for the United States to build on its status as an Arctic nation." Much of the hearing focused "on 'resource development' in the Arctic – including the new opportunities for commerce created by historic low levels of sea ice in the Arctic Ocean and the Bering Sea." Murkowski said, "We can debate here in the Congress on the pro and cons of offshore development in the Arctic. ... But even if you suggest that we take that off the table, the reality is these activities in the Arctic will continue with or without the United States' involvement." Sen. Al Franken "questioned the wisdom of hailing new oil exploration opportunities while questioning the professor, Cecilia Bitz, a University of Washington atmospheric science researcher who testified about what she described as an alarming decline in the extent of Arctic sea ice."

INTERIOR HOSTING "HACKATHON" FOR DEVELOPMENT OF APPS FOR TRAVELERS. In its "Federal Eye" blog, the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Rein, 5.17M) reports that "with spring and summer vacation season around the corner, the Obama administration is announcing a digital initiative for tourists Friday: An app to guide them to parks, forests, campsites, rivers and other federal property they may not know about." The Interior Department, "working with the Department of Agriculture, will host a 'Hackathon' on April 11 and 12 for web developers and other entrepreneurs outside government to design user-friendly, mobile apps for travelers." The objective is "to improve access to the vast empire of federally-managed land that's open to the public, by using a trove of data the agencies has compiled and made public." Tim Fullerton, Interior's director of digital strategy, said, "Honestly, the sky is the limit. We could see a situation where someone develops an app that can help someone near Las Vegas, say, plan a trip to a public land near there."

RELM WIRELESS RECEIVES INTERIOR ORDERS. The [Orlando \(FL\) Business Journal](#) (3/6, Barth, Subscription Publication, 28K) reports that Relm Wireless Corp. has "received orders totaling \$1.5 million from the US Department of the Interior for its mobile and portable radios with accessories."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF KIVALINA. Additional coverage of Kivalina, which is threatened by climate change, was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Mooney, 5.17M).

RECENT DECISIONS AFFECTING ALASKA CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (3/6, 315K), Cathy Giessel, a Republican in the Alaska State Senate, writes that "on a Sunday morning last month, President Obama showed once again his determination to stunt our state's development when he designated as a wilderness area the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." She observes that "this comes after his executive actions to close energy leasing in Bristol Bay and the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas." Giessel notes that "these decisions were all made without the support of Congress or Alaskan officials." Giessel claims that "this is not just an overreach, it is a slap in the face."

OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TRUSTEE SAYS AGENCY PURSUES NATIVE HAWAIIAN SELF-DETERMINATION INITIATIVES. In a piece for the [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (3/6, 41), Peter Apo, a sitting trustee of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, provides a history of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and its role as a state agency, and its mission on behalf of Native Hawaiians. He notes that "one of OHA's highest program priorities is to vigorously pursue Native Hawaiian self-determination initiatives by intensifying its political advocacy at the highest levels of the state and federal governments."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

OFFICIALS COMING TO OAK RIDGE ON MANHATTAN PROJECT PARK MISSION. The [Oak Ridger \(TN\)](#) (3/5, 15K) reports that "the Manhattan Project National Historical Park is another step closer to reality, according to information from Oak Ridge Council member Chuck Hope." During Tuesday night's City Council work session, Hope, "who recently attended an Energy Communities Alliance meeting in Washington D.C., told fellow Council members that some of his time in D.C. was used to meet with National Park Service and Department of Interior representatives about the park." Hope said "about 15 representatives from those agencies will be in Oak Ridge March 25 and 26."

MAN FOUND DEAD IN OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK WAS SHOT IN HEAD WITH ARROW. The [AP](#) (3/6) reports that "a man found dead at a campground in Olympic National Park in Washington state was shot in the head with an arrow from a crossbow, and authorities are trying to determine how it happened." According to Mark Nichols, the Clallam County prosecutor and coroner, "there's no obvious evidence of a crime, but the death of Christopher E. Boysen remains under investigation."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (3/6, 3.41M), the [Denver Post](#) (3/6, 804K), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/6, 2.28M), and the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, 5.17M).

Also reporting on the story are the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/6, 4.78M) and [KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (3/6, 217K).

WARM TEMPERATURES IMPACTING GLACIER NATIONAL PARK. [KULR-TV](#) Billings, MT (3/6, 2K) reports that "rising temperatures could spell bad news for Glacier National Park." Rangers and scientists at the park spoke about "how this warm weather is affecting the crown of the continent." The article notes that "an increase in winter temperatures here at Glacier National Park could lead to an increase in winter tourism, but it also means in the long run the Crown of the Continent could be losing some of its jewels."

The piece also appears at [KWYB-TV](#) Butte, MT (3/6).

NPS RELEASES SECOND REPORT ON DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA. The [Pocono \(PA\) Record](#) (3/5, 43K) reports that the NPS has "released a second report focusing on a new, streamlined vision for maintaining and promoting the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area." According to the article, "Vision 2030 — completed last fall — and a 'foundation document' released last week both address how to move away from a park designed in 1965 around a dam and 37-mile-long reservoir that were never built." The article notes that "both reports call for a long-term strategy to protect and promote the recreation area's scenic, environmental and historic properties and sites, during an era of diminishing funding."

NPS SURVEYS EDNA E. LOCKWOOD. The [Easton \(MD\) Star Democrat](#) (3/6, 49K) reports that "Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Boatshop Manager Michael Gorman, along with his apprentices and volunteers, have hauled out the 1889 nine-log bottom bugeye Edna E. Lockwood this winter to make room for the National Park Service to laser scan and photograph the historic boat's log hull." The article notes that "the information is being put together by NPS's Heritage Documentation Programs to document the different parts of the hull and how they come together as a greater whole."

SEARCH FOR LONE WOLF IN VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK COMES UP EMPTY. The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (3/6, 129K) reports that "a lone wolf seen following snowmobiles in Voyageurs National Park may have left the area, park officials said Thursday." No visitors have reported seeing the wolf since Sunday. Voyageurs Superintendent Mike Ward said that "officials will continue to monitor the area for the wolf into this weekend."

PHOTOS PROVIDE CLOSE SHOTS OF SANTA MONICA MOUNTAIN LION AND HER TWO KITTENS. [KDVR-TV](#) Denver (3/5, 180K) reports that "new photos released Wednesday show a mountain lion in the Santa Monica Mountains known as P-19 and her two nearly-grown kittens, P-32 and P-33." The pictures were "posted on the Facebook page of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area."

Also reporting on the story is the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/6, 4.78M).

GROUP SHOOTS STUNNING VIDEO OF JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. [KESQ-TV](#) Palm Springs, CA (3/6, 2K) reports that More Than Just Parks has shot a "beautiful 5 minute video utilizing ultra HD 4k video" of the "stunning landscapes, unique rock formations, and beautiful desert vistas" at Joshua Tree National Park. The group says the purpose of the project is "to raise a greater awareness of America's most treasured possessions – our national parks."

RANGERS LOOKING FOR MAN REPORTED MISSING AT LAKE MOHAVE. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/6, 398K) reports that NPS said rangers are looking for a 31-year-old Las Vegas man who disappeared on Lake Mohave nearly a week ago.

HISTORY OF MEGA-CONCERTS ON NATIONAL MALL PROVIDED. In its "Style Blog," the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Ramanathan, 5.17M) provides an overview of the "memorable, free performances" that have been held on the National Mall.

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM SEEKS PROPOSALS TO KEEP WILD HORSES IN PASTURES. The [AP](#) (3/6, Gruver) reports that the BLM is "seeking additional homes for potentially thousands of wild horses rounded up from Western rangelands by asking landowners in a dozen states to submit proposals to rent out pastures for the animals." The bureau "currently has contracts with landowners to keep 31,000 wild horses on about 20 off-range pastures in Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma and South Dakota," but "the problem with wild horses on the range is they keep proliferating. They can double their numbers every four years." The BLM is "seeking additional off-range pastures in any of a dozen states: Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [Fox News](#) (3/5, 8.25M), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/6, Gruver, 2.28M), the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, 5.17M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/6, 4.78M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/6, Gruver, 5.81M).

OREGON ARCHAEOLOGISTS DISCOVER ANCIENT STONE TOOL. The [AP](#) (3/6, Barnard) reports that "archaeologists have uncovered a stone tool at an ancient rock shelter in the high desert of eastern Oregon that could turn out to be older than any known site of human occupation in western North America." The discovery was announced Thursday by the BLM, "which controls the land on which the site was found." According to University of Oregon archaeologist Patrick O'Grady, "the tool, a hand-held scraper chipped from a piece of orange agate not normally found in eastern Oregon, was found about 8 inches below a layer of volcanic ash from an eruption of Mount St. Helens that has been dated to 15,800 years ago." BLM archaeologist Scott Thomas said that "if the age of the site holds up to scrutiny, it would be the oldest west of the Rockies, and another pre-dating the so-called Clovis culture, once generally believed to be the first people to migrate from Asia into North America."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [U-T San Diego](#) (3/5, 580K), the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, 5.17M), the [US News & World Report](#) (3/5, 685K), [NBC News](#) (3/6, 2.71M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/6, 4.78M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/6, Barnard, 5.81M).

Also reporting on the story are the [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (3/6, 3K) and [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (3/6, 4K).

REP. HARDY SEEKS MORE TIME FOR COMMENT ON BLM'S NEW RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/6, 398K) reports that Rep. Crescent Hardy on Thursday asked Interior Secretary Sally Jewell that Nevadans be given more time to comment on a new resource management plan for 3.1 million acres of federal land in Southern Nevada.

BLM Threatened By Bundy Family Member. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (3/5, 46K) reports that "after being re-invited to give a presentation in Mesquite, Bureau of Land Management representatives received threats from Ryan Bundy, son of Cliven Bundy, who said the BLM needs to 'stay gone and the people won't allow them to come back.'" According to the article, "BLM representatives came to discuss how to give comments on the Resource Management Plan Draft but were instead drilled with public comments mostly about the Gold Butte area." Ryan said, "BLM does not have authority of these lands. The people will not allow roads to be closed. We've had a peaceful year without you running around out there, so stay gone."

VVWD Staff To Discuss Water Rights With BLM. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (3/5, 46K) reports that "the VVWD Board at its regular Tuesday meeting directed staff to provide comments to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the draft resource management plan." According to the article, the "Board questioned why VVWD is not considered a 'cooperating agency' with the BLM, while the Moapa Valley Water District is."

GOV. MEAD WELCOMES FEDERAL WILD HORSE RULING. The [County 10](#) (3/5) reports that Gov. Matt Mead was "pleased with US District Judge Nancy Freudenthal's decision to allow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to remove more than 1200 wild horses from checkerboard lands in southwestern Wyoming." Mead said, "The decision is a victory for the State of Wyoming. The BLM used the appropriate tool to remove wild horses from private lands and this decision supports that. However, the BLM has demonstrated they don't have the resources necessary to effectively manage wild horses. We will continue to insist that they develop a strategy that works for Wyoming."

MINE COMPANY ADDRESSES DEER MIGRATION COMPLAINT. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (3/6, 22K) reports that "a mine representative expects to see an agreeable solution for a pit expansion proposal that drew concerns from outdoorsmen and conservationists due to its potential impact to deer herds." Barrick Gold Corp.'s Bald Mountain Mine is "in the permitting stages of an expansion at its site." According to according to Bill Upton, Barrick's permitting director, "in response to concerns that the expansion would interfere with deer migration, the mine and agencies are tinkering with the plans."

BLM TO OFFER TOUR OF OFF-RANGE HORSE CORRAL. The [Lahontan Valley \(NV\) News](#) (3/6, 11K) reports that the BLM has announced "it is offering a public tour of the Indian Lakes Off-Range Corral northeast of Fallon on Saturday."

BLM URGED TO USE "BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE" TO COMPLETE SAGE-GROUSE PLANS. In an op-ed for the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (3/5, 168K), Terry Riley, PhD, a certified wildlife biologist, writes that the BLM "must use the best available science to complete its 14 remaining land use plans that aim to conserve sage-grouse habitat while balancing the need for multiple uses of our federal public lands." Riley argues that "delaying these actions will prolong the uncertainty over how to effectively manage this species and the ecologically-important sagebrush ecosystem in which it lives." Riley concludes that "the health of our interior West depends" on an effort to "balance conservation with responsible use of our public lands."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS DIRECTOR ASHE TO ANNOUNCES NEW RESTRICTIONS ON SNAKES. The [Miami Herald](#) (3/6, 694K) reports that on Friday, FWS Director Dan Ashe is "expected to announce new restrictions on the popular boa constrictor and four other large exotic constrictor snakes, making it illegal to import or sell them across state lines." The article notes that "the move comes three years after federal officials enacted the same ban on the Burmese, the voracious, fast-growing snake that got loose in South Florida and quickly gobbled its way across the Everglades." FWS spokesman Ken Warren said, "The overall goal is to limit the spread of these nonnative invasive species. We've already seen with the Burmese how they can get established and almost single-handedly wreck an ecosystem."

The piece also appears at the [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#) (3/5, 136K).

RHODE ISLAND AWARDED \$459,000 WILDLIFE GRANT. The [Providence \(RI\) Business News](#) (3/6, 22K) reports that the FWS has "awarded Rhode Island a \$459,840 state wildlife grant to preserve the state's wildlife and their habitats." Sen. Jack F. Reed said, "From our coastlines to our forests, protecting and preserving our diverse natural landscape is a smart investment in the health of our environment and our economy."

HOUSE REPUBLICANS WANT MORE INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE FEDERAL PROTECTIONS FOR BAT SPECIES. [The Hill](#) (3/6, Cama, 224K) reports that "the House Natural Resources Committee wants more information from the federal government before it decides whether to designate the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species." According to the article, "the panel's Republicans, led by Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), wrote in a letter that they are worried that an endangered listing or even a lesser 'threatened' designation, could 'impose unnecessary regulatory burdens on economic development, forestry, wind power generation, energy development, agriculture, and conservation projects.'" The legislators "sent the letter to the Fish and Wildlife Service, which proposed in 2013 to list the bat either as endangered or threatened, which could come with new regulations designed to protect it or its habitat."

Also reporting on the story is the [Newton County \(AR\) Times](#) (3/6, 7K).

COURT ORDERS FWS TO CREATE CONSERVATION PLANS FOR LOWER KLAMATH, TULE LAKE WILDLIFE REFUGES. [The Oregonian](#) (3/6, 950K) reports that "federal fish and wildlife managers must complete a plan to ensure commercial activities at two Northwest federal wildlife refuges do not harm wildlife, a US District Court judge has ruled." According to the article, "Magistrate Judge Mark Clark's preliminary ruling Thursday calls upon the US Fish and Wildlife Service to complete a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Lower Klamath and Tule Lake refuges, both of which are near the Oregon-California border."

Also reporting on the story is the [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (3/5, 56K).

BEGINNING NEXT SEASON, LOUISIANA HUNTERS WILL KNOW DUCK DATES NEARLY YEAR IN ADVANCE. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (3/6, 621K) reports that "beginning next year, Louisiana's duck hunters will know the coming season dates nearly a year in advance, according to a presentation state waterfowl study leader Larry Reynolds made to the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular monthly meeting Thursday." The FWS has "changed the entire framework for setting seasons because it has run into timing issues in recent years with getting the process completed before seasons open in more northern states, Reynolds explained."

TRAIN WITH CRUDE OIL DERAILS IN ILLINOIS. The [AP](#) (3/5) reports that "a BNSF Railway freight train loaded with crude oil derailed Thursday near the northern Illinois city of Galena and erupted into flames, authorities said."

[WRIC-TV](#) Richmond, VA (3/5, 13K) reports that the FWS said that "fire crews were pulled away from the fire because of the danger."

FWS, NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION PARTNERING ON MONARCH BUTTERFLIES. The [Scranton \(PA\) Times Tribune](#) (3/6, 181K), Dan Ashe, Director of the FWS, and Collin O'Mara, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, write that the FWS and the National Wildlife Federation are "joining to take action" against the decline of monarch butterflies. The FWS will "make key investments in monarch conservation totaling more than \$3.2 million this year," and "working with partners," it will "restore and enhance more than 200,000 acres of habitat for monarchs on public lands, along highway rights-of-way and on other public and private lands this year, while supporting more than 750 schoolyard habitat projects and pollinator gardens nationwide."

US Geological Survey:

USGS BEGINS STUDY IN HINKLEY TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH CHROMIUM-6 WAS NATURAL. The [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (3/5, Steinberg, 101K) reports that the USGS

much was put there by nature." The article notes that "the findings of this pioneering scientific effort that will span five years could add or subtract multiple millions of dollars from the ultimate environmental cleanup cost in this High Desert community."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

EPA RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT DRAFT DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN. The [Barstow \(CA\) Desert Dispatch](#) (3/5, BRODEUR, 55) reports that the EPA has "filed 14 pages of comments on the Draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, raising questions about air and water quality." The agency also "called on the Renewable Energy Action Team agencies — the Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and California Energy Commission — to rethink the amount of 'renewable energy that may need to be produced in the plan area.'"

Onshore Energy Development:

STATOIL AGREES TO PAY \$2 MILLION FOR ILLEGAL WELL IN NORTH DAKOTA. The [AP](#) (3/6) reports that "a Norwegian oil company that illegally operated a well on federal property in North Dakota has agreed to pay a nearly \$2 million settlement to avoid legal action, federal prosecutors announced Thursday." According to authorities, "the well was drilled about two weeks after Statoil Oil & Gas Services Inc. acquired Brigham Oil & Gas L.P., which had originally planned the facility," and "the company later discovered that the well drilled into unleased federally owned minerals." Timothy Purdon, US Attorney for North Dakota, "credited Statoil for its willingness to settle the case without forcing the government to file a civil suit."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Long Beach \(CA\) Press-Telegram](#) (3/5, 163K), [ABC News](#) (3/6, 3.41M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/6, Kolpack, 5.81M).

Also reporting on the story is the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (3/6, 3K).

BLM TO AUCTION LAND NEAR PAYETTE FOR OIL, GAS LEASES. The [Boise \(ID\) Weekly](#) (3/5, 103K) reports that "as controversy continues over oil and gas exploration in Payette County, the Bureau of Land Management is putting five parcels of land six miles east of the city of Payette up for auction." The article notes that "the parcels, which range in size from 560 acres to more than 1,700 acres, carry two stipulations: no activity can take place either above or below the surface of the land," until "the Four Rivers Resource Management Plan—which brings together three separate western Idaho land use plans—is completed." According to Tate Fischer, field manager for the Four Rivers Field Office, the plan should be complete by 2016.

LINK BETWEEN SEISMIC ACTIVITY, FRACKING DISCUSSED. [USA Today](#) (3/5, Hughes, 10 32M) reports, "Oklahoma had at least 5,415 earthquakes, with 585 of them of magnitude-3 or greater. In comparison, the state had 109 magnitude-3 quakes in 2013, according to the Oklahoma Geologic Survey." State geologists refuse to pin all seismic activity on water from fracking, but Federal scientist contend, "Large areas of the United States that used to experience few or no earthquakes have, in recent years, experienced a remarkable increase in earthquake activity." They said, "This rise in seismic activity... is not the result of natural processes. Deep injection of wastewater is the primary cause of the dramatic rise in detected earthquakes." USGS seismologist Bill Ellsworth says that while injection wells have been used for decades, what may have changed is the volume and pressure of the water being pumped into them, or perhaps they're starting to have a cumulative effect. Current injection well regulations focus on protecting drinking-water aquifers rather than preventing quakes, he said.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE INTERIOR ORDERED TO REVIEW APPROVAL OF NAVAJO MINE EXPANSION. Additional coverage that "a federal judge determined that regulators did not adequately assess the environmental impact from a proposed expansion of the Navajo Mine in New Mexico" was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (3/5, 28K), the [Cortez \(CO\) Journal](#) (3/5, 646), the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (3/6, 212K), the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (3/6, 49K), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (3/6, 81K), [KWES-TV](#) Odessa, TX (3/6, 5K), and [KOLD-TV](#) Tucson, AZ (3/6, 21K).

OBAMA SHOULD BAN FRACKING, BLOG SAYS. Lois Marie Gibbs, director of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice in Falls Church, Virginia, writes for [The Hill](#) (3/5, Gibbs, 224K) in its "Congress Blog" praising New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's decision to ban fracking in his state and calling on President Obama to follow in his footsteps. She writes, "Obama and his Administration... have consistently failed the American people on this issue by ignoring and minimizing the science on fracking." She continues, "Obama's half-measure — a methane reduction plan for inherently dirty fuel, extracted through a destructive and dangerous process — is inadequate." She calls for a halt in investments in fossil fuels and says, "Leadership on climate change requires departing from these energy sources, not minor fixes around the edges that maintain them." Gibbs cites several statistics from a Physicians Scientists & Engineers for Healthy Energy (PSE) analysis about the impact of fracking and shale gas development on health and the environment.

Offshore Energy Development:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN. The [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (3/6, 69K) reports that Sens. Bob Menendez and Cory Booker and Rep. Frank Pallone "oppose the drilling proposal because they believe a major spill could be carried to the Jersey Shore." They are "urging state residents, business owners, fishermen and community leaders to make their views known."

Also reporting on the story are the [Asbury Park \(NJ\) Press](#) (3/5, 371K) and the [Sputnik News](#) (3/6).

Additional Coverage Of Opposition. The [Coastal Observer \(SC\)](#) (3/6) reports that "foes of oil and gas production off the coast of South Carolina are mobilizing to present their arguments against seismic testing and exploration to government officials this month." According to the article, "members of the Winyah Chapter of Sierra Club made plans to attend a meeting of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management next Wednesday in Mount Pleasant and to write the state Department of Health and Environmental Control to argue against approving seismic testing in the ocean." Also, "a second group organized by Goffinet McLaren and Terry Munson met at the Waccamaw Library to represent Litchfield Beach and Pawleys Island in efforts to oppose oil and gas drilling in the Atlantic."

The [Maryland Coast Dispatch](#) (3/5, 52K) reports that "Assateague Coastal Trust (ACT) announced last month its opposition to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) proposed offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling leases for the Mid-Atlantic coast." Kathy Phillips, ACT Executive Director and Assateague Coastkeeper, said, "ACT stands firm in its commitment to encourage solar and offshore wind energy development for our region, with less dependency on fossil fuel technologies. If these lease proposals are approved by BOEM, it would put the Delmarva coastline in the crosshairs of a future BP-style disaster, essentially destroying the Eastern Shore's nearly \$2 billion tourism economy, nearly \$1 billion commercial and recreational fishing industry, and our priceless coastal ecosystem. Even a small spill could have devastating effects on a region so reliant on clean water and beaches."

The [Cape May County \(NJ\) Herald](#) (3/6, 6K) reports that at Middle Township Committee's March 2 meeting, "a resolution expressing opposition to the Department of the Interior's inclusion of the Atlantic Ocean in its five-year program for outer continental shelf oil and gas leasing was approved."

The [Cape May County \(NJ\) Herald](#) (3/6, 6K) reports that "Stone Harbor joined other county municipalities in expressing opposition to the proposed inclusion of a portion of the southern Atlantic Ocean in the US Department of the Interior's program that would allow offshore drilling."

Marine Scientists Warn About Seismic Testing. The [AP](#) (3/6) reports that "marine scientists are raising concerns about the Obama administration's decision to move ahead on use of seismic air guns in the Atlantic Ocean for oil and gas exploration." According to the article, "seventy-five scientists from around the globe on Thursday sent a letter to President Barack Obama saying the use of the guns, which create canonlike air blasts underwater, represents a 'significant threat to marine life throughout the region.'"

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, 5.17M), [ABC News](#) (3/6, 3.41M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/6, 4.78M), and [WITN-TV](#) Washington, NC (3/6, 102K).

Also reporting on the story are [NBC News](#) (3/6, 2.71M), the [Maritime Executive](#) (3/6, 21), and the [Science 2.0](#) (3/6, 2K).

Former Secretary Salazar Interviewed. Former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar was interviewed on [E&E TV](#) (3/6), where he discussed oil and gas development. On the topic of the recently released offshore drilling plan, Salazar said: "Well, I think that if you watch what this administration has done from the beginning, the all-of-the-above energy strategy has included oil and gas, and so the critics of the administration that have said that it was not supporting oil and gas need to look at the reality of the facts in terms of the decisions that the administration has made, including opening up parts of the Arctic and in the more recent decisions that were announced by the administration, looking at the Atlantic in terms of finding out what is there. And so there is — oil and gas are a significant portion of the energy portfolio of the United States of America, and it is, indeed, a part of why we're having the economic resurgence, the best of times that we've had for a long time, and again addressing the fundamental issue of energy security has, I think, been one of the major achievements of the last six, seven years."

Commentary. For the "Ocean Views" blog of the [National Geographic](#) (3/5, 32.58M), Brett Garling asks if it is "really a smart idea to drill 50 miles from the coasts of Virginia,

North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia after what happened to Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida" with the Deepwater Horizon blowout? He also adds that "even if the drilling is successful — that short-term success only contributes to our long-term problem."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ARCTIC DRILLING. Additional coverage of Arctic drilling was provided by the [Pacific Standard](#) (3/6).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

NEW YAKIMA FILED MANAGER NAMED. The [Ellensburg \(WA\) Daily Record](#) (3/6, 16K) reports that "Chad Stuart, formerly a manager for the US Army Corps of Engineers in California, has begun work as the new Yakima field manager for US Bureau of Reclamation operations in Kittitas, Yakima and Benton counties." Stuart also will "assist the bureau's Columbia-Cascades area manager in carrying out the overall responsibilities related to conservation of land, water and natural and energy resources within the three-county Yakima Project area."

THREE TRIBES BEGIN MEDIATION PROCESS ON KLAMATH BASIN RESTORATION AGREEMENT. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (3/6, 45K) reports that "three Basin tribes have begun a mediation process that could end in termination of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA)." The Klamath Tribes, the Karuk Tribe, and the Yurok Tribe have "each filed dispute initiation notices, which is the first step in the resolution process outlined in the KBRA."

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT WATER TRANSFER DOCUMENTS RELEASED FOR PUBLIC REVIEW. The [Red Bluff \(CA\) Daily News](#) (3/5, 578) reports that the BOR and the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority have "released for a 20-day public review an Environmental Assessment and Initial Study and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration on the effects of proposed water transfers from willing sellers to buyers in the Sacramento Valley."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA, BIE REQUEST \$2.9 BILLION. [KBJR-TV](#) Duluth, MN (3/6, 2K) reports that the BIA and the B E are "requesting \$2.9 billion from President Obama's budget proposal for 2016, which is a 12% increase compared to what was received for 2015." The article notes that "the tribal organizations are asking for \$323.5 million more for 2016 than they received in the President's Fiscal Year 2015 budget." BIA Director of Public Affairs, Nedra Darling, said, "We've asked for more this year for the first time in a long time." According to the article, "the BIA's budget has been cut down, so that is a major reason why they are requesting more money for tribal self-determination and to strengthen Native communities."

SLOW PROGRESS SEEN ON RETURN OF TRIBAL REMAINS, OBJECTS. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/6, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "for 25 years, federal agencies have sifted through dusty storage rooms to comply with a congressional mandate to return Native American remains and sacred objects — the spoils of massacres, wars and 20th-century development — to tribes," but "progress has been slow." According to the article, "stymied by poorly curated collections, long-lost records and limited operating budgets, agencies have taken mere baby steps toward meeting the requirements of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or NAGPRA, according to many American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian groups." According to the National NAGPRA Program, "74 percent of federal collections ready for repatriation are now back with tribes," but that figure "represents less than 10 percent of all Native American remains in museum and federal collections, including potentially thousands left in limbo as federal officials and museums squabble over responsibility."

WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BITING BIA OFFICER ON ARM. The [AP](#) (3/6) reports that "a North Dakota woman has pleaded guilty in federal court to biting a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer on the arm." Jessie Grant is "charged with assaulting a federal officer" and "faces a maximum penalty of eight years in prison."

Top National News:

KERRY MEETS WITH GULF OFFICIALS AS SOME SAUDI MEDIA SHOWS SUPPORT FOR NETANYAHU. The ongoing debate over the Administration's nuclear talks with Iran was not mentioned on the network newscasts last night, but continued to generate print and online coverage, as well as cable stories. Some reports note this morning that as Secretary of State Kerry moves to ease concerns about the deal from key Persian Gulf allies, Wednesday's speech before Congress by Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu is receiving support — or "tacit support," as the [AP](#) (3/6, Batrawy) puts it — from Saudi Arabia. The Saudis, adds the AP, view Iran as "a regional rival that is perhaps even more menacing than Israel," and "that was clear in a string of columns this week published in Saudi state-linked media, which is widely seen as reflecting official views and mainstream thought in the kingdom." In an example that illustrates the Saudis' "acute" concern, said [The Blaze](#) (3/6, Schwartz, 2.17M), the "pro-government" daily Al-Jazirah ran a piece by columnist Ahmad Al-Faraj Monday in which he said, "I believe that Netanyahu's conduct will serve our interests, the people of the Gulf, much more than the foolish behavior of one of the worst American presidents." [Reuters](#) (3/6, McDowall, Bakr), meanwhile, notes that Saudi King Salman, in recent meetings with leaders of Gulf nations as well as Jordan, Turkey, and Egypt, has called for a Sunni coalition to confront both Iran and IS L, something Reuters sees as reflecting — in part — concerns about US policies. [Al Arabiya](#) (3/6, 22K), for example, reported that Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal, "in a strongly worded statement," expressed concerns yesterday "during a joint conference with Kerry in Riyadh that 'Iran is taking over Iraq.'"

Jennifer Griffin noted on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/5, 1.53M) that in Riyadh yesterday, Kerry "met the foreign ministers of UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia...all of them Sunni, all worried about Shiite Iran's real intent in Iraq and Syria." According to the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6, Omran, Schwartz, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), Kerry invited the group — who make up the Gulf Cooperation Council — to visit Washington in April for further discussions. The [New York Times](#) (3/6, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that the group's concern is that "lifting economic sanctions against Tehran — the quid pro quo for the nuclear limits Iran is being asked to accept — will not only help Iran's economy but also enhance its ability to send weapons and Quds paramilitary forces to support President Bashar al-Assad in Syria." The [Voice of America](#) (3/5, Dockins, 70K) casts the GCC as "unnerved by Shi'ite Iran's suspected pursuit of nuclear weapons and its increasing assertiveness throughout the region," while the [Saudi Gazette](#) (3/5, 51K) similarly describes them as "perturbed" over Iran's actions.

In its story on the talks, the [Kuwait News Agency](#) (3/6) says both Faisal and Kerry "expressed mutual views on most of the region's issues, along with their keenness to resume talks on resolving them," and notes Faisal "described the meeting in Riyadh as 'constructive' and being 'characterized by depth and transparency.'" Faisal also said, "Iran is a neighbor towards whom nobody bares any animosity. But if it continues to intervene in internal affairs (of other nations) it will position itself against Arab interests and international principles."

Kerry, says the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, Morello, 5.17M), "assured Arab allies" yesterday that the US "will work with them to counter Iranian influence in the region even if a deal is struck over Tehran's nuclear program." The Post adds that "the gulf states want a commitment from Washington that it will not soften its opposition to what they see as Iran's increasing aggressiveness in the region, including in Yemen, where rebels apparently backed by Tehran toppled the US-allied government in January." Kerry said yesterday, "The first step is to make sure they don't have nuclear weapons. ... Nothing else changes on the next day with respect to our joint commitment to stand up against any kind of interference or violation of international law or support for terrorism." The Post also reports that "senior State Department officials said Kerry sought to allay their concerns that Iran could build nuclear weapons at the end of a deal with a 10-year or longer time frame."

The [New York Times](#) (3/6, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), meanwhile, quotes Kerry as saying, "We are not seeking a grand bargain. ... We will not take our eye off of Iran's other destabilizing actions." But "it was clear from" Faisal's remarks, adds the Times, "that Arab nations are acutely worried about Iran's effort to exercise influence in the region and the prospect that it could grow as economic sanctions are lifted as part of a nuclear deal." Later on Thursday, [AFP](#) (3/6, Biddle) reports State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf "insisted" that the nuclear talks "in no way represent 'a broader warming of ties, lessening of concerns on our part,'" adding, "This is not about a broader rapprochement in any way. This is about the nuclear issue and that's it."

Al-Hayat Newspaper: Kerry Offering GCC Nations US "Nuclear Umbrella" In Response To Iranian Threat. [Israel National News](#) (3/6, Eidelberg, 10K), meanwhile, reported that according to "the London-based Arabic language Al-Hayat" newspaper, "Western sources have reportedly revealed that...Kerry is offering Gulf States an American nuclear umbrella to deal with the Iranian nuclear threat."

As Controversy Over Nuclear Talks Continues, Iran Steps Up Role In Iraq. The [New York Times](#) (3/6, Cooper, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that with Obama "under political pressure from congressional Republicans over negotiations to rein in Tehran's nuclear ambitions," there is "a startling paradox" in the fact that the President "is becoming increasingly dependent on Iranian fighters as he tries to contain" ISIL "without committing American ground troops." "While it may be "technically true" that the US "is not coordinating with Iran" in the fight for control of Tikrit, "American war planners have been closely monitoring Iran's parallel war against the Islamic State...through a range of channels, including conversations on radio frequencies that each side knows the other is monitoring."

The [AP](#) (3/6, Burns) says "Iran's growing influence in Iraq is setting off alarm bells," and presenting "both a political and military dilemma for the Obama administration." Adds the AP, "The battle for Tikrit raises the question: Who is really running this war? Iraq? The US? Iran?" [Politico](#) (3/6, Brietman, 669K) similarly reported that the battle for Tikrit "appears to represent a new level of Iranian engagement," and added that "top Pentagon officials have decided not to provide air support to the attack on Tikrit because Iran is backing the operation with special operations assistance, artillery support and other military help." The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/6, Mulrine, 380K), however, headlines its story "Why Iran's Latest Foray Into Iraq Doesn't Worry Pentagon," reporting that "top US military officials are actually sanguine, in many respects, about the presence of Iranian advisers. They know that they're there — and what's more, they add, these Iranian-backed forces might actually be able to help."

"Iran's powerful influence in Iraq has been on display" in the push for Tikrit, says the [New York Times](#) (3/6, Barnard, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) in a similar report, while in an editorial titled "A Naive US Welcome For Iran In Iraq," the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, 5.17M) argues that the Administration is "risking the undoing of all the work that has been done since last summer to prevent Iraq from fragmenting along sectarian lines – and it is allowing Iran to take another step toward replacing the terrorist regime with its own malevolent hegemony."

Davutoğlu: Iraq Risks Sectarian War By Allowing Shiites To Rescue Sunni Cities. [USA Today](#) (3/6, Michaels, 10.32M) reports Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu "warned that sectarian war may ignite in Iraq because" Shiite militias "are helping to liberate Sunni areas" controlled by ISIL. Davutoğlu said the Sunni cities "should be liberated by the inhabitants of those cities. If Shiite militias come in, then there will be sectarian war."

Zarif: 10-Year Moratorium May Be Acceptable. [Reuters](#) (3/6, Charbonneau) reports that in an interview with CNN, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif did not rule out accepting a 10-year moratorium on some parts of his country's nuclear program, "It depends on how you define it," he said, adding, "If we have an agreement, we are prepared to accept certain limitations for a certain period of time but I'm not prepared to negotiate on the air." Reuters notes that Zarif was quoted earlier this week as calling such a moratorium unacceptable.

McCconnell Relents, Postpones Vote On Corker-Menendez Bill. [McClatchy](#) (3/6, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that "faced with a likely Democratic filibuster," Senate Majority Leader McConnell yesterday "postponed a vote on a bill," sponsored by Sens. Bob Corker and Bob Menendez, "that would allow Congress to reject or approve any deal to curb Iran's nuclear program." The [AP](#) (3/6) notes that vote "had been scheduled for Tuesday."

[Politico](#) (3/6, Everett, Raju, 669K) noted that McConnell spokesman Don Stewart said, "It is clear that Senate Democrats will filibuster their own bill – a bill they rushed to introduce before the White House cut a deal with Iran. So, instead, the Senate will turn next to the anti-human-trafficking legislation while Democrats decide whether or not they believe they and Congress as a whole should be able to review and vote on any deal the President cuts with the leaders of Iran." [Reuters](#) (3/6, Zengerle) reports that Corker said in a statement, "I greatly appreciate the Majority Leader's commitment to getting the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act across the finish line by allowing the vote to occur at a time when we will more likely generate a veto-proof majority." [Defense News](#) (3/6, Bennett, 9K), the [Huffington Post](#) (3/6, Bendery, 281K), [The Blaze](#) (3/6, Kasperowicz, 2.17M), and [The Hill](#) (3/5, Carney, 224K), among other news outlets, run similar stories this morning.

In an editorial, [Bloomberg View](#) (3/6, 99K) criticizes the bill, arguing that while "of course Congress has the right (backed by ample historical precedents) to weigh in on the Iran negotiations," the President "doesn't need Congress's approval to conclude this deal, which is why the White House has rightly promised a veto." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), also in an editorial, criticizes Democrats for blocking the bill, and accuses the President of showing disdain for congressional oversight.

Michael Gerson, in the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, 5.17M), says "a sort of offer to Iran was always on the table, at least during the George W. Bush years, if the regime would: (1) abandon its nuclear ambitions, (2) respect human rights and (3) end support for terrorism. Iran, in essence, could be treated as a normal nation if it actually became a normal nation." But "Obama has now narrowed US demands entirely to the first category, the nuclear file," and under this approach he would "allow Iran to escape sanctions, rejoin the global community and even become a partner in defeating Sunni extremism. It is, presumably, an offer the Iranians can't refuse."

Obama Reportedly "Furious" Over Netanyahu's Speech. Ed Henry was asked on [Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor](#) (3/5, 767K) about reports that the President personally dislikes Netanyahu. Henry said, "They don't hate each other. I think it's exaggerated. There is absolutely no love lost between them. ... I think my read from people behind the scenes is they get a lot more business done in phone calls than you ever hear about publicly." But in "this recent situation with Netanyahu speaking before the US Congress," the President "was furious" and "his top aides were furious," which is "why you heard the President lash back at him. He felt like he was being disrespected."

Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/5, 554K) that Netanyahu's words "speak for themselves," adding that he said something he has "never said before. He said you should link removing the restrictions that are being placed on Iran's nuclear program as part of this deal, you should link the removal of those restrictions to a change in Iran's behavior." Asked if he has spoken to the White House since Netanyahu returned to Israel, Dermer said, "We have had a dialogue with the administration for well over a year. So they have heard a lot of our views," adding that "the problem is not that there is a breakdown in communication. The problem is we have a difference of policy. We want to prevent Iran not only from having a nuclear weapon today, we want to prevent it from having a nuclear weapon tomorrow."

Later in the interview, Dermer was asked to respond to a report in Haaretz, which quoted an Administration official as saying that the White House considered him persona non grata. Dermer said, "I serve at the pleasure of the Israeli government and I will continue to serve every day in order to advance Israel's interests and strengthen the relationship between the US and Israel. I believe that relationship is going to grow even stronger in the years ahead." Wolf Blitzer, meanwhile, reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/5, 554K) that in the wake of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to Congress, Iran's Foreign Minister "is speaking out to CNN," accusing Netanyahu of "fearmongering."

Charles Krauthammer praises the speech in the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, 5.17M), calling it "Churchillian in its appeal to resist appeasement." Fareed Zakaria, also in the [Washington Post](#) (3/6, 5.17M), terms it "utterly divorced from reality," and says "Congress joined" Netanyahu "in his fantasy ride."

Eugene Robinson, in his [Washington Post](#) (3/6, Robinson, 5.17M) column, saw moments in which the Prime Minister "showed a more nuanced and realistic view of the Iran nuclear negotiations than his generally bombastic tone would suggest. But you had to listen carefully." For example, he "allowed that there is a potential agreement his nation 'could live' with. Among other things, he said, Iran should not have 'such a short breakout time.'"

Rezaian's Friends And Family To Appear At National Press Club Next Thursday. [USA Today](#) (3/6, Hinchliffe, 10.32M) reports that "next Thursday, friends and family of Jason Rezaian, the Washington Post reporter who has been jailed in Iran since July, will gather at the National Press Club in Washington to draw wider attention to Rezaian's plight." The family is particularly concerned about Iran's decision to give Rezaian the right to an attorney, "only it wasn't the one his family has been working with for months" but instead one picked by the case's "hard-line judge," a step "illegal under Iranian law."

AMID CONTINUING CONTROVERSY, CLINTON ASKS STATE DEPARTMENT TO RELEASE HER EMAILS. For the third consecutive day, the controversy surrounding Hillary Clinton's use of personal email while serving as secretary of state drew heavy media coverage, including Thursday evening reports on all three network newscasts. While some stories note that several leading Democrats on Thursday rallied to Clinton's defense, other analyses indicate that the controversy has some in the party worried about the impact the flap will have on her expected 2016 run for president. In addition, some reports indicate Clinton may have "violated" State Department policy on private email and security.

Lester Holt reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/5, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that Clinton "has responded to the controversy" and is "now asking the State Department to release those emails, but that doesn't mean the public will see them anytime soon." Andrea Mitchell added that the State Department "said they will review them for release as soon as possible," but "officials say it could take months to decide what involves national security and what can be made public."

[Politico](#) (3/5, DeBenedetti, 669K) reported that on Wednesday night, via Twitter, Clinton said, "I want the public to see my email. I asked State to release them. They said they will review them for release as soon as possible." In brief reports, [USA Today](#) (3/5, Korte, Jackson, 10.32M) and the [Huffington Post](#) (3/5, Bobic, 281K) also reported on Clinton's Wednesday night tweet. [Bloomberg News](#) (3/6, Drajem, Lakshmanan, 2.94M), however, says that while Clinton "says she wants the public to see her e-mails... there are some that voters may never see: the ones she didn't give to the government. Clinton used a private server and e-mail address while" at the State Department, "and the law doesn't force her to release any of the e-mails that she hasn't turned over to the" agency.

Doug McKelway reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (3/5, 1.53M) that Clinton's tweet was her "first foray into damage control," adding that the House Select Committee on Benghazi was "unsatisfied by the tweet," responding, "The former Secretary is welcome to and should release all of her e-mails, but legitimate investigations do not consider partial records."

Nancy Cordes reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/5, story 6, 1:50, Rose, 5.08M) that Clinton's tweet "prompted a scathing response" from Select Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy, who said in a statement, "The former Secretary's tweet does not answer questions about why this was not done when she left office." Gowdy's statement accused Clinton "of a 'scheme to conceal them.'" Cordes added that "the campaign arm of the Republican Party sent a letter to the State Department urging them to open an internal investigation into whether Clinton violated any policies there." [Politico](#) (3/5, French, 669K) reported that a spokesperson for Gowdy said in a statement, "The chairman has said the former secretary is welcome to and should release all of her emails, but legitimate investigations do not consider partial records. And that is the point of the subpoena issued yesterday by the Benghazi Committee."

[The Hill](#) (3/5, Wong, 224K) reported that Rep. Peter Roskam, who serves on the Benghazi panel, compared "Clinton to President Nixon for her use of private email accounts in office," saying in a statement, "The last time we saw a high government official seeking to edit their own responses was President Nixon, and at least then he enjoyed the benefit of executive privilege."

In his opening monologue on [Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor](#) (3/5, 767K), Bill O'Reilly said that if Clinton "did, indeed, hold back emails and investigators find them that will absolutely hurt her presidential run. If she held emails back on Benghazi, she might even be prosecuted." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/6, Tau, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that the House Oversight panel and the Benghazi panel are preparing for what's expected to be lengthy probes of Clinton's use of private email while serving as secretary

of state.

Brianna Keilar reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (3/5, 554K) that the emails Clinton asked the State Department to release are emails that she and her team "had already turned over at their discretion from her server, from her private email account to the State Department when they were requested to do so in 2014." Keilar noted that the White House and State Department have been "peppered" with questions, adding that Secretary of State Kerry "brushed them off." Kerry: "I think we have all the ones that are state.gov, which are appropriate. Let me check on that when I have time to pay attention to such an important issue when I get home." Mitchell noted on [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/5, story 5, 2:05, Holt, 7.86M) that Kerry "sounded impatient about the fuss."

The [AP](#) (3/6, Braun) reports that the State Department's review of the emails "could take months, potentially a drawn-out distraction for Clinton and an unnerving development for the many Democrats who see her a

Conversation Contents

Clips: Senate Interior Approps Budget Hearing

"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 04 2015 08:52:50 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Kristen (Kris) Sarri" <kristen_sarri@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Klein <Elizabeth_Klein@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Clips: Senate Interior Approps Budget Hearing

Politico: Jewell: Decision on Shell lease suspension request 'relatively soon'

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard

10:48 AM (1 minute ago)

to me

3/4/15 10:47 AM EST

Shell and other Arctic leaseholders will hear about back about their requests to suspend their leases to stop them from expiring before major exploration can occur, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell says.

"We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their requests for lease suspensions," Jewell told Senate appropriators today.

"They can expect an answer in the relatively near future," she added.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, chairwoman of the Senate Interior appropriations subcommittee, pressed Jewell on whether eight months, the time since Shell asked Interior for a five-year suspension, is reasonable.

"I don't know what a reasonable time period is," Jewell replied, noting the difficulties in operating in the remote Arctic region.

— Alex Guillen

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Sent: Wed Mar 04 2015 10:24:27 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Kristen (Kris) Sarri" <kristen_sarri@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Klein <Elizabeth_Klein@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: Senate Interior Approps Budget Hearing

Politico: Jewell: 'Very close' on fracking rule

Inbox x

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard

12:18 PM (5 minutes ago)

to me

3/4/15 12:18 PM EST

The Interior Department is "very close" to issuing its final regulations governing fracking on federal lands, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said on Wednesday.

"I don't control the timing on these things," she told reporters after testifying before Senate appropriators. "There are a number of steps that we have to go through. We're going through those steps methodically. We're very close to releasing the fracking rule, and then people will be able to comment on that as we work toward finalization."

Jewell [said](#) a month ago that the long-awaited final rule would be issued "in the coming weeks."

— Alex Guillen

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/go/?wbid=49428>

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 10:52 AM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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Subject: Re: Clips: Senate Interior Approps Budget Hearing

Politico: No plans to give ANWR monument protection, Jewell says

Inbox x

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard

12:28 PM (14 minutes ago)

to me

3/4/15 12:28 PM EST

The administration is not considering using its power to designate national monuments to protect parts of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told reporters today.

Legally speaking, she added, "I believe we could use the Antiquities Act, but there are no plans to do so in Alaska at this time."

— Alex Guillen

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/go/?wbid=49431>

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 12:24 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico: Jewell: 'Very close' on fracking rule

Inbox x

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12:18 PM (5 minutes ago)

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Sent: Wed Mar 04 2015 12:33:00 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

Subject:

Re: Clips: Senate Interior Approps Budget Hearing

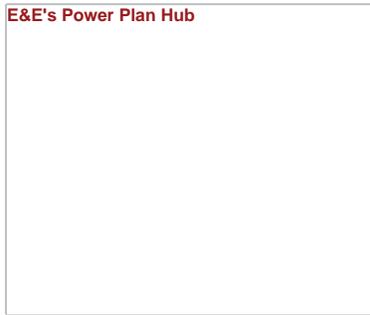
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Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

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OIL AND GAS:

Murkowski accuses BLM of 'pay to play' in Alaska drilling

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The Bureau of Land Management's decision to charge an oil company \$8 million for the right to develop its leases in an Alaskan reserve is a slippery slope that could make other companies think twice about developing on federal lands, Alaska's senior senator said today.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) grilled Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on whether her agency has the legal authority to require mitigation fees for energy projects that would otherwise be permissible on public lands.

The senator's concern stems from BLM's decision last month to approve ConocoPhillips Co.'s plan to become the first company to produce oil in the National Petroleum Reserve (NPR-A) in northwest Alaska. BLM is requiring the company to pony up \$8 million for a regional mitigation strategy that will protect lands of environmental, subsistence or cultural significance to local Native Alaskans and potentially remediate legacy wells drilled by other entities ([Greenwire](#), Feb. 16).

"We are perhaps moving in this direction of pay to play," Murkowski told Jewell during an Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Interior's \$13.2 billion budget request for fiscal 2016. "The concern is 'What's the precedent of this going to be?'"

The ConocoPhillips project, known as Greater Mooses Tooth-1 (GMT1), is seen as a bellwether for how BLM will permit future exploration and production in the 22.5-million-acre Alaskan reserve, the nation's largest block of public lands and a key potential source of oil for the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline.

The size and scope of the mitigation package were major sticking points in BLM's negotiations with ConocoPhillips and drew significant criticism from Alaska lawmakers and Gov. Bill Walker (I). BLM last month said the mitigation fee does not establish a precedent for future projects.

The \$8 million represents less than 1 percent of the project's estimated \$890 million price tag.

But Murkowski warned that the mitigation policy appears subjective and sticks companies with "surprise requirements."

"It appears that companies that have deep pockets and pretty considerable investments face some requirements that may be tangentially related, maybe not even related at all, but requirements that could harm their operations as they impose a condition on permits," Murkowski said.

Jewell said the department's use of fees to offset the impacts of development is not new and has been used to mitigate the impacts of commercial-scale solar projects in the Southwest by setting aside desert tortoise habitat or buying conservation easements.

"What we're trying to do is say, 'Let's make sure that mitigation money is put into the projects that are most important to address the issues that this development impacts,'" she said.

In the case of GMT1, Jewell noted that BLM agreed to ConocoPhillips' request to build a road within a 3-mile protected area around Fish Creek, which could affect the ability of local Alaska Natives to hunt and feed themselves. The mitigation fee will allow the company to work with the Native village of Nuiqsut to ameliorate those impacts.

That's in addition to a host of other steps BLM is requiring to address air quality, wildlife, plant life and subsistence impacts that are outlined on Page 8 of the agency's [record of decision](#) for the GMT1 project.

Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor said ConocoPhillips balked at BLM's first mitigation proposal, but "we had a discussion and we came to an agreement with ConocoPhillips as to the level of compensatory mitigation."

"I think we have a good result, and that strategy will help us facilitate future projects as we move forward," he said.

ConocoPhillips has not said whether it intends to accept the mitigation package, nor whether it will move forward with GMT1.

An initial \$1 million payment is due in mid-April regardless of whether the project happens. Two subsequent \$3.5 million payments are due when the company installs the first gravel during the first ice road season and after completion of the drill pad, road and pipeline.

A regional mitigation strategy developed with the help of ConocoPhillips' payments "will serve as a road map for mitigating impacts from GMT1 and future projects enabled or assisted by the existence of GMT1," BLM said in February.

Compensatory mitigation fees are a key component in a separate BLM effort to incentivize commercial-scale solar development in "solar energy zones" in the Southwest.

Last summer, developers bid \$58 million for a chance to develop six parcels covering 3,083 acres in BLM's Dry Lake solar zone north of Las Vegas ([E&ENews PM](#), June 30, 2014).

BLM months earlier had finalized a [regional mitigation strategy](#) for Dry Lake that, among other things, established a \$1,836-per-acre mitigation fee for companies that develop projects in the zone, with the money going toward the restoration of lands in the nearby Gold Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern or four other environmentally sensitive areas.

Both efforts -- Dry Lake and GMT1 -- are consistent with Jewell's October 2013 [secretarial order](#) that called for early integration of mitigation into the planning of energy projects on public lands as well as "transparency and consistency in mitigation decisions."

Conservationists have supported mitigation fees, noting that BLM lacks the budget to fund critical landscape restoration priorities. Energy industry officials say they could support them, too, as long as they are predictable and fair.

But in the case of ConocoPhillips, a regional mitigation strategy -- and a road map for predicting mitigation fees -- did not exist prior to it proposing GMT1.

Murkowski said Interior needs to be consistent on how mitigation requirements are set.

"It seems to me that there is the potential for a great deal of subjectivity here," Murkowski said. "Rather than creating efficiencies, what we may have developing here is additional unpredictability, lack of clarity ... that deters investment [and] that really can derail a project."

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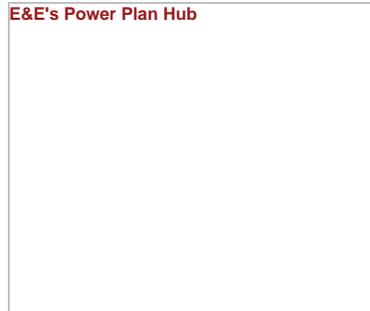
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"I don't know what a reasonable time period is," Jewell replied, noting the difficulties in operating in the remote Arctic region.

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Jewell: No Plan Afoot to Declare ANWR Monument

By [Liz Ruskin, APRN](#) | March 4, 2015

President Obama infuriated Alaska's political leaders when he announced in January he would ask Congress to protect more land within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness, forever off-limits to oil drilling. Some, including Sen. Lisa Murkowski, predict Obama will act on his own to bar development, by using the Antiquities Act to declare ANWR a national monument. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said today that's not in the works.

"There's no discussions in the Administration right now about monument status for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," she said. She then repeated it in response to a reporter's question: "There are no plans the Administration has for using the national monument designation or the Antiquities Act for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

Jewell, though, does not agree that the "no more" clause of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act would prohibit the president from declaring new national monuments in Alaska.

"I'm not an expert on the legal status but I believe we could use the Antiquities Act," Jewell said. "But there are no plans to do so in Alaska at this time."

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OIL AND GAS:
Murkowski accuses BLM of 'pay to play' in Alaska drilling

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The Bureau of Land Management's decision to charge an oil company \$8 million for the right to develop its leases in an Alaskan reserve is a slippery slope that could make other companies think twice about developing on federal lands, Alaska's senior senator said today.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) grilled Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on whether her agency has the legal authority to require mitigation fees for energy projects that would otherwise be permissible on public lands.

The senator's concern stems from BLM's decision last month to approve ConocoPhillips Co.'s plan to become the first company to produce oil in the National Petroleum Reserve (NPR-A) in northwest Alaska. BLM is requiring the company to pony up \$8 million for a regional mitigation strategy that will protect lands of environmental, subsistence or cultural significance to local Native Alaskans and potentially remediate legacy wells drilled by other entities ([Greenwire](#), Feb. 16).

"We are perhaps moving in this direction of pay to play," Murkowski told Jewell during an Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Interior's \$13.2 billion budget request for fiscal 2016. "The concern is 'What's the precedent of this going to be?'"

The ConocoPhillips project, known as Greater Mooses Tooth-1 (GMT1), is seen as a bellwether for how BLM will permit future exploration and production in the 22.5-million-acre Alaskan reserve, the nation's largest block of public lands and a key potential source of oil for the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline.

The size and scope of the mitigation package were major sticking points in BLM's negotiations with ConocoPhillips and drew significant criticism from Alaska lawmakers and Gov. Bill Walker (I). BLM last month said the mitigation fee does not establish a precedent for future projects.

The \$8 million represents less than 1 percent of the project's estimated \$890 million price tag.

But Murkowski warned that the mitigation policy appears subjective and sticks companies with "surprise requirements."

"It appears that companies that have deep pockets and pretty considerable investments face some requirements that may be tangentially related, maybe not even related at all, but requirements that could harm their operations as they impose a condition on permits," Murkowski said.

Jewell said the department's use of fees to offset the impacts of development is not new and has been used to mitigate the impacts of commercial-scale solar projects in the Southwest by setting aside desert tortoise habitat or buying conservation easements.

"What we're trying to do is say, 'Let's make sure that mitigation money is put into the projects that are most important to address the issues that this development impacts,'" she said.

In the case of GMT1, Jewell noted that BLM agreed to ConocoPhillips' request to build a road within a 3-mile protected area around Fish Creek, which could affect the ability of local Alaska Natives to hunt and feed themselves. The mitigation fee will allow the company to work with the Native village of Nuiqsut to ameliorate those impacts.

That's in addition to a host of other steps BLM is requiring to address air quality, wildlife, plant life and subsistence impacts that are outlined on Page 8 of the agency's [record of decision](#) for the GMT1 project.

Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor said ConocoPhillips balked at BLM's first mitigation proposal, but "we had a discussion and we came to an agreement with ConocoPhillips as to the level of compensatory mitigation."

"I think we have a good result, and that strategy will help us facilitate future projects as we move forward," he said.

ConocoPhillips has not said whether it intends to accept the mitigation package, nor whether it will move forward with GMT1.

An initial \$1 million payment is due in mid-April regardless of whether the project happens. Two subsequent \$3.5 million payments are due when the company installs the first gravel during the first ice road season and after completion of the drill pad, road and pipeline.

A regional mitigation strategy developed with the help of ConocoPhillips' payments "will serve as a road map for mitigating impacts from GMT1 and future projects enabled or assisted by the existence of GMT1," BLM said in February.

Compensatory mitigation fees are a key component in a separate BLM effort to incentivize commercial-scale solar development in "solar energy zones" in the Southwest.

Last summer, developers bid \$58 million for a chance to develop six parcels covering 3,083 acres in BLM's Dry Lake solar zone north of Las Vegas ([E&ENews PM](#), June 30, 2014).

BLM months earlier had finalized a [regional mitigation strategy](#) for Dry Lake that, among other things, established a \$1,836-per-acre mitigation fee for companies that develop projects in the zone, with the money going toward the restoration of lands in the nearby Gold Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern or four other environmentally sensitive areas.

Both efforts -- Dry Lake and GMT1 -- are consistent with Jewell's October 2013 [secretarial order](#) that called for early integration of mitigation into the planning of energy projects on public lands as well as "transparency and consistency in mitigation decisions."

Conservationists have supported mitigation fees, noting that BLM lacks the budget to fund critical landscape restoration priorities. Energy industry officials say they could support them, too, as long as they are predictable and fair.

But in the case of ConocoPhillips, a regional mitigation strategy -- and a road map for predicting mitigation fees -- did not exist prior to it proposing GMT1.

Murkowski said Interior needs to be consistent on how mitigation requirements are set.

"It seems to me that there is the potential for a great deal of subjectivity here," Murkowski said. "Rather than creating efficiencies, what we may have developing here is additional unpredictability, lack of clarity ... that deters investment [and] that really can derail a project."

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-- **Jewell Decision on Shell lease suspension request 'relatively soon':** Shell and other Arctic leaseholders will hear back about their requests to suspend their leases to stop them from expiring before major exploration can occur, Jewell says. "We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their requests for lease suspensions," Jewell told Senate appropriators today. <http://politico.pro/17R2clq>

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-- **Parks and rec** Jewell is shedding no tears that she never appeared on "Parks and Recreation" before the show ended last week. "In this job, I have no time to watch television, so I really can't comment on that," she told reporters today. Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, had cameo appearances in the NBC sitcom's final episode, and several prominent lawmakers and first lady Michelle Obama had appeared on the program over the years.

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 2:33 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

6.

APPROPRIATIONS:

Murkowski promises markup for Interior-EPA bill

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, March 4, 2015

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E&E's Power Plan Hub

The Senate's top lawmaker in charge of funding the Interior Department and U.S. EPA this morning promised that her panel this year will mark up a spending bill for the first time in at least half a decade, a pledge that she acknowledged will force debate over "thorny" policy issues involving those agencies.

But lawmakers on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee also acknowledged that the spending limits set by the 2011 Budget Control Act will render much of President Obama's proposed fiscal 2016 budget -- which included significant spending hikes for Interior -- a moot point unless Congress reaches a new spending deal.

In its first hearing of the 114th Congress, the panel today reviewed Interior's \$13.2 billion request for 2016, about \$12.1 billion of which falls under the panel's jurisdiction.

In past years, GOP bids to block or curb Obama's signature air, water and lands policies as riders on the Interior-EPA spending bill prompted then-Democratic leaders not to bring a bill to a committee vote.

But that will change this year, said new Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).

"We will be marking up an Interior bill this year -- we're going to do it," Murkowski said. "We have some issues under our jurisdiction that perhaps are a little more thorny than in some of the other committees, but that should not keep us from advancing to a markup. It's our job to take up the tough issues and work together to produce legislation that reflects the collective will of the members."

But Murkowski also warned that it is "wishful thinking" for Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to believe Congress will approve a budget request that she calculated is \$1.4 billion above current spending levels. The budget assumes sequestration has already been lifted.

Obama's broader budget is \$74 billion, or 7 percent, above the discretionary spending limits set by the Budget Control Act for defense and nondefense programs. Decisions on whether Congress will break those spending limits -- providing room for some of Jewell's spending asks -- will occur mostly outside of Murkowski's panel.

"In all likelihood, we'll have roughly the same amount to spend this year as we did last year under the budget caps," Murkowski said. "So his committee is forced to make some very difficult choices in how to prioritize among the many programs in the bill."

Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.), the panel's new ranking member, called Jewell's budget a "bold vision" and praised its support for American Indian education, reform of wildfire funding with a disaster cap adjustment and full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

But unless sequestration is reversed, Interior's budget is "just a proposal," he warned.

"A freeze doesn't even cover the cost of ... basic fixed cost increases, let alone the new investments in this budget," Udall said. "We all need to ask ourselves, how is this Congress going to get serious about supporting important discretionary programs like these?"

Jewell was also grilled on a multitude of policy issues before her agency, which manages about one-fifth of the U.S. land mass and the vast majority of its oceans.

Murkowski, who has fiercely opposed Jewell's land management decisions in Alaska, today said she would be probing the agency's decision in January to propose that Congress protect more than 12 million acres of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness, a move that would place about 10 billion barrels of oil off limits.

Murkowski said she'll be asking for written responses to how the Fish and Wildlife Service crafted a new comprehensive conservation plan for ANWR that included the wilderness recommendation.

"I'll be inquiring about when they were initiated, how, who worked on them," Murkowski said. "I think it is important that folks understand how his plan came to be and the thinking behind it."

Murkowski also pressed Jewell to swiftly decide whether to honor Royal Dutch Shell PLC's request to extend billions of dollars' worth of oil and gas leases it holds in the Arctic Ocean. Shell and several other major Arctic leaseholders last year petitioned the Obama administration for more time to explore on their Alaska offshore lands ([EnergyWire](#), Oct. 28, 2014).

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<http://www.adn.com/article/20150304/us-decide-soon-shell-request-extra-time-arctic-leases>

U.S. to decide soon on Shell request for extra time on Arctic leases

Jennifer A. Dlouhy | Houston Chronicle March 4, 2015

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WASHINGTON -- The Obama administration will decide soon whether to sign off on Shell's request for extra time to hunt for oil in Arctic waters, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Wednesday.

Without action, Shell's oil and gas leases in the Beaufort Sea will begin expiring in 2017, followed by its drilling rights in the neighboring Chukchi Sea two years later.

RELATED:

[Environmentalists sue Port of Seattle over Shell's Arctic drilling fleet](#)

[Interior agencies release proposed new Arctic Ocean drilling standards](#)

The same fate awaits Chukchi Sea leases sold in 2008 to Statoil and ConocoPhillips, which have made similar appeals for more time, citing regulatory uncertainty, legal challenges and other obstacles.

"We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their request for suspensions," Jewell said during a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing. "We will be resolving that relatively soon."

The companies' bids for "suspensions of operation" would effectively stop the clock ticking on their 10-year leases. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is considering requests from Shell and Statoil filed in July 2014; it previously rejected ConocoPhillips' November 2013 bid for at least three more years. ConocoPhillips appealed the decision to an Interior Department appeals board, and settlement talks are under way.

Neither Statoil nor ConocoPhillips is actively pursuing drilling in U.S. Arctic waters, but Shell is preparing to resume exploration in the Chukchi Sea this summer, three years after its last try in 2012 resulted in two half-completed wells.

"This is good news for us, particularly at a time when the price of oil is causing many companies to really scrutinize their investment decisions on very large-scale projects," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. "It makes it all the more important that Shell have the certainty it needs before it proceeds to spend even yet more billions of dollars. It needs to retain its existing lease portfolio to warrant this enormous investment."

She cited the limited 75-day window for drilling in the Arctic, when waters are free of ice, unlike year-round activity allowed in the Gulf of Mexico.

"There really are not enough drilling seasons (left) for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi Sea lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Legal uncertainties surrounding the government's 2008 auction of Chukchi Sea oil leases have blocked work in the area, though the Interior Department has already granted Shell, Statoil and ConocoPhillips additional time to compensate for some of those delays.

Most recently, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management completed a new environmental analysis of that seven-year-old sale in a bid to satisfy a 2014 federal court ruling that the first version was inadequate. The decision to affirm, change or vacate that sale rests with Jewell, who could issue a "record of decision" on the auction as soon as March 25.

In the meantime, the Chukchi Sea leases are under a suspension of operation tied to the ruling.

Jewell stressed that Interior Department regulators are dedicated to completing that essential environmental analysis. "We took our resources and focused them — as we were requested to do — on helping Shell move forward with this drilling season," she said.

Jewell also made a nod to mishaps that marred Shell's 2012 Arctic operation, including the grounding of its Kulluk drilling rig and the company's difficulty readying an emergency oil spill containment system to safeguard drilling. Shell halted its planned 2013 drilling in response, as it repaired one rig and searched for another to replace the Kulluk.

"We understand the circumstances that companies have," Jewell told Murkowski. "We also understand the circumstances that Shell had in 2012."

"We get that it's complicated to do work up there," she added. "We want to make sure it's done safely and responsibly, and we want to be responsive to the companies."

Conservationists argue that Shell and other oil companies knew what they were getting into when they bought Chukchi Sea leases in 2008. Any Interior Department decision to give the company more time would be unwarranted "special treatment" said Oceana Deputy Vice President Susan Murray.

"Operating in the Arctic Ocean is dangerous, controversial, and logistically challenging," Murray said. "Those facts, however, do not allow BSEE to bend its rules to grant Shell an unjustified extension of its leases."

In general, offshore leases expire unless operators are "conducting operations" on them, such as drilling, reworking wells or producing oil and gas.

"Suspension of operation" requests are relatively common in the Gulf of Mexico, where they often are filed shortly before leases are set to expire.

Safety bureau spokesman Nicholas Pardi said the agency "evaluates suspension requests on a case-by-case basis."

<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2015/03/04/murkowski-seeks-lease-extensions-for-shell/>

Murkowski Seeks Lease Extensions for Shell

By [Name] on [Date]

Last summer, Shell asked the government to extend its offshore drilling leases in the Arctic. Today, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski pressed Shell's case to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in a Senate hearing. Murkowski says Shell needs certainty to continue to invest billions of dollars in its Arctic operations.

VmIP

"Because of this very short window, a 75-day Arctic drilling season, and the difficulties and the delays and the legal challenges that are all out there, that Shell has endured for the past decade, there really are not enough drilling seasons remaining for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Jewell says the clock on Shell's 10-year leases in the Chukchi Sea was stopped for a period when a court ruled the government had to redo its environmental impact statement. Jewell says her department is still considering Shell's request for a five-year suspension of the lease clock.

"We took our resources and focused them, as we were requested to do, on helping Shell move forward for this drilling season. I also know that we are actively working with them on suspensions and I think they can expect any answer in the relatively near future," Jewell said.

Oceana and other environmental groups oppose giving Shell more time on their leases. They say the reasons for Shell's lack of progress were known from outset, like the harsh conditions and the Native whaling season, or were of Shell's own making.

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"It appears that companies that have deep pockets and pretty considerable investments face some requirements that may be tangentially related, maybe not even related at all, but requirements that could harm their operations as they impose a condition on permits," Murkowski said.

Jewell said the department's use of fees to offset the impacts of development is not new and has been used to mitigate the impacts of commercial-scale solar projects in the Southwest by setting aside desert tortoise habitat or buying conservation easements.

"What we're trying to do is say, 'Let's make sure that mitigation money is put into the projects that are most important to address the issues that this development impacts,'" she said.

In the case of GMT1, Jewell noted that BLM agreed to ConocoPhillips' request to build a road within a 3-mile protected area around Fish Creek, which could affect the ability of local Alaska Natives to hunt and feed themselves. The mitigation fee will allow the company to work with the Native village of Nuiqsut to ameliorate those impacts.

That's in addition to a host of other steps BLM is requiring to address air quality, wildlife, plant life and subsistence impacts that are outlined on Page 8 of the agency's [record of decision](#) for the GMT1 project.

Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor said ConocoPhillips balked at BLM's first mitigation proposal, but "we had a discussion and we came to an agreement with ConocoPhillips as to the level of compensatory mitigation."

"I think we have a good result, and that strategy will help us facilitate future projects as we move forward," he said.

ConocoPhillips has not said whether it intends to accept the mitigation package, nor whether it will move forward with GMT1.

An initial \$1 million payment is due in mid-April regardless of whether the project happens. Two subsequent \$3.5 million payments are due when the company installs the first gravel during the first ice road season and after completion of the drill pad, road and pipeline.

A regional mitigation strategy developed with the help of ConocoPhillips' payments "will serve as a road map for mitigating impacts from GMT1 and future projects enabled or assisted by the existence of GMT1," BLM said in February.

Compensatory mitigation fees are a key component in a separate BLM effort to incentivize commercial-scale solar development in "solar energy zones" in the Southwest.

Last summer, developers bid \$5.8 million for a chance to develop six parcels covering 3,083 acres in BLM's Dry Lake solar zone north of Las Vegas ([E&ENews PM](#), June 30, 2014).

BLM months earlier had finalized a [regional mitigation strategy](#) for Dry Lake that, among other things, established a \$1,836-per-acre mitigation fee for companies that develop projects in the zone, with the money going toward the restoration of lands in the nearby Gold Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern or four other environmentally sensitive areas.

Both efforts -- Dry Lake and GMT1 -- are consistent with Jewell's October 2013 [secretarial order](#) that called for early integration of mitigation into the planning of energy projects on public lands as well as "transparency and consistency in mitigation decisions."

Conservationists have supported mitigation fees, noting that BLM lacks the budget to fund critical landscape restoration priorities. Energy industry officials say they could support them, too, as long as they are predictable and fair.

But in the case of ConocoPhillips, a regional mitigation strategy -- and a road map for predicting mitigation fees -- did not exist prior to it proposing GMT1.

Murkowski said Interior needs to be consistent on how mitigation requirements are set.

"It seems to me that there is the potential for a great deal of subjectivity here," Murkowski said. "Rather than creating efficiencies, what we may have developing here is additional unpredictability, lack of clarity ... that deters investment [and] that really can derail a project."

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 7:17 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

JEWELL ON FRACKING RULE The Interior Department is "very close" to issuing its final regulations governing fracking on federal lands, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said today. "I don't control the timing on these things," she told reporters after testifying before Senate appropriators. "There are a number of steps that we have to go through. We're going through those steps methodically. We're very close to releasing the fracking rule, and then people will be able to comment on that as we work toward finalization." Jewell said a month ago that the long-awaited final rule would be issued "in the coming weeks."

-- **Jewell Decision on Shell lease suspension request 'relatively soon'**: Shell and other Arctic leaseholders will hear back about their requests to suspend their leases to stop them from expiring before major exploration can occur, Jewell says. "We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their requests for lease suspensions," Jewell told Senate appropriators today. <http://politico.pro/17R2clq>

-- **No plans to give ANWR monument protection, Jewell says**: The administration is not considering using its power to designate national monuments to protect parts of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Jewell told reporters today. Legally speaking, she added, "I believe we could use the Antiquities Act, but there are no plans to do so in Alaska at this time."

-- **Parks and rec** Jewell is shedding no tears that she never appeared on "Parks and Recreation" before the show ended last week. "In this job, I have no time to watch television, so I really can't comment on that," she told reporters today. Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, had cameo appearances in the NBC sitcom's final episode, and several prominent lawmakers and first lady Michelle Obama had appeared on the program over the years.

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 2:33 PM, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

6.

APPROPRIATIONS:

Murkowski promises markup for Interior-EPA bill

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, March 4, 2015

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The Senate's top lawmaker in charge of funding the Interior Department and U.S. EPA this morning promised that her panel this year will mark up a spending bill for the first time in at least half a decade, a pledge that she acknowledged will force debate over "horny" policy issues involving those agencies.

But lawmakers on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee also acknowledged that the spending limits set by the 2011 Budget Control Act will render much of President Obama's proposed fiscal 2016 budget -- which included significant spending hikes for Interior -- a moot point unless Congress reaches a new spending deal.

In its first hearing of the 114th Congress, the panel today reviewed Interior's \$13.2 billion request for 2016, about \$12.1 billion of which falls under the panel's jurisdiction.

In past years, GOP bids to block or curb Obama's signature air, water and lands policies as riders on the Interior-EPA spending bill prompted then-Democratic leaders not to bring a bill to a committee vote.

But that will change this year, said new Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).

"We will be marking up an Interior bill this year -- we're going to do it," Murkowski said. "We have some issues under our jurisdiction that perhaps are a little more thorny than in some of the other committees, but that should not keep us from advancing to a markup. It's our job to take up the tough issues and work together to produce legislation that reflects the collective will of the members."

But Murkowski also warned that it is "wishful thinking" for Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to believe Congress will approve a budget request that she calculated is \$1.4 billion above current spending levels. The budget assumes sequestration has already been lifted.

Obama's broader budget is \$74 billion, or 7 percent, above the discretionary spending limits set by the Budget Control Act for defense and nondefense programs. Decisions on whether Congress will break those spending limits -- providing room for some of Jewell's spending asks -- will occur mostly outside of Murkowski's panel.

"In all likelihood, we'll have roughly the same amount to spend this year as we did last year under the budget caps," Murkowski said. "So his committee is forced to make some very difficult choices in how to prioritize among the many programs in the bill."

Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.), the panel's new ranking member, called Jewell's budget a "bold vision" and praised its support for American Indian education, reform of wildfire funding with a disaster cap adjustment and full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

But unless sequestration is reversed, Interior's budget is "just a proposal," he warned.

"A freeze doesn't even cover the cost of ... basic fixed cost increases, let alone the new investments in this budget," Udall said. "We all need to ask ourselves, how is this Congress going to get serious about supporting important discretionary programs like these?"

Jewell was also grilled on a multitude of policy issues before her agency, which manages about one-fifth of the U.S. land mass and the vast majority of its oceans.

Murkowski, who has fiercely opposed Jewell's land management decisions in Alaska, today said she would be probing the agency's decision in January to propose that Congress protect more than 12 million acres of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness, a move that would place about 10 billion barrels of oil off limits.

Murkowski said she'll be asking for written responses to how the Fish and Wildlife Service crafted a new comprehensive conservation plan for ANWR that included the wilderness recommendation.

"I'll be inquiring about when they were initiated, how, who worked on them," Murkowski said. "I think it is important that folks understand how his plan came to be and the thinking behind it."

Murkowski also pressed Jewell to swiftly decide whether to honor Royal Dutch Shell PLC's request to extend billions of dollars' worth of oil and gas leases it holds in the Arctic Ocean. Shell and several other major Arctic leaseholders last year petitioned the Obama administration for more time to explore on their Alaska offshore lands ([EnergyWire](#), Oct. 28, 2014).

Murkowski said Shell has waited eight months for a response, far longer than companies wait in the Gulf of Mexico on lease suspension requests.

Jewell said that Interior is working "actively" on Shell's request but that much of its Arctic team has been busy crafting new drilling rules and updating an environmental impact statement for a past Arctic lease sale to clear the way for Shell to potentially drill in the Chukchi Sea this summer. Jewell said Shell's lease suspension request will be resolved "relatively soon."

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 12:44 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico: No plans to give ANWR monument protection, Jewell says

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POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard

12:28 PM (14 minutes ago)

to me

3/4/15 12:28 PM EST

The administration is not considering using its power to designate national monuments to protect parts of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told reporters today.

Legally speaking, she added, "I believe we could use the Antiquities Act, but there are no plans to do so in Alaska at this time."

To view online:
<https://www.politicopro.com/go/?wbid=49431>

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 12:24 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico: Jewell: 'Very close' on fracking rule

Inbox x

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard

12:18 PM (5 minutes ago)

to me

3/4/15 12:18 PM EST

The Interior Department is "very close" to issuing its final regulations governing fracking on federal lands, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said on Wednesday.

"I don't control the timing on these things," she told reporters after testifying before Senate appropriators. "There are a number of steps that we have to go through. We're going through those steps methodically. We're very close to releasing the fracking rule, and then people will be able to comment on that as we work toward finalization."

Jewell [said](#) a month ago that the long-awaited final rule would be issued "in the coming weeks."

— Alex Guillen

To view online:
<https://www.politicopro.com/go/?wbid=49428>

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 10:52 AM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico: Jewell: Decision on Shell lease suspension request 'relatively soon'

POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard

10:48 AM (1 minute ago)

to me

3/4/15 10:47 AM EST

Shell and other Arctic leaseholders will hear about back about their requests to suspend their leases to stop them from expiring before major exploration can occur, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell says.

"We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their requests for lease suspensions," Jewell told Senate appropriators today.

"They can expect an answer in the relatively near future," she added.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, chairwoman of the Senate Interior appropriations subcommittee, pressed Jewell on whether eight months, the time since Shell asked Interior for a five-year suspension, is reasonable.

"I don't know what a reasonable time period is," Jewell replied, noting the difficulties in operating in the remote Arctic region.

— Alex Guillen

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"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Mar 04 2015 20:48:30 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: Senate Interior Approps Budget Hearing

Fuel Fix: [Feds weighing Shell bid for more time in Arctic](#)

Posted on **March 4, 2015 at 5:03 pm** by [Jennifer A. Dlouhy](#) in [Arctic, Offshore Politics/Policy](#)

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WASHINGTON — The Obama administration will decide soon whether to give in to [Shell's request for extra time to hunt for oil in Arctic waters](#), Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Wednesday.

Without action, Shell's oil and gas leases in the Beaufort Sea will begin expiring in 2017, followed by its drilling rights in the neighboring Chukchi Sea two years later.

The same fate awaits Chukchi Sea leases sold in 2008 to Statoil and ConocoPhillips, which have made similar appeals for more time, citing regulatory uncertainty, legal challenges and other obstacles.

Read more: [Oil companies want more time for Arctic drilling](#)

"We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their request for suspensions," Jewell said during a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing. "We will be resolving that relatively soon."

The companies' bids for "suspensions of operation" would effectively stop the clock ticking on their 10-year leases. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is actively considering the requests from Shell and Statoil that were filed in July 2014; it previously rejected ConocoPhillips' November 2013 bid for at least three more years. ConocoPhillips appealed the decision to an Interior Department appeals board, and settlement talks are now under way.

Neither Statoil nor ConocoPhillips has active plans to drill in U.S. Arctic waters, but Shell is preparing to resume exploration in the Chukchi Sea this summer, three years after its last try in 2012 resulted in two half-completed wells that stopped short of penetrating potential oil-bearing zones.

"This is good news for us, particularly at a time when the price of oil is causing many companies to really scrutinize their investment decisions on very large-scale projects," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. "It makes it all the more important that Shell have the certainty it needs before it proceeds to spend even yet more billions of dollars. (Shell) needs to retain its existing lease portfolio to warrant this enormous investment."

Limited window

Murkowski cited the limited 75-day window for drilling in the Arctic, when waters are free of ice — as opposed to the year-round activity allowed in the Gulf of Mexico.

"There really are not enough drilling seasons (left) for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi Sea lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Legal uncertainties surrounding the government's 2008 auction of Chukchi Sea oil leases have delayed work in the area, though the Interior Department has already granted Shell, Statoil and ConocoPhillips additional time to compensate for some of those legal delays.

Most recently, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management [completed a new environmental analysis](#) of that seven-year-old sale in a bid to satisfy a 2014 federal court ruling that the first version was inadequate. But the final decision on whether to affirm, modify or vacate that sale rests with Jewell, who could issue a "record of decision" on the auction as soon as March 25.

In the meantime, the Chukchi Sea leases are under a suspension of operation tied to the ruling.

'Helping Shell'

Jewell stressed that Interior Department regulators were focused on completing that essential environmental analysis. "We took our resources and focused them — as we were requested to do — on helping Shell move forward with this drilling season," Jewell said.

Jewell also made a nod to the mishaps that marred Shell's 2012 Arctic operation, including the grounding of its non-propelled Kulluk drilling rig during an ill-fated tow across the Gulf of Alaska and the company's difficulty certifying and readying a unique emergency oil spill containment system so it could safeguard drilling. Shell halted its planned 2013 drilling in response, as it repaired one rig and searched for another to replace the Kulluk.

"We understand the circumstances that companies have," Jewell told Murkowski. "We also understand the circumstances that Shell had in 2012."

"We get that it's complicated to do work up there," she added. "We want to make sure it's done safely and responsively, and we want to be responsive to the companies."

'Special treatment'

Conservationists argue that Shell and other oil companies knew what they were getting into when they bought Chukchi Sea leases in 2008. Any Interior Department decision to give the company more time amounts to unwarranted "special treatment" said Oceana Deputy Vice President Susan Murray in [a Feb. 27 letter to the safety bureau](#).

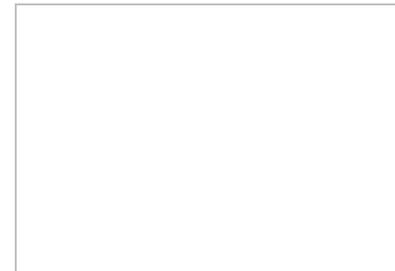
"Operating in the Arctic Ocean is dangerous, controversial, and logistically challenging," Murray said. "Those facts, however, do not allow BSEE to bend its rules to grant Shell an unjustified extension of its leases."

Extensions also could mean taxpayers — who own the oil at issue — are "no longer getting fair value," said Michael LeVine, Pacific senior counsel for the group. "The government sold the rights to public resources under a certain set of circumstances and terms and shouldn't then rule to change those terms."

In general, leases expire at the end of their terms unless operators are "conducting operations" on the lease, such as drilling, reworking wells or producing oil and gas.

"Suspension of operation" requests are relatively common in the Gulf of Mexico, where they often are filed right before leases are set to expire, unlike the Arctic requests now pending before the safety bureau.

Safety bureau spokesman Nicholas Pardi said the agency "evaluates suspension requests on a case-by-case basis."



Shell used the drillship Noble Discoverer for its 2012 drilling in the Chukchi Sea north of Alaska. (Jennifer A. Dlouhy / The Houston Chronicle)

Federal regulations give the agency relatively little authority to grant the suspensions, including to allow compliance with judicial decrees, when activities pose a threat of harm or damage, when they are needed to install safety equipment or conduct environmental analysis and to allow for "inordinate delays" in obtaining permits.

The oil companies' requests may lay the groundwork for bigger changes, including potential action by Congress and the Obama administration to rewrite the terms of oil and gas leases in isolated Arctic waters.

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Tags: [Alaska OCS](#), [Arctic](#), [Arctic drilling](#), [Beaufort Sea](#), [BOEM](#), [BSEE](#), [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#), [Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#), [Chukchi Sea](#), [ConocoPhillips](#), [doi](#), [hearing](#), [interior department](#), [lease terms](#), [Lisa Murkowski](#), [Mark Fesmire](#), [Michael LeVine](#), [Nicholas Pardj](#), [offshore](#), [offshore drilling](#), [Sally Jewell](#), [shell](#), [SOO](#), [Statoil](#), [Susan Murray](#), [Suspension of operations](#)

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On Wednesday, March 4, 2015, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.adn.com/article/20150304/us-decide-soon-shell-request-extra-time-arctic-leases>

U.S. to decide soon on Shell request for extra time on Arctic leases

Jennifer A. Dlouhy | Houston Chronicle March 4, 2015

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WASHINGTON – The Obama administration will decide soon whether to sign off on Shell's request for extra time to hunt for oil in Arctic waters, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Wednesday.

Without action, Shell's oil and gas leases in the Beaufort Sea will begin expiring in 2017, followed by its drilling rights in the neighboring Chukchi Sea two years later.

RELATED:

[Environmentalists sue Port of Seattle over Shell's Arctic drilling fleet](#)

[Interior agencies release proposed new Arctic Ocean drilling standards](#)

The same fate awaits Chukchi Sea leases sold in 2008 to Statoil and ConocoPhillips, which have made similar appeals for more time, citing regulatory uncertainty, legal challenges and other obstacles.

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<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2015/03/04/murkowski-seeks-lease-extensions-for-shell/>

Murkowski Seeks Lease Extensions for Shell

By Liz Ruskin, APRN | March 4, 2015

Last summer, Shell asked the government to extend its offshore drilling leases in the Arctic. Today, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski pressed Shell's case to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in a Senate hearing. Murkowski says Shell needs certainty to continue to invest billions of dollars in its Arctic operations.

Vm|P

"Because of this very short window, a 75-day Arctic drilling season, and the difficulties and the delays and the legal challenges that are all out there, that Shell has endured for the past decade, there really are not enough drilling seasons remaining for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Jewell says the clock on Shell's 10-year leases in the Chukchi Sea was stopped for a period when a court ruled the government had to redo its environmental impact statement. Jewell says her department is still considering Shell's request for a five-year suspension of the lease clock.

"We took our resources and focused them, as we were requested to do, on helping Shell move forward for this drilling season. I also know that we are actively working with them on suspensions and I think they can expect any answer in the relatively near future," Jewell said.

Oceana and other environmental groups oppose giving Shell more time on their leases. They say the reasons for Shell's lack of progress were known from outset, like the harsh conditions and the Native whaling season, or were of Shell's own making.

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 7:35 PM, Beyer, Emily <<a>emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2015/03/04/jewell-no-plan-afoot-to-declare-anwr-monument/>

Jewell: No Plan Afoot to Declare ANWR Monument

By Liz Ruskin, APRN | March 4, 2015

President Obama infuriated Alaska's political leaders when he announced in January he would ask Congress to protect more land within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness, forever off-limits to oil drilling. Some, including Sen. Lisa Murkowski, predict Obama will act on his own to bar development, by using the Antiquities Act to declare ANWR a national monument. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said today that's not in the works.

"There's no discussions in the Administration right now about monument status for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," she said. She then repeated it in response to a reporter's question: "There are no plans the Administration has for using the national monument designation or the Antiquities Act for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

Jewell, though, does not agree that the "no more" clause of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act would prohibit the president from declaring new national monuments in Alaska.

"I'm not an expert on the legal status but I believe we could use the Antiquities Act," Jewell said. "But there are no plans to do so in Alaska at this time."

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 7:23 PM, Beyer, Emily <<a>emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

2.

OIL AND GAS:

Murkowski accuses BLM of 'pay to play' in Alaska drilling

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, March 4, 2015

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The Bureau of Land Management's decision to charge an oil company \$8 million for the right to develop its leases in an Alaskan reserve is a slippery slope that could make other companies think twice about developing on federal lands, Alaska's senior senator said today.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) grilled Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on whether her agency has the legal authority to require mitigation fees for energy projects that would otherwise be permissible on public lands.

The senator's concern stems from BLM's decision last month to approve ConocoPhillips Co.'s plan to become the first company to produce oil in the National Petroleum Reserve (NPR-A) in northwest Alaska. BLM is requiring the company to pony up \$8 million for a regional mitigation strategy that will protect lands of environmental, subsistence or cultural significance to local Native Alaskans and potentially remediate legacy wells drilled by other entities ([Greenwire](#), Feb. 16).

"We are perhaps moving in this direction of pay to play," Murkowski told Jewell during an Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Interior's \$13.2 billion budget request for fiscal 2016. "The concern is 'What's the precedent of this going to be?'"

The ConocoPhillips project, known as Greater Mooses Tooth-1 (GMT1), is seen as a bellwether for how BLM will permit future exploration and production in the 22.5-million-acre Alaskan reserve, the nation's largest block of public lands and a key potential source of oil for the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline.

The size and scope of the mitigation package were major sticking points in BLM's negotiations with ConocoPhillips and drew significant criticism from Alaska lawmakers and Gov. Bill Walker (I). BLM last month said the mitigation fee does not establish a precedent for future projects.

The \$8 million represents less than 1 percent of the project's estimated \$890 million price tag.

But Murkowski warned that the mitigation policy appears subjective and sticks companies with "surprise requirements."

"It appears that companies that have deep pockets and pretty considerable investments face some requirements that may be tangentially related, maybe not even related at all, but requirements that could harm their operations as they impose a condition on permits," Murkowski said.

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"I think we have a good result, and that strategy will help us facilitate future projects as we move forward," he said.

ConocoPhillips has not said whether it intends to accept the mitigation package, nor whether it will move forward with GMT1.

An initial \$1 million payment is due in mid-April regardless of whether the project happens. Two subsequent \$3.5 million payments are due when the company installs the first gravel during the first ice road season and after completion of the drill pad, road and pipeline.

A regional mitigation strategy developed with the help of ConocoPhillips' payments "will serve as a road map for mitigating impacts from GMT1 and future projects enabled or assisted by the existence of GMT1," BLM said in February.

Compensatory mitigation fees are a key component in a separate BLM effort to incentivize commercial-scale solar development in "solar energy zones" in the Southwest.

Last summer, developers bid \$58 million for a chance to develop six parcels covering 3,083 acres in BLM's Dry Lake solar zone north of Las Vegas ([E&ENews PM](#), June 30, 2014).

BLM months earlier had finalized a [regional mitigation strategy](#) for Dry Lake that, among other things, established a \$1,836-per-acre mitigation fee for companies that develop projects in the zone, with the money going toward the restoration of lands in the nearby Gold Butte Area of Critical Environmental Concern or four other environmentally sensitive areas.

Both efforts -- Dry Lake and GMT1 -- are consistent with Jewell's October 2013 [secretarial order](#) that called for early integration of mitigation into the planning of energy projects on public lands as well as "transparency and consistency in mitigation decisions."

Conservationists have supported mitigation fees, noting that BLM lacks the budget to fund critical landscape restoration priorities. Energy industry officials say they could support them, too, as long as they are predictable and fair.

But in the case of ConocoPhillips, a regional mitigation strategy – and a road map for predicting mitigation fees – did not exist prior to it proposing GMT1.

Murkowski said Interior needs to be consistent on how mitigation requirements are set.

"It seems to me that there is the potential for a great deal of subjectivity here," Murkowski said. "Rather than creating efficiencies, what we may have developing here is additional unpredictability, lack of clarity ... that deters investment [and] that really can derail a project."

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JEWELL ON FRACKING RULE The Interior Department is "very close" to issuing its final regulations governing fracking on federal lands, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said today. "I don't control the timing on these things," she told reporters after testifying before Senate appropriators. "There are a number of steps that we have to go through. We're going through those steps methodically. We're very close to releasing the fracking rule, and then people will be able to comment on that as we work toward finalization." Jewell said a month ago that the long-awaited final rule would be issued "in the coming weeks."

– **Jewell Decision on Shell lease suspension request 'relatively soon':** Shell and other Arctic leaseholders will hear back about their requests to suspend their leases to stop them from expiring before major exploration can occur, Jewell says. "We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their requests for lease suspensions," Jewell told Senate appropriators today. <http://politico.pro/17R2clg>

– **No plans to give ANWR monument protection, Jewell says:** The administration is not considering using its power to designate national monuments to protect parts of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Jewell told reporters today. Legally speaking, she added, "I believe we could use the Antiquities Act, but there are no plans to do so in Alaska at this time."

– **Parks and rec** Jewell is shedding no tears that she never appeared on "Parks and Recreation" before the show ended last week. "In this job, I have no time to watch television, so I really can't comment on that," she told reporters today. Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, had cameo appearances in the NBC sitcom's final episode, and several prominent lawmakers and first lady Michelle Obama had appeared on the program over the years.

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 2:33 PM, Beyer, Emily <<a>emily_beyer@ios.doi.g

Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 05 2015 04:45:06 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: Senate Interior Approps Budget Hearing

Politico Morning Energy Tip Sheet; MURKOWSKI CHARGES 'PAY TO PLAY' ON ALASKAN PROJECT: Sen. Lisa Murkowski said an \$8 million mitigation payment ConocoPhillips will be required to make in order to move forward with its Greater Mooses Tooth project in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve verges on "pay to play." Companies "that have deep pockets and pretty considerable investments" could be needed by the Interior Department into paying large sums for mitigation efforts in order to get a permit, Murkowski said yesterday. "Mitigation is not new," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, arguing that requiring off-site mitigation efforts allows for landscape-level planning — like with solar farms in the California desert that were required to pay for desert tortoise habitat preservation elsewhere. Jewell and her No. 2, Mike Connor, explained that Interior hashed out the figure with ConocoPhillips after reviewing the project's impacts on local subsistence resources. But Murkowski wasn't convinced. "The fear is that, rather than creating efficiencies, that what we may have developing here is additional unpredictability, lack of clarity in terms of where you're going with a project that deters investment that really can derail a project," she said.

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On Mar 4, 2015, at 10:48 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Fuel Fix: [Feds weighing Shell bid for more time in Arctic](#)

Posted on **March 4, 2015 at 5:03 pm** by [Jennifer A. Dlouhy](#) in [Arctic, Offshore, Politics/Policy](#)

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The same fate awaits Chukchi Sea leases sold in 2008 to Statoil and ConocoPhillips, which have made similar appeals for more time, citing regulatory uncertainty, legal challenges and other obstacles.

Read more: [Oil companies want more time for Arctic drilling](#)

"We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their request for suspensions," Jewell said during a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing. "We will be resolving that relatively soon."

The companies' bids for "suspensions of operation" would effectively stop the clock ticking on their 10-year leases. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is actively considering the requests from Shell and Statoil that were filed in July 2014; it previously rejected ConocoPhillips' November 2013 bid for at least three more years. ConocoPhillips appealed the decision to an Interior Department appeals board, and settlement talks are now under way.

Shell used the drillship Noble Discoverer for its 2012 drilling in the Chukchi Sea north of Alaska. (Jennifer A. Dlouhy / The Houston Chronicle)

Neither Statoil nor ConocoPhillips has active plans to drill in U.S. Arctic waters, but Shell is preparing to resume exploration in the Chukchi Sea this summer, three years after its last try in 2012 resulted in two half-completed wells that stopped short of penetrating potential oil-bearing zones.

"This is good news for us, particularly at a time when the price of oil is causing many companies to really scrutinize their investment decisions on very large-scale projects," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. "It makes it all the more important that Shell have the certainty it needs before it proceeds to spend even yet more billions of dollars. (Shell) needs to retain its existing lease portfolio to warrant this enormous investment."

Limited window

Murkowski cited the limited 75-day window for drilling in the Arctic, when waters are free of ice — as opposed to the year-round activity allowed in the Gulf of Mexico.

"There really are not enough drilling seasons (left) for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi Sea lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Legal uncertainties surrounding the government's 2008 auction of Chukchi Sea oil leases have delayed work in the area, though the Interior Department has already granted Shell, Statoil and ConocoPhillips additional time to compensate for some of those legal delays.

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In the meantime, the Chukchi Sea leases are under a suspension of operation tied to the ruling.

'Helping Shell'

Jewell stressed that Interior Department regulators were focused on completing that essential environmental analysis. "We took our resources and focused them — as we were requested to do — on helping Shell move forward with this drilling season," Jewell said.

Jewell also made a nod to the mishaps that marred Shell's 2012 Arctic operation, including the grounding of its non-propelled Kulluk drilling rig during an ill-fated tow across the Gulf of Alaska and the company's difficulty certifying and readying a unique emergency oil spill containment system so it could safeguard drilling. Shell halted its planned 2013 drilling in response, as it repaired one rig and searched for another to replace the Kulluk.

"We understand the circumstances that companies have," Jewell told Murkowski. "We also understand the circumstances that Shell had in 2012."

"We get that it's complicated to do work up there," she added. "We want to make sure it's done safely and responsively, and we want to be responsive to the companies."

'Special treatment'

Conservationists argue that Shell and other oil companies knew what they were getting into when they bought Chukchi Sea leases in 2008. Any Interior Department decision to give the company more time amounts to unwarranted "special treatment" said Oceana Deputy Vice President Susan Murray in [a Feb. 27 letter to the safety bureau](#).

"Operating in the Arctic Ocean is dangerous, controversial, and logistically challenging," Murray said. "Those facts, however, do not allow BSEE to bend its rules to grant Shell an unjustified extension of its leases."

Extensions also could mean taxpayers — who own the oil at issue — are "no longer getting fair value," said Michael LeVine, Pacific senior counsel for the group. "The government sold the rights to public resources under a certain set of circumstances and terms and shouldn't then rule to change those terms."

In general, leases expire at the end of their terms unless operators are "conducting operations" on the lease, such as drilling, reworking wells or producing oil and gas.

"Suspension of operation" requests are relatively common in the Gulf of Mexico, where they often are filed right before leases are set to expire, unlike the Arctic requests now pending before the safety bureau.

Safety bureau spokesman Nicholas Pardi said the agency "evaluates suspension requests on a case-by-case basis."

Federal regulations give the agency relatively little authority to grant the suspensions, including to allow compliance with judicial decrees, when activities pose a threat of harm or damage, when they are needed to install safety equipment or conduct environmental analysis and to allow for "inordinate delays" in obtaining permits.

The oil companies' requests may lay the groundwork for bigger changes, including potential action by Congress and the Obama administration to rewrite the terms of oil and gas leases in isolated Arctic waters.

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[Sea](#), [BOEM](#), [BSEE](#), [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#), [Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement](#), [Chukchi Sea](#), [ConocoPhillips](#), [doi](#), [hearing](#), [interior department](#), [lease terms](#), [Lisa Murkowski](#), [Mark Fesmire](#), [Michael LeVine](#), [Nicholas Pardi](#), [offshore](#), [offshore drilling](#), [Sally Jewell](#), [shell](#), [SOQ](#), [Statoil](#), [Susan Murray](#), [Suspension of operations](#)

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On Wednesday, March 4, 2015, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.adn.com/article/20150304/us-decide-soon-shell-request-extra-time-arctic-leases>

U.S. to decide soon on Shell request for extra time on Arctic leases

Jennifer A. Dlouhy | Houston Chronicle March 4, 2015

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[Environmentalists sue Port of Seattle over Shell's Arctic drilling fleet](#)

[Interior agencies release proposed new Arctic Ocean drilling standards](#)

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Neither Statoil nor ConocoPhillips is actively pursuing drilling in U.S. Arctic waters, but Shell is preparing to resume exploration in the Chukchi Sea this summer, three years after its last try in 2012 resulted in two half-completed wells.

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<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2015/03/04/murkowski-seeks-lease-extensions-for-shell/>

Murkowski Seeks Lease Extensions for Shell

By Liz Ruskin, APRN | March 4, 2015

Last summer, Shell asked the government to extend its offshore drilling leases in the Arctic. Today, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski pressed Shell's case to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in a Senate hearing. Murkowski says Shell needs certainty to continue to invest billions of dollars in its Arctic operations.

vm^lP

“Because of this very short window, a 75-day Arctic drilling season, and the difficulties and the delays and the legal challenges that are all out there, that Shell has endured for the past decade, there really are not enough drilling seasons remaining for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi lease portfolio expires,” Murkowski said.

Jewell says the clock on Shell's 10-year leases in the Chukchi Sea was stopped for a period when a court ruled the government had to redo its environmental impact statement. Jewell says her department is still considering Shell's request for a five-year suspension of the lease clock.

“We took our resources and focused them, as we were requested to do, on helping Shell move forward for this drilling season. I also know that we are actively working with them on suspensions and I think they can expect any answer in the relatively near future,” Jewell said.

Oceana and other environmental groups oppose giving Shell more time on their leases. They say the reasons for Shell's lack of progress were known from outset, like the harsh conditions and the Native whaling season, or were of Shell's own making.

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 7:35 PM, Beyer, Emily <<a>emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov wrote:

<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2015/03/04/jewell-no-plan-afoot-to-declare-anwr-monument/>

Jewell: No Plan Afoot to Declare ANWR Monument

By Liz Ruskin, APRN | March 4, 2015

President Obama infuriated Alaska's political leaders when he announced in January he would ask Congress to protect more land within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness, forever off-limits to oil drilling. Some, including Sen. Lisa Murkowski, predict Obama will act on his own to bar development, by using the Antiquities Act to declare ANWR a national monument. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said today that's not in the works.

“There's no discussions in the Administration right now about monument status for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge,” she said. She then repeated it in response to a reporter's question: “There are no plans the Administration has for using the national monument designation or the Antiquities Act for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.”

Jewell, though, does not agree that the “no more” clause of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act would prohibit the president from declaring new national monuments in Alaska.

“I'm not an expert on the legal status but I believe we could use the Antiquities Act,” Jewell said. “But there are no plans to do so in Alaska at this time.”

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 7:23 PM, Beyer, Emily <<a>emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov wrote:

| 2.

OIL AND GAS:

Murkowski accuses BLM of 'pay to play' in Alaska drilling

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, March 4, 2015

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The Bureau of Land Management's decision to charge an oil company \$8 million for the right to develop its leases in an Alaskan reserve is a slippery slope that could make other companies think twice about developing on federal lands, Alaska's senior senator said today.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) grilled Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on whether her agency has the legal authority to require mitigation fees for energy projects that would otherwise be permissible on public lands.

The senator's concern stems from BLM's decision last month to approve ConocoPhillips Co.'s plan to become the first company to produce oil in the National Petroleum Reserve (NPR-A) in northwest Alaska. BLM is requiring the company to pony up \$8 million for a regional mitigation strategy that will protect lands of environmental, subsistence or cultural significance to local Native Alaskans and potentially remediate legacy wells drilled by other entities ([Greenwire](#), Feb. 16).

"We are perhaps moving in this direction of pay to play," Murkowski told Jewell during an Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Interior's \$13.2 billion budget request for fiscal 2016. "The concern is 'What's the precedent of this going to be?'"

The ConocoPhillips project, known as Greater Mooses Tooth-1 (GMT1), is seen as a bellwether for how BLM will permit future exploration and production in the 22.5-million-acre Alaskan reserve, the nation's largest block of public lands and a key potential source of oil for the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline.

The size and scope of the mitigation package were major sticking points in BLM's negotiations with ConocoPhillips and drew significant criticism from Alaska lawmakers and Gov. Bill Walker (I). BLM last month said the mitigation fee does not establish a precedent for future projects.

The \$8 million represents less than 1 percent of the project's estimated \$890 million price tag.

But Murkowski warned that the mitigation policy appears subjective and sticks companies with "surprise requirements."

"It appears that companies that have deep pockets and pretty considerable investments face some requirements that may be tangentially related, maybe not even related at all, but requirements that could harm their operations as they impose a condition on permits," Murkowski said.

Jewell said the department's use of fees to offset the impacts of development is not new and has been used to mitigate the impacts of commercial-scale solar projects in the Southwest by setting aside desert tortoise habitat or buying conservation easements.

"What we're trying to do is say, 'Let's make sure that mitigation money is put into the projects that are most important to address the issues that his development impacts,'" she said.

In the case of GMT1, Jewell noted that BLM agreed to ConocoPhillips' request to build a road within a 3-mile protected area around Fish Creek, which could affect the ability of local Alaska Natives to hunt and feed themselves. The mitigation fee will allow the company to work with the Native village of Nuiqsut to ameliorate those impacts.

That's in addition to a host of other steps BLM is requiring to address air quality, wildlife, plant life and subsistence impacts that are outlined on Page 8 of the agency's [record of decision](#) for the GMT1 project.

Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor said ConocoPhillips balked at BLM's first mitigation proposal, but "we had a discussion and we came to an agreement with ConocoPhillips as to the level of compensatory mitigation."

"I think we have a good result, and that strategy will help us facilitate future projects as we move forward," he said.

ConocoPhillips has not said whether it intends to accept the mitigation package, nor whether it will move forward with GMT1.

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From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thu Mar 05 2015 05:31:56 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Clips: Senate Interior Approps Budget Hearing

Lawmakers asked to fund Land and Water Conservation Fund

Future of conservation program uncertain

By [Andrew Clevenger](#) / [The Bulletin](#) / [@andclev](#)

Published Mar 5, 2015 at 12:01AM

WASHINGTON — Interior Secretary Sally Jewell pressed Senate appropriators Wednesday to approve the Obama administration's 2016 budget request of \$13.2 billion for the agency, including \$900 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects.

"This is, dollar for dollar, one of the most effective government programs we have," Jewell told members of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, including Sen. Jeff Merkley, D-Ore.

First enacted in 1964, the Land and Water Conservation Fund uses gas and oil receipts from drilling on the outer continental shelf to conserve national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness and Civil War battlefields, and to develop and support state and local parks.

By law, the fund may receive \$900 million each year, but it rarely receives its full allotment, and \$17 billion has been allocated for other purposes over the last 50 years.

Legislation authorizing the fund to distribute money to various projects will expire at the end of September.

President Obama's 2016 budget calls for funding the program at its maximum of \$900 million, and includes money for several projects in Oregon.

The biggest project for Oregon is the Pathways to the Pacific, which would receive \$14 million to stabilize fish runs and improve public access with acquisitions in the Oregon National Historic Trail, the John Day Wild and Scenic River, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, John Day Fossil Beds National Monument, and Willapa and Ridgefield national wildlife refuges.

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument would receive a \$2.6 million grant to acquire almost 2,300 acres, with an additional \$3 million slated for land acquisition on Wassen Creek in Siuslaw National Forest.

Kelley Beamer, the executive director of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts said in a prepared statement that LWCF funding has helped preserve many places that Oregonians hold dear.

"It has helped protect working farms, forests and ranches, including most recently the Gilchrist Forest outside Bend. Without the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Oregon would not be what it is today," Beamer said.

Late last year, Congress approved \$306 million for LWCF projects, meaning many projects that had been vetted and approved did not receive funding.

"Without full funding, some critical projects in Oregon like protecting the east moraine of Wallowa Lake, will never get completed and instead be lost to development or other threats," Beamer said.

In November, a bipartisan group of 40 senators, including Merkley and fellow Oregon Democrat Ron Wyden, wrote to Senate leadership, urging them to help pass a reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Act during the lame duck session. That didn't happen, and the program will expire at the end of September if Congress doesn't act.

Merkley said Wednesday that he will use his seat on the Appropriations Committee to keep fighting for full funding for LWCF.

"Oregon's outdoor spaces are a crucial part of our heritage and what makes our region unique. It's important that we preserve these special places for our children and grandchildren, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a critical tool for creating and preserving public lands," he said.

On Thu, Mar 5, 2015 at 6:45 AM, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Politico Morning Energy Tip Sheet; MURKOWSKI CHARGES 'PAY TO PLAY' ON ALASKAN PROJECT: Sen. Lisa Murkowski said an \$8 million mitigation payment ConocoPhillips will be required to make in order to move forward with its Greater Mooses Tooth project in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve verges on "pay to play." Companies "that have deep pockets and pretty considerable investments" could be needed by the Interior Department into paying large sums for mitigation efforts in order to get a permit, Murkowski said yesterday. "Mitigation is not new," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, arguing that requiring off-site mitigation efforts allows for landscape-level planning — like with solar farms in the California desert that were required to pay for desert tortoise habitat preservation elsewhere. Jewell and her No. 2, Mike Connor, explained that Interior hashed out the figure with ConocoPhillips after reviewing the project's impacts on local subsistence resources. But Murkowski wasn't convinced. "The fear is that, rather than creating efficiencies, that what we may have developing here is additional

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Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 4, 2015, at 10:48 PM, Kershaw, Jessica <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Fuel Fix: [Feds weighing Shell bid for more time in Arctic](#)

Posted on **March 4, 2015 at 5:03 pm** by [Jennifer A. Dlouhy](#) in [Arctic](#), [Offshore Politics/Policy](#)

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Limited window

Murkowski cited the limited 75-day window for drilling in the Arctic, when waters are free of ice — as opposed to the year-round activity allowed in the Gulf of Mexico.

"There really are not enough drilling seasons (left) for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi Sea lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Legal uncertainties surrounding the government's 2008 auction of Chukchi Sea oil leases have delayed work in the area, though the Interior Department has already granted Shell, Statoil and ConocoPhillips additional time to compensate for some of those legal delays.

Most recently, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management [completed a new environmental analysis](#) of that seven-year-old sale in a bid to satisfy a 2014 federal court ruling that the first version was inadequate. But the final decision on whether to affirm, modify or vacate that sale rests with Jewell, who could issue a "record of decision" on the auction as soon as March 25.

In the meantime, the Chukchi Sea leases are under a suspension of operation tied to the ruling.

'Helping Shell'

Jewell stressed that Interior Department regulators were focused on completing that essential environmental analysis. "We took our resources and focused them — as we were requested to do — on helping Shell move forward with this drilling season," Jewell said.

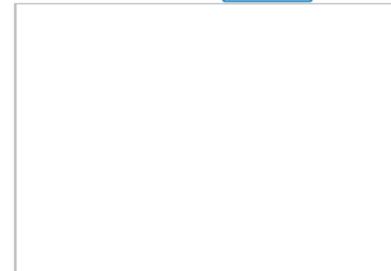
Jewell also made a nod to the mishaps that marred Shell's 2012 Arctic operation, including the grounding of its non-propelled Kulluk drilling rig during an ill-fated tow across the Gulf of Alaska and the company's difficulty certifying and readying a unique emergency oil spill containment system so it could safeguard drilling. Shell halted its planned 2013 drilling in response, as it repaired one rig and searched for another to replace the Kulluk.

"We understand the circumstances that companies have," Jewell told Murkowski. "We also understand the circumstances that Shell had in 2012."

"We get that it's complicated to do work up there," she added. "We want to make sure it's done safely and responsibly, and we want to be responsive to the companies."

'Special treatment'

Conservationists argue that Shell and other oil companies knew what they were getting into when they bought Chukchi Sea leases



Shell used the drillship Noble Discoverer for its 2012 drilling in the Chukchi Sea north of Alaska. (Jennifer A. Dlouhy / The Houston Chronicle)

in 2008. Any Interior Department decision to give the company more time amounts to unwarranted "special treatment" said Oceana Deputy Vice President Susan Murray in [a Feb. 27 letter to the safety bureau](#).

"Operating in the Arctic Ocean is dangerous, controversial, and logistically challenging," Murray said. "Those facts, however, do not allow BSEE to bend its rules to grant Shell an unjustified extension of its leases."

Extensions also could mean taxpayers — who own the oil at issue — are "no longer getting fair value," said Michael LeVine, Pacific senior counsel for the group. "The government sold the rights to public resources under a certain set of circumstances and terms and shouldn't then rule to change those terms."

In general, leases expire at the end of their terms unless operators are "conducting operations" on the lease, such as drilling, reworking wells or producing oil and gas.

"Suspension of operation" requests are relatively common in the Gulf of Mexico, where they often are filed right before leases are set to expire, unlike the Arctic requests now pending before the safety bureau.

Safety bureau spokesman Nicholas Pardi said the agency "evaluates suspension requests on a case-by-case basis."

Federal regulations give the agency relatively little authority to grant the suspensions, including to allow compliance with judicial decrees, when activities pose a threat of harm or damage, when they are needed to install safety equipment or conduct environmental analysis and to allow for "inordinate delays" in obtaining permits.

The oil companies' requests may lay the groundwork for bigger changes, including potential action by Congress and the Obama administration to rewrite the terms of oil and gas leases in isolated Arctic waters.

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On Wednesday, March 4, 2015, Beyer, Emily <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.adn.com/article/20150304/us-decide-soon-shell-request-extra-time-arctic-leases>

U.S. to decide soon on Shell request for extra time on Arctic leases

Jennifer A. Dlouhy | Houston Chronicle March 4, 2015

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WASHINGTON -- The Obama administration will decide soon whether to sign off on Shell's request for extra time to hunt for oil in Arctic waters, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Wednesday.

Without action, Shell's oil and gas leases in the Beaufort Sea will begin expiring in 2017, followed by its drilling rights in the neighboring Chukchi Sea two years later.

RELATED:

[Environmentalists sue Port of Seattle over Shell's Arctic drilling fleet](#)

[Interior agencies release proposed new Arctic Ocean drilling standards](#)

The same fate awaits Chukchi Sea leases sold in 2008 to Statoil and ConocoPhillips, which have made similar appeals for more time, citing regulatory uncertainty, legal challenges and other obstacles.

"We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their request for suspensions," Jewell said during a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing. "We will be resolving that relatively soon."

The companies' bids for "suspensions of operation" would effectively stop the clock ticking on their 10-year leases. The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is considering requests from Shell and Statoil filed in July 2014; it previously rejected ConocoPhillips' November 2013 bid for at least three more years. ConocoPhillips appealed the decision to an Interior Department appeals board, and settlement talks are under way.

Neither Statoil nor ConocoPhillips is actively pursuing drilling in U.S. Arctic waters, but Shell is preparing to resume exploration in the Chukchi Sea this summer, three years after its last try in 2012 resulted in two half-completed wells.

"This is good news for us, particularly at a time when the price of oil is causing many companies to really scrutinize their investment decisions on very large-scale projects," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska. "It makes it all the more important that Shell have the certainty it needs before it proceeds to spend even yet more billions of dollars. It needs to retain its existing lease portfolio to warrant this enormous investment."

She cited the limited 75-day window for drilling in the Arctic, when waters are free of ice, unlike year-round activity allowed in the Gulf of Mexico.

"There really are not enough drilling seasons (left) for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi Sea lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Legal uncertainties surrounding the government's 2008 auction of Chukchi Sea oil leases have blocked work in the area, though the Interior Department has already granted Shell, Statoil and ConocoPhillips additional time to compensate for some of those delays.

Most recently, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management completed a new environmental analysis of that seven-year-old sale in a bid to satisfy a 2014 federal court ruling that the first version was inadequate. The decision to affirm, change or vacate that sale rests with Jewell, who could issue a "record of decision" on the auction as soon as March 25.

In the meantime, the Chukchi Sea leases are under a suspension of operation tied to the ruling.

Jewell stressed that Interior Department regulators are dedicated to completing that essential environmental analysis. "We took our resources and focused them — as we were requested to do — on helping Shell move forward with this drilling season," she said.

Jewell also made a nod to mishaps that marred Shell's 2012 Arctic operation, including the grounding of its Kulluk drilling rig and the company's difficulty readying an emergency oil spill containment system to safeguard drilling. Shell halted its planned 2013 drilling in response, as it repaired one rig and searched for another to replace the Kulluk.

"We understand the circumstances that companies have," Jewell told Murkowski. "We also understand the circumstances that Shell had in 2012."

"We get that it's complicated to do work up there," she added. "We want to make sure it's done safely and responsibly, and we want to be responsive to the companies."

Conservationists argue that Shell and other oil companies knew what they were getting into when they bought Chukchi Sea leases in 2008. Any Interior Department decision to give the company more time would be unwarranted "special treatment" said Oceana Deputy Vice President Susan Murray.

"Operating in the Arctic Ocean is dangerous, controversial, and logistically challenging," Murray said. "Those facts, however, do not allow BSEE to bend its rules to grant Shell an unjustified extension of its leases."

In general, offshore leases expire unless operators are "conducting operations" on them, such as drilling, reworking wells or producing oil and gas.

"Suspension of operation" requests are relatively common in the Gulf of Mexico, where they often are filed shortly before leases are set to expire.

Safety bureau spokesman Nicholas Pardi said the agency "evaluates suspension requests on a case-by-case basis."

<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2015/03/04/murkowski-seeks-lease-extensions-for-shell/>

Murkowski Seeks Lease Extensions for Shell

By Liz Ruskin, APRN | March 4, 2015

Last summer, Shell asked the government to extend its offshore drilling leases in the Arctic. Today, U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski pressed Shell's case to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in a Senate hearing. Murkowski says Shell needs certainty to continue to invest billions of dollars in its Arctic operations.



"Because of this very short window, a 75-day Arctic drilling season, and the difficulties and the delays and the legal challenges that are all out there, that Shell has endured for the past decade, there really are not enough drilling seasons remaining for Shell to complete more than a handful of exploration wells before the Chukchi lease portfolio expires," Murkowski said.

Jewell says the clock on Shell's 10-year leases in the Chukchi Sea was stopped for a period when a court ruled the government had to redo its

environmental impact statement. Jewell says her department is still considering Shell's request for a five-year suspension of the lease clock.

"We took our resources and focused them, as we were requested to do, on helping Shell move forward for this drilling season. I also know that we are actively working with them on suspensions and I think they can expect any answer in the relatively near future," Jewell said.

Oceana and other environmental groups oppose giving Shell more time on their leases. They say the reasons for Shell's lack of progress were known from outset, like the harsh conditions and the Native whaling season, or were of Shell's own making.

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 7:35 PM, Beyer, Emily <<a>emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:
<http://www.alaskapublic.org/2015/03/04/jewell-no-plan-afoot-to-declare-anwr-monument/>

Jewell: No Plan Afoot to Declare ANWR Monument

By Liz Ruskin, APRN | March 4, 2015

President Obama infuriated Alaska's political leaders when he announced in January he would ask Congress to protect more land within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness, forever off-limits to oil drilling. Some, including Sen. Lisa Murkowski, predict Obama will act on his own to bar development, by using the Antiquities Act to declare ANWR a national monument. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said today that's not in the works.

"There's no discussions in the Administration right now about monument status for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge," she said. She then repeated it in response to a reporter's question: "There are no plans the Administration has for using the national monument designation or the Antiquities Act for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

Jewell, though, does not agree that the "no more" clause of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act would prohibit the president from declaring new national monuments in Alaska.

"I'm not an expert on the legal status but I believe we could use the Antiquities Act," Jewell said. "But there are no plans to do so in Alaska at this time."

On Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 7:23 PM, Beyer, Emily <<a>emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

2.

OIL AND GAS:

Murkowski accuses BLM of 'pay to play' in Alaska drilling

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Wednesday, March 4, 2015

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The Bureau of Land Management's decision to charge an oil company \$8 million for the right to develop its leases in an Alaskan reserve is a slippery slope that could make other companies think twice about developing on federal lands, Alaska's senior senator said today.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) grilled Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on whether her agency has the legal authority to require mitigation fees for energy projects that would otherwise be permissible on public lands.

The senator's concern stems from BLM's decision last month to approve ConocoPhillips Co.'s plan to become the first company to produce oil in the National Petroleum Reserve (NPR-A) in northwest Alaska. BLM is requiring the company to pony up \$8 million for a regional mitigation strategy that will protect lands of environmental, subsistence or cultural significance to local Native Alaskans and potentially remediate legacy wells drilled by other entities ([Greenwire](#), Feb. 16).

"We are perhaps moving in this direction of pay to play," Murkowski told Jewell during an Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on Interior's \$13.2 billion budget request for fiscal 2016. "The concern is 'What's the precedent of this going to be?'"

The ConocoPhillips project, known as Greater Mooses Tooth-1 (GMT1), is seen as a bellwether for how BLM will permit future exploration and production in the 22.5-million-acre Alaskan reserve, the nation's largest block of public lands and a key potential source of oil for the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline.

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Thursday, March 5, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015 7 00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL APPEARS BEFORE SENATE PANEL. The [E&E Daily](#) (3/4) reports that that Sen. Lisa Murkowski, "the Senate's top lawmaker in charge of funding the Interior Department and US EPA this morning promised that her panel this year will mark up a spending bill for the first time in at least half a decade, a pledge that she acknowledged will force debate over 'thorny' policy issues involving those agencies." However, "lawmakers on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee also acknowledged that the spending limits set by the 2011 Budget Control Act will render much of President Obama's proposed fiscal 2016 budget – which included significant spending hikes for Interior – a moot point unless Congress reaches a new spending deal." Murkowski said, "We will be marking up an Interior bill this year – we're going to do it. We have some issues under our jurisdiction that perhaps are a little more thorny than in some of the other committees, but that should not keep us from advancing to a markup. It's our job to take up the tough issues and work together to produce legislation that reflects the collective will of the members."

The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/5, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "as the new ranking member of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, New Mexico's Tom Udall is the Democrats' first line of defense against expected bids to roll back US EPA clean air and water regulations and the Interior Department's protection of lands and wildlife." Udall, "who chaired the panel last year but is now ranking member on the panel that funds transportation, said he's up to the task." He said, "My No. 1 goal will be to do everything I can to get us back on regular budget order, where we're passing thoughtful appropriations bills on time that address the needs in communities across the country. The thing that holds us up there is the riders. If you have riders inserted that make big substantive changes to the law, it's very hard to get an appropriations bill passed."

Secretary Jewell: Decision Close On Shell Lease Suspension Request. [Politico](#) (3/4) reports that "Shell and other Arctic leaseholders will hear about back about their requests to suspend their leases to stop them from expiring before major exploration can occur, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell says." Jewell told Senate appropriators, "We are actively working with Shell and other leaseholders up there on their requests for lease suspensions." She added, "They can expect an answer in the relatively near future."

Also reporting on the story are [Politico Pro](#) (3/5, Subscription Publication), the [FuelFix](#) (3/4, 7K), the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (3/4, 146K) and the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/4, 2K).

Secretary Jewell: No Plan Afoot To Declare Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Monument. The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (3/4, 2K) reports that Jewell said that there's no plan to use the Antiquities Act to declare the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge a national monument. However, Jewell "does not agree that the 'no more' clause of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act would prohibit the president from declaring new national monuments in Alaska."

Also reporting on the story is [Politico Pro](#) (3/5, Subscription Publication).

Secretary Jewell Seeks Funding For Land And Water Conservation Fund. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (3/5, 94K) reports that Jewell "pressed Senate appropriators Wednesday to approve the Obama administration's 2016 budget request of \$13.2 billion for the agency, including \$900 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund projects." Jewell said, "This is, dollar for dollar, one of the most effective government programs we have."

Sen. Murkowski Grills Jewell On Alaska Drilling. [E&E Daily](#) (3/4) reports that the BLM's "decision to charge an oil company \$8 million for the right to develop its leases in an Alaskan reserve is a slippery slope that could make other companies think twice about developing on federal lands, Alaska's senior senator said today." Sen. Lisa Murkowski "grilled Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on whether her agency has the legal authority to require mitigation fees for energy projects that would otherwise be permissible on public lands." Murkowski's "concern stems from BLM's decision last month to approve ConocoPhillips Co.'s plan to become the first company to produce oil in the National Petroleum Reserve (NPR-A) in northwest Alaska."

Secretary Jewell: Interior "Very Close" On Fracking Rule. [Politico Pro](#) (3/5, Subscription Publication) reports that "the Interior Department is 'very close' to issuing its final regulations governing fracking on federal lands, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said on Wednesday." Jewell said, "I don't control the timing on these things. There are a number of steps that we have to go through. We're going through those steps methodically. We're very close to releasing the fracking rule, and then people will be able to comment on that as we work toward finalization."

Secretary Jewell Questioned On Gateway Arch. The [JBK-Current-Events](#) (3/5) posted a video of Jewell being questioned by Sen. Roy Blunt on the Gateway Arch.

SECRETARY JEWELL TO APPEAR BEFORE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. [The Hill](#) (3/5, Barron-Lopez, Cama, 224K) reports that on Thursday, "the House Natural Resources Committee will host Interior Secretary Sally Jewell for a hearing on the Interior Department's budget request for fiscal 2016."

[Roll Call](#) (3/5, Subscription Publication, 102K) reports that the House's Natural Resources Committee is "going forward with its planned review of President Barack Obama's budget request for the Interior Department" despite a forecast of snow.

In an op-ed for [Roll Call](#) (3/5, Bishop, Subscription Publication, 102K), Rep. Rob Bishop writes that the Obama Administration's budget request "falls flat." He claims that "instead of addressing ongoing problems with our federal lands, water, oceans and energy resources in a meaningful way, this budget proposes throwing thousands of gallons of cash and miles of new regulatory red tape to address problems which swallow up the time and resources of agencies like a bottomless pit." Bishop writes that "our solutions will emerge from both the creative input of stakeholders and a new vision: 1) People come first in resource, energy and environmental policy, and stewardship is a shared responsibility; 2) Natural resources give our nation opportunity and security; 3) Public lands, waters, and oceans are meant to be enjoyed by people and serve our nation's needs; 4) Government should empower people who know and love the land, when possible; and finally 5) Government should be a problem-solver, not a problem-creator."

COMMUNITIES SEEK MONUMENT DESIGNATIONS. The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (3/5, 74K) reports that "many conservationists in Western states see the Browns Canyon designation as an indication of Obama's willingness to declare new monuments." The article notes that "a few of the communities hoping to put their own stars on the map during the remainder of Obama's 23 months in office," including the Berryessa Snow Mountain region, the Boulder-White Cloud, the Bodie Hills of central-eastern California, and Bears Ears in eastern Utah.

Conservation Groups Oppose Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness Bill. The [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (3/5, 1K) reports that "a coalition of 18 conservation, recreation and outdoor-business groups has expressed opposition to a Boulder-White Clouds wilderness bill introduced in Congress last week by Rep. Mike Simpson and Sen. Jim Risch, both R-Idaho." The groups said, "Rep. Simpson's original legislation was built on a compromise between wilderness protection and motorized use. This new legislation veers away from that compromise and promotes more motorized routes in important wilderness quality areas."

DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS ON KENAI GILLNETS APPROACHING. The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (3/5, 14K) reports that "it's been more than a month since the Federal Subsistence Board passed a proposal to allow a subsistence sockeye gillnet on the Kenai and Kaslof rivers on Jan. 21 and the public is on a tight deadline if it wants to reverse

the decision before the Kenai River summer glut of sport and personal use fishermen." According to the Interior Department, "under which the board operates, a request for reconsideration, or RFR, must be submitted within 60 days after a regulation takes effect or is published in the Federal Register, whichever comes first."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS URGED TO ACT ON RIM OF THE VALLEY STUDY. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/5, Kamal, 3.49M) reports that "saying a study of the Rim of the Valley Corridor's future is months overdue and stuck in 'bureaucratic limbo,' three local members of Congress are urging the National Park Service to release the report." Reps. Adam B. Schiff, Judy Chu and Ted Lieu "used a recent letter to express their 'strong concern over repeated and lengthy delays' in releasing the Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study and the failure of the park service 'to meet its own deadlines.'" The letter, addressed to NPS Director

NPS SETS UP COMMAND POST IN LOWNDES COUNTY FOR BLOODY SUNDAY ANNIVERSARY. [WSFA-TV](#) Montgomery, AL (3/5, 30K) reports that "tens of thousands of people are expected to be in Selma in less than 72 hours, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and the Montgomery to Selma March." According to the article, "the big events are planned for Selma and Montgomery, but in between the two cities, Lowndes County is also playing a crucial role." The article notes that "the interpretive center there is serving as a National Park Service command post."

SURVEY FINDS RISING SEAS THREATEN RARE PLANTS IN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (3/5) reports that "rising sea levels and invasive species increasingly threaten rare plants in Everglades National Park that have not yet recovered from damage caused by orchid collectors long ago or attempts to drain the swamps, according to a 10-year survey released Monday." The report by the Institute for Regional Conservation finds that "the unique plants native to South Florida may be lost despite multibillion-dollar efforts to restore the wetlands." According to researchers, "plant biodiversity needs to be prioritized as highly as natural water flows and controlling exotic animals such as Burmese pythons."

Also reporting on the story are the [Miami Herald](#) (3/5, 694K), the [Customs Today \(PAK\)](#) (3/5), the [Tech Times](#) (3/3), and the [China Topix](#) (3/4).

MAN BEHIND HILLARY CLINTON'S PERSONAL EMAIL LINKED TO CONTROVERSIES. [Politico](#) (3/5, 669K) reports that "the mystery man linked to Hillary Clinton's personal e-mail account appears to be a Washington, D.C. stockbroker and former aide to the Clintons who played a walk-on role in controversies that dogged the former first family soon after it left the White House in 2001." According to the article, "a Clinton aide named Eric Hothem was linked to a flap in 2001 about the Clintons' shipment of furniture and other items from the White House at the end of President Bill Clinton's second term." The article notes that "the White House Counsel's Office determined that some of the items were personal gifts to the first family, but the National Park Service said others belonged to the White House."

DOZENS PROTEST GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA PLAN. [KGO-TV](#) San Francisco (3/5, 4K) reports that "dozens of people demonstrated in downtown San Francisco Wednesday outside the offices of the National Park Service." They are upset the NPS "recently adopted a new general management plan for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area." The protestors "worry the plan will limit visitors to Ocean Beach, Muir Woods and restrict off-leash dogs at Fort Funston."

Also reporting on the story are the [San Francisco Examiner](#) (3/5, 412K) and [KPIX-TV](#) San Francisco (3/4, 143K).

ENVIRONMENTALISTS SEEK FUNDS FOR EVERGLADES. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/4, 380K) reports that "last fall, voters in Florida approved Amendment 1, which designated one-third of real estate transaction taxes to the Land Acquisition Trust Fund" and "the money would ultimately fund conservation programs." Now, "as Florida Legislature's annual session begins this week, so does the debate over how that money will be spent." Environmental groups such as Everglades Trust, the Everglades Foundation and the Everglades Coalition are "advocating for the district and state to allocate the money to buying 46,800 acres of land from US Sugar Corp." They want to "use the land to build a reservoir in the agricultural region south of Lake Okeechobee that would replenish the drying Everglades National Park."

HUNTERS SEEK ENTRY TO GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK TO TARGET BUFFALO. [Fox News](#) (3/4, 8 25M) reports that "the growing bison herd occupying the northern reaches of Arizona's Grand Canyon National Park is decimating the area's ecosystem, and some conservationists are ready to call in the hunters." According to the article, "the 600-head herd rarely if ever strays from the 1,900-square-mile park, where hunting is banned," but "if they were to stampede into the adjacent Kaibab National Forest, they might find themselves in the crosshairs of hunters with permits to bag them, but inside the park they are safe – and free to wreak havoc."

TOWNS FINALIZING LIST OF NATIONAL PARK REQUIREMENTS IN MAINE. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (3/4, 166K) reports that "Medway's Board of Selectmen wants a proposed North Woods national park to be no larger than 150,000 acres and East Millinocket's leaders seek a voice in any park legislation, according to letters the towns are sending to the state's congressional delegation." According to officials, "acting in response to a request from US Sen. Angus King, selectmen in each town are finalizing letters regarding the park proposed by Lucas St. Clair that will be mailed next week."

VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK OPENS ARCHAEOLOGY LABORATORY. The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (3/5, 333) reports on the newly opened archaeological laboratory at Cinnamon Bay on St. John. The article notes that "the Educational Center and Archaeology Laboratory at Cinnamon Bay is filled with displays showcasing the artifacts found on St. John, St. Thomas and Hassel Island." Virgin Islands National Park Cultural Program Manager Ken Wild said, "It's all driven by archaeological finds. It tells the story of man's history on the islands."

LAKE SUPERIOR ICE CAVES TO REOPEN AFTER TEMPORARY CLOSURE. [KARE-TV](#) Minneapolis (3/4, 339K) reports that "the popular ice caves in northwestern Wisconsin are set to reopen after a temporary closure." According to Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Superintendent Bob Krumenaker, "the ice caves will reopen at 7 a.m. Thursday after being closed due to high winds."

Also reporting on the story is the [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (3/5, 524K).

ANDERSON-RIDLEY BARN & AMP RANCH JOINS NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Black Hills \(SD\) Pioneer](#) (3/5, 11K) reports that the Anderson-Ridley Barn and Ranch in the St. Onge vicinity of Lawrence County has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Bureau of Land Management:

JUDGE MOSTLY UPHOLDS BLM'S ROUNDUP OF WYOMING WILD HORSES. The [AP](#) (3/5) reports that "a judge mostly upheld a US Bureau of Land Management roundup of hundreds of wild horses in western Wyoming that horse advocates had claimed violated several laws." US District Judge Nancy Freudenthal held Tuesday that "the roundup was proper under a federal wild horse law and 34-year-old federal court order in which ranchers voluntarily agreed to allow wild horses to roam the area where the roundup occurred." Freudenthal wrote, "None of the arguments advanced by petitioners and nothing about BLM's horse management program inspire this court to change the approach sanctioned by the court in 1981." Freudenthal "ordered the Bureau of Land Management to go back and correct procedural deficiencies in planning the roundup, however."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/5, 90K).

BLM TURNING TONGASS LAND OVER TO SEALASKA. [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (3/4) reports that the BLM will sign paperwork on Friday "turning over 70,000 acres of the Tongass National Forest" to Sealaska Corp. The BLM's Ramona Chinn says "the land must still be surveyed and patented." Chinn says, "It's a milestone for the land-transfer program. Sealaska is one of 12 regions and this would finalize their entitlement."

BLM SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR RECLAMATION, SUSTAINABLE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (3/4, 3K) reports that the BLM is "seeking nominations for the 2015 Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards." The deadline to submit nominations is April 22. Michael Nedd, BLM Assistant Director for Energy, Minerals and Realty Management, said, "The BLM awards program showcases sustainable development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

BLM OFFERS ADOPTIONS OF EQUINES GATHERED FROM FISH CREEK HERD MANAGEMENT AREA. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (3/5, 22K) reports that the BLM is "providing a unique opportunity Saturday to adopt 12 yearlings and weanlings that were gathered from the Fish Creek Herd Management Area before they are shipped to the Palomino Valley National Adoption Center."

BLM MAKES PRESENTATION ON DRAFT LAS VEGAS AND PAHRUMP FIELD OFFICES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION. The [Mesquite \(NV\) Local News](#) (3/5, 16K) reports that "Tuesday's meetings with the Mesquite City Council and the Virgin Valley Water District had one thing in common: the Bureau of Land Management." According to the article, "after the regular Technical Review Meeting for the City Council, city staff and council met in a special meeting to hear a presentation by representatives from the Las Vegas BLM, Lee Kirk and Gayle Marrs-Smith, on the draft Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices Resource Management Plan Revision." The article notes that "with over 40 community members in attendance the presentation was a bit less than what council had expected."

BLM TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE'S RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (3/4, 28K), Dan Olson, executive director of the San Juan Citizens Alliance, criticizes the BLM Tres Rios Field Office's Resource Management Plan. He argues that "the BLM TRFO RMP is a lowest common denominator planning document that fails to protect the resources our community values." According to Olson, "if the protection of Hermosa Creek was an example of community collaboration, this RMP is an example of bureaucracy disconnected from both its local community and the vision laid out by its own leadership." He adds that "the RMP – a plan that trades air quality, watershed health and the viability of endangered species for easy access to oil and gas – utterly fails to bolster the claim that the BLM is shedding its old skin."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS ANNOUNCES \$45 MILLION TO PROTECT WILDLIFE. The [Gardnerville \(NV\) Record Courier](#) (3/5, 20K) reports that "state efforts to protect species and habitats in greatest need of conservation received a boost today as the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced over \$45 million in funding provided through the State Wildlife Grant program." FWS Director Dan Ashe said, "The State Wildlife Grant Program has made a significant impact by preventing the need to list species under the Endangered Species Act. The program identifies the highest priorities in each state to effectively conserve and protect species on a large landscape scale."

Also reporting on the story is the [HealthNewsDigest](#) (3/5, 163).

OFFICIALS CALL FOR STRONGER PENALTIES FOR WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING. [Reuters](#) (3/5, Rascoe) reports that stiffer penalties are needed to help deter criminals who engage in the illegal trade of wildlife items, federal officials said. At a briefing Tuesday, Edward Grace, deputy assistant director of law enforcement for FWS warned that organized crime groups have become more involved in animal trafficking in recent years.

WILLOW BEACH NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY TROUT DEAL FINALIZED. The [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (3/5, 23K) reports that "the Arizona Game and Fish Department, in cooperation with Mohave County and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, succeeded on Wednesday in executing agreements to restore rainbow trout stocking at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery along the Colorado River south of the Hoover Dam." Sen. John McCain, "who played a major role in getting the hatchery up and running," said "I am very pleased that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission have finalized an agreement to begin restoring rainbow trout stocking operations at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery in Mohave County, Arizona."

Also reporting on the story is the [Havasupai \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (3/5, 27K).

REHABILITATED MANATEE RELEASED. The [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (3/4, 461K) reports that "a rehabilitated manatee from Tampa Bay who ended up in Texas is back in home waters after receiving care from SeaWorld, the theme park announced today." According to the article, "Trinidad was returned to Tampa Bay today with the help of SeaWorld Orlando's Animal Rescue Team, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the US Geological Survey."

Also reporting on the story is [WTSP-TV](#) St. Petersburg, FL (3/4, 69K).

MAN KILLED IN FLORIDA PLANE CRASH WAS AMERICAN AIRLINES PILOT. The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (3/5, Milian, 397K) reports that on Wednesday, American Airlines confirmed that David Whitney, who was killed Monday in a plane crash in Florida, was "a long-time pilot for the airline." The article notes that the plane crashed in the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge. William Mann was also killed in the crash. The report mentions that the FAA and NTSB have not "released the type of plane involved in the crash" or indicated "who was piloting the aircraft." According to the Post, NTSB spokesman Terry Williams "said investigators will remain at the scene for the next few days and will continue to interview witnesses and document the wreckage."

MICHIGAN'S NEW WOLF PLAN QUESTIONS FWS' RELISTING AS ENDANGERED. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (3/4, 987K) reports that "the Michigan Department of Natural Resources took not-so-veiled shots at the US Fish and Wildlife Service's relisting of Great Lakes wolves as endangered last month, in the state's updated draft wolf management plan released Wednesday." Portions of the updated wolf plan states that "regardless of changes in legal status ... wolves in Michigan have surpassed State and Federal population recovery goals for 15 years" and says that "protection of Michigan wolves under the Federal Endangered Species Act is no longer warranted."

CONCERNS RAISED OVER DEER FLAT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE'S MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR LAKE LOWELL. The [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (3/5, 51K) reports that Sen. Mike Crapo and "the Canyon County commissioners say they want a recently released management plan for a southwest Idaho federal wildlife refuge changed to be more accommodating for water skiing." According to the article, "some area residents are angry after discovering the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge management plan for Lake Lowell released last month prohibits the use of motorized boats that have internal or external wake generating devices and ballasts."

ELKO COUNTY RAISES CONCERNS ABOUT SAGE GROUSE MEASURES. The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (3/5, 22K) reports that "in response to a US Fish & Wildlife Service memo calling for stringent measures protecting sage grouse, county officials agreed to write to Gov. Brian Sandoval asking for the state to join in their disapproval." The article notes that "the county has taken a position questioning data used by the government supporting the need to protect sage grouse." Also, "commissioners have worried the restrictions will be onerous enough to kill projects, such as a proposed wind farm that was deferred a few years ago."

FALCONER PREVAILS AGAINST WILDLIFE OFFICIALS. The [Huffington Post](#) (3/5, Mcauliff, 281K) reports on Mike Dupuy, a master falconer in central Pennsylvania, who "wound up in a criminal court battle against the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania." After Dupuy "captured three young goshawks last year, he reported the 'takes' to local wildlife officials so the animals could be properly banded and applied to federal permits that allow him to hold up to four birds for falconry and breeding." He "won out in a daylong courtroom showdown late last month, with a federal judge failing to be convinced by either local or federal officials that Dupuy had done anything wrong."

GOLDEN EAGLE BEING EVALUATED AFTER STRUCK TWICE ON HIGHWAY. The [AP](#) (3/5) reports that "a golden eagle struck by two vehicles near Rapid City is being taken to a US Fish and Wildlife Service veterinarian in Pierre for further examination." The animal "survived being struck on Tuesday afternoon on state Highway 79."

Also reporting on the story is the [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (3/5, 101K).

KILAUEA POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE CONSIDERED TO BE AMONG BEST. The [Kaua'i \(HI\) Garden Island News](#) (3/5, 33K) reports that Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge is "on the short list to become one of USA Today's Reader's Choice 10 Best National Wildlife Refuges." Jennifer Waipa, supervisory park ranger said, "Aside from beautiful scenery, the wildlife — the fact that we have the seabirds, so many seabirds, in such a small area — is pretty incredible."

US Geological Survey:

USGS NOT ENOUGH DATA TO ESTABLISH FRACKING-POLLUTION LINK. The [AP](#) (3/4, Gruver, 804K) reports that a new study published in the American Geophysical Union journal Water Resources Research by the US Geological Survey says more data is needed to establish a link between fracking and water pollution. Researchers say long-term water quality trends can only be effectively evaluated in 16 percent of US watersheds with unconventional oil and gas resources due to inadequate data. Environmentalists meanwhile continue to blame fracking for polluting water.

Also reporting on the story is the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/5, 90K) and the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (3/5).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [KKCO-TV](#) Grand Junction, CO (3/5, 1K) and [KMGH-TV](#) Denver (3/5, 136K).

SCIENTISTS ATTEMPT TO DETECT FRACKING-RELATED EARTHQUAKES SOONER. The [Business Insider](#) (3/4, Ferro, 2 26M) reports that "a new paper in Science suggests that we need to detect much smaller earthquakes" in order to "better predict when a big one is going to hit." For the same reason, the United States Geological Service is working with stakeholders to "develop a hazard model for induced earthquakes in the U.S. that can be updated frequently in response to changing trends in energy production."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

INTERIOR ORDERED TO REVIEW APPROVAL OF NAVAJO MINE EXPANSION. The [Law 360](#) (3/5, 9K) reports that "a Colorado federal judge has ruled that the US Department of the Interior must review its approval of a Navajo Nation-owned company's permit to expand a coal mine, saying the agency failed to adequately consider the environmental impact of the proposed project's coal combustion." US District Senior Judge John L. Kane held that the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement "should have weighed the indirect effects on local wildlife from coal combustion at the Four Corners power plant."

Also reporting on the story is the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (3/4, 506).

BLM TO HOLD OIL, GAS LEASE SALE IN NEVADA The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (3/4, 168K) reports that the BLM is "holding a competitive oil and gas lease sales on Tuesday at the BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd. in Reno." The article notes that "the oil and gas sale includes 24 parcels totaling 25,882 acres."

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM REVIEW APPLICATIONS FROM COMPANIES SEEKING TO SURVEY ATLANTIC. The [Charleston \(SC\) Moultrie News](#) (3/4) reports that the BOEM has "begun evaluating applications from companies hoping to be the first in 30 years to survey waters off the Southeast coast for oil and gas exploration." The article notes that "of the seven applicants planning to survey off the coast of South Carolina, five intend on using seismic airgun arrays to determine what resources lie below, with two applicants specifying Charleston as one of their main ports." According to the article, "it's the use of these airguns that has many concerned, as some organizations, such as Oceana, claim the devices have a negative effect on marine life."

Marine Scientists Seek To Block Seismic Testing. The [Newsweek](#) (3/5, 1K) reports that "leading ocean scientists from the US and around the world today urged President Obama to halt a planned oil and gas exploration program off the Atlantic coast involving millions of underwater sound blasts that would have 'significant, long-lasting and widespread impacts on the reproduction and survival' of threatened whales and commercial fish populations." In the letter, "75 scientists from institutions such as Cornell, Duke, the New England Aquarium, Stanford, and the University of North Carolina say that the seismic blasts, from high-volume airguns that fire every 10-12 seconds, are nearly as loud as conventional explosives and have 'an enormous environmental footprint.'"

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF MEETINGS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL. Additional coverage of the meetings scheduled to discuss the federal government's offshore drilling proposal was provided by the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (3/5, 405K), the [Outer Banks \(NC\) Sentinel](#) (3/5, 25K), the [Outer Banks \(NC\) Voice](#) (3/4), the [Island Free Press \(NC\)](#) (3/5), and [WITN-TV](#) Washington, NC (3/5, 102K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CALIFORNIA WATER MANAGERS CRITICIZE CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT. The [Courthouse News](#) (3/4, 7K) reports that "federal delivery of zero water to the Central Valley this year threatens the 'potential devastation (of) tens of thousands of acres,' state water authorities say." Water managers claim "the federal program designed to provide water to the Central Valley is broken." Friant Water Authority General Manager Ronald Jacobsma said, "Last year we had a zero allocation at Friant and scrambled to make some water available through some district programs, water purchases, groundwater banks and groundwater pumping, and we were able to keep most of the orchards alive. But this year we're going in with less by way of reserves both from a water supply perspective and from a financial perspective for many growers. We are looking at potential devastation to tens of thousands of acres, particularly citrus."

Additional coverage of the BOR's decision was provided by the [Courthouse News](#) (3/3, 7K).

LAKE POWELL FUNDING BILL PASSES HURDLE. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (3/4, 46K) reports that "pipeline proponents have cleared a hurdle in getting funding established for the controversial Lake Powell Pipeline." SB281, "Water Infrastructure Funding" was "moved from the Senate Rules Committee to the Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment Committee, for review this morning."

SUPPORT URGED FOR BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN. The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (3/4, 317K), Ron Miller, the executive secretary of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, writes that California needs "to fix this broken water distribution system now." He claims that "the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) would address the most severe vulnerabilities of California's water delivery system." According to Miller, "the BDCP will improve the safety of our water system by fixing aging and outdated infrastructure, relying on the most innovative technologies and engineering practices."

Empowering Native American Communities:

CHEROKEE NATION WELCOMES BIA'S INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT GUIDELINE REVISION. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/3, 49K) reports that "Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn announced that the Bureau of Indian Affairs had published revised, sweeping new guidelines to ensure the rights and protections of Native families and children under the Indian Child Welfare Act as ICTMN reported." In a statement, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker said, "The Cherokee Nation applauds Mr. Washburn and his staff for taking the time to listen to the concerns of tribes and Indian families. The Cherokee Nation, along with many other tribes and Indian organizations, submitted comments to the BIA on the need for updated guidelines following the case of *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl*."

HALFTOWN FACTION SEEKS FEDERAL MEDIATION. The [Finger Lakes \(NY\) Times](#) (3/5, 43K) reports that "Cayuga Nation Council members Clint Halftown, Tim Twoguns and Gary Wheeler said Tuesday that they have requested federal mediation to help resolve the nation's leadership dispute." However, "the other group involved in the dispute says they shouldn't have bothered." According to the article, "Chiefs Samuel George and William 'Chuck' Jacobs and Chester Isaac dismissed Halftown's request and reiterated their belief that they are the 'traditional and rightful leaders.'"

COMMUNITY FORUM HELD ON CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES' WATER COMPACT. The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (3/5, 52K) reports that "tempers flared during a community forum Tuesday evening that was intended to answer questions from the public about the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' water compact." According to the article, "the three-hour policy discussion was interrupted frequently by members of the public who stood up to voice their discontent with the compact."

CHIPPEWA CREE COMMITTEE VOTES TO EXPEL TRIBAL CHAIRMAN FOR THIRD TIME. The [AP](#) (3/5) reports that "the executive body of the Rocky Boy's Chippewa Cree tribes in north-central Montana voted Monday to expel chairman Ken Blatt St. Marks for the third time." According to the article, "in an opinion issued Monday, the Chippewa Cree Business Committee said they found St. Marks has 'committed gross misconduct and neglected his duty.'"

MAN ARRESTED AFTER STRIKING BIA OFFICER, HIGH-SPEED CHASE. The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (3/5, 32K) reports that "William Joseph Schneider, 33, of Bismarck, has been named by the Bismarck Police Department who led police on chase that lasted for more than an hour on Tuesday." Schneider, "who was stopped in Fort Yates by a Bureau of Indian Affairs agent, allegedly injured the agent as he drove off, resulting in a chase that would include the North Dakota Highway Patrol, Morton County Sheriff's Department, Mandan Police Department, Bismarck Police Department and Burleigh County Sheriff's Department before ending at the intersection of Centennial Road and Saratoga Avenue on Tuesday afternoon."

Also reporting on the story are the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (3/5, 3K), [WDAZ-TV](#) Grand Forks, ND (3/5, 1K), and [KXMC-TV](#) Minot, ND (3/5, 1K).

Office of Insular Affairs:

END OF CW PROGRAM UNDER DISCUSSION. The [Marianas Variety](#) (3/5) reports that "acknowledging the significant role of foreign workers in the local economy, the Inos administration continues to have discussions with the federal government about the CW program while preparing for its end in 2019." Press Secretary Ivan Blanco said, "We are already taking steps to bolster and train our US-eligible workforce to meet the demands of our growing private sector through the work of our CNMI Department of Labor, the Office of Insular Affairs, the CNMI Department of Commerce, and our various educational institutions."

Top National News:

KERRY REACHES OUT TO PERSIAN GULF ALLIES AS IRANIAN OFFICIAL SAYS DEAL IS "VERY CLOSE." The day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech before the US Congress to warn about a nuclear deal with Iran, the country's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, told [NBC Nightly News](#) that the parties are "very close" to an agreement. While the [AP](#), among other news outlets, indicates that "US officials sought Wednesday to tamp down expectations," Zarif's comments generated a number of media analyses of what an agreement would entail, with reports casting Secretary of State Kerry's trip to the Persian Gulf as an effort to ease concerns about it among key US allies. Kerry's comments yesterday defending his approach to the talks, meanwhile, are seen as a continuation of the Administration's rebuttal of Netanyahu's arguments.

In his exclusive interview with NBC News, notes [Reuters](#) (3/5, Cooney), Zarif reiterated that his country has no intention to build a nuclear weapon, saying, "Once we reach that understanding, once this hysteria is out, once this fear-mongering is out, then we can have a deal, and a deal that is not going to hurt anybody." The [AP](#) (3/5, Jahn), which reports "the US and five other world powers appear to be narrowing differences with Iran on one potential bomb-making technology – uranium enrichment," notes the Administration "says it will not accept a pact unless it stretches to at least a year the time Iran would need to produce enough material for the fissile core of a nuclear weapon." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/5, Norman, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) runs a similar report under the headline "Iran Talks Closer On One-Year Nuclear 'Breakout' Demand," in which it quotes Kerry as saying talks remained "tough and intense."

[NRC Nightly News](#) (3/4 story 8 2 15 Holt 7.66M) also asked Zarif why Americans should trust Iran. He replied "We're not asking anybody to trust us and we are not going to

trust anybody for the time being. We take one step at a time. We're not asking for trust. We are asking for verification and we are accepting verification." Noting Zarif's assertion that "we are very close if the political decision can be made to get to yes, as President Obama said," [Politico](#) (3/4, Breitman, 669K) indicated the comments "suggest that Iran's volatile supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, is the chief barrier to the deal on the Iranian side." Khamenei "is widely understood to be Iran's final decision maker on major foreign policy issues."

The [AP](#) (3/5) reports that "the sides hope to have a progress report by late March allowing them to finesse details into a final pact by June." However, "a senior US official appeared to walk back from the significance of that first stage, describing it as only 'an understanding that's going to have to be filled out with lots of detail' by the June final target date." The AP says "the official's comments could be an attempt to stretch the interpretation of what should be achieved by March, allowing further negotiations even if nothing more is achieved than a vague declaration." That official also said the President "will make a call on whether to continue into June once he sees the March assessment from US negotiators."

Kerry, says the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Morello, 5.17M), "directly rebutted critics" yesterday, echoing "statements from President Obama." Kerry said of the negotiations, "The first step is to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. ... And we know that absent a deal, Iran will have the ability to move ahead with its nuclear program. That we know for sure, because that's exactly what's happened to date." The [New York Times](#) (3/5, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) similarly reports that in an apparent reference to what it terms Netanyahu's "harsh criticism of the emerging accord," Kerry said yesterday, "We are not going to be distracted by external factors. ... Simply demanding that Iran capitulate is not a plan." [AFP](#) (3/5, Biddle) reports that Kerry also said, "Any deal we reach would give us the intrusive access and verification measures necessary to confirm that Iran's nuclear facilities are indeed on a peaceful path. That would allow us to promptly detect any attempt to cheat or break out and then to respond appropriately." [Reuters](#) (3/5, Mohammed), however, notes that upon his return to Israel, Netanyahu claimed he had offered the US a "practical alternative" to the current course.

The [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Morello, 5.17M) reports that "the US delegation at the Wednesday talks included Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, and the Iranian team included Ali Akbar Salehi, the atomic energy chief." The [New York Times](#) (3/5, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), meanwhile, notes that following talks in Montreux, Kerry "flew to Saudi Arabia...to take on the challenge of explaining a potential deal...to the American-allied conservative monarchies of the gulf," which, "like Israel...see Iran as an opponent" and "are concerned about the terms of the deal, which would be limited in duration and would allow Iran to retain some of its nuclear infrastructure." Kerry "insisted that it was not yet clear whether an agreement would be reached with Iran," even as "he continued to lay the foundation for selling an agreement should one be reached." In Riyadh, notes the [Military Times](#) (3/4, Lee, 744K), Kerry "will see the new Saudi monarch, King Salman, and meet separately with the foreign ministers of the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates."

Iranian President "Content" With Course Of Talks, Blasts Israel. [AFP](#) (3/5) reports Iranian President Hassan Rouhani yesterday "said Israel creates the 'greatest danger' in the region," and said of the ongoing talks, "The people of the world are content with the way negotiations with the P5+1 group are moving forward...but there is only this occupying regime that is enraged by these talks."

Reid Opposed To Taking Up Corker-Menendez Bill; Democrats Unveil Alternative. The [AP](#) (3/5, Werner) reports that in an interview, Senate Minority Leader Reid "announced" his "opposition Wednesday to fast action on a bill giving Congress final say on any nuclear deal with Iran." Said Reid, "I think we are better off on things relating to the Iran deal to wait until we see if there can be something negotiated. ... And if there is something negotiated which allows a deal, then we should all jump in with all the energy we have. But until then I think it takes away from the fact that we might get a deal that's a good deal." [Reuters](#) (3/5, Zengerle) notes that Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker, who sponsored the measure with Sen. Robert Menendez, said no committee votes have been scheduled on the legislation.

[Politico](#) (3/5, Everett, 669K) reported, however, that "shrugging off Democrats' filibuster threats, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is moving forward with a vote" on Iran legislation. Said McConnell, "It was surprising to see some members on the other side of the aisle threaten to filibuster their own bill, a bill that they rushed to introduce before the President's negotiations were complete. ... It is my sincere hope that the sponsors of this bill, who will have the opportunity to review and defend their bill in committee, will not filibuster." Politico adds that "there appears little hope of that." The [New York Times](#) (3/5, Davis, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) casts the developments as "a reprieve for...Obama."

[The Hill](#) (3/4, Wong, 224K), meanwhile, reported that Sen. Barbara Boxer, "a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee," yesterday "introduced a bill... that would require the White House to regularly update Congress on Iran's compliance with any nuclear deal." The measure, cosponsored by Sens. Sherrod Brown, Tom Carper, Dianne Feinstein, Al Franken, Martin Heinrich, and Brian Schatz, "could provide cover for Democrats who vote against the Corker-Menendez bill, or a tougher bill by Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) and Menendez – by offering an alternative measure allowing congressional oversight of a final deal." Boxer's bill "would require the president to report to Congress at least once every 90 days on a deal, along with a certification by the president in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence on Iran's compliance."

Psaki Sends Reporters Article Contradicting Netanyahu. The [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Morello, 5.17M) notes in the final paragraphs of its story on the talks that "Kerry spokeswoman Jen Psaki sent reporters a copy of an article published by [FactCheck.org](#) that said Netanyahu had misrepresented Kerry in one of the central points of his speech." Psaki's email "made no additional comments, beyond the subject line, 'Please share.'" The article indicated that "Netanyahu had taken Kerry out of context when he claimed that Kerry 'confirmed last week that Iran could legitimately possess' 190,000 centrifuges, used to enrich uranium, as part of the agreement." In fact, adds the Post, Kerry "spoke more generally in testimony he gave to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on Feb. 25, saying that a 'civilian power plant that's producing power legitimately, and not a threat to proliferation, you could have as many as 190,000 or more centrifuges.'"

The [Fact Check](#) (3/4, Kiely, 5K) piece, titled "Netanyahu Takes Kerry Out Of Context," also includes a quote from State spokeswoman Marie Harf, who said, "Kerry was not speaking to what Iran could or would have under or after a deal – he wasn't talking specifically about Iran at all. ... He was arguing that ensuring the nuclear program is peaceful through measures like transparency and monitoring can be as important [as] the number of centrifuges, which can get quite high even in countries that peacefully enrich uranium only to produce electrical power."

Karl Rove, in today's [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/5, Rove, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), argues that by mounting a public relations push against Netanyahu's speech, the Administration raised the speech's profile and made it more relevant than it would have been otherwise.

NYTimes Analysis: Netanyahu Shifted Stance On "Zero" Capability. The [New York Times](#) (3/5, Baker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that lost in the coverage of Netanyahu's speech is "what he did not say...to describe his bottom line when it comes to an acceptable Iranian nuclear program – zero capability whatsoever." That "absence from Mr. Netanyahu's carefully prepared text was no accident, according to the Israeli camp, and it signaled a shift in position, however slight." Under this new stance, "rather than insist that Iran be left with no centrifuges and that it be barred from any enrichment of uranium, as he has in the past, Mr. Netanyahu signaled that he could live with a modest capability, just not one as robust as Mr. Obama would permit."

Polls Find Speech Gave Small Boost To Netanyahu. [Reuters](#) (3/5, Fisher- lan) reports that two opinion polls released Wednesday indicate Netanyahu appears to have received a small boost following his speech to Congress. A Channel 10 survey has Netanyahu's Likud Party gaining two seats, leaving him in a tie with Isaac Herzog's Zionist Union. A Channel 2 poll, meanwhile, found Likud was up one, just behind Herzog's list. The [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Booth, Eglash, 5.17M) says the polls show the speech "had only a modest influence on the Israeli electorate," while the [New York Times](#) (3/5, Kershner, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) notes that "the opposition in Israel says there is no difference between it and the government when it comes to the strategic threat that would be posed by a nuclear Iran," though Herzog "says that the way to counter it is not to antagonize the American administration but to build strong ties with it to reach joint understandings about what would constitute an acceptable deal with Iran."

E.J. Dionne writes in the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, 5.17M) that "It was disconcerting to watch Congress cheer wildly as a foreign leader.. trashed an American president's foreign policy," and "it was equally strange that the speaker of our House of Representatives interjected the US Congress into an Israeli political campaign."

Ross: Netanyahu Made "Strong Case," Obama Should Address His Concerns. Dennis Ross, "a key White House adviser to...Obama on Iran from 2009 to 2011 and Mideast peace envoy for two previous administrations," writes in [USA Today](#) (3/5, 10.32M) that Netanyahu "made a strong case to the Congress about why he thinks the potential agreement with Iran on its nuclear program is a 'very bad deal.'" Ross adds that the Administration "should address" Netanyahu's arguments, "spelling out different categories of violations" of the eventual deal "and the consequences for each – and then seek congressional authorization to empower this president and his successors to act on these consequences." Ross concludes that "if applied also to Iranian moves toward a nuclear weapon after the expiration of the deal, the administration would truly be answering the most significant of the concerns that Netanyahu raised." And "maybe then, this episode of US-Israeli tension would be overcome."

WSJournal Contrasts Pelosi's Reactions To Netanyahu, Assad. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/5, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) criticizes a statement by House Minority Leader Pelosi in which she accused Netanyahu of condescension and revealed she had been near tears during the Israeli leader's speech to Congress. The Journal contrasts that statement with one her office issued in 2007, when Pelosi visited Bashar al-Assad in Syria, "We were very pleased with the assurances we received from [Mr. Assad] that he was ready to resume the peace process."

Israel Raids Ship Filled With Rockets, Allegedly From Iran. The [Washington Times](#) (3/5, Ernst, 644K) reports "a ship filled with dozens of rockets allegedly supplied by Iran was raided Wednesday in the Red Sea by the Israeli navy." Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said after the raid, "Iran trains, funds and arms terror groups in the region and around the world and its failed attempts to transfer the arms that were discovered this morning is more proof of that."

WSJournal Analysis: Iran Expanding Regional Influence. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/5, Spindle, Subscription Publication, 5 67M) reports the lessening of the secrecy surrounding Iranian Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani and highlights how Iran is altering the way it interacts with the Middle East. The Journal says Iran is no longer seeking to only extend its influence in covert ways, but is making some of its efforts visible.

MEDIA ANALYSES SUPREME COURT LEANING TOWARD GOVERNMENT IN KING V. BURWELL. Much of the coverage of the Supreme Court's [oral arguments](#) in King v. Burwell focuses on Justice Anthony Kennedy, who is seen as the swing vote in the case. The network news broadcasts spent five minutes and 45 seconds on the story, and print coverage this morning is extensive. While some reports and commentary say the outcome of the case is difficult to predict, the consensus view in the coverage is that the Court is leaning toward upholding the ACA's subsidies for consumers who purchased health insurance on the Federal exchange. Many reports pay particular attention to Kennedy's claim that ruling in favor of the plaintiffs could send the law into a "death spiral."

For example, on [ABC World News](#) (3/4, story 8, 1:30, Muir, 5.84M) David Muir reported that Kennedy gave "a bit of a hint about which way the case might go." Jim Avila added that Kennedy, who is "a critical swing vote," told the plaintiffs' attorney that "ruling in their favor would send the entire Obamacare program into a death spiral," and an editorial in the [New York Times](#) (3/5, Subscription Publication, 9 97M) says that while the arguments "provided few solid clues to how the justices will rule," Kennedy's comments were "a small but encouraging sign that a majority of the court may be prepared to avoid a ruling that would essentially destroy Obamacare."

An editorial in [USA Today](#) (3/5, 10.32M) says the arguments "suggested that this latest challenge is even more flimsy than the one the court wisely rejected in 2012," and in his [Washington Post](#) (3/5, 5.17M) column, Charles Lane writes that "conservative hearts sink, as those on the right who had invested their hopes in Kennedy watch what may be their last best chance for a Supreme Court victory over Obamacare possibly slip away." Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (3/5, 5.17M) column that there were 90 minutes of "lopsided argument in favor of the Obama administration's defense," which "cast significant doubt on what had been a plausible challenge to Obamacare's legality."

Under the headline, "Obamacare On Life Support As Supreme Court Splits On Law's Fate," the [Washington Times](#) (3/5, Howell, 644K) says the Justices disagreed on "whether Obamacare's framers meant to offer insurance subsidies to every state," but [McClatchy](#) (3/5, Doyle, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that the "tentative prognosis look[s] rather positive for the president's signature health care law."

Jan Crawford, meanwhile reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/4, story 9, 1:55, Rose, 5.08M) that the "outcome is impossible to predict," and while Pete Williams reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/4, story 4, 2:20, Holt, 7 86M) that although a prediction is "impossible," the Court "did not seem as hostile to Obamacare as the White House had feared," on [MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (3/4, 487K) he said that the "bottom line" is that "you can't predict what's going to happen based on this argument." The [Huffington Post](#) (3/4, Cohn, 281K) also said it is "difficult to predict how the court will rule," and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/5, A1, Kendall, Bravin, Subscription Publication, 5 67M), which describes the Court as divided, says the outcome is difficult to predict.

A [Politico](#) (3/5, Nather, 669K) analysis says that while ACA supporters "were cheered Wednesday by Justice Anthony Kennedy's tough grilling of the lead attorney in the latest lawsuit — and the law's opponents came away nervous," there is "still enough uncertainty about the outcome of King v. Burwell to guarantee that the survival of Obamacare will be in doubt until the Supreme Court rules at the end of June."

[USA Today](#) (3/5, Wolf, Heath, 10.32M) describes the arguments as "heated" and notes that the Court "appeared closely divided." USA Today adds that while the Court's "most conservative members" seemed to be "pleased" by the argument that ACA's language allows for tax credits "only in states that set up their own health insurance exchanges," the Court's "four liberals sided with the government's assertion that the entire law — designed to provide health insurance protection to 'all Americans' — must be considered paramount to any literal interpretation of those four words." Likewise, [The Hill](#) (3/4, Ferris, 224K) reported that while the Court's conservative members "appeared favorable to the challengers' argument" for a "plain English" reading of the law, the liberal Justices "argued that the context was more important," leaving Chief Justice John Roberts and Kennedy as potential swing votes.

Most reports echo the sentiment expressed by [USA Today](#) (3/5, Wolf, 10.32M), which reports that the fate of the law "likely rests in the hands" of Chief Justice Roberts and Kennedy. For example, Jeffrey Toobin said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (3/4, 320K) that the "key to this case" are Roberts and Kennedy, and the [New York Times](#) (3/5, A1, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says the Administration "must almost certainly capture the vote of either Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. or Justice Anthony M. Kennedy to prevail."

[Bloomberg News](#) (3/5, Stohr, 2.94M) notes that Kennedy, who "asked questions of both sides," said that "limiting the tax credits to 16 states, as a group of challengers urge, would create a 'serious constitutional problem.'" Kennedy said the Court "might have to allow nationwide subsidies to avoid trammeling the rights of the states, which he said would face a choice between setting up their own exchanges or seeing their insurance markets collapse." However, he "indicated he saw the challengers' reading of the law as the more natural one."

[Politico](#) (3/4, Haberkorn, 669K) reported that while the Justices "gave few hints about how they'll determine the fate" of the law, Kennedy "suggested that ruling against the White House would be an implicit approval of the federal government putting a gun to the states' heads about insurance." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/5, Savage, Levey, 3.49M), meanwhile, says Roberts "was surprisingly quiet throughout the argument," noting that he "did not engage in a back-and-forth exchange with the lawyers."

[Salon](#) (3/5, Williams, 688K) reported that Kennedy's comment that he sees a "serious constitutional problem" with the claim that the law forced states to choose between establishing exchanges and surrendering subsidies, "could signal trouble for the plaintiffs," and the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, A1, Barnes, 5.17M), which calls Kennedy "a potential swing vote," notes that his comments could be "a reason for optimism for the Obama administration." However, while [Reuters](#) (3/5, Hurley) also describes Kennedy as a likely swing vote, it notes that while he indicated he could support the Administration's position, he did not commit to either side.

While some commentary indicates that the Court is leaning toward the Administration position, other commentary this morning argues that the Court should strike down the subsidies. For example, an editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/5, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) argues that the ACA draws a clear distinction between the Federal and state exchanges and the Court should uphold the law as it is written. Likewise, in an op-ed in [USA Today](#) (3/5, 10.32M), Jonathan H. Adler, the Johan Verheij Memorial Professor of Law and director of the Center for Business Law and Regulation at the Case Western Reserve University School of Law, says this is "a straightforward case of statutory interpretation," and the statute is clear that the tax credits "are available in exchanges 'established by the state,' and the federal government is not a state." In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/5, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt argues that states knew that the RS might not have authority to grant tax credits in states that did not create their own exchanges, adding that his state chose to give up the credits in order to free itself of the law's mandates.

Kennedy Comments Send Hospital Stocks Higher. [Bloomberg News](#) (3/5, Tracer, 2.94M) reports that hospital stocks climbed Wednesday in the wake of Kennedy's comments, rising "more than all other stocks on the Standard & Poor's 500 Index on Wednesday."

Healthcare, Insurance Industries Brace For Loss Of Subsidies. The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/4, Bruinius, 380K) reported that "many in the insurance and health-care industries are bracing for a possible logistical and financial tsunami," which could come if the Court rules that the subsidies are limited to the state exchanges. Experts say such a ruling "would instantly break the insurance plans' business model."

NYTimes Analysis: Many ACA Policies Will Remain Intact Regardless Of Court's Ruling. An analysis in the [New York Times](#) (3/5, Sanger-Katz, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) "Upshot" column says that while a ruling for the plaintiffs "would carry huge consequences in many states," according to an Urban Institute estimate, "15 million of the people estimated to get insurance under the law would still get it." The piece goes on to list a number of ACA policies that would remain intact should the Court find for the plaintiffs.

Barraso Says Republicans Have Not "Signed Off" On An ACA Alternative. [Roll Call](#) (3/4, Hess, Subscription Publication, 102K) reported that Sen. John Barraso said Republicans have not "signed off" on an alternative plan in case the court strikes down the subsidies. Barraso "said discussions were ongoing."

[USA Today](#) (3/5, Davis, 10.32M) reports that Republicans are "under renewed pressure to present a legislative alternative," adding that Barraso said, "We're meeting together on a regular basis. ... What we've been saying is Republicans are going to protect the people hurt by the law, but not protect the law." Barraso, along with Sens. Orrin Hatch and Lamar Alexander "are leading a Senate effort, outlined in a Washington Post op-ed, that they say would provide for a 'temporary transition' for Americans to keep their current health care if the court rules against the administration."

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DECLINES TO CHARGE WILSON, BLASTS FERGUSON POLICE. In a pair of reports Wednesday, the Justice Department absolved former Ferguson, Missouri police officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of Micheal Brown, but blasted the practices of the city's police, courts, and city government as biased against African Americans. Attorney General Holder said that while there was not sufficient evidence to bring charges against Wilson, the Department's findings explained why the city erupted in the wake of the shooting. The three network news broadcasts spent a combined total of nearly six-and-a-half minutes on the story and there is extensive print coverage this morning. Generally, the coverage casts the decision not to indict Wilson as unsurprising, and describes the DOJ report as a "damning" condemnation of Ferguson's practices, which vindicates the longstanding complaints of the city's African American residents.

defense and no credible evidence Brown had his hands up attempting to surrender," and the [Daily Caller](#) (3/5, Munro, 318K) says that Holder "admitted" that the "'Hands up, don't shoot' slogan used by Democrat activists since August 2013 is a complete falsehood," but he "declined to criticize the TV-media frenzy — and the claims by local African-American protesters — that spread the false claim that the dead youth, Michael Brown, had his hands up shortly before his was shot by police officer Darren Wilson."

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/5, 889K) reports that investigators found that "physical evidence and 'credible' witnesses supported Wilson's version" of the shooting, and the [Washington Post](#) (3/5, Lowery, 5.17M) reports that while several eyewitnesses said Brown's hands were up at the time of the shooting, investigators "found that many of those witnesses were not credible," and concluded that Brown "likely did not have his hands up when Wilson shot and killed him."

The [New York Times](#) (3/5, Apuzzo, Eckholm, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) calls the DOJ report "the most definitive account yet of the shooting," adding that it "largely backed up Mr. Wilson's account and said there was no basis for criminal charges," and [USA Today](#) (3/5, Johnson, Alcindor, 10 32M) reports that Holder said the outcome of the shooting investigation represents "sound, considered and independent judgment of the expert career prosecutors within the Department of Justice," adding, "I concur with the investigative team's judgment and the determination about our inability to meet the required federal standard."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/5, Barrett, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that investigators cited the high legal standard in required for a Federal case, noting that prosecutors would have to prove that Wilson intended to violate Brown's rights and acted with unreasonable force that would not have been used by another officer in the same situation, and the [Huffington Post](#) (3/4, Reilly, 281K) noted that the DOJ report "does not attempt to establish whether Wilson was justified in

Conversation Contents

Honouliuli celebration, March 2nd?

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Feb 17 2015 11:04:13 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov
Subject: Honouliuli celebration, March 2nd?

Hello Rod,
Please keep this request internal to your office for the time being, but would your boss be available in Hawaii on March 2nd if Secretary Jewell were in the state to celebrate the designation of Honouliuli as a national monument?
Thanks,
Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

"Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>

From: "Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tue Feb 17 2015 12:28:50 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Honouliuli celebration, March 2nd?

Aloha Jeremy,

Thank you for your email. Unfortunately, Congressman Takai will be in DC that day as there will be voting later in the day. Please let me know if we will could send a representative in his place should the event take place as scheduled.

Thank you again,

Rod

Rod Tanonaka

Chief of Staff

Office of Congressman Mark Takai

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"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Feb 17 2015 12:31:11 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli celebration, March 2nd?

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From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Feb 18 2015 12:07:43 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli celebration, March 2nd?

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"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Feb 18 2015 14:57:00 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli celebration, March 2nd?

Hello Rod,
I understand, and if this event happens we would be happy to have a representative from your office attend. I'll keep you in the loop!
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Sent Wednesday, February 18, 2015 9:08 AM
To Tanonaka, Rod
Subject Re: Honouliuli celebration, March 2nd?

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Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior

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Rod Tanonaka

Chief of Staff

Office of Congressman Mark Takai

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From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 03 2015 09:35:49 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Re: Honouliuli celebration, March 2nd?

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From: "Tanonaka, Rod" <Rod.Tanonaka@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 03 2015 13:27:54 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: Honouliuli celebration, March 2nd?

Thank you so much Jeremy. Please keep in touch.

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Sent Tuesday, March 03, 2015 11:36 AM
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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 2, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Mon Mar 02 2015 05:00:18 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, March 2, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015 7 00 AM EST

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- + Washington Post.
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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL SIGNS SHOSHONE-PAIUTE WATER RIGHTS AGREEMENT. The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has "signed an agreement to end longstanding water disputes between the federal government and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation on the Nevada-Idaho border." The agreement signed Friday "guarantees water rights for the tribes while providing certainty for upstream water users of the East Fork of the Owyhee River." The settlement also "authorizes millions in funding for tribal water development projects, including rehabilitation of the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs irrigation project serving the reservation."

Also reporting on the story are the [Idaho Statesman](#) (2/27, 196K), the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (3/1, 398K), and the [Law 360](#) (3/1, 9K).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (3/2, 66K), [KTVN-TV](#) Reno, NV (3/2, 2K), [KHQ-TV](#) Spokane, WA (3/1, 77K) and [KOLO-TV](#) Reno, NV (3/1, 3K).

ADVOCATES RAMP UP EFFORTS FOR NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CALIFORNIA. The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that "California lawmakers and advocacy groups are ramping up efforts to win national monument designation for four scenic vistas in the state, from vast stretches of the Mojave Desert to redwood stands along the Pacific Coast Highway to canyons and mountains near the state's famous wine country." Supporters of the proposed monuments in California are pressing both Congress and President Obama. Interior Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw "declined to directly answer whether Jewell has recommended that the president use his executive authority on any of the four California projects." However, "she said Jewell regularly briefs the president on her travels and has talked to him about 'the local vision for conservation around the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region.'"

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/28, 323K), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (3/1, 77K), the [Denver Post](#) (3/1, Freking, 804K), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/1, Freking, 2 28M), the [Lake Tahoe \(CA\) News](#) (3/1), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/1, 4.78M), [Fox News](#) (3/1, 8.25M), and [Yahoo! News](#) (3/1, Freking, 5 81M).

Additional Coverage Of Three Newest National Monuments. Additional coverage of Pullman National Monument in Chicago, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado was provided by [USA Today](#) (2/26, 10 32M) and [Fox News](#) (3/1, 8.25M).

Support Urged For Boulder-White Clouds National Monument. For the "Congress Blog" of [The Hill](#) (3/1, Former Rep. Larry Larocco (d-Ida.), 224K), former Rep. Larry Larocco writes that "the congressional efforts to save Central Idaho's Boulder-White Clouds, the largest unprotected roadless area in the US outside of Alaska, are dangerously stalled."

INTERIOR OFFICIALS TO TESTIFY AT BUDGET HEARINGS. [Bloomberg BNA](#) (2/28, 8K) reports that "on March 4, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior will hold a hearing on the Interior Department budget request." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Secretary Mike Connor are scheduled to testify. Jewell also is "scheduled to testify March 5 on Interior's budget request before the House Natural Resources Committee."

Also reporting on the story is the [National Journal](#) (3/2, Subscription Publication, 111K).

DOJ FIGHTING TO KEEP SECRETARY JEWELL TESTIFYING ABOUT MANAGEMENT OF NATIVE AMERICAN ASSETS. The [National Law Journal](#) (3/1) reports that "the US Department of Justice is fighting to keep Interior Secretary Sally Jewell from having to answer questions about the government's alleged mismanagement of Native American assets since the early 20th century."

BILL WOULD PERMANENTLY FUND PILT PROGRAM. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (3/1, 49K) reports that "New Mexico's US senators are among a bipartisan group of congressional members who plan to introduce a bill that would provide long-term funding" for the PILT program. Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich "worked successfully with other lawmakers to fund PILT on a single-year basis for 2014 and 2015, and they've advocated for long-term funding."

CEDAR MESA COULD BECOME PART OF NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (3/1, 28K) reports that "all eyes are on the Utah Public Lands Initiative, led by U.S. Reps. Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz." The article notes that "on the larger scale, the initiative includes 18 million acres of federal lands in seven counties," and "on a smaller scale, it potentially could create a National Conservation Area for Cedar Mesa."

LACK OF GLOBAL SEA LEVEL DATA HINDERING EFFORTS TO ESTIMATE SEA LEVEL CHANGE. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/28, Mcginty, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that the absence of global data on sea levels is preventing scientists from accurately estimating sea level changes. The Journal notes that while over 100 years of records on sea level exist for parts of Europe and North America, a lack of records in other parts of the world is creating challenges for estimating both past and future increases in sea level.

CSC MAKES CLOUD DEAL IN MIDST OF BUYOUT TALK. [Washington Technology](#) (2/27, Wakeman, 118K) reports in its "Editors Notebook" blog on CSC's announcement that it acquired the Autonomic Resources company in order to bolster its position in completing FedRAMP. Washington Technology comments that CSC's acquisition demonstrates it is "staying focused on continuing to shape and update its offerings" by strengthening its cloud computing capabilities and the article says that will pay off whether or not rumors

that CSC will split its government and commercial business are accurate.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SECRETARY JEWELL MEETS WITH HAWAII GOV. IGE. Additional coverage that Hawaii Gov. David Ige met with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell was provided by the [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (3/1, 360K).

FORMER SECRETARY SALAZAR SUPPORTS EDUCATING ALL AMERICANS ABOUT ENERGY ISSUES. For the "Congress Blog" of [The Hill](#) (3/1, Salazar, 224K), former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar writes that he is "looking forward to joining other minority leaders and key stakeholders at the 2015 Energy Policy Summit being hosted by the American Association of Blacks in Energy and Hispanics in Energy in Washington, D.C. this week to discuss the energy policies impacting minority communities." Salazar says that "through forums like these, minority stakeholder organizations can become better informed about the energy policies that have a real impact on their lives, and ensure our view is heard by policymakers at a national and state level." Salazar concludes that "the best way to ensure a bright energy future for all Americans" is to educate "all constituencies about our America's evolving energy and environmental policies."

US URGED TO CUT OIL CONSUMPTION. For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (2/27, Negin, 281K), Elliott Negin, Senior Writer, Union of Concerned Scientists, writes that "attempting to make good on its 'all of the above' energy strategy, the Obama administration recently floated proposals for oil development that have infuriated members of Congress on both coasts, but for very different reasons." Instead, Negin proposes, "given oil's considerable drawbacks, wouldn't it make more sense to focus national attention on consuming less?" He concludes that this strategy "won't require is drilling in the Arctic Refuge, Arctic Ocean or along the Eastern seaboard."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

FIRST PEOPLES BUFFALO JUMP STATE PARK CLOSER TO LANDMARK DESIGNATION. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (2/27, 76K) reports that "First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park is moving closer to receiving National Historic Landmark designation." Earlier this month, the National Historic Landmark Review Committee "approved and forwarded the nomination to the next level, which is the National Park Service's National Landmark Advisory Committee."

VARIOUS GROUPS OPPOSE YELLOWSTONE PADDLING BILL. The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that "the Greater Yellowstone Coalition is among various groups opposing proposed legislation that would open up more rivers and streams to paddling in Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks." Caroline Byrd, who directs the environmental advocacy group, said, "It is a blunt approach that fails to consider the existing recreational activities and natural values provided by waters in some of the world's most iconic places – Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks."

Also reporting on the story is the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (3/1, 54K).

GRAFFITI ARTIST MAY HAVE VANDALIZED JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK. The [Take Part](#) (3/1, 217K) reports that Paris-based street artist André Saraiva, "better known as André, this week posted an image of a defaced boulder that appears to be inside the Joshua Tree National Park on his now private Instagram account." Joshua Tree National Park hasn't "confirmed whether Saraiva broke the law."

DAVID HALL HOUSE ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. The [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/27, 2.42M) reports that the David Hall House has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

ILLINOIS BUDGET CUTS HURT CAHOKIA MOUNDS HISTORIC SITE. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/1, 889K) reports that the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site has "been so hurt by Illinois funding cuts that a nonprofit society has turned to the public to pay for brochures for visitors." According to the article, "on Jan. 30, the Cahokia Mounds Museum Society set up a plea on the fund-raising site, [gofundme.org](#), to raise \$7,500," and "by Wednesday, it had surpassed its goal; by Friday, it had raised \$8,716, from 543 people." Meanwhile, "the private Heartlands Conservancy is seeking to have Congress place the mounds under the auspices of the National Park Service."

WINTER CARETAKER OF YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK PROFILED. [CBS News](#) (3/1, 8.2M) reports on Steve Fuller, the Winter Caretaker of Yellowstone National Park. According to the story, "he's stuck out the solitary existence of the position for 42 years, ever since the winter of 1973."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE NPS SITES RECORD NUMBER OF VISITORS IN 2014. Additional coverage that the NPS, "which is preparing to celebrate its centennial next year, set a record for guests in 2014 with 292.8 million visits," was provided by the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (3/1, 605K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE NPS MAPS NOISE LEVELS THROUGHOUT US. coverage of the NPS' work to map noise levels throughout the US was provided by the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/27, 2.42M), the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (3/1, 988K), and [WBBM-TV](#) Chicago (2/27, 127K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE APOSTLE ISLANDS ICE CAVES OPEN. Additional coverage of the opening of the Apostle Islands ice caves was provided by the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/27, 2.42M), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/1, Louwagie, 1.37M), and [KBJR-TV](#) Duluth, MN (3/1, 2K).

Bureau of Land Management:

JUDGE TO HEAR ARGUMENTS ON WILD HORSE ROUND-UP LAWSUIT. The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that "arguments in a federal lawsuit contesting the roundup of hundreds of wild horses in western Wyoming last fall will focus on a federal law that carries different rules for private and federal land." According to the article, "the 1,263 horses gathered in late September and early October roamed both types of land in a vast area of sagebrush desert featuring square-mile sections of private land interspersed with equal-sized sections of federal land." US District Judge Nancy Freudenthal will consider in Laramie on Monday whether the BLM "violated the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act with the roundup in the Checkerboard area east and south of Rock Springs."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (3/1, 19K).

Also reporting on the story is the [County 10](#) (2/28).

BLM SEEKS COMMENTS ON RED DESERT COMPLEX WILD HORSE GATHER. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (3/1, 90K) reports that the BLM is "accepting public comments in preparation for a wild horse gather in the Red Desert Herd Management Area." According to Kirsten Lenhardt, BLM Wyoming spokeswoman, "the agency expects the Red Desert gather to be much smaller than the Checkerboard gather conducted in late 2014." Lenhardt, said, "The number of horses has yet to be identified as that will come out of the analysis in the Environmental Assessment. The BLM is currently in the scoping phase."

Also reporting on the story is the [County 10](#) (3/1).

AROUND 370 WILD HORSES ESTIMATED TO BE ON JOINT LANDS IN FOUR CORNERS. The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that "federal authorities estimate that around 370 wild horses are roaming on lands jointly managed by the US Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service in the Four Corners." According to the article, "the herds of wild horses roam the Jicarilla Joint Management Area." The BLM Resource Advisory Council is "looking at possible solutions to control the population."

ENVIRONMENTALISTS PAN NEW RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/27, 28K) reports that "environmental organizations were quick to pounce on a new resource management plan released Friday by the Bureau of Land Management, calling it flawed, woefully inadequate and a missed opportunity to properly manage development and recreation on public land." The document, "which replaces a resource-management plan that dates to 1983, covers 503,000 surface acres and 300,000 acres of mineral estate beneath nonfederal land in La Plata, Archuleta, Montezuma, San Juan, Dolores, San Miguel, Hinsdale and Montrose counties." The bureau's "chosen plan, one of four options, struck a middle ground in handling environmental, recreational and commercial issues."

Also reporting on the story is the [Colorado Public Radio](#) (3/1).

BLM SEEKS INPUT ON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN IN NEVADA. The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (3/1, 155K) reports that the BLM is seeking "input on a new plan that governs how 3.1 million acres of federal lands in Southern Nevada are used." The article notes that "the potential impact of the plan to reshape how public lands are used and accessed has drawn a strong response, as many Nevadans already chafe at the BLM's presence," and "one of the loudest critics has been Cliven Bundy, the rancher who ignited a tense standoff last year with the BLM over the use of federal lands for grazing in rural Clark County."

NEW MEXICO MULLS FEDERAL LAND TRANSFER. The [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (3/1, 31K) reports that "sportsman are deeply concerned that efforts at the state legislature to shift control of public lands are being pushed by outside interests and could jeopardize the future of that legacy." If successful, "New Mexico would join several Western states that have expressed frustration with federal management and undertaken exhaustive studies to see if state agencies could take over the reins." The article notes that "in a place like

Taos County, which is about half federal lands, the impact would be substantial."

Effort To Transfer Federal Lands Criticized. In an op-ed for the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (3/1, 52K), Riley McClelland writes that "national forests and Bureau of Land Management lands belong to all of us." McClelland argues that "these federal lands are much too important to be managed by state agencies guided by politicians." McClelland concludes that "transferring federal lands to the states would be a mistake that future generations would rue."

BLM APPROVES ATV TRAIL IN SAN JUAN COUNTY. The [AP](#) (3/2) reports that the BLM has "given final approval to plans for a new ATV trail in San Juan County." The move "allows for construction and maintenance of 6.4 miles of ATV trails that will connect designated routes in the Lockhart Basin area to similar routes in the Bridger Jack Mesa area."

BLM PROPOSES MOSQUITO FLATS MINING AND ATV BAN. The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (3/1, 39K) reports that the BLM is "considering blocking mining and summer ATV travel in a 30,000 acre block of Fortymile River country." The bureau has "formally proposed creating a protected area called an Area of Critical Environmental Concern in the Mosquito Flats, about 20 miles west of the Taylor Highway between Tok and Chicken." Public comment for the proposal closes Tuesday.

AUTOPSY REPORT REVEALS DETAILS OF FATAL SHOOTING BY BLM OFFICERS. [KTNV-TV](#) Las Vegas (3/1, 29K) reports that "more than a year after 20-year-old D'Andre Berghardt was shot and killed by Bureau of Land Management officers at Red Rock Canyon, his family still doesn't have any answers as to why." According to a recently obtained autopsy report, "D'Andre Berghardt's body had 7 bullet holes, 3 broken ribs, a shattered pelvis, and a broken arm when he was examined by the Clark County Coroner after being shot dead by BLM officers after an apparent altercation with BLM and Nevada Highway Patrol troopers."

WATCHDOG SAYS TEST RANGE EXPANSION NEEDS FULL REVIEW. The [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (2/28, 81K) reports that "a longtime watchdog of military activity in Utah's west desert says a proposal to expand the Department of Defense's training range is missing one, very key element: a proper public review process." Steve Erickson, "who works with the Utah Audubon Council and the Great Basin Water Network, says an Air Force proposal to expand the Utah Test and Training Range by nearly 700,000 acres in the rural areas of Box Elder, Juab and Tooele counties is proceeding without proper federal insight and a lack of public input."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

CROP HERBICIDES PLAY A ROLE IN DECLINE OF MONARCH POPULATION. The [AP](#) (3/1) reports that "a butterfly being considered for federal protection is emblematic of the plight that pollinating insects face in part because farmers, enticed by ethanol mandates, are growing more herbicide-resistant crops, which has stripped millions of acres of crucial plant habitat." Herbicide makers claim "they're committed to helping the black-and-orange insects, whose numbers have plummeted by more than 90 percent in the past two decades." Meanwhile, "environmentalists seeking protection for monarchs under the Endangered Species Act said restoring milkweed habitat would help other pollinating insects, too, such as honey bees, whose numbers of managed colonies have dropped by more than 4 million beehives since 1947." The FWS is "taking comments and data about monarchs through March 2, and a decision on whether to list the monarch as threatened is due in December."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (3/1, 889K), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (3/1, Hollingsworth, 2 28M), the [Washington Post](#) (3/1, 5.17M), the [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (2/28, 343K), the [Sioux City \(IA\) Journal](#) (3/1, 27K), the [US News & World Report](#) (2/28, 685K), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/1, 4.78M), and [WJBK-TV](#) Detroit (3/1, 253K).

Group Files Lawsuit Against EPA Over Drop In Monarch Butterflies. The [National Monitor](#) (2/28) reports that "the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a non-governmental environmental group, has filed suit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in an effort to force the agency's hand on protection of the Monarch butterfly." According to a statement by the organization, "EPA's failure to respond to an urgent petition that sought to limit the use of a pesticide that's been destroying monarch habitat, filed more than a year ago by NRDC, has resulted in significant ongoing harm to the vulnerable butterfly population."

Also reporting on the story is [Reuters](#) (2/27).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION, TWO STATES FIGHT RENEWED LEGAL PROTECTION FOR GREAT LAKES WOLVES. The [AP](#) (2/27) reports that "the Obama administration and two states have given notice of plans to appeal a federal judge's order that restored legal protection to gray wolves in the western Great Lakes region." Michigan "filed an appeal document Friday with the US Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., a day after Wisconsin did so." The FWS "filed notices earlier this month, although a spokeswoman said a final decision on whether to pursue the case would be made by the Department of Justice."

Also reporting on the story are the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (3/1, 129K), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/27, 2.42M), and [WBUP-TV](#) Marquette, MI (3/1).

FWS SENS CONFISCATED ANIMAL PARTS TO NATIONAL WILDLIFE PROPERTY REPOSITORY. [Newsweek](#) (3/1, 118K) reports on the National Wildlife Property Repository near Denver, where confiscated animal parts are sent by the FWS. The article notes that "only about 200 special agents and wildlife inspectors handle wildlife crime in the US" On February 11, the Interior Department, Justice Department and State Department "released a plan for the 'National Strategy to Combat Wildlife Trafficking,' in light of the profitable enterprise's continued growth and its role in breeding organized crime and corruption among government officials."

AUTHORITIES SAY RECENT UTILITY WORK IS NOT A THREAT TO MANASSAS BALD EAGLES. The [Washington Post](#) (2/27, Barnes, 5.17M) reports that "admirers of a pair of bald eagles that live near Manassas Regional Airport raised alarms recently about the birds' safety after noticing a real estate sign and utility work on property in the vicinity of the eagles' nest." According to the article, "concern about the eagles' welfare spread quickly through social media and drew the attention of federal, state and local authorities, who responded to fears that the eagles' habitat might be threatened." But "after visiting the site, officials said they were satisfied that the eagles — which are protected under federal law — are not in jeopardy."

OCEANFRONT DEVELOPMENT AT SUNSET BEACH MOVING FORWARD DESPITE BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD RULING. The [Wilmington \(NC\) Star News](#) (2/28, 109K) reports that "Sunset Beach West LLC is moving forward with plans to develop oceanfront property at the west end of Sunset Beach although the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners rescinded a plan to provide water and sewer service to the area." The article notes that "the board's reversal of its September adoption of the policy came after Sunset Beach Mayor Ron Watts received a letter in January from the US Department of Interior stating that the land proposed for development is regulated by the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, or CBRA."

BILL WOULD ALLOW KILLING OF PROTECTED BUZZARDS IN TENNESSEE. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (3/1, 371K) reports that "a state Senate committee has voted to legalize the killing of black buzzards in Tennessee even though they are protected under federal law." The article notes that "approval of SB204 by the Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee came after Charles Hord, executive vice president of the Tennessee Cattlemen's Association, described how the vultures are killing newborn calves across the state and Sen. Paul Bailey displayed photographs showing buzzard damage at his Jackson County home."

TO CURB BEAR POPULATION, FLORIDA IMPLEMENTS HUNTING SEASON. [NPR](#) (2/28, 1.58M) reports that "for the first time in two decades, Florida officials have scheduled a bear hunting season." The article notes that "it's a response to a rise in bear attacks — but it has some environmentalists upset."

NORTH CAROLINA WILDLIFE OFFICIALS CRITICIZED OVER RED WOLF. The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (2/28, 395K) editorializes that "in 1987 the US Fish and Wildlife Service sought to bring the red wolf back from the edge of extinction by reintroducing about 100 of the animals into five rural counties on a peninsula in northeastern North Carolina." But "now, on the state level, North Carolina's Wildlife Resources Commission is trying to do the opposite by urging the world's only wild population of endangered red wolves into oblivion." The paper argues that "the Wildlife Resources Commission would betray its mission if it pushes for the red wolf's extinction."

US Geological Survey:

USGS, OKLAHOMA EARTHQUAKE NUMBERS DIFFER. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (3/1, 395K) reports that "due to differences in calculating earthquake magnitudes, the Oklahoma Geological Survey reported half as many magnitude 4 and higher earthquakes in Oklahoma last year as the United States Geological Survey reported, records show." According to the article, "while OGS reports six earthquakes of magnitude 4.0 and higher last year, the USGS reports the state experienced 14 earthquakes in that range." The article

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BLM REVIEWING COMMENTS ON DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN. The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (3/1, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that the BLM has "received at least 12,000 public comments" on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, "including notable critiques from the renewable industry and US EPA." According to public comments on the draft plan, "it needs a lot of work." The article notes that "while many comments submitted over the last four months commend the Obama administration's efforts to properly site renewables projects, they also raise serious concerns about impacts to air quality, sensitive wildlife habitat and migratory birds."

BOEM PREPARES FOR NEW JERSEY OFFSHORE WIND LEASE SALE. The [Recharge News](#) (3/1, 633) reports that the BOEM is "moving ahead with a competitive wind lease sale off the coast of New Jersey, even though the state has failed since 2011 to enact a market mechanism to incentivize the sector as required by law."

Onshore Energy Development:

RESEARCHERS LOOKING FOR MIDDLE GROUND IN EARTHQUAKE-FRACKING DEBATE IN TEXAS. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (3/1, Kuchment, 1.13M) details how some researchers are "looking for middle ground" in the Earthquake-fracking "debate" in Texas. Specifically, experts "are investigating ways to prevent wells from causing damaging earthquakes without hindering most oil and gas operations."

FRACKING CHEMICAL DISCLOSURE WEBSITE ANNOUNCES IMPROVEMENTS. [NPR](#) (2/27, Cusick, 1.58M) reported, "The groups managing the national fracking chemical disclosure website FracFocus say they are planning improvements to make information more transparent." The Ground Water Protection Council and Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission are reportedly responding to criticism from environmental groups and open government groups. Pennsylvania is one of 14 states that requires gas drillers to use the website as part of its chemical disclosure laws. The way information is reported "makes it difficult for researchers to analyze," NPR reported. The groups promised more transparency and an easier reading experience regarding chemicals used in fracking.

COLORADO FRACKING TASK FORCE PROPOSES RULES TO GOVERNOR. [NPR](#) (2/27, Boyce, 1.58M) reported that following months of deliberations, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper's task force came out with recommendations to the governor. "Task force member and vice president of operations at Anadarko Petroleum, Brad Holly, says the majority of Coloradans are satisfied with most of the state's drilling," NPR reported. The task force's nine recommendations now await approval from the governor and, in some cases, the state legislature, the article reported.

Offshore Energy Development:

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL. In continuing coverage of the Obama Administration's offshore drilling proposal, [Roll Call](#) (3/1, Subscription Publication, 102K) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "emphasized at a recent hearing that the draft proposed plan is just the first of several steps taken before Interior issues a final five-year drilling strategy, with or without an Atlantic option." From there, the Interior Department will "narrow down even further which areas in the approved drilling blocks will actually be offered for leasing." Jewel Isaid, "This is like the top of the funnel, if you will. Only things that are included there could possibly happen during that five-year period."

[Roll Call](#) (2/27, Gardner, Subscription Publication, 102K) reports that "the Obama administration's recent proposal to lease oil and gas drilling in a swath of the Atlantic Ocean generated the expected mix of cheers and jeers on Capitol Hill, but local reaction was mostly divided along state borders rather than party affiliations." The article notes that "Marylanders are reluctant, while Virginians appear to want to charge ahead, especially if it might mean more cash in their state coffers."

GULF STATES CRITICIZE PROPOSAL TO SHARE OIL ROYALTIES. [The Hill](#) (3/1, Cama, 224K) reports that "Gulf Coast lawmakers are up in arms over an Obama administration proposal to reduce the money that their states receive for offshore oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico." President Obama "proposed in his budget early in February to roll back a 2006 law that, beginning in 2017, would give the Gulf states up to \$375 million a year out of the earnings federal government collects from drillers." Sen. Bill Cassidy "used a Feb. 24 budget hearing to tear into Interior Secretary Sally Jewell for trying to take away money for which he and other lawmakers in the region had fought hard."

DREDGING PROJECT AIMS TO PROTECT VIRGINIA SHORELINE. The [Marine Technology](#) (3/1) reports that the BOEM and Naval Air Station Oceana at Dam Neck, Virginia "expect to begin a shore protection project at the Dam Neck annex within the next month." BOEM Director Abigail Ross Hopper said, "BOEM recognizes the important defense mission NAS Oceana carries out for the nation, and is pleased to contribute to the protection of its valuable assets with sand from federal waters. Other benefits include maintaining coastal resilience, protecting the environment, and enabling the regional economy."

APPEALS PANEL PULLS FALSE CLAIMS ACT CASE FROM HOUSTON FEDERAL JUDGE. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/27, George, 2.28M) reports that "a Houston federal judge who has been accused of unfairly stalling a federal whistle-blower lawsuit for years has been removed from the case by the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals for ignoring its instructions." A three-judge panel determined that the case, which was filed by two government auditors who accused Shell Exploration of fraud under the False Claims Act, "should be assigned to a jurist other than US District Judge Lynn Hughes."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

SOME CALIFORNIA FARMERS TO GO ANOTHER YEAR WITHOUT FEDERAL WATER. The [AP](#) (2/27) reports that "for a second straight year, the federal government said Friday it won't send any of its reservoir water to the Central Valley, forcing farmers in California's agricultural heartland to again scramble for other sources or leave fields unplanted." The article notes that "many farmers had been bracing for the US Bureau of Reclamation's announcement as California's drought enters its fourth year." However, "many farmers are running out of short-term options such as uprooting orchards and tapping groundwater wells to deal with water shortages."

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (2/27, 113K) reports that BOR Mid-Pacific Regional Director Davis Murillo said, "The rain events in December were encouraging, but the persistently dry weather (since then) underscores our need to plan for another critical year of drought."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [New York Times](#) (2/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (3/1, 988K), the [Bristol \(TN/VA\) Herald Courier](#) (3/1, 85K), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/27, Nirappil, 2.28M), the [Daily Mail \(UK\)](#) (3/1, 4.78M), [Fox News](#) (2/28, 8.25M), the [US News & World Report](#) (2/27, 685K), and [WJBK-TV](#) Detroit (3/1, 253K).

Also reporting on the story are the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/27, Carlton, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), [NPR](#) (3/1, 1.58M), [TIME](#) (3/1, 19.19M), [Reuters](#) (2/27), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/27, Boxall, Pierson, 3.49M), the [My Mother Lode \(CA\)](#) (3/1, 1K), [KFSN-TV](#) Fresno, CA (3/1, 2K), [KGPE-TV](#) Fresno, CA (3/1, 46), [KBFX-TV](#) Bakersfield, CA (3/1, 2K), [KXJZ-FM](#) Sacramento, CA (2/27, 1K), [KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (3/1, 15K), [KXTV-TV](#) Sacramento, CA (2/27, 45K), [KQED-FM](#) San Francisco (2/27, 17K), and [KERO-TV](#) Bakersfield, CA (3/1, 2K).

NEW CALIFORNIA WATER LEGISLATION UNDER WORKS. The [McClatchy](#) (2/27, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that "California water legislation is starting to trickle across Capitol Hill." The article notes that "one newly introduced bill would speed approval of Sites Reservoir in the Sacramento Valley. Another would help restore San Francisco Bay habitat," and "ore targeted bills are coming."

CENTRAL VALLEY, DELTA WATER RIGHTS UNDER SCRUTINY. The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (3/2, 547K) reports that "hundreds of property owners across California's Central Valley and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are scrambling to prove they have a right to divert water from the region's streams, the result of a state order that comes due in just four days." The article notes that "the dispute stems from a complaint filed in July by the California Department of Water Resources and the US Bureau of Reclamation, which operate the massive water diversion systems in the Delta as well as major upstream reservoirs." According to the article, "the two agencies suspect water released from their reservoirs is being inappropriately diverted by property owners in the Delta as it flows past their land."

BOR EXPANDING WINTER AQUIFER RECHARGE IN UPPER SNAKE RIVER SYSTEM. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (2/27, 113K) reports that the BOR is "expanding winter aquifer recharge in the Upper Snake River system, though the watershed's once strong snowpack has dropped to near normal levels due to continued dry weather in February."

NEW MEMBERS JOIN LAKE BERRYESSA ADVISORY GROUP. The [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (3/1, 46K) reports that "new members are joining a group that advises the US Bureau of Reclamation on its efforts to renovate the Lake Berryessa recreation experience." The BOR is "amid a multi-year, controversial effort to remake the resorts along the lake's federally owned shoreline." The bureau "announced the latest configuration of the group after requesting nominations."

SOUTHWEST FACES WATER ISSUES. The [Arizona Republic](#) (2/28, 1.14M) editorializes that "a Colorado River diminished by climate change impacts all of the Southwest, urban and rural alike." It notes that "late last year, Arizona's supplier of Colorado River water, the Central Arizona Project, entered into an agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, Nevada and California to 'bank' water in Lake Mead to keep it from receding to a level that could prove disastrous to all three states."

Additional coverage of water issues in the Southwest was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/27, 1.14M) and the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/27, 1.14M).

SEN. GARDNER PRESSES FOR ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT FUNDING. The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (3/1, 79K) editorializes that Sen. Cory Gardner "pressed Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Secretary Mike Connor last week about a disturbing lack of federal funds for the Arkansas Valley Conduit." Gardner asserted that "the conduit must remain a priority with the Bureau of Reclamation." The editorial "couldn't agree more, and thank the senator for taking such a strong stance on our behalf."

Empowering Native American Communities:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY WASHBURN TESTIFIES AT SENATE HEARING ON FEDERAL BUDGET. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/1, 49K) reports that Sen. John Barrasso, chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs "pointed out the fact that the United States faces a continued federal deficit and tight budgets, before acknowledging the federal government's important responsibilities to Indian people," during a hearing on President Barack Obama's FY2016 Budget Request for Indian Programs. Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn "expanded on the President's budget, stating it seeks increases across more than 20 Federal departments and agencies serving Indian country totaling some \$20.8 billion, a \$1.5 billion or 8 percent increase over 2015's budget." Washburn said, "These increases support improved access to federal programs and resources, particularly focused on youth through the Administration's newly established Generation Indigenous initiative. Investments like these will provide real and sustainable improvements in Indian country."

HOUSE APPROVES REP. NOLAN'S AMENDMENT FOR TRIBAL SCHOOLS. The [Brainerd \(MN\) Daily Dispatch](#) (3/1, 2K) reports that "the US House of Representatives Thursday approved US Rep. Rick Nolan's amendment to H.R. 5 – the Student Success Act – putting Congress on record that Indian children will not have to attend school in buildings that are dilapidated and dangerous." In his remarks on the House Floor, Nolan "invoked the plight of Minnesota's Bug O'Nay Ge Shig School on the Leech Lake reservation." Nolan said, "This amendment puts the Congress of the United States on the record with its commitment to ensure that Indian children do not have to attend schools that are falling apart. However, the Student Success Act is strongly opposed among teachers and the academic community, and would need significant improvement before I could lend my full support to the measure."

Also reporting on the story is [KBJR-TV](#), Duluth, MN (3/1, 2K).

In an editorial, the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (3/2, 1.37M) urges support for the proposals by a working group of American Indian leaders and educators to improve tribal schools.

CHEROKEE NATION WELCOMES BIA'S INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT GUIDELINE REVISION. The [Cherokee Nation \(OK\)](#) (2/27, 1K) reports that Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn "addressed tribal leaders, including Cherokee Nation Deputy Chief S. Joe Crittenden, on the revision of Indian Child Welfare Act guidelines for state courts." Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker said, "The Cherokee Nation applauds Mr. Washburn and his staff for taking the time to listen to the concerns of tribes and Indian families. The Cherokee Nation, along with many other tribes and Indian organizations, submitted comments to the BIA on the need for updated guidelines following the case of Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl."

LOWER BRULE SIOUX TRIBE CHAIRMAN JANDREAU DISMISSES ALLEGATIONS IN HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH REPORT. The [AP](#) (2/28) reports that "amid calls for more transparency, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Chairman Michael Jandreau is pushing back against allegations from a nonprofit group that leaders on the reservation misdirected millions of dollars in federal funding intending to help impoverished tribal members." Jandreau said that "he denies any wrongdoing related to the Human Rights Watch investigation, which accuses him and others of diverting money and concealing financial activity by withholding government documents from the public." Jandreau said "the report is based on the views of his political opponents and that he's worked throughout his career to make life on the reservation better."

INDIAN GAMBLING COMPACT MOVE FORWARD IN NEW MEXICO. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (3/1, 39K) reports that "after a near nine-hour hearing, a legislative committee voted overwhelmingly to recommend a proposed gambling compact with five New Mexico Indian tribes." According to the article, "the new compact, which now goes to the state Senate for approval, would reduce regulatory fees for tribes but raise the percentage of revenue sharing that gambling tribes pay to the state."

The piece also appears at the [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (3/1, 31K).

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES GATHER TO DISCUSS LEGALIZING MARIJUANA. The [AP](#) (2/28, Johnson) reports "Tribal representatives from around the country are converging in Washington state to discuss the risks and rewards of marijuana legalization." The AP says that dozens of tribes will be attending the conference at the Tulalip Indian Tribe's resort in the Seattle area and that a variety of marijuana-related topics will be discussed.

INDIAN TRIBES RAISE REVENUES THROUGH HIGH-INTEREST LOANS. The [Washington Post](#) (3/2, Harlan, 5.17M) reports on its front page that high-interest online loans, with annualized interest rates as high as 780 percent, are being sold online by Indian tribes "in what they describe as a last-ditch attempt to earn revenue and provide decent lives for their members." With "some two-dozen tribes now offering installment and payday loans, Native Americans have found themselves wrestling with the merits of this lifeline." Tribes "capitalize on their right to govern themselves in an otherwise tightly regulated industry," but in this case, "revenue is earned from borrowers who are charged interest rates that sometimes are double what they'd find in a brick-and-mortar payday store."

CHUKCHANSI GROUP MEETS BIA'S RULING FOR NAMING COUNCIL. The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/27, 323K) reports that "the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians seated a tribal council Thursday that mirrors the 2010 elected council." The article notes that "in so doing, the tribe followed a directive" by the BIA

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CASINO PLANS OF LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS. Additional coverage that the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians "proposes to build a \$180 million casino, hotel and retail development" was provided by the [MLive](#) (3/1, 525K).

TRIBES COULD SEEK SELF-REGULATION STATUS. In a piece for the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (3/1, 49K), attorney Joseph H. Webster writes that "when Congress enacted the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act in 1988 (IGRA), it included an important provision to allow for self-regulation of Class II gaming by tribal governments that established a record of successful gaming regulation." Webster says that "each tribe will need to decide for itself whether to seek self-regulation status." However, he concludes that "the new Part 518 finally makes self-regulation a viable option for tribes that would like to assert greater autonomy over the regulation of their Class II gaming operations."

[Top National News:](#)

KERRY MOVES TO LOWER POLITICAL TENSION AROUND NETANYAHU SPEECH TO CONGRESS. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's upcoming speech to Congress dominated discussion on the Sunday morning political shows, with officials breaking largely along party lines in their assessment of whether his trip helps or hinders the prospects for peace in the region. [AFP](#) (3/2, Revise), for example, refers to an "infuriated" White House, with "Netanyahu's allies in Congress...as outspoken as ever, insisting that Obama...was to blame for the recent discord." The controversy surrounding the speech, notes [USA Today](#) (3/2, Welch, 10.32M), has "American Jewish leaders and activists...worried about widening political divisions between Israel and the White House" after the "strident objections" to the speech by President Obama, who, according to the [AP](#) (3/2, Pace, Lee), has been on "on a collision course" with Netanyahu for six years. Further illustrating the polarization of the debate, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (3/1, Weigel, 169K) notes the Prime Minister's trip coincides with this year's AIPAC conference, and quotes the group's chairman, Howard Kohr, as saying, "Thank goodness for Congress!"

In what print reports later cast as an Administration attempt to lower the rhetoric surrounding the speech, Secretary of State Kerry touted the US-Israeli relationship on [ABC's This Week](#) – even as he continued to complain that the Administration had been kept in the dark about the Prime Minister's plans. Kerry "tried to lower the temperature," says the [New York Times](#) (3/1, Cooper, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), noting that he also "spoke by phone with.. Netanyahu on Saturday." In a similar analysis, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/2, Mascaro, 3.49M) says the Secretary "sought...to tamp down the controversy," and the [AP](#) (3/2, Klapper) casts him as seeking "to calm tensions" and taking "a step back from some of the sharp rhetoric between the allies in recent weeks."

A number of reports, including the ones by [Politico](#) (3/1, Munsil, 669K) and [Reuters](#) (3/2, Spetalnick, Williams), contrast Kerry's remarks with those of National Security Adviser Susan Rice last week, when she called the Prime Minister's planned speech "destructive to the fabric of US-Israeli ties." [The Hill](#) (3/2, Hensch, 224K) reports, for example, the Secretary "contradicted" those remarks yesterday. Kerry told [ABC's This Week](#) (3/1, Raddatz, 2.73M), "The Prime Minister of Israel is welcome to speak in the United States, obviously. We have a closer relationship with Israel right now, in terms of security, than at any time in history. ... I talk to the Prime Minister regularly. We don't want to see this turned into some great political football. Obviously, it was odd, if not unique, that we learned of [Netanyahu's speech] from the Speaker of the House. The Administration was not included in this process. But the Administration is not seeking to politicize this. We want to recognize the main goal here is to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. On that, Israel and the United States agree."

Speaker Boehner said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/1, Dickerson, 2.64M), "Why does the White House feel threatened because Congress wants to support Israel and wants to hear what a trusted ally has to say? It has been, frankly, remarkable to me the extent to which the White House has attacked the Prime Minister and me over the last five or six weeks. ... The animosity between the White House and the Prime Minister is no secret here in this town. ... The Administration has certainly made it worse over the last five or six weeks. ... Iran is a threat to the region, a threat to the United States, and a threat to the rest of the world. This is a serious issue. We're not going to resolve this issue by sticking our heads in the sand. The Prime Minister can talk about this threat, I believe, better than anyone. The United States Congress wants to hear from him and so do the American people."

The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (3/1, Knickerbocker, 380K) says Boehner's invitation to Netanyahu was "widely seen as a snub to the Democratic White House.. at a time when" his "position was threatened by a growing insurgency within his own caucus." Moreover, the invitation "had the added benefit of putting congressional Democrats in the difficult position of being players in the Republican effort to weaken the White House while cheering a nation seen to have a uniquely close and politically powerful relationship with the US." [NBC Nightly News](#) (3/1, story 6, 1:35, Alexander, 7.86M) noted that "nearly 30 Democratic lawmakers plan to boycott Netanyahu's...speech before Congress, as well as Vice President Biden."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (3/1, story 5, 0:30, Glor, 5 08M) noted last night that Netanyahu had arrived in Washington ahead of his speech to Congress on Tuesday, during which "he will make his case against the deal on Iran's nuclear program." Jeff Glor added that Kerry left for Switzerland on Sunday "for more talks on Iran." As he left Israel for DC, the [AP](#) (3/2, Heller) reports, Netanyahu said yesterday, "I feel deep and genuine concern for the security of all the people of Israel," and "will do everything in my ability to secure our future." The Prime Minister "called the trip a 'fateful and even historic mission' and said he feels like 'an emissary' of the Jewish people." In Israel, [Politico](#) (3/1, Dovere, Crowley, 669K) reported, Netanyahu's "throwdown with America is a top news story every day of the week," with "his opponents, who've been trying to focus the election on social and domestic issues," attacking him "for trying to turn his bad relationship with Obama into a bad relationship between Israel and America." The [Huffington Post](#) (3/1, Wilkie, 281K) similarly reported that "for many in Washington and Tel Aviv...Netanyahu's upcoming speech is...overtly political," offering "Republicans a chance to jab the president by putting one of Obama's most powerful critics on a major podium" and giving Netanyahu "a ready-made campaign ad."

Isaac Herzog, chairman of the Israeli Labor Party and a member of the Knesset, said on [CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS](#) (3/1, 410K), "Let me make it clear to the American public: There is no difference in Israel as to the strategic threat that emanates from the Iranian nuclear program. Clearly, no Israeli leader will ever accept a nuclear Iran. However, the way to deal with it, in my mind, should be different. I think Netanyahu's speech in Congress is a mistake. We need to work together intimately with those negotiating with the international agreement with Iran and make sure that this agreement is ironclad on delivery – namely, so that there will never be an Iranian nuclear bomb. When arguments emanate, such as the arguments surrounding the speech of Netanyahu in Congress, there are questions that are raised. There is daylight between us and the Administration and that's not good."

Former Israeli Ambassador to the US Michael Oren, who is running against Netanyahu as a candidate with the Israeli Kulanu party, said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/1, Bash, 420K), "Netanyahu and I have a lot of differences in housing, economy, even on the peace process. Yes, I did say publicly that the Prime Minister could speak somewhere else and, perhaps, not intercede between the White House and the Congress or between Democrats and Republicans. ... On the issue of Iran there is no daylight between Prime Minister Netanyahu and myself and others. We all see Iran with nuclear arms as an existential threat against Israel. ... This is not a country that anybody wants to see have the ability, even in the future, to create a nuclear weapon."

The [Washington Post](#) (3/2, Eglash, Booth, 5.17M) notes concerns about the speech from Israeli war veterans, noting "a group of 180 retired Israeli generals and former top security officials warned that" it "will cause more harm than good." The organization, Commanders for Israel's Security, "claims to be apolitical," and "was created last year to push Netanyahu forward on a regional peace agreement aimed at ending the conflict with the Palestinians." Under the headline "Retired Israeli Generals Denounce Planned Netanyahu Speech," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/2, A1, Casey, Mitnick, Subscription Publication, 5 67M) also reports on the commanders' concerns in a front-page story.

Jackson Diehl writes in the [Washington Post](#) (3/2, 5.17M) that "Netanyahu's gambit supposes that Obama's Mideast policies have so alienated Israelis that he will be rewarded rather than punished in the March 17 election for a frontal attack on the White House." But "by some measures, the wager looks risky," because while Israelis "oppose Obama's policies," they also place a high value on the US-Israel relationship, with only the Israeli army outranking "ties to the United States in importance when Israelis are asked what guarantees their safety." Alon Gratch, an Israeli-American author, clinical psychologist and "organizational consultant," argues in [USA Today](#) (3/2, 10 32M) that while politics and animus between Netanyahu and Obama may be at play in the controversy, "there is something else at work here: how the Jewish state has processed, or failed to process, the trauma of the Holocaust," which "has become the central building block of the national identity of many Israelis." That "national preoccupation" involves "twin emotions of anxiety and rage, along with the refusal or inability to tolerate any feelings of helplessness."

The [Washington Times](#) (3/2, Klimas, 644K) reports that "tickets for non-members" of Congress "to get in to see" Netanyahu "are proving to be a very hot item." Said GOP Rep. Tim Walberg, "I could scalp that ticket, there are so many people who want it." [USA Today](#) (3/2, Korte, 10.32M) says "Netanyahu's address to Congress is not the only high-stakes speech this week." The Administration "is sending two officials," Rice and Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power, to the AIPAC conference. They are "the lowest-ranking officials Obama has ever sent to the pro-Israel lobbying conference."

Feinstein Will Attend Speech, But Says Netanyahu "Doesn't Speak For Me." Senate Intelligence Committee ranking member Dianne Feinstein said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/1, Bash, 420K), "I intend to go [to Netanyahu's speech] and I'll listen respectfully. I don't intend to jump up and down. I hope he'll speak about what happens if there isn't an agreement. I hope he'll speak about what happens if the United States isn't part of the agreement. ... I happen to believe Israel is a lot safer with an agreement that includes all of the big powers." Feinstein said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/1, Dickerson, 2.64M), "I am very concerned by that speech. I went to the speech in 2011. I didn't believe it was helpful then and I don't believe it's going to be helpful now." Feinstein, notes the [Washington Times](#) (3/2, Miller, 644K), also called Netanyahu "arrogant" for saying he would represent the "entire Jewish people" when he warns Congress about the nuclear deal being brokered with Iran." Added Feinstein, "He doesn't speak for me."

The [Daily Caller](#) (3/1, Griswold, 318K) noted that on NBC's "Meet the Press," former Sen. Joe Lieberman "attacked Democrats refusing to attend...Netanyahu's speech," saying "they were the ones 'making it partisan.'"

The [New York Times](#) (3/2, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9 97M) reports that throughout recent history, "Jews in Congress – and to a large extent, Jews in the United States – have spoken in a near-monolithic voice, always in support of the government of Israel." However, the "Boehner-Netanyahu alliance has done something that larger foreign policy crises have not: It has led to the open distinction between support for the State of Israel and allegiance to politicians who lead it."

Schumer: "I Don't Trust These Iranians." [The Hill](#) (3/1, Byrnes, 224K) reported that in an interview with John Catsimatidis on AM 970's "The Cats Roundtable," Sen. Chuck Schumer said Sunday that "regardless of controversy over...Netanyahu's address," the US "must make sure Iran doesn't get a nuclear weapon." Said Schumer, "My view is that it has to be a really tough inspection regime, because I don't trust these Iranians."

Perry, Huckabee Defend Netanyahu, Criticize Administration. Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry stated on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (3/1, Bash, 420K), "The real issue here is that our Administration is not working with and not sending a clear message that we respect our ally and we're going to be standing with them. Israel feels very vulnerable at this particular point in time because of the feckless foreign policy we've seen out of this Administration. ... Obviously, there are continuing negotiations with Iran. So I totally understand why Prime Minister Netanyahu feels it's important for him to come and to express his concerns about what's going on in front of the United States Congress. I'm glad he is."

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (3/1, Dickerson, 2.64M), "Israel is the canary in the coal mine. If something happens to Israel, that's not the end of it. That is the beginning. ... We need to recognize that valuable strategic role that Israel plays in our own safety. This isn't just about Israel. This is about the safety of the United States."

Poll: US Public Disapproves Of Boehner's Invitation By 48%-30% Margin. [The Hill](#) (3/1, Hensch, 224K) noted that according to a new NBC News/WSJournal poll, 48% "said Boehner should have notified...Obama of his invitation" to Netanyahu, while 30% believe "Boehner's gesture was appropriate" and "another 22 percent did not feel informed enough to answer." The poll also found that "66 percent of Democrats dislike" Netanyahu's "appearance, while only 28 percent of Republicans responded that way." As the [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/2, Ballhaus, 5.67M) reports, 47% of Republicans approve of Boehner's invitation, while only 12% of Democrats do.

In Remarks To AIPAC, Graham Threatens To Cut UN Funding. The [Huffington Post](#) (3/1, Schulberg, 281K) reports that in remarks to AIPAC yesterday morning, Sen. Lindsey Graham "threatened to cut funding to the United Nations, who he believes is alienating Israel in the international community and tolerating anti-Semitism in Europe." Graham's "promise was met with applause and a standing ovation by the nearly 15,000 AIPAC members in attendance."

Kuwaiti Paper: Obama Threatened To Shoot Down Israeli Planes If They Attacked Iranian Nuclear Facilities. In a story that was prominently displayed on the [Druide Report](#) most of the day Sunday, [Israel National News](#) (3/1, Apple, 10K) noted that "the Bethlehem-based news agency Ma'an has cited" the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Jarida reporting Saturday that Obama "thwarted an Israeli military attack against Iran's nuclear facilities in 2014 by threatening to shoot down Israeli jets before they could reach their targets in Iran." Obama's threat reportedly "forced" Netanyahu "to abort the planned Iran attack." The [Washington Times](#) (3/2, Shapiro, 644K) says the Al-Jarida report cites "well placed" sources confirming that "an unnamed Israeli minister disclosed the plan to...Kerry," who passed it on to Obama. The [Daily Caller](#) (3/1, Griswold, 318K) called the story "shocking," though it added that "at least some are skeptical of Al-Jarida's report," adding that "one reporter for the conservative Jewish Press notes the story 'appears at first glance to be an invention of an imaginative editor.'"

WPost A1: Netanyahu Would See Clinton As Improvement Over Obama. Citing former Ambassador Oren – among others – as its source, the [Washington Post](#) (3/2, A1, Gearan, 5.17M) recounts on its front page a 45-minute phone conversation between Hillary Clinton and Netanyahu, in which the then-secretary of State "lectured the Israeli leader, accusing him of trying to do an end run around American opposition to settlement-building and embarrassing Vice President Biden during a visit to Israel." Oren says, "The word 'humiliation' appeared very prominently. ... As in 'You have humiliated the United States of America.'" The Post adds that "should Clinton win the presidency in 2016, her long and complicated history with Netanyahu will enter a new phase," and old issues "will almost certainly still fester." While "from Netanyahu's perspective, Clinton would be an improvement over...Obama...there is also little doubt that Netanyahu would prefer a more hawkish Republican in the White House."

NYTimes A1: Kerry's "Relentless Negotiating Style" Encourages Backers, Concerns Opponents. With Kerry in Switzerland to continue his talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, the [New York Times](#) (3/2, A1, Gordon, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports on its front page that the Secretary, with a "laserlike focus on getting an accord" that "has unnerved Israel and prompted concerns in Saudi Arabia and other Arab foes of Tehran," has become "a driving force behind the complicated, seven-nation talks to limit Iran's nuclear program," and his "relentless negotiating style and determination to engage with Mr. Zarif have be

Conversation Contents

AP-CA: National monument supporters in California get antsy

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Subject: AP-CA: National monument supporters in California get antsy

AP-CA: National monument supporters in California get antsy

WASHINGTON — California lawmakers and advocacy groups are ramping up efforts to win a national monument designation for four scenic vistas in the state, from vast stretches of the Mojave Desert to redwood stands along the Pacific Coast Highway to canyons and mountains near the state's famous wine country.

The designation typically takes lands already owned by the government and walls them off from new mining, roads and power lines. Recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking and horseback riding are commonly allowed, though each national monument has its own dos and don'ts.

Supporters of the proposed monuments in California are pursuing two paths. The first is through legislation. Many Republicans are wary, though. So, supporters are also placing greater emphasis on Plan B: Executive action from President Barack Obama. The narrowing window for that option is adding urgency to their efforts.

Presidents have the authority to designate new national monuments through the Antiquities Act, and Obama has approved 16 so far, including three more last week. California groups took notice.

"We think that's exciting, and we merit the same consideration in the near term," said Bob Schneider, senior policy director for Tuleyome, a conservation group that seeks to preserve 360,000 acres in northern California as a national monument.

The group has worked with Democratic U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, who has filed bills in three consecutive congressional sessions calling for what would be named the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. In December, he brought in Interior Secretary Sally Jewell for a tour and to hear from local residents.

"The majority party is not willing to participate in the debate," Thompson said. "If the president is willing, I'm all for him protecting the land through an executive order."

Many of the communities in Thompson's district support his efforts. One local chamber of commerce projected that a national monument designation would generate an additional \$50 million in economic activity in the subsequent five years through increased visitors. But another local chamber has fretted that a national monument designation could impose additional requirements on already overburdened agencies with no guarantee of additional resources.

Any national monuments legislation moving through the House would likely have to go first through a subcommittee chaired by Republican U.S. Rep. Tom McClintock of California. He's clearly skeptical.

"The Republicans want to preserve and enhance the public's right to enjoy the public's land. Democrats are seeking to further restrict public access," McClintock said. "That's the fundamental, core issue."

Like Thompson, Sen. Dianne Feinstein also is getting restless. She first proposed legislation in 2009 calling for two new national monuments in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts and reintroduced a version of the bill in early February. Feinstein favors legislative action, but she said in an emailed statement that executive action may be necessary if the bill stalls.

Feinstein, a Democrat, said she would prefer the legislative route because an executive order would simply create two new national monuments while her legislation includes more land for national

parks, wilderness and off-highway recreation. Numerous compromises crafted over the years would be lost.

The Wildlands Conservancy helped the federal government acquire large segments of both proposed monuments in Feinstein's bill through donations of money and land. The group was delighted when Jewell visited the proposed Sand to Snow National Monument last year and a vehicle in her security detail had to stop to let a bighorn sheep cross the road.

"You can't beat that," said David Myers, the organization's executive director.

Interior Department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw declined to directly answer whether Jewell has recommended that the president use his executive authority on any of the four California projects. But she said Jewell regularly briefs the president on her travels and has talked to him about "the local vision for conservation around the Berryessa Snow Mountain Region."

Kershaw also noted that the Obama administration has testified in favor of Feinstein's legislation back in 2010 and Thompson's legislation in 2013.

McClintock says an executive order creating any monuments in California would be "a complete overreach" by the president and an abuse of the Antiquities Act, which was designed to protect small archaeological sites from looting.

The newest and smallest of the proposed national monuments is in Silicon Valley's backyard, near Santa Cruz. The 5,800 acres were acquired by various foundations and donated to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management just last year.

At a public rally two weeks ago, nearly 1,500 people showed up, stunning organizers who called the event the launch of their campaign, not the conclusion.

Bruce Babbitt, the former Interior secretary under President Bill Clinton, was the guest speaker.

"Half the town was there," Babbitt said. "It seemed to me an excellent statement to President Obama of community support. Congress has a chance to act. If it doesn't, all the more reason for President Obama to step in."

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2015/02/28/3512223/national-monument-supporters-in.html>

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Conversation Contents

FINAL External Statements - Pullman, Honouliuli, Browns Canyon & EKIP

Attachments:

/549. FINAL External Statements - Pullman, Honouliuli, Browns Canyon & EKIP/1.1 External Statements - IL CO HI EKIP 02 27.docx

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From: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>
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Subject: FINAL External Statements - Pullman, Honouliuli, Browns Canyon & EKIP
Attachments: External Statements - IL CO HI EKIP 02 27.docx

Team: as a nice way to end a very busy week, here is our final update of statements from external stakeholders and elected officials around all four announcements made in Chicago last week! A very big thank you to Maria and Steven for doing all the heavy lifting to pull these responses together!!

The new statements that we've received since my last update are listed below in the body of this email. The complete compilation (70 pages!!) is attached as a word document.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Many thanks! jb

Pullman National Monument, IL

Elected Officials

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Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) NEW

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today's presidential designation of three new national monuments.

"Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation's history are among every president's greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

"Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

"Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today's bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people's vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I'm proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them."

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

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Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration's Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

"President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone's guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations."

The President's designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

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City Council, City of Chicago - Anthony Beale, Alderman, Ninth Ward NEW

"Steeped in the history of American industry, labor, urban planning and the African-American civil rights movement, few locations preserve these stories as evocatively as the Pullman community. Pullman's narrative is America's story. In addition, a national park would create the opportunity to access much needed federal investment in transportation and business growth, shops, stores and restaurants for visitors and residents alike. Once there is a national park at Pullman you're going to see more great things happening in the Roseland and Pullman communities."

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External Stakeholders

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Historic Pullman Foundation | Michael A. Shymanski, AIA, President NEW

"The designation of Pullman as a national monument culminates a five decade grassroots effort of the Pullman Civic Organization and the Historic Pullman Foundation to preserve and restore the community's place in American history and to attract the national and international attention that this important landmark deserves. We are thrilled that President Obama will designate Pullman as part of the National Park System and we look forward to working with the National Park Service and others in creating a great urban national park in Chicago."

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Illinois Labor History Society - Larry Spivak, President NEW

"President Obama's historic action in authorizing national monument status for the Pullman District comes at a time when honoring the struggles of all working people to keep a vibrant middle class is needed more than ever. The history of the Pullman Porters, the workers who built the Pullman Palace cars and the courageous actions taken to improve their working conditions for themselves, their families and their community will now be honored as part of our national heritage. Thank you Mr. President for helping us remember."

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Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives - David Doig, President NEW

“Designating Pullman a national park will be a huge boost for the economy of the neighborhood. It will bring tourism spending, the opportunity to access federal infrastructure dollars, and private investment, all of which are much needed here. A lot of work is already underway including new investment in retail, industrial and residential development. The national park will build on this progress and further bolster and encourage new investment.”

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The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) - Sylvia Cyrus, Executive Director NEW

“The recognition of the Pullman National Monument is another important step in honoring the lives those diverse groups of working people, labor unions, and political activists who fought diligently to demonstrate that there is dignity of work. In doing such their legacies have strengthened the narrative of our national history. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History applauds President Obama on the creation of this monument. Its presence will insure that the stories of people like A. Philip Randolph, Milton P. Webster, the men and women of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and its auxiliaries, and the countless others who worked tirelessly to integrate the missions of the labor and civil rights movements of so many years ago will now have an opportunity to forever remain part of our national discourse on race and political activism in the 20th century.

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PullmanArts - Ann Alspaugh, Chair NEW

Thank you President Obama for bringing the National Park Service to Pullman and your support of the important work many residents have been doing for decades. We in the community have worked countless hours to restore Pullman's unique architecture, to educate the public, and to enhance and develop community assets such as the landscape gardens, arts programming and pride of place look forward to sharing this rich history with all the new visitors when Pullman becomes a national monument.”

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Pullman Civic Organization - Tom McMahon, President NEW

“The Pullman Civic Organization and its members are elated over the news that Pullman will become a National Park. This represents the hard work of number of community residents, local and national political leaders and many other organizations who see the development and preservation of this location as an important facet of our history.”

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Pullman Wheelworks Residents - Marie Robinson, President NEW

“Thanks to President Obama, the stories of our Pullman community will be shared with the world in a way they haven't been before. Pullman as a national park will be important because it will bring revenue to the area and job opportunities for the people of the community, and this could be life-changing for many of our neighbors. I'm excited to see a Pullman National Monument because of the new-found pride that people will have in their neighborhood.”

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National Parks Conservation Association - Lynn McClure, Midwest Senior Director NEW

“The people who are part of the Pullman legacy helped to shape America as we know it today. Pullman workers fought for fair labor conditions in the late 19th century and the Pullman porters helped advance America's Civil Rights movement. The designation of Pullman as a national monument will further showcase the commitment of President Obama to diversify our national parks and preserve the places that define who we

national parks each year.”

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National Trust for Historic Preservation - Stephanie Meeks, President and CEO NEW

"We applaud President Obama for this decisive action on behalf of one of America's most important historic places. From industrialization to the labor and civil rights movements, Pullman played a significant role in American history during the late 19th and early 20th centuries."

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The National Trust for Historic Preservation NEW

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Browns Canyon National Monument, CO

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Elected Officials

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Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) NEW

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama's Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today's presidential designation of three new national monuments.

“Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation’s history are among every president’s greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

“Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

“Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today’s bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people’s vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I’m proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them.”

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

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Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration’s Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

“President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone’s guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations.”

The President’s designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

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External Stakeholders

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Healing Waters Family Center - Joseito Velasquez, Pastor NEW

“Colorado’s clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water, and wildlife. The support of Browns Canyon demonstrates just how important stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage is to the Latino community.”

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Conservation Colorado - Pete Maysmith, Executive Director NEW

"We thank President Obama for acting now to protect Browns Canyon, and honoring the work of so many to protect this striking place. This new national monument is a culmination of former Senator Mark Udall's work and so many others to protect this gem of the Arkansas River," said Pete Maysmith, Conservation Colorado's Executive Director. "All Coloradans can be proud of what we have accomplished together."

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Sierra Club - David Scott, President, and John Stansfield, Volunteer, Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter NEW

"We applaud President Obama for using his authority to protect this national treasure. The unique combination of water, wild landscape and lower elevation ridges at Browns Canyon provide four-season opportunities for people to get outside, as well as important wildlife habitat. Browns Canyon is a wonderful addition to our nation's conservation legacy; we look forward to President Obama's continued work to secure our outdoor heritage.

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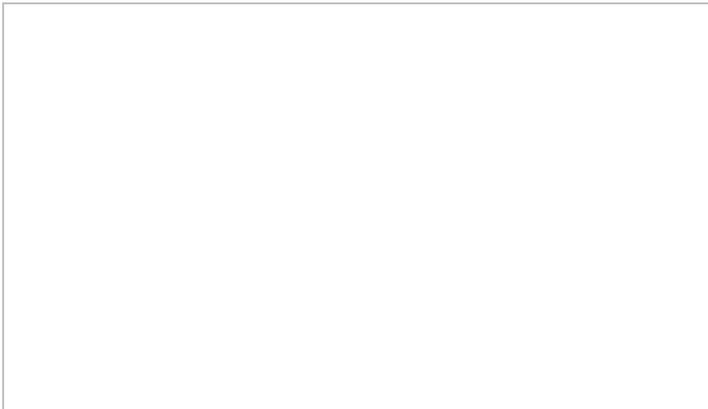
John Gale, Director, backcountry Hunters & Anglers Conservation NEW

"Backcountry Hunters & Anglers tip our hats to the administration for recognizing the incredible backcountry values of Browns Canyon by designating it a national monument. We likewise appreciate the efforts of former Senator Mark Udall to ensure that his proposal for Browns Canyon incorporated local input from all stakeholders so that traditional land uses like hunting, fishing and ranching would be elevated and maintained. Their foresighted actions will benefit not just Coloradans but all Americans who come to Browns Canyon to hunt, fish, boat and make cherished outdoor memories with their families."

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Colorado Come to Life – Officials Colorado Tourism Site NEW



<http://www.colorado.com/articles/quick-guide-colorados-national-monuments>

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Environment America NEW

Environment Colorado lauds protecting fishing, rafting in Browns Canyon

Browns Canyon, a popular spot for trout fishing and whitewater rafting here in central Colorado, will gain permanent protection tomorrow as a

National Monument, following decades of campaigning by outdoor enthusiasts, the tourism industry, and some of the state's most prominent political leaders.

President Obama's expected action, revealed this morning in the *Denver Post*, will preserve more than 20,000 rugged canyon acres surrounding the Arkansas River, a beloved area home to gold medal trout, black bears, and stunning vistas. Kim Stevens, Environment Colorado issued the following statement in response:

"Places like Browns Canyon are a big part of what makes Colorado so special. That's why tens of thousands of Coloradans from all walks of life called for the permanent protection of this incredible landscape. That's why we're thrilled future generations will have the chance for the same spectacular views and opportunities to raft, hike, and fish that we enjoy [in the canyon] today.

"President Obama, former Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet all get credit for safeguarding this special place. Everyone who signed a petition, attended a meeting, or made a phone call to protect Browns Canyon has a lot to be proud of, too.

"Environment Colorado looks forward to continuing to work with the administration and Congress to keep pristine public lands off limits to development, mining, drilling, and pollution. Future generations of Americans and the wildlife that depend on these ecosystems deserve nothing less."

Kim Stevens, Campaign Director, Environment Colorado

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Twitter

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LCV NEW

It's official: #BrownsCanyon is America's newest #NationalMonument and permanently protected for all to raft, hike, fish, camp and explore

<https://twitter.com/LCVoters/status/568458949441290240>

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pew environment NEW

Why our new national monument in Colorado is a big win: <http://ow.ly/JoFx3> #BrownsCanyon

Honouliuli National Monument, HI

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Elected Officials

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<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

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External Stakeholders

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Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) NEW

JACL Applauds the Inclusion of Honouliuli into the National Park System

Washington D.C. – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) applauds [President Barack Obama’s designation of Honouliuli as a National Historic Monument](#). The site, located in a gulch in central Oahu, was used during World War II to imprison Japanese community leaders and their families. The monument will preserve a forgotten but important part of American history about the treatment of thousands of Americans living in Hawaii.

“I am delighted to learn that the Honouliuli incarceration site has been added to the National Park System as a National Historic Monument. We are grateful to the National Park Service for recognizing the significance of the site as a component of World War II and as the site related to the forcible imprisonment of Japanese and other Americans. As the longest operating World War II Japanese American confinement site in Hawaii, Honouliuli represents a unique chapter in American history and a very important lesson in civil liberties and the U.S. Constitution. This inclusion in the National Park System will ensure that the story of what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II will continue to be told and

remembered," said JAACL National President David Lin.

"Today, the President opened the windows so healing winds can blow on a place that was once called 'hell valley.' Years ago, droves of innocent men were rounded up and placed in prison centers by the military because they were Japanese priests, teachers, and community leaders. Their incarceration remained a secret because of the unwarranted shame they bore for a crime they did not commit. On the 73rd anniversary of the signing of the Executive Order authorizing the internment, the government has acknowledged this story by creating a learning place where discussions about tolerance and diversity can be elevated," stated JAACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida.

Located approximately 25 miles northwest of Honolulu, Honouliuli is the site of the largest and longest used World War II confinement site in Hawaii. Those of Japanese ancestry made up over a third of the population of Hawaii in 1941. In contrast to the mass incarceration taking place on the mainland, Japanese American community leaders and those with close cultural or economic ties to Japan were selectively targeted and detained throughout Hawaii.

The detentions began immediately following the strike on Pearl Harbor, with estimates of over 350 Issei and Nisei being arrested in the first 48 hours following the attack, and over 2,200 imprisoned by the end of the war. These people were detained at a number of sites across the Hawaiian Islands, with Honouliuli becoming the largest.

Honouliuli was opened in March of 1943 to hold U.S. Citizens and resident aliens of Japanese, German, and Italian descent, as well as Japanese prisoners of war. The area housed over 150 buildings, guard towers, and tents on the 160 acre site, in addition to approximately 320 internees. Many of these people were detained for the duration of the war – a period of more than 3 years – and none were ever charged with a crime.

Honouliuli was closed in 1946 following the last of the prisoner of war repatriations and the site was sold as farmland. The site and its history were largely forgotten until the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) began to research and document Honouliuli's history in the 1990's, leading to the re-discovery of the site in 2002. Since then, a number of organizations, including the JAACL Honolulu Chapter, JCCH, the University of Hawaii, and Monsanto Hawaii, have worked to preserve and interpret the site in an effort to educate the public about a largely unknown chapter of Hawaiian and American history.

In 2009, Congress authorized the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study to review Honouliuli for possible inclusion to the National Park System. In 2011, JAACL passed a national resolution supporting these efforts and began meeting with members of Congress and other government officials to inform them of the historic and cultural significance of the site and to garner their support for National Park status. In December 2014, a group of staffers from the JCCH and Honolulu JAACL visited officials in Washington D.C. to deliver petitions with over 6,000 signatures supporting the inclusion of Honouliuli into the National Park System.

JAACL is dedicated to securing the civil and human rights of all Americans and preserving the historical and cultural legacy of the Japanese American community. The preservation and interpretation of the Japanese American World War II confinement sites ensures that their important and distinct place in American history will continue to educate future generations against repeating injustices of the past.

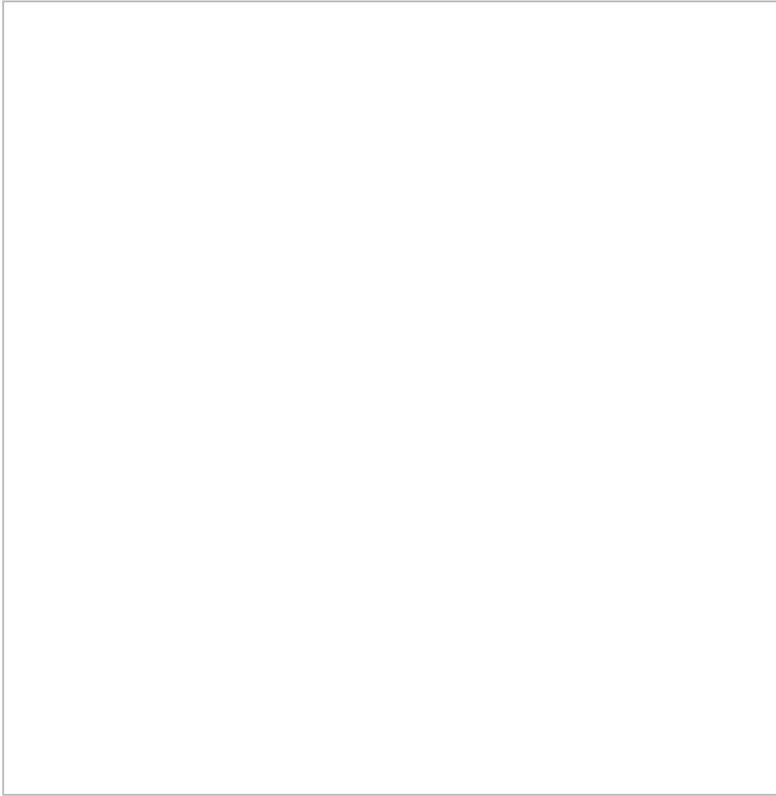
<http://www.jacl.org/news/>

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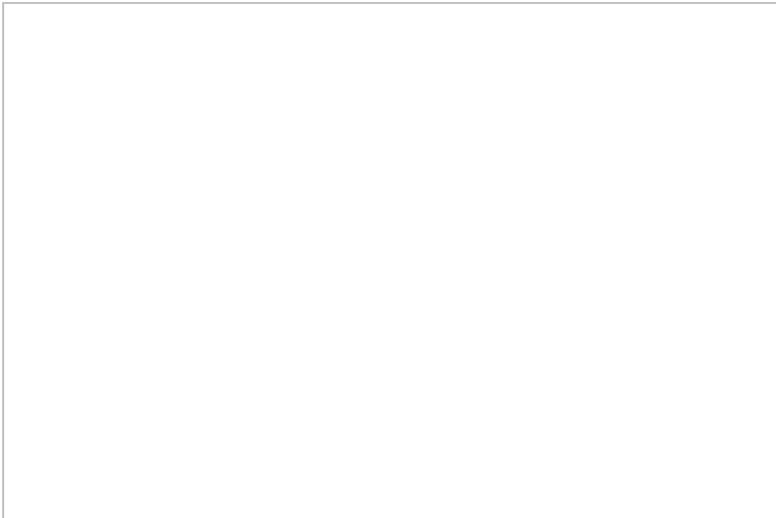
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Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii NEW

Ad in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser



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Ad in Politico



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Twitter

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Travel Leaders NEW

#Obama made #Honouliuli Internment Camp a #nationalmonument. It's a former #POW #WWII camp.(Photos:... <http://instagram.com/p/zVa8meBcsj/>)

<https://twitter.com/TravelLeaders/status/568854511823015936>

Every Kid in a Park

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External Stakeholders

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National Wild Turkey Federation - George Thornton, CEO NEW

"There are so many distractions in our world today stealing the attention of our youth, but we [the NWTF] have a duty to our communities to provide options to help get kids outdoors. We are proud to play a key role in promoting outdoor activities to our youth as they are the generation that we will rely on to help save the future of our wildlife and habitat."

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Natural Resources Defense Council - Robert Friedman, Campaigner NEW

"This program couldn't come at a more important time, especially as technology is [driving more and more young people indoors](#), away from the opportunities presented by the natural world. Think of all of these 4th graders seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time, or crocodiles in the Everglades or Half Dome in Yosemite, and the sense of wonder they will feel by seeing such natural magnificence. These experiences will show them what is at stake in our fight to preserve these amazing places, and will make them advocates for a more just and more sustainable future. Every Kid in a Park has the potential to change the landscape of activism in this country in a moment it is desperately needed."

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American Hiking Society - Gregory Miller, President NEW

"So many children are spending more time indoors these days, often in front of screens, and if we don't act, there will be severe consequences as they become adults. Getting kids outside will help improve health outcomes, academic success, and also ensure that America's public lands will still have champions when their generation becomes the stewards of these incredible parks and forests."

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The Audubon Society - Mike Daulton, VP for Government Relations NEW

"Children and families are inspired by the natural world, and that inspiration has lifelong benefits. We all need clean water, clean air, and healthy natural spaces. Getting kids and families into nature illuminates the connections we share with each other and with the great outdoors. A new generation of conservationists is waiting to emerge as they discover birds, other wildlife, and America's great natural resources. We're glad the White House agrees, and we support this new initiative."

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Children & Nature Network - Richard Louv, Co-Founder NEW

"The President's announcement and new initiative may well be a turning point. The initiative will help support the people who have worked so hard, many of them for decades, to connect children to nature. It will encourage new actions by local government, education, religious organizations, the health care professions, and, crucially, by our business communities. The greatest change must happen beyond government, in the daily decisions that all of us, as individuals and members of families, take in our daily lives. Ultimately, only we can make sure that every child receives the gifts of the natural world."

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The Student Conservation Association NEW

"The Student Conservation Association applauds this commitment to connect more young people with our national parks. As the national leader in youth conservation service, SCA has proven that exposure to the great outdoors has a transformative impact on young people, instilling lifelong conservation values and creating healthier, happier kids."

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Wilderness Inquiry NEW

"Wilderness Inquiry is thrilled to support this innovative new program that facilitates full participation in nature. Outdoor exploration is a birthright all children share, regardless of any perceived physical, cultural, or socio-economic barriers. We will continue to do our part to connect thousands of children and their families to educational and inspirational adventures in our national parks, forests, and wilderness areas. Many of our partners including National Park Service, US Forest Service, Department of the Interior, and the Outdoors Alliance for Kids also support this effort, and we will work with them to get Every Kid in a Park!"

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HECHO NEW

HECHO Statement on President's Kids in Parks Initiative

Las Vegas, NM – Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO) Outreach Coordinator Max Trujillo released this statement on the President's new Kid in a Park initiative:

"Latino families and our communities have been using and enjoying America's public lands for generations. Increasing access to healthy watersheds, clean air, robust wildlife habitats, and open spaces for our nation's 4th-graders and their families would truly benefit our nation's young Latinos by providing opportunities to connect with and learn about their cultural past and traditional uses of the land. Ensuring that our young Latinos are able to experience and understand this nation's public lands heritage will be an invaluable asset for us all."

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The City Project NEW

President Obama Every Kid in a Park, Transit to Trails, Honouliuli, Pullman, Browns Canyon National Monuments

Since President Barack Obama designated the San Gabriel Mountains Monument in October 2014, the White House has demonstrated a renewed commitment to [environmental and green justice](#).

Every child has the right to the simple joy of playing in the park. Under President Obama's Every Kid in a Park initiative, the National Park Service will give all fourth graders and their families free admission to national parks and other federal lands for a full year. The President also designated new national monuments.

President Obama recognizes that too many children, especially children of color, don't have access to parks where they can play, breathe fresh air, experience nature, and learn about their environment. This is an issue of social justice, health, and economic vitality for all. It's not enough to have awesome natural wonders. You have to be able to access them. Green justice is about working with communities to open up parks and our heritage to everybody — young and old, Latino, Asian, Native American, black, white — to make sure everybody can enjoy these rights. Every Kid in a Park will award transportation grants for school children to visit parks, public lands and waters, focusing on schools with the greatest need.

Transit to Trails provides opportunities for park-poor, income-poor communities to learn about water, land, wildlife and cultural history, and engage in healthy physical activity. Transit to Trails increases access to national parks, monuments, and other park lands. Underserved communities lack close-to-home green space, monuments, transportation, and opportunities to reach recreation and natural resources. [Transit to Trails is a best practice to get people to the parks now, and prepare young people to be the stewards of our natural heritage tomorrow. Transit to](#)

[providing accessible public transportation](#). President Obama agrees with the National Park Service, the California Parks Forward Commission, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and the US Army Corps of Engineers on transit: The Transit to Trails program by Anahuak Youth Sports Association, The City Project, and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is a best practice for taking inner city youth and their families and friends on fun, educational, and healthy park, river, beach, and mountain trips.

jewell aysa

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell with children from Anahuak Youth Sports Association and The City Project

We celebrate President Obama designating three new monuments that honor the diverse history of our nation, and promote access to healthy, outdoor recreation for all: Honouliuli, Pullman, and the Browns Canyon landscape and river corridor.

Honouliuli commemorates the fragility of civil rights, and the incarceration of innocent Japanese Americans for three years during World War II. The designation on February 19 comes 73 years to the day after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed executive order 9066. The order authorized the evacuation of over 100,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry, including U.S. citizens, to isolated, fenced, and guarded internment camps. The United States Supreme Court upheld this intentional discrimination against Japanese Americans in *Korematsu v United States*. A federal district court threw out Fred Korematsu's conviction 40 years later, concluding that "[today the decision in Korematsu lies overruled in the court of history](#)."

Pullman, on Chicago's Far South Side, honors the formation of the first African-American labor union, development of the first "company town," and the role of railroads in the nation's industrial past.

Honouliuli and Pullman, like Manzanar National Monument, are best practice examples to [celebrate the nation's diversity faithfully, completely, and accurately, and to stimulate and provoke a greater understanding of, and dialogue on, civil rights, democracy, and freedom](#).

The City Project has been working for 15 years to broaden access to parks and open space for inner-city residents and to fight childhood obesity by guaranteeing that students get enough physical education. We are profoundly grateful to President Barack Obama and the National Park Service for Kid in a Park, and for diversifying national monuments.

—Robert García, Founding Director and Counsel, The City Project

<http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/35621>

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Twitter

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MayorMatthewMarchant- City of Carrollton, TX) NEW

My rising 4th grdr will be pumped! "@johnblairindc: Pres. to announce that 4th graders & families will get in free to public lands for 1 yr!"

<https://twitter.com/MatthewMarchant/status/568439335604731905>

Heads Up: I will be out of the office March 6-March 17!

John Blair

Director, Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs

Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior

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External Statements

**Pullman Historic District, Browns Canyon, Honouliuli National Monuments
and Every Kid in a Park**

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Pullman National Monument, IL

Elected Officials

Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL)

Statement on Pullman

"As Chicago's first national park, Pullman's 135 years of civil rights and industrial history will be protected and enjoyed for generations to come," Kirk said in a statement. "This new national park will breathe new economic life into this community, bringing up to 30,000 visitors and more than \$40 million each year." ([Star Tribune](#))

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Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Senator Mark Kirk (R-IL), Congressman Robin Kelly (D-IL)

Durbin, Kirk, Kelly Applaud President Obama's Announcement That Pullman Historical District Will Become Part Of The National Park System

[CHICAGO, IL] — U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) and U.S. Representative Robin Kelly (D-IL) today applauded President Obama's announcement that a portion of Chicago's Pullman Historic District will be designated as a National Monument, making it a unit of the National Park System. Durbin, Kirk, and Kelly have worked to secure national park status for the architecturally unique neighborhood which played important roles in America's railroad, industrial and labor history.

"The future of America's next great urban national landmark lies in the Pullman community's storied past. As an Illinoisan, I am proud to represent this community, which has come together to share its proud legacy of labor and civil rights. And as an American, I look forward to joining visitors from across the country in exploring a new monument to this critical chapter in our national history," **Durbin** said. "I thank Senator Kirk and Representative Kelly for being my partners in this effort, and congratulate the many members of this community who have worked so hard to restore and preserve this unique landmark."

"I fought for this designation with Senator Durbin and Rep. Kelly because regardless of party, it was the right thing to do for our state. As Chicago's first national monument, the Pullman District will bring thousands of tourists to Chicagoland every year, which will help to breathe new life into our local economies," **Kirk** said. "Today I am proud that America's first industrial town founded by George Pullman is receiving the recognition it deserves as a national monument."

"Pullman National Monument will be a crown jewel of the community, a remarkable achievement made possible only through the cooperation and collaboration of leaders from the public and private sectors and the residents of the neighborhood. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of many, the history and legacy of Pullman will endure for generations to come and people from all over the country will be

encouraged to visit and learn more about the vital role Pullman played in our nation’s labor and civil rights history,” said **Kelly**.

Under this announcement, the Pullman Historic District will become a national monument bounded by 103rd Street to the north, 115th Street to the south, Cottage Grove Avenue to the west, and the Norfolk & Western Rail Line to the east. Initially, the National Park Service (NPS), which administers national parks and monuments, will own the Pullman Factory Complex and the land on which it sits, with the option of acquiring additional property or assets should they be made available. Establishing Pullman as a part of the National Park System will allow for greater coordination of preservation and protection efforts by federal, state and local agencies.

In August, Durbin wrote President Obama urging him to use his authority to designate a portion of Chicago’s Pullman Historic District as a unit of the National Park System. Earlier last year, Durbin, Kirk and Kelly introduced legislation to create the Pullman National Historical Park in the neighborhood’s historical district, an architecturally unique neighborhood which played important roles in America’s railroad, industrial and labor history.

In 2014, the NPS released a study which found that Pullman was “conclusively nationally significant” as a historical site. More than 100 different organizations have endorsed the creation of a national park in Pullman, including city, county and state parks officials; preservationist groups; labor organizations; and tourism advocates. The creation of the national park site will increase jobs and boost Pullman’s economy as a result of added tourism dollars: in 2012, national park visitors contributed more than \$30 billion to local economies and supported more than 250,000 jobs. Studies show that every dollar invested in national park operations generates ten dollars of local economic activity.

The Pullman site was originally developed by industrialist George Pullman in 1880 and was the first American industrial town. The Pullman site served as the catalyst for the first industry-wide strike in the United States and played an important role in African American and early Civil Rights history through the legacy of the Pullman Porters as well as the development of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, the first black union. Labor Day was established as a federal holiday following the 1894 Pullman labor strike. The neighborhood is also a well-preserved example of 19th century urban planning and architecture, especially the work of Solon Spencer Beman. The area has been designated as a registered National Historic Landmark District, an Illinois State Landmark, and a City of Chicago Landmark District.

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The President's designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

City Council, City of Chicago - Anthony Beale, Alderman, Ninth Ward NEW

“Steeped in the history of American industry, labor, urban planning and the African-American civil rights movement, few locations preserve these stories as evocatively as the Pullman community. Pullman’s narrative is America’s story. In addition, a national park would create the opportunity to access much needed federal investment in transportation and business growth, shops, stores and restaurants for visitors and residents alike. Once there is a national park at Pullman you’re going to see more great things happening in the Roseland and Pullman communities.”

###

External Stakeholders

Historic Pullman Foundation | Michael A. Shymanski, AIA, President NEW

“The designation of Pullman as a national monument culminates a five decade grassroots effort of the Pullman Civic Organization and the Historic Pullman Foundation to preserve and restore the community’s place in American history and to attract the national and international attention that this important landmark deserves. We are thrilled that President Obama will designate Pullman as part of the National Park System and we look forward to working with the National Park Service and others in creating a great urban national park in Chicago.”

###

Illinois Labor History Society - Larry Spivak, President NEW

“President Obama’s historic action in authorizing national monument status for the Pullman District comes at a time when honoring the struggles of all working people to keep a vibrant middle class is needed more than ever. The history of the Pullman Porters, the workers who built the Pullman Palace cars and the courageous actions taken to improve their working conditions for themselves, their families and their community will now be honored as part of our national heritage. Thank you Mr. President for helping us remember.”

###

Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives - David Doig, President NEW

“Designating Pullman a national park will be a huge boost for the economy of the neighborhood. It will bring tourism spending, the opportunity to access federal infrastructure dollars, and private investment,

all of which are much needed here. A lot of work is already underway including new investment in retail, industrial and residential development. The national park will build on this progress and further bolster and encourage new investment.”

###

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) - Sylvia Cyrus, Executive Director NEW

“The recognition of the Pullman National Monument is another important step in honoring the lives those diverse groups of working people, labor unions, and political activists who fought diligently to demonstrate that there is dignity of work. In doing such their legacies have strengthened the narrative of our national history. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History applauds President Obama on the creation of this monument. Its presence will insure that the stories of people like A. Philip Randolph, Milton P. Webster, the men and women of Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and its auxiliaries, and the countless others who worked tirelessly to integrate the missions of the labor and civil rights movements of so many years ago will now have an opportunity to forever remain part of our national discourse on race and political activism in the 20th century.

###

PullmanArts - Ann Alspaugh, Chair NEW

Thank you President Obama for bringing the National Park Service to Pullman and your support of the important work many residents have been doing for decades. We in the community have worked countless hours to restore Pullman's unique architecture, to educate the public, and to enhance and develop community assets such as the landscape gardens, arts programming and pride of place look forward to sharing this rich history with all the new visitors when Pullman becomes a national monument.”

###

Pullman Civic Organization - Tom McMahon, President NEW

“The Pullman Civic Organization and its members are elated over the news that Pullman will become a National Park. This represents the hard work of number of community residents, local and national political leaders and many other organizations who see the development and preservation of this location as an important facet of our history.”

###

Pullman Wheelworks Residents - Marie Robinson, President NEW

“Thanks to President Obama, the stories of our Pullman community will be shared with the world in a way they haven’t been before. Pullman as a national park will be important because it will bring revenue to the area and job opportunities for the people of the community, and this could be life-changing for

many of our neighbors. I'm excited to see a Pullman National Monument because of the new-found pride that people will have in their neighborhood."

###

National Parks Conservation Association - Lynn McClure, Midwest Senior Director NEW

"The people who are part of the Pullman legacy helped to shape America as we know it today. Pullman workers fought for fair labor conditions in the late 19th century and the Pullman porters helped advance America's Civil Rights movement. The designation of Pullman as a national monument will further showcase the commitment of President Obama to diversify our national parks and preserve the places that define who we are as a nation. Thanks to the President, Pullman's story will soon be remembered and recounted for the millions of people that visit America's national parks each year."

###

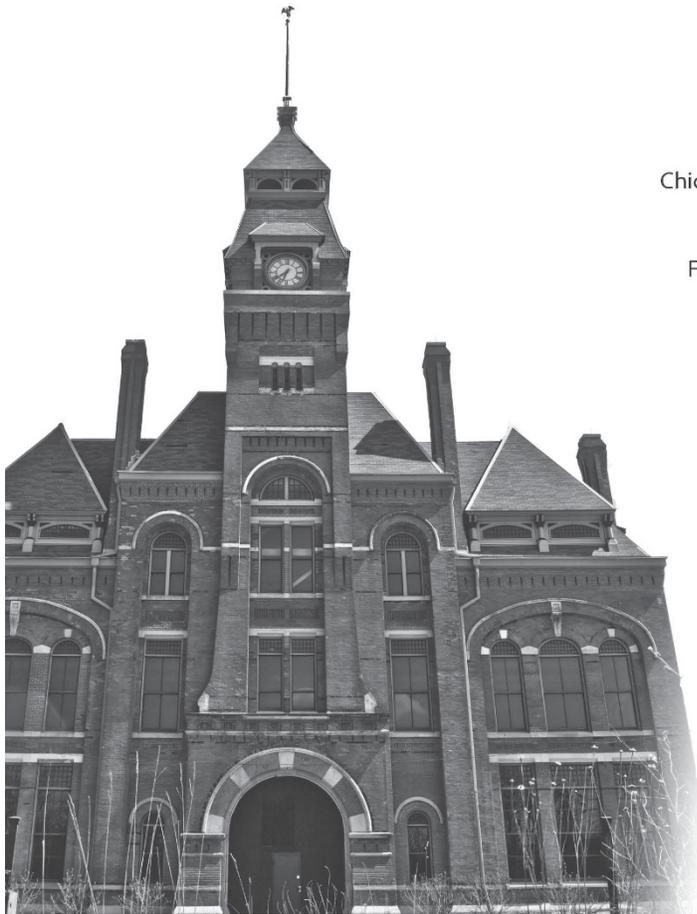
National Trust for Historic Preservation - Stephanie Meeks, President and CEO NEW

"We applaud President Obama for this decisive action on behalf of one of America's most important historic places. From industrialization to the labor and civil rights movements, Pullman played a significant role in American history during the late 19th and early 20th centuries."

###

**Thank you President Obama
Secretary Jewell and Director Jarvis
for protecting our American history at Pullman**

The Pullman National Monument will boost our local economy and provide permanent protection for an irreplaceable part of our cultural heritage. Thanks to your efforts, the important Civil Rights, labor, and industrial history of Pullman will continue to inspire the children and grandchildren of Chicago and the nation.



Bielenberg Historic Pullman House Foundation
Bronzeville Historical Society
Calumet Area Industrial Commission
Chatham Business Association
Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau
Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation
Chicago Urban League
Developing Communities Project, Inc.
Far South Side Community Development Corporation
Friends of the Pullman State Historic Site
Greater Roseland Chamber of Commerce
Historic Pullman Foundation
Historic Pullman Garden Club
Landmarks Illinois
Mercy Housing Lakefront
NAACP Chicago Southside Branch
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Neighborhood Housing Services
Preservation Chicago
PullmanArts
Pullman Civic Organization
Pullman Urban Gardeners
Pullman Wheelworks Residents
Rosemoor Community Association
Salem Baptist Church of Chicago
Southeast Environmental Task Force
South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association

Paid for by National Trust for Historic Preservation
Photo courtesy National Trust for Historic Preservation/Cynthia Lynn

Conservation Lands Foundation

**President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded
*President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands***

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood as national

monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country's history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

"Today's action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation's rich history and America's outdoor heritage," said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "There are places among America's public lands that represent vital parts of our country's history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors."

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation's National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado's outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

“These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public,” stated said **Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “We look forward to President Obama’s continued leadership in protecting our nation’s most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so.”

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

"The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at:

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," **said Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society.** "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for

listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit.”

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Twitter

Natural Resources Defense Council

#Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood set to become the nation's next national monument.
<http://on.nrdc.org/19oPTxS>

The Wilderness Society

ICYMI: Obama will designate a new national monument in #Chicago <http://wapo.st/1DAGVJh>

Sierra Club

On Thursday President Obama is expected to designate three new national #monuments. Our statement: <http://sc.org/M2xkQ>

The Wilderness Society

Wilderness Society @Wilderness

News: President Obama to protect Browns Canyon and 2 other monuments <http://bit.ly/1CI54Md>

Outdoor Afro

Outdoor Afro thanks President Barack Obama for declaring Chicago's Pullman district a national monument. <http://fb.me/1AYnTbnE1>

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/565206688467525632>

Senator Dick Durbin

The @White_House is announcing #NPforPullman today in Chicago. Big moment for America's history, our city & the Pullman community

<https://twitter.com/SenatorDurbin/status/568423535044993024>

Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth

I'm excited that President Obama is designating Chicago's Pullman factory as a national monument today: <http://ow.ly/JklOX>

<https://twitter.com/Tammy4Congress/status/568439673317666816>

Natl Park Foundation

So grateful to everyone who made it possible for #Pullman to become a #NationalPark! Pic: @ILhistory #TBT

<https://twitter.com/GoParks/status/568502670652264448>

Robin Kelly (IL-02)

So proud to have the #Pullman Historic District become a National Monument! #IL02

<https://twitter.com/RepRobinKelly/status/568515620033003520>

Trust for Public Land

"Together we can do great things that we can't do alone. That's why I am designating #Pullman as America's newest monument." - @BarackObama

https://twitter.com/tpl_org/status/568506656650186752

Illinois History

On big day for #Pullman, @ArgusBrewery releases "Monumental Lager." Details here: <http://ow.ly/Jl2jZ>
<http://ow.ly/i/8HWc9>

Pullman Foundation

Congratulations to the #Pullman historic district of #Chicago on becoming a #nationalmonument!
<http://bit.ly/1AadcVV> It's OFFICIAL!

<https://twitter.com/pullmanfdn/status/568507207953883136>

Browns Canyon National Monument, CO

Elected Officials

Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)

Statement on Browns Canyon

"Coloradans have been very clear they wanted this protection, along with assurances that existing uses will be protected. We're glad the administration heard those voices and provided those assurances," ([Star Tribune](#))

###

Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista, President, BV Roastery & Bongo Billy's Coffees

"Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County. As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children."

###

Thomas Yerkey, Salida City Council Member

"For over a decade, local citizens and lawmakers from both parties have worked tirelessly to protect this unique and untrammled landscape. Although legislation has been introduced with the support of multiple diverse groups, including Chaffee County Commissioners, Arkansas River Outfitters Association, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, roughly 150 local businesses, and 150 more from throughout the state, this area still remains one of the state's most appreciated yet unprotected areas."

###

Eric Gibb, MD, Town of Buena Vista Trustee and business owner

"Protecting Browns Canyon is important to the local and state economy. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also protect wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities and opportunities that define Colorado's outdoor legacy today and for future generations. Because of these reasons, I strongly support the designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument."

###

Joel Hefley, former U.S. Representative (Represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007)

“The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon. This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening.”

###

Representative Dough Lamborn (CO-5)

Statement on Browns Canyon

Today, Congressman Doug Lamborn released a statement following President Obama's decision to designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument.

“I am outraged; this is the type of executive order that upsets Americans. This is a top-down, big government land grab by the President that disenfranchises the concerned citizens in the Browns Canyon region. I’ve heard from multitudes of local citizens whose concerns about grazing rights, water rights, outdoor recreation, and the inability of first responders to manage and fight wildfires in the area have never been addressed. It is also important for people to note that national monuments created by Presidential executive order under the Antiquities Act almost always become underfunded, neglected properties. This is because they are created without normal Congressional and local consensus, robbing the people of a fair and open process that stifles the input of the community. And they become orphans once the Administration changes. Does Browns Canyon really deserve this kind of second-class status?”

###

Representative Ken Buck (CO-4)

Statement to the Washington Times

“He is not king. No more acting like King Barack,” Mr. Buck said. “That is not how we do things in the U.S. Actions like this lead the American people to view Mr. Obama’s presidency as an imperial presidency.”

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/feb/18/colo-gop-blasts-obamas-latest-national-monument/#ixzz3S8NoLBXB>

###

Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO)

Gardner Statement on Browns Canyon Designation

Washington, D.C. – Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) released the following statement on President Obama’s planned designation of Browns Canyon as a National Monument:

“Browns Canyon is a national treasure with a long history of bipartisan support in Colorado. Senator Udall in particular was a champion of this beautiful site, and his legacy of protecting Colorado’s landscapes is to be commended. This monument will stand in lasting tribute to his public service. My preference is always to work through the legislative process, and in the coming days I will be introducing legislation to ensure that Colorado’s state and local interests have a seat at the table in discussions about Browns Canyon.”

###

Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) NEW

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama’s Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today’s presidential designation of three new national monuments.

“Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation’s history are among every president’s greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

“Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

“Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today’s bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people’s vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I’m proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them.”

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

###

Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration's Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

"President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone's guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations."

The President's designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

External Stakeholders

Healing Waters Family Center - Joseito Velasquez, Pastor NEW

"Colorado's clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water, and wildlife. The support of Browns Canyon demonstrates just how important stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage is to the Latino community."

###

Conservation Colorado - Pete Maysmith, Executive Director NEW

"We thank President Obama for acting now to protect Browns Canyon, and honoring the work of so many to protect this striking place. This new national monument is a culmination of former Senator Mark Udall's work and so many others to protect this gem of the Arkansas River," said Pete Maysmith, Conservation Colorado's Executive Director. "All Coloradans can be proud of what we have accomplished together."

###

Sierra Club - David Scott, President, and John Stansfield, Volunteer, Sierra Club Rocky Mountain Chapter **NEW**

"We applaud President Obama for using his authority to protect this national treasure. The unique combination of water, wild landscape and lower elevation ridges at Browns Canyon provide four-season opportunities for people to get outside, as well as important wildlife habitat. Browns Canyon is a wonderful addition to our nation's conservation legacy; we look forward to President Obama's continued work to secure our outdoor heritage.

###

Center for Western Priorities

DENVER-- The Denver Post reported this morning that President Barack Obama will designate Colorado's Browns Canyon as a new national monument. But two members of Colorado's Congressional delegation immediately criticized the decision and distorted the facts about the monument designation.

Jessica Goad, Advocacy Director at the Center for Western Priorities, issued the following statement in response:

"Today's comments by Congressmen Lamborn and Buck are hypocritical, offensive, and out of touch with Coloradans. This monument designation was discussed and refined extensively, and enjoyed support from both Republicans and Democrats over the years. But Congress has failed to take action for over two decades. Instead of playing politics, these representatives should join in Colorado's bipartisan tradition of protecting lands. If Congress won't take action protect these deserving public lands, then the president should."

Here are three ways that Rep. Lamborn and Rep. Buck misfired in their statements:

1) Rep. Lamborn has supported the designation of national monuments during previous presidential terms.

Lamborn stated that he was "outraged" by the Browns Canyon monument, but in 2007, when President George W. Bush was in office, Rep. Lamborn called for the creation of a Pikes Peak National Monument. "It would promote tourism," Lamborn said at the time. "There are people who love to go around and visit the national monuments around the country and the national parks."

2) Rep. Lamborn has had every opportunity to pass a bill in Congress.

While Rep. Lamborn today criticized the president for a "top-down, big-government land grab," bipartisan legislation to protect Browns Canyon has been promoted by the local community but has languished in Congress since 1991. Rep. Lamborn's predecessor—Representative Joel Hefley (R-CO)—and Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) both called for the protection of the area. In fact, Rep. Hefley this morning said, "the people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape."

3) Rep. Buck's comments about the president—calling him “King Barack”—are offensive and wrong.

Rep. Buck's inappropriate comments today of “no more acting like King Barack” also fail to note that 16 presidents have used the Antiquities Act, including Republican President George W. Bush. Notably, Rep. Buck did not refer to President Bush as “King George” when Bush designated national monuments.

<http://westernpriorities.org/2015/02/18/statement-colorado-members-of-congress-wildly-misfire-with-criticism-of-new-browns-canyon-national-monumen/>

###

Colorado Sportsmen Group

Trout Unlimited

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

National Wildlife Federation

Sportsmen groups praise creation of Browns Canyon national monument

Call monument designation ‘historic victory’ for Colorado conservation

SALIDA (Feb. 18)—Colorado sportsmen today praised President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon as a new national monument, the culmination of years of effort to protect a Colorado backcountry treasure beloved by generations of anglers, hunters, rafters, and hikers.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Michael Bennet recently asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument, after legislation sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall stalled in Congress despite broad local support.

Sportsmen and wildlife enthusiasts called the monument action a historic victory for Colorado conservation.

“I'm thrilled,” said Jim Impara, vice president of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Salida. “Browns Canyon is one of those special places that draws rafters, hunters and anglers from all over the world. This action ensures that Browns' wildness and rare beauty will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.”

“Browns is one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country,” said Bill Dvorak, rafting guide and public lands organizer for the National Wildlife Federation. “It's also a great hunting and fishing area and the foundation of our local recreation-based economy. With this designation, Coloradans can be confident that the wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come.”

“This is a great day for Colorado and for sportsmen,” said Tim Brass, Southern Rockies Coordinator for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. “Browns Canyon is the gold standard for backcountry hunting and fishing habitat. Protecting this last bastion of wild country along the Arkansas River ensures that herds of

elk and deer have high-quality winter range and anglers can pursue wily trout in an outstanding Gold Medal fishery.”

For years, sportsmen’s groups have been pushing for monument status for Browns Canyon. TU, NWF and BHA organized local hunters and anglers to voice their support and attend numerous local meetings and public forums. The groups cited Brown’s important fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its role as an economic driver for Colorado’s \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado’s \$140 million whitewater rafting industry.

“Sportsmen can be proud that they helped deliver this victory for Browns,” said David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. “Our local roots and deep knowledge of these places carry weight with lawmakers and federal officials. Hunters and anglers understand the value of our public lands and wild backcountry, and we’re committed to protecting these magnificent resources and our outdoor way of life.”

He added, “We especially thank Sen. Udall for his dedication and persistence in pushing for a Browns Canyon monument. He has been a valued voice for sportsmen and for commonsense conservation.”

For more information about Browns, go to www.sportsmenforbrowns.com.

###

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama’s Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded ***President’s action will expand our National Conservation Lands***

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago’s historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country’s history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

“Today’s action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation’s rich history and America’s outdoor heritage,” said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “There are places among America’s public lands that represent vital parts of our country’s history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors.”

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation’s National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado’s outdoor lifestyle. The

rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

“These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public,” stated said **Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “We look forward to President Obama's continued leadership in protecting our nation's most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so.”

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

http://www.creationjustice.org/uploads/2/5/4/6/25465131/creation_justice_ministries_feb_monuments_statement.pdf

###

Environmental Learning for Kids

Inner City Kids Group Praises Browns Canyon National Monument Status

Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected lands to take urban kids outdoors

DENVER – Today President Obama announced that Browns Canyon will become a national monument – and Environmental Learning for Kids is singing his praises.

“Environmental Learning for Kids depends on protected places like Browns Canyon to introduce urban kids to the majestic beauty and solitude of Colorado’s wild lands – places none of them have ever visited before,” said Amy Wright, Education Coordinator at Environmental Learning for Kids. “On behalf of Denver’s inner city youth, we want to thank the President for his leadership on making Browns Canyon a national monument.”

Browns Canyon’s ruggedness and lower elevation provides excellent habitat for birds of prey, bighorn sheep, elk and other wildlife, as well as offers high quality hiking, camping, fishing and climbing

opportunities. Environmental Learning for Kids depends on Browns Canyon and other public lands to introduce multicultural, low-income youth and their families to the great outdoors in Colorado.

“I feel so lucky I was able to visit Browns Canyon. It was my first trip out of the city,” said Melissa Sotelo of Environmental Learning for Kids. “And I really like knowing that now it’s a protected area so other urban kids can come and experience it like I did.”

Congress has considered multiple bipartisan bills to designate Browns Canyon as national monument over two decades but failed to pass one.

ELK (Environmental Learning for Kids) is an inclusive non-profit organization that develops inspired and responsible leaders through science education and outdoor experiences for underserved, urban youth ages 5-25.

###

Friends of Brown Canyon

Colorado leaders, sportsmen, businesses applaud Browns Canyon National Monument announcement

Salida, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Friends of Browns Canyon and community leaders applauded the news that President Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado on Thursday.

“This designation will provide permanent protection that is long overdue for this incredible area. Residents and visitors to Chaffee County have always understood that Browns Canyon is a national treasure,” commented Keith Baker, Executive Director of Friends of Browns Canyon. “The national monument designation is supported by hunters and anglers, businesses and conservation groups, veterans and youth groups.”

A broad cross-section of local groups and businesses have supported the national monument designation for Browns Canyon, including the Colorado and Arkansas River Outfitters Associations, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Salida Business Alliance, sportsmen, youth, faith, veterans and Hispanic groups, local businesses and county commissioners. Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradans support the protection and conservation of natural areas.

“Browns Canyon is intricately connected to the fabric of our communities and is key to our quality of life. The Browns Canyon National Monument will also boost local economic vitality via increased visitation and awareness of Buena Vista and Chaffee County,” stated Joel Benson, Mayor of Buena Vista. “As a father and a business owner, I welcome this monument designation because it ensures that this irreplaceable location will be permanently protected for the well-being of our community, our local economy, and our children.”

“The people of Chaffee County have been working together for many years to protect this scenic landscape and the important river corridor that runs through Browns Canyon,” stated former U.S.

Representative Joel Hefley, who represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, which includes Chaffee County, from 1987 to 2007. "This new National Monument will mean a lot to Chaffee County and also for future generations as they enjoy this special place. I am thrilled that after all these years it is finally happening."

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting," stated Eric Lynn, owner of Mountain Ridge Gear in Payton, CO. "Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I am glad to be able to pass down to my kids."

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded "Gold Medal" status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

"Browns Canyon is a stunning and rugged stretch of the Arkansas River which supports a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come," said Bill Dvorak, owner of Dvorak Expeditions and President of the Friends of Browns Canyon. "This is why we appreciate the leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves."

www.BrownsCanyon.org

###

Hispanic Access Foundation

Latinos Applaud Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

This week, President Barack Obama will protect the national public lands of Browns Canyon by designating it as the nation's newest national monument. Latinos, which account for more than 21 percent of the state's population, celebrated the decision that will help preserve and increase access to the Colorado treasure, safeguard critical clean water supplies for southern Colorado families and protect wildlife habitat prized by generations of hunters.

"Browns Canyon is significant to people across many cultures and communities," said Maite Arce, president and CEO of Hispanic Access Foundation. "Protecting these public lands will strengthen the diverse social fabric of the region and unite our hopes that future generations will be able to experience Browns Canyon as we do today."

While Hispano settlers helped develop the Sante Fe Trail trading corridor in the 19th century spawning settlements from the lower Arkansas Valley to San Luis Valley and beyond, Browns Canyon has continued to be a destination for Latinos. In August 2014, Hispanic Access Foundation led a Browns Canyon rafting and hiking trip with 60 Latino youth from Denver's Healing Waters Family Center and New Hope Christian Fellowship in Greeley.

"Colorado's clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural treasures and public lands are entrusted to us to be protected and preserved for the next generation. It is our moral responsibility to care for our land, water, and wildlife," said Joseito Velasquez, a pastor with Healing Waters Family Center. "The support of Browns Canyon demonstrates just how important stewardship of our outdoor and cultural heritage is to the Latino community."

Latinos played a visible and vocal role in the effort to protect Browns Canyon. For example, several Latino youth from St. Cajetan Catholic Church traveled to Salida, Colo. to share their support for a national monument. In 2012, youth from the church held their own weekend rafting and camping trip in Browns Canyon. These youth then raised money to travel to Washington, D.C. to share their experience with Sens. Mark Udall and Michael Bennet, the director of the National Park Service, representatives from Department of Interior and the White House Council for Environmental Quality.

"Whitewater rafting the Arkansas River through Browns Canyon was the best experience of my life," said Paola Soto, a Community College of Denver student who spoke at the public meeting in Salida. "Protecting this area will make sure that everyone has this opportunity. A Browns Canyon National Monument is good for our economy, our environment and our community. I can't wait to return."

The national monument designation will help permanently protect watersheds and water quality, conserve fish and wildlife, enhance air quality and increase access to healthy outdoor recreation. Additionally, areas surrounding national monuments often experience an economic boost from increased tourism.

"There is a misperception that Latinos are solely focused on only a few issues, like immigration reform or the economy," said Arce. "As we've seen from the Colorado Latino community's active support for Browns Canyon, environmental issues, such as public lands protection, are equally important to our community. Latinos are making their voices heard as a community that enjoys spending time in the outdoors and enthusiastically support protecting public lands for future generations."

"We appreciate the leadership of Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewel, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze and U.S. Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell, and their efforts to listen to the concerns of the Latino community," said Arce.

<http://hispanicaccess.org/news/latinos-applaud-browns-canyon-national-monument-designation/feb-2015>

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

National Wildlife Federation

NWF celebrates a new national monument: Colorado's Browns Canyon

DENVER (Feb. 28, 2015) – President Barack Obama's plan to declare Colorado's Browns Canyon a national monument means sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts will be able to enjoy its spectacular landscapes, world-class whitewater rafting and hunting and fishing for generations to come.

"Browns Canyon is widely revered for its rafting, fishing, hunting, hiking, wildlife watching, and rugged backcountry," said Collin O'Mara, the National Wildlife Federation's CEO and president, "This is why folks from all walks of life, lawmakers from both parties, and conservation leaders across Colorado, including our state affiliate the Colorado Wildlife Federation, have worked for more than two decades to protect it. On behalf of the entire National Wildlife Federation, we are grateful to the president for supporting wildlife and amazing outdoor experiences by permanently protecting this conservation jewel."

[Browns Canyon](#), about 140 miles southwest of Denver, is known nationwide for whitewater rafting on the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association said recreation on the river generated nearly \$56 million in economic benefits in 2013. The area's gulches, rocky cliffs, forests and meadows provide habitat for mule deer, elk, black bears, bighorn sheep, mountain lions, eagles and falcons. A 102-mile stretch of the Arkansas is classified as Gold Medal trout waters, based on the quality and quantity of fish. Hikers in Browns have great views of some of Colorado's most dramatic Fourteeners – mountains more than 14,000 feet in elevation.

"We've been waiting a long time for this. Making Browns Canyon a national monument has overwhelming support from the public, especially from people who live the closest to it. We know what

we have and we don't want to lose it," said Bill Dvorak, NWF's public lands organizer in Colorado and a longtime rafting and fishing guide on the Arkansas River.

News that Obama will proclaim Browns Canyon a national monument this week follows a recent public meeting in Salida that drew about 700 people. Former Sen. Mark Udall hosted the meeting in December so federal officials could gauge support for protecting Browns. Udall, Sen. Michael Bennet and Gov. John Hickenlooper asked Obama to use his executive authority after Udall's bill to establish a monument stalled in Congress.

"Presidents since Teddy Roosevelt have used the Antiquities Act to conserve some of our country's most stunning landscapes and important ecosystems. The Grand Canyon, Chaco Canyon and Muir Woods are just a few of the places set aside by presidents. We can add Browns Canyon to the list of American treasures that showcase the best of the natural resources that make us the envy of other countries around the world," said Kent Ingram, Colorado Wildlife Federation president.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Wildlife/2015/02-18-15-NWF-celebrates-a-new-national-monument-Colorados-Browns-Canyon.aspx>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

"The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

PEW

Pew Applauds Expected Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

Washington, DC—The Pew Charitable Trusts today applauded the expected designation of the Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado.

Mike Matz, Pew’s director of U.S. public lands, issued the following statement:

“Browns Canyon and the stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through it are economic powerhouses in central Colorado, drawing people from all over the country for outdoor recreation. For years, visitors have enjoyed the river’s white waters and the canyon’s wild features. Those destinations now have a well-deserved monument designation.

“In addition to being one of the most popular rafting destinations in the country, the area that is now Browns Canyon National Monument attracts visitors for hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, skiing, and bird-watching. The rugged cliffs and spectacular backcountry are home to a variety of wildlife, including bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons, and golden eagles. And the Arkansas River has an outstanding wild-trout fishery.

“This designation was made possible by the Antiquities Act of 1906, which gives the president the power to conserve for future generations natural, historical, and cultural treasures. The act is one of our nation’s most critical preservation tools. Republican and Democratic presidents alike—Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Truman, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, to name a few—have relied on it to safeguard our nation’s heritage.

“The protection of Browns Canyon gives 2015 a rousing start for conservation as we look to preserve more lands, such as Boulder-White Clouds in Idaho and the Birthplace of Rivers in West Virginia.”

Last year, congressional and presidential actions were taken to conserve a number of America’s wild places, including Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in New Mexico, and Nevada’s Pine Forest Range.

Sierra Club

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit."

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents –eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America’s most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Joe Greiner, Owner of Wilderness Aware Rafting, Buena Vista, CO

“I take tourists and residents whitewater rafting and fishing through Browns Canyon, exposing them to the natural beauty that is at the heart of Colorado’s outdoor heritage. A lot of people put national monuments on their bucket list. This national monument designation will put Browns Canyon on the map and have an even bigger impact on our local economy.”

###

Bill Dvorak, Owner of Dvorak Raft, Kayak & Fishing Expeditions

“I’ve been guiding river trips through Browns Canyon since the early ‘80s and it’s undeniably one of the top whitewater destinations in the country, supporting a multi-million dollar local outdoor industry. The monument designation guarantees that the backcountry, fishing, wildlife and economic benefits that Browns Canyon provides will be around for a long time to come. This is why we appreciate the leadership of the President and Senators Bennet and Udall for working with our community to finally give Browns Canyon the recognition it deserves.”

###

Eric Lynn, Owner of Mountain Ridge Gear, Peyton, CO

"As a retired Air Force Officer, outdoor business owner and dedicated backcountry enthusiast, I've long felt that Browns Canyon is one area that's clearly worth protecting. Whether you're casting on the gold medal waters of the Arkansas during the Caddis hatch, or hiking the rugged ridges in pursuit of mule deer, it is landscapes like Browns Canyon that I've fought for and more than anything, it's an area that I want to pass down to my kids. I'm encouraged by the prospect that Browns Canyon will be protected as it currently is."

###

Dick Ziminski, Owner San Isabel Bed & Breakfast, Army veteran, Colorado Springs, CO

“My wife and I moved to Colorado because we enjoy the outdoors and like to experience all that Colorado has to offer. The same is true of the guests who stay with us from around the country. A Browns Canyon National Monument will provide an opportunity to enhance our regional economy by

offering Americans a unique landscape surrounded by magnificent views preserved for wildlife and outdoor activities – hunting, fishing, rafting and wildlife viewing.”

###

Nick Morgan, US Army OIF veteran and local business owner

“Just as millions of Veterans like me have committed to defending our country for future generations, Congress and the President have a duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans that they are expected to represent. Being in Browns Canyon not only helped me to heal emotionally, but also reconnected me with the land I swore an oath to protect.”

###

Garrett Reppenhagen, Army veteran and Rocky Mountain West coordinator for the Vet Voice Foundation

"Browns Canyon is located near several U.S. military bases, including Fort Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy. Its protection as a national monument would ensure that service members and veterans could have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. This is why Vet Voice Foundation strongly supports President Obama using his authority to make this protection a reality through use of the Antiquities Act."

###

Alfonso Abeyta, Abeyta Ranch, Alamosa, Colorado

“As a third-generation rancher and farmer who grazes livestock on public lands in southern Colorado, I have an almost daily appreciation for the importance of our public lands to our way of life here. In part, that's why I support a national monument for Browns Canyon. It would better protect the area and ensure continued sustainable grazing.”

###

Rich Kaup, Troublesome Creek Farm, Golden Colorado

“I am all in favor of protecting our public lands, wildlife and the sustainable use of our shared natural resources in Colorado. As such, I believe the Browns Canyon National Monument will be great not only for natural resources, wildlife and multiple uses, but for the rural economies.”

###

Connie Harvey, Harvey Ranch, Aspen, Colorado

“The national monument designation for Browns Canyon will protect the area against threats while continuing multiple uses like grazing, hunting and recreation. I believe a national monument for Chaffee County would be a win-win for all involved - generating needed tourism revenues for local economies and conserving water, lands and wildlife for future generations.”

###

Bill Eikenberry, Eikenberry Ranch, Lakewood, Colorado

“As a lifelong rancher, I fully support the national monument designation for Browns Canyon. I count on strong protections for our public lands in Colorado for grazing my cattle, hunting and fishing, and for outfitting. The Browns Canyon National Monument will ensure the continued multiple uses of this special place for many generations to come.”

###

Vets Voice Foundation

Veterans: Thank you for Making Browns Canyon a National Monument

Vet Voice Foundation values national monument for veterans’ reintegration

DENVER – Colorado veterans today expressed gratitude for President Obama’s protection of Browns Canyon as a national monument via the Antiquities Act, and asserted the importance of the site to America’s veterans and military families.

“Spending time in Browns Canyon and other public lands was a critical part of my transition back to civilian life after the stress of serving in Iraq,” said Garrett Reppenhagen, a former U.S. Army sniper and Rocky Mountain Coordinator for Vet Voice Foundation. “Veterans in central Colorado depend on Browns Canyon for the solitude and experiences that help us recover from what we endured abroad and reintegrate into our lives at home.”

Since it is located near several U.S. military bases, including Ft. Carson and the U.S. Air Force Academy, permanently protecting Browns Canyon as a National Monument ensures that service members and veterans have access to the outdoors, can heal from the trauma of war, and reconnect with family. The area is a national treasure, providing critical wildlife habitat, premiere trout fishing and year-round opportunities for outdoor recreation.

“Today the president fulfilled his duty to protect our most cherished places for all the Americans, just as millions of veterans like me fulfilled our duty to defending our country,” said Lee Hunnicutt, a Chaffee County veteran. “We are grateful that President Obama heard local veterans and other community members advocating for national monument status for Browns Canyon, an important place of healing and growth.”

Legislation to protect Browns Canyon on the Arkansas River had been introduced in Congress by members of both political parties for more than a decade but failed to move despite extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments from a broad cross-section of veteran groups, local businesses, elected officials, outdoor outfitters and sportsmen.

The Vet Voice Foundation sent emails and contacted elected officials to express their support for the proposal to make the designation.

"I am proud to see the President respond directly to our local elected leaders, vets, and other community leaders who have been calling for action to protect Browns Canyon for years," said Reppenhagen. "Ideologues in Congress would have preferred to stall the conservation of our heritage for another decade – but local veterans, sportsmen, small business owners and our families would have paid the price."

Founded in 2009, the mission of Vet Voice Foundation is to mobilize veterans to become leaders in our nation's democracy through participation in the civic and democratic process. VVF seeks to harness the energy and drive of the dedicated men and women who have fought for their country, and put it to work at home and in their communities on the important issues they face, such as health care, jobs, the environment, and housing.

###

Outdoor Recreation Supports Browns Canyon National Monument

Statements from Outdoor Recreation member groups and industry leaders

"For thousands of Americans, Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River is a special place to experience whitewater for the first time and for many years after. Whether its on a commercial raft with the whole family, or in a kayak class learning how to control your own boat, the experience of paddling through the canyon and taking in the beauty of the landscape, wildlife, and the quality whitewater rapids, sticks in peoples minds forever and keeps them coming back for more. That's why we need the canyon protected, so that future generations can experience it as we have, and become stewards of the Canyon."

- **American Whitewater**/Nathan Fey

"The Colorado Mountain Club is pleased to finally see protection for the incredible natural resources and recreational opportunities in the newly designated Browns Canyon National Monument. CMC members have been traveling to Chaffee County for decades to enjoy the rugged hiking and the incredible scenery in Browns Canyon. We are grateful for the volunteers, congressional delegates and the White House who have worked to ensure this landscape will remain intact for generations of Coloradans to enjoy in the future."

- **Colorado Mountain Club**/Heather MacSclarrow, CMC Lands Director/Scott Robson, CMC CEO.

"We are delighted with the designation of Browns Canyon, and grateful that the administration thoughtfully incorporated local perspectives and sensibilities as to the best way to protect it. It's a place that's meaningful to many people, and it's an exciting gateway to our public lands and the experiences they offer."

- **Outdoor Alliance**/Adam Cramer, Executive Director

“Browns Canyon is among the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the US. With this proclamation, President Obama continues his legacy of protecting special wild places with designations that enjoy strong local support.”

The Conservation Alliance/John Sterling, Executive Director

“OIA and the outdoor industry looks forward to working with Congress and the administration to help implement the president’s vision for outdoor recreation and to highlight the importance of the outdoors at the national level. Please join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America’s Great Outdoors.”

- Outdoor Industry Association

###

American Whitewater

President Obama Designates Browns Canyon National Monument – Colorado

Salida, CO – On February 19th, President Obama used his authority under the US Antiquities Act to protect over 21,000 acres of public lands surrounding Colorado’s Browns Canyon of the Arkansas River. American Whitewater and community leaders applaud the news that President Obama plans to designate the Browns Canyon National Monument on Thursday.

“We thank President Obama for acting today, and honoring the decades of work so many of Coloradoans have invested to protect Browns Canyon”, said Nathan Fey, Regional Director at American Whitewater. “If it were up to Coloradoans we would have protected Browns Canyon years ago, so we should all be proud that the president has acted when congress couldn’t”

Recent polling from the Colorado College showed that 96% of Coloradans support the protection and conservation of natural areas. Along with American Whitewater and our members, local groups and businesses have supported the national monument designation for Browns Canyon, including the Colorado and Arkansas River Outfitters Associations, Chaffee County Visitors Bureau, the Salida Business Alliance, sportsmen, youth, faith, veterans and Hispanic groups, and county commissioners. .

Browns Canyon is the most popular whitewater rafting destination in the country. According to the Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA), commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in roughly \$60 million to the economy. The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon was awarded “Gold Medal” status for having the highest quality cold-water fish habitats accessible to the public and great potential for trophy trout fishing.

The president is using his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect Browns Canyon and two other new national monuments in Illinois and Hawaii this week. The Antiquities Act has been used to protect other landscapes important to paddlers, like the Grand Canyon and Dinosaur National Monument, but

under the monument proposal introduced by former Senator Mark Udall, Browns Canyon will not be managed by the National Parks Service and paddling will continue to be managed by the Colorado State Parks as it is today. The president's proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument honors the spirit of Udall's legislation that followed a multi-year process of input from local residents, paddlers, ranchers, and businesses.

Today, after years of work, you can join us in thanking President Obama and Colorado's leaders, for Protecting Browns Canyon!

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Article/view/articleid/32185/>

###

The Conservation Alliance

Introducing Browns Canyon National Monument

On February 19, President Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to designate Browns Canyon National Monument near Salida, CO. This proclamation preserves 22,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM land in Colorado and provides outstanding opportunities for fishing, whitewater boating, hiking and many other outdoor activities. It is one of the most popular whitewater destinations in the country; attracting roughly 150,000 visitors annually who contribute \$60 million to the local economy. The area provides critical habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer and mountain lions.

The Conservation Alliance funded two organizations working to protect Browns Canyon: Conservation Colorado and Conservation Lands Foundation. We funded Conservation Colorado in 2006 for their effort to designate Browns Canyon as wilderness. After more than fifteen years of attempts to protect Browns Canyon via legislation, the strategy shifted to a national monument campaign. Conservation Lands Foundation, a 2014 grantee, worked with the Obama Administration to bring this national monument campaign across the finish line.

Senator Mark Udall introduced legislation last year to designate Browns Canyon as a National Monument, but Congress failed to move the bill. Udall's legislation specified that paddling on the Arkansas would continue to be managed by the Colorado State Parks as it is today. The president's proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument honors the spirit of Udall's legislation, which followed a multi-year process of input from local residents, paddlers, ranchers, and businesses.

The Conservation Alliance applauds President Obama for designating the Browns Canyon National Monument. With this proclamation, President Obama continues his legacy of protecting special wild places with designations that enjoy strong local support. We thank President Obama for recognizing this special place, and protecting Browns Canyon forever.

100% of our membership dues support conservation opportunities like Browns Canyon. Together, we are making a measurable impact toward protecting threatened wild places in North America.

<http://www.conservationalliance.com/introducing-browns-canyon-national-monument/>

###

HECHO

Public Process Leads to Browns Canyon National Monument Designation

HECHO joins many grateful organizations and communities in thanking President Obama for taking action to designate Browns Canyon as the newest National Monument in Colorado.

Latino families and our communities have been using and enjoying the Browns Canyon area for generations. For too long, we have witnessed extractive industries such as oil, gas, and mineral development, as well as urban growth, mar the landscapes, pollute watersheds and affect the wildlife that have sustained us for generations.

The lands and waters in Browns Canyon are part of our heritage and are as treasured to us as are the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, the Rio Grande del Norte in New Mexico and other areas throughout the West. Its permanent protection will be a great addition to our National Monument system and will be a place that we can continue to fish, hunt, camp, and hike. As in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, traditional uses will continue and will remain part of the fabric of our culture and traditions.

This designation under the 1906 Antiquities Act is especially fulfilling for the communities that have been engaged in the extensive public input process involving diverse stakeholders such as local businesses and communities, sportsmen, faith communities, youth groups, and elected officials. Although bipartisan legislative attempts to add greater protections to the area had been unsuccessful, strong and consistent public support in partnership with the President's executive action has resulted in greater protection for the region, which is valued for its wildlife, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities on the Arkansas River.

"It was exciting to see that the final public hearing drew hundreds of people, including a large number of Latinos from Denver," said Rod Torrez of HECHO. Browns Canyon is within easy reach of large communities along the Front Range, and as a national monument, will provide continued access for outdoor recreation, as well as protect the natural surroundings that we all enjoy.

<http://www.hechoonline.com/president-obama-protects-browns-canyon-as-a-national-monument/>

###

Small Business Majority

Designation of New Monument at Browns Canyon Good for Colorado Small Businesses, Economy

Statement by Tim Gaudette, Colorado Outreach Manager for Small Business Majority, on President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley as a national monument, which can provide increased opportunities for entrepreneurs and local economies

President Obama will announce today that he'll be designating a new national monument at Browns Canyon in the Arkansas River Valley. This is great news for small businesses, because entrepreneurs know protecting our natural assets is one way we can enhance the financial success of small businesses and local economies. In fact, two-thirds of Colorado small businesses supported a proposal to designate Browns Canyon as a national monument. Small business owners in Colorado strongly believe the designation of additional national parks and monuments enhances local jobs and the economy.

Public lands are not only important to businesses associated with the outdoor or the tourist trade. Small Business Majority's opinion polling found a majority of non-recreation businesses point to parks and public lands as a key reason for relocating to the area. What's more, nearly two-thirds of Colorado entrepreneurs choose to live and do business in the state because of opportunities tied to public lands.

America's parks and public lands matter to local economies and small businesses. Protecting our national heritage is important to our economic sustainability, and our legacy to future generations. The president's designation of Browns Canyon as a national monument is a step forward to supporting public lands, small businesses and the economy.

<http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/news-and-events/press-room-view.php?id=496>

###

Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited praises creation of Browns Canyon National Monument

Calls monument designation 'historic victory' for Colorado conservation

SALIDA (Feb. 18)—Trout Unlimited today praised President Obama's designation of Browns Canyon as a new national monument, the culmination of years of effort to protect a Colorado backcountry treasure beloved by generations of anglers, hunters, rafters, and other recreational users.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and Sen. Michael Bennet recently asked President Obama to use his authority under the Antiquities Act to establish the 22,000-acre Browns Canyon National Monument, after legislation sponsored by Sen. Mark Udall stalled in Congress despite broad local support.

Trout Unlimited leaders called the monument action a "historic victory" for public lands conservation.

"TU members are proud to have played a leading role in protecting this Colorado crown jewel and preserving fishing and hunting opportunity for future generations," said Chris Wood, CEO and president of Trout Unlimited. "This is a big bipartisan win for our outdoors heritage, and it sends a strong and clear message that hunters and anglers want to keep our public lands public."

“I’m thrilled,” said Jim Impara, vice president of the Collegiate Peaks Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Salida. “Browns Canyon is one of those special places that draws rafters, hunters and anglers from all over the world. This action ensures that Browns’ wildness and rare beauty will be there for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.”

For years, sportsmen’s groups have been pushing for monument status for Browns Canyon, which includes prime backcountry habitat for mule deer, elk, bighorn sheep as well as miles of outstanding Gold Medal wild trout waters in the Arkansas River.

TU and other sportsmen’s groups, including the National Wildlife Federation and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, organized local anglers and hunters to voice their support and attend numerous local meetings and public forums. The groups cited Brown’s important fish and wildlife habitat, as well as its role as an economic driver for Colorado’s \$1.2 billion fishing economy and \$500 million hunting economy. Browns Canyon is also the single largest contributor to Colorado’s \$140 million whitewater rafting industry.

“Sportsmen helped deliver this victory for Browns,” said David Nickum, executive director of Colorado Trout Unlimited. “Our local roots and deep knowledge of this place carried weight with lawmakers and federal officials. Hunters and anglers understand the value of our public lands and wild backcountry, and we’re committed to protecting these magnificent resources and our outdoor way of life.”

He added, “We especially thank Sen. Udall for his dedication and persistence in pushing for a Browns Canyon monument. He has been a valued voice for sportsmen and for commonsense conservation.”

For more information about Browns, go to www.sportsmenforbrowns.com.

<http://www.tu.org/press-releases/trout-unlimited-praises-creation-of-browns-canyon-national-monument>

###

John Gale, Director, backcountry Hunters & Anglers Conservation NEW

“Backcountry Hunters & Anglers tip our hats to the administration for recognizing the incredible backcountry values of Browns Canyon by designating it a national monument. We likewise appreciate the efforts of former Senator Mark Udall to ensure that his proposal for Browns Canyon incorporated local input from all stakeholders so that traditional land uses like hunting, fishing and ranching would be elevated and maintained. Their foresighted actions will benefit not just Coloradans but all Americans who come to Browns Canyon to hunt, fish, boat and make cherished outdoor memories with their families.”

###

Colorado Come to Life – Officials Colorado Tourism Site NEW

www.colorado.com/articles/quick-guide-colorados-national-monuments

COLOREADO COME TO LIFE

THINGS TO DO HOTELS & LODGING FESTIVALS & EVENTS TRIP IDEAS REGIONS & CITIES SPECIAL OFFERS

Quick Guide to Colorado's National Monuments

If you want to create lifelong memories, look no further than Colorado's eight National Monuments. Whether you're interested in fossils, geology, ancient peoples or the lore of the gold rush, the National Parks Service in Colorado has set aside areas of national interest you simply can't miss.

By Colorado.com Staff Writer
Updated: 2/19/2015
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state's densest concentration of [fourteeners](#).
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Browns Canyon National Monument

Why Go? One of the nation's most popular locations for whitewater rafting, Browns Canyon was just named a national monument in 2015. This Arkansas River-carved beauty also hosts fishers, wildlife watchers, hikers and more throughout the year.

Don't Miss: The canyon is a great place to see bighorn sheep (Colorado's state mammal), elk, deer, eagles, falcons and many other wildlife species.

Around the Monument: Part of the [Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area](#), the region around Browns Canyon offers up spectacular opportunities for camping, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, hiking, OHV riding, rockclimbing and many more activities. The [Collegiate Peaks Scenic & Historic Byway](#) is a great way to explore the area, including many scenic vistas amid the

Colorado National Monument

Why Go? Picturesque Colorado lives here. Don't blink.

Sponsored Partners

For 1 Hot Vacation - Just Add Water
Hessing Waters Resort & Spa | Pagosa Springs
Find out what the fuss is all about! Join us for a relaxing getaway and enjoy some soak time in our 100% mineral water pool, hot tub and bathhouse.

Rich in History & outdoor activities
Marble Colorado - Marble Crystal River Chamber
Home of the wide world, a natural history/BIOP wilderness. Hike, fish, jeep explore, shop, lodge dine—

<http://www.colorado.com/articles/quick-guide-colorados-national-monuments>

###

Environment America **NEW**

Environment Colorado lauds protecting fishing, rafting in Browns Canyon

Browns Canyon, a popular spot for trout fishing and whitewater rafting here in central Colorado, will gain permanent protection tomorrow as a National Monument, following decades of campaigning by outdoor enthusiasts, the tourism industry, and some of the state's most prominent political leaders.

President Obama's expected action, revealed this morning in the *Denver Post*, will preserve more than 20,000 rugged canyon acres surrounding the Arkansas River, a beloved area home to gold medal trout, black bears, and stunning vistas. Kim Stevens, Environment Colorado issued the following statement in response:

"Places like Browns Canyon are a big part of what makes Colorado so special. That's why tens of thousands of Coloradans from all walks of life called for the permanent protection of this incredible landscape. That's why we're thrilled future generations will have the chance for the same spectacular views and opportunities to raft, hike, and fish that we enjoy [in the canyon] today.

"President Obama, former Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet all get credit for safeguarding this special place. Everyone who signed a petition, attended a meeting, or made a phone call to protect Browns Canyon has a lot to be proud of, too.

“Environment Colorado looks forward to continuing to work with the administration and Congress to keep pristine public lands off limits to development, mining, drilling, and pollution. Future generations of Americans and the wildlife that depend on these ecosystems deserve nothing less.”

Kim Stevens, Campaign Director, Environment Colorado

###

Twitter

LCV NEW

It's official: #BrownsCanyon is America's newest #NationalMonument and permanently protected for all to raft, hike, fish, camp and explore

<https://twitter.com/LCVoters/status/568458949441290240>

pew environment NEW

Why our new national monument in Colorado is a big win: <http://ow.ly/JoFx3> #BrownsCanyon

<https://twitter.com/pewenvironment/status/569546020465598464>

Sierra Club

Woohoo! "Obama to declare Browns Canyon in Colorado a national monument" <http://sc.org/qw6r4> #MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/sierraclub/status/568305294524198914>

The Wilderness Society

Thanks @WhiteHouse for protecting #BrownsCanyon & other monuments! <http://bit.ly/1yXg8An> #MonumentsForAll

<https://twitter.com/Wilderness/status/568096462896279552>

Hispanic Access Foundation

Even the bears are celebrating the #BrownsCanyon National Monument designation. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/HispanicAccess/status/568084719981559808>

Senator Michael Bennet

Thrilled that Pres. Obama named #BrownsCanyon a national monument today, with assurances that existing uses will be protected.

<https://twitter.com/SenBennetCO/status/568201372304322560>

Conservation Alliance

Thank you @whitehouse for designating Browns Canyon National Monument! #BrownsCanyon #monumentsmatter

<https://twitter.com/conservationall/status/568497440166453250>

Rep Ed Perlmutter

Glad to see #BrownsCanyon become a #NationalMonument today. TY @MarkUdall, @SenBennetCO & @hickforco for your work

<https://twitter.com/RepPerlmutter/status/568483502930464769>

Jamie Williams (TWS)

Check out stunning photos of #BrownsCanyon @Wilderness: <http://bit.ly/1ALFhVL> Thank you @BarackObama for making this place a Monument!

<https://twitter.com/JWilliamsTWS/status/568457816412987392>

NM Green Chamber

Thanks @WhiteHouse @forestservice @BLMNational for recognizing the importance of #BrownsCanyon for future generations! #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/nmgreenchamber/status/568546007333474304>

ConserveNM

.@BarackObama announcing #Pullman, #Honouliuli & #BrownsCanyon Nat'l. Monuments. #MonumentsForAll #Inspiring #History

<https://twitter.com/ConserveNM/status/568506630427377664>

Honouliuli National Monument, HI

Elected Officials

Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)

Honouliuli Internment Camp Designated As National Historic Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Honolulu, HI – Today, U.S. Senator Brian Schatz (D-Hawai'i) praised President Obama's announcement that he intends to designate the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Historic Monument. This designation will put Honouliuli under the management of the National Park Service (NPS) and help preserve the history of the site where hundreds of Japanese-Americans were wrongly interned during World War II.

"Honouliuli represents a dark period in our history when thousands of Japanese-Americans in Hawai'i and across the country were forced into internment camps during World War II," said Senator Schatz. "This historic site will memorialize the strength and bravery of the many Japanese-Americans who faced discrimination and serve as a reminder to ourselves and future generations that we cannot repeat the mistakes of the past. Our deep gratitude goes to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, the Japanese American Citizens League and others who worked tirelessly for this achievement. It is meaningful and right that Honouliuli has finally received the historic recognition it deserves."

Senator Schatz worked to help facilitate Honouliuli's historic designation. In 2013, Senator Schatz met with NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis to discuss the need to complete the special resource study, which was authorized by Congress in 2009 to review the site for potential inclusion in the National Park System. Following the meeting, Senator Schatz sent Director Jarvis a letter to reiterate his support for the Honouliuli Internment Camp's inclusion in the National Park System.

Last December, Senator Schatz joined Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, to present Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with petitions from more than 6,000 Americans requesting the historic designation of Honouliuli.

In 1943, the Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on Oahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. Honouliuli was the largest and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i.

###

Senator Mazie K. Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai

HIRONO, GABBARD, TAKAI: DESIGNATING HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP AS NATIONAL MONUMENT IS AN IMPORTANT STEP IN PROTECTING HONOULIULI & STORIES OF THOSE WHO WERE DETAINED

Hirono, Gabbard, Takai, Japanese Cultural Center Of Hawaii, Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League Commend President Obama's Designation Of Honouliuli Internment Camp As National Monument

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Washington, D.C. – Today Senator Mazie Hirono, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Rep. Mark Takai commended President Barack Obama’s designation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Kunia, Oahu.

“The detention of more than 1,000 innocent Hawaii civilians during World War II remains a dark chapter in Hawaii and our nation’s history. The stories of those detained at Honouliuli and internment sites like it across the country are sobering reminders of how even leaders of the greatest nation on Earth can succumb to fear and mistrust and perpetuate great injustice,” said Senator Hirono. “The President's executive action is an important step in protecting Honouliuli and the stories of those who were detained in our state and across the nation, highlighting an important but often forgotten piece of our national history. Preserving the site has long been a priority for our Hawaii delegation -- from Senators Inouye and Akaka to our current delegation. I will continue to work closely with the administration, state and local leaders as well as my delegation colleagues to ensure federal resources are delivered for this important project.”

“The designation of the Honouliuli camp as a National Monument serves as a solemn reminder that in our nation’s history bedrock civil rights have been disregarded in times of conflict as a result of unfounded fear and panic,” said Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard. “Honouliuli was a central piece of the brutal and discriminatory internment system created during World War II; today, the structure remains as a memorial that will educate future generations about the precariousness of freedom in wartime. Mahalo to President Obama and Secretary of the Interior Jewell for recognizing the history of Honouliuli and for making this designation a priority.”

“The internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II is a tragic example of what happens when we allow fear and hatred to take the place of rational and just actions,” said Congressman Mark Takai. “Honouliuli will serve as a place where we will be able to educate the coming generations about the importance of civil liberties for all people. Now more than ever, we must learn from the mistakes of the past, and the designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will give Hawaii a chance to shine light on this serious issue. I would like to extend a warm mahalo to President Obama for taking the initiative to preserve this historically significant piece of land.”

Honouliuli Internment Camp’s designation as a national monument comes after years of hard work and collaborative efforts by the public and private community partners including the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League, who also praised the designation.

“The designation of Honouliuli as a national monument will ensure its future preservation for generations to come. The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai’i applauds President Obama for recognizing the historic significance of the Honouliuli Internment Camp. We thank the President, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and our own congressional delegation for helping us protect Honouliuli as a historic site and as a place to teach the lessons of civil rights, the Constitution and U.S. democracy,” said Carole Hayashino, President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

“By using his power under the Antiquities Act to designate Honouliuli as a national park, President Obama honors the thousands of men and women whose civil rights were violated, and is helping to ensure that the Japanese American wartime experience will never be forgotten,” said Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye included a provision in the Interior Appropriations bill in 2009, requesting the special resource study. A stand-alone bill, (S. 871) the Honouliuli Internment Camp Special Resources

Study Act of 2009, was also introduced by Senator Inouye in the 111th Congress, with then-Congresswoman Hirono introducing the companion bill (H.R. 2079) in the House of Representatives. Senator Daniel Akaka and Congressman Neil Abercrombie were cosponsors of the respective the bills.

The Honouliuli national monument on Oahu permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants, and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II. The monument will help tell the story of the internment camp's impact on the Japanese American community and the injustices that occurred there. The Honouliuli Internment Camp was the largest and longest-used confinement site for Japanese and European Americans and resident immigrants in Hawaii, eventually holding 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war.

###

Governor David Ige

“President Obama’s action ensures that generations to come will be able to visit the Honouliuli Internment Camp and learn about the experiences of persons of Japanese ancestry who were forced to stay there during the war. The monument will remind all who visit of the terrible injustice these families endured, even while many of their husbands, sons and brothers were fighting for the United States.”

Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell

“The preservation of the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument is a proud moment for Honolulu, but also a bittersweet one. World War II internment camps are a dark segment of our nation’s history, and the Honouliuli camp still holds memories for Honolulu residents during wartime, life in the camp, and the courage and bravery that internees displayed even as their loyalty to our country was being challenged. It is an important part of history that should always be remembered and learned from, and I want to thank the President for making this possible. As a National Monument, Honouliuli’s significance will be forever honored.”

###

Representative Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ.) **NEW**

Natural Resources Ranking Member Grijalva Statement on President Obama’s Designation of Three New National Monuments

Tucson, Ariz. – House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on today’s presidential designation of three new national monuments.

“Conserving our public lands and recognizing milestones in our nation’s history are among every president’s greatest responsibilities and proudest achievements. President Obama acted in the best spirit of that tradition today when he designated Pullman Historic Chicago District, Browns Canyon, and Honouliuli Internment Camp national monuments.

“Our wide open spaces and our historic sites need just as much protection today as they did the day the Antiquities Act was signed into law in 1906. President Obama, no less than President Roosevelt, understands the great public service presidents perform when they conserve those open spaces and those historic sites for the future. No fewer than nineteen presidents, both Democrats and

Republicans, have used the Antiquities Act to protect the national treasures found on our federal lands, and many more will do so in the future. The American people demand nothing less.

“Despite the best efforts of an anti-conservation congressional majority, the American people still see more than dollars and cents when they look across the prairie, or into the Mountain West, or back into the pages of our shared history. They see the same beauty that our forefathers saw – a beauty that we dare not throw away in the name of today’s bottom line. We cannot sustain an economy based on taking everything, leaving nothing and demanding that taxpayers foot the bill for private profits. I share the American people’s vision of protected landscapes, well-preserved historical sites and monuments, and a thriving federal lands system accessible to every American who comes to enjoy rather than exploit. So does President Obama. Today I’m proud to stand with him in welcoming these additions to our public lands and look forward to hearing the many success stories they have ahead of them.”

<http://democrats.naturalresources.house.gov/press-release/natural-resources-ranking-member-grijalva-statement-president-obama-s-designation>

###

Representative Rob Bishop (UT-01) NEW

Chairman Bishop Reacts to Obama Administration’s Plans to Unilaterally Proclaim Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2015 - House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT-01) released the following statement after President Obama announced his intentions to unilaterally proclaim three new national monuments using the Antiquities Act of 1906.

“President Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency by proclaiming three new national monuments through executive fiat. The Obama Administration claims these designations have public support, but we know that is a complete stretch of the truth. The cost to taxpayers is anyone’s guess and the impacts upon local communities are unknown. Congress has demonstrated that it can work in a collaborative fashion to fully vet and approve designations that have support from the public and their elected representatives. This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress, and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations.”

The President’s designations include Pullman Historic District in Chicago, Illinois, Browns Canyon in Salida, Colorado, and the site of a World War II-era internment camp in Honouliuli, Hawaii, and will be formally announced on Thursday, February 19, 2015.

<http://naturalresources.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=398049>

###

External Stakeholders

Conservation Lands Foundation

President Obama's Browns Canyon National Monument designation applauded

President's action will expand our National Conservation Lands

Durango, CO (February 18, 2015) – The Conservation Lands Foundation praised the announcement that President Obama would use his authority to permanently protect Browns Canyon in Colorado, along with the Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawaii and Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood as national monuments. These national monuments will permanently protect a diversity of lands and waters that honor our country's history and conserve open space important for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation for future generations.

"Today's action builds on steps the Administration has taken over the last six years to expand access to our public lands for outdoor recreation by permanently protecting areas significant to our nation's rich history and America's outdoor heritage," said **Ryan Bidwell, Campaign Director with the Conservation Lands Foundation**. "There are places among America's public lands that represent vital parts of our country's history, and places that provide opportunities for our kids and grandkids to explore and experience the outdoors."

Browns Canyon, located two hours from Denver, Colorado will become part of our nation's National Conservation Lands. The national monument will protect wildlife habitat and attract new generations of visitors to enjoy the hunting, fishing and whitewater rafting that define Colorado's outdoor lifestyle. The rugged granite cliffs and backcountry provide high quality wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and animals including golden eagles, bighorn sheep and elk.

The stretch of the Arkansas River that runs through Browns Canyon is an outstanding wild trout fishery as well as one of the most popular whitewater rafting destinations in the country. Commercial rafting on the Arkansas River which runs through Browns Canyon brings in \$60 million to the local economy. The permanent protection of this area will support the economic vitality of the region, supporting local businesses, river outfitters and surrounding communities.

For more than 10 years, efforts to protect Browns Canyon have been championed by members of both political parties. The designation is based on recent legislation developed as result of extensive community involvement, including public meetings and thousands of public comments.

Honouliuli and Pullman both represent distinct and important aspects of our country's history. The Honouliuli Internment Camp, located on the island of O'ahu was Hawai'i's largest and longest operating World War II prison camp. Nearly 4,000 individuals were incarcerated there solely on the basis of ancestry or country of origin.

Chicago's historic Pullman neighborhood is closely linked to the history of the American labor movement. Pullman was the site of one of the bloodiest labor battles in American history – the Pullman Strike of 1894 –in which many workers were wounded or lost their lives at the hands of federal and

state troops. Shortly after the deadly strike, Congress passed legislation creating a national Labor Day holiday.

With each of these designations, there was strong recognition among elected officials, local business, veterans, sportsmen, youth groups and Hispanic, African American and Japanese American leaders that some places are so important to our shared culture and heritage that they deserve to be protected for all time.

“These monument designations protect important historic and natural sites. They are a profound way to recognize our diverse national mosaic by honoring our American heritage and broadening public appeal to our public lands to an increasingly diverse American public,” stated said **Brian O’Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation**. “We look forward to President Obama’s continued leadership in protecting our nation’s most significant natural treasures, and protecting the laws that have allowed sixteen Presidents—eight from each party—to enact these important protections when Congress is unable to do so.”

###

Creation Justice Ministries

The Antiquities Act Used To Create Three National Monuments

Diverse Faith Community Applauds Diversity of Protected Places

Washington, DC – President Obama is set to designate three new national monuments Thursday, and Christian communities are applauding this act of stewardship. Pullman in Chicago, Browns Canyon in Colorado, and Honouliuli in Hawaii, will all be protected as monuments upon the President’s announcement in Chicago.

“Pullman Historic Site in Chicago is home to the first African American union in the country,” stated Tricia Bruckbauer, Program Director for Creation Justice Ministries. “As a Christian community that represents the stewardship policies of many historically African American churches, we are pleased with the President’s use of the Antiquities Act to preserve important stories of all Americans.”

Browns Canyon is widely lauded for its trout fishing and outdoor recreation and provides a vital habitat for many of God’s creatures. Honouliuli is the site of a World War II internment camp, and will be preserved as an important reminder of American struggles with civil liberties in times of conflict.

“As Americans, we have a stewardship tool that is able to preserve wonderful pieces of God’s creation as well as important artifacts of history and stories of our diverse nation,” Bruckbauer continued. “The Antiquities Act has been a blessing to many communities looking to safeguard their national treasures for future generations and for the benefit of Americans everywhere. We look forward to working with decision-makers to protect more of the places in which we pray and play.”

The Antiquities Act was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and has been used to protect places that are significant naturally, historically, or culturally. It has been used by 16 presidents.

###

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) and The Japanese American Citizens League

Japanese American Leaders Applaud Announcement that Former Honouliuli Internment Camp will become a National Monument

Announcement comes on the 73rd anniversary of the executive order enabling mass internment of Americans

Honolulu, HI – Today, leading Japanese American organizations praised the news that President Obama intends to designate the former Honouliuli Internment Camp site on O'ahu as a national monument, ensuring its future preservation. Opened on March 1, 1943, Honouliuli was the longest operating and largest World War II internment and POW camp in Hawai'i. Built on 160 acres in west O'ahu, the camp site was hidden from view in a deep gulch that the internees called *jigoku dani*, or "hell valley." Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on O'ahu to intern citizens, resident aliens, and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees, mostly second-generation Japanese Americans but also Japanese, German and Italian permanent residents who were living in Hawai'i. Honouliuli was also the largest prisoner of war camp in Hawai'i, incarcerating nearly 4,000 individuals. In total, during World War II, over 2,300 Japanese American men and women from Hawai'i were incarcerated, including many prominent community leaders, teachers, journalists, religious leaders, local politicians and World War I veterans.

"As a new national monument, Honouliuli will be a great gift to our state and nation. On behalf of the Japanese American internees and their families, I want to thank President Obama for vindicating the honor of those who were incarcerated and for recognizing the historic site as a lesson in injustice and forgiveness for all Americans and for future generations," said **Carole Hayashino, the President and Executive Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i**.

Support for the coming designation grew over the spring and summer, when the National Park Service held a series of community meetings throughout Hawai'i to present their initial findings of a federally-funded study of the site, and invited attendees to offer comments and ask questions.

In December, Hayashino, Jace Mikulanec, President of the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, and Hawai'i's congressional leaders including U.S. Senator Brian Schatz [presented](#) petitions to Interior Department Secretary Sally Jewell with signatures of more than 6,000 Americans supporting the inclusion of the Honouliuli Internment Camp in the national park system.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH) is a non-profit organization that strives to share the history, heritage and culture of the Japanese American experience in Hawai'i. The JCCH has researched and documented the internment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i since 1998 and rediscovered the

location of Honouliuli in 2002. For more information, please contact Denise Park at park@jcch.com or visit www.jcch.com.

The Japanese American Citizens League is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization and was established to challenge racism and bigotry directed against Japanese Americans. Discrimination and intolerance remain the focus of the JACL today and extends to the greater Asian American community and others who are victimized by injustice and prejudice. For more information, please visit www.jaclhonolulu.org.

###

League of Conservation Voters

LCV Statement on Reports that President Obama Will Create Three New National Monuments

WASHINGTON, DC – League of Conservation Voters (LCV) President Gene Karpinski released this statement on reports that President Obama will protect Chicago's Pullman Historic District, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, and Colorado's Browns Canyon as national monuments:

"We are thrilled that the president continues to take steps to protect America's treasured historic, cultural and natural resources for future generations. The designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp and Chicago's Pullman Historic District add to the president's strong record of ensuring that our parks and monuments tell the stories of our increasingly diverse nation. And after over a decade of local support, the new Browns Canyon National Monument will bolster Colorado's outdoor recreation economy for years to come. President Obama continues to take bold steps to protect America's special places and we can't wait to see what's next."

<http://www.lcv.org/media/press-releases/LCV-Statement-on-Reports-that-President-Obama-Will-Create-Three-New-National-Monuments.html>

###

National Parks Conservation Association

Telling Our Stories: President Obama Designates Honouliuli National Monument in Hawai'i

Statement by Ron Sundergill, Pacific Region Senior Director, National Parks Conservation Association

"On behalf of our more than one million members and supporters across the country, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) thanks President Obama for announcing his plans today to designate the Honouliuli National Monument as a new national park site."

"As our country's premiere storyteller and leader in historic preservation, the National Park Service helps millions of Americans and international visitors understand our country's history – both our brightest moments and those like Honouliuli Gulch, with a troubled past for its role as a World War II internment camp. With today's announcement of the Honouliuli National Monument, the National Park

Service will at long last have the opportunity to protect the site's resources as well as share its significance with local and international visitors."

"NPCA has long-supported efforts to share this important piece of our American story within the National Park Service. Last summer, in response to the park service's study of the site, thousands of NPCA supporters joined us in voicing support for preserving Honouliuli under National Park Service management. We are proud to see our support for this national park idea become reality."

"As the National Park Service approaches its centennial celebration in 2016, designation of the Honouliuli National Monument takes our country's 'best idea' a step closer to telling the full story of our shared history."

Background:

Located on the island of Oahu, the Honouliuli internment camp was one of five internment camps in Hawai'i used during World War II. The Honouliuli Internment Camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest, and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawaii. The Honouliuli internment camp was one of 10 camps where Japanese American citizens and resident Japanese aliens were interned during World War II.

<http://www.npca.org/news/media-center/press-releases/2015/telling-our-stories.html>

National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Applauds President Obama's Designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument

Washington (February 18, 2015) –The National Trust for Historic Preservation commends President Obama's designation of Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Monument. The following is a statement from Stephanie Meeks, president and chief executive officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"As the place where over 300 people, including Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals, were incarcerated during World War II, Honouliuli is an enduring reminder of our nation's complex history associated with civil rights," said Stephanie Meeks, president and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. "President Obama's designation of this hallowed ground will ensure that these important lessons will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors."

In 2007, the National Trust provided a grant to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i to help conduct an archaeological survey of the 122.5 acre Honouliuli Gulch site. The survey documented 130 features related to the incarceration of American civilians, legal resident aliens and prisoners of war at Honouliuli. The results of the survey were used to prepare the successful nomination and inclusion of Honouliuli Internment Camp to the National Register of Historic Places in February 2012.

The Honouliuli camp opened in 1943 and was the last, largest and longest-used World War II confinement site in Hawai'i. It housed nearly 4,000 individuals including 320 Japanese-Americans, Japanese, German and Italian Nationals. Unlike the internment of Japanese-Americans and Japanese on the American mainland, which was authorized by Executive Order 9066, the internment of American civilians in Hawai'i was authorized by martial law. Now that Honouliuli has been named a unit of the National Park Service, the history of this camp will be accessible to a wider audience of visitors.

<http://www.preservationnation.org/who-we-are/press-center/press-releases/2015/national-trust-applauds.html#.VOUWUfmDmul>

###

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Praising Pullman: NRDC Supports New National Monument Designations

CHICAGO (February 18, 2015) – President Obama will be in Chicago tomorrow to sign an order designating the city's Pullman District as a national monument. He is also expected to announce two other new monuments, Browns Canyon in Colorado and Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp.

Following is reaction from NRDC Executive Director Peter Lehner:

"The rich history of the Pullman District makes for a significant national monument; memorializing a moment in history that remains rich with meaning around race relations, the labor movement, technological innovation and urban planning. The Pullman story represents the struggle for a better life and should be preserved for generations to come.

"We appreciate the President's continued investment in developing national monuments that memorialize not only our most important wild places, but also essential historical sites that illuminate the American experience. Certainly Pullman, Brown's Canyon in Colorado and the Honouliuli Internment Camp site in Hawaii represent the amazingly diverse breadth of special places that require protection and interpretation."

NRDC Midwest Director Henry Henderson blogged on the importance of the Pullman District national monument designation at

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/hhenderson/pullman_national_monument_a_re.html

###

Sierra Club

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

Sierra Club Praises National Monument Designations

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- President Obama Thursday is expected to designate three new national monuments-- Pullman Historic Site in Illinois, birthplace of the first African-American union in America; Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawai'i; and Browns Canyon in Colorado, a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination.

In expectation, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune issued the following statement.

"We applaud President Obama for taking steps to expand our nation's outdoor heritage by ensuring our public lands and national monuments tell the full story of the country's rich cultural and natural history.

"These monuments embody the span of historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy. President Obama's action is both recognition of their importance and assurance that they will remain as places of remembrance, historic contributions, and inspiration for our children.

"It's heartening to see President Obama once again help local communities protect valuable pieces of America. We look forward to more progress in making America's public lands better serve the diversity and interests of the American people."

<http://content.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2015/02/sierra-club-praises-national-monument-designations>

###

The Wilderness Society

The Wilderness Society Statement on the Creation of Browns Canyon, Honouliuli and Pullman National Monuments

Antiquities Act preserves a storied neighborhood, World War II internment site and a premier river canyon

WASHINGTON, D.C. (February 18, 2015) — The Wilderness Society issued the following statement today regarding President Obama's plans this week to designate Browns Canyon National Monument in Colorado, Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii and Pullman National Monument in Chicago.

"These proclamations remind us that the spaces commemorating our nation's heritage come in a rich variety of shapes and sizes," said **Matt Keller, national monuments campaign director with The Wilderness Society**. "They include sites where people stood up for their rights for freedom and fair wages, places where thousands experienced the injustices of war, and landscapes that provide habitat for wildlife and heart-stopping adventure on whitewater rivers. We are proud of the Administration for listening to local communities and using the Antiquities Act to preserve these irreplaceable sites for all Americans to visit."

Browns Canyon is a scenic 22,000-acre stretch of public lands along the Arkansas River in Chaffee County, between Buena Vista and Salida, Colorado. These lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. The Wilderness Society has been working to protect the natural values of the Browns Canyon landscape since the early 1970s.

The Honouliuli camp on the island of O'ahu was the last, largest and longest operating internment camp during World War II. By acknowledging past injustices, this site honors the experiences of those interned and allows us to enlighten future generations.

The historic Pullman district in Chicago honors a unique, shared legacy that is integrally connected to the push for fair labor conditions and civil rights. The community represents the first model industrial town in America.

President Theodore Roosevelt pushed for passage of the Antiquities Act, which has since been used by 16 presidents – eight Republicans and eight Democrats – to protect many of America's most treasured places from Alaska to the Florida Keys, including the Grand Canyon, Acadia, Muir Woods, Grand Teton and Olympic national parks.

For more on the history and bipartisan use of the Antiquities Act, click [here](#).

###

Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) NEW

JACL Applauds the Inclusion of Honouliuli into the National Park System

Washington D.C. – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) applauds [President Barack Obama's designation of Honouliuli as a National Historic Monument](#). The site, located in a gulch in central Oahu, was used during World War II to imprison Japanese community leaders and their families. The monument will preserve a forgotten but important part of American history about the treatment of thousands of Americans living in Hawaii.

"I am delighted to learn that the Honouliuli incarceration site has been added to the National Park System as a National Historic Monument. We are grateful to the National Park Service for recognizing the significance of the site as a component of World War II and as the site related to the forcible imprisonment of Japanese and other Americans. As the longest operating World War II Japanese American confinement site in Hawaii, Honouliuli represents a unique chapter in American history and a very important lesson in civil liberties and the U.S. Constitution. This inclusion in the National Park System will ensure that the story of what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II will continue to be told and remembered," said JACL National President David Lin.

"Today, the President opened the windows so healing winds can blow on a place that was once called 'hell valley.' Years ago, droves of innocent men were rounded up and placed in prison centers by the military because they were Japanese priests, teachers, and community leaders. Their incarceration remained a secret because of the unwarranted shame they bore for a crime they did not commit. On the

73rd anniversary of the signing of the Executive Order authorizing the internment, the government has acknowledged this story by creating a learning place where discussions about tolerance and diversity can be elevated,” stated JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida.

Located approximately 25 miles northwest of Honolulu, Honouliuli is the site of the largest and longest used World War II confinement site in Hawaii. Those of Japanese ancestry made up over a third of the population of Hawaii in 1941. In contrast to the mass incarceration taking place on the mainland, Japanese American community leaders and those with close cultural or economic ties to Japan were selectively targeted and detained throughout Hawaii.

The detentions began immediately following the strike on Pearl Harbor, with estimates of over 350 Issei and Nisei being arrested in the first 48 hours following the attack, and over 2,200 imprisoned by the end of the war. These people were detained at a number of sites across the Hawaiian Islands, with Honouliuli becoming the largest.

Honouliuli was opened in March of 1943 to hold U.S. Citizens and resident aliens of Japanese, German, and Italian descent, as well as Japanese prisoners of war. The area housed over 150 buildings, guard towers, and tents on the 160 acre site, in addition to approximately 320 internees. Many of these people were detained for the duration of the war – a period of more than 3 years – and none were ever charged with a crime.

Honouliuli was closed in 1946 following the last of the prisoner of war repatriations and the site was sold as farmland. The site and its history were largely forgotten until the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) began to research and document Honouliuli’s history in the 1990’s, leading to the re-discovery of the site in 2002. Since then, a number of organizations, including the JACL Honolulu Chapter, JCCH, the University of Hawaii, and Monsanto Hawaii, have worked to preserve and interpret the site in an effort to educate the public about a largely unknown chapter of Hawaiian and American history.

In 2009, Congress authorized the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study to review Honouliuli for possible inclusion to the National Park System. In 2011, JACL passed a national resolution supporting these efforts and began meeting with members of Congress and other government officials to inform them of the historic and cultural significance of the site and to garner their support for National Park status. In December 2014, a group of staffers from the JCCH and Honolulu JACL visited officials in Washington D.C. to deliver petitions with over 6,000 signatures supporting the inclusion of Honouliuli into the National Park System.

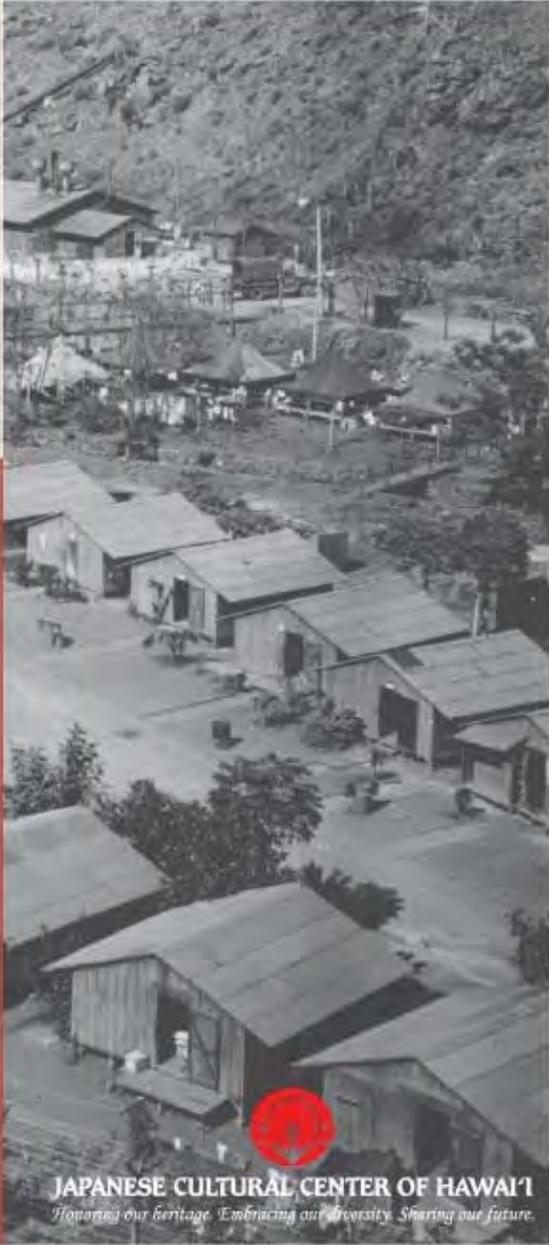
JACL is dedicated to securing the civil and human rights of all Americans and preserving the historical and cultural legacy of the Japanese American community. The preservation and interpretation of the Japanese American World War II confinement sites ensures that their important and distinct place in American history will continue to educate future generations against repeating injustices of the past.

<http://www.jacl.org/news/>

###

Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii NEW

Ad in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser



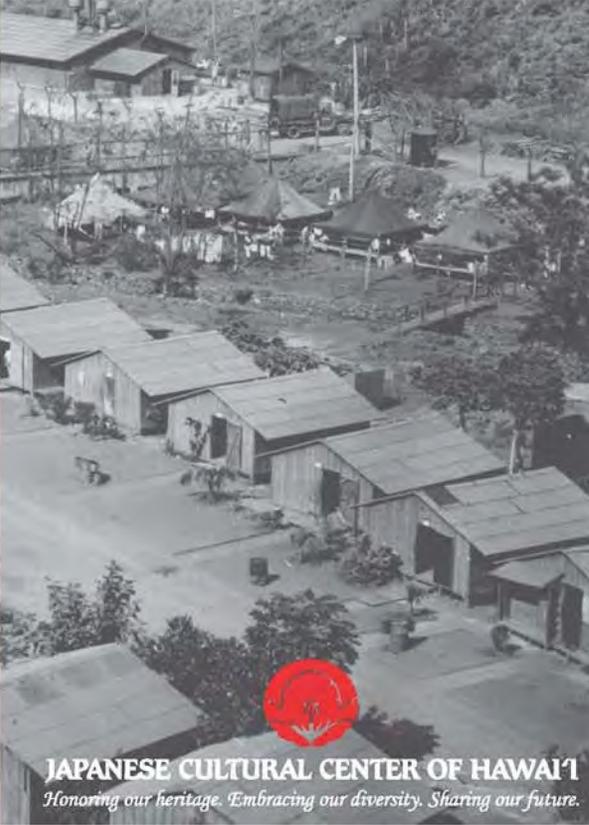
Thank you President Obama,
Secretary Jewell,
Senator Schatz, Senator Hirono,
Rep. Gabbard, and Rep. Takai
for your work to preserve the
Honouliuli Internment Camp.

The Honouliuli Internment Camp in
Hawai'i stands as a reminder of a dark
but historically important time when
hundreds of Americans of Japanese
and European descent were forcibly
confined during World War II.

This historic site is important to all
Americans. By protecting Honouliuli
through the Antiquities Act, you
will lead our nation forward –
acknowledging our past and
enlightening our future.

Photo by R.H. Lodge. Courtesy of Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII
Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.



**Thank you President Obama
Secretary Jewell, and
Director Jarvis**

for using the Antiquities Act to protect the
Honouliuli Internment Camp as a new unit
in the National Park System.

The Honouliuli Internment Camp in Hawai'i
stands as a reminder of a dark but historically
important time when hundreds of Americans of
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JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII
Honoring our heritage. Embracing our diversity. Sharing our future.

Photo by R.H. Lodge. Courtesy of Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i

Twitter

Matt Lee-Ashley (CAP)

MT @paulsparrow1 #WWII Internment camp in #Hawaii to become national monument. #Honouliuli #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/MLeeAshley/status/568057959680491520>

NM Green Chamber

Mahalo #POTUS and @SecretaryJewell for protecting #Honouliuli Internment Site as unit of the @natlparkservice. #MonumentsforAll

<https://twitter.com/nmgreenchamber/status/568543970382315520>

Travel Leaders **NEW**

#Obama made #Honouliuli Internment Camp a #nationalmonument. It's a former #POW #WWII camp.(Photos:... <http://instagram.com/p/zVa8meBcsj/>

<https://twitter.com/TravelLeaders/status/568854511823015936>

Every Kid in a Park

External Stakeholders

National Wild Turkey Federation - George Thornton, CEO NEW

"There are so many distractions in our world today stealing the attention of our youth, but we [the NWTf] have a duty to our communities to provide options to help get kids outdoors. We are proud to play a key role in promoting outdoor activities to our youth as they are the generation that we will rely on to help save the future of our wildlife and habitat."

###

Natural Resources Defense Council - Robert Friedman, Campaigner NEW

"This program couldn't come at a more important time, especially as technology is driving more and more young people indoors, away from the opportunities presented by the natural world. Think of all of these 4th graders seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time, or crocodiles in the Everglades or Half Dome in Yosemite, and the sense of wonder they will feel by seeing such natural magnificence. These experiences will show them what is at stake in our fight to preserve these amazing places, and will make them advocates for a more just and more sustainable future. Every Kid in a Park has the potential to change the landscape of activism in this country in a moment it is desperately needed."

###

American Hiking Society - Gregory Miller, President NEW

"So many children are spending more time indoors these days, often in front of screens, and if we don't act, there will be severe consequences as they become adults. Getting kids outside will help improve health outcomes, academic success, and also ensure that America's public lands will still have champions when their generation becomes the stewards of these incredible parks and forests."

###

The Audubon Society - Mike Daulton, VP for Government Relations NEW

"Children and families are inspired by the natural world, and that inspiration has lifelong benefits. We all need clean water, clean air, and healthy natural spaces. Getting kids and families into nature illuminates the connections we share with each other and with the great outdoors. A new generation of conservationists is waiting to emerge as they discover birds, other wildlife, and America's great natural resources. We're glad the White House agrees, and we support this new initiative."

###

Children & Nature Network - Richard Louv, Co-Founder NEW

“The President's announcement and new initiative may well be a turning point. The initiative will help support the people who have worked so hard, many of them for decades, to connect children to nature. It will encourage new actions by local government, education, religious organizations, the health care professions, and, crucially, by our business communities. The greatest change must happen beyond government, in the daily decisions that all of us, as individuals and members of families, take in our daily lives. Ultimately, only we can make sure that every child receives the gifts of the natural world.”

###

The Student Conservation Association NEW

“The Student Conservation Association applauds this commitment to connect more young people with our national parks. As the national leader in youth conservation service, SCA has proven that exposure to the great outdoors has a transformative impact on young people, instilling lifelong conservation values and creating healthier, happier kids.”

###

Wilderness Inquiry NEW

“Wilderness Inquiry is thrilled to support this innovative new program that facilitates full participation in nature. Outdoor exploration is a birthright all children share, regardless of any perceived physical, cultural, or socio-economic barriers. We will continue to do our part to connect thousands of children and their families to educational and inspirational adventures in our national parks, forests, and wilderness areas. Many of our partners including National Park Service, US Forest Service, Department of the Interior, and the Outdoors Alliance for Kids also support this effort, and we will work with them to get Every Kid in a Park!”

###

HECHO NEW

HECHO Statement on President’s Kids in Parks Initiative

Las Vegas, NM – Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting, and the Outdoors (HECHO) Outreach Coordinator Max Trujillo released this statement on the President’s new Kid in a Park initiative:

“Latino families and our communities have been using and enjoying America's public lands for generations. Increasing access to healthy watersheds, clean air, robust wildlife habitats, and open spaces for our nation’s 4th-graders and their families would truly benefit our nation’s young Latinos by providing opportunities to connect with and learn about their cultural past and traditional uses of the land. Ensuring that our young Latinos are able to experience and understand this nation’s public lands heritage will be an invaluable asset for us all.”

###

The City Project NEW

President Obama Every Kid in a Park, Transit to Trails, Honouliuli, Pullman, Browns Canyon National Monuments

Since President Barack Obama designated the San Gabriel Mountains Monument in October 2014, the White House has demonstrated a renewed commitment to [environmental and green justice](#).

Every child has the right to the simple joy of playing in the park. Under President Obama’s Every Kid in a Park initiative, the National Park Service will give all fourth graders and their families free admission to national parks and other federal lands for a full year. The President also designated new national monuments.

President Obama recognizes that too many children, especially children of color, don’t have access to parks where they can play, breathe fresh air, experience nature, and learn about their environment. This is an issue of social justice, health, and economic vitality for all. It’s not enough to have awesome natural wonders. You have to be able to access them. Green justice is about working with communities to open up parks and our heritage to everybody — young and old, Latino, Asian, Native American, black, white — to make sure everybody can enjoy these rights. Every Kid in a Park will award transportation grants for school children to visit parks, public lands and waters, focusing on schools with the greatest need.

Transit to Trails provides opportunities for park-poor, income-poor communities to learn about water, land, wildlife and cultural history, and engage in healthy physical activity. Transit to Trails increases access to national parks, monuments, and other park lands. Underserved communities lack close-to-home green space, monuments, transportation, and opportunities to reach recreation and natural resources. [Transit to Trails is a best practice to get people to the parks now, and prepare young people to be the stewards of our natural heritage tomorrow. Transit to Trails helps reduce traffic congestion and parking problems, improve air quality, and reduce polluted water run-off into rivers and the ocean by providing accessible public transportation.](#) President Obama agrees with the National Park Service, the California Parks Forward Commission, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and the US Army Corps of Engineers on transit: The Transit to Trails program by Anahuak Youth Sports Association, The City Project, and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is a best practice for taking inner city youth and their families and friends on fun, educational, and healthy park, river, beach, and mountain trips.



Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell with children from Anahuak Youth Sports Association and The City Project

We celebrate President Obama designating three new monuments that honor the diverse history of our nation, and promote access to healthy, outdoor recreation for all: Honouliuli, Pullman, and the Browns Canyon landscape and river corridor.

Honouliuli commemorates the fragility of civil rights, and the incarceration of innocent Japanese Americans for three years during World War II. The designation on February 19 comes 73 years to the day after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed executive order 9066. The order authorized the evacuation of over 100,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry, including U.S. citizens, to isolated, fenced, and guarded internment camps. The United States Supreme Court upheld this intentional discrimination against Japanese Americans in *Korematsu v United States*. A federal district court threw out Fred Korematsu's conviction 40 years later, concluding that ["today the decision in *Korematsu* lies overruled in the court of history."](#)

Pullman, on Chicago's Far South Side, honors the formation of the first African-American labor union, development of the first "company town," and the role of railroads in the nation's industrial past.

Honouliuli and Pullman, like Manzanar National Monument, are best practice examples to [celebrate the nation's diversity faithfully, completely, and accurately, and to stimulate and provoke a greater understanding of, and dialogue on, civil rights, democracy, and freedom.](#)

The City Project has been working for 15 years to broaden access to parks and open space for inner-city residents and to fight childhood obesity by guaranteeing that students get enough physical education. We are profoundly grateful to President Barack Obama and the National Park Service for Kid in a Park, and for diversifying national monuments.

—Robert García, Founding Director and Counsel, The City Project

<http://www.cityprojectca.org/blog/archives/35621>

###

Outdoor Industry Association

President's Announcement on "Every Kid in a Park" and New National Monument Designations Support Outdoor Recreation Economy

Boulder, Colo., February 19, 2015 – Outdoor Industry Association® (OIA) applauds President Barack Obama's announcement today promoting the new "Every Kid in a Park" initiative, which recognizes the importance of ensuring that every fourth grader in America spends time outdoors. This announcement comes in advance of the National Park Service Centennial, which will be celebrated in 2016, inspiring people from around the world to visit what has been called America's "best idea," our national parks.

OIA, the Outdoor Foundation and our member companies have been working hard to share our love of the outdoors with the next generation. America's youth are now spending less time outside than ever before, averaging seven hours in front of a screen, but only minutes of outdoor play per day.

We are thrilled by the president's call to action that will provide meaningful outdoor experiences – from the backyard to the backcountry – for our next generation. With resources behind "Every Kid in a Park," including free admission on federal lands for all fourth graders and their families for the next year, as well as transportation funding to national parks for fourth graders in Title 1 schools, the outdoor industry is eager to support this endeavor.

"We are all born with the innate desire to explore the outdoors. For the millions of professionals in the outdoor industry, it's what has shaped our careers. We know that outdoor recreation creates healthy lifestyles, thriving communities and a strong economy, but for those of us in the outdoor industry, it is also a business imperative," said Steve Barker, Interim Executive Director of OIA. "We accept the president's challenge to help future generations flourish by getting every fourth grader outside in celebration of the Centennial. I personally helped establish a conservancy in California that helps 500 fourth-graders annually to discover science through outdoor activity. From the Escondido Creek Conservancy in San Diego to Fortune 500 companies in the outdoor industry, we applaud the president for making our children's interaction with the outdoors a national priority."

In addition to this announcement, the president also dedicated our country's newest national monuments - Browns Canyon in Colorado, one of the best whitewater rafting and angler destinations in the country; a plot of land in Oahu, Hawaii, where Japanese-Americans were held in the Honouliuli Internment Camp; and the Pullman Historic District in Chicago, birthplace of the first African-American labor union.

Known for its excellent recreation opportunities including hiking, fishing, kayaking, hunting, and rafting, the Browns Canyon monument designation will include protections for existing access and water rights to the Arkansas River. The Colorado River Outfitters Association (CROA) estimates a \$60 million annual contribution to the local economy via commercial rafting on the Arkansas River. Most recently, former Senator Mark Udall and Senator Michael Bennet worked hard to pass legislation that would have

preserved Browns Canyon for its multiple benefits including boosting the local recreation economy. Although the legislation failed to move in the Senate, both were instrumental in helping with today's designation.

OIA and the outdoor industry look forward to working with Congress and the Obama administration to help implement the president's vision for outdoor recreation and for the opportunity to highlight the importance of the outdoors throughout the nation. We hope all Americans will join us in exploring these newly protected parks and monuments, as well as other parks, forests, rivers and urban green spaces, in the coming year. Better yet – bring a young person so they too can grow up enjoying what we know as America's Great Outdoors.

###

OAK Praises "Every Kid in a Park" Initiative

President Obama to get 4th graders across America outdoors

Washington, DC—President Obama today announced a major new effort to connect children with parks and public lands. The "Every Kid in a Park" initiative will open the doors for fourth graders and their families to visit America's outdoor treasures and historic sites where they'll have opportunities to play, laugh, learn and get active in nature.

For many children, spending time outdoors isn't always easy or safe. Today's youth spend 50 per cent less time outdoors in natural settings than the generation that preceded them. Park deserts, a lack of transportation, stranger danger, screen time and overscheduled families are all factors contributing to an increasingly indoor and sedentary American lifestyle. Lack of physical activity is a factor in the rising rates of childhood type II diabetes, poor cardiovascular health, and obesity. The President's initiative will begin to break down some of these barriers and ensure that kids across America have the opportunity to visit one of our national treasures.

In response to the President's initiative, members of the Outdoors Alliance for Kids issued the following statements:

"Every child deserves the opportunity to get outside, regardless of where they live. We welcome the President's commitment to connect more children with America's public lands and look forward to helping make his vision a reality as part of our ongoing work to make sure everyone has a chance to experience the wonder of nature." - **Michael Brune, Executive Director, Sierra Club**

"President Obama's announcement of the Every Kid in a Park initiative supports our work to advance opportunities for children, youth and families to experience and learn from the outdoors. At The North Face, we believe that consistent and frequent exposure to the outdoors early in a child's life is not only great for their physical health, but is vital in developing character, confidence, a sense of adventure and respect for the environment into adulthood. Together with the Outdoors Alliance for Kids and the Every Kid in a Park initiative, we can help every child enjoy our parks and public lands. We're glad the

importance of this issue has been escalated by President Obama in national interest.” - **Todd Spaletto, President, The North Face**

“We enthusiastically support the White House initiative to connect all 4th graders to our public lands. Connecting children to nature is critically important to their health and well-being, and to the future of our public lands. We commend the efforts within this initiative to provide transportation support, one of the factors limiting too many children's opportunities to benefit from nature in their everyday lives.” - **Sarah Milligan-Toffler, Executive Director, Children & Nature Network**

“Connecting every fourth grader with a chance to learn about and explore America’s public lands will improve health, well-being, and academic achievement. Children at that pivotal age are combining their love of nature with the budding wisdom to become future outdoor enthusiasts and public land stewards.”

"This is a bold challenge by the President to America’s parents, educators and child care providers to give America’s 4th graders, year after year, an opportunity to experience our national parks, forests and refuges, we can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child’s life experience."

- **Collin O’Mara President and CEO, National Wildlife Federation**

“The need to connect children to nature and outdoor recreation has never been more critical. Helping children and families become active on America’s public lands is itself an important goal. It is also the first step in raising awareness about the value of conserving our nation’s natural resources.” - **Scott Kovarovics, Executive Director, Izaak Walton League of America**

“The National Recreation and Park Association applauds the Obama Administration for their efforts to connect every fourth grader to a park in 2015. Our members stand ready to welcome young students in communities across the country to explore the many close-to-home public parks and recreation opportunities, and encourage all children regardless of age, race or background to discover all of our nations parks!” - **Barbara Tulipane, President and CEO, National Recreation and Park Association**

"We applaud the Administration's commitment to the health of American citizens and the health of the American landscape through this initiative, which builds on the work already initiated through support for the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps." - **Harry Bruell, Chair, Public Land's Service Coalition**

“Outdoor experiences are an essential element in Girl Scouts and provide opportunities for girls to discover, connect, and take action out-of-doors in ways that build courage, confidence, and character. According to our research, through an outdoor experience in Girl Scouts, nearly three-quarters of girls improved a skill, and half helped other girls do an outdoor activity. These experiences increase girls’ understanding and curiosity about the natural world, and shape girl leaders who are conscientious with regard to the world around them.” - **Anna Maria Chàvez, CEO, Girl Scouts of the USA**

<http://outdoorsallianceforkids.org/2015/02/19/release-oak-praises-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/>

###

National Wildlife Foundation

Collin O'Mara in response to President Obama's announcement of a new goal to have every 4th grader in America visit a public land park, forest or refuge:

"We can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child's life experience."

Boy at OverlookThe National Wildlife Federation and its 49 state affiliated organizations enthusiastically support the goal put forth by President Obama today to have every 4th grader in America visit a public land park, forest or wildlife refuge in the coming year. Our public lands are an important part of the American story and children receive immense benefit from learning about and directly experiencing nature, wildlife, the outdoors and public land areas.

The need for such a goal has never been higher as America's children now spend so much of their time staying indoors staring at the screens of electronic devices, watching television and playing electronic games. Research shows that the average child today spends a daily eight hours connected to such devices and spends a small fraction of their time engaged in outdoor play and nature study. This results in a lost affinity for nature, our public lands and this unique aspect of American heritage.

"This is a bold challenge by the President to America's parents, educators and child care providers to give America's 4th graders, year after year, an opportunity to experience our national parks, forests and refuges," says Collin O'Mara, NWF's President and CEO, "we can see a future in which public lands and wildlife are a part of every child's life experience."

The National Wildlife Federation provides programming to one third of all of America's 4th graders through its Ranger Rick publications, its Eco Schools USA and Schoolyard Wildlife Habitats, parent education programs and partnerships with park and wildlife agencies—all of which will directly support the President's new goal.

The National Wildlife Federation working with its partner organizations, the Outdoor Alliance for Kids, the National Recreation and Park Association, the American Recreation Coalition, the Federal Interagency Council for Outdoor Recreation (FICOR), and our 49 state and territorial affiliates has developed nature and outdoor programs that offer 5 million children opportunities for weekly and daily nature play. Having this new presidential goal of planning for every fourth grader in America to visit a public land park, forest or refuge will support and expand on our success in reconnecting kids and families with nature and will help children at an impressionable age to actually experience some of our most beautiful and compelling natural and scenic places.

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Get-Outside/2015/02-19-15-Collin-OMara-in-response-to-President-announcement-to-have-every-4th-grader-in-America.aspx>

###

Brian O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Conservation Lands Foundation

"The sense of wonder and discovery is never more visible in my daughter's eyes than when she is outside experiencing nature," O'Donnell said. "Nature is the best teacher, and our parks provide an ideal classroom for learning and inspiration. This is a fantastic initiative that will have lasting benefits for America's children." – WaPo Story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/02/19/obama-launches-every-kid-in-a-park-initiative/>

###

HECHO

Teaching Kids & Getting Them Outdoors: It's Part of Our Heritage

The following post by Melissa Sotelo of Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) comes at a timely moment. Today President Obama announces the "Every Kid in a Park Initiative," which aims to bring every child in the nation into the parks and public lands. It includes free admission for one full year for all fourth grade kids and their families into the National Parks. HECHO supports this initiative! (Click on the link to read the blog post)

<http://www.hechoonline.com/teaching-kids-getting-them-outdoors-its-part-of-our-heritage/>

Twitter

MayorMatthewMarchant- City of Carrollton, TX) NEW

My rising 4th grdr will be pumped! "@johnblairindc: Pres. to announce that 4th graders & families will get in free to public lands for 1 yr!"

<https://twitter.com/MatthewMarchant/status/568439335604731905>

National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF)

New "Every Kid in a Park" initiative: All 4th graders & their families free admission to national parks for a year. [http://www.nationalparks.org/ook/every-kid-in-a-park ...](http://www.nationalparks.org/ook/every-kid-in-a-park...)

<https://twitter.com/neefusa/status/568442894576701440>

Natural Leaders Network

Every kid in a park! Thanks @BarackObama for using Antiquities Act to improve diversity of our parks and public lands <http://usat.ly/1Boyy3X>

<https://twitter.com/naturalleaders/status/568452600804319233>

Outdoor Industry

BREAKING: @BarackObama to announce free entrance to US public lands for 1 year for all 4th graders!
#EveryKidinaPark

<https://twitter.com/OIA/status/568428622790262784>

Tommy Caldwell (Athlete)

Today the President announced the initiative "Every Kid in a Park". My wife and I are passionate about getting... <http://fb.me/1zBTzCqO9>

<https://twitter.com/tommycaldwell1/status/568515545521197056>

Patagonia

We agree with the @OIA - The Every Kid in a Park Initiative is good news. Read on:

<http://pat.ag/17hHKtE>

<https://twitter.com/patagonia/status/568501553767657472>

Trust for Public Land

Right on! @BarackObama just announced that every 4th grader will receive a pass for free admission to parks. #EveryKidInAPark

https://twitter.com/tpl_org/status/568502484622118912

Anna Chavez – CEO for Girl Scouts of the USA

Eagle 1 has landed. I'm thrilled to support the #EveryKidInAPark initiative to get more kids active & outdoors.

<https://twitter.com/AnnaMariaChavez/status/568489434968133632>

Conrad Anker (Athlete)

Yeah ~ President [Barack Obama](#). Thanks for recognizing the importance of our wild heritage and the benefit it has to our nation. Free access for a year to public lands for all 4th graders will get the future leaders off the digital rabbit warren and into the wild. [#everykidinapark](#) Add on Browns Canyon and today is a great day for the outdoor community. Thanks!

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Conrad-Anker/143199022383600?sk=info&tab=page_info

Kevin Jorgeson (Professional Climber)

How cool! [@BarackObama](#) announces year of free admission to all Ntl Parks for 4th graders, plus new ntl monuments: <http://usat.ly/1Boyy3X>

<https://twitter.com/kjorgeson/status/568518926037954561>

Range of Light

Thanks to President @BarackObama for your leadership in making this happen!
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2015/02/19/obama-free-national-park-admission/23640451/> ... #EveryKidInAPark @WhiteHouse #leadership

<https://twitter.com/rangeoflight/status/568511802432053248>

Latino Outdoors

"Launching the Every Kid in a Park Initiative and Designating New National Monuments | The White House" <http://wh.gov/ibeLg> @whitehouse

<https://twitter.com/LatinoOutdoors/status/568512483117305858>

Outdoor Afro

Every child deserves to experience the outdoors. Thank you @WhiteHouse for highlighting this as a national priority! #EveryKidInAPark

<https://twitter.com/outdoorafro/status/568478382540898304>

Girl Scouts

Thank you @BarackObama for ensuring kids across America can visit a park! Let's get #EveryKidInAPark!
=> <http://wp.me/p3qC97-i6>

<https://twitter.com/girlscouts/status/568468631367094273>

Collin O'Mara (NWF)

Today's a great day to be a 4th grader! Let's get #EveryKidInAPark ! <http://owl.li/Jlmis> Thank you @BarackObama #FindYourPark

https://twitter.com/Collin_OMara/status/568511612438446080

LCV

Every child deserves to experience the outdoors. Thank you @WhiteHouse for highlighting this as a national priority! #EveryKidInAPark

<https://twitter.com/LCVoters/status/568506626648502272>

National Park Trust

Shout out to @BarackObama for #EveryKidInAPark initiative! Tell us what you're doing on 5/16 for #KidstoParks Day! <http://ow.ly/Jlcaf>

<https://twitter.com/NatParkTrust/status/568504259467206656>

Natl Park Foundation

.@BarackObama just announced #EveryKidInAPark! Find out how you can take part at <http://prks.org/KidsInParks> !

<https://twitter.com/GoParks/status/568502164345237504>

Conversation Contents

E&E PM: EPA, industry assail development plan for vast swath of Calif. desert

"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Feb 27 2015 15:09:23 GMT-0700 (MST)
Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Frank Quimby <frank_quimby@ios.doi.gov>, Elizabeth Klein <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, David Haines <david_haines@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: E&E PM: EPA, industry assail development plan for vast swath of Calif. desert

RENEWABLE ENERGY:

EPA, industry assail development plan for vast swath of Calif. desert

Scott Streater, E&E reporter

Published: Friday, February 27, 2015

The Bureau of Land Management has received at least 12,000 public comments on a sweeping renewable energy development plan for millions of acres of Southern California desert, including notable critiques from the renewable industry and U.S. EPA.

The public comment period ended this week for the multi-volume, 8,000-page draft Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) designed to guide development across 22.5 million acres of public and private lands in the Mojave and Colorado deserts.

The [draft plan](#) unveiled last fall by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell calls for establishing 2 million acres of "development focus areas" within the planning area where utility-scale renewables development or transmission line projects would be deemed suitable.

The plan would also establish conservation and recreation designations across an additional 8.5 million acres of federal land where BLM wouldn't accept applications, except for some geothermal activity in the recreation areas as long as there is no surface occupancy ([E&ENews PM](#), Sept. 23, 2014).

The plan's goal evaluated in a draft environmental impact statement/environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) is to guide renewables development over the next three decades to suitable spots where solar, wind and geothermal resources are plentiful but natural resource values are low. The goal remains to issue a final plan by the end of the year, said Dana Wilson, a BLM spokeswoman in Sacramento, Calif.

But according to public comments on the draft plan -- developed by BLM, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Energy Commission, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife -- it needs a lot of work.

While many comments submitted over the last four months commend the Obama administration's efforts to properly site renewables projects, they also raise serious concerns about impacts to air quality, sensitive wildlife habitat and migratory birds.

Some of the most pointed criticisms come from EPA, which gave the draft EIS/EIR a low rating, citing "concerns regarding a range of issues" that include potential air quality impacts due to fugitive dust emissions creating particulate pollution, wrote Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Environmental Review Office manager for EPA Region 9 in San Francisco.

Goforth, in a brief summary of the agency's concerns that accompanied the formal comments, raised doubts about "the ability of the BLM and its federal and state partners to sufficiently monitor and address the impacts that could result from the operation and maintenance of renewable energy facilities" across 22.5 million acres. And she encouraged the agencies "to identify disturbed sites" that are suitable for commercial-scale renewable energy development, instead of undeveloped sites.

Overall, EPA gave the draft EIS/EIR document an EC-2 rating, which stands for "environmental concerns -- insufficient information."

In its formal comments, EPA also questioned estimates in the draft plan that the DRECP planning area could support projects capable of producing 20,000 megawatts of electricity, noting that the "sharp decline in the cost of rooftop solar-powered electricity" may lessen the need for commercial-scale development. The agency also noted that the federal production tax credit for solar projects is set to drop significantly in 2017, lessening a major financial incentive for the industry.

"For this reason, the financial viability of future utility-scale renewable energy projects in the Plan Area is far from certain," EPA writes.

But the agency is most concerned about air pollution from desert soils disturbed during construction and operation of renewable energy power plants. The disturbed soils would easily be kicked up and dispersed into the air by the wind, and the agency requested BLM and the CEC include an air quality analysis in the final plan "to reflect additional air quality improvements that would result from adopting specific air quality measures."

The agency notes that the draft plan's "preferred alternative" estimates that the development focus areas -- where projects will be concentrated -- contain "516,000 acres of soils with moderate-to-high wind erosion potential."

"Inhalation of dust particles can lead to a number of respiratory problems, including asthma and Valley fever," the comment letter says. "The EPA supports minimizing disturbance to the natural landscape as much as possible, so that the need for measures to reduce wind erosion and fugitive dust emissions is minimized or eliminated."

Concerns about fugitive dust emissions are serious enough that large solar, wind and geothermal projects in the planning area may qualify as

construction," the EPA comment letter says.

Could plan 'undermine' renewables?

The draft plan has also come under fire from some renewable energy developers.

Among the industry critics is Iberdrola Renewables LLC, which wrote in formal comments submitted this week that if the plan "is approved in its current form, it will hinder California's push toward a clean energy future and undermine U.S. Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management efforts to help promote and expedite prudent renewable energy development on Federal lands."

That is, in part, because the draft plan "limits development to unsubstantiated and overly-restrictive go/no-go areas in lieu of a more appropriate criteria-based methodology" that takes into account "on-the-ground data and/or changes to technology over time" that could allow projects in areas outside the development focus areas, wrote Jesse Gronner, Iberdrola Renewables' managing director of business development.

Iberdrola Renewables is currently embroiled in a fight with BLM over the agency's rejection of the company's application for a variance that would have allowed it to build a 200-MW photovoltaic solar power plant on 1,600 acres of federal land near Death Valley National Park. The company and its subsidiary, Aurora Solar LLC, have appealed the decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals ([Greenwire](#), Jan. 9).

But other comment letters submitted by the wind power industry voice similar concerns.

Christian Marsh, a San Francisco-based attorney representing the Desert Wind Energy Association, submitted a comment letter this week that says the association "is disappointed in the DRECP planning effort," particularly the draft plan's "severe restrictions on wind energy development in California's desert region."

And in a separate comment letter, an attorney representing the California Wind Energy Association (CalWEA) wrote that DRECP planners ignored information provided by the industry on wind power's "limited terrestrial footprint" and failed to provide necessary siting flexibility for wind farms in the planning area.

"This was a missed opportunity for the lead agencies to hold constructive dialogue with the wind industry and other interested stakeholders to develop a workable plan for tapping California's most valuable wind energy resources," wrote Clark Morrison, a San Francisco-based attorney representing CalWEA.

Bird, bat concerns

Commenters also raised significant concerns about the possible impacts of commercial-scale solar and wind projects on birds and bats in the planning area.

The American Bird Conservancy, the nation's largest bird conservation group, requested in comments submitted this week that the draft plan "be withdrawn and revised in order to provide a broader range of alternatives" that include "additional protective measures to address potential wind and solar energy development's impacts on federally-protected bird species."

Steve Holmer, ABC's senior policy adviser, wrote, "The draft reveals significant impacts to bird species of conservation concern and their habitats, and reflects what appears to be a general lack of concern and adequate conservation measures for migratory birds which are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act."

ABC, Holmer wrote, is also concerned about a growing body of research indicating that photovoltaic solar panels can fool birds into thinking they are water bodies and that intense heat from solar mirrors can singe birds' feathers, rendering them incapable of flight.

A study last year conducted by researchers with the Fish and Wildlife Service's forensics laboratory analyzed 233 bird carcasses found at three Southern California solar plants. The study showed that traumas caused mostly by impacts with solar equipment were the leading cause of death, along with solar flux -- a phenomenon in which intense radiant heat from mirrors burns the birds' feathers ([E&ENews PM](#), April 9, 2014).

"Recent studies and field tests indicate a large number of birds will be incinerated or fatally disabled as a result of crashing into the solar arrays (which they perceive as bodies of water) or flying through the extreme heat generated by solar reflectors," Holmer wrote.

This also concerns EPA, which wrote in its formal comments on the draft plan that "occurrences of avian mortality at utility scale solar sites was still emerging as an issue during the scoping and preparation" of the draft plan.

"Since then, the number of solar sites (both solar thermal facilities, as well as solar photovoltaic) reporting deaths of avian species has increased dramatically," EPA wrote.

While EPA notes in the comments that the draft plan "includes conservation and management actions" to address this issue, the "sheer size of the Plan Area ... and the numerous utility-scale solar installations that could be subject to the provisions of the DRECP, portends avian mortality as a concern" that "warrants the development of strong on-site monitoring for all renewable energy projects developed within the Plan Area."

David Lamfrom, California desert associate director for the National Parks Conservation Association, said it was "encouraging to see the EPA take a strong stance on the draft plan."

NPCA has also submitted comments that, in part, raise concerns about impacts to birds. The association has asked that development not take place in the Eagle Mountain region adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park, which contains important golden eagle habitat.

But Lamfrom cautioned that the negative comments are not meant to tear down the DRECP.

"Our concerns reflect opportunities for the Interior Department to improve the DRECP to protect and value the most precious places in the desert," he said.

[Click here](#) to read additional public comments on the draft plan.

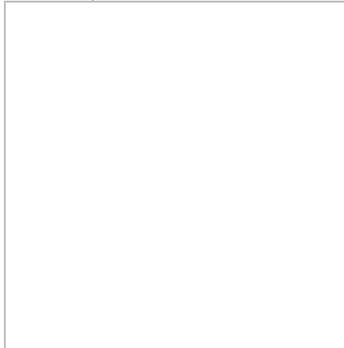
On Sun, Nov 9, 2014 at 8:39 AM, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Log in

EDITORIALS
Our Voice: Protect the desert

Facebook Twitter Google Plus **more**

9 hours ago



Marilyn Chung/The Desert Sun

The Whitewater Preserve is protected by The Wildlands Conservancy and has been transformed from a trout farm to a park.

The Coachella Valley is surrounded by protected wilderness. We have the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument to the south, Joshua Tree National Park to the north and several pristine areas in between, such as the Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Whitewater Preserve.

U.S. Sen. [Dianne Feinstein](#) visited the Whitewater Preserve on Thursday to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the signing of the California Desert Protection Act, which turned the Joshua Tree and Death Valley national monuments into national parks. The act also created the Mojave National Preserve.

She released the draft of a bill to expand the act and create two new national monuments: Sand to Snow, which would stretch from Mount San Gorgonio almost to Joshua Tree National Park, and Mojave Trails, between Joshua Tree and the Mojave Preserve. She will introduce the bill in January.

Attending the celebration was Jim Kenna, California director for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, who is conducting hearings on the draft of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. The plan would map out 22.5 million acres of the Colorado, Sonoran and Mojave deserts for large-scale renewable energy projects and conservation and recreation areas.

Known as DRECP, the plan has been in the works since 2008. U.S. Interior Secretary [Sally Jewell](#) released the draft in September, standing amid windmills in North Palm Springs.

The Desert Sun supports both of these efforts.

Feinstein's proposal would not only protect pristine land for future generations, it also would boost ecotourism, which has become a large part of the region's economy. The DRECP is a smart approach to locating renewable energy projects to help California reach its goals in reducing carbon emissions.

Sand to Snow

The Desert Sun endorsed the Sand to Snow National Monument soon after Feinstein first proposed it in 2009. Mount San Gorgonio rises to 11,503 feet above sea level. It is the seventh-highest mountain in the continental United States. The monument would cover 134,000 acres stretching to the desert oases of Big Morongo Canyon and the Whitewater Preserve.

Sand to Snow would help complete the circle of protected wilderness around the Coachella Valley.

Overall, Feinstein's California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act would protect more than 1 million acres of California desert. It would designate four off-highway vehicle recreation areas. And it would order the Department of the Interior to swap 370,000 acres of federal land for state land that could be developed as renewable energy projects.

The DRECP

The proposed national monuments would include areas covered by the DRECP, which ranges from the Mexican border along the Arizona border to Owens Valley, wrapping around the eastern edge of the Coachella Valley.

"The holy grail of this would be to have alignment with local government, state government and federal government," Kenna told The Desert Sun. "All of that fits together in terms of energy generation and transmission systems, and the conservation design."

"The Coachella Valley has a habitat conservation plan and a natural communities conservation plan integrated with a BLM land-use plan," he said. "And you have some of the physical attributes. In the Banning Pass, you have wind development that is feeding into the populated areas to the west. And in close proximity to that, in Big Morongo and up in Whitewater Canyon, you have very important conservation areas.

"It's about fitting the pieces together in very logical ways."

The DRECP is a super-sized version of the Coachella Valley Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan, which balances development with protection of endangered species.

The California Energy Commission has provided grants to counties to help map out their part of the DRECP, said Commissioner Karen Douglas. The commission has been working with counties for several years.

"These grants support the counties to engage in their own land-use planning, whether it's developing policies or amendments to their planning documents," she said.

Some opposition

In a hearing in Imperial County, farmers objected to plans for placing renewable energy projects on what is now productive farmland. Kenna explained that when water rights are transferred to San Diego County after 2017, some of that land will be fallowed, which is ideal for renewable energy.

Some wind energy advocates were disappointed in a decision to ban windmills between the Salton Sea and the Chocolate Mountains. That area is used heavily for training of military pilots, he said. Jets and windmills don't mix.

The Salton Sea

Douglas said she believes the DRECP can help develop renewable resources to create a revenue stream to revitalize the Salton Sea.

"The hope I think we all have is that renewable energy around the Salton Sea can be part of revitalizing that area," she said. The geothermal resources there are some of the best in the world and there's tremendous opportunity for solar power.

The big picture

With the new Republican majority in the Senate, it may be more of a challenge for Feinstein, a prominent Democrat, to revise the Desert Protection Act. But it's not really a political question. After all, one of Republican Mary Bono's finest accomplishments in Congress was the creation of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument.

Also, protecting wilderness areas can boost the economy. Since Joshua Tree became a national park in 1994 as part of the Desert Protection Act, visitors have increased year after year. In 2013, nearly 1.4 million visitors spent nearly \$63 million in the surrounding communities, according to an economic benefit [report](#) by the U.S. National Park Service.

Developing renewable resources also is an economic driver for the Coachella Valley. The DRECP is a wise approach for reaching compromises between competing interests in California's vast desert. The Desert Sun hopes it will set a standard for the rest of the nation.

Sent from my iPhone

--
Jessica Kershaw
Press Secretary, U.S. Dept of the Interior
@DOIPressSec
O: 202-208-6416
C: 202-669-0968

Conversation Contents

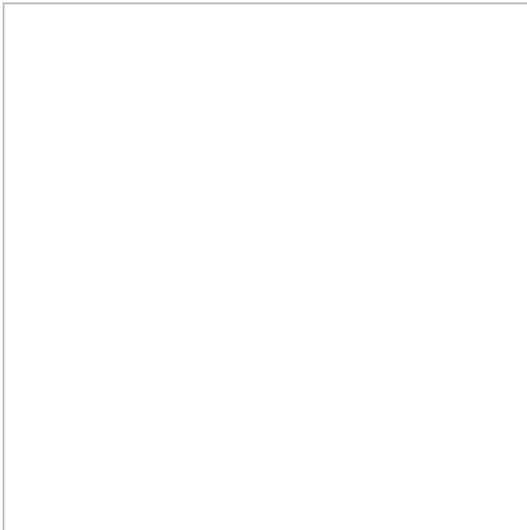
Idaho Statesman: Simpson, Risch both introduce identical Boulder-White Clouds wilderness bills

"Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Kershaw, Jessica" <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Feb 27 2015 10:10:00 GMT-0700 (MST)
N kki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
To:
Subject: Idaho Statesman: Simpson, Risch both introduce identical Boulder-White Clouds wilderness bills

Idaho Statesman: Simpson, Risch both introduce identical Boulder-White Clouds wilderness bills

Posted by Rocky Barker on February 26, 2015 Updated 21 hours ago



GOP Rep. Mike Simpson talks with Eric Schultz and Amanda Walton on the Murdock wheel-chair-access trail into the Boulder Mountains he got funding for in his efforts to pass a wilderness bill. **ROCKY BARKER** — rbarker@idahostatesman.com

A bill to protect portions of the Boulder-White Clouds as wilderness was introduced in both the House and the Senate Thursday by U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson and Sen. Jim Risch, both Idaho Republicans.

The bill would protect 275,665 acres in three separate wilderness areas that leaves all of the existing motorized trails open, includes small land transfers that help Custer County and the city of Stanley and access to funding for the county already approved by Congress. It is an alternative to a national monument designation pushed by Idaho conservation, sportsmen and outdoor business groups and under study by the Obama administration.

[Read more about the revised bill here.](#)

An Obama administration official acknowledged last week that the White House gave Simpson six months to try to pass the Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act, which he has already tried to get through Congress for 13 years. In 2010, Risch was the stumbling block as motorized groups complained about the closing of several routes through the area that includes both land in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The changes in the new bill have motorized groups appeased, but many preservationists and mountain bikers have thrown their support behind the national monument championed by former Gov. Cecil Andrus.

Simpson took out several thousand acres of wilderness proposed that snowmobilers used on the east side of the Boulder Mountains in exchange for extra land in the Wood River Valley. A large swath used by the Sun Valley Heli-skiing outfitter also was taken out, including areas where the helicopters land.

The final version put back into wilderness a trail in Murdock Creek behind the SNRA headquarters that provides access to the wilderness for people in wheelchairs.

The next step for the bill in both chambers is to get committee hearings.

http://www.idahostatesman.com/2015/02/26/3665794_simpson-risch-both-introduce-identical.html?rh=1

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U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Friday, February 27, 2015

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL MEETS WITH HAWAII GOV IGE. The [AP](#) (2/27) reports that "Hawaii Gov. David Ige said Thursday that he met with several of members of President Barack Obama's cabinet during his latest trip to Washington and talked about transportation funding, airports and Native Hawaiian sovereignty, among other topics." Notably, Ige met with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, "who said the department is working on sorting out legal issues regarding whether Native Hawaiians could be federally recognized." Ige said, "I had expressed to her that I believe that it's very important that the Native Hawaiian community be given the time to determine what the nature of their sovereign nation should be."

Also providing coverage are [KITV-TV](#) Honolulu (2/27, 21K) and [KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (2/26, 73K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO SIGN SHOSHONE-PAIUTE WATER RIGHTS AGREEMENT. The [National Native News](#) (2/27) reports that tribal and federal officials are set to sign a water rights agreement. The agreement guarantees water rights for the Shoshone-Paiute tribe. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will sign the agreement. She said that water development projects are "important for many reasons, including economic development."

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SUPPORT CHANGING WILDFIRE FUNDING. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/27, 94K) reports that Obama Administration officials "gave full-throated support for treating the largest wildfires as natural disasters as they defended the White House's budget on Capitol Hill this week." According to the article, "in separate appearances before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell and Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said the administration would like to revise the framework the federal government uses to pay for fighting wildfires." On Tuesday, Jewell said "the framework envisioned by" Sen. Ron Wyden's "legislation and embraced in the administration's budget would provide budget certainty." Jewell said, "That would enable us to work with tribes, work with land management agencies to do the important fire prevention and restoration work to prevent wildfires from getting out of control. By not doing that, as has been the case for a number of years, we've spent more and more on suppression and less and less on hazardous fuel removal."

DEPUTY SECRETARY CONNOR DELIVERS BLEAK FORECAST FOR LAKE MEAD. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/27, 398K) reports that Nevada faces "significant possibilities" of water shortages if drought on the Colorado River persists into the next two years, according to Michael Connor, deputy secretary of the Interior Department. Connor said there a 20 percent chance of shortages in Nevada and Arizona in 2016 if levels of Lake Mead and Lake Powell continue to drop, "and it goes up to almost 50 percent after that." He said, "It's a serious situation. The drought in the Colorado River system is every bit as bad as in the Central Valley of California."

REP. STEWART THANKS SECRETARY JEWELL ON PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT. The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (2/26, 3K) reports that "a plan for management of Utah prairie dogs located on nonfederal lands in southwestern Utah is, according to a statement issued by the state's Division of Wildlife Resources Tuesday, ready for review after several weeks of work." Congressman Chris Stewart "expressly thanked" the Interior Department "while addressing Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during an Appropriations Interior Subcommittee hearing Wednesday." Stewart said, "We've made more progress in eight months than we have in 20 years, and we hope to have a conclusion to that; and we're grateful for the consolidated effort that we've had in moving that forward."

BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS WILDERNESS BILLS INTRODUCED. The [Idaho Statesman](#) (2/26, 196K) reports that "a bill to protect portions of the Boulder-White Clouds as wilderness was introduced in both the House and the Senate Thursday by US Rep. Mike Simpson and Sen. Jim Risch, both Idaho Republicans." The legislation would "protect 275,665 acres in three separate wilderness areas that leaves all of the existing motorized trails open, includes small land transfers that help Custer County and the city of Stanley and access to funding for the county already approved by Congress." The bill is "an alternative to a national monument designation pushed by Idaho conservation, sportsmen and outdoor business groups and under study by the Obama administration."

FEDERAL WORKERS WARNED AGAINST SMOKING MARIJUANA. The [Washington Post](#) (2/26, Hicks, 5.17M) reports in its "Federal Eye" blog that although marijuana became legal in DC on Thursday, "federal-workforce rules remain unchanged for the roughly half million US government employees and military personnel who live in the area." Since 12 01 am on Thursday, "local authorities have allowed anyone 21 and older to possess up to 2 ounces of pot, although the drug is still prohibited on federally administered properties such as the National Mall, Rock Creek Park and even public housing," but despite the new policy, the Federal government "still considers marijuana to be an illegal drug and expects its civilian and military personnel to abide by federal guidelines."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF PROPOSED ARCTIC DRILLING RULES. Additional coverage of the Interior Department's new Arctic drilling rules was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (2/27, Profeta, 281K), the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (2/27, 14K), and the [National Geographic](#) (2/26, Profeta, 32.58M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF INTERIOR'S RECENT DECISIONS AFFECTING ALASKA. Additional coverage of the recent decisions impacting Alaska was provided by the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (2/27, 14K) and [Alaska's Political Pipeline](#) (2/27).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SECRETARY JEWELL ASKING CONGRESS TO INCREASE NPS FUNDING. Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell is "asking for a funding increase for the National Park Service of more than \$400 million" was provided by [KJZZ-FM](#) Phoenix (2/27, 7K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE SEN. GARDNER WANTS FUNDING FOR ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT. Additional coverage that Sen. Cory Gardner wants the BOR to fund the Arkansas Valley Conduit was provided by the [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (2/27, 79K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE TINY ALASKA VILLAGE TO BE RELOCATED DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE. Additional coverage of the impact of climate change on Kivalina was provided by the [Tech Times](#) (2/26) and the [Cato Institute](#) (2/27, 10K).

SIERRA CLUB CRITICIZES EFFORT BY ARIZONA LEGISLATORS TO TAKE OVER FEDERAL LAND. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/26, 1.14M), Sandy Bahr, director of the Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter, criticizes an effort by some Arizona legislators who are "promoting an extreme agenda to seek control of America's public lands." she argues that "the idea that the state could actually afford to manage millions of acres of public land is a stretch; it cannot even properly manage the 9.2 million acres of state trust lands entrusted to it on behalf of this and future generations of school children."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

WORLD'S MOST POPULAR NATIONAL PARKS HIGHLIGHTED. [CNN](#) (2/26, 14 35M) highlights "the most popular national parks and preserves on the six most populous continents." In North America, the article notes that Golden Gate National Recreation Area gets 14.4 million visits/year and Lake Mead National Recreational Area gets 7.8 million visits/year.

SEALASKA HERITAGE INSTITUTE TO PARTNER WITH NPS ON MOVE TO NEW BUILDING. The [Alaska Native News](#) (2/27, 245) reports that "Sealaska Heritage Institute will partner with Sitka National Historical Park to move its collection of objects into the new Walter Soboleff Building in Juneau." The article notes that "a little-known clause in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) authorizes the National Park Service as part of the Department of Interior to offer advice, support and technical expertise to ANCSA corporations and Native groups in the preservation, management, display and interpretation of cultural resources." Through the service, "known as the Statewide Cultural Assistance Program, a curator with the Sitka National Historical Park will travel to Juneau for a week to help professional staff at Sealaska Heritage move ethnographic, art and archaeological objects from Sealaska to the Walter Soboleff Building downtown."

MEDWAY LEADERS TO ENDORSE NATIONAL PARK PLAN. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (2/26, 166K) reports that Medway "leaders will draft a letter to Maine's congressional delegation endorsing the 150,000-acre North Woods national park and recreation area proposed by Lucas St. Clair." The Board of Selectmen "voted 4-0 on Monday to draft the endorsement letter, saying that the park would be a tonic for the struggling Katahdin region economy." The article notes that "Medway is the third Katahdin region town looking to write a letter since Millinocket officials said on Feb. 7 that US Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, had asked them to draft a letter of their requirements of a park should a federal bill be written proposing one."

DELAWARE WATER GAP RECREATION, NPS PLAN FOR MILESTONES. The [New Jersey Local News](#) (2/27, 772K) reports that "Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and the National Park Service (NPS) will commemorate its 100th anniversary in 2016." Superintendent John J. Donahue said, "We're very excited to be commemorating these big events over the next two years. These anniversaries will provide occasions to celebrate all that our national parks have to offer and an opportunity to plan strategically for the next century."

TWO MEN SUSPECTED OF VANDALIZING HISTORIC MILITARY STRUCTURE RESCUED AFTER BEING STRANDED ON CLIFF. The [AP](#) (2/27) reports that "two men suspected of vandalizing a historic military structure at a national park north of San Francisco had to be rescued by authorities after they were stranded on a steep cliff while trying to escape Thursday, authorities said." According to park service spokeswoman Alexandra Picavet, "the men got stuck on a cliff at the waterfront of Fort Baker in Golden Gate National Recreation Area."

Also reporting on the story is the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (2/27, 2.21M).

FEES INCREASING AT MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (2/26, 379K) reports that "Mammoth Cave National Park cave tours will increase by \$1 to \$2, except the Wild Cave tour, which will increase by \$5, effective March 14, the National Park Service announced this morning." Park officials said that "the cost of operating the park continues to increase along with the need to complete improvement projects on aging park infrastructure." In total, officials "expect the fee increase revenue by \$350,000 this year."

DEATH VALLEY COULD HAVE WILDFLOWER SUPER-BLOOM THIS YEAR. [KSJR-FM](#) Collegeville, MN (2/27, 62K) reports that "this could be a good year for widespread wildflower blooms in Death Valley National Park" and "it may even be a rare super-bloom year."

GRAND OLE OPRY HOUSE ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. [USA Today](#) (2/27, 10.32M) reports that the Grand Ole Opry House has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE CONGRESS PASSED BILL ESTABLISHING GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK ON FEBRUARY 26, 1919. Additional coverage of the Grand Canyon's 96th birthday was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/26, 1.14M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE APOSTLE ISLANDS ICE CAVES TO OPEN SATURDAY. Additional coverage that the Apostle Islands "ice caves are set to open to the public Saturday if conditions don't change" was provided by the [AP](#) (2/26).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE NPS APPROVES SHARPSHOOTING OF DEER IN CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK. Additional coverage that the NPS "announced Wednesday its approval of the population management plan at Cuyahoga Valley National Park" was provided by the [AP](#) (2/27).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM'S FARMINGTON OFFICE AMENDING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (2/27, 49K) reports that "more than a decade after drafting its Resource Management Plan, the Bureau of Land Management's Farmington Field Office is amending the plan to address changes in technology." According to the article, "in a meeting on Thursday at the Farmington BLM office, project manager Peggy Deaton spoke to the Resource Advisory Council about the agency's process of creating the amendment." Deaton said that the Resource Management Plan amendment will serve as a "blueprint for how we are going to be doing our jobs in the area for the foreseeable future."

GRAND COUNTY COUNCIL RETRACTS LETTER REGARDING BLM MASTER LEASING PLAN. The [Moab \(UT\) Times-Independent](#) (2/27) reports that "by a 4-3 vote on Feb. 17, the Grand County Council formally retracted an endorsement made by the previous council regarding the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Moab Master Leasing Plan (MLP)." The article notes that "the previous council endorsed the BLM's 'No Action' Alternative A, which maintains the status quo for resource management on BLM lands." But "in the Feb. 17 meeting, council member Chris Baird said the council's position on the MLP Alternatives might have changed since the election, therefore warranting a formal retraction."

BLM APPROVES NEW RESOURCE-MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR COLORADO COUNTIES. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (2/26, 28K) reports that the BLM has "approved a new resource-management plan that covers all or part of eight counties in Southwest Colorado." The article notes that "about 503,000 surface acres and 300,000 acres of mineral estate beneath non-federal land in La Plata, Archuleta, Montezuma, San Juan, Dolores, San Miguel, Hinsdale and Montrose counties are covered in the plan."

BLM APPROVES LONE TREE MINE PLAN OF OPERATIONS AMENDMENT. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (2/26, 168K) reports that the BLM Winnemucca District Humboldt River field office has "issued a decision to approve the plan of operations amendment for the Lone Tree mine." The action "authorizes construction of the Brooks Project, located about 27 miles southeast of Winnemucca, and about 61/2 miles west of Valmy in Humboldt County."

BLM SEEKING COMMENTS ON TWO PROPOSED CARBON DIOXIDE WELLS. The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (2/27, 79K) reports that the BLM is "seeking public comment on two proposed carbon dioxide wells to be located 6 miles south of here." OXY USA, "the operator of the existing Sheep Mountain CO2 production unit, proposes to drill two new wells within its existing operation."

BLM SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RED DESERT WILD HORSE GATHER. The [County 10](#) (2/26) reports that the BLM's Rawlins and Lander Field offices are "accepting public comments prior to preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) on a proposed wild horse gather in the Red Desert Herd Management (HMA) and surrounding area to be placed on the national schedule."

MILL MANAGER RECEIVES 6 MONTHS IN PRISON IN POLLUTION CASE. The [AP](#) (2/26) reports that "a Northern California man has been sentenced to six months in prison and ordered to pay \$107,000 in restitution after pleading guilty to polluting federal property in Shasta County." The US Attorney's office in Sacramento said that "Kiedock Kim admitted to depredation of US property and negligent discharge of a pollutant into US water between 2006 and 2007."

MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR SHASTA COUNTY GOLD MINE'S ILLEGAL DUMPING. The [Chico \(CA\) Enterprise-Record](#) (2/26, 92K) reports that "a Biggs man was sentenced Thursday to serve six months in federal prison for the illegal discharge of pollutants at a Shasta County gold mine." Kiedock Kim was "sentenced in the US District Court for the Eastern District of California on counts of depredation of federal property and of negligent discharge of a pollutant to a waterway, according to a press release from US Attorney Benjamin Wagner."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

AGENCIES PLAN TO RESTORE GRIZZLIES IN WASHINGTON. The [AP](#) (2/27, Nile) reports that the NPS and the FWS are "working with other agencies on a plan to bring grizzly bears back to" a "part of their natural range" in Washington. Next month, "the state and federal agencies involved are holding a series of public meetings in six cities around

elsewhere into the North Cascades to reproduce, explore other ways of returning the animals to the area or take no action."

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (2/26, 113K) editorializes that "a proposal by the US Department of the Interior to promote and rebuild the population of grizzly bears in Washington state should be rejected." It argues that "in Washington state, with 7 million people, there's just not enough room for grizzly bears, too."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (2/26, 127K), the [Daily News \(WA\)](#) (2/27, 63K), [KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (2/27, 217K), [KHQ-TV](#) Spokane, WA (2/27, 77K), [KXLY-TV](#) Spokane, WA (2/27, 30K), and [KIMA-TV](#) Yakima, WA (2/27, 1K).

FWS ANNOUNCES RULES TO PROTECT MANATEES IN FLORIDA SPRINGS. The [AP](#) (2/26) reports that the FWS announced Thursday that it was "implementing some interim protective measures proposed late last year" to give manatees more space at the Three Sisters Springs in the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge. According to the article, "for the rest of this manatee season, the springs will be closed to people when temperatures drop and the number of manatees increases." Also, "other measures restrict some use of kayaks and flash photography in the springs."

Also reporting on the story are [Reuters](#) (2/27, Stein) and [WTVT-TV](#) Tampa, FL (2/27, 50K).

FWS ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR TIMBER POINT SECTION OF RACHEL CARSON REFUGE. The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (2/26, 159K) reports that the FWS "announced plans Thursday to preserve historic buildings and add a walking trail on Timber Point at the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Biddeford." According to the article, "under the plan selected by the wildlife service, buildings that are eligible for the historic register will be repaired and preserved." Also, "trails on the property will be expanded and a self-guided tour about master architect Charles Ewing, who built the main cottage and other buildings on the property, and the habitat on the peninsula would be added to the exterior of buildings he designed and built."

Also providing coverage is the [Central Maine](#) (2/26).

DESERT TORTOISE COULD BE PLACED ON ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST. The [Cronkite News](#) (2/27) reports that "Arizona developers could face some obstacles if federal officials place the Sonoran Desert Tortoise on the endangered species list." According to Bill Boyd, legislative policy administrator at the Arizona State Land Department, "the designation poses a potential problem for developers because the tortoise has historically lived in the southern half of Arizona, which includes the Phoenix metro area." Vanessa Hickman, program head of the land ownership initiative, said that "if the government adds the tortoise to its endangered species list, that could reduce the availability of land and drive up costs," and "it also could affect agriculture and grazing in the state."

DETROIT RIVER INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE HOLDING VOLUNTEER OUTREACH. The [Southgate \(MI\) News Herald](#) (2/26, 63K) reports that "the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge is hosting a volunteer outreach from 6 to 7:30 p.m. March 18 at the Westfield Activities Center." The article notes that "during the volunteer outreach, staff will be discussing involvement opportunities and provide further information about the benefits of the Refuge."

LUMBER LIQUIDATORS COULD FACE CRIMINAL CHARGES FOR IMPORTING WOOD FROM RUSSIAN FORESTS. The [Quartz](#) (2/27, 482K) reports that Lumber Liquidators "disclosed this week that it could face criminal charges of importing wood sourced illegally from the far eastern Russian forests that are home to endangered Siberian tigers, of which there are only a few hundred left." The article notes that "in 2013, the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations unit, along with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Justice Department, raided Lumber Liquidators' US headquarters, looking for violations of the Lacey Act, an American statute that prohibits importing wood if it violates state or foreign law."

SURVEY FINDS MEXICAN WOLF THRIVING. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/26, 1.14M), Robert Mansell, chairman of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, writes that "with the recent announcement that the Arizona-New Mexico wolf population grew by 31 percent last year, isn't it time for naysayers and everyone interested in Mexican wolf recovery to recognize the program's success?" He notes that "the latest population survey shows at least 109 Mexican wolves in the wild and a record 38 pups that survived through year's end."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY CALLS FOR NEW REGULATIONS TO PREVENT BIRD DEATHS FROM WIND ENERGY PROJECTS. The [Huron County \(MI\) View](#) (2/26) reports that "the American Bird Conservancy has released its projection of bird deaths due to wind energy projects and is calling on the US Department of the Interior to write new regulations." The group has "filed a formal petition with the US Department of the Interior calling for the agency to establish new regulations governing the impacts of wind energy projects on migratory birds." The petition would have the FWS "establish a permitting process that would significantly improve the protection of birds covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and would afford the wind industry a degree of regulatory and legal certainty that cannot be provided in the absence of such a process."

Onshore Energy Development:

BLM AWARDS CONTRACT FOR NPR-A LEGACY WELL CLEANUP. The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (2/27, 14K) reports that the BLM has "let a \$10 million contract to Marsh Creek LLC to remediate abandoned oil wells drilled decades ago at Umiat in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska." BLM's Alaska manager, Bud Cribley noted that "this is the first phase of what will be a \$50-million program to clean old well sites in the federal reserve." The bureau is "tapping \$50 million made available through efforts by Alaska US Sen. Lisa Murkowski."

BLM TAKES STEPS THAT COULD OPEN LAND IN UTAH TO LEASING. The [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (2/27) reports that the BLM "took preliminary steps Wednesday that could lead to the leasing of heretofore untouched federal forest lands in south-central Utah for possible oil and natural gas exploration." BLM's Utah office has "decided to adopt the final environmental impact statement (EIS) and record of decision (ROD) by the USFS for oil/gas leasing on lands administered by the Fishlake National Forest." But "before BLM can proceed, it must obtain consent from the US Forest Service (USFS) for specific pieces of acreage in the Fishlake National Forest," according to an official in a Salt Lake City BLM office.

Offshore Energy Development:

BOEM TO HOLD MEETING IN SAVANNAH. [WTOG-TV](#) Savannah, GA (2/27, 18K) reports that the BOEM has "scheduled a public meeting in Savannah on March 24 to address the government's proposal to open up sections of the Eastern seaboard to oil and gas drilling." The article notes that "it's one of a series of public meetings planned to educate East Coast communities about the recently released draft of a five year program to allow oil and gas exploration and drilling in the outer continental shelf of the Atlantic coast."

Also providing coverage is [WTVM-TV](#) Columbus, GA (2/27, 7K).

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR TO FLUCTUATE NORTH PLATTE RIVER FLOWS TO HELP TROUT. The [AP](#) (2/27) reports that the BOR has "scheduled a series of fluctuating flows in the North Platte River downstream of Gray Reef Dam." The move is "being done at the request of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to improve trout reproduction in the river." According to Game and Fish Chief of Fisheries Mark Fowden, "the fluctuations will clean the gravel at the river's bottom," and "the result will be more and bigger trout."

BOR TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT ON WATER FOR CENTRAL CALIFORNIA FARMERS. The [AP](#) (2/27) reports that "farmers in parts of California's Central Valley say that for a second year running they anticipate receiving no irrigation water from a federally operated system of canals and reservoirs." The BOR is "expected to announce Friday how much water it will release for farming."

Empowering Native American Communities:

BIA RELEASES NEW INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT GUIDELINES. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/26, 49K) reports that on Tuesday, Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs Kevin K. Washburn announced that the BIA has "published revised, sweeping new guidelines to ensure the rights and protections of Native families and children under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)." Speaking at "the winter session of the National Congress of American Indians, Washburn said that updating Guidelines for State Courts and Agencies in Indian Child Custody Proceedings in the Federal Register had become necessary due to the continued misapplication and noncompliance of ICWA in state and federal courts since it was first published in 1979." Washburn said, "Consistent with the direction of the President in creating the White House Council on Native American Affairs, we are taking an 'all-of-government' approach to ICWA. Recently, the Department of Justice advised tribes that it wishes to be notified of cases in state courts to consider participating in by filing amicus briefs in support of ICWA. Both the Department of the Interior and Department of Justice have been meeting with the Administration for

Children and Families at Health and Human Services to consider ways in which their programs, such as the IV-E funding program, can be used to help insure ICWA compliance in states as well as strengthen tribal capacity in child welfare. We are developing strategies to work together to protect Indian children."

NCAI'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WINTER SESSION WRAPS UP. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/26, 49K) reports that "tribal leaders and representatives are in Washington, D.C. this week to attend the National Congress of American Indians 2015 Executive Council Winter Session that wraps up today, February 26." BIE representatives were scheduled to "meet with tribal leadership to provide an update on the BIE's transformation implementation plan, and answer any questions tribal leadership may have in regards to Indian education."

BIA WANTS CAYUGA NATION TO SETTLE LEADERSHIP DISPUTE ON ITS OWN. The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (2/27, 27K) reports that "two representatives from the BIA and one from the US Department of Justice met with reporters Thursday in a conference set up by Cayuga County Sheriff David Gould to discuss the BIA's recent decision regarding a federal representative for the nation." The decision "recognized Clint Halftown as the federal representative on an interim basis, but only for the purposes of accessing community services contracts between the BIA and Cayuga Nation." However, "BIA officials said on Thursday that they haven't declare a leader for the tribe and do not intend to." They made "it clear: The Cayuga Nation must solve its leadership dispute on its own."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (2/27, 438K) and [WTVH-TV](#) Syracuse, NY (2/27).

INDIAN COUNTRY LOOKS TO CAPITALIZE ON MARIJUANA. [McClatchy](#) (2/27, Hotakainen, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that "after making hundreds of billions of dollars running casinos, American Indian tribes are getting a good whiff of another potential moneymaker: marijuana." The first Tribal Marijuana Conference is scheduled "for Friday on the Tulalip Indian Reservation in Washington state as Indian Country gets ready to capitalize on the nation's expanding pot industry." According to organizers, "representatives from more than 50 tribes in at least 20 states have registered, with total attendance expected to surpass 300."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CASINO PLANS OF LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS. Additional coverage of the plans by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians to "take 60 acres of land into trust for the \$180 million casino and economic development project" was provided by the [AP](#) (2/27).

BUDGET PROPOSAL PRAISED FOR INCLUDING BOOST FOR TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY. In a piece for the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/26, 49K), Donna Ennis, the Community Center Manager for Fond du Lac Reservation, writes that "as part of President Obama's budget request to Congress, federal funding for tribal contract support costs (CSC) for three years beginning in 2017 will be moved from the 'discretionary' to 'mandatory non-discretionary' category within the federal budget." She calls this "a huge step in recognizing self-governance efforts by tribes and recognition of the government-to-government relationship based on a trust relationship."

Office of Insular Affairs:

SECRETARY JEWELL DISCUSSES ISSUES WITH GUAM'S CALVO. The [Marianas Variety](#) (2/27) reports that "Gov. Eddie Calvo is in the nation's capital discussing Compact-Impact reimbursement, the stalled China visa waiver program, the military buildup and other issues impacting the island." Calvo said "he has already spoke to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and he has made a friend in Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii." With Jewell, Calvo "spoke of the need to address climate change, workforce development, tourism and Compact-Impact issues."

Top National News:

OBAMA PROMOTES TRADE AGENDA IN SERIES OF LOCAL TV INTERVIEWS. In what national media reports cast as an attempt to boost Democratic support for "a rare spot of common ground with Republicans," as the [AP](#) (2/27, Kuhnenn) puts it this morning, President Obama yesterday promoted his trade agenda in interviews with several local TV stations. The President, adds the AP, spoke to stations from "states represented by some of the handful of Democratic senators who may be willing to side with" him on upcoming trade battles. [USA Today](#) (2/27, Korte, 10.32M) notes "the local television reporters were given a 'behind the scenes' tour of the West Wing, access to White House officials and were allowed to pet the First Family's dogs." White House press secretary Josh Earnest said, "That sort of ground-level advocacy is something that I do think will persuade Democrats and Republicans, frankly, to take a close look at some of the trade agreements that the president is trying to broker."

[KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (2/26, 6:33 p.m. PST, 217K) reported that "the President and his staff were most eager to talk about trade," and "specifically, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a sweeping free-trade agreement with 10 countries in the Asia's Pacific region." Obama was shown saying, "If we don't do this trade deal, China will be writing the rules and they'll reinforce rules that are already disadvantaging us today." KOMO added that "for successful trade in our state, the ports have to go full speed. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez helped negotiate and an end to the port slow down. I asked him if the new deal is on firm ground." Perez was shown saying, "I'm very confident that the members of the union, when they review the agreement will...vote for it. The executive committee that was the negotiating committee consisted of roughly 25 to 30 members of the union," and "the recommendation was unanimous."

[KMBC-TV](#) Kansas City, MO (2/26, 6:02 p.m. CST, 49K) said "this was certainly a day all about jobs in Missouri and Kansas, and what it will take to create even more selling 'Made in America' overseas." The President "came armed with numbers." Obama was shown saying, "If you look at Kansas and Missouri combined, you are looking at over 140,000 jobs that are created by exports." KMBC added, "The thinking is that the emerging middle classes in places like China would be interested in Missouri and Kansas ag products, F-150 pickups, and maybe even new planes."

[KGW-TV](#) Portland, OR (2/26, 6:00 p.m. PST, 111K) described Obama as "making a full-court press to pass the Trans-Pacific Partnership through Congress. It's a proposed trade agreement with 12 Pacific Rim countries. We reached out to the entire Oregon congressional delegation and they have mixed opinions on it. For example, Sen. Wyden is working hard on labor and environmental protections in case the deal passes, but Peter DeFazio, our Congressman, is dead set against it. We will continue to follow this issue." On its website, [KGW-TV](#) Portland, OR (2/27, 111K) reported that Obama "praised...Wyden for his work on making sure the TPP includes tough protections for labor rights and the environment."

[WDAY-TV](#) Fargo, ND (2/26, 6:00 p.m. CST, 1K) reported that the Administration wanted to "talk trade and the importance of exports when it comes to creating jobs and maintaining a strong economy. Both North Dakota and Minnesota were showcased, having record numbers when it comes to exports." The Administration "is highlighting those numbers as it works on new trade agreements." WDAY added that the Administration "also touted its 'Made in Rural America' initiative, giving people and businesses in areas like North Dakota and Minnesota the tools for success in our digital economy." On its website, [WDAZ-TV](#) Grand Forks, ND (2/27, Lenzmeier, 1K) noted that it was also among "a handful of stations in the country invited for an exclusive day inside the White House, and a one-on-one with...Obama."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/27, Nakamura, 5.17M) reports the Administration "has argued that the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal would boost US exports in fast-growing Asian markets at a time when the country is facing increased economic competition from China, whose labor and environmental standards are lower." GOP leaders had "called on Obama to more aggressively pitch his plans to skeptical Democrats, whose support will be necessary to complete the 12-nation TPP agreement." Also yesterday, the [AP](#) (2/27, Kuhnenn) reports, the Administration "released data promoting the role of exports in the economic recovery," noting "exports supported about 11.3 million jobs in 2013, an increase of 1.6 million over 2009."

In addition to the President's interviews, senior officials were also at hand to promote the Administration's trade priorities. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/27, Spencer, 1.37M) notes "in a meeting with regional reporters," US Trade Representative Froman "said the administration is working to line up bipartisan support for a trade promotion authority bill," and that "successfully negotiating the TPP and TTIP and getting congressional approval of both could give American businesses 'unfettered access' to two-thirds of the world's economy." Perez, "called TPP 'a renegotiation' of...NAFTA," assuring reporters that "TPP and TTIP will 'bake in' enforcement mechanisms that were missing from earlier trade deals." Commerce Secretary Pritzker, meanwhile, said free trade agreements are "an opportunity to produce here and sell there." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/27, Keane, Dougherty, 169K) quotes Cecilia Munoz, director of Obama's Domestic Policy Council, telling reporters, "This is a major priority for the administration. ... The goal here is to make sure that this is a well-informed debate."

Analysis: Obama-Ryan Trade Partnership "Rare Ray Of Bipartisan Sunlight." David D. Haynes, in a post for the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (2/27, 699K), says Obama "has an unlikely ally" in Rep. Paul Ryan "as he nears the home stretch of a marathon trade negotiation aimed at opening markets in the Pacific Rim." Their cooperation on this issue is a "rare ray of bipartisan sunlight before the 2016 presidential election darkens the mood in Washington."

Chrostowski: Obama Would Need To Pull Off An "Upset" To Pass Treaty. Keith Chrostowski, Business Editor of the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (2/27, 637K), writes that while the deal is "still under wraps, enough is known about it to stoke a fiery opposition that is splitting both political parties and creating unusual allies. For the deal: President Barack Obama and most Republicans. Against it: Many Democrats and tea party conservatives." However, "for our region, big agriculture hopes the TPP will boost exports of crops and meat." Chrostowski concludes that "unless the president can pull off the upset, the treaty will die."

MEDIA ANALYSES HOUSE GOP IN RETREAT, PREPARING SHORT-TERM DHS FUNDING EXTENSION. Print media reports this morning indicate House Republicans are

Republicans and a win for the President. The [AP](#) (2/27, Espo, Werner), for example, speaks of a GOP "retreat," adding that "it appeared Obama was closing in on a triumph." The [New York Times](#) (2/27, Parker, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says the House GOP "plan simply pushes the fight into next month," creating "the very situation that Republicans had hoped to avoid after the November elections," namely "lurching from crisis to crisis, with little to show in the form of major legislation." Rep. Peter King said of the proposal, "It says a lot about the party. ... It means trouble. How many times can we go over the cliff and survive?"

Other reports continue to note the apparent disunity and unrest within GOP ranks, with "Tea Party conservatives," [The Hill](#) (2/27, Wong, 224K) reported, "threatening to try" to oust Speaker Boehner if he "caves in the fight against...Obama's immigration actions." The Hill noted that "there's not a coordinated effort yet," but "chatter" of a "coup attempt has grown louder." On its website, [Roll Call](#) (2/26, Fuller, Subscription Publication, 102K) also mentioned "the prospect of a conservative mutiny," and in a [separate story](#) noted "speculation that...Boehner's speakership somehow hangs in the balance." [Politico](#) (2/27, Everett, Sherman, 669K), however, said "House Republicans were confident coming out of their closed meeting," with "a number of conservatives," including Reps. John Carter, Jeb Hensarling and Ted Yoho, expressing "support for leadership's plans."

Under the proposed course of action, says the [AP](#) (2/27, Espo, Werner), DHS "would receive funds with no strings attached for perhaps three weeks," and the House "would also approve a separate measure to allow normal agency operations through the end of the budget year on Sept. 30, but only in exchange for immigration-related concessions from the White House." The [Washington Post](#) (2/27, Sullivan, 5.17M), meanwhile, indicates that the House GOP plan "faces an uncertain outlook, as House Democratic leadership decided to marshal support against it." [Politico](#) (2/26, Everett, Sherman, 669K) cautioned that the new plan "could set up another confrontation with Senate Democrats, who have warned they will not accept anything that includes any immigration riders." Senate Minority Leader Reid said yesterday, "If they send over a bill with all the riders in it, they've shut down the government. We're not going to play games."

In an earlier, online version of the story, the [Washington Post](#) (2/27, Sullivan, 5.17M) noted that Reid also shot down the idea of a House-Senate conference, saying, "t is a waste of time. We will not allow a conference to take place." [Reuters](#) (2/27, Lawder, Cowan) notes that House Minority Leader Pelosi, who appeared with Reid, described the GOP's performance during the standoff as "a comedy of errors" and "major amateur hour." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/27, Peterson, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) quotes Rep. Dennis Ross, a member of the GOP whip team, weighing in on the politics of the situation and saying, "If we open up any window of vulnerability with a Homeland Security shutdown, that changes the dynamics where the president will take advantage of that, for political reasons if nothing else."

The [Washington Times](#) (2/27, Miller, 644K) reports that "several Republican lawmakers" insist that talk of a shutdown "is a bluff by Democrats, because nearly 90 percent of the department's employees are deemed 'essential personnel' who would work during a shutdown and eventually get paid." Rep. Matt Salmon, for example, is quoted in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/27, Peterson, Hughes, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) lamenting the plan, and saying, "If I truly believe that what the president did was unconstitutional, and I do, and I believe the next two years are going to be fraught with this kind of stuff time and time again, there has to be a line in the sand somewhere."

Earlier in the day, [USA Today](#) (2/27, Kelly, 10.32M) reports, with no official indication of how House Republicans planned to move forward, Boehner "blew kisses to the assembled press" as reporters pressed him on the issue, and "dismissed any suggestion that he is in danger of losing his job as... speaker." Said Boehner of that possibility, "No, heaven's sake, no." The [Washington Times](#) (2/27, Miller, 644K), meanwhile, says Boehner "refused to back down," and notes that "tension remained high on Capitol Hill," while [McClatchy](#) (2/27, Douglas, Subscription Publication, 17K) quotes the Speaker as telling reporters, "It is not a fight amongst Republicans. ... All Republicans agree that we want to fund the Department of Homeland Security and we want to stop the president's executive actions with regard to immigration."

In the Senate, the [Huffington Post](#) (2/27, Foley, 281K) reported, Sen. Jeff Sessions, "one of the most adamant opponents of...Obama's executive actions on immigration," said yesterday "he is not planning to hold up a vote on a DHS bill that doesn't include measures to end the president's policies, even though he opposes the plan." In fact, said [The Hill](#) (2/26, Shabad, 224K), the Senate "could have a final vote as early as Friday."

Kirk Criticizes GOP Strategy, Dismisses House's Concerns. [The Hill](#) (2/26, Shabad, 224K) reported that GOP Sen. Mark Kirk criticized his party's strategy, saying, "I think this is a battle that Republicans should have never fought – junking up a DHS bill, especially when we get a threat against the Mall of America. ... We really, as a governing party, we've got to fund DHS and say to the House, 'Here's a straw so you can suck it up.'"

Hoyer Calls McCarthy A "Coward." [Politico](#) (2/26, French, 669K) reported that during the DHS debate in the House, "tensions boiled over Thursday evening when Minority Whip Steny Hoyer called a leading Republican a "coward," something for which he later apologized. Hoyer and Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy "were debating the weekend schedule on the House floor." When McCarthy "promised the House would recess Friday evening," Hoyer retorted, "You coward."

ON PARTY-LINE VOTE, FCC APPROVES TOUGH NET NEUTRALITY RULES. The FCC voted 3-2 on Thursday to approve strong net neutrality rules that include regulating both wireless and landline broadband providers as public utilities for the first time. The vote was split along party lines, with all three Democrats backing the rules and both Republicans opposing them, and that partisan division is a common theme in reporting. The media coverage is portraying the outcome as a historic win for Internet activists and a blow for Internet Service Providers. In addition, the President is also seen as a winner, as the FCC's rules, crafted by Chairman Tom Wheeler, are in line with what Obama has called for.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (2/26, story 6, 1:40, Holt, 7.86M) reported that supporters say net neutrality "will ensure open access to the web for everyone" while opponents "say it amounts to government control over the Internet." NBC (Costello) reviews the basics of the issue and adds, "Expected now, a vigorous legal challenge to this new law of the web."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/26, story 6, 0 25, Pelley, 5.08M) called the vote one for "historic change," with the FCC making "the Internet subject to Federal supervision. The result: big broadcasters, like Comcast and Verizon, will not be able to sell content providers like Netflix and Twitter faster data delivery service than everyone else. Lawsuits are next."

[ABC World News](#) (2/26, story 11, 0 25, Muir, 5.84M) said the vote "will make Internet service providers subject to regulation. The decision is drawing sharp criticism from Republicans, including House Speaker John Boehner, who warned it could hurt the US economy, saying, 'Overzealous government bureaucrats should keep their hands off the Internet.' Tonight, that battle far from over."

The [AP](#) (2/27, Flaherty) reports that with the vote, "internet activists declared victory over the nation's big cable companies." The vote "ushered in a new era of government oversight for an industry that has seen relatively little" and "represents the biggest regulatory shake-up to telecommunications providers in almost two decades."

[Politico](#) (2/26, Byers, Boliek, 669K) reported that Wheeler said, "The Internet is the most powerful and pervasive platform on the planet. It's simply too important to be left without rules and without a referee on the field." However, Republicans "see the rules as drastic over-regulation and a federal government power grab." GOP Commissioner Ajit Pai said, "The commission's decision to adopt President Obama's plan marks a monumental shift toward government control of the Internet." The [Washington Times](#) (2/27, Boyer, 644K) reports that backers "say the rules will give the government new power to prevent companies from blocking or slowing data" but FCC Republicans "said the move will lead to new utility-style taxes and inhibit competition."

The [New York Times](#) (2/27, Ruiz, Lohr, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says that the "impact of the new rules will largely hinge partly on details that are not yet known," as the rules won't be published "for at least a couple of days, and will not take effect for probably at least a couple of months." In addition, lawsuits are "widely expected." [Reuters](#) (2/27, Selyukh) says that the telecom industry is expected to file suit, arguing that the regulations will reduce investment and crush innovation.

[USA Today](#) (2/27, Yu, Snider, 10.32M) reports that the vote "triggered jubilation among open Internet enthusiasts, but the powerful telecom industry is poised for a legal challenge to the new rules." In addition, congressional Republicans are "pushing legislation that would supersede the FCC's approach." In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (2/27, A1, Fung, 5.17M) covers the basics and says that if a Republican should win the White House in 2016, "analysts and industry lobbyists say, a GOP-led FCC could decide to reverse any regulations passed by Wheeler's commission on Thursday."

The [Daily Caller](#) (2/27, Macri, 318K) says that the vote is "a victory for content creators like Google YouTube, Amazon, and Netflix, the latter of which brokered higher-paying deals with both Verizon and AT&T earlier this year to continue transmitting its traffic to customers at acceptable speeds."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/27, Gryta, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that despite all the controversy, little change is likely in the near future for consumers. Wheeler reiterated on Thursday that he was invoking Title II only to give the FCC the authority to enforce net neutrality, particularly since previous efforts had fell in court, and vowed to avoid enforcing its broadest provisions, such as price regulation.

The [Huffington Post](#) (2/27, Liebelson, 281K) says that "a few months ago" such tough rules were "considered a pipe dream of net neutrality activists," but the President "came out in support of Title II and tough net neutrality rules in November, and Wheeler had to contend with that position as well as millions of comments from the general public in support of net neutrality." The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/26, Bruinius, 380K) focused on the role of HBO comedian John Oliver, who made calls for net neutrality a regular feature of his program.

President Hails Vote. The [AP](#) (2/27, Flaherty) reports that the President wrote, "Today's FCC decision will protect innovation and create a level playing field for the next generation of entrepreneurs," adding thanks to those who lobbied for the rules, "it wouldn't have happened without Americans like you." [USA Today](#) (2/27, Korte, 10.32M) adds

quotes the President, "I ran for office because I believed that nothing can stand in the way of millions of voices calling for change. That's the backbone of our democracy and you've proven that this timeless principle is alive and well in our digital age."

Similar Dutch Law Not "Internet Armageddon." The [New York Times](#) (2/27, Scott, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that the Netherlands imposed rules two years ago "demanding that Internet providers treat all traffic equally, the same sort of rules that the United States adopted on Thursday." The law "was not the Internet Armageddon that many Dutch telecommunications companies, industry lobbyists and some lawmakers had predicted."

More Commentary. In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (2/27, 10 32M) endorses the move, saying that the new rules are not "a federal takeover, or government censorship or, as some critics put it, Obamacare for the Internet." However, the "trick now will be for the FCC not to overregulate," as it has "given itself broad powers." USA Today says that there is "reason for concern that future commissioners might be tempted to be drawn into these areas over time, as regulators are wont to do."

In an opposing op-ed in [USA Today](#) (2/27, 10 32M), former FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell writes that the vote "marked the largest government intervention into the Internet ecosphere in American history." He adds that the FCC's "power grab" has discarded "the bipartisan light-touch regulatory framework laid out during the Clinton administration." McDowell says that history suggests that "utility-style regulation raises costs to consumers, reduces investment and innovation, and creates uncertainty due to the politics-driven nature" of Federal oversight.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), which has consistently criticized the rules, says that the vote was a low point for US innovation and economic freedom, arguing that the FCC is seizing political control of a market that has thrived without interference.

OBAMA SAYS KEYSTONE PIPELINE HAS BEEN "HYPED" BY OIL INDUSTRY. During an interview yesterday, [KMBC-TV](#) Kansas City, MO (2/26, 6 02 p.m. CST, 49K) asked the President a question from a viewer about his veto of the Keystone XL pipeline bill. President Obama: "Unfortunately, the Keystone pipeline has been hyped a lot by the oil industry but the fact of the matter is this is Canadian oil being shipped through the United States and creates approximately 250-300 permanent jobs. Now, 250-300 permanent jobs is important, but we could be creating millions of jobs all across the country if we were building American infrastructure."

[WDAY-TV](#) Fargo, ND (2/26, 6:00 p.m. CST, 1K) also asked the President about his veto. President Obama: "Part of the reason North Dakota has done so well is because we have been very much promoting domestic, US energy use. I've already said I'm happy to look at how we can increase pipeline production for US oil, but Keystone is for Canadian oil, to send that down to the Gulf. It bypasses the US, is estimated to create a little over 250 maybe 300 permanent jobs. We should be focusing more broadly on American infrastructure for American jobs for American producers, and that's something we very much support."

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "Wisconsin, Workers And The 2016 Election." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M), noting the advance of right-to-work legislation in Wisconsin, says that in "a nation where the long decline in unions has led to a pervasive slump in wages, Republicans' support for anti-union legislation is at odds with their professed commitments to helping the middle class." The Times suggests that the issue, and similar others nationwide, could play a role in the 2016 elections.

"North Korea's Nuclear Expansion." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/27, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) warns that North Korea "could be on track to have an arsenal of 100 nuclear weapons by 2020, according to a new research report." The prediction, it says, "goes well beyond past estimates and should force renewed attention on a threat that has been eclipsed by other crises."

"Food Waste Grows With The Middle Class." The [New York Times](#) (2/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says in an editorial that "massive food waste" is "now being measured as a serious threat to the global environment and economy." The Times argues that "antiwaste programs" should be used to reduce food waste by "20 percent to 50 percent" that could also "save an estimated \$120 billion to \$300 billion a year."

"Community Colleges That Work." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/27, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) notes that when the President Obama called last month for making community college tuition-free for millions of students, "he pointed out that graduation rates would have to improve" and noted that the City University of New York system "had already shown the way." A recent study "said the benefits of CUNY's approach...were more impressive than those of any other community college...and called it a 'highly promising strategy' for raising graduation rates among educationally and economically disadvantaged groups."

WASHINGTON POST. "Fighting MERS In Saudi Arabia." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/27, 5.17M) says MERS "is surging anew in Saudi Arabia and raising familiar questions" about the virus' origins and "how it is spreading." The Post adds that "a 'breach' in Saudi Arabia is of concern to the whole world."

"Republicans And Common Core." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/27, 5.17M) criticizes New Jersey Gov. Christie, among other GOP 2016 hopefuls, for turning against Common Core standards. The Post says that what makes Christie's "born-again criticism of Common Core so rich is how ferociously he promoted New Jersey's adoption of Common Core in twice going after Race to the Top funds."

"Puerto Rico's Debt Crisis." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/27, 5.17M) says that Puerto Rico is struggling with a "\$72.6 billion debt burden, sluggish growth and a recent downgrading of its credit ratings to junk level," and the situation could grow worse. The Post says that legislation introduced in Congress would allow its "entities and municipalities to declare bankruptcy," and encourages Congress to pass it.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. "Welcome To The Obamanet." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), which has consistently criticized net neutrality rules, says that the vote was a low point for US innovation and economic freedom, arguing that the FCC is seizing political control of a market that has thrived without interference.

"Andrew Cuomo's East Berlin." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports a ban on fracking has led to 15 towns in New York declaring they want to secede from the state and join Pennsylvania.

"Speech Of The Year." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) credits the Obama Administration with turning what could have been a routine appearance by a foreign official into a major political event. To the Journal, the Administration is motivated by animus toward Netanyahu, and aims to scare Israeli voters into replacing him as prime minister.

"Modi's Make-Or-Break Budget." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/27, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi must use his first budget, to be unveiled on Saturday, to show he is capable of transforming India and seeking reform.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY'S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[FCC Approves Net Neutrality Rules](#)
[Brooklyn Men's Alleged Plot To Join Isis Foiled By Online Posts](#)
[Big Insurer Tightens Rules On Hysterectomies](#)
[How Venezuela's Chávez Lives On In Spain](#)

New York Times:

[ISIS Onslaught Overruns Assyrians And Wreck Art Out Of Prison And Staying Out After 3rd Strike In California](#)
[Move To Ban A Bullet Adds To Its Appeal](#)
[Hedge Fund Sues US Prosecutor](#)
[Knife-Wielding "Jihadi John" Was A Londoner Under Watch](#)

Washington Post:

[In Mazar-E Sharif She's A Pioneer On A Risky Road A Deal With Pot Advocates Lighted Way To D.C. Law](#)
[FCC Makes Internet History](#)

[Rousey's Lethal 1-2 Combination](#)

Financial Times:

[US Watchdog Votes To Safeguard Net Neutrality](#)
[Tanking The Reins: Standard Chartered Turns To Winters As New Chief Executive](#)
[Bank Of England Overhaul Calls Time On 'Fireside Chats' With City Traders](#)

Washington Times:

[Criminal IRS Probe For Lerner Emails](#)
[Libya's Descent Into Chaos Makes Democrats Doubt Clinton Strategy](#)
[CPAC Speakers Stir Right-Wing Discontent](#)
[FCC Lets Feds Rule The Web With Split "Net Neutrality" Vote](#)
[Major Parties Are Flailing As British Elections Approach](#)
[Kurdish Diplomat Urges More Aid For Peshmurga](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: IS L Executioner Identified; Homegrown Terror Arrests; ISIL-Kidnapped Christians; IS L-Ancient Iraqi Artifacts Destroyed; Sheikh Mohammed Case Halted Indefinitely; Severe Winter Weather; Severe Winter Weather-Forecast; Houston-Random Shootings; United Airlines-Pilots Warning; Health-Superbug Warning; FCC-Net Neutrality Vote; NFL-Adrian Peterson Case; Florida-Videos Of Police Tactics; NASA-Black Hole Discovered; Oscar Dress Stolen.
CBS: IS L Executioner Identified; Ahmad Musa Jibril; ISIL-Ancient Iraqi Artifacts Destroyed; Severe Winter Weather; Politics-CPAC 2015; FCC-Net Neutrality Vote; California-Port Labor Settlement Aftermath; Navy-USS Gabrielle Giffords; DC-Marijuana Legislation Debate; NFL-Adrian Peterson Case; Vanuatu Volcano Images.
NBC: ISIL Executioner Identified; Homegrown Terror Arrests; IS L-Ancient Iraqi Artifacts Destroyed; Severe Winter Weather; Severe Winter Weather-Forecast; FCC-Net Neutrality Vote; Oscars Dress Stolen; Apple-March Event; Navy-USS Gabrielle Giffords.

Network TV At A Glance:

IS L Executioner Identified – 8 minutes, 55 seconds
Severe Winter Weather – 8 minutes, 10 seconds
Homegrown Terror Arrests – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
IS L-Ancient Iraqi Artifacts Destroyed – 2 minutes, 40 seconds
FCC-Net Neutrality Vote – 2 minutes, 30 seconds
Oscar Dress Stolen – 1 minute, 50 seconds
Navy-USS Gabrielle Giffords – 45 seconds
NFL-Adrian Peterson Case – 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: IS L Executioner Identified; New York-Embassy Bomber Convicted; DHS Funding Bill; FCC-Net Neutrality Vote; Ebola Vaccine Development.
CBS: DHS Funding Bill; FCC-Net Neutrality Vote; ISIL Executioner Identified; Canada-Missing Students; Nebraska-TransCanada Setback; Wall Street.
FOX: DHS Funding Bill; RS Controversy-Emails Recovered; IS L Executioner Identified; New York Daily News May Be For Sale; Politics-CPAC 2015; Jodi Arias Trial; NASA-Black Hole Discovered.
NPR: FCC-Net Neutrality Vote; ISIL Executioner Identified; Ukraine-Cease Fire; DHS Funding Bill; Obama Family-Selma Trip; Spain-Border Policy Criticized; Arizona-Internet Outage.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing, Oval Office, closed press; holds a bilateral meeting with President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, Oval Office, pool spray at the top; has lunch with My Brothers Keeper mentees, Map Room, stills only pool spray at the top; delivers remarks at the portrait unveiling ceremony for US Attorney General Eric Holder, US Department of Justice, travel pool coverage. Notes: Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest.

VICE PRESIDENT B DEN — The Vice President and Dr. Biden will depart for Montevideo, Uruguay.

US Senate: 9:30 a.m. — The Senate convenes and recognizes the Majority Leader. Thereafter, Senators resume consideration of H.R.240, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015.

DOMESTIC HIV/AIDS PREVENTION — The AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership hosts two Congressional Briefings, "An Update on Domestic HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care & Treatment Programs." Highlights: 10 a.m. 485 Russell. 1:30 p.m. 122 Cannon. Contacts: Carl Schmid, cschmid@theaidsinstitute.org, 202-462-3042. Notes: RSVP to NTaylor@theaidsinstitute.org.

US House: 9 a.m. — The House will meet for legislative business. Last votes expected no later than 3:00 p.m.

DOMESTIC HIV/AIDS PREVENTION — The AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition of the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership hosts two Congressional Briefings

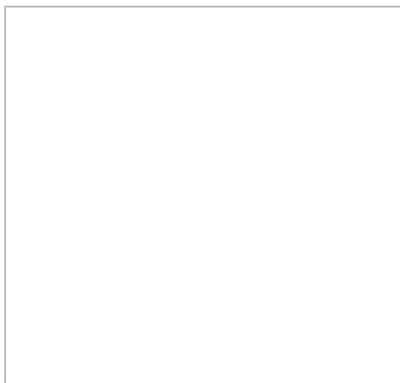
Conversation Contents

NY Times Editorial: Monuments to America's Past, and Future

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Subject: NY Times Editorial: Monuments to America's Past, and Future

NY Times Editorial: Monuments to America's Past, and Future



A mural in the Pullman neighborhood of Chicago.

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD
FEBRUARY 26, 2015

A historic industrial district in Illinois, a weed-choked gulch in Hawaii and a stretch of riverine Colorado wilderness, home to eagles and bears. These three dissimilar American places are the newest national monuments, established this month by President Obama, to be protected forever by the federal government from development and destructive neglect.

The best-known is the [Pullman National Monument](#) in the Chicago neighborhood built by the Pullman Company, whose railroad-car employees helped build the African-American middle class and laid the foundations of the Civil Rights Movement. The [Honouliuli National Monument](#), outside Honolulu, protects the site of a vanished, nearly forgotten internment camp that held Japanese-American civilians, along with thousands of foreign prisoners, during World War II. The [Browns Canyon National Monument](#) lies along a rocky stretch of the Arkansas River Valley rich in wildlife and popular for rafting, hiking and fishing.

Presidents from Theodore Roosevelt to Mr. Obama have used their authority under the Antiquities Act to set aside places like these. Many of the earliest monuments, established soon after the law was enacted in 1906, protected ancient American Indian settlements in the Southwest that would otherwise have been looted and returned to dust.

Through those places and more recently protected ones — like Pullman, Honouliuli and the [African Burial Ground National Monument](#), created in 2006 on the site of an office tower in Lower Manhattan — the American public gains a richer understanding of a history that is too

often overlooked, distorted or misremembered. Other monuments in fragile wilderness areas and vast, mostly pristine expanses of ocean, protect the American future.

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Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, February 25, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Wed Feb 25 2015 05:02:37 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Wednesday, February 25, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2015 7 00 AM EST

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DOI in the News:

SECRETARY JEWELL, SEN. MURKOWSKI FACE OFF IN BUDGET HEARING. [The Hill](#) (2/25, Cama, 224K) reports that Senate Republicans "sharply criticized Interior Secretary Sally Jewell Tuesday for her budget request and other actions that they say are hurting energy development and the economy." Sen. Lisa Murkowski, chairwoman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, has "repeatedly clashed with Jewell over how the administration treats Alaska, and kept up the pressure at Tuesday's hearing." Murkowski told Jewell, "I don't want to make this personal, but the decisions from Interior have lacked balance, and instead of recognizing the many opportunities Alaska has with regard to resource production, you have enabled an unprecedented attack on our ability to responsibly bring these resources to market."

[Bloomberg News](#) (2/24, Drajem, 2.94M) reports that Murkowski said "the Obama administration's restrictions on oil production in her state threatens to dry up supplies that could flow through the trans-Alaska pipeline." Murkowski said to Jewell, "The actions of this administration seem destined to shut down our trans-Alaska pipeline, weaken our economy, forcing our state to make steep budget cuts and really violating the promises that were made to us at statehood and since then."

The [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (2/25) reports that Murkowski said, "I'm frustrated, I'm very frustrated with the delays, the denials, the restrictions that we continue to see from the Department of Interior."

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (2/24, 2K) reports that Jewell said, "I am fully committed to supporting the efforts in the North Slope of Alaska to keep the trans-Alaska pipeline full. As you know I worked on that pipeline as a college student. As a petroleum engineer I understand how fields peak, and Prudhoe Bay oil field and related oil fields have been passed their peak production for some time, I'm aware of that."

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (2/24, 2K) reports that Jewell added, "And we have recently approved ConocoPhillips' preferred proposal for drilling in the National Petroleum Reserve. Offshore, 90 percent of the estimated recoverable oil and gas will be available for leasing in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas."

The [Talk Radio News Service](#) (2/24) reports that "during her testimony Jewell focused on the positives of the budget, calling it balanced and 'forward-looking.'" Jewell said it "provides targeted investments to grow our domestic energy portfolio to revitalize our national parks as they approach the 100th anniversary."

The [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that "Jewell found an ally in ranking member Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), who called her budget 'a balanced and forward-leaning proposal that creates jobs and long-term economic opportunity.'" Cantwell also "praised Obama and Jewell's decision to recommend new wilderness in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

Also providing coverage is the [Environment & Energy Publishing](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 705).

Sen. Cassidy Criticizes Revenue Sharing Proposal. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (2/24, 621K) reports that Sen. Bill Cassidy "used a budget hearing by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to castigate Interior Secretary Sally Jewell over the Obama administration's budget proposal to reverse Landrieu's 2006 legislation providing revenue sharing to Louisiana and three other Gulf states for off-shore oil and gas production." Cassidy said, "I am incredibly – I cannot put enough hyperbole in front of this – opposed to the department's budget proposal to deprive the Gulf Coast states of revenue promised under the Gulf of Mexico Security Act." Jewell responded that "the administration's proposal to 'revisit' the revenue sharing legislation reflects the 'balancing of assets (off-shore oil and gas) of all Americans' for communities throughout the nation impacted by serious environmental challenges."

Sen. Franken Pushes For Federal Funding For Leech Lake Band Of Ojibwe School. [WDIO-TV](#) Duluth, MN (2/25, 1K) reports that "six months after federal officials visited a school on the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation, Sen. Al Franken says their efforts to improve the facilities are appreciated – but not enough." On Tuesday, Franken asked Jewell what "she planned to do to improve the facilities." In response, Jewell said, "It's in bad shape, and it needs to be replaced. I will tell you that I've seen other schools that are in equally bad shape, and it just breaks my heart that around the country this is what we do in supporting Indian education."

Sen. Wyden Talks Oregon Priorities With Secretary Jewell. The [Portland \(OR\) Go Local PDX](#) (2/25) reports that "on Tuesday, Senator Ron Wyden discussed Oregon priorities with US Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell at an Energy and Natural Resource Committee budget meeting." Wyden "stressed the importance of getting mandatory funding back for P LT, Jewell's continued support for the Upper Klamath Basin Agreement and funding for wildfire prevention."

Sen. Gardner Wants Funding For Arkansas Valley Conduit. The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (2/25, 79K) reports that Sen. Cory Gardner wants the BOR to fund the Arkansas Valley Conduit. Gardner "questioned Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Deputy Secretary Mike Connor Tuesday about insufficient conduit funding in an energy and natural resources committee hearing."

HONOULIULI INTERNMENT CAMP DESIGNATED NATIONAL MONUMENT. [KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (2/24, 73K) reports that "President Barack Obama officially designated Honouliuli Internment Camp as a national monument during a signing ceremony at the White House Tuesday." The article notes that "Gov. David Ige and Hawaii's Congressional delegation were present for the signing, as were Carole Hayashino, president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and Jacec Mikulanec, president of the Honolulu Japanese American Citizens League."

Also reporting on the story are [NBC News](#) (2/25, 2.71M) and the [Honolulu Civil Beat](#) (2/25, 41).

Designation Of National Monuments Lauded. For the "Congress Blog" of [The Hill](#) (2/25, Pfund, Baruch, 224K), Nancy Pfund and Tom Baruch, co-chairs of the Conservation for Economic Growth Coalition, write that their group "believes that the recently designated monuments are prime examples of the expansion of cultural and recreational opportunities so important to the growth and culture of entrepreneurial, job-creating companies in the United States." They argue that "public lands are important to entrepreneurial companies not only because they help recruit and keep talented employees," but because they are "enablers of these companies' cultures."

For the "Congress Blog" of [The Hill](#) (2/25, Scott, 224K), David Scott, president of the Sierra Club, writes that "the new monuments, including the birthplace of the first African-American union in America, the largest prisoner-of-war camp and longest used World War II internment camp, and a premier trout fishing and outdoor recreation destination, represent the span of what our country's public lands should represent – our full American story." He adds that "these monuments embody the historic, cultural, and natural wonders that make up our nation's outdoor legacy." Scott says that through "Obama's action, they will now be permanently protected as places of remembrance, historic contribution and inspiration for future generations."

REP. BISHOP HOPES TO WORK WITH SECRETARY JEWELL. [The Hill](#) (2/25, Cama, 224K) reports that "the new chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee sees the Interior Department's budget as a way to inject creative thinking into issues like oil drilling on federal land and offshore." Rep. Rob Bishop will "hear next week from Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on her agency's budget request for 2016, and he's optimistic that he and his colleagues can come up with a better plan than the Obama administration on energy and other priorities." Bishop said, "We're going to welcome Sally Jewell, because I think she's a different kind of Interior secretary. She has a different background, she thinks differently than some who have come around before, and I'm excited to try and work with her."

SECRETARY JEWELL: FEDERAL REGULATIONS WON'T TRUMP TOUGHER STATE FRACKING REGULATIONS. [FuelFix](#) (2/24, 7K) reports that "coming government mandates for hydraulic fracturing on federal and Indian lands will not trump the rules in states that already have tougher regulations in place, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Tuesday." Jewell said, "These are minimal standards on federal and tribal lands. If the state has a higher standard, the state standard will be adopted within that state."

WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCES GEN-I NATIVE YOUTH CHALLENGE. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/24, 49K) reports that President Obama "announced the Gen-I Native Youth Challenge at the 2014 White House Tribal Nations Conference to tribal leaders and youth in attendance, but at the launch of the program Native youth learned how to become actively involved." The article notes that "Cabinet Secretaries will be participating in a listening tour throughout 2015 – which kicked off February 10 with US Interior Secretary Sally Jewell in Phoenix, Arizona." Jewell said in an Interior video released February 20, "My colleagues that serve in the Obama administration will host similar listening sessions with Native Youth across the country. I look forward to joining them, and continuing my own travels too, as we work to lift up the voices of an often forgotten community and we work to create a path for real opportunity."

TINY ALASKA VILLAGE TO BE RELOCATED DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE. The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, Mooney, 5.17M) reports that the 400 residents of the "tiny and isolated" Alaska town of Kivalina will have to be relocated because the ice around the island on which it lies has become too thin in recent years to allow the Eskimo residents to continue to hunt bowhead whales. The Federal government says that soon, because of climate change, it "may be too dangerous to live here at all, with less sea ice to protect the barrier island from powerful waves that wash across the village."

CONSERVATION GROUPS UNITE TO OPPOSE ATTEMPTS TO TAKEOVER FEDERAL LAND. The [Denver Post](#) (2/25, Willoughby, 804K) reports that a coalition representing more than 30 sportsmen's conservation groups and outdoor industry leaders will gather on Wednesday to protest attempts by some Western states to take over federally managed public lands. Kate Zimmerman, NWF's public lands policy director, said, "Once again, a survey of public sentiment underlines just how off-track state and congressional lawmakers are when they push to take public lands out of public hands. Voters get it: These are America's public lands. They belong to all of us, and we all have an obligation to take care of them and ensure our children, grandchildren and beyond enjoy the same opportunity to experience America's great outdoor legacy."

Utah Urged To Back Off Public Land Grab. In a piece for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (2/25, 74K), Hillary Hoffmann, a law professor at Vermont Law School's Environmental Law Center, advises Utah to back off its Transfer of Public Lands Act. She argues that "the only viable path forward is to pass transfer legislation through Congress and obtain the president's signature – an approach that isn't going anywhere." Hoffmann concludes that "it's time for the backers of this doomed land grab to admit defeat and leave America's public lands alone."

In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (2/25, 405K) says that Utah politicians are fighting a "lost battle."

Wyoming's Proposed Land Grab Criticized. In an op-ed for the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/25, 90K), Erik Molvar, the Sagebrush Sea Campaign Director for WildEarth Guardians criticizes Wyoming's House Bill 209, which "requires the federal government to relinquish public lands across the state by 2017 and transfer them to the State of Wyoming so they can be sold off." He argues that "this is an act of startling hubris that, if implemented, will irreparably harm every Wyoming resident."

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE FIRINGS HIT RECORD LOW IN 2014. The [Federal Times](#) (2/24, 119K) reports that "even as lawmakers press for greater accountability within government, agencies have fired fewer employees than at any time in the last 10 years, according to data from the Office of Personnel Management." According to the data, "agencies fired 9,537 federal employees for discipline or performance issues in fiscal 2014, down from 9,634 in 2013 and down from a high of 11,770 in fiscal 2010." The article notes that the Interior Department, "which fired 220 employees in 2014 — up from 206 in 2013," was among the "agencies that saw smaller increases in firings."

GWICH'IN PEOPLE WELCOME ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE RECOMMENDATION. In an op-ed for the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (2/24, 146K), Julian Roberts, chief of the Native Village of Venetie tribal government, writes that "many here in Alaska welcomed President Barack Obama's announcement that the federal government's final Comprehensive Conservation Plan would recommend that Congress designate the coastal plain and other areas of" the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as "wilderness – the highest level of protection for public lands." Roberts notes that the Gwich'in Nation was "directed by our elders in 1988 to seek permanent protection because it is the primary birthplace and nursery of the Porcupine herd." The Gwich'in are "truly thankful this administration has heard us and is upholding the subsistence rights of the Gwich'in Nation with its call for wilderness."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

RED ROCKS, CONSERVATION CORPS CAMP NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS. The [Denver Post](#) (2/25, Klemaier, 804K) reports that Red Rocks Park and Amphitheatre and a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in Morrison have nominated to become National Historic Landmarks. NPS historian Christy Dickinson said, "It highlights the workers who built the amphitheater — the craftsmanship, the workmanship. It helps tell a more complete story of the park, where young men lived and worked during the (Great) Depression."

YOSEMITE PREPARES FOR TWO MILESTONE CELEBRATIONS. The [My Mother Lode \(CA\)](#) (2/25, 1K) reports that "ahead of National Park Service (NPS) plans to celebrate its centennial next summer, Yosemite National Park officials announce an itinerary of ten signature projects they are undertaking to enhance visitor experience, restore critical ecological and wildlife habitats and engage the next generation of park stewards." Yosemite National Park Superintendent Don Neubacher said, "These ten signature centennial projects will continue the legacy of the National Park Service and celebrate the past 100 years of preservation and enjoyment of national parks across the country." The article notes that "the park will also commemorate its own milestone 125th anniversary on Oct. 1 with a number of events."

NATIONAL PARK STRAW POLL SET FOR EAST MILLINOCKET RESIDENTS. [WCSH-TV](#) Portland, ME (2/24, 30K) reports that "East Millinocket is giving the town's residents another chance to vote on creating a national park on 75,000 acres of nearby forested land owned by Roxanne Quimby and her son Lucas St. Clair."

[WABI-TV](#) Bangor, ME (2/24, 17K) reports that "the Board of Selectmen agreed at a meeting Monday night to take an opinion poll on June 11th."

20 STAFF AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS RESCUED BY HELICOPTER FROM GRAND CANYON. The [AP](#) (2/25) reports that "twenty Northern Arizona University students and staff who were stranded in the snow near the Grand Canyon's North Rim have been rescued." According to Coconino County sheriff's spokesman Gerry Blair, "the 16 students, two instructors and aides were flown out three at a time in a helicopter." Blair says "they're in good health."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/25, 2.28M), the [Washington Post](#) (2/24, 5.17M), and the [US News & World Report](#) (2/24, 685K).

Also reporting on the story are the [Arizona Republic](#) (2/24, 1.14M), [USA Today](#) (2/24, Mitchell, 10 32M), and [Reuters](#) (2/25).

CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK REOPENS. The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (2/25, 18K) reports that "after closing its doors all day yesterday due to icy roads, the Carlsbad Caverns National Park reopened today." The park is "now operating under normal winter hours."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DUO'S DAWN WALL CLIMB. The [Denver Post](#) (2/25, Blevins, 804K) reports on Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson's climb of El Capitan's Dawn Wall in Yosemite National Park.

Bureau of Land Management:

REPORT FINDS BLM MISSING OUT ON RECREATIONAL FEES. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (2/25, 94K) reports that the BLM is "missing out on potential revenue by not charging fees at some public camping sites and below-market prices at others, according to a report released Tuesday by the Department of the Interior's inspector general." The report states, "BLM does not maximize its opportunities to charge fees in a way that will generate revenue and protect resources. At a time when Federal agencies face continually decreasing appropriations, taking advantage of this (fees) program demonstrates BLM understands the need for additional funding."

BLM TO PARTICIPATE IN TESTING OF RECOVER SYSTEM. [Government Computer News](#) (2/24, 2K) reports that "to help coordinate data and wildfire response among a variety of agencies, the Rehabilitation Capacity Convergence for Ecosystem Recovery (RECOVER) cloud-based decision support system will assist teams create a post-fire rehabilitation plan." The article notes that "partner agencies using the program for Phase 1 testing include Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho Department of Lands."

BLM TO ROUND UP WILD HORSES IN UTAH. The [AP](#) (2/25) reports that the BLM will "round up and remove wild horses in central Utah near the Nevada border Wednesday." BLM authorities say "they will be removing the wild horses near Utah State Highway 21 that are causing concerns about public health and safety."

INTERIOR DISPUTES WYOMING'S WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT CLAIMS. The [Law 360](#) (2/25, 9K) reports that the Interior Department "asked a Wyoming federal court Monday to dismiss a petition from the state calling for a review of the Bureau of Land Management's refusal to comply with a request that the agency reduce the state's wild horse population under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act." According to the memorandum supporting the motion to dismiss, the BLM is "entitled to broad discretion in its management of wild horse populations in designated Herd Management Areas, or HMAs."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

LAWSUIT FILED OVER RIO GRANDE LEVEE PROJECT. The [AP](#) (2/24) reports that "an environmental group that has been pushing the federal government to let the Rio Grande flow freely is taking aim at a levee project along the river." WildEarth Guardians on Tuesday filed a lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers and the FWS. The organization "claims the construction of dozens of miles of levees from the San Acacia Dam south to Elephant Butte Reservoir would have a negative effect on the Rio Grande silvery minnow and other endangered species."

Also reporting on the story is the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (2/25, 39K).

GROUPS CALL FOR RESTORATION OF RED WOLF TO WILD. The [AP](#) (2/24) reports that "several animal welfare advocacy groups have signed a letter to federal wildlife officials supporting efforts to restore the endangered red wolf to the wild." The letter dated Tuesday to the FWS "asks federal officials to oppose recent resolutions from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission."

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME CAUSES DECLINE IN BAT POPULATIONS. The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (2/24, 379K) reports that "some bat populations across Kentucky have fallen by up to 90 percent as the full force of the deadly white-nose syndrome settles in, three years after it really took hold in the state, according to the latest scientific surveys." Mammoth Cave National Park scientists said "this week they have completed their winter bat counts in six of the caves they use to track bat numbers, and for three species — little brown, tricolor and Indiana — the preliminary results are grim." Meanwhile, "Kentucky wildlife officials wrapping up winter surveys of more than 70 caves in 21 counties are seeing the same thing for tricolored and little brown bats, which not had been among the most common bats in the commonwealth."

DEAD BALD EAGLE FOUND IN GULF STATE PARK The [Alabama Live](#) (2/25, 502K) reports that "officials at Gulf State Park responded Sunday to reports of a dead bald eagle found near a picnic area at Lake Shelby, not far from the park's two-year-old zip line course." The FWS "currently has the remains, where special agent Donnie Grace will conduct an analysis later this week to try to determine cause of death."

19 MANATEES RESCUED FROM CENTRAL FLORIDA DRAIN PIPE. [WFOR-TV](#) Miami (2/24, 57K) reports that "an unusual rescue in Central Florida has saved the lives of 19 manatees." The manatees became "lodged in a large drainage pipe near Cape Canaveral." According to the article, "a manatee-rescue team from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, along with police and firefighters, brought heavy earth-moving equipment to the Satellite Beach neighborhood, located on a barrier island along the Atlantic Ocean," and "one by one, each manatee was carefully pulled to safety."

US Geological Survey:

LAKE OKEECHOBEE PROJECT COULD TAINT DRINKING WATER. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (2/24, 660K) reports that "costly work to strengthen Lake Okeechobee's troubled dike may unintentionally pose a risk to drinking water supplies near the lake, according to new federal findings." The article notes that "a wall built to reduce the amount of lake water leaking through the southeast portion of the dike also appears to have allowed more saltwater from deep below ground to mix with a freshwater aquifer." According to the USGS, "that spike in salt levels could affect wells near the dike as well as farmland in western Palm Beach County."

USGS TO CONDUCT STUDY FISH OF THE SANTA ANA RIVER. The [Highland \(CA\) Community News](#) (2/25, 38K) reports that "San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (Valley District) and the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Partners have contracted the US Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct the most extensive research that's ever been done involving native fishes in the Santa Ana River." The study will "examine the current population of Santa Ana sucker and Arroyo chub in approximately seven miles of the river as well as factors that create the best habitats for these threatened fish and other native species."

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

BIRD CONSERVATION GROUP WANTS TIGHTER REGULATIONS ON WIND ENERGY OPERATORS. [KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (2/25, 15K) reports that "a national bird protection group is calling on the federal government to require wind energy operators to get permits to kill birds that are protected under one of the nation's oldest environmental laws." The American Bird Conservancy, "which projects more than 1.4 million annual bird deaths in coming years from wind turbines and their associated transmission lines, petitioned the US Fish and Wildlife Service this month to require owners of wind power facilities to apply for permits under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 before being allowed to build their projects." The FWS has been "asking wind companies to follow voluntary bird-protection guidelines when siting and designing their projects, but American Bird Conservancy claims in its petition that the voluntary approach has been roundly ineffective at protecting birds from wind turbines."

DESERT RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN RECEIVES 12,000 COMMENTS. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/24, 85K) reports that "more than 12,000 people submitted comments on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan before this week's deadline, many of them urging policymakers to protect specific parts of the desert from development." The article notes that "major environmental groups have largely supported the idea of balancing large-scale renewable energy development and conservation, but local activists have called the plan an existential threat to the desert's iconic landscapes and delicate ecosystems."

OKLAHOMA BILL PLACES RESTRICTIONS ON WIND INDUSTRY. The [AP](#) (2/25) reports that legislation "to place new restrictions on the growing wind industry in Oklahoma has passed a House Committee." On Tuesday, "the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted 11-2...for the bill to restrict how close giant wind turbines can be built near airports and schools, and to require wind energy producers notify nearby property owners before construction." In addition, the bill "requires a public hearing to be held."

SIMMONS, LOFTHOUSE DISPARAGE FEDERAL WIND SUBSIDIES AS UNNECESSARY. Writing for the "Contributors" blog in [The Hill](#) (2/25, Simmons, Lofthouse, 224K), Director of the Institute for Political Economy Randy Simmons, PhD and Utah State University political economy professor Jordan Lofthouse asked, "What do we have to show" for 23 years of Federal Production Tax Credit subsidies to wind power? The answer, they said, is that only "1.6 percent of total U.S. energy in 2014" came from wind power, but "now the Department of Energy wants to reach a ridiculous goal of 20 percent wind energy by 2030." In the opinion of the authors, continuing government subsidies for wind power to help the "fledgling" sector reach this goal is "crony capitalism."

Onshore Energy Development:

IN OSAGE COUNTY, OIL PRODUCERS BLAME BIA FOR ECONOMIC WOES. The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (2/25, 395K) reports that "drilling has come to a virtual standstill in Osage County, and the problem started last summer when the price per barrel was still over \$100, long before production began slipping anywhere else." The article notes that "producers still have more than 600 pending applications to drill in Osage County." According to producers, "the bigger problem" is the BIA, "which is responsible for processing those permit applications, since the mineral rights belong to the Osage tribe."

COLORADO'S OIL AND GAS TASK FORCE FORWARDS NINE PROPOSALS TO HICKENLOOPER. The [Denver Post](#) (2/25, Jaffe, 804K) reports that Colorado's 21-member oil and gas task force, started by Gov. John Hickenlooper, is supporting increased community input at the local level on large oil and gas projects. At the same time, the task force did not endorse giving local governments increased authority on drilling projects and land use. The state's Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Mike King supported the task force's nine recommendations, which will be sent along to Hickenlooper.

Offshore Energy Development:

NOAA PROPOSES EXPANSION OF CRITICAL HABITAT AREA FOR NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALES. [McClatchy](#) (2/25, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that "oil and gas companies hoping to drill in the Atlantic Ocean will have to contend with a new federal proposal to declare waters off the Carolinas and Georgia as critical for endangered whales." The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is "proposing a huge expansion in the critical habitat area for endangered North Atlantic right whales." According to the article, "if the habitat proposal is finalized, companies that want to explore for energy must show that the activities wouldn't harm the critical habitat or the whales." The BOEM would then have "to consult with NOAA to see whether its scientists agree."

In his column for the [Florida Times-Union](#) (2/24, 269K) Ron Littlepage criticizes seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean. He notes that "the extremely rare North Atlantic Right Whales, which are familiar to our coast, would be in danger." Also, "fisheries that are commercially important would likely be impacted."

SEVEN GOVERNORS AGREE ON LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY FOR REVENUE SHARING FROM OFFSHORE ENERGY. [Bloomberg BNA](#) (2/25, 8K) reports that "seven coastal

governors agreed Feb. 20 to push Congress for a bill to set a multi-state strategy for revenue sharing from federal offshore energy development, North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory (R) said after the governors' meeting." The article notes that "the governors have not yet settled on a model for the sharing of federal revenues with states—whether it should follow the established pattern of the Gulf Coast region or another approach, he said." According to McCrory, "the governors would prefer to see either one system of sharing revenues or at least regional approaches rather than state-by-state approaches."

Also reporting on the story is the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (2/24, 146K).

US, MEXICO TRANSBOUNDARY HYDROCARBONS AGREEMENT TAKES FORM. The [E&P Magazine](#) (2/25) reports that as special assistant to the chief for the BOEM's Office of Strategic Resources, Robert Sebastian is "fielding questions and sharing information about the transboundary agreement between Mexico and the US concerning oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico." At Rice University's Baker Institute, Sebastian said, "Implementation is still ongoing. It is really just beginning. The agreement is really, to me, just a framework. It's a very good one, but there are many details, processes and procedures to work out." The article notes that "among these are developing the model utilization agreements that will be used, putting in place Joint Commission rules of procedure and establishing dispute settlement mechanisms such as mediation, arbitration and expert determination if the parties cannot reach agreements, he said."

BSEE ISSUES ALERT ON DP SYSTEM FAILURE. The [Marine Link](#) (2/25, 1K) reports that the BSEE has "issued a Joint Safety Alert addressing a dynamic positioning (DP) incident involving an offshore supply vessel (OSV) which resulted in a loss of position while conducting a critical Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) activity."

Also providing coverage are the [Maritime Executive](#) (2/25, 21) and the [Marine Log](#) (2/25, 249).

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION URGED PURSUE ENERGY EXPLORATION. In an op-ed for [Roll Call](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 102K), Rep. Renee Ellmers writes that "in order to unleash our true energy potential, we must explore all options — including exploration on federal lands. It is time to have a long-term energy policy for America." Ellmers views the recent Mid- and South-Atlantic offshore plan as "one step forward and two steps back because" it "has removed millions of acres of potentially resource-rich land from exploration." Ellmers urges the Obama Administration to "yes to energy; it is time to open the 87 percent of federal land currently prohibited from potential energy exploration."

In an op-ed for the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (2/25, 322K), Michael Whatley, the executive vice president of the Consumer Energy Alliance, writes that "the Obama administration took a commendable first step forward recently when it announced that it would consider — with public input — opportunities to lease offshore oil and natural gas fields in designated areas of US coastal waters — including along the southeastern coastline, from Virginia to Georgia." He argues that "increases in offshore production will spur high-wage job growth all across our economy, increase tax revenue and supply revenue needed to fund badly needed infrastructure improvements throughout the US and especially in Virginia and its adjacent Atlantic states."

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

CONTINUING DROUGHT COULD LEAD TO DRAINING OF LAKE TULLOCH. The [Calaveras \(CA\) Enterprise](#) (2/25, 18K) reports that "as the drought continues in California, fears that Lake Tulloch Reservoir might be drained for irrigation and fish flow may become a reality." Oakdale Irrigation District General Manager Steve Knell has "released a statement outlining a plan to deal with the district's fifth year of drought conditions," and "the plan included the draining of Tulloch Reservoir by July or August of this year."

Empowering Native American Communities:

DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR LAND PURCHASE OFFERS ON PINE RIDGE. The [AP](#) (2/24) reports that "the deadline is approaching for owners of parcels on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to accept land buyback offers from the federal government." The Interior Department says "owners of fractional interests have until April 20 to accept the purchase offer."

Also providing coverage are the [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (2/25, 101K), the [Franklin \(IN\) Daily Journal](#) (2/25, 51K), the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (2/25, 66K), the [Nation Sun News](#) (2/24), and the [Native News Online](#) (2/25).

PROPOSED MUSKEGON COUNTY CASINO MOVES AHEAD. The [MLive](#) (2/25, 525K) reports that "the tribal casino proposed for the former Great Lakes Downs racetrack took a step forward on Monday." The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians on Monday "filed its application at the Bureau of Indian Affairs' regional office to take land into trust for a proposed casino and retail development project to be located on 60 acres in Fruitport Township." Little River Band Tribal Ogema Larry Romanelli said, "For the past seven years, we have worked with the Muskegon region to bring viable economic development to both of our communities. This project would jumpstart the local economy and help provide support for expanded tribal government services for our tribal members."

Also reporting on the story are the [MLive](#) (2/25, 525K), the [Shoreline Media Group \(MI\)](#) (2/25), [WZZM-TV](#) Grand Rapids, MI (2/24, 43K), and [WWTV-TV](#) Cadillac, MI (2/25, 24K).

LEGISLATORS DISCUSS PROPOSED NEW MEXICO GAMBLING COMPACT. The [AP](#) (2/24) reports that "casinos run by some American Indian tribes in New Mexico would get to stay open around the clock and offer complimentary food and lodging under a revamped gambling compact negotiated by Gov. Susana Martinez's office and the tribes." According to the article, "a special committee of lawmakers met Tuesday to discuss the latest version, which would also clear the way for the casinos to extend credit to some high-rolling patrons." The article notes that "the Legislature is under pressure to act this session because the current compact with the Navajo Nation and some other tribes expires in June."

Office of Insular Affairs:

INTERAGENCY GROUP MEETS ON INSULAR AREAS. The [St. Croix Source](#) (2/25) reports that "Tuesday in Washington, D.C., Delegate Stacey Plaskett pressed federal officials to remember insular territories' tourism industries while opening to Cuba, and Gov. Kenneth Mapp asked US Customs Officials to take away newly imposed hurdles to importing." According to the article, "Mapp, Plaskett and their counterparts in American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, met with officials from the US Departments of Interior, Health and Human Services among others at the 2015 Senior Plenary Session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas to discuss issues of critical importance." Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "opened the meeting, but left shortly after for Congressional budget hearings, leaving White House Intergovernmental Affairs Director Jerry Abramson and Assistant Secretary Esther Kia'aina to run the meeting."

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA'AINA DEFENDS FOCUS ON CLIMATE CHANGE. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (2/25, 61K) reports that "Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo questioned the Department of the Interior's priorities, in light of its increasing focus on climate change," at a meeting in Washington, D.C. Bordallo said "the impact of the exodus of migrants from the remote Micronesian islands to Guam and Hawaii, is more urgent than climate change as far as the host governments are concerned." Interior Assistant Secretary Esther Kia'aina "responded that climate change is a priority for President Obama and that her agency was following the White House's 'marching orders.'"

Top National News:

MEDIA ANALYSES KEYSTONE VETO A SIGNAL TO GOP MAJORITIES. The President's veto of legislation authorizing construction of the Keystone XL pipeline generated extensive print coverage, as well as brief mentions on all three network newscasts. Reports cast the veto as a win for environmentalists, while noting that the President, in his [veto statement](#), did not rule out approving construction of the pipeline once he is assured that it will have no harmful effects on the environment. Because of that fact, some commentators downplayed the importance of the veto, which had been widely expected. For example, in an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/25, 5.17M) bemoans the "attention slathered on this overblown issue," which should be dispatched "to the footnote it deserved in the first place." The main theme in today's media coverage, however, is the idea that yesterday's veto marks the launch of a new strategic phase in the Obama presidency as he grapples with GOP majorities in both the House and Senate who are intent on undoing his agenda.

To the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/25, Parsons, Hennesey, 3.49M), for example, Obama "unceremoniously opened a fourth chapter of his presidency Tuesday — the veto era." While "Obama's first two years were built around legislative victories... the final two years... will almost certainly be dominated by defense as he fends off Republican efforts to undo his policies." The [AP](#) (2/25, Lederman) says the President "sought to reassert his authority" while "rebuffing GOP lawmakers," and [USA Today](#) (2/24, Korte, 10.32M) notes the White House "has already issued 13 formal veto threats so far this year — the most ever at this point in a new Congress since President Reagan first started issuing written veto threats in 1985." [Politico](#) (2/25, Lerner, 669K) ran a similar analysis under the headline "Keystone Veto Will Be First Of Many For President Obama," while the [New York Times](#) (2/25, Davenport, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) describes the veto as "a demonstration of political strength directed at Republicans."

The veto "is expected to usher in a new era of hostile confrontation between the president and the Republican Congress," says the [National Journal](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 111K). The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Nelson, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), on the other hand, says that it will test whether Obama and the GOP Congress can clash on certain issues and still work together on others down the line. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) also notes the theme of a

Last night, Lester Holt noted in a brief [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/24, story 9, 0 25, Holt, 7.86M) report that yesterday's was "just the third veto of" Obama's presidency, while Scott Pelley reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (2/24, story 9, 0:25, Pelley, 5.08M) that the President "said he's still considering the environmental impact" of the pipeline. [Bloomberg News](#) (2/25, Keane, 2 94M) notes Obama "has repeatedly said a State Department review of the TransCanada Corp. project.. should proceed before a decision is made."

On that issue, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/25, Parsons, 3.49M) notes that a recent EPA report to the State Department found that "the pipeline would add as much carbon dioxide to the air each year as 6 million passenger vehicles," but White House press secretary Josh Earnest "said the EPA assessment doesn't necessarily decide the question." In fact, the [New York Times](#) (2/25, Davenport, Shear, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says the review found "the pipeline was unlikely to contribute to a significant increase of planet-warming greenhouse gases because the fuel was likely to be extracted from the oil sands and sold with or without construction of the pipeline," though "this month, environmentalists pointed to a different" EPA "review.. that they said proved the pipeline could add to greenhouse gases." Tim McDonnell, in an online piece for [Mother Jones](#) (2/25, 719K), says that according to the EPA, "a green-light for the pipeline would lead to greater greenhouse gas emissions than if it were not approved." Bret Baier, on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/24, 1 53M), indicated the veto came "despite the State Department's conclusion that it would have no adverse effect on the environment."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/25, Eilperin, Zezima, 5.17M) notes Earnest said of an eventual presidential approval, following the review, "it certainly is possible," and Nicholas Confessore of the New York Times said on [MSNBC's Now](#) (2/24, 213K), "I'm not entirely convinced he eventually doesn't approve this," adding that it is possible that "all the approvals come in, that the studies say 'yes, we should do this,' and then he eventually signs off on it." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Harder, Lee, Subscription Publication, 5.67M), likewise, emphasizes that Obama vetoed the legislation, but that does not preclude the eventual construction of the pipeline. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/25, Parsons, 3.49M) notes that "the project's backers.. have become increasingly gloomy about ever receiving a green light from Obama."

On [ABC World News](#) (2/24, story 11, 0 25, Muir, 5.84M), David Muir said that Republicans "are expected to come up short on the votes needed to override the veto." Likewise, [USA Today](#) (2/24, Korte, 10.32M) calls an override "unlikely," but [AFP](#) (2/25, Beatty) reports, nonetheless, that "a Senate aide said the chamber will hold an override vote before March 4." Moreover, according to [McClatchy](#) (2/25, Cockerham, Subscription Publication, 17K), "pipeline backers are talking about other tactics to pressure Obama on the issue, such as attaching pipeline approval to bills that fund federal agencies."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/25, Eilperin, Zezima, 5.17M) quotes Speaker Boehner as calling the veto "a national embarrassment," adding that "it's embarrassing when Russia and China are plowing ahead on two massive pipelines and we can't get this one no-brainer of a project off the ground. The president is just too close to environmental extremists." RNC chair Reince Priebus, meanwhile, "said the veto shows that Obama is 'out of step' with Americans."

Republicans, said the [Daily Caller](#) (2/24, Bastasch, 318K), "have hit Obama for shutting down a project that would make the US less dependent on oil from OPEC, Russia and other unfriendly nations." A.B. Stoddard of TheHill.com said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/24, 1 53M) that the pipeline is "still a very good issue for Republicans who have had a very rough two months in their new majority in the Senate and expanded majority in the House."

Also on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/24, 1 53M), Steve Hayes of The Weekly Standard argued that it is "time for Republicans to move on. Republicans have used the Keystone pipeline. They have talked about it ad nauseam. They have used it, I think, as a replacement for a real agenda. It is time for a real agenda." Chris Hayes said on [MSNBC's All In](#) (2/24, 251K), "I think there is a massive gulf in how much Republicans think people are following the Keystone fight, and the broad political appeal, and how much it actually has." David Francis, writing for [Foreign Policy](#) (2/24, 325K), says the pipeline has "become more about politics than the limited energy benefits it would provide." The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/24, Gilmour, 380K) similarly reported that "ultimately, Keystone XL, with a planned capacity of 830,000 barrels per day, would represent less than ten percent of the roughly 12 million barrels of oil the US produces each day and the roughly 19 million barrels it consumes."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/25, Eilperin, Zezima, 5.17M) notes Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune "said that Obama 'kept his word' and rejected the bill." Sen. Bernie Sanders "also praised Obama," saying, "This veto tells the world that our nation takes seriously the planetary crisis of global warming and that we will not support legislation that would let a Canadian oil company ship some of the dirtiest oil on the planet across the United States." The [Huffington Post](#) (2/24, Sheppard, 281K) quotes Rhea Suh, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council, as saying, "This misguided Keystone XL bill, pushed by the fossil fuel industry, has met its just and expected doom. ... The president got exactly right by vetoing it." Suh, in a [USA Today](#) (2/24, Suh, 10 32M) op-ed, urges Obama "to kill this project once and for all," because "it's not a plan to help our country," but rather "it's about big profits for big oil – and big pollution for the rest of us." [Roll Call](#) (2/25, Dennis, Subscription Publication, 102K) and [The Hill](#) (2/24, Barron-Lopez, 224K) run similar reports this morning.

On [MSNBC's The Ed Show](#) (2/24, 444K), Ed Schultz called the veto a "huge win" for "Nebraska landowners who still have imminent domain issues," adding that environmentalists "are going to be applauding the President." Rebecca Leber, writing for the [New Republic](#) (2/25, 165K), asked of the environmentalists' reaction, "But what are they celebrating? This wasn't an outright rejection of TransCanada's permit to build the pipeline" and "the veto wasn't even a surprise," which "didn't stop Keystone opponents from overreacting."

[USA Today](#) (2/24, Board, 10 32M) editorializes that "Congress ought to end this drama by overriding Obama's veto," and "if the votes can't be mustered on Capitol Hill, the president has more than enough information to bring down the curtain. It is long past time to just say yes."

Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (2/24, 1 53M), "The President's statement in the veto is astonishing. He gives two reasons why he had to exercise the veto. Number one, it conflicts with the established executive branch procedures. This is a man who, about a month ago, signed with a pen the legalization of five million illegal aliens in contradiction to the statute, to the law, and to what he, himself, Obama had said at least a dozen times was unconstitutional and illegal. ... The other argument: He says he exercised the veto because the thing that they passed in Congress cut short thorough consideration of the issues. This is after 2,300 days of considering the issue. This is after five State Department reviews. You could have reviewed the Bible 11 times and done it in a shorter period of time."

Canadians Confident Pipeline Will Be Built. [Politico](#) (2/25, Schor, 669K) reported "the Canadian government put on a brave face, predicting that Keystone will eventually be built." Canadian Natural Resources Minister Greg Rickford said in a statement, "It is not a question of if this project will be approved; it is a matter of when."

MEDIA ANALYSES MCCONNELL BLINKS IN DHS FUNDING STANDOFF. Media reports cast Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's proposal to avoid a DHS shutdown as something akin to a capitulation in the partisan standoff over funding the agency. [Politico](#) (2/25, Everett, Kim, 669K), for example, described McConnell as "bending to Democratic demands," with [USA Today](#) (2/24, Kelly, Davis, 10 32M) saying he was "bowing to political realities" and [McClatchy](#) (2/24, Memoli, Subscription Publication, 17K) stating that he acted out of eagerness "to spare his party political blame for a.. shutdown." The [Washington Times](#) (2/24, Miller, 644K) describes McConnell as "flailing for an exit strategy," while on its website, [Roll Call](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 102K) headlined its report "McConnell Throws in Towel On DHS Fight." Neil Munro, reporting for the conservative [Daily Caller](#) (2/25, Munro, 318K), called McConnell's proposal "a strategic victory for" the President and Senate Minority Leader Reid.

Moreover, analysts predict a tough road ahead for McConnell's plan, which has not yet won the Democrats' endorsement and could encounter serious headwinds from House Republicans and Senate conservatives. McConnell, [USA Today](#) (2/24, Kelly, Davis, 10.32M) reports, "would allow a vote on a Homeland Security funding bill without any immigration provisions attached," and then "seek a separate Friday vote that would allow senators to go on record in support or opposition to...Obama's executive actions on immigration." [McClatchy](#) (2/24, Memoli, Subscription Publication, 17K), however, says the plan "faces an uncertain path with just days before a midnight Friday deadline," because while "conservatives quickly expressed reservations at what they considered another cave-in by Republican leadership," Democrats "would not commit to cooperating unless" Speaker Boehner "guaranteed a vote in the House." [Politico](#) (2/25, Everett, Kim, 669K) noted that Reid said, "Unless Boehner's in on the deal, it won't happen." [Politico](#) (2/25, Everett, Kim, 669K) noted that Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid said, "Unless Boehner's in on the deal, it won't happen." Dana Milbank, in his [Washington Post](#) (2/25, Milbank, 5.17M) column, writes that for Reid and his caucus, "revenge is a dish best served bold." At this point, he adds, "Democrats don't have a lot of incentive to take yes for an answer just yet."

Underscoring Democratic mistrust for McConnell's intentions, [The Blaze](#) (2/24, Kasperowicz, 2.17M) cites unnamed Senate "aides" who said McConnell is simply "trying to test whether a handful of Senate Democrats might support a stand-alone bill to defund Obama's action." Moreover, while "many interpreted McConnell's move as a sign that a separate vote would be allowed on a 'clean' DHS spending bill," he "made no promises on Monday that this would happen." Reid spokesman Adam Jentleson said yesterday, "In other words, all.. McConnell's move tonight allows him to do is force an initial procedural vote on Friday morning on a bill that doesn't fund DHS, with DHS funding set to run out Friday night."

On its website, [Roll Call](#) (2/24, Subscription Publication, 102K) reported that Boehner spokesman Michael Steel last night did not indicate his boss' stance on the plan, and the [Huffington Post](#) (2/24, Foley, 281K) and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (2/24, Przybyla, 169K) note House Republicans will meet this morning to review their strategy. [Reuters](#) (2/24, Cornwell), meanwhile, reports that a letter written by a group of conservative House members, including Reps. Jeff Duncan, Steve King, Louis Gohmert, Jim Jordan, Matt Salmon, and Mick Mulvaney urged Boehner to reject the deal.

Moreover, notes the [AP](#) (2/25, Espo, Werner), "even in the Senate, McConnell's plan had its GOP critics" yesterday. The [National Journal](#) (2/25, Fox, Mimms, Subscription Publication, 111K) reports that Sen. Jeff Flake said that when McConnell "announced the decision at a conference luncheon," it "had drawn ire from more-conservative members who believe" he "was giving in to Democratic demands without holding the president accountable." In fact, "multiple Republicans in the meeting said there was still broad disagreement as to whether a caving to Democrats demands for a clean funding bill was the best course forward." Citinq "four senators at the lunch session " [Politico](#) (2/25 Raiu

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, "who could face a tough reelection next year, sharply countered that McConnell's plan was the only option to not hamper law enforcement agencies that rely on money from" DHS. On its website, meanwhile, the [National Review](#) (2/25, Gehrke, 633K) quotes an unnamed GOP lawmaker describing McConnell's plan as "cave, cave, cave."

If McConnell's proposal fails to pass, the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/24, Kiefer, 380K) reported, "another option would be to buy more time...by passing a short-term 'continuing resolution' that temporarily extends DHS funds based on last year's budget." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Peterson, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) notes that Sen. Bob Corker yesterday predicted that will be the endgame, "My guess is that ultimately that's where we end up. ... I think short-term extensions are a lousy way of running government, but on the other hand you'd rather be fully funded than not have it."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/25, Nakamura, Sullivan, 5.17M) reports that Obama, meanwhile, "prepared to inject himself more forcefully into the debate with a town hall-style forum planned for Wednesday in Miami," but both he "and his aides have limited their dealings with Capitol Hill," believing "that there is little the president can do." An unnamed White House official tells the Post, "This is not a battle with the White House. This is a battle taking place on Capitol Hill. ... What you're going to see from the administration on DHS is up until Friday continuing to call attention publicly to the potential impact of shutting down DHS." The [Miami Herald](#) (2/25, Mazzei, 694K) notes that, at the event, which "will later air nationally on Miami-based Telemundo and sister network MSNBC," Obama "is expected to take questions Wednesday directly from undocumented immigrants," and "will also likely address the Homeland Security Department budget."

Former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell said on [MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (2/24, 487K) that if DHS is not funded, Republicans "will get significant share of the blame, the majority share of the blame," adding, "The courts have done what the Republicans want. It has basically stopped the President from enforcing his own policy. It will be appealed. That's the place to decide this issue, not by putting the conditions on something so essential as funding homeland security."

Luke Russert said on [MSNBC The Reid Report](#) (2/24), "In light of those threats that the United States has received from the Somali terrorist group al-Shabab about possibly attacking shopping malls, from operatives I spoke to within congressional Republican circles, there is a real worry if, heaven forbid, anything were to happen with a lapse of DHS funding an attack on a mall, it could stain the GOP brand on national security for a long, long time."

Juan Williams said on [Fox News' The Five](#) (2/24, 408K), "You know who has heartburn? It's Mitch McConnell. ... This is pure politics and that's why the American people are going to punish Republicans." Josh Hicks of the Washington Post noted on [Fox News' Shepard Smith Reporting](#) (2/24, 925K) that after Republican won control of the Senate in the midterm elections, McConnell "said there aren't going to be anymore shutdowns so he has to live up to that at this point. He's put in the good fight and he's had a few...attempts to try to overcome this Democratic filibuster in the Senate. It hasn't happened. Now it makes sense for him to divide this legislation up and try to pass these two measures separately."

Republican strategist Hogan Gidley said on [MSNBC's The Reid Report](#) (2/24) that Republicans "have a problem here. Constitutionally, if McConnell passes a funding bill for DHS from the Senate, we don't know if that is legal constitutionally because...pending bills are supposed to originate in the House." In addition, if the bill "does go back to the House...Tea Party Republicans are going to say we got re-elected or elected for the first time on getting rid of this executive amnesty. If you take this out of the bill, we have no leverage to argue with the President on anything else. So right now it is a stalemate and I have no idea where this is going to go."

Also on [MSNBC's The Reid Report](#) (2/24), Jonathan Capehart of the Washington Post noted that "the common denominator between the two congresses, whether Republicans are in the majority or Democrats in the majority in the Senate, [is] Mitch McConnell," who is again "saving Speaker Boehner from his caucus and from himself." Capehart added that while spending bills are supposed to originate in the House, if "Boehner is smart and can grab a hold of his caucus at least little bit, he will say to them, let's pass the identical bill, send it back to the Senate and let's get this done with."

Johnson Weighs In On Shutdown's Effects On Potential Security Threats. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/25, Sherry, 1.37M) reports that while DHS Secretary Johnson "stopped short Tuesday of saying potential terrorist targets like Bloomberg's Mall of America would be more vulnerable to attack," if his agency's funding is allowed to expire at the end of the week, he "noted he needs resources to keep the nation safe." Asked if the nation would be "more vulnerable during a shutdown, Johnson said, 'A shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security has real consequences to homeland security and public safety. Period. End of sentence.'"

Obama Defends Immigration Actions Delayed By "Partisan Lawsuit." In an op-ed that ran on [The Hill](#) (2/24, Obama, 224K) yesterday, the President defended his immigration measures and notes Judge Andrew Hanen's ruling "in response to a partisan lawsuit that delays" his "lawful, common-sense steps." Added Obama, "But make no mistake, I disagree with this judge's ruling." Obama also welcomes "the opportunity to work with anyone who wants to build on the improvements we've put in place, and fix our broken immigration system once and for all." Josh Gerstein reported in an online story for [Politico](#) (2/25, 669K) that Hanen "signaled Tuesday that he isn't inclined to rush a decision on the Obama Administration's request to lift the injunction he imposed last week." Hanen said "he'll give the states suing the federal government another week to respond," but "the issue of a possible stay in the case will likely be taken up by a federal appeals court before he rules one way or another."

Former Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales and David N. Strange, partner at Whittenburg Strange & Walker, write in [USA Today](#) (2/24, Gonzales, Strange, 10.32M) that Republicans should not seek to defund DHS, which would put them "in the crosshairs of critics and concerned Americans because of IS L and other growing threats around the world." Critics of Obama's orders, they argue, "have been handed a gift by...Hanen," and "now have the opportunity to take the initiative on meaningful immigration reform that enhances our national security and our economy."

USCIS Moves To Implement Part Of Obama's Immigration Action. The [Washington Times](#) (2/25, Boyer, 644K) reports that despite a Federal judge's order halting the President's temporary deportation amnesty, the Administration "moved Tuesday to carry out portions of President Obama's executive action on immigration." USCIS "announced it is extending eligibility to dependent spouses of H1-B visa holders to obtain work permits as part of Mr. Obama's immigration action." The [New York Times](#) (2/25, Preston, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports that the rule change has been "long sought by technology companies and other businesses."

GAO Praises Johnson's Leadership, DHS Improvements. The [Washington Post](#) (2/24, Markon, 5.17M) reported on its website that according to GAO, DHS "has made significant progress in fixing its numerous management challenges, and Secretary Jeh Johnson has shown 'exemplary commitment' in improving the agency charged with safeguarding Americans." GAO said DHS "has improved since its 2013 report in key areas such as financial management, IT acquisitions and senior leadership," and though it "remains on the high-risk list, GAO said it has 'fully addressed' nine of 30 high-risk areas and made progress toward addressing the other 21."

THUNE BACKS OFF EFFORT TO PUSH NET NEUTRALITY LEGISLATION. The [New York Times](#) (2/24, A1, Weisman, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says in a front-page story that the push for net neutrality has been "the longest, most sustained campaign of internet activism in history," and one "that the little guys appear to have won." The Times adds that on Tuesday, Sen. John Thune (R) "all but surrendered on efforts to overturn" the ruling, expected to be passed by the FCC on Thursday. Thune cited ongoing opposition from Democrats to even discussing bipartisan legislation on the issue until after the FCC had acted.

In a similar theme, the [Washington Post](#) (2/24, Fung, 5.17M) says in its "The Switch" blog that the expected passage "marks a key achievement for tech firms after a months-long campaign against some of the communications industry's most sophisticated lobbying operations." The Post adds that it is "easy to point to the coming FCC's vote as another indication Silicon Valley's time has come in Washington" but the "reality" is that the industry "has already arrived, and in a major way."

Democratic Commissioner Reportedly Seeking Late Changes To Proposed Rules. However, in a potential late wrinkle, [The Hill](#) (2/25, Hattem, 224K) reported that Mignon Clyburn, one of the three Democrats on the FCC, "wants to narrow the scope" of the rules. Clyburn has asked Chairman Tom Wheeler "to roll back some of the restrictions before the full commission votes on them, FCC officials said," though Wheeler has yet to respond. The move puts Wheeler in "the awkward position of having to either roll back his proposals, or defend the tough rules and convince Clyburn to back down." Wheeler needs Clyburn's vote to enact the rules, as the Democrats have only a 3-2 majority on the commission and both Republicans oppose the rules.

Meanwhile, in an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/25, Editorial, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) says that while net neutrality is drawing most of the scrutiny right now, Wheeler also is seeking to override state authority to regulate municipal broadband networks. The Journal bemoans his desire to preempt state laws that bar or limit municipal broadband.

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. "An Emerging Nuclear Deal With Iran." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/25, Board, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says the "quicken pace of talks suggests that negotiators...might be able to complete a framework by the end of March," but "this isn't certain." The Times says if the two sides are able to reach a deal, they "may be able to tackle other differences, including Iran's missile program and its growing involvement in regional conflicts," so "even if the deal is not perfect, the greater risk could well be walking away and allowing Iran to continue its nuclear activities unfettered."

"Four Months To Get It Right On Greece." The [New York Times](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) says in an editorial that EU leaders "avoided a potential catastrophe," but "did not...resolve any of the big problems that have grounded the economies of Greece and other eurozone countries." It argues that "it is in the interest of the rest of the eurozone... to strike a new kind of deal with Greece," or face the possibility that it "defaults on its debts and abandons the euro."

"Is That Really A Five-Star Nursing Home?" In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (2/25, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) welcomes a "revised system" to be put into effect on Friday by the Federal government that it says will provide consumers with "more accurate ratings of nursing homes." The Times says the move is "a step toward ensuring that a five-star rating really means that the home provides exemplary service and is not simply inflating its scores by lying about its performance."

WASHINGTON POST. ***"An 'Invitation' For Mr. Putin."*** The [Washington Post](#) (2/25, 5.17M) editorializes that "by withholding military aid from Ukraine and declining to punish the Debaltseve attack," President Obama "is risking the destructio

Conversation Contents

Fwd: Presidential Proclamation -- Establishment of the Honouliuli National Monument

Attachments:

/564. Fwd: Presidential Proclamation -- Establishment of the Honouliuli National Monument/1.1 2015honouliulimonument.prc.rel.pdf

"Milakofsky, Benjamin" <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Milakofsky, Benjamin" <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tue Feb 24 2015 14:38:20 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: DOI_Politicals <doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Presidential Proclamation -- Establishment of the Honouliuli National Monument
Attachments: 2015honouliulimonument.prc.rel.pdf

A slightly happier message, folks.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **White House Press Office** <noreply@messages.whitehouse.gov>
Date: Tue, Feb 24, 2015 at 4:23 PM
Subject: Presidential Proclamation -- Establishment of the Honouliuli National Monument
To: benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2015

Attached and signed by the President today is the proclamation on the Establishment of the Honouliuli National Monument.

###

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The White House · 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW · Washington DC 20500 · 202-456-1111

--

Ben Milakofsky
Deputy Chief of Staff
Department of the Interior
202-208-3437 (direct)
Ben_Milakofsky@ios.doi.gov

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 24, 2015

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HONOULIULI NATIONAL MONUMENT

- - - - -

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The Honouliuli Internment Camp (Honouliuli) serves as a powerful reminder of the need to protect civil liberties in times of conflict, and the effects of martial law on civil society. Honouliuli is nationally significant for its central role during World War II as an internment site for a population that included American citizens, resident immigrants, other civilians, enemy soldiers, and labor conscripts co-located by the U.S. military for internment or detention. While the treatment of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i differed from the treatment of Japanese Americans on the U.S. mainland in ways that are detailed below, the legacy of racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and failure of political leadership during this period is common to the history of both Hawai'i and the mainland United States.

Early on December 7, 1941, Japanese air and naval forces attacked Pearl Harbor and other military installations on O'ahu. Before martial law was invoked, government officials began selectively rounding up Hawai'i residents on suspicion of disloyalty. They were confined at local jails, courthouses, and other facilities on six of the main Hawaiian Islands before being transported to the U.S. Immigration Station and Sand Island Detention Camp on O'ahu. Nearly all of the internees were of Japanese descent, including leaders in the Japanese American community who were educated, were teachers or priests, or were distinguished by virtue of their access to means of communication with Japan or to transportation from Hawai'i. Most would be sent to the mainland to be held for the duration of the war in Department of Justice and War Relocation Authority camps. Despite the government's allegations of disloyalty, none of the Japanese American internees from Hawai'i was ever found guilty of sabotage, espionage, or overt acts against the United States, and all later received formal apologies and many received redress compensation from the United States.

On the Island of O'ahu, the U.S. War Department sought a place removed from the active combat areas of Pearl Harbor for internment of individuals. The War Department chose Honouliuli Gulch, the bottom of which was hidden from view by the gulch's steep walls. The Honouliuli Internment Camp opened on March 2, 1943, with the transfer of internees from Sand Island and rapidly swelled in population with the influx of prisoners of war. Managed by the U.S. Army, it was the largest and longest used confinement site in Hawai'i.

Honouliuli is significant for having been used as both a civilian internment camp and a prisoner of war camp, with a population of approximately 400 civilian internees and 4,000 prisoners of war over the course of its use. Honouliuli was divided into seven compounds: one compound for administration and guards, one for civilian internees, and eventually five compounds for prisoners of war. The civilian compound was further divided into sections for male civilian internees of Japanese ancestry, female civilian internees of Japanese ancestry, and civilian internees of European ancestry. Historic documents indicate there were 175 buildings, 14 guard towers, and over 400 tents among the 7 compounds on 160 acres. Many internees referred to Honouliuli as *Jigoku-Dani* (Hell Valley) because its secluded location at the bottom of a deep gulch trapped heat and moisture and reinforced the internees' sense of isolation and unjust confinement.

The majority of Honouliuli's civilian internees were American citizens or permanent resident aliens -- predominantly Japanese Americans who were citizens by birth -- interned on suspicion of disloyalty. The remaining group comprised predominantly German Americans, though there were also Americans and aliens of Italian, Irish, Russian, and Scandinavian descent. Honouliuli also held women and children who were Japanese civilians displaced from the Pacific.

The 4,000 prisoners of war in Honouliuli included enemy soldiers and labor conscripts from Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Taiwan, and Italy. The prisoner of war compounds were guarded by an African American infantry unit as well as units of Japanese Americans from the mainland.

Honouliuli closed in 1945 for civilian internees and in 1946 for prisoners of war. With the closing of the camp, fast-growing vegetation quickly took over the site. Honouliuli was forgotten as Americans celebrated the victories of World War II and focused attention on the valor displayed by Americans at Pearl Harbor and abroad.

While both mainland and Hawaiian internment camps are sobering examples of wartime prejudice and injustice, Honouliuli reminds us of the differences in the way that forced removal was approached in Hawai'i and on the mainland.

The primary difference between the Japanese American experience on the mainland and on Hawai'i is that the internment in Hawai'i targeted a relatively small percentage of the ethnic Japanese population on the islands. Less than one percent of Hawai'i's ethnic Japanese population was interned in Hawai'i. This contrasts with the mass exclusion of all 120,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast of the mainland. In Hawai'i, the Japanese American citizenry and immigrant population were over one third of the territory's total population. Without their participation in the labor force, the economy of the territory could not have been sustained and the war effort in the islands would have been crippled. Both the policies in Hawai'i and those on the mainland devastated Japanese Americans and their families and created a social stigma that was borne by Japanese Americans during and after the war. The selective nature of the internment in Hawai'i also sowed division within the Japanese American community in Hawai'i, leading to ostracism and other

backlash against the targeted individuals and their families that would last their lifetimes.

The declaration of martial law served as the basis to authorize internment in Hawai'i, as opposed to the mainland where mass exclusion was authorized by Executive Order 9066. During the period of martial law from December 7, 1941, to October 24, 1944, the U.S. Army issued hundreds of military orders, some of which were applicable only to persons of Japanese ancestry and enemy aliens. For example, people of Japanese ancestry were restricted from residing in certain areas of O'ahu and were forcibly removed from their properties. These types of discriminatory policies created an atmosphere of fear and suspicion.

Finally, Honouliuli is significant because of the comparatively lower level of public understanding and awareness of the history of internment of civilians in Hawai'i during World War II. On the mainland during World War II, mass exclusion was well known. In contrast, the internment in Hawai'i was largely kept secret during World War II, and has only recently become the subject of scholarship and awareness campaigns. It was not until 1998 that information about Honouliuli resurfaced. After 4 years of research and exploration, the site was uncovered in 2002. In 2008, an archeological research survey was conducted at the site. Honouliuli remains an object of archeological interest.

Honouliuli serves to remind every American about the critical importance of safeguarding civil liberties and maintaining our values during times of crisis. It is important to recognize Honouliuli as a part of our shared national heritage and national consciousness. It is a place to reflect on wartime experiences and recommit ourselves to the pursuit of freedom and justice.

WHEREAS section 320301 of title 54, United States Code (known as the "Antiquities Act"), authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected;

WHEREAS Honouliuli's objects of historic interest were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2012 as nationally significant for their association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

WHEREAS, for the purpose of establishing a national monument to be administered by the National Park Service, the Monsanto Company has donated certain lands at Honouliuli to the United States, and the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu has agreed to provide access across its property to those lands;

WHEREAS it is in the public interest to preserve and protect the historic objects at Honouliuli;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 320301 of title 54, United States Code, hereby proclaim the objects identified above that are situated upon lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be the Honouliuli National Monument (monument) and, for the purpose of protecting those objects, reserve as a part thereof all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government within the boundaries described on the accompanying map entitled, "Honouliuli National Monument," which is attached to and forms a part of this proclamation. The reserved Federal lands and interests in lands encompass approximately 123.0 acres, together with appurtenant easements for all necessary purposes. The boundaries described on the accompanying map are confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries described on the accompanying map are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, leasing or other disposition under the public land laws, from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

The establishment of the monument is subject to valid existing rights. Lands and interests in lands not owned or controlled by the Federal Government within the boundaries described on the accompanying map shall be reserved as a part of the monument, and objects identified above that are situated upon those lands and interests in lands shall be part of the monument, upon acquisition of ownership or control by the Federal Government.

The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) shall manage the monument through the National Park Service, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, consistent with the purposes and provisions of this proclamation. The Secretary shall prepare a management plan for the monument, with full public involvement, within 3 years of the date of this proclamation. The management plan shall ensure that the monument fulfills the following purposes for the benefit of present and future generations: (1) to preserve and protect the objects of historic interest associated with Honouliuli Internment Camp, and (2) to study and interpret the history of World War II internment and detention in Hawai'i. The management plan shall set forth the desired relationship of the monument to other related resources, programs, and organizations associated with World War II internment, detention, and exclusion.

The National Park Service shall use available authorities, as appropriate, to enter into agreements to provide for access to the monument. The National Park Service shall also use available authorities, as appropriate, to enter into agreements with governmental and nongovernmental organizations to provide for research, preservation, interpretation, and education at Honouliuli and additional sites associated with World War II internment in Hawai'i and exclusion elsewhere. The National Park Service shall also coordinate management with World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, which commemorates the

broader story of the war in the Pacific and its impacts on Hawai'i.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

BARACK OBAMA

#

Conversation Contents

Greenwire: Obama flexes muscles on resources with eye on legacy

"Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Beyer, Emily" <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Feb 23 2015 14:48:14 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: DOI_Politicals <doi_politicals@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Greenwire: Obama flexes muscles on resources with eye on legacy

Hi all,

We wanted to make sure everyone had a chance to see this piece from today's Greenwire.

Thanks,

Emily

1. WHITE HOUSE:

Obama flexes muscles on resources with eye on legacy

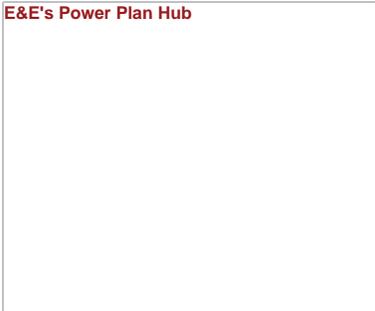
Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

Published: Monday, February 23, 2015

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E&E's Power Plan Hub



President Obama has quickly built a hefty portfolio on natural resource issues.

In the last two years, Obama has designated or expanded a dozen national monuments, preserved more than 1.1 million acres in the West and moved to permanently ban drilling in the oil-rich Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

And in the last month he's proposed the biggest expansion of offshore oil and gas exploration in a generation, paving the way for drilling rigs to plumb mostly virgin waters from Virginia to Georgia, while permitting the first oil production in the nation's largest petroleum reserve. Last Friday, his administration unveiled major rules governing Arctic oil exploration.

While Obama still has nearly two years left in the White House, his allies and critics are already sizing up his record on resources -- and thinking about what's to come.

If history is any indication, Obama's pace of executive actions on lands and waters could accelerate.

Consider that President Clinton in his last year in office designated or expanded 18 of his 19 national monuments, permanently setting aside more than 3.3 million acres, according to National Park Service [data](#).

Obama last week designated three new monuments covering 22,000 acres in Illinois, Colorado and Hawaii, calling parks, monuments and waters the "birthright of all Americans."

Other major land and energy decisions are fast approaching:

- The administration will decide in coming months whether to permit Royal Dutch Shell PLC to drill in the relatively pristine Chukchi Sea off Alaska's North Slope, where there are an estimated 15 billion barrels of oil.
- The Bureau of Land Management will write or finalize major rules governing hydraulic fracturing, methane venting and flaring, and royalties.
- And BLM will finalize unprecedented new protections for sage grouse across tens of millions of acres of Western rangelands, an effort some conservationists are comparing to Clinton's sweeping 2001 roadless rule.

"What Obama is doing is setting a platform for action over the next two years," said Bill Meadows, former president of the Wilderness Society. "There's so much more that can be done, and I think he's enjoying it."

Not enjoying Obama's action: Republican lawmakers.

"This White House has shown once again its utter and complete disdain for the public process, Congress and the communities most impacted by these unilateral, unchecked land designations," House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) said after Obama's monuments announcement last week. "Obama has sidelined the American public and bulldozed transparency."

While Republicans accuse Obama of flouting Congress and putting a regulatory muzzle on the nation's energy renaissance, they appear powerless to stop him.

The 1906 Antiquities Act gives presidents almost unchecked powers to ban oil drilling, mining and logging across enormous swaths of the American West. Clinton

coal deposit and enraging lawmakers in the Beehive State.

Obama has so far used the law more diplomatically, designating monuments only where there is broad political support and, incidentally, only in states that voted for him in 2012.

He's used the act 16 times, setting aside land at a faster clip than Clinton, but with fewer acres. But it's tough to draw comparisons, since every acre conserved is not equal.

A big test will be whether Obama will protect landscapes in hostile territory -- such as the half-million-acre Boulder-White Clouds in central Idaho and nearly 2 million acres surrounding Canyonlands National Park in Utah. Republican lawmakers in those states are urging Obama to stand down as they seek legislative protections.

But top Obama aides say the president has plenty of ink in his pen for creating monuments if Congress fails to act.

Green groups are also seeking protections of 1.7 million acres surrounding the Grand Canyon, more than 1 million acres in the Southern California desert and 350,000 acres of Nevada's Gold Butte, a vast desert of multihued rocks, petroglyphs and slot canyons.

Obama getting 'the hang of it'

Conservationists say Obama has gone from timid to bold on resource issues.

They point to Obama's proposal last month to designate some 12 million acres of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness -- barring access to an estimated 10 billion barrels of oil that Alaskan officials badly want to supply the depleted Trans-Alaskan Pipeline System.

The move was symbolic, since only Congress can decide whether the refuge is opened to drilling. But it reversed a Reagan administration plan seeking full oil and gas development in the 1.5-million-acre coastal plain -- a major policy stamp for the next 15 years.

And in contrast with the Fish and Wildlife Service's draft ANWR wilderness proposal -- which was quietly unveiled in August 2011, barely getting noticed in the media -- Obama and his advisers touted the final wilderness plan with gusto. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Chief of Staff Tommy Beaudreau stopped by the Washington, D.C., headquarters of the Alaska Wilderness League to celebrate the proposal.

It was a poke in the eye to the Alaska congressional delegation, including Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska).

"He's growing more comfortable using the administrative powers at his disposal," said Mike Matz, director of U.S. public lands for the Pew Charitable Trusts. "His administration has gotten ... the hang of it."

Matz credited John Podesta, the president's senior counselor on global warming, who founded the liberal Center for American Progress, for prodding Obama to act. Podesta in summer 2012, while at CAP, called monument designations "good politics," arguing they could burnish Obama's re-election bid in key Western battleground states. The ANWR announcement came at a politically advantageous time, given that gasoline prices were plunging as domestic oil production in the Lower 48 soared.

Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt played a similar role with Clinton by challenging the 42nd president to match the conservation achievements of past commanders in chief, Matz said.

"In Obama, you had another insider in John Podesta," Matz said. "You need someone who can make the administration comfortable up and down the ranks."

Green groups question whether Obama will keep up the momentum as key staffers depart and the administration heads for the home stretch.

Podesta left the White House this month to join Hillary Clinton's political team as she considers jumping into the 2016 presidential race. And Mike Boots, the acting chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, who is viewed as another champion for land protections, plans to leave the administration in March.

In addition, Obama is already laying claim to protecting more land and waters than any other president. The claim is true if you count the president's decision last September to expand the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument to more than 490,000 square miles.

Some conservationists fear he'll rest on his laurels. But others see new allies arriving at the White House.

A fresh arrival hailed by green groups is Christy Goldfuss, a former National Park Service political appointee who worked under Podesta at CAP, who is being groomed to take the helm at CEQ, sources said.

Environmentalists are also enthusiastic about Michael Degnan, a former Sierra Club representative, and Angela Barranco, who are both at CEQ, as well as Jewell's Deputy Chief of Staff Nikki Buffa, BLM Director Neil Kornze, and Agriculture Department Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment Robert Bonnie.

Last Wednesday, Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Connor attended a public meeting in Las Vegas with Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and Rep. Dina Titus (D-Nev.) to discuss their proposals to protect more than 1 million acres at Gold Butte and at Garden and Coal valleys, which include remote archaeological sites and a massive public art project.

Connor's attendance suggests the administration could be considering the area for a future monument. Jewell and Bonnie in December also visited Northern California's Berryessa Snow Mountain region, where conservationists are clamoring for a 350,000-acre monument designation.

'Not a love fest'

Douglas Brinkley, a history professor at Rice University who has written extensively on land conservation, said Obama must act with more pluck to rival Clinton's conservation legacy.

Neither president will rival the achievements of Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson or Jimmy Carter, who make up the "Mount Rushmore" of land conservation, according to Brinkley.

But Obama, who has already earned the title of "the climate change president," faces few political risks in pushing the conservation envelope, Brinkley said.

"The political atmosphere couldn't be better for the president to be brave in using the Antiquities Act."

The administration has put its stamp on public lands in more subtle ways, too, by implementing controversial oil and gas leasing reforms in 2010 that were followed by a steep drop in BLM lands leased for drilling, and by yanking 77 George W. Bush-era oil and gas leases that former Interior Secretary Ken Salazar argued were too close to national parks in Utah.

BLM issued 1,157 oil and gas leases in fiscal 2014, a 20 percent drop from the previous year and the lowest amount in at least a quarter-century, according to agency statistics released last month. Over the past five years, the agency has leased an average of 1.5 million acres annually, down significantly from the 4 million acres the George W. Bush administration leased annually during its final five years in office.

Oil production has grown steadily on Western federal lands, but nowhere near as fast as on private tracts overlying shale plays in states like North Dakota and Texas. The administration's critics blame BLM red tape, while others attribute the discrepancy to geology.

Natural gas production has dropped steadily on federal lands -- even as it has soared elsewhere -- and oil production has fallen under Obama's watch in the Gulf of Mexico, though some of the drop can be attributed to the halt in drilling following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill.

"[For] people pushing for more government control and less extraction on federal lands, Obama is their savior," said Dan Kish, senior vice president for the Institute for Energy Research, a free-market advocacy group. "He's basically given them all they want and more."

Oil backers offered tempered praise for Obama's decision last month to open the Atlantic Ocean to future leasing, though they blasted his decision to ban

The leasing proposal "slams the door on industry and on new jobs, increased economic activity, added revenue and strengthened energy security," said Randall Luthi, president of the National Ocean Industries Association.

But Meadows, the Wilderness Society former president, said Obama is far from a conservative lap dog.

Obama's "all of the above" energy platform has included a heavy emphasis on natural gas drilling, coal leasing in Wyoming and drilling in the Arctic Ocean, Meadows said.

"This is not a love fest by any means," he said.

'Very pragmatic'

According to Paul Bledsoe, a former Clinton Interior official, Obama has been "bullish" on the future of oil and gas development.

The administration has implemented unprecedented safety reforms in the Gulf of Mexico and is preparing two major rules governing hydraulic fracturing and the venting and flaring of methane -- moves that should facilitate continued development of federal minerals, he said.

"The Obama administration has reformed and improved the safety and environmental sustainability of oil and gas development on public lands and waters more profoundly than any other recent president," Bledsoe said. "This administration, in my view, has been very pro-oil and gas development, even while protecting pristine landscapes from development and creating a record area of new national monuments."

Bledsoe said it is politically remarkable that less than five years after the BP PLC oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the administration is poised to open the Atlantic.

Moreover, the administration has taken a flexible approach to conserving the greater sage grouse, Bledsoe said, by taking lessons from the northern spotted owl, whose protection under the Endangered Species Act in the early 1990s led to dramatic reductions in logging.

"They're very pragmatic," Bledsoe said. "It's a window into the adaptability of the Obama administration's view of conservation broadly."

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Conversation Contents

Obama's National Monument Designations

"Barkin, Pamela" <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Barkin, Pamela" <pamela_barkin@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Mon Feb 23 2015 09:53:10 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, Christopher Salotti <chris_salotti@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabiella (Janou) Gordon" <gabiella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Obama's National Monument Designations

Just as a data point, I counted 16 NMs proclaimed by Obama:

Obama National Monuments

16. Pullman National Monument in Illinois [2/19/15—NPS]
15. Brown's Canyon National Monument in Colorado [2/19/15 – BLM and FWS]
14. Honouliuli National Monument in Hawaii [2/19/15 – NPS]

13. San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in California [10/10/14 – USFS]
12. Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (expansion) [9/25/14 -- FWS]
11. Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in New Mexico [5/21/14 -- BLM]
10. Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands enlargement of California Coastal National Monument [3/11/14 --BLM]
9. Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument in Ohio [3/25/13 -- NPS]
8. First State National Monument in Delaware [3/25/13 -- NPS]
7. Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument in Maryland [3/25/13 -- NPS]
6. Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in New Mexico [3/25/13 -- BLM]
5. San Juan Islands National Monument in Washington [3/25/13 -- BLM]
4. The César E. Chávez National Monument in Keene, California [10/8/12 -- NPS]
3. Chimney Rock National Monument in Colorado [9/21/12 -- USFS]
2. Fort Ord National Monument in California [1/20/12 -- BLM]
1. Fort Monroe a National Monument in Virginia [11/1/11 -- NPS]

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Conversation Contents

Santa Cruz Sentinel: Editorial: Monumental designation

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Sent: Mon Feb 23 2015 06:24:33 GMT-0700 (MST)
John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Emily Beyer <emily_beyer@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, James Anderson <jeanderson@blm.gov>, Jeff Krauss <JKrauss@blm.gov>, Celia Boddington <cbodding@blm.gov>, Craig Leff <cleff@blm.gov>, Frank Quimby <Frank_Quimby@ios.doi.gov>, Terri Johnson <terri_johnson@ios.doi.gov>, Francisco Carrillo <francisco_carrillo@ios.doi.gov>, Steven Avila <steven_avila@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Jeremy Bratt <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>, Stephenne Harding <stephenne_harding@ios.doi.gov>, "Gabriella (Janou) Gordon" <gabriella_gordon@ios.doi.gov>
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Santa Cruz Sentinel: Editorial: Monumental designation

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POSTED: 02/21/15, 2:00 PM PST |

The rollout was certainly something to see.

An estimated 1,500 people turned out at the Kaiser Permanente Arena last week to kick off the campaign to turn a swath of wilderness along Santa Cruz County's North Coast into something much more — the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument.

Backers of the plan for the 5,800-acre Coast Dairies property trotted out 100 local elementary students to sing "This Land is Your Land."

A leader of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band opened the event with a Native American blessing of the land.

Former U.S. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt urged the community to rally behind the plan.

State Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird, Santa Cruz's own, told the crowd Gov. Jerry Brown was backing the proposal.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, speaking via videocast, announced legislation she was launching to create the national monument. She will lead the effort in Congress, which has the power to establish national monuments, while others will lobby President Obama to make the designation through powers he holds through the federal Antiquities Act.

So, yes, plan backers certainly flexed some serious political muscle. But does that make the plan worth backing? That answer is complicated.

Bay Area conservation groups say they want to raise the land's profile, which was preserved in 1998 when environmentalists purchased the six-mile stretch of property with \$40 million from the Trust for Public Land.

But let's be clear. Raising the profile really means figuring out how to get the cash to manage the property, and this is clearly what this effort is all about. The Bureau of Land

Conversation Contents

U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for
Monday, February 23, 2015

Bulletin Intelligence

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Advertisement

We support the idea of actually granting the public access to protected spaces rather than just acquiring land and locking the gates, as can be the case with public land acquisition — but doing so to the extent this monument proposal would do comes with significant challenges.

The concerns from property neighbors in Davenport and Bonny Doon about traffic and strains on local public safety resources are legitimate and will need addressing. Picture the drive up Highway 1 to Davenport, especially when you're stuck behind a slow-moving RV whose driver seems oblivious to the dozens of cars stacked up behind him. Now picture thousands more people on the road. Where exactly will people access the land? Where will they park? Where will that visitor center go? What other facilities would be needed and built? No one is offering exact estimates on visitors, but Fort Ord in Monterey County, a recently designated national monument, saw 400,000 people last year.

We also have to ask: This is a grand piece of property, but what exactly qualifies it as a national monument? It's an expansive stretch of undeveloped coast in a part of the world where that is getting more and more rare, but the property also surrounds a polluted old cement plant.

The monument, meanwhile, would have redwoods in the name, but the majority of the land has none. Big Basin Redwoods State Park to the north, The Forest of Nisene Marks State Park to the south and Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park to the east could each arguably claim more impressive stands.

And is it correct for the president to designate the area a monument just because he can? Use of the Antiquities Act to create these open-space monuments is a loophole, and this local push is likely happening now because of concerns a Republican-controlled Congress would close it. Obama has so far established 13 national monuments, and more are coming. Last week Obama designated a Chicago neighborhood where African-American railroad workers won a historic labor agreement as a national monument. The Honouliuli National Monument, site of an internment camp in Hawaii where Japanese-American citizens and prisoners of war were held during World War II, will come next, then the Brown's Canyon National Monument in Colorado, a popular whitewater rafting site.

Backers of the local project know the drill, and are saying and doing all the right things — they'll engage the public, seek community buy-in and address concerns.

We hope they do that. The proposal could transform the county's North Coast. It could speed transformation of the cement plant. It could be an economic boost to the entire region. But first myriad issues need to be addressed.

- + Washington Monument Celebrating 230th Birthday.
- + Additional Coverage Of National Park Attendance.
- + Additional Coverage: NPS Maps Noise Levels Throughout US.
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- + Additional Coverage: Land Owner Closes Off Access To Anniversary Narrows Near Lake Mead.
- + Additional Coverage Of Yellowstone Bison Slaughter.

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- + USGS Analyzes Idaho Groundwater Data To Optimize Future Aquifer Monitoring.
- + Additional Coverage: USGS Urges Greater Transparency, Data Sharing On Quakes Linked To Oil, Gas Production.

From: Bulletin Intelligence
<Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Sent: Mon Feb 23 2015 05:00:46 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: Interior@bulletinintelligence.com
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Monday, February 23, 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com.

DATE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015 7 00 AM EST

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- + Late Night Political Humor.

DOI in the News:

INTERIOR UNVEILS ARCTIC OFFSHORE DRILLING SAFETY RULES. The [National Journal](#) (2/22, Subscription Publication, 111K) reports that the Interior Department "unveiled draft rules Friday aimed at preventing and containing oil spills in harsh Arctic waters off Alaska's shores, where big energy companies including Royal Dutch Shell hope to tap potentially huge petroleum deposits." Interior officials say "the tough Arctic climate, the limited port infrastructure in the region, and the subsistence hunting needs of native communities warrant special rules to govern offshore drilling in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas off Alaska's northern coast." BSEE Director Brian Salerno said, "Energy exploration in the Arctic is unique. It is conducted in a very sensitive and challenging environment, where extreme weather, frigid waters, and sea ice are common, and where supporting infrastructure and logistical support capabilities are lacking."

The [FuelFix](#) (2/20, 7K) reports that BOEM Director Abigail Ross Hopper said, "The Arctic outer continental shelf isn't like the Gulf of Mexico, where generally mild weather conditions and an established industry presence have created an extensive infrastructure and logistical support and allow for nearly year-round operations. Instead, the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea . . . are incredibly remote, vastly underdeveloped and subject to extreme geophysical conditions."

[The Hill](#) (2/22, Cama, 224K) reports that "regulators are likely to consider a requirement that drillers keep a relief rig nearby while drilling, seasonal limits on drilling during winter ice and that drillers demonstrate that they could contain spills mechanically with the equipment they have on site, according to an analysis Shell prepared for the Interior Department last year, which the agency released publicly." [Bloomberg News](#) (2/21, 2.94M) reports that Hopper said, "Until now these requirements were applied as part of Shell's exploration plan. The proposed regulation takes those requirements and codifies them."

The [Washington Post](#) (2/21, Warrick, 5.17M) reports that "the proposed rules drew a mixed reaction from both the energy industry and environmentalists, as well as from elected officials." Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva, the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee, said "regulators should not take steps to encourage further energy development in the Arctic."

[The Hill](#) (2/22, Cama, 224K) reports that "industry groups are blasting the Obama administration's plan to crack down offshore oil and gas drilling in the Arctic Ocean, arguing that the proposal includes costly and unnecessary restrictions." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/20, Harder, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) reports that Shell spokesman Curtis Smith said, "Of paramount concern in all of our operations is safety and environmental protection. We support regulations that further these imperatives in the Arctic, provided they are clear, consistent and well-reasoned."

The [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (2/20, 146K) reports that Erik Milioto, upstream director for the American Petroleum Institute, said "standby rigs are not needed." He said, "Other equipment and methods, such as a capping stack, can be used to achieve the same-season relief with equal or higher levels of safety and environmental protection. For this reason, it is unnecessarily burdensome to effectively require two rigs to drill a single well."

The [Guardian \(UK\)](#) (2/20, 2.74M) reports that "environmental groups praised the administration's recognition of the extreme Arctic conditions, where the nearest coast guard and deep water port lies some 1,000 miles away." However, "they said the new rules were not enough to protect the Arctic – and it would be premature to open up the area to drilling."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [Newsday](#) (2/22, 1.41M).

Also reporting on the story are the [AP](#) (2/20), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/20, 2.42M), [The Hill](#) (2/21, Cama, 224K), the [Washington Examiner](#) (2/23, 315K), the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (2/23, 14K), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (2/20, 2K), the [Huffington Post](#) (2/20, Sheppard, 281K), [Reuters](#) (2/20), [Reuters \(UK\)](#) (2/20, 5K), the [International Business Times](#) (2/22, 1.19M), the [E&P Magazine](#) (2/22), [Platts](#) (2/22, 3K), the [Offshore Engineer](#) (2/22), the [Maritime Executive](#) (2/23, 21), the [Law 360](#) (2/23, 9K), [KTVA-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (2/23, 1K), and [KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (2/22, 56K).

SECRETARY JEWELL TO APPEAR BEFORE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. The [AP](#) (2/20) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will testify Tuesday "about the president's budget proposal before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee."

CONSERVATION GROUPS HOPE TO WORK WITH REP. BISHOP. The [Huffington Post](#) (2/20, Sheppard, 281K) reports that as the new chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Rob Bishop is "setting a different tone from that of his predecessor, encouraging conservation advocates to think they may be able to find common ground this Congress." Bishop took over the chairmanship in January from retiring Rep. Doc Hastings who had "an openly hostile relationship with environmental groups, recording a 3 percent lifetime score from the League of Conservation Voters and prompting one environmental lobbyist to declare 'good riddance' when he announced his retirement." The article notes that "some of Bishop's early moves have raised environmental hackles, including some personnel changes that suggest the committee will take a more aggressive oversight role." However, "many in the conservation world say they are optimistic about working with Bishop."

REPUBLICANS PUSHING CHANGES TO LWCF. The [Washington Examiner](#) (2/23, 315K) reports that "Republicans are signaling the changes they want to a landmark federal conservation program that must be reauthorized before the year ends." They want "states to get more control of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a 50-year-old program that is funded by offshore oil-and-gas drilling royalties."

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF RECENT ARCTIC DECISIONS. In an op-ed for the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (2/22, 146K), Barae Hirsch, a student at West High School, writes that "when Interior Secretary Sally Jewell attended the Alaska Federation of Natives' winter retreat in Kotzebue on Feb. 17, she was faced by many state politicians, including Gov. Bill Walker, nine state lawmakers and the Alaska congressional delegation." Hirsch is "immensely grateful that Alaska lawmakers are devoted to furthering the best interests of our state to ensure Alaska's stability and prosperity," but says that "Alaska youth have an alternative perspective on Alaska's best interests."

In an op-ed for the [Anchorage \(AK\) Dispatch News](#) (2/21, 146K), Paul Jenkins, editor of the AnchorageDailyPlanet, writes that "an angry Sen. Lisa Murkowski finally has Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's attention – and all it took was a not-so-veiled threat to bite a chunk out of Jewell's department budget." According to Jenkins, "that is bad news for Jewell, notoriously tone deaf about all things Alaska, because Murkowski chairs the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which oversees Interior's budget." Jenkins argues that "Murkowski's growing frustration is justified" because "the Obama administration's affronts to Alaska are boundless."

Additional coverage of the visit by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell to Kotzebue in Alaska was provided by the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (2/20, 2K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE PRESIDENT OBAMA DECLARES NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN COLORADO, HAWAII, ILLINOIS. Additional coverage of the new national monuments in Colorado, Hawaii, and Illinois were provided by [Politico](#) (2/20, 683K), the [Washington Examiner](#) (2/23, 315K), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (2/22, 2.42M), the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (2/23, 1.11M), the [Marianas Variety](#) (2/23), the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (2/20, 59K), the [Asahi Shimbun \(JAP\)](#) (2/20, 33K), the [Japan News](#) (2/22), the [Environment News Service](#) (2/22, 149), [NDTV \(IND\)](#) (2/22, 286K), [WGMB-TV](#) Baton Rouge, LA (2/23), and [KMGH-TV](#) Denver (2/22, 136K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE PRESIDENT OBAMA LAUNCHES "EVERY KID IN A PARK" INITIATIVE. The [Washington Post](#) (2/19, Eilperin, 5.17M) reports that President Obama "is launching an 'Every Kid in a Park' initiative Thursday, White House officials said, an effort that aims to get every fourth-grader to visit a national park in the years ahead." The new campaign "will offer all fourth-grade students and their families free admission to national parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year."

For "The Blog" of the [Huffington Post](#) (2/20, Ostfeld, 281K), Jackie Ostfeld, Nearby Nature Director, Sierra Club and Co-Founding Chair, Outdoors Alliance for Kids, praises the "Every Kid in a Park" initiative. She writes that "this initiative matters, because not every kid has a forest in her backyard."

Additional coverage of the "Every Kid in a Park" initiative was provided by [Money](#) (2/22), the [Weekly Standard](#) (2/23, 315K), the [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) News](#) (2/20, 431), and the [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (2/23, 438K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL VALLEY WATER PROJECT. Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell has "announced \$27.5 million in assistance for the Central Valley Water Project" was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/23, 547K). The story also appears at the [Modesto \(CA\) Bee](#) (2/23, 163K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE \$8 MILLION ALLOCATED FOR ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE. Additional coverage that "Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said Feb. 17 that \$8 million has been made available this year to fund projects to promote tribal climate change adaptation and ocean and coastal management planning" was provided by the [Cordova \(AK\) Times](#) (2/23, 2K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE WRIGHT BUILDINGS NOMINATED FOR WORLD HERITAGE SITES LIST. Additional coverage that the Interior Department has nominated 10 Wright buildings for the World Heritage Sites list was provided by the [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (2/21, 672K).

SANTA CRUZ REDWOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT FACES CHALLENGES. The [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (2/21, 70K) editorializes that "an estimated 1,500 people turned out at the Kaiser Permanente Arena last week to kick off the campaign to turn a swath of wilderness along Santa Cruz County's North Coast into something much more — the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument." However, the paper says that the BLM, "which now controls the inland portion of the land, simply doesn't have the money to manage it." The editorial supports "the idea of actually granting the public access to protected spaces rather than just acquiring land and locking the gates, as can be the case with public land acquisition — but doing so to the extent this monument proposal would do comes with significant challenges."

SUPPORT FOR SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2015 URGED. In a piece for the [Erie \(PA\) Times-News](#) (2/23, 159K), Mike Bleech writes that the Sportsmen's Act of 2015 "enumerates nine regulatory reforms and five sections devoted to habitat conservation." He argues that "opening more opportunities for outdoor recreation will have a positive effect on the economy." According to Bleech, "this act is the most important piece of legislation from the perspective of sportsmen that we have seen since, well, the last time nearly identical legislation has been proposed."

America's Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NATIONAL PARK ADVOCATES SEND LETTER TO MAINE DELEGATION. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (2/21, 166K) reports that "a mix of Katahdin-region business owners and local leaders hope to pitch the 150,000-acre North Woods national park proposal to the state's federal delegation." According to the article, "their two-page letter was sent Friday to Rep. Bruce Poliquin, R-Maine, and Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Angus King, I-Maine." Its signers hope "to meet the trio and ask them to 'take a fresh look at an innovative, unique-to-Maine proposal that we believe will help to revitalize and diversify the economy in northern Maine.'"

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK BEGINS CAMPGROUND RESERVATION SYSTEM IN MARCH. The [AP](#) (2/23) reports that "Theodore Roosevelt National Park plans to offer online camping reservations for the first time this year." The system will go online on March 2.

WRITERS DISCOVERS NPS' B-ROLL ARCHIVE. In a piece for the [Motherboard](#) (2/23, 10K), Becky Ferreira writes on NPS' B-roll archive. According to Ferreira, "the site's comfortably generic clips of America's most dramatic vistas are like a vicarious shot of outdoor splendor, perfect for shaking off the dust of this extended hibernation."

WASHINGTON MONUMENT CELEBRATING 230TH BIRTHDAY. The [Constitution Daily](#) (2/10) provides "10 Fascinating Facts About The Washington Monument" in honor of the monument's 230th birthday.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF NATIONAL PARK ATTENDANCE. Additional coverage of the "record-breaking year for national parks nationwide" was provided by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/20, 2.28M), the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/23, 398K), the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (2/23, 1K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (2/20, Oskin, 5.81M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE NPS MAPS NOISE LEVELS THROUGHOUT US. Additional coverage of the NPS' work to map noise levels throughout the US was provided by [NPR](#) (2/22, 1.58M), [Discover Magazine](#) (2/23, 6.75M), and the [Business Insider](#) (2/23, 2.26M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF RACIALLY SEGREGATED WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUES. Additional coverage of the controversy surrounding the proposal to replace Greenwood's war memorial plaques was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/20, 3.49M).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE LAND OWNER CLOSES OFF ACCESS TO ANNIVERSARY HARBORS NEAR LAKE MEAD. Additional coverage of the controversy surrounding the proposal to close off access to anniversary harbors near Lake Mead was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/23, 398K).

access to a popular trail near Lake Mead was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (2/23, 398K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF YELLOWSTONE BISON SLAUGHTER. Additional coverage of the capture of Yellowstone bison for slaughter was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (2/23, 165K).

Bureau of Land Management:

BLM HOLDS OFF ON PLAN TO RETURN 186 WILD HORSES TO RANGE IN NEVADA AFTER APPEAL FILED. The [AP](#) (2/23, Griffith) reports that the BLM is "holding off on plans to return 186 wild horses to the range in central Nevada pending the review of an appeal filed by a rancher and rural county opposed to the move." The bureau "originally had planned to return 104 mares treated with a fertility control vaccine and 82 studs to the sprawling Fish Creek Herd Management Area (HMA) near Eureka on Friday." The BLM has asked the Interior Board of Land Appeals "for an expedited review of the appeal and hopes to be able to reach a decision on the fate of the 186 horses on Monday or Tuesday."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Cache Valley \(UT\) Daily](#) (2/23, 639), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/23, 538K), and the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (2/23, 81K).

BIOLOGISTS WONDER WHY SAGE GROUSE ARE EATING DIRT IN WYOMING. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/23, 90K) reports that BLM biologists Josh Hemenway and Dale Woolwine at the BLM's Pinedale office are pondering the significance of a ritual by sage grouse. The sage grouse was found to be eating "very specific dirt" such that "the birds seem to flock from miles away to peck at golf ball-sized holes in the ground."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (2/23, 90K).

BLM TO CHARGE OVERNIGHT CAMPING FEE AT SWASEY'S CAMPGROUND. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (2/23, 538K) reports that "beginning Feb. 26, the Bureau of Land Management will charge a \$10 overnight camping fee at Swasey's Campground along the Green River."

REP. STEWART SEEKS SOLUTION TO WILD HORSE ISSUE. In an op-ed for the [St. George & Southern Utah Independent](#) (2/23), Rep. Chris Stewart writes that he "introduced The Wild Horse Oversight Act of 2014, which would give states and local tribes the option to manage the herds within their jurisdiction." Stewart states that he "will continue to use my position as a member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to work with multiple stakeholders to create a viable solution to this problem." He concludes that "by working with the BLM, Ranchers, and wild-horse advocates, we ultimately hope to create an effective solution – taking the politics and the emotion out of the issue to produce a humane, economic and ecologically sound solution."

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS RAISES CONCERNS OVER PROPOSAL TO EXPAND SAVANNAH RIVERWALK. The [Macon \(GA\) Telegraph](#) (2/21, 156K) reports that "a proposed \$14 million extension of Savannah's Riverwalk could degrade fish habitat, the US Fish and Wildlife Service said in a recent filing." According to Bill Wikoff, a member of the FWS' ecological services division, "adding a 1,100-foot extension to the Riverwalk could create shading that degrades habitat for fish and impedes their foraging." The article notes that "rather than building the Riverwalk extension over the water, Wikoff suggested it could be constructed on land next to the water."

HARRIS NECK DESCENDANTS SEEK LEASE OF REFUGE LAND. The [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (2/21, 145K) reports that "descendants of an African-American community forced off their McIntosh County property during World War II are trying to lease back a portion of that land at the Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge." The Harris Neck Land Trust filed an application with the FWS "for a general special use permit earlier this month."

DEER FLAT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE RELEASES MANAGEMENT PLAN. [KTVB-TV](#) Boise, ID (2/22, 126K) reports that Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge has "released a management plan for Lake Lowell that would still allow waterskiing but restrict the areas where speedboats can operate."

INVESTIGATORS LOOKING FOR PELICAN SLASHER. The [Miami Herald](#) (2/23, 694K) reports that "federal investigators have joined the hunt for the person or people mutilating pelicans in the Keys, mainly in the lower part of the county." According to the article, agents with the FWS are "heavily involved in the investigation."

BALD EAGLES NESTING NEAR PROPOSED RAIL PROJECT. The [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (2/23, 87K) reports that "BNSF's plans to add a second set of tracks through the La Crosse River marsh might face one additional obstacle: a pair of bald eagles nesting near the tracks." According to the article, "Alan Stankevitz, a wildlife photographer and member of Citizens Acting for Rail Safety, reported the nest to the US Fish and Wildlife Service after noticing the eagles in the nest in early February." Mags Rheude, "a wildlife biologist and pre-permit coordinator with the Fish and Wildlife Service, said she is working with the railroad's environmental consultant to get an exact location of the nest."

GROUP RELEASES SPECIES PROTECTION LIST. [Reuters](#) (2/20, Liston) reports that two darter fish and a mussel, all southeastern US aquatic species, have been chosen by the Center for Biological Diversity as 2015 priorities for endangered species protection under the terms of a four-year-old settlement with the federal government.

WILDLIFE OFFICERS CATCH THREE ILLEGAL HUNTERS. The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (2/22, 319K) reports that wildlife officers with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the FWS nabbed three people illegally hunting ducks and deer prior to the season opening.

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE FWS REINSTATES PROTECTIONS FOR GRAY WOLF. Additional coverage of the reinstatement of protections for gray wolves in western Great Lakes states and Wyoming was provided by [Reuters](#) (2/20, Murphy), the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (2/21, 506), the [Detroit News](#) (2/20, 577K), the [Maine News](#) (2/23), [WWJ-TV](#) Detroit (2/20, 34K), and [WDIV-TV](#) Detroit (2/23, 219K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OREGON CHUB TAKEN OFF ENDANGERED LIST. Additional coverage of the removal of the Oregon chub from the federal list of endangered and threatened animals was provided by [TIME](#) (2/23, 19.19M), the [National Monitor](#) (2/22), and the [Watchdog](#) (2/23, 4K).

RUBINOFF OTHER SPECIES NEED HELP MORE THAN MONARCH BUTTERFLY. In a piece for the [Washington Post](#) (2/20, Rubinoff, 5.17M), Daniel Rubinoff notes that despite protections by numerous government agencies for the monarch butterfly, including FHWA, a group of organization has "gone too far" by requesting the Interior Department to list the insect under the Endangered Species Act. Rubinoff states that the while the butterfly is not endangered, its "winter congregation...in Mexico are an 'endangered phenomenon,'" which has helped placed unwarranted attention on the butterfly's situation. Rubnoff argues that ESA listing "should be reserved for animals much closer to the brink" and that our "limited resources" should be used to protect other species.

Additional coverage of the effort to help protect the monarch was provided by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (2/20, 2.28M).

US Geological Survey:

USGS SCIENTISTS CREATE COMPUTER SIMULATION ON MOUNT BAKER ERUPTION. The [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (2/22, 228K) reports that "a computer simulation delves 6,600 years into the past to show where volcanic ash would go if Mount Baker blew today." Scientists from the USGS' Cascades Volcano Observatory "created the animation to show the distribution and thickness of ash from a Mount Baker eruption."

USGS ANALYZES IDAHO GROUNDWATER DATA TO OPTIMIZE FUTURE AQUIFER MONITORING. The [WaterWorld](#) (2/23, 96) reports that USGS scientists have "released analyses of more than 30 years of water-quality data collected at the US Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory (INL) Site." According to the article, "the data reveals long-term trends toward improved groundwater quality in the eastern Snake River Plain aquifer." Roy Bartholomay, manager of the USGS NL Project Office, said, "The Idaho Cleanup Project at the INL Site is having a positive effect on the water quality of the eastern Snake River Plain aquifer. The trend data from this study confirm that and will help us to refine our monitoring efforts going forward."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE USGS URGES GREATER TRANSPARENCY, DATA SHARING ON QUAKES LINKED TO OIL, GAS PRODUCTION. Additional coverage that the USGS "urged greater transparency and data collection between industry and regulators as it highlighted new research Thursday on earthquakes linked to oil and natural gas production" was provided by the [Fort Smith \(AR\) Times Record](#) (2/23, 105K), the [Inland News Today \(CA\)](#) (2/23, 102), [KGOU-FM](#) Norman, OK (2/23), [KRMG-AM](#) Tulsa, OK (2/23, 1K), [KSWO-TV](#) Lawton, OK (2/23, 2K), and [KFOR-TV](#) Oklahoma City (2/21, 193K).

Securing America's Energy Future:

Renewable Energy:

LEADERS WANT DEEPER RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN TO PRIORITIZE CONSERVATION. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/23, 1.1M) reports that "the Biden administration is expected to release a plan to conserve energy that would focus on reducing energy consumption in homes and businesses, rather than on expanding production of renewable energy sources like wind and solar."

letter signed by a cross-section of 40 desert community leaders and sent last week to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell calls for a successful Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan that prioritizes conservation, minimizes the impact on neighborhoods and maintains recreation opportunities." Also, "another group has proposed an alternative overlooked in those offered by officials."

EAGLE MOUNTAIN HYDROPOWER PROPOSAL REMAINS UNRESOLVED. The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (2/20, 85K) reports that "there's still no resolution in sight for the old Eagle Mountain iron mine, eight months after federal regulators approved plans to build a hydroelectric power plant at the site, in the shadow of Joshua Tree National Park." The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission "approved the 1,300-megawatt hydropower plant in June, over the fierce objections of the National Park Service, which has said the project would drain precious groundwater and harm desert ecosystems." According to the article, "while the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission signed off on the project in June, documents filed with the commission this week make clear that the proposal is still far from becoming a reality."

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF DESERT SUNLIGHT SOLAR FARM. Additional coverage of the "inauguration of the Desert Sunlight solar farm" was provided by the [Daily Signal](#) (2/20).

SODA MOUNTAIN SOLAR PROJECT CRITICIZED. In an op-ed in The [Inland Valley \(CA\) Daily Bulletin](#) (2/20, Silliman, 96K) G. Sidney Silliman, Ph.D., professor emeritus at Cal Poly Pomona, bases his opposition to the Soda Mountain Solar project in the claim that "green energy projects, if not responsibly sited, can cause more harm than good by destroying the very places and species renewable energy could protect." He writes that "giant projects, some larger than a small city" have been part of the state and federal government's "aggressive" push toward a clean energy future. Silliman concludes that there must be a better way to protect the environment while pursuing clean energy.

Onshore Energy Development:

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON COAL RULE CHANGE SOUGHT. The [Sheridan \(WY\) Press](#) (2/23) reports that "coal companies are turning to local residents for help in another battle with federal rules and regulations." According to the article, "officials from Cloud Peak Energy, a Gillette-based mining company operating three surface mines in the Powder River Basin, are asking for a 60-day extension of the public comment period for a rule change proposed by the US Office of Natural Resources Revenue, a division of the Department of the Interior."

OSMRE TAKING MINING RECLAMATION NOMINATIONS. The [Charleston \(WV\) State Journal](#) (2/23, 1K) reports that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement is "accepting nominations for awards to recognize outstanding efforts to reclaim active and abandoned coal mines." The agency "offers two programs honoring high-quality reclamation projects, including the Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Awards and the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Awards."

NORTH DAKOTA SEEKS TO DEFEND INTERIOR'S COAL LEASING PROGRAM. The [Law 360](#) (2/23, 9K) reports that "North Dakota sought to intervene Thursday in a D.C. federal suit aiming to force the US Department of the Interior to re-examine a federal coal leasing program in light of potential climate change impacts, backing the DOI's bid to dismiss the complaint."

COMPANY PLANS TO RESUME WORK AT ARIZONA URANIUM MINE. The [AP](#) (2/22) reports that "when Arizona's only active uranium mine shuts down this spring, the company running it plans to restart another mine south of Grand Canyon National Park." The decision by Energy Fuels Resources Inc. "comes amid a lawsuit challenging the Canyon Mine on national forest land about six miles southeast of Tusayan."

EXXON APPEALS YELLOW STONE SPILL \$1 MILLION PENALTY. The [AP](#) (2/20) reports Exxon Mobil Corp. has appealed the Federal regulators' decision to impose a \$1 million penalty against the oil giant over a 63,000-gallon crude spill into Montana's Yellowstone River. Exxon asked the Department of Transportation to remove three safety violations out of four and for the amount of the penalty be reduced.

REPORT SAYS BLM REGULATIONS HURTING ENERGY PRODUCTION. The [Daily Signal](#) (2/22) reports that "current government regulations imposed by the Bureau of Land Management are harming energy production and holding back the US economy, a new study reveals." The Heritage Foundation's Katie Tubb and Nicolas Loris wrote, "While federally owned lands are also full of energy potential, a bureaucratic regulatory regime has mismanaged land use for decades." The report "focuses on the Federal Lands Freedom Act, introduced by Rep. Diane Black, R-Tenn., and Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla."

GROUP CLAIMS OIL FIRMS CAN LEASE FEDERAL LAND FOR LESS THAN THE PRICE OF A BIG MAC. The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (2/23, 60K) analyzes the claim by the conservation group Center for Western Priorities that "oil companies can obtain an acre of public land for less than the price of a Big Mac." PunditFact rates the claim "Mostly True."

Offshore Energy Development:

GOVERNORS MEET TO DISCUSS SEISMIC TESTING IN ATLANTIC OCEAN. [McClatchy](#) (2/20, Schoof, Subscription Publication, 17K) reports that the Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition announced on Friday that in 18 months seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean could begin and "plans already are under way about whether coastal states will need more roads, refineries and other infrastructure for offshore oil and gas production."

GULF COAST LAWMAKERS VOW TO FIGHT PLAN TO REDIRECT OFFSHORE OIL REVENUE. The [Alexandria \(LA\) Town Talk](#) (2/20, 74K) reports that "Gulf Coast lawmakers are vowing to fight President Barack Obama's proposal to 'redirect' millions of dollars in oil and gas revenue the region is expecting to receive under a 2006 law." According to the article, "Louisiana and Mississippi lawmakers are discussing plans to send a joint letter to Obama opposing the plan." Gulf Coast legislators "argue the region deserves a greater share of royalties and fees from oil and gas drilling off their shores."

Also reporting on the story is the [Jackson \(MS\) Clarion Ledger](#) (2/21, 222K).

BOEM TO HOLD HEARING ON OIL DRILLING IN NEW JERSEY. The [Asbury Park \(NJ\) Press](#) (2/20, 371K) reports that "New Jerseyans will have a chance to sound off on the Obama administration's proposal to open the Atlantic Coast to oil and gas drilling." The BOEM "agreed to hold a public hearing in New Jersey on the proposal, according to a release from Sens. Robert Menendez and Cory Booker, and Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., all New Jersey Democrats." Menendez said, "I thank the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management for accepting our request, and look forward to the opportunity for local residents, business owners, fishermen and community leaders who would be most impacted by offshore drilling to have their voices heard."

Also providing coverage are the [Press of Atlantic City \(NJ\)](#) (2/23, 190K), the [New Jersey Local News](#) (2/23, 772K), and the [New Jersey Newsroom](#) (2/23, 3K).

BOEM TO HOLD HEARING ON NEW LEASES FOR GULF OIL EXPLORATION. The [Panama City \(FL\) News Herald](#) (2/23, 93K) reports that the BOEM "plans to lease out an additional 657,905 acres of underwater property off the Gulf Coast of Florida for oil and natural gas exploration and possible drilling." According to the article, "the public is invited to attend a meeting at 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Wyndham Bay Point Resort, 4114 Jan Cooley Drive, in Panama City Beach to give its input about the plan." The article notes that "the public hearing is one of several scheduled by the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) in Florida, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi to solicit comment that will be used to prepare the 'Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement' on the leasing proposal."

OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN CRITICIZED. In an op-ed for the [Janesville \(WI\) Gazette](#) (2/19, 58K), Michael Kraft, professor emeritus of political science and public and environmental affairs at UW-Green Bay, argues that the Obama Administration's new offshore oil and gas drilling plan "does little to wean the nation from dependence on fossil fuels, conflicts with other presidential initiatives, and puts coastal waters at serious risk from oil spills." The piece also appears at the [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (2/20, 584K),

Tackling America's Water Challenges:

BOR WORKING TO AVOID SPILL. The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (2/23, 79K) reports that "water users are playing the annual guessing game of how much water will be in Lake Pueblo when it comes time to ensure enough space is left for flood protection." According to the article, "while there could be a slight chance for a spill, the Bureau of Reclamation is working with other water interests to reduce the odds." Roy Vaughan, BOR's local manager for the Frypan-Arkansas Project., said, "The long-term forecast for this spring is for cooler temps and increased precipitation."

Empowering Native American Communities:

MINE OPPONENTS PROTEST TURNOVER OF LAND TO COMPANY. The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (2/23, 212K) reports that "for more than two weeks, protesters have made camp at Oak Flat, the site of a planned copper mine that will result in a massive crater on the sacred site's surface." Mine opponents "want a repeal of the legislation that turned over 2,400 acres of Tonto National Forest to a mining giant, before conducting environmental studies and having formal consultations with concerned tribal governments."

but for now has stepped in to name Clint Halftown as the Nation's interim federal representative and the Nation's 2006 Council as its last undisputed leader." In a decision on Friday, the bureau "ruled that Halftown will be the Nation's representative for the purpose of accessing disbursement of funds from the BIA to the Nation for a community services contract." The BIA also "recognized a six-member council from 2006 as the last undisputed leadership of the nation."

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES CONSIDERING MARIJUANA AS A REVENUE SOURCE. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (2/21, Spivak, 699K) reported that the Menominee tribe is considering growing marijuana on its reservation near Shawno, Wisconsin. Craig Corn, a tribal legislator, tweeted, "Now we embark on a new economic endeavor, it is time to progress forward. We are gonna fast track an effort to legalize marijuana."

The [AP](#) (2/21) reports that selling marijuana is just one possible scenario that leaders of the Poarch tribe in northern Alabama say is possible in a high-stakes stand-off with Florida Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida Legislature in order to force the state to take "them seriously and approve a compact with the tribe that would allow a casino" in northwest Florida. The AP says the Poarch tribe "stakes its claim to negotiate a far-reaching gambling deal on a one-acre tract of land it owns in Escambia County and is just a few miles from a casino operated by the tribe near the state line in Atmore, Alabama."

LAW ENFORCEMENT OVERWHELMED BY DRUG EXPLOSION ON NORTH DAKOTA INDIAN RESERVATION. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/22, 3.49M) reports that "driven by the new wealth of the Bakken oil fields, drug dealing has spread across the reservation, tearing apart families and destroying the fabric of this once-isolated community." According to the article, "the reservation has about 20 officers and a handful of criminal investigators to police about 1,500 square miles — roughly three times the size of Los Angeles."

DEAL WOULD INCREASE NUMBER OF GAMBLING MACHINES IN WASHINGTON. The [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/20, 49K) reports that "the number of gambling machines in Washington state tribal casinos is set to increase by several thousand and rise automatically in the future under a compact recently approved by state legislators and the state Gambling Commission." According to the article, "the compact between 27 of the state's 29 tribes would allow a 10 percent bump to the state's 28,000 slot-style machines and make future adjustments based on gambling demands." Gov. Jay Inslee is "expected to sign the compact, and send it to the US Department of Interior for final approval."

AFRICAN AMERICAN EDUCATORS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE IN TRIBAL SCHOOLS. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (2/23, 238K) reports that "in recognition of Black History Month, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and the African American Museum & Cultural Center of New Mexico will explore an often overlooked chapter of our state's history, the experience of African American teachers in Indian Schools." According to the article, "three African American educators who taught in the Indian Service — Lenton Malry, Tommie Jewell Sr. and Alice Pegues — will be in conversation with Mable Orndorff-Plunkett at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25 at the PCC, 2401 12th NW."

MAN SAYS HE WILL PLEAD GUILTY IN ASSAULT ON BIA OFFICER. The [AP](#) (2/23) reports that "a North Dakota man says he will plead guilty in a fight with a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer on the Standing Rock Reservation." Chris White Twin is "charged in federal court with assault on a federal officer."

NAVAJO COURT REJECTS NEW PRIMARY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. The [AP](#) (2/20) reports that "the Navajo Nation Supreme Court struck down legislation Friday that would have allowed a do-over of last year's presidential primary election for the nation's largest American Indian reservation." According to the article, "the high court said in its order that it was rejecting the Navajo Nation Council's 'feeble attempt' to confound the election process." The court stated in its opinion, "Because of the self-interested actions of the Board and the Council to disregard Navajo laws, the presidential election is now more than three months late. The initial effort of this Court to have the election by Jan. 31, 2015 has been further delayed by the Council's most recent grab for power."

Also reporting on the story is the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (2/22, 49K).

REP. KLINE'S CALL FOR ACTION ON TRIBAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION SUPPORTED. The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/23, 1.37M) editorializes that "it shouldn't take more than a decade to rebuild Minnesota's deteriorating Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig High School" and "nor should children in Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools elsewhere attend class in falling down buildings while faraway bureaucrats fail to act." According to the paper, "fortunately, the estimated 49,000 students who attend BIE schools now have a welcome new champion in Minnesota Republican US Rep. John Kline."

Office of Insular Affairs:

INTERIOR RELEASES \$2.4 MILLION FOR HEALTH AND EDUCATION PROJECTS. The [Marianas Variety](#) (2/23) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina has "approved and released a total of \$2.4 million in funding under the Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance program for fiscal year 2015 to support health, education and social service projects for the US territories and Freely Associated States." The article notes that "these grants include \$1.3 million for the Four Atolls' Section 177 Health Care Program in the Republic of the Marshall Islands to help address the medical needs of residents; \$1.1 million for the Close Up Foundation to support civic education programs for Insular Area students; and \$75,000 to the Partners in Development Foundation for a non-governmental initiative to help mitigate the impacts in US jurisdictions of migrants from the Freely Associated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau."

Top National News:

JOHNSON URGES VIGILANCE, FUNDING FOR DHS IN WAKE OF TERROR THREAT TO MINNESOTA MALL. Coverage of a video message in which al-Shabab called for attacks on the Mall of America in suburban Minneapolis was featured on the two network newscasts that aired last night. The story also generated extensive print reporting, and dominated the discussion on the Sunday morning political shows — five of which interviewed DHS Secretary Johnson. Beyond addressing the specific threat, the coverage noted the current Congressional impasse over DHS funding and immigration, which was cast as having the potential to leave the agency in a precarious position at a particularly inopportune time. As [Bloomberg News](#) (2/23, Miller, 2.94M) reports, "Johnson's interviews...aired five days before funding for DHS "is set to lapse," triggering "a shutdown of non-essential agency operations." In fact, [USA Today](#) (2/23, Kelly, Davis, 10.32M) says the reason Johnson "went on five Sunday shows" was "to warn that national security will be at risk unless Congress agrees to fund the department."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (2/23, Parsons, 3.49M) refers this morning to "the dangers of cutting off funding for DHS at a crucial moment for American national security," and notes some Republicans yesterday called for a quick resolution to the standoff. Sen. Bob Corker said on CBS, "We do not need to leave our nation in a situation with the type of threats that we have with an agency that's not working at full steam. So it needs to be resolved and I think it will be." Sen. Lindsey Graham, on [ABC's This Week](#) (2/22, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), similarly stated, "I'm willing and ready to pass a DHS funding bill and let" the immigration aspects of the funding "play out in court. The worst possible outcome for this nation is to defund the Department of Homeland Security, given the multiple threats we face to our homeland. I won't be part of that." The [AP](#) (2/23, Braun) reports Sen. John McCain also said on Sunday that he would oppose linking DHS funding to the ongoing immigration disagreement. On [CBS' Face The Nation](#), McCain said of the courts should resolve the impasse, "I think that's the best way that we can resolve this."

However, another [AP](#) (2/22, Peoples, Colvin) story notes that "several Republican governors are urging GOP congressional leaders to stand firm next week in opposing legislation funding" DHS that "doesn't also overturn...Obama's executive action on immigration." Among the governors cited in the story are Indiana's Mike Pence, Oklahoma's Mary Fallin, Wisconsin's Scott Walker and Utah's Gary Herbert. Pence said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (2/22, Roberts), "My bottom line is that we need to protect the homeland. We also need to protect the Constitution. And I think that the Congress using the power of the purse is all together appropriate." Herbert said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo](#) (2/22), "Nobody wants Homeland Security shut down. It's a dangerous world we live in right now," but "Congress is concerned about the President going around them and using executive privilege in probably ways that are not constitutional. That's the debate." Also yesterday, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (2/22, Schieffer, 2.64M), "What we have here is a situation where the President has violated the rule of law."

[Politico](#) (2/23, Bresnahan, Everett, 683K) reported that Senate Majority Leader McConnell, "known for keeping even his inner circle in the dark about his thinking, isn't tipping his hand so far on what he'll do," and "no announcements are expected before Tuesday afternoon, when Senate Republicans and Democrats will huddle behind closed doors at their regularly scheduled policy luncheons."

Johnson said on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (2/22, Todd, 3.08M), "We need Congress to fund the Department of Homeland Security. We have got four working days in Congress and I'm talking every member of Congress who will listen to me about the importance of doing this." On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (2/22, Boger, 420K), Johnson added that "if, by the end of the week, Congress has not funded the Department of Homeland Security, we will have to furlough some 30,000 people, mostly at headquarters — people on the front lines, aviation security, and maritime security will be forced to come to work without a paycheck." Beyond the current terror threat, "FEMA, in the midst of this very harsh winter right now, will have to furlough something like 80% of its permanent appropriated workers." On [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (2/22, Schieffer, 2.64M), Johnson remarked, "I remain optimistic. We've got good people in Congress who appreciate the importance of a fully-funded Department of Homeland Security."

The [AP](#) (2/22) notes that in its video, al-Shabab "urged Muslims to attack shopping malls," and "specifically" named "the Mall of America in the Minneapolis suburb of Bloomington, as well as the West Edmonton Mall in Canada and the Westfield mall in Stratford, England." The video, says the [Washington Post](#) (2/23, Holley, 5.17M), "threatened to replicate al-Shabab's 2013 attack on the upscale Westgate mall in Nairobi, which left more than 60 people dead." The [Christian Science Monitor](#) (2/22, Knickerbocker, 380K) notes al-

2:14, Llamas, 5 84M) reported "US authorities are particularly concerned because al-Shabab has been especially effective recruiting dozens of young men from Minneapolis to join its ranks in Somalia." However, in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (2/22, lead story, 3 06, Quintanilla, 7.86M), Kristen Welker noted that according to a senior Administration official, al-Shabab "has not shown an ability to launch major operations outside east Africa," and law enforcement experts say the group "is hoping to inspire lone wolf attackers."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/23, Radnofsky, Madigan, Subscription Publication, 5.67M) notes DHS and the FBI issued a joint statement on the threat, "In recent months, the FBI and DHS have worked closely with our state and local public safety counterparts and members of the private sector, to include mall owners and operators, to prevent and mitigate these types of threats." The [New York Times](#) (2/23, Landler, Subscription Publication, 9.97M) reports DHS spokeswoman Marsha Catron later added, "We are not aware of any specific, credible plot against the Mall of America or any other domestic commercial shopping center." The [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (2/23, Kather, 524K) reports the Bloomington Police Department released a statement Sunday afternoon "about what it called the 'propaganda video' released" by the group, also saying, "At this time, there is no credible threat associated with Mall of America."

At any rate, says the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/23, Walsh, 1.37M), "all appeared to be business as usual Sunday" at the mall, with "drivers...jostling for spots in the parking ramp and the mall's four levels...crowded with shoppers and store clerks said it was a typical Sunday." The [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (2/23, Kather, 524K) similarly reports that "people packed the Mall of America on Sunday afternoon despite warnings from Homeland Security urging visitors to be 'particularly careful.'" [USA Today](#) (2/23, Bacon, Jackson, 10 32M) notes "the Mall of America, among the largest shopping malls in the world, employs more than 12,000 people at more than 500 stores and 50 restaurants." It is "the world's busiest mall, bringing in more than 40 million visitors annually."

Johnson stated on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (2/22, Borger, 420K), "This latest statement from al-Shabab reflects the new phase in the global terrorist threat, where groups such as al-Shabab and ISIL publicly call for independent actors to carry out attacks. We're beyond the phase now where these groups would send foreign operatives into countries after being trained someplace. We're now at a stage where it is all the more important in our counterterrorism efforts that we have a whole new government approach. We have a military response in place, using an international coalition, but there's also a law enforcement and homeland security component that is necessary to countering violent extremism in our communities." Johnson added on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (2/22, Boger, 420K), "I am very concerned about the serious potential threat of independent actors here in the United States," adding that "any time they call for an attack against a specific place, we've got to take that seriously."

On [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (2/22, Todd, 3 08M), Johnson said, "The public needs to be particularly vigilant. ... We have seen this a number of times now where a group will call for an attack on a country, on a specific location. So we got to be vigilant. We ramp up security. I'm sure that security at this particular mall will be enhanced in ways visible and not visible. But the response also involves public vigilance and public awareness. If you see something, say something. It has to be more than a slogan. ... I'm not telling people to not go to the mall. I think there needs to be an awareness, there needs to be vigilance." Johnson said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (2/22, Schieffer, 2 64M), "I am confident that there will be enhanced security at the mall in Minneapolis. ... Doing things here in the homeland has become critical to dealing with this new global terrorist threat that we face." The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (2/23, Walsh, 1 37M) notes that "following up to Johnson's message to Mall of America visitors, another department official wanted to make clear that the secretary was not urging people to stay away from the mall." Assistant Secretary Tanya Bradsher told CNN, "Secretary Johnson didn't say that they should not go to the mall. ... He told shoppers to be extra vigilant and that security was increased."

On [Fox News Sunday](#) (2/22, Borger), Johnson said that "because of the foreign fighter phenomenon, the number of foreign fighters they have in their force and because of their use of the Internet, use of social media to recruit and to recruit for specific terrorist attacks, we need to be involved in the relevant communities in this country to thwart their recruitment efforts and help build the counter-narrative to the one being put out by IS L right now. I view that as critically important, given the phase to which we have involved in our counterterrorism efforts." Johnson said on [ABC's This Week](#) (2/22, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "The profile of a so-called foreign fighter is a little difficult to discern," and that makes it "all the more important that we work with our international counterterrorism partners overseas to build systems to track the travel of individuals of suspicion. We have come a long way in that regard. But there's more to do." [Politico](#) (2/23, Emma, 683K), [Reuters](#) (2/22, Yukhananov, Dunham), the [Daily Intelligence \(NY\)](#) (2/23, Bankoff, 710K), [TME](#) (2/23, Worland, 19.19M), [The Hill](#) (2/22, Sullivan, 224K) and [Washington Times](#) (2/22, Wolfgang, 644K), among other news outlets, also note Johnson's remarks yesterday.

Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (2/22, Borger, 420K), "I appreciate Jeh's reminder to the general public that law enforcement and the military are the tip of the spear. We encourage awareness, not just in the Mall of America, but generally. That's, unfortunately, the world we live in, it might be a permanent condition. ... I happen to have enormous sympathy for Secretary Johnson."

Rep. Keith Ellison said on [ABC's This Week](#) (2/22, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "We have to continue to reach out to the Muslim community. But we have to be wary of something. There's a cautionary tale here, too. We cannot not mix up surveillance and law enforcement with outreach."

In an editorial, meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/23, Subscription Publication, 5 67M) argues that the current threat on the Mall of America shows the folly in recent comments by national security adviser Susan Rice, who said that terrorism doesn't present an "existential" threat to the US.

DEBATE CONTINUES ON WHETHER TO LABEL TERROR GROUPS AS "ISLAMIC." In their discussions on the terrorist threat, media reports and analyses also addressed the broader political debate about Administration policies and its decision not to label the extremists as "Islamic," which Republicans cast as counterproductive to US efforts to protect itself from terrorism. Mario Trujillo reports in a post for [The Hill](#) (2/23, Trujillo, 224K) that DHS Secretary Johnson said on [Fox News Sunday](#) that "he does not want to give the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) more 'dignity than it deserves' by classifying it as a Muslim ideology." Said Johnson, "It seems to me that to refer to ISIL as occupying any part of the Islamic theology is playing on a battlefield that they would like us to be on." Johnson made the same argument on [ABC's This Week](#) (2/22, Stephanopoulos, 2.73M), "The true Islamic faith has nothing to do with what ISIL represents. To start labeling them as Islam or Islamic state in any respect gives them far more dignity than they deserve."

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker said on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (2/22, Todd, 3.08M), "They're Islamic extremists. ... They are Islamic. No question. They are extreme in what they're doing. And they are a threat to our country. And we need to deal with that appropriately." House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Michael McCaul said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures with Maria Bartiromo](#) (2/22), "I think we have to define the enemy for who they are in order to defeat them. ... I think the correct term is 'Islamist,' which means a political organization taking a religion and advancing that for a political agenda. That's who these terrorists are, but we have to say it's a terrorist movement. Radical Islamic extremism is a terrorist movement. To completely ignore that fact I think is just not being very honest with the American people."

Rep. Darrell Issa said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (2/22, Borger, 420K), "[President Obama] needs to call it Islamic terrorism. He can't be looking at everything through the vision that somehow if you treat people better, if we're more democratic you're not going to have terrorism, and then have his own Secretary telling people they have to be vigilant if they go to a mall in Minnesota. The reality is that we are losing the war against Islamic fundamentalists around the world. It is about religion. These people hate us for who we are and who we're not, and if we don't get on board with allies and root out these terrorist organizations, then America will not be safe."

Former Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (2/22, Borger, 420K), "I have a little bit of sympathy for what [Obama] is wrestling with. He doesn't want to give Islamic extremists, which is what they are, a monopoly on that word." But "I think to pretend that Islam has nothing to do with the problem is a mistake. What we're dealing with is a totalitarian ideology that exploits Islam and many of our best friends and allies in the fights against that ideology are going to be Muslims themselves."

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (2/22, Roberts), "I think the American people are understandably frustrated with a president who lectures us on the Crusades but is unwilling to call Islamic extremism by name. Part of leadership is not only identifying the objective. In matters of war and statecraft, leadership is about identifying the enemy. ... It is clear that we are confronting a growing threat around the world. I think it is extremely important for the President of the United States to articulate that clearly, to marshal the resources and energy of the United States of America and our allies to confront that."

On [CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS](#) (2/22, 410K), Atlantic columnist Graeme Wood, author of "[What ISIS Really Wants](#)," said: "I think many aspects of Obama's approach are exactly what I would take. However, knowing the enemy is very important. If we understand how the organization of ISIS conceives itself, then we have some sense of what its plans are, how it motivates possible recruits, and how it presents itself. To deny that it has any Islamic character whatsoever is really to suggest something that simply isn't true and leads us to misguided approaches."

The [Daily Caller](#) (2/22, Thomas, 318K) reports that Stephen Coughlin, "a leading expert on national security and author of the soon-to-be-published book, 'Catastrophic Failure: Blindfolding America in the Face of Jihad,'" says "government bureaucrats have become so focused on fighting 'narratives' consistent with a post-modern, politically correct worldview, rather than the facts on the ground, that America's war on terrorism has become a catastrophic failure." Said Coughlin, "This country is in serious trouble. ... The people who hate us – and it's not just radical Islam, it's the Chinese, it's the Russians, it's the Iranians – they know that our leaders don't know what they're doing, because they've been kicking the tires."

Kasich: "We're Not Going To Solve This Problem Just By Bombing." Ohio Gov. John Kasich said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (2/22, Borger, 420K), "Foreign policy does matter. ... America seems to be in retreat. ... A lot of our friends, allies and even our enemies are wondering: Where is America? What's happening to it? We are a moral force in the world. When we decide to leave or double talk or paint red lines and walk away from them, we develop credibility problems. The Western world needs to be united... and we do need to develop a plan. We're not going to solve this problem just by bombing."

President Obama loves his country, generated some commentary on the Sunday morning political shows. This morning, in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/23, Giuliani, Subscription Publication, 5 67M), Giuliani argues that he never intended to question Obama's motives, but rather how his actions and rhetoric have had a negative effect on US security and morale. Giuliani praises the national security of Presidents Kennedy, Reagan and Clinton, and notes past Obama comments about US exceptionalism. In conclusion, Giuliani calls for a national debate about positive, optimistic leadership, and calls on Obama to change both policies and rhetorical choices. [Politico](#) (2/23, Eischen, 683K) noted that in his op-ed, Giuliani also "accused Obama of 'criticizing his country more than other presidents have done.'"

The [AP](#) (2/22) reports that DHS Secretary Johnson, on CNN's "State of the Union," criticized Giuliani's comments, calling them "very regrettable."

[USA Today](#) (2/22, Camia, 10.32M) reports this morning that "for a second week, the question of whether...Obama loves America continues to be asked of the Republicans with their eye on the White House." The [Washington Times](#) (2/23, Wolfgang, 644K) notes that Sen. Lindsey Graham, on ABC's "This Week," "distanced himself Sunday from other Republican presidential candidates who say they don't know if...Obama loves America," saying, "I have no doubt that he loves his country. I have no doubt that he's a patriot. But his primary job as president of the United States is to defend this country."

Conversation Contents

Pullman

/571. Pullman/1.1 Tab G Pullman_Legislative_Map_February 2015.pdf

"Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Bratt, Jeremy" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Fri Feb 20 2015 12:32:36 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: otto.mucklo@mail.house.gov
Subject: Pullman
Attachments: Tab G Pullman_Legislative_Map_February 2015.pdf

Hello Otto,

Don Hellman with NPS Congressional Affairs passed on to me your request for information about the scope of yesterday's Pullman national monument designation.

I apologize for my delay in responding.

I've attached a map of the newly designated area. The state of Illinois donated .23 acres to the federal government as part of the designation, which is 203 acres. I understand the majority of land within that boundary is private, and owned by the museum.

Please let me know if I can get you any additional information.

Thanks,
Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov
202-208-7696 (desk)

"Mucklo, Otto" <Otto.Mucklo@mail.house.gov>

From: "Mucklo, Otto" <Otto.Mucklo@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Fri Feb 20 2015 17:59:23 GMT-0700 (MST)
To: "jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov" <jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: Pullman

Thank you

From: Bratt, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy_bratt@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2015 02:32 PM
To: Mucklo, Otto
Cc: Donald Hellmann <don_hellmann@nps.gov>
Subject: Pullman

Hello Otto,

Don Hellman with NPS Congressional Affairs passed on to me your request for information about the scope of yesterday's Pullman national monument designation.

I apologize for my delay in responding.

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Please let me know if I can get you any additional information.

Thanks,
Jeremy

Jeremy Bratt
Deputy Director
Congressional and Legislative Affairs
Department of the Interior
Jeremy_Bratt@ios.doi.gov

Pullman National Monument Boundary

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Legend

- National Monument Boundary
- Pullman National Historic Landmark District
- Pullman State Historic Site
- U.S. Fee
- Historic Buildings or Landmarks
- Residential
- Railroad

OFFICE: Lands Resources Program Center
 REGION: Midwest Region
 PARK: Pullman National Monument
 ALPHA: PULL
 TOTAL ACREAGE: 7,203.48
MAP NUMBER: 590/125,485
DATE: February 2015

600 0 600 1,200 Feet

Vicinity Map

The vicinity map shows the state of Illinois with Chicago marked. A star symbol indicates the location of Pullman National Monument south of Chicago. The Calumet River and Lake Michigan are also shown.



Schneider, Janice <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>

FW: Governor Brown letter

1 message

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 12:58 PM

To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Ben Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Komze <neil_komze@blm.gov>, Liz Klein <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, Kim Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, RJ Couture <roland_couture@ios.doi.gov>

FYI. This will be included in the briefing materials for Sally's call with the Governor today.

From: JOHNSTON Drew * GOV [mailto:Drew.JOHNSTON@oregon.gov]

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 12:50 PM

To: John_Blair@ios.doi.gov; lpardue@blm.gov

Subject: Governor Brown letter

Hi John and Liz:

Governor Brown now has a called scheduled for 6:30 EST (moved up from Tuesday). Attached is the letter she is sending today that may be helpful for the purposes of the call.

Best,
Drew

Drew Johnston

Director, Washington DC Office | Oregon Governor Kate Brown

P: (202) 508-3847 | C: (503) 508-7124 | drew.johnston@oregon.gov

444 N Capitol St NW, Ste 134; Washington, DC 20001

governor.oregon.gov

11.21.16 Governor Brown letter to Jewell re Cascade Siskiyou.pdf
2427K



KATE BROWN
Governor

November 21, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Thank you for your steadfast support for America's iconic landscapes. I appreciate your agency's continued interest in one of Oregon's natural icons – the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument – and the effort made in convening a community discussion around expansion. As Oregon's Governor, I lend my support to your efforts and want to convey my desire to enhance this Oregon wonder through a thoughtful expansion of its boundaries.

Since President Clinton's dedication of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in 2000, community leaders and interested parties have worked diligently to protect and enhance the monument's diverse natural, geological, and historic resources; which include a spectacular variety of rare plants and animals. This work must continue as the unique and vibrant ecological wonders of Cascade-Siskiyou face increasing challenges from a changing climate. Expansion is critical to continued ecological integrity, which has made the monument a destination.

When opportunities like a prudent Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion present themselves, we owe it to future generations to embrace them for history shows they are fleeting. The unfortunate reality of Congressional obstruction and inaction has indefinitely stalled many worthy and broadly supported public land protection bills. Prime examples in Oregon include the Devil's Staircase wilderness bill (2009) and the Wild Rogue wilderness expansion (2011). Despite strong local support, these proposals and others have languished since their introduction.

Expanding the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument meets many of the factors I consider important in public land discussions. While state governors do not have a dispositive role in federal land decisions, I appreciate the Obama Administration's dedication to soliciting local input. It is important to consider proposed expansions and new designations in the context of their specific circumstances. Among the reasons I support a thoughtful Cascade-Siskiyou expansion:

- It augments an existing public land designation. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has been successful in attracting community and federal support, demonstrating its value locally and among the national monument network.

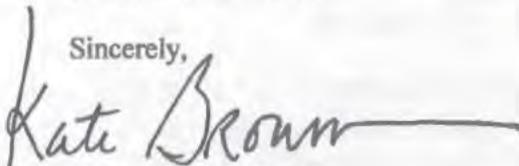


- The identified need informed by scientific analysis of current and future landscape-level ecosystem health. The formation of the original monument set out why the unique values found at the intersection of the Cascade, Siskiyou, and Klamath mountain ranges needed greater protections. Analysis from 2011 onward highlights the scientific support for increased monument resilience amid considerable pressures.
- The level of public engagement and evidence of an inclusive process. Local community conversations about expanding the monument have been on-going for many years, culminating with robust local meetings in recent months.
- The degree of private ownership within the proposal and private landowner support. The proposed expansion map minimizes the impact to private inholdings. Many private landowners in the expansion have been included in expansion discussions and expressed their support.

This combination of factors strongly supports the proposed expansion. However, key issues remain to be addressed should the monument be expanded. Primary among them is the issue of local access, a common refrain at the recent community meetings. If the monument is expanded, I will follow the public process on access closely and advocate for reasonable resolution to accustomed uses. In addition to access, I will also be invested in the discussions regarding fire management, grazing, and timber harvest issues in an expanded monument management plan. Finally, the monument has long lacked a dedicated manager and sufficient staff and resources to enhance the ecological values as well as visitor and recreational opportunities. With the inclusion of many more miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, it is even more incumbent that adequate staff and resources be allocated to the monument to build on existing outdoor recreation opportunities for the benefit of local communities and businesses. I will continue to urge the administration address these concerns, and for our congressional delegation to advocate for sufficient funding.

Time is of particular importance as we enter the final weeks of the Obama administration. My office and state agency staff stand ready to assist our federal partners as they evaluate the proposal. I am confident there is sufficient time and determination to complete this expansion for the benefit of Oregon, the region, and the nation. As a champion of preserving our most iconic public lands, I am excited about the opportunity to enhance the unique and valuable wonders of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Sincerely,



Governor Kate Brown

kb:dj

Cc:

Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley
Representative Earl Blumenauer
Representative Suzanne Bonamici
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Kurt Schrader
Representative Greg Walden

EVENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

V2 CELEBRATE THE PURCHASE OF THE ANTELOPE FLATS PARCEL IN GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

DATE: Friday, December 16, 2016
LOCATION: Grand Teton National Park; Dornan's Pizza & Pasta, Moose, Wyoming
TIME: 8:00AM – 2:30PM MT
FROM: David Vela, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this event is to celebrate the successful acquisition of the 640-acre Antelope Flats parcel of Wyoming school trust lands within Grand Teton National Park, and to thank the boards, staff, members, and donors of the National Park Foundation and Grand Teton National Park Foundation who contributed \$23 million to the purchase. Also attending will be elected officials from Teton County and the state of Wyoming. Along with Wyoming Governor Matt Mead, you will have an opportunity to address the attendees and provide your perspectives on the importance of this acquisition for the park. You will have an opportunity to speak to the group, and one-on-one to individuals, as well as to the media.

II. PARTICIPANTS

- You
- Matthew Mead, Governor of Wyoming
- Cynthia Cloud, Wyoming State Auditor
- Mark Gordon, Wyoming State Treasurer
- Bridget Hill, Wyoming Director of the Office of State Lands and Investments
- David Vela, NPS Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park
- Leslie Mattson, President, Grand Teton National Park Foundation
- King Laughlin, Vice President, National Park Foundation
- Susan Thomas, wife of the late Senator Craig Thomas
- Clay Hanna, Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve Supervisor, Grand Teton NP
- Vickie Mates, Chief of Interpretation, Grand Teton NP
- Cynthia Lummis, U.S. Representative (WY-At Large)
- Board members, donors, staff, and supporters (see attachment)

This event is public and open to the media.

III. AGENDA

Please refer to your trip schedule for specific timing. Should changes to the agenda occur, your advance staff will update you on the ground.

8:30AM Greet Superintendent

- 8:45AM Phone Call with Senators Wyden and Merkley (20 minutes)
Note: Call re: Cascade Siskiyou
- 9:30AM Snowshoe Hike Moose-Wilson Road (90 minutes)
- 11:15AM Freshen Up//Change for Event (40 minutes)
- 12:00PM Lunch Buffet (45 minutes)
Note: ~100 Local stakeholders will be present
- 12:45PM Grand Teton National Park Speaking Program (40 minutes)
 - David Vela offers welcome remarks; introduces short film
 - Short film (Kelly School Students)
 - David Vela introduces you
 - You offer remarks; introduce Gov. Mead
 - Gov. Mead offers remarks; introduces Leslie Mattson
 - Leslie offers remarks; concludes event
- 1:25PM Press Time (15 minutes)
- 1:40PM Mix and Mingle (50 minutes)
- 2:30PM Depart en route Jackson Hole Airport

IV. KEY FACTS/HOT TOPICS

- In the Wyoming Statehood Act of 1890, the United States granted certain lands to the new state in order to provide revenue for its schools.
- Among the lands granted to Wyoming were three parcels that were later included within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park when it was expanded by Congress in 1950.
- Efforts to purchase these lands from Wyoming date back to the 1950s but had been unsuccessful. However, in late 2012, the National Park Service purchased the 86-acre Snake River parcel for \$16 million using funds made available through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- Following acquisition of the Snake River parcel, the Department sought to acquire the 640-acre Antelope Flats parcel through a land exchange in accordance with the Grand Teton National Park Land Exchange Act of 2003. In 2015, the exchange was determined to be infeasible.
- The National Park Foundation and the Grand Teton National Park Foundation agreed to partner with the NPS and raise half of the \$46 million purchase price for the Antelope Flats parcel. Fundraising was successfully accomplished over an 8-month period ending

in November 2016.

- Transfer of the land to the United States is scheduled to occur on December 12, just ahead of a December 31 statutory deadline established for the transfer by the Wyoming legislature.
- The transaction is a win-win for both NPS and Wyoming: NPS is able to effectively protect important natural resources in the park and Wyoming is able to add significantly to its public education trust fund.

V. TALKING POINTS/REMARKS

Talking Points provided by NPS:

Thank You to the Grand Teton National Park Foundation (GTNPF) and the National Park Foundation (NPF) for their extraordinary accomplishment of raising \$23 million in 8 months to match the federal funding for acquisition of Antelope Flats.

Specific thanks to GTNPF President Leslie Mattson, GTNPF Board Chair Hugh O'Halloran, and the entire GTNPF Board of Directors and staff.

Thank you to the National Park Foundation, with acknowledgement to Will Shafroth and Dan Sakura, and King Laughlin (representing NPF at the event)

Thank you to all of the many individuals and organizations who generously donated to both NPF and GTNPF – with your help we have achieved a great victory for conservation.

Thank you to the local community and elected officials for their support of the acquisition, including

- the Teton County Board of County Commissioners
- the Town of Jackson.
- Any members of the Wyoming Congressional delegation - Senator John Barrasso, Senator Mike Enzi, Representative Cynthia Lummis - invited and may be in attendance.

Thanks to the late Senator Craig Thomas (R-WY) who was a champion for acquiring the state school trust lands within the park and sponsored the Grand Teton National Park Land Exchange Act of 2003. His widow, Susan Thomas, may be in attendance.

Philanthropy continues to play an important role at Grand Teton National Park.

The public-private partnership to acquire the Antelope Flats parcel continues the tradition of generosity begun by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. in acquiring lands in order to protect them from development and in helping to establish the park.

The GTNPF has an almost two-decade record of significant achievements, including the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center, the Jenny Lake Renewal project, and supporting the park in many other ways.

The Antelope Flats parcel is of great importance to preserving the scenic and ecological integrity of the landscape in this area.

The 640-acre parcel provides habitat and connectivity for elk, moose, deer, pronghorn, bison, wolves, grizzly and black bears, sage grouse, and other wildlife.

It is an important migratory corridor and will continue to serve that purpose in perpetuity.

The acquisition and protection of these lands are really all about the next generation of Americans - the kids who appeared in the video.

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1: Talking Points provided by Kate Kelly
- Attachment 2: Briefing Statement
- Attachment 3: Bios - Office of the Governor of Wyoming
- Attachment 4: Invitation List



Lyons, James <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>

TWS Third Assessment of the State of the National Conservation Lands

1 message

Nada Culver <nada_culver@tws.org>

Wed, Oct 21, 2015 at 11:48 AM

To: "janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov" <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, "Lyons, James" <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Janice and Jim – We wanted to share with you The Wilderness Society's report 2015 State of the National Conservation Lands: A Third Assessment, which we released today - on the 45th anniversary of the designation of King Range NCA in California, BLM's first conservation area. We're very excited to be able to keep working on this issue and supporting the BLM's management of these amazing places.

Here's a link to our web feature, which includes a link to the report <https://wilderness.org/report-national-conservation-lands-chronically-underfunded>

I've also pasted our press release below:



Report Shows BLM's Prized Conservation Lands Struggle without Adequate Funding

Wilderness Society Issues Third Assessment of National Conservation Lands at its 15-Year Milestone

Contacts:

Nada Culver, Senior Counsel and Director, BLM Action Center, 303-225-4635, Nada_Culver@tws.org

Michael Reinemer, Deputy Director, Communications, 202-429-3949, michael_reinemer@tws.org

WASHINGTON, DC (October 21, 2015) — In a [new report](#), the third in a series, The Wilderness Society recommends that Congress and the Administration take stronger measures to protect America's National Conservation Lands. Managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Conservation Lands were established in 2000 to conserve, protect and restore nationally significant lands recognized for their outstanding cultural, ecological and scientific values.

The 30 million acres of National Conservation Lands are natural and cultural treasures, and include National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, [Wilderness Areas](#), Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails and other protected places.

The Wilderness Society's Third Assessment found improvements in planning, protection of wild lands and visitor management over the past five years and over the 15 years since the creation of the system and the corresponding evaluations by The Wilderness Society. Now, nearly all designated Conservation Lands are better known and appreciated by the public. However, the lack of adequate funding for National Conservation Lands continues to hamper BLM's ability to improve leadership, increase law enforcement, restore ecosystem health and protect cultural resources.

For example, fragile archaeological sites and rock art around both the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area in Nevada and the Sonoran Desert National Monument in Arizona are continually vandalized due to a lack of law enforcement and poorly managed off-road vehicle uses near these cultural sites. Although designated almost 20 years ago, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah still does not have a grazing management plan, forcing the agency to rely on management plans from the early 1980s. Other problems in these areas include lack of consistent leadership and persistent habitat fragmentation by roads, as well as inadequate inventories of cultural resources, special status species or non-native, invasive species. These consistent problems keep BLM from coming up with needed protective management strategies.

"Our BLM conservation lands face continuous threats – ranging from underfunding to complete defunding to threats of undoing the system altogether, as well as development of backcountry areas and damage to our shared heritage of cultural resources," said **Nada Culver, Director of the BLM Action Center at The Wilderness Society**. "It's high time our elected leaders start listening to the American people, who want to protect the cultural treasures, wildlife and clean air and water that make our public lands the premier destinations for visitors from around the world."

Examples of National Conservation Lands managed by BLM include:

- The **Iditarod Trail** in Alaska, used by thousands of winter recreation enthusiasts, subsistence hunters, inter-village travelers and long-distance winter races.
- The **Canyons of the Ancients National Monument** in southwest Colorado near Mesa Verde National Park, which contains the greatest known density of archaeological sites in the United States.
- The **Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area** in New Mexico, a landscape of visually stunning badlands and hoodoos.
- The **Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument** in Montana, a living museum of the historic Lewis and Clark expedition across the Northwest.

In The Wilderness Society's "[Third Assessment Report](#)," the group urges Congress and the Administration to improve management for the National Conservation Lands by:

- Prioritizing landscape restoration and fostering ecosystem and species health, along with reducing the impact of roads and development on wildlife habitat and wildness.
- Increasing BLM's budget to improve law enforcement, leadership and actual management across all National Conservation Lands.
- Expanding the National Conservation Lands to include all important and still unprotected BLM managed landscapes and waterbodies across the West.

"There are some in Congress, such as House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop, who believe the National Conservation Lands to be 'unnecessary' and have proposed to defund the System entirely," said **Culver**. "This report shows the need for the opposite. We need more funding and better management of our BLM conservation lands to provide the American people with more access to hunting, fishing, camping, research, restoration and for cleaner air and water throughout the West."

The Wilderness Society is the leading conservation organization working to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places. Founded in 1935, and now with more than 700,000 members and supporters, The Wilderness Society has led the effort to permanently protect 109 million acres of wilderness and to ensure sound management of our shared national lands. www.wilderness.org.

Quotations from Local Advocates

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Oregon

The Soda Mountain Wilderness Council's Dave Willis spearheaded the multi-group campaign to establish southwestern Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument 15 years ago and has monitored the area for more than 30 years. Willis

says the problems with National Conservation Lands can't just be blamed on a slim budget. "The 2015 Conservation Lands Assessment rates BLM's management of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument as mostly mediocre," he says. "BLM has done a good job of acquiring Monument in-holdings from willing sellers here via the Land and Water Conservation Fund. We hope Congress will restore that important program. And BLM has repaired land damaged by old jeep trails in the congressionally designated wilderness of the Monument's southern backcountry where motor vehicles are illegal. But beyond those good things, BLM's conservation deficiency here is generally a sad fact."

"Cascade-Siskiyou is the only national monument explicitly established to protect biodiversity. Yet the Monument manager's passion seems to be commercial logging – not permitted in the Monument itself – on BLM lands outside the Monument for which he is also field manager. And the Monument's staff ecologist was not re-hired after he produced a study showing cattle grazing impacts to be incompatible with Monument protection – a study BLM has functionally ignored. This is tragic because Cascade-Siskiyou is not 'just' outstandingly biodiverse – its public lands also hold together by a thread the ecologically strategic biological connectivity between the globally significant Siskiyou Mountains and southern Cascade Range.

Cascade-Siskiyou needs not only better conservation management by BLM but – according to many dozens of scientists concerned about the effects of climate change here – bigger boundaries to safeguard and make more resilient the 'spectacular diversity' of species and important biological corridor the Monument was established to protect. Whether BLM as an agency is up to the job – or, despite some very dedicated and conservation-minded BLM staff, whether the local Medford BLM office even wants to be up to the protection job here – is still up for grabs. After 15 years, local BLM managers still suffer from a Cascade-Siskiyou conservation vision/priority deficit."

CONTACT:

Dave Willis, [Soda Mountain Wilderness Council](#)

sodamtn@mind.net, 541/482-8660 or 541/482-0526

Southwest Utah

"Like most of the West, southwestern Utah has been going through many changes over the past decades. This report shows that conservation on BLM-managed lands has been a possible but challenging concept over the past 15 years. For example, there is currently pressure to build a four-lane highway through the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, which is anathema to the purpose of the NCA. How BLM responds will show if it can meet the mission of the National Conservation Lands to conserve, protect and restore these important landscapes."

CONTACT: Susan Crook, Land Program Manager/ [SUNCLF Director](#), [Citizens for Dixie's Future](#)

susan@citizensfordixie.org, 435-773-7920

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah

"As this report points out, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument still does not have a plan in place for grazing management and is relying on management plans from the early 1980s. Even though there were criticisms and concerns expressed during the scoping process, it is essential to finalize the grazing management plan based on National Conservation Lands policies and the current physical, climatic, social and resource conditions. If this is done, BLM can be on the right track to providing a model for conservation and grazing management agency-wide."

CONTACT, Noel Poe, Executive Director, [Grand Staircase Escalante Partners](#)

noel@gsenm.org, 435-644-1307 office, 435-899-0467 cell

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

"The new maps, posters and branding of the National Conservation Lands and the manuals for managing them are all steps in the right direction.

"But the Breaks got an "F" in the area of protecting the Monument's wild character. We're concerned that BLM hasn't taken the first steps in inventorying the wild lands they have. They can't manage the Breaks to protect what they have if they don't know what's out there. And BLM is turning even well-intentioned people into scofflaws by not issuing a clear map of open roads in the Monument.

"We get that BLM is working under fairly extreme budget cuts and staff shortages. All we ask is that the agency prioritize protection, and work with partners who can help them protect the Monument – our group of course, but also groups like the University of Montana's Wilderness Institute, which just worked with BLM to do the first-ever survey of the Monument's Wilderness Study Areas."

Beth Kampschorr, Executive Director, Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument
beth@missouribreaks.org, 406-502-1334

Nada Culver

Senior Counsel and Director, BLM Action Center

The Wilderness Society

1660 Wynkoop, #850

Denver, CO 80202

Main: 303-650-5818

Direct: 303-225-4635

Nada_Culver@tws.org



Lyons, James <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>

Cascade-Siskiyou: 4-10-2016, Medford Mail Tribune -- Draft EA Monument Transportation Management Plan op-eds

1 message

Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>
To: james_lyons@ios.doi.gov

Thu, Apr 14, 2016 at 12:17 AM

Hi, Jim –

Good to see you recently. Thanks for making time for Mark and me.

The *Medford Mail Tribune* ran a side-by-side "Two Views" pair of op-eds last Sunday re: BLM's Draft EA for their Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Transportation Management Plan.

Links to and text of each op-ed are below.

You can judge which of the two pieces are likely to be more persuasive with the public...

Come out for a horseback ride!

–Dave

<http://www.mailtribune.com/article/20160410/guest-opinion-BLM-should-close-more-monument-roads>

<http://www.mailtribune.com/opinion/20160410/guest-opinion-proposed-road-closures-threaten-access-to-public-lands>

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- MONUMENT TRANSPORTATION PLAN: TWO VIEWS

Guest Opinion: Proposed road closures threaten access to public lands

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• **By Gary Reed**

Posted Apr. 10, 2016 at 2:00 AM

The morning had begun at 4 a.m. and now, 14 hours later, the old green Peterbilt logging truck was rambling out of the woods with its freshly loaded stack of six logs. This would be the third trip today past Pilot Rock to the mill to dump the load.

My father had been hauling logs throughout Southern Oregon and Northern California for as long as I can remember and there was a good possibility I was sitting alongside him with BB gun in hand, waiting for a load check so that I might chase after some nearby squirrels. I can still remember as my father explained how logging done correctly was much like raising corn: you would cut the timber as it matured and replant for a future cut, the same as you would do a corn stalk.

The Bureau of Land Management managed much of the land that my father would have logged. BLM records indicate they managed 16.3 million acres with 738 employees in 1965. Their expenditures on forest development, wildfire and misc other charges amounted to just over \$26 million. As recently as 2014, controlled acreage remained virtually the same, but according to BLM records, over 1,600 employees were required. The same records show expenditures exceeded \$256 million.

In June 2000, after the environmentalists had totally devastated the logging industry with the spotted owl and other environmental concerns, the Clinton administration decided to create the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which now totals 62,000 acres. As a point of comparison, the average annual Oregon harvest of timber from World War II through 1989 was 7 billion to 9 billion board feet, which sent \$1.5 billion of O&C money to local counties and schools. In 2013 only 4.2 million board feet were harvested, and today less than \$40 million is being used as a Band-Aid through Congress.

The BLM now carries an inflated number of employees, expenditures have skyrocketed and logging has decreased. The need for BLM in its current condition is suspect at best. So now the BLM pushes for removal of 165 miles of roadway, maybe in an effort to justify its numbers. Removing those roads does not come without cost. Perhaps an estimate of what costs are involved to close 165 miles of road and turning them back to nature should be given to the public.

History proves that where timber is *not* logged, fires will eventually arrive. The Transportation Management Plan document even admits "limiting vehicular access ... increases the chance of wildfire ... increasing the fire suppression costs." Roads that are closed will have to be rebuilt to access those fires; the taxpayer bill increases.

As a 58-year resident of Oregon, I have paid my share of taxes to this state. I have been an avid hunter and fisherman, bought licenses and tags and hunted every corner of the current monument for over 45 years. Now that I am older and walking is harder, it seems that I am the one being discriminated against by the closure of all of these roads.

Many of the areas that I have hunted have already been gated up or "recontoured." With much of the land now being bought up by private parties I find it harder and harder every year to even get on land that I can enjoy. I find it interesting that the only public meeting that the BLM has is in

Ashland, a town known for the environmentalists, many of whom do not even live in this state. Perhaps we should have a meeting that includes the Jackson County commissioners, who are actually supporting the citizens by saying no to these road closures.

The old green Peterbilt has since been decommissioned and my father passed away, but I would hope that people could remember those loggers were the ones that helped protect and make these woods available to all of us. In my opinion it would be a great disrespect to those who in the past and present have logged the woods of Southern Oregon by denying their children and grandchildren the same opportunities that they once enjoyed.

Closing any roads and denying the access of any part of the forest is not acceptable. My children and theirs should not be locked out of any public lands. It seems to me what the BLM is proposing would be the same as showing a young child a new playground and then only letting a select few go into the playground while the others are left looking in.

Gary Reed lives in Phoenix.

• <http://www.mailtribune.com/article/20160410/OPINION/160419962/guest-opinion-BLM-should-close-more-roads>

• MONUMENT TRANSPORTATION PLAN: TWO VIEWS

Guest Opinion: BLM should close more roads in the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument

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• Guest Opinion: Proposed road closures threaten access to public lands...

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• By Matt Flotho

Posted Apr. 10, 2016 at 2:00 AM

Recreation — including hunting — is a definite benefit of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. I am a hunter. We are truly blessed to have such a national amenity in our local backyard — even if it is still a work in progress. But neither hunting nor any type of recreation is the monument's purpose.

The purpose of the monument, according to its designating language, is to protect the native species and natural features of this outstandingly biodiverse and ecologically strategic biological corridor. These species, features and function are what make this Cascade-Siskiyou area such a

special place and why a small part of it became a national monument. (I am also a carpenter — but, with many scientists, I think the monument should be bigger.)

I live on 20 acres of my own land just inside the monument boundary. I have hunted the monument area each year for more than two decades. I treasure my hunting experiences here — especially backcountry hunting away from roads.

Getting away from roads lets me experience quiet and see animals and things I don't usually see from a road. The exercise is good for me and I can breathe clean mountain air away from noise and exhaust. Hunters are legally required to be 1,500 feet from a road before firing a gun. (How often do you think that regulation is respected?) In wet weather, road hunters often damage muddy back roads.

I'm glad to see the Bureau of Land Management finally getting around to the monument's Transportation Management Plan mandated 16 years ago. What took BLM so long?

BLM's draft plan keeps talking about "access, access, access" — as though motor vehicles are the only way to "access" the monument. We drive to the monument. But the more we walk when we get there, the better it is for us and for the monument. BLM seems to forget that walking and horseback riding are far more "traditional" forms of "access" than driving.

Too many roads slice up Southern Oregon backcountry. There are thousands of miles of roads — including hundreds of miles in the monument built for commercial logging that ended when the monument began. The monument's road density is so extreme from obsolete logging roads that things are way out of whack from a hydrology and wildlife biology perspective.

Backcountry roads fragment habitat. Roads are prime vectors for noxious weeds. Roads cause erosion and can trigger damaging landslides and debris flows that degrade streams and fish habitat.

I have volunteered with the Greensprings Fire and Rescue District since it began. People talk about the benefit of roads for fire suppression. But backcountry roads are also prime vectors for human-caused fires, the most common source of wildland fire.

BLM's draft plan seems to mostly just consider closing dead-ends and spurs — many of which are already overgrown and not driveable now. Most, if not all, primary roads seem to be left open. I bet most people won't even notice which roads are closed.

BLM's plan doesn't seem to be creating any new roadless areas — and for those of us who care about fish, wildlife, and quality hunting experiences, that's too bad. Unfragmented habitat is a dwindling and precious commodity we keep squandering. Let's get some back!

I've heard talk about the handicapped and elderly needing roads to experience monument backcountry. That ignores the fact that disabled and able-bodied people of all ages are on both sides of whether to protect or further degrade wildlands. In most of the world, degradation keeps winning. The monument is supposed to be different.

A primary monument wildlands advocate lost most of both feet 40 years ago. He's 63 years old. Another monument wildlands advocate is a double-amputee just below each knee. She's no spring chicken. One of the best conservationists in Southern Oregon is a polio victim. She, too, qualifies for a senior citizen's discount. And an early and strong advocate for protecting wildlands here was a now-deceased city councilman confined to a wheelchair at an early age.

I hope to become a senior citizen myself someday. When I do — and even if I suffer disability along the way — I don't want my age or affliction to be used to further injure wildlands with roads in the monument or elsewhere. We should thank BLM for their legally required plan to close some monument roads — and ask them to do their job and close more.

Matt Flotho is a carpenter who has lived in the Greensprings/Tyler Creek area for 20 years. He hunts in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument area and elsewhere.



Lyons, James <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>

Cascade-Siskiyou: Oregonian editorial endorses expansion -- 12/3/16, 3 p.m.

1 message

Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>

Mon, Dec 12, 2016 at 2:46 PM

To: james_lyons@ios.doi.gov

Hi, Jim --

Below = Portland *Oregonian* 12/3/16 ed board endorsement.

Attached...

- 11/11/16 Eugene *Register-Guard* ed board endorsement
- 10/23/16 Medford *Mail Tribune* op-ed
- 9/5/16 Medford *Mail Tribune* front-page article
- 9/11/16 Medford *Mail Tribune* ed board: "Environment should drive monument debate"

For a bigger, wilder (NOT milder) Monument --

Dave

541/482-8660 or 541/482-0526

http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2016/12/obama_should_honor_on-the-grou.html

Obama should honor on-the-ground solutions in Oregon's wildest places: Editorial



The Owyhee Wild and Scenic River, managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, in southeast Oregon, flows north to connect with the Snake River. (Courtesy the Bureau of Land Management)



By The Oregonian Editorial Board

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on December 03, 2016 at 3:00 PM

Two separate fights to protect two extraordinary patches of Oregon have in recent months escalated as President Barack Obama's term comes to a close. That's because he could, by the authority Congress granted to him in a far less populous time, singularly issue sweeping protections to the Owyhee Canyonlands in southeastern Oregon and the Cascade-Siskiyou Mountains in southwestern Oregon and northern California.

The drive to limit development and resource use in both areas makes sense but for different reasons. Oregonians will never get back the lightless skies at night or the lonely beauty of ancient, eroded terrain cut through by wild rivers in the Owyhee if given over to mining or highway-building. Separately, Oregonians risk losing some of the site-specific, mind-bending biodiversity that makes the forested Cascade-Siskiyou realm a delicate universe requiring limits on use.

But Obama should say no to designating national monument status to the 2.5-million acre Owyhee Canyonlands. And he should say yes to doubling the already successful Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Selective wilderness designations, river protections and broad prohibitions on mining would be strategic, consequential steps Congress could take to protect the Owyhee Canyonlands, the largest undeveloped expanse of land in the lower 48 states. Significantly, doing so would ensure that an economically vital and long-established ranching culture goes unthreatened by monument designation.



A scene from the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern

Oregon. Courtesy the Bureau of Land Management

By contrast, in the more populated realm anchored by Ashland and Medford, the fish-bearing waterways and exotic flora that make the Siskiyous distinct face potential threat from fragmented lands and warmer temperatures from climate change. Immediate monument expansion would connect fragmented lands within and outside the monument, offering lifelines to potentially marooned species, and help preserve what the 2000 presidential decree called an "ecological wonder ... of rare and beautiful species of plants and animals, whose continued survival ... depends upon its continued ecological integrity."

Oregon's public lands conform to contemporary uses while honoring the communities rooted in them.

Few dispute that President-elect Donald Trump might bring to the nation a different ethic about development and land use, and it remains true that roughly half of Oregon is owned by the federal government and run by agencies such as the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. While most folks in rural Harney

County and surrounding areas objected to the armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, simmering resentments across the American West about public lands management came to the fore. So Oregon must have a voice in deciding what's right for the extraordinary landscape that Oregonians call home. That means the Owyhee and the Siskiyous warrant bolstered protections only by actions that honor on-the-ground sentiment, essential to declaring shared destiny and preserving democracy.

Years ago Idaho withstood fears that its Owyhee lands would win monument designation and dodged it by creating 518,000 acres of protected wilderness. It has worked well, among other things limiting mechanized uses of sensitive lands.

But
Oregon

Oregonian editorials

[Editorials](#) reflect the collective opinion of The Oregonian editorial board, which operates independently of the newsroom.

Members of the editorial board are Laura Gunderson, Helen Jung, Mark Katches, John Maher and Len Reed.

To respond to this editorial:

Post your comment below, submit a [commentary piece](#), or write a [letter to the editor](#).

If you have questions about the opinion section, contact Laura Gunderson, editorial and commentary editor, at lgunderson@oregonian.com or 503-221-8378.

Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley in June proposed legislation that would shield more than 2 million acres of the Owyhee Canyonlands from mineral exploitation, including oil and gas drilling. It was a clear call to leave the ground the way it is and do so in such a way that supports farmers and ranchers who work in an environmentally sustainable fashion. They should press Congress to approve the legislation while citing a report released just last month from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries showing plenty of untapped riches beneath the surface in southeastern Oregon.

Both senators, meanwhile, have deferred to Obama on monument designation, preferring to make known the Oregon sentiments on all sides of the issue. Yet both have been supportive of expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, even as some logging- and ranching-based voices in the region claim they are unheard.

Presidents are twitchy in their monument designations, which can sharply limit access while altering ecologies and firefighting techniques. Bill Clinton created eight monuments in his last three days of office. Obama has made several already. His interior secretary and former REI chief, Sally Jewell, has advocated wise stewardship of public lands, and her counsel will count in the weeks ahead. But any presidential decree affecting Oregon must reflect this modern reality: Oregon's public lands conform to contemporary uses while honoring the communities rooted in them. Owyhee needs wilderness, river protection and mining-prohibition legislation -- but no monument decree. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, meanwhile, should build upon its success with expansion that will ensure its vitality.

4 attachments

-  **SMWC.RegisterGuardEditorial11-11-16.pdf**
2395K
-  **SMWC.MMT10-23-16MonumentBoundariesInadequate.pdf**
419K
-  **SMWC.MMT9-5-16MonumentExpansion.pdf**
3263K
-  **SMWC.MMT9-11-2016ExpansionEditorial.pdf**
197K



Lyons, James <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>

Re: Cascade-Siskiyou: Monument expansion public support letters

1 message

Lyons, James <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>
To: Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>

Mon, Dec 19, 2016 at 1:15 PM

Dave for the conversation last week.

Meeting with Nikki this afternoon and will follow-up .

Jim

On Mon, Dec 12, 2016 at 2:37 PM, Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net> wrote:

Hi, Jim –

Any time to talk with me by phone soon?

Note we've added some more support since our early April visit.

For a bigger, wilder (*NOT* milder) Monument –

Dave

541/482-8660 or 541/482-0526

From: Dave Willis [mailto:sodamtn@mind.net]

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 7:45 PM

To:

Subject: FW: Cascade-Siskiyou: Oregon's governor, Klamath Tribes send Monument expansion support letters

Following up with new Monument expansion support letters:

- The Klamath Tribes to Sen. Merkley – November 17, 2016
- Governor Kate Brown to Secretary Sally Jewell – November 21, 2016

From: Dave Willis [mailto:sodamtn@mind.net]

Sent: Friday, November 11, 2016 2:22 PM

This is the last chance to protect public land in Oregon (and elsewhere) for a perilously long time. Indeed, public lands in Oregon (and elsewhere) look to very soon be under heavy siege. I believe the way the red/blue state map shook out means Cascade-Siskiyou should still be a very live option.

Attached please find some local support for Cascade-Siskiyou Monument expansion...

- 10/30/16 support letter from local Oregon state Sen. Kevin Talbert
- 8/3/15 support letter from local Oregon state Sen. Alan Bates (deceased August 2016)
- 7/6/15 support letter from local Oregon state Rep. Peter Buckley
- 8/23/16 published support statement by local Oregon state Rep-elect Pam Marsh
- 7/11/15 unanimous support letter from Ashland Chamber of Commerce board
- 5/28/2015 support letter from retired Ashland City Administrator Brian Almquist
- City of Ashland support...
 - 6/29/16 letter from Mayor Stromberg to Sec'y Jewell
 - 6/16/15 unanimous City Council resolution supporting expansion
 - 6/20/01 unanimous City Council resolution supporting existing Monument (vs. Bush/Cheney & Jackson County Commissioners' efforts against)
- 8/1/16 unanimous Talent Chamber of Commerce board letter supporting expansion
- City of Talent support...
 - 8/31/16 letter from Mayor Stricker to Sec'y Jewell
 - 8/17/16 unanimous City Council resolution supporting expansion

NOTE: Ashland and Talent are the two closest towns to the Monument.

For a bigger, wilder Monument –

Dave

Dave Willis, Soda Mountain Wilderness Council

15187 Greensprings Highway

Ashland, OR 97520

541/482-8660 or 482-0526 voice

541/482-2036 fax

541/944-2247 cell (unreliable when near voice #s above)

1/18/2017

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Re: Cascade-Siskiyou: Monument expansion public support letters

sodamtn@mind.net

Jim Lyons

*Deputy Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management*

Jim_Lyons@ios.doi.gov

202-208-4318 (direct)

202-815-4412 (mobile)



Lyons, James <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Cascade-Siskiyou: 1/13/2017 Undark Magazine article on Monument's biological diversity/connectivity

1 message

Lyons, James <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>
To: Jim17lyons@gmail.com

Mon, Jan 16, 2017 at 8:04 AM

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Dave Willis** <sodamtn@mind.net>

Date: Fri, Jan 13, 2017 at 8:17 PM

Subject: Cascade-Siskiyou: 1/13/2017 Undark Magazine article on Monument's biological diversity/connectivity

To: Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>

Probably the best article so far to explain the two "meta-objects" of the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument area: biological diversity and connectivity. dw

<http://undark.org/article/obama-cascade-siskiyou-biodiversity-connectivity/>

-

Jim Lyons

Deputy Assistant Secretary

Land and Minerals Management

Jim_Lyons@ios.doi.gov

202-208-4318 (direct)

202-815-4412 (mobile)

From: [Dave Willis](#)
To: james_lyons@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Cascade-Siskiyou: Monument expansion public support letters
Date: Monday, December 12, 2016 2:38:45 PM
Attachments: [SMWC.CSNMexpSenTalbert.pdf](#)
[SMWC.CSNMexpansionBates2015.pdf](#)
[SMWC.CSNMExpansionBuckley2015.pdf](#)
[SMWC.ADT8-23-16MonumentShould_Grow.pdf](#)
[SMWC.AshlandChamberSupport6-11-2015.pdf](#)
[SMWC.AshlandCityAlmquistLtr.pdf](#)
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[SMWC.CSNMexpGovBrown11-21-16.pdf](#)

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- City of Talent support...
 - 8/31/16 letter from Mayor Stricker to Sec'y Jewell
 - 8/17/16 unanimous City Council resolution supporting expansion

NOTE: Ashland and Talent are the two closest towns to the Monument.

For a bigger, wilder Monument –
Dave

Dave Willis, Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
15187 Greensprings Highway
Ashland, OR 97520
541/482-8660 or 482-0526 voice
541/482-2036 fax
541/944-2247 cell (unreliable when near voice #s above)
sodamtn@mind.net



OREGON STATE SENATE

October 30, 2016

ENDORING CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT EXPANSION

To Whom It May Concern:

Although I regret the tragic circumstances that have me succeeding the late Senator Alan Bates in representing Senate District 3, I do not hesitate to continue the on-the-record support for expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The unique biodiversity of the area was formally recognized and some of it protected as the original Monument in June of 2000. Sixteen years later, the Monument has proved to be an economic and ecological gift that keeps on giving.

In endorsing expansion, I join 85 scientists (and counting), Oregon's U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, the Ashland and Talent Chamber of Commerce boards, the Ashland and Talent City Councils and their respective mayors, as well as my colleague representative Peter Buckley, whose Oregon legislative district also includes the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

I am convinced the Monument plays a key role in protecting our region's distinctive biodiversity and important biological connectivity between the globally significant Siskiyou Mountains and southern Cascade Range. Scientists report the current Monument boundaries are inadequate to safeguard long-term what the Monument was established to protect. The expansion could correct this and preserve the original intent of the Monument and the efforts made thus far.

The Ashland and Talent City Councils and Chamber of Commerce boards have expressed that the Monument contributes to our region's economic diversity – that "green is gold." The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument fits thematically with our south valley's primary tourism and higher-education based economy, with southwestern Oregon's growing reputation for natural values, and also with our region's urgent need for economic diversification.

In drawing any expanded Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument boundaries, I urge federal decision-makers to consider the best ecological criteria possible as well as scenic resources and provision for traditional quiet recreation. I feel this will protect the unique natural resources and support our rural economy.

I ask you, please expand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Kevin S. Talbert
District 3, Oregon State Senate

Dr. Alan Bates
Oregon State Senator
District 3
Southern Oregon



sen.alanbates@state.or.us
phone: 503.986.1703
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE

August 3, 2015

ENDORING CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT EXPANSION

To Whom It May Concern:

Living and fishing in southern Oregon, I know firsthand the significance of the wilderness areas in the region. It is one of the many reasons I am proud to represent Senate District 3. The unique biodiversity was formally recognized and protected in June of 2000, with the formation of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Fifteen years later, it has proved to be an ecological and economic gift that keeps on giving. Today, I write to endorse expanding the Monument.

In endorsing the expansion, I join 85 scientists (and counting), the Ashland Chamber of Commerce board, the City of Ashland, and my colleague Representative Peter Buckley, whose Oregon legislative district also includes the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

I am convinced the Monument plays a key role in protecting our region's distinctive biodiversity and important biological connectivity between the globally significant Siskiyou Mountains and southern Cascade Range. Scientists report the current Monument boundaries are inadequate to safeguard long-term what the Monument was established to protect. The expansion could correct this and preserve the original intent of the Monument and the efforts made thus far.

The Ashland City Council and Chamber of Commerce have expressed that the Monument contributes to our region's economic diversity – that "green is gold." The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument fits thematically with Ashland's tourism and higher-education based economy, with our region's growing reputation for natural values, and also with our region's urgent need for continued economic diversification.

In drawing any expanded Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument boundaries, I urge federal decision-makers to consider the best ecological criteria possible as well as protection of scenic resources and provision for traditional quiet recreation. I feel this will protect the unique natural resources and support our rural economy.

I ask you, please expand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Thank you for your time and consideration.

In Health,

State Senator Alan C. Bates, D.O.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 6, 2015

SUPPORT FOR EXPANDING THE CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT

To Whom It May Concern:

With enthusiasm, I endorse expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, all of which is in my district.

Many scientists, the board of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce, and the City of Ashland have collectively noted the ecological, recreational, scenic, and economic benefits of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. My local district is privileged to be home to such a national resource.

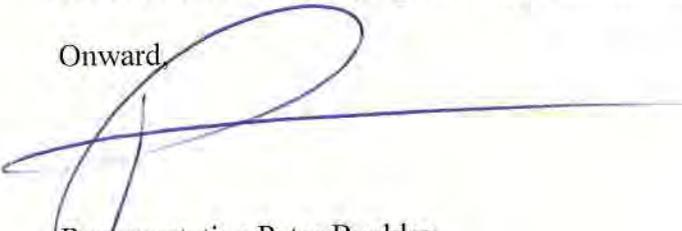
The same scientists have noted the ecological need to expand the Monument due to habitats fragmented by the Monument's currently constrained boundaries, the need for adaptive resilience in the face of climate change, and increased commodity and development pressures in the Monument's surrounding area.

In their own Monument expansion recommendations, the Ashland Chamber of Commerce board and Ashland City Council have noted the significant economic and quality-of-life contributions the Monument's recreational and scenic resources make to the area's citizens and visitors.

As former city administrator Brian Almquist wrote the Ashland mayor and city council on May 28 in his own letter urging Monument expansion, "Ashland is blessed to have a national amenity in its municipal backyard – even if it is still a work in progress..."

I encourage federal decision-makers to expand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument with "eco-logical" boundaries attuned to best science that also benefit my district's and the region's quiet recreational and scenic resources. An expanded Monument is right in step with the "State of Jefferson's" diversifying economy and will contribute to the well-being of my constituents.

Onward,



Representative Peter Buckley
House Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways & Means
Oregon House of Representatives

COUNCIL CORNER

The monument should grow

By Pam Marsh

We all know we live in a special place. Sometimes it takes an act of good government to help us realize the truly unusual nature of our landscape.

In June 2000, with the authority Congress gave presidents starting with Teddy Roosevelt, President Bill Clinton issued a proclamation establishing the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, and placed 53,000 acres of publicly owned land to the south and east of Ashland within its boundaries.

With monument status, the forest around my home in the Greensprings took on new meaning. We'd always appreciated these woods, but monument designation gave us a different vocabulary and a new understanding of our surroundings. The presidential proclamation described the monument as "an ecological wonder" created by the "interface of the Cascade, Klamath and Siskiyou ecoregions, in an area of unique geology, biology, climate and topography."

"Unique" is often over-used, but I soon learned it applies in this case. Cascade-Siskiyou is the only national monument established to protect biodiversity. It turns out that the intersection of multiple mountain ranges here produces a very rich flora and fauna. This spectacular variety of plant and animal species and close association of ecological communities is found nowhere else. It is also home to treasured natural landmarks, including Pilot Rock and Soda Mountain.

In the 16 years since designation, the monument has become a hiking mecca and a living laboratory for school children. It has also become a focus of significant biological study that has affirmed the area's special qualities — and its vulnerability.

A diverse group of scientists with experience in monument fieldwork has been warning that existing boundaries are insufficient to protect monument biodiversity, particularly in the face of climate change. The group has proposed an expansion into adjacent and nearby public lands that will allow critters and plants to move to different habitats and higher elevations in order to adjust to rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns and general climate shifts.

Proposed expansion areas could extend as far northwest as Grizzly Peak, south to lower elevations below Pilot Rock and Soda Mountain and northeast to cold headwater streams of Jenny Creek. Ideally, specific acreage would be determined by ecosystem needs, and not by artificial political boundaries.

Here in Ashland, we appreciate the intrinsic, aesthetic value of our local wild areas. We are also beginning to understand the potential recreational and economic opportunities offered by an expanded monument.

The Bureau of Land Management manages the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument with the overriding goal of protecting and restoring the area's ecological values. Privately held lands within outer monument boundaries are unaffected by the

designation and continue to be governed by county land-use rules. But the protected, federally owned acreage remains, as it should, open to the public for varied users including hikers, nature-lovers, hunters and horseback riders.

Expansion could protect our viewshed, grow our outdoor recreation opportunities and give us yet another means to entice visitors to come to town, and then stay awhile longer. A community that can boast of both a Shakespeare festival and a national monument has something for everyone.

Recognizing the need to protect the ecological sensitivity of our region as well as the potential recreational and economic benefits, Ashland's City Council and Chamber of Commerce board, as well as Talent's City Council and Chamber board, have all unanimously endorsed monument expansion.

Now we need President Obama to step up. Just as the original monument came through presidential proclamation, expansion would likely require executive action. Sixteen presidents, beginning with TR and including the current officeholder, have used the federal Antiquities Act as a powerful conservation tool to protect historical sites and scientifically important areas as national monuments.

President Obama still has five more months in office. A science-based expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument could be one of his last, best acts.

— Pam Marsh is a member of the Ashland City Council.



June 11, 2015

Mayor John Stromberg and the Ashland City Council
20 East Main
Ashland, OR 97520

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

The Ashland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted unanimously at the June 11, 2015 Board meeting to support the City resolution for the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

We appreciate the leadership of the Ashland City Council since 1985 in support of the protection of land in the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument area and believe a further expansion of these boundaries to be in the best interest of our citizens and visitors. The Monument provides unique recreational opportunities as well as scenic vistas for our community.

The Chamber appreciates the scientific evidence and analysis that will occur when designating the new boundaries. We believe quality of life afforded to our residents and businesses are further enhanced by the expansion of this area.

Thank you for your leadership and I encourage you on behalf of the Ashland Chamber Board of Directors to formally support this expansion through the resolution.

Sincerely,

Cindy Bernard, President

Ashland Chamber of Commerce and Visitor & Convention Bureau

PO Box 1360 • Ashland OR 97520 • 110 East Main St. • PO Box 1360 • Ashland OR 97520 • (541) 482-3486 • Fax: (541) 482-2350

ashlandchamber.com

Dave Willes

Brian L. Almquist
155 Susan Lane
Ashland, Oregon

May 28, 2015

Mayor John Stromberg and the Ashland City Council
20 East Main Street
Ashland, OR 97520

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I wholeheartedly urge you to support expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

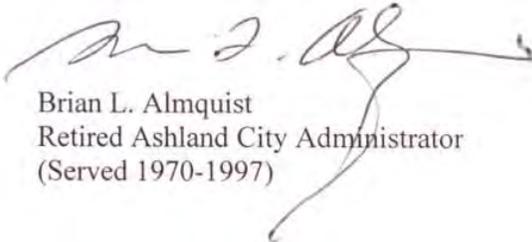
It's been my pleasure to witness and participate in the City of Ashland's consistent support for protecting lands south and east of Ashland several times, since the city council first supported designation of the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council's proposal to congressionally designate well over 30,000 acres of Wilderness in 1985. Though the California portion of the Wilderness proposal has not yet been designated, further familiarity with the area after 1985 revealed ecological values on lands not suitable for Wilderness outside the Wilderness proposal that led to the June 2000 establishment of the 53,000 acre Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The Monument is now over 62,000 acres due to BLM acquisitions of private timberland in-holdings from willing sellers. In 2009, about 24,000 acres of the Monument's backcountry became the Soda Mountain Wilderness. I believe both the Monument and its backcountry Wilderness are significant Ashland assets.

I'm familiar with the local scientists' April 2011 report recommending Monument expansion. But one does not need scientific expertise to note the "un-ecological" shape of the current boundaries of our country's only national monument established to protect biodiversity. Nor is scientific expertise needed to perceive the advantages of an expanded Monument for protecting Ashland's viewshed; providing increased recreational opportunities for our citizens and visitors; and enhancing our city's economy and quality of life. We are indeed blessed to have such a national amenity in our municipal backyard – even if it is still a work in progress, which the council can again assist with their continued support.

A real opportunity to expand the boundaries of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument does not present itself often. Having our Ashland elected officials endorse the protection of more of the mountains and foothills around Ashland, would be of great benefit in securing approval of an expanded boundary. Such a move would provide a lasting legacy, and enhance the benefits it provides to our city and the region.

Again, I urge you to formally support the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou Nat'l. Monument.

Sincerely,



Brian L. Almquist
Retired Ashland City Administrator
(Served 1970-1997)

June 29, 2016



Secretary Sally Jewell
Department of the Interior
1849 "C" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I write to ask your timely support for expanding the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument – and to offer my assistance toward that end.

Because of increasing development pressures and the effects of climate change, scientists recommend that the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument be expanded to safeguard into the future the outstanding biodiversity the Monument was established to protect. Last year the Ashland City Council unanimously passed a resolution endorsing Monument expansion that urged *“national and elected officials to use the best ecological criteria in considering the Monument’s present and future needs – as well as considering recreational and scenic resources – as they determine appropriate expanded boundaries for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument”* (Resolution No. 2015-22, attached).

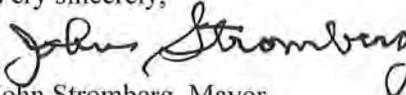
The economic and ecological benefits of the Monument to our city and region’s quality of life are why the Ashland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors unanimously asked us to support Monument expansion in their June 11 (2015) letter to myself and the Council – and why our local state legislators, Representative Peter Buckley and Senator Alan Bates, are also on record supporting Monument expansion. Our recent resolution is consistent with the City of Ashland’s support for protection of national public lands in the Monument area since 1985 as noted in our Resolution 2001-19 (also attached). These resolutions underscore strong local support for protecting the Monument and its economic contribution to our economy.

As our former long-time city administrator, Brian Almquist, wrote us about the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument last May, *“We are indeed blessed to have such a national amenity in our municipal backyard – even if it is still a work in progress which the council can again assist with their continued support.”*

As the current national administration draws to a close, so does the current window of opportunity for Cascade-Siskiyou Monument expansion. I urge you to not let this opportunity slip away. If a public meeting to consider Monument expansion becomes a possibility, please know that I am willing to host such a meeting myself at a mutually workable time and/or make city facilities available for such a gathering.

Again, Ashland’s local business leaders, elected officials, and (I am sure) the vast majority of our local citizens value and treasure our local public lands. We urge you to support expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument using the best available ecological criteria, while also considering recreational opportunities and scenic resources. Current and succeeding generations will only thank you more and more with time.

Very sincerely,


John Stromberg, Mayor

attachment

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
20 East Main Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520
www.ashland.or.us

Tel: 541-488-6002
Fax: 541-488-5311
TTY: 800-735-2900



RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02

**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING
CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT EXPANSION**

RECITALS:

- A. The Ashland City Council has, since 1985, consistently supported protection of land in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument area.
- B. In 2001, the Ashland City Council unanimously resolved to affirm the June 9, 2000 Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument proclamation as written, request the immediate release of the Medford BLM Draft Management Plan for the Monument, and request that funding be made available for the final plan.
- C. The Council found in its 2001 resolution that the Monument contributes substantially to Ashland's economy, enjoys broad support from Ashland citizens, businesses, and area residents and provides "richness of recreational opportunities and scenic vistas for the citizens of Ashland."
- D. In April 2011, a diverse group of scientists recommended expansion of Monument boundaries to safeguard the area's unique biological values. The scientists found current Monument boundaries to be inadequate because of: fragmented habitats (including incomplete watersheds); the need for more complete environmental gradients to increase resilience in the face of significant climatic change; and increasing development and land use pressures on adjoining lands that, if unabated, could undermine long-term persistence of the Monument's biological resources. In 2015 many other professional scientists (locally and nationally) have also endorsed the ecological need to expand Monument boundaries.

THE CITY OF ASHLAND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The boundaries of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument should be expanded.

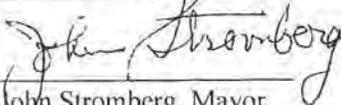
SECTION 2. We urge national elected officials to use the best available ecological criteria in considering the Monument's present and future needs – as well as considering recreational opportunities and scenic resources – as they determine appropriate expanded boundaries for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

This resolution was duly PASSED and ADOPTED this 16 day of June, 2015, and takes effect upon signing by the Mayor.

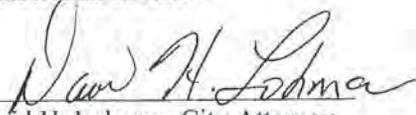


Barbara Christensen, City Recorder

SIGNED and APPROVED this 18 day of June, 2015.


John Stromberg, Mayor

Reviewed as to form:


David H. Lohman, City Attorney

RESOLUTION NO. 2001- 19

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT

RECITALS

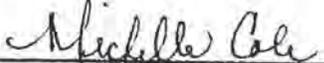
- A. The Ashland City Council has exhibited consistent support for the protection of land in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument by voting unanimously to write letters endorsing protection of the lands in the Soda Mountain Wilderness Area proposal, to support a land swap in the proposal area between BLM and Boise Cascade to prevent a clearcut, and to request that a power line not be installed across the area (June and December 1985, September 1993 and January 1994);
- B. Conservative calculations suggest that the impact of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument will enrich Ashland's economy by up to \$5,200,000 a year;
- C. 121 Ashland area businesses and thousands of citizens signed on to a Medford Mail Tribune April 8, 2001 full-page advertisement showing appreciation for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument;
- D. A poll conducted by the Ashland Daily Tidings from May 18-25, 2001 showed 89% of the responding readers favored either expanding or maintaining the current Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument as it currently is configured;
- E. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument will ensure an ongoing richness of recreational opportunities and scenic vistas for the citizens of Ashland,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. We endorse the June 9, 2000 proclamation as written for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

SECTION 2. We request the immediate release of the Medford BLM Draft Management Plan and that funding be made available to implement the final plan.

This resolution was read by title only in accordance with the Ashland Municipal Code 2.04.090 duly PASSED and ADOPTED this 19th day of JUNE, 2001.


~~Barbara Christensen~~, City Recorder
MICHELLE COLE, ASSISTANT TO THE RECORDER

SIGNED and APPROVED this 20th day of JUNE, 2001


Alan W. DeBoer, Mayor

Reviewed as to form:


Paul Nolte, City Attorney



City of Talent

Office of the Mayor

110 E. Main Street, P.O. Box 445, Talent, OR 97540

Telephone: (541) 535-1566 Fax: (541) 535-7423

E-mail: mayor@cityoftalent.org

August 31, 2016

Secretary Sally Jewell
Department of the Interior
1849 "C" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I write to ask your timely support for expanding the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument – and encourage you or your staff to come to Oregon soon to hold a public meeting toward that end.

Because of increasing development pressures and the effects of climate change, scientists recommend that the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument be expanded to safeguard into the future the outstanding biodiversity the Monument was established to protect. This month the Talent City Council unanimously passed a resolution endorsing Monument expansion that urged *"national elected officials to use the best ecological criteria in considering the Monument's present and future needs – as well as considering quiet recreational opportunities and scenic resources – as they determine appropriate expanded boundaries for the Monument"* (Resolution No. 16-949-R, attached).

The economic and ecological benefits of the Monument to our city and region's quality of life are why the City Council and myself, as Mayor are joining the Talent Chamber Board of Directors in unanimous support of the Monument expansion as in the Chamber board's August 1 (2016) letter to us (attached) – and why neighboring Ashland's City Council, Mayor, Chamber board, and our local Oregon state legislators, Representative Peter Buckley and Senator Alan Bates (the latter of whom died unexpectedly on August 5, 2016), are also on record supporting Monument expansion. The Talent Chamber board wrote us that that they *"...believe a further science-based expansion of the Monument boundaries to be in the best interest of our environment, our citizens, and our visitors. The Monument provides unique recreational and educational opportunities as well as scenic vistas which will benefit our business climate, economy, and quality of life here in talent, and all of Southern Oregon."*

As the current national administration draws to a close, so does the current window of opportunity for Cascade-Siskiyou Monument expansion. I urge you to not let this opportunity slip away. Oregon's U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley have recently written you with encouragement to *"...come to Oregon and hold a public meeting and consider expanding the*

"If you're looking for Talent, you've come to the right place"

boundaries of the Monument." I affirm their invitation. It is critical to us that you come to Oregon to hold a public meeting considering Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument boundary expansion before this window closes. Southern Oregon University likely has the most appropriate venue for such a meeting closest to the Monument itself.

Talent's local business leaders, elected officials, and (I am sure) the vast majority of our local citizen's value and treasure our local public lands. We urge you to support expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument using the best available ecological criteria, while also considering recreational opportunities and scenic resources. Current and succeeding generations will only thank you more and more with time. I hope to see you or your staff here soon.

Very gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darby Stricker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Darby Stricker, Mayor

"If you're looking for Talent, you've come to the right place"

RESOLUTION NO. 16-949-R

**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING EXPANSION OF
THE CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TALENT, OREGON.

WHEREAS, the City of Talent supports environmental quality of life concerns and actions in and near its environs locally and regionally; and

WHEREAS, in April 2011 and May 2015, a diverse group of scientists recommended expansion of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument boundaries to safeguard the area's unique biological values, finding the current boundaries of the Monument to be inadequate because of: fragmented habitats (including incomplete watersheds), the need for more complete environmental gradients to increase resilience in the face of significant climate change, and increasing pressures from development on adjoining lands that, if unabated, could undermine long term persistence of the Monument's biological resources; and

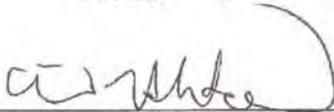
WHEREAS, the Talent Chamber Board of Directors voted unanimously at their July 21, 2016 board meeting that Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion would be in the best interest of our environment, our citizens, and our visitors by benefitting our business climate, economy, and quality of life, and requested in an August 1 letter that the Mayor and Council of the City of Talent adopt a resolution supporting science-based Monument expansion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TALENT THAT:

The City of Talent supports expansion of the boundaries of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and urges national elected officials to use the best ecological criteria in considering the Monument's present and future needs – as well as considering quiet recreational opportunities and scenic resources – as they determine appropriate expanded boundaries for the Monument.

Duly enacted by the City Council in open session on August 17, 2016 by the following vote:

AYES: 6 NAYS: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 0



Melissa Huhtala/City Recorder and Custodian of City records



August 01, 2016

Mayor Darby Stricker,
110 E Main Street
Talent, OR 97540

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

The Talent Chamber Board of Directors voted unanimously at the July 21, 2016 Board meeting to request the City of Talent to adopt a resolution for the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

We appreciate the leadership role of the Talent City Council and request a resolution that stands in alignment with conservations efforts in our region. We believe a further science-based expansion of the Monument boundaries to be in the best interest of our environment, our citizens and our visitors. The Monument provides unique recreational and educational opportunities as well as scenic vistas which will benefit our business climate, economy and quality of life here in Talent, and all of Southern Oregon.

The Chamber appreciates the scientific evidence and analysis that already exists and the increased opportunity for research and sustainability that will occur when designating the new boundaries.

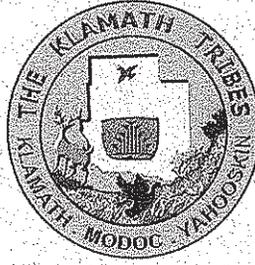
Thank you for your consideration and I encourage you on behalf of the Talent Chamber Board of Directors to formally support this expansion through the resolution.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Hartrick
President

Talent Chamber

206 E. Main Street / P. O. Box 11 Talent, OR 97540-0011 541.535.3837 president@talentchamber.org



November 17, 2016

The Klamath Tribes

Senator Jeff Merkley
PO Box 14172
Portland, OR 97293

Dear Senator Merkley:

This letter is to provide the Klamath Tribes' formal support for the proposed Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Expansion. As you are aware, I provided verbal support at recent hearings in Ashland and Klamath Falls, Oregon.

The current and proposed expanded area of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument lies entirely within the recognized aboriginal territory of the Klamath Tribes (Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin Paiute). Our people have significant historic and current ties to and of uses this area. It is the position of the Klamath Tribes that the proposed expansion would better provide for and protect our current traditional, religious, cultural uses, values and interests. In addition, expanding the Monument as proposed is critical to provide for more appropriate watershed scale management necessary to maintaining and enhancing the unique, diverse ecological values of the area as was originally intended through the initial National Monument designation.

As you know, the Klamath Tribes is very interested in and committed to restoring anadromous fish to the Upper Klamath River Basin, and to protecting and restoring resident species. Maintaining and improving the health and water quality of tributary streams to the Klamath River, such as Jenny Creek, is vital to future anadromous fish restoration efforts and to provide for future viability of the unique species that currently inhabit the streams. Species of particular concern are the Jenny Creek redband trout and Jenny Creek suckers.

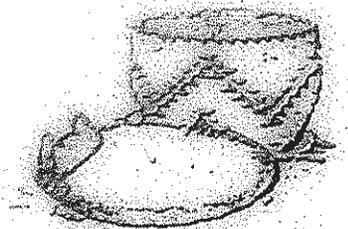
It is our understanding that management emphasis of the expanded area will be of the same intent and purpose of the current Monument area, and that there will be appropriate revision of the current management plan to address the expansion and other management issues. To ensure that interests of the Klamath and affected Indian Tribes are appropriately considered and addressed in the plan revision process, and during future management policy and project planning and development, it will be important that affected tribes are consulted and policies and procedures providing for appropriate tribal consultation and decision making are developed and incorporated into the plan.

We thank you very much for the opportunity to provide comment and support for expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, and commend you for your proposal to take this bold and needed action to protect and provide for the diverse ecological values and uses of this unique and important area.

Respectfully,

Don Gentry, Chairman
The Klamath Tribes

501 Chiloquin Blvd. - P.O. Box 436 - Chiloquin, Oregon 97624
(541) 783-2219 - Fax (541) 783-2029





KATE BROWN
Governor

November 21, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Thank you for your steadfast support for America's iconic landscapes. I appreciate your agency's continued interest in one of Oregon's natural icons – the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument – and the effort made in convening a community discussion around expansion. As Oregon's Governor, I lend my support to your efforts and want to convey my desire to enhance this Oregon wonder through a thoughtful expansion of its boundaries.

Since President Clinton's dedication of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in 2000, community leaders and interested parties have worked diligently to protect and enhance the monument's diverse natural, geological, and historic resources; which include a spectacular variety of rare plants and animals. This work must continue as the unique and vibrant ecological wonders of Cascade-Siskiyou face increasing challenges from a changing climate. Expansion is critical to continued ecological integrity, which has made the monument a destination.

When opportunities like a prudent Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion present themselves, we owe it to future generations to embrace them for history shows they are fleeting. The unfortunate reality of Congressional obstruction and inaction has indefinitely stalled many worthy and broadly supported public land protection bills. Prime examples in Oregon include the Devil's Staircase wilderness bill (2009) and the Wild Rogue wilderness expansion (2011). Despite strong local support, these proposals and others have languished since their introduction.

Expanding the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument meets many of the factors I consider important in public land discussions. While state governors do not have a dispositive role in federal land decisions, I appreciate the Obama Administration's dedication to soliciting local input. It is important to consider proposed expansions and new designations in the context of their specific circumstances. Among the reasons I support a thoughtful Cascade-Siskiyou expansion:

- It augments an existing public land designation. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has been successful in attracting community and federal support, demonstrating its value locally and among the national monument network.



- The identified need informed by scientific analysis of current and future landscape-level ecosystem health. The formation of the original monument set out why the unique values found at the intersection of the Cascade, Siskiyou, and Klamath mountain ranges needed greater protections. Analysis from 2011 onward highlights the scientific support for increased monument resilience amid considerable pressures.
- The level of public engagement and evidence of an inclusive process. Local community conversations about expanding the monument have been on-going for many years, culminating with robust local meetings in recent months.
- The degree of private ownership within the proposal and private landowner support. The proposed expansion map minimizes the impact to private inholdings. Many private landowners in the expansion have been included in expansion discussions and expressed their support.

This combination of factors strongly supports the proposed expansion. However, key issues remain to be addressed should the monument be expanded. Primary among them is the issue of local access, a common refrain at the recent community meetings. If the monument is expanded, I will follow the public process on access closely and advocate for reasonable resolution to accustomed uses. In addition to access, I will also be invested in the discussions regarding fire management, grazing, and timber harvest issues in an expanded monument management plan. Finally, the monument has long lacked a dedicated manager and sufficient staff and resources to enhance the ecological values as well as visitor and recreational opportunities. With the inclusion of many more miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, it is even more incumbent that adequate staff and resources be allocated to the monument to build on existing outdoor recreation opportunities for the benefit of local communities and businesses. I will continue to urge the administration address these concerns, and for our congressional delegation to advocate for sufficient funding.

Time is of particular importance as we enter the final weeks of the Obama administration. My office and state agency staff stand ready to assist our federal partners as they evaluate the proposal. I am confident there is sufficient time and determination to complete this expansion for the benefit of Oregon, the region, and the nation. As a champion of preserving our most iconic public lands, I am excited about the opportunity to enhance the unique and valuable wonders of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Sincerely,



Governor Kate Brown

kb:dj

Cc:

Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley
Representative Earl Blumenauer
Representative Suzanne Bonamici
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Kurt Schrader
Representative Greg Walden

From: [Dave Willis](#)
To: james_lyons@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Cascade-Siskiyou: Oregonian editorial endorses expansion -- 12/3/16, 3 p.m.
Date: Monday, December 12, 2016 2:46:48 PM
Attachments: [SMWC.RegisterGuardEditorial11-11-16.pdf](#)
[SMWC.MMT10-23-16MonumentBoundariesInadequate.pdf](#)
[SMWC.MMT9-5-16MonumentExpansion.pdf](#)
[SMWC.MMT9-11-2016ExpansionEditorial.pdf](#)

Hi, Jim --

Below = Portland *Oregonian* 12/3/16 ed board endorsement.

Attached...

- 11/11/16 Eugene *Register-Guard* ed board endorsement
- 10/23/16 Medford *Mail Tribune* op-ed
- 9/5/16 Medford *Mail Tribune* front-page article
- 9/11/16 Medford *Mail Tribune* ed board: "Environment should drive monument debate"

For a bigger, wilder (NOT milder) Monument –

Dave

541/482-8660 or 541/482-0526

http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2016/12/obama_should_honor_on-the-grou.html

Obama should honor on-the-ground solutions in Oregon's wildest places: Editorial



The Owyhee Wild and Scenic River, managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, in southeast Oregon, flows north to connect with the Snake River. (Courtesy the Bureau of Land Management)



By [The Oregonian Editorial Board](#)

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on December 03, 2016 at 3:00 PM

Two separate fights to protect two extraordinary patches of Oregon have in recent months escalated as President Barack Obama's term comes to a close. That's because he could, by the authority Congress granted to him in a far less populous time, singularly issue sweeping protections to the

Owyhee Canyonlands in southeastern Oregon and the Cascade-Siskiyou Mountains in southwestern Oregon and northern California.

The drive to limit development and resource use in both areas makes sense but for different reasons. Oregonians will never get back the lightless skies at night or the lonely beauty of ancient, eroded terrain cut through by wild rivers in the Owyhee if given over to mining or highway-building. Separately, Oregonians risk losing some of the site-specific, mind-bending biodiversity that makes the forested Cascade-Siskiyou realm a delicate universe requiring limits on use.

But Obama should say no to designating national monument status to the 2.5-million acre Owyhee Canyonlands. And he should say yes to doubling the already successful Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Selective wilderness designations, river protections and broad prohibitions on mining would be strategic, consequential steps Congress could take to protect the Owyhee Canyonlands, the largest undeveloped expanse of land in the lower 48 states. Significantly, doing so would ensure that an economically vital and long-established ranching culture goes unthreatened by monument designation.



A scene from the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon. *Courtesy the Bureau of Land Management*

By contrast, in the more populated realm anchored by Ashland and Medford, the fish-bearing waterways and exotic flora that make the Siskiyous distinct face potential threat from fragmented lands and warmer temperatures from climate change. Immediate monument expansion would connect fragmented lands within and outside the monument, offering lifelines to potentially marooned species, and help preserve what the 2000 presidential decree called an "ecological wonder ... of rare and beautiful species of plants and animals, whose continued survival ... depends upon its continued ecological integrity."

**on's public lands conform to contemporary uses while
ring the communities rooted in them.**

Few dispute that President-elect Donald Trump might bring to the nation a different ethic about development and land use, and it remains true that roughly half of Oregon is owned by the federal government and run by agencies such as the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S.

Forest Service. While most folks in rural Harney County and surrounding areas objected to the armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, simmering resentments across the American West about public lands management came to the fore. So Oregon must have a voice in deciding what's right for the extraordinary landscape that Oregonians call home. That means the Owyhee and the Siskiyou warrant bolstered protections only by actions that honor on-the-ground sentiment, essential to declaring shared destiny and preserving democracy.

Years ago Idaho withstood fears that its Owyhee lands would win monument designation and dodged it by creating 518,000 acres of protected wilderness. It has worked well, among other things limiting mechanized uses of sensitive lands.

But

Oregonian editorials

[Editorials](#) reflect the collective opinion of The Oregonian editorial board, which operates independently of the newsroom.

Members of the editorial board are Laura Gunderson, Helen Jung, Mark Katches, John Maher and Len Reed.

To respond to this editorial:

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If you have questions about the opinion section, contact Laura Gunderson, editorial and commentary editor, at lgunderson@oregonian.com or 503-221-8378.

Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley in June proposed legislation that would shield more than 2 million acres of the Owyhee Canyonlands from mineral exploitation, including oil and gas drilling. It was a clear call to leave the ground the way it is and do so in such a way that supports farmers and ranchers who work in an environmentally sustainable fashion. They should press Congress to approve the legislation while citing a report released just last month from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries showing plenty of untapped riches beneath the surface in southeastern Oregon.

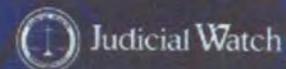
Both senators, meanwhile, have deferred to Obama on monument designation, preferring to make known the Oregon sentiments on all sides of the issue. Yet both have been supportive of expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, even as some logging- and ranching-based voices in the region claim they are unheard.

Presidents are twitchy in their monument designations, which can sharply limit access while altering ecologies and firefighting techniques. Bill Clinton created eight monuments in his last three days of office. Obama has made several already. His interior secretary and former REI chief, Sally Jewell, has advocated wise stewardship of public lands, and her counsel will count in the weeks ahead. But any presidential decree affecting Oregon must reflect this modern reality: Oregon's public lands conform to contemporary uses while honoring the communities rooted in them. Owyhee needs wilderness, river protection and mining-prohibition legislation -- but no monument decree. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, meanwhile, should build upon its success with expansion that will ensure its vitality.

The Register-Guard

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OPINION HOME

EDITORIAL

Expand the monument

Obama should add protection to Cascade-Siskiyou

NOV. 11, 2016

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Donald Trump's victory in Tuesday's presidential election adds urgency to a piece of unfinished business left over from the administrations of Bill Clinton and George W. Bush: the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon. In his remaining weeks in office, President Obama should approve the expansion to ensure that the purposes for which the monument was created are met.

The Cascade-Siskiyou monument, designated by Clinton in 2000 and implemented under Bush, is the only one of the United States' 124 national monuments created for the specific purpose of protecting biological diversity. That unique status stems from its unique character: The monument lies where the Cascade range, the Siskiyou mountains and the Klamath River country meet, creating a geological, botanical and zoological mashup with characteristics of all three regions. To cite just one feature, the monument hosts 138 species of butterfly and is one of four butterfly hot spots in North America.



Both of Oregon's U.S. senators, Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, propose roughly doubling the monument's size by adding about 66,500 acres to it, which would broaden its range of elevations and bring important fish-bearing streams under protection. Owners of private inholdings within the monument support expansion, as did former Gov. John Kitzhaber. The city councils and chambers of commerce in Ashland and Talent, the communities closest to the monument, support the expansion.

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners is opposed, fearing reductions in timber harvests and grazing. Those fears are not misplaced, though they can easily be exaggerated. National monument designations are highly flexible, and can allow livestock and logging. Only a portion of the existing monument has been set aside as wilderness, and no further wilderness designations are proposed. The Cascade-Siskiyou monument, unlike most, is managed by the resource-oriented Bureau of Land Management rather than the preservation-oriented National Park Service.

Grazing has been a concern on monument land from the start. Clinton's proclamation directed the BLM to study the effects of livestock on the monument's biological systems, and to withdraw leases in areas where those effects are found to be damaging. A 2008 BLM study identified damaging effects in most areas, but no leases have been withdrawn. The 2009 legislation that designated part of the monument as wilderness directed the agency to retire leases that are donated to the BLM. Since then, grazing leases on 65,000 acres have been purchased with private donations, given to the BLM and retired.

These private purchases negate the economic harm to ranchers as a result of reduced grazing on monument land. They also show that people and organizations that recognize the value of the monument are willing to put their money where their mouths are. In Ashland and Talent, the monument is seen as an economic asset.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 gives President Obama the authority to expand the monument without consulting Congress. President Trump is unlikely to exercise this authority. Instead, he's expected to act in ways that make the expansion more vital.



Trump rejects the scientific evidence supporting a human role in climate change, and is expected to rescind most or all of Obama's executive orders reducing fossil fuel emissions. Climate change is a threat to the monument — as temperatures rise, some species' ability to migrate from one ecological region to another is being disrupted. An expansion would help preserve connections among those regions, enhancing the resilience of the biological systems whose uniqueness led to the monument being created in the first place.

An expansion would be controversial, but Obama isn't facing re-election. And 50 or 100 years from now, it's a safe bet that no one will be wishing the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument were smaller. Instead, an expanded monument would be a valued part of Obama's legacy.

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B6 | Sunday, October 23, 2016 | Mail Tribune

GUEST OPINION

Monument boundaries are inadequate

By Pepper Trail

"... the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument is an ecological wonder, with biological diversity unmatched in the Cascade Range ... a biological crossroads the interface of the Cascade, Klamath, and Siskiyou ecoregions, in an area of unique geology, biology, climate, and topography."

— From the first words of the June 9, 2000, Proclamation establishing the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

The establishment of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument was a landmark in the preservation of our region's remarkable wealth of habitats and species. But are the current boundaries constricted within a relatively narrow band of elevations and arbitrarily truncated at the Oregon-California border adequate for the long-term protection of this "ecological wonder"?

This is a question that

has been discussed for the past five years by a diverse group of scientists with much research experience in Southern Oregon. These discussions, involving ecologists, botanists and experts in fish, mammals and birds, culminated in a letter signed by 85 scientists in 2015 that concluded "... it is our professional opinion that expansion of the monument is necessary for the area's extraordinary values to be sustained over the long term."

Biological diversity is not a static count of number of species. It is a dynamic web of ecological connections, dependent on reliable pathways for movement of individuals and populations, continuous flows of water and energy, and a resilient network of habitats allowing adaptation to changing conditions. As scientists learn more about these complex networks, we are able to pinpoint areas in critical need of protection.

The extraordinary variety of species and habitats that the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument was established to protect today faces mounting threats from encroaching development and climate change. These threats weren't adequately anticipated back in 2000. Any drive along Highway 66 or Dead Indian Memorial Road these days will reveal many large properties for sale. As private lands are developed, the public lands adjacent to but not currently within the monument are increasingly vital as biological connections.

The threat posed by climate change is particularly worthy of attention. When the monument was established in 2000, alarm about climate change was limited mostly to scientists, and its implications were not considered when boundaries were drawn. Less excusably, the term is not mentioned even once in the BLM's 2008 Monument Management Plan, completed

when climate change had emerged as a prime concern of land managers and policy makers. Clearly, well-documented regional trends for reduced snowpack, higher summer temperatures, and more frequent fires must be factored into plans to protect the monument's unique biological values.

With this in mind, the expansion areas prioritized by scientists extend both into higher and lower elevations, significantly increasing the monument's total elevation range and topographic diversity. These sites and their surrounding landscapes fill gaps in protection for Jenny Creek and several other vital watersheds, improving the ability of these aquatic ecosystems to recover and maintain their integrity. They reach out to enclose populations of species at their range limits, critical "first responders" to climate change. And they do all this in an expanded monument that is still a

relatively small area of federal land to set aside for the protection of such an "area of unique geology, biology, climate, and topography."

Much of the public land near the monument but outside current boundaries has already been recognized with special designations such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Special Management Areas. At present, however, they are disconnected and therefore unlikely to sustain their remarkable biological values in the face of increasing threats. In order to function as part of an ecologically integrated landscape, these sites need to be connected and incorporated into an expanded Cascade Siskiyou National Monument.

Administrative designations and legislative proposals have independently highlighted ecological and other non-commodity values on public lands near the existing monument. Both BLM's new

Western Oregon Plan Revision and Sen. Ron Wyden's and Sen. Jeff Merkley's proposed Senate Bill 132 include many conservation and/or recreation designations over much BLM land near the monument in Oregon. Most of the relatively small area of public land on the California side of the current monument boundary has long been allocated to conservation purposes (with varying degrees of management success).

Building on a foundation of solid science, now is the time for expansion of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument to enable spatially comprehensive, cohesive and consistent protection of this biologically unique and valuable landscape. Such an opportunity may not come again.

Pepper Trail, Ph.D., of Ashland is an ornithologist and conservation co-chair of the Rogue Valley Audubon Society.

Mail Tribune

Jackson County, Oregon



www.mailtribune.com

Monday, September 5, 2016

Southern Oregon's News Source

ENVIRONMENT

Monument expansion

Proposal seeks to grow the boundaries of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

By Mark Freeman
Mail Tribune

ASHLAND — A group of scientists, local leaders and Oregon's two U.S. senators are calling for an expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, saying the borders drawn during its creation 16 years ago fail to protect its unique biological diversity — particularly in the face of climate change.

The current borders around the monument don't take into account full watersheds, fail to protect the headwaters of Jenny Creek and other streams and don't include high-elevation public lands needed for the monument's unique flora and fauna as

they react to climate change, the group says.

Supporters claim that not doing so threatens the so-called "spectacular biological diversity" and the rare plants, animals and other "objects of interest" cited in the presidential proclamation that created the now-66,000-acre monument in 2000.

"The borders now don't do the job that the proclamation intends," says Dave Willis, chairman of the Soda Mountain

SEE MONUMENT, A2



Pilot Rock is in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which scientists and government officials hope to expand to protect its biological diversity. MAIL TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

MONUMENT

From Page A1

Wilderness Council and one of the original leaders of the effort to establish the monument.

"It's to protect the biological diversity and connectivity and make it more resilient to climate change," Willis says.

The group has offered no specific recommended boundaries, but they say it should grow in most directions, including into California. Willis says an expansion could increase the monument by as little as 50 percent or possibly double its size.

They cite a 2011 study by several local scientists since endorsed by dozens of others as outlining the reasons and general locations for possible expansion.

Democratic Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley this past week formally requested that U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell come to Southern Oregon and hold a public meeting to gather input on potential expansion.

Willis says the monument needed expansion for these same reasons shortly after it was created, "so it would be good to do it sooner than later."

"The boundaries may have looked good in 2000," Willis says. "In 2011, (supporting scientists) said that doesn't do the job."

Supporters also believe they like their chances under the soon-to-be-ending Obama administration, which has supported public lands protections.

"This could be one of his last, best acts," says Pam Marsh, an Ashland City Council member and expansion supporter.

The monument's outer boundaries have not changed since President Bill Clinton exercised powers under the Antiquities Act to designate the monument in 2000. Originally it was about 53,000 acres within a roughly 85,000-acre footprint, with the remaining lands islands of private holdings.

Since then, willing sellers paid largely through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund have sold about 13,000 more acres within that same footprint.

Scientists consider the monument area to be one of the most biologically diverse locations in North America, in part because it is a land bridge where four distinct ecoregions meet.

The 2011 study looked at three main areas for expansion:

The Rogue Valley Foothills to Plateau, which would extend north in the Cascades to include Grizzly Peak and portions of the Dead Indian Plateau; the Klamath River Ridges to the south; and the Johnson Prairie-Fall Creek expansion extending east in the Klamath Mountains.

Expansion in these areas would protect habitats such as headwaters that contribute water to the monument as well as habitat used by wintering black-tailed deer and water supporting rare foothill yellow-legged frogs.

"Complete watersheds were not protected," says Rogue Valley Audubon ornithologist Pepper Trail, who took part in the 2011 study. "It abruptly stops at the Oregon/California border. Obviously, that's not a biological border."

One example is Jenny Creek, which meanders in and out of

the monument on the Oregon side while the falls that isolates the creek's population of native redband trout also is outside the monument.

Expansion into these areas would "better recognize the ecological systems" supporting what's already in the monument, says Jack Williams, a Medford resident and senior scientist for Trout Unlimited.

"The more of the watershed that could be included in the monument boundary would benefit these fish in the long run," Williams says.

While no exact boundaries are in the recommendation, Willis says any expansion likely would include the same ratio of public and private lands within its new footprint. As with current rules, private lands within the monument's borders are not subject to rules governing federally designated monuments, Willis says.

Monument lands are open to hikers, hunters, anglers and others for exploration and recreation, Willis says.

The proposal also has the formal support of the Ashland and Talent city councils as well as their chambers of commerce.

Marsh says the Ashland City Council endorsed the concept last year as a way of helping grow its tourism-based economy.

"A monument expansion that pushes the monument west and toward the shoulders of Ashland would be a good thing for us," Marsh says.

—Reach Mail Tribune reporter Mark Freeman at 541-776-4470 or mfreeman@mailtribune.com. Follow him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MTwriterFreeman.

OUR VIEW

Environment should drive monument debate

Backers of a proposed expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument east of Ashland have a good case to make when it comes to the environmental benefits of protecting the unique landscape and the flora and fauna it harbors. But the notion that expanding the boundaries would lead to a measurable boost in tourism is a stretch at best.

President Bill Clinton created the existing 53,000-acre monument in 2000, after months of strenuous debate and stiff opposition from ranchers, timber interests and others. The borders have not changed since, although owners of private land within the monument have willingly sold about 13,000 acres to the federal government.

The Bureau of Land Management is in charge of administering the monument, the first time the agency has been given that task. The monument designation means commercial logging is prohibited unless it enhances the ecology, mining banned and off-road vehicle use is not allowed. Other

forms of recreation — hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and mushroom gathering — continue to be permitted.

The monument is unique in that it is the intersection of four distinct bioregions, a land bridge linking the Cascade and Siskiyou mountain ranges and their plant and animal species, including some that exist nowhere else on earth. That is good reason to protect it, and we supported the monument's initial creation.

It may well be a good thing to expand the monument to include entire watersheds — something it does not do now — and to follow bird and animal habitat boundaries rather than arbitrary ones such as the California border. That's a debate worth having.

But a decision to expand should be made based on what's best for the environment, not on some hypothetical increase in tourism dollars based on wishful thinking. The monument is not a tourist destination in the same sense that, say, the Oregon Caves National Monument is, nor is it likely to become one.

Hikers, birders and anglers may visit the monument, and those who come to the region for Shakespeare, rafting or other pursuits may well add a side trip to hike or fish in the monument. But it's unlikely to be the primary reason they came here in the first place.

Environmental preservation activists have long argued that "eco-tourism" can replace revenue once derived from logging, but there is little evidence the dollars are comparable.

Beyond that, this expansion proposal comes late in President Obama's term in office, and proponents are clearly hoping he can be convinced to use his power under the Antiquities Act to approve it on his way out the door, just as Bill Clinton did in 2000.

But the initial monument designation was heavily debated for months, with considerable public input. The expansion has not had the same exposure to public, and it should.

Protection of public land can be beneficial, but it is also permanent, and it deserves a full airing.

From: [Lyons, James](#)
To: **James Lyons - (b) (6)**
Subject: Conservation Lands Foundation
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 7:27:33 AM
Attachments: [Conservation Lands Foundation Executive Director.docx](#)
[2016-policy-handbook.pdf](#)

Background.

--

Jim Lyons
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Position Specification

DECEMBER 2016 • CONFIDENTIAL



Conservation
Lands
Foundation
Protecting America's Heritage

Executive Director
Durango, CO

POSITION TITLE: Executive Director

REPORTING TO: Board of Directors

LOCATION: Durango, CO

THE COMPANY: *The Conservation Lands Foundation*

The Conservation Lands Foundation (CLF) is a national non-profit organization headquartered in Durango, Colorado with offices in San Francisco, Albuquerque, Bozeman, Las Cruces, Joshua Tree, and Washington, DC. The Conservation Lands Foundation was established in 2007 to protect the premier lands and waters under the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) jurisdiction – specifically the 34+ million acres and 2,400 miles of National Monuments and National Conservation Areas, Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Scenic and Historic Trails that make up our National Conservation Lands. Our mission is to protect, restore and expand the National Conservation Lands through education, advocacy and partnerships.

The Conservation Lands Foundation has become one of the nation's most effective land conservation organizations, protecting millions of acres of lands and building a vibrant grassroots network.

CLF has developed strong relationships with leaders in the Executive Branch, Congress, the Department of the Interior, the conservation community, the media, and western communities.

CLF seeks an experienced and visionary leader who will guide our team in advancing our mission in the critical next phase of our organization. Our new leader will have the opportunity to accomplish major, tangible conservation outcomes for the National Conservation Lands.

SCOPE AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director (ED) will have overall strategic and operational responsibility for the Conservation Lands Foundation staff, programs, budget, and execution of its mission.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Setting the organization's strategic direction and providing the leadership to successfully implement it:

- The ED will work with CLF's board and staff to develop a new strategic plan for the organization.
- The ED will be responsible for developing, altering or aligning programs, budgets and staffing to ensure successful implementation of the strategic plan.
- The ED will be responsible for evaluating the success of programs and ensuring that goals are met and the organization maintains the focus necessary to fulfill its mission.

Fundraising:

- The ED will ensure the financial health of the organization through effective fundraising.
- The ED will meet with individual donors and foundations, develop and maintain strong relationships with donors, and enhance CLF's fundraising network.
- The ED will review key grant proposals.

Budgeting and Financial Oversight:

- The ED will work with Senior Finance Director and program leads to develop overall organizational budget and individual program budgets.
- The ED will ensure organizational financial transparency, compliance and accountability.
- The ED will maintain CLF's financial health and superior ratings with charity rating organizations.

Board Engagement:

- The ED will work with Board of Directors and Board committees to develop a new multi-year strategic plan for CLF.
- The ED will interact with and update the board regularly, and maintain excellent communications and working relationships between the board and staff.

Equity, Inclusion and Diversity:

- ED will play a leading role in CLF's Equity, Inclusion and Diversity committee and ensure that CLF's equity, inclusion and diversity plan is implemented and benchmarks are achieved.
- Staff/Organizational Management
- The ED will directly supervise staff members, including the Sr. VP of Programs, Sr. Director of Conservation, Vice President of Development, Senior Finance Director and Associate Director of Operations.
- The ED will help fill staff vacancies, mentor and coach staff, and provide opportunities for staff advancement and leadership development.

Programs:

- The ED will engage in CLF's program work (expansion, policy, communications, field, restoration) as appropriate and as identified in the strategic plan. Program work may entail but not be limited to:
 - Working with coalitions on campaign strategy development.
 - Building and maintaining strong relationships with leaders in the Administration, the Department of the Interior, Congress and partner groups.
 - Assisting with communications strategy and implementation and serving as a spokesperson for CLF.
 - Ensuring campaigns are adequately resourced.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA:

The successful candidate will be thoroughly committed to the Conservation Lands Foundation mission, will have proven leadership, fundraising, strategic planning and management experience as well as demonstrated knowledge of public lands policy. Other qualifications include:

- Excellence in organizational management with the ability to supervise and mentor staff, manage, and develop high-performance teams, set and achieve strategic objectives, and manage a budget.
- Strategic thinker with a compelling vision for CLF's future and the future of the National Conservation Lands.
- Commitment to building and empowering a grassroots constituency for the National Conservation Lands.

Position Specification
Executive Director



- Commitment to building effective partnerships and collaborations with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Ability to make hard decisions in a timely manner.
- Commitment to advancing equity, inclusion and diversity within the organization and in the environmental movement.
- Familiarity with, or strong commitment to learn about the National Conservation Lands and federal land management policies.
- Proven success working with a Board of Directors with the ability to cultivate new and existing board member relationships.
- Strong fundraising experience with the ability to engage and inspire a wide range of stakeholders.
- A persuasive and effective communicator with excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Action-oriented, entrepreneurial, adaptable, and innovative approach to long term planning.
- Passion, idealism, integrity, positive attitude, mission-driven, and self-directed.
- Ability to travel frequently.

COMPENSATION:

- Salary based on qualifications.
- 401(k) plan; health/dental/vision insurance; health and dependent care Flex Spending program.

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This job description reflects the assignment of essential functions; it does not prescribe or restrict the tasks that may be assigned.



Conservation
Lands
Foundation
Protecting America's Heritage



NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

2016 POLICY HANDBOOK

THE SEARCH FOR A VISION COMES DOWN TO THIS - the landowners, the American people, want their lands held and managed for clean water, the protection of endangered species, for abundant wildlife, for productive fisheries, for open space, for the protection of our heritage and God's creation. If we manage our lands primarily for these purposes we will have public support, if not we will neither have nor deserve their support.

The new Bureau of Land Management must have at its core a system of specially protected and managed conservation units, including landscape monuments and National Conservation Areas. It is a system that both protects our own crown jewels and interprets them to the public. It is a system that stands proudly alongside parks and refuges as part of our national heritage.

SECRETARY OF INTERIOR BRUCE BABBITT

SPEECH TO BLM

2000



NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS POLICY HANDBOOK FEBRUARY 2016

The original Policy Handbook was developed in 2010 in consultation with The Wilderness Society, National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Conservation Lands Foundation. The handbook has been updated to include National Conservation Land's policy advancements over the last six years. For more information about the National Conservation Lands please visit: www.conservationlands.org

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Cover Photo – Dos Palmos Preserve, CA. Photo Above – Moose Family, Steese National Conservation Area, AK.

All photos are courtesy of Bob Wick/BLM.

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Secretary of Interior Sally Jewel and BLM Director Neil Kornze take pictures of the newly installed Basin and Range National Monument sign in Nevada





King Range National Conservation Area, CA

INTRODUCTION

Picture stunning petroglyphs carved on steep red rock. Bighorn sheep climbing canyon walls formed by the swift river below. And, old growth trees so close they almost touch the Pacific Ocean. These are the images that make up the National Conservation Lands - 31 million acres of lands protected and managed so Americans can experience our nation's beauty and history. These lands are not as well known as our National Parks, but they are just as special.

Over the last several years, the National Conservation Lands have grown significantly. From the vast open valleys in the Basin and Range National Monument to the deep gorge created by the Arkansas River flowing through Browns Canyon National Monument the system has grown both in size and stature. As the National Conservation Lands continue to grow, the policies that direct their long-term management and the resources to implement and protect these lands becomes increasingly important.

The Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have made great strides in setting strong policy guidance for the National Conservation Lands. However, more is needed to ensure the long-term protection of these spectacular lands.

THE PROTECTION, RESTORATION AND EXPANSION OF THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS IS THIS CENTURY'S GREATEST CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY.

The 2016 Policy Handbook provides an overview of the policies that govern how the National Conservation Lands are to be managed and protected. It also outlines policy initiatives that are needed to ensure these lands are protected into the future. In addition, this Handbook contains important background information and resources pertaining to the National Conservation Lands. Please use this Handbook as a resource in your efforts to help protect, restore and expand our nation's treasured lands.

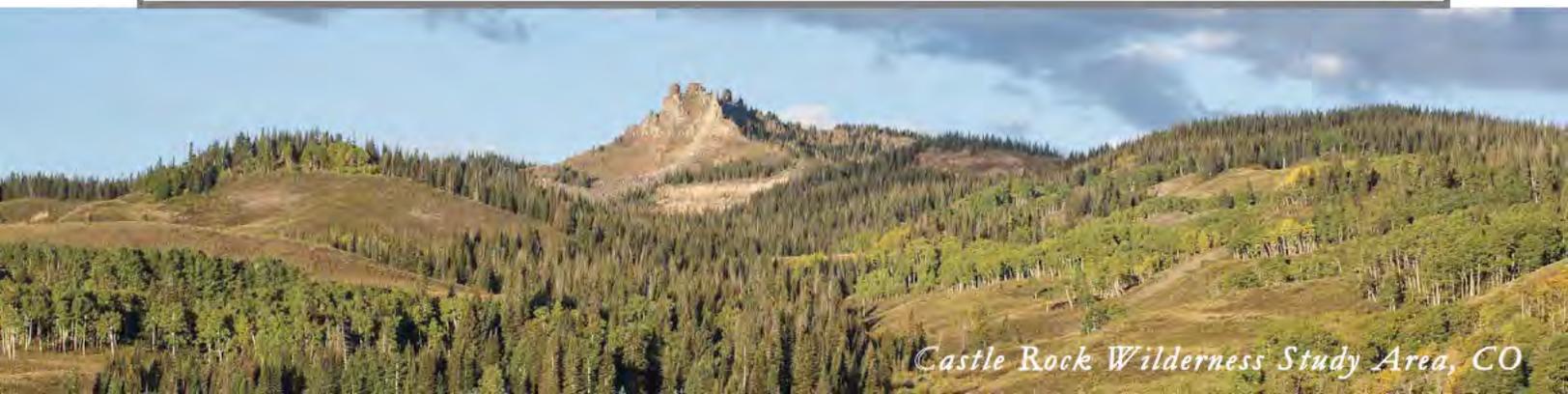
AT A GLANCE

The National Conservation Lands are our nation’s newest collection of protected lands and waterways - standing proudly alongside our National Parks, National Forests and National Wildlife Refuges as treasured places belonging to every American.

From the rivers first charted by Lewis and Clark to ancient redwood forests, Native American settlements, from slot canyons to remote mountains, from redwood forest to endless deserts, the National Conservation Lands are living links to the past and our promise to coming generations.

The National Conservation Lands are composed of National Monuments and National Conservation Areas, Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails and more. They encompass 31 million acres of public land, over 2,400 river miles and approximately 6,000 miles of trails.

CATEGORY	AREA	NUMBER	ACRES	MILES
MONUMENTS & CONSERVATION AREAS	National Monuments	23	6,439,083	
	National Conservation Areas	16	3,671,519	
	Similar Designations	5	436,164	
WILDERNESS	Wilderness Areas	221	8,760,029	
	Wilderness Study Areas	545	12,790,472	
WILD & SCENIC TRAILS		69	1,001,353	2,423
TRAILS	National Historic Trails	13		5,078
	National Scenic Trails	5		683
TOTALS		877	~31 Million	8,184



Castle Rock Wilderness Study Area, CO

HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

1906	Congress passes the Antiquities Act giving the President the authority to designate national monuments.
1964	Congress enacts the Wilderness Act.
1968	Congress enacts the National Trails System Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Designated trails and rivers will eventually become part of the National Conservation Lands.
1970	Congress passes the King Range Act, designating the King Range National Conservation Area (NCA) in California, the first NCA that will later become part of the Conservation Lands.
1976	Congress enacts the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), which sets in motion the designation of hundreds of wilderness study areas.
1976	Congress establishes the California Desert Conservation Area.
1980	Congress establishes the Klamath Wild and Scenic River and the Steese Mountain NCA in Alaska. Congress establishes the Yaquina Head Lighthouse and the surrounding area in Oregon as an “outstanding natural area.”
1987	Congress establishes El Malpais NCA in New Mexico.
1988	Congress establishes the San Pedro Riparian NCA in Arizona and the North Fork Owyhee Wild and Scenic River in Oregon.
1989	Congress establishes the Gila Box Riparian NCA in Arizona and the Red Rock Canyon NCA in Nevada.
1993	Congress establishes the Snake River Birds of Prey NCA in Idaho.
1994	Congress passed the California Desert Protection Act, which protects 3.5million acres of BLM Wilderness Areas.
1996	President Clinton designates Grand Staircase- Escalante National Monument in Utah, the first national monument to be managed by the BLM.
1996	In the twenty years since the enactment of FLPMA, Congress designates 135 BLM wilderness areas.
1999	Congress establishes the Headwaters Forest Reserve in California and the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area in Colorado.
2000	President Clinton designates eight additional BLM national monuments. Congress establishes Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, Las Cienegas NCA, Colorado Canyons NCA (later renamed McInnis Canyons NCA), Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trail NCA in Nevada, Steens Mountain Cooperative Management Protection Area in Oregon, and the Kiger Creek and Wildhorse Creek Wild and Scenic Rivers in Oregon.
2000	Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt signs an administrative order creating the National Landscape Conservation System in order to “conserve, protect, and restore these nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations.”

2001	President Clinton designates Carrizo Plain, Pompeys Pillar, Upper Missouri River Breaks, Sonoran Desert and Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks national monuments.
2002	Congress establishes the Sloan Canyon NCA in Nevada.
2006	Congress establishes the bi-partisan National Landscape Conservation System Congressional Caucus.
2007	Congress introduces a bill, which would permanently establish the National Landscape Conservation System.
2008	The House of Representatives passes the National Landscape Conservation System Act. Congress establishes the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse and surrounding area in Florida and the Piedras Blancas Lightstation and surrounding area in California as outstanding natural areas.
2009	President Obama signs the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which includes a bill to permanently establish the National Conservation Lands. Additionally, the legislation adds 30 wilderness areas, four NCAs and one national monument to the National Conservation Lands.
2010	Secretary Salazar issues Order No. 3308 which places an emphasis on conservation management of the National Conservation Lands and establishes a new BLM directorate: National Landscape Conservation System and Community Partnerships.
2011	The BLM releases a 15-Year Strategic Plan for the National Conservation Lands. The 15-Year plan is a strong reflection of Sec. Order 3308 with a focus on conservation as the primary consideration in planning and management of the Conservation Lands.
2012	President Obama designates Fort Ord National Monument near Monterey, California.
2012	The BLM releases Policy Manuals for the National Conservation Lands. The Manuals direct BLM employees in day-to-day management decisions.
2013	President Obama designates two National Monuments as part of the National Conservation Lands: San Juan Islands National Monument in Washington and Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in New Mexico.
2014	The BLM releases Instruction Memorandum No. 2013-076 authorizing use of the abbreviated name “National Conservation Lands” and introducing a new wordmark for the system. In addition, the IM discouraged the use of the acronym “NLCS.”
2014	President Obama designates Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in New Mexico.
2015	President Obama designates three new National Monuments; Browns Canyon in Colorado, Berryessa Snow Mountain in California and Basin and Range in Nevada. The National Conservation Lands increase in size to almost 31 million acres.

FRIENDS GRASSROOTS NETWORK

GOOD STEWARDS & STRONG ADVOCATES

The history of conservation in America has shown that long-term protection of our natural and cultural heritage hinges on the involvement of local citizens and communities. The National Conservation Lands are supported by a collection of “Friends” groups who work to protect and enhance these spectacular places.

ARIZONA

Archeology Southwest
Arizona Conservation Partners
Friends of Ironwood Forest
Friends of the Agua Fria Natl. Monument
Friends of The Cliffs
Friends of the Joshua Tree Forest
Friends of the San Pedro River

CALIFORNIA

Alabama Hills Stewardship Group
Amargosa Conservancy
Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership
Cal. Wilderness Coalition/Wild Rivers
Carrizo Plain Conservancy
Fort Ord Rec. Trails (FORT) Friends
Friends of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve
Friends of Carrizo Plain
Friends of Headwaters
Friends of the Desert Mountains
Friends of the Inyo
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
Lost Coast Interpretive Association
Mattole Restoration Council
Mattole Salmon Group
Mendocino Land Trust
Mojave Desert Land Trust
Piedras Blancas Lightstation
Redwood Parks Association
Sanctuary Forest
Sempervirens Fund
Trinidad Coastal Land Trust
Tuleyome

COLORADO

Conejos County Clean Water
Colorado Canyons Association
Crow Canyon Archaeological Center
Dolores River Boating Advocates
Friends of Browns Canyon
Friends of the Yampa
Southwestern Colorado Canyons Alliance
Western Slope Conservation Center

FLORIDA

Loxahatchee River Historical Society

IDAHO

Birds of Prey NCA Partnership

MONTANA

Friends of the Missouri Breaks Monument
Friends of Pompeys Pillar

NEVADA

Basin Rangers
Friends of Black Rock/High Rock
Friends of Gold Butte
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Friends of Red Rock Canyon
Friends of Sloan Canyon

NEW MEXICO

Fort Stanton Cave Study Project
Friends of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks
Friends of Rio Grande del Norte
Paleozoic Trackways Foundation

OREGON

Friends and Neighbors of Deschutes Canyon
Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou
Friends of Oregon Badlands Wilderness
Friends of the Owyhee
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council

UTAH

Citizens for Dixie’s Future
Friends of Cedar Mesa
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Utah Diné Bikéyah

WASHINGTON

Islanders for the San Juan Islands

WYOMING

Alliance for Historic Wyoming

COMMUNICATIONS & BRANDING THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

Consistent messages and a compelling brand are extremely important for the future success of the National Conservation Lands. Over the past two years, BLM has recognized the importance of these communications efforts in raising public awareness for the system. In 2013, the BLM issued Instruction Memorandum 2013-076, which authorized the use of “National Conservation Lands” both internally within BLM and in external communications. In addition, the IM announced the new National Conservation Lands wordmark, a unique logo using the name of the system. (see IM below).

In 2016, BLM is continuing to implementing the new look or “brand” for materials associated with units of the National Conservation Lands- installing new signs for all major units of the system. The new look is clean and compelling. Over time, visitors to the National Conservation Lands will recognize specific units are part of a larger system of protected lands.

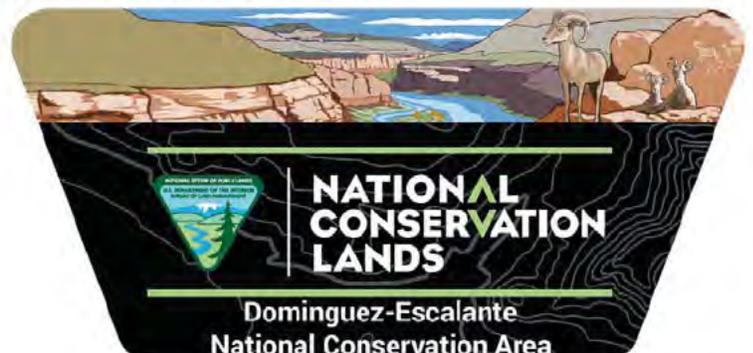
INSTRUCTION MEMORANDUM 2013-076

Purpose: This Instruction Memorandum (IM) authorizes use of the new "National Conservation Lands" abbreviated name and wordmark. This IM also issues the National Conservation Lands Communication Plan (Attachment 1), to guide BLM efforts at raising public awareness of the value and benefits of the National Conservation Lands externally and to improve communications regarding the National Conservation Lands internally.

Policy/Action: This directive authorizes BLM staff to use the "National Conservation Lands" abbreviated name when referring to the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System in correspondence, communication and outreach material, and BLM signage.

Per the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 [P.L. 111-11], the official name of this network of lands remains the National Landscape Conservation System. In all official correspondence, BLM staff should use the official name upon first reference to the system, followed by the abbreviated name in parenthesis. Thereafter, the abbreviated name should be used. **Use of the acronym "NCL" is not allowed. Use of the "NLCS" acronym is discouraged, but not disallowed.**

NEW SIGNS USING the WORDMARK and NEW BRAND



DEVELOPMENTS IN CONSERVATION POLICY FOR THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

2000-2009: No system wide guidance for the BLM employees. Confusion about managing National Conservation Lands and BLM's long standing Multiple-Use Mission.

On the Ground Implementation

2009 Congress Passes the **OMINBUS PUBLIC LANDS BILL** (Pub.L. 111-11)

- Codifies and makes permanent the National Conservation Lands- a system of public lands protected for conservation.

2010 Salazar Issues **SECRETARIAL ORDER 3308**. Manage National Conservation Lands to “conserve, protect and restore.”

- Establishes overarching conservation principles for the National Conservation Lands. (see pg 14)

2011 BLM Director's Office Issues **15-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN** for the National Conservation Lands.

- Sets a conservation vision for the future of the National Conservation Lands with specific goals for how to achieve the “conserve, protect & restore” mandate. (see pg 16)

National Policy

2012 BLM Releases **POLICY MANUALS** for the National Conservation Lands.

- Interprets national policy and directs BLM employees in day-to-day decisions and on the ground management of the National Conservation Lands. (see pg 18)



Santa Rosa San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, CA

NEXT STEPS AND IMPLEMENTATION IN 2016

The Department of the Interior and BLM have made great strides in setting strong policy guidance for the National Conservation Lands. **But more is needed to ensure the long-term protection of these spectacular lands.**

ADEQUATE STAFFING FOR THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS- Over the past several years, members of the Friends Grassroots Network have noticed a downward trend in the number of BLM staff focused on management of the National Conservation Lands. One of the goals in BLM's 15-Year Strategy for the National Conservation Lands recognizes the importance of adequate staffing for the system.

“Identify a manager with decision-making and supervisory authority for each National Monument and NCA whose primary and major duty is to manage the monument or conservation area.”

Unfortunately, since the release of the 15-Year Strategy, 4 years ago, the number of dedicated managers has drastically decreased. The majority of National Monuments and National Conservation Areas **do not** have dedicated managers. Instead, manager responsibilities are allocated to Field Managers or District Managers. Field and District Managers are already responsible for managing a workforce focused on renewable resources, minerals and realty management, rangeland management, fire and aviation and other uses and programs. For practical purposes little time and attention is dedicated to the units of the National Conservation Lands.

While BLM has experienced recent budget cuts and sequestration, the National Conservation Lands have faced a disproportionate cut in resources, compared to the agency as a whole. BLM must make the staffing and management of the National Conservation Lands a priority, by allocating more funding to the system.

ADEQUATE BUDGET FOR THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS- One of the key reasons the National Conservation Lands remain vulnerable is due to lack of funding and neglect. Currently, the National Conservation Lands account for over 12 percent of land managed by the BLM. Yet they only receive 6 percent of total BLM funding. At \$2.23 per acre (compared to the National Park Systems \$30 per acre), the funding for the system is wholly inadequate. BLM does not have the resources to conduct the necessary planning, hire rangers and staff to deter looting or illegal uses or to actively manage for the long-term conservation of these lands. If the National Conservation Lands are going to truly protect and conserve some of the west most spectacular lands, they must receive additional resources.

ROADS- Illegal and redundant roads threaten the long-term protection of the National Conservation Lands – wildlife habitat is fragmented, air, water and noise pollution diminishes the visitor experience and fragile cultural and historical resources are destroyed. The 15-Year Strategic Plan states “Facilities, including roads, will only be developed on [National Conservation] lands if required for public safety, necessary for the exercise of valid existing rights, minimizing impacts to fragile resources, or further the purposes for which an area was designated.”

Unfortunately, the current BLM roads policy includes ambiguous language that allows for a number of interpretations including allowing illegally made and excessive road systems. Roads should allow for the access and enjoyment of visitors to experience the scenic views, open space and historical treasures which make this system so unique. However, the current policy has led to a diminished visitor experience and the destruction of cultural and historic resources. BLM needs to establish a policy that protects the National Conservation Lands from the consequences of redundant and illegal roads.

PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

In his order creating the National Conservation Lands, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt outlined a clear vision for how the Conservation Lands should be managed. Additionally he articulated how they are different from other protected lands systems and how the Bureau of Land Management could evolve into an agency recognized for its conservation management. (Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Interior, Remarks at a BLM Interactive Town Hall Meeting (Mar. 24, 2000)). The following defining principles of the National Conservation Lands are drawn from Secretary Babbitt's overall vision, as well as from the collective input of many organizations that foster that vision.

VISION STATEMENT:

Conservation, protection and restoration of ecological resources and the protection of cultural resources is of paramount importance. Inclusion of lands within the National Conservation Lands will guarantee these protections.

PRINCIPLES:

The National Conservation Lands are a **permanent, innovative and distinctive system of protected public lands and waters** that stands proudly alongside the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System as part of our national heritage.

The National Conservation Lands protect the **largest tracts of natural landscapes practicable and includes entire ecosystems and archeological districts** rather than small, isolated artifacts or parcels.

Lands within the National Conservation Lands **remain undeveloped**. Visitor services, including visitor center facilities, lodging and other accommodations are located in the communities adjacent to Conservation Lands.

The conservation and protection of the National Conservation Lands **is a top priority within the Bureau of Land Management**.

The National Conservation Lands are managed to ensure **ecological connectivity in context with surrounding landscapes** to maintain biodiversity. The BLM integrates habitat connectivity, the migratory needs of wildlife, and the anticipated impacts of climate change in its management plans and decisions.

The National Conservation Lands include **natural landscapes, native biodiversity, and nationally significant historic and cultural resources**.

Visitors to the National Conservation Lands enjoy a **unique, self-directed experience** with minimal on-site developed interpretation.

The National Conservation Lands are an outdoor laboratory, where scientific research and the application of science to land stewardship and restoration is emphasized, encouraged and supported.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3308

Subject: Management of the National Landscape Conservation System

Sec. 1 Purpose. This Secretary's Order (Order) seeks to further the purposes of the *Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Act)*, which established the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in order to conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations, and the President's initiative on America's Great Outdoors.

Sec. 2 Background. The BLM is the steward of many great American landscapes. As the population in the West continues to grow, there is an ever increasing need to conserve the open spaces that are a unique and priceless part of America's heritage. America's evolving land use needs resulted in the bipartisan passage of the Act. The Act permanently established the NLCS as an integral part of the BLM. The NLCS contains many of our Nation's most treasured landscapes, including scientific, historic and cultural resources, wilderness and wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, national monuments, national conservation areas, and scenic and historic trails, among others.

The BLM has the challenging mission of balancing the myriad competing land and resource uses, and remains committed to making the public lands and resources available for a wide variety of uses. This Order recognizes that conservation of this Nation's rich natural and cultural heritage is an equally important land management objective, and an integral part of the BLM's multiple-use mission. Conservation is a long-term investment that provides quality of life and economic benefits for current and future generations.

Sec. 3 Authority. This Order is issued in accordance with the authorities contained in: Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950, as amended, 5 U.S.C. § 301, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1451, 1453; Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. § 1701 *et seq.*; and the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

Sec. 4 Policy.

a. The BLM shall ensure that the components of the NLCS are managed to protect the values for which they were designated, including, where appropriate, prohibiting uses that are in conflict with those values. If consistent with such protection, appropriate multiple uses may be allowed, consistent with the applicable law and the relevant designations under which the components were established.

b. The NLCS components shall be managed as an integral part of the larger landscape, in collaboration with the neighboring land owners and surrounding communities, to maintain biodiversity, and promote ecological connectivity and resilience in the face of climate change.

c. Components of the NLCS shall be managed to offer visitors the adventure of experiencing natural, cultural and historic landscapes through self-directed discovery.

d. Science shall be integrated into management decisions concerning NLCS components in order to enhance land and resource stewardship and promote greater understanding of lands and resources through research and education.

e. The NLCS shall serve as a place to build and sustain diverse communities of partners and volunteers dedicated to conserving, protecting, restoring, and interpreting our natural and cultural heritage.

f. The NLCS shall recognize the importance of a diversity of viewpoints when considering management options. Accordingly, the NLCS shall be managed from an interdisciplinary perspective. In so doing, the NLCS shall draw upon the expertise of specialists throughout the BLM, in coordination with the tribes, other Federal, state, and local government agencies, interested local landowners, adjacent communities, and other public and private interests. When seeking these viewpoints, the NLCS must consider the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, and any other applicable laws and regulations.

g. The NLCS shall endeavor to inspire the next generation of natural resource and public land stewards by engaging youth through education, interpretation, partnerships, and job opportunities.

Sec. 5 Organizational Changes. The BLM shall establish a new directorate, called the National Landscape Conservation System and Community Partnerships, to replace the Office of the National Landscape Conservation System and Community Partnerships. The BLM shall initiate the process to establish this directorate within 120 days of the date of this Order.

Sec. 6 Implementation. The Director of the BLM is responsible for ensuring implementation of this Order.

Sec. 7 Expiration Date. This Order is effective immediately and will remain in effect until its provisions are converted to the Departmental Manual or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first.



Secretary of the Interior

Date: NOV 15 2010

OVERVIEW OF BLM'S NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS 15-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN *and* PROGRESS

The BLM released its 15-Year Strategic Plan for the National Conservation Lands in November 2011. The Plan was a huge step forward for conservation of these outstanding lands. In 2012, BLM began implementation of the plan including trainings of BLM employees and development of State Strategic Plans. To date, eight states have released State Strategic Plans. Although BLM is making great progress, conservationists need to work to ensure these goals are reflected in the day-to-day management of the National Conservation Lands. Below is an overview of how the 15-Year Strategic Plan is structured and its contents.

The National 15-Year Strategic Plan is organized into four themes:

THEME 1- ENSURING THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION, AND RESTORATION OF NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS VALUES. Primacy of conservation within the Conservation Lands, how science serves to further conservation, and to provide for compatible use that protect resources and values.

THEME 2- COLLABORATIVELY MANAGING THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS AS PART OF THE LARGER LANDSCAPE. Building a better conservation model through collaborative management.

THEME 3- RAISING AWARENESS OF THE VALUE AND BENEFITS OF THE BLM'S CONSERVATION LANDS. Raise public awareness and understanding of the Conservation Lands, cultivate relationships, promote community stewardship of BLM-managed public land, and provide for use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

THEME 4- BUILDING UPON BLM'S COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION. Promote a model of conservation excellence internally, through improved understanding and fully integrating the National Conservation Lands within the BLM.



Rafting in Bear Trap Wilderness, MT

15-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN CONTINUED

Within the themes are goals and actions to achieve those themes. Although we cannot list every goal, below are the highlights:

- **FOCUS ON CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT-** “The [National Conservation] lands are designated by Congress or the President to conserve, protect, and restore their unique values for the benefit of current and future generations. As such, there is an overarching and explicit commitment to conservation and resource protection as the primary objective.”
- **LANGUAGE WHICH LIMITS ROAD NETWORKS-** “Facilities, including roads, will only be developed on [National Conservation] lands if required for public safety, necessary for the exercise of valid existing rights, minimizing impacts to fragile resources, or further the purposes for which an area was designated.”
- **EMPHASIS ON ECOSYSTEM BASED APPROACHES-** “Maintain or increase habitat connectivity with other important habitat areas to provide for sustainable populations of native species. Manage cultural resources within the context of the cultural landscape and adjoining lands to provide the greatest conservation benefit.
- **LIMIT DISCRETIONARY USES-** “Do not authorize discretionary uses that cannot be managed in a manner compatible with the designating proclamation or legislation.”
- **INSTITUTE STATEWIDE STRATEGIES-** “Each State Office will develop a statewide strategy for [National Conservation Land] areas that is tiered to the national strategy, which will guide development of implementation plans and strategies for individual units.”
- **DISCUSSION OF THE LEGAL DISTINCTION BETWEEN BLM’S NEW CONSERVATION MANDATE AND THE MULTIPLE USE MANDATE-** “The authors of FLPMA included an astute exception: management activities must abide by those [FLPMA] principles, except ‘...where a tract of such public land has been dedicated to specific uses according to any other provision of law it shall be managed in accordance with such law.’”
- **PROVIDE CLEAR GUIDANCE FOR BLM EMPLOYEES-** “Provide clear, consistent policy and guidance that affirms the primacy of the designating legislation or proclamation for all parts of the [National Conservation Lands] in planning and management.”
- **PROVIDE SCIENTIFIC FOUNDATION FOR DECISION-MAKING-** “Promote a better understanding of the importance and value of science in decision-making and ensure that research results are readily available to BLM managers, staff, and the public.”

To see the entire 15-Year Strategic Plan, please go to: <http://tinyurl.com/15YearPlan>

BLM POLICY MANUALS- GUIDING DAILY MANAGEMENT

In 2012, BLM released several Policy Manuals for the National Conservation Lands. These Policy Manuals will guide BLM employees in their day-to-day decisions and effect on the ground management of these spectacular lands. Park Service and Wildlife Refuge System employees rely on similar “policy manuals” to guide their day-to-day management.

BLM released **MANUAL 6100- NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT-** which provides policy for all units of the National Conservation Lands; and **MANUAL 6220- NATIONAL MONUMENTS, CONSERVATION AREAS, AND SIMILAR DESIGNATIONS.**

Although we cannot list all the policies stated in the Manuals, here are the highlights:

- Reinforces managing the National Conservation Lands in order to “conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes.”
- Primacy of Presidential or Congressional Designations. As a General Rule, **if the Act of Congress or Presidential Proclamation that designates a National Conservation Lands unit conflicts with FLPMA’s multiple use mandate, the designating language will apply.**”
- Activities and uses must be consistent with designating language and National BLM policy. “Ensure that all activities...are consistent with the relevant legislation or proclamation, national and state office policies and guidance for Monuments and NCA’s and approved land use plan decisions.”
- Reinforces the importance of gateway communities. “[T]he BLM will generally develop, or encourage the development of facilities within nearby communities to enhance local economic vitality and quality of life and to minimize disturbance within units.”
- Strong “**Rights of Way**” Guidance. “Avoid designating or authorizing use of transportation or utility corridors within units of the National Conservation Lands.”
- The Manuals also provide management policy for: Stewardship, Science, Cultural Resources, Energy and Minerals, Facilities, Lands and Realty, Livestock Grazing, Paleontological Resources, Recreation & Wildlife and Native Plants.

In addition, BLM released guidance for Historic Trails, Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas and Wild and Scenic Rivers. All Manuals can be found on **BLM’s Website.**

BLM LAND USE DESIGNATIONS- HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

The BLM manages many different types of ecosystems and resources under a slew of different names and designations. Each type of designation is different and comes with its own set of management standards and restrictions.

National Monuments and National Conservation Areas are the most well known and recognized of the National Conservation Lands. Although different in name, the management of these two designated areas is typically very similar— both are managed with a focus on conservation of the resources they were designated to protect. The chart below outlines the similarities and the differences.

TYPES OF DESIGNATIONS	NATIONAL MONUMENTS	NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREAS
# OF UNITS IN THE SYSTEM	23	16
HOW IS IT DESIGNATED?	Congress through Legislation or the President through the Antiquities Act	Only Congress through Legislation
WHAT LAND CAN BE PROTECTED?	Public land Currently Managed by the Federal Government	Public land Currently Manged by the Federal Government
LEGAL LANGUAGE	Congress finds that the federal public lands in x be protected and enhanced for the benefit and enjoyment of future genreations. OR I (the President) hereby proclaim that there is hereby set apart and reserved as the X National Monument, for the purpose of protection of the objects identified [in the proclamation language].	Congress finds that the federal public lands in x be protected and enhanced for the benefit and enjoyment of future genreations.
MINIMUM # OF ACRES?	NO	NO
DOCUMENT WHICH GOVERNS DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT	Unit Specific Resource Management Plan- Developed by BLM w/ Public Input	Unit Specific Resource Mangment Plan- Developed by BLM w/ Public Input
EXAMPLES	Sonoran Desert National Monument (AZ), Carrizo Plain National Monument (CA)	Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (NV), Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area(CO)



STANDARDS FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Congress, Secretarial Order 3308 and the recent 15-Year Strategic Plan direct the BLM to manage the National Conservation Lands “in a manner that protects the values for which the components of the system were designated.” (16 U.S.C. § 7202(c)(2)). In order to uphold the purposes of the National Conservation Lands, fulfill congressional intent and implement the Secretarial Order, BLM should adhere to the following principles during the development of National Conservation Lands resource management plans (RMPs):

A) PRIORITIZE THE PROTECTION OF THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS OBJECTS AND VALUES OVER OTHER USES.

In 2009, BLM issued Instruction Memorandum 2009-215 on Resource Management Planning for the National Conservation Lands, clarifying that the designating language for a unit of the Conservation Lands “supersedes conflicting direction by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).” When developing RMPs for the National Conservation Lands, BLM must recognize that if a conflict exists between the protection mandate of a presidential proclamation or act of Congress and the “multiple use” mandate of FLPMA, the proclamation or act of Congress must take priority. (see BLM IM 2009-215) Available at: <http://tinyurl.com/IM2009-215>

Examples:

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) RMP and Record of Decision (ROD) (2000).

“The Proclamation, which is the principal direction for management of the Monument, clearly dictates that the BLM manage the Monument for ‘the purpose of protecting the objects identified.’ All other considerations are secondary to that edict.” GSENM RMP at 3.

B) IDENTIFY AND INVENTORY OBJECTS AND VALUES DURING THE PLANNING PROCESS.

During the planning process for RMPs, BLM must identify and inventory objects and values and incorporate the results of that inventory into the RMP. (BLM IM 2009-215 & BLM IM 2009-226) When BLM is unable to fully inventory one or more objects or values during the planning process (e.g., cultural resources), then BLM should include in the RMP a strategy for completing such an inventory.

Example:

Agua Fria National Monument (AFNM) and Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area Proposed Resources Management Plans (2008).

“Agua Fria National Monument was established to preserve and protect, for present and future generations, its exceptional scientific and historic resources. These resources are defined in the monument's proclamation (Appendix A) as the objects to be protected:

- Archaeological remnants of prehistoric villages, rock art, agricultural systems, and other sites that composed one of the few remaining systems of prehistoric pueblo communities in central Arizona during the period A.D. 1250 to 1450.
- A cultural landscape that encompasses several hundred archaeological sites of diverse types within an undeveloped setting. These resources provide outstanding opportunities for scientists to study the interrelationships among prehistoric communities in their social and environmental contexts.
- Historic sites that reveal the progression of ranching and mining in a rugged area that posed environmental challenges to early settlers.
- A diverse set of topographic features that support an expansive mosaic of semi-desert grassland, transected by ribbons of rare and valuable riparian forest.
- A diversity of vegetation communities and water sources that provide habitat for a wide array of wildlife species.” AFNM Proposed RMP at 37.

C) RMPs FOR THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS MUST IMPLEMENT THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATIONS AND ACTS OF CONGRESS.

Many of the presidential proclamations and acts of Congress for units of the National Conservation Lands contain specific requirements for managing certain activities and uses in order to protect objects and values, such as prohibiting “off-road” vehicle use and closing the unit to oil and gas leasing. Thus, in addition to complying with the general requirement of protecting the National Conservation Lands’ objects and values, **BLM must also ensure that National Conservation Lands RMPs comply with the specific protection requirements of the presidential proclamations and acts of Congress.**

D) RMPs FOR THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS MUST INCLUDE MEASURES FOR MANAGEMENT AT THE LANDSCAPE LEVEL.

BLM must include management standards in RMPs for the National Conservation Lands that protect not only individual objects and values, but also the surrounding landscape and natural ecosystem (16 U.S.C. § 7202(a)). Protecting large, intact and healthy landscapes is the principal focus of many of the presidential proclamations and organic acts for National Conservation Land units, which frequently include natural and/or cultural landscapes in the recitation of protected objects and values.

Example:

AFNM and Bradshaw-Harquahala Planning Area Proposed RMPs (2008).

“Natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored, and maintained in good condition and managed within the broader context of ecosystems and cultural landscapes. The protection of cultural, biological, and physical resources, which the monument was created for, receives the highest priority in project planning and the management of resources and land uses.”

AFNM Proposed RMP at 38.

E) ALL MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES MUST PROTECT THE CONSERVATION LANDS’ OBJECTS AND VALUES.

BLM is required under NEPA to develop and evaluate a “reasonable range” of management alternatives for National Conservation Land RMPs. However, this range of management alternatives is constrained by the requirement that any alternative ultimately selected by BLM must protect the unit’s objects and values. For this reason, BLM should only develop and evaluate management alternatives that ultimately provide protection for the National Conservation Land’s objects and values.

Example:

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Proposed RMP (2009).

“Alternative development in the [Draft RMP/EIS] occurred to address the needs of present and future generations while, at the same time, adhering to the Proclamation requirement that Monument objects be protected. This approach resulted in a reasonable range of alternatives though a more narrow range than that found in most BLM plans.” CANM Proposed RMP at 21.

F) ALL MANAGEMENT DECISIONS FOR CONSERVATION LANDS SHOULD FACILITATE A SELF-GUIDED VISITOR EXPERIENCE.

The Conservation System differs from other protective designations, like national parks, by encouraging self-discovery of the landscapes. There are generally less developed trails and facilities. In fact, the system generally aims for visitor services to be located outside the units and in gateway communities.

Example:

CANM Proposed RMP (2009).

The Canyons of the Ancients National Monument plan permits visitors to learn about the cultural history of the area through an “outdoor museum concept for self-discovery of cultural and natural resources” that directs visitors to some sites but also allows visitors to discover other sites without direction.

G) SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SHOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO MANAGEMENT DECISIONS FOR CONSERVATION LANDS.

As part of the mission for the Conservation Lands, emphasizing the scientific values of these units, monument and NCA management plans can specifically provide for ways to promote scientific inquiry, both in the context of making management decisions and in providing for new research. The issuance of the Conservation System Science Strategy (through Instruction Memorandum 2007-116) sets out a commitment for the Conservation System “to promote and foster both basic and applied science.” Further, Secretarial Order 3308 and the 15-Year Strategy state that science shall be integrated into management decisions for Conservation Lands.

Example:

Carrizo Plain National Monument RMP (2010).

Authorize and encourage on-Monument research in the following order of priority:

- **Research that has direct implications for improving management and protection of objects of the Monument Proclamation as identified as objectives in the RMP and the Conservation Target Table (Attachment 5).**
- **Research that furthers scientific understanding of Monument resources.**
- **Research that has scientific value, but may have only indirect benefits for understanding or management of Monument resources.**

H) MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR SPECIFIC USES AND RESOURCES WITHIN THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS.

The following management recommendations are for specific resources and uses within units of the National Conservation Lands. Each recommendation is intended to provide BLM with the authority necessary to provide the National Conservation Lands with the level of protection necessary to fulfill conservation mandates prescribed in the unit’s establishing document.

1) CULTURAL RESOURCES

Require development of a cultural resources management plan that, at a minimum, should prioritize areas for cultural resources inventories based on data gaps and the potential for surface disturbance, provide timetables for completing cultural resources inventories and includes strategies and trigger points for protecting cultural resources from authorized and unauthorized activities. Cultural resources should also be managed within the context of the broader cultural landscape rather than site-by-site.

2) GRAZING

Require an evaluation of whether grazing practices are harming the objects and values for which Congress or the president designated the unit, a determination of whether grazing is compatible with the protection mandate and, if so, how grazing can take place without harming the unit’s objects and values and a decision as to whether changes in current grazing practices are necessary to protect the objects and values.

3) LANDS AND REALTY

- Establish priorities for land acquisition with a focus on acquiring: (1) parcels with known objects and values; and (2) interests whose development could harm the unit’s objects and values.
- Work with existing right of way (ROW) holders to relocate outside the unit if possible rather than permitting renewal or expansion of ROWs in existence at time the unit was created.
- Only permit renewal or expansion of existing ROWs if there is no feasible alternative, if activities can be conducted without harming objects and values and if additional protective measures are imposed as necessary.

4) MINERALS

- Close the unit to oil and gas leasing or, at minimum, open limited areas to leasing subject to the maximum protective stipulation(s) (e.g., no surface occupancy) necessary to protect the unit’s objects

and values from the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of oil and gas development.

- Retain express authority to deny applications for permit to drill if a drilling proposal will directly, indirectly or cumulatively harm the unit's objects and values or their surrounding landscape.
- Recommend the unit for a mineral withdrawal.
- Perform validity determinations before approving plans of operation for hardrock mining.

5) RECREATION

- Establish recreation management areas emphasizing primitive and backcountry experiences consistent with the overall purpose of the unit and National Conservation Lands.
- Disallow recreational activities, such as target shooting, motorized and mechanized recreation and rock climbing, in areas where harm may occur to the unit's objects and values.
- Directs visitor use to an intensive visitor use zones and away from areas where there are potential conflicts with sensitive resources and/or primitive backcountry experience.
- Develop clear standards for issuing special recreation permits, including managing group size, that are tied to protecting the unit's objects and values.

6) TRANSPORTATION

- Include a legal definition of the term "road" and prohibit use of motorized or mechanized vehicles anywhere but on roads meeting this legal definition.
- Prohibit the construction of new roads except for emergency and essential administrative purposes.
- Develop a minimal route network for national monuments and national conservation areas that are based on providing the maximum level of protection to the unit's objects and values.
- Perform a route density analysis of the inventoried transportation network to inform management of important and sensitive resources that may be impacted by a dense route network.
- Perform cultural resource surveys along routes proposed for designation or defer such designations until cultural resources surveys are complete.

7) VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM)

- Manage lands to VRM Class I or II levels throughout the unit in order to preserve the existing character of the natural and cultural landscape.
- Allow for VRM Class III or IV levels in limited, narrowly-defined circumstances when no harm will occur to the unit's objects and values or their surrounding landscapes.

8) RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Notwithstanding any other provisions regarding ROWs, no renewable energy development will be permitted within the unit.

9) TRANSMISSION

- No new transmission rights-of-way shall be issued.
- Existing transmission ROWs, shall be managed in accordance with the provisions regarding rights-of-way set out in BLM Manual 6220- National Monuments, Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations.

10) CLIMATE CHANGE

- Manage the Conservation Lands as an integral part of the larger landscape, in collaboration with the neighboring land owners and surrounding communities, to maintain biodiversity, and promote ecological connectivity and resilience in the face of climate change.
- Use large-scale assessments, such as BLM's Rapid Ecoregional Assessments, to identify areas where the Conservation Lands are important for resource protection and conservation within a broader landscape context and protectively manage and facilitate scientific study of those areas to inform management options in the face of climate change.

STANDARD LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE FOR ADDITIONS TO THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

The following language provides a set of conservation standards for creating a new legislative unit within the National Conservation Lands. Additions to the National Conservation Lands should have conservation as their primary purpose and this should be expressed both in the title of the legislation as well as in the legislative text. This consistency in naming, i.e. national monuments and national conservation areas, is needed to reinforce that conservation is the purpose and unifying factor for the National Conservation Lands.

Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Areas and other Recreation areas managed by the BLM shall not be included or managed as part of the National Conservation Lands.

All new legislated additions to the National Conservation Lands should include the following:

A) A STRONG PURPOSES SECTION:

Example:

Purpose- The purpose of this section is to conserve, protect, and enhance the ecological, scenic, wildlife, riparian, wilderness, non-motorized recreational, geological, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources of ...

Additional specificity regarding protecting site specific ecological and cultural resources should also be included whenever possible. (See Public Law 101-628 Nov. 28 1990 Sec. 201 (a) The Gila Box Riparian NCA purposes section included aquatic species and protection of riparian areas in the purposes section). Purposes such as protecting rangeland, providing future energy rights of way, protecting non-native species and non-natural landscapes are not appropriate purposes for National Conservation Area designation and should NOT be included within the Purpose section.

B) REQUIREMENT FOR A MANAGEMENT PLAN WITH SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR PROTECTING THE UNITS OBJECTS AND VALUES:

Example:

Management Plan- IN GENERAL- Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a comprehensive plan for the long-term management of the National Conservation Area in order to fulfill the purposes for which the conservation area is established. The management plan shall include:

(1) provisions designed to assure protection of the resources, values and purposes for which the conservation area was created; and

(2) a proposal for minimal administrative and public facilities to be developed or improved at a level compatible with achieving the resources objectives for the National Conservation Area and with other proposed management activities to accommodate visitors and researchers to the National Conservation Area. (See Proposed Bill H.R. 4192 Sec. 2 8(d)(3)(c) (2)).

Prior to completion of the RMP, the national conservation area should be managed to protect and preserve the features for which the unit was created at a no net loss effect. Please see pg 21 of this Handbook for appropriate Resource Management Plan Language.

C) A USES CLAUSE THAT ENSURES THAT PERMITTED USES OF THE AREA ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT WAS ESTABLISHED

Example:

IN GENERAL- The Secretary shall allow only such uses of the National Conservation Area as will further the purposes for which the National Conservation Area is established. (Public Law 106-538 Dec. 6, 2000 Sec. 5(b) or 114 Stat. 2565)

D) LANGUAGE RESTRICTING OFFROAD VEHICLES TO DESIGNATED ROADS

Example:

IN GENERAL- For the purpose of protection the objects identified in the Purpose Section, all motorized and mechanized vehicle use off road will be prohibited, except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes. Motorized use is permitted only on designated roads; mechanized use is permitted on designated roads and trails. The Secretary of the Interior shall prepare a transportation plan that addresses the actions, including road closures or travel restrictions, necessary to protect the objects identified in this legislation. (Proclamation No. 7317, 65 Fed. Reg. 37, 243 (June 9, 2000), modified)

E) WITHDRAW LANGUAGE

Example:

Withdrawals- Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal surface and subsurface land within the National Conservation Area and all land and interests in the land that are acquired by the United States after the date of enactment of this Act for inclusion in the Conservation Area, are withdrawn from--

- (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the general land laws;
- (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and
- (3) operation under the mineral leasing and geothermal leasing laws. (Public Law 111-11 Mar. 30, 2009 sec. 2203 Management (b) (1-3) or 123 Stat. 1100).

F) LANGUAGE INCORPORATING ACQUIRED LANDS

Example:

Incorporation of Acquired Land and Interests- Any land or interest in land that is located in the National Conservation Area that is acquired by the United States shall become part of the National Conservation Area and be managed in accordance with this Act and the management plan.

G) LANGUAGE ADDING THE AREA TO THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS

Example:

NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS- The Monument/National Conservation Area shall be managed as a component of the National Landscape Conservation System.

From: [Cardinale, Richard](#)
To: [James Lyons](#)
Subject: Fwd: ASLM/BLM Weekly Report
Date: Friday, December 16, 2016 12:18:53 PM
Attachments: [283.0 BLM-ASLM AGENDA FOR 20161612.docx](#)

Per your request.

Rich

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Curtis, Todd** <tcurtis@blm.gov>
Date: Thu, Dec 15, 2016 at 4:45 PM
Subject: ASLM/BLM Weekly Report
To: Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, James Lyons <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Leiter <amanda_leiter@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Richard Cardinale <richard_cardinale@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Tracie Lassiter <tracie_lassiter@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Anderson <michael_anderson@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren Bogard <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>, Alexandra Teitz <ateitz@blm.gov>, Karen Kelleher <kkelleh@blm.gov>, David Blackstun <dblackst@blm.gov>, "Fuge, Dylan" <dfuge@blm.gov>, Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, Jeff Brune <jbrune@blm.gov>, Yolando Mack-Thompson <ymackthompson@blm.gov>, Kelly Orr <korr@blm.gov>, Kathryn Kovacs <kekovacs@blm.gov>, Shannon Stewart <scstewar@blm.gov>, "Laura (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>, Todd Curtis <tcurtis@blm.gov>, Linda Thurn <lthurn@blm.gov>, Timothy Shannon <tshannon@blm.gov>, Cynthia Hernandez <chernandez@blm.gov>, Gracie Valdez <gvaldez@blm.gov>, "Brubeck, Kimberly" <kbrubeck@blm.gov>

Hi folks - attached is the Status report for Dec 19, 2015 through Jan 6, 2017.

Have a wonderful evening!

Todd M. Curtis

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BLM-ASLM Agenda
December 16, 2016
Internal Working Document

I. Executive Travel: December 19 to January 6, 2016

BLM Director Neil Kornze will be out of the office December 19 - December 30. Deputy Director Linda Lance will be out of the office beginning the afternoon of December 22 - December 30. Acting Deputy Director Jenna Whitlock will be traveling December 27 (avail by email), but otherwise in the office during the holiday season. The week of January 1, Neil Kornze, Linda Lance and Jenna Whitlock will all be in Washington, D.C., attending regularly scheduled meetings.

II. Agenda Items

- Coal Scoping Report
- Onshore Order 1
- Mitigation Policy
- Withdrawals
- OIG/GAO
- Admin Records
- Projects
 - Chokecherry and Sierra Madre
 - Gateway West
 - Boardman to Hemingway

• Priority Packages

Items with ASLM:

- Onshore Order 1 - Final Rule
- QFRs - 9/22 SENR Hearing - Neil Kornze (BLM0009094)
- SO 3339 Under-Resourced Youth – Implementation Report (BLM0009086)
- Draft Administrative Proposal - BLM Concession Authority BLM0009092

Items incoming to ASLM:

- Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Decision Package (BLM0009327)
- Notice: Identifying Lands Subject to Secretarial Order of Restoration - Red Lake Band of the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota (BLM0009221)
- Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska (BLM0008731)
- Request to Close Rec 1 OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)
- Presumed to Conform List FRN (BLMR000766)

Priority Withdrawals Schedule:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ DRECP (BLML000141) amended withdrawal petition – to ALSM for review Dec 16, sign by Dec 20, publish FR Dec 23○ Sagebrush Focal Areas (BLML000106) withdrawal petition – sent to ASLM on Dec 14; ASLM to sign Dec 20○ (continued on page 2) |
|---|

- **SW Oregon** (BLML000139) PLO for withdrawal/in placed when signed – 90 day comment period ends Dec 29. Withdrawal supports pending legislation; send to ASLM Dec 20, ASLM sign Dec 30 (end of current Congress, considering holiday).
- **Methow Valley** (BLMR001356) FS withdrawal petition/just need to clear FR notice – withdrawal in part supports pending legislation, Package to ASLM Dec 20, ASLM clear by Dec 30 (end of the current congress considering holiday);

II. Weekly Report:

December 18, 2016 – January 6, 2017.

The BLM is expected to announce the Decision Record for Phase 1 of the WY Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Project the week of December 19, giving approval for the first 500 wind turbines. This project is the largest proposed onshore wind energy facility in North America. The entire project will open up 1,200 jobs at peak construction and generate up to 3,000 megawatts of clean, renewable power, enough to power nearly one million homes. In addition, the Record of Decision for the Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs National Conservation Areas (NCA), the Proposed Amendment for the St. George RMP (UT) and associated Final EIS are expected to be signed. The key elements of the proposed plans for the NCAs include: protection for diverse threatened and endangered plant and animal species and critical habitats including the Mojave Desert Tortoise, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and native fish of the Virgin River System; management actions to reduce the threat of wildfires and restore fire-damaged landscapes; development of trails and other facilities to provide for sustainable recreations experiences; and protection for the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. Additionally, the BLM will finalize efforts to streamline oil and gas drilling permitting by adopting the e-filing of Applications for Permit to Drill. With the final revision to Onshore Order 1, the agency makes online filing of Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) the default method of filing, moving away from old-fashioned paper applications. On December 30, the BLM plans to release the draft EIS for the Sagebrush Focal Area Mineral Withdrawal. On December 30 and early in the new year, two mineral withdrawal notices, located in Oregon/Washington, will publish in the Federal Register. The first withdrawal, publishing on Dec 30, is for 101,021.71 acres in SW Oregon around the Salmon River. The second is for approximately 340,079 acres of Forest System lands located in the Methow Valley, WA. Lastly, BLM UT will conduct the first coal sale of 2017 on January 4. The Competitive Coal Lease Sale is for a tract of Federal coal in Sanpete and Sevier Counties, Utah.

Week Ahead Announcements- Presidential and Department/Agency Priorities – Dec 17, 2016 - Jan 6, 2017

Week of December 17: The final rule for Onshore Order 1 is expected to publish. The final rule will require the agency to adopt the online filing of Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) as the default method of filing, moving away from old-fashioned paper applications.

On or before December 17: The publication of the final Competitive Solar and Wind rule is expected.

Week of December 19: An ASLM decision on the BLM Decision Record for the BLM-WY Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Project is anticipated.

Week of December 19: The BLM-UT Price Field Office will release the San Rafael Desert Master Leasing Plan preliminary alternatives for public comment. This MLP focuses on approximately 525,000 acres of public lands in Emery and Wayne counties in Utah and could amend resource management plans for the Price and Richfield Offices.

Week of December 19: The BLM-UT Moab FO public comment period begins for the Tidewater EA, which analyzes a proposal to issue three Applications for Permit to Drill. The three wells are located in Grand County, Utah.

December 20: The new BLM-CA Ukiah Field Manager will meet with Congressman Mike Thompson (CA-05-D) for a meet and greet.

December 21 (TBD): BLM-UT plans to release the ROD for the Beaver Dam/Red Cliffs NCAs and St. George ROD. The Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the Federal Register on September 2, 2016, initiating a 30-day protest period. The ROD for the Red Cliffs NCA has a court-ordered completion date of December 31, 2016.

December 22: The public comment period ends for the BLM-ESO Draft EIS for the Mountain Valley Project and Equitrans Expansion Project, a pipeline that would run through Virginia and West Virginia. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is the lead agency for developing the Draft EIS.

Before December 31: The Final Colorado Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy (SRMS) release is expected. The SRMS is designed to improve the mitigation process, account for potential impacts in the landscape context and facilitate solar energy development in Solar Energy Zones. The strategy will use the information, maps and tools provided by the Landscape Assessment.

Late December: The BLM-UT Monticello Field Office plans to issue a decision on the proposed Indian Creek ATV route.

Late December or early January: The BLM-UT Moab FO will release for public comment an EA for the Needles and Anticline Overlook (Canyon Rims) Road Improvement Project.

Late December: Four IMs addressing issues other than the Coal PEIS noted in the SO (transparency, processing leasing actions under the leasing pause, waste mine methane, and surface owner consent) are expected to publish.

December 30: The BLM plans to release the draft EIS for the Sagebrush Focal Area Mineral Withdrawal. As part of ROD implementation, the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service are recommending the withdrawal of lands within Sagebrush Focal Areas from locations with mining claims, subject to valid existing rights. As part of the withdrawal process the lands covered by the proposal have been temporarily segregated for a period of up to two years. During this period, the agencies are undertaking environmental and other analyses to determine if the lands should be formally withdrawn to protect sage-grouse habitat from adverse effects of future locatable exploration and mining.

Early January: The BLM expects to release a Coal PEIS scoping report. The report will describe the process, summarize issues raised by commenters, and discuss alternatives that may be evaluated in the Coal PEIS.

December 30: A Notice of Proposed Withdrawal will be published in the *Federal Register* that will begin a 2-year segregation period for the withdrawal of approximately 340,079 acres of Forest System lands located in the Methow Valley, WA. The proposed withdrawal would close USFS managed lands for 20 years. The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to aid legislation introduced in Senate Bill 2991, known as the Methow Headwaters Protection Act of 2016.

January 2: The BLM and U.S. Forest Service have filed an application requesting to withdraw 101,021.71 acres in SW Oregon around the Salmon River (5,216.18 of BLM Revested O&C lands and 95,805.53 of National Forest System Lands). The comment period on the proposed 20-year withdrawal

closes on December 29th at which point the Secretary would be able to make a decision on the application. Because the withdrawal is in part to support pending legislation, a decision on the PLO needs to be made before the end of the current Congress, which is December 30, 2016.

January 4: BLM-UT will conduct a Competitive Coal Lease Sale for a tract of Federal coal in Sanpete and Sevier Counties, Utah. The Federal coal tract, known as the Greens Hollow Tract, is located in the Wasatch Plateau Known Recoverable Coal Resource Area. The 6,175-acre tract contains approximately 55.7 million tons of recoverable coal adjacent to and northwest of the existing SUFCO Mine, which is operated by Canyon Fuels, LLC, a subsidiary of Bowie Resource Partners, LLC.

January 5-8: The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' 2017 Mid-Winter meeting will be held at the Wigwam in Litchfield Park, AZ. The agenda is available at: http://www.wafwa.org/events/2017_mid-winter_meeting/program/ and includes the Sage Grouse Executive Oversight Committee Meeting on Friday morning, January 6. The BLM will send a small delegation.

January 6: BLM-CO plans to release the FRN for the Dominguez-Escalante ROD on January 6, 2016. The PRMP/FEIS NOA was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, June 30, 2016, initiating the protest period, which closed on Monday, August 1, 2016. Seven protests were received and are currently being evaluated.

Media

Trans Alaska Pipeline inquiry: In response to the media coverage of the protests regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline, Dan Springer, the Seattle-based correspondent for *Fox News*, called the BLM-AK Branch of Pipeline Monitoring on December 2 asking whether any spills from the TAPS had impacted drinking water. Springer was directed to contact the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. The tone of the story is expected to be neutral and the air date is unknown.

Alaska Public Media inquiry on Planning 2.0, Regional Mitigation Strategy, and Legacy Well program: On December 2, BLM-AK staff was interviewed by Alaska Public Media Energy Desk reporter Elizabeth Harball regarding three subjects that will result in three separate stories. Stacie McIntosh, Arctic Office Manager; Serena Sweet, Planning and NEPA lead for BLM Alaska; and Lesli Ellis-Wouters, Communications Chief participated. For the first story, focusing on the release of Planning 2.0, Sweet discussed three areas of change – more public involvement, adaptive management and landscape level planning. McIntosh provided a status on the Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Northeast NPR-A and a request for public comment by Dec. 29. The last story was an update on the Legacy Well program and clarification on work done last summer. The tone of the stories was positive and the stories are expected to be neutral. The air date is unknown.

Moab Times Independent query on Flaring: Reporter Rose Egelhoff requested general background on the impacts of the new flaring regulations and the expected ruling from the state on Wesco's operations in the Big Flat area. UT PA explained that both the state and the BLM have flaring rules, that they coordinate closely with each other and oil and gas operators in the area to ensure they are meeting federal and state requirements. They also noted that Wesco purchased Fidelity's holdings in the Big Flat area and currently flare and that reducing flaring was one of the key reasons for approving the Dead Horse Lateral Pipeline, as well as more responsible use of gas resources by providing a mechanism to get the gas to market. Rose has also requested to speak with a petroleum engineer on background to discuss flaring and venting and the BLM's role in regulating them for local operators. UT PA is arranging a backgrounder with Eric Jones, a petroleum engineer that can explain technical information in laymen's terms.

Deseret News Query on Planning 2.0: Reporter Amy Joi O'Donoghue requested comment on Utah and county leader concerns that under the final rule the importance of state and local government opinion is diminished. They are concerned that such a "landscape" scale approach to land use planning that does not have to adhere to district boundaries necessarily "subsumes" that voice. UT PA is working this request.

NPR Fresno request for interview on Temperance Flat Dam: Reporter Ezra David Romero requested to speak with the Bakersfield Field Manager regarding the possible impacts of a proposed Temperance Flat Dam. The BLM manages the San Joaquin River Gorge about 35 miles east of Fresno. The stretch of the river managed by the BLM, about 10 miles that includes hiking trails, campgrounds and a visitor center, would be inundated if the dam were built. The analysis in the 2015 Bakersfield Resource Management Plan found the portion of the river managed by the BLM qualifies for Wild and Scenic status. The reporter plans to also interview BOR, landowners and visit the Millerton Caves (BLM). CA PA is working this request.

HBO-Vice News request for interview on Western Monuments: Producer Alyse Shoreland is working on a story about the designation of western lands as monuments by the President. She is focusing on the Cascade-Siskiyou expansion and Owyhee Canyonlands in OR, and Gold Butte, NV, and is requesting interviews with officials on the ground who can speak about the lands and monument status if/when a designation is made. WO PA is on standby until if/when a designation is made.

30-60 Day Look Ahead

Early January: The BLM expects to release a Coal PEIS scoping report. The report will describe the process, summarize issues raised by commenters, and discuss alternatives that may be evaluated in the Coal PEIS.

No later than January 20: The BLM plans to publish the Oil Shale Rule. When finalized, the proposed rule would clarify specific provisions of oil shale royalty regulations, ensure that the royalty rate provides a fair return to the American taxpayer while encouraging the development of Federal oil shale resources, and include adequate measures to protect the environment.

January: BLM-AK Eastern Interior (EI) RODs/Approved RMPs: The Director's Response Letter to the Governor's Appeal has been approved by the Director's Office. The protest resolution report is complete and being finalized for publication/posting on the BLM website on or a day or two prior the ROD signature date.

January: BLM-NV plans to issue the final Dixie Meadows Geothermal Project EA and FONSI. The project area consists of approximately 22,021 acres of public land. The proponent (Ormat) is seeking approval to drill temperature gradient wells, and to drill and test observation wells and production wells at up to 20 specific locations.

January: The BLM-CA Arcata and Redding field offices published a Notice of Intent to begin public scoping for the development of a new RMP for public lands overseen by both offices on November 7. A series of seven public meetings will be held across the region in January and public comments will be accepted until the completion of the meetings.

January: BLM-CA plans to release for public comment the draft RMP Amendment and draft EIS that will address oil and gas leasing and development on 793,000 acres of federal mineral estate administered by the Central Coast Field Office. The amendment is in response to public concerns about oil and gas leasing and development, in particular hydraulic fracturing and related well stimulation techniques.

January 9: The BLM-ID Challis Field Office will begin bait trapping wild horses within the Challis HMA and treat mares with the fertility control PZP-22. The process is expected to be completed by March 14, 2017.

January 12: The BLM plans to release its final mitigation manual and handbook that will help the agency carry out consistent, effective, and transparent mitigation to address impacts to resources from public land uses.

January 13: BLM-ESO will transfer approximately 60,000 acres of land to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. The lands were ceded to the United States in the late 1800's and early 1900's, and originally identified for restoration in a 1945 Secretarial Order.

January 15-17: The North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Wilderness and Protected Areas (NAWPA) will hold their annual agency heads meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

January 17 and 24: The Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Nevada Department of Agriculture, USFS, Nevada Department of Wildlife and the BLM will host a series of Livestock Grazing Permittee workshops throughout Nevada. At these workshops, the BLM will present how the BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment's objectives will affect the livestock grazing program in Nevada and address questions.

Mid-January: BLM-ID plans to sign the Gateway West Transmission ROD. The BLM published the FSEIS for the final two sections on October 7, 2016. The protest period will end November 7, 2016. The protest resolution and Governor's Consistency Review is scheduled to be completed January 13, allowing for publication of the ROD prior to January 20. The preferred routes avoid to the greatest extent possible private land, Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA.

Mid-January: BLM is attempting to accelerate the signing of the Boardman to Hemingway ROD. Oregon Plan amendments are being handled concurrently and that decision will be issued simultaneously with the ROD for the EIS and Approval to issue a grant.

January 29-Feb: The Society for Rangeland Management Annual Meeting will be held in St. George, UT. BLM employees from various offices are planning to attend.

January 30: The BLM and Forest Service will announce the annual adjusted grazing fee for public lands.

Early FY2017: The finalized implementation plan for Wilderness 2020 Vision is expected to be issued.

February 7-8: The Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council meeting will be held at the DOI MIB.

February 25-March 1: The National Association of Counties Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

March 4-11: the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference will be held in Spokane, Washington. BLM staff will attend.

Legal

N/A

IV. Major Federal Register Notices and Approval Packages:

Title	Current Status
Notice of Proposed Withdrawal Extension and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Miller Lake Recreational Area, Oregon.	Will publish in the Federal Register on 12/16/16. (DTS 1289).
Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the TransWest Express Transmission Project in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Nevada	Will publish in the Federal Register on 12/16/16. (DTS 1319)
Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project and Approved Land-use Plan Amendments	Will publish in the Federal Register on 12/16/16. (DTS 1331)

V. Congressional Activities:

Congressional Meetings

Rep. Stewart / Wild Horse & Burro: On December 20, Kristin Bail, Assistant Director for Resources and Planning; Dean Bolstad, Division Chief, Wild Horse and Burro Program; and Linda Smith, BLM Budget Officer plan to meet with staff of Rep. Stewart (R-UT-2) at their request to discuss the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro program.

Congressional Visits in the Field

Courtesy Visits / Rep. Thompson (D-CA-5): On Dec. 20, BLM Ukiah California Field Manager, Amanda James plans to conduct a courtesy visit with Rep. Thompson (D-CA-5).

WH&B Corral Visit / Sen. Risch's Staff (R-ID): On Jan 4, staff from Senator Risch's office will tour the BLM's Boise Idaho corral and meet with BLM ID wild horse and burro program staff.

State Legislature Hearings / Meetings

Wyoming State Legislature / Forestry: The BLM in Wyoming has a received a request from the Wyoming State Legislature's Joint Agriculture Committee to provide an update on BLM forestry activities on Jan. 17 in Cheyenne. Details TBD.

VI. Pending Packages in ASLM:

Packages with ASLM 12/15/2016:

1. Surname – Sec Jewell Response to 2 Gov. Sandoval letters, Proposed Mineral Withdrawal in Sagebrush Focal Area (BLM0007183)
2. Signature – Response to Letter Re: Appeal of the BLM's decision to declare Lia Shapiro's mine claim Abandoned (LM00000009)
3. Surname - Bureau of Land Management's Implementation of Secretarial Order 3339 Report Fiscal Year 2016 BLM0009086
4. Surname - Draft Administrative Proposal - BLM Concession Authority BLM0009092

5. Surname – Letter from Senators Udall & Heinrich about Upper Rio Grande Watershed wildlife corridors BLM0008739
6. Request to Close Recommendation 9 in the Office of Inspector General's report entitled, Bureau of Land Management's Renewable Energy Program: A Critical Point in Renewable Energy Development (Report No. CR-EV-BLM-0004-2010) (BLM0008379)
7. Surname – 90 Day List (January - March) BLMR001344
8. Signature - Request to amend the application for the Greater Sage-Grouse withdrawal to add 400K acres in Nevada and the NOA for the DEIS. BLML000106
9. Surname – Farmington (NM) RAC
10. Surname – Albuquerque (NM) RAC
11. Surname – Southeast Oregon RAC
12. Surname – California Desert District RAC

Packages with BLM:

1. Surname/Signature – MOU between BLM and DOD on Wind Energy BLM0006219 **WO-301 Resolving AL Comments and preparing Hardcopy for Signature.**
2. Surname – SNPLMA Annual Report for FY 2014 & 2015. **NV has circulated a new version to 300/100 and Kelly is reviewing. Current goal is to get new hard copy to ASLM by Friday, 12/16 or Monday, 12/19**
3. Surname/Signature - Transfer of Jurisdiction of Public Lands to Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range/CACA 056671 BLML000120 **WO-350 – Lands and Realty is addressing Kelleher comments on PLO, the ASLM Info Memo, and the Transmittal Memo**
4. Surname – 620 DM 1-7 Wildland Fire Program Policy BLM0009488 / ESO-00073486 – **Solicitor Review**

VI. Packages Going to ASLM Next Week:

1. Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Decision Package (BLM0009327)
2. Notice: Identifying Lands Subject to Secretarial Order of Restoration - Red Lake Band of the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota (BLM0009221)
3. Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska (BLM0008731)
4. Request to Close Rec 1 OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)
5. Presumed to Conform List FRN (BLMR000766)

VIII. Weekly Audit Report:

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
IA00 05491	Draft Audit Report – Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Federal Indian Minerals Office (2015-EAU-079) Link to the Draft Report: N/A	The response was signed on 12/8/16.	11/18 – 11/28 (Done)	11/18 – 11/28 (Done)	(Done)	12/9 (Done)

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
TBD	Oil and Gas Oversight: Interior Has Taken Steps to Address Staff Hiring, Retention, and Training but Needs a More Evaluative and Collaborative Approach (GAO-16-742) Link to the Draft Report: http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-742	PFM emailed the response to the bureaus for a final surname. Surnames are due by 12/12/16.	12/15-12/19	12/20-12/21	12/21	12/31

IX. Packages in WO-100:

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
1	***	BLM0009221	FRN-Federal Register Notice	Schneider, Janice M.	A/S	Notice: Identifying Lands Subject to Secretarial Order of Restoration of February 22, 1945	
2		BLM0009501	CC-WO	Buck, Ken	D	Timely processing of Riverside Reservoir leases	12/01/2016
3	***	BLML000141	PA	LM-A/S Janice Schneider	A/S	Petition/Application for Withdrawal, California Desert Conservation Area, California	
4	***	BLML000129	PLO	DOI-OSMRE	A/S	Proposed PLO, Withdrawal Revocation of the Lonesome Lake Area; Montana	
5		BLM0009572	FTVL	Hawks, Robin B.	DD	Robin Hawks foreign travel request to Canada	
6		BLM0009571	FTVL	Mcalear, Chris	DD	McAlear foreign travel request to Canada	
7		BLM0009395	CC-ES	Vilsack, Thomas J; Jewell, Sally	D	hard rock mining near Yellowstone National Park (pending 9234)	11/02/2016
8	***	BLM0009566	GAO/OIG CLOSURE	Schneider, Janice M.	A/S	Request to Close Recommendation 1 in the U.S. Government Accountability Office's Report, OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)	

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
9		BLM0009127	IM	BLM-WO-200 BUSINESS	AD	Fiscal Year 2016 Reporting on Solid Waste and Chemicals Management	
10		BLMR001308	FRN		BC	Notice of Proposed Extension of Public Land Order No. 7322; Opportunity for Public Meeting; West Eagle Meadow,	10/25/2016
11		BLMR001299	FRN		DSD	Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Comment; Klamath National Forest, California	10/17/2016
12		BLMR001221	FRN		D	Notice of Realty Action: Application for Conveyance of Federally Owned Mineral Interests in Maricopa County, Arizona.	07/14/2016
13	***	BLMC000011	Other	BLM-NM-SD	S	Annual Helium Report of 2015	
14	***	BLML000116	PLO	BLM-CA-931 LANDS AND REALTY	A/S	Homestake Withdrawal Partial Revocation/CACA 051360	
15		BLM0007454	MAN	BLM-WO-240 CULTURAL DIVISION	DD	1780 Manual & Handbook - Tribal Relations-Consultation Policy & Guidance	
16		BLMR001214	FRN		D	Notice of Application for Recordable Disclaimer of Interest in Lands, Kootenai County, Idaho	07/06/2016
17		BLM0009525	CC-ES	Chaffetz, Jason; Jewell, Sally	D	APD pending before Price BLM Field Office in Utah	12/06/2016
18	***	BLM0009292	CC-ES	Mead, Matthew H.; Jewell, Sally	S	Wyoming's Greater sage-grouse compensatory mitigation framework	10/31/2016
19		BLMR001335	FRN		AD	Call for Nominations for the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board	11/14/2016
20		BLMR001304	FRN		D	Notice of Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest: Dimmit County, Texas	10/19/2016
21		BLM0009099	CC- WO	Grijalva, Raul M; Bishop, Bob	DD	Prioritize implementation of Helium Program recommendations	
22	***	BLM0008526	CC-ES	Bishop, Rob +55	S	Proposed venting and flaring rule	08/01/2016

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
23		BLM0009404	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: Distinguished Service Award - Ramona M. Chinn	
24		BLM0009442	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: VALOR GROUP AWARDS IDAHO BRUNEAU FIRE CREW (8)	
25		BLM0009441	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: VALOR Group Awards - TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE, COLORADO (3)	
26		BLM0009419	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: Distinguished Service Award - Robert E. King	
27		BLM0009471	CC-WO	Whitlock, Jenna		Letter from Dakotas RAC re. federal coal program	
28		BLM0008257	LTR	BLM-WO-420 EDU, INT, and PARTNER DIVISION	D	Request for Approval of Director's Letter and Photograph for Connecting People to Their Public Lands 2016	
29		BLM0008934	CC-WO	Chapoose, Shaun	DD	Hill Creek land exchange	
30		BLM0009370	MEM	BLM-WO-100	Other	Conference support approval	
31	***	BLM0009197	CC-ES	Herbert, Gary R.; Jewell, Sally	S	Utah's wild horse and burro population	10/17/2016
32	***	BLM0009327	DM	Schneider, Janice M.	A/S	EA for Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Development Project	
33		BLM0009396	GOV	Jewell, Sally; Herbert, Gary R	DR	Alton Coal emergency lease application	11/08/2016
34	***	BLML000133	LAND ACQ	PMB-DBPA- Ferriter	A/S	Request for Reprogramming of Land and Water Conservation Funding	09/07/2016
35		BLM0008104	IM	BLM-WO-410 NLCS	D	Citizen Science Pilot Program	
36		BLM0009268	MAN	ALL BLM	DD	RE: BLM WASHINGTON OFFICE COOP PLAN	
37		BLM0008731	CC-WO	Murkowski, Lisa	D	Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska	08/29/2016
38	***	BLM0008901	CC-ES	Bennet, Michael F.; Jewell, Sally	S	Expansion of Colorado's Twentymile Mine	09/20/2016

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
39	***	BLM0008248	CC-WO	Bishop, Rob	A/S	Administrative procedures and IM 2013-177	07/08/2016
40		BLM0008171	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	DD	GCC Energy's request for SO 3338 exemption for King II Coal Mine	06/30/2016
41		BLMR000947	FRN		D	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to Hold Public Scoping Meetings for Federal Coal Lease Application Serial No. NDM 105513, Oliver County, ND	10/28/2015
42		BLM0007695	MEM	BLM-WO-300	AD	Buckskin Mine Royalty Rate Reduction	
43	***	BLM0007744	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	A/S	Request the BLM to cancel the Spruce Stomp coal lease	
44		BLM0007752	CC-WO	Daugaard, Dennis; Mead, Matt	D	Energy corridor designations	05/18/2016
45		BLM0007094	LTR	Walker, Bill	D	Use of DPPS survey method for Alaska Land Transfer program; negotiate a new MOU	
46		BLMR000552	FRN	Riechel, Silvia	D	Notice of Extension of the Current Qualification of the Designated Nine County Area of Oklahoma Federal Coal for Category 5 Royalty Rate Reductions	11/12/2014

From: Lyons, James
To: James Lyons
Subject: Fwd: ASLM/BLM Weekly Report
Date: Friday, December 16, 2016 12:58:16 PM
Attachments: [283.0 BLM-ASLM AGENDA FOR 20161612.docx](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cardinale, Richard** <richard_cardinale@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Fri, Dec 16, 2016 at 12:18 PM
Subject: Fwd: ASLM/BLM Weekly Report
To: James Lyons <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>

Per your request.

Rich

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Curtis, Todd** <tcurtis@blm.gov>
Date: Thu, Dec 15, 2016 at 4:45 PM
Subject: ASLM/BLM Weekly Report
To: Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, James Lyons <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Leiter <amanda_leiter@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Richard Cardinale <richard_cardinale@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Tracie Lassiter <tracie_lassiter@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Anderson <michael_anderson@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren Bogard <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>, Alexandra Teitz <ateitz@blm.gov>, Karen Kelleher <kkelleh@blm.gov>, David Blackstun <dblackst@blm.gov>, "Fuge, Dylan" <dfuge@blm.gov>, Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, Jeff Brune <jbrune@blm.gov>, Yolando Mack-Thompson <ymackthompson@blm.gov>, Kelly Orr <korr@blm.gov>, Kathryn Kovacs <kekovacs@blm.gov>, Shannon Stewart <scstewar@blm.gov>, "Laura (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>, Todd Curtis <tcurtis@blm.gov>, Linda Thurn <lthurn@blm.gov>, Timothy Shannon <tshannon@blm.gov>, Cynthia Hernandez <chernandez@blm.gov>, Gracie Valdez <gvaldez@blm.gov>, "Brubeck, Kimberly" <kbrubeck@blm.gov>

Hi folks - attached is the Status report for Dec 19, 2015 through Jan 6, 2017.

Have a wonderful evening!

Todd M. Curtis

Advisor to the Director's Office (Detail)
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Washington, DC
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Jim Lyons

Deputy Assistant Secretary

Land and Minerals Management

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BLM-ASLM Agenda
December 16, 2016
Internal Working Document

I. Executive Travel: December 19 to January 6, 2016

BLM Director Neil Kornze will be out of the office December 19 - December 30. Deputy Director Linda Lance will be out of the office beginning the afternoon of December 22 - December 30. Acting Deputy Director Jenna Whitlock will be traveling December 27 (avail by email), but otherwise in the office during the holiday season. The week of January 1, Neil Kornze, Linda Lance and Jenna Whitlock will all be in Washington, D.C., attending regularly scheduled meetings.

II. Agenda Items

- Coal Scoping Report
- Onshore Order 1
- Mitigation Policy
- Withdrawals
- OIG/GAO
- Admin Records
- Projects
 - Chokecherry and Sierra Madre
 - Gateway West
 - Boardman to Hemingway

• Priority Packages

Items with ASLM:

- Onshore Order 1 - Final Rule
- QFRs - 9/22 SENR Hearing - Neil Kornze (BLM0009094)
- SO 3339 Under-Resourced Youth – Implementation Report (BLM0009086)
- Draft Administrative Proposal - BLM Concession Authority BLM0009092

Items incoming to ASLM:

- Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Decision Package (BLM0009327)
- Notice: Identifying Lands Subject to Secretarial Order of Restoration - Red Lake Band of the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota (BLM0009221)
- Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska (BLM0008731)
- Request to Close Rec 1 OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)
- Presumed to Conform List FRN (BLMR000766)

Priority Withdrawals Schedule:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ DRECP (BLML000141) amended withdrawal petition – to ALSM for review Dec 16, sign by Dec 20, publish FR Dec 23○ Sagebrush Focal Areas (BLML000106) withdrawal petition – sent to ASLM on Dec 14; ASLM to sign Dec 20○ (continued on page 2) |
|---|

- **SW Oregon** (BLML000139) PLO for withdrawal/in placed when signed – 90 day comment period ends Dec 29. Withdrawal supports pending legislation; send to ASLM Dec 20, ASLM sign Dec 30 (end of current Congress, considering holiday).
- **Methow Valley** (BLMR001356) FS withdrawal petition/just need to clear FR notice – withdrawal in part supports pending legislation, Package to ASLM Dec 20, ASLM clear by Dec 30 (end of the current congress considering holiday);

II. Weekly Report:

December 18, 2016 – January 6, 2017.

The BLM is expected to announce the Decision Record for Phase 1 of the WY Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Project the week of December 19, giving approval for the first 500 wind turbines. This project is the largest proposed onshore wind energy facility in North America. The entire project will open up 1,200 jobs at peak construction and generate up to 3,000 megawatts of clean, renewable power, enough to power nearly one million homes. In addition, the Record of Decision for the Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs National Conservation Areas (NCA), the Proposed Amendment for the St. George RMP (UT) and associated Final EIS are expected to be signed. The key elements of the proposed plans for the NCAs include: protection for diverse threatened and endangered plant and animal species and critical habitats including the Mojave Desert Tortoise, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and native fish of the Virgin River System; management actions to reduce the threat of wildfires and restore fire-damaged landscapes; development of trails and other facilities to provide for sustainable recreations experiences; and protection for the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. Additionally, the BLM will finalize efforts to streamline oil and gas drilling permitting by adopting the e-filing of Applications for Permit to Drill. With the final revision to Onshore Order 1, the agency makes online filing of Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) the default method of filing, moving away from old-fashioned paper applications. On December 30, the BLM plans to release the draft EIS for the Sagebrush Focal Area Mineral Withdrawal. On December 30 and early in the new year, two mineral withdrawal notices, located in Oregon/Washington, will publish in the Federal Register. The first withdrawal, publishing on Dec 30, is for 101,021.71 acres in SW Oregon around the Salmon River. The second is for approximately 340,079 acres of Forest System lands located in the Methow Valley, WA. Lastly, BLM UT will conduct the first coal sale of 2017 on January 4. The Competitive Coal Lease Sale is for a tract of Federal coal in Sanpete and Sevier Counties, Utah.

Week Ahead Announcements- Presidential and Department/Agency Priorities – Dec 17, 2016 - Jan 6, 2017

Week of December 17: The final rule for Onshore Order 1 is expected to publish. The final rule will require the agency to adopt the online filing of Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) as the default method of filing, moving away from old-fashioned paper applications.

On or before December 17: The publication of the final Competitive Solar and Wind rule is expected.

Week of December 19: An ASLM decision on the BLM Decision Record for the BLM-WY Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Project is anticipated.

Week of December 19: The BLM-UT Price Field Office will release the San Rafael Desert Master Leasing Plan preliminary alternatives for public comment. This MLP focuses on approximately 525,000 acres of public lands in Emery and Wayne counties in Utah and could amend resource management plans for the Price and Richfield Offices.

Week of December 19: The BLM-UT Moab FO public comment period begins for the Tidewater EA, which analyzes a proposal to issue three Applications for Permit to Drill. The three wells are located in Grand County, Utah.

December 20: The new BLM-CA Ukiah Field Manager will meet with Congressman Mike Thompson (CA-05-D) for a meet and greet.

December 21 (TBD): BLM-UT plans to release the ROD for the Beaver Dam/Red Cliffs NCAs and St. George ROD. The Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the Federal Register on September 2, 2016, initiating a 30-day protest period. The ROD for the Red Cliffs NCA has a court-ordered completion date of December 31, 2016.

December 22: The public comment period ends for the BLM-ESO Draft EIS for the Mountain Valley Project and Equitrans Expansion Project, a pipeline that would run through Virginia and West Virginia. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is the lead agency for developing the Draft EIS.

Before December 31: The Final Colorado Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy (SRMS) release is expected. The SRMS is designed to improve the mitigation process, account for potential impacts in the landscape context and facilitate solar energy development in Solar Energy Zones. The strategy will use the information, maps and tools provided by the Landscape Assessment.

Late December: The BLM-UT Monticello Field Office plans to issue a decision on the proposed Indian Creek ATV route.

Late December or early January: The BLM-UT Moab FO will release for public comment an EA for the Needles and Anticline Overlook (Canyon Rims) Road Improvement Project.

Late December: Four IMs addressing issues other than the Coal PEIS noted in the SO (transparency, processing leasing actions under the leasing pause, waste mine methane, and surface owner consent) are expected to publish.

December 30: The BLM plans to release the draft EIS for the Sagebrush Focal Area Mineral Withdrawal. As part of ROD implementation, the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service are recommending the withdrawal of lands within Sagebrush Focal Areas from locations with mining claims, subject to valid existing rights. As part of the withdrawal process the lands covered by the proposal have been temporarily segregated for a period of up to two years. During this period, the agencies are undertaking environmental and other analyses to determine if the lands should be formally withdrawn to protect sage-grouse habitat from adverse effects of future locatable exploration and mining.

Early January: The BLM expects to release a Coal PEIS scoping report. The report will describe the process, summarize issues raised by commenters, and discuss alternatives that may be evaluated in the Coal PEIS.

December 30: A Notice of Proposed Withdrawal will be published in the *Federal Register* that will begin a 2-year segregation period for the withdrawal of approximately 340,079 acres of Forest System lands located in the Methow Valley, WA. The proposed withdrawal would close USFS managed lands for 20 years. The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to aid legislation introduced in Senate Bill 2991, known as the Methow Headwaters Protection Act of 2016.

January 2: The BLM and U.S. Forest Service have filed an application requesting to withdraw 101,021.71 acres in SW Oregon around the Salmon River (5,216.18 of BLM Revested O&C lands and 95,805.53 of National Forest System Lands). The comment period on the proposed 20-year withdrawal

closes on December 29th at which point the Secretary would be able to make a decision on the application. Because the withdrawal is in part to support pending legislation, a decision on the PLO needs to be made before the end of the current Congress, which is December 30, 2016.

January 4: BLM-UT will conduct a Competitive Coal Lease Sale for a tract of Federal coal in Sanpete and Sevier Counties, Utah. The Federal coal tract, known as the Greens Hollow Tract, is located in the Wasatch Plateau Known Recoverable Coal Resource Area. The 6,175-acre tract contains approximately 55.7 million tons of recoverable coal adjacent to and northwest of the existing SUFCO Mine, which is operated by Canyon Fuels, LLC, a subsidiary of Bowie Resource Partners, LLC.

January 5-8: The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' 2017 Mid-Winter meeting will be held at the Wigwam in Litchfield Park, AZ. The agenda is available at: http://www.wafwa.org/events/2017_mid-winter_meeting/program/ and includes the Sage Grouse Executive Oversight Committee Meeting on Friday morning, January 6. The BLM will send a small delegation.

January 6: BLM-CO plans to release the FRN for the Dominguez-Escalante ROD on January 6, 2016. The PRMP/FEIS NOA was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, June 30, 2016, initiating the protest period, which closed on Monday, August 1, 2016. Seven protests were received and are currently being evaluated.

Media

Trans Alaska Pipeline inquiry: In response to the media coverage of the protests regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline, Dan Springer, the Seattle-based correspondent for *Fox News*, called the BLM-AK Branch of Pipeline Monitoring on December 2 asking whether any spills from the TAPS had impacted drinking water. Springer was directed to contact the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. The tone of the story is expected to be neutral and the air date is unknown.

Alaska Public Media inquiry on Planning 2.0, Regional Mitigation Strategy, and Legacy Well program: On December 2, BLM-AK staff was interviewed by Alaska Public Media Energy Desk reporter Elizabeth Harball regarding three subjects that will result in three separate stories. Stacie McIntosh, Arctic Office Manager; Serena Sweet, Planning and NEPA lead for BLM Alaska; and Lesli Ellis-Wouters, Communications Chief participated. For the first story, focusing on the release of Planning 2.0, Sweet discussed three areas of change – more public involvement, adaptive management and landscape level planning. McIntosh provided a status on the Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Northeast NPR-A and a request for public comment by Dec. 29. The last story was an update on the Legacy Well program and clarification on work done last summer. The tone of the stories was positive and the stories are expected to be neutral. The air date is unknown.

Moab Times Independent query on Flaring: Reporter Rose Egelhoff requested general background on the impacts of the new flaring regulations and the expected ruling from the state on Wesco's operations in the Big Flat area. UT PA explained that both the state and the BLM have flaring rules, that they coordinate closely with each other and oil and gas operators in the area to ensure they are meeting federal and state requirements. They also noted that Wesco purchased Fidelity's holdings in the Big Flat area and currently flare and that reducing flaring was one of the key reasons for approving the Dead Horse Lateral Pipeline, as well as more responsible use of gas resources by providing a mechanism to get the gas to market. Rose has also requested to speak with a petroleum engineer on background to discuss flaring and venting and the BLM's role in regulating them for local operators. UT PA is arranging a backgrounder with Eric Jones, a petroleum engineer that can explain technical information in laymen's terms.

Deseret News Query on Planning 2.0: Reporter Amy Joi O'Donoghue requested comment on Utah and county leader concerns that under the final rule the importance of state and local government opinion is diminished. They are concerned that such a "landscape" scale approach to land use planning that does not have to adhere to district boundaries necessarily "subsumes" that voice. UT PA is working this request.

NPR Fresno request for interview on Temperance Flat Dam: Reporter Ezra David Romero requested to speak with the Bakersfield Field Manager regarding the possible impacts of a proposed Temperance Flat Dam. The BLM manages the San Joaquin River Gorge about 35 miles east of Fresno. The stretch of the river managed by the BLM, about 10 miles that includes hiking trails, campgrounds and a visitor center, would be inundated if the dam were built. The analysis in the 2015 Bakersfield Resource Management Plan found the portion of the river managed by the BLM qualifies for Wild and Scenic status. The reporter plans to also interview BOR, landowners and visit the Millerton Caves (BLM). CA PA is working this request.

HBO-Vice News request for interview on Western Monuments: Producer Alyse Shoreland is working on a story about the designation of western lands as monuments by the President. She is focusing on the Cascade-Siskiyou expansion and Owyhee Canyonlands in OR, and Gold Butte, NV, and is requesting interviews with officials on the ground who can speak about the lands and monument status if/when a designation is made. WO PA is on standby until if/when a designation is made.

30-60 Day Look Ahead

Early January: The BLM expects to release a Coal PEIS scoping report. The report will describe the process, summarize issues raised by commenters, and discuss alternatives that may be evaluated in the Coal PEIS.

No later than January 20: The BLM plans to publish the Oil Shale Rule. When finalized, the proposed rule would clarify specific provisions of oil shale royalty regulations, ensure that the royalty rate provides a fair return to the American taxpayer while encouraging the development of Federal oil shale resources, and include adequate measures to protect the environment.

January: BLM-AK Eastern Interior (EI) RODs/Approved RMPs: The Director's Response Letter to the Governor's Appeal has been approved by the Director's Office. The protest resolution report is complete and being finalized for publication/posting on the BLM website on or a day or two prior the ROD signature date.

January: BLM-NV plans to issue the final Dixie Meadows Geothermal Project EA and FONSI. The project area consists of approximately 22,021 acres of public land. The proponent (Ormat) is seeking approval to drill temperature gradient wells, and to drill and test observation wells and production wells at up to 20 specific locations.

January: The BLM-CA Arcata and Redding field offices published a Notice of Intent to begin public scoping for the development of a new RMP for public lands overseen by both offices on November 7. A series of seven public meetings will be held across the region in January and public comments will be accepted until the completion of the meetings.

January: BLM-CA plans to release for public comment the draft RMP Amendment and draft EIS that will address oil and gas leasing and development on 793,000 acres of federal mineral estate administered by the Central Coast Field Office. The amendment is in response to public concerns about oil and gas leasing and development, in particular hydraulic fracturing and related well stimulation techniques.

January 9: The BLM-ID Challis Field Office will begin bait trapping wild horses within the Challis HMA and treat mares with the fertility control PZP-22. The process is expected to be completed by March 14, 2017.

January 12: The BLM plans to release its final mitigation manual and handbook that will help the agency carry out consistent, effective, and transparent mitigation to address impacts to resources from public land uses.

January 13: BLM-ESO will transfer approximately 60,000 acres of land to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. The lands were ceded to the United States in the late 1800's and early 1900's, and originally identified for restoration in a 1945 Secretarial Order.

January 15-17: The North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Wilderness and Protected Areas (NAWPA) will hold their annual agency heads meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

January 17 and 24: The Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Nevada Department of Agriculture, USFS, Nevada Department of Wildlife and the BLM will host a series of Livestock Grazing Permittee workshops throughout Nevada. At these workshops, the BLM will present how the BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment's objectives will affect the livestock grazing program in Nevada and address questions.

Mid-January: BLM-ID plans to sign the Gateway West Transmission ROD. The BLM published the FSEIS for the final two sections on October 7, 2016. The protest period will end November 7, 2016. The protest resolution and Governor's Consistency Review is scheduled to be completed January 13, allowing for publication of the ROD prior to January 20. The preferred routes avoid to the greatest extent possible private land, Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA.

Mid-January: BLM is attempting to accelerate the signing of the Boardman to Hemingway ROD. Oregon Plan amendments are being handled concurrently and that decision will be issued simultaneously with the ROD for the EIS and Approval to issue a grant.

January 29-Feb: The Society for Rangeland Management Annual Meeting will be held in St. George, UT. BLM employees from various offices are planning to attend.

January 30: The BLM and Forest Service will announce the annual adjusted grazing fee for public lands.

Early FY2017: The finalized implementation plan for Wilderness 2020 Vision is expected to be issued.

February 7-8: The Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council meeting will be held at the DOI MIB.

February 25-March 1: The National Association of Counties Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

March 4-11: the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference will be held in Spokane, Washington. BLM staff will attend.

Legal

N/A

IV. Major Federal Register Notices and Approval Packages:

Title	Current Status
Notice of Proposed Withdrawal Extension and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Miller Lake Recreational Area, Oregon.	Will publish in the Federal Register on 12/16/16. (DTS 1289).
Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the TransWest Express Transmission Project in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Nevada	Will publish in the Federal Register on 12/16/16. (DTS 1319)
Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project and Approved Land-use Plan Amendments	Will publish in the Federal Register on 12/16/16. (DTS 1331)

V. Congressional Activities:

Congressional Meetings

Rep. Stewart / Wild Horse & Burro: On December 20, Kristin Bail, Assistant Director for Resources and Planning; Dean Bolstad, Division Chief, Wild Horse and Burro Program; and Linda Smith, BLM Budget Officer plan to meet with staff of Rep. Stewart (R-UT-2) at their request to discuss the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro program.

Congressional Visits in the Field

Courtesy Visits / Rep. Thompson (D-CA-5): On Dec. 20, BLM Ukiah California Field Manager, Amanda James plans to conduct a courtesy visit with Rep. Thompson (D-CA-5).

WH&B Corral Visit / Sen. Risch's Staff (R-ID): On Jan 4, staff from Senator Risch's office will tour the BLM's Boise Idaho corral and meet with BLM ID wild horse and burro program staff.

State Legislature Hearings / Meetings

Wyoming State Legislature / Forestry: The BLM in Wyoming has a received a request from the Wyoming State Legislature's Joint Agriculture Committee to provide an update on BLM forestry activities on Jan. 17 in Cheyenne. Details TBD.

VI. Pending Packages in ASLM:

Packages with ASLM 12/15/2016:

1. Surname – Sec Jewell Response to 2 Gov. Sandoval letters, Proposed Mineral Withdrawal in Sagebrush Focal Area (BLM0007183)
2. Signature – Response to Letter Re: Appeal of the BLM's decision to declare Lia Shapiro's mine claim Abandoned (LM00000009)
3. Surname - Bureau of Land Management's Implementation of Secretarial Order 3339 Report Fiscal Year 2016 BLM0009086
4. Surname - Draft Administrative Proposal - BLM Concession Authority BLM0009092

5. Surname – Letter from Senators Udall & Heinrich about Upper Rio Grande Watershed wildlife corridors BLM0008739
6. Request to Close Recommendation 9 in the Office of Inspector General's report entitled, Bureau of Land Management's Renewable Energy Program: A Critical Point in Renewable Energy Development (Report No. CR-EV-BLM-0004-2010) (BLM0008379)
7. Surname – 90 Day List (January - March) BLMR001344
8. Signature - Request to amend the application for the Greater Sage-Grouse withdrawal to add 400K acres in Nevada and the NOA for the DEIS. BLML000106
9. Surname – Farmington (NM) RAC
10. Surname – Albuquerque (NM) RAC
11. Surname – Southeast Oregon RAC
12. Surname – California Desert District RAC

Packages with BLM:

1. Surname/Signature – MOU between BLM and DOD on Wind Energy BLM0006219 **WO-301 Resolving AL Comments and preparing Hardcopy for Signature.**
2. Surname – SNPLMA Annual Report for FY 2014 & 2015. **NV has circulated a new version to 300/100 and Kelly is reviewing. Current goal is to get new hard copy to ASLM by Friday, 12/16 or Monday, 12/19**
3. Surname/Signature - Transfer of Jurisdiction of Public Lands to Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range/CACA 056671 BLML000120 **WO-350 – Lands and Realty is addressing Kelleher comments on PLO, the ASLM Info Memo, and the Transmittal Memo**
4. Surname – 620 DM 1-7 Wildland Fire Program Policy BLM0009488 / ESO-00073486 – **Solicitor Review**

VI. Packages Going to ASLM Next Week:

1. Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Decision Package (BLM0009327)
2. Notice: Identifying Lands Subject to Secretarial Order of Restoration - Red Lake Band of the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota (BLM0009221)
3. Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska (BLM0008731)
4. Request to Close Rec 1 OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)
5. Presumed to Conform List FRN (BLMR000766)

VIII. Weekly Audit Report:

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
IA00 05491	Draft Audit Report – Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Federal Indian Minerals Office (2015-EAU-079) Link to the Draft Report: N/A	The response was signed on 12/8/16.	11/18 – 11/28 (Done)	11/18 – 11/28 (Done)	(Done)	12/9 (Done)

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
TBD	Oil and Gas Oversight: Interior Has Taken Steps to Address Staff Hiring, Retention, and Training but Needs a More Evaluative and Collaborative Approach (GAO-16-742) Link to the Draft Report: http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-742	PFM emailed the response to the bureaus for a final surname. Surnames are due by 12/12/16.	12/15-12/19	12/20-12/21	12/21	12/31

IX. Packages in WO-100:

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
1	***	BLM0009221	FRN-Federal Register Notice	Schneider, Janice M.	A/S	Notice: Identifying Lands Subject to Secretarial Order of Restoration of February 22, 1945	
2		BLM0009501	CC-WO	Buck, Ken	D	Timely processing of Riverside Reservoir leases	12/01/2016
3	***	BLML000141	PA	LM-A/S Janice Schneider	A/S	Petition/Application for Withdrawal, California Desert Conservation Area, California	
4	***	BLML000129	PLO	DOI-OSMRE	A/S	Proposed PLO, Withdrawal Revocation of the Lonesome Lake Area; Montana	
5		BLM0009572	FTVL	Hawks, Robin B.	DD	Robin Hawks foreign travel request to Canada	
6		BLM0009571	FTVL	McAlear, Chris	DD	McAlear foreign travel request to Canada	
7		BLM0009395	CC-ES	Vilsack, Thomas J; Jewell, Sally	D	hard rock mining near Yellowstone National Park (pending 9234)	11/02/2016
8	***	BLM0009566	GAO/OIG CLOSURE	Schneider, Janice M.	A/S	Request to Close Recommendation 1 in the U.S. Government Accountability Office's Report, OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)	

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
9		BLM0009127	IM	BLM-WO-200 BUSINESS	AD	Fiscal Year 2016 Reporting on Solid Waste and Chemicals Management	
10		BLMR001308	FRN		BC	Notice of Proposed Extension of Public Land Order No. 7322; Opportunity for Public Meeting; West Eagle Meadow,	10/25/2016
11		BLMR001299	FRN		DSD	Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Comment; Klamath National Forest, California	10/17/2016
12		BLMR001221	FRN		D	Notice of Realty Action: Application for Conveyance of Federally Owned Mineral Interests in Maricopa County, Arizona.	07/14/2016
13	***	BLMC000011	Other	BLM-NM-SD	S	Annual Helium Report of 2015	
14	***	BLML000116	PLO	BLM-CA-931 LANDS AND REALTY	A/S	Homestake Withdrawal Partial Revocation/CACA 051360	
15		BLM0007454	MAN	BLM-WO-240 CULTURAL DIVISION	DD	1780 Manual & Handbook - Tribal Relations-Consultation Policy & Guidance	
16		BLMR001214	FRN		D	Notice of Application for Recordable Disclaimer of Interest in Lands, Kootenai County, Idaho	07/06/2016
17		BLM0009525	CC-ES	Chaffetz, Jason; Jewell, Sally	D	APD pending before Price BLM Field Office in Utah	12/06/2016
18	***	BLM0009292	CC-ES	Mead, Matthew H.; Jewell, Sally	S	Wyoming's Greater sage-grouse compensatory mitigation framework	10/31/2016
19		BLMR001335	FRN		AD	Call for Nominations for the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board	11/14/2016
20		BLMR001304	FRN		D	Notice of Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest: Dimmit County, Texas	10/19/2016
21		BLM0009099	CC- WO	Grijalva, Raul M; Bishop, Bob	DD	Prioritize implementation of Helium Program recommendations	
22	***	BLM0008526	CC-ES	Bishop, Rob +55	S	Proposed venting and flaring rule	08/01/2016

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
23		BLM0009404	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: Distinguished Service Award - Ramona M. Chinn	
24		BLM0009442	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: VALOR GROUP AWARDS IDAHO BRUNEAU FIRE CREW (8)	
25		BLM0009441	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: VALOR Group Awards - TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE, COLORADO (3)	
26		BLM0009419	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: Distinguished Service Award - Robert E. King	
27		BLM0009471	CC-WO	Whitlock, Jenna		Letter from Dakotas RAC re. federal coal program	
28		BLM0008257	LTR	BLM-WO-420 EDU, INT, and PARTNER DIVISION	D	Request for Approval of Director's Letter and Photograph for Connecting People to Their Public Lands 2016	
29		BLM0008934	CC-WO	Chapoose, Shaun	DD	Hill Creek land exchange	
30		BLM0009370	MEM	BLM-WO-100	Other	Conference support approval	
31	***	BLM0009197	CC-ES	Herbert, Gary R.; Jewell, Sally	S	Utah's wild horse and burro population	10/17/2016
32	***	BLM0009327	DM	Schneider, Janice M.	A/S	EA for Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Development Project	
33		BLM0009396	GOV	Jewell, Sally; Herbert, Gary R	DR	Alton Coal emergency lease application	11/08/2016
34	***	BLML000133	LAND ACQ	PMB-DBPA- Ferriter	A/S	Request for Reprogramming of Land and Water Conservation Funding	09/07/2016
35		BLM0008104	IM	BLM-WO-410 NLCS	D	Citizen Science Pilot Program	
36		BLM0009268	MAN	ALL BLM	DD	RE: BLM WASHINGTON OFFICE COOP PLAN	
37		BLM0008731	CC-WO	Murkowski, Lisa	D	Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska	08/29/2016
38	***	BLM0008901	CC-ES	Bennet, Michael F.; Jewell, Sally	S	Expansion of Colorado's Twentymile Mine	09/20/2016

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
39	***	BLM0008248	CC-WO	Bishop, Rob	A/S	Administrative procedures and IM 2013-177	07/08/2016
40		BLM0008171	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	DD	GCC Energy's request for SO 3338 exemption for King II Coal Mine	06/30/2016
41		BLMR000947	FRN		D	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to Hold Public Scoping Meetings for Federal Coal Lease Application Serial No. NDM 105513, Oliver County, ND	10/28/2015
42		BLM0007695	MEM	BLM-WO-300	AD	Buckskin Mine Royalty Rate Reduction	
43	***	BLM0007744	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	A/S	Request the BLM to cancel the Spruce Stomp coal lease	
44		BLM0007752	CC-WO	Daugaard, Dennis; Mead, Matt	D	Energy corridor designations	05/18/2016
45		BLM0007094	LTR	Walker, Bill	D	Use of DPPS survey method for Alaska Land Transfer program; negotiate a new MOU	
46		BLMR000552	FRN	Riechel, Silvia	D	Notice of Extension of the Current Qualification of the Designated Nine County Area of Oklahoma Federal Coal for Category 5 Royalty Rate Reductions	11/12/2014

From: [Lyons, James](#)
To: [James Lyons - \(b\) \(6\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Cascade-Siskiyou: 1/13/2017 Undark Magazine article on Monument's biological diversity/connectivity
Date: Monday, January 16, 2017 8:04:24 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dave Willis** <sodamtn@mind.net>
Date: Fri, Jan 13, 2017 at 8:17 PM
Subject: Cascade-Siskiyou: 1/13/2017 Undark Magazine article on Monument's biological diversity/connectivity
To: Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>

Probably the best article so far to explain the two "meta-objects" of the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument area: biological diversity and connectivity. dw

<http://undark.org/article/obama-cascade-siskiyou-biodiversity-connectivity/>

--

Jim Lyons
***Deputy Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management***
Jim_Lyons@ios.doi.gov
202-208-4318 (direct)
202-815-4412 (mobile)

From: [Kelleher, Karen](#)
To: [James Lyons](#)
Subject: Fwd: dts
Date: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 9:18:43 AM
Attachments: [BLM0008197 Letter.docx](#)

Hi Jim

reminder that we need this document from you. I've attached the clean version - might be faster for you to re-edit.

Karen

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kelleher, Karen** <kkelleh@blm.gov>
Date: Thu, Sep 1, 2016 at 3:06 PM
Subject: dts
To: James Lyons <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Pam Royal <pam.royal@bsee.gov>

Hi Jim,

in one of the DTS things you surnamed yesterday (cascade siskyou) you uploaded the wrong letter (forest products). Can you find and send to me the letter called: BLM0008197 Letter.docx

This is the one with your edits on cascade & I can get it uploaded to DTS.

thank

Karen

Karen Kelleher

BLM Analyst-Liaison ASLM

Main Interior room 6324

kkelleh@blm.gov

202-208-4555

--

Karen Kelleher

BLM Analyst-Liaison ASLM

Main Interior room 6324

kkelleh@blm.gov

202-208-4555

The Honorable John Stromberg
Mayor
City of Ashland
20 East Main Street
Ashland, Oregon 97520

Dear Mayor Stromberg:

Thank you for your letter dated June 29, 2016, regarding potential expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southwestern Oregon. I appreciate that you took the time to share your views and send a copy of the City of Ashland's resolution endorsing the expansion.

These lands contain resources cherished by Oregonians and Americans from across the country, and the Department of the Interior welcomes robust public discussion regarding conservation of this remarkable landscape. This Administration has demonstrated a commitment to working with the public and Members of Congress in making Federal land management decisions. We recognize the importance of a transparent process and value public and congressional input in considering protections for our natural, historic, and cultural treasures. We constantly strive to take into account the interests of a wide range of stakeholders to both protect America's public lands and provide for economic development in accordance with applicable laws and sound public policy.

Consistent with that commitment, I look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues as we seek balanced solutions for managing our public lands. Thank you again for your interest in the protection of the public lands.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

From: [Kelleher, Karen](#)
To: [James Lyons](#)
Subject: Fwd: dts
Date: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 9:18:44 AM
Attachments: [BLM0008197 Letter.docx](#)

Hi Jim
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Karen

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kelleher, Karen** <kkelleh@blm.gov>
Date: Thu, Sep 1, 2016 at 3:06 PM
Subject: dts
To: James Lyons <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Pam Royal <pam.royal@bsee.gov>

Hi Jim,
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thank
Karen

Karen Kelleher

BLM Analyst-Liaison ASLM

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--

Karen Kelleher

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202-208-4555

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Sincerely,

Sally Jewell

From: [Sykes, David](#)
To: [Brent Lyons](#); [Brian Engelhard](#); [Bryan Guzek](#); [Daniel McNamara](#); [Elizabeth Sever](#); [Eric Holmes](#); [James Dowd](#); [Jennifer Irving](#); [Matthew Gilmore](#); [Robert Rothe](#); [Thomas Ricardi](#); [William Fleenor](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 29, 2016
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 9:16:04 AM

Includes the pleas yesterday for OPERATION BROKEN GLASS-

http://www.postandcourier.com/news/men-plead-guilty-to-illegal-cooper-river-harvest-of-tiny/article_2afb69fc-b58a-11e6-84dd-cb90a774b420.html

David Sykes
Resident Agent in Charge - New England
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement
70 Everett Avenue
Chelsea, MA 02150
617-889-6616 (Office)
617-889-1980 (Fax)

Our Mission is to protect wildlife and plant resources. Through the effective enforcement of Federal laws, we contribute to Fish and Wildlife Service efforts to recover endangered species, conserve migratory birds, preserve wildlife habitat, safeguard fisheries, combat invasive species, and promote international wildlife conservation.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Honora Gordon** <honora_gordon@fws.gov>
Date: Tue, Nov 29, 2016 at 9:02 AM
Subject: FW: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 29, 2016
To: FW5 LE ALL <fw5_le_all@fws.gov>

From: Wendi Weber [mailto:wendi_weber@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 7:13 AM
To: FW5_Regional_Directorate@fws.gov; fw5_rw_refuge_managers@fws.gov
Subject: Fwd: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Wendi Weber

Regional Director, Northeast Region

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Hadley, MA 01035

Wendi_Weber@fws.gov

work (413)253-8300

cell (413)531-5163

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bulletin Intelligence <Interior@bulletinintelligence.com>
Date: November 29, 2016 at 7:00:03 AM EST
To: <Interior@BulletinIntelligence.com>
Subject: U.S. Department of the Interior News Briefing for Tuesday, November 29, 2016

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NEWS BRIEFING

Mobile version and searchable archives available at interior.bulletinintelligence.com. Please [contact](#) Public Affairs with subscription requests, questions or comments.

DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2016 7:00 AM EST

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- + [Secretary Jewell To Speak On Climate Change For "Exit Interview" Series.](#)
- + [Media Organizations Want Jurors' Names Released In Malheur Standoff Case.](#)
- + [Federal Workers Fear Trump's Call To "Drain The Swamp" Will Impact Them.](#)
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- + [Religious Argument Made For Expansion Of Cascade-Siskiyou Monument.](#)
- + [Support Urged For Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument.](#)
- + [Citizens Urged To Become Involved In Protection Of Public Lands.](#)
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- + [National Parks Program Provides Educational Opportunity.](#)

- + [Bill Nye Hosting Online Fundraiser For National Parks.](#)
- + [Wildfire Spreads In The Smokies.](#)
- + [NPS Begins Restoration Of C&O Canal's First Mile.](#)
- + [Seven National Parks Promoting Drunken-driving Prevention.](#)
- + [Fort Pickens Closed Due To Storms.](#)
- + [Park Mulls Cellular Service Proposals At Mount Rainier.](#)
- + [Reservations Will Be Required For Haleakala National Park Sunrise Viewers.](#)
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- + [FWS Project On Sen. Lankford's "Federal Fumbles" Report.](#)
- + [Great Lakes Piping Plovers Have Banner Year.](#)
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- + [Draft Plan Released For Two Central Idaho Wilderness Areas.](#)
- + [Project Proposed To Remove Juniper Trees In Idaho.](#)
- + [Visitor Center At Little Sahara Recreation Area Closed Until February 2017.](#)

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- + [USGS, FWS To Study Greater Sage-grouse In Great Basin National Park.](#)

SECURING AMERICA'S ENERGY FUTURE:

Onshore Energy Development:

- + [Army Corps: "No Plans For Forcible Removal" Of Dakota Access Protesters.](#)
- + [Challengers To BLM Methane Rule Want Court To Block Regulation From Taking Effect.](#)
- + [Three Energy Trade Associations Allowed To Intervene In Leasing Lawsuit.](#)
- + [Coal Country Puts Faith In Trump Despite Reservations.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Cancellation Of 25 Oil And Gas Leases In White River National Forest.](#)
- + [Additional Coverage Of Final Methane And Waste Prevention Rule.](#)
- + [Op-Ed: Oil's Price Led To Cancellation of Badger-Two Medicine Leases.](#)

Renewable Energy:

- + [Environmental Impacts Of The Block Island Wind Farm Being Assessed.](#)
- + [Solar, Wind Firms Hope Courting Republicans Helps Under Trump.](#)

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- + [Interior Extends Land Buy Back Offers To Blackfeet Nation Landowners.](#)
- + [Colville Tribes To Distribute Settlement To Members.](#)
- + [Northern Arapaho Tribe Argues BIA Illegally Imposed Court.](#)
- + [Judge Holds BIA Can't Be Sued Over \\$65M Fire Fine Yet.](#)

- + [Man Pleads Guilty To Assaulting BIA Officer.](#)
- + [Lawsuit Challenges Who Is An Indian Artist.](#)

OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS:

- + [Assistant Secretary Kia'aina Reflects On Transition, Change.](#)
- + [Report Shows Why Micronesians Migrating To Hawaii.](#)

TACKLING AMERICA'S WATER CHALLENGES:

- + [Aberdeen-Springfield Canal Company Installs Plastic Liner.](#)

TOP NATIONAL NEWS:

- + [White House: Chances Trump Will "Terminate" Cuban Détente "Rather Remote."](#)
- + [Ohio State Rampage Being Investigated As Possible Terrorist Attack.](#)
- + [Trump Blasts CNN's Zeleny, Refers To "#CorruptHillary."](#)

EDITORIAL WRAP-UP:

- + [New York Times.](#)
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LAST LAUGHS:

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DOI in the News:

OBAMA TO DESIGNATE NATIONAL HISTORIC CIVIL RIGHTS AREA IN BIRMINGHAM. The [Birmingham \(AL\) News](#) (11/28, 157K) reports that President Obama will "sign a public proclamation in January designating portions of the Civil Rights District in downtown Birmingham as a national historic monument, according to informed sources." The article says that "the footprint of the historic area will include the A.G. Gaston Motel, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, 16th Street Baptist Church, Masonic Temple, Bethel Baptist Church, Kelly Ingram Park, and the 4th Avenue business district."

TEXAN WHITE IN RUNNING FOR INTERIOR POSITION. The [McClatchy](#) (11/28, 74K) reports that Kathleen Hartnett White, "a director of energy policy at a conservative Texas think-tank and a Donald Trump energy adviser during the campaign, met with the president-elect Monday afternoon." White serves as the director of the Armstrong Center for Energy and the Environment at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Previously, she "led the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, a state agency with the goal of 'clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (11/28, 306K), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (11/28, 856K), the [Olympian \(WA\)](#) (11/28, 74K), and the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/28, Daugherty, 74K).

Alaskan Gillam Wants Interior Job. [Politico Pro](#) (11/28) reports that Robert B. Gillam, “Alaska’s richest man, is tossing his hat in the ring for Interior Secretary in President-elect Donald Trump’s administration, according to the Alaska Dispatch News.” Gillam said in a personal statement, “I am not looking to use this job as a means to an end or a place to go and trade for another. I am looking at this job as a place to end my career and to provide a return to all of those wonderful people who help me along my journey of life.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico Morning Energy](#) (11/28, 12K).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the speculation over the Interior job was provided by the [Denver Westword](#) (11/28, 271K), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (11/28, 170K), the [Sonoran News \(AZ\)](#) (11/28, 437), the [Pacific Standard](#) (11/28, 14K), the [Huffington Post](#) (11/28, 237K), and [OpenSecrets](#) (11/28, 12K).

TRUMP MIGHT TRY TO REVOKE NATIONAL MONUMENT

DESIGNATIONS. The [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (11/28, 41) reports that “with Republican Donald Trump’s surprise upset of Democrat Hillary Clinton, attention is turning to what Trump plans to do when he takes office in January and whether he will seek to undo or at least modify the national monuments that Obama created.” According to the article, “it’s mostly speculation at this point as to what Trump will do but groups on both sides of the issue are keeping a watchful eye on things.”

Additional Coverage: Backers Of Katahdin Woods And Waters National Monument Don’t Believe Trump Will Undo Designation. Additional coverage that the backers of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument “don’t believe Donald Trump will undo president Obama’s designation” was provided by [WABI-TV](#) Bangor, ME (11/28, 3K).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of speculation over Trump’s public land policies was provided by [Outside](#) (11/28, 17.02M), the [Treehugger](#) (11/28, 61K), the [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (11/28, 100K), the [Bonner County \(ID\) Daily Bee](#) (11/28, 1K), the [Scientific American](#) (11/28, 1.88M), [The Hill](#) (11/28, Reicher, Contributor, 1.25M), the [Huffington Post](#) (11/29, 237K), the [Morning Consult](#), the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (11/27, 690K), [Motherboard](#) (11/28, 10K), [Oil Price](#) (11/28, 8K), and [CleanTechnica](#) (11/28, 14K).

FEDERAL AGENCIES PUSH FINAL REGULATIONS BEFORE OBAMA

LEAVES OFFICE. [Politico Pro](#) (11/29) reports that the White House is “reviewing as many as 98 final regulations that could be implemented before Donald Trump takes office.” Among the actions are “final updated rules governing almost 1,700 oil and gas wells inside national wildlife refuges” and the BLM’s “major rule on leases for wind and solar projects on federal land.” Meanwhile, “a long-in-the-works Interior Department effort to update the so-

called stream protection rule,” has faced vociferous Republican opposition, so “fears of it being overturned through the Congressional Review Act may keep it from ever being released.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (11/28, Datoc, 898K), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (11/27, 387K), and [Yahoo! News](#) (11/27, Porter, 387K).

GOP Lawmakers Fending Off Obama’s “Midnight” Energy Regulations. The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/28, Westwood, 400K) reports Republican in Congress are “in a race to fight off any last-minute attempts by Democrats to push through any more of President Obama’s climate priorities before he leaves office.” GOP lawmakers passed a bill recently “that would give them the power to target multiple regulations under the Congressional Review Act, which grants them the power to pass resolutions of disapproval through a simple majority in order to repeal regulations.” Sen. John Barrasso, the incoming chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, “vowed to make use of the review act to scuttle the Interior Department’s November final rule on controlling methane emissions from fracking,” while the oil industry has threatened to challenge the rule in court.

SUPREME COURT REQUESTS DOJ FILE BRIEF IN GOLD KING MINE LAWSUIT. [Morning Consult](#) (11/28) reports that “the U.S. Supreme Court requested Monday that the Department of Justice file a brief in the lawsuit between New Mexico and Colorado over the 2015 Gold King Mine accident.” The court “called on the U.S. solicitor general to weigh in on the case between the two states.” It has “not yet agreed to take the case” and “it’s unclear if the Obama administration or the incoming Trump administration will respond to the request for a brief.”

SECRETARY JEWELL TO SPEAK ON CLIMATE CHANGE FOR “EXIT INTERVIEW” SERIES. [Roll Call](#) (11/29, Gangitano, 63K) reports that “the Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service’s ‘Exit Interview’ series continues with a moderated conversation on climate change with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and senior White House adviser Brian Deese. 6:30 p.m. at Georgetown’s Edward B. Bunn Intercultural Center auditorium (37th and O Streets Northwest).”

MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS WANT JURORS’ NAMES RELEASED IN MALHEUR STANDOFF CASE. The [AP](#) (11/28, 1.91M) reports that three media organizations, the Associated Press, Oregonian/OregonLive and Oregon Public Broadcasting, have “filed a motion asking a federal judge to unseal the identities of the jurors who acquitted all seven defendants involved in the armed occupation of a national wildlife refuge in rural southeastern Oregon.” According to the article, “the motion filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Portland seeks to modify a protective order that was in place during the trial of brother Ammon and Ryan Bundy and five others.” The motion says “there’s no longer a threat to jurors because the case is over.”

FEDERAL WORKERS FEAR TRUMP’S CALL TO “DRAIN THE

SWAMP” WILL IMPACT THEM. The [AP](#) (11/28) reports that while President-elect Trump’s allies say his call to “drain the swamp” in Washington “was directed at lobbyists, donors and political cronies,” there is fear among federal workers that “he means a broader group.” National Federation of Federal Employees President Bill Dougan “said that after the initial shock of Trump’s victory, many federal workers are adopting a wait-and-see attitude.” He “suspects federal workers’ fate will depend largely on whether Trump’s inner circle is populated by establishment Republicans...or wild cards like Newt Gingrich, who engineered a government shutdown as speaker of the House, and Steve Bannon, the Trump adviser Dougan says embodies an ethos to ‘do everything he can to blow things up.’”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: OBJECTS AND REMAINS FOUND IN SPIRIT CAVE RETURNED TO FALLON PAIUTE SHOSHONE INDIAN TRIBE. Additional coverage of the transfer of control of “human remains and funerary objects found in Spirit Cave, Nevada to the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Indian Tribe” was provided by the [Native American Times](#) (11/28, 337).

RELIGIOUS ARGUMENT MADE FOR EXPANSION OF CASCADE-SISKIYOU MONUMENT. In an op-ed for the [Oregonian](#) (11/28, 894K), Rt. Rev. Staccatto Powell and Rev. Dr. Walter John Boris make the religious argument for the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. They argue that Christians must “restore a right relationship with God’s creation by swiftly taking conservation action.” They urge Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, and President Obama to act with urgency to “care for God’s creation with the reverence it merits, and expand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument this year.”

SUPPORT URGED FOR GRAND CANYON HERITAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (11/28, 270K), Mel Sheldon Jr., chairman of the Tulalip Tribes, supports the creation of the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. The proposal would “protect precious water resources, sacred sites and areas of cultural interest, traditional uses, and recognize tribal sovereignty, plus allow for continued hunting and cattle grazing.”

CITIZENS URGED TO BECOME INVOLVED IN PROTECTION OF PUBLIC LANDS. For “The Blog” of the [Huffington Post](#) (11/28, 237K), Audrey Peterman urges readers to visits “our treasures in the National Parks and public lands system.” According to Peterman, “with an incoming administration that has shown indifference to our environment, it will be vital for all citizens to become intimately involved in cherishing nature and particularly the lands and waters set aside for the enjoyment and benefit of this and future generations.” She writes, “As a member of the Next100 Coalition which is working assiduously to achieve this goal, I’m ecstatic to see how well citizen involvement is working.”

EDITORIAL: NATIONAL MONUMENTS SHOULDN’T HINGE ON DECISION OF ONE PERSON. In an editorial, the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/28, 234K) argues that national monuments shouldn’t depend on the actions of just one person. The paper says that the public deserves better than “one person

designating or declassifying a monument.”

America’s Great Outdoors:

National Park Service:

NPS ANNOUNCES 2017 FEE FREE DAYS. The [Mother Nature Network](#) (11/28, 68K) reports that “in 2017, there will be 10 days when you can enjoy a fee-free vacation to a national park.” The dates are Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day; Feb. 20: Presidents Day; April 15-16 and April 22-23: National Park Week Weekends; Aug. 25: National Park Service Birthday; Sept. 30: National Public Lands Day; and Nov. 11-12: Veterans Day Weekend.

NATIONAL PARKS PROGRAM PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY. [PBS NewsHour](#) (11/22, Cardoza, 255K) reports on a visit by students at Pennycook Elementary School in Oakland to the Muir Woods National Park. The report says that “the National Park Service’s educational programs serve approximately seven million children every year.” PBS explains that “rangers conduct teacher workshops, go on classroom visits, and, perhaps most importantly, create curriculum for these trips based on state standards.” According to Grace Lee, Executive Director, National Park Trust, “If we don’t engage young people of color right now with our parks, then, 100 years from now, we are very concerned that there won’t be the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the National Park Service.” NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis also said “the National Park Service is a contributor to American education, both for students, but for lifelong learning as well.”

BILL NYE HOSTING ONLINE FUNDRAISER FOR NATIONAL PARKS. [AdWeek](#) (11/28, 398K) reports that on Giving Tuesday this week, Bill Nye is “partnering with Mashable to host a ‘view-a-thon’ fundraiser on Facebook Live to raise awareness about the nation’s parks and why it’s important to visit and preserve them.” The event starts “at 7:15 p.m. Eastern Time and will last 30 minutes.” Proceeds go to the National Park Foundation. Nye said in an interview, “Millennials get their news from their phones, from their handheld devices. So if we can raise awareness of national parks through this media, we think it will be better for the national parks and for all human kind. Millennials are going to be running the show here in another 10 years or so, so this effort is just to engage people where they’re already engaged.”

WILDFIRE SPREADS IN THE SMOKIES. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (11/28, Miller, Washburn, 656K) reports that “a wildfire fed by strong gusts forced the closure of U.S. 441 on the North Carolina-Tennessee border Monday as the first significant rainfall in more than 50 days bore down on the drought-stricken mountains.” Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials “ordered the temporary closure of the road between Cherokee and Gatlinburg, Tenn., not far from Clingmans Dome, because of heavy smoke and the danger of falling trees from the fire, estimated at 500 acres and growing.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (11/29), [CBS News](#) (11/28, 4.4M), [CNN](#) (11/28, Johnston, Grisham, 29.79M), [USA Today](#) (11/28, Dorman, Ahillen,

5.28M), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (11/28, 1.41M), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (11/28, 2.54M), the [Johnson City \(TN\) Press](#) (11/28, 74K), the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (11/28, Dorman, Ahillen, 245K), [RT](#) (11/29, 213K), [WFMY-TV Greensboro \(NC\)](#) Greensboro, NC (11/29, 53K), [WLS-TV Chicago \(IL\)](#) Chicago (11/28, 346K), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (11/28, 453K), [WREG-TV Memphis \(TN\)](#) Memphis, TN (11/28, 103K), [WTVF-TV Nashville \(TN\)](#) Nashville, TN (11/28, 134K), [WTVR-TV Richmond \(VA\)](#) Richmond, VA (11/28, 141K), [WUSA-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (11/28, 70K), [WJBF-TV](#) Augusta, GA (11/28, 28K) and [WKRN-TV](#) Nashville, TN (11/28, 57K).

NPS BEGINS RESTORATION OF C&O CANAL’S FIRST MILE. The [AP](#) (11/28, 1.91M) reports that the National Park Service is “beginning a restoration of the C&O Canal’s first mile in the Georgetown neighborhood of Washington, D.C.” The NPS “says in a statement that work began Monday on the \$10 million project to preserve the structure and bring back mule-drawn boat rides to the popular stretch of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park.” According to the agency, “the first phase will take 18 months.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/28, 272K), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/28, Press, 11.43M), [Georgetown \(DC\) Patch](#) (11/28, 1K), and [WTTG-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (11/28, 67K).

SEVEN NATIONAL PARKS PROMOTING DRUNKEN-DRIVING PREVENTION. The [AP](#) (11/28, Press, 11.43M) reports that the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park is “among seven national parks joining a campaign to prevent drunken driving.” The NPS and Mothers Against Drunk Driving say “C&O Canal visitors can pick up red ribbons through the end of the year, marking the 30th anniversary of the group’s designated-driver campaign.” The slogan of the campaign is, “Tie one on for safety.”

FORT PICKENS CLOSED DUE TO STORMS. The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (11/28, 158K) reports that “the National Weather service issued high wind and surf advisories for beaches in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties on Monday as an upper-level weather system began to move through the area.” Gulf Islands National Seashore “closed Fort Pickens on Monday afternoon in anticipation of intense wind and surf causing sand and water to cover the low-lying road.” The National Park service “ordered a mandatory evacuation of campers in the Fort Pickens and Perdido Key areas and said Fort Pickens road would remain closed to all incoming traffic and use until further notice.”

PARK MULLS CELLULAR SERVICE PROPOSALS AT MOUNT RAINIER. The [AP](#) (11/28, 1.91M) reports that “two cellphone carriers have applied for permits to install telecommunications equipment on the main visitor building at Mount Rainier National Park.” According to park officials, “Verizon Wireless and T-Mobile are proposing to co-locate antennas on the outside of Jackson Visitor Center, located at the Paradise area of the park.” Park spokeswoman Karen Thompson “says the antennas will be mounted below the roof of the building and behind a fiberglass panel that would match the exterior wood siding.”

RESERVATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR HALEAKALA NATIONAL PARK SUNRISE VIEWERS. [KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (11/28, 54K) reports that “starting Feb. 1, 2017, anyone wanting to drive up to Haleakala National Park to see the sunrise will need to make a reservation ahead of time.” The NPS “says the reservation system will go live this Thursday, Dec. 1.” According to officials, “the change was implemented for safety concerns, and to protect natural and cultural resources.” Polly Angelakis, chief of interpretation and education at Haleakala National Park, said, “We’ve had lots of overcrowding at the summit. We’ve had safety concerns. We’ve had damage to endangered species and their habitats. All of these resources get damaged when people park in the wrong place or people wander off the designated trails.”

NEW SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA PARKS CHIEF NAMED. The [AP](#) (11/29) reports that Lizzie Watts has been “named superintendent overseeing three national parks in southern West Virginia.” The NPS “announced Watts’ selection Monday to oversee the New River Gorge National River, the Gauley River National Recreation Area and Bluestone National Scenic River.” Watts, who has “spent her 25-year career with the Park Service in five different regions,” currently serves as superintendent of the Andrew Johnson National Historic Site and Andrew Johnson National Cemetery.

NPS NAMES NEW MONOCACY BATTLEFIELD SUPERINTENDENT. The [AP](#) (11/28, 1.91M) reports that the National Park Service announced Monday that Chris Stubbs will be the new superintendent at the Monocacy National Battlefield. Stubbs is currently chief of resources management at the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park. Stubbs takes over from Rick Slade, “who was promoted in April to superintendent of Catoctin Mountain Park.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (11/28, 2.2M), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/28, Press, 11.43M), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/28, 272K), and [WJZ-TV Baltimore \(MD\)](#) Baltimore (11/28, 74K).

MISSING ARIZONA HIKER FOUND DEAD IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK. The [AP](#) (11/28) reports that “authorities say the body of a missing hiker from Arizona has been found in central California’s Sequoia National Park.” According to the National Park Service, Vince Scalise, 41, “of Phoenix was found dead by searchers Monday near the junction of Panther Creek and the Middle Fork of the Kaweah River.”

CONTINUING COVERAGE OF NPS CENTENNIAL. Continuing coverage of the NPS Centennial was provided by the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (11/26, 49K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: NPS BACKS MUSIC ROW PRESERVATION. Additional coverage that the NPS is backing the preservation of Nashville’s Music Row was provided by [The Boot](#) (11/28, 36K).

NPS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATED. In an op-ed for the [Delaware State News](#) (11/27, 729), Dr. Samuel B. Hoff, a professor at Delaware State University, thanks the NPS “for a century of conservation, preservation, and promotion of America’s natural and cultural resources and wildlife.” Hoff acknowledges that

“there are challenges for the NPS as it embarks of the second century of service,” but he points out that “there are a number of successes for which the NPS should be commended.” He concludes that “there is every reason to be optimistic for the next hundred years.”

Fish and Wildlife Service:

FWS PROJECT ON SEN. LANKFORD’S “FEDERAL FUMBLES”

REPORT. The [Daily Mail](#) (11/28, Schwab, [Dailymail.com](#), 4.59M) reports that “for the second year in a row, the office of Sen. James Lankford, a Republican from Oklahoma, produced a report documenting the most egregious wastes of taxpayer dollars.” According to the article, “called, ‘Federal Fumbles: 100 ways the government dropped the ball,’ the 154-page” report “accounts for \$247 billion in ‘wasteful and inefficient’ federal spending.” Among the “the biggest offenders” highlighted in the reports is a sea duck census. The FWS “wanted to spend \$180,000 on a new way to tag sea ducks as the current method is ineffective and tagged ducks have a 20 to 70 percent higher change of mortality.”

GREAT LAKES PIPING PLOVERS HAVE BANNER YEAR. The [AP](#) (11/28, 1.91M) reports that “three decades after the Great Lakes piping plover was declared an endangered species, the small (and very cute) shorebirds had a banner year in 2016: a record number of plover chicks left their nests and the oldest known plover — at 15 years — was spotted this fall in its winter habitat in South Carolina.” Vince Cavalieri, a wildlife biologist and Great Lakes piping plover recovery coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, “Clearly the more chicks we can produce, the better chance the birds have to build up their numbers. We’ve seen a drop-off in the adult population due to predation and the best way to counteract that is to make sure we’re producing even more chicks. That keeps the population going in the right direction.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/28, Dixon, 272K) and the [Charlottesville \(VA\) Daily Progress](#) (11/28, 157K).

THREE MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO TRAFFICKING EELS. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (11/28, Petersen, 300K) reports that “three men admitted Monday to illegally netting the tiny juvenile eels from the Cooper River and arranging their sale.” According to the article, “the haul was more than 400 pounds; the value was estimated at nearly \$740,000 by the U.S. attorney.” Harry E. Wertan Jr., Mark A. Weihe and Jay Warren James “pleaded guilty to selling or transporting elvers in interstate commerce.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WYFF-TV Greenville \(SC\)](#) Greenville, SC (11/28, 184K) and [WFMY-TV Greensboro \(NC\)](#) Greensboro, NC (11/28, 53K).

DELISTING OF GRIZZLY BEAR OPPOSED. In an op-ed for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (11/28, 114K), Rick Bass, a board member of the Yaak Valley Forest Council, writes that “in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho there is a move to remove – ‘de-list’ – endangered species protection for grizzly bears in what’s called the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.” According to Bass, “de-listing is a terrible idea, motivated more by politics than science.” He claims that the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service is “seeking a splashy ‘mission accomplished’ victory by ‘saving’ an important endangered species.”

Bureau of Land Management:

DRAFT PLAN RELEASED FOR TWO CENTRAL IDAHO WILDERNESS AREAS. The [AP](#) (11/28, Ridler, Press, 1.91M) reports that “a draft management plan for two recently created central Idaho wilderness areas prohibits campfires at high elevations to protect whitebark pine and eliminates horses and other recreational stock in some areas to protect alpine soils.” The U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service “announced Monday the availability of the 67-page document intended to guide management of the 138-square-mile Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness and the 142-square-mile White Clouds Wilderness.” According to the agencies, “the goal is to manage the areas for recreation and other activities while preserving wilderness character.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (11/28, 215K), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/28, Ridler, 272K), [KBOI-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (11/28, 80K), and [KTVB-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (11/28, 108K).

PROJECT PROPOSED TO REMOVE JUNIPER TREES IN IDAHO. The [AP](#) (11/27, 6K) reports that “federal officials are proposing one of the largest ever projects to remove juniper trees to protect habitat for imperiled sage grouse and might also benefit cattle ranchers.” The BLM “on Monday announced it’s taking public comments through Jan. 3 on the plan to eliminate the trees from 940 square miles in Owyhee County in southwest Idaho.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KLIX-AM](#) Twin Falls, ID (11/28, 492).

VISITOR CENTER AT LITTLE SAHARA RECREATION AREA CLOSED UNTIL FEBRUARY 2017. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (11/28, 362K) reports that “the visitor center at the Bureau of Land Management’s Utah Little Sahara Recreation Area is closed through Feb. 19, 2017.”

US Geological Survey:

USGS, FWS TO STUDY GREATER SAGE-GROUSE IN GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK. [KXJZ-FM](#) Sacramento, CA (11/28, 7K) reports that “the federal government is planning to study 500,000 acres of the Great Basin National Park from southeastern Oregon across Nevada and into Utah.” The U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are looking “to acquire more information that will help them preserve sagebrush and the bird that relies on it — the greater sage-grouse.” Steve Hanser, a sagebrush ecosystem specialist for the USGS, “says that much of the focus of the study will be on the removal of invasive species, like cheat grass.”

Securing America’s Energy Future:

Onshore Energy Development:

ARMY CORPS: “NO PLANS FOR FORCIBLE REMOVAL” OF DAKOTA ACCESS PROTESTERS. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/28, Yardley, 4.52M) reports Col. John Henderson, the commander of the US Army Corps of Engineers’ Omaha district, said Sunday that while the corps issued a notice on Friday called for the eviction of the protesters at the Dakota Access pipeline campsite, it has “no plans for forcible removal” and “is seeking a peaceful and orderly transition to a safer location.” He added, “Unfortunately, it is apparent that more dangerous groups have joined this protest and are provoking conflict in spite of the public pleas from tribal leaders. We are working to transition those engaged in peaceful protest from this area and enable law enforcement authorities to address violent or illegal acts as appropriate to protect public safety.”

Sioux Increasingly Frustrated With White Protesters At Campsite. The [Washington Times](#) (11/28, Richardson, 272K) reports the Standing Rock Sioux leading the protest to the Dakota Access pipeline are increasingly complaining “about outside activists trashing the camps, mooching off donations, and treating the anti-pipeline demonstration like a Burning Man-style festival for hippies.” In a recent interview with Vice, David Archambault II, the chairman of the tribe, “raised concerns about sanitation...saying activists are ‘digging pits out there for their human waste,’” which threatens to contaminate the Cannonball River, adding, “What’s going to happen when people leave? Who has to clean it up? Who has to refurbish it? It’s going to be us, the people who live here.”

Neil Young Urges Obama To End Violence At Standing Rock. The [Huffington Post](#) (11/28, Strachan, 237K) reports Neil Young and his girlfriend, actress Daryl Hannah, issued an open letter on Monday urging President Obama “to step in and end the violence against the peaceful water protectors at Standing Rock immediately.” Young added that he recently met with protesters who were “committed to peaceful resistance” and refused to allow weapons, alcohol, and drugs.

CHALLENGERS TO BLM METHANE RULE WANT COURT TO BLOCK REGULATION FROM TAKING EFFECT. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/28, Subscription Publication, 705) reports that “challengers of the Obama administration’s latest methane rule raised the stakes last week by asking a federal court to block the regulation from taking effect.” According to the article, “in a legal maneuver just before the Thanksgiving holiday, the Independent Petroleum Association of America and the Western Energy Alliance urged the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming to issue a preliminary injunction preventing the administration from enforcing the rule.” In the injunction request, the groups claim “that the Bureau of Land Management rule — which aims to slash methane emissions from venting and flaring at oil and gas operations on public and tribal lands — is costly, duplicative and beyond BLM’s authority.”

THREE ENERGY TRADE ASSOCIATIONS ALLOWED TO INTERVENE IN LEASING LAWSUIT. [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (11/28, Subscription Publication) reports that “a federal judge said three energy trade associations will be allowed to intervene in a lawsuit filed last summer by two environmental groups over the Department of Interior’s (DOI) decision to approve nearly 400 oil and gas leases” in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. According to the article, “the

three energy trade associations – the American Petroleum Institute (API), the Western Energy Alliance (WEA) and the Petroleum Association of Wyoming (PAW) – filed two separate motions to intervene in the case earlier this month.” The article says that “although the plaintiffs were not opposed to the trade associations intervening, they argued that their participation should be limited.” However, “in a ruling last Wednesday, U.S. District Court Judge Rudolph Contreras disagreed.”

COAL COUNTRY PUTS FAITH IN TRUMP DESPITE RESERVATIONS.

The [New York Times](#) (11/28, Stolberg, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) profiles Bo Copley, an unemployed mine maintenance planner who asked Hillary Clinton “how, having dismissed coal’s future in language that came back to haunt her, she could ‘come in here and tell us you’re going to be our friend.’” The Times describes the “paradox of the Bible Belt” which put faith in “a trash-talking, thrice-married Manhattan real estate mogul as a savior for coal country.” The Times reports “It is difficult for outsiders to fathom how deeply faith and work are intertwined here, or the economic and psychological depression that sets in when an entire region loses the only livelihood many of its people have ever known.”

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF CANCELLATION OF 25 OIL AND GAS LEASES IN WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST.

Additional coverage of the cancellation of 25 oil and gas leases in the White River National Forest was provided by the [Denver Post](#) (11/27, 778K) and the [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (11/28, 32K).

ADDITIONAL COVERAGE OF FINAL METHANE AND WASTE PREVENTION RULE.

Additional coverage of the final Methane and Waste Prevention Rule was provided by the [National Law Review](#) (11/28).

OP-ED: OIL’S PRICE LED TO CANCELLATION OF BADGER-TWO MEDICINE LEASES.

In a cynical piece for the [Moscow-Pullman \(ID\) Daily News](#) (11/29, 26K), Todd J. Broadman writes, “When I initially heard Interior Secretary Sally Jewell’s speech last week given to the Blackfoot tribe, in it there seemed a tinge of remorse; she was apologizing to Native Americans for a government that had misappropriated some of those amber waves and purple majesties.” He continues: “There is no shortage of heroes in this saga. Devon Energy received over \$200,000 as refund for their existing Badger-Two oil leases and walked away as gallant pilgrims doing right by their Indian brothers.” Broadman points to “oil at a market price of under \$50 a barrel” as the underlying reason for the decision.

Renewable Energy:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE BLOCK ISLAND WIND FARM BEING ASSESSED.

[Connecticut Public Radio](#) (11/28) reports that “fishermen and scientists are trying to understand how the Block Island Wind Farm may affect fish in Rhode Island waters.” According to the article, “several state and federal agencies and private firms are monitoring what impacts the Block Island Wind Farm may have on wildlife and marine habitats.” Notably, University of

Rhode Island professors “worked with the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and other partners to measure the construction noise and vibrations.”

SOLAR, WIND FIRMS HOPE COURTING REPUBLICANS HELPS UNDER TRUMP. [Reuters](#) (11/28, Groom) reports that “wind and solar companies gave more money to Republicans than Democrats during the 2016 election cycle” for the first time, “part of a years-long effort to expand renewable energy’s appeal beyond liberal environmentalists.” The industry is hoping its strategy “will pay off in the form of Congressional support” as Donald Trump takes the White House in January. Recipients this year included 34 House Republicans and 19 Senate Republicans. “It is reassuring that we have those relationships already developed, and we have a really strong business case for the policies that have been implemented,” said Isaac Brown of 38 North Solutions.

Empowering Native American Communities:

INTERIOR EXTENDS LAND BUY BACK OFFERS TO BLACKFEET NATION LANDOWNERS. The [Nation Sun News](#) (11/28) reports that “landowners on the Blackfeet Nation are seeing more than \$273 million in offers as part of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations.” The offers were sent “to nearly 7,000 landowners on the reservation in Montana.” Deputy Secretary Michael Connor Deputy Secretary Michael Connor said, “We are proud to work alongside the Blackfeet Nation to take these lasting and substantial steps toward fulfilling President Obama’s goal of strengthening and investing in tribal communities. We must continue our government-to-government collaboration to ensure that landowners have the information they need to take advantage of this historic opportunity.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (11/28, 279).

COLVILLE TRIBES TO DISTRIBUTE SETTLEMENT TO MEMBERS. The [Wenatchee \(WA\) World](#) (11/28, 60K) reports that the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation will “distribute its portion of a \$940 million settlement with the U.S. Department of the Interior to members next Monday.” According to a news release from the Colville Business Council, “the Colville Tribes will receive \$13.4 million, and each enrolled member of the tribe is expected to receive \$1,410.”

NORTHERN ARAPAHO TRIBE ARGUES BIA ILLEGALLY IMPOSED COURT. [Law360](#) (11/28, 23K) reports that the Northern Arapaho Tribe “again urged a Montana federal court on Wednesday to prevent the Bureau of Indian Affairs from interfering with the operation of its tribal court, claiming that the agency has illegally substituted another court without the tribe’s consent amid the Arapahos’ conflict with the tribe that shares their reservation.”

JUDGE HOLDS BIA CAN’T BE SUED OVER \$65M FIRE FINE YET. [Law360](#) (11/28, 23K) reports that “a Washington county utility jumped the gun when it sued the Bureau of Indian Affairs over a \$65 million penalty demand stemming from a 2013 forest fire that destroyed trees on the Yakama Indian Reservation, a federal judge has ruled, saying the utility has to take its issues up

with the agency first.” U.S. District Judge Rosanna Malouf Peterson “dismissed the suit filed by Public Utility District No. 1 of Klickitat County, Washington, in an order dated Nov. 23.”

MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ASSAULTING BIA OFFICER. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (11/28, 44K) reports that “a Toadlena man pleaded guilty today in federal court to assaulting a federal officer near a mobile home in Shiprock, according to a U.S. Department of Justice press release.” Larry Lee Emerson Jr., “36, was arrested in August on allegations he assaulted a Bureau of Indian Affairs officer on July 6, the release states.” Emerson “faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison, the release states.”

LAWSUIT CHALLENGES WHO IS AN INDIAN ARTIST. In an analysis for the [Indian Country Today Media Network](#) (11/28, 33K) Steve Russell writes that the Pacific Legal Foundation has “filed a lawsuit to challenge an Oklahoma law, the American Indian Arts and Crafts Sales Act.” Russell says that “one claim is that the artist PLF represents, Peggy Fontenot, is denied her right to free speech under the First Amendment if Oklahoma says she cannot call her art ‘Indian.’” however, “this is not persuasive because it begs the question whether she is in fact an Indian artist” and “the First Amendment does not protect falsehoods in commercial speech.” Russell also suggests that “once it becomes a question of race, the Fourteenth Amendment equal protection clause—’reverse discrimination’—can do its work” and “then she will be able to claim her work is Indian.”

Office of Insular Affairs:

ASSISTANT SECRETARY KIA’AINA REFLECTS ON TRANSITION, CHANGE. The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (11/26, 333) reports that Esther Kia’aina, the outgoing assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas, “says her office and the whole of the Interior Department ‘were preparing transition memos so that soon after the election, whatever the outcome, we would be able to brief the landing teams’ dispatched by the incoming administration.” Kia’aina said Interior Secretary Sally Jewell wants “to make sure there is a smooth transition.” Kia’aina added, “I have been deeply touched by the people, and the issues you are facing. It warms my heart that I was given an opportunity to serve the people of the Virgin Islands.”

REPORT SHOWS WHY MICRONESIANS MIGRATING TO HAWAII. The [Hawaii Free Press](#) (11/28) reports that “a new report by Neil Mellen, Grassroot Institute of Hawaii Scholar uncovers the reasons so many Micronesians choose to migrate to Hawaii.” Mellen “shows why politics in the Pacific has taken power away from Micronesians, and how Micronesians can get their power back.” The report also “details solutions at the federal and state level which would help return power to Micronesians in Hawaii.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges:

ABERDEEN-SPRINGFIELD CANAL COMPANY INSTALLS PLASTIC LINER. The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (11/28, 113K) reports that “the Aberdeen-

Springfield Canal Co. has installed a buried, plastic liner along a leaky, mile-long reach of its main canal in the Moreland area.” General Manager Steve Howser “said the project, completed Nov. 15, lies within the second leakiest reach of the main canal.” According to Howser, “the project cost \$420,000, but the company received a \$178,000 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART grant. “

Top National News:

WHITE HOUSE: CHANCES TRUMP WILL “TERMINATE” CUBAN DÉTENTE “RATHER REMOTE.” President-elect Trump yesterday took to [Twitter](#) to warn, “If Cuba is unwilling to make a better deal for the Cuban people, the Cuban/American people and the US as a whole, I will terminate deal.” The President-elect’s comment appeared to be a reference to the US-Cuba détente under President Obama. While the major networks covered the aftermath of Fidel Castro’s death for a combined 10 minutes, the Trump angle was mentioned only briefly on two newscasts: At the tail end of its report on Cuba, [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/28, story 4, 2:50, Holt, 16.61M) noted that “Trump tweeted that he may reverse the plan to open Cuba,” while the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/28, story 6, 1:40, O'Donnell, 11.17M) devoted the first sentence of a story on potential Trump personnel announcements to the Cuba tweet. Print and online reports, meanwhile, note that the White House yesterday cast strong doubt on the likelihood that Trump would be able to undo Obama’s actions toward Cuba – in what news analyses say would amount to a serious blow to his legacy.

Reports also describe Trump’s position as vague. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/28, Wilkinson, 4.52M), for example, says “it was not clear what Trump meant by a ‘better deal,’” and that “an email seeking clarification from his transition team was not answered.” [USA Today](#) (11/28, Jackson, 5.28M) says Trump “has not specified how he might roll back” Obama’s Cuba initiatives, and the [New York Times](#) (11/28, Davis, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) states Trump “gave no details.” [Foreign Policy](#) (11/28, Gramer, 359K), meanwhile, said Trump “took to the Twittersverse” only “to partially clarify his stance,” and the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (11/28, Levitz, 795K) remarked that “it appears that American diplomacy will no longer be conducted around negotiating tables but, rather, over Twitter (perhaps, to discuss especially sensitive matters, Raul Castro can slide into Trump’s DMs).”

At any rate, [Roll Call](#) (11/28, Bennett, 63K) reported, White House press secretary Josh Earnest yesterday “described the likelihood of Trump nixing the Obama administration’s deal with the Cuban government as ‘rather remote,’ also citing popular support at home for closer ties between the countries.” [Reuters](#) (11/28) notes that Earnest also said that “any move to unwind the normalizing relations between the United States and Cuba over the past two years ‘would deal a significant economic blow’ to Cuban citizens.” The [Miami Herald](#) (11/28, Mazzei, 856K), meanwhile, quotes Earnest as further indicating that “dismantling the policies of the last two years is ‘just not as simple as one tweet might make it seem.’” Earlier yesterday, Trump spokesman Jason Miller told reporters, “Clearly, Cuba is a very complex topic, and the president-elect is aware of the nuances and complexities regarding the challenges that the island and the Cuban people face. ... Our priorities are the release of political prisoners, return of

fugitives from American law, and also political and religious freedoms for all Cubans living in oppression.”

[The Hill](#) (11/28, Fabian, 1.25M) said that while “distancing the US from Cuba would fulfill a campaign pledge and satisfy many of Trump’s Republican supporters...it would be a major blow to Obama, whose administration worked for years to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba.” The [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (11/28, Levitz, 795K) said that “before this weekend, one Obama legacy item that appeared (relatively) safe was his decision to open up diplomatic relations with Cuba,” a policy that “consistently garnered majority support in public-opinion polls. In fact, most Americans think Obama hasn’t gone far enough.”

However, [NPR](#) (11/28, Kelemen, 1.92M) said that while “supporters of the Obama...policy were hoping that by now, they would have enough broad-based support” for their approach, John Kavulich of the US-Cuba Trade and Economic Council “says Cuba hasn’t made that easy.” Said Kavulich, “This is a two-way relationship. ... The Cuban government has not done what it could have done to provide that landscape. ... The Obama administration allowed US companies to directly export to 200 categories of independent businesses in Cuba. ... The Cuban government has not permitted that to happen...and there are companies that want to have offices in Cuba and the Cuban government has not allowed that to happen.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/28, Wilkinson, 4.52M) reports Raul Castro “has not enacted significant political reforms, and the death Friday of his brother...is not likely to usher in quick change.” The Times adds that “previously...Trump has spoken of the release of political prisoners and more open space for free expression of opinions and dissent,” which are “the same elements the Obama administration has been demanding...while choosing not to delay economic progress while awaiting political change.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/28, Davis, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) reports that Trump “has already installed Maurico Claver-Carone, a Cuban-American who has been a harsh critic of Mr. Obama’s opening, on his transition team for the Treasury Department, which has issued several rounds of regulations to remove impediments for United States companies and individuals seeking to do business with Cuba and travel there.” The Times adds Trump “could...order the State Department to review its decision last year to remove Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism, or suspend diplomatic relations that were resumed last summer.” However, “unraveling the complex set of regulations that tore down obstacles to trade and commerce with Cuba could take longer and be more challenging.”

[Reuters](#) (11/28) says the Cuban government “has stayed mostly quiet on Trump, waiting to see whether the president-elect converts his harsh rhetoric into a real policy change.” Noting yesterday’s tweet, the [Havana Times](#) (11/28, Thureau) reported that Trump had gone “from supporting Obama’s approach at the beginning of his campaign to threatening to reverse it in the run-up to the election.” To the Cuban outlet, Trump is acting under pressure from “anti-Castro sectors in Miami, which contributed to his victory in Florida.” [Bloomberg Politics](#) (11/28, Talev, 201K), however, points out that Trump has “for months...said he could reverse Obama’s actions if the Caribbean nation doesn’t allow more

political and religious freedoms.” To the [New York Daily News](#) (11/28, Joseph, 4.45M), likewise, Trump’s tweet was just his team’s “latest hardline stance towards the island nation.”

Writing in the [Washington Post](#) (11/28, 11.43M), Eugene Robinson argues that with Fidel’s death, “the oppressive system he installed in Cuba can wither and die, too – unless...Trump reverts to Cold War policies and gives Cuba’s failing dictatorship new life.” To Robinson, “if Trump goes back to a posture of implacable US hostility, he will disappoint and discourage millions of Cubans while strengthening the hand of only one: Raúl Castro, who will be all too happy to play David to Trump’s Goliath.”

US-Cuba Flights Resume For First Time In More Than 50 years. While the Cuban people “are lining up to pay their respects,” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/28, story 11, 2:00, Muir, 14.63M) reports that many Cubans are also “looking to the future.” ABC said the thaw in relations with the US has already begun, with “the first commercial flight from Havana to Miami in decades” boarding Monday morning. The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/28, story 4, 0:20, Rose, 11.17M) also reported commercial flights from New York to Havana have begun for “the first time in more than half a century.” According to [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (11/28, 1.53M), passengers “erupted into applause when the inaugural flight landed” in Havana. [USA Today](#) (11/28, Gomez, 5.28M) calls the flights’ timing an “eerie coincidence,” noting they came “in time for the first day of formal mourning for the man responsible who played a major role” in their suspension. The [AP](#) (11/28), among other news outlets, also reports the story.

Following Criticism, Earnest Says There’s “No Whitewashing” Castro’s Rights Record. [USA Today](#) (11/28, Korte, 5.28M) reports the White House “condemned...Castro’s human rights record on Monday.” Earnest used “language was markedly stronger than the value-neutral statement...Obama issued after Castro’s death last week, which said only that ‘history will record and judge the enormous impact of this singular figure on the people and world around him.’” On [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (11/28, 1.53M), correspondent Kevin Corke, after saying that Obama’s statement on Castro’s death was met with criticism, noted that Earnest responded on Monday by saying, “To issue some sort of blistering statement and engage in the kind of mutual recriminations that are tied to the past – that doesn’t advance freedom or democracy on the island nation of Cuba.” However, as the [Washington Times](#) (11/28, Boyer, 272K) reports, the White House press secretary also said that “there certainly is no whitewashing the kinds of activities that” Castro “ordered and that his government presided over that go against the very values that our country has long defended.”

[Politico](#) (11/28, Nelson, 2.46M) reports that “Republican members of Congress from Florida panned...Obama’s response to” Fidel’s death, “attacking it as an inadequate response to the demise of a dictator who victimized so many of their constituents.” Rep. Carlos Cubelo told MSNBC’s “Morning Joe,” “Look, it’s just a reflection of the way he views the world. It’s a very lukewarm approach. It’s why so many people in this country are frustrated and voted for a change candidate in this last election because they see and listen to politicians like the president in this case who are unwilling to state a simple truth that Fidel Castro

was a dictator, a murderer, an enemy of the United States.”

Cohen: Foreign Policy “Obama Doctrine” Is “A Shrug Of The Shoulders.”

Under the headline “What’s The Obama Doctrine? A Shrug Of The Shoulders,” Richard Cohen writes in the [Washington Post](#) (11/28, 11.43M), “We finally have an Obama Doctrine. It is the 223 words of the White House statement on the death of Fidel,” which is “blank of moral judgment, empty of indignation, blind to injustice, dismissive of history and indifferent to injury. A dictator has died, and Barack Obama sent him off with lazy weasel words: ‘History will record and judge the enormous impact of this singular figure on the people and world around him.’” To Cohen, “history will also record Obama’s failure to condemn,” because “in not recognizing why that relationship has been so bad in the past – in not even acknowledging the vast crimes of Fidel Castro – Obama let the Cuban people know that the future can be just as bad. It’s the Obama Doctrine in a nutshell: Do what you want.”

[Roll Call](#) (11/28, Flom, 63K) reported Trump and Obama “struck different tones on Saturday after Castro’s passing,” and that “Obama’s statement stressed progress and looked toward the future.” [Breitbart](#) (11/28, Spiering, 2.02M) similarly indicated that “Trump reacted to the death of Fidel Castro by calling him a ‘brutal dictator,’ while Obama’s statement was more diplomatic and offered ‘condolences’ to the Castro family.”

White House Says Obama And Biden Won’t Attend Funeral, But Doesn’t Rule Out Kerry Going.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/28, story 5, 1:50, Rose, 11.17M) reported last night that the White House announced neither President Obama nor Vice President Biden will attend Castro’s funeral. [Politico](#) (11/28, Nelson, 2.46M) indicated, however, that Earnest “pointedly refused to rule out that Secretary of State John Kerry would attend, but would not confirm his attendance, either.” Said Earnest, “I don’t want to lead you to conclude that the secretary of state is considering attending. ... What I want to lead you to conclude is that we’ll have an announcement as soon as we can get one out about a delegation, if there is one.”

[The Hill](#) (11/28, Fabian, 1.25M) noted that “top Republicans have urged Obama not to attend the ceremony for Castro,” and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich “tweeted Saturday that Obama, Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry should ‘under no circumstance’ go to Cuba for Castro’s funeral.”

Trudeau, Putin Won’t Attend Funeral Either. [AFP](#) (11/28) reports Canada’s Justin Trudeau “will not attend...Castro’s funeral...after he was rebuked for calling the late Cuban strongman and family friend a ‘remarkable leader.’” Instead, “Governor General David Johnston will represent Canada.” [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (11/28, 1.53M), meanwhile, said “it’s not clear if European leaders will come,” and even Vladimir Putin, president of “Cuba’s close ally” Russia, said he is too busy to attend.

Cubans Mourn Fidel In Havana; Exiles Ready Pro-Democracy March In Miami.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/28, story 3, 2:15, O’Donnell, 11.17M) reported “hundreds of thousands of people” lined up Monday in Havana’s Revolutionary Square to pay their final respects to “the man who ruled this

country for nearly 50 years.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/28, story 4, 2:50, Holt, 16.61M) reported people waited in lines that went “as far as you can see” to “sign a pledge of loyalty to the ideals of...Castro.” [AFP](#) (11/28) recounted that “in hundreds of schools, hospitals and public buildings, Cubans signed a ‘solemn oath’ on Monday to defend the revolution,” a fact also noted in the [AP](#) (11/28, Weissenstein, Orsi) dispatch. The [Washington Post](#) (11/28, Miroff, 11.43M) reports that “if Cubans’ true feelings and emotions about the man who ruled this country for 49 years are complex and conflicted, this was not the place to express them,” and “the public response to his death on Friday night at age 90 has been one of emotional uniformity, at least at the surface.”

That stands “in contrast to the scene in Miami’s Little Havana,” according to [CBS Evening News](#) (11/28, story 5, 1:50, Rose, 11.17M), where Cuban exiles are “planning what’s being called massive pro-democracy rally” on Wednesday.

[Reuters](#) (11/28, Acosta, Martinez) notes Castro “was cremated on Saturday and his ashes will be carried in a cortege to a final resting place in Santiago de Cuba, the city in eastern Cuba where he launched the revolution.”

Sierra Club President Says Castro Has “More Honor” Than Trump. The [Washington Times](#) (11/28, Richardson, 272K) reports that Sierra Club President Aaron Mair “marked the Friday death of Fidel...by declaring that the Cuban dictator had ‘more honor’ than...Trump.” In “a Saturday post on Twitter, which has since been removed,” Mair “pushed back after the real-estate mogul hailed the death of the Communist strongman by tweeting, ‘Fidel Castro is dead!’” Tweeted Mair, “He fought for his country! Still more honor than TRUMP!” The [Daily Caller](#) (11/28, 898K) also reported the story.

Trump’s Stance May Face Opposition From GOP Senators. The [AP](#) (11/28, Lardner) reports Sen. Jeff Flake, “a frequent critic of Trump during the presidential campaign, cautioned in a statement against returning to a ‘get tough’ policy that isolates Havana and restricts travel and business activities,” arguing that “such an approach...will hurt the Cuban people and make the US government ‘a convenient scapegoat for failed socialist policies.’” Another Republican, Sen. John Boozman, “has pushed for expanded trade with Cuba and in June backed an amendment to a government spending bill that would lift the ban on private banks and companies offering credit for the export of agricultural commodities to Cuba.” Sen. Jerry Moran, meanwhile, “has argued for easing US restrictions that prohibit American farmers and ranchers from selling their products to Cuba,” though his “office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Trump’s tweet.”

WPost Urges Trump To Link Good Relations, Human Rights In The Cases Of Egypt, Turkey, Russia. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/28, 11.43M) writes that “it’s refreshing to see the incoming president link good relations with the United States to progress on human rights.” However, “it would be perverse to apply that precept only to Cuba,” as Trump “has appeared willing, even eager, to excuse repression by other autocratic regimes, including in Egypt, Turkey and Russia. Cubans are not the only people who deserve US solidarity with their struggles for basic rights.”

OHIO STATE RAMPAGE BEING INVESTIGATED AS POSSIBLE TERRORIST ATTACK. Monday's attack at Ohio State University led all three network news broadcasts Monday evening and receives heavy print and online coverage this morning. The coverage almost universally indicates the incident is being investigated as a possible act of terror. Most reports say that 18-year-old suspect Abdul Razak Ali Artan recently complained about the portrayal of Muslims in the US.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/28, story 2, 1:30, Holt, 16.61M) said Artan, who "was a lawful, permanent US resident," appeared to have posted a "rant" on Facebook in which he reportedly said attacks on Muslims around the world "led to a boiling point. I can't take it anymore." According to the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/28, story 2, 1:40, O'Donnell, 11.17M), Artan also "complained about what he believed was the media's negative portrayal of Muslims" to the school newspaper on his first day on campus in August. He was a new student at the school, having come to the US in 2014 "after fleeing Somalia and spending seven years in a refugee camp in Pakistan."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/28, lead story, 2:35, O'Donnell, 11.17M) reported that the incident "is being investigated as an act of terror," as did the website of Columbus, Ohio television station [WLWT-TV Cincinnati](#) (11/28, 161K). Meanwhile, [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/28, 1.53M) quoted House Intelligence Committee Ranking Member Adam Schiff as saying the attack "bears all of the hallmarks of a terror attack carried out by someone who may have been self-radicalized." On its website, [ABC News](#) (11/28, 3.09M) quoted Schiff as saying, "Here in the United States, our most immediate threat still comes from lone attackers that are not only capable of unleashing great harm, but are also extremely difficult, and in some cases, virtually impossible to identify or interdict." The [AP](#) (11/29) also highlighted Schiff's comments.

Terrorism expert Paul Cruickshank said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/28, 554K) that ISIL sent a message only two weeks ago calling "for exactly the kind of attack we saw play out today" – using a car to ram pedestrians. In addition, [Fox News' The O'Reilly Factor](#) (11/28, 767K) said ISIL put out a video in French on Saturday "calling for attacks on Westerners," while another ISIL message last month called "for knife attacks on westerners."

Brian Ross reported on [ABC World News](#) (11/28, story 2, 2:10, Muir, 14.63M) that police and the FBI investigate Artan, "the picture emerging of him is that of a Somali immigrant who...seemed to be living the American dream until he turned on his adopted country, becoming radicalized based on what he read and heard online." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/28, lead story, 3:50, Muir, 14.63M) reported in its lead story that as authorities continue to investigate the "terrifying" crime scene, they now believe Artan was the sole perpetrator. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28, Korn, Maher, Shallwani, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) reports that officials say the camera system on campus enabled them to track the car before the incident and they could confirm Artan was alone.

Despite reports of an active shooter on campus, [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/28, lead story, 2:50, Holt, 16.61M) said that the only gunfire came from responding officer

Alan Horujko when he shot and killed the “Somali-born” Artan. [USA Today](#) (11/28, Madhani, 5.28M) reports that according to Ohio State Police Chief Craig Stone, “police were still trying to determine the motive of the attack.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/28, Gray, 11.43M) quotes Stone as saying that while it is “too early to say” whether it was a terrorist attack, “it was clear ‘this was done on purpose.’”

The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (11/28, 529K) reports that all 11 of those injured in the attack “are expected to survive.” The [Washington Times](#) (11/28, 272K) also reports on the incident.

TRUMP BLASTS CNN’S ZELENY, REFERS TO

“#CORRUPTHILLARY.” [Politico](#) (11/28, Lima, 2.46M) reported that President-elect Trump “lashed out on Twitter Monday night over a CNN report refuting his unsubstantiated claims of mass voter fraud on Election Day.” CNN correspondent Jeff Zeleny’s report on “Anderson Cooper 360” Monday evening “dismissed Trump’s assertion that he ‘won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally’ as ‘blatant and baseless’ and accused Trump of acting as a ‘sore winner.’” Trump “fired off a series of tweets aimed at CNN and Zeleny.” In one, Trump wrote, “CNN is so embarrassed by their total (100%) support of Hillary Clinton, and yet her loss in a landslide, that they don’t know what to do.” In another [tweet](#), Trump resurrected the “#CorruptHillary” hashtag, writing, “@sdcritic: @HighonHillcrest @jeffzeleny @CNN There is NO QUESTION THAT #voterfraud did take place, and in favor of #CorruptHillary !”

Stone: Clinton Prosecution More Likely Due To Support For Recount. [Politico](#) (11/28, Conway, 2.46M) reported that Trump “campaign confidant” Roger Stone “suggested Monday without evidence that Hillary Clinton is more likely to face prosecution under the president-elect’s administration because her campaign is cooperating with Jill Stein’s recount effort.” In an interview with Steve Malzberg, Stone, “again offering no evidence,” said that “we have to presume” that “the money funding the Stein campaign’s call for a recount is from billionaire donor George Soros or from Clinton.” Stone concluded, “Now Hillary, I think, increases her chances of prosecution by acting this way.”

States Reject Trump Claim That “Millions” Voted Illegally. [Politico](#) (11/28, McCaskill, 2.46M) reported that election officials in New Hampshire, Virginia, and California, where Trump “alleged there was ‘serious voter fraud’ during the Nov. 8 election have all unequivocally rejected the president-elect’s allegations.” In a tweet Sunday, Trump claimed “without evidence that he actually won the popular vote ‘if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally,’” and hours later “accus[ed] the media of ‘serious bias’ for failing to report ‘serious voter fraud in Virginia, New Hampshire and California.’” The President-elect “offered no evidence to support his accusation,” and elections officials in all three states “have rebutted Trump’s allegations.”

Lester Holt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/28, story 3, 2:20, Holt, 16.61M) that Trump is “pushing baseless claims that millions voted illegally in the election, costing him the popular vote. There’s no evidence of that.” Hallie Jackson added that Trump’s transition team on Monday provided “5 pages of documents they say

backs up voter fraud claims, citations debunked after analysis by the NBC News political unit and other independent fact checkers.” On [ABC World News](#) (11/28, story 3, 2:40, Muir, 14.63M), David Wright called Trump’s claims “astonishing,” and said they “outraged” elections officials across the country.

The [New York Times](#) (11/28, Nagourney, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) says Trump’s claim prompted a “furious reaction” from California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, who “asserted that there was no evidence for the claim by the president-elect, and denounced Mr. Trump for what he said was unpresidential behavior.” Padilla tweeted, “His unsubstantiated allegations of voter fraud in California and elsewhere are absurd. ... His reckless tweets are inappropriate and unbecoming of a president-elect.”

The White House also weighed-in on Trump’s allegations, saying Monday that there is no evidence of widespread election fraud in the presidential race, [Reuters](#) (11/28) reports. White House press secretary Josh Earnest “deferred comments on Trump’s specific tweets to the president-elect’s team, but added: ‘What I can say, as an objective fact, is that there has been no evidence produced to substantiate a claim like that.’”

The [Huffington Post](#) (11/28, Liebelson, Walsh, 237K) said that the “strangest thing” about Trump’s claim the millions of people voted illegally “isn’t that there is zero evidence to support it – it’s that Trump, who has turned away daily intelligence briefings since winning the election, took time out of his day to repeat a rumor that initially spread because of one guy on Twitter.” On Nov. 13, Gregg Phillips, a board member of the conservative anti-voter fraud group True the Vote, tweeted that he had “verified more than three million votes cast by non-citizens,” but “has not released any data to back up his claims.” While Trump’s campaign “did not say where Trump came by the idea that ‘millions of people’ voted illegally,” the Post said that Trump “has repeatedly boosted unfounded conspiracy theories from the dark corners of the internet.”

A [New York Times](#) (11/28, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorial calls Trump’s claim that “millions of people” voted illegally “a lie” that is “part of Mr. Trump’s pattern, stretching back many years, of disregard for indisputable facts.” The Times argues that Trump “feels threatened by Mrs. Clinton’s popular-vote lead,” adding that he “senses the fundamental unfairness of awarding the presidency to the loser of the popular vote.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/28, 11.43M) calls Trump’s claim “corrosive” and “incendiary” and argues that his “overreaction suggests he is not prepared for the responsibilities of the presidency or the scrutiny that comes with it.”

In his [Washington Post](#) (11/28, 11.43M) column, Dana Milbank address Trump’s question about why the media isn’t reporting on the alleged voter fraud, writing that the media “wasn’t reporting on this because it’s a load of hooey.” Milbank adds that Alex Jones’ Infowars, “the radio and Internet home of the grassy-knoll crowd,” had been reporting the “groundless accusations” and says Jones’ “rants would be funny if the soon-to-be most powerful man in the world didn’t rely so heavily on them.”

In his “Talking Points Memo” segment on [Fox News’ The O’Reilly Factor](#) (11/28, 767K), Bill O’Reilly took a different view, saying that California and 11 other states give “illegal aliens license to drive. And once you have a valid drivers license in California, Connecticut, Oregon, Vermont, and West Virginia, you’re automatically registered to vote. ... So it’s not inconceivable that millions of illegal aliens did vote on November 8.”

Editorial Wrap-Up:

NEW YORK TIMES. *“Donald Trump’s Lies About The Popular Vote.”* A [New York Times](#) (11/28, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorial calls President-elect Trump’s claim that “millions of people” voted illegally “a lie” that is “part of Mr. Trump’s pattern, stretching back many years, of disregard for indisputable facts.” The Times argues that Trump “feels threatened by [Hillary] Clinton’s popular-vote lead,” adding that he “senses the fundamental unfairness of awarding the presidency to the loser of the popular vote.”

“Threatening Cuba Will Backfire.” A [New York Times](#) (11/29, Subscription Publication, 13.9M) editorial criticizes President-elect Trump’s “vague ultimatum to the Cuban government on Monday,” saying any move to roll back the Obama Administration’s policy of engagement with Havana “would be extremely shortsighted.” The Times concedes that while President Obama’s opening with Havana “hasn’t been an instant catalyst of democracy, freedom and prosperity,” it has “helped establish conditions for ordinary Cubans to have greater autonomy” and “also enabled Cuban-Americans to play a larger role in shaping the nation’s future.” The Times argues that instead, Trump “could build on Mr. Obama’s approach by pressing lawmakers to do away with the senseless embargo.”

WASHINGTON POST. *“Trump’s Preoccupation With Phantom Voting Fraud Endangers Our Democracy.”* In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/28, 11.43M) calls President-elect Trump’s claim that “millions of people” voted illegally “corrosive” and “incendiary” and argues that his “overreaction suggests he is not prepared for the responsibilities of the presidency or the scrutiny that comes with it.”

“Fidel Castro’s Demise Can’t Guarantee Freedom For The People Of Cuba.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/28, 11.43M) writes that “it’s refreshing to see the incoming president link good relations with the United States to progress on human rights.” However, “it would be perverse to apply that precept only to Cuba,” as President-elect Trump “has appeared willing, even eager, to excuse repression by other autocratic regimes, including in Egypt, Turkey and Russia. Cubans are not the only people who deserve US solidarity with their struggles for basic rights.”

“The District Owes This Whistleblower Money, An Apology, And A Job.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/28, 11.43M) editorializes that a federal jury has found that Eric W. Payne was wrongfully terminated from his government job in the District of Columbia “because he blew the whistle on misconduct in city contracting.” The Post says that while “money cannot make up for the shameful way city officials treated Mr. Payne,” or “erase the damaging message the city sent to

honest workers,” the District should pay Payne what he is owed. The District should pay Payne back pay, legal fees, the \$1.7 million in compensatory damages ordered by the jury; it should apologize to him; and should offer Payne his job back, if he wants it, the Post concludes.

WALL STREET JOURNAL. “Trump Trains, Trump Air, Trump Roads...”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorializes that President-elect Donald Trump and his advisers will have to grapple with several difficult realities if they actually want to deliver on campaign promises of financing a large-scale public works program. The Journal applauds Trump’s plan for relying heavily on private investment, but warns that programs such as road construction are not the greatest creators of jobs. Additionally, Trump must expect a great deal of wasteful spending if he wants his infrastructure proposals to become reality. The Journal hopes that Trump will bring his well-known skill for finishing projects ahead of schedule and under budget to any infrastructure plan once in office.

“The Banking Non-Apprentice.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) writes approvingly of John A. Allison IV in an editorial, saying he could be a big help to President-elect Trump in revising financial sector regulations.

“France’s New Center-Right.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28, Subscription Publication, 6.37M) editorializes that François Fillon’s victory in the French conservative presidential primary on Sunday could be an important moment for the center-right in France and Europe. Fillon is hoping to counter the message of the National Front with a case for economic dynamism coupled with a self-assured but inclusive nationalism. Fillon wants 50 billion euros in tax cuts and a streamlined labor law. The Journal says that unlike National Front leader Marine Le Pen, Fillon’s nationalism is based on culture and values, rather than ethnic background. The French presidential election will be consequential in France and abroad, the Journal says. The Journal hopes that French Republicans can win voters by expressing a more optimistic message than the National Front.

Big Picture:

HEADLINES FROM TODAY’S FRONT PAGES.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Son-In-Law Could Face Conflict Of Interest Questions](#)

[Trump Chooses Tom Price As Health Secretary](#)

[Big Names Take Hit On Theranos](#)

[China’s New Tool For Social Control: A Credit Rating For Everything](#)

New York Times:

[Donald Trump Faces Obstacles To Resuming Waterboarding](#)

[Donald Trump’s Threats To Close Door Reopens Old Wounds In Cuba](#)

[Tom Price, Obamacare Critic, Is Said To Be Trump’s Choice For Health Secretary](#)

[David Petraeus, Secretary Of State Candidate, Meets With Trump](#)

[For Bashar Al-Assad, Winning the Syrian War May Lead to New Troubles](#)

[Suspect Is Killed In Attack at Ohio State University That Injured 11](#)

Washington Post:

[11 Hurt In Ohio State Attack; Campus Police Kill Assailant](#)

[Targeted Killings Thin ISIS's Top Ranks](#)

[As Deaths In Mosul Rise, Battle Plan Is Questioned](#)

[Trump's Team Frays Over Romney](#)

[Dutifully Mourning Castro](#)

Financial Times:

[Thousands Flee Besieged Aleppo As Assad Forces Advance](#)

[Trump Faces Clash With Business Over Cuba Threat](#)

[Oxfordshire Nuclear Waste Is Brexit Talks Flashpoint](#)

Washington Times:

[Attacks By Taliban Stifle Progress By Afghan And Coalition Forces](#)

[Stein Demands Recount In Key States As Trump Officially Wins Michigan](#)

[Police Investigate Motive Of Ohio State Attacker](#)

[US Will Fall Short Of Ethanol, Biofuels Targets Under Renewable Fuel Standard](#)

[Violence Surges At Congolese President Clings To Power](#)

[Congress Hobbles To Term's End Without Legacy-Defining Legislation](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Ohio State Attack; Ohio State Attack-Motive; Presidential Election-Recount; Trump-Transition; South Carolina Church Attack-Jury Selection; Severe Weather; Cyber Monday Sales; California Kidnapping; United Flight-Emergency Landing; New Orleans Shooting; Fidel Castro Death-Cuba Response.

CBS: Ohio State Attack; Ohio State Attack-Suspect; Fidel Castro Death-Cuba Reaction; Cuba-US Flights; Fidel Castro Death-Florida Reaction; Trump Transition; Presidential Election-Recount; Unruly Delta Passenger-Banned; Syria-Aleppo Exodus; Cyber Monday-Hacking; Infant Crash Survivor; Fidel Castro Death-Mourning.

NBC: Ohio State Attack; Ohio State Attack-Suspect; Presidential Election Recount-Trump Claims; Fidel Castro Death-Cuba; South Carolina Church Shooting-Jury Selection; Syria-Aleppo Exodus; Cyber Monday Sales; Unruly Delta Passenger-Banned; United Airlines-Emergency Landing.

Network TV At A Glance:

Ohio State Attack – 14 minutes, 35 seconds

Fidel Castro Death – 10 minutes, 00 seconds

Presidential Election Recount – 10 minutes, 00 seconds

Cyber Monday – 5 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Ohio State Attack; Ohio State Attack-Suspect; Presidential Election Recount; Severe Weather; Cyber Monday Sales.

CBS: Ohio State Attack; Ohio State Attack-Investigation; Trump Appointments-Health And Human Services Secretary; Fidel Castro-Cuban Days Of Mourning; East Coast Wildfires; Dakota Access Protests-Snow Storm; South Carolina Church Shooting-Jury Selection.

NPR: East Coast Wildfires; Trump Appointments-Health And Human Services

Secretary; Presidential Election Recount-Michigan; US Democrats-Leadership Vote; South Carolina Church Shooting-Jury Selection; Ohio State Attack-Suspect; Pope Francis-Climate Change Comments; Consumer Reviews Bill-Obama Signature.

FOX: Ohio State Attack; Ohio State Attack-Suspect; Ohio State Attack-Governor Comments; East Coast Wildfires; Trump Transition Team.

Washington Schedule:

TODAY'S EVENTS IN WASHINGTON.

White House:

PRESIDENT OBAMA — Receives the Presidential Daily Briefing; departs the White House; visits the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center; departs Bethesda; arrives at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN — Attends the Presidential Daily Briefing; attends meetings at the White House.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on DoD actions on voluntary education programs – Hearing on ‘Department of Defense Actions Concerning Voluntary Education Programs’, with testimony from Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Peter Levine, and Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness Stephanie Barna; and DoD Voluntary Education Programs Chief Dawn Bilodeau Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on ‘defeating the Iranian threat network’ – Hearing on ‘Defeating the Iranian Threat Network: Options for Countering Iranian Proxies’, with testimony from American Enterprise Institute Resident Fellow J. Matthew McInnis; and Center for Strategic and International Studies International Security Program Chief of Staff Melissa Dalton Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

US House: 10:00 AM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on DR Congo – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on ‘Democracy and Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo’, on the current situation in the country and policy options for the U.S. Govt and Congress in light of U.S. interest in democratic stability there. Witnesses are U.S. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa Tom Perriello, Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Tom Malinowski, Human Rights Watch Senior Researcher Ida Sawyer, LUCHA’s Fred Bauma, Enough Project Associate Director of Policy Sasha Lezhnev, and SAIS Professorial Lecturer Mvemba Phezo Dizolele Location: Rm 2255, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCCommission>

1:00 PM Committee on House Administration Member-elect briefings Location: Auditorium, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets

for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of legislation including 'H.R. 5458 – Veterans TRICARE Choice Act', House Amendment to 'S. 546 – RESPONSE Act of 2016', House Amendment to 'S. 2577 – Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016', 'H.R. 5422 – To ensure funding for the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 5877 – United States-Israel Advanced Research Partnership Act of 2016', as amended, 'H.R. 5843 – United States-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2016', as amended, 'H.R. 5399 – Ethical Patient Care for Veterans Act of 2016', 'H.R. 5047 – Protecting Veterans' Educational Choice Act of 2016', 'H.R. 5166 – WINGMAN Act', as amended, 'H.R. 3286 – HIRE Vets Act', as amended, 'H.R. 5600 – No Hero Left Untreated Act', as amended, and 'H.Con.Res. 40 – Encouraging reunions of divided Korean American families' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

12:00 p.m. for Morning Hour debate and 2:00 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 6392 – Systemic Risk Designation Improvement Act of 2016' and Senate Amendment to 'H.R. 34' (the legislative vehicle for the 21st Century Cures Act) Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

House Ethics Committee self-imposed deadline to announce update on GOP Rep. Marlin Stutzman – House Committee on Ethics due to announce its course of action on the matter regarding Republican Rep. Marlin Stutzman – which was referred to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics in August – on or before today * Matter was extended in October, although with the Committee noting that the extension 'does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee' * Reasons for investigations are generally kept secret, although Rep. Stutzman has reportedly been accused of using campaign funds for mileage driven on a personal vehicle and for part of a family vacation

Other: 9:00 AM GOP Rep. Kevin McCarthy speaks at Washington Post Daily 202 Live event – Washington Post Daily 202 Live event, with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and The Daily 202's James Hohmann discussing the Republican agenda for President-elect Donald Trump's first year, including repealing the Affordable Care Act, tax reform, infrastructure, and immigration Location: The Washington Post Live Center, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.washingtonpost.com/> <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost>

9:00 AM GOP Sen. Dan Sullivan speaks at CSIS ChinaPower Conference – Center for Strategic and International Studies ChinaPower Conference – 'China's Power: Up for Debate' – with keynote from Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan and other speakers including former Director of National Intelligence Adm. (Ret.) Dennis Blair, and former Office of the Secretary of Defense Director of the East Asia Policy Rear Adm. (Ret.) Mike McDevitt Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

10:00 AM GOP Sen. James Lankford speaks at Heritage Foundation on 'Federal

Fumbles' report – Heritage Foundation discussion with Republican Sen. James Lankford on his report 'Federal Fumbles: 100 Ways the Government Dropped the Ball', an annual collection of specific examples of wasteful federal spending, as well as negative regulatory impact to the economy Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org
<https://twitter.com/Heritage>

11:30 AM GOP Sen. Mike Lee speaks at Heritage Foundation Institute for Constitutional Government launch – Heritage Foundation launches its new research institute, the Institute for Constitutional Government, which has the goal of 'educating Members of Congress, their staff, the new administration, and the American people on the importance of our founding institutions to preserving freedom'. Launch event includes exhibitions, book fairs, and remarks from Republican Sen. Mike Lee and Heritage Foundation Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies Director John Malcolm and B. Kenneth Simon Center for Principles and Politics Director Dr David Azerrad Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org
<https://twitter.com/Heritage>

3:00 PM Assistant Secretary of State Malinowski speaks on U.S. foreign security assistance and human rights – Brookings Institution Project on International Order and Strategy hosts panel discussion on 'U.S. Security Assistance and Human Rights', on 'the complex issue of understanding how U.S. assistance to foreign security forces is linked to U.S. human rights objectives', with particular attention to cases like Afghanistan, Colombia, and Mexico. Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Tom Malinowski delivers remarks, with response from Brookings Senior Fellow Vanda Felbab-Brown Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

3:00 PM Commerce Secretary Pritzker speaks at event on the Communities that Work Partnership – 'Communities that Work Partnership: Talent Development for Good Jobs and Strong Economies' Department of Commerce / Aspen Institute event, with speakers including Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Assistant Secretary for Economic Development Jay Williams, Aspen Institute President and CEO Walter Isaacson and Vice President for Policy Programs Maureen Conway, National Association of Development Organizations Executive Director Joe McKinney, Greater Houston Partnership Senior Vice President for Regional Workforce Development Peter Beard, Buffalo Niagara Partnership Workforce Development Manager Elizabeth Callahan, and Prince George's County Department of the Environment Director Adam Ortiz Location: Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.commerce.gov/> <https://twitter.com/CommerceGov>
#communitiesthatwork

Last Laughs:

LATE NIGHT POLITICAL HUMOR.

Jimmy Fallon: "But the big story right now is still President-elect Donald Trump.

He has been busy tweeting again. He went on Twitter yesterday to claim that he actually won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of illegal voters and that any recount will change nothing. Speaking of nothing changing, Trump won and still says the election was rigged.”

Jimmy Fallon: “I read that the Secret Service protecting Donald Trump might have to rent two floors of Trump Tower, forcing taxpayers to pay \$3 million in rent back to Trump’s company. Trump said that is absolutely not true and the rent is \$4 million.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Yesterday, Trump was seen wearing a hat that says ‘45’ on the side, signifying that he will be the 45th President. Or the total number of days before he quits being President.”

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To: [Dave Willis](#)
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Jim

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GREENWIRE — Thu., January 12, 2017 at 7:28 PM

NATIONAL MONUMENTS:

Obama protects 3 new sites, expands 2 more

President Obama today announced three new national monuments honoring key events in the civil rights movement and expanded both the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon and the California Coastal National Monument.

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Volume 42 Number 2, January 20, 2017

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Zinke escapes confirmation hearing relatively unscathed

Secretary of Interior nominee Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) performed a high-wire act January 17 - alternately promising to open public lands to increased development while being a good steward of the lands.

At a Senate Energy Committee hearing on his nomination Zinke walked the wire and sort of laid out the development case. "I fully recognize and appreciate that there are lands that deserve special recognition and are better managed under the John Muir model of wilderness, where man is more of an observer than an active participant," he began.

Then he added, "I also recognize that the preponderance of our federal holdings are better suited to be managed under the Pinchot model of multiple use using best practices, sustainable policies, and objective science."

Zinke made the conservation case explicitly, repeating his support for retention of public lands in the federal domain and for making the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) permanent. When Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) asked if he supported a permanent LWCF, Zinke said, "I do. I think land and water conservation has been important to Montana, certainly in many states. I think we should look at it . . . Lastly, I do think the states and local communities should have a say where those funds go."

As for retention of federal lands when Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) asked his opinion on privatization of the National Park System, Zinke said, "I want to be clear on this point. I am absolutely against the transfer or sale of the public lands."

It became clear at the hearing that Zinke's nomination is assured. One fly in the ointment is a concern that Zinke was charged with travel fraud while serving in the U.S. Navy as an officer in SEAL Team Six. But his service in the Navy was scarcely mentioned in the four-hour hearing, let alone the travel charges.

In those charges Zinke allegedly billed the military for official travel when he was actually going home to renovate his house. The Navy didn't bring charges because the Navy SEALs have a tradition of avoiding scandal, according to the reports. The infractions allegedly occurred in 1998, 1999 and the early 2000s.

Environmentalists who at first appeared to be concentrating their fire on other Trump nominees, are now attacking Zinke. WildEarth Guardians told its members January 16 in a fund-raising pitch, "Even though Zinke's says he supports public lands, he just voted to allow the House of Representatives to support public lands transfers without considering the cost to the American people."

That refers to a January 3 House vote that would make it easier for future legislation to transfer federal lands to states or local governments. The House action would exempt legislation to make such transfers from Congressional pay-as-you-go limits. (*See separate article page 10.*)

But sportsmen are sticking with Zinke. Backcountry Hunters and Anglers President Land Tawney said that Zinke would likely protect federal lands and backcountry hunting and fishing opportunities.

"Backcountry Hunters & Anglers believes that he can be an effective and positive leader for the Interior Department, and we will continue to work closely with him with that objective in mind," said Tawney.

The powered recreation industry agreed. "The Outdoor Recreation Industry Roundtable supports Secretary-designate Zinke and looks forward to working with him and his team at the Department of the Interior to advance the outdoor recreation sector, grow jobs in the U.S. and ensure that all Americans have access to healthy, active outdoor fun on their public lands and waters," said Derrick Crandall, president of the American Recreation Coalition.

Commodity users of the public lands, such as the livestock industry, have lined up in support of the Montanan. Said Tracy Brunner, president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, "During his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Zinke has consistently advocated for our western communities, economies, and ranchers. He has demanded transparency and the inclusion of stakeholders when it comes to land management decisions, and has a strong understanding of the challenges that come with stewarding the West."

The Western Energy Alliance concurred. "Western oil and natural gas producers with reasonable access to federal public lands can help create hundreds of thousands of high-paying, blue-collar jobs," said Kathleen Sgamma, president at the alliance.

"Congressman Zinke is the right person to enact this vision while protecting the landscapes that all Westerners love and cherish."

It is understood that Zinke will attempt to flatten the federal bureaucracy, i.e. transfer employees out of headquarters and regional offices into the field, according to people who have talked with the Trump transition team.

Zinke hinted at that in his testimony saying one of his three top priorities is "to ensure the professionals on the front line, our rangers and field managers, have the right tools, right resources, and flexibility to make the right decisions that give a voice to the people they serve."

His two other top priorities are to restore trust in federal land management agencies and to reduce a Park Service maintenance backlog.

Cantwell aggressively questioned Zinke on the development of coal on the public lands. When she asked him if he agreed with a coal-leasing moratorium launched by former secretary of Interior Sally Jewell on Jan. 15, 2016, he said, "I think a review is good."

On the policy front, as we have reported, Zinke has generally supported commodity development of the public lands, while demanding retention of the public lands in federal ownership.

For instance of commodity development Zinke objected to a Nov. 15, 2016, BLM rule to regulate methane emission. He said at the time the bureau "has issued a duplicative and unnecessary rule against responsible oil and gas development in Montana and on sovereign Tribal lands. This rule is a stark reminder that we need to invest in infrastructure projects like the Keystone pipeline, so we don't need to flare excess gas."

Although sportsmen/conservationists have praised Zinke some environmentalists have dug in their heels, such as WildEarth Guardians. However, groups such as the Sierra Club appear to be concentrating more of their fire on the nominations of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to head EPA, Exxon executive Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State and Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Alabama) as attorney general.

Support on the right for Zinke is not universal. Property rights advocates such as the American Land Rights Association last month mounted a campaign against his nomination, asking its members to contact the Trump transition team. The association objects to Zinke's past support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Judge won't block BLM methane venting rule, for now

A federal judge in Wyoming [refused](#) January 16 to halt implementation of a new BLM methane emissions rule.

For the time being at least U.S. District Court Judge Scott W. Skavdahl rejected the argument of oil and gas producing states and industry that BLM has no authority to regulate air quality; only EPA does.

He accepted BLM's argument that the rule is designed to prevent waste, i.e. methane venting, not assume EPA's clean air responsibility.

At first in his ruling Skavdahl suggested that North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana and industry had a case, noting, "Portions of BLM's stated rationale for the Rule undermine Respondents' insistence that the Rule is foremost a waste prevention regulation that simply has incidental benefits to air quality." The plaintiffs

argued that only EPA has authority to regulate air quality.

But Skavdahl went on, "Nevertheless, at this point, the Court cannot conclude that the provisions of the Rule which overlap with EPA/state air quality regulations promulgated under CAA (Clean Air Act) authority lack a legitimate, independent waste prevention purpose or are otherwise so inconsistent with the CAA as to exceed BLM's authority and usurp that of the EPA, states, and tribes. Thus, Petitioners have not shown a clear and unequivocal right to relief."

One of the plaintiffs, the Western Energy Alliance, has not given up. "Even though Judge Skavdahl did not grant a preliminary injunction, we're confident about our chances during the proceedings on the full merits of the case," said Kathleen Sgamma, president at the Alliance. "The venting and flaring rule oversteps BLM's mandate from Congress by usurping Clean Air Act authority that resides only with the Environmental Protection Agency and the states."

Skavdahl is the same judge who on Sept. 29, 2015, blocked a hydraulic fracturing regulation from BLM. He said at that time the bureau has no authority from Congress to regulate hydraulic fracturing, period.

That is, the judge said BLM erred in inferring that the broad authority Congress granted it to regulate oil and gas development on public lands automatically granted specific authority to regulate new hydraulic fracturing technology.

The methane rule, published Nov. 15, 2016, is one of the Obama administration's most prominent energy regulations. It is also expected to be a target of the Republican Congress and the incoming Trump administration as they attempt to revoke such regulations.

Indeed, the House Republican leadership intends to move legislation shortly to kill the regulation. The GOP plans to include the rule in a resolution under the Congressional Review Act) that includes several environmental and other regulations. (*See separate article page 10.*)

Although the methane rule technically went into effect January 17, it would not begin phasing in required reductions in methane until 2018. By that time the Trump administration will be firmly in charge. The rule requires producers to use available technology to cut flaring in half and to inspect their operations regularly for leaks.

EPA is also attempting to reduce methane emissions. It completed a rule May 12, 2016, that governs methane emissions from *future* operations and said it was also in the process of gathering information about a possible new rule governing *existing* operations. In the May 12, 2016, rule EPA not only set emission limits from methane but also required operators to find and repair leaks.

In a request to Skavdahl for an injunction against the BLM rule the State of Wyoming said, "The fatal flaw, however, is that, for the first time in the Department of the Interior's existence and without congressional authorization, the Rule poses a comprehensive air quality regulatory scheme on all oil and gas facilities on federal and Indian leases. This scheme includes requirements to control emissions, inspect and replace equipment, and it extends to *existing facilities*, which the (EPA) itself has not even done."

But the Justice Department said, "Contrary to petitioners' assertions, the Waste Prevention Rule is not a pollution control rule and does not improperly infringe on (EPA's) authority under the Clean Air Act. It sets no emissions standards for particular pollutants and contains no air quality monitoring requirements."

Intervening on behalf of the rule - and to insure the federal government defends it vigorously - are the States of California and New Mexico and several environmental groups.

Said California and New Mexico in their request to intervene, "Implementation of the Rule will benefit the States of California and New Mexico by generating more annual royalty revenue compared to that generated under current regulations, which allow considerable amounts of natural resources to be wasted royalty-free."

The House last year tried to block the EPA rule. It approved a fiscal year 2017 appropriations bill (HR 5538) July 14, 2016, that would forbid EPA from spending any money to implement the May 12, 2016, methane rule. Congress has yet to complete that appropriations bill.

Skavdahl's order on the coal be methane rule is available at:
https://cdn.westernenergyalliance.org/sites/default/files/VentingFlaringPIOrder_011617.pdf.

Five new national monuments; Grand Canyon left out

President Obama January 12 designated land in five areas of the country as national monuments, including a 48,000-acre expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in southern Oregon.

The formerly 66,000-acre Cascade-Siskiyou monument, managed by BLM, now totals 114,000 acres.

In increasing the number of national monuments he has designated - 34, a record - Obama added 6,200 acres to a California Coastal National Monument (BLM manages the monument) and designated three civil rights sites in the South.

The three civil rights sites, to be managed by the National Park Service, include a Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument in Birmingham, Ala.; a Freedom Riders National Monument in Anniston, Ala.; and a Reconstruction Era National Monument in Beaufort County, S.C.

The designations drew praise from conservationists and local legislators. In Oregon Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, both Democrats, applauded the Cascade-Siskiyou expansion. Said Merkley, who led the charge for an expansion, "The Cascade-Siskiyou area, where three mountain ranges converge creating a unique and spectacular landscape seen nowhere else in the world, merits the recognition and expanded protection that President Obama gave it today."

But commercial users of the Cascade area, including timber interests and ranching interests, were not applauding. Said the Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities Coalition, "It is extremely disappointing to those who support multiple use management of our federal lands. By making this unilateral decision, the Obama Administration ignored citizens who are concerned about how this expansion will affect private property, public access, local economy and businesses, mitigation against catastrophic wildfire, drought and other impacts."

Not all monuments advocates are pleased. The Obama administration has rejected the recommendation of Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) that the President designate a 1.7 million-acre national monument adjacent to Grand Canyon National Park.

Grijalva was perturbed because Obama has designated some 34 national monuments, including major ones last month in Utah and Nevada, but not the Grand Canyon monument in his State of Arizona.

"I can only express my profound disappointment," Grijalva said January 6. "The Grand Canyon is one of the world's most iconic and popular natural places, not just for its beauty but for its importance to tribal culture and history. Instead of building on former Secretary Salazar's work, the Interior and Agriculture departments are apparently willing to leave the future of the Grand Canyon and the health of Arizona tribes up to Donald Trump. I am not."

To that end Grijalva, ranking Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, last week reintroduced legislation (HR 360) that would establish a Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument in Arizona. The monument would be located north and south of Grand Canyon National Park and would protect the park's watershed as well as lands held sacred by Native American tribes.

Meanwhile, western Republicans are stepping up their campaign to prevent the unilateral designation of national monuments by future presidents. Twenty-five senators joined Senate Energy Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) in introducing legislation (S 33) that would require Congressional *and* state approval of any monument.

Although the bill would do nothing to redress the Obama designations, Murkowski criticized the administration. "(Obama's) unilateral withdrawals have routinely come with complete disregard for local concerns and opposition, threatening energy, mining, fishing, ranching, recreation, and other reasonable uses of public land and waters," she said. "At this point, we have no choice but to reform the Antiquities Act to ensure that the people being impacted by these designations are heard and respected."

While Murkowski is concerned about future designations, her House counterpart House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), suggests he will attempt to persuade President-elect Trump to revoke Obama's recent monuments, and perhaps some from President Clinton.

Bishop recommended to the Trump transition team December 5 that the President-elect roll back objectionable national monument designations.

After meeting with the Trump transition team Bishop said, "Any monument designation that lacks local support, is excessive, or violates the terms of the Antiquities Act will be scrutinized and is easier to abolish. Today's discussions with the transition team examined options for the incoming administration. The talks were positive and encouraging."

But some scholars believe a President would have limited authority under the Antiquities Act. Indeed, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) in a [report](#) it prepared last month on the act questioned whether reversals would be legal.

"No President has ever abolished or revoked a national monument proclamation, so the existence or scope of any such authority has not been tested in courts," said CRS. "However, some legal analyses since at least the 1930s have concluded that the Antiquities Act, by its terms, does not authorize the President to repeal proclamations, and that the President also lacks implied authority to do so."

The main object of Bishop's ire is the December 28 designation by Obama of a 1.35 million-acre Bears Ears monument in southern Utah. Late last year Bishop attempted without success to move legislation to protect Bears Ears with fewer limits on commercial activities than in an Obama monument.

Also on December 28 Obama designated a 300,000-acre Gold Butte monument adjacent to the Bundy Ranch in Nevada. Cliven Bundy is the Nevada rancher who is often described as a national leader of protests against BLM and Forest Service land managers.

California Desert: Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) followed through January 5 on her promise to introduce legislation to complement President Obama's recent designation of 1.8 million acres of national monuments in the California Desert.

In one of his most ambitious uses of the Antiquities Act of 1906, Obama on Feb. 12, 2016, designated more than 1.8 million acres of California Desert as parts of three national monuments. BLM will oversee the areas.

Her new bill (S 32) would designate 230,000 acres of wilderness, 77 miles of wild and scenic rivers, and 142,000 acres for off-highway vehicle use. And it would address renewable energy by directing BLM to plan for thousands of acres of land exchanges with the State of California.

Said Feinstein, "While I supported President Obama's decision to create three national monuments in the Mojave Desert, his authority under the Antiquities Act did not allow him to include the many other valuable provisions in the original legislation."

The 921,000-acre Mojave Trails National Monument, 135,000-acre Sand to Snow National Monument and 8,000-acre Castle Mountains National Monument will combine with existing national parks and wilderness areas in the desert to protect nearly 10 million acres.

Democratic senators hit back at fed land transfers

They didn't succeed but six Democratic senators last week introduced a budget amendment that would have forbid the sale of public lands to reduce the federal deficit.

The amendment (SA 110), proposed January 10 under the lead of Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), did not come to a vote in the Senate.

The House is going in the opposite direction. It approved a procedure January 3 to make it easier for future legislation to transfer federal lands to states or local governments. The House action would exempt such legislation from Congressional pay-as-you-go limits.

Under old House rules sponsors of legislation to transfer federal lands to states would have had to come up with budgetary offsets to balance against the value of lost federal oil, gas, coal, minerals, timber, rangelands, etc. Those offsets could include either new revenues (taxes) or spending reductions.

But the package of new rules (H Res 5) the House approved 233-to-190 says "a conveyance of Federal land to a State, local government, or tribal entity shall not be considered as providing new budget authority, decreasing revenues, increasing mandatory spending or increasing outlays."

Of note, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) voted for the House provision. Zinke, President Trump's nominee for secretary of Interior, has repeatedly said in the past he opposes the widespread transfer of federal lands to state and local governments. As Trump himself has asserted.

In Zinke's confirmation hearing January 17 before the Senate Energy Committee he was repeatedly asked about his position opposing federal land transfers and his January 3 vote that would make such transfers easier to approve in Congress.

He told Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), "I want to be clear on this point. I am absolutely against the transfer or sale of the public lands." (*See related article page one on Zinke's confirmation hearing.*)

The House approval of the land transfer provision in H Res 5 does not mean Congress is about to immediately ship federal lands to states. Congress would still have to move individual land transfer bills against immense opposition. And Senate rules still require offsets.

But H Res 5 would make it slightly easier for the House to at least approve legislation to transfer federal land to states, local governments or tribes. And that reflects the Republican Party Platform that supports conveyance of unspecified federal lands out of the public domain.

The Republican platform proposes to unload unspecified federal lands. That has sometimes been interpreted in the media to mean all federal lands, including national parks. However, the platform's plank on disposing of federal lands refers only to "certain" lands.

Besides, Republican candidate Trump has more than once said he personally opposes the disposal of not only national parks but all federal lands. As he told *Field & Stream* magazine in January, "I don't like the idea because I want to keep the lands great, and you don't know what the state is going to do."

In addition Rep. Zinke has been outspoken in opposition to the transfer of federal lands to the states. On June 15, 2015, in a House Natural Resources Committee mark-up he voted against a bill (reintroduced January 3 as HR 232) that would authorize the transfer of up to 2 million acres per state of national forest to a state.

Said Zinke of the bill introduced by senior Republican Don Young (R-Alaska), "I'm starting to wonder how many times I have to tell these guys in leadership I'm not going to allow Montana's public lands to be sold or given away."

Obama coal report targets royalties, climate impact

A landmark [analysis](#) of BLM's public lands coal program concludes that the federal government should consider increased royalties and fees on the climate impacts of coal mining.

But the report, commissioned by former Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell a year ago and published January 11, does not make any specific recommendations. Thus it will be up to the incoming Trump administration to implement any policy changes, and Trump is not likely to climb on board.

In fact, President-elect Trump has said a top priority for him is to terminate a partial moratorium on coal leasing former Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell implemented last year. Trump said repeatedly he favors greatly increased coal development in the United States. More than 40 percent of the coal produced in this country comes from the public lands.

Still, Jewell laid down a marker for the Trump administration, and Trump nominee for secretary of Interior, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.)

"We have a responsibility to ensure the public - including state governments - get a fair return from the sale of America's coal, operate the program efficiently and in a way that meets the needs of our neighbors in coal communities, and minimize the impact coal production has on the planet that our children and grandchildren will inherit," she said. "The only responsible next step is to undertake further review and implement these commonsense measures."

At a confirmation hearing January 17 in the Senate Energy Committee Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) aggressively questioned Zinke on the development of coal on the

public lands. When she asked him if he agreed with the coal-leasing moratorium launched by former Jewell on Jan. 15, 2016, he said, "I think a review is good."

When she asked his opinion of the practice of self-bonding by coal companies, Zinke said, "I think bonding is important . . . Some of the reclamation problems we have and we face in the West are still not repaired . . . I think we need to have the courage today to look 100 years forward and look back and say 'we did it right.'"

The Obama administration analysis, in the form of an EIS scoping report, makes these suggestions:

Royalty: The report does not identify a specific change to the existing 12.5 percent royalty paid by federal coal lessees. It just recommends that the Trump administration consider a higher royalty.

Says the report, "The BLM would identify the most appropriate metric and corresponding royalty rate for Federal coal, reflecting on analysis already conducted by other groups such as the Council of Economic Advisers."

Climate: The EIS scoping report suggests that BLM require compensation for damage to the climate caused by coal mining, with those revenues used to limit carbon damage. "The BLM would require lessees to carry out or fund activities that proportionally offset climate-related impacts, including through investment in a fund managed by an entity that takes on the liability to proportionally offset those greenhouse gas emissions and climate-related impacts," says the EIS scoping report.

The money would then be used "for activities including, but not limited to, carbon offsets, carbon sequestration, climate adaptation, and community resilience," the report says.

Leasing: The EIS scoping report suggests a complete shake-up in the leasing-by-application system now that usually leads to one bidder per application. The EIS would have BLM plan for and then hold inter-tract bidding.

"The BLM would determine a maximum tonnage of coal or maximum number of Btus to be leased consistent with projected demands," says the EIS scoping report. "Under a modified inter-tract leasing process, all interested companies would bid among themselves for the right to produce a specified quantity of coal in the location of their choice, assuming it is suitable for mining and consistent with the approved land use plan and strategic leasing plan."

The National Mining Association took sharp issue with the suggestion that federal coal lessees were not paying their fair share to the federal government. The association said the 12.5 percent royalty is only part of the story, that lessees also pay huge bonus bids and significant taxes.

Said the association, "Detailed [analyses](#) by Norwest Corp. show Federal royalty rates are 30-65 percent higher than prevailing rates for private coal, where bonus bids are seldom paid as they always are on federal coal. In the major federal coal leasing region, the combination of fees and taxes amounts to *an effective tax rate of 39 percent.*" (Emphasis in the original.)

The mining association charged that the Interior Department report kowtows to environmentalist demands for an end to fossil fuels leasing from the public lands, the Keep-It-in-the-Ground movement.

The Earthjustice environmental law firm was not shy about promoting the no-leasing program. Said Abigail Dillen, Earthjustice Vice President of Litigation for Climate and Energy, "After an intensive review, the Interior Department has come to

the necessary conclusion that we have to seriously consider an end to federal coal leasing. That recognition is crucial, and we will do everything in our power to compel the next administration to act on it."

Ranking Senate Energy Committee Democrat Cantwell, a leading critic of the mining industry, said, "It's the Interior Department's legal responsibility to review royalty rates and leasing policy. The incoming Administration shouldn't drop the ball and shortchange taxpayers."

As has been well documented the nation's coal industry has been devastated by bankruptcies caused by either competition from cheaper energy sources or overregulation, or both, take your choice.

Further, Earthjustice and other national environmental groups have, with the support of some senators and House members, mounted a vigorous campaign against any further leasing of coal, called Keep-it-in-the-Ground.

The Keep-it-in-the-Ground campaign last year persuaded several House and Senate Democrats to introduce legislation (S 2238, HR 4535) to ban new leasing on federal lands not only of coal, but also of oil, gas and oil shale. Rep. Jared Huffman (D-Calif.) introduced the House bill and Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) the Senate bill.

The EIS scoping analysis is available at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage¤tPageId=93180>.

Methane emissions rule a top target of House GOP

House leaders intend to move legislation as early as next week that would revoke a Nov. 15, 2016, oil and gas methane emissions rule published by BLM.

The Republicans plan to include the methane regulation in a comprehensive resolution that would reverse several Obama administration regulations. The strategy would base the resolution on a Congressional Review Act (CRA) that authorizes Congress to kill regulations dating from May 30, 2016.

Said House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) on the House floor last week, "I expect to start with swift action on at least on the Stream Protection Rule and methane emissions standards, both of which are limits to our energy production."

The House strategy may be needed because a federal judge January 16 refused to issue an injunction against the BLM rule. (*See related article page 3.*)

McCarthy and the House have support from the powerful conservative operation of the Koch brothers and Koch Industries, Inc. An organization that they support, Freedom Partners, last week met with House Republican leaders and urged them to reverse the methane regulations under the CRA within 100 days. That law theoretically allows the House and Senate to revoke regulations with a majority vote, thus in the Senate avoiding a filibuster.

Freedom Partners has put together an action plan for Congress and the first 100 days of a Trump administration, although the conservatives admitted revocation of environmental and other rules will not be a piece of cake.

"Repealing existing federal regulations is not a simple task. Based on where a regulation is in the finalization process, different rules will need to be addressed through different policy remedies and legal avenues," said the group. "In order to successfully roll back the myriad of regulations proposed and finalized

over the past eight years, Congress and the Trump Administration will need to pursue several methods of repeal and reform."

In addition to Congressional revocation of the methane rule, Freedom Partners is recommending that a Trump administration revoke a Jan. 15, 2016, order from Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell establishing a coal-leasing moratorium.

In a separate, but related action the House January 11 voted to require detailed economic impact assessments of Forest Service and BLM *plans* prepared under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Agencies already must prepare the analyses for *regulations* projected to cost more than \$100 million.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) offered an amendment to exempt BLM and Forest Service land management plans from the lower threshold, but the House rejected it by a vote of 185-to-236. The vote came during consideration of a regulatory accountability bill (HR 5), which the House then passed.

Said Grijalva, ranking Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, "If this bill becomes law, the agencies that oversee our public lands won't be able to make important decisions in a timely way, and that's the last thing the American people want."

But Rep. Steve Chabot (R-Ohio) said the economic reviews are necessary to protect small businesses. "Given the potentially significant consequences to small businesses that rely on public lands and small communities that border those lands, the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management should assess the impacts of their plans on these small entities," said Chabot, chairman of the House Small Business Committee. "That is all this does."

There is big pushback from Democrats against all Congressional attempts to revoke Obama regulations. Grijalva wrote his House Democratic colleagues January 9 and urged them to stand united against a comprehensive CRA resolution.

Grijalva wrote that the methane rule is absolutely necessary. "The (rule) would result in the savings and productive use of up to 41 billion cubic feet annually - an amount of gas that could supply roughly 740,000 households each year," he said. "This level of waste is unconscionable, and companies should be required to make the investments necessary to capture that natural gas and pay the American people their fair share."

While the action on regulatory reversals right now is in the House, the Senate would likely prove a greater hurdle. That's because the GOP holds only a two-vote majority (52-to-48) and a switch of only two or three votes could defeat a resolution.

Obama sets oil shale royalties, environmental standards

The Obama administration January 10 established a new royalty system for oil shale development on the public lands, if there ever is any development. Like the Bush administration the Obama rule would begin royalties at five percent.

But the Obama administration would give the secretary of Interior authority to impose a higher royalty, depending on conditions surrounding a lease. The Bush rule would have increased the royalty at one percent per year after production began, with a cap of 12.5 percent.

Said BLM, "(The Bush) system required commercial operations to pay royalties of five percent per year for the first five years of production, increasing by one percent per year beginning in year six, to a maximum rate of 12.5 percent in year

13. The final rule modifies the regulations to establish the five and 12.5 percent levels as minima. Specifically, the modified provision keeps the annual escalator clause for years six through twelve but allows the Secretary to set the initial royalty rate applicable in years one through five on a lease-by-lease basis."

BLM said it established a flexible royalty system because the oil shale industry has not grown beyond the research and development phase. "Until there is a domestic commercial oil shale industry, we can only speculate about what royalty rates those factors would support," the bureau said.

At the same time that it established the new royalty system, BLM also imposed new environmental protection standards for oil shale operations.

Said BLM, "The new requirements are a watershed protection plan for surface and groundwater resources; an airshed review of reasonably available scientific data or modeling to predict probable air quality effects of operations; an integrated waste management plan; and an environmental protection plan that includes minimization of adverse effects on air, water, wildlife, native plants, and productivity of soils, as well as monitoring, adaptive management, and mitigation of adverse effects."

The January 10 rules are the last piece of the puzzle assembled by the Obama administration governing both research and development of oil shale and production.

On March 22, 2013, the administration placed significant new limits on development by reducing acreage available for lease sale.

The 2013 plan/record of decision set aside 678,000 acres for possible future oil shale research and development leasing in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming compared to 2,017,741 acres set aside by the Bush administration in November 2008. The plan/decision reduces acreage available for tar sands development in Utah from 430,687 acres to 132,220 acres.

Although western Republicans blasted the steps at the time, commercial development is years if not decades away. To be resolved are enormous hurdles such as identifying the amount of water commercial production would soak up and how much energy would be required to produce oil from shale.

Commercial leasing would be carried out under the new regulations that BLM posted last week. That rule would establish a royalty system for commercial leases and environmental regulations for commercial leases.

The existing R&D program: The Bush administration on Jan. 1, 2007, issued five, 160-acre R&D leases in Colorado and on July 1, 2007, approved one lease of that size in Utah. The Obama administration issued two additional R&D leases in Colorado on Dec. 1, 2012.

BLM wrote the new plan/ROD and regulations to settle a lawsuit brought by a dozen of so environmental groups. Under the agreement BLM said it would consider a new royalty system and would require an environmental review before awarding commercial leases.

On January 16, 2009, 13 local and national environmental groups brought a National Environmental Policy Act lawsuit against the regulations. The suit, filed by the environmental law firm Earthjustice, says BLM's regulations didn't adequately consider the environmental implications of development, in part because BLM won't know what those impacts will be until the R&D program is further along. The suit was filed in U.S. District Court in Colorado.

FS drafts 'science synthesis' to revise NW Forest Plan

The Forest Service has begun laying the scientific groundwork for the revision of 17 national forest plans that make up a Northwest Forest Plan.

Not everyone agrees that the playing field is level. The Association of O&C Counties for one says a draft science [synthesis](#) does not give sufficient weight to timber sales in Oregon, Washington and California forests.

"The socioeconomic section seems to have abandoned President Clinton's promise of predictable and sustainable supply of timber. It does not delve into the science as to how sustained yield forestry can achieve both economic and ecological goals to address the most significant failure of the NWFP," said Rocky McVay, the association's executive director.

In 1994 the Clinton administration completed a Northwest Forest Plan that governs national forests and forested BLM lands in the Pacific Northwest. Until the plan was instituted annual national forest and BLM timber sales usually exceeded 12 billion board feet per year. After the plan was executed those sales decreased to around 3 billion board feet per year.

Now the Forest Service's Region 6 (Oregon and Washington) and Region 5 (California) have asked the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest and Pacific Southwest Research Stations to prepare a scientific synthesis as a base for revising the Northwest Forest Plan.

The Ecological Society of America is coordinating the effort, which led to a draft report now undergoing public review. The comment period ended today (January 20). The Forest Service emphasizes this is not a National Environmental Policy Act process, but is guided by Office of Management and Budget research procedures.

Although the synthesis is supposed to produce an independent analysis the use of the data will be up to the incoming Trump administration, and it is expected to be more sympathetic to timber companies than the Obama administration. And less sympathetic to conservationists.

With the decrease in timber sales from public lands has come a concomitant decrease in the amount of sale revenues distributed to public lands counties. That decrease is now approaching a crisis, according to western politicians.

To compensate the counties Congress has since 2000 put up federal money under a Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program. However, in December western elected officials failed to persuade their colleagues to extend the program for another year, perhaps costing public lands counties more than \$300 million.

The program was last authorized in fiscal year 2015, with \$300 million in payments allocated in March of 2016. Oregon Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) are criticizing the Senate leadership for not taking up legislation to extend SRS.

It was only symbolic but Wyden and Merkley last week introduced an amendment to a Senate budget resolution (S Con Res 3) to make room for an extension of the SRS program. The amendment didn't reach the floor.

The draft scientific synthesis is available at:
<https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/research/science-synthesis/chapter-listing.shtml>.

O&C timber payments: BLM does hold timber sales on the 2.4 million acres of Oregon and California lands that it manages in western Oregon. As we reported in

the Dec. 12, 2016, issue of *PLN* the Association of O&C Counties complained of a delay in the distribution of shared receipts from the timber sales.

BLM announced January 10 that it was distributing more than \$19 million to the 18 O&C Counties.

Alaska leaders hope to shake up public lands management

The Alaska governor and the Alaska Congressional delegation are going all-out to revise public land management in their state.

Their immediate target is a new [plan](#) released by BLM January 6 that covers 6.5 million acres of eastern interior Alaska. Among other things the plan designates 1 million acres of the region as areas of critical environmental concern that will limit mining and other uses.

Senate Energy Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) suggested that she would ask Congress and the Trump administration to undo the plan, approved in five records of decisions. In a press release Murkowski's office said the senator "will work with the incoming administration to overturn many of the midnight rules and directives released in the final days of the Obama administration."

But BLM said the plan would balance development with other uses such as subsistence hunting and fishing. Said Geoff Beyersdorf, district manager of the BLM Fairbanks District Office, "With approval of these plans, we can move forward with management of these public lands in a way that balances use, development, and conservation."

ANWR: The Eastern Interior Plan is just the tip of the iceberg. On January 5 Sens. Murkowski and Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) introduced legislation (S 49) to open the coastal plan of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas development.

Alaskan officials have been attempting for 30 years to open the coastal plain without success. Although they will now have a pro-development President in the White House, they still may have to round up 60 votes in the Senate, where over the years several Republicans have sided with Democrats to block legislation to open the 1.4 million-acre coastal plain to leasing.

The Obama administration made their job more difficult on April 3, 2015, by recommending the designation of 12.28 million acres of ANWR as wilderness. That includes the coastal plain. Seven million acres of ANWR are already Congressionally-designated wilderness. Although only Congress has the authority to designate wilderness, the administration recommendation effectively means almost all of ANWR will be managed as wilderness, at least until a new administration decides otherwise or Congress overrides the decision.

King Cove: On January 11 Murkowski, Sullivan and Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) introduced legislation (S 131, HR 513) to authorize a land exchange leading to the construction of a road corridor through a wildlife refuge to the community of King Cove.

The Obama administration refused to allow the construction of a road through the Izembek National Wilderness Refuge to provide access to emergency health care for the citizens of King Cove.

Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell on Dec. 23, 2013, denied authority to construct the road because she didn't want to set the precedent of harming a wilderness area.

State land claims: In the last issue of *PLN* we reported that BLM intended to help the State of Alaska by expediting the state's claims to 40 million acres. But the state is not at all sure that is a good thing.

BLM said December 19 it was adopting new technology that will allow the state to lay claim to 40 million acres of land under the Alaska Statehood Act in half the time and half the cost as the existing program would require. The state has already received 60 million acres.

BLM said the new technology will use satellite navigation to identify state-claimed lands and their boundaries. Under the old system survey teams were shipped to the field for long periods. The teams then struggled through the backcountry to set monuments in the ground at regular, two-mile intervals.

BLM said that instead of taking 20 years to accomplish the task at a cost of \$120 million, it will be done in 10 years at a cost of \$60 million.

But the Alaska Department of Natural Resources says the technology is unproven and the state may get stuck with the bill.

The director of the Alaska Division of Mining, Land & Water, Brent Goodrum, told us, "The transfer of future cost obligations for the survey (and physical monumentation) of lands granted to the State of Alaska in our Statehood Act is hardly a favor, nor does it accelerate the time frame in which the State may ultimately receive its full land entitlement... something in excess of 105.8 Million acres." Goodrum is also currently president of the Western States Land Commissioners' Association.

The Eastern Interior Plan is available at:

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/plans-in-development/alaska/eastern-interior-rmp>

IBLA decisions

(We post current Interior Board of Land Appeals decisions at our website, <http://www.plnfpr.com/ibla.htm>. IBLA may be contacted at: Interior Board of Land Appeals, 801 North Quincy St., MS 300-QC, Arlington, VA 22203. Phone (703) 235-3750.)

Subject: Oil and gas lease sale.

BLM decision: BLM will reject competitive lease offers after a sale is held to protect other resources.

Appellant lessee: BLM has no authority under the Mineral Leasing Act to reject lease offers after bid payments have been made.

IBLA decision: Affirmed BLM decision.

Case identification: *Hawkwood Energy Agent Corp., Venture Energy, LLC, et al. 189 IBLA 164.* Decided January 4, 2017. Sixteen pages. Appeal from decisions of the Deputy State Director of the Nevada State Office of BLM, who rejected appellants' lease offers for Federal oil and gas lease parcels in Garden Valley, Nevada. DOI-BLM-NV-L000-2013-0004-EA.

IBLA argument: IBLA Administrative Judge Amy B. Sosin affirmed a BLM decision to reject competitive oil and gas lease offers, even after BLM had approved tracts for sale and accepted full payment. The appellants argued that the Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) effectively requires BLM to approve a lease after certifying tracts for sale and accepting winning bids. But Judge Sosin argued that the provisions of the MLA making winning lease offers mandatory bind only the bidders/lessees and not BLM. She said the lessees point to this provision of the MLA: "A bid shall not be withdrawn and shall constitute a legally binding commitment to execute the lease bid form and accept a lease Execution by the high bidder of a competitive lease bid form approved by the Director . . . shall constitute a binding lease offer" But, Sosin argued, "This regulation, however, binds the potential lessee, not BLM. The plain language of the regulation informs bidders that a bid constitutes a binding offer to BLM, and places a limit on bidders' actions once a bid is submitted. Nothing in the regulation limits the Secretary's discretion to accept or reject a lease offer up until lease issuance."

Notes: Public Lands News

Sage-grouse limits bill back. Eleven House Republicans reintroduced legislation (HR 527) January 13 that would effectively overturn an Obama administration's greater sage-grouse policy. The bill would reverse the three pillars of the policy. First, it would forbid implementation of BLM and Forest Service plans to protect the sage-grouse if states had management plans in place. Almost all of them do. Second, it would forbid listing of the greater sage-grouse under the Endangered Species Act. The Obama administration did defer listing in favor of the BLM and Forest Service plans. Finally, the bill would forbid the withdrawal of 10 million acres from hard rock mining, as begun by the administration. House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) is the chief sponsor. Variations of the sage-grouse limits legislation made their way into House and Senate versions of fiscal year 2017 appropriations bills last year, but those bills have not been enacted.

BLM sets interim leadership. With the conclusion of the Obama administration today (January 20) BLM Director Neil Kornze stepped down from that position. The bureau's Kristin Bail will serve as acting director for the time being. Bail served most recently as assistant director for resources and planning. The Trump administration has not yet announced its nominee for the post. The one name that has circulated most prominently is Utah House Rules Committee Chairman Michael E. Noel (R). He is a champion of the campaign in Utah to have 31 million acres of federal land transferred to the state.

Major oil and gas hit in NPRA. ConocoPhillips announced January 13 that it has made a significant oil and gas discovery in the northeastern corner of the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPRA). The find is in the Greater Mooses Tooth Unit and the two drilled wells are called the Willow Discovery. The two wells are about four miles apart. BLM and the Corps of Engineers took years to complete permitting for the landmark lease. On Feb. 13, 2015, BLM did give ConocoPhillips Alaska the go-ahead on Greater Mooses Tooth. Of the new discovery Joe Marushack, president of ConocoPhillips Alaska, said, "This discovery is tremendously exciting not only for ConocoPhillips, but also for the state of Alaska. Willow's proximity to existing infrastructure improves the economic viability of the discovery. Development of Willow, a potential multi-billion-dollar investment, could provide thousands of jobs during construction and could generate substantial revenue for the federal government, state, North Slope Borough, and communities in the NPRA." Alaska Gov. Bill Walker (I) congratulated ConocoPhillips and said, "We believe that continued hydrocarbon development in NPRA will benefit our state in terms of revenue, employment opportunities, and maintaining TAPS throughput." TAPS is the Trans Alaska Pipeline System. The State of Alaska has suffered a devastating economic blow in recent years because of diminished oil and gas development. TAPS has been delivering an ever-dwindling amount of oil. The NPRA discovery may help. Some 1.5 million acres of the 23 million-acre NPRA are under lease. A December 14 sale in NPRA yielded bids on 67 tracts on 613,000 for a total of \$18.8 million. ConocoPhillips bid on 65 of the 67 sold tracts.

Panel criticizes EPA mine bond rule. A federal small business advisory group is criticizing an EPA proposal to require hard rock miners to obtain bonds when carrying out projects under the Superfund law. The Small Business Advocacy Review Panel concludes in comments submitted to EPA, "Advocacy believes that the current approach could unnecessarily threaten the viability of small mines." Hard rock miners jumped on the report. "This report demonstrates what EPA has been told by industry, citizens, members of Congress and Western Governors all along: the rule is unnecessary and harmful to small business. EPA must do the right thing, stop wasting taxpayer funds and end this nonsense," said Laura Skaer, American Exploration & Mining Association Executive Director. EPA proposed the rule December 2 and is taking public comments until February 2, so the Trump administration will have the final say. However, the Trump administration may have to publish some sort

of rule because the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on Jan. 29, 2016, ordered EPA to complete regulations by Dec. 1, 2017.

Wyoming wolf delisting bill back. Rep. Lynn Cheney (R-Wyo.) and 14 of her colleagues introduced legislation (HR 424) January 10 to delist the northern gray wolf in Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act. The House approved a predecessor bill on Feb. 26, 2016, but it was not enacted. The wolf in Wyoming was originally delisted by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in August 2012, but a federal judge in September 2014 ordered it relisted. U.S. District Court Judge Amy Berman Jackson in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., said a State of Wyoming rule that led to the delisting failed. She said in a Sept. 23, 2014, decision that a state plan didn't guarantee a baseline of 10 breeding pairs and 100 wolves in the state. But, Rep. Cheney said, "Wyoming should be able to manage the gray wolf without outside interference. This bill will stop the 'management by litigation' culture that has done so much damage to our state."

Juen to head Public Lands Foundation. Jesse Juen, a former BLM state director in New Mexico, will serve as president of the Public Lands Foundation, which represents BLM retirees. He replaces Ed Shepard, himself a former BLM state director in Oregon. Juen lives in Albuquerque.

Conference Calendar

JANUARY

26-27. **Advanced Public Land Law Institute** in Santa Fe, N.M. Contact: Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, 9191 Sheridan Blvd., #203, Westminster, CO 80031. (303) 321-8100. <https://www.rmmlf.org>.

Jan. 28-Feb 2. **National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting** in Denver. Contact: National Association of Conservation Districts, 509 Capitol Court, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. (202) 547-6233. <http://www.nacdnet.org>.

Jan. 29-Feb. 2. **Society for Range Management Annual Meeting and Trade Show** in St. George, Utah. Contact: Society for Range Management, 30 W 27th Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO 80215-6601. (303) 986-3309. <http://www.rangelands.org>.

FEBRUARY

1-3. **Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show** in Nashville, Tenn. Contact: National Cattlemen's Beef Association Convention & Meetings Department, 9110 East Nichols Avenue, Suite 300, Centennial, CO 80112. <http://www.beef.org>.

12-16. **Public Lands Alliance Convention and Trade Show** in Arlington, Va. Contact: Association of Partners for Public Lands, 2401 Blueridge Ave, Suite 303, Wheaton, MD 20902. (301) 946-9475. <http://www.appl.org>

19-22. **119th National Western Mining Conference** at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. Contact: www.coloradomining.org

19-22. **Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration Annual Meeting** in Denver. Contact: <http://www.smenet.org>.

25-March 1. **National Association of Counties Legislative Conference** in Washington, D.C. Contact: National Association of Counties, 440 First St., N.W., 8th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20001. (202) 393-6226. FAX (202) 393-2630. <http://www.naco.org>.

MARCH

4-11. **North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference** in Spokane, Wash. Contact: Wildlife Management Institute, 1146 19th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036. (202) 371-1808. <http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org>.

Federal Parks & Rec

addendum to Public Lands News

January 20, 2017

- * *Grijalva keeps up pressure for permanent LWCF*
- * *Jarvis's policies complete; critic eases off a bit*
- * *Yosemite has escaped flooding, thus far*
- * *Zinke survives confirmation hearing (See Public Lands News article)*
- * *Obama designates five new monuments (See Public Lands News article)*
- * *Dems hit back against land shifts (See Public Lands News article)*

Campaign to make LWCF permanent cranked up in House

The politics are complicated but Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) took a first step January 12 toward permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). He reintroduced legislation (HR 502) to make the program permanent.

The law is presently authorized through September 30, 2018.

LWCF got a significant boost from Rep. Ryan Zinke (D-Mont.) January 17 at his Senate Energy Committee confirmation hearing for secretary of Interior.

When Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) asked if he supported making the LWCF program permanent, Zinke said, "I do. I think land and water conservation has been important to Montana, certainly in many states. I think we should look at it . . . Lastly, I do think the states and local communities should have a say where those funds go."

Legislation to make LWCF permanent almost made it over the finish line in December in an omnibus energy bill. But differences of opinion between the House and Senate on a host of provisions did the bill in.

The lead sponsor of the energy bill, Senate Energy Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), has said she wants to renew her campaign to move the measure early in this Congress.

However, her counterpart as chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah), has been hesitant to give carte blanche to a permanent LWCF.

Last summer Bishop did introduce a "discussion draft" bill that would have extended LWCF for seven years and substantially realigned program priorities.

Bishop's draft would have slashed funding for the federal side of LWCF but given greater support to the state side. States traditionally receive a small fraction of the total LWCF pie; the draft Bishop bill would have guaranteed them 45 percent. In addition Bishop would have allocated five percent of LWCF to an urban recreation fund, sort of a follow-on to an Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery program. He would have allocated just 3.5 percent to federal land acquisition.

The Grijalva bill is simpler. It simply makes LWCF permanent and allocates at least 1.5 percent of the annual LWCF appropriation for sportsmen's access to public lands.

In its version of an omnibus energy bill the Senate last year would not only

have made LWCF permanent, it would also have set aside \$150 million each year for Park Service maintenance from offshore royalties, but in a separate fund from LWCF.

The Senate provision also would have allotted at least 1.5 percent of LWCF to sportsmen's access, and allotted 40 percent to federal land acquisition and 40 percent to a group of programs, including state grants.

The House-passed version of the energy bill contained none of those provisions. Indeed the House rejected an amendment on the House floor May 25, 2016, that would have directed House conferees to accept the Senate LWCF provision. The House said no in a close 205-to-212 vote.

As a first order of business the Grijalva permanent LWCF bill would require the support of President-elect Trump and his nominee for secretary of Interior, Zinke. In the last Congress Zinke cosponsored Grijalva's bill, along with 25 other Republicans.

However, some conservative groups, such as the American Land Rights Association, are critics of LWCF and have faulted Zinke for cosponsoring the Grijalva bill.

To put pressure on Bishop Grijalva sent a letter asking for hearings and immediate action on his bill.

Said Grijalva, "The brinkmanship over LWCF in the last Congress was a disservice to the American people, who overwhelmingly support the program. By moving quickly to pass this bill, we can avoid a similar situation this time around and show that Congress can, in fact, get something done. Voters across the political spectrum understand the value of LWCF in their communities. There is no room for ideology here."

In an ideal world LWCF advocates would prefer legislation that Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.) introduced in the last Congress that would not only have made LWCF permanent, but also have guaranteed \$900 million per year for the program without further appropriations. Cantwell is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Energy Committee.

NPS finishes off Jarvis policy; PEER eases criticism

The Park Service completed January 18 a third and final leg of former director Jonathan B. Jarvis's overarching policy for the agency - a system plan that envisions the future of the parks.

NPS described the system plan this way: "The purpose of a System Plan is to provide 'a framework for the proactive direction for the future of the national park system, identifying gaps in the nation's protected natural and cultural areas, and establishing a collaborative conservation system that fully reflects our nation's cultural and natural heritage.'"

The other two legs of the stool are a Director's Order #100 that would have NPS tilt toward protection when the impacts of an activity were uncertain and a Director's Order #21 that governs partnerships and philanthropy.

One of the severest critics of former National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis's policy on philanthropic donations and partnerships is backing off, a little.

The environmental group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) said it still objects to key provisions of the December 28 Jarvis order.

(Jarvis stepped down January 3.)

PEER faulted such things as corporate labeling within parks and NPS involvement with alcoholic beverage companies.

But PEER said Jarvis eased off some on corporate logos and agency employee fundraising. "The original sweeping plan suffered from sloppy drafting and poorly thought-out concepts," said PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch. "We are pleased the Park Service edged away from its complete corporate embrace."

Throughout last fall Ruch called for Jarvis to resign because of charges of sexual misconduct in several field offices, among other things.

Before leaving office Jarvis put in place two major policy orders - the partnership Order #21 and on December 20 an Order #100 that insures that protection of the resource is a first priority for the agency, at least for a little while.

Order #100: Jarvis signed the protection Order #100 in the face of criticism from Republican Congressional policy makers.

At the heart of the white paper lies a "Precautionary Principle" strategy. It would establish protection as a priority even if a threat were not clear and imminent.

Order #100 describes the policy this way: "The Precautionary Principle requires that, when an action, activity, or emerging condition raises plausible or probable threats of harm to park resources and/or human health, management should take anticipatory action even when there is uncertainty. When such uncertainty exists, NPS managers will take actions that err on the side of caution to protect resources in accordance with existing authorities, including NPS obligations to prevent resource impairment . . ."

The order is a prime candidate for a reversal or a rewrite by the Trump administration, but that may take time. NPS devoted four years to writing the Jarvis proposal.

Order #21: The partnership order, Director's Order #21, is designed to make it easier for partners to contribute to the National Park System, and for park employees to accept those contributions. At the same time Jarvis said the order would guard against commercialization of the parks.

The final order does include several provisions that critics have complained would lead to increased commercialization of the parks and would compromise agency employees.

One such provision would allow NPS leaders to accept donations of up to \$5 million, including associate/assistant directors, regional directors and superintendents.

A second controversial provision would outright allow partnerships with companies that produce and sell alcohol.

Says the order, "After the effective date of this Order and under its provisions and standards, the NPS may permit - after thorough review and approval by the Director - philanthropic partnerships with, and accept donations from, corporations that produce or distribute alcohol."

The final Order #21 is available at:

https://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DO_21.htm.

Director's Order #100 is available at: https://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DO_100.htm.

The system plan is available at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/files/NationalParkServiceSystemPlan2017.pdf>.

Yosemite Valley has escaped devastating floods, so far

Yosemite Valley is threatened by flooding reminiscent of a 1997 flood that cost an estimated \$250 million to clean up.

Thus far, park officials say the 2017 West Coast Pineapple Express - a series of major rain and snow storms - have not done nearly as much damage.

The park has suffered some disruptions, though. Park officials have betimes been forced to close Yosemite to the public. And more storms are forecast for next week.

On January 9 the Merced River at Pohono Bridge reached almost three feet above flood stage of 10 feet. NPS said, "The park is currently assessing the impacts and will address any repair needs in the coming days and weeks."

But the park subsequently said that the January 9 flooding was well below the 17-foot mark that it anticipated. And, while the park and campgrounds were messy, the park is pretty much "intact," as Yosemite spokesman Scott Gediman told the local press.

Although the park was closed for several days around January 9, it is now mostly open for business. Indeed the central and northern California area has had a relatively quiet week.

If the Pineapple Express cranks up again, as is forecast, Yosemite officials hope they are ready. The repairs the park made following the 1997 flood are designed to minimize damages from future floods, such as raised roads, raised buildings and relocation of facilities.

While some repairs were made immediately after the 1997 flood, Yosemite was not able to complete a land management plan for Yosemite Valley until Feb. 14, 2014. Environmentalist litigation slowed the planning. And the park's biggest critic - Rep. Tom McClintock (R-Calif.) - strenuously objected to limitations on commercial uses in various early iterations of a plan.

But on publication of the final plan McClintock said, "I am particularly gratified that the final report has rejected radical proposals to close many traditional tourist amenities at the park, including swimming pools, raft and bike rentals, horseback riding stables, and ice skating and lodging facilities. The plan retains the historic Sugar Pine Bridge, maintains retail services to accommodate park visitors and minimizes the loss of campsites and parking - all significant improvements from the draft report."

He added, "Although I remain concerned about some aspects of the plan, my first reaction is one of relief. Yosemite Valley belongs to the American people for the express purpose of 'public use, resort and recreation.'"

The plan took a long and torturous path. NPS published a first edition in August 2000. Friends of Yosemite Valley and Mariposans for the Environment and Responsible Government took the plan to court and, in 2003, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held that the plan failed because it did not consider user capacities.

Notes: Federal Parks & Rec

Major ORV settlement in Utah. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) struck a deal January 13 with conservationists and off-road vehicle (ORV) advocates to end eight years of litigation over travel management plans on 10 million acres of public lands in Utah. Under the settlement, which has been submitted to federal court, BLM will (1) update some site-specific travel management plans, (2) conduct additional cultural surveys and (3) update an air resource strategy. In return the conservation groups including the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance will dismiss lawsuits against six travel management plans and a November 2014 oil and gas lease sale. Several intervenors said they would accept the settlement including the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration and a number of oil and gas companies. The settlement is available here: [https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/documents/files/APPELLATE-%23349183-v2-SUWA - Final Settlement Agreement Signed with Maps.pdf/](https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/documents/files/APPELLATE-%23349183-v2-SUWA%20-%20Final%20Settlement%20Agreement%20Signed%20with%20Maps.pdf/).

GAO analyzes NPS maintenance. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) offered a mixed [report](#) January 13 on the efforts of the Park Service and Congress to catch up with a \$11 billion maintenance backlog. On the upside GAO said that NPS in fiscal year 2015 spent about one-third of its budget on maintenance - \$1.16 billion out of a total appropriation of \$3.3 billion. In addition GAO said NPS has begun deploying a new program called a Capital Investment Strategy to prioritize projects. On the downside GAO said NPS has not developed a system to determine whether the strategy is working. Said GAO, "Evaluating the strategy may help the Park Service determine if the strategy is achieving intended outcomes or if changes need to be made." Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) requested the report. Said Murkowski, who chairs the Senate Energy Committee, "The longer our parks go without the attention they need, the more costly it will become for taxpayers to properly steward and restore these historical and cultural gems. I am encouraged that NPS agrees with GAO's recommendations and look forward to seeing them implemented." The report is available at: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-136>.

Park Service workplace rating low. Out of 305 federal agencies surveyed for employee satisfaction, the Park Service comes in near the bottom, 262nd. Other federal land management agencies did a little better with the Forest Service coming in 225th and the Bureau of Land Management 240th. The Fish and Wildlife Service scored in the top third at 99th. The rating was compiled by the Partnership for Public Service, a largely nonpartisan group. Tom Bernstein, president of the Chelsea Piers, is chairman of the group. The organization asked three questions of federal employees: "I recommend my organization as a good place to work. Considering everything, how satisfied are you with your job? Considering everything, how satisfied are you with your organization?" The report is available at: <https://ourpublicservice.org/>.

Alaska sues Obama hunting regs. The State of Alaska said January 13 that it has filed a lawsuit against a Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) rule that limits predator hunting in refuges. The state argues that it has sole authority to regulate hunting in refuges and national parks in Alaska and that its "intensive predator management" policy should stand. FWS issued the regulation on Aug. 3, 2016. Former Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Director Dan Ashe detonated the controversy when he published a blog attacking the Alaska policy. "For example, over the past several years, the Alaska Board of Game has unleashed a withering attack on bears and wolves that is wholly at odds with America's long tradition of ethical, sportsmanlike, fair-chase hunting, in something they call 'intensive predator management,'" he said. But Alaska Attorney General Jahna Lindemuth said, "These regulations are about the federal government trying to control Alaskans' way of life and how Alaskans conduct their business. This is contrary to state and federal law."

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GOP priorities include rule revocations; Zinke stumbles

The Republican Congress hit the deck running this week as it launched its campaign to reverse eight years of Obama administration public lands policy.

As an initial matter House and Senate Republican leaders began gearing up to use a Congressional Review Act to revoke Obama regulations posted during the last half of 2016.

To get the ball rolling the House January 4 approved a budget measure (HR 21) that would amend the Congressional Review Act to allow the House and Senate to bundle a number of Obama regulations into one legislative document. That would avoid having to repeal regulations one-by-one.

High on the list of possible revocations are a BLM rule governing methane emissions, an EPA rule on methane emissions, a National Park Service rule governing oil and gas development, and a Fish and Wildlife Service rule governing oil and gas development.

Further on the park and recreation front, former National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis on December 20 established a new policy that would give highest protection of the parks highest priority. House and Senate committee leaders complained about the policy when it was first proposed because it could limit other uses in the parks. So it could be a target for Congressional Republicans.

To slow national monument designations Republicans are expected to introduce variations on legislation from the last Congress that would curb a President's authority to designate monuments under the Antiquities Act.

The most sweeping bill last year came from Senate Energy Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska). Her bill would have required the approval of both Congress and a state governor before a President could designate a national monument anywhere in the country.

And President-elect Trump could chip in by terminating a Jan. 15, 2015, order from secretary of Interior Sally Jewell establishing a partial moratorium on the leasing of federal coal while a programmatic EIS is prepared.

Zinke problem: Meanwhile, Trump's announced selection of Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) as its nominee for the next secretary of Interior has hit a speed bump. Both *eenews.net* and *The Intercept* have reported that while serving in the military as an officer of SEAL Team Six Zinke was accused of travel fraud.

That is, he allegedly billed the military for official travel when he was actually going home to renovate his house. The Navy didn't bring charges because the Navy SEALs have a tradition of avoiding scandal, according to the reports. The infractions allegedly occurred in 1998, 1999 and the early 2000s. Whether that will serve to scrub Zinke's nomination remains to be seen.

Support on the right for Zinke is not universal. Property rights advocates such as the American Land Rights Association (ALRA) last month mounted a campaign against his nomination, asking its members to contact the Trump transition team.

ALRA is most disturbed by Zinke's position on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The Congressman has consistently supported full funding of \$900 million per year for LWCF as well as permanent authority for the program.

"Forward this message to anyone on the Trump Transition Team," ALRA told its members in a bulletin. "Critical that you call anyone you know on Trump Transition Team listed below to oppose Rep. Ryan Zinke for Interior. Rep. McMorris Rodgers is far better choice." Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.) was reportedly the Trump administration's first choice for the job, but she was replaced by Zinke.

From the left environmentalists praised Zinke on public land retention but not on public lands policy in bulk. Earthjustice called his record "awful."

Said Drew Caputo, Earthjustice Vice President of Lands, Oceans and Wildlife, "He has supported measures to increase production of dirty and climate-heating fossil fuels, reduce or eliminate public involvement in management of public lands, and eliminate protections for endangered species."

On the policy front, as we have reported, Zinke has generally supported commodity development of the public lands, while demanding retention of the public lands in federal ownership.

Most famously in January 2015 Zinke told the Montana State legislature, "I will not tolerate selling our public lands."

On the other hand Zinke has backed commodity development. Of a final Nov. 15, 2016, BLM rule to regulate methane emissions he said the bureau "has issued a duplicative and unnecessary rule against responsible oil and gas development in Montana and on sovereign Tribal lands. This rule is a stark reminder that we need to invest in infrastructure projects like the Keystone pipeline, so we don't need to flare excess gas."

Well into mid-December Rep. McMorris Rodgers had been considered the frontrunner for the Interior position but President-elect Donald Trump's son Donald Jr. reportedly preferred Zinke. President-elect Trump and his son have consistently advocated retention of the public lands, despite a Republican Party Platform that proposes divestiture. (*See related article page 6.*)

Regulatory reversal: Meanwhile, the Trump administration and its Republican allies continue to gear up to reverse regulations and executive orders from the Obama administration. House and Senate Republican leaders are preparing to use a Congressional Review Act that authorizes the House and Senate to revoke with a simple majority vote any rule enacted within the last 60 "legislative" days.

Thus, on January 4 the House approved the budget measure that would allow Congress to bundle several Obama regulations into one legislative document, and then reverse the whole package. That would avoid having to repeal regulations piecemeal.

According to an [analysis](#) prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS) after the election, the act may apply to any regulation issued as early as May 30 of this year.

Revocation of those regulations is child's play compared to a recommendation House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) reportedly forwarded to the Trump transition team December 5. Bishop said that President Trump should roll back noxious national monument designations (*see following article.*)

His immediate target is a December 28 designation by President Obama of a Bears Ears National Monument in southern Utah. But he also told the Utah press that Trump could by executive order reverse the 1996 designation of a 1.7 million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah by then President Clinton.

But some scholars believe a President would have no such reversal authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906. The Congressional Research Service said in a report:

"No President has ever abolished or revoked a national monument proclamation, so the existence or scope of any such authority has not been tested in courts. However, some legal analyses since at least the 1930s have concluded that the Antiquities Act, by its terms, does not authorize the President to repeal proclamations, and that the President also lacks implied authority to do so."

Cattlemen set an agenda: The livestock industry, as represented by the Public Lands Council, for one has laid out a most ambitious agenda that asks President-elect Trump in his first 100 days to "bring an immediate halt to the Sage Grouse Resource Management Plans, repeal the sprawling monument designations made through abuse of the Antiquities Act, address the critical habitat designations imposing stifling restrictions on landowners, and immediately withdraw EPA's 'waters of the United States' rule and the Bureau of Land Management's planning 2.0 rule."

Dave Eliason, president of the Public Lands Council, said January 4, "While

the Bureau of Land Management has a clear directive to manage BLM lands for multiple use and sustained yield, instead focus has shifted toward 'conservation' without responsible management. The priorities laid out by the associations are necessary to restore balance to federal land management and set an agenda that will ensure that ranchers can continue their tradition of stewardship well into the future."

Obama designates big Utah, Nevada monuments; GOP upset

As expected President Obama designated December 28 a Bears Ears National Monument and a Gold Butte National Monument, setting the stage this year for a titanic battle as western Republicans attempt to overturn the designations. The legal authority for such reversals is much in question.

For now Obama has outraged the Utah Congressional delegation by designating a 1.35 million-acres Bears Ears monument in southern Utah, although that is significantly less than the 1.9 million acres advocates had recommended.

And with the support of Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.) he has designated a 300,000-acres Gold Butte monument adjacent to the Bundy Ranch in Nevada. Cliven Bundy is the Nevada rancher who is often described as a national leader of protests against BLM and Forest Service land managers.

Both areas are on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property, but in an unusual twist Obama established a Bears Ears Commission of tribal leaders to advise on management.

Said Obama, "Today, I am designating two new national monuments in the desert landscapes of southeastern Utah and southern Nevada to protect some of our country's most important cultural treasures, including abundant rock art, archeological sites, and lands considered sacred by Native American tribes."

Sen. Reid was effusive in his praise of Obama, saying, "This is personal for me. I still remember the wonder I felt traveling from dusty Searchlight to stunning Piute Springs as a child - it seemed like the entire world had opened up to me. Everything I've done for the environment since has stemmed from those early experiences, and today's designation is a wonderful capstone to a career of fighting to protect Nevada's pristine landscapes."

But Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) led a chorus of complaints against the Bears Ears designation. Among other things he said the President had no authority to establish a Bears Ears Commission of tribal leaders, a strategy Bishop himself was attempting to implement in a bill (HR 5780) he had devised to protect Bears Ears.

"This is a diversion," he said. "The Utah delegation wants to give management authority to Native Americans; the administration can't. Only Congress can legally do so. This administration over promised, failed to deliver, and is now trying to hide its ineptitude."

Nevada Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.) objected to the Gold Butte designation, saying Congress should do the job (although there was only a snowball's chance that the Republican Congress would set aside so much public land.)

Still, Heller introduced a bill (S 22) January 3 that would forbid the designation of national monuments in Nevada without Congressional approval.

The livestock industry as represented by the Public Lands Council agreed with Heller. "Designating a monument in this manner - under the cloak of darkness and without even the decency of notifying the local communities, the states, or the congressional delegations of Utah or Nevada - speaks volumes about the disregard

this administration has for local input," said council president Dave Eliason, who is also a rancher in Utah.

Five Indian tribes located near the Bears Ears area - Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni, Hopi, Navajo, and Ute Tribe of the Uintah - led the campaign for a 1.9 million-acre national monument, along with environmental groups.

The president of the Navajo Nation, Russell Begaye, said protection of the Bears Ears area was essential to the heritage of the tribes. "Bears Ears National Monument is sacred not only to the Dinépeople, but also our Hopi, Ute, and Zuni neighbors," he said. "These tribes came together in an unprecedented show of unity to conserve these lands for future generations of all Americans."

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA) partnered with the Indians for years in working for the monument and urged Congress to go along. Said SUWA's Executive Director Scott Groene, "We urge the Utah congressional delegation to show leadership in coming down on the right side of history, by respecting the Tribes and supporting the Monument."

The designation of the two monuments marks the 28th and 29th times Obama has used his authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate national monuments on federal lands, usually on BLM-managed land. In recent major actions on July 9, 2015, he designated a 704,000-acre Basin and Range National Monument in Nevada and on May 21, 2014, he established a 500,000-acre Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in New Mexico.

Obama is expected to designate still more monuments in his last days from these candidates - Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument in northwestern Arizona, Owyhee Canyonlands monument in Oregon and expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon. That is by no means an exclusive list.

A lead advocate of a 1.7 million-acre Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.), was let down when Obama didn't include it in his December 28 actions. "While I'm disappointed that the was left out, I remain hopeful and optimistic that President Obama will uphold his promise to tribal communities and designate the monument before he leaves office," he said.

Legal situation: House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bishop recommended to the Trump transition team December 5 that the President-elect roll back objectionable national monument designations.

After meeting with the Trump transition team Bishop said, "Any monument designation that lacks local support, is excessive, or violates the terms of the Antiquities Act will be scrutinized and is easier to abolish. Today's discussions with the transition team examined options for the incoming administration. The talks were positive and encouraging."

A Bishop press release adds that the Antiquities Act of 1906 "does not prohibit a president from abolishing or modifying the terms of a previously declared monument which has not been ratified by Congress."

But some scholars believe a President would have limited authority under the Antiquities Act. Indeed, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) in a [report](#) it prepared last month on the act questioned whether reversals would be legal.

"No President has ever abolished or revoked a national monument proclamation, so the existence or scope of any such authority has not been tested in courts," said CRS. "However, some legal analyses since at least the 1930s have concluded that the Antiquities Act, by its terms, does not authorize the President to repeal proclamations, and that the President also lacks implied authority to do so."

The legal analysis CRS referred to was a 1938 opinion written by then-Attorney General Homer Cummings ruling out the undesignation of a national monument by a President.

House rule would exempt conveyances from budget offsets

The House made it easier January 3 for future legislation to transfer federal lands to states or local governments. The House action would exempt legislation to make such transfers from Congressional pay-as-you-go limits.

Under old House rules sponsors of legislation to transfer federal lands to states would have had to come up with budgetary offsets to balance against the value of lost federal oil, gas, coal, minerals, timber, rangelands, etc. Those offsets could include either new revenues (taxes) or spending reductions.

But the package of new rules (H Res 5) the House approved 233-to-190 says "a conveyance of Federal land to a State, local government, or tribal entity shall not be considered as providing new budget authority, decreasing revenues, increasing mandatory spending or increasing outlays."

That does not mean Congress is about to immediately transfer federal lands to states. Congress would still have to move individual land transfer bills against immense opposition. And Senate rules still require offsets.

Besides, leading Republicans say they oppose such transfers, beginning with President-elect Donald Trump and his choice for secretary of Interior, Rep. Ryan Zinke (D-Mont.)

Still H Res 5 would make it slightly easier for the House at least to approve legislation to transfer federal land to states, local governments or tribes. And that reflects the Republican Party Platform that supports conveyance of unspecified federal lands out of the public domain.

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah) reportedly sponsored the provision.

Ranking committee Democrat Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) attacked. "The House Republican plan to give away America's public lands for free is outrageous and absurd," Grijalva said. "This proposed rule change would make it easier to implement this plan by allowing the Congress to give away every single piece of property we own, for free, and pretend we have lost nothing of any value."

Environmentalists also objected. "Right out of the gate, Congressional Republicans are declaring open season on federal lands," said Alan Rowsome, senior government relations director for The Wilderness Society. "We're not even a day into this new Congress and House Republicans are voting to give away our nation's parks, forests and refuges disguised in a budget rulemaking procedure."

The Republican Party Platform proposes to unload unspecified federal lands. That has sometimes been interpreted in the media to mean all federal lands, including national parks. However, the platform's plank on disposing of federal lands refers only to "certain" lands.

Besides, Republican candidate Trump has more than once said he personally opposes the disposal of not only national parks but all federal lands. As he told *Field & Stream* magazine in January, "I don't like the idea because I want to keep the lands great, and you don't know what the state is going to do."

In addition Rep. Zinke has been outspoken in opposition to the transfer of

federal lands to the states. Most famously in January 2015 he told the Montana State legislature, "I will not tolerate selling our public lands."

More recently on June 15, 2015, in a House Natural Resources Committee mark-up he voted against a bill (reintroduced January 3 as HR 232) that would authorize the transfer of up to 2 million acres per state of national forest to a state.

Said Zinke of the bill introduced by senior Republican Don Young (R-Alaska), "I'm starting to wonder how many times I have to tell these guys in leadership I'm not going to allow Montana's public lands to be sold or given away."

Obama team keeps cancelling contentious O&G leases

The Obama administration took a major step last month toward cancelling the sale of 39,490 acres of oil and gas leases in the Wyoming Range of the Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming.

Under Secretary Of Agriculture for Natural Resources Robert Bonnie approved a draft record of [decision](#) that would forbid the issuance of leases on 30 parcels sold in 2006. He is expected to sign a final decision by mid-January, just before the Trump administration takes office.

That would mark the fourth time in the last two months the Obama administration had cancelled oil and gas lease in the Rockies. Two previous actions came in Colorado and one in Montana.

The oil and gas industry is perturbed, charging that the cancellations are not legal. "This latest retroactive cancellation of leases joins two other such actions in the White River National Forest of Colorado and the Badger-Two Medicine area of Montana," said Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance. "All these involve leases, which are property rights, sold a decade or more ago. Retroactively denying property rights long after those rights were granted is contrary to basic American jurisprudence."

In each of the four instances the Obama administration has asserted that other values in the neighborhood of the cancelled leases were more important than energy development.

As Bonnie said in the draft Wyoming Range decision, "Comments from the citizens of Wyoming and local communities, even those that make their living directly or indirectly from the energy sector, provided significant rationale and affirmation of the analysis to justify choosing (a no leasing alternative.) Many stated that the cumulative negative effects on the historical culture, the recreational benefits, the lifestyle that draws people to live here, and the associated economic benefit stemming from these values, outweigh the economic benefit that would result from the oil and gas development associated with this project."

The Obama administration is clearing the deck of long-standing, troubled oil and gas lease approvals.

In Montana the administration said just before Thanksgiving that Devon Energy Corporation will return to the federal government 15 oil and gas leases just outside Glacier National Park in the Badger-Two Medicine area of Montana.

On November 30 BLM posted a final [decision](#) that calls for the cancellation of 25 oil and gas leases in the White River National Forest in Colorado.

In a third move in Colorado BLM issued a record of [decision](#) November 28 to settle eight years of disputes over oil and gas development on the Roan Plateau.

The plan would cancel almost all leases on the top of the plateau and return \$47.6 million to the lessees.

Whether the actions can be reversed by Congress or by the Trump administration is unclear. Certainly in the Glacier situation the lessee Devon agreed to return the leases and, if it were to ask the Trump administration to reverse course, environmentalists might tie the leases up in the courts in perpetuity.

And in the Roan situation the Interior Department reached agreement with lessee Bill Barrett Corporation and environmental groups on the lease cancellations.

Said the Wyoming Outdoor Council of the Wyoming Range decision, "This decision approaches what we hope will be the end of a long chapter of uncertainty. Unfortunately, because the decision comes so close to the change in presidential administrations, it is still unclear whether it will persist."

Forest Service documentation, including the draft Bonnie decision, is available at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=48737>.

BLM locks in Moab O&G plan; what can Trump do about it?

The Obama administration took a major step December 30 toward implementing new master plans for oil and gas development across the West.

The step consisted of a [master plan](#) published by BLM in the *Federal Register* that supposedly balances oil and gas development in 785,000 acres in the Moab and Monticello Field Offices in Utah with protection of conservation lands. The plan responds in part to hotly-debated Bush administration lease sales there in 2008.

The Moab plan is intended to serve as a prototype for a dozen other such plans being developed in Wyoming, Colorado and Utah. However, the incoming Trump administration may have different ideas because it sympathizes with the oil and gas companies that have criticized the Moab plan.

When the Moab plan was first proposed in August 2015, Fidelity Exploration and Production Co., which holds several federal leases in the area totaling as many as 120,000 acres, was not pleased. Although the plan addresses future leasing, the company said it would have serious impacts on existing projects in that it would prevent adding new leases to the projects.

Three months later in November 2015 Fidelity closed down much of its Rocky Mountain operations, including a Denver headquarters and nine field offices in Utah, Montana, Texas and Wyoming.

Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell had a more positive take. "This plan takes a landscape-level approach to balancing the protection of the iconic scenery in and around Moab with access to the rich energy resources found there," she said. "As the first Master Leasing Plan in Utah, the collaborative process is a model for how communities can work together to support thoughtful development while protecting world-class environmental, cultural and recreational resources."

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance said the plan strikes the proper balance between development and protection. "The Moab Master Leasing Plan gives BLM the right tools to guide future oil, gas and potash development in the heart of Utah's red rock country," said Stephen Bloch, legal director for alliance. "The MLP gives industry certainty where leasing and ultimately development can take place and also makes plain the terms and conditions for those activities."

In that it took BLM four years to write the Moab plan the Trump administration

might need years to reverse it. However, the Trump team could prevent implementation of a number of other plans BLM has been working on.

BLM laid out proposed alternatives for one of those other plans - a San Rafael Desert plan - the same day it completed the Moab plan - December 15. The San Rafael area is immediately west of the Moab area in Utah.

On Dec. 19, 2008, the Bush administration BLM sold 116 parcels in a State of Utah oil and gas lease sale that drew national interest. Environmentalists immediately filed a lawsuit charging that many of the parcels were too close to wild public lands with wilderness potential.

In the face of protests from an array of interests BLM had pulled more than 110 tracts from the sale but still offered 131 parcels extending over 163,714 acres. BLM sold 89 percent of the 131 parcels covering 148,598 acres and received \$7,473,768.50 in bids, rental and administrative fees.

Subsequently, a federal judge on Jan. 16, 2009, blocked the issuance of 100,000 acres of the leases and suggested the environmentalist litigants would probably succeed in a lawsuit against BLM. At that point former Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar in February 2009 withdrew 77 parcels that had been sold, touching off litigation from the oil and gas industry.

About that time the Obama administration began to revise the oil and gas leasing and permitting system from top to bottom, eventually adding another layer of environmental reviews prior to leasing.

As part of the administration's revision to the system BLM began to write its master leasing plans, with the Moab plan the first to surface. It would apply to almost 1 million acres of land, counting both split estate land where BLM managed the subsurface minerals and surface federal land.

The Moab plan is available at: <http://go.usa.gov/xksyS>.

Western govts list consultation grievances with Obama

The Western Governors' Association last month gave the incoming Trump administration notice that they expect early, substantial consultation on public lands policy.

The governors approved seven resolutions demanding consultation, saying "states should be granted the maximum administrative discretion possible and should be treated as co-regulators." A Democrat, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock (D), is serving as chairman of the association.

The roles of the federal government and state governments in managing public lands are spelled out variously in the U.S. Constitution, a web of laws and an Aug 10, 1999, executive order from President Bill Clinton.

In practice western governors said the Obama administration has failed to consult with them adequately. As Exhibit A the governors in a resolution [2017-2](#) complain that the administration is developing new coal and oil and gas regulations, including imposing a moratorium on coal leasing, without talking to them.

Said the governors, "Despite the states' substantial interest in the revenues associated with these programs and agreements, the federal government has often limited the states from participating in the decisions affecting these revenues. For example, in rulemaking related to oil and gas and in the federal coal program, previous avenues for state involvement were eliminated and prospective state

involvement has been limited to participation as a general stakeholder."

Similarly the Western Governors' Association in resolution [2017-03](#) asked for limits on landscape-level planning. BLM in particular in a new planning rule of December 12 emphasized landscape planning, which some states say is designed to take input away from localities near BLM field offices.

"Federal landscape-level planning presents new issues for Governors to consider as they attempt to ensure consistency between state and federal requirements," said the resolution. "Agencies should provide Governors sufficient time to ensure a full and complete state review."

The governors said coordinated planning is particularly important under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Obama administration's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) did tilt toward the states Sept. 27, 2016, when it said petitions for the listing of species under the ESA must first alert each state where the species lives.

That will give the states an opportunity to submit data on the species directly to FWS or the National Marine Fisheries Administration.

On the other hand 18 states filed a lawsuit Nov. 29, 2016, against a separate FWS rule on critical habitat that the states said would give FWS authority to designate critical habitat for a species whether that habitat is used by a species or not. FWS published the rule on Feb. 11, 2016.

The western governors said their resolutions in part are aimed at the incoming Trump administration. "The inauguration of a new Administration presents an unusual opportunity to realign the state-federal relationship," the governors said. "Western Governors are eager to work in true partnership with the federal government and call upon the Administration to engage them in the development and execution of policy that impacts state authority."

The governors also revived an old complaint about the use of two percent of the state share of energy royalties to pay for federal administration of royalty collection programs.

"These agreements and programs are not proper subjects for cutbacks and sequestration," said the governors in resolution 2017-02. "For example, royalty payments owed to states are not federal expenditures. Federal land management agencies simply administer the distribution of those revenues to states. The federal government has no discretion over this money. Payment to the states is the only authorized use for these revenues."

Congress ordered the two percent deduction; federal agencies did not take the action on their own.

DoI does Alaska a big favor - speeds state land claims

Lost in the turmoil over an Obama administration ban on offshore oil and gas development in northern Alaska last month was a new BLM initiative to help the state's economy.

BLM said December 19 it was adopting new technology that will allow the state to lay claim to 40 million acres of land under the Alaska Statehood Act in half the time and half the cost as the existing program would require. The state has already received 60 million acres.

BLM said the new technology will use satellite navigation to identify state-claimed lands and their boundaries. Under the old system survey teams were shipped

to the filed for long periods. The teams then struggled through the backcountry to set monuments in the ground at regular, two-mile intervals.

BLM said that instead of taking 20 years to accomplish the task at a cost of \$120 million, it will be done in 10 years at a cost of \$60 million.

Said BLM Director Neil Kornze January 19, "I asked the BLM team in Alaska if we could come up with a more efficient way to complete the land transfers that are owed to the state. The innovations the team brought forward - that we're implementing today - ensure that the BLM is surveying land in ways that are faster, more accurate, and more cost-effective."

That initiative should help the state obtain use of the full 100 million acres it was entitled to under the Alaska Statehood Act of 1959. But the Alaska Congressional delegation and Gov. Bill Walker (I-Alaska) are concentrating their fire on other issues, such as offshore oil and gas development and a road to the community of King Cove.

The delegation was particularly upset about the Obama administration's December 20 announcement that it was placing 115 million acres of the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea off limits to oil and gas leasing. However, the Trump administration reportedly intends to open much of that territory back up to leasing, if it can legally.

The delegation also continues to be upset with the Obama administration's refusal to authorize a land exchange to allow the construction of a road corridor through a wildlife refuge to the community of King Cove. The road through the Izembek National Wilderness Refuge would provide access to emergency health care for the citizens of King Cove.

Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell on Dec. 23, 2013, denied authority to construct the road because she didn't want to set the precedent of harming a wilderness area.

Just before the third anniversary of that decision last month Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) said the Alaska delegation would go all out to reverse Jewell's decision.

"The best news for the people of King Cove and much of the rest of Alaska is that the Obama administration is almost over," she said. "Along with Sen. (Dan) Sullivan (R-Alaska) and Congressman (Don) Young (R-Alaska), I will do everything I can to work with our new president to end the years of suffering and injustice that King Cove has faced at the hands of our own federal government."

Young said last month that he has already discussed the issue with the Trump administration's choice to be secretary of Interior, Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.)

Greens single out 10 species for help; ranchers scoff

A coalition of conservationists last month recommended that the Obama administration give priority to the protection of 10 species, including two found largely on public lands - the greater sage-grouse and the gray wolf.

Said Leda Huta, executive director of the Endangered Species Coalition, "We hope the next administration takes seriously its responsibility to protect endangered species and habitat. The fate of species is in their hands. Their actions could dictate whether species such as the vaquita, the red wolf, and others, become extinct in the wild."

However, if President-elect Trump follows the lead of western Republicans, as he is expected to do, he will become a critic of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), rather than a protection advocate.

Indeed the Public Lands Council and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association said the government should let ranchers be the stewards of imperiled species. "If the Endangered Species Coalition really wants to prioritize the continued survival of the sage grouse and the other species on its list, it should support true conservationist like America's ranchers," industry said in a press release.

The Endangered Species Coalition laid down its endangered species marker in a [report](#) calling on the Trump administration to be a protector. "Today, we need a conservationist president for a new generation," says the report. "We urge the Trump administration to pick up the mantle of protector." The coalition is composed of such groups as Defenders of Wildlife and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

High on the coalition's priority list of species is the sage-grouse. Implementation of the Endangered Species Act has become a surpassing issue in the West, particularly for the greater sage-grouse and other species of sage-grouse.

The Obama administration on Sept. 22, 2015, reached final decisions on greater-sage grouse policy, deciding NOT to list the bird as imperiled under the Endangered Species Act. Instead BLM and the Forest Service published 98 records of decisions to implement protection plans for the bird.

The State of Idaho, the hard rock mining industry and the oil and gas industry all filed lawsuits against the plans, arguing largely that state plans would protect the sage-grouse. Four environmental groups under lead plaintiff Western Watersheds Project filed their own lawsuit Feb. 25, 2016, that said the plans would allow more grazing, hard rock mining, and oil and gas development than "available science" says is wise.

Congress is getting into the act of criticizing the Obama plan. On July 15, 2016, the House approved a fiscal year 2017 Interior appropriations bill (HR 5538) that would not only forbid FWS from listing the greater sage-grouse, it would forbid implementation of BLM and Forest Service plans if states had plans in place, and almost all do. The spending measure would also forbid the Interior Department from completing the proposed 10 million-acre withdrawal.

The Senate Appropriations Committee June 16, 2016, approved a counterpart appropriations bill (S 3086) with the listing restriction, but the Senate would neither limit the implementation of plans nor forbid the 10 million-acre withdrawal. Congress has yet to complete a fiscal 2017 spending bill, preferring to extend fiscal 2016 spending levels and policies through April 28 of 2017.

The Endangered Species Coalition had this recommendation for the Trump administration on sage-grouse policy:

"A Note to the President: The new administration must be willing to fully implement and, where necessary, strengthen the federal sage-grouse conservation plans. The sage-grouse is an umbrella species for the Sagebrush Sea; more than 350 other sagebrush-dependent species will also suffer if the sage-grouse isn't well protected. The new administration must also vigorously oppose any congressional attempts to discard the federal conservation plans in favor of weaker state strategies."

The coalition's report, *Top 10 SPECIES PRIORITIES FOR A NEW ADMINISTRATION*, is available at:

<http://www.endangered.org/campaigns/annual-top-ten-report/removing-the-walls-to-recovery/>.

BLM switching to online O&G APDs, as well as leasing

BLM will publish a final rule shortly that will require all applications for permits to drill (APDs) for oil and gas to be submitted online. The online requirement will also apply to Notices of Staking (NOs).

Although BLM says it is moving to a 100 percent online filing system, it will establish a waiver process for applicants who have difficulty using electronics, such as access to the Internet or other technical problems. To obtain a waiver an applicant must describe plans for complying with the order.

In that BLM has already approved 200 drilling permits using its online system and has another 1,300 applications in the pipeline, the bureau says it is well on its way to a 100 percent system.

BLM says that the system may cut the processing time for APDs in half, from an average of 220 days now to 115 days for 90 percent of applications.

BLM announced the rule - also known as Onshore Order 1 - on December 21. It will go into effect 30 days after publication in the *Federal Register* of the formal, final rule.

The move to online APD processing is not nearly as controversial as BLM's complementary rule to move oil and gas lease sales online. Environmentalists charge that BLM is moving to online sales to avoid protests against fossil fuel development on the public lands.

Last fall BLM moved four oil and gas lease sales online to December. It shifted a sale in Colorado, the site of particularly vigorous protests, from Nov. 10, 2016, to December 8. It moved a Montana sale from Oct. 18, 2016, to December 8, a Utah sale from Nov. 15, 2016, to December 13 and an Eastern States sale from December 8 to December 13.

Environmentalists said the move to online leasing is designed to thwart protests from their Keep-it-in-the-Ground movement. But BLM said online sales are more productive and cheaper to conduct than live sales. "Online sales have the potential to generate greater competition and higher bonus bids by making participation easier, because bidders do not have to travel to a central location," BLM said at the time. "Online sales also provide an opportunity to reduce administrative costs associated with lease sale activities and to provide greater transparency to the public."

Environmentalists such as Taylor McKinnon with the Center for Biological Diversity said BLM is just trying to avoid demonstrations at live auctions. "The fact that they're now exercising discretion to conduct online auctions with rulemaking - in the face of the rise of the Keep it in the Ground movement and growing public protests at their auctions - is no coincidence at all," he said.

"They're moving auctions online to avoid climate protests, but that controversy and those protests will continue to grow. People can and will protest online auctions too."

The online APD processing rule Onshore Order No 1 is not to be confused with three other oil and gas production orders BLM posted on Oct. 17, 2016, that riled industry.

Onshore Order 3, Onshore Order 4 and Onshore Order 5 set standards for measuring onshore oil and gas production and for verifying the measurements. The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) immediately complained that the

new Onshore Order 3, Onshore Order 4 and Onshore Order 5 were overly prescriptive and would cost industry money.

"While we understand the need for modernizing some of these rules, the federal government's rulemaking approach has been inherently prescriptive," said IPAA Senior Vice President of Government Relations and Political Affairs Dan Naatz. "It would lock in costly technologies that will likely become obsolete in a few short years, while the industry continues to advance and technology improves."

As for the processing of APDs, industry and its Congressional supporters have long complained of excessive bureaucratic delays in gaining BLM approvals.

BLM said it used to receive about 5,000 APDs per year, but in fiscal year 2016 that ended in September 2016, it received about 1,600. In the future the bureau anticipates receiving 3,000 per year, depending on industry interest in obtaining the 10-year leases.

A final version of the soon to be final Onshore Order 1 is available at: <https://on.doi.gov/2hUckLW>.

IBLA decisions

(We post current Interior Board of Land Appeals decisions at our website, <http://www.plnfpr.com/ibla.htm>. IBLA may be contacted at: Interior Board of Land Appeals, 801 North Quincy St., MS 300-QC, Arlington, VA 22203. Phone (703) 235-3750.)

Subject: Oil and gas APD.

BLM decision: BLM will approve exploratory oil wells after preparing an environmental assessment (EA).

Appellant environmentalists: BLM failed to consider the impacts of production in the EA and IBLA should stay production.

IBLA decision: Affirmed BLM decision and denied stay.

Case identification: *Center for Biological Diversity, 189 IBLA 117*. Decided December 19, 2016. Twenty-four pages. Appeal of a BLM decision approving applications for permits to drill two new oil and gas wells within the Poso Creek Oil Field, near Bakersfield, Calif. DOI-BLM-CA-C060-2013-0257-EA.

IBLA argument: IBLA Administrative Judge Amy B. Sosin offered two holdings in this decision concerning the approval by BLM of applications for permit to drill (APDs) exploratory oil and gas leases. First, she upheld BLM's decision approving the APDs, rejecting a contention from the appellant environmental group that an underlying EA was inadequate because it didn't assess potential production from the wells. The appellant argued that the National Environmental Policy Act requires BLM to assess the environmental connectivity between an exploration project and subsequent production. Sosin held that BLM did that adequately. Second, Sosin rejected a request of a stay of production because of the connectivity issue. She held that production would require a separate action by BLM that is not now before the board.

Subject: Oil and gas unit agreement.

BLM decision: BLM will reject a noncompetitive oil and gas lease offer because the lessee did not join a unit agreement in a timely manner.

Appellant lessee: BLM erred because lessee never received BLM notice.

IBLA decision: Reversed BLM.

Case identification: *Liberty Petroleum Corporation, 189 IBLA 144*. Decided December 29, 2016. Fifteen pages. Appeal from a decision of the Utah State Office of BLM, rejecting noncompetitive oil and gas lease offer. UTU-76858.

IBLA argument: IBLA Administrative James F. Roberts said BLM erred in rejecting a noncompetitive oil and gas lease offer in Utah. BLM argued that it gave the appellant lessee 30 days to respond to a notice requiring the lessee to join a unit agreement, and the appellant failed to respond. But the appellant said - and Roberts concurred - that BLM did not prove that the appellant received the notice in the mail. The appellant said it first became aware of the notice when it examined BLM's case file. Roberts held that whether BLM or the Post Office erred, the bureau offered no proof that the appellant received the BLM notice. Said Roberts, "Here, we have no evidence either that the April 29 letter was

claimed by Liberty or that the letter was returned to BLM as unclaimed. Either a signed certified mail, return receipt card or the returned letter should be found in the record, unless some calamity befell the letter. However, whether USPS failed to follow its own procedures, in the course of obtaining Liberty's signature on the return receipt card or returning the letter, or some other calamity occurred, it is BLM, not Liberty, that must bear the consequences. It is well established that when an official communication is entrusted to USPS, USPS is BLM's agent for purposes of delivering the letter."

Notes

(Editors Note: For the time being we are combining Notes for both Public Lands News and Federal Park & Recreation into one place, here.)

FS tilts in favor of coal leasing. In the face of a lawsuit threat from environmentalists, the Forest Service last month reinstated a coal mining exception to a roadless area rule governing national forests in Colorado. The December 19 decision does not give a go-ahead to mine; it just makes clear the roadless rule does not forbid mining. The mine proponent would have to make further application to obtain a permit to mine. The coal mining exception was included in a July 3, 2012, Colorado-specific roadless area rule that in turn exempts national forests in the state from a 2001 Clinton administration roadless rule. The Colorado rule protects about 4.19 million acres of the 14.5 million acres the Forest Service manages in the state. The rule exempted 19,100 acres of coalmines in the North Fork area of the state. However, in September 2014 Judge R. Brooke Jackson in the U.S. District Court for Colorado ruled that an EIS covering the coalmine expansion was inadequate because it failed to assess the impacts of coal development *and* coal burning on climate change. Now the Forest Service has completed a supplemental EIS to meet Jackson's demands and in so doing has taken an initial step toward opening the North Fork Coal Mining Area to development by the Arch Coal Co. Environmentalists threatened to go back to court. "The loophole the Obama administration continues to push will open the door to bulldozing hundreds of drill pads and 67 miles of new road in undisturbed habitat for black bear, elk and the imperiled lynx," said Ted Zukoski, lead attorney for the environmentalist litigants from the Earthjustice law firm.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/roadmain/roadless/coloradoroadlessrules>

BLM posts Calif. Desert withdrawal. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) December 28 temporarily withdrew 1.3 million acres of the California Desert from hard rock mining as part of a comprehensive renewable energy plan. BLM says it will also prepare an EIS in anticipation of withdrawing the land for 20 years. Of course the Trump administration may be unwilling to carry out the 20-year withdrawal. BLM issued a decision on a Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan on Sept. 14, 2016, that begins an interim two-year withdrawal. The plan allows renewable energy companies to apply for projects on 388,000 acres of public lands. The Phase I plan applies only to public lands in the desert. Still to come is a Phase II plan that would include renewable energy recommendations from the State of California and seven counties in the area, in association with federal agencies. Before the state and counties do their thing BLM laid out its renewable energy plan for 10.8 million acres of the 22 million-acre California Desert. That theoretically gives the state and counties a base to work from. More information is available at: <https://www.blm.gov/node/8297>

BLM rearranges sage-grouse withdrawal. BLM December 30 shuffled its temporary 10 million-acre withdrawal to protect the greater sage-grouse in six states - Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. The big change came in Nevada where, at the request of the state, BLM released 488,000 acres and substituted 388,000 acres. BLM said that would allow some development the state said was needed on the 388,000 acres. BLM made the original two-year segregation from mining on Sept. 24, 2015, to protect the greater sage-grouse. The bureau is now working on an EIS that would extend the withdrawal for 20 years. More information at: <https://www.blm.gov/press->

[release/blm-releases-draft-eis-proposed-withdrawal-crucial-sage-grouse-habitat.](#)

BLM filling management positions. With a new administration due in town in two weeks the Obama administration is filling numerous top posts. On January 3 the bureau named Jamie Connell as director of the agency's Oregon/Washington State Office. She is currently director of the BLM Montana State Office. The same day the bureau named Christopher J. McAlear as head of the National Conservation Lands Directorate. McAlear previously was district manager for the BLM Carson City District Office in Nevada. Finally, the bureau on January 3 named Howard M. Cantor to head its National Operations Center in Lakewood, Colo. Cantor has been serving as director of EPA's National Environment Investigations Center in Denver.

Wild horse board members sought. The newly-controversial BLM Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board is seeking nominations from the public to fill three positions - public interest, research and natural resource management. The wild horse board has a huge workload and has in the past had a major impact on policy because of the overpopulation of wild horses on public lands in the West. In September the board created a national stir, to put it mildly, when it recommended BLM euthanize tens of thousands of unadoptable wild horses. The board said BLM should sell off as many of the 46,000 excess wild horses as it could that the bureau has corralled in the West. Then it recommended BLM euthanize the unadoptable animals. BLM annually sells only about 2,000-to-2,500 wild horses, so we are talking about euthanizing more than 40,000 animals. All told nearly 70,000 wild horses and burros roam the public range, or three times what BLM considers the appropriate management level of 27,000 wild horses and burros. Submit nominations by February 10 by e-mail to dboothe@blm.gov.

Public Land Law Institute. We don't often single out conferences but this one January 26-27 in Santa Fe, N.M., may be special. The Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation will hold a conference on the complex web of public lands law just as the Trump administration takes over. Among the scheduled speakers are former Montana Gov. Dave Freudenthal (D) and former Interior Department Solicitor John Leshy. The Foundation charges various rates to attend ranging from \$75 for students to \$885 for non-foundation members. Contact: Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, 9191 Sheridan Blvd., #203, Westminster, CO 80031. (303) 321-8100. <https://www.rmmlf.org>.

Boxscore of Legislation

Fiscal year 2017 appropriations (until December 9)

HR 5325 (Graves). President Obama signed into law September 29 as PL 114-223. Extends funding at fiscal 2016 levels through December 9.

Fiscal year 2017 appropriations (full year)

HR 5538 (Calvert), S 3068 (Murkowski). House approved July 14. Senate committee approved June 16. Both would increase wildfire, PILT appropriations. Critics say numerous riders cripple bills.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (development)

HR 339 (Young), S 494 (Murkowski). Young introduced January 15, 2015. Murkowski introduced February 13, 2015. Would open coastal plain to O&G development.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (wilderness)

HR 238 (Huffman), S 2341 (Bennet). Huffman introduced January 8, 2015. Bennet introduced December 2, 2015. Would designate the coastal plain of the refuge as wilderness.

O&C Timber bill

S 132 (Wyden). Senate hearing July 16, 2015. Would insure timber sales of 400 million board feet each year from O&C counties.

Emergency fire spending

HR 167 (Simpson), S 235 (Wyden), S 508 (McCain), HR 2647 (Westerman). Simpson introduced January 6, 2015. Wyden introduced January 22, 2015. McCain introduced February 12, 2015. House approved HR 2647 July 9, 2015. Senate hearing November 17, 2015. All would shift emergency fire fighting costs out of line appropriations and into disaster spending. McCain, Westerman would also increase timber harvests. Appropriators did not include provision in fiscal 2016 spending bill above, but did approve more money for wildfires.

Energy omnibus

S 2012 (Murkowski). Senate approved April 20. House approved its version May 12. Conference began September 8. Senate would test expedited oil and gas APDs, revise geothermal leasing, accelerate critical mineral permits. House added hazardous fuels and other bills to S 2012.

Monument restrictions

HR 330 (Young), HR 488 (Amodei), S 437 (Murkowski), HR 900 (Labrador), S 228 (Crapo). Young introduced January 13, 2015. Amodei introduced January 22, 2015. Murkowski introduced February 10, 2015. Labrador introduced February 11, 2015. Crapo introduced January 21, 2015. All would require Congressional or state approval of national monuments.

County assistance

S 517 (Wyden), HR 2 (Burgess), S 1925 (Heinrich). Wyden introduced February 12. Heinrich introduced August 4, 2015. President signed HR 2 into law (PL 114-10) April 16, 2015. Wyden and Heinrich would guarantee money for the payments-in-lieu of taxes program and extend Secure Rural Schools at \$360 million per year for three years.

Hard rock mining revision

HR 963 (Grijalva), S 2254 (Udall). Grijalva introduced February 13, 2015. Udall introduced November 5, 2015. Grijalva would set an eight percent royalty on new mines, establish tougher reclamation standards and strengthen BLM right to veto a mining plan. Udall would establish a royalty between two and five percent on new mines.

Critical minerals

S 883 (Murkowski), HR 1937 (Amodei), S 2012 (Murkowski). Senate approved July 30, 2015, in omnibus energy bill (S 2012). House approved HR 1937 in its version of S 2012. House would have federal land managers establish time lines for acting on all mineral permits.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

S 338 (Burr), S 890 (Cantwell), HR 1814 (Grijalva), S 2012 (Murkowski), S 1925 (Heinrich), S 2165 (Cantwell), unnumbered draft (Bishop), HR 4151 (Simpson), HR 2029 (Dent). Fiscal 2016 appropriations bill extends program as is for three years. Grijalva introduced April 15, 2015. Senate approved Murkowski bill April 20. Bishop posted draft November 5, 2015. Simpson introduced December 1, 2015. All but Bishop would extend program at \$900 million per year in perpetuity. Bishop would extend for seven years. S 890, HR 1814 and S 1925 would guarantee the money each year. Simpson would change allocation to 40 percent federal, 40 percent state and related initiatives and 20 percent flexible.

NPS Centennial

HR 3556 (Grijalva), S 2257 (Cantwell), HR 4680 (Bishop). House committee reported Bishop bill May 19. Senate approved placeholder legislation (S 2012) April 20. S 3556 and S 2557 are administration bills that would have Congress put up an additional \$800 million for the Park Service Centennial in 2016. Fiscal 2016 spending bill includes extra \$100 million for program. HR 4680 includes little new money but several important program authorizations.

Federal Parks & Rec

addendum to Public Lands News

January 6, 2017

- * *Jarvis retires after posting new policies*
- * *NPS carries out controversial philanthropy initiative*
- * *GOP gears up; Is Zinke in trouble? (See Public Lands News article)*
- * *Obama establishes Bears Ears Monument (See Public Lands News article)*
- * *House smooths way for land transfers (See Public Lands News article)*

Jarvis steps down early as his policy agenda evolves

Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis did not wait for the conclusion of the Obama administration on January 19 to retire. He called it a day on January 3.

In a note he sent to NPS employees just before Christmas he strongly defended his sometimes problematic seven-year term of office.

"The National Park Service is not perfect, but it is strong, resilient and beloved by the American people," he told service employees. "The NPS fearlessly addresses some of the most complex issues of our society from climate change to civil rights and stands as a beacon to those who work to achieve the highest aspirations of the nation."

He quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who said "the arc of the universe bends toward justice." Added Jarvis, "The collective weight of the National Park Service pulls that bend closer to environmental and social justice for all those who call this planet home. Keep pulling, be safe and I will see you in the parks."

On the upside Jarvis was in charge of a Centennial of the Park Service in 2016 that saw almost 325 million people troop to the national parks, a record. He also helped persuade Congress to significantly increase appropriations for the parks and partners of all stripes to contribute to the National Park System.

On the other hand Jarvis was attacked for permitting a hostile workplace to develop in the field, complete with several charges of sexual harassment. The House Oversight Committee in particular has in a bipartisan way criticized the agency for a series of reports charging an abusive workplace.

Jarvis's most persistent critic, the environmental group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), was glad to see him go.

"By almost any measure, Jon Jarvis is the worst Park Service Director within living memory," said PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch, arguing that national parks were far better protected during the Clinton and both Bush administrations. "In a misguided quest for 'relevancy,' Jarvis repeatedly sold out the very values and resources at the core of the Park Service mission."

In its bill of particulars PEER complained that Jarvis did not attempt to block the use of lead-based ammunition in the park, allowed destructive uses in the parks and gave corporate donors expanded authority within the parks.

To add fuel to PEER's fire Jarvis on December 28 signed a Director's Order #11 on philanthropic partnerships that would allow the director and deputy directors to solicit contributions from businesses. That, said critics such as PEER, could give

businesses undue influence over park management. Also controversial, the order would outright allow partnerships with companies that produce and sell alcohol. (See *following article*.)

More to PEER's way of thinking, on December 20 Jarvis signed off on a separate landmark order that insures that protection of the resource is a first priority for the agency, at least for a little while.

In the face of criticism from Republican Congressional policy makers Jarvis signed Director's Order #100 that would have NPS tilt toward protection if the impacts of an activity were uncertain. At the heart of the white paper lies a "Precautionary Principle" strategy. It would establish protection as a priority in the National Park System even if a threat were not clear and imminent.

Order #100 describes the policy this way: "The Precautionary Principle requires that, when an action, activity, or emerging condition raises plausible or probable threats of harm to park resources and/or human health, management should take anticipatory action even when there is uncertainty. When such uncertainty exists, NPS managers will take actions that err on the side of caution to protect resources in accordance with existing authorities, including NPS obligations to prevent resource impairment . . ."

The order is a prime candidate for a reversal or a rewrite by the Trump administration, but that may take time. NPS devoted four years to writing the Jarvis proposal.

Director's Order #100 is one of two major policies that Jarvis was working on in the last days of his watch that would guide the National Park System over the next decades. The other is a "system" plan that assesses the needs of the parks.

An agency spokesman said last week that NPS is "on course to finish the park system plan before the end of the current administration." That ends January 19.

NPS described the system plan this way: "The purpose of a System Plan is to provide 'a framework for the proactive direction for the future of the national park system, identifying gaps in the nation's protected natural and cultural areas, and establishing a collaborative conservation system that fully reflects our nation's cultural and natural heritage.'"

Meanwhile, visitation to the parks this year has set repeated records. At the end of 2016 NPS had recorded a 5.6 percent increase in 2016 over 2015, which itself was a record year. Through December 324,516,065 people entered the national parks, compared to 307,247,252 at this time last year.

Jarvis philanthropy policy still includes controversies

National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis added another plank to his legacy December 28, signing an [order](#) that establishes a new policy on philanthropic donations and partnerships.

The Director's Order #21 is designed to make it easier for partners to contribute to the National Park System, and for park employees to accept those contributions. At the same time Jarvis said the order would guard against commercialization of the parks. Jarvis retired as director of the Park Service January 3 (*see previous article*).

The final order does include several provisions that critics have complained would lead to increased commercialization of the parks and would compromise agency employees.

One such provision would allow NPS leaders to accept donations of up to \$5 million, including associate/assistant directors, regional directors and superintendents.

Said Jarvis, "While there will continue to be opportunities for limited donor recognition in parks, no one is going to commercialize national parks and park superintendents still won't be allowed to solicit donations. We have federal law to back us up on that."

Said Kristen Strader, campaign coordinator for Public Citizen's Commercial Alert Program, "It is disgraceful that the parks service plans to sell our national parks to the highest bidder despite overwhelming public opposition to increased commercialism in our national parks. More than 215,000 petition signers and hundreds of commenters opposed this policy."

A second controversial provision would allow partnerships with companies that produce and sell alcohol.

Says the order, "After the effective date of this Order and under its provisions and standards, the NPS may permit - after thorough review and approval by the Director - philanthropic partnerships with, and accept donations from, corporations that produce or distribute alcohol."

An association of NPS retirees, marching as the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, urged NPS to use caution in associating the agency with alcoholic beverages. "If NPS is, in fact, going to accept donations from 'from corporations that produce or distribute alcohol,' then NPS must establish a much better defined criteria for determining when to accept (or not accept) such donations AND what the donations would be used for," said the coalition.

The final Order #21 is available at:

https://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DO_21.htm.

Order #21 is the second major policy that Jarvis approved last month. On December 20 he issued an order that insures that protection of the resource is a first priority for the agency, at least for a little while.

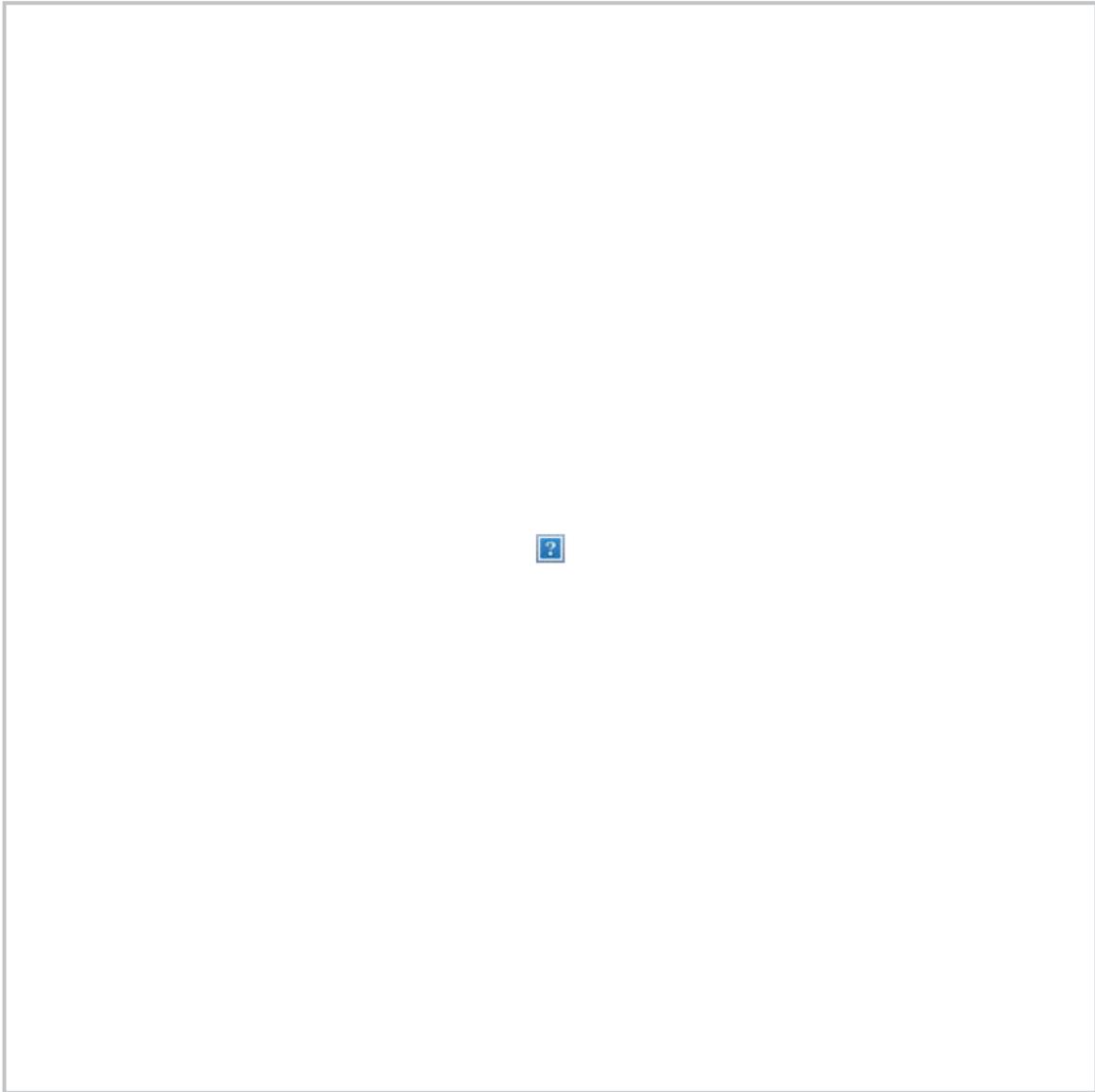
Jarvis signed the order in the face of criticism from Republican Congressional policy makers. At the heart of the white paper lies a "Precautionary Principle" strategy. It would establish protection as a priority even if a threat were not clear and imminent.

The order is a prime candidate for a reversal or a rewrite by the Trump administration, but that may take time. NPS devoted four years to writing the Jarvis proposal.

Finally, still in the works is a third plank called a system plan that would assess the needs of the parks over the next decades. An agency spokesman said last week that NPS is "on course to finish the park system plan before the end of the current administration." That ends January 19.

NPS described the system plan this way: "The purpose of a System Plan is to provide 'a framework for the proactive direction for the future of the national park system, identifying gaps in the nation's protected natural and cultural areas, and establishing a collaborative conservation system that fully reflects our nation's cultural and natural heritage.'"

Director's Order #100 is available at: https://www.nps.gov/policy/DOrders/DO_100.htm.



From: [Lyons, James](#)
To: [Dave Willis](#)
Subject: Re: Cascade-Siskiyou: 1/13/2017 Undark Magazine article on Monument's biological diversity/connectivity
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 9:19:06 AM

Thanks Dave. Glad we got it done.

Jim

On Fri, Jan 13, 2017 at 8:17 PM, Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net> wrote:

Probably the best article so far to explain the two "meta-objects" of the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument area: biological diversity and connectivity. dw

<http://undark.org/article/obama-cascade-siskiyou-biodiversity-connectivity/>

--

Jim Lyons
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management
Jim_Lyons@ios.doi.gov
202-208-4318 (direct)
202-815-4412 (mobile)

From: [Lyons, James](#)
To: [Dave Willis](#)
Subject: Re: Cascade-Siskiyou: Monument expansion public support letters
Date: Monday, December 19, 2016 1:15:13 PM

Dave for the conversation last week.

Meeting with Nikki this afternoon and will follow-up .

Jim

On Mon, Dec 12, 2016 at 2:37 PM, Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net> wrote:

Hi, Jim –

Any time to talk with me by phone soon?

Note we've added some more support since our early April visit.

For a bigger, wilder (*NOT* milder) Monument –

Dave

541/482-8660 or 541/482-0526

From: Dave Willis [<mailto:sodamtn@mind.net>]
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 7:45 PM
To:
Subject: FW: Cascade-Siskiyou: Oregon's governor, Klamath Tribes send Monument expansion support letters

Following up with new Monument expansion support letters:

- The Klamath Tribes to Sen. Merkley – November 17, 2016
 - Governor Kate Brown to Secretary Sally Jewell – November 21, 2016
-

From: Dave Willis [<mailto:sodamtn@mind.net>]

Sent: Friday, November 11, 2016 2:22 PM

This is the last chance to protect public land in Oregon (and elsewhere) for a perilously long time. Indeed, public lands in Oregon (and elsewhere) look to very soon be under heavy siege. I believe the way the red/blue state map shook out means Cascade-Siskiyou should still be a very live option.

Attached please find some local support for Cascade-Siskiyou Monument expansion...

- 10/30/16 support letter from local Oregon state Sen. Kevin Talbert
- 8/3/15 support letter from local Oregon state Sen. Alan Bates (deceased August 2016)
- 7/6/15 support letter from local Oregon state Rep. Peter Buckley
- 8/23/16 published support statement by local Oregon state Rep-elect Pam Marsh
- 7/11/15 unanimous support letter from Ashland Chamber of Commerce board
- 5/28/2015 support letter from retired Ashland City Administrator Brian Almquist
- City of Ashland support...
 - 6/29/16 letter from Mayor Stromberg to Sec'y Jewell
 - 6/16/15 unanimous City Council resolution supporting expansion
 - 6/20/01 unanimous City Council resolution supporting existing Monument (vs. Bush/Cheney & Jackson County Commissioners' efforts against)
- 8/1/16 unanimous Talent Chamber of Commerce board letter supporting expansion
- City of Talent support...
 - 8/31/16 letter from Mayor Stricker to Sec'y Jewell
 - 8/17/16 unanimous City Council resolution supporting expansion

NOTE: Ashland and Talent are the two closest towns to the Monument.

For a bigger, wilder Monument –

Dave

Dave Willis, Soda Mountain Wilderness Council

15187 Greensprings Highway

Ashland, OR 97520

541/482-8660 or 482-0526 voice

541/482-2036 fax

541/944-2247 cell (unreliable when near voice #s above)

sodamtn@mind.net

--

Jim Lyons

Deputy Assistant Secretary

Land and Minerals Management

Jim_Lyons@ios.doi.gov

202-208-4318 (direct)

202-815-4412 (mobile)

From: [Brune, Jeff](#)
To: [Janice Schneider](#); [James Lyons](#); [Amanda Leiter](#)
Cc: [Richard Cardinale](#); [Neil Kornze](#); [Linda Lance](#); [Jenna Whitlock](#); [Tracie Lassiter](#); [Michael Anderson](#); [Lauren Bogard](#); [Alexandra Teitz](#); [Karen Kelleher](#); [David Blackstun](#); [Anita Bilbao](#); [Jeff Brune](#); [Yolando Mack-Thompson](#); [Kelly Orr](#); [Shannon Stewart](#); [Laura \(Liz\) Pardue](#); [Linda Thurn](#); [Timothy Shannon](#); [Brubeck, Kimberly](#); [Lacko, Kathleen](#); [Todd Curtis](#)
Subject: ASLM/BLM Agenda and Weekly Report
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 4:57:00 PM
Attachments: [287.0 BLM-ASLM AGENDA FOR 20171801.docx](#)

Attached is the ASLM/BLM agenda for January 18 and the weekly report for Jan 22-28. Please note the only addition to the agenda is the Weekly Report. We're happy to discuss any other topic you may have that's not on the agenda. --Jeff

--

Jeff Brune
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U. S. Department of the Interior
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(202) 208-3774

Email: jbrune@blm.gov

BLM-ASLM Agenda
January 18, 2017
Internal Working Document

I. Executive Travel: January 22-28, 2017

BLM Acting Director Kristin Bail and Acting Deputy Director Jerry Perez will be in the office attending regularly scheduled meetings.

II. Agenda Items

- COOP for Friday
- Correspondence (See list below.)
- Admin Records
- Coal IMs
- Transition for next 30 days (e.g., BLM/ASLM interface, pending packages, other?)
- Projects
 - Chokecherry and Sierra Madre
 - Gateway West
- Priority Packages

Items with ASLM:

- Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Decision Package (BLM0009327)
- Proposed Withdrawal, Limestone Caves and Crooks Creek Fisheries Areas, Oregon (BLML000137)
- Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplement to the Draft RMP for the Southern Nevada District Planning Area--Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices and Gold Butte Nation (BLMR001397)

Items incoming to ASLM:

- Request to Close Rec 1 OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)
- Notice to Prepare Two Great-Basin-Wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements to Support Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement (BLMR001407)

CORRESPONDENCE

DTS #	Name	Status
9292	WY GSG Mitigation Framework	With Jim Lyons
9038	O&G Chaco Landscape	Sent to Janice to review 1/17
8248	Admin procedures & IM 2013-177	With Linda Lance for review (may or may not proceed with response)
8526	Proposed venting and flaring rule	Janice to sign 1/17
8901	Colorado Twentymile Mine	Janice to sign 1/18
8987	Colorado Twentymile Mine (same response as 8901)	Janice to sign 1/18
9197	UT wild horse and burro population	Janice to sign 1/17
9375	Revocation of PLO withdrawals	Reassigned for Neil's signature

II. Weekly Report:

Week Ahead Announcements- Presidential and Department/Agency Priorities – January 22-28, 2017

January 22: The deadline for public comments on the BLM-NV draft Pine Nut Mountains HMA Plan, a ten-year management plan for wild horses in the Pine Nut Mountains.

Week of January 23: Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ) plans to visit the BLM-NM Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. Date and BLM participation TBD.

Between January 23 and March 8: The BLM-AK Central Yukon Field Office will hold public meetings in 11 communities in the planning area, as well as in Anchorage and Fairbanks, to prepare a range of alternatives for the Draft Central Yukon RMP.

January 23: The BLM-WY Rock Springs FO will hold a public open house on the Sweetwater Solar Energy Project to solicit comments regarding issues, concerns and potential alternatives. The proposed photovoltaic solar project would encompass approximately 703 acres of which 638 acres would be located on public land. While the project is not within greater sage-grouse core areas, it may impact nesting and/or breeding habitat.

January 23: BLM-WY River/Bighorn Basin District fire program staff will attend a meeting with partners in Lander to discuss planning and preparation for the 2017 solar eclipse. A public meeting will be held on January 24 in Thermopolis and the BLM will attend.

January 24-25: The BLM MT/DKs Miles City FO has scheduled public scoping meetings regarding the Spring Creek Coal EIS on January 24 in Sheridan, WY, and January 25 in Colstrip, MT. The BLM is the lead agency.

January 25 and 26: The BLM will attend the Fort Berthold Federal Partners Meeting to be held in West Denver, Colorado at a BIA Office. The meeting will address issues associated with Bakken development of oil and gas on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and is not open to the public.

January 25: The BLM-WY Casper FO will meet with Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) to work toward the completion of the transfer of between 1,200 to 1,600 acres of land around Table Mountain from the BLM to the WGFD.

January 25: BLM New Mexico State Office will hold their first online Oil and Gas lease sale with 4 parcels covering 842 acres in Sandoval and Rio Arriba counties (NM). Parcels are available for viewing on the Energynet website - <https://www.energynet.com>.

January 26-27: BLM-OR will meet with a group of five Korean Nationals who are interested in local conservation efforts.

January 26-28: BLM-OR/WA will host public meetings for the Yaquina Head Recreation Area Management Plan on January 26 in Salem and January 27 and 28 at the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area in Newport. A draft management plan is expected late summer 2017.

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Legal

N/A

From: [Brune, Jeff](#)
To: [Janice Schneider](#); [James Lyons](#); [Amanda Leiter](#)
Cc: [Richard Cardinale](#); [Neil Kornze](#); [Linda Lance](#); [Jenna Whitlock](#); [Tracie Lassiter](#); [Michael Anderson](#); [Lauren Bogard](#); [Alexandra Teitz](#); [Karen Kelleher](#); [David Blackstun](#); [Anita Bilbao](#); [Jeff Brune](#); [Yolando Mack-Thompson](#); [Kelly Orr](#); [Shannon Stewart](#); [Laura \(Liz\) Pardue](#); [Linda Thurn](#); [Timothy Shannon](#); [Brubeck, Kimberly](#); [Lacko, Kathleen](#); [Todd Curtis](#)
Subject: ASLM/BLM Agenda and Weekly Report
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 4:52:56 PM
Attachments: [287.0 BLM-ASLM AGENDA FOR 20171801.docx](#)

Attached is the ASLM/BLM agenda for January 18 and the weekly report for Jan 22-28. Please note the only addition to the agenda is the Weekly Report. We're happy to discuss any other topic you may have that's not on the agenda. --Jeff

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Jeff Brune
Advisor to the Director's Office
Bureau of Land Management
U. S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Rm. 5648
Washington, D.C. 20240

(202) 208-3774

Email: jbrune@blm.gov

BLM-ASLM Agenda
January 18, 2017
Internal Working Document

I. Executive Travel: January 22-28, 2017

BLM Acting Director Kristin Bail and Acting Deputy Director Jerry Perez will be in the office attending regularly scheduled meetings.

II. Agenda Items

- COOP for Friday
- Correspondence (See list below.)
- Admin Records
- Coal IMs
- Transition for next 30 days (e.g., BLM/ASLM interface, pending packages, other?)
- Projects
 - Chokecherry and Sierra Madre
 - Gateway West
- Priority Packages

Items with ASLM:

- Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Decision Package (BLM0009327)
- Proposed Withdrawal, Limestone Caves and Crooks Creek Fisheries Areas, Oregon (BLML000137)
- Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplement to the Draft RMP for the Southern Nevada District Planning Area--Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices and Gold Butte Nation (BLMR001397)

Items incoming to ASLM:

- Request to Close Rec 1 OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)
- Notice to Prepare Two Great-Basin-Wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements to Support Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement (BLMR001407)

CORRESPONDENCE

DTS #	Name	Status
9292	WY GSG Mitigation Framework	With Jim Lyons
9038	O&G Chaco Landscape	Sent to Janice to review 1/17
8248	Admin procedures & IM 2013-177	With Linda Lance for review (may or may not proceed with response)
8526	Proposed venting and flaring rule	Janice to sign 1/17
8901	Colorado Twentymile Mine	Janice to sign 1/18
8987	Colorado Twentymile Mine (same response as 8901)	Janice to sign 1/18
9197	UT wild horse and burro population	Janice to sign 1/17
9375	Revocation of PLO withdrawals	Reassigned for Neil's signature

II. Weekly Report:

Week Ahead Announcements- Presidential and Department/Agency Priorities – January 22-28, 2017

January 22: The deadline for public comments on the BLM-NV draft Pine Nut Mountains HMA Plan, a ten-year management plan for wild horses in the Pine Nut Mountains.

Week of January 23: Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ) plans to visit the BLM-NM Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. Date and BLM participation TBD.

Between January 23 and March 8: The BLM-AK Central Yukon Field Office will hold public meetings in 11 communities in the planning area, as well as in Anchorage and Fairbanks, to prepare a range of alternatives for the Draft Central Yukon RMP.

January 23: The BLM-WY Rock Springs FO will hold a public open house on the Sweetwater Solar Energy Project to solicit comments regarding issues, concerns and potential alternatives. The proposed photovoltaic solar project would encompass approximately 703 acres of which 638 acres would be located on public land. While the project is not within greater sage-grouse core areas, it may impact nesting and/or breeding habitat.

January 23: BLM-WY River/Bighorn Basin District fire program staff will attend a meeting with partners in Lander to discuss planning and preparation for the 2017 solar eclipse. A public meeting will be held on January 24 in Thermopolis and the BLM will attend.

January 24-25: The BLM MT/DKs Miles City FO has scheduled public scoping meetings regarding the Spring Creek Coal EIS on January 24 in Sheridan, WY, and January 25 in Colstrip, MT. The BLM is the lead agency.

January 25 and 26: The BLM will attend the Fort Berthold Federal Partners Meeting to be held in West Denver, Colorado at a BIA Office. The meeting will address issues associated with Bakken development of oil and gas on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and is not open to the public.

January 25: The BLM-WY Casper FO will meet with Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) to work toward the completion of the transfer of between 1,200 to 1,600 acres of land around Table Mountain from the BLM to the WGFD.

January 25: BLM New Mexico State Office will hold their first online Oil and Gas lease sale with 4 parcels covering 842 acres in Sandoval and Rio Arriba counties (NM). Parcels are available for viewing on the Energynet website - <https://www.energynet.com>.

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From: [Curtis, Todd](#)
To: [Janice Schneider](#); [James Lyons](#); [Amanda Leiter](#)
Cc: [Richard Cardinale](#); [Neil Kornze](#); [Steven Ellis](#); [Linda Lance](#); [Jenna Whitlock](#); [Tracie Lassiter](#); [Michael Anderson](#); [Lauren Bogard](#); [Alexandra Teitz](#); [Karen Kelleher](#); [David Blackstun](#); [Fuge, Dylan](#); [Anita Bilbao](#); [Jeff Brune](#); [Yolanda Mack-Thompson](#); [Kelly Orr](#); [Kathryn Kovacs](#); [Shannon Stewart](#); [Laura \(Liz\) Pardue](#); [Todd Curtis](#); [Linda Thurn](#); [Timothy Shannon](#); [Cynthia Hernandez](#); [Gracie Valdez](#); [Brubeck, Kimberly](#)
Subject: ASLM/BLM Weekly Report
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2016 4:31:22 PM
Attachments: [279.0 BLM-ASLM AGENDA FOR 20161811.docx](#)

Weekly is attached. Have a wonderful evening!

Todd M. Curtis

Advisor to the Director's Office (Detail)
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C St. NW Rm. 5641
Washington, DC
Office: 202-208-3759
Mobile: 971-337-5689

BLM-ASLM Agenda
November 18, 2016
Internal Working Document

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- Basin and Range/LACMA Easement
- Onshore Order 1
- Planning 2.0 Rollout
- Coal Scoping Report
- SNPLMA 16B
- Admin Records
- RMPs Review Schedule
- Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

- Projects
 - Gateway West
 - Transwest
 - Gateway South
 - Boardman to Hemingway
 - Chokecherry

- Priority Packages

Items with ASLM:

- P 2.0 Preamble, CX, Economic Analysis
- Basin and Range National Monument Conservation Easement (BLM0008835)
- Correspondence – Response to Tester - Solenex lease in Badger-Two Medicine area. (BLM0008986) ** See related correspondence below in **Incoming**.
- SNPLMA Round 16B (BLM0009071)
- QFRs -7/7 HNR Hearing on Planning 2.0, Jim Lyons (BLM0009091)
- SO 3339 Under-Resourced Youth – Implementation Report (BLM0009086)
- Extension of Public Land Order 7233 –USFS Rogue River, OR (BLML000127)
- Presumed to Conform List FRN (BLMR000766)

Items incoming to ASLM:

- Onshore Order 1 Package
- Correspondence – Response to Tester - Encourages administrative withdrawal of leases north of Yellowstone National Park (BLM0009234)
- QFRs - 9/22 SENR Hearing - Neil Kornze (BLM0009094)
- Transfer of Jurisdiction of Public Lands to Chocolate Mountain Airel Gunnery Range/CACA 056671 (BLML000120) – Responding to ASLM review comments

III. Weekly Report:

November 20-26, 2016

The CA Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Interagency Team, comprised of BLM and FS staff, will meet on November 21 and 29 to discuss monument planning and developing an interagency agreement.

Week Ahead Announcements- Presidential and Department/Agency Priorities

November 21: The BLM-CA Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Interagency Team, comprised of staff from the Mendocino National Forest and the BLM Central California District and Ukiah Field Offices, will meet on November 21 and 29 to discuss monument planning and developing an interagency agreement.

November 22: The BLM-NM Albuquerque District Manager will meet with the San Felipe Pueblo Governor regarding issues relating to the Ball Ranch Area of Critical Environmental Concern that is adjacent to San Felipe Pueblo.

Media

Matt Jancer, a reporter with *Audubon* Magazine, is writing an article on the checkerboard land ownership patterns found in certain areas of the West. His questions focused on the history of checkerboard land ownership as well as present day access issues caused by checker boarding. BLM Spokesperson Kimberly Brubeck is working with the reporter. Jancer's article is anticipated to publish in early 2017.

Sarah Childress, a reporter with *Frontline*, the PBS series is working on a project about the rise of the Patriot movement, and the federal government's response to this particular threat. Given that the Bureau of Land Management and its employees have become targets for these groups in Oregon and elsewhere, they feel the BLM's perspective is especially critical to the film. Childress is hoping to speak with someone who can help the viewers better understand how militia activity has impacted BLM operations and employees, and how the Bureau is responding and plans to address such threats going forward. BLM Spokesperson Kimberly Brubeck is working with the reporter.

30-60 Day Look Ahead

November 1-30: The BLM-NV Winnemucca and Elko Districts began helicopter gather operations in the Owyhee Complex. The gather covers three HMAs in the Owyhee Sagebrush Focal Area. The estimated wild horse population of the three HMAs is 2,417. As of November 15, a total of 770 horses have been gathered and removed. The goal is to gather 1,600, remove 1,100, and fertility treat 250 horses. 500 will be returned to the HMA.

Week of November 28: The BLM-MT/DKs State Director plans to conduct courtesy visits with members and staff of the Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota congressional delegations.

November 29: The BLM Planning 2.0 Final Rule will be announced.

November 29-Dec. 1: A collaborative process workshop for federal and state land management executives and economic stakeholders in sagebrush focal areas will be held in Reno, Nevada.

November 30: The BLM plans to hold an initial meeting with Cooperating Agencies for the Coal PEIS. The meeting may be held in Denver, CO.

November 30: A BLM-NV will hold a Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) land sale at the Clark County Government Center. The BLM plans to offer 183 acres available in 16 parcels within the Las Vegas Valley and the SNPLMA boundary.

November 30: The BLM will release to the field the Tribal Relations Manual and Handbook. The Manual and Handbook provides a roadmap to Tribal consultation and outlines the laws that pertain to BLM programs.

Late November/Early December: BLM-WY is expected to finalize the Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Project EA and FONSI. In March 2016, the BLM released the EA examining the potential, site-specific impacts of constructing 500 wind turbines on mixed ownership land in the first phase of the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre (CCSM) Wind Energy Project in southern Wyoming. The BLM is working with the FWS to address public comments and ensure consistency between the FWS FEIS and the BLM EA.

December TBD: The BLM plans to transmit the Oil Shale Rule to OIRA. When finalized, the proposed rule would clarify specific provisions of oil shale royalty regulations, ensure that the royalty rate provides a fair return to the American taxpayer while encouraging the development of Federal oil shale resources, and include adequate measures to protect the environment.

December TBD: BLM-AK is preparing the final surveys of the Alatna Project. The survey is the first to use the new Direct Point Positioning Survey (DPPS) method, which is based on the global positioning system (GPS). The new survey method is expected to save the BLM time and money in its conveyance work.

December 1: The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 16B funding package is expected to be ready for the Secretary's approval and signature. The complete package recommends approval of \$79.2 million to support projects in 6 different categories of work: Parks Trails and Natural Areas; Capital Improvements; Conservation Initiatives; Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions; Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project; and Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. A signing event for December is being considered.

December 1: The EPA intends to sign a notice of proposed CERCLA 108(b) rulemaking for the hardrock mining industry. Since May, the BLM has been involved with the Small Business Advocacy Review Panel which was convened as a requirement of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

December 1: BLM-CA managers will meet to coordinate State Historic Preservation Office consultation requirements and processes for cultural resources for a major transmission upgrade project.

December 2: The USGS will hold a stakeholder event around the carbon/greenhouse gas emissions on federal lands project at the USGS National Headquarters Auditorium in Reston, VA. BLM attendees include Alexandra Teitz, Tim Spisak, and Kit Muller.

December 5: The public comment period ends for the sale of three parcels of public land totaling 166 acres near Hiko and Alamo, Nevada. The sale will be conducted in accordance with the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004, complies with the FLPMA, and is in conformance with the 2008 Ely RMP.

December 6: BLM-WY plans to sign the ROD for the TransWest Transmission project. The project would provide transmission infrastructure and capacity to deliver approximately 3,000 megawatts of electric power from renewable and other energy resources in south-central WY to a substation hub in

southern NV. The proposed project includes an approximately 730-mile-long, 600-kilovolt, direct current transmission line.

December 8: BLM-CO and BLM-MT will hold online oil and gas lease sales. BLM-CO will offer 31 parcels totaling 20,135 acres in the Royal Gorge, Grand Junction and Colorado River Valley Field Offices. BLM-MT will offer 88 parcels containing 19,940 Federal mineral. None of the parcels being offered in CO or MT are in sage-grouse habitat.

December 9: BLM-ESO will transfer approximately 60,000 acres of land to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. The lands were ceded to the United States in the late 1800's and early 1900's, and originally identified for restoration in a 1945 Secretarial Order.

December 9: BLM-WY plans to sign the Gateway South (Wyoming/Colorado/Utah) ROD. The protest period ended on June 13, 2016. Five protests were received (from The Wilderness Society, Defenders of Wildlife and Sierra Club, Cross Mountain Ranch, Friends of Northwest Colorado, and Wild Earth Guardians) and are currently being evaluated.

December 13: BLM-UT and BLM-Eastern States Office will hold online oil and gas lease sales. BLM-UT is offering 26 parcels totaling 12,070 acres of Federal lands located in the Green River District. Three parcels totaling 137 acres are in the General Habitat Management Area and located in units adjacent to existing leases held by production. Although none are within the 3.1 lek buffer, 38 other parcels were deferred for sage grouse habitat reasons. The BLM-ESO will offer 35 parcels totaling 1,678 acres in Arkansas (1 parcel, 35.57 acres), Mississippi (1 parcel, 40.03 acres), and Ohio (33 parcels, 1,600.69 acres). This will include Federal minerals within the Marietta unit of the Wayne National Forest, Ohio. The ESO sale has attracted congressional and public attention over concerns about hydraulic fracturing in the Wayne NF. BLM-ES has received no protests on any of the parcels.

December 13: Tentative release date for the Report to the Sage-Grouse Task Force on the Greater Sage-Grouse Compensatory Mitigation.

December 13: The State/Federal Sage-Grouse Task Force meeting will be held in San Diego, California.

December 14: BLM National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) oil & gas lease sale will be held. The sale is being held concurrently with the State of Alaska's oil and gas lease sale.

December 20: The BLM plans to release its final mitigation manual and handbook that will help the agency carry out consistent, effective, and transparent mitigation to address impacts to resources from public land uses.

December 21: BLM-UT will sign the Moab MLP ROD. The Moab MLP/PRMPA NOA was published in the Federal Register on Friday, July 22, 2016, initiating the protest period, which closed on August 22, 2016. Six protests have been received and are being evaluated.

December 21: BLM-UT plans to sign the ROD for the Beaver Dam/Red Cliffs NCAs and St. George ROD. The Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the Federal Register on September 2, 2016, initiating a 30-day protest period. The Record of Decision for the Red Cliffs NCA has a court-ordered completion date of December 31, 2016.

December 22: The public comment period ends for the BLM-ESO Draft EIS for the Mountain Valley Project and Equitrans Expansion Project, a pipeline that would run through Virginia and West Virginia. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is the lead agency for developing the Draft EIS.

December 29: BLM-NV plans to issue the final Dixie Meadows Geothermal Project EA and FONSI. The project area consists of approximately 22,021 acres of public land. The proponent (Ormat) is seeking approval to drill temperature gradient wells and to drill and test observation wells and production wells at up to 20 specific locations.

December 30: BLM-AK plans to sign the Eastern Interior Alaska ROD. Nine protests were received and are being reviewed.

December 30: BLM-ID plans to sign the Gateway West Transmission ROD. The BLM published the FSEIS for the final two sections on October 7, 2016. The protest period will end November 7, 2016. The preferred routes avoid to the greatest extent possible private land, Greater sage-grouse habitat and the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area.

December 30: The BLM plans to release the draft EIS for the Sagebrush Focal Area Mineral Withdrawal. As part of ROD implementation, the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service are recommending the withdrawal of lands within Sagebrush Focal Areas from locations with mining claims, subject to valid existing rights. As part of the withdrawal process the lands covered by the proposal have been temporarily segregated for a period of up to two years. During this period, the agencies are undertaking environmental and other analyses to determine if the lands should be formally withdrawn to protect sage-grouse habitat from adverse effects of future locatable exploration and mining.

December 31: The U.S. Forest Service has filed an application with the BLM requesting that the Secretary of the Interior extend the duration of Public Land Order (PLO) No. 7233 (the Rogue River Withdrawal in OR) for an additional 20-year term. PLO No. 7233 withdrew approximately 2,090 acres of National Forest Systems Lands in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest from mining for 20 years to protect the Rabbit Ears-Falcon Wildlife Area; Rogue River Wild and Scenic Corridor; Union Creek Historic District; Abbot Creek and Mill Creek Recreation Sites; and the Prospect Ranger Station Administrative Site. The withdrawal created by Public Land Order No. 7233 will expire on January 1, 2017, unless extended.

January 3: The BLM and U.S. Forest Service have filed an application requesting to withdraw 101,021.71 acres in SW Oregon around the Salmon River (5,216.18 of BLM Revested O&C lands and 95,805.53 of National Forest System Lands). The comment period on the proposed 20-year withdrawal closes on December 31st at which point the Secretary would be able to make a decision on the application.

January 4: The BLM expects to release a Coal PEIS scoping report. The report will describe the process, summarize issues raised by commenters, and discuss alternatives that may be evaluated in the Coal PEIS.

January 5-8: The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 2017 Mid-Winter meeting will be held in Litchfield Park, Arizona. The agenda is not currently posted, but is expected to include discussions on Greater Sage-Grouse.

January 6: The NOA is expected to publish for the Sonoran Desert National Monument Target Shooting RMP Amendment and Draft EIS. The U.S. District Court in Arizona has ordered the BLM to temporarily close 2.1 percent -- 10,600 acres -- of the Sonoran Desert National Monument to recreational target shooting. During the closure, the BLM will conduct a court-ordered analysis of the impacts of such shooting on the Monument. Licensed hunting continues to be allowed; all state regulations apply. Approximately 95 percent of the 12.2 million acres of public land managed by BLM in Arizona remain open to recreational target shooting. The court-ordered deadline for this RMP is September 30, 2017.

January 9: BLM-CO plans to sign the Dominguez Escalante ROD. The PRMP/FEIS NOA was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, June 30, 2016, initiating the protest period, which closed on Monday, August 1, 2016. Seven protests were received; these submissions are currently being evaluated.

January 17: BLM-ID is scheduled to sign the Boardman to Hemingway ROD. The PRMP for this 305 mile (88 miles BLM) transmission line (500 kV AC) in Idaho and Oregon is expected to publish in mid-November 2017.

Jan. 17 and 24: The Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Nevada Department of Agriculture, USFS, Nevada Department of Wildlife and the BLM will host a series of Livestock Grazing Permittee workshops throughout Nevada. At these workshops, the BLM will present how the BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment's objectives will affect the livestock grazing program in Nevada and address questions.

Legal

N/A

IV. Major Federal Register Notices and Approval Packages:

Title	Current Status
Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Land-use Plan Amendments for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project, Oregon	11/15/16 Cleared the DOI, waiting for publication date. (DTS 1311)

V. Congressional Activities:

Hearings

Legislative Hearing: The week of Nov. 28, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands may hold a legislative hearing. Date and bills TBD.

BLM State Director Courtesy Visits

Courtesy Visits / Montana & Dakotas Congressional Delegations: During the week of Nov. 28, BLM Montana/Dakotas State Director Jamie Connell plans to conduct courtesy visits with members and staff of the Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota congressional delegations.

VI. Pending Packages in ASLM:

Packages with ASLM:

1. Surname – Sec Jewell Response to 2 Gov. Sandoval letters, Proposed Mineral Withdrawal in Sagebrush Focal Area (BLM0007183)
2. Signature – Response to Letter Re: Appeal of the BLM's decision to declare Lia Shapiro's mine claim Abandoned (LM00000009)
3. Surname/Signature – MOU between BLM and DOD on Wind Energy BLM0006219
4. Surname - Notice of Availability of the BLM Draft Presumed to Conform List of Actions Under General Conformity; Upper Green River Basin, Wyoming BLMR000766
5. Signature - Basin and Range National Monument Conservation Easement BLM0008835
6. Surname – Planning 2.0 **Starting review but Waiting for Executive Summary from Linda L**

7. Signature – Extension of Public Land Order 7233 –USFS Rogue River, OR BLM000127
8. Surname - Bureau of Land Management's Implementation of Secretarial Order 3339 Report Fiscal Year 2016 BLM0009086
9. Signature – Proposed Withdrawal Extension, Sweet Grass Hills, MT PLO 7254, 19,686 acres BLM000126
10. Surname – DM Chapter on Sagebrush Biome
11. Surname - Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA)–Round 16B, Project funding proposals (BLM0009071)
12. Surname - QFRs -7/7 HNR Hearing on Planning 2.0, Jim Lyons BLM0009091
13. Surname – NW Colorado RAC
14. Surname – Correspondence – Response to Tester - Solenex lease in Badger-Two Medicine area. (BLM0008986)
15. Surname - Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Tri-state Fuel Breaks Project, Owyhee County, Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon BLMR001209
16. Surname – SNPLMA Annual Report for FY 2014 & 2015

Packages with BLM:

1. Surname/Signature - Transfer of Jurisdiction of Public Lands to Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range/CACA 056671 BLM000120 *Returned to BLM in DTS to address comments/questions*

VI. Packages Going to ASLM Next Week:

1. Onshore Order 1 Package
2. Correspondence – Response to Tester - Encourages administrative withdrawal of leases north of Yellowstone National Park (BLM0009234)
3. QFRs - 9/22 SENR Hearing - Neil Kornze (BLM0009094)
4. Transfer of Jurisdiction of Public Lands to Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range/CACA 056671 (BLM000120) – Responding to ASLM review comments

VIII. Weekly Audit Report:

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
9181	Management Advisory – The Bureau of Land Management’s Wild Horse and Burro Program Is Not Maximizing Efficiencies or Complying With Federal Regulations (2016-WR-027) Link to the Advisory: N/A	A request to extend the response due date has been requested to respond to the management advisory. The working dates included have not been confirmed OIG.	11/3 – 11/18	11/9 – 11/15 11/21-11/25	N/A	11/16/2016 TBD

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
TBD	Draft Audit Report – Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Federal Indian Minerals Office (2015-EAU-079) Link to the Draft Report: N/A	Bureau specific comments are due to BIA for consolidation by 11/28/16.	11/18 – 11/28 (simultaneous review)	11/18 – 11/28 (simultaneous review)	N/A	12/9/2016

IX. Packages in WO-100:

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
1		BLM0009296	MTG/ CONF	BLM-WO-240 CULTURAL DIVISION	DD	Request for Approval to Host the Bureau of Land Management December Preservation Board Meeting	
2		BLM0009383	FTVL	Young, Richard	DD	Richard Young International Travel Request to Colombia Updated	
3		BLM0008813	MOA/ MOU	BLM-WO-410 NLCS DIVISION	AD	WSR 50th Anniversary MOU	
4	***	BLM0009074	MTG/ CONF	BLM-WO-220 RANGE DIVISION	A/S	Request for Approval to Attend the 2017 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting	
5		BLMR001289	FRN		BC	Notice of Proposed Withdrawal Extension and Opportunity for Public Meeting: Miller Lake Recreational Area, Oregon.	10/05/2016
6		BLM0009367	CC-ES	Bennett, Grace; Jewell, Sally	D	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument	11/08/2016
7		BLM0009368	CC-ES	Dyer, Rick; Roberts, Colleen	D	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument	11/10/2016
8	***	BLM0009308	DT	Jewell,	S	List of Programs Eligible for Inclusion in Funding Agreements Negotiated with Self-Governance Tribes by Interior Bureaus Other than the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Fiscal Year 2017 Programmatic Target	
9		BLM0009231	WP	bail, Kristin		WHB Program Budget Request Scenarios	
10		BLM0008104	IM	BLM-WO-410	D	Citizen Science Pilot Program	

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
				NLCS DIVISION			
11		BLMR001301	FRN-STATE		DSD	Notice of Relocation: Consolidation and Change of Address for Oklahoma Field Office-Tulsa and Moore Field Station	10/19/2016
12		BLM0009198	CC-ES	Jewell, Sally; Heinrich, Martin	DD	Recommends Leonard Martinez for Farmington RAC	10/17/2016
13		BLM0009098	CC-WO	Grisham, Michelle Lujan; Buchanan, Vern	D	Urging the BLM to reject recommendations made by the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board	10/07/2016
14		BLM0009106	CC-WO	Sanders, Bernard	DD	WH&B Advisory Board recommendation to kill wild horses (pending 9098)	10/11/2016
15		BLM0006696	MOA/MOU	BLM-WO-410 NLCS DIVISION	D	NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING	
16		BLM0009055	CC-WO	Hatch, Orrin G.; Lee, Mike; Stewart, Chris	DD	Concerns regarding proposed Red Cliffs NCA RMP/FEIS on behalf of Five County Asso of Govts	09/30/2016
17		BLM0009181	GAO/OIG RESPONSE	Lawrence, Allen	DAD	Management Advisory - The Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program Is Not Maximizing Efficiencies or Complying With Federal Regulations Report No. 2016-WR-027	
18		BLM0008814	IM	All Field and Washington Office Officials,	DD	Integrating Science into Land Management	
19		BLM0008990	CC-ES	Kornze, Neil; Jewell, Sally	D	Impacts of wild horses and burro on state trust lands	09/26/2016
20	***	BLM0009234	CC-ES	Vilsack, Thomas J; Tester, Jon	S	Encourages administrative withdrawal of leases north of Yellowstone National Park	10/24/2016
21		BLM0008787	CC-WO	Zukoski, Edward B.; Gordon, Bruce	D	Enefit oil shale project ROW	08/31/2016
22		BLM0008516	CC-ES	Vilsack, Thomas J; Williams, Steve	DD	Boundary Waters Canoe Area (pending 8219)	07/19/2016

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
23		BLM0009268	MAN	ALL BLM EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS,	DD	RE: BLM WASHINGTON OFFICE COOP PLAN	
24		BLM0009094	QFRs	Murkowski, Lisa		QFRs - 9/22 SENR Hearing - Neil Kornze	
25	***	BLMR001258	FRN		A/S	Notice of Implementation of the Ely District Cave and Karst Management Plan Including a Cave Use Permit System, Frequency and Group Size Limits, Installation of Cave Gates, and Cave Closures.	08/19/2016
26		BLM0008731	CC-WO	Murkowski, Lisa	D	Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska	08/29/2016
27		BLM0008901	CC-ES	Bennet, Michael F.; Jewell, Sally	S	Expansion of Colorado's Twentymile Mine	09/20/2016
28		BLM0008557	MEM	BLM-WO-320 SOLIDS DIVISION	AD	Concurrence With Continued Processing of Coal Lease Modification Application for Federal Coal Lease WYW-6266 During the Pause as Provided in Secretarial Order (SO) 3338	
29		BLM0009099	CC-WO	Grijalva, Raul M; Bishop, Bob	DD	Request BLM to prioritize implementation of recent recommendations made regarding the Helium program	
30		BLMR001277	FRN		D	Notice of Availability of Record of Decision Adopting U.S. Forest Service's Final Environmental Impact Statement for Oil and Gas Leasing On Lands Administered by the White River National Forest	09/16/2016
31		BLM0008603	CC-WO	Zinke, Ryan; Daines, Steve	DD	Expedite NOI for Spring Creek Mine EIS	08/12/2016
32		BLMR000754	FRN		D	Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment and Notice of Public Hearing for a Federal Coal Lease Application, NDM-107039, McLean County, North Dakota	05/21/2015

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
33		BLMR000485	FRN		D	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Public Meeting on Two Federal Coal Lease Applications, one Land Use Permit, one Land Use Lease in the Miles City	09/04/2014
34		BLMR000280	FRN		D	Notice of Realty Action: Proposed Amendment to Noncompetitive Land Use Lease MTM 74913; Montana	
35		BLM0008827	CC-WO	Kirkpatrick, Ann	DD	Status of Ray Land Exchange	09/09/2016
36		BLM0008399	MEM	BLM-MT-SD	AD	Secretarial Order (S.O.) 3338 Section 6(b), Lease Modification Justification Assessment Policy Review for Spring Creek Coal Company's (SCC) Lease Modification Application (LMA) MTM-094378	
37		BLM0007980	MEM	Nedd, Michael D.	AD	Concurrence Request for Processing LBA NDM-107039 as an Emergency LBA	
38		BLM0008526	CC-ES	Bishop, Rob +55	S	Proposed venting and flaring rule	08/01/2016
39		BLMR001191	FRN		D	Notice of Intent to Amend the Resource Management Plan for the San Luis Valley Field Office, Colorado, and Prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment	06/21/2016
40		BLM0008408	CC-WO	Grisham, Michelle L.	DD	Proposed Methane and Waste Prevention Rule	07/22/2016
41	***	BLM0008248	CC-WO	Bishop, Rob	A/S	Administrative procedures and IM 2013-177	07/08/2016
42		BLM0008171	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	DD	GCC Energy's request for SO 3338 exemption for King II Coal Mine	06/30/2016
43		BLMR000947	FRN		D	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to Hold Public Scoping Meetings for Federal Coal Lease Application Serial No. NDM 105513, Oliver County, ND	10/28/2015

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
44		BLM0007695	MEM	BLM-WO-300	AD	Buckskin Mine Royalty Rate Reduction	
45	***	BLM0007744	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	A/S	Request the BLM to cancel the Spruce Stomp coal lease	
46		BLM0007752	CC-WO	Daugaard, Dennis; Mead, Matt	D	Energy corridor designations	05/18/2016
47		BLMR000903	FRN		D	Notice of Availability of the Draft Hollister Resource Management Plan Amendment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Oil and Gas Leasing and Development, California	09/17/2015
48		BLM0007094	LTR	Walker, Bill	D	Use of DPPS survey method for Alaska Land Transfer program; negotiate a new MOU	
49		BLMR000552	FRN	Riechel, Silvia	D	Notice of Extension of the Current Qualification of the Designated Nine County Area of Oklahoma Federal Coal for Category 5 Royalty Rate Reductions	11/12/2014
50		BLM0008934	CC-WO	Chapoose, Shaun	DD	Hill Creek land exchange	

From: [Curtis, Todd](#)
To: [Janice Schneider](#); [James Lyons](#); [Amanda Leiter](#)
Cc: [Richard Cardinale](#); [Neil Kornze](#); [Linda Lance](#); [Jenna Whitlock](#); [Tracie Lassiter](#); [Michael Anderson](#); [Lauren Bogard](#); [Alexandra Teitz](#); [Karen Kelleher](#); [David Blackstun](#); [Fuge, Dylan](#); [Anita Bilbao](#); [Jeff Brune](#); [Yolando Mack-Thompson](#); [Kelly Orr](#); [Kathryn Kovacs](#); [Shannon Stewart](#); [Laura \(Liz\) Pardue](#); [Todd Curtis](#); [Linda Thurn](#); [Timothy Shannon](#); [Cynthia Hernandez](#); [Gracie Valdez](#); [Brubeck, Kimberly](#)
Subject: ASLM/BLM Weekly Report
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2016 4:46:13 PM
Attachments: [283.0 BLM-ASLM AGENDA FOR 20161612.docx](#)

Hi folks - attached is the Status report for Dec 19, 2015 through Jan 6, 2017.

Have a wonderful evening!

Todd M. Curtis

Advisor to the Director's Office (Detail)
Bureau of Land Management
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Office: 202-208-3759
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BLM-ASLM Agenda
December 16, 2016
Internal Working Document

I. Executive Travel: December 19 to January 6, 2016

BLM Director Neil Kornze will be out of the office December 19 - December 30. Deputy Director Linda Lance will be out of the office beginning the afternoon of December 22 - December 30. Acting Deputy Director Jenna Whitlock will be traveling December 27 (avail by email), but otherwise in the office during the holiday season. The week of January 1, Neil Kornze, Linda Lance and Jenna Whitlock will all be in Washington, D.C., attending regularly scheduled meetings.

II. Agenda Items

- Coal Scoping Report
- Onshore Order 1
- Mitigation Policy
- Withdrawals
- OIG/GAO
- Admin Records
- Projects
 - Chokecherry and Sierra Madre
 - Gateway West
 - Boardman to Hemingway

• Priority Packages

Items with ASLM:

- Onshore Order 1 - Final Rule
- QFRs - 9/22 SENR Hearing - Neil Kornze (BLM0009094)
- SO 3339 Under-Resourced Youth – Implementation Report (BLM0009086)
- Draft Administrative Proposal - BLM Concession Authority BLM0009092

Items incoming to ASLM:

- Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Decision Package (BLM0009327)
- Notice: Identifying Lands Subject to Secretarial Order of Restoration - Red Lake Band of the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota (BLM0009221)
- Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska (BLM0008731)
- Request to Close Rec 1 OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)
- Presumed to Conform List FRN (BLMR000766)

Priority Withdrawals Schedule:

- **DRECP** (BLML000141) amended withdrawal petition – to ALSM for review Dec 16, sign by Dec 20, publish FR Dec 23
- **Sagebrush Focal Areas** (BLML000106) withdrawal petition – sent to ASLM on Dec 14; ASLM to sign Dec 20
- **(continued on page 2)**

- **SW Oregon** (BLML000139) PLO for withdrawal/in placed when signed – 90 day comment period ends Dec 29. Withdrawal supports pending legislation; send to ASLM Dec 20, ASLM sign Dec 30 (end of current Congress, considering holiday).
- **Methow Valley** (BLMR001356) FS withdrawal petition/just need to clear FR notice – withdrawal in part supports pending legislation, Package to ASLM Dec 20, ASLM clear by Dec 30 (end of the current congress considering holiday);

II. Weekly Report:

December 18, 2016 – January 6, 2017.

The BLM is expected to announce the Decision Record for Phase 1 of the WY Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Project the week of December 19, giving approval for the first 500 wind turbines. This project is the largest proposed onshore wind energy facility in North America. The entire project will open up 1,200 jobs at peak construction and generate up to 3,000 megawatts of clean, renewable power, enough to power nearly one million homes. In addition, the Record of Decision for the Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs National Conservation Areas (NCA), the Proposed Amendment for the St. George RMP (UT) and associated Final EIS are expected to be signed. The key elements of the proposed plans for the NCAs include: protection for diverse threatened and endangered plant and animal species and critical habitats including the Mojave Desert Tortoise, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and native fish of the Virgin River System; management actions to reduce the threat of wildfires and restore fire-damaged landscapes; development of trails and other facilities to provide for sustainable recreations experiences; and protection for the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. Additionally, the BLM will finalize efforts to streamline oil and gas drilling permitting by adopting the e-filing of Applications for Permit to Drill. With the final revision to Onshore Order 1, the agency makes online filing of Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) the default method of filing, moving away from old-fashioned paper applications. On December 30, the BLM plans to release the draft EIS for the Sagebrush Focal Area Mineral Withdrawal. On December 30 and early in the new year, two mineral withdrawal notices, located in Oregon/Washington, will publish in the Federal Register. The first withdrawal, publishing on Dec 30, is for 101,021.71 acres in SW Oregon around the Salmon River. The second is for approximately 340,079 acres of Forest System lands located in the Methow Valley, WA. Lastly, BLM UT will conduct the first coal sale of 2017 on January 4. The Competitive Coal Lease Sale is for a tract of Federal coal in Sanpete and Sevier Counties, Utah.

Week Ahead Announcements- Presidential and Department/Agency Priorities – Dec 17, 2016 - Jan 6, 2017

Week of December 17: The final rule for Onshore Order 1 is expected to publish. The final rule will require the agency to adopt the online filing of Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) as the default method of filing, moving away from old-fashioned paper applications.

On or before December 17: The publication of the final Competitive Solar and Wind rule is expected.

Week of December 19: An ASLM decision on the BLM Decision Record for the BLM-WY Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Project is anticipated.

Week of December 19: The BLM-UT Price Field Office will release the San Rafael Desert Master Leasing Plan preliminary alternatives for public comment. This MLP focuses on approximately 525,000 acres of public lands in Emery and Wayne counties in Utah and could amend resource management plans for the Price and Richfield Offices.

Week of December 19: The BLM-UT Moab FO public comment period begins for the Tidewater EA, which analyzes a proposal to issue three Applications for Permit to Drill. The three wells are located in Grand County, Utah.

December 20: The new BLM-CA Ukiah Field Manager will meet with Congressman Mike Thompson (CA-05-D) for a meet and greet.

December 21 (TBD): BLM-UT plans to release the ROD for the Beaver Dam/Red Cliffs NCAs and St. George ROD. The Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the Federal Register on September 2, 2016, initiating a 30-day protest period. The ROD for the Red Cliffs NCA has a court-ordered completion date of December 31, 2016.

December 22: The public comment period ends for the BLM-ESO Draft EIS for the Mountain Valley Project and Equitrans Expansion Project, a pipeline that would run through Virginia and West Virginia. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is the lead agency for developing the Draft EIS.

Before December 31: The Final Colorado Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy (SRMS) release is expected. The SRMS is designed to improve the mitigation process, account for potential impacts in the landscape context and facilitate solar energy development in Solar Energy Zones. The strategy will use the information, maps and tools provided by the Landscape Assessment.

Late December: The BLM-UT Monticello Field Office plans to issue a decision on the proposed Indian Creek ATV route.

Late December or early January: The BLM-UT Moab FO will release for public comment an EA for the Needles and Anticline Overlook (Canyon Rims) Road Improvement Project.

Late December: Four IMs addressing issues other than the Coal PEIS noted in the SO (transparency, processing leasing actions under the leasing pause, waste mine methane, and surface owner consent) are expected to publish.

December 30: The BLM plans to release the draft EIS for the Sagebrush Focal Area Mineral Withdrawal. As part of ROD implementation, the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service are recommending the withdrawal of lands within Sagebrush Focal Areas from locations with mining claims, subject to valid existing rights. As part of the withdrawal process the lands covered by the proposal have been temporarily segregated for a period of up to two years. During this period, the agencies are undertaking environmental and other analyses to determine if the lands should be formally withdrawn to protect sage-grouse habitat from adverse effects of future locatable exploration and mining.

Early January: The BLM expects to release a Coal PEIS scoping report. The report will describe the process, summarize issues raised by commenters, and discuss alternatives that may be evaluated in the Coal PEIS.

December 30: A Notice of Proposed Withdrawal will be published in the *Federal Register* that will begin a 2-year segregation period for the withdrawal of approximately 340,079 acres of Forest System lands located in the Methow Valley, WA. The proposed withdrawal would close USFS managed lands for 20 years. The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to aid legislation introduced in Senate Bill 2991, known as the Methow Headwaters Protection Act of 2016.

January 2: The BLM and U.S. Forest Service have filed an application requesting to withdraw 101,021.71 acres in SW Oregon around the Salmon River (5,216.18 of BLM Revested O&C lands and 95,805.53 of National Forest System Lands). The comment period on the proposed 20-year withdrawal

closes on December 29th at which point the Secretary would be able to make a decision on the application. Because the withdrawal is in part to support pending legislation, a decision on the PLO needs to be made before the end of the current Congress, which is December 30, 2016.

January 4: BLM-UT will conduct a Competitive Coal Lease Sale for a tract of Federal coal in Sanpete and Sevier Counties, Utah. The Federal coal tract, known as the Greens Hollow Tract, is located in the Wasatch Plateau Known Recoverable Coal Resource Area. The 6,175-acre tract contains approximately 55.7 million tons of recoverable coal adjacent to and northwest of the existing SUFCO Mine, which is operated by Canyon Fuels, LLC, a subsidiary of Bowie Resource Partners, LLC.

January 5-8: The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' 2017 Mid-Winter meeting will be held at the Wigwam in Litchfield Park, AZ. The agenda is available at: http://www.wafwa.org/events/2017_mid-winter_meeting/program/ and includes the Sage Grouse Executive Oversight Committee Meeting on Friday morning, January 6. The BLM will send a small delegation.

January 6: BLM-CO plans to release the FRN for the Dominguez-Escalante ROD on January 6, 2016. The PRMP/FEIS NOA was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, June 30, 2016, initiating the protest period, which closed on Monday, August 1, 2016. Seven protests were received and are currently being evaluated.

Media

Trans Alaska Pipeline inquiry: In response to the media coverage of the protests regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline, Dan Springer, the Seattle-based correspondent for *Fox News*, called the BLM-AK Branch of Pipeline Monitoring on December 2 asking whether any spills from the TAPS had impacted drinking water. Springer was directed to contact the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. The tone of the story is expected to be neutral and the air date is unknown.

Alaska Public Media inquiry on Planning 2.0, Regional Mitigation Strategy, and Legacy Well program: On December 2, BLM-AK staff was interviewed by Alaska Public Media Energy Desk reporter Elizabeth Harball regarding three subjects that will result in three separate stories. Stacie McIntosh, Arctic Office Manager; Serena Sweet, Planning and NEPA lead for BLM Alaska; and Lesli Ellis-Wouters, Communications Chief participated. For the first story, focusing on the release of Planning 2.0, Sweet discussed three areas of change – more public involvement, adaptive management and landscape level planning. McIntosh provided a status on the Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Northeast NPR-A and a request for public comment by Dec. 29. The last story was an update on the Legacy Well program and clarification on work done last summer. The tone of the stories was positive and the stories are expected to be neutral. The air date is unknown.

Moab Times Independent query on Flaring: Reporter Rose Egelhoff requested general background on the impacts of the new flaring regulations and the expected ruling from the state on Wesco's operations in the Big Flat area. UT PA explained that both the state and the BLM have flaring rules, that they coordinate closely with each other and oil and gas operators in the area to ensure they are meeting federal and state requirements. They also noted that Wesco purchased Fidelity's holdings in the Big Flat area and currently flare and that reducing flaring was one of the key reasons for approving the Dead Horse Lateral Pipeline, as well as more responsible use of gas resources by providing a mechanism to get the gas to market. Rose has also requested to speak with a petroleum engineer on background to discuss flaring and venting and the BLM's role in regulating them for local operators. UT PA is arranging a backgrounder with Eric Jones, a petroleum engineer that can explain technical information in laymen's terms.

Deseret News Query on Planning 2.0: Reporter Amy Joi O'Donoghue requested comment on Utah and county leader concerns that under the final rule the importance of state and local government opinion is diminished. They are concerned that such a "landscape" scale approach to land use planning that does not have to adhere to district boundaries necessarily "subsumes" that voice. UT PA is working this request.

NPR Fresno request for interview on Temperance Flat Dam: Reporter Ezra David Romero requested to speak with the Bakersfield Field Manager regarding the possible impacts of a proposed Temperance Flat Dam. The BLM manages the San Joaquin River Gorge about 35 miles east of Fresno. The stretch of the river managed by the BLM, about 10 miles that includes hiking trails, campgrounds and a visitor center, would be inundated if the dam were built. The analysis in the 2015 Bakersfield Resource Management Plan found the portion of the river managed by the BLM qualifies for Wild and Scenic status. The reporter plans to also interview BOR, landowners and visit the Millerton Caves (BLM). CA PA is working this request.

HBO-Vice News request for interview on Western Monuments: Producer Alyse Shoreland is working on a story about the designation of western lands as monuments by the President. She is focusing on the Cascade-Siskiyou expansion and Owyhee Canyonlands in OR, and Gold Butte, NV, and is requesting interviews with officials on the ground who can speak about the lands and monument status if/when a designation is made. WO PA is on standby until if/when a designation is made.

30-60 Day Look Ahead

Early January: The BLM expects to release a Coal PEIS scoping report. The report will describe the process, summarize issues raised by commenters, and discuss alternatives that may be evaluated in the Coal PEIS.

No later than January 20: The BLM plans to publish the Oil Shale Rule. When finalized, the proposed rule would clarify specific provisions of oil shale royalty regulations, ensure that the royalty rate provides a fair return to the American taxpayer while encouraging the development of Federal oil shale resources, and include adequate measures to protect the environment.

January: BLM-AK Eastern Interior (EI) RODs/Approved RMPs: The Director's Response Letter to the Governor's Appeal has been approved by the Director's Office. The protest resolution report is complete and being finalized for publication/posting on the BLM website on or a day or two prior the ROD signature date.

January: BLM-NV plans to issue the final Dixie Meadows Geothermal Project EA and FONSI. The project area consists of approximately 22,021 acres of public land. The proponent (Ormat) is seeking approval to drill temperature gradient wells, and to drill and test observation wells and production wells at up to 20 specific locations.

January: The BLM-CA Arcata and Redding field offices published a Notice of Intent to begin public scoping for the development of a new RMP for public lands overseen by both offices on November 7. A series of seven public meetings will be held across the region in January and public comments will be accepted until the completion of the meetings.

January: BLM-CA plans to release for public comment the draft RMP Amendment and draft EIS that will address oil and gas leasing and development on 793,000 acres of federal mineral estate administered by the Central Coast Field Office. The amendment is in response to public concerns about oil and gas leasing and development, in particular hydraulic fracturing and related well stimulation techniques.

January 9: The BLM-ID Challis Field Office will begin bait trapping wild horses within the Challis HMA and treat mares with the fertility control PZP-22. The process is expected to be completed by March 14, 2017.

January 12: The BLM plans to release its final mitigation manual and handbook that will help the agency carry out consistent, effective, and transparent mitigation to address impacts to resources from public land uses.

January 13: BLM-ESO will transfer approximately 60,000 acres of land to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. The lands were ceded to the United States in the late 1800's and early 1900's, and originally identified for restoration in a 1945 Secretarial Order.

January 15-17: The North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Wilderness and Protected Areas (NAWPA) will hold their annual agency heads meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

January 17 and 24: The Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Nevada Department of Agriculture, USFS, Nevada Department of Wildlife and the BLM will host a series of Livestock Grazing Permittee workshops throughout Nevada. At these workshops, the BLM will present how the BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment's objectives will affect the livestock grazing program in Nevada and address questions.

Mid-January: BLM-ID plans to sign the Gateway West Transmission ROD. The BLM published the FSEIS for the final two sections on October 7, 2016. The protest period will end November 7, 2016. The protest resolution and Governor's Consistency Review is scheduled to be completed January 13, allowing for publication of the ROD prior to January 20. The preferred routes avoid to the greatest extent possible private land, Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA.

Mid-January: BLM is attempting to accelerate the signing of the Boardman to Hemingway ROD. Oregon Plan amendments are being handled concurrently and that decision will be issued simultaneously with the ROD for the EIS and Approval to issue a grant.

January 29-Feb: The Society for Rangeland Management Annual Meeting will be held in St. George, UT. BLM employees from various offices are planning to attend.

January 30: The BLM and Forest Service will announce the annual adjusted grazing fee for public lands.

Early FY2017: The finalized implementation plan for Wilderness 2020 Vision is expected to be issued.

February 7-8: The Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council meeting will be held at the DOI MIB.

February 25-March 1: The National Association of Counties Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

March 4-11: the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference will be held in Spokane, Washington. BLM staff will attend.

Legal

N/A

IV. Major Federal Register Notices and Approval Packages:

Title	Current Status
Notice of Proposed Withdrawal Extension and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Miller Lake Recreational Area, Oregon.	Will publish in the Federal Register on 12/16/16. (DTS 1289).
Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the TransWest Express Transmission Project in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Nevada	Will publish in the Federal Register on 12/16/16. (DTS 1319)
Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project and Approved Land-use Plan Amendments	Will publish in the Federal Register on 12/16/16. (DTS 1331)

V. Congressional Activities:

Congressional Meetings

Rep. Stewart / Wild Horse & Burro: On December 20, Kristin Bail, Assistant Director for Resources and Planning; Dean Bolstad, Division Chief, Wild Horse and Burro Program; and Linda Smith, BLM Budget Officer plan to meet with staff of Rep. Stewart (R-UT-2) at their request to discuss the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro program.

Congressional Visits in the Field

Courtesy Visits / Rep. Thompson (D-CA-5): On Dec. 20, BLM Ukiah California Field Manager, Amanda James plans to conduct a courtesy visit with Rep. Thompson (D-CA-5).

WH&B Corral Visit / Sen. Risch's Staff (R-ID): On Jan 4, staff from Senator Risch's office will tour the BLM's Boise Idaho corral and meet with BLM ID wild horse and burro program staff.

State Legislature Hearings / Meetings

Wyoming State Legislature / Forestry: The BLM in Wyoming has a received a request from the Wyoming State Legislature's Joint Agriculture Committee to provide an update on BLM forestry activities on Jan. 17 in Cheyenne. Details TBD.

VI. Pending Packages in ASLM:

Packages with ASLM 12/15/2016:

1. Surname – Sec Jewell Response to 2 Gov. Sandoval letters, Proposed Mineral Withdrawal in Sagebrush Focal Area (BLM0007183)
2. Signature – Response to Letter Re: Appeal of the BLM's decision to declare Lia Shapiro's mine claim Abandoned (LM00000009)
3. Surname - Bureau of Land Management's Implementation of Secretarial Order 3339 Report Fiscal Year 2016 BLM0009086
4. Surname - Draft Administrative Proposal - BLM Concession Authority BLM0009092

5. Surname – Letter from Senators Udall & Heinrich about Upper Rio Grande Watershed wildlife corridors BLM0008739
6. Request to Close Recommendation 9 in the Office of Inspector General's report entitled, Bureau of Land Management's Renewable Energy Program: A Critical Point in Renewable Energy Development (Report No. CR-EV-BLM-0004-2010) (BLM0008379)
7. Surname – 90 Day List (January - March) BLMR001344
8. Signature - Request to amend the application for the Greater Sage-Grouse withdrawal to add 400K acres in Nevada and the NOA for the DEIS. BLML000106
9. Surname – Farmington (NM) RAC
10. Surname – Albuquerque (NM) RAC
11. Surname – Southeast Oregon RAC
12. Surname – California Desert District RAC

Packages with BLM:

1. Surname/Signature – MOU between BLM and DOD on Wind Energy BLM0006219 **WO-301 Resolving AL Comments and preparing Hardcopy for Signature.**
2. Surname – SNPLMA Annual Report for FY 2014 & 2015. **NV has circulated a new version to 300/100 and Kelly is reviewing. Current goal is to get new hard copy to ASLM by Friday, 12/16 or Monday, 12/19**
3. Surname/Signature - Transfer of Jurisdiction of Public Lands to Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range/CACA 056671 BLML000120 **WO-350 – Lands and Realty is addressing Kelleher comments on PLO, the ASLM Info Memo, and the Transmittal Memo**
4. Surname – 620 DM 1-7 Wildland Fire Program Policy BLM0009488 / ESO-00073486 – **Solicitor Review**

VI. Packages Going to ASLM Next Week:

1. Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Decision Package (BLM0009327)
2. Notice: Identifying Lands Subject to Secretarial Order of Restoration - Red Lake Band of the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota (BLM0009221)
3. Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska (BLM0008731)
4. Request to Close Rec 1 OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)
5. Presumed to Conform List FRN (BLMR000766)

VIII. Weekly Audit Report:

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
IA00 05491	Draft Audit Report – Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Federal Indian Minerals Office (2015-EAU-079) Link to the Draft Report: N/A	The response was signed on 12/8/16.	11/18 – 11/28 (Done)	11/18 – 11/28 (Done)	(Done)	12/9 (Done)

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
TBD	Oil and Gas Oversight: Interior Has Taken Steps to Address Staff Hiring, Retention, and Training but Needs a More Evaluative and Collaborative Approach (GAO-16-742) Link to the Draft Report: http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-742	PFM emailed the response to the bureaus for a final surname. Surnames are due by 12/12/16.	12/15-12/19	12/20-12/21	12/21	12/31

IX. Packages in WO-100:

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
1	***	BLM0009221	FRN-Federal Register Notice	Schneider, Janice M.	A/S	Notice: Identifying Lands Subject to Secretarial Order of Restoration of February 22, 1945	
2		BLM0009501	CC-WO	Buck, Ken	D	Timely processing of Riverside Reservoir leases	12/01/2016
3	***	BLML000141	PA	LM-A/S Janice Schneider	A/S	Petition/Application for Withdrawal, California Desert Conservation Area, California	
4	***	BLML000129	PLO	DOI-OSMRE	A/S	Proposed PLO, Withdrawal Revocation of the Lonesome Lake Area; Montana	
5		BLM0009572	FTVL	Hawks, Robin B.	DD	Robin Hawks foreign travel request to Canada	
6		BLM0009571	FTVL	McAlear, Chris	DD	McAlear foreign travel request to Canada	
7		BLM0009395	CC-ES	Vilsack, Thomas J; Jewell, Sally	D	hard rock mining near Yellowstone National Park (pending 9234)	11/02/2016
8	***	BLM0009566	GAO/OIG CLOSURE	Schneider, Janice M.	A/S	Request to Close Recommendation 1 in the U.S. Government Accountability Office's Report, OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)	

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
9		BLM0009127	IM	BLM-WO-200 BUSINESS	AD	Fiscal Year 2016 Reporting on Solid Waste and Chemicals Management	
10		BLMR001308	FRN		BC	Notice of Proposed Extension of Public Land Order No. 7322; Opportunity for Public Meeting; West Eagle Meadow,	10/25/2016
11		BLMR001299	FRN		DSD	Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Comment; Klamath National Forest, California	10/17/2016
12		BLMR001221	FRN		D	Notice of Realty Action: Application for Conveyance of Federally Owned Mineral Interests in Maricopa County, Arizona.	07/14/2016
13	***	BLMC000011	Other	BLM-NM-SD	S	Annual Helium Report of 2015	
14	***	BLML000116	PLO	BLM-CA-931 LANDS AND REALTY	A/S	Homestake Withdrawal Partial Revocation/CACA 051360	
15		BLM0007454	MAN	BLM-WO-240 CULTURAL DIVISION	DD	1780 Manual & Handbook - Tribal Relations-Consultation Policy & Guidance	
16		BLMR001214	FRN		D	Notice of Application for Recordable Disclaimer of Interest in Lands, Kootenai County, Idaho	07/06/2016
17		BLM0009525	CC-ES	Chaffetz, Jason; Jewell, Sally	D	APD pending before Price BLM Field Office in Utah	12/06/2016
18	***	BLM0009292	CC-ES	Mead, Matthew H.; Jewell, Sally	S	Wyoming's Greater sage-grouse compensatory mitigation framework	10/31/2016
19		BLMR001335	FRN		AD	Call for Nominations for the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board	11/14/2016
20		BLMR001304	FRN		D	Notice of Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest: Dimmit County, Texas	10/19/2016
21		BLM0009099	CC- WO	Grijalva, Raul M; Bishop, Bob	DD	Prioritize implementation of Helium Program recommendations	
22	***	BLM0008526	CC-ES	Bishop, Rob +55	S	Proposed venting and flaring rule	08/01/2016

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
23		BLM0009404	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: Distinguished Service Award - Ramona M. Chinn	
24		BLM0009442	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: VALOR GROUP AWARDS IDAHO BRUNEAU FIRE CREW (8)	
25		BLM0009441	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: VALOR Group Awards - TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE, COLORADO (3)	
26		BLM0009419	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: Distinguished Service Award - Robert E. King	
27		BLM0009471	CC-WO	Whitlock, Jenna		Letter from Dakotas RAC re. federal coal program	
28		BLM0008257	LTR	BLM-WO-420 EDU, INT, and PARTNER DIVISION	D	Request for Approval of Director's Letter and Photograph for Connecting People to Their Public Lands 2016	
29		BLM0008934	CC-WO	Chapoose, Shaun	DD	Hill Creek land exchange	
30		BLM0009370	MEM	BLM-WO-100	Other	Conference support approval	
31	***	BLM0009197	CC-ES	Herbert, Gary R.; Jewell, Sally	S	Utah's wild horse and burro population	10/17/2016
32	***	BLM0009327	DM	Schneider, Janice M.	A/S	EA for Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Development Project	
33		BLM0009396	GOV	Jewell, Sally; Herbert, Gary R	DR	Alton Coal emergency lease application	11/08/2016
34	***	BLML000133	LAND ACQ	PMB-DBPA- Ferriter	A/S	Request for Reprogramming of Land and Water Conservation Funding	09/07/2016
35		BLM0008104	IM	BLM-WO-410 NLCS	D	Citizen Science Pilot Program	
36		BLM0009268	MAN	ALL BLM	DD	RE: BLM WASHINGTON OFFICE COOP PLAN	
37		BLM0008731	CC-WO	Murkowski, Lisa	D	Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska	08/29/2016
38	***	BLM0008901	CC-ES	Bennet, Michael F.; Jewell, Sally	S	Expansion of Colorado's Twentymile Mine	09/20/2016

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
39	***	BLM0008248	CC-WO	Bishop, Rob	A/S	Administrative procedures and IM 2013-177	07/08/2016
40		BLM0008171	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	DD	GCC Energy's request for SO 3338 exemption for King II Coal Mine	06/30/2016
41		BLMR000947	FRN		D	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to Hold Public Scoping Meetings for Federal Coal Lease Application Serial No. NDM 105513, Oliver County, ND	10/28/2015
42		BLM0007695	MEM	BLM-WO-300	AD	Buckskin Mine Royalty Rate Reduction	
43	***	BLM0007744	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	A/S	Request the BLM to cancel the Spruce Stomp coal lease	
44		BLM0007752	CC-WO	Daugaard, Dennis; Mead, Matt	D	Energy corridor designations	05/18/2016
45		BLM0007094	LTR	Walker, Bill	D	Use of DPPS survey method for Alaska Land Transfer program; negotiate a new MOU	
46		BLMR000552	FRN	Riechel, Silvia	D	Notice of Extension of the Current Qualification of the Designated Nine County Area of Oklahoma Federal Coal for Category 5 Royalty Rate Reductions	11/12/2014

From: [Curtis, Todd](#)
To: [Janice Schneider](#); [James Lyons](#); [Amanda Leiter](#)
Cc: [Richard Cardinale](#); [Neil Kornze](#); [Linda Lance](#); [Jenna Whitlock](#); [Tracie Lassiter](#); [Michael Anderson](#); [Lauren Bogard](#); [Alexandra Teitz](#); [Karen Kelleher](#); [David Blackstun](#); [Fuge, Dylan](#); [Anita Bilbao](#); [Jeff Brune](#); [Yolando Mack-Thompson](#); [Kelly Orr](#); [Kathryn Kovacs](#); [Shannon Stewart](#); [Laura \(Liz\) Pardue](#); [Todd Curtis](#); [Linda Thurn](#); [Timothy Shannon](#); [Cynthia Hernandez](#); [Gracie Valdez](#); [Brubeck, Kimberly](#)
Subject: ASLM/BLM Weekly Report
Date: Thursday, December 15, 2016 4:50:14 PM
Attachments: [283.0 BLM-ASLM AGENDA FOR 20161612.docx](#)

Hi folks - attached is the Status report for Dec 19, 2015 through Jan 6, 2017.

Have a wonderful evening!

Todd M. Curtis

Advisor to the Director's Office (Detail)
Bureau of Land Management
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Washington, DC
Office: 202-208-3759
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BLM-ASLM Agenda
December 16, 2016
Internal Working Document

I. Executive Travel: December 19 to January 6, 2016

BLM Director Neil Kornze will be out of the office December 19 - December 30. Deputy Director Linda Lance will be out of the office beginning the afternoon of December 22 - December 30. Acting Deputy Director Jenna Whitlock will be traveling December 27 (avail by email), but otherwise in the office during the holiday season. The week of January 1, Neil Kornze, Linda Lance and Jenna Whitlock will all be in Washington, D.C., attending regularly scheduled meetings.

II. Agenda Items

- Coal Scoping Report
- Onshore Order 1
- Mitigation Policy
- Withdrawals
- OIG/GAO
- Admin Records
- Projects
 - Chokecherry and Sierra Madre
 - Gateway West
 - Boardman to Hemingway

• Priority Packages

Items with ASLM:

- Onshore Order 1 - Final Rule
- QFRs - 9/22 SENR Hearing - Neil Kornze (BLM0009094)
- SO 3339 Under-Resourced Youth – Implementation Report (BLM0009086)
- Draft Administrative Proposal - BLM Concession Authority BLM0009092

Items incoming to ASLM:

- Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Decision Package (BLM0009327)
- Notice: Identifying Lands Subject to Secretarial Order of Restoration - Red Lake Band of the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota (BLM0009221)
- Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska (BLM0008731)
- Request to Close Rec 1 OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)
- Presumed to Conform List FRN (BLMR000766)

Priority Withdrawals Schedule:

- **DRECP** (BLML000141) amended withdrawal petition – to ALSM for review Dec 16, sign by Dec 20, publish FR Dec 23
- **Sagebrush Focal Areas** (BLML000106) withdrawal petition – sent to ASLM on Dec 14; ASLM to sign Dec 20
- **(continued on page 2)**

- **SW Oregon** (BLML000139) PLO for withdrawal/in placed when signed – 90 day comment period ends Dec 29. Withdrawal supports pending legislation; send to ASLM Dec 20, ASLM sign Dec 30 (end of current Congress, considering holiday).
- **Methow Valley** (BLMR001356) FS withdrawal petition/just need to clear FR notice – withdrawal in part supports pending legislation, Package to ASLM Dec 20, ASLM clear by Dec 30 (end of the current congress considering holiday);

II. Weekly Report:

December 18, 2016 – January 6, 2017.

The BLM is expected to announce the Decision Record for Phase 1 of the WY Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Project the week of December 19, giving approval for the first 500 wind turbines. This project is the largest proposed onshore wind energy facility in North America. The entire project will open up 1,200 jobs at peak construction and generate up to 3,000 megawatts of clean, renewable power, enough to power nearly one million homes. In addition, the Record of Decision for the Beaver Dam Wash and Red Cliffs National Conservation Areas (NCA), the Proposed Amendment for the St. George RMP (UT) and associated Final EIS are expected to be signed. The key elements of the proposed plans for the NCAs include: protection for diverse threatened and endangered plant and animal species and critical habitats including the Mojave Desert Tortoise, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and native fish of the Virgin River System; management actions to reduce the threat of wildfires and restore fire-damaged landscapes; development of trails and other facilities to provide for sustainable recreations experiences; and protection for the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. Additionally, the BLM will finalize efforts to streamline oil and gas drilling permitting by adopting the e-filing of Applications for Permit to Drill. With the final revision to Onshore Order 1, the agency makes online filing of Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) the default method of filing, moving away from old-fashioned paper applications. On December 30, the BLM plans to release the draft EIS for the Sagebrush Focal Area Mineral Withdrawal. On December 30 and early in the new year, two mineral withdrawal notices, located in Oregon/Washington, will publish in the Federal Register. The first withdrawal, publishing on Dec 30, is for 101,021.71 acres in SW Oregon around the Salmon River. The second is for approximately 340,079 acres of Forest System lands located in the Methow Valley, WA. Lastly, BLM UT will conduct the first coal sale of 2017 on January 4. The Competitive Coal Lease Sale is for a tract of Federal coal in Sanpete and Sevier Counties, Utah.

Week Ahead Announcements- Presidential and Department/Agency Priorities – Dec 17, 2016 - Jan 6, 2017

Week of December 17: The final rule for Onshore Order 1 is expected to publish. The final rule will require the agency to adopt the online filing of Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) as the default method of filing, moving away from old-fashioned paper applications.

On or before December 17: The publication of the final Competitive Solar and Wind rule is expected.

Week of December 19: An ASLM decision on the BLM Decision Record for the BLM-WY Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Project is anticipated.

Week of December 19: The BLM-UT Price Field Office will release the San Rafael Desert Master Leasing Plan preliminary alternatives for public comment. This MLP focuses on approximately 525,000 acres of public lands in Emery and Wayne counties in Utah and could amend resource management plans for the Price and Richfield Offices.

Week of December 19: The BLM-UT Moab FO public comment period begins for the Tidewater EA, which analyzes a proposal to issue three Applications for Permit to Drill. The three wells are located in Grand County, Utah.

December 20: The new BLM-CA Ukiah Field Manager will meet with Congressman Mike Thompson (CA-05-D) for a meet and greet.

December 21 (TBD): BLM-UT plans to release the ROD for the Beaver Dam/Red Cliffs NCAs and St. George ROD. The Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the Federal Register on September 2, 2016, initiating a 30-day protest period. The ROD for the Red Cliffs NCA has a court-ordered completion date of December 31, 2016.

December 22: The public comment period ends for the BLM-ESO Draft EIS for the Mountain Valley Project and Equitrans Expansion Project, a pipeline that would run through Virginia and West Virginia. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is the lead agency for developing the Draft EIS.

Before December 31: The Final Colorado Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy (SRMS) release is expected. The SRMS is designed to improve the mitigation process, account for potential impacts in the landscape context and facilitate solar energy development in Solar Energy Zones. The strategy will use the information, maps and tools provided by the Landscape Assessment.

Late December: The BLM-UT Monticello Field Office plans to issue a decision on the proposed Indian Creek ATV route.

Late December or early January: The BLM-UT Moab FO will release for public comment an EA for the Needles and Anticline Overlook (Canyon Rims) Road Improvement Project.

Late December: Four IMs addressing issues other than the Coal PEIS noted in the SO (transparency, processing leasing actions under the leasing pause, waste mine methane, and surface owner consent) are expected to publish.

December 30: The BLM plans to release the draft EIS for the Sagebrush Focal Area Mineral Withdrawal. As part of ROD implementation, the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service are recommending the withdrawal of lands within Sagebrush Focal Areas from locations with mining claims, subject to valid existing rights. As part of the withdrawal process the lands covered by the proposal have been temporarily segregated for a period of up to two years. During this period, the agencies are undertaking environmental and other analyses to determine if the lands should be formally withdrawn to protect sage-grouse habitat from adverse effects of future locatable exploration and mining.

Early January: The BLM expects to release a Coal PEIS scoping report. The report will describe the process, summarize issues raised by commenters, and discuss alternatives that may be evaluated in the Coal PEIS.

December 30: A Notice of Proposed Withdrawal will be published in the *Federal Register* that will begin a 2-year segregation period for the withdrawal of approximately 340,079 acres of Forest System lands located in the Methow Valley, WA. The proposed withdrawal would close USFS managed lands for 20 years. The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to aid legislation introduced in Senate Bill 2991, known as the Methow Headwaters Protection Act of 2016.

January 2: The BLM and U.S. Forest Service have filed an application requesting to withdraw 101,021.71 acres in SW Oregon around the Salmon River (5,216.18 of BLM Revested O&C lands and 95,805.53 of National Forest System Lands). The comment period on the proposed 20-year withdrawal

closes on December 29th at which point the Secretary would be able to make a decision on the application. Because the withdrawal is in part to support pending legislation, a decision on the PLO needs to be made before the end of the current Congress, which is December 30, 2016.

January 4: BLM-UT will conduct a Competitive Coal Lease Sale for a tract of Federal coal in Sanpete and Sevier Counties, Utah. The Federal coal tract, known as the Greens Hollow Tract, is located in the Wasatch Plateau Known Recoverable Coal Resource Area. The 6,175-acre tract contains approximately 55.7 million tons of recoverable coal adjacent to and northwest of the existing SUFCO Mine, which is operated by Canyon Fuels, LLC, a subsidiary of Bowie Resource Partners, LLC.

January 5-8: The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' 2017 Mid-Winter meeting will be held at the Wigwam in Litchfield Park, AZ. The agenda is available at: http://www.wafwa.org/events/2017_mid-winter_meeting/program/ and includes the Sage Grouse Executive Oversight Committee Meeting on Friday morning, January 6. The BLM will send a small delegation.

January 6: BLM-CO plans to release the FRN for the Dominguez-Escalante ROD on January 6, 2016. The PRMP/FEIS NOA was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, June 30, 2016, initiating the protest period, which closed on Monday, August 1, 2016. Seven protests were received and are currently being evaluated.

Media

Trans Alaska Pipeline inquiry: In response to the media coverage of the protests regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline, Dan Springer, the Seattle-based correspondent for *Fox News*, called the BLM-AK Branch of Pipeline Monitoring on December 2 asking whether any spills from the TAPS had impacted drinking water. Springer was directed to contact the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. The tone of the story is expected to be neutral and the air date is unknown.

Alaska Public Media inquiry on Planning 2.0, Regional Mitigation Strategy, and Legacy Well program: On December 2, BLM-AK staff was interviewed by Alaska Public Media Energy Desk reporter Elizabeth Harball regarding three subjects that will result in three separate stories. Stacie McIntosh, Arctic Office Manager; Serena Sweet, Planning and NEPA lead for BLM Alaska; and Lesli Ellis-Wouters, Communications Chief participated. For the first story, focusing on the release of Planning 2.0, Sweet discussed three areas of change – more public involvement, adaptive management and landscape level planning. McIntosh provided a status on the Regional Mitigation Strategy for the Northeast NPR-A and a request for public comment by Dec. 29. The last story was an update on the Legacy Well program and clarification on work done last summer. The tone of the stories was positive and the stories are expected to be neutral. The air date is unknown.

Moab Times Independent query on Flaring: Reporter Rose Egelhoff requested general background on the impacts of the new flaring regulations and the expected ruling from the state on Wesco's operations in the Big Flat area. UT PA explained that both the state and the BLM have flaring rules, that they coordinate closely with each other and oil and gas operators in the area to ensure they are meeting federal and state requirements. They also noted that Wesco purchased Fidelity's holdings in the Big Flat area and currently flare and that reducing flaring was one of the key reasons for approving the Dead Horse Lateral Pipeline, as well as more responsible use of gas resources by providing a mechanism to get the gas to market. Rose has also requested to speak with a petroleum engineer on background to discuss flaring and venting and the BLM's role in regulating them for local operators. UT PA is arranging a backgrounder with Eric Jones, a petroleum engineer that can explain technical information in laymen's terms.

Deseret News Query on Planning 2.0: Reporter Amy Joi O'Donoghue requested comment on Utah and county leader concerns that under the final rule the importance of state and local government opinion is diminished. They are concerned that such a "landscape" scale approach to land use planning that does not have to adhere to district boundaries necessarily "subsumes" that voice. UT PA is working this request.

NPR Fresno request for interview on Temperance Flat Dam: Reporter Ezra David Romero requested to speak with the Bakersfield Field Manager regarding the possible impacts of a proposed Temperance Flat Dam. The BLM manages the San Joaquin River Gorge about 35 miles east of Fresno. The stretch of the river managed by the BLM, about 10 miles that includes hiking trails, campgrounds and a visitor center, would be inundated if the dam were built. The analysis in the 2015 Bakersfield Resource Management Plan found the portion of the river managed by the BLM qualifies for Wild and Scenic status. The reporter plans to also interview BOR, landowners and visit the Millerton Caves (BLM). CA PA is working this request.

HBO-Vice News request for interview on Western Monuments: Producer Alyse Shoreland is working on a story about the designation of western lands as monuments by the President. She is focusing on the Cascade-Siskiyou expansion and Owyhee Canyonlands in OR, and Gold Butte, NV, and is requesting interviews with officials on the ground who can speak about the lands and monument status if/when a designation is made. WO PA is on standby until if/when a designation is made.

30-60 Day Look Ahead

Early January: The BLM expects to release a Coal PEIS scoping report. The report will describe the process, summarize issues raised by commenters, and discuss alternatives that may be evaluated in the Coal PEIS.

No later than January 20: The BLM plans to publish the Oil Shale Rule. When finalized, the proposed rule would clarify specific provisions of oil shale royalty regulations, ensure that the royalty rate provides a fair return to the American taxpayer while encouraging the development of Federal oil shale resources, and include adequate measures to protect the environment.

January: BLM-AK Eastern Interior (EI) RODs/Approved RMPs: The Director's Response Letter to the Governor's Appeal has been approved by the Director's Office. The protest resolution report is complete and being finalized for publication/posting on the BLM website on or a day or two prior the ROD signature date.

January: BLM-NV plans to issue the final Dixie Meadows Geothermal Project EA and FONSI. The project area consists of approximately 22,021 acres of public land. The proponent (Ormat) is seeking approval to drill temperature gradient wells, and to drill and test observation wells and production wells at up to 20 specific locations.

January: The BLM-CA Arcata and Redding field offices published a Notice of Intent to begin public scoping for the development of a new RMP for public lands overseen by both offices on November 7. A series of seven public meetings will be held across the region in January and public comments will be accepted until the completion of the meetings.

January: BLM-CA plans to release for public comment the draft RMP Amendment and draft EIS that will address oil and gas leasing and development on 793,000 acres of federal mineral estate administered by the Central Coast Field Office. The amendment is in response to public concerns about oil and gas leasing and development, in particular hydraulic fracturing and related well stimulation techniques.

January 9: The BLM-ID Challis Field Office will begin bait trapping wild horses within the Challis HMA and treat mares with the fertility control PZP-22. The process is expected to be completed by March 14, 2017.

January 12: The BLM plans to release its final mitigation manual and handbook that will help the agency carry out consistent, effective, and transparent mitigation to address impacts to resources from public land uses.

January 13: BLM-ESO will transfer approximately 60,000 acres of land to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. The lands were ceded to the United States in the late 1800's and early 1900's, and originally identified for restoration in a 1945 Secretarial Order.

January 15-17: The North American Intergovernmental Committee on Cooperation for Wilderness and Protected Areas (NAWPA) will hold their annual agency heads meeting in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

January 17 and 24: The Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Nevada Department of Agriculture, USFS, Nevada Department of Wildlife and the BLM will host a series of Livestock Grazing Permittee workshops throughout Nevada. At these workshops, the BLM will present how the BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment's objectives will affect the livestock grazing program in Nevada and address questions.

Mid-January: BLM-ID plans to sign the Gateway West Transmission ROD. The BLM published the FSEIS for the final two sections on October 7, 2016. The protest period will end November 7, 2016. The protest resolution and Governor's Consistency Review is scheduled to be completed January 13, allowing for publication of the ROD prior to January 20. The preferred routes avoid to the greatest extent possible private land, Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA.

Mid-January: BLM is attempting to accelerate the signing of the Boardman to Hemingway ROD. Oregon Plan amendments are being handled concurrently and that decision will be issued simultaneously with the ROD for the EIS and Approval to issue a grant.

January 29-Feb: The Society for Rangeland Management Annual Meeting will be held in St. George, UT. BLM employees from various offices are planning to attend.

January 30: The BLM and Forest Service will announce the annual adjusted grazing fee for public lands.

Early FY2017: The finalized implementation plan for Wilderness 2020 Vision is expected to be issued.

February 7-8: The Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council meeting will be held at the DOI MIB.

February 25-March 1: The National Association of Counties Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

March 4-11: the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference will be held in Spokane, Washington. BLM staff will attend.

Legal

N/A

IV. Major Federal Register Notices and Approval Packages:

Title	Current Status
Notice of Proposed Withdrawal Extension and Opportunity for Public Meeting; Miller Lake Recreational Area, Oregon.	Will publish in the Federal Register on 12/16/16. (DTS 1289).
Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the TransWest Express Transmission Project in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Nevada	Will publish in the Federal Register on 12/16/16. (DTS 1319)
Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Energy Gateway South Transmission Project and Approved Land-use Plan Amendments	Will publish in the Federal Register on 12/16/16. (DTS 1331)

V. Congressional Activities:

Congressional Meetings

Rep. Stewart / Wild Horse & Burro: On December 20, Kristin Bail, Assistant Director for Resources and Planning; Dean Bolstad, Division Chief, Wild Horse and Burro Program; and Linda Smith, BLM Budget Officer plan to meet with staff of Rep. Stewart (R-UT-2) at their request to discuss the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro program.

Congressional Visits in the Field

Courtesy Visits / Rep. Thompson (D-CA-5): On Dec. 20, BLM Ukiah California Field Manager, Amanda James plans to conduct a courtesy visit with Rep. Thompson (D-CA-5).

WH&B Corral Visit / Sen. Risch's Staff (R-ID): On Jan 4, staff from Senator Risch's office will tour the BLM's Boise Idaho corral and meet with BLM ID wild horse and burro program staff.

State Legislature Hearings / Meetings

Wyoming State Legislature / Forestry: The BLM in Wyoming has a received a request from the Wyoming State Legislature's Joint Agriculture Committee to provide an update on BLM forestry activities on Jan. 17 in Cheyenne. Details TBD.

VI. Pending Packages in ASLM:

Packages with ASLM 12/15/2016:

1. Surname – Sec Jewell Response to 2 Gov. Sandoval letters, Proposed Mineral Withdrawal in Sagebrush Focal Area (BLM0007183)
2. Signature – Response to Letter Re: Appeal of the BLM's decision to declare Lia Shapiro's mine claim Abandoned (LM00000009)
3. Surname - Bureau of Land Management's Implementation of Secretarial Order 3339 Report Fiscal Year 2016 BLM0009086
4. Surname - Draft Administrative Proposal - BLM Concession Authority BLM0009092

5. Surname – Letter from Senators Udall & Heinrich about Upper Rio Grande Watershed wildlife corridors BLM0008739
6. Request to Close Recommendation 9 in the Office of Inspector General's report entitled, Bureau of Land Management's Renewable Energy Program: A Critical Point in Renewable Energy Development (Report No. CR-EV-BLM-0004-2010) (BLM0008379)
7. Surname – 90 Day List (January - March) BLMR001344
8. Signature - Request to amend the application for the Greater Sage-Grouse withdrawal to add 400K acres in Nevada and the NOA for the DEIS. BLML000106
9. Surname – Farmington (NM) RAC
10. Surname – Albuquerque (NM) RAC
11. Surname – Southeast Oregon RAC
12. Surname – California Desert District RAC

Packages with BLM:

1. Surname/Signature – MOU between BLM and DOD on Wind Energy BLM0006219 **WO-301 Resolving AL Comments and preparing Hardcopy for Signature.**
2. Surname – SNPLMA Annual Report for FY 2014 & 2015. **NV has circulated a new version to 300/100 and Kelly is reviewing. Current goal is to get new hard copy to ASLM by Friday, 12/16 or Monday, 12/19**
3. Surname/Signature - Transfer of Jurisdiction of Public Lands to Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range/CACA 056671 BLML000120 **WO-350 – Lands and Realty is addressing Kelleher comments on PLO, the ASLM Info Memo, and the Transmittal Memo**
4. Surname – 620 DM 1-7 Wildland Fire Program Policy BLM0009488 / ESO-00073486 – **Solicitor Review**

VI. Packages Going to ASLM Next Week:

1. Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Decision Package (BLM0009327)
2. Notice: Identifying Lands Subject to Secretarial Order of Restoration - Red Lake Band of the Chippewa Indians in Minnesota (BLM0009221)
3. Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska (BLM0008731)
4. Request to Close Rec 1 OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)
5. Presumed to Conform List FRN (BLMR000766)

VIII. Weekly Audit Report:

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
IA00 05491	Draft Audit Report – Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Federal Indian Minerals Office (2015-EAU-079) Link to the Draft Report: N/A	The response was signed on 12/8/16.	11/18 – 11/28 (Done)	11/18 – 11/28 (Done)	(Done)	12/9 (Done)

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
TBD	Oil and Gas Oversight: Interior Has Taken Steps to Address Staff Hiring, Retention, and Training but Needs a More Evaluative and Collaborative Approach (GAO-16-742) Link to the Draft Report: http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-742	PFM emailed the response to the bureaus for a final surname. Surnames are due by 12/12/16.	12/15-12/19	12/20-12/21	12/21	12/31

IX. Packages in WO-100:

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
1	***	BLM0009221	FRN-Federal Register Notice	Schneider, Janice M.	A/S	Notice: Identifying Lands Subject to Secretarial Order of Restoration of February 22, 1945	
2		BLM0009501	CC-WO	Buck, Ken	D	Timely processing of Riverside Reservoir leases	12/01/2016
3	***	BLML000141	PA	LM-A/S Janice Schneider	A/S	Petition/Application for Withdrawal, California Desert Conservation Area, California	
4	***	BLML000129	PLO	DOI-OSMRE	A/S	Proposed PLO, Withdrawal Revocation of the Lonesome Lake Area; Montana	
5		BLM0009572	FTVL	Hawks, Robin B.	DD	Robin Hawks foreign travel request to Canada	
6		BLM0009571	FTVL	Mcalear, Chris	DD	McAlear foreign travel request to Canada	
7		BLM0009395	CC-ES	Vilsack, Thomas J; Jewell, Sally	D	hard rock mining near Yellowstone National Park (pending 9234)	11/02/2016
8	***	BLM0009566	GAO/OIG CLOSURE	Schneider, Janice M.	A/S	Request to Close Recommendation 1 in the U.S. Government Accountability Office's Report, OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)	

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
9		BLM0009127	IM	BLM-WO-200 BUSINESS	AD	Fiscal Year 2016 Reporting on Solid Waste and Chemicals Management	
10		BLMR001308	FRN		BC	Notice of Proposed Extension of Public Land Order No. 7322; Opportunity for Public Meeting; West Eagle Meadow,	10/25/2016
11		BLMR001299	FRN		DSD	Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Comment; Klamath National Forest, California	10/17/2016
12		BLMR001221	FRN		D	Notice of Realty Action: Application for Conveyance of Federally Owned Mineral Interests in Maricopa County, Arizona.	07/14/2016
13	***	BLMC000011	Other	BLM-NM-SD	S	Annual Helium Report of 2015	
14	***	BLML000116	PLO	BLM-CA-931 LANDS AND REALTY	A/S	Homestake Withdrawal Partial Revocation/CACA 051360	
15		BLM0007454	MAN	BLM-WO-240 CULTURAL DIVISION	DD	1780 Manual & Handbook - Tribal Relations-Consultation Policy & Guidance	
16		BLMR001214	FRN		D	Notice of Application for Recordable Disclaimer of Interest in Lands, Kootenai County, Idaho	07/06/2016
17		BLM0009525	CC-ES	Chaffetz, Jason; Jewell, Sally	D	APD pending before Price BLM Field Office in Utah	12/06/2016
18	***	BLM0009292	CC-ES	Mead, Matthew H.; Jewell, Sally	S	Wyoming's Greater sage-grouse compensatory mitigation framework	10/31/2016
19		BLMR001335	FRN		AD	Call for Nominations for the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board	11/14/2016
20		BLMR001304	FRN		D	Notice of Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest: Dimmit County, Texas	10/19/2016
21		BLM0009099	CC- WO	Grijalva, Raul M; Bishop, Bob	DD	Prioritize implementation of Helium Program recommendations	
22	***	BLM0008526	CC-ES	Bishop, Rob +55	S	Proposed venting and flaring rule	08/01/2016

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
23		BLM0009404	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: Distinguished Service Award - Ramona M. Chinn	
24		BLM0009442	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: VALOR GROUP AWARDS IDAHO BRUNEAU FIRE CREW (8)	
25		BLM0009441	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: VALOR Group Awards - TRES RIOS FIELD OFFICE, COLORADO (3)	
26		BLM0009419	AWD	BLM-WO-700	D	Re: Distinguished Service Award - Robert E. King	
27		BLM0009471	CC-WO	Whitlock, Jenna		Letter from Dakotas RAC re. federal coal program	
28		BLM0008257	LTR	BLM-WO-420 EDU, INT, and PARTNER DIVISION	D	Request for Approval of Director's Letter and Photograph for Connecting People to Their Public Lands 2016	
29		BLM0008934	CC-WO	Chapoose, Shaun	DD	Hill Creek land exchange	
30		BLM0009370	MEM	BLM-WO-100	Other	Conference support approval	
31	***	BLM0009197	CC-ES	Herbert, Gary R.; Jewell, Sally	S	Utah's wild horse and burro population	10/17/2016
32	***	BLM0009327	DM	Schneider, Janice M.	A/S	EA for Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Development Project	
33		BLM0009396	GOV	Jewell, Sally; Herbert, Gary R	DR	Alton Coal emergency lease application	11/08/2016
34	***	BLML000133	LAND ACQ	PMB-DBPA- Ferriter	A/S	Request for Reprogramming of Land and Water Conservation Funding	09/07/2016
35		BLM0008104	IM	BLM-WO-410 NLCS	D	Citizen Science Pilot Program	
36		BLM0009268	MAN	ALL BLM	DD	RE: BLM WASHINGTON OFFICE COOP PLAN	
37		BLM0008731	CC-WO	Murkowski, Lisa	D	Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska	08/29/2016
38	***	BLM0008901	CC-ES	Bennet, Michael F.; Jewell, Sally	S	Expansion of Colorado's Twentymile Mine	09/20/2016

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
39	***	BLM0008248	CC-WO	Bishop, Rob	A/S	Administrative procedures and IM 2013-177	07/08/2016
40		BLM0008171	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	DD	GCC Energy's request for SO 3338 exemption for King II Coal Mine	06/30/2016
41		BLMR000947	FRN		D	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to Hold Public Scoping Meetings for Federal Coal Lease Application Serial No. NDM 105513, Oliver County, ND	10/28/2015
42		BLM0007695	MEM	BLM-WO-300	AD	Buckskin Mine Royalty Rate Reduction	
43	***	BLM0007744	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	A/S	Request the BLM to cancel the Spruce Stomp coal lease	
44		BLM0007752	CC-WO	Daugaard, Dennis; Mead, Matt	D	Energy corridor designations	05/18/2016
45		BLM0007094	LTR	Walker, Bill	D	Use of DPPS survey method for Alaska Land Transfer program; negotiate a new MOU	
46		BLMR000552	FRN	Riechel, Silvia	D	Notice of Extension of the Current Qualification of the Designated Nine County Area of Oklahoma Federal Coal for Category 5 Royalty Rate Reductions	11/12/2014

From: [Curtis, Todd](#)
To: [Janice Schneider](#); [James Lyons](#); [Amanda Leiter](#)
Cc: [Richard Cardinale](#); [Neil Kornze](#); [Steven Ellis](#); [Linda Lance](#); [Jenna Whitlock](#); [Tracie Lassiter](#); [Michael Anderson](#); [Lauren Bogard](#); [Alexandra Teitz](#); [Karen Kelleher](#); [David Blackstun](#); [Fuge, Dylan](#); [Anita Bilbao](#); [Jeff Brune](#); [Yolando Mack-Thompson](#); [Kelly Orr](#); [Kathryn Kovacs](#); [Shannon Stewart](#); [Laura \(Liz\) Pardue](#); [Todd Curtis](#); [Linda Thurn](#); [Timothy Shannon](#); [Cynthia Hernandez](#); [Gracie Valdez](#); [Brubeck, Kimberly](#)
Subject: ASLM/BLM Weekly Report
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2016 4:31:23 PM
Attachments: [279.0 BLM-ASLM AGENDA FOR 20161811.docx](#)

Weekly is attached. Have a wonderful evening!

Todd M. Curtis

Advisor to the Director's Office (Detail)
Bureau of Land Management
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BLM-ASLM Agenda
November 18, 2016
Internal Working Document

I. Executive Travel: November 21-25, 2016

BLM Director Neil Kornze, Deputy Director Linda Lance and Special Assistant Jenna Whitlock will be in the office all week attending regularly scheduled meetings.

II. Agenda Items – No Meeting this Week, Friday is Veteran’s Day

- Basin and Range/LACMA Easement
- Onshore Order 1
- Planning 2.0 Rollout
- Coal Scoping Report
- SNPLMA 16B
- Admin Records
- RMPs Review Schedule
- Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

- Projects
 - Gateway West
 - Transwest
 - Gateway South
 - Boardman to Hemingway
 - Chokecherry

- Priority Packages

Items with ASLM:

- P 2.0 Preamble, CX, Economic Analysis
- Basin and Range National Monument Conservation Easement (BLM0008835)
- Correspondence – Response to Tester - Solenex lease in Badger-Two Medicine area. (BLM0008986) ** See related correspondence below in **Incoming**.
- SNPLMA Round 16B (BLM0009071)
- QFRs -7/7 HNR Hearing on Planning 2.0, Jim Lyons (BLM0009091)
- SO 3339 Under-Resourced Youth – Implementation Report (BLM0009086)
- Extension of Public Land Order 7233 –USFS Rogue River, OR (BLML000127)
- Presumed to Conform List FRN (BLMR000766)

Items incoming to ASLM:

- Onshore Order 1 Package
- Correspondence – Response to Tester - Encourages administrative withdrawal of leases north of Yellowstone National Park (BLM0009234)
- QFRs - 9/22 SENR Hearing - Neil Kornze (BLM0009094)
- Transfer of Jurisdiction of Public Lands to Chocolate Mountain Airel Gunnery Range/CACA 056671 (BLML000120) – Responding to ASLM review comments

III. Weekly Report:

November 20-26, 2016

The CA Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Interagency Team, comprised of BLM and FS staff, will meet on November 21 and 29 to discuss monument planning and developing an interagency agreement.

Week Ahead Announcements- Presidential and Department/Agency Priorities

November 21: The BLM-CA Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Interagency Team, comprised of staff from the Mendocino National Forest and the BLM Central California District and Ukiah Field Offices, will meet on November 21 and 29 to discuss monument planning and developing an interagency agreement.

November 22: The BLM-NM Albuquerque District Manager will meet with the San Felipe Pueblo Governor regarding issues relating to the Ball Ranch Area of Critical Environmental Concern that is adjacent to San Felipe Pueblo.

Media

Matt Jancer, a reporter with *Audubon* Magazine, is writing an article on the checkerboard land ownership patterns found in certain areas of the West. His questions focused on the history of checkerboard land ownership as well as present day access issues caused by checker boarding. BLM Spokesperson Kimberly Brubeck is working with the reporter. Jancer's article is anticipated to publish in early 2017.

Sarah Childress, a reporter with *Frontline*, the PBS series is working on a project about the rise of the Patriot movement, and the federal government's response to this particular threat. Given that the Bureau of Land Management and its employees have become targets for these groups in Oregon and elsewhere, they feel the BLM's perspective is especially critical to the film. Childress is hoping to speak with someone who can help the viewers better understand how militia activity has impacted BLM operations and employees, and how the Bureau is responding and plans to address such threats going forward. BLM Spokesperson Kimberly Brubeck is working with the reporter.

30-60 Day Look Ahead

November 1-30: The BLM-NV Winnemucca and Elko Districts began helicopter gather operations in the Owyhee Complex. The gather covers three HMAs in the Owyhee Sagebrush Focal Area. The estimated wild horse population of the three HMAs is 2,417. As of November 15, a total of 770 horses have been gathered and removed. The goal is to gather 1,600, remove 1,100, and fertility treat 250 horses. 500 will be returned to the HMA.

Week of November 28: The BLM-MT/DKs State Director plans to conduct courtesy visits with members and staff of the Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota congressional delegations.

November 29: The BLM Planning 2.0 Final Rule will be announced.

November 29-Dec. 1: A collaborative process workshop for federal and state land management executives and economic stakeholders in sagebrush focal areas will be held in Reno, Nevada.

November 30: The BLM plans to hold an initial meeting with Cooperating Agencies for the Coal PEIS. The meeting may be held in Denver, CO.

November 30: A BLM-NV will hold a Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) land sale at the Clark County Government Center. The BLM plans to offer 183 acres available in 16 parcels within the Las Vegas Valley and the SNPLMA boundary.

November 30: The BLM will release to the field the Tribal Relations Manual and Handbook. The Manual and Handbook provides a roadmap to Tribal consultation and outlines the laws that pertain to BLM programs.

Late November/Early December: BLM-WY is expected to finalize the Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Project EA and FONSI. In March 2016, the BLM released the EA examining the potential, site-specific impacts of constructing 500 wind turbines on mixed ownership land in the first phase of the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre (CCSM) Wind Energy Project in southern Wyoming. The BLM is working with the FWS to address public comments and ensure consistency between the FWS FEIS and the BLM EA.

December TBD: The BLM plans to transmit the Oil Shale Rule to OIRA. When finalized, the proposed rule would clarify specific provisions of oil shale royalty regulations, ensure that the royalty rate provides a fair return to the American taxpayer while encouraging the development of Federal oil shale resources, and include adequate measures to protect the environment.

December TBD: BLM-AK is preparing the final surveys of the Alatna Project. The survey is the first to use the new Direct Point Positioning Survey (DPPS) method, which is based on the global positioning system (GPS). The new survey method is expected to save the BLM time and money in its conveyance work.

December 1: The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 16B funding package is expected to be ready for the Secretary's approval and signature. The complete package recommends approval of \$79.2 million to support projects in 6 different categories of work: Parks Trails and Natural Areas; Capital Improvements; Conservation Initiatives; Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions; Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project; and Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. A signing event for December is being considered.

December 1: The EPA intends to sign a notice of proposed CERCLA 108(b) rulemaking for the hardrock mining industry. Since May, the BLM has been involved with the Small Business Advocacy Review Panel which was convened as a requirement of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

December 1: BLM-CA managers will meet to coordinate State Historic Preservation Office consultation requirements and processes for cultural resources for a major transmission upgrade project.

December 2: The USGS will hold a stakeholder event around the carbon/greenhouse gas emissions on federal lands project at the USGS National Headquarters Auditorium in Reston, VA. BLM attendees include Alexandra Teitz, Tim Spisak, and Kit Muller.

December 5: The public comment period ends for the sale of three parcels of public land totaling 166 acres near Hiko and Alamo, Nevada. The sale will be conducted in accordance with the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004, complies with the FLPMA, and is in conformance with the 2008 Ely RMP.

December 6: BLM-WY plans to sign the ROD for the TransWest Transmission project. The project would provide transmission infrastructure and capacity to deliver approximately 3,000 megawatts of electric power from renewable and other energy resources in south-central WY to a substation hub in

southern NV. The proposed project includes an approximately 730-mile-long, 600-kilovolt, direct current transmission line.

December 8: BLM-CO and BLM-MT will hold online oil and gas lease sales. BLM-CO will offer 31 parcels totaling 20,135 acres in the Royal Gorge, Grand Junction and Colorado River Valley Field Offices. BLM-MT will offer 88 parcels containing 19,940 Federal mineral. None of the parcels being offered in CO or MT are in sage-grouse habitat.

December 9: BLM-ESO will transfer approximately 60,000 acres of land to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. The lands were ceded to the United States in the late 1800's and early 1900's, and originally identified for restoration in a 1945 Secretarial Order.

December 9: BLM-WY plans to sign the Gateway South (Wyoming/Colorado/Utah) ROD. The protest period ended on June 13, 2016. Five protests were received (from The Wilderness Society, Defenders of Wildlife and Sierra Club, Cross Mountain Ranch, Friends of Northwest Colorado, and Wild Earth Guardians) and are currently being evaluated.

December 13: BLM-UT and BLM-Eastern States Office will hold online oil and gas lease sales. BLM-UT is offering 26 parcels totaling 12,070 acres of Federal lands located in the Green River District. Three parcels totaling 137 acres are in the General Habitat Management Area and located in units adjacent to existing leases held by production. Although none are within the 3.1 lek buffer, 38 other parcels were deferred for sage grouse habitat reasons. The BLM-ESO will offer 35 parcels totaling 1,678 acres in Arkansas (1 parcel, 35.57 acres), Mississippi (1 parcel, 40.03 acres), and Ohio (33 parcels, 1,600.69 acres). This will include Federal minerals within the Marietta unit of the Wayne National Forest, Ohio. The ESO sale has attracted congressional and public attention over concerns about hydraulic fracturing in the Wayne NF. BLM-ES has received no protests on any of the parcels.

December 13: Tentative release date for the Report to the Sage-Grouse Task Force on the Greater Sage-Grouse Compensatory Mitigation.

December 13: The State/Federal Sage-Grouse Task Force meeting will be held in San Diego, California.

December 14: BLM National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) oil & gas lease sale will be held. The sale is being held concurrently with the State of Alaska's oil and gas lease sale.

December 20: The BLM plans to release its final mitigation manual and handbook that will help the agency carry out consistent, effective, and transparent mitigation to address impacts to resources from public land uses.

December 21: BLM-UT will sign the Moab MLP ROD. The Moab MLP/PRMPA NOA was published in the Federal Register on Friday, July 22, 2016, initiating the protest period, which closed on August 22, 2016. Six protests have been received and are being evaluated.

December 21: BLM-UT plans to sign the ROD for the Beaver Dam/Red Cliffs NCAs and St. George ROD. The Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the Federal Register on September 2, 2016, initiating a 30-day protest period. The Record of Decision for the Red Cliffs NCA has a court-ordered completion date of December 31, 2016.

December 22: The public comment period ends for the BLM-ESO Draft EIS for the Mountain Valley Project and Equitrans Expansion Project, a pipeline that would run through Virginia and West Virginia. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is the lead agency for developing the Draft EIS.

December 29: BLM-NV plans to issue the final Dixie Meadows Geothermal Project EA and FONSI. The project area consists of approximately 22,021 acres of public land. The proponent (Ormat) is seeking approval to drill temperature gradient wells and to drill and test observation wells and production wells at up to 20 specific locations.

December 30: BLM-AK plans to sign the Eastern Interior Alaska ROD. Nine protests were received and are being reviewed.

December 30: BLM-ID plans to sign the Gateway West Transmission ROD. The BLM published the FSEIS for the final two sections on October 7, 2016. The protest period will end November 7, 2016. The preferred routes avoid to the greatest extent possible private land, Greater sage-grouse habitat and the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area.

December 30: The BLM plans to release the draft EIS for the Sagebrush Focal Area Mineral Withdrawal. As part of ROD implementation, the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service are recommending the withdrawal of lands within Sagebrush Focal Areas from locations with mining claims, subject to valid existing rights. As part of the withdrawal process the lands covered by the proposal have been temporarily segregated for a period of up to two years. During this period, the agencies are undertaking environmental and other analyses to determine if the lands should be formally withdrawn to protect sage-grouse habitat from adverse effects of future locatable exploration and mining.

December 31: The U.S. Forest Service has filed an application with the BLM requesting that the Secretary of the Interior extend the duration of Public Land Order (PLO) No. 7233 (the Rogue River Withdrawal in OR) for an additional 20-year term. PLO No. 7233 withdrew approximately 2,090 acres of National Forest Systems Lands in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest from mining for 20 years to protect the Rabbit Ears-Falcon Wildlife Area; Rogue River Wild and Scenic Corridor; Union Creek Historic District; Abbot Creek and Mill Creek Recreation Sites; and the Prospect Ranger Station Administrative Site. The withdrawal created by Public Land Order No. 7233 will expire on January 1, 2017, unless extended.

January 3: The BLM and U.S. Forest Service have filed an application requesting to withdraw 101,021.71 acres in SW Oregon around the Salmon River (5,216.18 of BLM Revested O&C lands and 95,805.53 of National Forest System Lands). The comment period on the proposed 20-year withdrawal closes on December 31st at which point the Secretary would be able to make a decision on the application.

January 4: The BLM expects to release a Coal PEIS scoping report. The report will describe the process, summarize issues raised by commenters, and discuss alternatives that may be evaluated in the Coal PEIS.

January 5-8: The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 2017 Mid-Winter meeting will be held in Litchfield Park, Arizona. The agenda is not currently posted, but is expected to include discussions on Greater Sage-Grouse.

January 6: The NOA is expected to publish for the Sonoran Desert National Monument Target Shooting RMP Amendment and Draft EIS. The U.S. District Court in Arizona has ordered the BLM to temporarily close 2.1 percent -- 10,600 acres -- of the Sonoran Desert National Monument to recreational target shooting. During the closure, the BLM will conduct a court-ordered analysis of the impacts of such shooting on the Monument. Licensed hunting continues to be allowed; all state regulations apply. Approximately 95 percent of the 12.2 million acres of public land managed by BLM in Arizona remain open to recreational target shooting. The court-ordered deadline for this RMP is September 30, 2017.

January 9: BLM-CO plans to sign the Dominguez Escalante ROD. The PRMP/FEIS NOA was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, June 30, 2016, initiating the protest period, which closed on Monday, August 1, 2016. Seven protests were received; these submissions are currently being evaluated.

January 17: BLM-ID is scheduled to sign the Boardman to Hemingway ROD. The PRMP for this 305 mile (88 miles BLM) transmission line (500 kV AC) in Idaho and Oregon is expected to publish in mid-November 2017.

Jan. 17 and 24: The Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Nevada Department of Agriculture, USFS, Nevada Department of Wildlife and the BLM will host a series of Livestock Grazing Permittee workshops throughout Nevada. At these workshops, the BLM will present how the BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment's objectives will affect the livestock grazing program in Nevada and address questions.

Legal

N/A

IV. Major Federal Register Notices and Approval Packages:

Title	Current Status
Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Land-use Plan Amendments for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project, Oregon	11/15/16 Cleared the DOI, waiting for publication date. (DTS 1311)

V. Congressional Activities:

Hearings

Legislative Hearing: The week of Nov. 28, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands may hold a legislative hearing. Date and bills TBD.

BLM State Director Courtesy Visits

Courtesy Visits / Montana & Dakotas Congressional Delegations: During the week of Nov. 28, BLM Montana/Dakotas State Director Jamie Connell plans to conduct courtesy visits with members and staff of the Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota congressional delegations.

VI. Pending Packages in ASLM:

Packages with ASLM:

1. Surname – Sec Jewell Response to 2 Gov. Sandoval letters, Proposed Mineral Withdrawal in Sagebrush Focal Area (BLM0007183)
2. Signature – Response to Letter Re: Appeal of the BLM's decision to declare Lia Shapiro's mine claim Abandoned (LM00000009)
3. Surname/Signature – MOU between BLM and DOD on Wind Energy BLM0006219
4. Surname - Notice of Availability of the BLM Draft Presumed to Conform List of Actions Under General Conformity; Upper Green River Basin, Wyoming BLMR000766
5. Signature - Basin and Range National Monument Conservation Easement BLM0008835
6. Surname – Planning 2.0 **Starting review but Waiting for Executive Summary from Linda L**

7. Signature – Extension of Public Land Order 7233 –USFS Rogue River, OR BLM000127
8. Surname - Bureau of Land Management's Implementation of Secretarial Order 3339 Report Fiscal Year 2016 BLM0009086
9. Signature – Proposed Withdrawal Extension, Sweet Grass Hills, MT PLO 7254, 19,686 acres BLM000126
10. Surname – DM Chapter on Sagebrush Biome
11. Surname - Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA)–Round 16B, Project funding proposals (BLM0009071)
12. Surname - QFRs -7/7 HNR Hearing on Planning 2.0, Jim Lyons BLM0009091
13. Surname – NW Colorado RAC
14. Surname – Correspondence – Response to Tester - Solenex lease in Badger-Two Medicine area. (BLM0008986)
15. Surname - Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Tri-state Fuel Breaks Project, Owyhee County, Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon BLMR001209
16. Surname – SNPLMA Annual Report for FY 2014 & 2015

Packages with BLM:

1. Surname/Signature - Transfer of Jurisdiction of Public Lands to Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range/CACA 056671 BLM000120 *Returned to BLM in DTS to address comments/questions*

VI. Packages Going to ASLM Next Week:

1. Onshore Order 1 Package
2. Correspondence – Response to Tester - Encourages administrative withdrawal of leases north of Yellowstone National Park (BLM0009234)
3. QFRs - 9/22 SENR Hearing - Neil Kornze (BLM0009094)
4. Transfer of Jurisdiction of Public Lands to Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range/CACA 056671 (BLM000120) – Responding to ASLM review comments

VIII. Weekly Audit Report:

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
9181	Management Advisory – The Bureau of Land Management’s Wild Horse and Burro Program Is Not Maximizing Efficiencies or Complying With Federal Regulations (2016-WR-027) Link to the Advisory: N/A	A request to extend the response due date has been requested to respond to the management advisory. The working dates included have not been confirmed OIG.	11/3 – 11/18	11/9 – 11/15 11/21-11/25	N/A	11/16/2016 TBD

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
TBD	Draft Audit Report – Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Federal Indian Minerals Office (2015-EAU-079) Link to the Draft Report: N/A	Bureau specific comments are due to BIA for consolidation by 11/28/16.	11/18 – 11/28 (simultaneous review)	11/18 – 11/28 (simultaneous review)	N/A	12/9/2016

IX. Packages in WO-100:

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
1		BLM0009296	MTG/ CONF	BLM-WO-240 CULTURAL DIVISION	DD	Request for Approval to Host the Bureau of Land Management December Preservation Board Meeting	
2		BLM0009383	FTVL	Young, Richard	DD	Richard Young International Travel Request to Colombia Updated	
3		BLM0008813	MOA/ MOU	BLM-WO-410 NLCS DIVISION	AD	WSR 50th Anniversary MOU	
4	***	BLM0009074	MTG/ CONF	BLM-WO-220 RANGE DIVISION	A/S	Request for Approval to Attend the 2017 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting	
5		BLMR001289	FRN		BC	Notice of Proposed Withdrawal Extension and Opportunity for Public Meeting: Miller Lake Recreational Area, Oregon.	10/05/2016
6		BLM0009367	CC-ES	Bennett, Grace; Jewell, Sally	D	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument	11/08/2016
7		BLM0009368	CC-ES	Dyer, Rick; Roberts, Colleen	D	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument	11/10/2016
8	***	BLM0009308	DT	Jewell,	S	List of Programs Eligible for Inclusion in Funding Agreements Negotiated with Self-Governance Tribes by Interior Bureaus Other than the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Fiscal Year 2017 Programmatic Target	
9		BLM0009231	WP	bail, Kristin		WHB Program Budget Request Scenarios	
10		BLM0008104	IM	BLM-WO-410	D	Citizen Science Pilot Program	

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
				NLCS DIVISION			
11		BLMR001301	FRN-STATE		DSD	Notice of Relocation: Consolidation and Change of Address for Oklahoma Field Office-Tulsa and Moore Field Station	10/19/2016
12		BLM0009198	CC-ES	Jewell, Sally; Heinrich, Martin	DD	Recommends Leonard Martinez for Farmington RAC	10/17/2016
13		BLM0009098	CC-WO	Grisham, Michelle Lujan; Buchanan, Vern	D	Urging the BLM to reject recommendations made by the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board	10/07/2016
14		BLM0009106	CC-WO	Sanders, Bernard	DD	WH&B Advisory Board recommendation to kill wild horses (pending 9098)	10/11/2016
15		BLM0006696	MOA/MOU	BLM-WO-410 NLCS DIVISION	D	NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING	
16		BLM0009055	CC-WO	Hatch, Orrin G.; Lee, Mike; Stewart, Chris	DD	Concerns regarding proposed Red Cliffs NCA RMP/FEIS on behalf of Five County Asso of Govts	09/30/2016
17		BLM0009181	GAO/OIG RESPONSE	Lawrence, Allen	DAD	Management Advisory - The Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program Is Not Maximizing Efficiencies or Complying With Federal Regulations Report No. 2016-WR-027	
18		BLM0008814	IM	All Field and Washington Office Officials,	DD	Integrating Science into Land Management	
19		BLM0008990	CC-ES	Kornze, Neil; Jewell, Sally	D	Impacts of wild horses and burro on state trust lands	09/26/2016
20	***	BLM0009234	CC-ES	Vilsack, Thomas J; Tester, Jon	S	Encourages administrative withdrawal of leases north of Yellowstone National Park	10/24/2016
21		BLM0008787	CC-WO	Zukoski, Edward B.; Gordon, Bruce	D	Enefit oil shale project ROW	08/31/2016
22		BLM0008516	CC-ES	Vilsack, Thomas J; Williams, Steve	DD	Boundary Waters Canoe Area (pending 8219)	07/19/2016

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
23		BLM0009268	MAN	ALL BLM EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS,	DD	RE: BLM WASHINGTON OFFICE COOP PLAN	
24		BLM0009094	QFRs	Murkowski, Lisa		QFRs - 9/22 SENR Hearing - Neil Kornze	
25	***	BLMR001258	FRN		A/S	Notice of Implementation of the Ely District Cave and Karst Management Plan Including a Cave Use Permit System, Frequency and Group Size Limits, Installation of Cave Gates, and Cave Closures.	08/19/2016
26		BLM0008731	CC-WO	Murkowski, Lisa	D	Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska	08/29/2016
27		BLM0008901	CC-ES	Bennet, Michael F.; Jewell, Sally	S	Expansion of Colorado's Twentymile Mine	09/20/2016
28		BLM0008557	MEM	BLM-WO-320 SOLIDS DIVISION	AD	Concurrence With Continued Processing of Coal Lease Modification Application for Federal Coal Lease WYW-6266 During the Pause as Provided in Secretarial Order (SO) 3338	
29		BLM0009099	CC-WO	Grijalva, Raul M; Bishop, Bob	DD	Request BLM to prioritize implementation of recent recommendations made regarding the Helium program	
30		BLMR001277	FRN		D	Notice of Availability of Record of Decision Adopting U.S. Forest Service's Final Environmental Impact Statement for Oil and Gas Leasing On Lands Administered by the White River National Forest	09/16/2016
31		BLM0008603	CC-WO	Zinke, Ryan; Daines, Steve	DD	Expedite NOI for Spring Creek Mine EIS	08/12/2016
32		BLMR000754	FRN		D	Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment and Notice of Public Hearing for a Federal Coal Lease Application, NDM-107039, McLean County, North Dakota	05/21/2015

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
33		BLMR000485	FRN		D	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Public Meeting on Two Federal Coal Lease Applications, one Land Use Permit, one Land Use Lease in the Miles City	09/04/2014
34		BLMR000280	FRN		D	Notice of Realty Action: Proposed Amendment to Noncompetitive Land Use Lease MTM 74913; Montana	
35		BLM0008827	CC-WO	Kirkpatrick, Ann	DD	Status of Ray Land Exchange	09/09/2016
36		BLM0008399	MEM	BLM-MT-SD	AD	Secretarial Order (S.O.) 3338 Section 6(b), Lease Modification Justification Assessment Policy Review for Spring Creek Coal Company's (SCC) Lease Modification Application (LMA) MTM-094378	
37		BLM0007980	MEM	Nedd, Michael D.	AD	Concurrence Request for Processing LBA NDM-107039 as an Emergency LBA	
38		BLM0008526	CC-ES	Bishop, Rob +55	S	Proposed venting and flaring rule	08/01/2016
39		BLMR001191	FRN		D	Notice of Intent to Amend the Resource Management Plan for the San Luis Valley Field Office, Colorado, and Prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment	06/21/2016
40		BLM0008408	CC-WO	Grisham, Michelle L.	DD	Proposed Methane and Waste Prevention Rule	07/22/2016
41	***	BLM0008248	CC-WO	Bishop, Rob	A/S	Administrative procedures and IM 2013-177	07/08/2016
42		BLM0008171	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	DD	GCC Energy's request for SO 3338 exemption for King II Coal Mine	06/30/2016
43		BLMR000947	FRN		D	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to Hold Public Scoping Meetings for Federal Coal Lease Application Serial No. NDM 105513, Oliver County, ND	10/28/2015

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
44		BLM0007695	MEM	BLM-WO-300	AD	Buckskin Mine Royalty Rate Reduction	
45	***	BLM0007744	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	A/S	Request the BLM to cancel the Spruce Stomp coal lease	
46		BLM0007752	CC-WO	Daugaard, Dennis; Mead, Matt	D	Energy corridor designations	05/18/2016
47		BLMR000903	FRN		D	Notice of Availability of the Draft Hollister Resource Management Plan Amendment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Oil and Gas Leasing and Development, California	09/17/2015
48		BLM0007094	LTR	Walker, Bill	D	Use of DPPS survey method for Alaska Land Transfer program; negotiate a new MOU	
49		BLMR000552	FRN	Riechel, Silvia	D	Notice of Extension of the Current Qualification of the Designated Nine County Area of Oklahoma Federal Coal for Category 5 Royalty Rate Reductions	11/12/2014
50		BLM0008934	CC-WO	Chapoose, Shaun	DD	Hill Creek land exchange	

From: [Lassiter, Tracie](#)
To: [Janice Schneider](#)
Subject: Background- Friday, Nov 18
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2016 4:57:06 PM
Attachments: [SELF BOND REVIEW MEMO Colowyo.pdf](#)
[161024 Colowyo Collom ASLM Brief \(2\).docx](#)
[279.0 BLM-ASLM AGENDA FOR 20161811.docx](#)
[259 - BSEE-ASLM Weekly Senior Staff Mtg - 11-16-2016.doc](#)
[Sage Grouse Implementation Check in with Exec. 20161118.docx](#)
[Priority Projects ASLM Bureaus - updated 11.18.16.doc](#)

-Per David B. you are up to speed for mtg w/ Kristen and Dylan

--

Thanks,

Tracie L. Lassiter

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Tracie.Lassiter@ios.doi.gov

TO: Marcelo Calle, Chief, Field Operations Branch, Western Region
FROM: Karen Jass, Mining Engineer *KJass*
DATE: October 13, 2016
SUBJECT: Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety: Approval of Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association Inc.'s Parent Corporation Guarantor of Colowyo Coal Company, L.P.'s Colowyo Mine Self-Bond

INTRODUCTION

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has completed its review of the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Inc.'s (Tri-State) eligibility to continue to act as a parent corporation guarantor (corporate guarantor) for self-bond reclamation obligations at the Colowyo Mine. OSMRE completed this evaluation in conjunction with the August 9, 2016, OSMRE Policy Advisory for Self-Bonding.

BACKGROUND

The Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining & Safety (DRMS) evaluated Tri-State's 1st quarter 2016 financial data to determine if the company was eligible to continue to act as the corporate guarantor of the Colowyo Mine self-bond. In its review of that financial information, DRMS determined that Tri-State continued to satisfy the regulatory requirements to act as a corporate guarantor for the Colowyo Mine as it met the requirements of Colorado Surface Mining Rule 3.02.4.

The original self-bond application, which authorized Tri-State to act as the corporate guarantor of the Colowyo Mine, was initially approved by DRMS on April 9, 2014, following receipt, review and acceptance of the self-bond agreement, self-bond indemnity agreement, and self-bond corporate guarantee. These bonding instruments had been executed March 12, 2014.

DRMS rules allow for the acceptance of a self-bond based on 3.02.4(1)(2)(e)(i), which states "The Division may accept a self-bond from an applicant for a permit if all of the following conditions are met by the applicant or its corporation guarantor...". This language is identical to OSMRE's rules 30 CFR 800.23(b) which state, "The regulatory authority may accept a self-bond from an applicant for a permit if all of the following conditions are met by the applicant or its parent corporation guarantor:..."

ANALYSIS

DRMS determined it could accept a self-bond from the applicant because the requirements of Colorado's Rule 3.02.4(2)(e)(i)(A) and (B) had been met.

Additionally, Colorado's Rule 3.02.4 requires that specific financial tests be performed to assure that a guarantor of any self-bond is qualified, having met all requirements of Rule 3.02.4.

Within that Rule, Rule 3.02.4(2)(e)(i)(C) has three financial tests. At least one of the following three tests must be met:

- i) The applicant for the self-bond has a current rating for its most recent bond issuance of

- "A" or higher from either Standard and Poor's or Moody's credit rating service;
- ii) The applicant for the self-bond has a tangible net worth of at least \$10 million, a total liabilities to net worth of 2.5 times or less, and a ratio of current assets to current liabilities of 1.2 times or greater; or
- iii) The applicant for the self-bond must have fixed assets in the U.S. that total at least \$20 million, a ratio of total liabilities to net worth of 2.5 times or less, and a ratio of current assets to current liabilities of 1.2 times or greater.

For the first financial test under Rule 3.02.4(2)(e)(i)(C), On April 29, 2016, DRMS received a letter, from Tri-State, which included a copy of the Standard and Poor's (S&P) report dated April 28, 2016. The report showed Tri-State's continued "A" Long Term Rating and provided verification to DRMS that Tri-State continued to meet the requirements of Rule 3.02.4(2)(e)(i)(C)(I) as it had maintained its "A" rating as required. Tri-State MET this criterion.

From S&P Global Ratings, dated April 28, 2016, *"Standard and Poor's Rating Services has revised its outlook to stable from negative and reaffirmed its [Tri-State] "A" rating..."*

OSMRE independently verified the Tri-State "A" rating in its August 23, 2016, review using the Standard and Poor's rating service, affirming that Colorado had followed its rules when evaluating the corporate guarantor for the Colowyo Mine's self-bond, with respect to the requirement of Rule 3.02.4(2)(e)(i)(C)(I). Additionally, OSMRE independently verified Tri-State's rating using the Standard and Poor's rating service. As of today, October 13, 2106, Tri-State continues to maintain its "A" long-term issuer rating with a "stable" outlook with the Standard and Poor's rating service.

For the second financial test under Rule 3.02.4(2)(e)(i)(C), the 1st quarter 2016 financials, for the period ending March 31, 2016, were utilized with proprietary accounting information to determine that the total amount of tangible net worth was \$1,055,107,000.00 (criterion MET, as it was above \$10,000,000.00), and the ratio of total liabilities to net worth was 3.56 times (criterion FAILED, as it exceeded 2.5 times), and the ratio of current assets to current liabilities was 1.56 times (criterion MET, as it was 1.2 times or greater). Overall, this financial test FAILED, as the total liabilities to net worth ratio was not met.

For the third financial test under Rule 3.02.4(2)(e)(i)(C), again the 1st quarter 2016 financials were utilized, along with the proprietary accounting information, to determine that the total amount of the U.S. fixed assets was \$3,622,772,000.00 (criterion MET, as it exceeded \$20,000,000.00), and the ratio of total liabilities to net worth was 3.56 times (criterion FAILED, as it exceeded 2.5 times), and the ratio of current assets to current liabilities was 1.56 times (criterion MET, as it was 1.2 times or greater). Overall, this financial test also FAILED, as the total liabilities to net worth ratio was not met.

Tri-State successfully met the first criterion required by Rule 3.02.4(2)(e)(i)(C), demonstrating an "A" rating from the Standard and Poor's credit rating service, as determined initially by the state, and verified by OSMRE.

Additionally, Rule 3.02.4(2)(e)(i)(D)(1) requires a recent audited financial report be provided to DRMS. The most recent audited financials were provided to DRMS following the close of the 4th quarter 2015. The December 31, 2015, 10K was filed by Tri-State with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on March 14, 2016, then submitted to and used by DRMS to provide the financial information necessary to evaluate Tri-State's ongoing eligibility as corporate guarantor for the Colowyo Mine following the close of that 4th quarter of 2015. That report was audited by Ernst & Young LLP, and included the following statement:

"In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. at December 31, 2015, and 2014, and the consolidated results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2015, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles."

As required by Colorado's Rule 3.02.4, one final financial test is necessary. Rule 3.02.4(2)(e)(iv) requires the total amount of the outstanding and proposed self-bonds for surface coal mining and reclamation operations to be less than 25% of the Guarantor's tangible net worth in the U.S. In evaluating this final financial test, DRMS found Tri-State's ratio of the value of all of its coal mine self-bonds to its tangible net worth to be less than 25%. In their 1st quarter 2016 evaluation, DRMS found that the total amount of coal mining self-bonds held at that time was \$109,667,829.00. This was compared to its tangible net worth of \$1,047,136,000.00. That ratio of all self-bonds to tangible net worth is about 11% (10.47%), thus the criterion that it be no more than 25% was MET. For the 1st quarter 2016 financial review, OSMRE was able to verify the percentage of self-bonds to tangible net worth was 11%, less than the 25% maximum specified by the State's rule.

CONCLUSIONS

Following the 1st quarter review in 2016, Tri-State continued to be eligible to act as a self-bond corporate guarantor for the Colowyo Mine as its "A" credit rating issued by Standard and Poor's ratings service met the minimum requirement of Rule 3.02.4(2)(e)(i)(C)(I). OSMRE concurs with DRMS's findings that Tri-State satisfied regulatory requirements to act as self-bond corporate guarantor for the Colowyo Mine through its financial credit rating issued by Standard and Poor's ratings service as specified by Colorado Rule 3.02.4(2)(e)(i)(C)(I).

Tri-State also met the criteria of Rule 3.02.4(2)(e)(iv), demonstrating a percentage of all self-bonds to tangible net worth of 11%, which was less than the maximum 25% required by this rule. OSMRE concurs with DRMS's findings that Tri-State satisfied the regulatory requirement to act as a self-bond corporate guarantor for the Colowyo Mine through its financial evaluation of the percentage of all self-bonds to tangible net worth at 11%, much less than the maximum allowable of 25%.

October 25, 2016

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY—LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT

FROM: David Berry, Western Region Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

CC: Joe G. Pizarchik, OSMRE Director
Glenda Owens, OSMRE Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's recommendation to approve the mining plan modification for Colowyo Coal Mine's Federal coal leases COC-0123475 01 and COC-68590, Colorado.

INTRODUCTION

In compliance with 30 CFR 746.13, the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has prepared a Mining Plan Decision Document (MPDD) that recommends approval of the mining plan modification for Colowyo Coal Mine's Federal coal leases COC-0123475 01 and COC-68590, in Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties, Colorado; pursuant to its responsibilities under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1929 (MLA) and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) and implementing regulations. The Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) will need to approve, disapprove or approve with conditions the proposed mining plan modification.

BACKGROUND

Federal coal lease COC-0123475 01 was issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in May of 1982, and Federal coal lease COC-68590 was issued in July of 2007. Federal coal lease COC-68590 was modified in August of 2016. In March of 2015, Colowyo Coal Company L.P. submitted Permit Revision No. 04 (PR-4) to the Colorado Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety (CDRMS) for Permit No. C-1981-019. PR-4 was approved in September of 2016.

The mining of Federal coal leases COC-0123475 01 and COC-68590 would expand existing operations at the Colowyo Coal Mine into the Collom Permit Expansion Area. Colowyo Coal Company L.P. (Colowyo), operator of the Colowyo Coal Mine, is a limited partnership, which is indirectly owned by Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation. Elk Ridge Mining and Reclamation is owned by Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc. Colowyo currently is mining in Federal coal leases COC-29225 and COC-29226, producing coal from the South Taylor Pit. Coal has been mined on a commercial scale in the Colowyo Coal Mine area for over 100 years. Coal was mined by underground mining techniques continuously until 1974 when the underground mines closed. In 1977, Colowyo initiated its first surface mining operation at the Colowyo Coal Mine, to access thinner coal seams located closer to the surface than the seams historically developed through underground mining.

The Colowyo Coal Mine uses a combination of dragline and truck shovel mining methods. The amount of remaining recoverable Federal coal authorized for removal within the currently approved federal mining plan is approximately 9.3 million tons (Mt). Approval of the mining plan modification would authorize the addition of approximately 3,517 acres and 79.1 Mt of Federal coal to the approved Federal mining plan. The current average production rate is 4 million tons per year (Mtpy) and the current maximum permitted production rate is 9 Mtpy. It is reasonably foreseeable that the mine would operate at an average production rate of 2.3 mtpy and would not exceed 5 mtpy. Colowyo started operation in 1977, and the mine will continue to operate until 2019 under the currently approved mining plan. The mining plan modification approval would extend the life of the mine by 16-34 years.

DISCUSSION

The MPDD includes an EA prepared by OSMRE, in coordination with the BLM, which analyzes impacts of mining within the Collom Permit Expansion Area under three alternatives, including the no action alternative. OSMRE and BLM solicited comments from the public and stakeholders for 30 days in order to identify issues and concerns regarding the mining plan modification. OSMRE and BLM also published the “draft” EA for review and comment for 30 days resulting in 9,761 comments that were received, reviewed and considered by OSMRE and BLM. The EA considers the direct, indirect and cumulative effects of the lease modification to Federal coal lease COC-0123475 01, and the mining plan modification for Federal coal leases COC-0123475 01 and COC-68590, including climate change.

OSMRE and BLM complied with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and fully complied with public participation requirements defined by NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Department’s procedures for implementing NEPA. As a result of the EA process, the BLM issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) on June 27, 2016, and approved the lease modification for Federal coal lease COC-0123475 01 on June 30, 2016. OSMRE has also determined there are no significant environmental impacts and has prepared a FONSI for the mining plan modification recommendation.

CDRMS determined that a reclamation performance bond in the amount of \$175,362,550, made payable to both the State of Colorado and the United States, is adequate for Permit No. C-1981-019 and this mining plan modification. The State and OSMRE currently hold a parent corporation guarantor self-bond in the amount of \$80,517,829. Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association Inc. is the parent corporation guarantor of the self-bond. Prior to Colowyo disturbing additional lands in the PR-4 area, an additional \$94,844,721 of reclamation performance bond must be submitted to, and approved by the State.

There are is no current litigation associated with the Colowyo Mine Collum Permit Expansion.

NEXT STEPS

OSMRE Western Region mailed the MPDD, including the EA and FONSI, recommending approval with no additional conditions to OSMRE Headquarters on October 18, 2016, to begin surname processing. OSMRE Western Region is requesting a decision from the ASLM on the mining plan modification for Federal coal leases COC-0123475 01 and COC-68590 at the Colowyo Coal Mine, on or before November 31, 2016. Upon approval, OSMRE will:

- Post a “Spotlight” announcing the decision on the OSMRE Western Region website;
- Post the EA, FONSI and Mine Plan Approval on the OSMRE Western Region Website;
- Post a “Spotlight” announcing the decision on the OSMRE National website; and
- Post an OSMRE “Tweet” announcing the decision

Attachment

BLM-ASLM Agenda
November 18, 2016
Internal Working Document

I. Executive Travel: November 21-25, 2016

BLM Director Neil Kornze, Deputy Director Linda Lance and Special Assistant Jenna Whitlock will be in the office all week attending regularly scheduled meetings.

II. Agenda Items – No Meeting this Week, Friday is Veteran’s Day

- Basin and Range/LACMA Easement
- Onshore Order 1
- Planning 2.0 Rollout
- Coal Scoping Report
- SNPLMA 16B
- Admin Records
- RMPs Review Schedule
- Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

- Projects
 - Gateway West
 - Transwest
 - Gateway South
 - Boardman to Hemingway
 - Chokecherry

- Priority Packages

Items with ASLM:

- P 2.0 Preamble, CX, Economic Analysis
- Basin and Range National Monument Conservation Easement (BLM0008835)
- Correspondence – Response to Tester - Solenex lease in Badger-Two Medicine area. (BLM0008986) ** See related correspondence below in **Incoming**.
- SNPLMA Round 16B (BLM0009071)
- QFRs -7/7 HNR Hearing on Planning 2.0, Jim Lyons (BLM0009091)
- SO 3339 Under-Resourced Youth – Implementation Report (BLM0009086)
- Extension of Public Land Order 7233 –USFS Rogue River, OR (BLML000127)
- Presumed to Conform List FRN (BLMR000766)

Items incoming to ASLM:

- Onshore Order 1 Package
- Correspondence – Response to Tester - Encourages administrative withdrawal of leases north of Yellowstone National Park (BLM0009234)
- QFRs - 9/22 SENR Hearing - Neil Kornze (BLM0009094)
- Transfer of Jurisdiction of Public Lands to Chocolate Mountain Airel Gunnery Range/CACA 056671 (BLML000120) – Responding to ASLM review comments

III. Weekly Report:

November 20-26, 2016

The CA Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Interagency Team, comprised of BLM and FS staff, will meet on November 21 and 29 to discuss monument planning and developing an interagency agreement.

Week Ahead Announcements- Presidential and Department/Agency Priorities

November 21: The BLM-CA Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Interagency Team, comprised of staff from the Mendocino National Forest and the BLM Central California District and Ukiah Field Offices, will meet on November 21 and 29 to discuss monument planning and developing an interagency agreement.

November 22: The BLM-NM Albuquerque District Manager will meet with the San Felipe Pueblo Governor regarding issues relating to the Ball Ranch Area of Critical Environmental Concern that is adjacent to San Felipe Pueblo.

Media

Matt Jancer, a reporter with *Audubon* Magazine, is writing an article on the checkerboard land ownership patterns found in certain areas of the West. His questions focused on the history of checkerboard land ownership as well as present day access issues caused by checker boarding. BLM Spokesperson Kimberly Brubeck is working with the reporter. Jancer's article is anticipated to publish in early 2017.

Sarah Childress, a reporter with *Frontline*, the PBS series is working on a project about the rise of the Patriot movement, and the federal government's response to this particular threat. Given that the Bureau of Land Management and its employees have become targets for these groups in Oregon and elsewhere, they feel the BLM's perspective is especially critical to the film. Childress is hoping to speak with someone who can help the viewers better understand how militia activity has impacted BLM operations and employees, and how the Bureau is responding and plans to address such threats going forward. BLM Spokesperson Kimberly Brubeck is working with the reporter.

30-60 Day Look Ahead

November 1-30: The BLM-NV Winnemucca and Elko Districts began helicopter gather operations in the Owyhee Complex. The gather covers three HMAs in the Owyhee Sagebrush Focal Area. The estimated wild horse population of the three HMAs is 2,417. As of November 15, a total of 770 horses have been gathered and removed. The goal is to gather 1,600, remove 1,100, and fertility treat 250 horses. 500 will be returned to the HMA.

Week of November 28: The BLM-MT/DKs State Director plans to conduct courtesy visits with members and staff of the Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota congressional delegations.

November 29: The BLM Planning 2.0 Final Rule will be announced.

November 29-Dec. 1: A collaborative process workshop for federal and state land management executives and economic stakeholders in sagebrush focal areas will be held in Reno, Nevada.

November 30: The BLM plans to hold an initial meeting with Cooperating Agencies for the Coal PEIS. The meeting may be held in Denver, CO.

November 30: A BLM-NV will hold a Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) land sale at the Clark County Government Center. The BLM plans to offer 183 acres available in 16 parcels within the Las Vegas Valley and the SNPLMA boundary.

November 30: The BLM will release to the field the Tribal Relations Manual and Handbook. The Manual and Handbook provides a roadmap to Tribal consultation and outlines the laws that pertain to BLM programs.

Late November/Early December: BLM-WY is expected to finalize the Chokecherry-Sierra Madre Wind Project EA and FONSI. In March 2016, the BLM released the EA examining the potential, site-specific impacts of constructing 500 wind turbines on mixed ownership land in the first phase of the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre (CCSM) Wind Energy Project in southern Wyoming. The BLM is working with the FWS to address public comments and ensure consistency between the FWS FEIS and the BLM EA.

December TBD: The BLM plans to transmit the Oil Shale Rule to OIRA. When finalized, the proposed rule would clarify specific provisions of oil shale royalty regulations, ensure that the royalty rate provides a fair return to the American taxpayer while encouraging the development of Federal oil shale resources, and include adequate measures to protect the environment.

December TBD: BLM-AK is preparing the final surveys of the Alatna Project. The survey is the first to use the new Direct Point Positioning Survey (DPPS) method, which is based on the global positioning system (GPS). The new survey method is expected to save the BLM time and money in its conveyance work.

December 1: The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 16B funding package is expected to be ready for the Secretary's approval and signature. The complete package recommends approval of \$79.2 million to support projects in 6 different categories of work: Parks Trails and Natural Areas; Capital Improvements; Conservation Initiatives; Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions; Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project; and Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. A signing event for December is being considered.

December 1: The EPA intends to sign a notice of proposed CERCLA 108(b) rulemaking for the hardrock mining industry. Since May, the BLM has been involved with the Small Business Advocacy Review Panel which was convened as a requirement of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, as amended by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

December 1: BLM-CA managers will meet to coordinate State Historic Preservation Office consultation requirements and processes for cultural resources for a major transmission upgrade project.

December 2: The USGS will hold a stakeholder event around the carbon/greenhouse gas emissions on federal lands project at the USGS National Headquarters Auditorium in Reston, VA. BLM attendees include Alexandra Teitz, Tim Spisak, and Kit Muller.

December 5: The public comment period ends for the sale of three parcels of public land totaling 166 acres near Hiko and Alamo, Nevada. The sale will be conducted in accordance with the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004, complies with the FLPMA, and is in conformance with the 2008 Ely RMP.

December 6: BLM-WY plans to sign the ROD for the TransWest Transmission project. The project would provide transmission infrastructure and capacity to deliver approximately 3,000 megawatts of electric power from renewable and other energy resources in south-central WY to a substation hub in

southern NV. The proposed project includes an approximately 730-mile-long, 600-kilovolt, direct current transmission line.

December 8: BLM-CO and BLM-MT will hold online oil and gas lease sales. BLM-CO will offer 31 parcels totaling 20,135 acres in the Royal Gorge, Grand Junction and Colorado River Valley Field Offices. BLM-MT will offer 88 parcels containing 19,940 Federal mineral. None of the parcels being offered in CO or MT are in sage-grouse habitat.

December 9: BLM-ESO will transfer approximately 60,000 acres of land to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. The lands were ceded to the United States in the late 1800's and early 1900's, and originally identified for restoration in a 1945 Secretarial Order.

December 9: BLM-WY plans to sign the Gateway South (Wyoming/Colorado/Utah) ROD. The protest period ended on June 13, 2016. Five protests were received (from The Wilderness Society, Defenders of Wildlife and Sierra Club, Cross Mountain Ranch, Friends of Northwest Colorado, and Wild Earth Guardians) and are currently being evaluated.

December 13: BLM-UT and BLM-Eastern States Office will hold online oil and gas lease sales. BLM-UT is offering 26 parcels totaling 12,070 acres of Federal lands located in the Green River District. Three parcels totaling 137 acres are in the General Habitat Management Area and located in units adjacent to existing leases held by production. Although none are within the 3.1 lek buffer, 38 other parcels were deferred for sage grouse habitat reasons. The BLM-ESO will offer 35 parcels totaling 1,678 acres in Arkansas (1 parcel, 35.57 acres), Mississippi (1 parcel, 40.03 acres), and Ohio (33 parcels, 1,600.69 acres). This will include Federal minerals within the Marietta unit of the Wayne National Forest, Ohio. The ESO sale has attracted congressional and public attention over concerns about hydraulic fracturing in the Wayne NF. BLM-ES has received no protests on any of the parcels.

December 13: Tentative release date for the Report to the Sage-Grouse Task Force on the Greater Sage-Grouse Compensatory Mitigation.

December 13: The State/Federal Sage-Grouse Task Force meeting will be held in San Diego, California.

December 14: BLM National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) oil & gas lease sale will be held. The sale is being held concurrently with the State of Alaska's oil and gas lease sale.

December 20: The BLM plans to release its final mitigation manual and handbook that will help the agency carry out consistent, effective, and transparent mitigation to address impacts to resources from public land uses.

December 21: BLM-UT will sign the Moab MLP ROD. The Moab MLP/PRMPA NOA was published in the Federal Register on Friday, July 22, 2016, initiating the protest period, which closed on August 22, 2016. Six protests have been received and are being evaluated.

December 21: BLM-UT plans to sign the ROD for the Beaver Dam/Red Cliffs NCAs and St. George ROD. The Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the Federal Register on September 2, 2016, initiating a 30-day protest period. The Record of Decision for the Red Cliffs NCA has a court-ordered completion date of December 31, 2016.

December 22: The public comment period ends for the BLM-ESO Draft EIS for the Mountain Valley Project and Equitrans Expansion Project, a pipeline that would run through Virginia and West Virginia. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is the lead agency for developing the Draft EIS.

December 29: BLM-NV plans to issue the final Dixie Meadows Geothermal Project EA and FONSI. The project area consists of approximately 22,021 acres of public land. The proponent (Ormat) is seeking approval to drill temperature gradient wells and to drill and test observation wells and production wells at up to 20 specific locations.

December 30: BLM-AK plans to sign the Eastern Interior Alaska ROD. Nine protests were received and are being reviewed.

December 30: BLM-ID plans to sign the Gateway West Transmission ROD. The BLM published the FSEIS for the final two sections on October 7, 2016. The protest period will end November 7, 2016. The preferred routes avoid to the greatest extent possible private land, Greater sage-grouse habitat and the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area.

December 30: The BLM plans to release the draft EIS for the Sagebrush Focal Area Mineral Withdrawal. As part of ROD implementation, the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service are recommending the withdrawal of lands within Sagebrush Focal Areas from locations with mining claims, subject to valid existing rights. As part of the withdrawal process the lands covered by the proposal have been temporarily segregated for a period of up to two years. During this period, the agencies are undertaking environmental and other analyses to determine if the lands should be formally withdrawn to protect sage-grouse habitat from adverse effects of future locatable exploration and mining.

December 31: The U.S. Forest Service has filed an application with the BLM requesting that the Secretary of the Interior extend the duration of Public Land Order (PLO) No. 7233 (the Rogue River Withdrawal in OR) for an additional 20-year term. PLO No. 7233 withdrew approximately 2,090 acres of National Forest Systems Lands in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest from mining for 20 years to protect the Rabbit Ears-Falcon Wildlife Area; Rogue River Wild and Scenic Corridor; Union Creek Historic District; Abbot Creek and Mill Creek Recreation Sites; and the Prospect Ranger Station Administrative Site. The withdrawal created by Public Land Order No. 7233 will expire on January 1, 2017, unless extended.

January 3: The BLM and U.S. Forest Service have filed an application requesting to withdraw 101,021.71 acres in SW Oregon around the Salmon River (5,216.18 of BLM Revested O&C lands and 95,805.53 of National Forest System Lands). The comment period on the proposed 20-year withdrawal closes on December 31st at which point the Secretary would be able to make a decision on the application.

January 4: The BLM expects to release a Coal PEIS scoping report. The report will describe the process, summarize issues raised by commenters, and discuss alternatives that may be evaluated in the Coal PEIS.

January 5-8: The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 2017 Mid-Winter meeting will be held in Litchfield Park, Arizona. The agenda is not currently posted, but is expected to include discussions on Greater Sage-Grouse.

January 6: The NOA is expected to publish for the Sonoran Desert National Monument Target Shooting RMP Amendment and Draft EIS. The U.S. District Court in Arizona has ordered the BLM to temporarily close 2.1 percent -- 10,600 acres -- of the Sonoran Desert National Monument to recreational target shooting. During the closure, the BLM will conduct a court-ordered analysis of the impacts of such shooting on the Monument. Licensed hunting continues to be allowed; all state regulations apply. Approximately 95 percent of the 12.2 million acres of public land managed by BLM in Arizona remain open to recreational target shooting. The court-ordered deadline for this RMP is September 30, 2017.

January 9: BLM-CO plans to sign the Dominguez Escalante ROD. The PRMP/FEIS NOA was published in the Federal Register on Thursday, June 30, 2016, initiating the protest period, which closed on Monday, August 1, 2016. Seven protests were received; these submissions are currently being evaluated.

January 17: BLM-ID is scheduled to sign the Boardman to Hemingway ROD. The PRMP for this 305 mile (88 miles BLM) transmission line (500 kV AC) in Idaho and Oregon is expected to publish in mid-November 2017.

Jan. 17 and 24: The Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Nevada Department of Agriculture, USFS, Nevada Department of Wildlife and the BLM will host a series of Livestock Grazing Permittee workshops throughout Nevada. At these workshops, the BLM will present how the BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment's objectives will affect the livestock grazing program in Nevada and address questions.

Legal

N/A

IV. Major Federal Register Notices and Approval Packages:

Title	Current Status
Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Land-use Plan Amendments for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project, Oregon	11/15/16 Cleared the DOI, waiting for publication date. (DTS 1311)

V. Congressional Activities:

Hearings

Legislative Hearing: The week of Nov. 28, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands may hold a legislative hearing. Date and bills TBD.

BLM State Director Courtesy Visits

Courtesy Visits / Montana & Dakotas Congressional Delegations: During the week of Nov. 28, BLM Montana/Dakotas State Director Jamie Connell plans to conduct courtesy visits with members and staff of the Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota congressional delegations.

VI. Pending Packages in ASLM:

Packages with ASLM:

1. Surname – Sec Jewell Response to 2 Gov. Sandoval letters, Proposed Mineral Withdrawal in Sagebrush Focal Area (BLM0007183)
2. Signature – Response to Letter Re: Appeal of the BLM's decision to declare Lia Shapiro's mine claim Abandoned (LM00000009)
3. Surname/Signature – MOU between BLM and DOD on Wind Energy BLM0006219
4. Surname - Notice of Availability of the BLM Draft Presumed to Conform List of Actions Under General Conformity; Upper Green River Basin, Wyoming BLMR000766
5. Signature - Basin and Range National Monument Conservation Easement BLM0008835
6. Surname – Planning 2.0 **Starting review but Waiting for Executive Summary from Linda L**

7. Signature – Extension of Public Land Order 7233 –USFS Rogue River, OR BLM000127
8. Surname - Bureau of Land Management's Implementation of Secretarial Order 3339 Report Fiscal Year 2016 BLM0009086
9. Signature – Proposed Withdrawal Extension, Sweet Grass Hills, MT PLO 7254, 19,686 acres BLM000126
10. Surname – DM Chapter on Sagebrush Biome
11. Surname - Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA)–Round 16B, Project funding proposals (BLM0009071)
12. Surname - QFRs -7/7 HNR Hearing on Planning 2.0, Jim Lyons BLM0009091
13. Surname – NW Colorado RAC
14. Surname – Correspondence – Response to Tester - Solenex lease in Badger-Two Medicine area. (BLM0008986)
15. Surname - Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Tri-state Fuel Breaks Project, Owyhee County, Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon BLMR001209
16. Surname – SNPLMA Annual Report for FY 2014 & 2015

Packages with BLM:

1. Surname/Signature - Transfer of Jurisdiction of Public Lands to Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range/CACA 056671 BLM000120 **Returned to BLM in DTS to address comments/questions**

VI. Packages Going to ASLM Next Week:

1. Onshore Order 1 Package
2. Correspondence – Response to Tester - Encourages administrative withdrawal of leases north of Yellowstone National Park (BLM0009234)
3. QFRs - 9/22 SENR Hearing - Neil Kornze (BLM0009094)
4. Transfer of Jurisdiction of Public Lands to Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range/CACA 056671 (BLM000120) – Responding to ASLM review comments

VIII. Weekly Audit Report:

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
9181	Management Advisory – The Bureau of Land Management’s Wild Horse and Burro Program Is Not Maximizing Efficiencies or Complying With Federal Regulations (2016-WR-027) Link to the Advisory: N/A	A request to extend the response due date has been requested to respond to the management advisory. The working dates included have not been confirmed OIG.	11/3 – 11/18	11/9 – 11/15 11/21-11/25	N/A	11/16/2016 TBD

DTS#	Report Title	Comments	WO100 Review	ASLM Review	Due PFM	Due GAO, OIG, Congress
TBD	Draft Audit Report – Bureau of Indian Affairs’ Federal Indian Minerals Office (2015-EAU-079) Link to the Draft Report: N/A	Bureau specific comments are due to BIA for consolidation by 11/28/16.	11/18 – 11/28 (simultaneous review)	11/18 – 11/28 (simultaneous review)	N/A	12/9/2016

IX. Packages in WO-100:

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
1		BLM0009296	MTG/ CONF	BLM-WO-240 CULTURAL DIVISION	DD	Request for Approval to Host the Bureau of Land Management December Preservation Board Meeting	
2		BLM0009383	FTVL	Young, Richard	DD	Richard Young International Travel Request to Colombia Updated	
3		BLM0008813	MOA/ MOU	BLM-WO-410 NLCS DIVISION	AD	WSR 50th Anniversary MOU	
4	***	BLM0009074	MTG/ CONF	BLM-WO-220 RANGE DIVISION	A/S	Request for Approval to Attend the 2017 Society for Range Management Annual Meeting	
5		BLMR001289	FRN		BC	Notice of Proposed Withdrawal Extension and Opportunity for Public Meeting: Miller Lake Recreational Area, Oregon.	10/05/2016
6		BLM0009367	CC-ES	Bennett, Grace; Jewell, Sally	D	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument	11/08/2016
7		BLM0009368	CC-ES	Dyer, Rick; Roberts, Colleen	D	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument	11/10/2016
8	***	BLM0009308	DT	Jewell,	S	List of Programs Eligible for Inclusion in Funding Agreements Negotiated with Self-Governance Tribes by Interior Bureaus Other than the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Fiscal Year 2017 Programmatic Target	
9		BLM0009231	WP	bail, Kristin		WHB Program Budget Request Scenarios	
10		BLM0008104	IM	BLM-WO-410	D	Citizen Science Pilot Program	

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
				NLCS DIVISION			
11		BLMR001301	FRN-STATE		DSD	Notice of Relocation: Consolidation and Change of Address for Oklahoma Field Office-Tulsa and Moore Field Station	10/19/2016
12		BLM0009198	CC-ES	Jewell, Sally; Heinrich, Martin	DD	Recommends Leonard Martinez for Farmington RAC	10/17/2016
13		BLM0009098	CC-WO	Grisham, Michelle Lujan; Buchanan, Vern	D	Urging the BLM to reject recommendations made by the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board	10/07/2016
14		BLM0009106	CC-WO	Sanders, Bernard	DD	WH&B Advisory Board recommendation to kill wild horses (pending 9098)	10/11/2016
15		BLM0006696	MOA/MOU	BLM-WO-410 NLCS DIVISION	D	NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING	
16		BLM0009055	CC-WO	Hatch, Orrin G.; Lee, Mike; Stewart, Chris	DD	Concerns regarding proposed Red Cliffs NCA RMP/FEIS on behalf of Five County Asso of Govts	09/30/2016
17		BLM0009181	GAO/OIG RESPONSE	Lawrence, Allen	DAD	Management Advisory - The Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Program Is Not Maximizing Efficiencies or Complying With Federal Regulations Report No. 2016-WR-027	
18		BLM0008814	IM	All Field and Washington Office Officials,	DD	Integrating Science into Land Management	
19		BLM0008990	CC-ES	Kornze, Neil; Jewell, Sally	D	Impacts of wild horses and burro on state trust lands	09/26/2016
20	***	BLM0009234	CC-ES	Vilsack, Thomas J; Tester, Jon	S	Encourages administrative withdrawal of leases north of Yellowstone National Park	10/24/2016
21		BLM0008787	CC-WO	Zukoski, Edward B.; Gordon, Bruce	D	Enefit oil shale project ROW	08/31/2016
22		BLM0008516	CC-ES	Vilsack, Thomas J; Williams, Steve	DD	Boundary Waters Canoe Area (pending 8219)	07/19/2016

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
23		BLM0009268	MAN	ALL BLM EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS,	DD	RE: BLM WASHINGTON OFFICE COOP PLAN	
24		BLM0009094	QFRs	Murkowski, Lisa		QFRs - 9/22 SENR Hearing - Neil Kornze	
25	***	BLMR001258	FRN		A/S	Notice of Implementation of the Ely District Cave and Karst Management Plan Including a Cave Use Permit System, Frequency and Group Size Limits, Installation of Cave Gates, and Cave Closures.	08/19/2016
26		BLM0008731	CC-WO	Murkowski, Lisa	D	Eastern Interior RMP/FEIS for Alaska	08/29/2016
27		BLM0008901	CC-ES	Bennet, Michael F.; Jewell, Sally	S	Expansion of Colorado's Twentymile Mine	09/20/2016
28		BLM0008557	MEM	BLM-WO-320 SOLIDS DIVISION	AD	Concurrence With Continued Processing of Coal Lease Modification Application for Federal Coal Lease WYW-6266 During the Pause as Provided in Secretarial Order (SO) 3338	
29		BLM0009099	CC-WO	Grijalva, Raul M; Bishop, Bob	DD	Request BLM to prioritize implementation of recent recommendations made regarding the Helium program	
30		BLMR001277	FRN		D	Notice of Availability of Record of Decision Adopting U.S. Forest Service's Final Environmental Impact Statement for Oil and Gas Leasing On Lands Administered by the White River National Forest	09/16/2016
31		BLM0008603	CC-WO	Zinke, Ryan; Daines, Steve	DD	Expedite NOI for Spring Creek Mine EIS	08/12/2016
32		BLMR000754	FRN		D	Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment and Notice of Public Hearing for a Federal Coal Lease Application, NDM-107039, McLean County, North Dakota	05/21/2015

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
33		BLMR000485	FRN		D	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Notice of Public Meeting on Two Federal Coal Lease Applications, one Land Use Permit, one Land Use Lease in the Miles City	09/04/2014
34		BLMR000280	FRN		D	Notice of Realty Action: Proposed Amendment to Noncompetitive Land Use Lease MTM 74913; Montana	
35		BLM0008827	CC-WO	Kirkpatrick, Ann	DD	Status of Ray Land Exchange	09/09/2016
36		BLM0008399	MEM	BLM-MT-SD	AD	Secretarial Order (S.O.) 3338 Section 6(b), Lease Modification Justification Assessment Policy Review for Spring Creek Coal Company's (SCC) Lease Modification Application (LMA) MTM-094378	
37		BLM0007980	MEM	Nedd, Michael D.	AD	Concurrence Request for Processing LBA NDM-107039 as an Emergency LBA	
38		BLM0008526	CC-ES	Bishop, Rob +55	S	Proposed venting and flaring rule	08/01/2016
39		BLMR001191	FRN		D	Notice of Intent to Amend the Resource Management Plan for the San Luis Valley Field Office, Colorado, and Prepare an Associated Environmental Assessment	06/21/2016
40		BLM0008408	CC-WO	Grisham, Michelle L.	DD	Proposed Methane and Waste Prevention Rule	07/22/2016
41	***	BLM0008248	CC-WO	Bishop, Rob	A/S	Administrative procedures and IM 2013-177	07/08/2016
42		BLM0008171	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	DD	GCC Energy's request for SO 3338 exemption for King II Coal Mine	06/30/2016
43		BLMR000947	FRN		D	Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to Hold Public Scoping Meetings for Federal Coal Lease Application Serial No. NDM 105513, Oliver County, ND	10/28/2015

Line #	***	DCN	Doc. Type	Addressee	Sig. Level	Subject	Received Date
44		BLM0007695	MEM	BLM-WO-300	AD	Buckskin Mine Royalty Rate Reduction	
45	***	BLM0007744	CC-WO	Nichols, Jeremy	A/S	Request the BLM to cancel the Spruce Stomp coal lease	
46		BLM0007752	CC-WO	Daugaard, Dennis; Mead, Matt	D	Energy corridor designations	05/18/2016
47		BLMR000903	FRN		D	Notice of Availability of the Draft Hollister Resource Management Plan Amendment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Oil and Gas Leasing and Development, California	09/17/2015
48		BLM0007094	LTR	Walker, Bill	D	Use of DPPS survey method for Alaska Land Transfer program; negotiate a new MOU	
49		BLMR000552	FRN	Riechel, Silvia	D	Notice of Extension of the Current Qualification of the Designated Nine County Area of Oklahoma Federal Coal for Category 5 Royalty Rate Reductions	11/12/2014
50		BLM0008934	CC-WO	Chapoose, Shaun	DD	Hill Creek land exchange	



November 18, 2016

BSEE/ASLM Weekly Senior Staff Meeting

Primary Topics

- **Director's Schedule/Travel:**
 - **None in November**
- **BSEE Leadership Offsite**
- **Environmental Defense Center and Center for Biological Diversity Lawsuits**
- **Renewables Planning**
- **Packages with ASLM**
 - **None**

Recent and Proposed Activities

1. Executive Travel and Speeches:

- a. Director Salerno is hosting the BSEE Leadership offsite meeting in Sterling, VA, this week. The BSEE awards ceremony will be on November 17.

2. Rules, Plans and NTL Updates:

- a. The Pipeline Decommissioning Final Rule, the Cost Recovery Rule, and the Civil Penalties Fee Adjustment Notice were cleared by the Executive Secretariat for publication in the *Federal Register*.

3. Environmental Defense Center (EDC) Lawsuit:

- a. On November 11, 2016, EDC filed a complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief regarding compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Endangered Species Act (ESA) for offshore well stimulation treatments (WST) in the Pacific. "Plaintiffs bring this case seeking declaratory relief that BSEE's and BOEM's decision to authorize the use of WSTs offshore California in reliance upon the P[rogrammatic]E[nvironmental]A[ssessment] and FONSI is unlawful under NEPA, and that Defendants' failure to conduct consultation and/or their finding of no effect on threatened and endangered species is unlawful under the ESA. Plaintiffs seek to enjoin the use of WSTs until Defendants prepare an EIS in compliance with NEPA and its regulations, and conduct a lawful consultation process under the ESA and its regulation."
- b. On November 15, CBD filed a lawsuit making similar claims and accusing the administration of violating NEPA. It also says Interior failed to consider the effect of development on artifacts of the Chumash people, who are native to California's coast and have lived in the area for thousands of years.

4. Media Interests:

- a. Bloomberg BNA has requested an interview on the Well Control Rule. The interview will be with Doug Morris this week.
- b. BSEE Public Affairs posted a news brief on November 15 to announce the Pipeline Decommissioning Rule.

5. Diversity Initiatives Update: November is National Native American Heritage Month. The Gulf Of Mexico Region Special Emphasis Program Committee will sponsor a program on Thursday, November 17, 2016. The featured film will be "Taking Alcatraz". On November 20, 1969, a group of Native Americans landed on Alcatraz Island and claimed it as their own. The government fought to stop them from moving in. After centuries of seeing their land stolen from them, Native Americans seized the rocky island and held on to it. Alcatraz became a symbol of hope, inspiration and change for the Indian people everywhere.

6. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. **BSEE Senior Leadership Conference:** The next BSEE Senior Leadership Conference is scheduled for November 14-17 in Sterling, VA.

- b. Presentation of BSEE Director's Awards:** Director Salerno is scheduled to present BSEE Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards to individuals and teams at a ceremony in Sterling, VA on November 17.
- c. Meeting with Marine Well Containment Company (MWCC):** Director Salerno is scheduled to receive an update on MWCC's capabilities on December 1 at MIB.
- d. Meeting with Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI):** Director Salerno is scheduled to meet with officials from OESI on December 2 at MIB. The purpose of the meeting is to receive a briefing on completed and upcoming activities.

7. Looking Further Ahead

- a. BSEE Region and District Visits:** Director Salerno is tentatively scheduled to visit the Gulf of Mexico Region and District offices the week of December 5, 2016.
 - b. BSEE Investigator Training:** Director Salerno is scheduled to deliver prerecorded remarks via video on December 9 to the BSEE Investigator's Course in Charleston, SC. This will be the fifth offering of the course, which is held at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
 - c. Center for Offshore Safety:** Director Salerno is scheduled to attend a meeting of the Center for Offshore Safety External Stakeholders Group in Washington, DC on December 12, 2016.
 - d. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Forum:** Director Salerno is scheduled to participate in a forum on Safety Management Systems and Safety Culture with representatives from the U.S. and Canada on December 12, 2016 in Washington, DC.
 - e. Annual North American Regulators Meeting on Safety Culture:** Director Salerno is scheduled to participate in the Annual North American Regulators Meeting on Safety Culture on December 13-14, 2016. The meeting is being hosted by Department of Transportation in Washington, DC.
 - f. BSEE New Employee Orientation:** Director Salerno is scheduled to deliver remarks at a BSEE new employee orientation in Sterling, VA on December 15.
 - g. Meeting with Helix Well Containment Group (HWCG):** Director Salerno is scheduled to meet with representatives from HWCG on December 16 at MIB to receive an update on their capabilities.
 - h. High Reliability Organizations Roundtable:** BSEE is scheduled to host the next meeting of the High Reliability Organizations Roundtable on December 19 at MIB.
 - i. Visit to Pacific and Alaska Regions:** Director Salerno is tentatively scheduled to visit the BSEE Pacific and Alaska Region offices to conduct all hands meetings during the week of January 3, 2017.
 - j. BSEE/US Coast Guard (USCG) Quarterly Meeting:** The next quarterly meeting of BSEE and USCG leadership is scheduled for January 10, 2017 at MIB.
- 8. Federal Register Notices:** The Pipeline Decommissioning Final Rule, Cost Recovery Rule, and Civil Penalties Fee Adjustment notice have all been submitted to the *Federal Register*. The Pipeline Decommissioning Final Rule will publish on November 16 and the Civil Penalties Rule is scheduled to publish on November 17.

- 9. Congressional Contact:** On October 20, BSEE Office of Congressional and International Affairs (OCIA) received a request for information from Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) regarding BOEM NTL 2016-N01 related to decommissioning bond requirements. The Senator is requesting information on how BSEE interfaces with BOEM to help BOEM set bond and supplemental bond surety requirements. OCIA is coordinating with BOEM on separate responses that outline each bureau's role in bonding determinations.
- 10. BSEE Packages with ASLM:** None

GAO and OIG Activity

Update: GAO 100736 (General Management Review of Interior's Oversight of Offshore Oil and Gas Activities). This engagement commenced on March 22, 2016. The entrance conference was held on April 4, 2016. GAO released the Statement of Facts on November 1, 2016. *An exit conference was held on November 8, 2016 to discuss the SOF. BSEE anticipates submitting written SOF comments to GAO the week of November 14, 2016. GAO indicated the draft report will likely be released for comment in early January 2017.*

Update: GAO 361632 (Interior's Human Capital Challenges). This engagement commenced on March 16, 2015. The entrance conference was held on April 10, 2015. The draft report was released on August 12, 2016. *The final report was publicly released on October 31, 2016, after a 30-day requester hold. The report makes 5 recommendations for PMB and ASLM. The 60-day response letter is due to GAO and Congress by December 31, 2016.*

Update: GAO 100927 (BSEE Practices Related to Obtaining Access to Helicopter Fuel). The engagement commenced on June 22, 2016. The entrance conference was held on July 5, 2016. *GAO briefed the Congressional requesters on the information they found from document/data requests and interviews with BSEE staff. The briefing was descriptive and not evaluative. GAO next steps are pending requester directions.*

OIG 2016-EAU-063 (Idle Iron). The engagement commenced on August 9, 2016. The entrance conference was held on October 12, 2016 in New Orleans LA. A second site visit to GOMR has been scheduled and staff interviews will be conducted November 15-17, 2016.

Update: GAO 101203 (BLM's Oil and Gas Inspection and Enforcement). This engagement commenced on October 27, 2016. *The entrance conference was held on November 8, 2016. GAO indicated they will likely contact BSEE in the future to discuss BLM's allocation of funding, enforcement authority and enforcement actions compare to our inspection and enforcement programs?*

Update: OIG 2017-EAU-001 (Energy Policy Act of 2005 Evaluation). This engagement commenced on October 28, 2016. *The entrance conference was held on November 8, 2016. The OIG will be evaluating the Department's management and oversight of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPACT) to determine the status of energy-specific requirements as it relates to DOI.*

The OIG has identified 35 energy specific sections of the EPACT that will be covered during the evaluation. BSEE may be impacted by the following sections:

- *357 – Comprehensive Inventory of OCS Oil and Natural Gas Resources*
- *362 – Management of Federal oil and gas leasing programs*
- *965 – Oil and Gas Research Programs*

Update: Audit Recommendations and Other

- *OPAA is responding to FOIA Request No. BSEE-2017-00001 (All correspondence, emails, and other communication between any BSEE official or employee and any other BOEM or Department of Interior official or employee concerning the GAO report number GAO-16-40 [Actions Needed to Better Protect Against Billions of Dollars in Federal Exposure to Decommissioning Liabilities])*
- *The FY16 Q4 Audit Report has been submitted to ALSM for review and approval.*
- *BSEE's FY17 goal base is 13. Work is ongoing to close four recommendations in FY17 Q1.*
 - *Incident Investigations Rec 2 (Review 64 New Horizon Report Recommendations)*
 - *GAO-14-205 Rec 1 (Expand Use of 3R Incentives and Assess Effectiveness)*
 - *GAO-14-205 Rec 2 (Analyze Hiring Data to Expedite Hiring Process)*
 - *GAO-16-40 Rec 2 (Ensure that BSEE collects relevant data associated with decommissioning from lessees).*

Sage Grouse Implementation Check in with Exec. (1-866-685-9441 passcode 9305835#)

3-4 PM ET, 5653 MIB

November 18, 2016

Proposed Agenda:

Transition update (Kate)

SGTF coordination (ASLM/ FWS/ USGS/ BLM)

NPT meeting (Winter WAFWA)

Solicitors update

Withdrawal update

FY 17 GRSG budget—next steps

Round Robin

GB/ RM/ NIFC/ NOC/ WO

WO Update 2020 Status review,
December 6th PEIS--SLC
POW meeting December 7th and 8th --SLC
DSD meeting December 14th and 15th--Reno
MOU with NRCS and FS on collaborative conservation
Mitigation metrics and mitigation document to SGTF

Great Basin Restoration meeting?

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016	1 st Q 2017
2017 – 2022 OCS Five Year Program	BOEM	No	1	Brenda Amanda / Wright Troy		Draft Proposed Program in Sur-naming	Issue Draft Proposed Program (Jan)				Publish Draft PEIS, Proposed Program (Mar)		<u>(Internal surname)</u> [Sept]	Publish Final PEIS and submit Proposed Final Program to Congress (Nov) Program approved Jan-2017	<u>Program approved Jan. 2017</u>
Current OCS Five Year Program	BOEM	No	1	Amanda/ Wright Troy	Sale 238 (WPA)		Sale 235 (CPA)		Sale 246 (WPA)		Sale 226 (EPA) & Sale 241 (CPA) (March)		Sale 248 (WPA)		
Develop ePermits for offshore exploration and development (#21, BOEM/BSEE)	BOEM	No	1 (GAO)	Amanda/ Wright Troy		OCIO approves projects	Development contract awarded			ePlans Contract Issued Development begins on Module 1 – Initial EP			Complete Module 1 (Apr) Start of Module 2 Review EP (Apr)	Complete Module 2 (Nov) Start Module 3 (Nov)	

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016	1 st Q 2017
Offshore Wind Lease Sales	BOEM	No	1	Brenda Amand a/ Wright Troy	NJ PSN (Jul) MD FSN (Jul) MD Sale (Aug)	Issue MA FSN (Nov.)	Hold MA Sale (Jan)		NJ FSN (Sep)	NJ Sale (Nov)		NY PSN (Apr-Jun) AC FSN CA RFI & NOI (Jun)	NC PSN (Jul-Aug) CA RFI (Aug)	AC FSN NY FSN (Oct) NY Sale (Dec) AC Sale FSN (Dec)	NC FSN (Jan 2017)
Risk Management	BOEM	Yes	1	Amanda/ Wright Troy Stuart Levenbach	Publish ANPR (Aug. 2014)	Issue MA FSN (Nov.)			Release Proposed Criteria			Issue final NTL (Apr-Jun)	Issue final NTL (Jul) Proposed Cost Recovery Rule (Dec)	Proposed Cost Recovery Rule (Dec)	
Auction Procedures for Renewables	BOEM	Yes	2	Brenda Amand a/ Wright Troy Stuart Levenbach							BOEM/DO I Suriname (Mar)	BOEM/DO I Suriname (Jun)	Publish Proposed Rule (Aug)	Publish Proposed Rule (2017)	
BOEM/BSEE Renewable Energy Split	BOEM	Yes	2										Publish Direct Final Rule (late Summer)	Publish Final Rule (Dec)	

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016	1 st Q 2017
Federal Civil Penalties Adjustments	BOEM	Yes	2									Publish Interim Final Rule (Jun) DONE Publish Interim Final Rule (Feb)			
Marine Minerals	BOEM	Yes	2	Amanda/ Wright /Troy/ Stuart Levenbach								Publish Proposed Rule (March) DONE	Publish Final Rule (Aug) Publish Final Rule (Dec) Publ ch Final Rule (Dec)		
Atlantic G & G	BOEM	No	2	Amanda/ Wright /Troy	Issue ROD for PEIS July 2014				First G&G permit issued (not seismic)			First HAS possible from NOAA	First HAS possible from NOAA: Possible decision on first round of BOEM seismic surveys		

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016	1 st Q 2017
Offshore Wind Non-competitive Lease Issuances	BOEM	No	2	Brandi Amanda a/ Wright Troy			Virginia Research Lease #2		Virginia Research Lease #1 (on hold per request from VA)				GA limited lease	PMEC research lease	
Adjusting Pollution Liability Limits	BOEM	Yes	DONE	Amanda/ Wright/ Stuart Levenbach		BOEM/ DOI Sur- naming Nov. Final Rule published in Dec. DONE									
Sale 193 SEIS	BOEM	No	DONE	Brandi/ Wright		HQ/SOL Managers Review Final SEIS (Jan 10-14)	FSEIS (Feb) ROD (Mar) *LK memo; final EIS issued in Feb. 2015 ROD March 2015	DONE							

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016	1 st Q 2017
Shell Exploration Plan	BOEM	No	DONE	Brandi			If Sec affirms 193, BOEM will formally begin reviewing Shell's EP	DONE							

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016	1 st Q 2017
Arctic Rule	BSEE	Yes	1	Brandi/ Daniel/ Stuart Levenbach	Draft Proposed Rule transmitt ed to OMB Aug.		Published Proposed Rule (Feb)	Comment period extended to May 27			Final Rule surnamed by DOI Submit for OMB Review (March)	Complete <u>OMB EO 12866 review</u> <u>To ASLM (June 13)</u> <u>To OMB for PRA review by ASLM</u> <u>DONE</u>	<u>Publish Final Rule (July 15, 2016)</u> <u>DONE</u>		<u>1st Q 2017</u>
BOP/Well Control Rule	BSEE	Yes	1	Janice/ Daniel/ Stuart Levenbach		Draft proposed rule Accepted by OIRA Dec 12		Published proposed rule in FR (April 17)	Comment period extended to July 16.		Submit to OMB (Jan. 29)	Publish final rule (April 29) <u>DONE</u>			
Civil Penalties Update	BSEE	Yes	1	Daniel								<u>To ASLM for review (May 19) Publish to Direct Final Rule</u> <u>DONE</u>	<u>Publish Direct Final Rule (June 28, 2016)</u> <u>DONE</u>		<u>Final Rule Published 11/17/16 (DONE)</u>

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016	1 st Q 2017
Cost Recovery Fees Restructuring	BSEE	Yes	1 (GAO)	Amanda/Ryan/Stuart Levenbach						Initiate proposed rulemaking process		Begin surrnamining by BSEE/Finance/SOL (June 10) To ASLM	Publish Proposed Rule (Expected 10/15/2016)		Final Rule Published 11/17/16 (DONE)

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016	1 st Q 2017
Production Safety Rule* *Proposed Rule Published 8/22/13; Comment period ended 12/5/13	BSEE	Yes	1	Amanda/Ryan/ Stuart Levenbach							To ASLM (Mar)	To ASLM/SOL for suramin g (May 27) Begin OMB PRA 60-day review for info Complete OMB PRA clearance process (assumes waiver of OMB review) Publish final rule (9/7/16) DONE			
Technical Corrections	BSEE	Yes	1	Amanda/Ryan							Publish Direct Final Rule (June 6) DONE				

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016	1 st Q 2017
Decommissioning cost rule	BSEE	Yes	DONE	Amanda/Ryan/ Stuart Levenbach			Development of final rule notice		Transmit to OMB for PRA clearance	Complete OMB PRA review; assign OMB control number; publish final rule					
Amendment of Decommissioning Reporting - Addition of Pipeline Costs	BSEE	Yes	1 (GAO)	Ryan								Begin suramin g by SOL (May 23)	Publish Proposed Rule (Aug. 12, 2016)	Publish Final Rule	Final Rule Published (11/16/16) (DONE)

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016	1 st Q 2017
Incorporate Updates to Crane Standards	BSEE	Yes	2	Amanda/Ryan/Stuart Levenbach				Published Proposed Rule May 5	Comment Period Closed July 15 and staff begins comment review				Publish Final Rule	Publish Final Rule	Publish Final Rule
Renewable Energy	BSEE	Yes	2	Amanda/Ryan								Complete BSEE/BOE M surnaming g Publish Direct Final Rule	Publish Final Rule November 2016	To ASLM Publish Direct Final Rule	To ASLM Publish Direct Final Rule

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Stream Protection Rule	OSMRE	Yes	1	Brandi/John/Stuart Levenbach			SOL, ASLM surname proposed rule – Oct-Dec.	Proposed rule cleared for OMB review – Jan. – Mar. 2015 +Stakeholder engagement and outreach	Publication of proposed rule/DEIS June, 2015	NOA for Draft EIS published July 17, 2015 Proposed rule and RIA NOA published July 27, 2015	Comment period extended to October 26, 2015		Final Rule to OIRA 5/23/16	Publish Final Rule/ROD in FR August 22, 2016 with Sept 27, 2016 effective date (2016) or Oct effective date (2016)	Publish Final Rule/ROD in FR December November 2016
TN LUM	OSMRE	No	1	Brandi/John		RFP for EIS svcs issued and responses evaluated Picked contractor				LUM Team briefed ASLM on the preferred alter-native July 21, 2015	Published NOA for DEIS in FR Dec 11, 2015. Comment period extended to Feb 26, 2016				Published NOA for FEIS in FR 10/28/2016 6-Oct-2016 (81 FR 75146) ASLM sign ROD before Dec. 2 event with SOL with ROD

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
<u>Civil Penalty Adjustment</u> 5	OSMRE	Yes	<u>1</u> (Done)	John										Direct Final Rule published July 8, 2016 (81 FR 44535)	
<u>Bond Requirements</u>	OSMRE	Yes	<u>1</u>	John/Stuart Levenbach											NPRM Beyond 2016 (currently aiming at 1/17)
<u>Dam Safety</u>	OSMRE	Yes	<u>1</u>	John/Stuart Levenbach											NPRM Beyond 2016 (currently aiming at 2/17)
<u>Coal Combustion Residues</u>	OSMRE	Yes	2	Brandi/John											NPRM Beyond 2016 (currently aiming at 3/17)
<u>Cost Recovery Rule</u>	OSMRE	Yes	2	Brandi/John										OSMRE Final Rule 1st Q 2017	OSMRE Final Rule 1st Q 2017
<u>Temporary Cessation of Operations</u>	OSMRE	Yes	2	Brandi/John										OSMRE	OSMRE 1 st Q 2017

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Toxic Gases and Blasting Rule	OSMRE	Yes	2	Brandi/John Stuart Levenbach									Hold scoping meeting with states & tribes to solicit input on rule	Address concerns from stakeholder meeting in rule text	<u>NPRM Beyond 2017 (aiming at 2/2018)</u>

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Methane and Waste Reduction Rule	BLM	yes	1	Amanda/ David/ Stuart Levenbach						Submitted to OMB Sep 18, 2015	OMB Review Oct-Dec 2015	Published proposed rule 2/8/16	End of comment period 4/8/16		OMB Review October 2016; Publish final rule November 2016 Final Rule signed November 14 and published November 18

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Onshore Order 3	BLM	Yes	1	Amanda/ David/ Stuart Levenbach						Published proposed rule in the Federal Register July 13, 2015, (60day cmt period); reopened to 12/14/15			Publish final rule: May -June 2016	Sign Final Rule/send to FR 9/26/2016	Final Rule Published November br. 17
Onshore Order 4	BLM	Yes	1	Amanda/ David/ Stuart Levenbach						OMB review June-Sep 2015 Published proposed rule: 9/30/15 (60-day comment period extended to 12/14/15)			Publish final rule: May 2016	Sign Final Rule/send to FR 9/26/2016	Final Rule Published November br. 17

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Onshore Order 5	BLM	Yes	1	Amanda/ David/ Stuart Levenbach						OMB review July-Sep 2015	Publish Proposed rule Oct. 13 Comment periods for proposed rules closed 12/14/15	Anticipate OIRA to waive review	Final Rule Published November 17	Sign Final Rule/send to FR 9/26/2016	Final Rule Published November 17
Onshore Royalty Rate/ <u>Included concept in Methane and Waste Reduction Rule for royalties not less than 12.5%</u>	BLM	Yes	1	Amanda/ David/ Stuart Levenbach			Draft ANPR prepared for DOI review. Formal submission to OMB by Week of 12/15.		Publish ANPR by April 15 for 59-day public comment period Done Comment review (82,000)		To be included in Venting and Flaring Rule. OMB Review Nov-Dec 2015	Published proposed rule 2/8/16 as part of V&F	<u>End of comment period 4/8/16</u>		Final Rule signed November 14 and published November 18
Internet Leasing Procedural Rule	BLM	Yes	1	Amanda/ David/ Stuart Levenbach										Published final procedural rule 8/31/2016	

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Planning 2.0 Draft Rule	BLM	Yes	1	Jim/Karen							Complete review BLM/SOL/ASLM	Complete review BLM/SOL/ASLM Published Proposed rule – Feb. 25	Comment period ends May 25		Publish Rollout final rule November 22, 2016 Publish final Public Review for handbook k-May 2017
Wind and Solar Competitive Leasing Regulations	BLM	Yes	1	Amanda/Karen		Proposed rule issued for comment 9/30/14 [60d]	Comment period ended December 16						Final rule submitted to OMB by May 2016.	Final rule published September	Final rule signed 10/4; announced 10/10. DONE

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Automate onshore Application for Permit to Drill tracking and processing [AFMSS 2](#20)	BLM	No	1 (GAO)	David			Pilot effort in Vernal, UT, to be launched in October 2014 DONE				Farming-ton, NM pilot test DONE	Phased Rollout starting	Phased Rollout complete DONE May	*LK memo: expand AFMSS to include mobile inspection apps (complete in 2016)	
DRECP with mitigation strategies for Western Solar Energy Plan (#55A)	BLM	No	1	Liz/ Amanda/ Karen		Publish Draft EIS 9/26/14		End of comment period 2/23/15			FEIS issued mid-Nov 2015	Initiate 60d comment period on ACECs		ROD assigned September 14, 2016 DONE	

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016	
Rangeland Fire Strategy	BLM	No	1	Lauren		Next Steppe Conf.		Issue Secretarial Order DONE Issue Initial Report; initiate actions for 2015 fire season	Issue final strategy May 83 Tasks	Initiate Final Report Actions	Announce Implementation Manager	Finalize revised ES/BAR memo	Draft consv. & restor. strategy; finalize & implement fuels & preparedness allocation – risk-based approach	Tasks ongoing: risk-based budget October 26 – DONE ; Actionable le Science Plan October 31 – DONE ; C&R Strategy December 16 ; Fire Landscape DM chapters in December er	Tasks ongoing: Consv. & restor. strategy part 1 published July 2016 ; SMRRT to publish November 2016	Tasks ongoing: risk-based budget October 26 – DONE ; Actionable le Science Plan October 31 – DONE ; C&R Strategy December 16 ; Fire Landscape DM chapters in December er

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Reforms to Coal Program; including mine waste methane (MWM)	BLM	No	1	Brandi/David	Mine waste methane comment period on ANPR closed June 2014		Finalize Coal I&E Manual and Handbook & valuation handbook update DONE	Policy call whether to propose MWM rule Spring 2015 DECIDED NO RULE		Listening sessions		Issue Sec Order Jan. 2016 DONE Coal NOI (March) Project Manager Contractors		BLM Guidance (IMs): 1. Transparency 2. Royalty Rate Reductions 3. Discretionary Exchanges 4. MWM IM <u>Assoc Staff to complete IM's are working on Coal PEIS and could delay release</u>	<u>PEIS Scoping Report</u>

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Renewable energy projects	BLM	No	1	Amanda/ Karen (June)								Soda Mountain ROD signed <u>March 28</u> Aiya FEIS <u>Tungsten Mtn. Geothermal</u> at <u>ROD Signed March 25</u>	Choke-cherry EA2 Aiya-ROD Tungsten Mtn. Geothermal at ROD June Dixie Meadows Geothermal at ROD June	<u>Aiya ROD tentative September 15, 2016</u>	Choke-cherry - <u>Eagle Take-ROD (FWS - FEIS - December 2, 2016)</u> <u>ROD - January, 2016</u> <u>ROW DR (BLM - December 2016)</u> <u>Dixie Meadows Geothermal</u> <u>ROD December 2016</u>

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Sage Grouse Mineral Withdrawal	BLM	No	1	Jim/Karen						FRN for proposed withdrawal, EIS, open public scoping period – Sep	Public meetings in Dec.			Complete mineral report (USGS) - September	DEIS December 2016
Sage-Grouse RMPs and implementation	BLM	No	1	Jim/Karen	Lander RMP finalized June 2014				Complete sage grouse planning strategy in late spring	RODs signed Sep 2015 DONE	O&G and grazing IMs; Mitigation Teams identified; Regional structure initiated		Stakeholder Work-Shops (April-May)	Complete Draft mitigation strategies Part 1 Issue IMs to implement RMP. Includes O&G and grazing September 1, 2016	Complete Mitigation Strategy – SGTF review December 14;

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Oil Shale Rule	BLM	Yes	2	Amanda/ David									Final Rule published by June 2016		<u>Final Rule Published Pending Litigation Settlement</u>
Onshore Order 1 [minor amendment to require electronic submission of APDs]	BLM	Yes	2	Amanda/ David/ Stuart Levenbach									Publish pre-proposed rule April 2016	<u>Proposed rule Published July 29, 2016 Publish Final rule</u>	<u>Final rule 11/15/16</u>

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Complete BLM Rapid Eco-regional assessments	BLM	No	2	Jim/Karen			7 rapid eco-regional assessments (REA) complete in FY14 DONE			North Slope REA completed July 2015	4 REAs complete in 2015 DONE		North Slope data released to public April 2016	Central Yukon completed June 2016 <u>(note: data released to public January 2017)</u>	Complete remain in REAs (North Slope; Chihuahua Desert - July 2017; S Great Plains part 1 of REA complete December 2016, Part 2 and data release 1 st Quarter 2017; Central Yukon) → 15 REAs

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Complete Master Leasing Plans	BLM	No	2	Amanda/Jim/ David		Finalized several key MLPs; (Beaver Rim, part of Lander RMP-R)					Finalized 5-6 MLPs: N Park, Dinosaur Tr, Shale Ridges & Canyons, CO, and Absaroka, 15 Mile, & Bighorn Front, WY			Moab MLP FEIS	Complete 5 more Moab MLP December 21st end-of 2016
Transmission Planning revisions to "Section 368" corridor study (#55C)	BLM	No	2	Brandi/Karen	Issued instruction Memo in April 2014-080 regarding use of Section 368 Corridors	Published request for info. Participated in Listening Session. Identified and prioritized 6 regions.	Data collection. Held updated training course. Planning for first Regional Corridor Review.	Draft Corridor Study for agency review July-Aug 2015.				Release corridor Study; Initiate first Regional Corridor Review; subject to avail. \$\$			Complete first Regional Corridor Review Initiate second Subject to avail. \$\$ Draft Region 1 Study for public review December 15; Delayed Final Feb 2017

ASLM Priority Projects

Description	Bureau	Rule?	Priority	ASLM Lead / Analyst / OMB	2 nd Q 2014	3 rd Q 2014	4 th Q 2014	1 st Q 2015	2 nd Q 2015	3 rd Q 2015	4 th Q 2015	1 st Q 2016	2 nd Q 2016	3 rd Q 2016	4 th Q 2016
Hydraulic Fracturing	BLM	yes	DONE	Janice/ Amanda/ David/ Stuart Levenbach		Final rule sent to OMB. *LK memo: final rule to OIRA in June 2014		Published final rule Mar. 2015 DONE							
Oil and Gas Inspection Fee initiative	BLM	No	DONE					Release of I&E High Priority Achievement Plan - March 2015 DONE			*LK memo: Increase inspection of high risk wells to 100% by end of 2015 DONE				
GAO High Risk Tasks	ASLM	No	1	Janice/ Amanda/ Rich/ Lauren	Comptroller General Meeting					Closed 32 Recs. in FY 2015 (BLM-13; BOEM-3; BSEE-16)	Strategy meeting	BLM - closed 3 high risk	BLM - closed 2 high risk	BLM - 311 High Risk closed; expect to close 29 additional	Comptroller General Meeting BLM to close 2 high risk

From: [Lacko, Kathleen](#)
To: [Janice Schneider](#)
Cc: [Richard Cardinale](#)
Subject: Fwd: ASLM/BLM Agenda and Weekly Report
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 7:51:43 PM
Attachments: [287.0 BLM-ASLM AGENDA FOR 20171801.docx](#)

Janice,

See attached first page for correspondence update (all 8 are represented),

Thanks,
Kathleen.

Kathleen T. Lacko,

Acting Energy Program Analyst - BLM Liaison

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Until 3/11/2017

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brune, Jeff** <jbrune@blm.gov>

Date: Tue, Jan 17, 2017 at 4:52 PM

Subject: ASLM/BLM Agenda and Weekly Report

To: Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, James Lyons

<james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Leiter <amanda_leiter@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Richard Cardinale <richard_cardinale@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>,

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<tcurtis@blm.gov>

Attached is the ASLM/BLM agenda for January 18 and the weekly report for Jan 22-28. Please note the only addition to the agenda is the Weekly Report. We're happy to discuss any other topic you may have that's not on the agenda. --Jeff

--

Jeff Brune
Advisor to the Director's Office
Bureau of Land Management

U. S. Department of the Interior
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BLM-ASLM Agenda
January 18, 2017
Internal Working Document

I. Executive Travel: January 22-28, 2017

BLM Acting Director Kristin Bail and Acting Deputy Director Jerry Perez will be in the office attending regularly scheduled meetings.

II. Agenda Items

- COOP for Friday
- Correspondence (See list below.)
- Admin Records
- Coal IMs
- Transition for next 30 days (e.g., BLM/ASLM interface, pending packages, other?)
- Projects
 - Chokecherry and Sierra Madre
 - Gateway West
- Priority Packages

Items with ASLM:

- Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Decision Package (BLM0009327)
- Proposed Withdrawal, Limestone Caves and Crooks Creek Fisheries Areas, Oregon (BLML000137)
- Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplement to the Draft RMP for the Southern Nevada District Planning Area--Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Offices and Gold Butte Nation (BLMR001397)

Items incoming to ASLM:

- Request to Close Rec 1 OIL AND GAS RESOURCES: Actions Needed for Interior to Better Ensure a Fair Return (GAO-14-50)
- Notice to Prepare Two Great-Basin-Wide Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements to Support Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement (BLMR001407)

CORRESPONDENCE

DTS #	Name	Status
9292	WY GSG Mitigation Framework	With Jim Lyons
9038	O&G Chaco Landscape	Sent to Janice to review 1/17
8248	Admin procedures & IM 2013-177	With Linda Lance for review (may or may not proceed with response)
8526	Proposed venting and flaring rule	Janice to sign 1/17
8901	Colorado Twentymile Mine	Janice to sign 1/18
8987	Colorado Twentymile Mine (same response as 8901)	Janice to sign 1/18
9197	UT wild horse and burro population	Janice to sign 1/17
9375	Revocation of PLO withdrawals	Reassigned for Neil's signature

II. Weekly Report:

Week Ahead Announcements- Presidential and Department/Agency Priorities – January 22-28, 2017

January 22: The deadline for public comments on the BLM-NV draft Pine Nut Mountains HMA Plan, a ten-year management plan for wild horses in the Pine Nut Mountains.

Week of January 23: Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ) plans to visit the BLM-NM Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. Date and BLM participation TBD.

Between January 23 and March 8: The BLM-AK Central Yukon Field Office will hold public meetings in 11 communities in the planning area, as well as in Anchorage and Fairbanks, to prepare a range of alternatives for the Draft Central Yukon RMP.

January 23: The BLM-WY Rock Springs FO will hold a public open house on the Sweetwater Solar Energy Project to solicit comments regarding issues, concerns and potential alternatives. The proposed photovoltaic solar project would encompass approximately 703 acres of which 638 acres would be located on public land. While the project is not within greater sage-grouse core areas, it may impact nesting and/or breeding habitat.

January 23: BLM-WY River/Bighorn Basin District fire program staff will attend a meeting with partners in Lander to discuss planning and preparation for the 2017 solar eclipse. A public meeting will be held on January 24 in Thermopolis and the BLM will attend.

January 24-25: The BLM MT/DKs Miles City FO has scheduled public scoping meetings regarding the Spring Creek Coal EIS on January 24 in Sheridan, WY, and January 25 in Colstrip, MT. The BLM is the lead agency.

January 25 and 26: The BLM will attend the Fort Berthold Federal Partners Meeting to be held in West Denver, Colorado at a BIA Office. The meeting will address issues associated with Bakken development of oil and gas on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation and is not open to the public.

January 25: The BLM-WY Casper FO will meet with Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) to work toward the completion of the transfer of between 1,200 to 1,600 acres of land around Table Mountain from the BLM to the WGFD.

January 25: BLM New Mexico State Office will hold their first online Oil and Gas lease sale with 4 parcels covering 842 acres in Sandoval and Rio Arriba counties (NM). Parcels are available for viewing on the Energynet website - <https://www.energynet.com>.

January 26-27: BLM-OR will meet with a group of five Korean Nationals who are interested in local conservation efforts.

January 26-28: BLM-OR/WA will host public meetings for the Yaquina Head Recreation Area Management Plan on January 26 in Salem and January 27 and 28 at the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area in Newport. A draft management plan is expected late summer 2017.

January 28: The BLM-AK State Director and BLM Arctic Office Manager will meet with the North Slope Borough Mayor in Utqiagvik to discuss projects involving the North Slope Borough and the NPR-A, including the Regional Mitigation Strategy, development of the Greater Mooses Tooth 2 oil and gas project, and the Legacy Wells program.

Media

Multiple Outlets- Oil & Gas Leases near Zion National Park (UT): Reporter Scott Streater (E&E), Brian Maffly (Salt Lake Tribune) and David DeMille (The Spectrum) requested comment on a press release issued by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and the National Parks Conservation Association regarding two nominated oil and gas lease parcels located two miles from Zion National Park. UT PA Ryan Sutherland explained that there are no active BLM leases or wells in Washington County, UT and that the next lease sale is scheduled for June 15.

AP- Sweetwater Solar Energy Project (WY): Associated Press reporter Mead Gruver wanted to know whether the Sweetwater project would be Wyoming's first commercial solar facility in WY, and what particular issues could come up with permitting PV solar projects on BLM lands? (Sweetwater Solar, LLC submitted a proposal for a right-of-way grant to develop a 702-acre solar panel project area) BLM Rock Springs FM Kimberlee explained the process and that this would be the first commercial solar facility in WY. She also explained that the only safety issues were the 3-buried oil pipelines and power lines that were in the area, and that none of the solar panels would interfere with the oil pipelines or the power lines where the solar panels would be installed.

San Francisco Chronicle- CA Coastal NM Expansion (CA): Reporter Curtis Alexander is working on a story about the California Coastal National Monument expansion. He was on-site at the Coast Dairies property with a photographer and had general questions about management, public access and what monument designation means for Coast Dairies. CA PA provided him with general information.

Mail Tribune- Cascade-Siskiyou NM (WO): Reporter Mark Freeman requested information on the origination of the proclamation and map for the C-S NM. He wanted to know who determined the exact boundaries and wrote the actual document. WO PA is working this query.

Houston Chronicle- National Monuments (WO): Reporter James Osborne requested information on the amount of national conservation lands before and after the recent designations. He also requested a backgrounder on how the Bears Ears designation will affect leases in the area. WO PA is working this query.

Oregon Public Radio- Cascade-Siskiyou NM (WO/OR): Reporter Jeff Mapes requested information on whether there were recent solicitor opinions that stated it was ok for the President to designate lands in areas of timber harvests. He stated that the timber industry claimed prior DOI solicitor opinions stated areas of timber harvest could not have a NM designation. OR PA and WO PA are working this query.

A reporter from *The World Newspaper* in Coos Bay interviewed BLM-OR/WA about the timber receipts payment distribution. The reporter inquired about historical and current payments. She also asked questions regarding the future of the Coos Bay District timber program. The article is expected to be fair towards the BLM.

30-60 Day Look Ahead

Mid to late January: BLM plans to sign the Boardman to Hemingway ROD. Oregon Plan amendments are being handled concurrently and that decision will be issued simultaneously with the ROD for the EIS and Approval to issue a grant.

Mid to late January: The BLM-UT Moab FO will release for public review an EA for the Needles and Anticline Overlook (Canyon Rims) Road Improvement Project to improve public access and safety. The area is near the Bears Ears National Monument.

Late January TBD: Ed Roberson, BLM Utah State Director, plans to meet with Sen. Hatch. Location, time, and date TBD.

January 29: The Society for Rangeland Management Annual Meeting will be held in St. George, UT. BLM employees from various offices are planning to attend.

January 29 (tentative): BLM-NV plans to gather up to 135 wild horses from the Reveille HMA and surrounding Reveille Allotment. Eighty wild horses will be removed and transported to a BLM adoption facility while approximately 55 horses will be released back to the HMA and treated with fertility control for a post-gather population of 93.

January 30: The BLM and Forest Service will announce the annual adjusted grazing fee for public lands.

January 30: The BLM will meet with representatives from 22 countries to discuss climate change related mitigation measures and clean energy at the Main Interior building.

Late January: The BLM-UT Price Field Office will release for public review an EA analyzing a recreation management plan for the Joe's Valley Bouldering Area.

Late January: The BLM-CO Uncompahgre FO and the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests will announce a public scoping on a natural gas development proposal about 12 miles north of Paonia, Colorado.

Early FY2017: The finalized implementation plan for Wilderness 2020 Vision is expected to be issued.

First Week of February: The BLM-ID Challis Field Office plans to capture up to 150 wild horses through bait trapping and remove up to 50 within the Challis HMA to reach the AML of 185-253. The current population estimate is 285. The gather is expected to be completed by mid-March.

February 3: The deadline for public comments on the EA for the competitive oil and gas lease sale scheduled for June 13, 2017 in the BLM-NV Battle Mountain District. The BLM received nominations for 106 parcels of public land to offer for leasing, totaling approximately 195,732 acres.

February 3-11: The 2017 King of the Hammers Ultra Race will be held at the Johnson Valley OHV Area in San Bernardino County. This event, authorized under a BLM special recreation permit, draws thousands of participants and spectators and has received national and international attention for its unique OHV and rock crawling competitions.

February 7: BLM-WY will hold an in-person Oil and Gas lease sale, offering 283 parcels totaling 184,784.25 acres located in Campbell, Carbon, Converse, Crook, Fremont, Johnson, Natrona, Niobrara, Sheridan, and Weston counties. Forty-one of the parcels are located within PHMA and the remaining parcels are within sage-grouse GHMA. Three protests have been received. The Powder River Basin Resource Council is protesting because some parcels or portions of parcels are within the Fortification Creek Planning Area, and they assert the EA fails to address potential impacts to the Fortification Creek area, including the Fortification Creek elk herd. WildEarth Guardians has concerns that the BLM fails to adequately disclose potential greenhouse gas emissions and analyze climate change. Davis Graham & Stubbs, LLP is protesting a single parcel due to concerns related to unleased lands within Communitization Agreements.

February 7-8: The Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council meeting will be held at DOI-MIB.

February 8 (approximate): BLM-UT will begin helicopter gather operations in the Cedar Mountain HMA to gather 700 wild horses, remove 300, treat 150 with fertility control and release treated mares with remaining stallions back to the HMA.

February 9: The 60-day public scoping period ends for the BLM-MT/DKs Missoula RMP.

February 11: Deadline for public comments on the Preliminary EA for the Blue Wing Complex Gather Plan in the BLM-NV Winnemucca District.

February 12-15: The Corps Network will hold its annual conference in Washington. BLM staff will attend.

February 13-16: National Native Seed Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. The conference connects Research, Industry, Land Management, and Restoration professionals, providing the premier opportunity to develop relationships and share information about the collection, research and development, production, and use of native plant materials.

Feb 13-25: The Mineral resources report of the Sagebrush Focal Areas of Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming will be available the sage-brush focal areas. BLM WO received 600 copies from the USGS. These reports will be distributed at the planned public meeting in February and will be sent out to the state and field offices. Public meetings will be held for the proposed SFA Withdrawal EIS at 8 locations: Malta, MT; Salt Lake City, UT; Rock Springs, WY; Idaho Falls, ID; Reno, NV; Lake View, OR; Elko, NV, and Boise, ID from 2/13-2/16 and 2/21-2/24.

February 13-14: PV Solar America East (Boston, MA)

February 14-17: The BLM Executive Leadership Team will meet in Washington, D.C.

February 15-19: The 41st Annual National Wild Turkey Federation Convention & Sport Show will be held in Nashville, TN. The event includes a National Technical Committee meeting and partner awards ceremony. BLM, USFS, and state agency partners will participate.

February 15: BLM-OR/WA will hold the Blue Mule Timber Sale including 5,500 MBF of thinning harvest on 324 acres. The BLM will also hold the Quarry 5 Timber Sale including 7,358 MBF of regeneration and thinning harvest on 283 acres.

February 16-19: The 2017 Western Hunting and Conservation Expo will be held in Salt Lake City, UT. This annual gathering is sponsored by the Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. Scheduled events include a WAFWA Mule Deer Working Group meeting on February 15 and partner Awards Breakfast on February 18. BLM, USFS, and state agency partners will participate.

February 17: BLM-OR/WA will hold the Six One Timber Sale consisting of 68 acres of regeneration harvest and one acre of right-of-way clearing. This project is expected to be controversial as it is a regeneration harvest.

February 25-March 1: The National Association of Counties Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

February 25: Northern Nevada Correctional Center Wild Horse Adoption. Fifteen-20 wild horses will be offered for adoption.

February 28: A Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventory and Monitoring Indefinite Delivery and Indefinite Quantity Contract is being developed for review and posting by the NOC.

Late February: BLM-NV plans to issue the final Dixie Meadows Geothermal Project EA and FONSI. The project area consists of approximately 22,021 acres of public land. The proponent (Ormat) is seeking approval to drill temperature gradient wells, and to drill and test observation wells and production wells at up to 20 specific locations.

March 2-4: The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation National Convention will be held in Nashville, TN. The agenda includes a Conservation Partners Meeting with a sage-grouse panel discussion on Thursday, March 2. BLM, USFS, NRCS, and state agency partners will participate.

March 4-11: The North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference will be held in Spokane, Washington. This year's BLM Partners meeting will be held on of March 7. BLM staff will attend.

March 7: The Great Alaska Sportsman Show will be held in Anchorage, Alaska.

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From: [Janice Schneider](#)
To: [Lassiter Tracie](#)
Subject: Fwd: ASLM/BLM Agenda and Weekly Report
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 5:01:24 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.htm](#)
[287.0 BLM-ASLM AGENDA FOR 20171801.docx](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Brune, Jeff" <jbrune@blm.gov>
Date: January 17, 2017 at 4:52:49 PM EST
To: Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, James Lyons <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Leiter <amanda_leiter@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Richard Cardinale <richard_cardinale@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Linda Lance <llance@blm.gov>, Jenna Whitlock <jwhitloc@blm.gov>, Tracie Lassiter <tracie_lassiter@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Anderson <michael_anderson@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren Bogard <lauren_bogard@ios.doi.gov>, Alexandra Teitz <ateitz@blm.gov>, Karen Kelleher <kkelleh@blm.gov>, David Blackstun <dblackst@blm.gov>, Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, Jeff Brune <jbrune@blm.gov>, Yolando Mack-Thompson <ymackthompson@blm.gov>, Kelly Orr <korr@blm.gov>, Shannon Stewart <sstewar@blm.gov>, "Laura (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>, Linda Thurn <lthurn@blm.gov>, Timothy Shannon <tshannon@blm.gov>, "Brubeck, Kimberly" <kbrubeck@blm.gov>, "Lacko, Kathleen" <ktlacko@blm.gov>, Todd Curtis <tcurtis@blm.gov>
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Washington, D.C. 20240

(202) 208-3774
Email: jbrune@blm.gov

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February 3: The deadline for public comments on the EA for the competitive oil and gas lease sale scheduled for June 13, 2017 in the BLM-NV Battle Mountain District. The BLM received nominations for 106 parcels of public land to offer for leasing, totaling approximately 195,732 acres.

February 3-11: The 2017 King of the Hammers Ultra Race will be held at the Johnson Valley OHV Area in San Bernardino County. This event, authorized under a BLM special recreation permit, draws thousands of participants and spectators and has received national and international attention for its unique OHV and rock crawling competitions.

February 7: BLM-WY will hold an in-person Oil and Gas lease sale, offering 283 parcels totaling 184,784.25 acres located in Campbell, Carbon, Converse, Crook, Fremont, Johnson, Natrona, Niobrara, Sheridan, and Weston counties. Forty-one of the parcels are located within PHMA and the remaining parcels are within sage-grouse GHMA. Three protests have been received. The Powder River Basin Resource Council is protesting because some parcels or portions of parcels are within the Fortification Creek Planning Area, and they assert the EA fails to address potential impacts to the Fortification Creek area, including the Fortification Creek elk herd. WildEarth Guardians has concerns that the BLM fails to adequately disclose potential greenhouse gas emissions and analyze climate change. Davis Graham & Stubbs, LLP is protesting a single parcel due to concerns related to unleased lands within Communitization Agreements.

February 7-8: The Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council meeting will be held at DOI-MIB.

February 8 (approximate): BLM-UT will begin helicopter gather operations in the Cedar Mountain HMA to gather 700 wild horses, remove 300, treat 150 with fertility control and release treated mares with remaining stallions back to the HMA.

February 9: The 60-day public scoping period ends for the BLM-MT/DKs Missoula RMP.

February 11: Deadline for public comments on the Preliminary EA for the Blue Wing Complex Gather Plan in the BLM-NV Winnemucca District.

February 12-15: The Corps Network will hold its annual conference in Washington. BLM staff will attend.

February 13-16: National Native Seed Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. The conference connects Research, Industry, Land Management, and Restoration professionals, providing the premier opportunity to develop relationships and share information about the collection, research and development, production, and use of native plant materials.

Feb 13-25: The Mineral resources report of the Sagebrush Focal Areas of Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming will be available the sage-brush focal areas. BLM WO received 600 copies from the USGS. These reports will be distributed at the planned public meeting in February and will be sent out to the state and field offices. Public meetings will be held for the proposed SFA Withdrawal EIS at 8 locations: Malta, MT; Salt Lake City, UT; Rock Springs, WY; Idaho Falls, ID; Reno, NV; Lake View, OR; Elko, NV, and Boise, ID from 2/13-2/16 and 2/21-2/24.

February 13-14: PV Solar America East (Boston, MA)

February 14-17: The BLM Executive Leadership Team will meet in Washington, D.C.

February 15-19: The 41st Annual National Wild Turkey Federation Convention & Sport Show will be held in Nashville, TN. The event includes a National Technical Committee meeting and partner awards ceremony. BLM, USFS, and state agency partners will participate.

February 15: BLM-OR/WA will hold the Blue Mule Timber Sale including 5,500 MBF of thinning harvest on 324 acres. The BLM will also hold the Quarry 5 Timber Sale including 7,358 MBF of regeneration and thinning harvest on 283 acres.

February 16-19: The 2017 Western Hunting and Conservation Expo will be held in Salt Lake City, UT. This annual gathering is sponsored by the Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. Scheduled events include a WAFWA Mule Deer Working Group meeting on February 15 and partner Awards Breakfast on February 18. BLM, USFS, and state agency partners will participate.

February 17: BLM-OR/WA will hold the Six One Timber Sale consisting of 68 acres of regeneration harvest and one acre of right-of-way clearing. This project is expected to be controversial as it is a regeneration harvest.

February 25-March 1: The National Association of Counties Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

February 25: Northern Nevada Correctional Center Wild Horse Adoption. Fifteen-20 wild horses will be offered for adoption.

February 28: A Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventory and Monitoring Indefinite Delivery and Indefinite Quantity Contract is being developed for review and posting by the NOC.

Late February: BLM-NV plans to issue the final Dixie Meadows Geothermal Project EA and FONSI. The project area consists of approximately 22,021 acres of public land. The proponent (Ormat) is seeking approval to drill temperature gradient wells, and to drill and test observation wells and production wells at up to 20 specific locations.

March 2-4: The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation National Convention will be held in Nashville, TN. The agenda includes a Conservation Partners Meeting with a sage-grouse panel discussion on Thursday, March 2. BLM, USFS, NRCS, and state agency partners will participate.

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Legal

N/A

From: [Lacko, Kathleen](#)
To: [Janice Schneider](#)
Cc: [Richard Cardinale](#)
Subject: Fwd: ASLM/BLM Agenda and Weekly Report
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 7:47:40 PM
Attachments: [287.0 BLM-ASLM AGENDA FOR 20171801.docx](#)

Janice,

See attached first page for correspondence update (all 8 are represented),

Thanks,
Kathleen.

Kathleen T. Lacko,

Acting Energy Program Analyst - BLM Liaison

Office of the Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management

Department of Interior (MIB)

1849 C Street, NW

Washington, DC 20240

Office: (202) 208-4114

Cell: (307) 554-6334

ktlacko@blm.gov

Until 3/11/2017

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brune, Jeff** <jbrune@blm.gov>

Date: Tue, Jan 17, 2017 at 4:52 PM

Subject: ASLM/BLM Agenda and Weekly Report

To: Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, James Lyons

<james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>, Amanda Leiter <amanda_leiter@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Richard Cardinale <richard_cardinale@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>,

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<tracie_lassiter@ios.doi.gov>, Michael Anderson <michael_anderson@ios.doi.gov>, Lauren

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Early FY2017: The finalized implementation plan for Wilderness 2020 Vision is expected to be issued.

First Week of February: The BLM-ID Challis Field Office plans to capture up to 150 wild horses through bait trapping and remove up to 50 within the Challis HMA to reach the AML of 185-253. The current population estimate is 285. The gather is expected to be completed by mid-March.

February 3: The deadline for public comments on the EA for the competitive oil and gas lease sale scheduled for June 13, 2017 in the BLM-NV Battle Mountain District. The BLM received nominations for 106 parcels of public land to offer for leasing, totaling approximately 195,732 acres.

February 3-11: The 2017 King of the Hammers Ultra Race will be held at the Johnson Valley OHV Area in San Bernardino County. This event, authorized under a BLM special recreation permit, draws thousands of participants and spectators and has received national and international attention for its unique OHV and rock crawling competitions.

February 7: BLM-WY will hold an in-person Oil and Gas lease sale, offering 283 parcels totaling 184,784.25 acres located in Campbell, Carbon, Converse, Crook, Fremont, Johnson, Natrona, Niobrara, Sheridan, and Weston counties. Forty-one of the parcels are located within PHMA and the remaining parcels are within sage-grouse GHMA. Three protests have been received. The Powder River Basin Resource Council is protesting because some parcels or portions of parcels are within the Fortification Creek Planning Area, and they assert the EA fails to address potential impacts to the Fortification Creek area, including the Fortification Creek elk herd. WildEarth Guardians has concerns that the BLM fails to adequately disclose potential greenhouse gas emissions and analyze climate change. Davis Graham & Stubbs, LLP is protesting a single parcel due to concerns related to unleased lands within Communitization Agreements.

February 7-8: The Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council meeting will be held at DOI-MIB.

February 8 (approximate): BLM-UT will begin helicopter gather operations in the Cedar Mountain HMA to gather 700 wild horses, remove 300, treat 150 with fertility control and release treated mares with remaining stallions back to the HMA.

February 9: The 60-day public scoping period ends for the BLM-MT/DKs Missoula RMP.

February 11: Deadline for public comments on the Preliminary EA for the Blue Wing Complex Gather Plan in the BLM-NV Winnemucca District.

February 12-15: The Corps Network will hold its annual conference in Washington. BLM staff will attend.

February 13-16: National Native Seed Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. The conference connects Research, Industry, Land Management, and Restoration professionals, providing the premier opportunity to develop relationships and share information about the collection, research and development, production, and use of native plant materials.

Feb 13-25: The Mineral resources report of the Sagebrush Focal Areas of Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming will be available the sage-brush focal areas. BLM WO received 600 copies from the USGS. These reports will be distributed at the planned public meeting in February and will be sent out to the state and field offices. Public meetings will be held for the proposed SFA Withdrawal EIS at 8 locations: Malta, MT; Salt Lake City, UT; Rock Springs, WY; Idaho Falls, ID; Reno, NV; Lake View, OR; Elko, NV, and Boise, ID from 2/13-2/16 and 2/21-2/24.

February 13-14: PV Solar America East (Boston, MA)

February 14-17: The BLM Executive Leadership Team will meet in Washington, D.C.

February 15-19: The 41st Annual National Wild Turkey Federation Convention & Sport Show will be held in Nashville, TN. The event includes a National Technical Committee meeting and partner awards ceremony. BLM, USFS, and state agency partners will participate.

February 15: BLM-OR/WA will hold the Blue Mule Timber Sale including 5,500 MBF of thinning harvest on 324 acres. The BLM will also hold the Quarry 5 Timber Sale including 7,358 MBF of regeneration and thinning harvest on 283 acres.

February 16-19: The 2017 Western Hunting and Conservation Expo will be held in Salt Lake City, UT. This annual gathering is sponsored by the Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. Scheduled events include a WAFWA Mule Deer Working Group meeting on February 15 and partner Awards Breakfast on February 18. BLM, USFS, and state agency partners will participate.

February 17: BLM-OR/WA will hold the Six One Timber Sale consisting of 68 acres of regeneration harvest and one acre of right-of-way clearing. This project is expected to be controversial as it is a regeneration harvest.

February 25-March 1: The National Association of Counties Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

February 25: Northern Nevada Correctional Center Wild Horse Adoption. Fifteen-20 wild horses will be offered for adoption.

February 28: A Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventory and Monitoring Indefinite Delivery and Indefinite Quantity Contract is being developed for review and posting by the NOC.

Late February: BLM-NV plans to issue the final Dixie Meadows Geothermal Project EA and FONSI. The project area consists of approximately 22,021 acres of public land. The proponent (Ormat) is seeking approval to drill temperature gradient wells, and to drill and test observation wells and production wells at up to 20 specific locations.

March 2-4: The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation National Convention will be held in Nashville, TN. The agenda includes a Conservation Partners Meeting with a sage-grouse panel discussion on Thursday, March 2. BLM, USFS, NRCS, and state agency partners will participate.

March 4-11: The North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference will be held in Spokane, Washington. This year's BLM Partners meeting will be held on of March 7. BLM staff will attend.

March 7: The Great Alaska Sportsman Show will be held in Anchorage, Alaska.

March 9: BLM-CO is scheduled to hold an on-line oil and gas lease sale.

March 14: BLM-NV and MT are scheduled to hold an on-line oil and gas lease sale. BLM-NV will offer 67 parcels totaling almost 116,000 acres in the Elko District.

March 16: On January 12, the BLM-ESO announced the application to withdraw ecologically significant lands within the Superior National Forest in northern Minnesota from new mining claims by segregating the lands for two years. On March 16, the Superior National Forest is scheduled to hold a public meeting in Duluth, Minnesota.

March 19-22: The American Indian Higher Education Consortium Student Conference will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota.

March 23: BLM-ESO and UT are scheduled to hold an on-line oil and gas lease sale.

March-25-26: The Arizona Outdoor Expo will be held in Phoenix, Arizona.

March 27-28: The Public Lands Council/ National Cattleman's Beef Association Legislative Conference will be held in Washington, D.C.

April 22: Earth Day

April 23: National Volunteer Week

April 24-26: The Utility Solar Conference will be held in Tucson, Arizona.

Legal

N/A

From: [Google Alerts](#)
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Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 3:05:00 PM



Bureau of Land Management

Daily update · January 14, 2017

NEWS

[Bureau of Land Management accepting comment in first stages of new plan](#)

The Willits News

The **Bureau of Land Management** Northern California District Office is coming to Willits Tuesday to hear issues that need addressing as it develops a ...

Flag as irrelevant

[BLM seeks comments on natural gas pipeline project in gorge](#)

taosnews

The proposed project would be located primarily on **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** lands, starting northwest of Rinconada and ending northeast ...

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[BLM, environmental groups, off-roaders make deal on roads, oil and gas](#)

Salt Lake Tribune

Thousands of acres of public land in southern Utah will remain open to oil and gas exploration and motorized vehicles after groups involved in a ...

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[First online BLM lease sale in state scheduled](#)

Carlsbad Current-Argus

The online bidding system, EnergyNet, was first used in a September 2016 auction elsewhere in the **BLM** complex, according to **BLM** New Mexico ...

Flag as irrelevant

[Oil and gas lease sale near Chaco Canyon scheduled](#)

The Durango Herald

The **Bureau of Land Management** on Wednesday decided to proceed with an oil and gas lease sale on about 840 acres near Chaco Culture National ...



Flag as irrelevant

Monumental questions remain

Mail Tribune

Local **BLM** officials will need to get all the electronic plot points for the new boundaries that snake through southeast Jackson County, western Klamath ...

[Barack Obama Names Portion Of Laguna Beach A California Coastal National Monument -](#)

[Patch.com](#)

[Timber Industry May Challenge Cascade-Siskiyou Monument Expansion - Jefferson Public Radio](#)

[Obama Moves To Protect More California Coast In Mendocino, Humboldt, Santa Cruz - SFist Full Coverage](#)



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As **BLM** moves to protect the National Petroleum Reserve, Conoco pushes back

KTOO

Last month at the **Bureau of Land Management's** lease sale for the the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), a pattern emerged: the oil ...



Flag as irrelevant

Op-ed: **Land management** should benefit all Utahns, not just a select few

Salt Lake Tribune

In addition, the U.S. Forest Service and **Bureau of Land Management**, who are charged with managing Utah's newest monument, have a combined ...



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Thanks to Obama, coastal wildland preserved — but concerns remain

San Francisco Chronicle

That's a challenge that neither the neighboring towns of Davenport and Bonny Doon nor the administrators at the U.S **Bureau of Land Management** ...



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Relative of Jailed Nevada Ranchers Speaks Out About **BLM** Misconduct, Upcoming Trial

American Free Press

Around mid-March 2014, witnesses say **BLM** riflemen, who had set up positions in surrounding hills and other areas, fixed the laser-finders from their ...



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Bureau of Land Management

Daily update · October 19, 2016

NEWS

[Feds' wild horses now roaming Powerball winner's land](#)

Rapid City Journal

Horses stand on a ridge Tuesday morning at the **Bureau of Land Management's** Vale Off-Range Pasture, roughly 20 miles east of Newell. More than ...

Flag as irrelevant

[Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument might double in size](#)

OregonLive.com

Most of the land included in the Cascade-Siskiyou expansion is already federally managed by the **Bureau of Land Management**, but some local ...

Flag as irrelevant

['Monumentalism' - BLM Land Grab Via Misuse Of Antiquities Act](#)

Western Journalism

The federal **Bureau of Land Management** intends to double the size of the current 66,000-acre Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument by securing an ...

Flag as irrelevant



[Here's One Controversy You May Not Hear About In The Last Trump-Clinton Debate](#)

NPR

In rancher Stanton Gleave's home state of Utah, more than 70 percent of the land is owned by the **Bureau of Land Management**, the U.S. Forest ...

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[Federal appeals court tackles Nevada mine dispute](#)

Reno Gazette Journal

Opponents of the mine want judges to override a 2012 decision by the **Bureau of Land**

Management to permit Eureka Moly, LLC to proceed with the ...



Flag as irrelevant

Federal **land** is too rich for state

Jackson Hole News&Guide

In 2014 alone the **BLM** in Wyoming handled 1,500 NEPA actions, including environmental impact statements, environmental assessments, categorical ...



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BLM Announces Oil/Gas Lease Sale For Ohio's Wayne National Forest

Natural Gas Intelligence

After years of delays, the U.S. **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** is proceeding with a competitive oil and gas lease sale for 33 parcels in Ohio's ...



Flag as irrelevant

Oregon refuge simply 'wasn't theirs' to take, prosecutor says in closing argument

OregonLive.com

All seven are charged with conspiring to impede officers of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. **Bureau of Land Management** from carrying out ...



Flag as irrelevant

Various agencies work to clear illegal marijuana grow site on national forest **land**

Action News Now

The National Forest Service, **Bureau of Land Management**, The National Guard and more worked to destroy nearly 20,000 marijuana plants, and ...



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Where the wild things are

Black Hills Pioneer

The **BLM** manages wild horse populations on federal lands as laid out in the Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971 that directed the ...



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Bureau of Land Management

Daily update · October 26, 2016

NEWS

[Where the investigation into the cause of the Little Valley Fire stands](#)

KRNV My News 4

The **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** is leading the investigation, with assistance from the Nevada Fire Marshal Division. A spokesperson from the ...



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[Correction: Ranching Standoff story](#)

KSL.com

The **Bureau of Land Management** and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are under the Department of Interior. Fish and Wildlife manages the Malheur ...

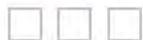
[Oregon Occupation Trial Draws Crowds, But Still No Verdict - NPR](#)

[Juror in Oregon militia trial dismissed for bias: judge - Reuters](#)

[One juror questions impartiality of another juror during deliberations in Oregon standoff case -](#)

[OregonLive.com](#)

[Full Coverage](#)



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[BLM seeks public comment on resource plan](#)

The Daily Planet

The **Bureau of Land Management's** Uncompahgre Field Office is in the final stages of a drafting a Resource Management Plan — a document ...



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[BLM to host 5-state geothermal resource auction today](#)

Utility Dive

The **Bureau of Land Management** tomorrow will hold a large multi-state lease sale focused on geothermal resources on Oct. 26, the first time in ...



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Wild Horses Can't Be Dragged Away

Courthouse News Service

(CN) — The 10th Circuit Court on Monday reversed a ruling that gave the **Bureau of Land Management** permission to remove hundreds of wild horses ...



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Cascade-Siskiyou monument to grow?

Bend Bulletin

It covers **Bureau of Land Management** land where the Cascade, Siskiyou and Klamath mountain ranges converge. Oregon Sens. Merkley and Ron ...

[Commissioners set town hall on monument expansion](#) - Herald and News Full Coverage



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BLM celebrates opening of rock art exhibit at Kane Gulch Ranger Station

Deseret News

MONTICELLO — The **Bureau of Land Management's** Monticello field office invites the public to an open house at the Kane Gulch Ranger Station on ...



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'This Land Is Our Land' Update: Juror Questioned Over Potential Bias

OPB News

11 because he used to work for the U.S. **Bureau of Land Management**. OPB's Amelia Templeton and Kate Davidson talk about that note, and what it ...



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How Sensible BLM and EPA Methane Rules Can Mean Millions to Tribal Communities

Environmental Defense Fund (blog)

With oil and natural gas production, it's not only the industry that benefits monetarily. Mineral rights holders (the people who actually own the oil and ...



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Road through tortoise reserve gets approval

St. George Daily Spectrum

Dawna Ferris-Rowley, the representative for the **Bureau of Land Management** on the committee, said she questioned whether the proposal would ...



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Bureau of Land Management

Daily update · December 4, 2016

NEWS

[BLM looking for bike trail vandals](#)

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel

The **Bureau of Land Management** is aggressively looking for the person or persons who vandalized a portion of a popular mountain biking trail in early ...



Flag as irrelevant

[BLM and BIA extend public scoping period](#)

Farmington Daily Times

At center, Craig Townsend, a natural resource specialist with the **Bureau of Land Management**, talks with colleagues on Nov. 10 during a scoping ...



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[Obama should honor on-the-ground solutions in Oregon's wildest places: Editorial](#)

OregonLive.com

The Owyhee Wild and Scenic River, managed by the U.S. **Bureau of Land Management**, in southeast Oregon, flows north to connect with the Snake ...



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[Kate Steinle lawsuit: Federal judge probes stolen **BLM** gun in family's suit against government](#)

Santa Cruz Sentinel

Kathryn Steinle is photographed on a trip to visit Prague and Amsterdam in 2009. Steinle died from a single gunshot wound on while walking on Pier ...



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[Hunting, roads limited in some monuments](#)

Arizona Daily Sun

The purpose is often to protect resources highlighted in the monument proclamation or remove

duplicate routes, **Bureau of Land Management** officials ...



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[National monument fight comes to Cascade-Siskiyou in southern Oregon](#)

OregonLive.com

The federal government simply can't manage all of its land, he argued, ... **Bureau of Land Management** and local landowners have worked together, ...



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[It could be a long wait for Alaska appointments to Trump administration](#)

Alaska Dispatch News

Young said what concerns him most is "who's going to be undersecretary of Fish and Wildlife, undersecretary of **BLM**. They're the ones that worry me ...



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[State's process for planning transmission line](#)

Ontario Argus Observer

The **Bureau of Land Management** is the lead agency in approving the routing of the line over federally managed land, which also includes the U.S. ...



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[Drill, baby, drill vs. lock it up: Lessons of the battle over the Roan Plateau](#)

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel

The **Bureau of Land Management** recently issued its final plan for the Roan Plateau, closing the most valuable habitat on top of the plateau to oil and ...



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[Barstow seeing uptick in commercial activity](#)

VVdailypress.com

Approximately 58 acres in the project site is owned by the State Lands Commission and the **Bureau of Land Management**. **BLM** is transferring its land ...



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Bureau of Land Management

Daily update · January 13, 2017

NEWS

[BLM boosts Pryor mustangs' maximum population number](#)

Powell Tribune

Wild horses, including these shown in the Pryor Mountains in 2015, establish a strict hierarchy. The **Bureau of Land Management** has increased the ...



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[BLM announces southwest Oregon withdrawal, including Coos Bay and Medford districts](#)

KCBY.com 11

BLM officials announced that the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has signed a public land order for a 20-year term ...



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[OHV use on BLM land focus of meetings](#)

Eastern Arizona Courier

PHOENIX — The Arizona Game and Fish Department encourages off-highway vehicle enthusiasts who utilize **Bureau of Land Management** lands to ...



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[Santa Cruz County's Cotoni-Coast Dairies listed as a national monument](#)

Santa Cruz Sentinel

Valentin Lopez, Tribal Chairperson of the Amah Mutsun, signs a Memorandum of Understanding with **Bureau of Land Management's** Rick Cooper in ...



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[Dominguez-Escalante plan](#)

Grand Junction Daily Sentinel

The **Bureau of Land Management** this week issued a decision finalizing the resource management plan for the 210,000-acre area, which includes the ...



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[House opens door for transfer of federal **lands**: Will Trump play ball?](#)

Miami Herald

But the management of vast tracts by the U.S. Forest Service and **Bureau of Land Management** has sparked conflict, including armed standoffs ...

[House opens door for transfer of federal **lands**: Will Trump play ball?](#) - McClatchy Washington

Bureau

[Ryan Zinke's Economic Opportunity](#) - Forbes

[Full Coverage](#)



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[Land managers to hold online lease sale in New Mexico](#)

Deming Headlight

SANTA FE — Federal land managers in New Mexico are planning their first online oil and ... The **Bureau of Land Management** announced the Jan.



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[Obama designates Santa Cruz coastal property as new national monument](#)

The Mercury News

The properties, all owned by the U.S. **Bureau of Land Management**, total roughly 6,200 acres. They include rugged oceanfront bluffs along Humboldt ...

[Obama expands Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument](#) - Mail Tribune

[Obama expands Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument](#) - Ashland Daily Tidings

[Full Coverage](#)



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[BLM Says Burning Man Passes Post Event Inspection](#)

KTVN

The **Bureau of Land Management** has announced the results of the Burning Man Post Event Inspection for the 2016 event. The inspection took place ...



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[Controlled burns send smoke aloft; more prescribed fires planned](#)

St George News

During the coming months, fire crews from the **Bureau of Land Management** Color Country District and Utah's Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands ...



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WEB

[us department of the interior](#)

Bureau of Land Management

WASHINGTON – As the country prepares to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service ...



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NEWS ALERT

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GREENWIRE — Thu., January 12, 2017 at 7:28 PM

NATIONAL MONUMENTS:

Obama protects 3 new sites, expands 2 more

President Obama today announced three new national monuments honoring key events in the civil rights movement and expanded both the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon and the California Coastal National Monument.

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From: [Jessica Kershaw](#)
To: [Buffa Nikki](#); [Neil Kornze](#); [Laura Pardue](#); [Janice Schneider](#); [Interior Press](#)
Subject: Medford Mail Tribune: Our View: Monument expansion strikes a balance
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017 9:04:12 PM

Medford Mail Tribune: Our View: Monument expansion strikes a balance

Sunday

Posted

Jan 15, 2017 at 12:01 AM

Supporters of a larger Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument got some of what they wanted when President Barack Obama designated 47,624 acres as new monument land. Opponents, including the timber industry and the Jackson County commissioners, were disappointed, but the move is unlikely to bring the negative consequences they fear.

In one of his last official acts as president, Obama used his power under the Antiquities Act to expand the monument, just as President Bill Clinton did to create it in 2000, just before he left office. Presidents of both parties have used the Antiquities Act to set aside unique features for protection since the act was passed under President Theodore Roosevelt.

Supporters of the Cascade-Siskiyou expansion had sought 66,500 acres, and Oregon Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley actively supported and worked for the larger designation.

The monument protects the intersection of the Cascade and Siskiyou mountain ranges, a unique bioregion that is home to plant and animal species found nowhere else on the planet. The goal of expansion supporters was to extend monument protection to the headwaters of streams that run through the monument and to connect migration corridors used by wildlife. The expansion also extends the monument into California, crossing the arbitrary boundary of the state line.

Opponents argued that the expansion would remove timber land from potential harvest. The American Forest Resource Institute says President Franklin Roosevelt's Interior Department advised 80 years ago that former Oregon & California Railroad lands designated for timber production could not legally be withdrawn under the Antiquities Act because that conflicted with the O&C Act.

That was one opinion, not a court ruling. O&C lands were included in President Clinton's original monument designation, but no court challenge has been mounted in the intervening 16 years. In any case, some of the O&C land in the monument is designated as reserves, already set aside from timber production.

Monument opponents also argue that a presidential decree is not the best way to protect land because it prevents Congress from having a say and limits public involvement. That view has some merit, although

two public hearings were held last fall on the expansion proposal, and Jackson County commissioners sent Interior Secretary Sally Jewell 750 pages of written material and a 178-page transcript of their public hearing. Commissioner Colleen Roberts acknowledged that the expansion is smaller than originally proposed, indicating that opponents' concerns were heard.

Most activities now permitted will continue to be allowed under monument rules, despite fears to the contrary. Hunting, fishing, camping and hiking are all permitted, and motorized vehicle use is allowed as well on established roads. Livestock grazing can continue as well, although public land managers will likely encourage ranchers to retire grazing allotments over time.

The expansion enjoyed support from Oregon's two senators, as well as the city councils of Ashland and Talent, and a substantial number of public comments favored the proposal.

We argued last fall that the decision should be based on science and environmental considerations rather than any hoped-for boost in tourism dollars, which are more ephemeral. It appears the expansion as proposed did that, and is a reasonable middle ground.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 12, 2017, at 6:16 PM, Nielsen, Noreen A. EOP/CEQ
<Noreen_A_Nielsen@ceq.eop.gov> wrote:

From: White House Press Office [<mailto:noreply@useopwh.service.govdelivery.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2017 6:13 PM
To: Nielsen, Noreen A. EOP/CEQ <Noreen_A_Nielsen@ceq.eop.gov>
Subject: Presidential Proclamation -- Boundary Enlargement of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 12, 2017

Attached for release and signed by the President today is the text of a proclamation on the Boundary Enlargement of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

###

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<2017CascadeSiskiyou.prc.rel.pdf>

From: [Jessica Kershaw](#)
To: [Buffa Nikki](#); [Neil Kornze](#); [Laura Pardue](#); [Janice Schneider](#); [Interior Press](#)
Subject: Medford Mail Tribune: Our View: Monument expansion strikes a balance
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017 9:04:14 PM

Medford Mail Tribune: Our View: Monument expansion strikes a balance

Sunday

Posted

Jan 15, 2017 at 12:01 AM

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Subject: Presidential Proclamation -- Boundary Enlargement of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 12, 2017

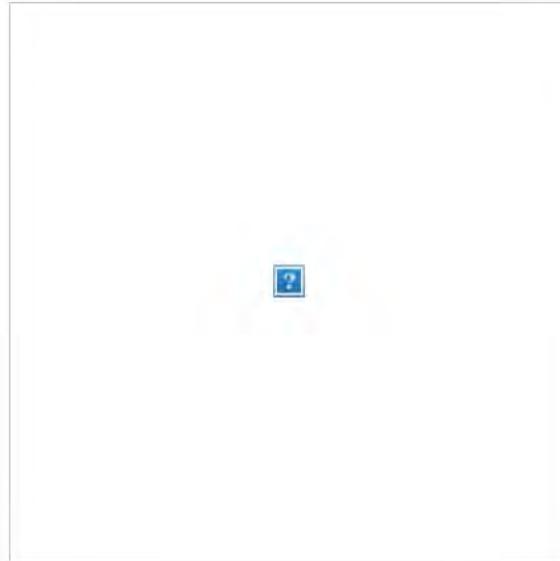
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<2017CascadeSiskiyou.prc.rel.pdf>

From: [American Exploration & Mining Association](#)
To: janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov
Subject: PRESS RELEASE: National Mining Group Blasts Latest Obama Withdrawals
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 12:06:37 PM



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2017

CONTACT:

Devon Coquillard
dcoquillard@miningamerica.org
509-624-1158

National Mining Group Blasts Latest Obama Withdrawals

Last Minute Land Grab in OR & MN Kills Jobs and Harms Public Education

This week, the Obama administration has undertaken more land withdrawals in the waning hours of its administration. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument will add 42,000 acres of public land in Oregon and 5,000 acres in California.

The Administration also published a withdrawal action removing 230,000 acres of federal land in northeast Minnesota. This action does not provide additional environmental protection for the area as mining is already prohibited within the boundaries and surrounding federal buffer zones of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Voyageurs National Park. The waters of the region are already protected by strict state and federal environmental standards. This action robs Minnesota schools from billions of potential dollars in much needed funding to public schools.

"These actions are not only disappointing but a desperate last minute action taken without Congress or citizen input at a huge cost to American manufacturing and local economic activity," said Matthew Ellsworth, AEMA Governmental Affairs. ***"The members of Congress from both parties who have publicly opposed this specific action need to do the right thing and reverse these actions of a single president."***

President Obama has used his powers under the Antiquities Act to protect more lands and waters than any other president without the consent of Congress or the states most affected. AEMA is working with members of Congress and the new administration aggressively to overturn these, and other land actions of the Obama administration.

###

American Exploration & Mining Association (AEMA) is a 122-year old, 2,000 member national association representing the minerals industry. AEMA is the recognized national voice for exploration, the junior mining sector, and maintaining access to public lands, and represents the entire mining life cycle, from exploration to reclamation and closure.

American Exploration & Mining Association | MiningAmerica.com

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American Exploration & Mining Association, 10 N. Post St.,
Suite 305, Spokane, WA 99201-0705

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From: [Neil Kornze](#)
To: [Jessica Kershaw](#)
Cc: [Buffa Nikki](#); [Laura Pardue](#); [Janice Schneider](#); [Interior Press](#); [Jamie E Connell](#); [Christopher McAlear](#); [Theresa Hanley](#); [Kristin Bail](#)
Subject: Re: Medford Mail Tribune: Our View: Monument expansion strikes a balance
Date: Monday, January 16, 2017 12:20:05 AM

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Sunday

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To: [Neil Kornze](#)
Cc: [Jessica Kershaw](#); [Buffa Nikki](#); [Janica Schneider](#); Interior Press; [Jamie F Connell](#); [Christopher McAlear](#); [Theresa Hanley](#); [Kristin Ball](#)
Subject: Re: Medford Mail Tribune: Our View: Monument expansion strikes a balance
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 11:06:51 AM

Another good one here, from Eugene: <http://registerguard.com/rg/opinion/35175924-78/an-expanded-monument.html.csp>

EDITORIAL

An expanded monument

Obama ensures designation's purpose is fulfilled

JAN. 14, 2017

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As the clock ticks down on President Obama's time in office, concern began to grow that he would overlook a proposal to enlarge the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon. The monument is small, remote and already in existence, having been designated by President Clinton in 2000. It would have been easy to focus on other matters, including additional monument designations.

Instead, on Thursday the president added 48,000 acres to the 65,000-acre monument, ensuring that the purpose for which it was created — protecting the area's biological diversity — would be fulfilled. Without the expansion, development pressure and climate change would have threatened to degrade the integrity of unique habitats formed in the jumbled confluence of the Klamath River country and the Cascade and Siskiyou mountain ranges.

Rep. Greg Walden, the Republican who represents the area in Congress, opposes the expansion and said he would ask the incoming Trump administration to reverse it. Whether one president can nullify another's monument designation under the Antiquities Act of 1906 is not known — Donald Trump would be the first since Woodrow Wilson to try. Previous presidents have respected their predecessors' decisions, and have been guided by a 1938 attorney general's opinion holding that monument designations are irreversible.

Walden complained that landowners and local government leaders were not consulted in drawing the larger monument's boundaries. But the expansion was scaled back by about 25 percent, a fact that a Jackson County commissioner who opposes Obama's action welcomed as evidence that local objections had been taken into account.

There's further evidence that the Obama administration hasn't used the Antiquities Act as a steamroller. Conspicuously absent from the list of new and expanded monuments is one covering the Owyhee canyonlands in southeastern Oregon. The administration held back because of local opposition. The Cascade-Siskiyou expansion has strong, though far from unanimous, local support — a fact that should help make it secure even after the White House transition.

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From: [Pardue, Laura \(Liz\)](#)
To: [Neil Kornze](#)
Cc: [Jessica Kershaw](#); [Buffa Nikki](#); [Janica Schneider](#); Interior Press; [Jamie F Connell](#); [Christopher McAlear](#); [Theresa Hanley](#); [Kristin Ball](#)
Subject: Re: Medford Mail Tribune: Our View: Monument expansion strikes a balance
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 11:07:48 AM

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Subject: Re: Medford Mail Tribune: Our View: Monument expansion strikes a balance
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Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Cascade-Siskiyou: Jan 2 SF Chronicle editorial endorses expansion

1 message

Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>
To: sodamtn@mind.net

Mon, Jan 2, 2017 at 10:54 PM

Pro-monument SF Chronicle editorial endorses Cascade-Siskiyou expansion:

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/editorials/article/Obama-s-monumental-leg-acy-on-nature-10830998.php>



Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Fwd: Oregonian Editorial on Monument Expansion

1 message

Chris Wood <CWood@tu.org>

Sun, Dec 4, 2016 at 10:02 PM

To: "nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>, Kai Anderson <kanderson@cassidy.com>

FYI.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jack Williams <JWilliams@tu.org>

Date: December 4, 2016 at 7:01:22 PM PST

To: Chris Wood <CWood@tu.org>, Steve Moyer <SMoyer@tu.org>, Brian Johnson <BJohnson@tu.org>, Steve Kandell <SKandell@tu.org>

Subject: Oregonian Editorial on Monument Expansion

Sunday editorial from the Oregonian's Editorial Board. The say that the Owyhees need protection but not monument designation, and argue that the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has been a success and should be expanded. This is pretty big for us. We had a very good meeting with the Editorial Board and it appears to have paid off. --Jack

The Oregonian, December 4, 2016

Obama should honor on-the-ground solutions in Oregon's wildest places: Editorial



The Owyhee Wild and Scenic River, managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, in southeast Oregon, flows north to connect with the Snake River. (Courtesy the Bureau of Land Management)
Print [Email](#)



By [The Oregonian Editorial Board](#)

Email the author | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on December 03, 2016 at 3:00 PM

Two separate fights to protect two extraordinary patches of Oregon have in recent months escalated as President Barack Obama's term comes to a close. That's because he could, by the authority Congress granted to him in a far less populous time, singularly issue sweeping protections to the Owyhee Canyonlands in southeastern Oregon and the Cascade-Siskiyou Mountains in southwestern Oregon and northern California.

The drive to limit development and resource use in both areas makes sense but for different reasons. Oregonians will never get back the lightless skies at night or the lonely beauty of ancient, eroded terrain cut through by wild rivers in the Owyhee if given over to mining or highway-building. Separately, Oregonians risk losing some of the site-specific, mind-bending biodiversity that makes the forested Cascade-Siskiyou realm a delicate universe requiring limits on use.

But Obama should say no to designating national monument status to the 2.5-million acre Owyhee Canyonlands. And he should say yes to doubling the already successful Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Selective wilderness designations, river protections and broad prohibitions on mining would be strategic, consequential steps Congress could take to protect the Owyhee Canyonlands, the largest undeveloped expanse of land in the lower 48 states. Significantly, doing so would ensure that an economically vital and long-established ranching culture goes unthreatened by monument designation.



A scene from the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon. Courtesy the Bureau of Land Management

By contrast, in the more populated realm anchored by Ashland and Medford, the fish-bearing waterways and exotic flora that make the Siskiyous distinct face potential threat from fragmented lands and warmer temperatures from climate change. Immediate monument expansion would connect fragmented lands within and outside the monument, offering lifelines to potentially marooned species, and help preserve what the 2000 presidential decree called an "ecological wonder ... of rare and beautiful species of plants and animals, whose continued survival ... depends upon its continued ecological integrity."

Oregon's public lands conform to contemporary uses while honoring the communities rooted in them.

Few dispute that President-elect Donald Trump might bring to the nation a different ethic about development and land use, and it remains true that roughly half of Oregon is owned by the federal government and run by agencies such as the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. While most folks in rural Harney County and surrounding areas objected to the armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, simmering resentments across the American West about public lands management came to the fore. So Oregon must have a voice in deciding what's right for the extraordinary landscape that Oregonians call home. That means the Owyhee and the Siskiyous warrant bolstered protections only by actions that honor on-the-ground sentiment, essential to declaring shared destiny and preserving democracy.

Years ago Idaho withstood fears that its Owyhee lands would win monument designation and dodged it by creating 518,000 acres of protected wilderness. It has worked well, among other things limiting mechanized uses of sensitive lands.

But Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley in June proposed legislation that would shield more than 2 million acres of the Owyhee Canyonlands from mineral exploitation, including oil and gas drilling. It was a clear call to leave the ground the way it is and do so in such a way that supports farmers and ranchers who work in an environmentally sustainable fashion. They should press Congress to approve the legislation while citing a report released just last month from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries showing plenty of untapped riches beneath the surface in southeastern Oregon.

Both senators, meanwhile, have deferred to Obama on monument designation, preferring to make known the Oregon sentiments on all sides of the issue. Yet both have been supportive of expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National

Oregonian editorials

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To respond to this editorial:
Post your comment below, submit a [commentary piece](#),
or write a [letter to the editor](#).

If you have questions about the opinion section, contact Laura Gunderson, editorial and commentary editor,

Monument, even as some logging- and ranching-based voices in the region claim they are unheard.

at lgunderson@oregonian.com
or 503-221-8378.

Presidents are twitchy in their monument designations, which can sharply limit access while altering ecologies and firefighting techniques. Bill Clinton created eight monuments in his last three days of office. Obama has made several already. His interior secretary and former REI chief, Sally Jewell, has advocated wise stewardship of public lands, and her counsel will count in the weeks ahead. But any presidential decree affecting Oregon must reflect this modern reality: Oregon's public lands conform to contemporary uses while honoring the communities rooted in them. Owyhee needs wilderness, river protection and mining-prohibition legislation -- but no monument decree. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, meanwhile, should build upon its success with expansion that will ensure its vitality.

-The Oregonian/OregonLive Editorial Board



Jack E. Williams, Ph.D. / Senior Scientist
jwilliams@tu.org / 541.261.3960

Trout Unlimited
4393 Pioneer Road

Medford, OR 97501
<http://www.tu.org>



Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Cascade-Siskiyou: Oregonian editorial endorses expansion -- 12/3/16, 3 p.m.

2 messages

Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>
To: Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>

Sun, Dec 4, 2016 at 12:38 PM

http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2016/12/obama_should_honor_on-the-grou.html

Obama should honor on-the-ground solutions in Oregon's wildest places: Editorial



The Owyhee Wild and Scenic River, managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, in southeast Oregon, flows north to connect with the Snake River. (Courtesy the Bureau of Land Management)



By The Oregonian Editorial Board

Email the author | Follow on Twitter

on December 03, 2016 at 3:00 PM

PrintEmail

Two separate fights to protect two extraordinary patches of Oregon have in recent months escalated as President Barack Obama's term comes to a close. That's because he could, by the authority Congress granted to him in a far less populous time, singularly issue sweeping protections to the Owyhee Canyonlands in southeastern Oregon and the Cascade-Siskiyou Mountains in southwestern Oregon and northern California.

The drive to limit development and resource use in both areas makes sense but for different reasons. Oregonians will never get back the lightless skies at night or the lonely beauty of ancient, eroded terrain cut through by wild rivers in the Owyhee if given over to mining or highway-building. Separately, Oregonians risk losing some of the site-specific, mind-bending biodiversity that makes the forested Cascade-Siskiyou realm a delicate universe requiring limits on use.

But Obama should say no to designating national monument status to the 2.5-million acre Owyhee Canyonlands. And he should say yes to doubling the already successful Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Selective wilderness designations, river protections and broad prohibitions on mining would be strategic, consequential steps Congress could take to protect the Owyhee Canyonlands, the largest undeveloped expanse of land in the lower 48 states. Significantly, doing so would ensure that an economically vital and long-established ranching culture goes unthreatened by monument designation.



A scene from the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern

Oregon. Courtesy the Bureau of Land Management

By contrast, in the more populated realm anchored by Ashland and Medford, the fish-bearing waterways and exotic flora that make the Siskiyous distinct face potential

threat from fragmented lands and warmer temperatures from climate change. Immediate monument expansion would connect fragmented lands within and outside the monument, offering lifelines to potentially marooned species, and help preserve what the 2000 presidential decree called an "ecological wonder ... of rare and beautiful species of plants and animals, whose continued survival ... depends upon its continued ecological integrity."

Oregon's public lands conform to contemporary uses while honoring the communities rooted in them.

Few dispute that President-elect Donald Trump might bring to the nation a different ethic about development and land use, and it remains true that roughly half of Oregon is owned by the federal government and run by agencies such as the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. While most folks in rural Harney County and surrounding areas objected to the armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, simmering resentments across the American West about public lands management came to the fore. So Oregon must have a voice in deciding what's right for the extraordinary landscape that Oregonians call home. That means the Owyhee and the Siskiyous warrant bolstered protections only by actions that honor on-the-ground sentiment, essential to declaring shared destiny and preserving democracy.

Years ago Idaho withstood fears that its Owyhee lands would win monument designation and dodged it by creating 518,000 acres of protected wilderness. It has worked well, among other things limiting mechanized uses of sensitive lands.

But

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or 503-221-8378.

Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley in June proposed legislation that

would shield more than 2 million acres of the Owyhee Canyonlands from mineral exploitation, including oil and gas drilling. It was a clear call to leave the ground the way it is and do so in such a way that supports farmers and ranchers who work in an environmentally sustainable fashion. They should press Congress to approve the legislation while citing a report released just last month from the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries showing plenty of untapped riches beneath the surface in southeastern Oregon.

Both senators, meanwhile, have deferred to Obama on monument designation, preferring to make known the Oregon sentiments on all sides of the issue. Yet both have been supportive of expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, even as some logging- and ranching-based voices in the region claim they are unheard.

Presidents are twitchy in their monument designations, which can sharply limit access while altering ecologies and firefighting techniques. Bill Clinton created eight monuments in his last three days of office. Obama has made several already. His interior secretary and former REI chief, Sally Jewell, has advocated wise stewardship of public lands, and her counsel will count in the weeks ahead. But any presidential decree affecting Oregon must reflect this modern reality: Oregon's public lands conform to contemporary uses while honoring the communities rooted in them. Owyhee needs wilderness, river protection and mining-prohibition legislation -- but no monument decree. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, meanwhile, should build upon its success with expansion that will ensure its vitality.

Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

Sun, Dec 4, 2016 at 9:36 PM

To: Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "Liz (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>, Justin Pidot <justin.pidot@sol.doi.gov>

In case this didn't get to you through other channels.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>

Date: December 4, 2016 at 12:38:11 PM EST

To: 'Dave Willis' <sodamtn@mind.net>

Subject: Cascade-Siskiyou: Oregonian editorial endorses expansion -- 12/3/16, 3 p.m.

[Quoted text hidden]



Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Cascade-Siskiyou: Oregon governor supports Monument expansion

2 messages

Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>
To: Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>

Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 8:43 PM

[Attached...](#)



11.21.16 Governor Brown letter to Jewell re Cascade Siskiyou.pdf
2427K

Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>
To: sodamtn@mind.net

Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 8:46 PM

Thank you for your note. I am out of the office today. If your matter is time sensitive, please feel free to call 202-208-3801.

Neil



KATE BROWN
Governor

November 21, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Thank you for your steadfast support for America's iconic landscapes. I appreciate your agency's continued interest in one of Oregon's natural icons – the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument – and the effort made in convening a community discussion around expansion. As Oregon's Governor, I lend my support to your efforts and want to convey my desire to enhance this Oregon wonder through a thoughtful expansion of its boundaries.

Since President Clinton's dedication of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in 2000, community leaders and interested parties have worked diligently to protect and enhance the monument's diverse natural, geological, and historic resources; which include a spectacular variety of rare plants and animals. This work must continue as the unique and vibrant ecological wonders of Cascade-Siskiyou face increasing challenges from a changing climate. Expansion is critical to continued ecological integrity, which has made the monument a destination.

When opportunities like a prudent Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion present themselves, we owe it to future generations to embrace them for history shows they are fleeting. The unfortunate reality of Congressional obstruction and inaction has indefinitely stalled many worthy and broadly supported public land protection bills. Prime examples in Oregon include the Devil's Staircase wilderness bill (2009) and the Wild Rogue wilderness expansion (2011). Despite strong local support, these proposals and others have languished since their introduction.

Expanding the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument meets many of the factors I consider important in public land discussions. While state governors do not have a dispositive role in federal land decisions, I appreciate the Obama Administration's dedication to soliciting local input. It is important to consider proposed expansions and new designations in the context of their specific circumstances. Among the reasons I support a thoughtful Cascade-Siskiyou expansion:

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The Honorable Sally Jewell

November 21, 2016

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- The level of public engagement and evidence of an inclusive process. Local community conversations about expanding the monument have been on-going for many years, culminating with robust local meetings in recent months.
- The degree of private ownership within the proposal and private landowner support. The proposed expansion map minimizes the impact to private inholdings. Many private landowners in the expansion have been included in expansion discussions and expressed their support.

This combination of factors strongly supports the proposed expansion. However, key issues remain to be addressed should the monument be expanded. Primary among them is the issue of local access, a common refrain at the recent community meetings. If the monument is expanded, I will follow the public process on access closely and advocate for reasonable resolution to accustomed uses. In addition to access, I will also be invested in the discussions regarding fire management, grazing, and timber harvest issues in an expanded monument management plan. Finally, the monument has long lacked a dedicated manager and sufficient staff and resources to enhance the ecological values as well as visitor and recreational opportunities. With the inclusion of many more miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, it is even more incumbent that adequate staff and resources be allocated to the monument to build on existing outdoor recreation opportunities for the benefit of local communities and businesses. I will continue to urge the administration address these concerns, and for our congressional delegation to advocate for sufficient funding.

Time is of particular importance as we enter the final weeks of the Obama administration. My office and state agency staff stand ready to assist our federal partners as they evaluate the proposal. I am confident there is sufficient time and determination to complete this expansion for the benefit of Oregon, the region, and the nation. As a champion of preserving our most iconic public lands, I am excited about the opportunity to enhance the unique and valuable wonders of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Sincerely,



Governor Kate Brown

kb:dj

Cc:

Senator Ron Wyden

Senator Jeff Merkley

Representative Earl Blumenauer

Representative Suzanne Bonamici

Representative Peter DeFazio

Representative Kurt Schrader

Representative Greg Walden



Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

FW: Governor Brown letter

4 messages

John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov> Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 12:58 PM
To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Ben Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <neil_kornze@blm.gov>, Liz Klein <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, Kim Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, RJ Couture <roland_couture@ios.doi.gov>

FYI. This will be included in the briefing materials for Sally's call with the Governor today.

From: JOHNSTON Drew * GOV [mailto:Drew.JOHNSTON@oregon.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 12:50 PM
To: John_Blair@ios.doi.gov; lpardue@blm.gov
Subject: Governor Brown letter

Hi John and Liz:

Governor Brown now has a called scheduled for 6:30 EST (moved up from Tuesday). Attached is the letter she is sending today that may be helpful for the purposes of the call.

Best,
Drew

Drew Johnston

Director, Washington DC Office | Oregon Governor Kate Brown

P: (202) 508-3847 | C: (503) 508-7124 | drew.johnston@oregon.gov

444 N Capitol St NW, Ste 134; Washington, DC 20001

governor.oregon.gov

11.21.16 Governor Brown letter to Jewell re Cascade Siskiyou.pdf
2427K

Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>
To: Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 2:01 PM

fyi

[Quoted text hidden]

 11.21.16 Governor Brown letter to Jewell re Cascade Siskiyou.pdf
2427K

Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov> Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 2:01 PM
To: "Liz (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>, Laurie Sedlmayr-Cumming <lsedlmayrcumming@blm.gov>, Matthew Allen <mrallen@blm.gov>

for awareness

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 12:58 PM

Subject: FW: Governor Brown letter

To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Ben Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <neil_kornze@blm.gov>, Liz Klein <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, Kim Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, RJ Couture <roland_couture@ios.doi.gov>

[Quoted text hidden]

 11.21.16 Governor Brown letter to Jewell re Cascade Siskiyou.pdf
2427K

Laura (Liz) Pardue <lpardue@blm.gov> Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 2:07 PM
To: "Kornze, Neil" <nkornze@blm.gov>
Cc: Laurie Sedlmayr-Cumming <lsedlmayrcumming@blm.gov>, Matthew Allen <mrallen@blm.gov>

Thanks -- her staffer told me she'll bring this up on the call with SJ

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]

<11.21.16 Governor Brown letter to Jewell re Cascade Siskiyou.pdf>



KATE BROWN
Governor

November 21, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

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Since President Clinton's dedication of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in 2000, community leaders and interested parties have worked diligently to protect and enhance the monument's diverse natural, geological, and historic resources; which include a spectacular variety of rare plants and animals. This work must continue as the unique and vibrant ecological wonders of Cascade-Siskiyou face increasing challenges from a changing climate. Expansion is critical to continued ecological integrity, which has made the monument a destination.

When opportunities like a prudent Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion present themselves, we owe it to future generations to embrace them for history shows they are fleeting. The unfortunate reality of Congressional obstruction and inaction has indefinitely stalled many worthy and broadly supported public land protection bills. Prime examples in Oregon include the Devil's Staircase wilderness bill (2009) and the Wild Rogue wilderness expansion (2011). Despite strong local support, these proposals and others have languished since their introduction.

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The Honorable Sally Jewell

November 21, 2016

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Sincerely,



Governor Kate Brown

kb:dj

Cc:

Senator Ron Wyden

Senator Jeff Merkley

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Representative Kurt Schrader
Representative Greg Walden



Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Cascade-Siskiyou: Siskiyou County Supervisors' hearing a nothing-burger

1 message

Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>
To: Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>

Thu, Nov 17, 2016 at 11:47 PM

As last-minute advertised in their November 14 press release below, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors held a public hearing in Yreka (CA) today, November 17, on the proposed Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion. The meeting was a non-event.

- Nine members of the public (only one from Siskiyou County) spoke in favor of Monument expansion.
- Twelve members of the public (only one *not* from Siskiyou County) spoke against expansion.
- There was no applause for any speaker during this quiet, no-big-deal meeting. Nor were there any antics either inside or outside the meeting room.
- No elected officials spoke from the audience

Scheduled to last from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., 30 people were in the audience of the ~200-chair Miner's Inn ballroom when the meeting began. With latecomers, the meeting never had more than 45 attendees. The planned three-hour meeting ended after an hour-plus at ~5:10 p.m. with Chair Grace Bennett getting no more takers for her repeated invitations for additional audience members to speak – and allowing two previous speakers to speak again, one woman informing us that the United Nations ran the national parks.

Siskiyou County Supervisor Bennett had previously gone on record for Siskiyou County opposing expansion at Senator Merkley's October 14 Ashland hearing, the Jackson County Commissioners' October 27 Medford hearing, and the Klamath County Commissioners' November 1 Klamath Falls hearing. The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors had already sent a November 2 letter to DOI Sec'y Sally Jewell opposing Monument expansion over two weeks before today's November 17 public hearing.

Oregon's U.S. senators mapped ~5,000 acres of California BLM land for addition to the Monument in a 10-4-16 proposed Monument expansion that is mostly in Oregon. Very little private land (~400 acres?) is included inside the outer boundaries of the expansion proposal's California side. That private land stays private if the Monument is expanded. A bit less than 5,000 acres of California Department of Fish and Wildlife land is included inside the outer Monument expansion proposal boundaries. That state land stays state land if the Monument is expanded.

The attendance, demeanor, and outcome of this Yreka meeting was refreshingly and surprisingly underwhelming.

Many thanks to those who spoke in favor with me: Anne Marsh, Sarah Means, Maia Black, Dan Roper, Steve Jessup, Michael Parker, Michael Dotson, and Jeff Gilmore. We thought we were going into the lions' den. It was just a short, boring meeting.

For a bigger, wilder Monument –

Dave

Dave Willis, Soda Mountain Wilderness Council

541/482-0526 or 541/482-8660

From: Elizabeth Nielsen [<mailto:enielsen@co.siskiyou.ca.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 16, 2016 8:21 AM
Subject: RE: inquiry - Nov 17 public meeting

The meeting is open to members of the public outside of Siskiyou County.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Elizabeth Nielsen

Natural Resources Policy Specialist

County of Siskiyou

1312 Fairlane

Yreka, CA 96097

o: (530) 842-8012

c: (530) 598-2776

From:
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 11:11 PM
To: Elizabeth Nielsen
Subject: inquiry - Nov 17 public meeting

Dear Ms. Nielsen,

Regarding the scheduled public meeting announced below for November 17, I am writing to inquire if comment is being accepted from residents of Siskiyou County only or is it open to residents of adjacent counties as well?

Thank you for responding to my inquiry.

PRESS RELEASE – NOVEMBER 14, 2016

**SISKIYOU COUNTY SUPERVISORS HOLD PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING
CASCADE-SISKIYOU MONUMENT EXPANSION**

The Siskiyou County Supervisors along with the Siskiyou County Department of Natural Resources will hold a **public meeting on Thursday, November 17th, 2016, at the Miner's Inn in Yreka from 4:00-7:00pm.** The public meeting will inform attendees about the Department of the Interior's proposal to expand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and ask for public input regarding the expansion. Recently, Oregon Senators Jeff Merkley

and Ron Wyden asked the U.S. Department of the Interior to expand the monument's border by 64,000 acres, which would result in total coverage of the Monument being 130,000 acres, 10,000 of which would be in Siskiyou County, north and northwest of Iron Gate Reservoir.

The Supervisors encourage Siskiyou County's citizens and landowners to provide their input regarding the proposed expansion and its potential impacts to the County. If you wish to make a public statement or provide written documentation on the proposed expansion and its impacts, please plan to attend. Siskiyou County will submit comments to the U.S. Department of the Interior after the public meeting.

In addition, if you cannot attend the meeting or wish to provide comments yourself, they should be submitted to the following by November 20, 2016: Submit comments to the Secretary of the Interior at <https://www.doi.gov/feedback> or by calling 202-208-3100. Submit comments to the President of the United States at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact> or by phone at 202-456-1111

You may also contact Elizabeth Nielsen, Siskiyou County Natural Resource Policy Specialist at enielsen@co.siskiyou.ca.us or (530) 842-8012.



Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Fwd: Additional information on the Cascade - Siskiyou Monument expansion

1 message

Connor, Michael <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>

Sat, Nov 12, 2016 at 11:40 AM

To: "Nicole Buffa (nikki_buffa@ios.doi.gov)" <nikki_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "Laura (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>

Just an FYI -- here's the note I sent back to John. As I'm sure most of you recall, John was a voice of reason during the Malheur occupation.

"Hi John - good to see you too. I appreciate you taking the time to send in some additional thoughts. I'll make sure to circulate these views as appropriate. As always, thanks for your thoughtful and constructive engagement on issues of concern.

Mike"

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John O'Keeffe <johnhok@hotmail.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 28, 2016 at 1:27 PM

Subject: Re: Additional information on the Cascade - Siskiyou Monument expansion

To: "michael_connor@ios.doi.gov" <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>

Mike

It was good to see you in Ashland, I was sorry I did not get a chance to say hi. I wanted to give you some additional input as of course one minute does not allow for thoughtful discussion of these complex issues.

Chads comments are in regard to the report from the panel that recommended the expansion.

John O'Keeffe
President
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
541-947-2590 Home
541-219-1111 Cell

From: John O'Keeffe <johnhok@hotmail.com>**Sent:** Friday, October 28, 2016 9:48 AM**To:** mike_connor@ios.doi.gov

Cc: Jeremiah Baumann; amy_amrhein@merkley.senate.gov

Subject: Additional information on the Cascade - Siskiyou Monument expansion

Mike

It was good to see you in Ashland, I was sorry I did not get a chance to say hi. I wanted to give you some additional input as of course one minute does not allow for thoughtful discussion of these complex issues.

Chads comments are in regard to the report from the panel that recommended the expansion.

John O'Keeffe
President
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
541-947-2590 Home
541-219-1111 Cell

--

Michael L. Connor, Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
202-208-6291

2 attachments



C-S comments (Autosaved).docx
16K



Chad C-S.docx
15K

C-S comments

The process appears to be loaded in favor of pro-monument activity. The Talent City council debated the issue in early July. Jackson and Klamath County commission only recently learned of the effort. Pro-monument landowners have been in monument discussions, large acre timber land holders have just learned of the effort.

An observation, due to the disjointed nature of the map, this looks like an intermediate step, not a completed effort, we should stop this overreach now.

If we are to address these habitats at a landscape level we must develop working land models to do so. In much of the west that is already going on, if after 100 years we need to keep these lands in their present condition it would seem continued current management would be very appropriate. Again, this can be done at no cost to the taxpayer, creation of a monument will be very expensive and divert money away from needed programs.

Proponents say that it is science based, yet very little time is left to do an adequate review of the science. The science appears to be somewhat soft, a group of scientist determine that in the presence of climate change the monument should be bigger, no modeling has been done to show how the identified threats would cause a loss of biodiversity. A stronger case could be made that in an altered fire regime, and with the presence of exotic plants active management will be necessary to prevent loss of diversity in the area of the monument.

This effort assumes that federal land management will produce a good result, that is not always the case. In the Warner Wetlands the federal property is chocked with pepperweed, in the private holdings the native meadows are still intact.

An admittedly limited review of BLM grazing documents shows riparian areas to be trending positive, yet not meeting the temperature standard, in some cases these standards are unattainable under any condition, in the presence of a positive trend we need to consider the value of grazing in preventing catastrophic wildfire, one of the major threats to biodiversity in the area.

Federal management is very expensive to the taxpayers, working private lands take care of weeds and fuel levels at no cost to the taxpayer. Often with better result, see above.

The current monument has somewhat of a let burn policy, this is not alright, neighboring properties should not be subject to this risk, these landscapes are not large enough for a let burn policy, and it is absolutely not fair to the neighbors, or the regional economy to try to make these large enough for a let burn policy.

These lands have been grazed for 100 years plus, and are still in good condition, today we understand better than ever how to graze these native systems without negative results. Before anything is changed a study of the land currently managed as a monument should be done, I would expect fuel loads on this ground put the entire region at risk of large intense fire events.

Designations under the Antiquities Act are politically driven, not subject to NEPA, stakeholder input has not been balanced to this point. These designations effect some stakeholder's livelihoods greatly, while giving other stakeholders somewhere to go if they feel like it. This is not an appropriate vehicle to initiate large scale land management.

Comments from Chad Boyd Phd Range Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center

* The first thing that struck me about the document is that there doesn't seem to be any overall model of how this system functions. In other words, when I work with a group on management planning, step one is to get to a common understanding of the factors that influence changes in the ecosystem and the specific changes that they promote. For example, in a sagebrush system we might put together a state and transition model that spells out how plant communities change and the management and non-management factors that drive that change. Once that's done we can think about where we are at now, with respect to plant community composition across the landscape, where we want to be in the future, and the management factors that might move us in that direction. In the document I reviewed there is no such discussion. In fact, they pretty much skip right to notion of "bigger is better" without really developing a common understanding of how the ecosystem works to begin with. Also not discussed is any evidence that critical areas outside the current monument boundaries are not functioning as they should be.

* An assumption that seems pervasive throughout the document is the need for "protection". This is where a lack of an overall model for how this system works becomes problematic. As written, the argument for expansion seems to be that specific ongoing actions are causing or will cause undesirable changes that need to be mitigated by curtailing such actions. What those changes are and how those changes are tied to current or future management remains elusive. This is particularly apparent with statements such as those contained in the 5th bullet on page 5. Here the authors list a wide variety of land uses and then suggest that these uses will "create habitat fragmentation, disturb wildlife populations, threaten water quality, adversely affect native vegetation, and encourage the spread of non-native weeds". Again, where is the model that demonstrates the implied effects. Also, there were no references associated with this text.

* There is no discussion of potential active management actions (e.g. vegetation manipulations) that may need to be undertaken to maintain biodiversity over time. As above, there is an implicit assumption that placing a larger area under protective designation will somehow inherently overcome impediments to diversity. This seems naïve, especially when the climate future is uncertain.

* On the subject of climate, the authors imply that larger areas will be needed to create conditions in which the ecosystem can be resilient to a future climate. There are a couple of problems with that. First off they don't really describe or defend their vision of what constitutes a "resilient" ecosystem, which seems somewhat critical if the whole idea is to expand the current monument designation to increase said resiliency. Second, about the only thing we know for sure regarding climate is that it's going to change. Exactly what it changes to, when that happens, and the

ecological implications of such changes are fairly uncertain at this point. So, in a nutshell, the authors are suggesting monument expansion to promote an undefined resilient ecosystem in response to an uncertain climate future.

* Obviously this document was written in support of monument expansion and I get that. What really troubles me the most though is that there are just enough references interspersed to suggest that there is some level of scientific certainty that the proposed expansion will garner expected results. Completely missing from the document is any form of adaptive management in which results are tracked through time and management adjusted as needed, as dictated by the results. It bothers me because the only way to realistically manage complex ecosystem problems over time is to employ an adaptive management design. Science can help tell us where to start the process, but after that, we have to use active feedback from the management process to adjust course over time.

* The one part of the document that I thought made a lot of sense was the notion of management of entire watersheds. I think we know enough about the interconnected nature of watersheds to suggest that only managing a portion of a watershed for biodiversity is not likely to produce positive results over time.



Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Cascade-Siskiyou: 11/11/2016 Eugene Register-Guard editorial

3 messages

Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>
To: Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>

Fri, Nov 11, 2016 at 11:42 AM

Lead editorial (NOT op-ed) from today's 11/11/2016 Eugene *Register-Guard*. Eugene is Oregon's second largest city.

<http://registerguard.com/rg/opinion/34974906-78/expand-the-monument.html.csp#>

Expand the monument

Obama should add protection to Cascade-Siskiyou

Donald Trump's victory in Tuesday's presidential election adds urgency to a piece of unfinished business left over from the administrations of Bill Clinton and George W. Bush: the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon. In his remaining weeks in office, President Obama should approve the expansion to ensure that the purposes for which the monument was created are met.

The Cascade-Siskiyou monument, designated by Clinton in 2000 and implemented under Bush, is the only one of the United States' 124 national monuments created for the specific purpose of protecting biological diversity. That unique status stems from its unique character: The monument lies where the Cascade range, the Siskiyou mountains and the Klamath River country meet, creating a geological, botanical and zoological mashup with characteristics of all three regions. To cite just one feature, the monument hosts 138 species of butterfly and is one of four butterfly hot spots in North America.

Both of Oregon's U.S. senators, Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, propose roughly doubling the monument's size by adding about 66,500 acres to it, which would broaden its range of elevations and bring important fish-bearing streams under protection. Owners of private inholdings within the monument support expansion, as did former Gov. John Kitzhaber. The city councils and chambers of commerce in Ashland and Talent, the communities closest to the monument, support the expansion.

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners is opposed, fearing reductions in timber harvests and grazing. Those fears are not misplaced, though they can easily be exaggerated. National monument designations are highly flexible, and can allow livestock and logging. Only a portion of the existing monument has been set aside as wilderness, and no further wilderness designations are proposed. The Cascade-Siskiyou monument, unlike most, is managed by the resource-oriented Bureau of Land Management rather than the preservation-oriented National Park Service.

Grazing has been a concern on monument land from the start. Clinton's proclamation directed the BLM to study the effects of livestock on the monument's biological systems, and to withdraw leases in areas where those effects are found to be damaging. A 2008 BLM study identified damaging effects in most areas, but no leases have been withdrawn. The 2009 legislation that designated part of the monument as wilderness directed the agency to retire leases that are donated to the BLM. Since then, grazing leases on 65,000 acres have been purchased with private donations, given to the BLM and retired.

These private purchases negate the economic harm to ranchers as a result of reduced grazing on monument land. They also show that people and organizations that recognize the value of the monument are willing to put their money where their mouths are. In Ashland and Talent, the monument is seen as an economic asset.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 gives President Obama the authority to expand the monument without consulting Congress. President Trump is unlikely to exercise this authority. Instead, he's expected to act in ways that make the expansion more vital.

Trump rejects the scientific evidence supporting a human role in climate change, and is expected to rescind most or all of Obama's executive orders reducing fossil fuel emissions. Climate change is a threat to the monument — as

temperatures rise, some species' ability to migrate from one ecological region to another is being disrupted. An expansion would help preserve connections among those regions, enhancing the resilience of the biological systems whose uniqueness led to the monument being created in the first place.

An expansion would be controversial, but Obama isn't facing re-election. And 50 or 100 years from now, it's a safe bet that no one will be wishing the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument were smaller. Instead, an expanded monument would be a valued part of Obama's legacy.

Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

Fri, Nov 11, 2016 at 8:12 PM

To: Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "Liz (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>

Worth a read

Begin forwarded message:

From: Dave Willis <sodamtn@mind.net>

Date: November 11, 2016 at 10:42:36 AM CST

To: 'Dave Willis' <sodamtn@mind.net>

Subject: Cascade-Siskiyou: 11/11/2016 Eugene Register-Guard editorial

[Quoted text hidden]

Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>

Sat, Nov 12, 2016 at 8:39 AM

To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "Liz (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>

Definitely. Thanks for sharing.

Sent from my iPhone

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Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Today's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Public Meeting

3 messages

Laura (Liz) Pardue <lpardue@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 14, 2016 at 8:57 PM

To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_Neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Kate P Kelly <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov, libby_marking@ios.doi.gov, kathleen_oleary@ios.doi.gov, nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

The public meeting went really well! The crowd of around 450 ppl was about 80% supporters, and we heard from more than 100 people (~70 in support, ~30 opposed). I'll have final numbers from Merkley's office - we had to get to the airport. Below are notes from today's activities and the meeting for those who want more details!

Site visit

This morning we did a tour of part of the monument and proposed expansion. On the short hike we saw a *golden eagle* overhead! (Also deer and some crazy tree lichen.) You could really see the different ecosystems with the elevation changes and mountain ranges coming together.

Tribal meeting

Before the public meeting, we had a great meeting with the chairmen of the Klamath and Karuk tribes. The tribes are supportive of the expansion and grateful we are talking to them now, as that apparently didn't happen with the original designation. Consultation is very important to them.

They spoke largely about the benefits to the watershed (especially when it comes to restoring salmon fisheries), and also emphasized protection of cultural resources and religious uses.

Public meeting

Standing room only crowd. We started off with brief statements from Sen Merkley, Mike, the mayors of Ashland and Talent (all at the dais), and Sen Wyden's staff.

Then we heard from a local scientist about the biodiversity of the monument and need for expansion, the State Rep in support, a Jackson County Commissioner opposed, a Klamath County Commissioner opposed, Chairman of the Klamath Tribe in support, and the Siskiyou County Supervisor (CA) opposed.

250 people signed up to speak, and we went for 3.5 hours total (about 3 hrs of public comment). We heard from more than 100, around 70-30 support to oppose because we alternated between oppose and support and mostly ran out of opponents a couple hours into the meeting. At the meeting overall, supporters outnumbered opponents five to one according to the sign-in sheets.

Proponents included scientists, local business, some private property owners within the boundary, conservation groups, and other private citizens from the area. They spoke about the necessity of the expansion to protect biodiversity, science-based decision making, the quality of life improvement and increased tourism, protecting the land from logging damage, and the importance of preserving the land for future generations.

Opponents complained about lack of transparency/notice, expressed concern about losing grazing and about fire management, worried about losing access to recreation and timber and losing O&C lands, and many dislike the antiquities act overall. Most opponents were from more rural areas in Jackson and Klamath counties.

We left at around 5:30 so we could get to our flights and I believe Merkley is taking a few more comments before he has to go. Overall a really smooth meeting where lots of voices were heard. Merkley went out of his way to give opponents time to speak. Some pictures attached hopefully!

10 attachments



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image2.JPG
73K



image3.JPG
109K



image4.JPG
136K



image5.JPG
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Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov> Sat, Oct 15, 2016 at 7:19 AM
 To: "Laura (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>
 Cc: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_Neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Kate P Kelly <Kate_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <Blake_Androff@ios.doi.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, "amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov" <amanda_degroff@ios.doi.gov>, "libby_marking@ios.doi.gov" <libby_marking@ios.doi.gov>, "kathleen_oleary@ios.doi.gov" <kathleen_oleary@ios.doi.gov>, "nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Nice work, Liz and team. Glad no one drowned!

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Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> Sat, Oct 15, 2016 at 3:25 PM
 To: "Laura (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>
 Cc: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>

So great. Many many thanks!

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1/11/2017

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Today's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Public Meeting

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> Sent from my iPhone













Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Fwd: Cascade Siskiyou National Monument Proposal - Letter from AFRC

2 messages

Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
To: Nikki Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, "Liz (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 14, 2016 at 4:53 PM

Begin forwarded message:

From: Travis Joseph <tjoseph@amforest.org>
To: "michael_connor@ios.doi.gov" <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, "nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>, "james_lyons@ios.doi.gov" <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Travis Joseph <tjoseph@amforest.org>
Subject: Cascade Siskiyou National Monument Proposal - Letter from AFRC

Jim, Michael, and Neil:

Hope all is well. I wanted to make sure the Administration had a copy of AFRC's letter to Senators Wyden and Merkley regarding the proposed Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. I understand the Administration has likely received many comments in support, but this remains a very controversial issue in Southwest Oregon and Northern California. As the Deputy Secretary will likely hear this afternoon at the public meeting in Ashland, there is broad opposition from community leaders, county commissioners, recreational users, grazers, farmers, private land owners, and the forest products industry – not to mention the general public who are still learning about the proposal.

We tried to take a balanced approach in this letter highlighting our substantive concerns (my members are very upset and feel their input has not been considered) but also underscoring our willingness to work with the senators and Administration on a vetted, thoughtful, comprehensive legislative approach. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Travis Joseph
President, AFRC

2 attachmentsnoname.html
1KLetter to OR Delegation, Cascade Siskiyou National Monument Expansion 10....pdf
1709K

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
Cc: "Liz (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>

Fri, Oct 14, 2016 at 5:19 PM

Thanks. This is why we have public meetings... To shake this stuff out into the open. We should talk to these guys soon, I think. I will reach out.

[Quoted text hidden]

<Letter to OR Delegation, Cascade Siskiyou National Monument Expansion 10....pdf>



October 13, 2016

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
911 N.E. 11th Ave, Suite 630
Portland, OR 97232

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
121 SW Salmon Street, Suite 1400
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley:

I write in advance of the October 14, 2016 public meeting in Ashland, Oregon with U.S. Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Conner on the proposal to expand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. AFRC and its members – some of whom own lands inside and adjacent to the proposed monument expansion – received word of the public meeting and the map on October 7, making it impossible to offer a thorough analysis of the potential impacts ahead of the meeting. However, I do want to highlight serious concerns with the monument expansion and respectfully urge you to advise President Obama not to designate the area and to work with the public and impacted stakeholders on comprehensive legislation instead.

AFRC and its members care deeply about the health and sustainability of public forestlands. In fact, the business model and future success of AFRC members is *dependent* upon the responsible management, ecological health, and long-term sustainability of our national forests and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. No one appreciates the uniqueness of Southwest Oregon's forests more than our local members and the need to protect them for future generations.

AFRC's members are also a key part of the fabric of the rural communities in which they work, live, and recreate. Beyond the tens of thousands of jobs and millions in economic activity our members generate, they are also heavily invested in these communities through charitable contributions, volunteer hours, scholarships, and sponsorships. These communities have been devastated by years of broken federal forest policies and are in dire need of a balanced solution to the O&C Lands and rural economic crisis in Western Oregon. We strongly believe the most serious public land management challenge facing Southwest Oregon – and thus the highest priority for Congressional action – is the exposure of our public lands and forests to climate change, catastrophic wildfire, disease, bug infestation, and drought.

AFRC and its members believe science-based, proactive management is not only the best way respond to these pressing challenges but the best way to grow local, rural economies, put Oregonians back to work, and provide sustainable raw materials that will be locally manufactured to produce local wood products every Oregonian uses, every day.

Unfortunately, a national monument expansion would have the opposite effect by preventing federal agencies from maintaining and protecting these unique public lands for future generations. Many of the lands within the proposed monument expansion are in need of forest thinning and restoration activities to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. In a 2014 environmental assessment (EA) for the Howard Forest Management Project surrounding nearby Howard Prairie Lake, the BLM found these forests to be at “moderate to high risk of losing key ecosystem components due to altered fire regimes causing increased fire risk.” The BLM determined that without active management these forests would suffer further deterioration into even higher risk fire regimes. The EA found that “the implementation of thinning would promote increased fire-resilient forest stands by removing suppressed trees while retaining larger trees within treated stands.” Unfortunately, this needed forest restoration will not occur if these areas are included in an expanded Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

In the face of a warmer, dryer climate and denser forests resulting from decades of fire suppression and a lack of forest management, there is widespread recognition about the need for active forest restoration across this part of Southwest Oregon. In fact, a 2014 paper titled *A new approach to evaluate forest structure restoration needs across Oregon and Washington, USA* published in *Forest Ecology and Management* by the Nature Conservancy and others, identified most of the lands proposed for inclusion into the National Monument as having “moderate to high active restoration needs.” The authors of this paper determined that these “forest restoration needs were dominated by the need for thinning” and that “disturbance alone cannot restore forest structure.” Far from “protecting” these areas, an expanded national monument will most likely result in the loss of these unique lands to stand-replacing catastrophic wildfire.

Neighboring private lands, local communities, and the local forest products industry infrastructure will also be put at risk by an expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Private forest lands included in – and adjacent to – the expanded national monument will face an elevated risk of catastrophic wildfire, disease, and insect infestations coming from unmanaged neighboring federal lands. Nearby homes and communities in the wildland urban interface (WUI) will also face increased wildfire risk as fuel loads continue to increase and forest health deteriorates. An already dwindling local forest products industry infrastructure – sawmills, loggers, and truckers – will face a further reduction in the amount of land available for sustainable, responsible management.

The proposed monument expansion includes a significant amount of private land within its boundaries – much of it in a checkboard pattern with BLM lands. Road access to these lands is often dependent on reciprocal right-of-way agreements between private landowners and the BLM. Maintaining road access across an expanded national monument to privately owned and managed forestland will be made more difficult and expensive. There will be public pressure to close privately constructed and maintained roads, to acquire “inholdings” within the expansion, and increased user-conflicts as ownership boundaries become blurred on-the-ground.

The proposed designation also comes just months after a major revision to BLM’s Resource Management Plans (RMPs) that govern management decisions on more than two million acres of statutorily unique O&C Lands. The RMPs administratively remove 74 percent of the BLM lands in these drier forest types out of ongoing, sustainable forest management and place them into reserves. With less than 26 percent of Southwest Oregon BLM forests designated for ongoing management, we will continue to witness declines in active forest management and the resulting timber harvests.

The new RMPs reduce allowable harvest levels by 40 percent versus the Clinton Northwest Forest Plan, which already slashed historical harvest levels on these BLM forests. A national monument expansion only increases the risk to the remaining local industry any effort to restore the health of our forests.

Finally, while we do not question Congressional authority to change land management plans and statutes through legislative action, we do have serious concerns about the precedent of administratively withdrawing productive forestlands from the mandates of the O&C Act of 1937. Less than three years after passage of the O&C Act, the President proposed withdrawing a portion of O&C Lands and to include those lands as part of an existing national monument (Oregon Caves). In a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, the Solicitor explained “the President does not have such authority” pointing out that “Congress has set aside the lands for the specified purposes” of timber production and “administration of the lands for national monument purposes would be inconsistent with the utilization of the O. & C. lands as directed by Congress.”

Subsequent opinions from Department of the Interior solicitors dating from the 1940s to 1970s concluded the O&C Lands could not be used for 1) mining; 2) could not be withdrawn for a state park; 3) and could not be included within wilderness study areas otherwise required as part of the Federal Land Policy Management Act.¹

While AFRC cannot support the administrative designation of a national monument in Southwest Oregon under the Antiquities Act at this time – especially one that includes O&C Lands – we remain committed to working with you and the rest of the Oregon delegation to find workable, balanced solutions to the challenges facing our forests and rural communities. AFRC does believe that unique lands in Southwest Oregon can and should be preserved. But those proposals should be fully vetted by the public with ample time to understand the proposal and its impacts; be comprehensive and include both conservation and economic objectives in order to sustain rural economies and the remaining infrastructure; and be reviewed and passed by Congress.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to reviewing more details about this proposal, offering our constructive feedback, and partnering with you to achieve common goals for our state: healthy forests and vibrant, safe communities.

Sincerely,



Travis Joseph
President
American Forest Resource Council

Cc:
Deputy Secretary Michael Connor
Congressman Peter DeFazio
Congressman Greg Walden
Governor Kate Brown

¹ See Solicitor Opinion, March 9, 1940; Department of the Interior Memorandum, August 25, 1941; Solicitor Opinion, May 17, 1955; and Solicitor Opinion, June 1, 1977



Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Cascade Siskiyou National Monument Proposal - Letter from AFRC

1 message

Travis Joseph <tjoseph@amforest.org>

Fri, Oct 14, 2016 at 4:50 PM

To: "michael_connor@ios.doi.gov" <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, "nkornze@blm.gov" <nkornze@blm.gov>, "james_lyons@ios.doi.gov" <james_lyons@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Travis Joseph <tjoseph@amforest.org>

Jim, Michael, and Neil:

Hope all is well. I wanted to make sure the Administration had a copy of AFRC's letter to Senators Wyden and Merkley regarding the proposed Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. I understand the Administration has likely received many comments in support, but this remains a very controversial issue in Southwest Oregon and Northern California. As the Deputy Secretary will likely hear this afternoon at the public meeting in Ashland, there is broad opposition from community leaders, county commissioners, recreational users, grazers, farmers, private land owners, and the forest products industry – not to mention the general public who are still learning about the proposal.

We tried to take a balanced approach in this letter highlighting our substantive concerns (my members are very upset and feel their input has not been considered) but also underscoring our willingness to work with the senators and Administration on a vetted, thoughtful, comprehensive legislative approach. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Travis Joseph
President, AFRC



Letter to OR Delegation, Cascade Siskiyou National Monument Expansion 10....pdf
1709K



October 13, 2016

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
911 N.E. 11th Ave, Suite 630
Portland, OR 97232

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
121 SW Salmon Street, Suite 1400
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley:

I write in advance of the October 14, 2016 public meeting in Ashland, Oregon with U.S. Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary Michael Conner on the proposal to expand the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. AFRC and its members – some of whom own lands inside and adjacent to the proposed monument expansion – received word of the public meeting and the map on October 7, making it impossible to offer a thorough analysis of the potential impacts ahead of the meeting. However, I do want to highlight serious concerns with the monument expansion and respectfully urge you to advise President Obama not to designate the area and to work with the public and impacted stakeholders on comprehensive legislation instead.

AFRC and its members care deeply about the health and sustainability of public forestlands. In fact, the business model and future success of AFRC members is *dependent* upon the responsible management, ecological health, and long-term sustainability of our national forests and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. No one appreciates the uniqueness of Southwest Oregon's forests more than our local members and the need to protect them for future generations.

AFRC's members are also a key part of the fabric of the rural communities in which they work, live, and recreate. Beyond the tens of thousands of jobs and millions in economic activity our members generate, they are also heavily invested in these communities through charitable contributions, volunteer hours, scholarships, and sponsorships. These communities have been devastated by years of broken federal forest policies and are in dire need of a balanced solution to the O&C Lands and rural economic crisis in Western Oregon. We strongly believe the most serious public land management challenge facing Southwest Oregon – and thus the highest priority for Congressional action – is the exposure of our public lands and forests to climate change, catastrophic wildfire, disease, bug infestation, and drought.

AFRC and its members believe science-based, proactive management is not only the best way respond to these pressing challenges but the best way to grow local, rural economies, put Oregonians back to work, and provide sustainable raw materials that will be locally manufactured to produce local wood products every Oregonian uses, every day.

Unfortunately, a national monument expansion would have the opposite effect by preventing federal agencies from maintaining and protecting these unique public lands for future generations. Many of the lands within the proposed monument expansion are in need of forest thinning and restoration activities to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. In a 2014 environmental assessment (EA) for the Howard Forest Management Project surrounding nearby Howard Prairie Lake, the BLM found these forests to be at “moderate to high risk of losing key ecosystem components due to altered fire regimes causing increased fire risk.” The BLM determined that without active management these forests would suffer further deterioration into even higher risk fire regimes. The EA found that “the implementation of thinning would promote increased fire-resilient forest stands by removing suppressed trees while retaining larger trees within treated stands.” Unfortunately, this needed forest restoration will not occur if these areas are included in an expanded Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

In the face of a warmer, dryer climate and denser forests resulting from decades of fire suppression and a lack of forest management, there is widespread recognition about the need for active forest restoration across this part of Southwest Oregon. In fact, a 2014 paper titled *A new approach to evaluate forest structure restoration needs across Oregon and Washington, USA* published in *Forest Ecology and Management* by the Nature Conservancy and others, identified most of the lands proposed for inclusion into the National Monument as having “moderate to high active restoration needs.” The authors of this paper determined that these “forest restoration needs were dominated by the need for thinning” and that “disturbance alone cannot restore forest structure.” Far from “protecting” these areas, an expanded national monument will most likely result in the loss of these unique lands to stand-replacing catastrophic wildfire.

Neighboring private lands, local communities, and the local forest products industry infrastructure will also be put at risk by an expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Private forest lands included in – and adjacent to – the expanded national monument will face an elevated risk of catastrophic wildfire, disease, and insect infestations coming from unmanaged neighboring federal lands. Nearby homes and communities in the wildland urban interface (WUI) will also face increased wildfire risk as fuel loads continue to increase and forest health deteriorates. An already dwindling local forest products industry infrastructure – sawmills, loggers, and truckers – will face a further reduction in the amount of land available for sustainable, responsible management.

The proposed monument expansion includes a significant amount of private land within its boundaries – much of it in a checkboard pattern with BLM lands. Road access to these lands is often dependent on reciprocal right-of-way agreements between private landowners and the BLM. Maintaining road access across an expanded national monument to privately owned and managed forestland will be made more difficult and expensive. There will be public pressure to close privately constructed and maintained roads, to acquire “inholdings” within the expansion, and increased user-conflicts as ownership boundaries become blurred on-the-ground.

The proposed designation also comes just months after a major revision to BLM’s Resource Management Plans (RMPs) that govern management decisions on more than two million acres of statutorily unique O&C Lands. The RMPs administratively remove 74 percent of the BLM lands in these drier forest types out of ongoing, sustainable forest management and place them into reserves. With less than 26 percent of Southwest Oregon BLM forests designated for ongoing management, we will continue to witness declines in active forest management and the resulting timber harvests.

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Finally, while we do not question Congressional authority to change land management plans and statutes through legislative action, we do have serious concerns about the precedent of administratively withdrawing productive forestlands from the mandates of the O&C Act of 1937. Less than three years after passage of the O&C Act, the President proposed withdrawing a portion of O&C Lands and to include those lands as part of an existing national monument (Oregon Caves). In a letter to the Secretary of the Interior, the Solicitor explained “the President does not have such authority” pointing out that “Congress has set aside the lands for the specified purposes” of timber production and “administration of the lands for national monument purposes would be inconsistent with the utilization of the O. & C. lands as directed by Congress.”

Subsequent opinions from Department of the Interior solicitors dating from the 1940s to 1970s concluded the O&C Lands could not be used for 1) mining; 2) could not be withdrawn for a state park; 3) and could not be included within wilderness study areas otherwise required as part of the Federal Land Policy Management Act.¹

While AFRC cannot support the administrative designation of a national monument in Southwest Oregon under the Antiquities Act at this time – especially one that includes O&C Lands – we remain committed to working with you and the rest of the Oregon delegation to find workable, balanced solutions to the challenges facing our forests and rural communities. AFRC does believe that unique lands in Southwest Oregon can and should be preserved. But those proposals should be fully vetted by the public with ample time to understand the proposal and its impacts; be comprehensive and include both conservation and economic objectives in order to sustain rural economies and the remaining infrastructure; and be reviewed and passed by Congress.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to reviewing more details about this proposal, offering our constructive feedback, and partnering with you to achieve common goals for our state: healthy forests and vibrant, safe communities.

Sincerely,



Travis Joseph
President
American Forest Resource Council

Cc:
Deputy Secretary Michael Connor
Congressman Peter DeFazio
Congressman Greg Walden
Governor Kate Brown

¹ See Solicitor Opinion, March 9, 1940; Department of the Interior Memorandum, August 25, 1941; Solicitor Opinion, May 17, 1955; and Solicitor Opinion, June 1, 1977



Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Updated Invitation: Briefing on Cascade-Siskiyou Public Meeting--10/14 @ Thu Oct 6, 2016 9:30am - 10:15am (nkornze@blm.gov)

1 message

Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Oct 5, 2016 at 1:00 PM
Reply-To: Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>
To: nkornze@blm.gov, nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov, benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov, elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov, tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov, libby_marking@ios.doi.gov, michael_connor@ios.doi.gov, lpardue@blm.gov
Cc: gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov, kathleen_oleary@ios.doi.gov, lthum@blm.gov

This event has been changed.

Briefing on Cascade-Siskiyou Public Meeting--10/14

[more details »](#)

When **Changed:** Thu Oct 6, 2016 9:30am – 10:15am Eastern Time

Where 6122 ([map](#))

Video call https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_/doi.gov/michael-connor

Calendar [nkornze@blm.gov](#)

- Who
- [michael_connor@ios.doi.gov](#) - organizer
 - [gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov](#) - creator
 - [nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov](#)
 - [benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov](#)
 - [nkornze@blm.gov](#)
 - [elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov](#)
 - [tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov](#)
 - [libby_marking@ios.doi.gov](#)
 - [lpardue@blm.gov](#)
 - [gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov](#) - optional
 - [kathleen_oleary@ios.doi.gov](#) - optional
 - [lthum@blm.gov](#) - optional

Going? **Yes** - **Maybe** - **No** [more options »](#)

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Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Fwd: CSNM Letter and Map

1 message

Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>
To: Linda Thurn <lthurn@blm.gov>

Tue, Oct 4, 2016 at 9:22 PM

Please print

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Buffa, Nicole" <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
To: Robert Howarth <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Liz Pardue <lpardue@blm.gov>
Subject: Fwd: CSNM Letter and Map

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ward, Ben (Merkley) <Ben_Ward@merkley.senate.gov>
Date: Tue, Oct 4, 2016 at 6:57 PM
Subject: CSNM Letter and Map
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Amrhein, Amy (Merkley)" <Amy_Amrhein@merkley.senate.gov>, "Laura (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>

Nikki,

Attached please find a letter and map regarding proposed expansion of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Ben

BEN WARD*Legislative Assistant*

OFFICE OF SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY

313 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, DC 20510 | (202) 224.3753

--

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior

202-219-3861

nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

4 attachments

 noname.html
1K

 16.10.04 Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument_FINAL.pdf
495K

 CSNM_Expansion_10042016_MerkleyandWyden.pdf
8585K

 noname.html
1K

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 4, 2016

Secretary Jewell
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

We are writing to request you or your designee's participation in a public meeting in the Ashland area to discuss potential expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. The meeting is scheduled to take place on October 14th in Ashland, the closest town to the Monument.

As you may recall, the Oregon Senators sent a letter to your office in August highlighting the unique biological diversity of the region and urging you to visit the area and speak with local citizens. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has protected some of the most biodiverse public land in the United States. It is an ecological crossroads in an area of unique geology, biology, climate, and iconic American landscapes – the place where the volcanoes of the Cascade Range, the ridges and valleys of the Basin and Range Province, and the world-renowned biodiversity of the Klamath-Siskiyou mountain block come together. The monument also benefits small towns in the area by boosting recreation and tourism that assist the local economy.

However, mounting pressures on adjacent and nearby public lands, combined with the increasing effects of climate change, have convinced scientists that the original June 2000 boundaries are no longer adequate to protect the native species and habitats the monument was established to protect – and they urge expansion of the monument's boundaries.

This meeting will provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the potential expansion of the Monument should the President choose to do so. Most importantly, the meeting will allow people to express support for or concerns about expanding the monument, and to comment on the specifics of how it might be expanded.

To help promote dialogue in the meeting we have attached a map showing some of the public lands scientists recommend for expanding the monument, as well as conservation designations proposed in legislation introduced by the Oregon Senators. These proposals intend to better provide protections to critical watersheds, and terrestrial habitats, and also to a wider range of elevations that are especially important as species seek to adapt to climate change.

The vast majority of the approximately 50,000-acre expansion proposed by scientists is on BLM land in Oregon, which has strong backing from elected officials, citizens, chambers of commerce, conservationists, and local landowners. About 5,000 acres of BLM land in California has additionally been recommended for inclusion – much of it already dedicated to wildlife protection in some fashion. And, as you know, only Federal public land inside expanded monument boundaries would become monument land. As with the existing monument, private land inside outer monument boundaries stays private.

Thank you for considering our request. We look forward to working with you toward an expanded Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey A. Merkley in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Barbara Boxer in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Fwd: CSNM Letter and Map

1 message

Buffa, Nicole <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

Tue, Oct 4, 2016 at 7:00 PM

To: Robert Howarth <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Liz Pardue <lpardue@blm.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Ward, Ben (Merkley) <Ben_Ward@merkley.senate.gov>

Date: Tue, Oct 4, 2016 at 6:57 PM

Subject: CSNM Letter and Map

To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>

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BEN WARD*Legislative Assistant*

OFFICE OF SENATOR JEFF MERKLEY

313 Hart Senate Office Bldg.

Washington, DC 20510 | (202) 224.3753

--

Nikki Buffa
Deputy Chief of Staff
US Department of the Interior
202-219-3861
nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov

2 attachments

1/11/2017

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Fwd: CSNM Letter and Map

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495K

 CSNM_Expansion_10042016_MerkleyandWyden.pdf
8585K

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October 4, 2016

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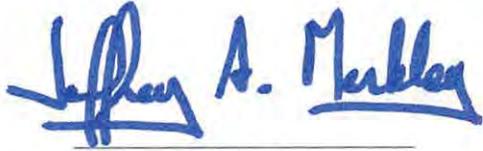
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Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

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Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Invitation: Briefing on Cascade-Siskiyou Public Meeting--10/14 @ Thu Oct 6, 2016 10am - 10:30am (nkornze@blm.gov)

1 message

Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>

Mon, Oct 3, 2016 at 3:00 PM

Reply-To: Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>

To: nkornze@blm.gov, lpardue@blm.gov, libby_marking@ios.doi.gov, nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov, elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov, benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov

Cc: lthum@blm.gov, gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov

Briefing on Cascade-Siskiyou Public Meeting--10/14

[more details »](#)

When Thu Oct 6, 2016 10am – 10:30am Eastern Time

Where 6122 ([map](#))

Video call https://plus.google.com/hangouts/_/doi.gov/michael-connor

Calendar [nkornze@blm.gov](#)

- Who
- [michael_connor@ios.doi.gov](#) - organizer
 - [gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov](#) - creator
 - [lpardue@blm.gov](#)
 - [libby_marking@ios.doi.gov](#)
 - [nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov](#)
 - [nkornze@blm.gov](#)
 - [elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov](#)
 - [benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov](#)
 - [lthum@blm.gov](#) - optional
 - [gisella_ojeda-dodds@ios.doi.gov](#) - optional

Going? **Yes** - **Maybe** - **No** [more options »](#)

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Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Cascade-Siskiyou

3 messages

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> Thu, Sep 15, 2016 at 7:25 PM
To: Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Benjamin Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>

Hi Mike - As we briefly talked about on Monday, we're hoping you'd be willing to participate in a public meeting sponsored by Senator Wyden on the cascade-siskiyou national monument expansion proposal.

Although we shouldn't confirm your participation until we receive the formal invite and confirmation that the senator will be there too, the senator's office is asking if you are available on October 12. Do you think that could work? If not, are there other dates that are better?

Many thanks,
Nikki

Milakofsky, Benjamin <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov> Fri, Sep 16, 2016 at 5:44 PM
To: Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>

Hi all

I talked to Mike and he is happy to participate in a meeting sponsored by the Senator.

Mike has committed to be in Yakima on October 12-13 for a ribbon cutting for a new bridge and a meeting with leadership and Yakima Basin stakeholders.

If there is any flexibility on an event, we can do that week but would hope to avoid the 12-13. October 11 or 14 would work well.

Nikki -- do you want to check back with the Senator's office?

Thanks!

[Quoted text hidden]

--

[Ben Milakofsky](#)

[Deputy Chief of Staff to the Secretary](#)

[Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary](#)

[Department of the Interior](#)

[202-208-3437 \(direct\)](#)

Ben_Milakofsky@ios.doi.gov

Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov> Wed, Sep 21, 2016 at 11:47 AM
To: "Milakofsky, Benjamin" <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Michael Connor <michael_connor@ios.doi.gov>, Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <nkornze@blm.gov>, Gareth Rees <gareth_rees@ios.doi.gov>

1/11/2017

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Cascade-Siskiyou

Any chance he could 10/3? I know that's soon, but we could pull it off if it works for Mike.

[Quoted text hidden]



Sedlmayr-Cumming, Laurie <lisedlmayrcumming@blm.gov>

Fwd: FW: Governor Brown letter

1 message

Kornze, Neil <nkornze@blm.gov>

Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 2:01 PM

To: "Liz (Liz) Pardue" <lpardue@blm.gov>, Laurie Sedlmayr-Cumming <lisedlmayrcumming@blm.gov>, Matthew Allen <mrallen@blm.gov>

for awareness

----- Forwarded message -----

From: John Blair <john_blair@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Mon, Nov 21, 2016 at 12:58 PM

Subject: FW: Governor Brown letter

To: Tommy Beaudreau <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>, Nicole Buffa <nicole_buffa@ios.doi.gov>, Ben Milakofsky <benjamin_milakofsky@ios.doi.gov>, Janice Schneider <janice_schneider@ios.doi.gov>, Neil Kornze <neil_kornze@blm.gov>, Liz Klein <elizabeth_klein@ios.doi.gov>, Sarah Neimeyer <sarah_neimeyer@ios.doi.gov>, Blake Androff <blake_androff@ios.doi.gov>, Jessica Kershaw <jessica_kershaw@ios.doi.gov>, Kate Kelly <kate_kelly@ios.doi.gov>

Cc: Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>, Kim Jensen <kimberly_jensen@ios.doi.gov>, Maria Najera <maria_najera@ios.doi.gov>, RJ Couture <roland_couture@ios.doi.gov>

FYI. This will be included in the briefing materials for Sally's call with the Governor today.

From: JOHNSTON Drew * GOV [mailto:Drew.JOHNSTON@oregon.gov]

Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 12:50 PM

To: John_Blair@ios.doi.gov; lpardue@blm.gov

Subject: Governor Brown letter

Hi John and Liz:

Governor Brown now has a called scheduled for 6:30 EST (moved up from Tuesday). Attached is the letter she is sending today that may be helpful for the purposes of the call.

Best,
Drew

Drew Johnston

Director, Washington DC Office | Oregon Governor Kate Brown

P: (202) 508-3847 | C: (503) 508-7124 | drew.johnston@oregon.gov

444 N Capitol St NW, Ste 134; Washington, DC 20001

governor.oregon.gov



11.21.16 Governor Brown letter to Jewell re Cascade Siskiyou.pdf
2427K



KATE BROWN
Governor

November 21, 2016

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Thank you for your steadfast support for America's iconic landscapes. I appreciate your agency's continued interest in one of Oregon's natural icons – the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument – and the effort made in convening a community discussion around expansion. As Oregon's Governor, I lend my support to your efforts and want to convey my desire to enhance this Oregon wonder through a thoughtful expansion of its boundaries.

Since President Clinton's dedication of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in 2000, community leaders and interested parties have worked diligently to protect and enhance the monument's diverse natural, geological, and historic resources; which include a spectacular variety of rare plants and animals. This work must continue as the unique and vibrant ecological wonders of Cascade-Siskiyou face increasing challenges from a changing climate. Expansion is critical to continued ecological integrity, which has made the monument a destination.

When opportunities like a prudent Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion present themselves, we owe it to future generations to embrace them for history shows they are fleeting. The unfortunate reality of Congressional obstruction and inaction has indefinitely stalled many worthy and broadly supported public land protection bills. Prime examples in Oregon include the Devil's Staircase wilderness bill (2009) and the Wild Rogue wilderness expansion (2011). Despite strong local support, these proposals and others have languished since their introduction.

Expanding the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument meets many of the factors I consider important in public land discussions. While state governors do not have a dispositive role in federal land decisions, I appreciate the Obama Administration's dedication to soliciting local input. It is important to consider proposed expansions and new designations in the context of their specific circumstances. Among the reasons I support a thoughtful Cascade-Siskiyou expansion:

- It augments an existing public land designation. The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has been successful in attracting community and federal support, demonstrating its value locally and among the national monument network.



- The identified need informed by scientific analysis of current and future landscape-level ecosystem health. The formation of the original monument set out why the unique values found at the intersection of the Cascade, Siskiyou, and Klamath mountain ranges needed greater protections. Analysis from 2011 onward highlights the scientific support for increased monument resilience amid considerable pressures.
- The level of public engagement and evidence of an inclusive process. Local community conversations about expanding the monument have been on-going for many years, culminating with robust local meetings in recent months.
- The degree of private ownership within the proposal and private landowner support. The proposed expansion map minimizes the impact to private inholdings. Many private landowners in the expansion have been included in expansion discussions and expressed their support.

This combination of factors strongly supports the proposed expansion. However, key issues remain to be addressed should the monument be expanded. Primary among them is the issue of local access, a common refrain at the recent community meetings. If the monument is expanded, I will follow the public process on access closely and advocate for reasonable resolution to accustomed uses. In addition to access, I will also be invested in the discussions regarding fire management, grazing, and timber harvest issues in an expanded monument management plan. Finally, the monument has long lacked a dedicated manager and sufficient staff and resources to enhance the ecological values as well as visitor and recreational opportunities. With the inclusion of many more miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, it is even more incumbent that adequate staff and resources be allocated to the monument to build on existing outdoor recreation opportunities for the benefit of local communities and businesses. I will continue to urge the administration address these concerns, and for our congressional delegation to advocate for sufficient funding.

Time is of particular importance as we enter the final weeks of the Obama administration. My office and state agency staff stand ready to assist our federal partners as they evaluate the proposal. I am confident there is sufficient time and determination to complete this expansion for the benefit of Oregon, the region, and the nation. As a champion of preserving our most iconic public lands, I am excited about the opportunity to enhance the unique and valuable wonders of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Sincerely,



Governor Kate Brown

kb:dj

Cc:

Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley
Representative Earl Blumenauer
Representative Suzanne Bonamici
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Kurt Schrader
Representative Greg Walden

I, the Chief of Staff for the BLM located in Washington Office, do hereby certify the following to BLM FOIA Specialist Maritiza Harris, in her capacity as the FOIA Contact tasked with coordinating searches for records responsive to FOIA # OS-2017-00178.

Check ALL that apply:

- 1. I have reason to believe that the documents transmitted with this certification constitute all documents within the possession or control of the staff in the office.
- 2. I have determined none of the records that have been produced are sensitive.
- 3. I have determined that some or all of the records that have been produced are sensitive.

Y/N Records are marked as sensitive.

Y/N Records are sensitive due to a Solicitor sending, receiving, or reviewing the document(s).

- 4. I have reason to believe that there are no responsive documents within the possession or control of the staff in the office, and accordingly, am not provided any documents.

Information about the search (add lines as needed):

Name/Program Office	Search Terms Used	Search Location (e.g., paper files; email; share drive)
Neil Koinze	Cascade OR Siskiyou OR CSMN	email
Laurie Sedinger	Cascade OR Siskiyou OR CSMN	email

Information about individuals performing work (add lines as needed):

Name/Program Office	Grade	Hours to Search	Hours of Review
Laurie Sedinger	H	2	

Date: 9/12/2017

[Signature]
Signature

ANITA BILBAO
Print name

Chief of STAFF
Title



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240
<http://www.blm.gov>

March 30, 2017

In Reply Refer To:
1278-FOIA (640)
FOIA# OS-2017-00178

Mr. Nick Smith
Healthy Forests
20742 SW Jonquil Terrace
Sherwood, OR 97140

Dear Mr. Nick Smith:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the Office of the Secretary OS-2017-00178 dated January 6, 2017. Your request was referred to our office. In your request, you asked for the following:

- "1) All documents or communications relating to Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument sent by, received by, or in the possession of Neil Kornze, Director, Bureau of Land Management.
- 2) All documents or communications relating to Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument sent by, received by, or in the possession of Laurie Sedlmayr-Cumming, Advisor, Director's Staff, Bureau of Land Management."

In search for responsive documents, we have located the enclosed material. We are providing 107 pages being released in its entirety.

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration; Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 301-837-1996
Facsimile: 301-837-0348
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

You also may seek dispute resolution services from our FOIA Public Liaison, Ryan Witt at (202) 912-7562.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Maritiza Harris, BLM WO FOIA Specialist, at (202) 912-7650 or via email at BLM_WO_FOIA@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Krauss", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff Krauss, Chief
Division of Intergovernmental and
External Affairs



OS, OS FOIA <osfoia@ios.doi.gov>

Email Search Request - OS-2017-00178

FOIA, BLM_WO <blm_wo_foia@blm.gov>
To: "OS, OS FOIA" <osfoia@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Witt, Ryan" <rwitt@blm.gov>

Thu, Mar 30, 2017 at 2:26 PM

Hello Karmen,

Here's the documents from BLM. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you,
Maritiza Harris



Washington Office FOIA Coordinators
Bureau of Land Management
Phone: 202-912-7650
Fax: 202-245-0027
BLM_WO_FOIA@blm.gov

On Mon, Jan 9, 2017 at 2:59 PM, Witt, Ryan <rwitt@blm.gov> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Please see the attached FOIA coordination coming from DOI/OS. Please create a DAD form and we can discuss how this can be processed. We do not need to enter this into EFTS.

Thank you

Ryan Witt
FOIA Officer
Bureau of Land Management

Direct: (202) 912-7562
Email: rwitt@blm.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

3 attachments

OS-2017-00178 Binder.pdf
24290K

Signed DAD Cert 3.30.17.pdf
561K

2017-00178 Final Resp 3.30.17.pdf
55K

